

MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Winter 2016 Vol. 20 No. 2



A Medieval Mindset

Amy Kaufman studies the pervasive power of a mythologized Middle Ages on modern life

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

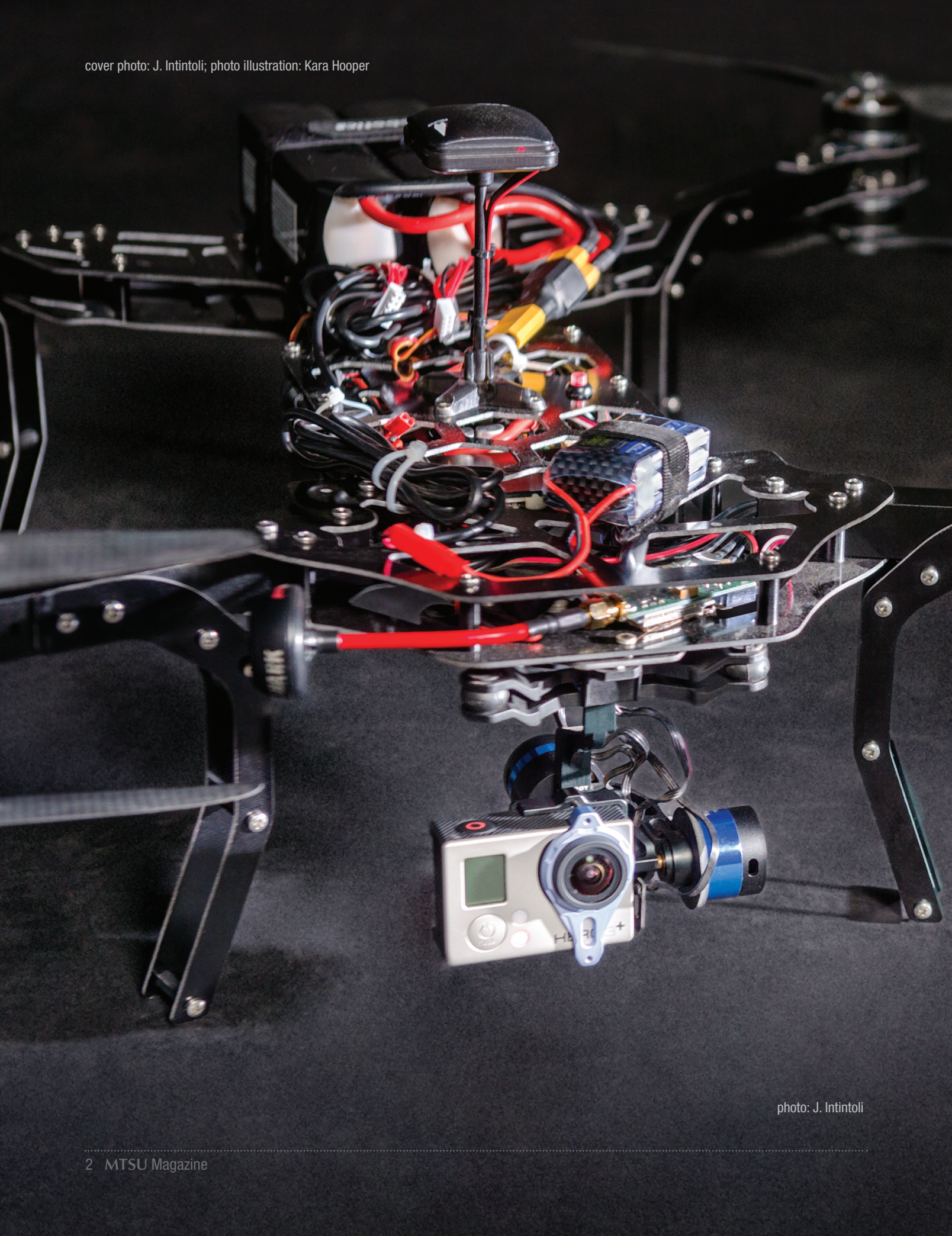


photo: J. Intintoli

Ready for Liftoff

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) is one of the fastest-growing areas in aviation today. From search and rescue operations to public utilities monitoring to archeological mapping, the applications for UAS are multiplying so rapidly that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is scrambling to establish regulations for their commercial use.

There's a burgeoning job market on the horizon, and MTSU's Department of Aerospace is already preparing students to fill those positions through Aerospace's newly launched program in UAS Operations, currently one of only five such programs in the nation.

Commercial UAS operators are still pilots, and earning a pilot's license is a core part of the degree curriculum. Pilot training isn't required for UAS hobbyists, who are restricted to low, line-of-sight flying in limited areas. But operating a UAS in the national airspace—400 feet and above—means you're operating amongst commercial airliners, private pilots, and corporate aircraft.

MTSU, always the pioneer in aerospace education, started planning its UAS program in 2009. During the multi-year lead

to its new degree program, Aerospace department faculty members were busy forging research partnerships and collaborating with industry experts and municipalities to get students UAS experience and connections. In 2011, for instance, MTSU made great strides toward this goal when it entered an educational partnership with the U.S. Army for UAS studies, a historical first.

True Blue!

Table of Contents

Feature Stories

- 12 I Am True Blue: **Leading Man**
Theatre professor, movie expert, and study abroad chaperone Richard Hansen has spent his life studying the stage
- 14 Cover Story: **A Medieval Mindset**
Amy Kaufman studies the pervasive power of a mythologized Middle Ages on modern life
- 25 Teamwork: **MTSU's Whistle Blower**
Ben Taylor holds the rich and powerful accountable . . . on the basketball court
- 28 Middle of It All
Each year, tens of thousands of people journey to MTSU for reasons other than college attendance
- 32 Discoveries: **A Herd Mentality**
One professor's efforts in cattle husbandry yield medical advances for humans as well

Departments

- 4 Editor's Letter
- 6 Five Minutes with the President
- 8 MidPoints
- 37 Class Notes

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

A View of the Sidelines

As the pro football season winds to a close and the National Football League's 50th Super Bowl looms ahead, at least two teams who had spectacular seasons will soon be priming for the game of their lives and feeling good about the state of their organizations.

For many of the other 30 teams (and their rabid fan bases), the opposite will be true. Unfulfilled expectations will have no doubt led to finger-pointing and blame-casting—much of it directed squarely at the head coaches of underperforming squads.

Fans and media in such markets often cry out for change at the head coaching position, which seems reasonable enough. After all, anyone who knows anything about company culture knows that it all starts at the top. In recent pro football seasons, as many as a third of head coaches league-wide have been fired at season's end. Our hometown Titans even made a head coaching change at midseason this past year.

The trend arguably reflects the impatient, quick-fix mentality that we possess collectively as a society, wherein we expect overnight results "or else." A quick trigger characterizes coaching decisions in professional baseball and basketball as well. In fact, pro basketball has on multiple occasions in the past few years witnessed head coaches getting fired even after producing winning seasons and making the playoffs.

Dr. Michael Roach, an assistant professor of economics at MTSU, recently conducted a study that turns the logic of replacing coaches for improvement's sake on its head. In a study of all NFL teams from 1995 to 2012, Roach concluded that firing a head coach actually reduces the next season's win total by eight-tenths of a win and in fact decreases the likelihood of a team making the playoffs by 12 percent. "If you're an organization, and you think that a change of

coaching is going to change your on-field fortunes overnight, I think it's useful to understand that that's, on average, not the case," said Roach, who published his research in the academic journal *Applied Economics Letters*.



by Drew Ruble

There is no doubt that making a needed change in order to right a ship is the proper thing to do in some situations, even if it results temporarily in an organization taking a small step back. Roach's study is interesting, nevertheless, and certainly good perspective for fans who tend to be blind to certain realities regarding the teams they support.

Now, I'm a sports fan. I always have been. And although I realize the plight of my teams—good or bad—won't change the world, I nevertheless root for them with great energy, living and dying with their success or lack of it. Similarly, Roach's study isn't the cure for cancer or the answer to world peace. That said, it is interesting research that impacts our lives—our real lives—even those parts of them that don't have tremendous consequence in the grand scheme. (Still, the owners of billion-dollar sports franchises would do well to review Roach's research.)

Roach's research, for me, serves as a personal reminder that working in an environment of thinkers like at MTSU—and getting a chance to write about them—is both a blessing and a lot of fun. This latest edition of *MTSU Magazine* offers up more stories of the intellectual curiosity that abounds on the MTSU campus and is imparted to MTSU students every day. I hope that as an alum of MTSU, you're proud of your University and the clever work transpiring here on a day-to-day basis—including when what it's about is the underlying logic of your favorite football team's decision to retain or fire its coach. [MTSU](#)

Michael Roach



I AM *true* **BLUE**™

MTSU MAGAZINE

Middle Tennessee State University
Winter 2016 / Vol. 20, No. 2

University Editor

Drew Ruble

Art Director

Kara Hooper

Contributing Editors

Darby Campbell, Bill Fisher, Carol Stuart

Contributing Writers

Lynn Adams, Skip Anderson, Gina E. Fann,
Allison Gorman, Jimmy Hart, Gina K. Logue,
Katie Porterfield, Randy Weiler

Design Assistance

Kathy Bowlin, Darrell Callis Burks, Brian Evans,
Lauren Finney, Micah Loyed, Sherry Wiser George

University Photographers

Andy Heidt, J. Intintoli

Special thanks to

Sara Brookfield, Michael Burgin, Mark Byrnes,
Bud Fischer, Ginger Freeman and the Alumni Relations
staff, Tara Hollins, Connie Huddleston, Rob Janson,
the MT Athletics staff, the staff of the MTSU Office of
Development, Marsha Powers, Jack Ross, Cindy Speer,
David Urban, John Vile, Doug Williams

University President

Sidney A. McPhee

University Provost

Brad Bartel

Vice President for University Advancement

Joe Bales

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. **For exclusive online content, visit www.mtsumagazine.com.**

MTSU is a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution.



115,700 copies printed at Lithographics, Nashville, Tenn.
Designed by MTSU Creative and Visual Services.

1015-2388 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or against any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies for MTSU: Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance. For additional information about these policies and the procedures for resolution, please contact Marian V. Wilson, assistant to the president and Title IX Coordinator, Institutional Equity and Compliance, Middle Tennessee State University, Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or call (615) 898-2185. MTSU's policy on nondiscrimination can be found at <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>.

trueBLUE Team Member

There are many staff members who have given their heart and soul to the University. As president of MTSU, I have tremendous gratitude for these people, and each year I host a retirement reception for all employees who made the decision to step away from the University to pursue their passions in the next chapter of their lives.

Given the volume of retirees, I could not possibly use the pages of this magazine to thank all of those people every year. But I simply must make an exception in the instance of the recent retirement of my friend and colleague John Cothorn.

I owe a great deal of the credit for the successful run I have had as president of MTSU to the steady hand and world-class job performance of John. Anyone who knows anything about higher-education governance and fiscal responsibility knows that John represents the gold standard in those fields. I am forever indebted to him for the help and guidance he has provided both me and the University during his tenure here at MTSU.

John served as MTSU's senior vice president from 2005 until 2015. Previously he was vice president of business and finance from 2003 until June 2005. Prior to his arrival at MTSU, John was an assistant vice president at the University of Memphis (where we also worked together when I served as U of M's senior vice provost). John had been with the University of Memphis since November 1973.

A Memphis native, John is a 1970 graduate of U of M with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He also holds a Juris Doctor degree (1973) from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the U of M and is a licensed attorney. He and his wife Debbie have lived in Nashville since 1998 (he commuted to Memphis until joining us at MTSU). The Cothorns have two grown children, John and Joanie.

John has been a major asset to the University, especially the past few years during a period highlighted by reduced budgets and changing funding formulas. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his service to MTSU and to wish him good luck in his future endeavors. We will most certainly miss him. True Blue! [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney A. McPhee".

Sidney A. McPhee and John Cothorn





AN ACTIVE DUTY



Sidney A. McPhee and Charlie Daniels

Veterans face unusual and daunting challenges as they move into college life. The bureaucracy surrounding admissions and registration can vex today's veterans, who are used to the modern military's streamlined processes. Such bureaucratic burdens are compounded by the psychological stress of military service and sometimes even a sense of alienation on campus. Talk about some of MTSU's top efforts to ensure the student success of this very laudable student population.

President McPhee: MTSU has been recognized year after year by national publications such as *Military Times* and *G.I. Jobs* magazine as being one of the top universities in the U.S. for veteran education. *Military Times* separately named the Jennings A. Jones College of Business among its 64 Best for Vets Business Schools 2014.

MTSU has a long and proud tradition of aiding veterans in their transition from the battlefield to civilian life. In 2011, MTSU became the first institution of higher education in the state—and one of the first in the country—to partner with the Veterans Administration's new VetSuccess on Campus program.

You recently oversaw creation of a Veterans and Military Family Center on campus, which arguably represents the next step in MTSU becoming the most military-friendly university in America. Talk about the center and your reasoning for its development.

President McPhee: The new, 2,600-square-foot center constitutes the largest and most comprehensive Veterans and Military Family Center at a university in Tennessee. The center provides one-stop service and support for the more than 1,000 student veterans and their family members at MTSU. Everything that MTSU student-veterans need to succeed is available in this single location, from scheduling courses and completing government paperwork to getting questions answered about benefits and employment opportunities.

