



# MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

January 2014 Vol. 18 No. 2

## Ahead of the Game

MTSU **leads** the statewide effort to reform **teacher education**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## MTSU's "first-gen" deans

**R**OUGHLY 30 PERCENT OF ENTERING FIRST-year students in the United States are first-generation college students, meaning that they are the first members of their families to enroll in any educational institution after high school.

To be the first in a family to receive a college degree is a big accomplishment and a deserved point of pride. MTSU has long been a top choice of such "first-gens" who enroll in college in a deliberate attempt to improve their social, economic, and occupational standing.

It is perhaps appropriate, then, that at MTSU, six of the nine academic deans leading the various colleges and academic units that comprise MTSU are themselves first-generation college students. Pictured here are the six MTSU deans and at right they are listed with the colleges they helm and the institutions from which they received their bachelor's degrees.

*(left to right)*

**David Urban** (Business)

University of Virginia, B.S., commerce, 1977

**Ken Paulson** (Mass Communication)

University of Missouri, B.J., journalism, 1975

**Bonnie Allen** (Walker Library)

Indiana University–Bloomington, B.A.,  
fine arts (art history), 1972

**Lana Seivers** (Education)

MTSU, B.S., speech and hearing therapy, 1972

**Bud Fischer** (Basic and Applied Sciences)

Herkimer County Community College,  
A.S., liberal arts: science, 1980  
SUNY College, B.S., forest biology, 1982

**Terry Whiteside** (Behavioral and Health Sciences)

University of Miami, B.A., psychology, 1967

**True Blue!**



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# Performance Issues

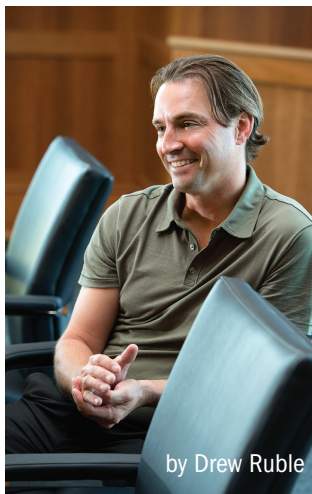
NEXT MONTH'S 2014 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES IN Sochi, Russia, will be the first Olympic games in a while without MTSU graduate Dr. Ken Wright ('84), a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), in attendance. Wright, who earned his Ph.D. at MTSU and who now serves as professor and director of the sports medicine program at the University of Alabama, has served as a doping control officer in three previous Olympics (London, Vancouver, and Salt Lake City) and has also worked with the U.S. Olympic Committee as an athletic trainer, educator, and presenter at meetings in China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. He is credited with helping standardize Olympic doping controls so that athletes around the world are held to the same standard.

It may seem counterintuitive, but more than two decades of involvement in anti-doping efforts have turned Wright into an optimist. Some 200 million Americans have a relationship with sports as participants, coaches, parents, or volunteers. The vast majority of them would never consider cheating and risking their health and safety by using or promoting performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). But those aren't the people who make headlines. "My view is that we should be thankful that people are taking time to incorporate integrity and honesty in sport," Wright says. "They don't get the attention the bad guys get."

Wright is pinning his hopes on the USADA's True Sport program, an effort to change the win-at-any-cost culture that can make young athletes vulnerable to the temptation of doping or even the seemingly innocent use of energy drinks that, while perfectly legal, contain unhealthy and potentially dangerous stimulants. True Sport provides resources for K-12 educators, coaches, and parents who want to teach young athletes to value ethics, integrity, and personal achievement, not just the final score.

Last October, Wright returned to campus during Homecoming weekend, taking time while in Murfreesboro to introduce the True Sport program to Hobgood Elementary School students.

[Editor's Note: Writer Bill Lewis contributed heavily to this piece.]



This edition of *MTSU Magazine* showcases numerous examples of MTSU professors, students, staff members, and alums—some, even, who never quite got their degree from MTSU—who, like Wright, are affecting outcomes on a global scale and who represent the University with pride and respect. In my estimation, their collective stories serve as just another way of explaining what it means to be *True Blue*. **MTSU**

# MTSU MAGAZINE

Middle Tennessee State University  
January 2014 / vol. 18 no. 2

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For exclusive online content, visit [www.mtsumagazine.com](http://www.mtsumagazine.com).

MTSU is a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution.



109,200 copies printed at Lithographics, Nashville, Tenn.  
Designed by MTSU Creative and Visual Services.

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# The Quest for Student Success

**Q** A recent issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* stated there is a growing call for innovation that supports greater student success at our institutions. What is MTSU doing to ensure that students who enroll here succeed and graduate?

**N**OTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ENSURING OUR students' academic success. MTSU faculty and administration have come together to respond to these challenges by putting ourselves under a microscope as we attempt to better understand why our successful students succeed and what barriers to success get in the way of those who struggle.

Even with statewide and national accolades for its efficiency in creating college graduates, MTSU's continued success depends on its ability to help our students earn college degrees. These students are our responsibility, and we must discover and develop new and innovative ways to help them be successful, instead of whining about who they are. At MTSU, from a staff and faculty perspective, we simply must maintain and grow our student-centered culture. If students become an interruption in your day, you're in the wrong business.

MTSU already has changed some administrative processes and policies that created roadblocks for students. One of these changes allows students to register or reenroll with an account balance of \$200 or less. Previously, there was an across-the-board ban on registration for students owing as little as \$5 to the University! Additionally, a campus-wide task force's discovery of an almost 40 percent failure or withdrawal rate in some general education courses—despite students' solid high school GPAs and ACT scores—has led to faculty redesigning seven courses in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

We've also reviewed our recruitment and enrollment strategies, resulting in a two percent increase in this year's freshman class. This 2013–14 freshman class also showed an increase in composite ACT scores and high school GPAs over the previ-

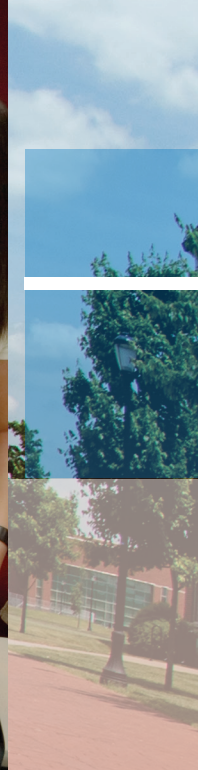
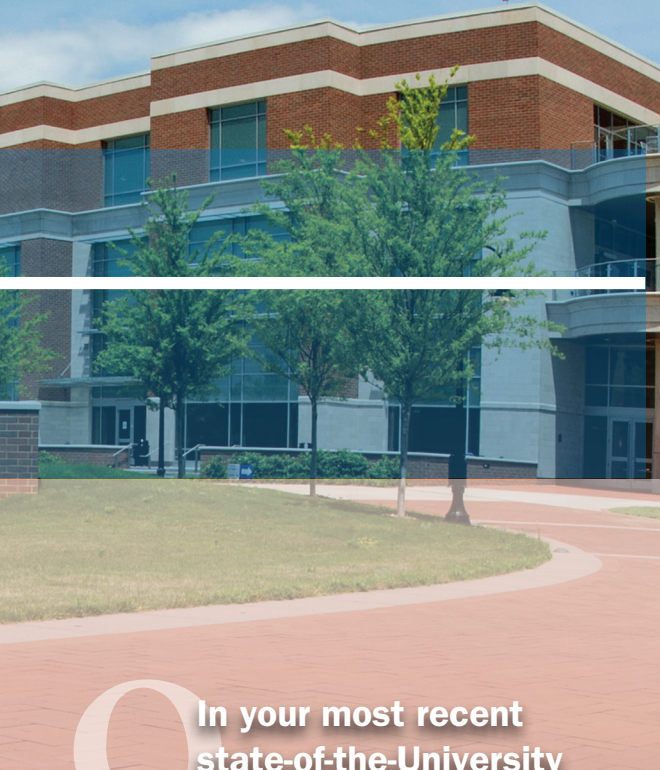
ous year. We've expanded scholarship funds for groups that have traditionally been undersupported, and we've gone to the Tennessee Board of Regents to request policy changes to allow more flexibility in registration and payment policies.

Additionally, we've surveyed students who failed to reenroll and analyzed their responses regarding factors that prevented their persistence. We've significantly expanded our Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research group to provide better data regarding student retention, graduation, and success. Every academic college and every administrative division has conducted an internal review and participated in

## **If students become an interruption in your day, you're in the wrong business.**

a series of hearings to outline new plans to help more students achieve success in the classroom and to graduate. We've begun to review grade distribution reports to better understand those courses that seem to have exceptionally large numbers of students not achieving the grade of C or better, so that we can consider curricular innovations to improve learning. We've also analyzed the first data sets coming out of the new funding formula under the Complete College Tennessee Act to see where our strengths lie and where we have opportunities to make improvements that may enhance our funding as an institution.

Last, we will be opening a one-stop shop for student enrollment services this spring. We have begun posting midterm grades for the first time in many years, giving students additional feedback to help them improve where their performance is lacking. A consolidated tutoring center is also being developed to provide learning support for students in all majors.



**In your most recent state-of-the-University speech, you said that higher education is just the latest arena facing a series of disruptive forces that could, on the one hand, lead to great innovation and transformation or, on the other, lead to significant losses in enrollment, funding, and cultural influence. What is your plan to address this?**

**I**RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A MAJOR initiative—The MTSU Quest for Student Success—that will integrate these efforts into a single coherent approach for the future. The plan is designed to make sure that every student who comes to MTSU with the drive to achieve will be met with the best instruction from excellent professors who care about their success. The MTSU Quest lays out

our ambitious vision to innovate for increased student success in three key areas:

- Recruiting students who value academic success
- Enhancing the academic experience for students by implementing innovation in curriculum across all disciplines and underscoring the role of quality advising in student success
- Championing enhancements in administrative processes and eliminating barriers to student success

MTSU's Department of Physics and Astronomy is a great example of the work we are already doing to promote and improve student success and retention and graduation. The department has implemented more student-friendly teaching practices for introductory courses and is using high-achieving undergrads to serve as learning assistants for classmates in those courses. The department's reward—in addition to

fewer failing grades, more physics and astronomy majors, and more graduates—was a \$20,000 check as the first recipient of the President's Award for Exceptional Departmental Initiatives for Student Academic Success, given last fall.

This is our time for transformation—our time to seize the opportunity to innovate, transform, and lead the way in creating a new model for higher education. Instead of spinning our wheels focusing on the many external factors affecting higher education that are beyond our capacity to control, MTSU is turning its energies and talents toward tackling the internal factors over which we have direct influence and which we know can positively affect student learning.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

*[Editor's Note: You can read more about the plan here: <http://mtnnews.com/mtsu-student-success-reforms/>]* **MTSU**

*inset photo: J. Intintoli; background photo: Andy Heidt*

# MidPoints

A look at recent awards, events, and accomplishments at MTSU

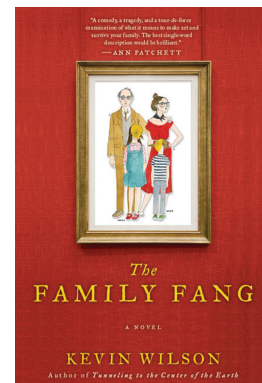
compiled by Gina E. Fann, Jimmy Hart, Gina K. Logue, Paula Morton, Drew Ruble, and Randy Weiler



## A Gathering of Scribes

Kevin Wilson (below), author of the novel *The Family Fang*, was the keynote speaker at the Middle Tennessee Writers' Conference last September. The Writer's Loft at MTSU (see below) sponsors the annual conference. *The Family Fang*, which has been optioned for a movie starring Nicole Kidman, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was named one of the top 10 books of 2011

by *Time*, *People*, and *Esquire* magazines and Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Kirkus Reviews. Margaret Renkl, editor of Chapter16.org, a daily source for literary news, interviews, and reviews with a Tennessee focus, called the conference a "truly welcome addition to the state's literary scene." Other award-winning writers at the conference included poet Bill Brown, nonfiction writer Holly Tucker, novelist Linda Busby Parker, and MTSU professor and playwright Claudia Barnett.



## A Fine Collaboration

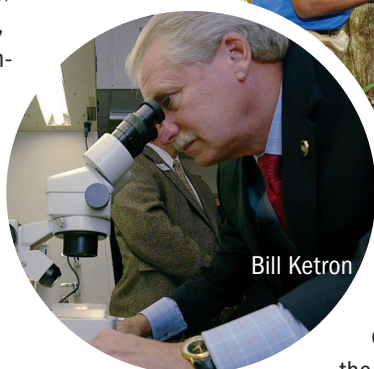
The Center for Popular Music at MTSU expanded its internationally recognized collection yet again with the addition of the works of songwriter, arranger, and bandleader Joel S. Herron, who teamed with Frank Sinatra to write one of the crooner's classics. A gift from Herron's youngest son, Roark Herron, the collection includes approximately 40 linear feet of business correspondence, scores, arrangements, contracts, photographs, tapes, and other materials from the musician's professional life. Herron, who passed away in 2012, wrote the music for "I'm a Fool to Want You." Sinatra and Jack Wolfe wrote the lyrics. The tune has been covered by Billie Holiday, Dexter Gordon, Chet Baker, Linda Ronstadt, Shirley Bassey, and Tony Bennett, to name a few.

## Did You Know?

The Writer's Loft, MTSU's non-residency creative writing program for fiction, nonfiction and poetry writers at any level, can help you achieve your dream of becoming a writer. Department of English faculty will mentor you one-on-one to hone your writing skills and produce a publishable manuscript. Visit [mtsu.edu/theloft](http://mtsu.edu/theloft) for more information.

## Digging In

Rep. Jeremy Faison (R-Cosby), of the Tennessee General Assembly, along with a team of researchers and administrators from MTSU, trekked through the woods of Cocke County last October to dig for “Appalachian gold.” The MTSU researchers he was with were scientists from the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research, based at MTSU, who sought his help to collect samples of east Tennessee-grown ginseng to compare with varieties of the herb found in China. MTSU’s partnership with the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in China is exploring the uses of ancient herbal remedies like ginseng in modern medicine, an effort that has yielded almost 40 results showing promise in the treatment of cancer, viral infections, and other ailments. President Sidney A. McPhee and state senator Bill Ketron (R-Murfreesboro) went on the hunt as well.



Bill Ketron

Ginseng has been a valuable medicinal herb, particularly in Asian markets, for centuries. The American variety of the herb was discovered in the 1700s and has long been a part of Appalachian culture. Historians say legendary frontiersmen Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone were ginseng traders and found the trade to be quite lucrative. Demand for ginseng remains strong to this day. Aggressive harvesting of the wild herb in Asia has increased demand for American ginseng. “It’s a great opportunity, not only for MTSU but the state of Tennessee,” Ketron said. In November, MTSU began growing its own ginseng on the University’s farm located just a few miles from campus in Lascassas, Tenn.



## A Good Exchange

President Sidney A. McPhee and Vice Minister Xu Lin of China shared their cultures, ideas, and a few gifts during an October visit by Xu to the State Capitol and to the Confucius Institute at MTSU. Xu oversees 400-plus Confucius Institutes in 117 countries around the world. McPhee serves as a senior advisor to the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing. During the State Capitol visit, which was facilitated by state senator Bill Ketron, Xu and McPhee met with Gov. Bill Haslam, state representative Jim Coley (R-Bartlett), and Ketron to discuss the importance of cultural exchanges between the U.S. and China in areas such as education and business. In touting the positive impact of the cultural exchange, McPhee cited the exclusive research partnership between the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research, based at MTSU, and the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in China, to accelerate the development of Western medicines from plant extracts. McPhee noted that about 15 samples of medicinal plants are showing promise in treating certain cancers.

*(continued on next page)*

## Worldwide Recognition

In acknowledgement of the University’s work to strengthen educational and cultural ties between China and the U.S., President Sidney A. McPhee was recently honored as the “Person of the Year” by the global organization of Confucius Institutes. Vice Premier Liu Yandong, China’s highest-ranking educational leader, presented McPhee with the award during the eighth annual Global Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing in December 2013. The conference attracted more than 2,200 attendees from 110 countries. “This honor is really for the fantastic work by MTSU’s Confucius Institute to broaden the international scope and reach of our campus,” McPhee said. MTSU joined China’s Hangzhou Normal University to open its institute in 2010.





## Reason to Bragg

British singer-songwriter Billy Bragg was the inaugural guest speaker for a new Americana music series launched at MTSU. Bragg's appearance represented but one facet of a partnership between MTSU's College of Mass Communication and the Franklin, Tenn.-based Americana Music Association, the trade organization whose mission is to advocate for the authentic voice of American roots music around the world. Bragg is best known for his topical songs over a 20-year recording career and for his collaboration with the band Wilco on *Mermaid Avenue*, a project that married unpublished lyrics by Woody Guthrie with new music.

## A New Catalyst



Construction on MTSU's \$147 million Science Building remains on schedule, with the grand opening set for spring 2015. The project will result in approximately 257,000 square feet for biology and chemistry, 37 class labs, two open labs, 13 research labs, six classrooms, faculty offices, informal learning areas, and space for student presentations. The project recently received a significant boost with a \$1.5 million grant from the Christy-Houston Foundation. Prospective students can get a sneak peek at the new facility and the many science offerings at MTSU during a special **Preview Day** on March 22. Take a virtual tour of the building at <http://mtsunews.com/sciencebuilding>.

## Making News



Ken Paulson at the Newseum

Editors, media executives, educators, and MTSU alumni gathered last summer at the Newseum, the interactive museum of news and journalism in the nation's capital, to welcome the new dean of the MTSU College of Mass Communication, Ken Paulson, and hear about his plans for the college. Attendees included executives and MTSU alumni from major news and journalism organizations such as the Gannett Co., the McClatchy Co., CNN, the Travel Channel, and *USA Today*, as well as journalism educators from universities attending the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference. The event highlighted the partnership between MTSU and the Freedom Forum, which operates the Newseum, and the First Amendment Center in Nashville. During the trip, Paulson was also recognized by the AEJMC for the advocacy work he and others conduct through the First Amendment Center. "We intend to be the most innovative college of mass communication in America," Paulson said at the Newseum event.