MTSU's new senior advisor for veterans and leadership initiatives, Keith M. Huber, now leads our ongoing push to help student veterans be successful in college. Huber joined MTSU after retiring as a lieutenant general from the U.S. Army after nearly 40 years on active duty as an infantry and Special Forces officer. In his words, this new center will encourage and facilitate the success of our veterans as they transition out of uniform into academics, and then into future employment opportunities, as they strive to become leaders in the community much like they were in uniform.

The University also named Dr. Hilary Miller, a military spouse and family member, as center director earlier this summer. She will lead an experienced staff alongside U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employees Heather Conrad with VetSuccess on Campus and Veteran Affairs Coordinator Ray Howell. A Veterans Administration mental health counselor will also be in-house to help veteran students and their families cope with post-war traumas, such as post-traumatic stress disorders.

MTSU's vet-friendly initiatives, as well as this new center, have received a lot of support from both the private and public sectors. Talk about some of the gifts that have been made to enhance this work.

President McPhee: Gov. Bill Haslam recently announced that MTSU would receive a \$91,000 state grant to support its veteran success efforts. Also, the Journey Home Project, co-founded by country music legend Charlie Daniels, recently committed \$50,000 to help equip the new center. Mr. Daniels says he is anxious to see this center in action, and referred to it as a place where the many needs of our veterans can be dealt with by capable people who care. That's not just True Blue. That's red, white, and True Blue!

Thank you, Mr. President.



Guests and dignitaries cut the ribbon outside the Veterans and Military Family Center

Hilary Miller, Evan Cope, Russ Deaton, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU President, Charlie Daniels, and LTG (ret) Keith M. Huber by the plaque declaring MTSU military friendly



The state's top veterans center

With plenty of fanfare—including a \$50,000 boost for technology from legendary country music entertainer Charlie Daniels, and a visit by U.S. Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson among others—the University opened its new center on November 5, 2015, in grand style with a ribbon-cutting followed by a program in front of an overflow crowd in the KUC Theater.

Gibson told student-veterans, “Americans support you and clearly the people of Tennessee support you. They want all veterans to be successful... Future employers, embrace veterans. It’s both the right thing and the smart thing. I salute every veteran seeking an education.”

Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor John Morgan said the center “establishes a new standard for serving our student-veterans, a population that deserves our support and respect... By providing our student-veterans with the care and service that they require to reach their higher-education goals, we are also making strides toward the governor’s goal of 55 percent of our population having some post-secondary credential.”

In addition to state legislators, dignitaries included Many-Bears Grinder, retired U.S. Army colonel and Tennessee Department of Veterans Services commissioner; Maj. Gen. Terry “Max” Haston ('79), adjutant general for the state of Tennessee; Evan Cope, THEC chair; Edna M. MacDonald, director of the Nashville Regional Office for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mike Krause, executive director of the governor’s “Drive to 55” initiative; Russ Deaton, interim executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and other THEC and Veterans Affairs officials. MTSU



MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY.
Veterans and Military Family Center

MidPoints

Recent awards, events, and notable accomplishments

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

A Bold Proposal



In December 2015, Gov. Bill Haslam announced the next step in his “Drive to 55” education initiative intended to raise the number of Tennesseans possessing secondary degrees to 55 percent in order to meet future workforce demands. The six state universities that have historically operated under the auspices of the Tennessee Board of Regents – a group that includes MTSU – were removed from direct control of the TBR. New governing boards specific to each university will now be created or appointed and will have local control over institutional operations such as tuition rates.

Haslam explained the change was made in part to better allow the TBR to focus on the state’s community colleges and Colleges of Applied Technology, which have experienced dramatic enrollment increases as a result of Haslam’s establishment of the Tennessee Promise scholarship, which offers eligible high school graduates two years of tuition-free community or technical college.

The new level of independence for the former TBR universities was greeted with

cautious optimism by university officials. MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee said the proposal advanced by the governor “is truly bold and potentially transformational for MTSU” adding that he looked forward to “learning and exploring the opportunities it could provide towards our mission of ensuring student success and providing more graduates for the state’s workforce.”

McPhee added that having a local governing board with the ability to set tuition, hire or fire a president, and approve a budget could allow his university to tackle its challenges in a more laser-focused manner.

McPhee and the other presidents of the affected institutions were among members selected to a task force to craft a blueprint for the selection of the new governing boards.

“I think the key here is going to be who is selected for those boards,” McPhee told *The Tennessean* in a recent interview. “That’s the X factor. It could work very positively with engaged, informed boards.”



Boots on the Ground

Middle Tennessee athletics recently honored one of the most recognized names in Blue Raider sports history—former head football coach James “Boots” Donnelly—with the placement of a full-sized statue on the front lawn of the



Kennon Sports Hall of Fame building. Ed Bunio, a longtime MTSU assistant under Donnelly, spearheaded an effort to raise funds for the 6-foot-6 bronze statue.

A granite wall behind the statue includes the names of every player, assistant coach, trainer, manager, and secretary who worked in the program during Donnelly’s tenure as coach (1979–98).



Changing the Conversation

For the second straight year, MTSU professor Beverly Keel ('88), chair of the University's Department of Recording Industry, was among the honorees receiving a Women in Music City Award from the *Nashville Business Journal*.

Launched last year, the awards stem from nominations solicited by the *NBJ* of women working in the music business "who are making a creative and economic impact on the industry." A judging committee of women music professionals from Los Angeles and New York City reviewed and scored the nominees, and an *NBJ* committee chose this year's 26 winners.

Keel also recently appeared on *Variety* magazine's "2015 Music City Impact Report," which focused on the people "igniting" Nashville's latest popularity surge.

Keel, a former senior vice president of artist and media relations for Universal Music Group Nashville, continues to build partnerships between MTSU and music industry leaders to bring in accomplished guest lecturers and instructors.

She is also a cofounder of Change the Conversation, a coalition created in 2014, in part, to help change the way that women are perceived in the country music industry.



Beverly Keel



Hillary Scott

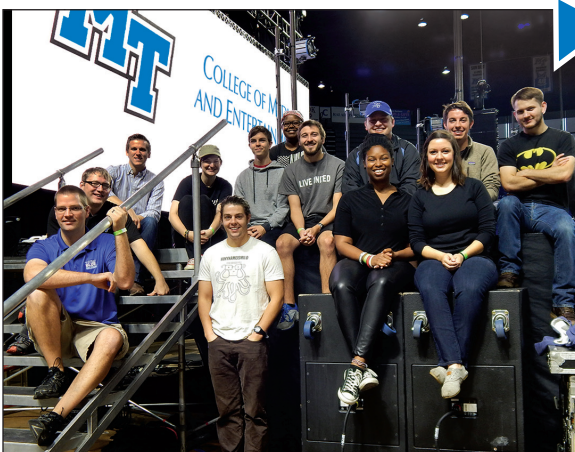
True Blue Lady

Lady Antebellum lead singer Hillary Scott, a former MTSU recording industry major turned Grammy-winning artist, announced plans to give back to her alma mater in the form of a scholarship for aspiring music industry students within the University's recently renamed College of Media and Entertainment (see article on page 11).

"This scholarship is something I'm extremely excited about," Scott related in a statement. "There are so many amazing people who have supported, encouraged, and challenged me to become who I am

today, and many of those were from my time at MTSU. I'm passionate about helping young people succeed and thrive in what they love to do and am thrilled to be a small part of fostering the dreams that I share with so many current and future students."

Lady Antebellum manager and MTSU alumnus Daniel Miller ('00) announced the scholarship on Scott's behalf at an event held at music rights organization BMI in Nashville last September. The amount and name of the scholarship have yet to be determined.



Concert Prep

MTSU electronic media communication students provided extensive technical support—and eye-catching entertainment for fans—at the first large music concert inside Murphy Center since 2013. A dozen students from instructor Mike Forbes's video technology class added to their professional expertise as they set up a massive, 30-foot-wide LED video wall in Hale Arena for use during the free Homecoming 2015 concert featuring the Swedish duo Icona Pop, singers of the hit song "I Love It." VER Nashville, a leading national provider of video wall installations for the concert industry, loaned MTSU the large video wall components for the stated purpose of training a workforce ready for them to hire.

continued on page 10



West by Middle

More than 30 Chinese schoolchildren visited Murfreesboro this past summer as part of a reciprocal educational and cultural exchange facilitated by MTSU's Confucius Institute. The visitors from Dongcheng Education Group of Hangzhou Normal University enjoyed many activities, including being treated to a special day at the Discovery Center. The group also traveled to east Tennessee to visit The Lost Sea attraction, part of the Craighead Caverns near Sweetwater. Teachers and administrators from both countries also met to exchange ideas and swap classroom experiences.

Not-So-Secret Garden

MTSU returned a favor to the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants last fall, affixing a plaque at a special laboratory on campus that recognizes their partnership in the study of ancient Chinese herbal remedies.

President Sidney A. McPhee and Miao Jianhua, director of the southern China garden, added the label of "USA-China Joint Research Center" outside the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research in MTSU's new \$147 million Science Building. Miao and McPhee dedicated a similar sign outside the Guangxi laboratory about two years ago.

MTSU and the medicinal herb garden, named in 2011 as the world's largest, are partners in an exclusive collaborative agreement to accelerate the development of Western medicines from plant extracts. Garden researchers cultivate and prepare extracts. MTSU scientists, led by professor Elliot Altman,

then screen the samples to determine their medicinal promise. About 800 of the more than 7,400 plants at the garden have been shown to have potential in treating a variety of diseases, including 12 with anti-cancer potential, eight with indications of anti-inflammatory properties, and one that may be useful to treat diabetes.



Miao Jianhua, left, of the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning, China, presents an ancient bronze drum to MTSU

On Patrol

As part of a five-year partnership with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, MTSU's Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness, or COHRE, recently created a new method of determining which Tennessee Highway Patrol sergeants and lieutenants were best suited to move up in the ranks. To develop the new processes, COHRE's industrial/organizational psychology consultants and project associates spoke with 110 captains, lieutenants, and sergeants to find out how they responded in various situations and circumstances on the job.

"The interviews were conducted to ensure a solid foundation for the development of a job-relevant, realistic, and effective promotional process," said Dr. Mark Frame, an associate professor of psychology and COHRE senior consultant.

"We think that this promotional practice and instrument will help us identify and promote more effective leaders and improve our agency," said Col. Tracy Trott, leader of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. "We look forward to the next four years of our contract and our association with MTSU."

Kerri Balthrop, human resources director for the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, said her department was "tremendously impressed" by the MTSU-COHRE collaboration. "This will appraise each applicant's knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies for future leadership opportunities within our organization," she said.



On the Beat

MTSU and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Training Division recently reached an agreement that gives officers greater incentive to get their college degrees. Metro Nashville officers who have been through the department's five-and-a-half month training academy can now potentially receive 36 to 40 credits toward a bachelor's degree in liberal studies through University College and the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. Each year, about 160 officers go through the academy. Metro officers can get up to a six percent pay raise for getting a degree, and they have the option of completing their degrees on campus, online, or through satellite classes held throughout the region. MTSU plans to pursue similar partnerships in support of Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative, which seeks to have 55 percent of Tennesseans with a degree or certificate by 2025.



New Model

The College of Mass Communication, now known as the **College of Media and Entertainment**, not only has a new name, but also an expanded mission as it prepares a new generation of students for opportunities in an ever-changing media environment.

The College of Media and Entertainment builds on its strengths of teaching and research with an infusion of innovation and hands-on experiences which include: the consolidation of all of MTSU's journalism education into a single department; the establishment of a rich, multi-media learning environment; the convergence of student media into a single app; the launch of Studio M, a bold new project from the Center for Innovation in Media focusing on millennials and mobile content; and the roll-out of J-Lab, a training and recruiting tool providing high

school students with their first experiences in digital journalism.

Ken Paulson, dean of the college since July 2013, said the updated name better reflects the 24-hour media cycle and the growing demand for content that informs, engages, and entertains.

"It's a clear and contemporary name that reflects the way media work today," said Paulson. "The

media world isn't driven by mass communication anymore; it's now all about targeted audiences, tailored content, and strategic audience-building... Though traditional media have been buffeted by digital technology, there's more media being consumed around the world today than at any other time in history. The four channels on a TV 50 years ago have been replaced by tens of thousands of content providers."

Paulson said that the college, first established as a department in 1972 before being elevated to school and finally college status by 1989, has always focused on preparing students to perform every facet of communicating news and information within their specialties: journalism, electronic media, and the recording industry. This name change, he said, reflects the college's goal of giving students skills across multiple media, which will ready them for their futures in addition to providing a solid, broad-based education.

"The rebooted College of Media and Entertainment will strive to give students the skills and insights they'll need to engage, inform, and entertain audiences on multiple platforms," he said. "That means learning to communicate effectively through words, audio, and video... It also means coming to grips with change. The most important traits we can instill in our students are a



Ken Paulson

receptivity to change and a comfort level with technology. Colleges need to be as contemporary as possible, incorporating the latest technology, encouraging innovation, and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit."

The fifth-largest communication program in the nation, the MTSU College of Media and Entertainment offers degree concentrations in 14 major areas—ranging from the recording industry to journalism to filmmaking and animation—and is accredited by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.



Healthy Ranking

NurseJournal.org, a social community website providing educational resources for nurses and healthcare professionals, recently ranked the best nursing schools in each region of the United States. A total of 1,189 schools were measured according to 20 metrics in five categories: *quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction, and value*. MTSU ranked 15th overall in the eastern region, followed by Vanderbilt at number 389 and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville at number 401.



continued on page 20

LEADING MAN

by Allison Gorman

*Theatre professor, movie expert,
and study abroad chaperone
Richard Hansen
has spent his life studying the stage*

photo: Andy Heidt

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD HAS THAT ONE KID WHO REGULARLY INVITES ALL THE OTHER KIDS over to watch movies. Richard Hansen was that kid in his suburban neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. His home theatre seated 10.

Except this was the '60s, so the movies Hansen showed every Sunday afternoon were 8mm films he'd bought from a local department store, for which he'd rigged up sound and projection himself.

"I scored musical soundtracks for silent films," he said. "It was one way to get a neighborhood kid to watch a two-hour silent movie."

Hansen grew up to teach theatre—he's an associate professor and a member of the Honors faculty—but film was his first love. On the way to earning his Ph.D., he ran two cinemas, appeared in two movies, and joined the Screen Actors Guild, to which he still belongs.

And from the youngest age, he studied films with an academic fervor, memorizing movie trivia almost by osmosis, the way other kids memorized batting averages.

Hansen still fields calls from friends, and sometimes journalists, wanting to borrow from his reservoir of film facts. He knows that Orson Welles was drunk when he nailed his famous *Moby Dick* speech in one take; that *Frankenstein 1970* was the first movie to include the sound of a toilet flushing; and that the "original" *Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney is actually a 1929 reediting of the silent 1925 version.

He knows things that Google doesn't—and that's fitting for a man who eschews technology he considers unnecessary or, worse, detrimental. He doesn't have a cellphone, and he rues the fact that movie and theatregoers do and can't seem to put them away. He considers digital projection one cause of the decline of film as an art form.

It's unsurprising that Hansen doesn't teach online. Or it might be expected of such an instructor in the small-college environment of the Honors College. Whether he's teaching Honors Theatre Appreciation or leading a study-abroad group in London, Hansen's job is less to lecture and more to feed his students' intellectual curiosity.

The annual trip to what Hansen calls "the theatre capital of the world," which he leads every other winter, alternating with Professor Scott Boyd, is "a potentially life-changing experience," he said. In London, he likes to hold classes in unconventional places—say a pub or the lobby of Drury Lane Theatre in the heart of West End. Convinced that every college student should study abroad if possible, he's also established a scholarship named for his parents (also educators) to help offset the cost of the trip for theatre majors.

Hansen is still an ardent student of film (he's a longtime supporter of the Nashville Film Festival), and he uses film references to teach theatre, pointing out, for example, that the ancient Greeks invented Hollywood conventions like the sequel and the trilogy.

"Often, my students have not been to many plays, if any," he said. "But they have seen movies. So I can use their movie reference base as a way to access theatre, and sometimes that's a very good connection."

That's what good teachers do: find that connection. It's exactly what Richard Hansen has been doing since he was a boy scoring soundtracks in Garfield Heights, Ohio. **MTSU**



Illustration: Micah Loyed

A Medieval Mindset



WHEN THE FIFTH SEASON OF HBO'S *GAME OF Thrones* premiered in April 2015, the show based on the best-selling medieval fantasy books by George R.R. Martin drew about eight million viewers live. Days to follow would yield online, on-demand, and DVR viewings that brought the audience total to 18 million viewers, according to HBO, which later declared the show the most-watched in HBO history.

Set in a brutish yet simpler pre-industrial world where men dominate women and disputes are settled with the sword, *Game of Thrones* and its soaring popularity speak to a modern obsession with the Middle Ages. It also provides a hearty new platform for researchers like MTSU English professor Amy Kaufman, who studies medievalism, a mythologized version of the Middle Ages.

"Pardon the pun, but medievalism is really experiencing a renaissance these days," Kaufman said.

Examples of medievalism permeate American pop culture in the 21st century, whether it's *Game of Thrones* or *Vikings* (another popular television series, which airs on the History Channel); the Warner Brothers multi-film version of the King Arthur legend scheduled to hit theaters in 2016; or video games with names like *World of Warcraft*, the *Elder Scrolls* series, and *Dragon Age* (or *Game of War* ... think Kate Upton).

Though Kaufman is trained in what she calls "traditional medieval studies," meaning she studied—and still does—works that came out of the Middle Ages such as Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (14th century) and Thomas Malory's rendition of the Arthurian legend (15th century), she also looks at the entertainment Americans consume and the ideas that entertainment has about the time period in which she specializes.

"Why does the Middle Ages look so different in popular culture than it does when we actually encounter it in literature?"

Amy Kaufman studies the pervasive power of a mythologized Middle Ages on modern life

by Katie Porterfield

continued on page 16

“It lends horrific acts of violence and oppression the validating weight of history.”

Typically, there’s a disconnect between those “worlds.” Kaufman seeks to determine what that disconnect is and why it happens. Essentially, she asks, “Why does the Middle Ages look so different in popular culture than it does when we actually encounter it in literature?”

An Appealing Fantasy

What Kaufman and others in her field have determined is that medievalism seems to gain traction in popular culture when audiences feel insecure, unstable, and threatened by rapid change. That, Kaufman explains, is clearly applicable for today’s society, but it was also the case in the nineteenth century, a period that saw colonies wanting liberation, slavery coming to an end, agitation for women’s suffrage, industrialization, and new ideas by Darwin and Freud. Thus, the medieval past, a time before such turmoil, looked very attractive to those living in the eighteen hundreds.

“They imagined it as a time and place where men were men, women were women, everyone was the same race and practiced the same faith, and no one was corrupted by technology, sexuality or democracy,” Kaufman said.

More importantly, Kaufman adds, writers, artists, and even historians created versions of medieval stories that stabilized gender, race, and religion, and in turn perfected this simplistic notion of the medieval period that we have today.

“What people don’t realize is that a whole lot of the ‘neomedieval’ material we consume in popular culture is filtered through late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century medievalism,

rather than actual medieval sources,” Kaufman said, citing the fact that the popular image of a Viking with a horned helmet, for example, is a construct conceived for the four operas that make up nineteenth-century German composer Richard Wagner’s *Ring Cycle*.

“Our sources are less often medieval literature or history than they are, in many ways, cloudy nostalgia and imaginative propaganda.”

Misled by Myths

Take, for example, *Game of Thrones*.

“The series sells the typical fantasy of medieval life as nasty, brutish and short, but my concern with it, and my focus in studying it, has been the way that it normalizes sexual violence,” Kaufman said.

The excessive violence associated with the show and the original book series has drawn a great deal of attention and criticism. According to Kaufman, what’s worthy of noticing is the way the Middle Ages is mistakenly used to justify that violence. As she points out, Martin, in commenting about the amount of rape in his novels, once said, “Well, I’m not writing about contemporary sex. It’s medieval.”

In reality, however, it’s not. Rape, Kaufman confirms, was a serious crime in the Middle Ages, and the laws and punishments for the crime varied from century to century and nation to nation. So, although the high level of sexual violence in *Game of Thrones* is supposed to make its world “authentic, gritty and real,” it’s actually more modern than medieval in terms of how frequent rape is in contemporary entertainment

continued on page 18

IN HER OWN WORDS

A brief conversation with MTSU English professor Amy Kaufman

Talk about your work in women's shelters and rape crisis centers. How, if at all, does it relate to your studies today?

I started volunteering with a domestic violence and rape crisis center in Tallahassee, Fla., while I was working on my undergraduate degree at Florida State. I worked with the children who stayed in the shelter first, then switched to the Injunction Assistance Office in the courthouse. I was drawn to that work again during my Ph.D. and answered hotline calls for an organization in Massachusetts. The work was heartbreaking and incredibly frustrating, and early on I was passionate not only about working to stop this kind of violence, but also figuring out why it happened so frequently and with so much tacit acceptance. I guess the scholar in me wanted to figure out the origins of the problem.

At the same time, my Medieval Studies education was dispelling myths about women's absence from literature and history, providing me with powerful alternate narratives that I wanted to share. When we believe that gender and its hierarchies have been the same way throughout all of history, we accept sexual violence as inevitable. We surrender to it, and we lose our will to fight back. And that's not just dangerous for women; it also affects the treatment of men who have been sexually assaulted. If violence against women is inevitable because they are women, violence against men becomes impossible to believe. This makes it much harder for male survivors to seek help.

You had planned to go to law school and practice family law. What changed?

I took a year between my B.A. and what would have been a law degree to work and save up money. And I worked two jobs at that point, both of which had me working with lawyers. And they were miserable. Even those who had gotten into the field with a degree of idealism found that they weren't able to help people, that their lives were more about filling out paperwork and bringing in money than they expected.

At the same time, I learned that there was such a thing as graduate school. This was right before I graduated from Florida State.

It may sound strange that I could go through four years of a B.A. program and remain totally ignorant of how a person becomes a professor, but unlike a lot of people who pursue this career, I didn't come from an academic family. No one in my social circle was going to graduate school; a lot of my friends never even went to college. All I knew was that I loved to write, I loved literature, and I loved learning about history, and suddenly there was this possibility in front of me to do what I really loved doing on a daily basis.

What impact did academia and the professors who populate it have on your life?

There were some very tough points in my life where teachers—and eventually professors—really saved me. They helped me not just by being compassionate, but also by feeding my mind and wanting to see me grow and succeed. I feel like I have come really far from where I started out in life, and I owe nearly all of that to my teachers and professors. There is a lot of power in teaching, power to reach people, expand their possibilities, and open up their worlds.

Thanks, Dr. Kaufman. MTSU



“... **M**edieval women were neither silent nor invisible. They fought back, and many men supported them.”

culture and in the lives of people in the United States and globally.

Kaufman said the danger is that audiences watch “rape victims become disposable tropes in the service of ‘history’ and become complacent about sexual violence, either with false confidence that everything has improved since the ‘dark ages,’ or with resignation about the inevitability of violence against women in any time period.

“It lends horrific acts of violence and oppression the validating weight of history,” Kaufman said. “Ultimately, the kind of reductionist thinking we use when we imagine our medieval past is toxic to our sense of human identity. It limits what we think we’re capable of changing and who we are capable of being.”

A Conspicuous Absence

In general, today’s examples of medievalism diminish the role of women, playing into the idea that the Middle Ages represent a more authentic manhood. Kaufman admits that when she began to study medieval literature, she expected to see the absence or oppression of women, as well as an unenlightened understanding of gender and sexism. However, what she found was quite the opposite. Examples of women in literature throughout the Middle Ages include heroic women with supernatural strength, sorceresses who both tormented and rescued men with magic, women who dressed as knights and won tournaments, and highly educated women who

wrote and argued on their own behalf, often from positions within the church.

“I would never argue that things were perfect for women in the Middle Ages—they certainly weren’t—but medieval women were neither silent nor invisible,” Kaufman said. “They fought back, and many men supported them.”

The imagined, mythological version of medievalism in which women are submissive, however, has been utilized not only in entertainment media today, but in religious and political propaganda as well. Kaufman’s research also examines how extreme religious movements promise a return to an idealized past. Medievalism, Kaufman said, has been used in widely divergent religious movements ranging from the “masculine church” and Biblical Patriarchy movements throughout the last 15 years to, more recently, the recruitment propaganda of the Islamic State (ISIS).

“ISIS is basically selling recruits the opportunity to be the hero in a live-action, medieval-themed video game,” Kaufman said.

It’s all fascinating, book-worthy stuff. In fact, Kaufman is struggling with whether her research lends itself to one book or two: one on medievalism and pop culture, and another on medievalism and religious extremism. One thing is certain—she won’t be lacking material. As she puts it, for those who study medievalism, the world today offers “an embarrassment of riches.” **MTSU**



THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Last year, private support had a profound impact on our students, faculty, and the communities around us. Gifts from alumni and friends helped provide scholarships to deserving students, brought renowned guest speakers to campus, strengthened our academic departments and programs, and sent students both nationwide and abroad for outstanding experiences. For these and the many other ways that our University was enhanced by your support, we say **THANK YOU**.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/supportmt
to make your gift or call (615) 898-2502.

YOUR GIFT
true
IMPACT



Protecting Rutherford's Ancient Past

The discovery of a Native American cemetery at the Black Cat Cave archaeological site led the City of Murfreesboro to hand over possession of the cave to MTSU on the basis that the University is likely better able to preserve, protect, and continue to study the history contained there.

Well known among Rutherford County locals as the reputed location of a speakeasy during the 1920s Prohibition Era, Black Cat Cave recently became the subject of an archaeological excavation by a team of MTSU professors and students. The MTSU field study, conducted in spring 2014, came soon after the City of Murfreesboro discovered vandalism and heavy looting to the cave, including graffiti and illegal digging. The study confirmed the presence of a prehistoric cemetery at the site, and it was determined through radiocarbon dating that the human artifacts and human remains recovered from the cave date back 5,000 to 7,500 years to what is known as the Middle Archaic Period. Until last year's vandalism drew its attention, the city had no knowledge of any evidence of prehistoric or ancient activities within the cave.

"The discovery of ancient human remains within the confines of Black Cat Cave has required sensitivity to the peoples and rituals of the ancient past," said MTSU archaeologist Shannon Hodge. "As a scholar of prehistoric culture, I appreciate the efforts of the City of Murfreesboro to protect and preserve this cultural resource."