## Not Stuck in Park

MTSU students are finding parking much easier these days following the opening last summer of two new parking garages. The \$23.5 million garages were paid for with student fees instituted a few years ago. Each four-deck garage has approximately 490 spaces, which students can use free of charge. One garage connects to the new Student Services and Admissions Center still under construction and includes a walking bridge that connects to the second floor of the new Student Union. A nearby surface lot also recently opened, providing 670 more parking spaces for students.



Student body president James Lee christened the new parking garage on Aug. 8, 2013.



## Head of the Class

MTSU was selected as one of the “Best in the Southeast” by the Princeton Review on its 2014 list of the nation’s top colleges. Editors of the annual list, which recognized 138 institutions in the 12-state Southeast region, called MTSU “a growing school on the rise,” where “you get a quality education and you aren’t in crippling debt afterward.” The Review, an education services company known for test prep programs and college guides, said MTSU’s faculty “work hard to ensure equal opportunities for students who want to learn” and “the administration’s ear is easily bent, meaning resources continue to improve every year.” MTSU was also recently identified by another online resource, AffordableCollegeOnline.org, as one of the state’s colleges and universities with the greatest lifetime return on investment. The site listed MTSU as a “High ROI College,” saying it offers a “high-quality education with consistent, long-term payoffs in the workplace.”



## Worldwide Reach

MTSU revitalized its primary website, [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). Enhancements include the creation of special pages devoted to MTSU’s 100-plus programs of study, with embedded videos offering a visual glimpse of majors and colleges. The University will continue to make changes to the website throughout the 2013-14 academic year. Send feedback and suggestions to [socialmedia@mtsu.edu](mailto:socialmedia@mtsu.edu).



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Supreme Court justice Janice Holder (center) with MTSU students

## Holding Court

The Tennessee Supreme Court met at MTSU in October to hear three appeals as part of its Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students program, or SCALES. The session, the first held on campus for MTSU students and sponsored by the University’s American Democracy Project, was composed of three separate hour-long courtroom hearings followed by a debriefing session with each case’s presenting attorneys during which students and faculty could ask questions in a classroom-like setting. The appeals included a Rutherford County case, *Tennessee v. Glover P. Smith*. Smith, who reported his wife missing in December 2007, was convicted in 2009 of fabricating evidence and filing a false report. The Tennessee Court of Appeals upheld his convictions and sentences, and Smith took his case to the state’s high court. His wife, Marsilene “Marcy” Smith, remains missing.



## Bringing the Row to the 'Boro

Music and technology entrepreneur Mark Montgomery, who launched one of the first five U.S. companies to sell music directly to consumers on the Internet, began teaching a new class for MTSU's Department of Recording Industry last fall, focusing on new business models in the music industry. Also a cofounder of Echo, which managed the digital businesses of some of the biggest entertainers in the world (and was purchased by IAC/Ticketmaster in 2007), Montgomery's clients through the years have included Kanye West, Keith Urban, and Best Buy, among others. Montgomery is now tackling projects for Google and YouTube and also founded FLO {thinkery}, a cutting-edge think tank and investment firm focused on starting companies in the consumer space, in 2011. Still a songwriter and musician, Montgomery also serves as CEO of country star Kenny Chesney's spirits company, FishBowl Spirits. Student business plans created in the class that show the most potential may be mentored and developed at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center.

## Worthy of Salute

As first reported by the *Daily News Journal* in Murfreesboro, MTSU student-athlete Steven Rhodes "felt a duty to serve his country and had a dream to play football." But the 24-year-old freshman, who finished his five years of active service in the Marine Corps and then enrolled at MTSU and walked on as a football player last year, soon ended up in a public relations battle with the NCAA—the governing body for college athletics—that placed MTSU on the front pages of newspapers and news websites around the world. That's because the NCAA originally ruled that Rhodes's participation in a military-only recreational football league before his enrollment at MTSU limited his eligibility to play Division I football. Pressure from President Sidney A. McPhee, who was until very recently a member of the NCAA executive committee, as well as media outlets around the world, hastened a new ruling by the NCAA reinstating Rhodes's eligibility, allowing him to play immediately and to maintain all four years of his eligibility. ESPN interviewed Rhodes for a Veterans Day edition of the program *College Gameday* that aired in November.

## To a "T"

MTSU's brand went worldwide last fall thanks to a beloved comic strip that's been around since the 1930s. Two MTSU sources provided the inspiration for syndicated cartoonist Guy Gilchrist to draw Aunt Fritzi wearing a T-shirt that read "MTSU BLUE RAIDERS" in the Nancy comic strip that ran October 1. The motivation came from an August interview Gilchrist had with Murfreesboro's *Daily News Journal* reporter (and MTSU alum) Mealand Ragland-Hudgins and from his longtime friend Boots Donnelly, the former MTSU football player, coach, athletic director, and ambassador. "I was on the phone doing an interview with a reporter from the Murfreesboro paper a while ago, and when we got finished she was



asking me about all the different T-shirts that Aunt Fritzi wears and she said, 'What would it take for her to be wearing MTSU?'" said Gilchrist, a Nashville-area resident. "One night . . . I was working along and I had that blank shirt there to put something on, and I said, 'Why not MTSU?' I said, 'Won't it be interesting to see if anybody notices?' Well, we got noticed." Originally penned by the late Ernie Bushmiller but inherited 16 years ago by Gilchrist, Nancy (portrayed above in MTSU blue) is seen by 57 million readers in more than 400 newspapers and the [www.gocomics.com](http://www.gocomics.com) website.



Steven Rhodes





## Positive Influence

At its annual Economic Outlook Conference last October, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business honored one of its successful alumni, health care entrepreneur Joey Jacobs, with the 2013 Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award. Jacobs is chair and CEO of Acadia Healthcare, a rapidly growing behavioral health company based in Franklin. Before joining Acadia, Jacobs cofounded Psychiatric Solutions Inc. and served as its chair, president, and CEO from April 1997 until November 2010. Jacobs is on the executive committee of MTSU's ongoing \$80 million fundraising campaign.



## A Future So Fulbright

David Owens (below), an MTSU doctoral student, will travel to Brazil this coming spring to begin a nine-month Fulbright English teaching assistantship. The Fulbright Program—the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government—is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

During his time in Brazil, Owens plans to work with locals on science and farming projects and volunteer where needed. Owens, who holds a bachelor's degree in biology education and chemistry from MTSU and a master's degree in ecology from the University of Nebraska, recently began a doctoral program in math and science education at MTSU. This marks the fourth consecutive year MTSU has had at least two students awarded a Fulbright opportunity. Owens is the 11th MTSU student to receive this honor. MTSU was recognized last year by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright award winners. MTSU was the only Tennessee college or university to earn the distinction.



## A Healthy Student Body

MTSU drew the largest class of new freshmen and the largest population of new transfer students among the six universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents system last fall. MTSU's new freshman population increased by almost two percent over last year, at a time when the number of high school graduates is down nationally and demographers have predicted a smaller high school graduate population in Tennessee. Both the average ACT and the average high school GPA are up for the entering freshman class. The ACT average for the fall 2013 freshman class (22.0) continues to be above the national average (20.9) and above the Tennessee average (19.5). The average high school GPA for the fall 2013 freshman class (3.35) was above last year's class (3.31). Enrollment in doctoral programs at MTSU also increased by nearly nine percent.



## Music "U"

MTSU alum Gary Overton ('84), above right, chair and CEO of Sony Music Nashville, home of country music superstars Kenny Chesney, Miranda Lambert, Brad Paisley, and Carrie Underwood (above left), was the first speaker in the Recording Industry Department's new Chair's Speakers Series last fall. Before Sony and a 15-year stint running EMI Publishing, Overton was personal manager for Alan Jackson. At the event, Overton was named an honorary professor in the Department of Recording Industry. Barry Gibb (below) also spoke as part of the series. Gibb, one of the founding members of the Bee Gees, is the world's most successful songwriter after Paul McCartney, according to *Guinness World Records*, and has a career spanning more than 50 years.

During his visit, Gibb was named the inaugural fellow of the Center for Popular Music at MTSU. Other speakers included Sarah Trahern, recently named CEO of the Country Music Association; Grammy-nominated R&B singer Kenny Lattimore; artist manager Michelle Tafoya (who handled projects during the height of the success of Tupac Shakur); and Grammy-nominated producer Nathan Chapman (best known for producing Taylor Swift). Singer/songwriter Kip Moore (who last year had three consecutive number-one country radio hits) provided a lecture sponsored by Grammy U, the college networking arm of the Recording Academy.



# An Urban

# DEVELOPMENT

Interview by Drew Ruble

**W**HEN DAVID URBAN STARTED HIS UNDERGRADUATE education at the University of Virginia, he was convinced he would major in history or government and go to law school. He had never taken a business class. In his sophomore year, however, he enrolled in a microeconomics class taught by a legendary professor at Virginia, Dr. Ken Elzinga. The professor's passion for the subject and his effectiveness as an instructor got Urban interested in business and led him to enter the McIntire School of Commerce at Virginia, where he concentrated on marketing.

"I was fascinated with consumer decision making in both the business-to-consumer and business-to-business contexts," Urban says. "My marketing advisor, Dr. Bill Kehoe, encouraged me to consider an academic career, because he felt I had many of the traits that would help me to be a successful academician. He knew that I had already committed to four years of duty as a

Navy Supply Corps officer after graduation, but he urged me to keep in touch and offered to help me if I ever decided to pursue an academic career." Immediately after Urban left the Navy, he started graduate school at the University of Michigan and was on his way. He describes himself as "living proof" of the impact professors can have on their students.

Before joining MTSU in summer 2013, Urban was executive associate dean and marketing professor at the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, where he also served stints as interim business dean and chair of the Department of Marketing. Urban believes the similarities between VCU and MTSU—both large, public universities with diverse student bodies in growing regions—will make his transition smoother.

*MTSU Magazine editor Drew Ruble recently sat down with Urban to discuss the future for MTSU's business program, which boasts more than 125 full-time faculty, more than 3,000 undergraduate majors, and more than 500 graduate students.*

## The new dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business discusses the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead

### What do you bring to the position of dean of the college of business at MTSU?

I entered academia not intending to become an administrator but to teach and do research, which I did for 19 years. I was involved in faculty governance at the department, school, and university levels at Georgia State University and VCU. Colleagues often encouraged me to move into administration. Once I had achieved my goal of promotion to full professor, I moved into administration as a research center director and then department chair, interim dean, and executive associate dean. I did not seek those roles but was asked to take them. I enjoyed administration. Even in academia, the right person in the right leadership position at the right time can have tremendous positive impact. Having served as interim dean, I began selectively applying for positions as dean of a major business school. A search firm contacted me about Jones College. The more I learned about it, the more I felt my background and experience would fit well.

The key things I bring to the position include a full range of experience with excellent results as a faculty member and an academic administrator. I am always learning, but there is little in academia I have not done. I am a marketing professional and hold the American Marketing Association's Professional Certified Marketer designation. I have worked with scores of businesses over the years in research, training, and consulting projects. Much of the success of a major business school depends on the interaction between the school and the business community. I can speak the language of people in business. Perhaps most important, I have strong communication skills and have been told I have the

ability to inspire people. I believe this will be beneficial in working with faculty, staff, students, and colleagues as well as the college's external constituents.

### What is your vision for Jones College's future?

Much of my time will be spent listening and learning. I must understand our situation. Then priorities will be clear. I will focus on collaboration and input from internal and external supporters so everyone understands where we are headed, why, and how they will play a part. In five years, we can examine several indicators to measure our progress. At any university, the business school should be the shining example of excellent leadership and management; effective organizational structure and processes; fiscal administration, human resource management, student services, and marketing and branding strategy; and a great place to work. I want to say we practice what we 'teach.' Retention and graduation rates and placement statistics are revealing, and we can benchmark our progress compared to our competitive, peer, and aspirant business schools. We should see significant positive movement in all of those statistics.

Leaders at major state universities in the past few years have had to deal with a reduction in state government financial support. I will focus with my development professionals on increased external support in the form of scholarships, professorships, research funding, and endowment. The amount we raise will be a tangible indicator of success in building our programs. It's important to build the MTSU and Jones College brands. Investment in communication and marketing will be vital as we position Jones College as a superior business school regionally, nationally, and internationally. We will see improvement in our program and school rankings and broaden the recognition and prestige of Jones College.

“The **right** person in the **right** leadership position at the **right** time can have tremendous positive impact.”

What role do you see for Jones College within the regional business community, which is considered one of the hottest business and entrepreneurial markets in America right now?

*(continued on page 16)*

A large proportion of our students are from the Nashville area. Many of our faculty work with businesses in the region, independently or in real-world class projects. Many of our alumni are prominent business and community leaders. Fundraising benefits from such connections, but it is difficult to expect people to support their alma mater financially if they haven't heard from it since they graduated. It is critical to maintain lines of communication with alumni and to build the quality of our programs and reputation so our alumni's degrees will increase in value. Aside from fundraising, we should be engaging our friends in the business community to help us evaluate our curricula, to employ our students in internships and full-time jobs, and to seek us out for continuing education and professional development. Universities can also advise. We can provide insights that can help businesses to improve, and I want to encourage that type of activity. I intend to reach out to the business community.

**The VCU da Vinci Center for Innovation is a collaboration at VCU— involving the Schools of the Arts, Business, and Engineering and the College of Humanities and Sciences—intended to advance innovation and entrepreneurship through interdisciplinary collaboration. Are there similar, untapped partnerships at MTSU?**

I worked closely with the da Vinci Center and on sponsored projects with researchers in medicine, education, political science, life sciences, and other fields. Working with people in other disciplines reveals commonalities. Centers like da Vinci can be catalysts for innovation and entrepreneurship. A program might be housed in one school, but a team orientation of cooperation among cross-disciplinary participants is essential. I see potential partnerships between Jones College and all other MTSU schools and will explore these options with their deans.

**What should business schools be doing to help America better compete in the years ahead?**

People around the world want to harness the spirit of American business. In the last recession, American businesses became more reflective, concerned with building and maintaining relationships with customers, willing to innovate, and efficient.

Similarly, the best business schools have revised classical curricula like the traditional M.B.A.s, created specialized business education programs, become less theoretical and more concerned with improving business practice, and focused on providing better value for the tuition dollar. The keys for major business schools are market focus, balance, and complementarity. We must be constantly aware of current and emerging business trends and willing to change the way we teach in order to respond to the needs of business. Cross-disciplinary programs and new

teaching methods are ways we can be more market driven. Faculty must balance research and teaching pursuits, and administrators must support their professional development in both areas. We need to stress the ways these two activities complement each other, for example, by engaging students in faculty research projects.

**Peter Drucker, a pioneer in the field of management, said about business that “Culture eats strategy over breakfast.” Are business schools doing enough to teach leadership?**

No strategy can cover every possible operational contingency. A strong culture can provide guidance when people wonder what they should do. In the Navy Supply Corps, our motto was “Service to the fleet.” As an officer, I wanted people working for me to pursue the path that provided maximum service to the crew. That's where leadership comes in—the ability to inspire and reinforce core values. One can learn about leadership much as one can learn music appreciation, but there is a big difference between appreciating music and knowing how to play an instrument. Business schools can't teach leadership exclusively in classrooms. We need a full range of opportunities for students to lead—in team projects, internships, student organizations, and community engagement—and practice what they learn in class.

**A recent *Forbes* article wondered aloud if business school curricula adequately prepare today's students to face the ethical questions related to the business practices that brought America to the economic brink in recent years. What is your response?**

No business school can teach students everything about ethical conduct. Such lessons are learned from families, teachers, faith leaders, coworkers, and others. Business professors have a responsibility to engage students in discussions, case studies, and exercises about ethical dilemmas and to explore solutions. We can teach basic rules of ethical conduct. As a Rotarian for 19 years, I have shared with students the Rotary 4-Way Test, four questions about the things we think, say, and do: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? If leaders had asked these questions, some high-profile business catastrophes may not have happened.

**Thanks, Dean Urban. Good luck. [MTSU](#)**

*[Editor's Note: Business school marketing specialist Sally Govan contributed heavily to this report.]*




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# GOOD <sup>as</sup> <sub>as</sub> GOLD

Dr. Charles Chusuei's technology could transform patient care in emergency rooms and health centers worldwide

by Michael Burgin

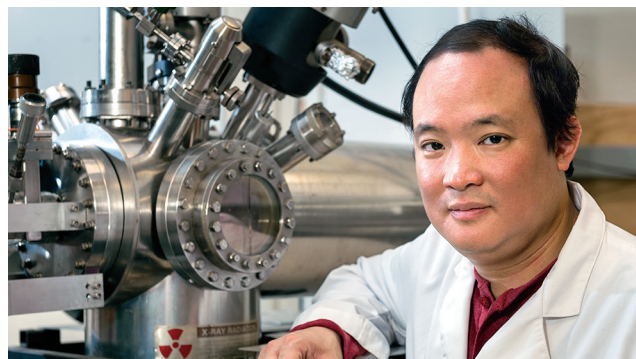
ON THE BOTTOM FLOOR OF WISER-PATTEN SCIENCE Hall, past a lecture hall and a few smaller classrooms and teachers' offices, one can find the home base of Dr. Charles C. Chusuei and his team of student researchers. At first glance, the lab is pretty much what one would expect. A number of small workstations, some whiteboards, and a desk or two populate the periphery of the room. (Stacked in one corner, there are a number of large, unopened boxes.) A bulky piece of equipment dominates the center. Most scientists (and many students in the field) would recognize the instrument as an X-ray photoelectron spectrometer, a machine that allows for nondestructive elemental analysis. It's a vital tool in the associate professor of chemistry's current line of research. Of course, give a layperson, someone who doesn't know a spectrometer from a chromatograph, a few moments to look around, and you'll probably hear the following question: "Is that a hand drill?"

It is (a Black and Decker, in fact). It's also a makeshift stepper motor for a homemade ultra-high vacuum sample transfer system. With the assistance of Rick Taylor, lab director in the Department of Engineering Technology, and the machine shop in the Voorhees Engineering Technology Building, Chusuei used the drill, a gearbox, a threaded rod, and machined pieces of aluminum to build a device the components of which would normally cost about \$1,000 to buy new.