Taking the Lead

Associate professor of journalism Dr. Tricia Farwell is presently serving as the president of MTSU's Faculty Senate as that organization celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016. A series of activities and events are scheduled this year to draw greater attention to the anniversary and the central role the Faculty Senate holds in University matters. Farwell is now the primary spokesperson for the entire MTSU faculty in governance issues. It's not the only high-profile role Farwell has recently assumed. In July 2015, Gov. Bill Haslam appointed Farwell to a one-year term as faculty representative on the Tennessee Board of Regents.



Dr. Tricia Farwell

A Proud Nobel Past

A long-awaited and much-anticipated bronze bust of the late MTSU alumnus James M. Buchanan was unveiled by his youngest sister and a nationally acclaimed sculptor during a special ceremony in September 2015 in the James E. Walker Library. The 75-pound bust by Tracy H. Sugg of Wartrace, called "Dr. James Buchanan, A Man of Vision," serves as a lasting tribute to Buchanan ('40), an American economist who was the recipient of the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and who died January 9, 2013. A stridently independent thinker, Buchanan earned the Nobel Prize for his



Sculptor Tracy Sugg, left, and Liz Bradley, right

development of Public Choice theory, which brings the tools of economic analysis to the study of public decision-making. The extremely competitive Buchanan scholarships, the highest financial aid award an entering MTSU freshman can receive, are named for Buchanan, whose estate gave MTSU \$2.5 million in May 2013 following his death.

The Honors College commissioned Sugg to create the bust. Elizabeth "Liz" Buchanan Bradley of Pearland, Texas, joined Sugg for the unveiling of the bust that rests on a black walnut pedestal made by Highland Rim Woodcrafts, which is owned by MTSU alumnus Kevin Kelly ('89) and his wife Melody of Tullahoma. The bust will remain on permanent display in Walker Library's Buchanan Family Reading Room.

The Wright Stuff

Alumna Pam Wright ('73) jump-started the college careers of 11 MTSU students when she announced a \$100,000 donation to the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences in October 2015. The money will fund the Wright Travel Leadership Scholarship Program, an endeavor designed to motivate students through strategic coaching, formal mentoring opportunities, and pathways to scholarship money upon completion of specific criteria. Recipients will also participate in personal development sessions that will include leader-

ship, networking, and honing interpersonal skills. Wright, widely considered the most successful businesswoman in Nashville, owns Tennessee's largest travel agency.



Pam Wright, center, presenting a check to the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Dean Terry Whiteside, left.

Degree by Design

MTSU's College of Liberal Arts is now offering an advanced degree that allows students to develop skills and expand knowledge in the subjects they're most passionate about pursuing. The new Master of Arts in Liberal Arts (MALA) is an innovative program allowing anyone with a bachelor's degree to earn a graduate degree through a course of study built around the subjects they find most captivating. The degree will be invaluable to lifelong learners, professionals, students returning to school after a break, and even recent graduates.



Preservation Required

Many people say they're interested in history. MTSU professor Carroll Van West is laser-focused on helping others study, make, and preserve it.

Director of MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, a professor of history at MTSU since 1985, and the governor-appointed Tennessee State Historian since 2013, West was the 2015 recipient of the MTSU Foundation's Career Achievement Award, considered the pinnacle of recognition for stellar MTSU professors.

West, a native of Murfreesboro, is renowned nationwide for his work in 19th and 20th century Southern and Western history, as well as architecture and material culture. He works extensively with the National Register of Historic Places program

on documentation projects, including properties like the Sullivan Jackson House in Selma, Ala., and the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. Top among his published works is the acclaimed *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, and he continues as editor-in-chief of the encyclopedia's website.

West first thanked retired history professor Dr. James "Jim" Huhta.

"Jim started this program in historic preservation out of his own initiative and drive in 1974," West said. "He built it into a national platform. It's been my pleasure to guide that platform into the 21st century, but Jim laid the foundation."

The professor also thanked his Center for Historic Preservation colleagues,



Dr. Carroll Van West

whom he said "toil in the shadows" but are making a difference across the South and the nation. West also expressed his gratitude to the hundreds of graduate students he has directed over the decades.

"If you ever wonder if graduate studies at MTSU is worth it, look at that group," he said. "They've achieved great things. They're a great group, and I'm so proud of what they do."

continued on page 22

Motown Icon

MTSU welcomed—and honored—one of the most prolific and influential people in American music in October when Motown hit-maker Lamont Dozier visited campus



for a celebration of his work. During the visit,

Dozier was named a Fellow of the Center for Popular Music, becoming

only the second person

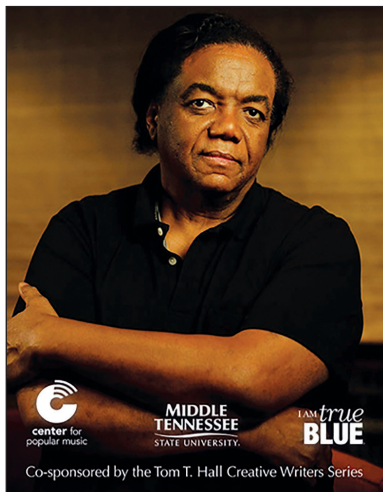
to be so honored by the University's special Tennessee Board of Regents Center of Excellence, which is devoted to the study and scholarship of popular music in America. Songwriter

and performer Barry Gibb was the inaugural Fellow.

Dozier is the middle third of the Holland-Dozier-Holland team, who created the music of an era with songs like the Four Tops' "Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey

Bunch)," the Supremes' "Stop! In the Name of Love," Martha and the Vandellas' "Nowhere to Run," Marvin Gaye's "Can I Get a Witness" and 50 more No. 1 hits.

Dozier continues to be a successful solo artist and producer.



THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC PRESENTS
LEGENDARY SONGWRITER, ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE AND

Motown Legend LAMONT DOZIER

JOIN US FOR AN INTERVIEW, AWARDS CEREMONY AND PERFORMANCE AS WE NAME MR. DOZIER A FELLOW OF THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC.

October 21, 2015

KEATHLEY UNIVERSITY CENTER THEATER, 7:00 P.M.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Expanding Our Reach

MTSU unveiled a Regional Scholars Program that will provide incentives for select potential out-of-state freshmen who live within 250 miles of its Murfreesboro campus. The

NEW

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Middle Tennessee State University Regional Scholars Program is available to select students in Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Mississippi.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ACT of 25 or above
- Live within 250 miles of the MTSU campus
- Intentionally attend MTSU
- Special reduced tuition (upon 48% off normal tuition amount)
- University Honors College consideration
- Guaranteed academic scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for the first class of Regional Scholars.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1, 2015 FOR FALL 2016 ADMISSION.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM TRUE BLUE

SCHOLARSHIP	ACT (SAT)	GPA	AMT/16
Scholarship	26 (1240)	3.5	\$3,000
Presidential	28 (1240)	3.5	\$4,000
True Blue	26 (1170)	3.5	\$3,000
Provost	25 (1150)	3.5	\$2,000

Additional scholarship amounts based on ACT scores.

www.mtsu.edu/scholarships

program, which will reduce MTSU's out-of-state tuition by 48 percent, will be offered starting in fall 2016 to students with an ACT composite of 25 and above. Program scholars will also

be eligible for MTSU's guaranteed academic scholarships and given consideration for entrance into the University's Honors College.

"With more than 140 undergraduate degree options in programs that have gained national and international recognition, MTSU is a great choice for potential freshmen inside and outside the borders of Tennessee," said MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee in announcing the program.

The Regional Scholars Program will become the second incentive offered by MTSU to out-of-state students who live near Tennessee. The University is also a member of the Academic Common Market, which allows residents of participating states to qualify for in-state tuition for unique academic majors not offered in their home state.

Home Sweet Home

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee recently had the opportunity to return to his native country where he met with Perry G. Christie, prime minister of the Bahamas.

Christie visited with McPhee and MTSU men's basketball coach Kermit Davis during the Blue Raider basketball squad's summer 2015 visit to the Bahamas to play in three preseason exhibition games at the Commonwealth's national gymnasium. McPhee also conferred with several of the country's other top ministers during the seven-day trip.

"It was an honor to meet the prime minister and share with him the accomplishments of MTSU's faculty, students, and student-athletes," McPhee said.

During the visit, Prime Minister Christie praised McPhee, a native of the Bahamas, for his career in higher education.



Perry G. Christie and Sidney A. McPhee

Top of the Heap

For the second year in a row, the Department of Recording Industry was placed on an international list of acclaimed music industry schools touted by *The Hollywood Reporter* that includes Juilliard, Berklee, the Seoul Institute for the Arts, and the Conservatoire de Paris. The department—plus its music business program—was recently ranked No. 17 on the magazine’s “Top 25 Music Schools 2015.” The publication’s editors, who compiled the list, focus on academia’s attempt to balance “art vs. commerce” by teaching students who want to use their creativity to make a living.



Bowl Bound

The Middle Tennessee football squad represented Conference USA in the 2015 Bahamas Bowl. MTSU played MAC conference foe Western Michigan, losing 45 to 31. Many college football observers believed that a winning Blue Raider campaign in 2015 would lead to an invite for MTSU to play specifically in the Bahamas—the native home of MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. In fact, McPhee played a key role in Conference USA getting a bowl game located in the island paradise in the first place. In addition, McPhee’s brother Earliston is the director of sustainable tourism in the Ministry of Tourism in the Bahamas. MTSU started the season by winning only three of its first eight games but rallied to achieve seven wins and receive a bowl invitation for the fourth time since 2009 under Coach Rick Stockstill’s leadership.

President Sidney A. McPhee and Charles Farmer, Williamson County assistant superintendent of secondary schools



A Perfect Match

MTSU and Williamson County Schools signed a partnership agreement in November 2015 that will encourage the University and district to create additional academic enrichment opportunities tailored to the county’s high schools. The agreement is the first of its kind between the University and an entire district.

“We want Williamson County students and parents to take a closer look at all MTSU has to offer,” said MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee at the time of the announcement. “There are many great opportunities on our campus that we would like for this county’s students, educators and parents to explore.”

Williamson County Schools Superintendent Mike Looney expressed special interest in establishing ties between his district’s students and the University’s Honors College, which McPhee said “fosters the academic excellence and nurturing environment of a small, select, private, liberal arts college within the setting of a major university.”

The agreement also encourages the development of additional dual enrollment courses under the auspices of MTSU, with a particular emphasis on the University’s signature programs, such as unmanned aerial systems aerospace and mechatronics engineering. Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college courses while they are still enrolled in a secondary school and earn credit from both institutions. MTSU already has dual enrollment partnerships with several schools in other Tennessee counties, including Rutherford County.

Bumper Crop



U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and Rutherford County Juvenile Court Judge Donna Scott Davenport served as commencement speakers at the December 2015 graduation ceremonies for the estimated 1,833 students receiving degrees. Included in that number was state lawmaker Mike Sparks (R-Smyrna, District 49). MTSU is the largest supplier of college-degreed graduates in the mid-state, providing the vibrant Music City economy and workforce with more graduates (approximately 4,000 students each year) than all other local universities combined.



COLLEGE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

Master of Arts in Liberal Arts (MALA)

An innovative program allowing anyone with a bachelor's degree to find the flexibility to meet their educational needs through this unique master's program. MALA graduates come from a variety of degree and career fields—from education, human resources, and urban planning/city management to name a few.

www.mtsu.edu/mala

Master of Science in Finance

Ideal for students with business/quantitative backgrounds seeking to advance their careers in the world of finance. The 12-month, 33-credit-hour program offers a class schedule to accommodate working professionals as well as full-time students.

www.mtsu.edu/programs/finance-ms

**Master of Science in Professional Science—
Health Care Informatics Concentration**

Combines computer science, information science, and the healthcare sciences in order to manage and communicate data and information in the healthcare environment. This concentration is aimed at healthcare professionals who have strong computer skills and have an interest in technology integration within the healthcare environment.

www.mtsu.edu/graduate/programs/hci.php

**Master of Fine Arts in Recording
Arts and Technologies**

Offers preparation for advanced work in audio production, recording, and integrated electronic media. The program is designed to foster creativity and features a strong technical component utilizing the latest advancements in software and hardware.

www.mtsu.edu/programs/recording-mfa

**Master of Education in Administration
and Supervision—Agricultural Leadership
Education Concentration**

This concentration uniquely prepares students to work with underprivileged rural or urban children in an array of agricultural education formats such as 4-H programs, afterschool programs, and FFA programs.

Master of Library Science (MLS)

Graduates will be prepared to lead and educate in school, public, and corporate libraries. This program specifically creates professional, modern librarians grounded not only in the theory and practice of library science but also in the promotion of information literacy.

www.mtsu.edu/graduate

MTSU's

WHISTLE BLOWER

Ben Taylor holds the rich and powerful accountable . . . on the basketball court

by Skip Anderson

WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT ONE WAY, BEN TAYLOR ('09) may have a dream job. After all, he gets to be on television 80 or more times each year, and world-famous millionaires are obliged to follow his decisions. He might even be on posters hanging in your child's bedroom.

On the other hand, should Taylor make a decision that appears errant, 20,000 people might very well let him hear about it instantly, not to mention half of the millionaires in the room.

None of this is surprising given that Taylor, 30, is in his third full season as a referee in the National Basketball Association (NBA)—one of only 63 people in the world with the skill and credentials required to hold that job.

A Basketball Bloodline

Taylor played varsity basketball at Cannon County High School, located 20 miles due east of Murfreesboro and the campus of MTSU. He wasn't too bad, either. The letterman, who comes from a long familial line of

continued on page 26

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, disputes a call with referee Ben Taylor during an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan)





Ben Taylor with his parents, Cindy and Teddy Taylor, at the Boston Garden. Photo courtesy Ben Taylor.

ballplayers who distinguished themselves on a basketball court, started his junior and senior years.

“We’ve always loved basketball in my family,” Taylor said.

He’s not kidding—his maternal grandmother, Helen Davenport, held the all-time scoring record at Cannon County High School and was inducted into the nascent Cannon County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. His older cousin, Julie Powell, is a shoo-in for induction as well. Before she helped the Vanderbilt Commodores win the SEC Championship in 1993 and advance to the Final Four of the NCAA Women’s Tournament, she broke Davenport’s record to become Cannon County High School’s all-time leading scorer. His father, Teddy Taylor, is in there, too. Teddy’s induction is born from his work as a youth coach and as a contributor to the high school team.

“Dad coached elementary school ball, then was in an advisory role at the high school, since he didn’t have the degree that would allow him to teach and coach,” Taylor said. “He was inducted into the hall of fame for his supporting role.”

Taylor quickly dispels the notion that his father’s involvement in the sport led to his interest in officiating games at the age of 16. Quite the contrary, in fact.

“My dad coached for 30 years,” Taylor said, laughing. “So, he just didn’t care for referees, and it hadn’t occurred to me or him that I might ever be one.”

A Referee’s #1 Rule

Like most sports fans, Taylor and his father remembered officials for their mistakes, perceived or real. Few people, except other officials, remember games for starting on time and being administered fairly. But everybody remembers a blown call. In Taylor’s case, he remembers one errant whistle in particular that was blown nearly 11 years ago.

“I was a real hothead when I played high-school sports,” Taylor admitted. “We were playing at Smith County, and I hit a three-point shot to tie it and send it to overtime. A teammate set a screen and an opponent tripped me—and I was called for my fifth foul. I still remember the guy’s name who called it.”

It’s good that he remembers the play, because he later found a valuable life lesson embedded in the frustration of being forced unfairly from the game.

“We as referees need to see the first action so that we penalize that instead of penalizing the second action,” he said. “And that’s something I remember when I’m on an NBA court.”

Given his high school experience, perhaps it’s no wonder he initially declined when then-Riverdale High School girls’ basketball Coach Cory Barrett invited him to officiate children’s games. Then he thought through the economics involved.

“When I found out [officiating youth games] paid \$20 per game, I was sold,” Taylor said. “I thought to myself, ‘That’s way better than working for the local Piggly Wiggly for \$5.25 an hour.’ Within the first two weeks, I fell in love with it.”

But long before he would realize a career as an official in the NBA, he wanted a college degree. So, he enrolled at MTSU, where he ultimately earned a bachelor of arts in public relations. He also attended as many “ref camps” as he could during the summers between semesters.

“Not too many people leave Woodbury to chase a dream, or maybe weren’t told to dream big enough,” he said. “But my grandmother [Davenport] was one of the driving forces that allowed me to do this job, because she never questioned what I wanted to do. Sometimes I didn’t have the money to go to the [referee] camps that I wanted to go to, but she encouraged me, she helped me financially, and she always made sure that I could go. She let me chase the dream I wanted to chase.”

Taylor climbed the professional ladder largely through working games in the NBA’s developmental league. Taylor’s first game officiating at the NBA level came in 2013 in Boston.

Getting into the Game



Ben Taylor

Photo courtesy the National Basketball Referees Association.

“It was so great. My dad grew up a Larry Bird fan, and I was so happy that I got to take my Dad to the game. My mom and my now-wife got to be there, too,” Taylor said. “I was fortunate that the security people let my family come back into the locker room area, and they let me take my dad to center court where we took his picture with the leprechaun logo. That was great.”

While he doesn’t remember the first foul he called—“No way! I’ll call 25 or 30 fouls a game, so I don’t have any idea who I called the first one on,” he said—Taylor does admit some do stand out more than others.

“LeBron [James] has thrown up his hands at me a couple of times,” he said. “But if a guy fouls a guy, he fouls a guy—it’s not like we take into consideration whether a guy is an All-Star.”

That’s not to say that Taylor has never let emotion affect his officiating.

“I called a foul on Dwyane Wade my rookie season, and LeBron came over and wanted to talk about it,” Taylor explained. “Dwyane wanted to talk about it, too, and the coach wanted to talk about it—all at the same time. Generally, if you’re not involved in the play, we’re not going to talk to you about it. And if you were involved in the play, it’s going to be a one-on-one conversation. And if you try to gang up on the ref, the conversation is not going to happen. In this case, I got mad. I apologized later in the game, and LeBron had the greatest response: ‘Don’t worry about it—emotion is part of the game.’”

The thrill of the game, the frustrations and elations, are all part a day’s work for Taylor. It could be argued that good referees really don’t get noticed much, as they make all the right calls and don’t play a primary role in determining the outcomes of games. That said, they are there for every tick of the clock, and every step on the hardwood. So the next time an MTSU alum sits down to watch a professional basketball game, they might take a moment to see if a fellow alum, Number 46 on the officiating team, is on the floor that particular night. He may not be one of the star athletes getting cheered to dribble, drive, and dunk, but Blue Raiders can take pride in knowing that one of their own is watching over the game at its highest level. **MTSU**

**“If a guy fouls a guy,
he fouls a guy . . .”**

The **MIDDLE** of it All

Each year, tens of thousands of people journey to MTSU for reasons other than college attendance

by Drew Ruble

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE MTSU CAMPUS PLAYS host to a number of events not directly affiliated with the University and which benefit local families, serve the community, and boost commerce. In fact, some of these events serve as the first introduction school-age children have to a college campus, and may even help their young minds hatch the dream of earning their own degrees one day, possibly at MTSU.

The following list offers a representative selection of the top 10 reasons for coming to MTSU, outside of being a college student, of course. True Blue!

1 TSSAA basketball tournaments

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) basketball tournament, which annually determines the Tennessee state champion in both men's and

women's basketball, pops up on the campus of MTSU each March as reliably as the daffodils do. Ditto for the TSSAA's annual Spring Fling event, where MTSU's Smith Field serves as the venue for the state high-school baseball championships, while all TSSAA track and field events are conducted at MTSU's Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium. And don't forget that annually some 500 athletes from area schools compete in the Special Olympics track and field meet at Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium, as well.

2 The Governor's School for the Arts

The Governor's School is now in its third decade at MTSU. The pre-professional summer curriculum includes individual and group instruction designed to help each enrolled student explore talents in music, ballet, theatre, filmmaking, and visual art. Students spend about four hours each day, six days a week working in their major concentrations. In June of its 30th anniversary year, Sen. Lamar Alexander, who as governor of Tennessee founded the summer programs for gifted high schoolers, spoke at a welcome ceremony for 305 new participants from across the state and their families during their visit to MTSU's campus.

(continued on page 30)



Kevana West practices with her band at the Southern Girls Rock and Roll Camp.

3 Camps (especially the Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp)

Established 13 years ago, the camp for girls ages 10 to 17 promotes a culture of positive self-esteem and collaboration among girls while building community through music. Exclusive performances by women in the music industry have included the Queen of Rock, Wanda Jackson. The camp even played a role in spawning a recording act, Those Darlins. Plenty of other camps for K–12 students, summer and otherwise, also dot the MTSU calendar. Some of the higher-profile ones include: the annual CSI Camp for middle- and high-school youngsters, a forensic science camp hosted by world-renowned anthropologist and crime scene expert professor Hugh Berryman; a goat camp; an aviation camp; a youth writers camp; and a host of athletic camps and Recreation Center camps.

4 The Contest of Champions

As the oldest consecutive marching band contest in the U.S., this high-school marching band competition has served as a national model and has drawn thousands of music lovers to MTSU each year. Competing bands, who travel from as far away as New York and Florida, must win numerous honors prior to being admitted to the competition. Founded in 1962 by former MTSU director of bands emeritus Joseph T. Smith, along with the leadership and guidance of Horace Beasley and Linda Mitchell, the contest celebrated its 54th year last October.

5 Graduations Galore!

Literally tens of thousands of Rutherford County high-school students have experienced one of their proudest moments on the campus of MTSU. Almost every Rutherford County high school hosts its annual graduation ceremonies inside Murphy Center. As a result, whether a high school student has graduated from Riverdale, Smyrna, or Stewarts Creek, among many others, they and their families have made memories in cap and gown on the campus of MTSU.

6 Education Day (and other educational events)

Nearly 7,000 students from 12 Murfreesboro City Schools and the Homer Pittard Campus School keep the Monte Hale Arena's noise level inside Murphy Center at a high-pitched squeal during each annual Education Day field trip, which now coincides with a daytime Lady Raiders regular season basketball game. A partnership between MTSU, which jointly operates Campus School with the Rutherford County school system, and the city's schools, Education Day exposes students—some for the first time—to a college campus. MTeach, a secondary mathematics and science teacher preparation program at MTSU, produces the annual educational event. Similar to Education Day, a bevy of annual conferences for K–12 students keep MTSU's campus hopping on an almost monthly basis. The annual Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Conference, now entering its 19th



Christy Limbaugh, Animal Science major, discussed nutrition at Agriculture Education Day.

photo: J. Intihall

year, plays a key role statewide in encouraging young girls to enter science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The Invention Convention, now entering its 23rd year, annually attracts more than 300 grade-school creators for a demonstration of their innovations intended to “make life easier.” Other examples include the 19th annual science Olympiad; the Agricultural Education Spring Fling, held at the Tennessee Livestock Center and involving nearly 900 local schoolchildren; and the third annual Middle Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub Expo, held at MTSU’s new Science Building in April and attended by nearly 300 middle- and high-school students.

7 Star Parties

Faculty from MTSU’s astronomy program conduct star parties each semester for the public and for MTSU students, showcasing astronomy-related events and offering rare views from both the MTSU observatory and naked-eye observatory on campus. Attendees in the past have learned how to view upcoming comets or had the chance to see lunar samples from Apollo missions first-hand. Yet, the best part is getting a chance to peer deep into space via the university’s telescope—the images from which are projected on the high-definition TV screens viewable from the pleasant grassy areas outside the observatory. No wonder Star Parties are a hit for children, adults, and families alike!

8 Tennessee Miller Coliseum

The Coliseum, located about seven miles from the main campus, is a 222,000-square-foot facility on 154 acres. The air-conditioned venue offers seating to accommodate up to 6,500 and stall space for 492 horses during the major equestrian show events hosted there throughout the year. One such event that came to Miller in 2011 was the famous Extreme Mustang Makeover, in which wild mustangs previously untouched by human hands are worked with for approximately 100 days and transformed into trained, performing mounts available for public adoption. Archery, truck and tractor pulls, and rodeos are examples of other events held there.

9 See Spot Run 5K

Dog lovers and running aficionados gear up for a rite of spring that gets tongues and tails wagging each year. The annual See Spot Run 5K, which begins on campus, raises