There are plenty of other examples of Chusuei's combination of thrift and inventiveness—a fish tank pump substitutes for the Wisser-Patten building's lack of dedicated pipes for chilled water. It's one of many drawbacks to the 46-year-old building—those boxes in the corner are actually equipment with technical and safety specs that bar them from being installed in Wisser-Patten. In a field where research ambitions often far outstrip existing facility technology and available funding, it's not uncommon to find professors who are equal part bargain hunters and

MacGyver. Chusuei, who arrived at MTSU in 2010, can count on one of those variables changing soon—a \$147 million, state-of-the-art science building is scheduled to open for instruction in 2015—but that doesn't mean he's just waiting around. Quite the opposite, Chusuei and his student researchers have been busy developing a technology that could transform patient care in emergency rooms and health centers throughout the world.

As a result, this cluttered room, with its combination of brand-new, unpacked equipment in waiting and cobbled-together scientific apparatuses in use—not to mention the man standing in the middle of it all—represents the exciting present and potential-filled future of science research at MTSU as surely as the new building being built a few hundred yards away.



## Not So Common Sense

As with most scientific research, discoveries with big applications often boil down to thinking small. Really small. Yet it also involves the detection of something one can find a bottle of in almost every home—hydrogen peroxide. It turns out that bubbling stalwart of home-based health care is also a natural byproduct of the biochemistry of all living organisms. The ability to monitor hydrogen peroxide on a molecular level has a host of practical applications in fields as diverse as health care (early cancer detection) and food service (spoilage detection). As a result, researchers have developed a variety of nanotech-based sensors. For the most part, those technologies have used sensors dependent on carbon nanotubes (CNT) coated with oxides

derived from precious metals—gold, palladium, ruthenium, etc. As the word “precious” suggests, it’s not cheap to use such metals. But just as with his lab’s ultra-high vacuum sample transfer system, Dr. Chusuei found that the expensive way to do things was hardly the only way. In an effort to establish a cheaper biosensing material, Chusuei turned to zinc.

“A common theme of nanotechnology is determining how material size and shape affects chemical reactivity,” Chusuei explains. “Our research team has shown that zinc oxide (ZnO) shape selection in the nanocomposite formulation (involving carbon nanotubes) dramatically improves its biosensing properties.”

### The Goldilocks Standard

An earth-rich element, zinc is much more abundant and, therefore, cheaper, than the precious set. But in order to establish it as a viable substitute, Chusuei and his team first needed to control the shape of the ZnO compound itself. (The more complete the coverage by the ZnO of the CNT, the better the sensor.) “It was a lot like the fairy tale *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*,” Chusuei says. In the end, working the ZnO into its ideal shape required many things being “just right.” It required, among other things, finding just the right temperature (90 degrees Celsius) of the solution in which the suspended ZnO nanoparticles were formed and the pH (7.365) for maximum reactivity, as well as establishing just the right amount of time for sonication (the application of sound energy to agitate the solution).

With the bulk of the research completed—and with the right balance struck—it’s actually a rather simple procedure to replicate, but as Chusuei’s patent application shows, it wasn’t an obvious one. The real-world potential of the research has Chusuei and his students excited. The cheaper the materials, the more widespread the possible application of the technology.

“If we can attach this biosensor in a portable electrochemical cell, then people can easily detect the presence of [certain compounds] in their body whenever and wherever they want,” says grad student Anup Deb, who learned of Dr. Chusuei’s research while an undergraduate at the University of Dhaka, in Bangladesh.

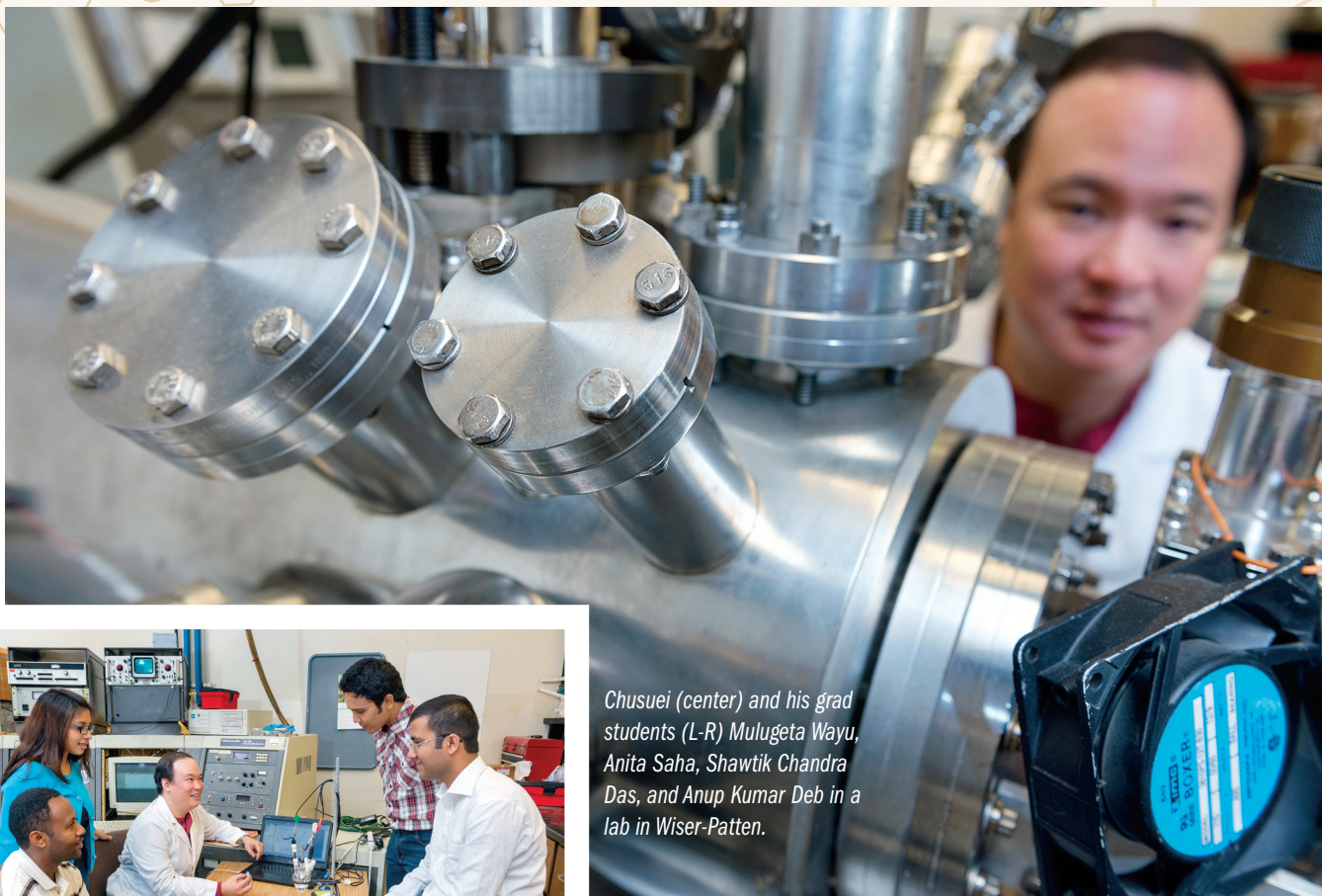
“What I’m doing now contributes to the effort to create a cancer-free community,” says Mulugeta Wayu, a Ph.D. candidate in the University’s Molecular Biosciences program who came

*(continued on page 20)*



# GOOD <sup>as</sup> GOLD <sub>as</sub>

(continued from page 19)



*Chusuei (center) and his grad students (L-R) Mulugeta Wayu, Anita Saha, Shawtik Chandra Das, and Anup Kumar Deb in a lab in Wiser-Patten.*



to the United States after spending years as a research scientist in Ethiopia.

Cancer is not the only affliction potentially addressed by the research of Chusuei and his students nor is hydrogen peroxide the only substance detectable. Another vein of inquiry includes the detection of lactic acid, a marker for anaerobic respiration (the presence of which can indicate that a patient is not breathing well or getting enough oxygen). Such sensors could detect signs of physical distress that show up well “before changes in heart rate or blood pressure would be registered,” Chusuei points out.

Even with so much established, there remain plenty of practical questions and intriguing pathways for follow-up research. “Now it becomes a question of how low you can go,” Chusuei says. As

with most things nanotech, the smaller one gets, the wider the applications. (There’s also the question of testing and gauging the toxicity of the resulting sensors.) The lab’s success with ZnO has also led to research with other non-precious-metal-based compounds. Anita Saha, a senior biochemistry major, is working with cerium oxide to detect acetaminophen.

In less than a year, Dr. Chusuei’s modest little laboratory will be housed in a shiny new science building. The low-energy electron diffractometer, liquid nitrogen generator, and quadrupole mass analyzer—to name a few of those brand-new pieces of equipment still in boxes—will have been unpacked and put to long-awaited use. It’s exciting to consider, and no doubt the state-of-the-art facility will make a host of scientific processes easier and new discoveries possible. Nonetheless, the most crucial ingredients to the University’s future success as a research institution are already in place in the form of Dr. Chusuei, his colleagues, and all the student researchers under their direction. Oh, and that hand drill masquerading as a stepper motor. [MTSU](#)

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LADY RAIDER EBONY ROWE IS AMONG THE TEN MOST prolific scorers in school history and already is the program's leading rebounder. And she still has the rest of her senior season ahead of her. Such athletic prowess garnered Rowe Honorable Mention All-American status by both the Associated Press and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association last year. She was twice a top-50 finalist for the Naismith Award, given annually to the nation's best high school and college basketball players and coaches.

Off the court, Rowe has racked up an equally impressive portfolio of statistics in the form of academic and personal awards. Notably, she was named to the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Women's Basketball First Team as announced by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. A true student-athlete, Rowe has earned higher than a 3.5 cumulative GPA as a physics major.

And what makes her even more intriguing is that her major is science-related—a field of study far more dense than the proverbial “basket weaving” coursework the public tends to think about when it paints student-athletes with a broad brush.

Rowe describes perceptions of student-athletes as “dumb” and science majors as “nerds” as “a sad mentality that’s just developed and is taken as truth now.”

“A lot of people told me you can’t be a basketball player and an engineer. But it can be done,” she says. “More people need to start showing the younger generation that competing in high-level athletics and excelling in the classroom can be done.”

As a physics major, Rowe takes classes such as Classical Mechanics, Strength of Materials, and Electricity and Magnetism. Among her recent research projects was a study of the physics of free-throw shooting in basketball. It’s an ironic

# THE SCIENCE OF SPORT

by Drew Ruble

In all likelihood, Rowe will have the opportunity to play women's professional basketball, following in the footsteps of Lady Raider alums like Alysha Clark and Amber Holt. However, Rowe isn't yet committing to a plan to play professional ball. She's as interested, she says, in beginning pursuit of a postgraduate degree or beginning her career in mechanical engineering.

“At this point, I’m just trying to keep all my doors and options open,” she says. “Whether that’s playing professionally here or overseas or going straight into getting my master’s degree in engineering, I’m still undecided.”

## A Dual Threat

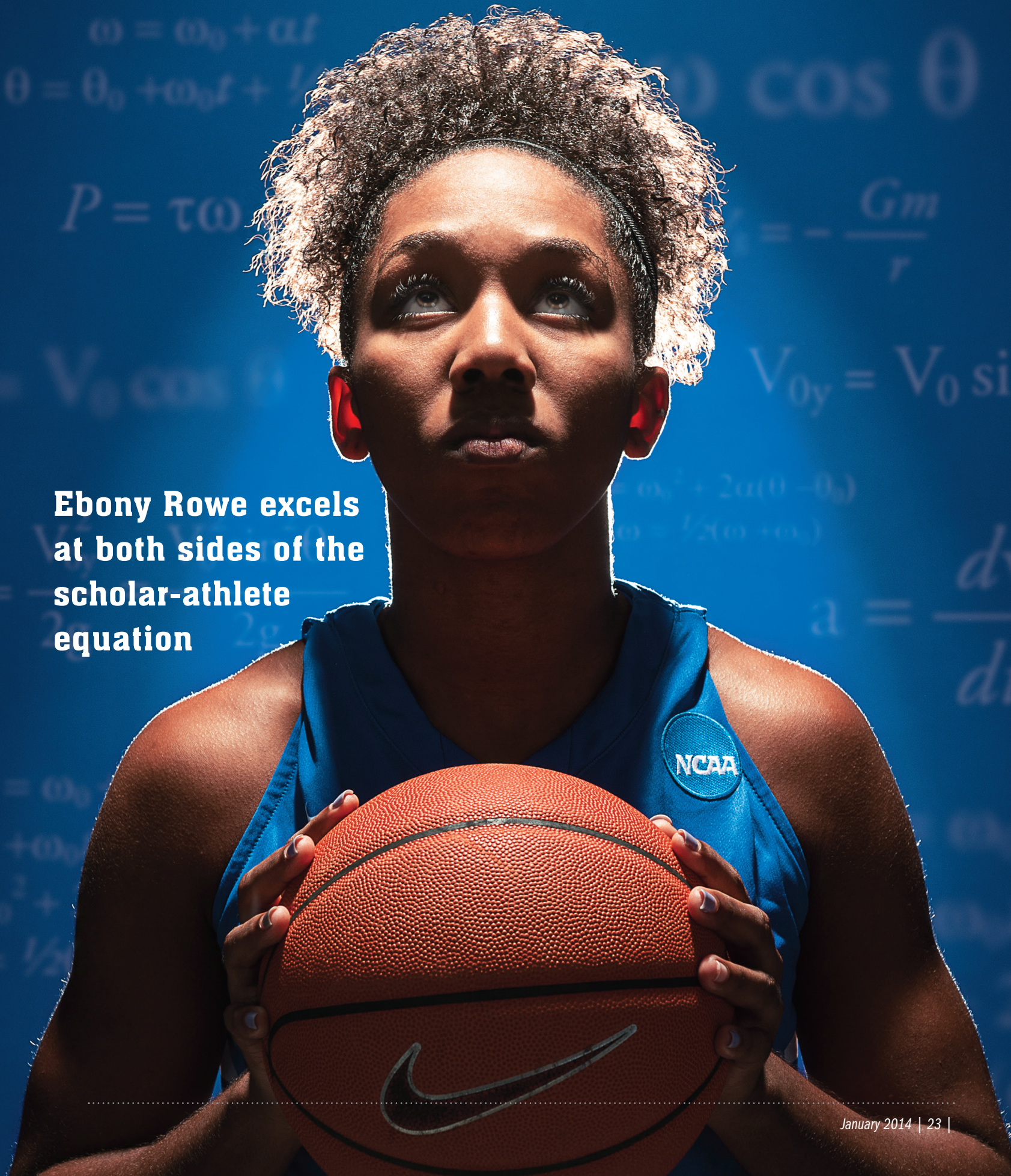
With her high GPA, passionate interest in her studies, and wait-and-see approach to playing pro sports, Rowe bursts the stereotype of the academically disinterested student-athlete.

topic for Rowe to tackle given her highly publicized troubles at the free-throw line in competition. Even her coach has been publicly critical of Rowe's free-throw shooting percentage in years past, which for a time hovered below the 50 percent mark. Rowe has, however, improved dramatically over the past year and is now one of the best free-throw shooters on the Lady Raider squad.

One might think that a shot called a “free throw,” when no one is guarding you and you simply step up to a line and take a wide-open shot, would be an easy exercise. But according to Rowe, it's much more complicated than that. Rowe's description of a free throw from a physicist's perspective sounds so dizzyingly difficult that it might even cause a coach to take it easy on an athlete for a fair-to-middling performance.

(continued on page 24)

**Ebony Rowe excels  
at both sides of the  
scholar-athlete  
equation**



## The Science of Sport *(continued from page 22)*

Rowe begins her explanation by pointing out that there are an infinite number of speed/angle combinations that can lead to a successful free-throw shot (or an unsuccessful one), but the chances of success are greatly improved by increasing the arc on the shot so that the ball is falling straight down, increasing the relative size of the hoop, as compared to a shot with a flatter trajectory.

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### “These small calculations applied to a free throw can throw off the whole shot based on the smallest of technicalities . . .”

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“There’s so many little mechanics that go into a free throw,” Rowe explains, citing release point, launch angle, ball velocity, shape of path, optimum speed, varying force, and distance, among other variables. “So when you start to break it down piece by piece, if any one of those measurements is off by a certain degree, it can cause you to miss your free throw.”

In her research, Rowe used a simulation program to shoot 10,000 free throws, altering all of these little measurements incrementally to reveal proper and improper mechanics—and outcomes.

“These small calculations applied to a free throw can throw off the whole shot based on the smallest of technicalities,” she says, referencing concepts including forward spin, frictional force, and horizontal motion. (Lady Raider fans can no doubt imagine Coach Rick Insell groaning at such an explanation.)

So is Rowe’s classroom exercise to be credited for her improvement from the free-throw line? She says no.

“It’s so funny, a lot of people said to me, ‘Well, your free-throw percentage got a lot better now that you broke it down,’” she says. “And I say, ‘No, I just practice.’”

### The Next Step

Rowe is also already making waves in the professional world. For the second straight summer, Rowe spent her academic break working as an intern with the Fortune 500 software firm Lexmark in her hometown of Lexington, Ky. She worked alongside an electrical hardware engineer and had access to robotics and other types of machinery and testing on what she describes as a “real world product” in “early stages of development.”

Rowe’s sister is a chemical engineer at Lexmark. Her dad earned a degree in civil engineering and works in the corporate world. Rowe says math and science were “just something that ran in the family and, I guess, came easier than other subjects. So it’s definitely just been a passion.”

Such interest and involvement in a science discipline is statistically unusual for a woman. A 2010 report by the American Association of University Women found that the number of women in science and engineering is growing, yet men continue to outnumber women, especially at the upper levels of the professions.

Rowe is only too happy to use the power of her celebrity as a high-profile athlete to encourage more girls and young women to pursue science studies and careers.