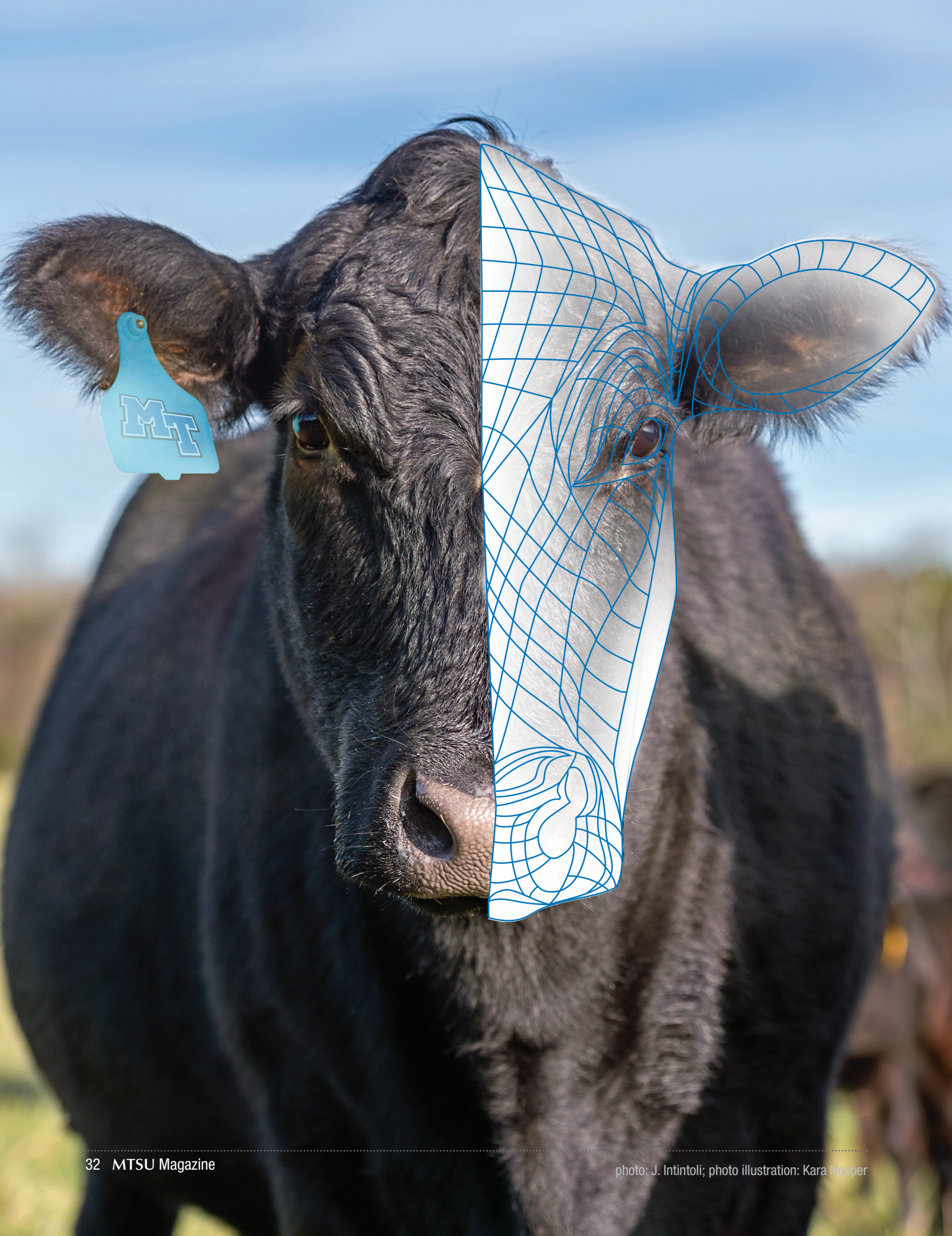
photo: J. Intintoli

Equestrian team member Amanda Meade

funds to build a home for a Rutherford County family through Habitat for Humanity. Hundreds of runners or walkers and numerous canine companions take part in See Spot Run, which generates around \$5,000 annually and is sponsored by the MTSU Office of Leadership and Service and the Sigma Pi fraternity. Later, MTSU student volunteers, on average numbering more than 300, participate in the home builds.

10 MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign

While not a traditional event like the other nine on the list, the annual campaign earned a spot due to its impact throughout the region. The month-long fundraising event, executed each October, supports a number of local nonprofits that provide a social safety net through a wide array of services. In recent years, MTSU’s more than 2,000 employees have averaged about \$130,000 in donations through designated gifts, often made through the payroll deduction option. The campaign allows MTSU to be one of the top entities in our community in donating to the numerous charitable organizations in our area. [MTSU](#)



A HERD MENTALITY

by Allison Gorman

One professor's efforts in cattle husbandry yield medical advances for humans as well

DR. WARREN GILL HAS SPENT HIS CAREER using farmer's instincts and academic detective work to keep Tennessee's cattle healthy.

It was Gill who, in the early 2000s, got to the bottom of a mysterious illness that had been plaguing Tennessee-bred calves. Then a member of the University of Tennessee's agriculture faculty, he linked the affected herds' rough coats to a copper deficiency. When he tested their forage, the results were puzzling: it was low in copper, but also extraordinarily high in sulfur.

"I had to draw on my old chemistry background," he recalled. "Sulfur and copper combine, particularly in the presence of molybdenum, to make an insoluble compound. . . . Sure enough, we had a serious high sulfur problem that was manifesting itself in a copper deficiency."

After four years spent gathering samples throughout Tennessee and into Kentucky, Gill identified the culprit: coal-burning power plants.

Years later, that discovery would lead Gill to an improbable partnership with a geneticist from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Now their work together has taken on new dimensions—global, human, and life-saving. And it's all part of their effort to build a better cow.

A Skin-Deep Solution

Fixing copper deficiency in cows is relatively easy, Gill says; you adjust their mineral supplements. What isn't easy is getting liver samples from cows to test for copper deficiency. For years, however, that was the only good option.

The problem was solved and a research partnership born in 2012, when Gill—who by then had joined MTSU's School of Agriculture and Agriscience—met Dr. James West, a Vanderbilt specialist in gene editing. Together they developed a skin test for copper deficiency using blood, skin, and liver samples from affected cows.

While gene testing had been used to identify parentage and some diseases in cows, Gill said, "nobody [had] ever come out with a nutritional gene test. We hope that it will be very widely used. It's very much needed."

When Gill and West collaborated again, they were focused on a far greater need.

It was 2013, and Gill had just attended a conference where ranchers and farmers discussed the challenges of developing livestock that could withstand the scorching temperatures typical of so many of the world's impoverished regions. The Brahman cattle raised there are inefficient breeders and grazers relative to the amount and quality of the beef they produce; however, they're heat-tolerant, with short, white coats. Angus cows, bred for cooler climates, are the opposite in every way, down to their tender, abundant beef and double layers of long, black hair.

What we need, Gill thought, is a short-haired, white Angus. But with the global population

What we need, Gill thought, is a short-haired, white Angus.

continued on page 34

“It’s hard to predict the direction research will take until you follow it to the end.”

estimated to hit 9.6 billion by 2050—up 38 percent from 2010—conventional genetics would take too long. Perhaps West could use genetic material from various cattle breeds to create “overnight” what otherwise would have taken decades.

Gill floated the idea to West, who signed off on it. By November 2015, the first fertilized white Angus eggs were ready for transfer to their bovine incubators. If the transfers take and the pregnancies are viable—Gill is hoping for 25 percent success—the calves will be born midsummer on his farm in Petersburg, Tennessee. They’ll share traits of three breeds: the Angus; the Silver Galloway, a heritage breed with darker skin and long, white hair; and the Senepol, a slick-coated breed famous for its heat tolerance.

Gill has seen plenty of calves born—after all, he was raised on the farm he now runs—but he’ll witness these births, too.

“When Dr. West looks at these genes, he knows what’s in there,” he said. “But, like the rest of the world, I don’t really believe it until I see a white Angus.”

Meanwhile, the researchers are incubating a new business, Ag Genetics, which will market the technology—such as the copper deficiency test—for which MTSU and Vanderbilt hold the patents.

Following the Research Where it Leads

The collaboration has also taken a new turn and gained a new ally. This latest development is focused not on the product, but on the process of Gill and West’s research, and that process may have promising implications for some cancer patients.

To gather the genetic material for the white Angus, Gill harvested testicular stem cells that West then strengthened in his lab. Debra Friedman, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt, said a similar process could be used to reverse sterility in male cancer patients—a frequent side effect of chemo and radiation. Ultimately, she said, “this [research] could lead to interventions for male children and adolescents where sperm stem cells could be drawn through needle biopsy before treatment, expanded in culture, and then reintroduced after treatment, ameliorating the sterility conferred by the treatment.”

Friedman is now working with West and Gill on that application, one the men hadn’t anticipated. West notes that they used testicular stem cells simply because it seemed a cost-effective option. “It’s hard to predict the direction research will take until you follow it to the end,” he said.

That journey is one Gill has gone all in for, even stepping down as director of MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, in order to have more time to pursue this life-saving research. What began as an inquiry into nutrition deficiencies in cattle has rapidly expanded into a multi-faceted research project, a new business, and, possibly, a new breed of bovine. With so much potential, there’s no end in sight. [MTSU](#)

A similar process could be used to reverse sterility in male cancer patients—a frequent side effect of chemo and radiation.



Dr. Warren Gill

Visit www.mtalumni.com to take advantage of benefits offered to MTSU graduates.

Whether looking for a first job, new career, or discounts, the MTSU Alumni Association can help!



MTSU and Abenity

Abenity is a national perks program that offers terrific deals all over the country on restaurants, movies, theme parks, hotels, travel and more! This program is FREE for alumni, and it's easy to sign-up and use. Simply go to <http://mtsualumni.abenity.com> and register, the registration code is Alumni. Abenity is constantly adding new services to their already impressive list.

CareerShift

CareerShift offers the most comprehensive online resource, designed to support the No. 1 request of job seekers: an easy-to-use website to conduct and organize their job search.

Career Community

Webinars for every stage of your career (including job search.) These are available 24/7 and can be viewed at your own pace.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at alumni@mtsu.edu or call us at 1-800-533-6878.



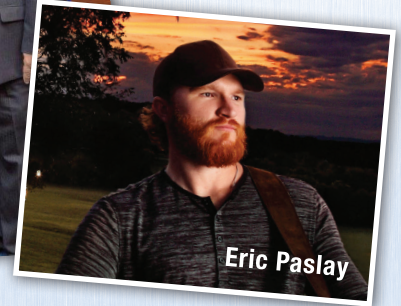
Raiders of Industry

by Drew Ruble

Outstanding alumni bring MTSU prestige and distinction through their professional careers, loyal support, and service to the wider community. From 1960 to present, the MTSU Alumni Association has recognized accomplished alumni in various categories. Here are the 2015–2016 honorees.



L to R: Kinard, Key, Bonner, Massey, and Frisby



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Col. Jeff Bonner ('82)

Bonner earned numerous awards—including Legion of Merit and Bronze Star—in a distinguished military career in active duty and reserve capacities. He finished his tenure rated as the best commander within each two-star commander's span of responsibility. In 1998, he returned to MTSU as an assistant professor of military science, joining a core group of fellow alumni to rebuild the ROTC program. A corporation owner, Bonner works with major hydrocarbon organizations to increase the effectiveness of their global corporate social responsibility programs in Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Syria and Kurdistan.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Eric Paslay ('05)

Paslay has helped shape the current sound of country radio. Jake Owen's "Barefoot Blue Jean Night," which Paslay wrote with Dylan Altman and Terry Sawchuk, was named ASCAP's 2012 Country Song of the Year. The Eli Young Band's "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," written by Paslay and Will Hoge, was nominated for both a 2013 Grammy for Best Country Song and CMA Song of the Year in 2012. He also co-wrote Love and Theft's No. 1 hit "Angel Eyes," as well as Rascal Flatts' new single "Rewind." Amy Grant recruited Paslay to join her and Sheryl Crow when she covered his song "Deep As It Is Wide" on her latest album. Paslay also has a burgeoning career as a recording artist.

ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION (MTSU faculty, current or retired)

Dr. Derek Frisby ('94)

One of the most popular instructors on campus, Frisby also leads the MTSU Signature Abroad program, which he created. Since 2012, he has led at least two trips per year, including a 2012 trip to Vietnam where MTSU students joined local veterans who were returning to the area for the first time in 40 years. Frisby, a veteran who is always

front and center when it comes to the University's efforts to assist MTSU student-veterans, is also the Blue Raider Athletic Association president.

ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION (non-MTSU)

Charles Massey Jr. ('64)

Massey was chair of The Ohio State University Department of Art from 1982 to 1988. His work, the majority of which is prints and drawings, has been shown internationally in more than 900 exhibitions and has been included in more than 90 public collections around the world, including the Library of Congress. In the early 1980s, he established the MTSU Department of Art's Charles and Ola Belle Massey Memorial Art Scholarship, which he still funds and manages.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Richard Key ('62)

Key has served as president of the Alumni Association and serves on the Past President's Council. A member of the Golden Raiders Society, Key has been a Blue Raider Athletic Association member since 1984 and is a member of the 1911 and Walnut Grove giving societies. In 2014, Key established the Charlene Key and Jan Key Endowed Fund for Excellence, named after his late wife and their daughter, in the Jones College of Business.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Britnee Kinard ('05)

Kinard founded the SD Gunner Fund, which assists veterans and disabled children with the financial expenses associated with owning service animals. The organization was inspired by her own 15-month struggle to obtain a service dog for her military-wounded husband. She expects to assist 3,000 military families in the coming year. Kinard is the recipient of the inaugural Lincoln Award, which was presented to her in Washington, D.C., by the Friars Club Foundation.

True BLUE!

Dan and Margaret Scott



MTSU honored longtime contributors and Murfreesboro residents with the naming of the Dr. Dan and Margaret Scott Chemistry Department Office during a ceremony in May 2015. **Dan Scott ('50)** served as department chair for 11 of his 37 years in higher education before retiring in 1992. **Margaret Scott ('66)** retired as an associate professor in collection management-acquisitions in James E. Walker Library the same year. The Dan D. Scott Endowed Scholarship for Chemistry majors was established in 2008. Margaret Scott received the King-Hampton Award in 1993 for significant contributions to the advancement of women at MTSU.

1960s

Kenneth Hollman ('65), Murfreesboro, retired after serving 33 years as the Tommy T. Martin Chair of Insurance at MTSU.

1970s

Trina Gross ('75), Brentwood, CEO of Acuff and Associates, a full-service employee benefit administration company headquartered in Brentwood, was appointed to the board of directors of the National

Seven MTSU graduates were nominated for the Rutherford CABLE ATHENA award recognizing individuals who excel in their professions, give back to their communities, and help raise up other leaders, especially women. They included:

- **B. Ayne Cantrell ('64,'76)**, Murfreesboro, a Professor Emerita at MTSU, where she taught English and Women's Studies for 30 years, and also coordinated the Women's Studies Program;
- **Amanda Gordon ('67)**, Murfreesboro, one of only 11 African-American students to attend MTSU in 1967, who is actively involved in the work of the Salvation Army, providing food for the homeless, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s, Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter;
- **Rebecca Akin Bookner ('73, '80)**, Murfreesboro, a career educator who serves as president and CEO of Family Staffing Solutions, Inc., which has offices in Middle Tennessee and Texas;
- **Suma M. Clark ('70, '77)**, Murfreesboro, a community activist and among the founders of Recycle Rutherford, who directed MTSU Publications and Graphics for more than 30 years and is the author of *Traditions of Excellence: The First 100 Years*, published as part of MTSU's Centennial celebration;
- **Lana Carmen Seivers ('72)**, Murfreesboro, Dean of the College of Education at MTSU and former commissioner of Education for the state of Tennessee, where she helped establish the state's Voluntary Pre-K program and the adoption of more rigorous state standards through the Tennessee Diploma Project;
- **Phyllis P. Washington ('74, '77)**, Murfreesboro, the Coordinator of Secondary Instruction for Rutherford County Schools, who previously worked at MTSU as Director of Student Organizations and Minority Affairs;
- **Paula Stampley Mansfield ('82)**, Murfreesboro, Senior Vice President for Community Banking at First Tennessee Bank's main office in Murfreesboro and past president of the MTSU National Alumni Association; and,
- **Hope Tenpenny ('07,'08)**, Murfreesboro, Controller of Reeves-Sain Medical, a graduate of Leadership Rutherford, and President Elect of the Junior League of Murfreesboro.

Donna Scott Davenport

The Hon. **Donna Scott Davenport ('78, '90)**, Rutherford County juvenile judge, was appointed in 2015 by Governor Bill Haslam to serve on the Tennessee Department of Health's Child Fatality Review (CFR) team. The team oversees the review of case information for deaths with the hope of better understanding why children die and what action can be taken to prevent future deaths. It also makes recommendations for changes to any law, rule, and policy that would promote the safety and well-being of children. Approximately 40,000 children aged 0–17 die annually in the U.S. Davenport recently served as a commencement speaker at MTSU's December 2015 graduation ceremony.

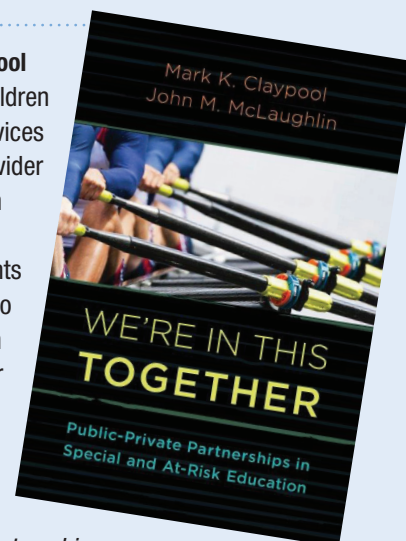




Mark Claypool

A social worker and education administrator, **Mark Claypool ('86, '97)** grew frustrated by decreasing resources for children with learning differences, so he founded Educational Services of America (ESA) in 1999. ESA is the nation's leading provider of behavior therapy and alternative and special education programs for children and young adults. The company provides services to more than 13,500 clients and students each day in areas ranging from working with children who have autism or a related disorder to alternative education programs for students who have dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out. Claypool, a frequent speaker about the value of public-private partnerships in

education and behavioral learning, sees himself as a social entrepreneur who believes that all children can advance academically, behaviorally, and socially if they are given the right tools in the right environment. To that end, he cowrote *We're in This Together: Public-Private Partnerships in Special and At-Risk Education*, published in June 2015.



Institute of Pension Administrators (NIPA), the retirement industry's trade association.

1980s

Leland Blair ('88, '90), Morgantown, W.V., was promoted to Associate Professor of Acting with the School of Theatre and Dance at West Virginia University. Lee also serves as the Area Coordinator

for Performance with the School.

Bob Henry ('85), Murfreesboro, is Senior General Manager, Corporate Purchasing, M-TEK, Inc., where he is responsible for the purchasing of parts and material for all manufacturing locations in United States. M-TEK is currently building its North American corporate headquarters in Murfreesboro.

Timothy Montgomery ('87), Murfreesboro, has formed Tim Montgomery CPA PLLC, a Certified Public Accounting firm. Montgomery has 27 years of public accounting experience and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Col. Carolyn R. Sharpe ('82), Woodbridge, Va., retired from the U.S. Army on July 31, 2014 following 31 years of service.

Dale Tipps ('83), Murfreesboro, was appointed a judge in the Tennessee Court of Workers Compensation Claims for the Tennessee Department of Labor.

continued on page 40

Jill Moss Baffert, Carolyn Moss, Ginger Moss Buttrey, and Brian K. Buttrey



There's a True Blue connection to the 2015 Triple Crown winner, American Pharaoh. **Jill Moss Baffert ('93)**, at far right, who studied broadcast journalism, is the wife of Bob Baffert, world-renowned horse trainer and the trainer of American Pharaoh. The couple is pictured here with their son, Bode Baffert. Jill's mother, Baffert's mother-in-law, is **Carolyn Moss ('97)**, a retired English teacher from Hickman County High School. Carolyn Moss's other children also graduated from MTSU. **Ginger Moss Buttrey ('99)** is child service coordinator for the Head Start program in Hickman, Lewis, and Perry counties. **Brian K. Buttrey ('00)** owns BG Corrections and contracts with the Hickman County Court System as a probation officer. American Pharaoh retired to stud in 2015.

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

1980s, cont.

Richard Walker ('81, '84), Houston, Texas, was selected to receive the Region III John Jones Award for Outstanding Performance as a Senior Student Affairs Officer from NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. He is the vice chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services for the University of Houston System and vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at the University of Houston.

1990s

Roderick Head ('99), Memphis, has been appointed to the Executive MBA Alumni Advisory Council at the University of Memphis. The Council provides business advice and expertise regarding the educational

activities of the program, and provides assistance in developing and strengthening the program's relations with the external community.

Kellie Jenese Mires ('90), Lebanon, was named to the board of LoJac Holding Companies, Inc.

2000s

Claire E. Coleman ('12), Franklin, recently exhibited her artwork at the William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut as part of *The 2015 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition: A World Still in the Making*. The exhibition represented the culminating experience of the MFA degree candidates in the University's School of Fine Arts. In 2015 her work was chosen for publication in *Long River Review*, the Uni-

versity of Connecticut's literary and art magazine.

Amanda Johnson ('01), Murfreesboro, joined Clark Maples Realty and Auction Company as a broker with the Parsley Team.

Jeanne Jodoin ('07), Boston, Mass., is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biology at MIT. Jodoin earned a Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University from the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology in 2013.

Vincent Lillegard ('09), Murfreesboro, is an associate with the law firm Bass, Berry and Sims PLC in Nashville where he focuses on real-estate acquisitions and dispositions.

Patience Long ('01), Murfreesboro, is the new executive director for the Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro.

Michael Shirley ('06), Murfreesboro, recently started a new career as the one of the agriculture teachers at Riverdale High School following eight years with Tennessee Extension.

Audrey Scruton Starr ('05), Dayton Ohio, is associate director of communications at the University of Dayton and has been named president-elect of the Junior League of Dayton for 2015–16.

Jeffrey Syracuse ('01), Nashville, was elected to Metro Council 15th District for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County.

2010s

Robert Hanlin ('11), Nashville, is a personal banker associate for Fifth Third Bank at its Nippers Corner location. He was previously employed at



Heidi Anne Heiner

If the words “fairy tales” conjure up the sanitized, happily-ever-after stories made famous by Disney films, **Heidi Anne Heiner ('96)** has a little warning: fairy tales are not child's play. Heiner has helped thousands discover the depth of fairy tales through her meticulous research—a never-ending endeavor that has made her website, www.SurLaLunefairytales.com, a favorite among scholars and casual readers alike. A casual reader could dig for days on the site to learn more about “Sleeping Beauty,” “Cinderella,” “Hansel and Gretel,” and many other lesser-known tales. Scholars often cite SurLaLune. The site offers 47 annotated tales, 1,600 more tales in e-books, links to Heiner's own books and recommended titles, 1,400 illustrations, and abundant commentary. The site averages 2,000–3,000 unique visitors per day. “I'm not a true academic,” Heiner said. “I'm a website ambassador for fairy tales.” Since 2010, Heiner has published 10 books based on her extensive research. Her latest, *The Grateful Dead*, was released in April 2015.





Shane McFarland

In 2014, **Shane McFarland ('97)**, an accounting major, was elected mayor of Murfreesboro, Tennessee's fastest-growing city and the 10th-fastest-growing city in the United States, according to *Governing.com*. When he succeeded Murfreesboro's longtime mayor Tommy Bragg, McFarland became, at age 39, the youngest mayor in the city's history. That fact probably didn't surprise anyone who's followed his long winning streak. McFarland was president of his class at Grundy County High School and continued that trend at MTSU, becoming SGA president his junior year. Within just a few years of earning his accounting degree, he had established a side career in city government, serving on Murfreesboro's Parks and Recreation, Cultural Arts, and Planning Commissions before being elected to the city council in 2006. He kept his council seat until he was elected mayor. Professionally, McFarland launched his own construction and development company in 2008. Shane McFarland Construction, now with five employees, has made its mark in middle Tennessee with luxury homes and custom professional buildings.

Loan Depot as a senior mortgage banker.

Nival Macid ('13), Nashville, joined Fifth Third Bank as a personal banker associate. He previously served as a sales coordinator for Hutton Hotel.

Brock Patterson ('10,'12), Murfreesboro, is the new director of social media and marketing at Ford of Murfreesboro.

Jonathan Radford ('13), Huntsville, joined the WAFF 48 news team as a general assignment reporter. He previously worked in Bowling Green, Ky., as a morning anchor for the local NBC affiliate.

Loren Safdie ('12), Nashville, was hired by Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee as manager of BizTown, facilitating hands-on learning

for more than 9,000 Middle Tennessee students as they learn the fundamentals of financial literacy and citizenship. Safdie is also a Reading is Fundamental volunteer reader with Book'em.

Kaley Shepherd ('15), Dunlap, joined the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps to perform 10 months of national service. She is currently

serving in Maynard, Mass., at the FEMA Region 1 Regional Response Coordination Center and is working to provide both technical and research support to a variety of tasks at the response office. She will graduate with the rest of the Southern Region's 22nd FEMA Corps Class in April 2016.

continued on page 43



Jeremy Cowart

Celebrity photographer **Jeremy Cowart ('99)** was among the very few photographers selected to document Pope Francis's first visit to the United States. He visited New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., in September 2015. Cowart has photographed many celebrities including Taylor Swift and the Kardashians, and he shot the cover of Tim Tebow's best-selling book. His list of clients includes *Rolling Stone*, *USA Today*, and *Time*, among others.

BIRMINGHAM BOUND



DON'T MISS THE ACTION

GOBLUERAIDERS.COM/TICKETS



CALL 615.898.5261

Chris Hefley



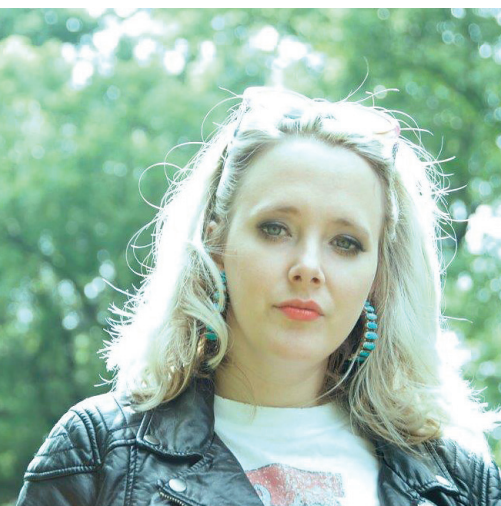
Chris Hefley ('99), cofounder and CEO of Franklin-based LeanKit, is a graduate of MTSU's Computer Science Department, the largest in the state. The self-described software developer turned entrepreneur provides software that companies use to follow the progress of their work, transforming the way people plan and manage their work, the way people collaborate, and the way that supervisors forecast, budget, and steer their organizations. Clients include Spotify, NBC Universal, Rolls-Royce, JetBlue, AOL, Geico, Monster.com, OfficeMax, DirecTV, Groupon, Nokia, and the government of Ontario, Canada, to name a few. Hefley's company employs about 100 people, following its recent acquisition of Nashville-based custom software developer Firefly Logic. With numerous MTSU alumni on staff, LeanKit served as the title sponsor for the Jan. 29–31, 2016, Hack-MT, a gathering of software developers, visual designers, programmers and computer science students from the Midstate. During Hack-MT, teams invented new Web platforms, mobile apps and electronic gadgets.



Ronnie Jebavy

Former MTSU center fielder **Ronnie Jebavy** was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the fifth round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft in 2015. He decided to forgo his final year of eligibility with the Blue Raiders and sign with the Giants organization. The 156th overall selection, Jebavy became the highest drafted player from MTSU since former outfielder Bryce Brentz was chosen 36th overall in 2010. With this selection, Jebavy became the 68th player ever to be drafted from MTSU. Jebavy's older brother, Ryan Stephens, who played at MTSU from 2011 to 2014, is a member of the Rockies organization. A Blue Raider has now been drafted in the top 10 rounds of the draft for two consecutive years. Pitcher Zac Curtis was selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the sixth round in 2014.

continued on page 45



Lauren Wray Grisham

Lauren Wray Grisham ('06) simply says she “works at Antique Archaeology Nashville and sometimes I’m on TV.” But by “on TV,” the store manager of Antique Archaeology means she makes regular appearances on *American Pickers*, the smash hit program on the History Channel. The Nashville resident landed a major role on the program after Mike Wolfe, the star and creator of the show, opened Antique Archaeology in an old automotive plant in Marathon Village. It joined the original Antique Archaeology in Le Claire, Iowa, as a focal point of the show's adventures. Wolfe's reality show enjoyed its eighth season on the air in 2015. The show follows Wolfe and fellow antique and collectible picker Frank Fritz as they travel around the U.S. buying or “picking” various items for resale from people's homes, barns, sheds, outbuildings, and other places where they have stored antiques and collectibles.