“That’s what is so good, especially about being an athlete, because you get to reach out to so many different people,” she says. “So whether it’s young females who are playing sports or whether it’s young African Americans or young African American girls, there also aren’t a lot of African Americans who are choosing the sciences and engineering and physics. I think it’s just the more people start to do it, the more that it’s going to be expected, and it’s not going to be, ‘Oh, you’re a female or an African American in sciences.’ It’s just going to become normal. So I think we just have to take it a step at a time. It’s gotten better, but [we still have] a long way to go.” **MTSU**



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**J**OHN HARRIS CAN'T COUNT THE NUMBER OF TIMES HE stood on the roof of Forrest Hall and stepped off into empty space, supported by only a rope and his confidence in his fellow ROTC cadets. Visiting campus four decades later, he was astonished to see students still doing the same thing.

"I saw the kids rappelling off the building 40 years later and said, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" says Harris, who as an undergraduate was a member of the Blue Raider Battalion and went on to an eventful Army career that included service in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

When he returned to campus, Harris, a member of the class of 1974, found the answer to the question that led him to MTSU that day. Having recently sold the technology business he cofounded in Hawaii after leaving the Army, he was looking for a way to give something back.

"MTSU helped me grow up and become who I am," he says. "It certainly set me on a path, [providing] a solid foundation to get started with."

Gifts from Harris and other donors allowed MTSU to break ground on its first-ever freestanding rappelling tower. To be

## **GENEROUS ALUMNI PROVIDE A LIFT TO CURRENT AND FUTURE ROTC CADETS**

by Bill Lewis

located near the softball fields and the Recreation Center on the burgeoning east side of campus, the tower was under construction at press time.

The Tennessee National Guard also made a contribution, providing manpower for construction of the 10-foot security fence around the site of the tower and an obstacle course that is expected to be added in the future.

The tower is more than just a structure, says Lt. Col. Joel Miller, professor of military science. For the cadets who train there, it will help build pride and confidence.

"The big piece is confidence in themselves, their equipment, and their superior, [as well as] the development of esprit de corps and morale," Miller says.

Rappelling is one of the crucial first steps in the development of young officers. Generations of cadets in the Blue Raider Battalion learned those lessons at Forrest Hall. They include the top officer in the Tennessee National Guard, Major General Max Haston.

Walking across campus one day in 1975, Haston noticed cadets rappelling off the building.

"The next thing I knew, I was enrolled the next semester," Haston says. "I have never looked back and still believe it was a life-changing decision. I have never regretted being part of ROTC as the military became my life's direction."

He sees the Guard's assistance with the project as something greater than building a fence. It is an investment in the future of ROTC at MTSU and the future of the military itself.

The service academies—the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Air Force Academy in Colorado, and the Navy Academy at Annapolis—can't possibly produce enough officers for the military. The armed forces depend on ROTC programs at MTSU and other schools for a steady stream of future leaders.

"We must maintain a strong ROTC program to ensure quality [and] balanced leadership," Haston says.

The lessons cadets learn at Forrest Hall are timeless, but warfare and the way soldiers train for it have changed over the decades. The limited experience of rappelling off the roof of a two-story building can't prepare cadets for real-world situations—which include rappelling from upper-story windows and from helicopters.

"Soldiers have operations that are different from going off the side of a building," says Joe Lackey, whose company, Asheville, N.C.-based Cornerstone Designs Inc., was selected to build the rappelling tower.

The 52-foot-high wooden structure will be a landmark on campus. Its highest rappelling station, 44 feet off the ground, will be twice as high as Forrest Hall. Its cantilevered top deck—with no footholds, just air, below—will allow cadets to simulate the experience of rappelling out of a helicopter. Exits on multiple levels will provide the experience of leaping from a window or doorway.

The tower will also provide areas for Blue Raider cadets to gather their equipment and conduct safety checks. It also has another advantage over Forrest Hall, where everybody had to rappel from the roof whether it was their one hundredth experience or their first.

The planned tower features a "beginner's platform" about 10 or 12 feet off the ground, he says. Beginners can gain experience before climbing the stairs and stepping off the top deck.

"The first step is a big one," Lackey says. "It takes someone who knows nothing and helps them progress."

The rappelling tower will be used solely by the roughly 120 students studying military science. Any student can participate in the basic ROTC program for two years without making a commitment to serve in the Army. Students who choose to pursue a commission can become "contracted" cadets and participate in the program for their junior and senior years.

The Blue Raider Battalion has produced officers who serve in the Tennessee National Guard, the Army Reserves, and in the Army on active duty. Seventeen alumni of the battalion have risen to the rank of general since the founding of MTSU's ROTC program in 1950, earning the University the nickname "cradle of generals."

That count includes Army officers who were members of the Blue Raider Battalion. It doesn't include MTSU graduates who have risen to the rank of general in the Air Force and Marines or to admiral in the Navy.

*(continued on page 28)*



photo: Jack Ross

*Top: Forrest Rangers Myron Blackburn (left), Robert John (back), Stuart Barnaby (middle) and Ken McNeil (foreground) rappel off the side of Forrest Hall in 1981.*

*Ar right: ROTC cadet Eljahmar Benson rappels down the side of Forrest Hall in 2012.*

*Third Image: SFC Fredrick Greenwell instructing Graham Hutcheson rappelling at Forrest Hall in 2012.*



*Bottom Image: ROTC cadet Somalia Ford recovers from a quick flip and continues rappelling at Forrest Hall, 2012.*

*Opposite page: Photo of a model of the type of tower Cornerstone Designs of Asheville, North Carolina, is building on campus.*



MTSU recorded its second-largest fundraising total in its history during the 2012–13 fiscal year, bringing in almost \$14 million in gifts from more than 9,000 donors. As of September 2013, the totals from the University's last fiscal year helped MTSU pass the 85 percent mark toward its \$80 million Centennial Campaign. That effort now stands at more than \$70 million, with 17,721 donors.

MTSU had its highest annual total of alumni gifts in 2012–13, recording 5,287 separate donations, just eclipsing the 2009 record of 5,275. The year-end total of \$13,954,495 is surpassed only by the record 2001–02 total of about \$14.4 million. (That's the year MTSU received a gift of more than \$10 million that led to the creation of Tennessee Miller Coliseum.)

More than half of the 2012–13 gifts were designated for student scholarships and faculty support. Included in this year's totals was a \$2.5 million gift announced in April from the estate of the late James Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus for whom the Buchanan Fellowships are named and the winner of the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics.

The Centennial Campaign, publicly launched in April 2012 at the end of the observance of the 100th anniversary of MTSU's founding, is the largest fundraising campaign in University history. The campaign has four distinct priorities:

**Maintaining an exceptional student body** by bolstering scholarships and student aid.

**Assuring the highest quality faculty and staff** by increasing tools needed to improve recruitment, retention, and graduation.

**Fostering an innovative learning environment** by building partnerships, learning spaces, and programs that support the needs of the modern workforce.

**Competing at the highest levels athletically** by focusing on top-notch competition and facilities and academic success.

MTSU

## CLIMBING TOTALS

### Making the Leap *(continued from page 27)*

“For sure, MTSU has produced better than its fair share of general officers,” Haston says. “The pro rata share of generals produced compared to the years the ROTC department has been in operation places MTSU as one of the top-producing schools [of general officers].”

Harris, whose contribution, along with those of other alumni and families of cadets, made the rappelling tower a reality, didn't arrive on campus with dreams of military glory. A defensive end on the Blue Raider football team, he was dreaming of the NFL.

ROTC was a required course for freshmen and sophomores at the time, so Harris quickly found himself standing on the roof of Forrest Hall. Becoming a contracted cadet for his junior and senior years meant he received a small monthly stipend of about \$100 and something priceless—an exemption from the draft at the height of the war in Vietnam.

“In my effort to stay out of the Army, I spent 20 years in the Army,” says Harris, who served in the Medical Service Corps and in Desert Storm, on behalf of the Army Surgeon General, where he helped the Army deploy modern field hospitals, replacing MASH-style hospitals with modern facilities.

“Fortunately, we didn't need most of those hospitals,” he says. Desert Storm had few casualties and was “nothing like what the kids are going through today.”

After retiring, Harris and two Army buddies founded Akimeka, an IT services and software development company. (The name is Hawaiian and means “perseverance.”)

They sold the company a few years ago to a publicly traded company. Harris, who lives in the Orlando area, began looking for ways to give back to the University.

“What better place is there to give back than where your roots are?” he says.

He plans to return to campus for the rappelling tower's dedication. But Harris, a qualified parachutist whose souvenirs of military service include knee replacements and back surgeries, has no plans to try out the tower firsthand.

“Absolutely not,” he says. “But the dedication is on my calendar.” [MTSU](#)

*Forrest Ranger cadet JB Burton rappels off the side of Forrest Hall in 1981.*



*photo: Jack Ross*

# MTSU OFFERS OVER 100 GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

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Master of Business Education

Master of Science in Exercise Science

Master of Social Work

PH.D. IN MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES

Master of Criminal Justice

Master of Science in Management

Master of Science in Biology

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Master of Fine Arts in Recording Arts and Technologies

Ph.D. in Public History

Ph.D. in Human Performance

Ph.D. in Mathematics and Science Education

Master of Science in Aviation Administration

BIOLOGICAL EDUCATION, CHEMICAL EDUCATION, INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE EDUCATION, MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement

Master of Arts in Sociology

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

*Master of Arts in English*

Master of Arts in Psychology

Ph.D. in Computational Science

Master of Science in Mass Communication

Master of Arts in Economics

Master of Education

Master of Science in Health and Human Performance

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, LITERACY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Master of Science in Leisure and Sport Management

Master of Arts in Teaching Foreign Languages

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ph.D. in Literacy Studies

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# Ahead of the Game

MTSU leads the statewide effort to reform  
teacher education by Allison Gorman



Jillian Hinesley graduated from MTSU with an education degree in December 2012. Weeks later she was in Memphis, working on her master's degree and substitute teaching in the socioeconomic stew that is the Shelby County School System. Although she'd specialized in fourth through eighth grade, she was placed in every conceivable classroom environment from kindergarten through high school. She taught the child who was hungry to learn and the child who was just plain hungry, the child with helicopter parents and the child with AWOL parents, the child who learned best when he was moving, and the child who told her to bug off (except he didn't say "bug").

Before leaving Murfreesboro, Hinesley had been one of several graduating seniors invited to dinner by Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education (COE), who wanted to know about their student teaching experience and how well their coursework had prepared them for it. In August 2013, Hinesley—by then a resident teacher at the Martin Institute for Teaching Excellence—sent Seivers a follow-up email. "I may not have realized the full extent at dinner that night," she wrote, "but I am confident now that MTSU prepared me for a myriad of 'real worlds.'"

### An Equation, Ever Shifting

The real world of teaching has a thousand moving parts, many of them far outside the reach of the classroom. Teachers must address the needs of each student (and whatever baggage that student brings) but they are also unwitting variables in a critical, often cyclical, economic calculation: good schools = good jobs = good tax base = good schools.

"We're in a county that proves that having a quality education system from the ground up really helps in recruiting and retaining quality industry in a community," says Andy Womack, a former state senator from Murfreesboro. Certainly some Tennessee communities have seen that dynamic in action, but plenty of others perennially struggle. As a result, Tennessee has lingered for years near the bottom of various K-12 rankings.

Then again, the idea that public schools across the country are declining has long been the subject of debate, Seivers says. "I have in my office a cover from *LIFE* magazine with the headline 'U.S. Schools Face a Crisis,'" she says. "It's from October 1950."

While the call for education reform has sounded for generations, over the past decade Tennessee has begun to establish itself as a leader in the reform movement. That fact became nationally apparent in 2009, when Tennessee was one of the first two states to win Race to the Top funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

Now, MTSU is leading the effort to reform teacher education in Tennessee.

In fall 2013, after years of planning, MTSU and all Tennessee Board of Regents schools rolled out Ready2Teach (R2T), giving prospective teachers more and earlier exposure to those myriad real worlds referred to by Hinesley.

"Ready2Teach is a game-changer in teacher preparation," says Dr. Paula Short, the former TBR vice chancellor who spearheaded the redesign. "No other state has approached that necessary change as substantially and completely."

Teacher training might look different under R2T, but the principles behind it would be instantly recognizable to COE grads like Jillian Hinesley. They are the same principles that have made MTSU the state's leader in education for more than a century.

### A Mission, Long Critical

MTSU's roots are in teacher training: Middle Tennessee Normal School opened in 1911 with a two-year program serving 125 students. But even as it evolved into Middle Tennessee State University, with 24,000 students and 80 degree programs, its mission as a teacher-training institution remained central to the school's identity.

## Tennessee has begun to establish itself as a leader in the reform movement.

Dr. Robert Eaker, who served as dean of education and then interim vice president and provost of MTSU, credits the influence of key University administrators—former MTSU president Sam Ingram was Tennessee commissioner of education, as was Lana Seivers under Gov. Phil Bredesen—as well as education faculty past and present who are leaders in their field. "I think of our milestones in terms of the giants in education that Middle's been blessed to have," Eaker says. He says President Sidney McPhee upped the ante by supporting the establishment of COE's two doctoral programs as well as a state-of-the-art COE facility that had been on the college's wish list for decades. (See sidebar on page 33.)

Seivers notes that MTSU placed a high value on teacher training even when the subject of public education became politicized.

"The University has not only supported [the COE] in terms of resources," she says, "but they're proud of the fact that we started as a teacher institution and that we still educate large numbers of students to teach."

(continued on page 32)

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, MTSU produced 540 licensed teachers in 2011 (the most recent data available), significantly more than any other program in Tennessee. Womack says the heavy presence of COE grads in Tennessee's public schools was "extremely apparent" when he was chair of the Tennessee Senate Education Committee. "MTSU had teachers and educators working in all 95 counties," he says. "The bulk of other graduates were teaching within a 60-to-90-mile radius of where they went to school."

It makes sense, then, that the conversation about teacher education reform in Tennessee began at MTSU. Seivers was still commissioner of education when Sen. Jim Tracy (R-Shelbyville) and McPhee invited stakeholders from across the state to come to campus and discuss how teachers could be better prepared to meet the needs of Tennessee's K-12 students. The consensus? "More practical experience and less theory," Seivers says. "And what theory we had should be clearly linked to what happened in the classroom and student achievement. And from that, Ready2Teach was born."

### An Initiative, Swiftly Embraced

By 2010, when Seivers was appointed dean of COE, Ready2Teach had been formalized as a TBR initiative. Because its mandates built on inherent principles of MTSU's teacher prep program and many were designed with guidance from MTSU faculty, the University blazed the trail that other schools would follow.

#### Terminology

**Professional Learning Communities** are small teams of teachers and administrators who work together to track what individual students are learning, address any deficits in struggling students, and enrich learning for proficient ones.

**Problem-Based Learning** helps prospective teachers evaluate and address a problem by considering its context—all variables, in and out of the classroom—that might contribute to it.

**edTPA:** The broad assessment required by R2T before someone can student teach.

**PRAXIS 2:** The test used for teacher licensing in Tennessee.

**TCAP** and **PARCC:** Standardized tests in Tennessee's K-12s.

**TEAM:** The new assessment/feedback model for Tennessee's public school teachers.

**TVAAS:** A state assessment measuring school and teacher impact on student academic progress.



*Classroom Experience: MTSU student-teacher Krista Cashion reads to elementary students at the Campus School in Murfreesboro.*

"MTSU led the TBR universities in developing and implementing Ready2Teach and also continued to stay true to the model," Short says. "They understood the research behind the R2T reform effort and embraced that research to build support for change."

MTSU already had deep-rooted relationships with area schools, she says. As a result, it was ahead of the R2T mandate that universities collaborate with K-12s so that education majors spend half their time out in schools. Area K-12s were quick to offer feedback and clinical opportunities, given their familiarity with MTSU's student teachers and with individual COE faculty members, many of whom have done professional outreach in the schools. Eaker, for example, helped establish Professional Learning Communities in the Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County school systems. "You can't have collaborative relationships with the school district if you have faculty with whom the districts don't want to collaborate," he says.

R2T's mandatory emphasis on Problem-Based Learning (PBL), a relatively new, holistic approach to teacher education, reflects the input of Dr. Terry Goodin, a professor of secondary education at MTSU and a Vanderbilt-trained expert in PBL. "To my knowledge, Tennessee is leading the way with a PBL approach to teacher preparation," he says. "I'm not aware of any other state that has put so much into such a sweeping change at the state level."

Because many COE faculty members were already using a problem-based approach to teaching, designing a PBL curriculum at MTSU wasn't the challenge that it was at other schools, Goodin says.

Perhaps the most notable R2T mandate eliminates the traditional semester of student teaching and replaces it with a two-semester residency in schools. Seivers says many students were concerned at the prospect of spending a full year student teaching, but MTSU has designed its residency program to ease students into the classroom. Bobbi Lussier, executive director of the Office of Professional Laboratory Experiences and Teacher Licensure, says Residency 1 students spend two days a week “immersed in the culture in the schools”: observing, assisting, and working on PBL introduced in their coursework. “It’s a two-way street,” Lussier says. “Our public schools need to see that we’re willing to partner with them and share expertise and in turn ask them to share their expertise with our teacher candidates.”

Initial feedback from residency students has been “very, very positive,” Goodin says. “It’s been an absolute home run.”

“Residency 1 is an extremely challenging course,” says Vickie Bridges, a major in early childhood education who participated in a Residency 1 pilot program last spring. “We were pushed very hard, and our work was torn apart constantly. However, it was a huge benefit for us.”

### A Balance, Finely Struck

The residency program is still evolving, Seivers says, and implementing a field-based curriculum has not been without controversy. A few theory courses were cut altogether, which concerned some faculty. “Not that everybody’s agreed,” she says, “but we’ve been determined to make it work.”

Seivers was surprised by how accommodating other department heads were as COE overhauled its curriculum, which involves multiple disciplines. In her previous life in K-12 (as superintendent of schools for Oak Ridge), she’d heard that the world of higher education could be territorial. Not so at MTSU, she says: “Dr. McPhee has put together a group of people who have a shared vision, who have certain dispositions—the work ethic, the ability to think outside the box while working within certain parameters.”

Eaker says McPhee made a strategic and unexpected choice by adding Seivers to that mix, departing from the tradition of hiring from the ranks of higher education. Short agrees: “Lana Seivers has the public school administrative, teaching, and policy experience to help bring credibility to the COE at a time when most colleges of education are under attack for being irrelevant to improving schools, teacher preparation, and leader preparation.”

That’s a critical advantage because Tennessee has established a new, stricter framework for teacher licensing and evaluation. MTSU’s overhauled education curriculum includes a taste of the alphabet soup public school teachers will face on the job. Their schooling might have begun with the ABCs, but it ends with the edTPA and the PRAXIS, and once they’re licensed they’ll regularly take the TEAM, administer the TCAP and the PARCC, and watch the TVAAS (see glossary page 32).

*(continued on page 34)*

## Keeping One’s Nose to the Milestones

When Dr. Aubrey Moseley interviewed to join MTSU’s education faculty in 1966, he was told that a dedicated building and a doctoral program were the next big milestones for the education department.

Moseley was there to witness both those milestones, but it took more than 40 years. The College of Education celebrated the opening of its new, 87,000-square-foot building in conjunction with MTSU’s 2011 centennial celebration. Funding a \$30 million project is never easy, but Dr. Sidney McPhee says he considered the technology-rich facility critical to MTSU’s core mission as a teacher-training institution and to maintaining the college’s flagship role in the state.

“When I became president about 13 years ago, I realized that had been an area of benign neglect,” he says. “We were very proud of our teacher education college and the work that we do in providing teachers and administrators for the state, but somehow the focus on building that facility was put on the back burner. I thought we needed to rejuvenate that.”

The doctoral program—two of them, in fact—also came on McPhee’s watch.

MTSU’s Ph.D. in Literacy Studies, directed by Dr. Jwa Kim, started in 2008 and now has 32 doctoral candidates. That was followed by the Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement, directed by Dr. Rick Vanosdall. Launched in fall 2013, the program is designed to equip teachers and administrators to make immediate improvements in struggling schools.

“There are very few doctoral programs nationally that are geared toward helping practitioners in the schools be more successful, so people have clamored to sign up for it,” says Dr. Robert Eaker. “The skills and tools that they’ll learn can have an immediate impact on the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of kids.”

The milestones may have been slow in coming, but certainly they have been worth the wait. [MTSU](#)



“We’ve just tried to hit it head-on,” Seivers says. “Based upon the current culture and the policies and rules and regulations, whether we agree with them or not, they’re here, and we’re doing our students a vast disservice if we don’t better prepare them for the world they’re entering.”

“We’re not producing widgets, we’re working with human beings.”

That’s Seivers’s world, too; education is data-driven at every level. She says assessments of teacher-training programs, like the reports regularly generated by the Tennessee Department of Education and THEC, provide critical if incomplete (and sometimes dated) information; they are best used in combination with other information—from personal feedback to test scores from K-12s where MTSU graduates teach—to determine what skills COE students lack and to tweak the program accordingly.

Still, a program’s reputation can rise or fall on widely publicized reports like the one released in early 2013 by the National Council on Teacher Quality, which ranked teacher-training programs largely on the basis of their course descriptions. (MTSU came out fairly favorably, but some large universities in Tennessee did not—a fact not lost on national media.)

Snapshot reports like those often drive the political conversation about education, which too often views students as products, says Dr. Rick Vanosdall, director of the COE’s new Ed.D. program in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement.

“We’re not producing widgets,” he says. “We’re working with human beings.”

Dr. Terry Weeks, a professor of secondary education at MTSU and former National Teacher of the Year when he was a faculty member at Central Middle School in Murfreesboro, says classroom teaching is often a balancing act between politics and best practices.

“Every few years, you could count on politics introducing some new plan into the school system to which you had to respond,” he said. “It’s going to change what you do and what you’re accountable for . . . but in the final analysis, you go into that classroom and do what you think needs to be done.”

The professional passion of COE faculty sums up MTSU’s approach to education at every level, and it explains why its graduates were ready to teach even before R2T.

“MTSU’s focus was understanding the whole child: where they come from and what they bring,” Hinesley says of her own training. “It’s been eye-opening trying to get them to understand the importance of school when they’re wondering, ‘Is my mom going to be home tonight? Am I going to be hungry again tomorrow?’ There’s just so much that’s out of our control—but I don’t know that everybody gets that.”

### A Reward, Justly Earned

Seivers says the best teachers feel a visceral pull to a job whose real payoff might come years later and without fanfare.

“It’s not about the money or any 15 minutes of fame,” she says. “When our students get to be my age, they’ll see that person they taught as a child, who’ll tell them, ‘Wow, if it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t be where I am,’ or ‘You were one of my favorite teachers.’ It’s not going to buy them a mansion, but I doubt there are many professions that have that level of reward.”

The state of Tennessee will reap the reward, too, as MTSU builds on century-old strengths to produce a new generation of educators who are readier than ever to tackle the real-world challenges of teaching our children. **MTSU**



Positive Influence: MTSU College of Education Dean Lana Seivers visits elementary students at the Campus School in Murfreesboro.

**T**HE MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS FOOTBALL SQUAD proudly represented C-USA in the 11th annual Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 30, 2013. It was the program's eighth bowl game—the fourth during Rick Stockstill's tenure as head coach—and its first as a new member of C-USA. The invitation was the result of the Blue Raiders' 6–2 record in league play and tie for second place in the C-USA East Division. The game against Navy took place at Amon G. Carter Stadium at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Middle Tennessee could not slow down the vaunted Navy rushing attack, as the Blue Raiders fell 24-6 to the Midshipmen.

Described by athletics officials as “more than a bowl game” with its military theme and involvement, the event was broadcast on ESPN television and radio and also carried worldwide on the Armed Forces Network. Owned and operated by ESPN Events, the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl has featured an armed forces theme since 2006. Patriotic observances recognizing all five branches of the military were presented throughout the game. It is the only bowl game that has hosted all three U.S. military academies.

MTSU boasts a proud military history of its own. Murfreesboro was built on Revolutionary War land grants, and when Middle Tennessee State Normal School was established in 1911, battle damage from the Civil War was still visible on local buildings. The area around the University was used for drilling and training during World War I, and five Middle Tennessee students were killed in action, including William McConnell, who wrote the school's first alma mater. MTSU also leads Tennessee in its commitment and service to veterans. MTSU is the first choice in higher education for Tennessee's veterans, and for four consecutive years, *G.I. Jobs* magazine has designated it a “military-friendly campus.” In 2011, the Veterans Administration invited MTSU to become a VetsSuccess campus—one of fewer than 10 nationwide at the time. The football program also drew attention to MTSU's military-friendly brand last season when University officials successfully lobbied the NCAA on behalf of student-athlete Steven Rhodes, a former Marine and walk-on football player, who had previously been ruled ineligible as a result of his participation in a military-only recreational football league.

Announcing MTSU's invitation in early December, Brant Ringler, executive director of the Armed Forces Bowl, said that the Naval Academy and MTSU's involvement in the game would “add significantly to the legacy of this great event.” Chris Massaro, MTSU director of athletics, said that Blue Raider football “enjoyed a thrilling first year in Conference USA” and had “certainly earned the right” to participate in the Armed Forces Bowl. Coach Stockstill said, “It is hard to describe how appreciative we are to be playing in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl,” stressing that the city of Fort Worth and the surrounding community “put on a first-class event” that served “as a great reward for a successful season.”

**True Blue!**

An invitation to play in the Armed Forces Bowl validates MTSU's decision to speed up its entrance into Conference USA





Kerry Hammonds

Kerry Hammonds II

# All in the Family

## One local father-son duo leaves an indelible mark on the Blue Raider basketball program

by Katie Parker

**T**HE NAME KERRY HAMMONDS HAS BEEN SYNONYMOUS with Blue Raider basketball since 1984.

Hammonds led MT to three NCAA tournament appearances (1985, 1987, 1989) and ranks third all-time in scoring with 1,616 career points. He also ranks second all-time with 955 career rebounds.

His legacy is embodied in his son, Kerry Hammonds II, a guard in the middle of his senior season averaging 11.8 points a game with the Blue Raiders. Like his father, the junior Hammonds helped MT to an NCAA tournament appearance in addition to two straight regular season titles in the Sun Belt Conference. Before the Blue Raiders' NCAA appearance in 2012-13, the 1989 season was the last time MT made the tournament field.

Growing up in Murfreesboro, the younger Hammonds played at Siegel High School, where he was a Mr. Basketball finalist as a junior. Despite his father's legacy, MT wasn't even on the radar for him.

"It wasn't about making my own mark somewhere; it was more about it being in Murfreesboro and me wanting to go away to school," Hammonds said.

Once the recruiting process started, the son decided to give MT head coach Kermit Davis a chance to change his mind. Hammonds Sr. stayed out of the decision-making process for his son, not wanting to pressure him into choosing his alma mater.

"He really didn't force anything on me. Growing up, I really didn't ever think that I would come here to be honest," said Hammonds. "I said I wasn't going to come here, but as the recruiting process came, and I went to other schools, I came here, and I just liked the way it felt."

Hammonds added, "My father said that he was proud of me and he was ready to just watch me play. He told me to not think about what he did, just come out here and play basketball like I know how to. To be honest, I don't really think about it being his alma mater, but I guess it's pretty cool to come to the same school where he accomplished so much."

The younger Hammonds has also made his mark at MT. As a junior, he made the game-winning shot against Ole Miss and had a key steal and layup in the final seconds that led to a victory over Vanderbilt.

Though the elder Hammonds steered clear of the recruiting process, Hammonds says his father provided plenty of good advice about how to succeed in college as a student-athlete.

"Him and my mom both just let me know to be smart, because whatever you do is magnified moreso than the regular student at MTSU. So you have to be smart with the decisions you make and the people you hang out with. You just have to think about it before you do things."

And now the younger Hammonds has words of wisdom of his own for high school prospects.

"I would encourage all prospective student-athletes to give MT a long, hard look," said Hammonds. "The school and athletic programs have a lot to offer and it's a place where you can accomplish all your goals." **MTSU**

# Kerry Hammonds II Career Highs

Points: 28 (set in 2011)

Rebounds: 8 (set in 2013)

Assists: 7 (five times)

Steals: 3 (three times)

Blocked Shots: 4 (set in 2012)

Field Goals: 10 (set in 2013)

3-Point Field Goals: 6 (set in 2013)

Free Throws: 14 (set in 2013)

Kerry Hammonds II



photo: Bradley Lambert

“To be honest, I don’t really think about it being his alma mater, but I guess it’s pretty cool to come to the same school where he accomplished so much.”

TEAMWORK

## True BLUE Statement

When the Middle Tennessee men’s basketball team stepped on the court at Murphy Center on December 1, the Blue Raiders were wearing special blackout game jerseys—and affirming their devotion to MTSU’s True Blue values.

Head Coach Kermit Davis said the players decided to replace their names on the special uniforms for the contest against Belmont with the words “True Blue.”

“At the beginning of the season, we talked about the values that we represent as a team and as a university,” Davis said. “We felt these special jerseys could reflect how each one of us are striving to be True Blue on and off the court.”

The True Blue Pledge, which each freshman class recites at the beginning of the school year as part of Convocation, reflects the University’s values of honesty and integrity, respect for diversity, engagement in the community and commitment to reason, not violence.

I AM true BLUE

# Freedom Sings at the Bluebird

## A Red, White, and Blue Raider Experience

MTSU electronic media communication students once again lend behind-the-scenes expertise on Music Row—this time for Mass Communication dean Ken Paulson’s “Freedom Sings”

**F**REEDOM SINGS IS A CELEBRATION OF FREE speech and music that tours college campuses across the nation. Two sold-out concerts at Nashville’s Bluebird Cafe last October commemorated the organization’s 15th anniversary. If the event had a positively Blue Raider feel, that’s because MTSU Electronic Media Communication (EMC) faculty, staff, and students were front and center organizing and orchestrating the whole thing.

The signature program of the Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center, Freedom Sings features prominent recording artists playing music that has been banned or censored or has called for social change. Launched in 1999, the program has toured the United States under the direction of Ken Paulson, president of the First Amendment Center and recently appointed dean of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication, and Gene Policinski, the institute’s chief operating officer and senior vice president of the center.

“For 15 years, we’ve been privileged to tell the vibrant story of the First Amendment with the help of extraordinary musicians,” Paulson said. The event featured Janis Ian, Ashley Cleveland, and Don Henry (all Grammy winners) and Bill Lloyd, Kim Richey, Gretchen Peters, Webb Wilder, Will Kimbrough, Jonell Mosser, Lari White, Joseph Wooten, Dez Dickerson, and others. (The backing band included Dave Pomeroy, Craig Krampf,

Danny Flowers, E-Street Band bassist Garry Tallent, and Lloyd.) “It’s a hallmark of our program that our students learn very quickly to work at a professional level,” Paulson said.

Nashville mayor Karl Dean attended the event and honored Freedom Sings with a city proclamation, calling the program a “critically acclaimed multimedia experience” that invites audiences “to experience the First Amendment in a new way.”

Getting a preprofessional experience that few, if any, of their peers nationwide could possibly obtain, Mass Comm students worked behind the scenes at the Bluebird for both events. The Bluebird Cafe is known worldwide as an epicenter for the best in songwriting. Students used the college’s \$1.4 million mobile video production lab, managed social media content, helped with public relations, and covered the event for student media outlets.

MTSU crews work regularly with ESPN3 and Sinclair Broadcasting Corp. to produce sports broadcasts and other events and have gained a strong reputation for their work on projects with PBS affiliates. For the past two summers, dozens of MTSU EMC students worked the Capitol Records street party in Nashville—modulating audio, operating high-definition cameras, conducting interviews, and recording concerts for the label. [MTSU](#)



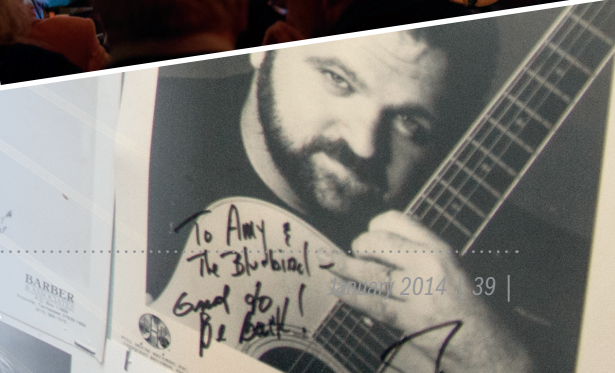
Editorial contributions by Gina E. Fann  
Event poster art was created by Kelsey Greer



Nashville mayor Karl Dean, appearing onstage at The Bluebird Café with performers of Freedom Sings, presented a proclamation honoring the program's 15th anniversary.

### Are You Experienced?

Students with shirts emblazoned "MT MASS COMMUNICATION CREW" scurried behind the scenes to set up and operate audio and video equipment at Freedom Sings. As unconcerned about working alongside a multi-Grammy winner as they'd be next to a professor or fellow student, they traded technical talk with industry pros.



# *true* **BLUE**

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For details, visit [www.mtsu.edu/rsvp](http://www.mtsu.edu/rsvp).

# #2

# #1

**Honors College  
Presidents' Day Open House**

*Monday, February 17, 2014*

Educational events, tours, and fun activities.

For a detailed schedule and to register, visit [www.mtsu.edu/honors](http://www.mtsu.edu/honors).



# A Legend's Legacy

The family of country music icon George Jones creates a scholarship fund at MTSU

by Andrew Oppmann

**T**HE WIDOW OF COUNTRY music icon George Jones announced in November that her family has established a scholarship fund at Middle Tennessee State University that they hope will become a living memorial to the late singer. Nancy Jones announced the creation of the fund as part of a Nashville ceremony to unveil a monument to her husband of 30 years. The Country Music Hall of Fame member died April 26 at age 81.



Nancy Jones and Sidney A. McPhee at the unveiling of the George Jones monument in Nashville

“George would have liked the fact that MTSU attracts so many first-generation college students, as well as students who face financial challenges,” Jones said. “Like George, they are hardworking folks who are determined to make their dreams a reality.”

Nancy Jones will make the first donation to the fund. President Sidney A. McPhee, who attended the announcement at the Woodlawn Roesch-Patton Funeral Home and Memorial Park, thanked Jones for choosing the University to honor the memory of her husband.

“MTSU is a very appropriate place to honor George Jones because of its nationally known recording industry program,” McPhee said. “We have educated many of the leaders of the country music industry, and we are dedicated to teaching students about the important contributions of country music.”

MTSU’s College of Mass Communication, which houses the Recording Industry Department and the Center for Popular Music, is working to preserve and promote Jones’s legacy. The singer charted number-one country songs across several decades, from the 1950s through the ’80s. Jones won two Grammy Awards, the first in 1980 for his classic hit “He Stopped Loving Her Today” and the second in 1999 for “Choices.” He won a Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2012.

“George Jones had an extraordinary life and career on so many levels, and we are grateful that his legacy will inspire and benefit a new generation through education,” said Dean Ken Paulson of the College of Mass Communication.

Paulson added that the college will add to its collection of research material and artifacts surrounding Jones’s career. Beverly Keel, chair of the Recording Industry Department, said her department is developing a course on Jones’s life and music and will “create opportunities for scholars to offer their analyses and interpretations of his music that can then be shared with scholars internationally.”

“We want to make sure that students 100 years from now will fall in love with ‘He Stopped Loving Her Today,’ just as we did, no matter what future technology they may use to listen to his traditional country music,” said Keel.

Nancy Jones said her husband would have been pleased to have students benefit from this effort in his name.

“George received help from people as he strove to have a country music career, so I am thrilled that we will be able to help young people in the name of George Jones,” she said. “I know he would have loved this.”

Gifts can be made online at [www.mtsu.edu/georgejones](http://www.mtsu.edu/georgejones), or by calling (615) 898-5595 or emailing [devofc@mtsu.edu](mailto:devofc@mtsu.edu). [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)

**O**N THE CAMPUS OF what is today MTSU, in spring 1941, William James “Greg” Gregory, a sharecropper’s son from Smith County, Tennessee, got his first taste of flight. He has never forgotten it.

More than seven decades later, following a distinguished career in aviation that included piloting some of the earliest spy planes in American history and helping develop America’s earliest unmanned (drone) aircraft models, the 93-year-old Gregory still gets a



gleam in his eye when asked about those first experiences flying over campus.

“It was the beginning of my flying career right there,” says Gregory, who now lives in Austin, Texas. “We had an airstrip at that time right behind what was then Jones Hall men’s dorm.”

How smitten was Gregory with taking to the skies? Consider that in the summer of 1941, a young fellow from Alabama ferrying a Taylorcraft to Minneapolis landed at MTSU’s airfield—the strip behind Jones Hall—in need of fuel, food, and rest. Gregory went to dinner with the Alabama traveler that evening, at which time he asked Gregory if he would be interested in piloting his 40-horsepower plane the following day on the next leg of his journey.

“It was probably not a smart thing to do, because I had a test on Monday,” Gregory relates. “But we left early, just at daybreak. We flew all day long—I flew it myself all day

long—and landed in Waterloo, Iowa, at dark. Then I got out and got on the highway and started hitchhiking.”

Gregory hitchhiked all night long—and the next day and the next—finally arriving in Nashville at about eleven o’clock on a Sunday night.

“I caught the last bus to Murfreesboro and got there about midnight, and then I got a taxi out to the University,” Gregory relates. “I took a shower and got up the next morning and took my exam, and everything was just normal. Like I said, it was probably not a smart thing to do, but it was indicative of how much I wanted to get a little flying in.”

## TAKING FLIGHT

Even though he never graduated from MTSU—Gregory joined the war effort during his junior year—he says he still feels a “closeness” to the University, saying, “I felt they gave me a start.”

That “start” only happened because a high school principal reached out on Gregory’s behalf to then dean of admissions N. C. Beasley, asking if a work-study opportunity might be available for the promising young farmhand. There was, and Gregory promptly reported to the college.

“I went over there and checked in at the Old Main with Dean Beasley, and he was my mentor from that point on,” Gregory recalls. “That’s how it all came about.”

Gregory’s daughter, Cookie Gregory Ruiz, executive director of Ballet Austin, puts the dean’s generosity in perspective when she says “The fact that Dean Beasley from MTSU took a phone call from my father’s high school principal one Sunday night about 70 years ago forever changed the trajectory of our family. My father was the first college graduate in his family and that area of Tennessee, and because he succeeded, my older cousins followed his lead and then the next generation and the next.”

While in his junior year at MTSU, the first-generation college student Gregory applied for and was accepted into the U.S. Army Air Corps in the aviation cadet program.

“The war had been going on in Europe for two years, and I had just reached 21, so it seemed like the smart thing to do,” Gregory says.

“Because it was not a matter of if, but when we were going to get into the war. And, of course, we did, three months later, in December.”

Gregory cites MTSU’s nascent aerospace efforts at that time for supplying many needed young pilots for the war effort.

“It was a big contribution early on for the government for us to have that kind of training because it gave us a little feel for flying and a stimulation to want to continue to fly.”

After finishing the cadet program, Gregory left MTSU and reported for flight training at Randolph Field in San Antonio on Dec. 7, 1941—the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He finished flying school in April 1942 and was assigned to a fighter squadron based in California.

## SPANNING THE GLOBE

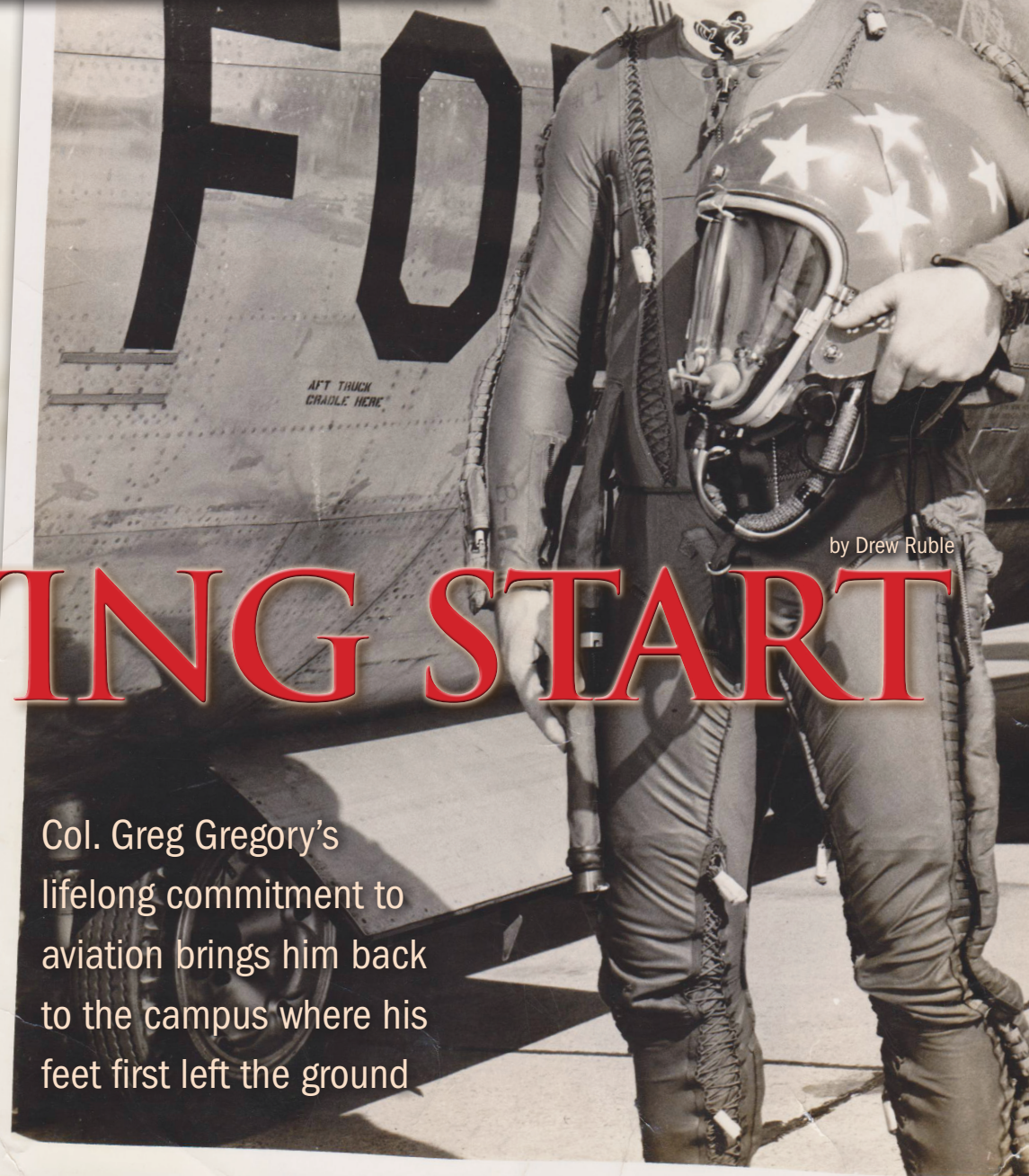
Soon after, Gregory was an Air Force fighter pilot flying P-38s, B-29s and, later, B-47s in World War II. It was the beginning of a 31-year active duty career in the Air Force that ended with Gregory achieving the rank of colonel. His highly decorated military career spanned the most significant chapters of aviation development in history. Col. Gregory piloted 55 different airplanes while in the Air Force, including a number of aircraft flown with the U.S. Navy. For instance, he is one of just a few Air Force pilots to attain Aircraft Carrier Qualification, which he accomplished through training on the USS *Lexington*.

Gregory is also connected to some of the most significant military events in modern American history. His biography reads like research folder for a Tom Clancy novel. An important chapter relates to the Cuban missile crisis, during which Gregory served as a

U-2 spy plane pilot and commander of the Air Force/Central Intelligence Agency U-2 collaborative squadron, which used high-resolution cameras to take the first photographs identifying the presence of surface-to-air missiles and the Soviet buildup in Cuba.

“President Eisenhower decided to overfly their country without their permission, and to do that, we had to have an airplane that would fly above 60,000 feet,” Gregory explains. “So the first airplane was the RB-57, and that was the one I got into first, and I was in that program four years. It was the first airplane to fly above 60,000 feet. In fact, it would go about 65,000 feet. And then, after four years in it, I got into the U-2 program, and it would fly even higher.”

As a result of Gregory’s command of the U-2 project, he was awarded the CIA’s Medal of Merit and received a personal letter of commendation from President John F. Kennedy. Gregory’s continued command of top-secret U-2 missions later



by Drew Ruble

# A FLYING START

provided surveillance images detailing the mounting tension in Vietnam.

Years later, Gregory ended up working at the Pentagon from 1967 to 1971 in the area of research and development of the first drone concepts. Gregory completed his undergraduate degree in education from Centenary College and, while stationed at the Pentagon, his master’s degree in international affairs from George Washington University. He also served as chair of the United Nations Committee on Reconnaissance in Brussels.

Col. Greg Gregory’s lifelong commitment to aviation brings him back to the campus where his feet first left the ground

*continued on page 44*

## A FLYING START *(continued from page 43)*

“I really didn’t want to go to the Pentagon, but it’s a good experience to have,” Gregory says. “We were working on the drones, which were having a lot of trouble at that time . . . so it was really an important time at the Pentagon.”

Gregory’s final Air Force assignment was as vice commandant of the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He retired from active duty in 1975. He holds the rare distinction of being awarded four Legions of Merit throughout his career for his service to the Air Force. His military career was followed by 15 years in the Texas attorney general’s office as assistant director of workers’ compensation.



Gregory was married for 46 years to Helen Dwire Gregory of Shreveport, La., until her death in 1990. He is the father of daughter Ruiz in Texas and Gretchen Gregory Davis of Keystone, Colo., and is a self-described devoted grandfather. Today, even at 93, he is in impeccable shape both physically and mentally. Gregory became an avid cyclist at age 72 and has biked across France, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. He also continues to travel extensively, completing his most recent tour around the world in spring 2013.

His other interests include his 20-year involvement in the University of Texas LAMP Program, for which he developed an endowed scholarship for students in the process of completing

teacher certification through the School of Education. Gregory has also funded scholarships at Centenary College and at MTSU.

## A LASTING IMPACT

At MTSU, Gregory established a scholarship for students from either Trousdale or Macon Counties. During a trip to MTSU for Homecoming in 2013—Gregory’s first visit back to campus since 1965—he expressed tremendous pride in the University, its growth and promise, and, more specifically, the quality and growth of its aerospace program.

“I’m just proud that they have continued the program from a really tiny little program that we had back then—to something that is really significant. They have a great program,” he says.

Even after all he has accomplished in life, he still looks back to his early days at MTSU as a key period of growth and development, and he wanted to visit campus again for that reason and more.

“Particularly after I retired, I really felt like I owed something to Middle Tennessee State, having gotten my start there even though I didn’t graduate. So it was just a wonderful visit back.” **MTSU**



## Singing Praises

A Music Row chart-topper tips his hat to MTSU

Like Col. Greg Gregory, country music star Chris Young attended MTSU, feels a connection to the University, and has given back generously.

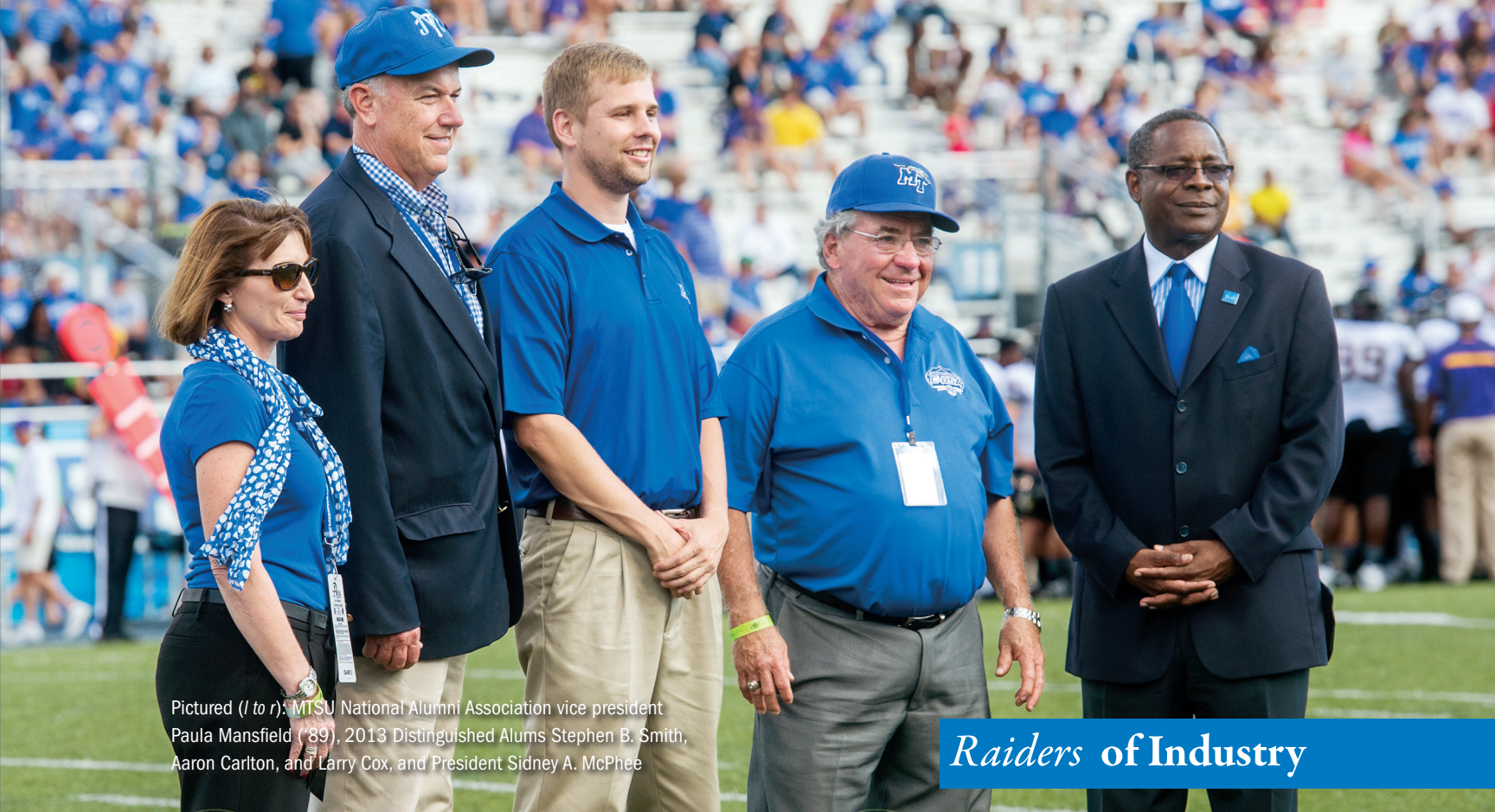
The 28-year-old Murfreesboro native credits much of his success as a chart-topping artist to his time spent as an MTSU student.

“My time there was just really, really important to me,” Young says. “I enjoyed the recording industry program there, and it did a lot for me. It’s just a big part of who I am.”

Young’s career took flight in 2006 when he won the television program *Nashville Star*, a singing competition that aired on the USA Network. He later signed with RCA Records Nashville and has since released four studio albums, including his latest effort, *A.M.*, last September.

Young paved the way for MTSU to use a snippet of one of his hit songs, “The Man I Want to Be,” in a radio advertisement in which he credited the University with helping him to become the artist he is today. He has also contributed financially to the University. Young recently gave a significant amount of his surplus musical equipment to MTSU—soundboards, cables, lighting, video, and staging—for use in on- and off-campus events.

“The payback for me is that somebody is going to get to use some equipment that maybe he or she otherwise wouldn’t have been able to obtain,” Young says. **MTSU**



Pictured (l to r): MTSU National Alumni Association vice president Paula Mansfield ('89), 2013 Distinguished Alums Stephen B. Smith, Aaron Carlton, and Larry Cox, and President Sidney A. McPhee

## Raiders of Industry

# GRADE A GRADS

## Introducing the 2013–2014 class of Distinguished Alumni

EVERY YEAR SINCE 1960, MTSU'S ALUMNI Association has recognized accomplished alumni with the association's highest honor—the Distinguished Alumni Award. Younger alumni who are making a positive impact in the world are eligible for the Young Alumni Achievement Award.

This year's honorees include a nonprofit innovator, a couple of high-powered Tennessee businessmen, and a young expert in foreign service. Each is well deserving of the honor, and their personal stories don't make for a bad read, either.

### SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

#### Stephen B. Smith ('11)

Stephen Smith has a lengthy history of involvement with MTSU. He has served on the President's Council and the board of directors of the Blue Raider Athletic Association. A former

MTSU baseball player and member of the Blue Raider Sports Hall of Fame, Smith chaired the search committee for MTSU's athletic director and spearheaded the successful effort to raise \$5 million to remodel the baseball stadium. He received the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy. Professionally, Smith is chair of the board of Haury & Smith Contractors, a 59-year-old middle Tennessee development and home building company. In political circles, he achieved Super Ranger status (one of only three in Tennessee) in President George W. Bush's 2004 presidential campaign and served as national finance chair for Senate majority leader Bill Frist's leadership political action committee, VOLPAC.

A nontraditional student, Smith received his degree from MTSU while in his late fifties. He attended MTSU to study finance in the 1970s but left college before completing his degree. "It's never too late to go back to school," he told MTSUnews.com after his graduation. "What all the Smiths have been good at is keeping up with something until it's finished."

*(continued on page 46)*

## SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### Larry Cox ('68)

Larry Cox is the owner of Homestead Egg Co. (a wholesale food distributorship), Chicken City (a retail food outlet) and Cox Family Leasing (a rental and leasing company). But despite his professional accomplishments as a businessman and entrepreneur, he is better known as a tireless volunteer, ferocious fundraiser, and community philanthropist in the Knoxville area. Also a 20-year elected member of the Knoxville City Council, his nonprofit involvement is extensive. As an example, Cox has been involved for more than two decades with the Emerald Youth Foundation, whose mission is to encourage urban youth to become leaders who help renew their communities. The political science major is also a field representative for Congressman John Duncan, who said of Cox, "I do not believe there is a man in Knoxville who has done more to help young people than Larry Cox has."

## YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

### Aaron Carlton ('05)

After serving in the U.S. Army from 2000 to 2003, during which time he was deployed to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division, Aaron Carlton attended MTSU and graduated magna cum laude with a double major in International Relations and Spanish. He eventually joined the U.S. Department of State as a foreign service officer. While serving in Uganda, he drafted the Department of State's annual reports on human rights, human trafficking, child labor, and religious freedom. He also assisted the Ugandan government in establishing a prevention of trafficking office and task force. Carlton was awarded the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for his work combating human trafficking in Uganda. Carlton

moved on to serve as a reporting officer and advisor at the United Nations in New York City. He recently became a consular officer in Venezuela.



## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

### Keith Taylor ('89, '91)

While a faculty member at MTSU, Keith Taylor began using 10 percent (or \$350) of his monthly gross income from his job as an English professor to give small grants to low-income families to see them through unexpected financial crises. He transformed this hobby into a nationally acclaimed online nonprofit, Modest-Needs.org. Strangers visit the website, choose a grant recipient they would like to help, and donate online. The enterprise is supported primarily by \$5, \$10, and \$25 gifts made by legions of unassuming philanthropists around the world. His organization, where his employees refer to him as "Dr. Keith," has been called the "future of philanthropy" and has been covered in many press outlets such as *Forbes*, *People*, *USA Today*, the *Today* show, and the *CBS Morning Show*, among others. **MTSU**



The Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association annually seeks and accepts nominations for the **Distinguished Alumni Awards**.

These awards honor those with sustained records of achievement who have made outstanding contributions to society and who exemplify the ideals for which MTSU stands in extraordinary ways.

This year, in addition to the Distinguished Alumni awards, the MTSU Alumni Association is proud to introduce the **True Blue Citations of Distinction**.

- Young Alumni Achievement
- Achievement in Education—MTSU Faculty
- Achievement in Education—Non-MTSU Faculty
- Service to Community
- The David Cullum Award for Service to the University

**We encourage you to recognize the achievements of an alum by nominating someone for an award.**

Award criteria and nomination forms may be found at [www.mtalumni.com/awards](http://www.mtalumni.com/awards).

**Nominations for all awards are due March 29, 2014.**



## James "Boots" Donnelly

**James "Boots" Donnelly ('64)** was among 24 inductees into the College Football Hall of Fame last year. The first ever Blue Raider to receive the honor, Donnelly joined only 934 players and 205 coaches (out of the nearly 4.92 million who have played or coached college football over the past 144 years) ever to be inducted into the hall. As a player, Donnelly led MTSU to a conference championship and a Grantland Rice Bowl win in 1964. As a coach, Donnelly led MTSU to nine top-20 regular-season finishes, seven NCAA I-AA playoff appearances, and a 31-game home winning streak from 1987 to 1993. He later served as MTSU's athletics director, playing an integral role in moving the program to the FBS level. [MTSU](#)



## Woody Bomar

**Woody Bomar ('67)** is president of Green Hills Music Group, a Music Row publishing enterprise, whose songs have been recorded by George Strait, Hunter Hayes, Luke Bryan, and Jake Owen, among others. A Vietnam veteran, Bomar began his music career as a songwriter, penning hits in the 1980s for the likes of Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn, Hank Williams Jr., and Lee Greenwood. He later served as general manager at Combine Music, where he promoted the music of staff writers including Kris Kristofferson, Larry Gatlin, and Dolly Parton and placed notable hits including the first single by the Judds. He left Combine in 1987 to start Little Big Town Music, which produced 15 number-one country singles over the next decade. In 1998, Bomar sold Little Big Town Music to Sony/ATV and was simultaneously named the company's senior vice president and general manager. Over the course of his eight-year tenure at the helm of Sony/ATV, the company released 46 number-one singles. Bomar also signed artist/writers including Dierks Bentley, Rascal Flatts, Josh Turner, and Blake Shelton. In 2006, Bomar parted ways with Sony/ATV to return to independent publishing with the creation of Green Hills Music Group. [MTSU](#)



## Billy Lynch

Longtime Nashville city employee **Billy Lynch ('68, '78)** retired last year after 45 years working for Metro in various roles, including as fire chief, chief deputy sheriff, and public works director, where he oversaw the massive cleanup of the city in less than 30 days in the aftermath of the flood of 2010. [MTSU](#)

## 1950s

**Herbert Winstead ('53)**, Walling, retired with the rank of full colonel from the Tennessee State Guard after 48 years of service in the Army, Navy, and State Guard. He received the prestigious Alvin C. York Award for outstanding service to his country and the state of Tennessee. Dr. Winstead has owned and operated Walling Dental Center since 1978.

## 1960s

**Marvin Burton ('61)**, Rockvale, received the Lions International Letter of Appreciation from the Murfreesboro Lions Club.

**Bob Haley ('68)**, Nashville, was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in April 2013.

**Mike Jones ('68, '81)**, Auburntown, is the new principal at Cannon County High School.



## John Harris

Blind since birth, **John Harris ('79, '89)** served as MTSU's first Disabled Student Services director. Harris retired last year after more than 27 years with the University, leaving a lasting impression for his efforts in administering the Americans with Disabilities Act and for being a strong advocate for students with disabilities. [MTSU](#)



## Burns Phillips

**Burns Phillips ('70, '73)** was named commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development last year. His previous career included serving as managing director of customer-focused government initiatives administration-wide in the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. Phillips also founded a surgical instrument company in 1991 that conducted business in the U.S. and 30 other countries. [MTSU](#)

## 1970s

**Betty Anderson ('71)**, Nashville, is the new executive director of Stand for Children Tennessee.

**Larry Williams ('71, '76, '95)**, Murfreesboro, published his second book, *The Unruly Skies: One Man's Journey inside the Federal Aviation Administration*, describing his 34 years as an FAA safety inspector.

**Wilmon Ashley Smith Jr. ('72)**, Cleveland, director of teacher education and field experiences at Lee University, was designated

president-elect of the Association for Middle Level Education.

**George Hughes ('73)**, Union, Ky., Gateway Community and Technical College president and CEO, was awarded the prestigious Founders Award by the Covington Business Council for his visionary leadership to establish an urban/metro campus in the northern Kentucky city.

**Evelyn "Creighton" Anderson ('75)**, Harrison, has collaborated with Thornton Parsons on a political work titled *Jack A\$\$ Politics and Culture*.

**Barbara Gourley Davenport ('76)**, Smyrna, was recently promoted to Extension Agent II, working with the 4-H Youth Development Program in Rutherford County. She was recognized as Communicator of the Year by her professional organization, TAE4-HW, awarded the NAE4-HA Southern Region Award, and presented with Outstanding Achievement certificates at the National Extension 4-H Agents Conference last fall.

**David Parker ('76)**, Bradyville, host of the annual Parker Brother's Labor Day Polled Hereford sale, received the Tennessee

Cattlemen's Association Cow/Calf Producer of the Year award.

**Thomas Vance ('76)**, McMinnville, retired as CEO and vice chair of First National Bank of McMinnville.

**Mark Barker ('77)**, Readyville, received the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association Stocker Grower Producer of the Year award.

**Barbara Nichols Parker ('77, '80, '94)**, Woodbury, Cannon County director of schools, was named 2013 Upper Cumberland Director of the Year.



## Debra Payne

**Debra Payne ('76)** was named commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) last year. Payne previously served as deputy commissioner of DIDD, a department Gov. Bill Haslam described in a press release announcing Payne's promotion as one that handles "some of the state's most difficult work concerning our most vulnerable citizens." [MTSU](#)

## Wayne White

After graduating from MTSU, **Wayne White ('79)** went to New York City and worked as an illustrator for several publications, including the *New York Times* and the *Village Voice*. In 1986, White became a designer and puppeteer for *Pee-wee's Playhouse* and earned three Emmy Awards. White eventually moved to California, where he worked in music videos, winning Billboard and MTV Music Video Awards as an art director for his work on the Smashing Pumpkins' "Tonight, Tonight" and Peter Gabriel's "Big Time." More recently, White has earned acclaim for a documentary about his life and work, *Beauty Is Embarrassing*, and for word paintings, which use thrift-shop "sofa painting" landscapes as backdrops for detailed, deadpan words and phrases like "You're Just Agreeing with Me So I'll Shut Up," and "Hoozy Thinky Iz?" Among his current projects is a permanent sculpture on the Bonnaroo concert grounds—a 30-foot tree made of steel and wood that turns into a psychedelic light show at night. [MTSU](#)

**John Pitts ('78)**, Corinth, Miss., sports editor at the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* in Tupelo, was awarded the 2012 Better Newspaper Contest award for Best Sports Column from the Mississippi Press Association.

**Sharon Payne Hamrick ('79)**, Signal Mountain, was appointed director of litigation support services for Decosimo Advisory Services Practice.

**Sheila Johnson ('79, '87, '91)**, Joelton, retired from teaching after 30 years.

## 1980s

**James Spurlock ('81)**, Murfreesboro, received the Heart of Hospice Award from Alive Hospice.

**Gregory D. Smith ('85)** is a Pleasant View Municipal Court judge. He recently wrote the *Tennessee Municipal Judges Benchbook*, printed and published by the Tennessee Administrative Office of Courts.

**Marshall Davidson III ('86)**, Goodlettsville, staff attorney for the Tennessee Supreme Court, was honored with the 2013 Distinguished Faculty Award from the Nashville School of Law.

**Gary Smith ('87)**, Mt. Juliet, was promoted to assistant manager of the Hwy. 70 branch of Wilson Bank & Trust.

**Kenneth Strickland ('89)**, Chevy Chase, Md., was named to NBC's 2013 TheGrio List, recognizing African Americans making a difference in the lives of Americans from a variety of work fields.

## 1990s

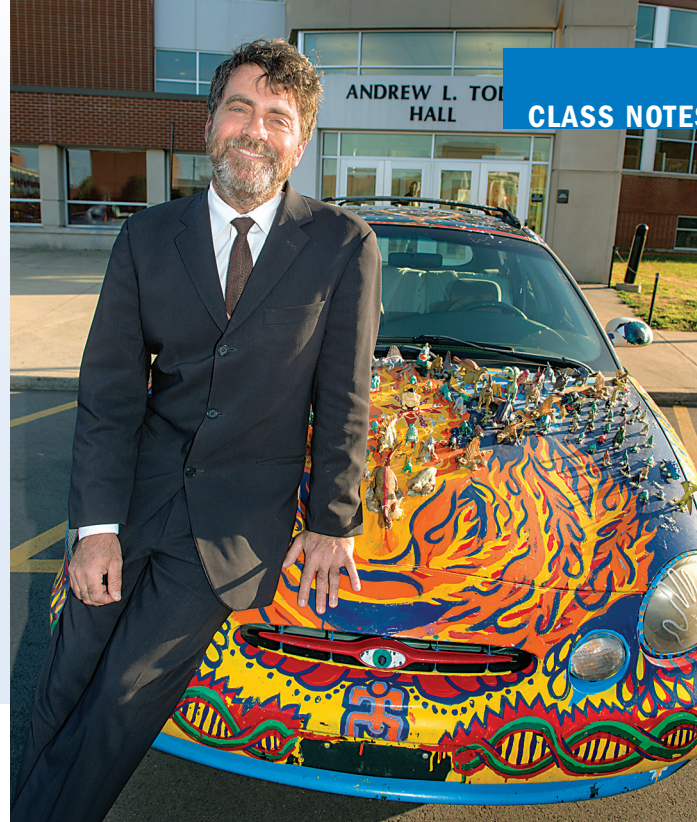
**Kerry Armstrong ('90)**, San Diego, Calif., was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association.

**Timothy Fink ('90)**, Kingston Springs, was appointed to the advisory board of the I'll Fly Away Foundation.

**Sherri Holmes ('90)**, Portland, was named 2012-13 Teacher of the Year at Portland West Middle School.

**Jim Summers ('90)**, Patuxent River, Md., recently retired from the U.S. Air Force after 21 years of service, most recently as a civil service employee (contract specialist) with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command at the Naval Air Station.

**Mark K. Green ('91)**, Brentwood, was promoted to chief counsel,



regulatory boards with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

**Martin Harris ('92)**, Chattanooga, was named director of nursing at Chattanooga State Community College.

**Mary Esther Reed ('92, '94, '96)**, Smyrna, was sworn in as the new mayor of Smyrna.

**Sherry King ('93, '96, '00)**, Murfreesboro, was appointed principal at Homer Pittard Campus School.

**Matthew Wade ('93, '07)**, Bell Buckle, was named director of farm laboratories at MTSU.

**Carlton Clay ('94)**, Benton, Ark., is area supervisor for American Greetings in Little Rock, Ark.

**Heather Gum ('94)**, Readyville, is a program assistant for the Rutherford County Extension Office, where she has been awarded the NAE4-HA Southern Region Award and recognized with Outstanding Achievement certificates at the National Extension 4-H Agents Conference.



## Kim Ramko

Life sciences journal *PharmaVOICE* recognized Ernst & Young LLP principal and advisory life sciences lead **Kim Ramko ('90)** as one of the "100 Most Inspiring People in the Life Sciences Industry" for 2013. *PharmaVOICE* highlighted Ramko's dedication to helping women in the industry advance into positions

of leadership. Ramko has over 23 years of experience managing business strategy, process improvement, and large-scale information technology projects. [MTSU](#)

## Byron Smith

One of the most recent investments made by venture capitalist **Byron Smith ('84)**, a founder of Mountain Group Capital, is Aspire Health, a palliative-care physician network launched by former Senate majority leader Bill Frist, which aims to improve care and lower costs for patients with chronic illnesses. Other companies Smith has invested in include Streamweaver, a synchronized social video app chosen by Apple as a featured app in the iTunes store and whose investors include one of the earliest-ever investors in Facebook; Panopto, which provides lecture-capture software used by 500 universities and over four million students around the world; Myomo, a company founded at MIT that is a computerized/motorized exoskeleton for use by people with paralysis of the arm; and SwingPal, a company for golfers that also provides the SwingFix service for the Golf Channel and powers much of the Golf Channel Academy app. [MTSU](#)



## Christopher Parks

**Christopher Parks ('91)** is founder and chief development officer for Brentwood-based health care technology company change:healthcare Inc. The entrepreneur established the company in 2007 to help employers, employees, and consumers save money on their health care expenses by improving information flow and cost transparency. Parks is also the founder of checkd.in (a targeted audience engagement firm used by the likes of country music act Lady Antebellum), @carlsays.com, and other companies. [MTSU](#)



## Missy Marshall

**Missy Marshall ('92)** was named executive director of Keep Tennessee Beautiful, the state resource center for litter prevention, community greening, and recycling and waste reduction education, which is funded by the Beverage Association, Malt Beverage Association, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Marshall previously served as director of communications and external affairs for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (DIDD). [MTSU](#)



## 1990s, cont.

*continued from page*

**Jason Loggins ('94)**, Mt. Juliet, was named a vice president at Wilson Bank & Trust.

**Muffin Dixon ('95)**, Memphis, was named director of development operations for the Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation.

**Becky Duncan ('95)**, Mt. Juliet, a full-time aviation mechanic

instructor at Baker's School of Aeronautics in Nashville, received the Association of Women in Aviation Maintenance Teacher of the Year award in March 2013.

**Christopher Haley ('95)**, New York, N.Y., was appointed director of institutional advancement for the Professional Children's School in New York City.

**Heath Nokes ('95)**, McMinnville, transferred after 17 years working

with youth in Moore and Cannon counties to a position as Extension Agent III in adult agriculture in Warren County.

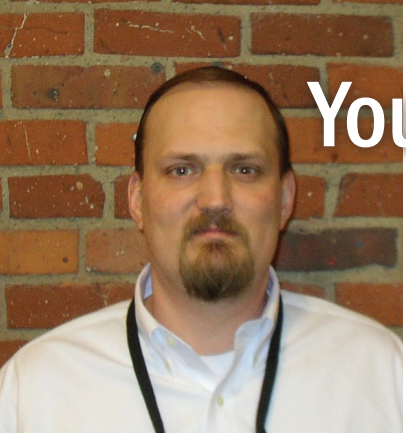
**Scott W. B. Kaiser ('96)**, Franklin, was recently elected to the board of the nonprofit A Vintage Affair, which raises funds benefiting needy women and children in Williamson County.

**Connie Frey Spurlock ('96, '98)**, Staunton, Ill., was named South-

ern Illinois University-Edwardsville's first Sustainability Faculty Fellow. She was also recently promoted to associate professor.

**Lisa McWherter ('97)**, Anderson, S.C., was named vice president for development at Southern Wesleyan University.

**Melissa Riley ('97)**, Brentwood, coauthored *Waves of Change*, a book chronicling how Tennessee's thousand-year flood changed the



# You Do What? Jeffrey Parker

**Jeffrey Parker ('97)** is an MTSU-trained physicist who spends his days making possible something that has eluded humankind for millennia—a close, comfortable shave. Parker is a senior scientist at Procter & Gamble's South Boston Innovation Center, where he researches how razor blades work and how to make them better. "None of it, someone would say, is cutting-edge technology, not what someone would think science is working on," Parker says. "But it's the nature of the world. It's surprising, the amount of technology in any product." Parker's work has been instrumental in advancing P&G's Fusion ProGlide products, which use five blades—each thinner than a grain of sand—to ensure a smooth shave. Becoming one of P&G's top shaving scientists, though, hasn't led Parker to shave his beard. **MTSU**



## Aylton Tesch

**Aylton Tesch ('98)**, a professional sports agent and vice president at Los Angeles-based Relativity Sports, represented four of the 19 international players selected in the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft last year. Tesch played for the Blue Raider basketball squad from 1995 to 1998 before enjoying a 10-year professional basketball career playing overseas. Tesch also won a Gold Medal at the 1999 Pan American Games as a member of the Brazilian national team. **MTSU**



## Rachel Fontenot

**Rachel Fontenot ('98)** is director of marketing at Sony Music Nashville, which includes three country label operations—Arista Nashville, Columbia Nashville, and RCA Nashville—and Provident Music Group, one of the world's leading Christian music companies. Fontenot started working at Sony as an intern and has been with the company for 12 years. **MTSU**

lives of a survivor, a rescuer, and a family grief counselor.

**Robert Holman ('98)**, Lynchburg, was named publisher of the *Moore County News* in November 2012.

### 2000s

**Jessica Willett Parrish ('02)**, Las Vegas, Nev., is the new pastoral assistant at St. Anthony of Padua Church.

**Matt Palmer ('03)**, Bowie, Md., was a featured performer in the

Norsk Gitarfestival in August 2013, in Hamar, Norway (Scandinavia's most prestigious guitar series). Palmer teaches at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

**Meredith Kerr ('04, '12)**, Murfreesboro, was named development director for the MTSU College of Liberal Arts.

**Amanda Maynord ('04)**, Nashville, is a senior account supervisor for public relations firm Lovell Communications.

**Teresa Whitton ('04)**, Ringgold, Ga., earned her CFP designation—the highest professional designation in the financial planning field—from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

**Tyler Andral ('07)**, White House, won the National Old-Time Banjo Championship at Uncle Dave Macon Days in Murfreesboro.

**Benjamin Barnes ('09)**, Opp, Ala., was promoted to head women's golf coach at Troy University.

**Amanda DeRosia ('09)**, Murfreesboro, was promoted to senior accountant in the tax services department of Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain PC.

**Kyle Engels ('09)**, Mt. Juliet, was promoted to senior accountant of tax services for Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain PC.

**Bryan McCoy ('09)**, Fargo, N.D., is transportation coordinator for the North Dakota Community Action Partnership, promoting and coordinating public transportation systems across the state.

**Curtis Hall ('04, '13)**, Nashville, was promoted by performing rights organization SESAC to be responsible for recruiting, training, and managing the company's licensing representatives.

**Amanda McRight Relyea ('08)**, Nolensville, was promoted to director of professional development of the International City/County Management Association.

**Summer Harlow ('09)**, Nashville, was named director of West Coast promotion for Mercury Records Nashville.

## BABY RAIDERS



Martin Thomas Clarke



Lily Kate Wilburn



Vivian Eleanor Winkler



Darien Alexander Cartwright

**Aubrey Margaret Adams**, August 21, 2013, to Jason and **Angela ('08)** Adams of Smyrna

**Casper William Bibeau**, September 21, 2013, to **Chuck ('98)** and Jennifer Bibeau of Franklin

**Bennett Michael Booten**, January 28, 2013, to **Brandon ('02)** and **April Richardson Booten ('04)** of Murfreesboro

**Fletcher Reid Brandon**, June 8, 2013, to **Matthew ('07)** and **Lauren Brandon ('07)** of Murfreesboro

**Jordin Mackenzie Carlton**, October 17, 2012, to **Jay ('01)** and Anna Carlton of Murfreesboro

**Darien Cartwright**, November 14, 2012, to Charlie and **Nancy Michele Cole Cartwright ('06)** of Smyrna

**Martin Thomas Clarke**, September 24, 2013, to **Charlie ('01)** and **Megan Clarke ('01)** of Murfreesboro

**Caroline Elizabeth Dianna**, May 21, 2013, to Chris and **Jody McHugh Dianna ('99)** of Murfreesboro

**Carter Jedidiah Parrish**, March 14, 2013, to Gary and **Jessica Willett Parrish ('02)** of Las Vegas, Nev.

**Clayton Joseph Riddle**, August 28, 2013, to **Brad ('99)** and **Katy Francisco Riddle ('99,' 05)** of Manchester

**Lily Kate Wilburn**, March 22, 2013, to **Joey ('08)** and **Tracie Wilburn ('08)** of Murfreesboro

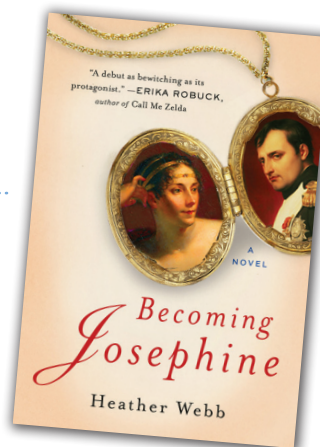
**Vivian Eleanor Winkler**, October 3, 2013, to **Rhett ('03)**, and **Macy Winkler ('11)** of Murfreesboro



## Heather Webb

**Heather Webb ('00)** taught high school French for nearly a decade before turning to full-time novel writing and freelance editing. Her debut novel, *Becoming Josephine*, released in December 2013 by Plume Book, an imprint of Penguin, tells

the story of Rose Tascher, who sails from her Martinique plantation to Paris to trade her Creole black magic culture for love and adventure, including a relationship with the most powerful man of his century—Napoleon Bonaparte. [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)



## 2010s

**Anthony L. King ('10)**, New Orleans, La., is dean of students and families at Sylvania Williams College Prep Elementary School.

**Michelle Ebel ('11)**, Murfreesboro, was promoted to senior accountant of audit services for Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain PC.

**Jason Gass ('11)**, Portland, Maine, joined Stantec's Scarborough office as an aviation planner.

**Mara Snowman ('11)**, Cleveland, is a euphonium player with the U.S. Army Japan Band and has been named the U.S. Army Japan Soldier of the Year.

▶ To submit class notes and pictures, go to [www.MTAlumni.com](http://www.MTAlumni.com), or email [alumni@mtsu.edu](mailto:alumni@mtsu.edu).



## Retta Gardner

**Retta Gardner ('00)**, formerly executive vice president at Murfreesboro-based Guaranty Trust, succeeded company founder and CEO Wendell Mandrell as president and CEO of the 27-year-old mortgage company last year. Gardner joined Guaranty in 1996. Named executive vice president in 2010, she has been responsible for the company's day-to-day operations, including

overseeing new projects and personnel at offices in Murfreesboro, Hendersonville, Mt. Juliet, and Knoxville. [MTSU](#)



## David Chadwell

**David Chadwell ('00)** is vice president of event operations for the Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena with responsibility for all guest experiences at the venue. Chadwell also oversees the box office, concessions, security, ushers, and the AT&T Fan Information desk. Before Bridgestone Arena, Chadwell worked with Starwood Amphitheatre and Creative Artist Agency and spent time on tour with legendary guitarist B. B. King. [MTSU](#)



## Sara Rainwater

**Sara Rainwater ('01)** is development director for the TaxPayers' Alliance, Britain's independent grassroots campaign for lower taxes. Rainwater became involved in politics and campaigning at age 12 by helping her uncle (Tennessee state senator Bill Ketron) in his first

local election campaign. Rainwater moved to London in 2002 and started a postgraduate degree in European studies at the London School of Economics while also working as a research assistant for a member of Parliament. She joined the TaxPayers' Alliance in 2008 and today oversees the organization's fundraising program and special projects, including organizing high-profile events with international dignitaries. [MTSU](#)

## 2010s, cont.

**Abbey Espey ('12)**, Smyrna, was named head coach of the Smyrna High School Lady Bulldogs volleyball team.

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

**Alexis Metko ('12)** was promoted to national sales assistant for Cumulus Nashville.

**Jack H. Williamson ('12)**, Hixson, graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School and received a commission as an ensign assigned to the Officer Training Command in Newport, R.I.

**Joy Bauman ('13)**, Pegram, was appointed principal at Kingston Springs Elementary School.



## Julianna Bass

**Julianna Bass ('02)** captured top honors with her T-shirt design in last year's Diet Coke Young Designer Challenge. Her design is now emblazoned on T-shirts being sold at all Target stores nationwide—a huge step in any designer's career sure do wonders for the promotion of

her own fashion line, which she launched in 2008. Celebrities including Paula Abdul and Eva Longoria have worn Bass's fashions, and she has received professional accolades from publications including *Vogue* and *Women's Wear Daily*, among others. [MTSU](#)



## In Memoriam

### 1930s

**Inez Jennings Harrison ('38, '68)**, Lebanon, June 20, 2013

**Ruby McElroy ('30)**, Nashville, May 19, 2013

### 1940s

**William Davidson ('41)**, Shelbyville, September 12, 2013

**Anna McCormick Kamack ('48)**, Alpharetta, Ga., June 6, 2013

**Alderson Miller ('40)**, State College, Penn., May 14, 2013

**Christine Farmer Moberly ('41)**, Knoxville, September 27, 2013

**Mable Bowling Petty ('43)**, Pensacola, Fla., September 27, 2013

**Carol Crouse Powell ('49)**, North Potomac, Md., June 10, 2013

**Claudine Sproull ('47)**, McMinnville, April 18, 2013

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

**Edwin Whitlock ('48)**, McMinnville, March 19, 2013

### 1950s

**Bryan Carson ('59)**, Shelbyville, August 30, 2013

**David Cullum ('55)**, Nashville, May 2, 2013

**Bettye Knight Gentry ('56)**, Goodlettsville, June 16, 2013

**Jerry Gilreath ('56)**, Bethesda, Md., September 10, 2013

**Hollis Hopkins ('59)**, Huntsville, Ala., July 20, 2013

**Donald Jones ('59, '66)**, Woodbury, August 20, 2013

**Bob Keeton ('54)**, Las Vegas, Nev., September 9, 2013

**Joe McElroy ('53)**, Murfreesboro, September 24, 2013

**June Carter Miller ('51)**, Murfreesboro, January 21, 2013

**Leroy Provost ('52)**, Holyoke, Mass., July 9, 2013

**Millie Overall Rawlins ('58)**, Jacksonville, Fla., July 14, 2013

**Clifton Ray ('54, '55)**, Jacksonville, Fla., July 5, 2013

**Lester Sands ('59, '62)**, Mount Pleasant, July 4, 2013

**Cromer Smotherman ('50)**, Lawrenceburg, May 3, 2013

**Joe C. Tenpenny Jr. ('56)**, Murfreesboro, July 1, 2013

**Marvin Thomas ('59)**, Hixson, July 29, 2013

**Clyde Underwood ('51)**, New Port Richey, Fla., May 14, 2013

**Ruth Bryant Weaver ('51)**, Lewisburg, July 29, 2012

### 1960s

**James T. Brown ('62)**, Shelbyville, June 4, 2013

**Dorothy McQuiddy Cathey ('64)**, Madison, June 11, 2013

**Robbie Cole ('60)**, Gulfport, Miss., May 2, 2013

**Jack Condra ('60)**, White, Ga., July 2, 2013

**Jerry Fisher ('67, '70)**, Bon Aqua, September 24, 2013

**Michael Gavin ('68, '95)**, Murfreesboro, January 9, 2013

**Bobby Holmes ('67)**, Chattanooga, June 22, 2013

**Robert Rader ('66)**, Savannah, Ga., August 8, 2013

**William Richardson ('63, '74)**, Murfreesboro, September 9, 2013

**Mildred Martin Sargent ('65, '67)**, Fort Myers Beach, Fla., April 20, 2013

**Dwight Smith ('61)**, Old Hickory, September 21, 2013

**Hughie Slater ('69)**, Higdon, Ala., April 17, 2013

**Elliott Stockard ('69)**, Columbia, June 1, 2013

### 1970s

**Gary Arnold ('78)**, Franklin, July 1, 2013

**Lillian Faulkner Baggett ('77)**, Dacula, Ga., June 28, 2013

**Alan Chester ('75)**, Dickson, July 22, 2013

**Lynda Combs ('75)**, Loogootee, Ind., August 17, 2013

**Linda Ellis Day ('72)**, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., September 24, 2013

**Frederick Erickson ('78)**, Franklin, July 6, 2013

**Timothy Gooden ('70)**, Hixson, July 15, 2013

**Carey Henley ('72)**, Chattanooga, April 15, 2013

**Marilyn Hundley ('79)**, Lexington, Ky., August 5, 2013

**Marian Kavka ('73)**, Lisbon, Iowa, September 11, 2013

**James Kelley ('70)**, Columbia, July 9, 2013

**Kenneth Lavender ('72)**, Fitzgerald, Ga., June 23, 2013

**Burley Lockridge ('71)**, Brentwood, June 5, 2013.

**Walter Low ('75, '76)**, Ann Arbor, Mich., March 3, 2013

**Lloyd "Tommy" Nokes Jr. ('78)**, Murfreesboro, June 15, 2013

**Jon Scarlett ('72, '94)**, Smyrna, July 2, 2013

**Sam Salerno ('78)**, Stockbridge, Ga., September 19, 2013

**Johnie Tharp Jr. ('74)**, Richmond, Va., March 11, 2013

**Johnny Thompson Sr. ('75)**, Lebanon, May 25, 2013

**Robert Tingle ('72)**, Signal Mountain, August 3, 2013

**Joy Bromley Walker ('70)**, Chesterfield, Va., May 5, 2013



## Mary Caruthers Scales

**Mary Caruthers Scales ('67)**, whom the *Daily News Journal* recently described as a trailblazer for local black and female leaders, died on October 6, 2013, following an extended battle with cancer. She was 85. The first black female on the Murfreesboro City Council, Scales was also a member of the Murfreesboro City School Board. Additionally, she holds the distinction of being the first black faculty member at MTSU to be hired in an academic unit on campus, where she taught in the department of education. Scales owned Scales & Sons Funeral Home from 2000 to 2012. [MTSU](#)



## Shanda Carney Fanning

**Shanda Carney Fanning ('99)** was one of two pilots who died August 14, 2013, when a United Parcel Service airplane crashed in Birmingham, Ala. Described as a country girl at heart who loved to ride horses and who had wanted to fly airplanes from a very young age, Fanning was 37 at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband, Bret Fanning, who works in distribution at Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg. In the aftermath of her death, Fanning's best friend, fellow MTSU alum Whitney Dix, also a pilot and a dispatch manager with Southwest Airlines in Texas, is spearheading a drive to establish the Shanda Carney Fanning Aviation Memorial Scholarship at MTSU. Nearly \$50,000 has been raised to endow the scholarship, which will be awarded annually to aviation students studying in MTSU's nationally known aerospace program. The goal is to begin awarding it for the 2014-15 academic year. The long-term goal is to increase the award to the University's Centennial Scholarship level, which requires a \$100,000 endowment. Anyone interested in giving to the scholarship fund can do so online at [www.mtsu.edu/fanningscholarship](http://www.mtsu.edu/fanningscholarship). [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)

**Lillian White ('79)**, Nashville,  
August 2, 2013

### 1980s

**Walter Brown ('85)**, Cookeville,  
December 15, 2012

**Joe Bryant ('81)**, Murfreesboro,  
June 12, 2013

**Janice Golden ('84)**, Lynchburg,  
September 23, 2012

**Betty Hare ('85)**, Old Hickory,  
June 19, 2013

**Robert "Duane" Hensley ('81)**,  
Manchester, November 26, 2012

**Lizabeth Jacobs ('83)**, Murfrees-  
boro, September 24, 2013

**John Johnson ('86)**, Poulsbo,  
Wash., June 21, 2013

**Christopher Keen ('80)**, York,  
Penn., May 2, 2013

**Mark Landers ('80)**, Winchester,  
September 15, 2013

**Daphne Lazenby ('86)**, Thompson  
Station, August 20, 2013

**Richard Linville ('87)**, Gainesville,  
Ga., September 16, 2013

**Edith Powers Louisell ('86)**,  
Chattanooga, July 23, 2013

**Joseph Maples ('81)**, Pigeon  
Forge, August 31, 2013

**Donna McPeak ('89)**, Pulaski,  
July 2, 2013

**Karen Powers ('80)**, McEwen,  
January 31, 2013

**Diana Reed ('80)**, Brentwood,  
October 3, 2012

**Claudia Robinson ('83)**, Princeton,  
N.J., June 30, 2013

**Walter Sloan ('82)**, Kennesaw, Ga.,  
March 7, 2013

**Larry Trapp ('81)**, Seguin, Texas,  
May 22, 2013

**Peggy Waters Vann ('87)**,  
Centerville, July 7, 2013

**Sandra Barnes Walker ('82, '86)**,  
Murfreesboro, September 22,  
2013

**Marshal "Owen" Warren ('83)**,  
Nashville, December 6, 2012

**Lawrence Wooden ('86, '94)**,  
Murfreesboro, October 17, 2012

### 1990s

**Debbie Breeden ('95)**,  
Manchester, January 17, 2013

**Kevin Haughney ('98)**, Chapel Hill,  
N.C., January 31, 2013

**Kevin Howard ('91)**, White House,  
May 4, 2012

**Betty Johnson ('92)**, Murfreesboro,  
September 21, 2013

**Jennifer Messick ('98)**, Murfrees-  
boro, May 26, 2013

**Patsy Stuard ('93)**, Clarksville,  
April 27, 2013

**Phillip Winkler ('91)**, Dyersburg,  
April 25, 2013

**Jay Young ('94)**, Orlando, Fla.,  
February 16, 2013

### 2000s

**Ashley Adcock ('07)**, Hixson,  
June 15, 2013

**Kyle Allen ('08)**, Columbia,  
February 17, 2013

**Brice Barnes ('09)**, Owensboro,  
Ky., October 1, 2012

**William Bates ('09)**, Tullahoma,  
September 7, 2013

**William Boone III ('03)**, Wester-  
ville, Ohio, September 23, 2012

**Wendi Wilson Bravo ('02)**,  
Columbia, July 10, 2013

**Patti Bryant ('02)**, Maryville,  
September 23, 2012

**Rhonda Burkett ('01)**,  
Murfreesboro, October 3, 2012

**Whitney Fisher ('06)**,  
Hendersonville, August 23, 2013

**Derek Harper ('08)**, Carthage,  
October 19, 2012

**Andre Logue ('05)**, Lebanon,  
August 10, 2013

**Brandi Carter Magin ('04, '07)**,  
Mercersburg, Penn., September  
18, 2012

**Brooks May ('01)**, Lewisburg,  
February 7, 2013

**David Moore ('05)**, Rockvale,  
Mary 25, 2013

**Suzanne Moran ('04, '10)**,  
Nashville, August 27, 2013

**William Rosenbalm ('01)**, Los  
Angeles, Calif., June 11, 2013

**Dawn Tittle ('03)**, Union City,  
August 27, 2013

### 2010s

**Tanya Luffman ('11)**, Salisbury,  
Mass., April 16, 2013 [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE

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