Grisham, Dolly Parton, and fellow *Pickers* star Danielle Colby Cushman

Ascend
Federal Credit Union

PROUDLY
PRESENTS

MTSU *Arts*

ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE



HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING 2016

JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS
AND MANY OTHERS.

*12X12: NATIONAL EXHIBITION
OF SMALL-SCALE WORKS OF ART*
JANUARY 22—FEBRUARY 10, 2016

MTSU OPERA: THE TENDER LAND
BY AARON COPLAND
MARCH 18 AND 20, 2016

*MTSU DANCE PRESENTS:
COMPOSITIONS*
MARCH 31—APRIL 2, 2016

WEST SIDE STORY
APRIL 20—24, 2016

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM *true* **BLUE**

WWW.MTSUARTS.COM



Cooper James Perry



Landon Cutler Wade

BABY RAIDERS

Piper Rose Boehms, born May 13, 2015, to **Sid ('12)** and **Charlotte Smith Boehms ('11)** of Dickson.

Cooper James Perry, born July 9, 2015, to **Dustin** and **Jennifer Kennedy Perry ('07)** of Portland.

Andrew Massey Redd, born February 16, 2015, to **Eric**

('98) and **Andrea Coates Redd ('98)** of Chapel Hill.

Alaina Jane Schrader, born March 11, 2015, to **Jason ('14)** and **Lisa Thomason Schrader ('02)** of Murfreesboro.

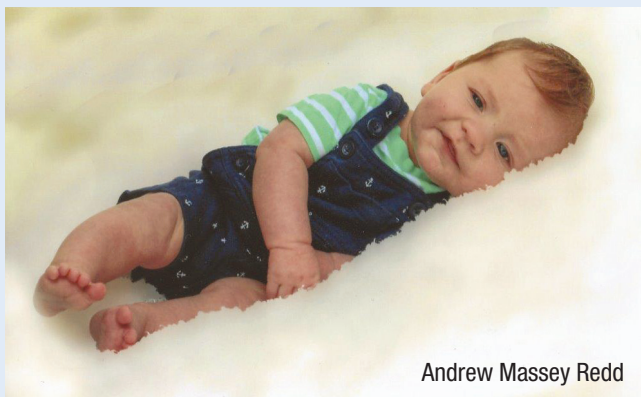


Jacquelyn Rivers Waterman

Emmett James Starr, born May 8, 2015, to **Jeffrey** and **Audrey Scruton Star ('05)** of Dayton, Ohio.

Landon Cutler Wade, born March 31, 2015, to **Holly** and **Chris Wade ('10)** of Tullahoma.

Jacquelyn Rivers Waterman, born September 24, 2015, to **Douglas** and **Jessica Campbell Waterman ('03)** of Nashville.



Andrew Massey Redd



Ken Roberts

When **Ken Roberts ('10)** took the mound for the Colorado Rockies May 3, 2015, in San Diego's Petco Park, it had been 13 years since a former MTSU baseball player had made a pitching debut in a Major League Baseball game. Roberts was unfazed by the moment, tossing a scoreless frame. What made it even more special for Blue Raiders fans is that former MT star catcher **Michael McKenry (2004-06)** was behind the plate for the Rockies during Roberts's debut. In that moment, the two former MTSU standouts etched themselves into Blue Raider history as the first pair of former MTSU players ever to form an MLB battery.

continued on page 46



Chris Young

In fall 2015, Grammy-nominated **Chris Young**'s smash single "I'm Comin' Over" become the fastest-selling single of his career. The title track led off his fifth studio album, released November 13. Each raced to No. 1 on *Billboard*'s album and airplay charts. Young kicked off his "I'm Comin' Over" world tour in September 2015 in Nashville at the new Ascend Amphitheater. Recently named British Country Music Award International Act of the Year, Young has become a key ambassador for country music abroad, and he returned to Europe late last year, headlining nine sold-out shows in England, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, and Switzerland. Earlier in 2015, he played to audiences in Australia, South Korea, and Japan. Young credits much of his success as a chart-topping artist to his time spent as

a student at MTSU. He has also contributed to the University by giving a significant amount of his surplus musical equipment to MTSU—soundboards, cables, lighting, video, and staging—for use in on- and off-campus events.



photos David McClister

In Memoriam

1940s

Kate Miles Higgins ('42),
Madison, Alabama, May 17,
2015

**Virginia Locke Isaacson ('49,
'82)**, Jonesboro, Ark., August
31, 2015

Evelyn Mitchell ('41),
La Vergne, August 5, 2015

Evelyn Broyles Murray ('46),
Quincy, Ill., June 10, 2015

1950s

James Anderson ('56),
Red Bay, Ala., June 10, 2015

James Andrews ('59),
Lebanon, July 6, 2015

Jerolyn Cashion Bennett ('52),
Tallahoma, September 6, 2015

John Browder ('54), Knoxville,
June 17, 2015

Robert Crigger ('57),
Nolensville, July 11, 2015

Jack Curtis ('56), Brentwood,
August 12, 2015

Ralph Fleming ('50), Nashville,
May 11, 2015

Irene Estes Frisbee ('52),
Cleveland, September 26,
2015

Max Gurley ('59), Tampa, Fla.,
May 15, 2015

**Wilma Jeanne Horton ('58,
'86)**, Tullahoma, July 2, 2015

Marvin Jinnette ('58, '68),
Loudon, May 17, 2015

Elaine Milligan Johnson ('53),
Jackson, Ga., September 24,
2015

Lila Neal Ligon ('57), Chatta-
nooga, February 23, 2015

William Locke ('57), Fort
Pierce, Fla., April 21, 2015

Mike Mayers ('57), Sparta,
March 5, 2014

**Nancy Jones McNabb ('51,
'66)**, Murfreesboro, September
13, 2015

Fred Newton ('55, '56), Clarks-
ville, October 3, 2015

Harold Ray ('57), Hixson, May
7, 2015

William "Joe" Vann ('50),
Flintville, July 3, 2015

**Betty Jean Wilkinson Van
Hook ('54)**, Madison, February
23, 2015

1960s

Ruth Mitchell Baskin ('64),
Manchester, June 16, 2015

Paula Moore Brown ('63),
Spartanburg, S.C., September
12, 2015

Mary Gentry Ford ('68),
Maryville, August 4, 2015

Joseph Geldbaugh ('69),
Newalla, Okla., February 23,
2015

Lucy Baskin Hollis ('65), Tulla-
homa, August 6, 2015

Gene McCall ('62), Murfrees-
boro, June 24, 2015

**Nelly McClure Blankenship
('69, '79)**, Murfreesboro,
June 5, 2015

Jimmy Cann ('69), Louisville,
Ky., May 21, 2015

James K. Clark ('63),
Damariscotta, Maine, May 24,
2015

Robert Crowder ('65, '71),
Murfreesboro, October 3, 2015

Robert Deaton ('68), Murfrees-
boro, May 16, 2015

Jerry Elkins ('66), Woodbury,
August 29, 2015

Bettye Dye Glover ('63),
Portland, June 15, 2015

Charles Gupton, Jr., ('64),
Nashville, May 18, 2015

Hugh Hooper ('64, '73), Milton,
May 28, 2015

James Langston ('64),
Franklin, July 24, 2015

**Catherine Walton Latham
('66)**, Columbia, September
9, 2015

**Reginald "Reggie" Law ('62,
'63)**, Cleveland, June 22, 2015

Dean Lewis ('69), Unionville,
May 29, 2015

**Howard "Pat" Murchison
('66)**, Soddy Daisy, June 30,
2015

Joyce Allen Payne ('66, '72),
Tullahoma, June 1, 2015

Dortha Ragsdale ('60), Antioch,
August 4, 2015

Jerry Robinson ('66), Casper,
Wy., August 6, 2015

Austin Smith, Jr., ('68),
Nashville, July 5, 2015

Helen Willis Sullivan ('61),
Manchester, August 31, 2015

James Turner, Jr., ('65),
Shelbyville, August 28, 2015

Cary Thompson ('67),
Murfreesboro, May 27, 2015

George Waldron, III, ('67),
Murfreesboro, September 22,
2015

1970s

Phyllis Ezell Alford ('74),
Murfreesboro, August 14, 2015

**Ruth Dale Goldsby Brown
('72)**, Nashville, June 16, 2015

Jamie Miller Burroughs ('75),
Hermitage, August 23, 2015

Donna Carroll ('72), Chatta-
nooga, July 16, 2015

Jimmy Davis ('78), Murfrees-
boro, May 20, 2015

John "Lou" Griffin, Sr., ('73)
Dallas, Texas, May 5, 2015

Mack Hannah ('71, '74),
Atlanta, Ga., August 20, 2015

Norman Henson ('70), Chapel
Hill, July 17, 2015

Rhonda Holton ('75, '83),
Chapel Hill, September 10,
2015

Jack Huffman ('76), Cumber-
land Furnace, July 20, 2015

**Nancy Womack McGregor
('72)**, McMinnville, September
1, 2015

Dr. Robert Neilson ('79),
Mangilao, Guam, June 5, 2015

Sammie Nicely ('76), Atlanta,
Ga., May 23, 2015

Jeannette Baker Rolater ('70),
Murfreesboro, July 28, 2015

**Carol Ann Smith-Sanders
('75)**, Opelika, Ala., December
28, 2014

Jo Anne Sanders ('76),
Suwanee, Ga., June 25, 2015

Dr. Carol Smith-Sanders ('75),
Opelika, Ala., December 28,
2014

Iris Starks Stigall ('70), Chat-
tanooga, August 14, 2015

Joy Powell Smith ('76),
Murfreesboro, August 9, 2015

William Turney ('72), Schaum-
burg, Ill., July 12, 2015

Theresa Turner Sellers ('79),
Murfreesboro, July 15, 2015

Louella O'Neal White ('71),
Chickamauga, Ga., June 20,
2015

Nancy White ('70), Old Hickory,
September 23, 2015

1980s

Denise Orren Campbell ('80),
Conyers, Georgia, June 23,
2015

Lucretia Carter ('82), Soldotna,
Arkansas, May 20, 2015

**Nanette Noffsinger Crowell
('80)**, Nolensville, June 8, 2015

**Virginia Stringham Greene
Conn ('86)**, Cedar Hill, June
2, 2015

Charles Gammon ('80), Wash-
ington, DC, April 30, 2015

Billy Hamilton ('81), Lebanon,
August 18, 2015

Nollie Sharp Jenne ('82),
Murfreesboro, August 4, 2015

Sherrill Kilgore ('81), Charlotte,
September 24, 2015

Frederick Milligan, Jr., ('81),
Nashville, May 5, 2015

**John "Chris" Shofner, Jr.,
('82)**, Shelbyville, June 19,
2015

Henry "Hank" Siress ('82),
Panama City, Florida, July 31,
2015

1990s

Michael L. Heath ('93),
Murfreesboro, October 20,
2015.

Robert Frierson ('96), Spring
Hill, May 12, 2015

Monique Hamann ('98),
Lewiston, Maine, September
18, 2015

**Kimberly Martinez Littlejohn
('96, '97)**, Kingston Springs,
July 20, 2015

Michael Peters ('91), Murfrees-
boro, June 8, 2015

Janice Strong ('90), Murfrees-
boro, July 11, 2015

Michael Teverucht ('92), Estill
Springs, August 2, 2015

Patricia Weber ('99), Teutopo-
lis, Ill., September 17, 2015

William West ('98), Greeneville,
May 1, 2015

2000s

Gabriel Benson ('07), Knoxville,
August 26, 2015

**Amanda Newell Childress
('09)**, Nashville, August 14,
2015

**Mary "Chris" Iverson Handy
('03)**, Columbia, September
8, 2015

Keith Scott ('08), McMinnville,
April 25, 2015

2010s

David Armstrong ('13),
Murfreesboro, July 26, 2015

Charles Gabbard ('14),
Christiana, June 14, 2015

Antonio Hill ('11), Portsmouth,
Va., September 27, 2015

LaSjhondra Landtroop ('10),
Murfreesboro, September 30,
2015 [MTSU](#)



Tim Weatherly

Tim Weatherly ('74), Nashville, September 21, 2015

Weatherly was a tremendous Blue Raider fan, a season ticket holder, and attended football and basketball games for 40+ years. He faithfully contributed to the BRAA for 25 years, and was recently recognized for his support of Blue Raiders athletics. A Hillwood High graduate, Weatherly studied Business at MTSU, worked for *The Tennessean*, Franklin Industries, and Dell computer, and was a member at Christ Church in Nashville.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

1301 E. Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Non-profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit 893
Nashville, TN

I AM *true* **BLUE**

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



Science Building

Share your MTSU experience.
Encourage your friends and family to

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK