

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2022

Areté

[excellence • virtue]

GOING PLACES

A Tennessean comes home
to MTSU focused on bringing
students the world

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



SPRING 2022

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM *true*
BLUE

ARETÉ MAGAZINE

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distributed free to faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

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John R. Vile

EDITOR

Marsha Powers

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Drew Ruble

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Carol Stuart

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Nancy Broden

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Kara Hooper

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Brittany Blair Stokes

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Andy Heidt, J. Intintoli, James Cessna,
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UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sidney A. McPhee

UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Mark Byrnes

**VICE PRESIDENT OF
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Andrew Oppmann

CONTRIBUTORS

Judy Albakry, Rachel Booher, Sandra Campbell, Laura
Clippard, Anthony Czelusniak, Mary Evins, Allison
Gorman, Joseph Gulizia, Maria Hite, Tatum Hochstetler,
Ranin Kazemi, Gina Logue, Susan Lyons, Cindy Phiffer,
Philip E. Phillips, Percy Verret, Wendi Watts, Patsy Weiler,
and Randy Weiler

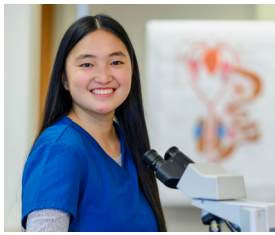
COVER PHOTO

Vice Provost Robert Summers, by Andy Heidt

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Photo by J. Intintoli



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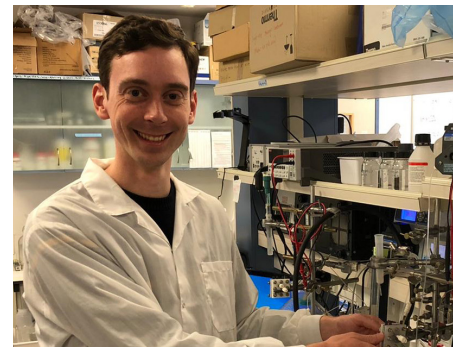
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Senior Jared Frazier produces a mashup of artistic and scientific successes



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40 AT HOME ABROAD

MTSU alum living out his dream in Israel wields science to provide needed fresh water around the world



One of my favorite advertisements features a spokesman for Liberty Mutual who hopes to juice up his powers to reach more people by subjecting himself to a spider bite to become like the eponymous superhero. The next scene portrays him lying on a stretcher, his face swollen, asking, "Did it work?"

One of the joys of working in the Honors College is being able to take some risks. For the very first time, we recently offered an early admission option for applicants for our Buchanan Fellowship. We chose three of just over 20 applicants and expect to try once again next year. It appears to be a success, but even if it hadn't, it would have been a useful experiment. I always reassure students, particularly in the sciences, that their findings can be important, even when—sometimes especially when—they do not conform to their original expectations.

As we contemplate success, we are beginning to think about the **50th anniversary of the establishment of the Honors program**, which we will celebrate in 2023. We have some preliminary ideas, but we would also welcome any thoughts that you might have.

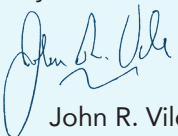
In the meantime, we continue to read large numbers of Honors theses, each successful defense of which we celebrate by ringing the bells in the Honors tower. Although I have previously recounted how memorable this occasion is for some students, I was reminded anew of this when one of our students began crying as we did so. As she looked back on her collegiate career, which began at a community college, she told us that just six years ago, she had arrived in the state virtually penniless and with little hope, and that she was now making plans for graduate school.

Another student who had been through similar trials and did not graduate, as planned, with an Honors degree nonetheless wrote to thank us for the part we had played in providing a scholarship to her and joyfully announcing that she was finally getting her degree.

We typically measure our success by the number of students who enroll in Honors classes, by the numbers of those who graduate with Honors, and by how many win University, national, and international awards, and all these metrics have been positive in recent years. However, we continue to recognize that we have often positively influenced students whom we may have attracted to MTSU by our recruiting efforts, who only took a few classes in the Honors College, who worked with our Undergraduate Fellowship Office, who contributed to one of our publications, or who attended some of our Honors Lecture Series.

“She had arrived in the state virtually penniless and with little hope and . . . was now making plans for graduate school.”

We hope that the stories of our students and our faculty and staff will continue to inspire our readers and those who continue to provide financial support for what will soon be a half-century endeavor.


John R. Vile

areté

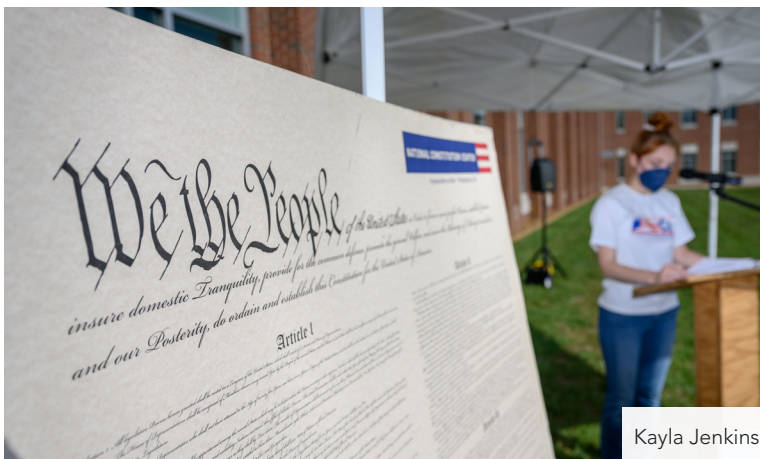
noun (ahr-i-tey)

the aggregate of qualities, as valor and virtue, making up good character



CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION 2021

MTSU's annual Constitution Day events, celebrating the document's birthday on Sept. 17, again featured readings of the U.S. Constitution outside the Martin Honors Building and other campus spots. Readings were spread out over three days for Constitution Week, and rare related texts were on exhibit.



Kayla Jenkins



Lillian Hickman



Daniel Smith



Dimend Little

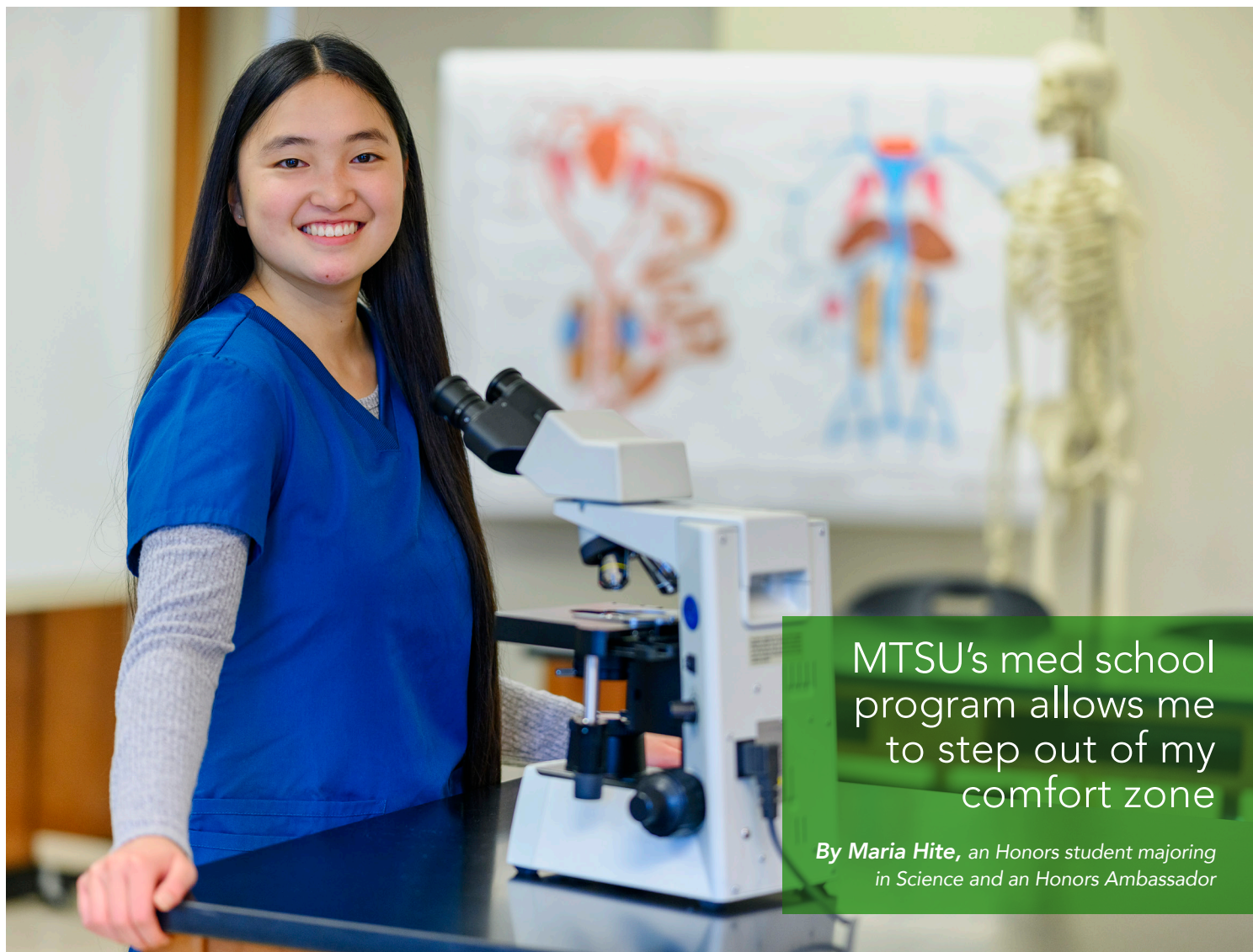
A woman with long dark hair in a ponytail is performing a handstand on a paved path in a park. She is wearing a black sports bra, a blue and white striped shirt tied at the waist, black leggings, and white sneakers. Behind her is a large blue horseshoe sculpture. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The text "Becoming something BIGGER than myself" is overlaid on the image.

Becoming
something

BIGGER

than
myself

“I felt empowered to be a part of a solution that . . . makes health equity closer to being a reality.”



MTSU's med school program allows me to step out of my comfort zone

By Maria Hite, an Honors student majoring in Science and an Honors Ambassador

At the age of 18, I committed to a program that outlined my life for the next 12 years: three at MTSU, four at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, at least three in residency, and two years caring for a medically underserved community in Tennessee. As one of the first students accepted into MTSU's Medical School Early Acceptance Program (MSEAP), I'm now in my third and final year at MTSU. The purpose of this seven-year accelerated program is to produce more primary care physicians in rural areas of the state, and I was honored to become a part of a program that places doctors where they are needed most.

One of the main questions I had to answer when applying to MSEAP was "why?" Why did I want to be a doctor? Why this program? At the time, I thought I knew my answer. I wrote a whole essay on it and talked about it multiple times during interviews and meetings. However, my experiences throughout my time at MTSU have made my "why" clearer and my perspective on medicine evolve.

At the beginning of my freshman year, I knew two things: I wanted to become a physician and to graduate from the Honors College. With only three years at MTSU, I wasn't sure how the Honors program was going to pan out, but I was going to try. I also knew that I wanted to make the most of my college experience (so maybe I knew three things). By having conditional acceptance to medical school already, MSEAP allowed me to pursue extracurricular activities that I am truly passionate about, not just ones that might "look good" on a medical school application.

Over the last few years, I have tried a little bit of everything: I've joined an arts organization, was a Freshman Council member in the Student Government Association, tried fencing, learned tai chi, participated in MTSU Connection Point events (I'm very proud of my button collection), tutored biology and psychology, and became an Honors Ambassador and a Phi Kappa Phi vice president.

It took planning, help from my Honors advisor, Judy Albakry, and some luck, but I am on track to graduate from the Honors College. I am currently researching in Biology Professor David Nelson's lab and working toward completing an Honors thesis. I've been interested in doing undergraduate research since learning it was a possibility in high school. Part of MSEAP is also conducting summer research at Meharry. This fulfilled my childhood dream of working on research related to cancer, a disease with which my family has had an extensive history.

The greatest lesson I've learned while at MTSU has been to view changes as opportunities to grow. For example, I could never have guessed that the majority of my college career would be during a global pandemic. Like many pre-health students, COVID-19 prevented me from gaining shadowing experiences in the summer of 2020. Instead, my fellow MSEAP students and I enrolled in an online public health course at Meharry Medical College. There we were, barely out of our freshman year, taking a course with second-year medical school students. It was one of the most academically challenging times of my life. It was also one of the most influential.

“ Having conditional acceptance to medical school already . . . allowed me to pursue extracurricular activities that I am truly passionate about. ”

Taking that course helped me see medicine in the context of other social institutions and from a community-based perspective. I learned that individuals' ZIP codes may be a better indicator of their health than genetics. This statement really hit home with the purpose of MSEAP and why I want to be a physician. A person's geographic location, skin color, socioeconomic status, or gender or sexual identity shouldn't determine the quality of health care they receive. I felt empowered to be a part of a solution that addresses these issues and makes health equity closer to being a reality.



MSEAP summer bridge program 2019



Football tailgate



Borderless Arts Tennessee



MSEAP bridge program 2019

Another experience that has helped shape my view of medicine occurred by chance. During a meeting with my study abroad advisor at MTSU, I happened to ask about virtual internships that were being advertised across campus. Fast-forward to just a couple of months later, I was enrolled in a global remote internship based in Hanoi. It was with a mental health organization, and I earned credit toward my Psychology minor. I was able to interact with many amazing people, not only from Vietnam but also Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. This internship demonstrated that health should be viewed holistically; mental health is just as important, if not more important, than physical health. The moral of this story: Ask questions and take opportunities as they come.

It's odd to think that my time at MTSU is coming to a close. Maybe that's because there is still so much to do

between now and entering medical school (the MCAT and an Honors thesis come to mind). People told me that time would go by quickly, but I didn't comprehend just how quick it would seem.

In some ways, I feel like a different person—the result of constantly trying to step out of my comfort zone. However, the other part of me still feels like that 18-year-old who didn't fully know what she was doing but took a chance to be a part of something bigger than herself. I'm grateful for all the opportunities that MTSU and MSEAP have given me, and I am excited to see where the next part of my journey takes me. I'm crossing my fingers that one of those places is a study abroad trip in New Zealand.

Learn more about the Medical School Early Acceptance Program at mtsu.edu/mseap.



An MTSU

STEAM

Machine



Senior Jared Frazier produces a mashup of artistic and scientific successes

By **Anthony Czelusniak**, a graduate student studying Media and Communication and a former Honors Transfer Fellow

Standing in front of a sparse and distanced crowd, a junior with long, curly brown hair delivered a typical stage performance in the 2021 MTSU 6x10 play festival. That night after the show, he'd do the last thing anyone would suspect a stage actor of doing. Yet, for Buchanan Fellow Jared Frazier, working on complex quantum chemistry and machine learning research is just another Thursday night.

Frazier, a soon-to-be MTSU Honors graduate, majoring in Computer Science with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics, has had a lifelong passion for the arts—any of the arts.

"I've always been on and off with different arts, whether it be singing, or instruments, or writing. In middle school I did choir, and later in high school I was a guitar accompanist for the show choir," he shared. "In my junior year of high school, I was even cast as Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde the Musical*."

But in his junior year, Frazier found his biggest challenge: Advanced Placement Chemistry. It was that challenge, combined with a teacher who made science fun and engaging, that pushed him to pursue chemistry in college and later a Computer Science degree.

It became a passion that led him to spend over 1,000 hours in the lab and earned him the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

PLAYING TO THE AUDIENCE

"Machine learning has plenty of applications in chemistry, so I found an interesting way to link both computer science and chemistry for my Goldwater application," he said.

According to Frazier, the coursework for a Computer Science major is overwhelming at even the best of times, and it'd make sense for someone so deep in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) field to forgo arts and literature. However, he believes the combination of creativity and science is the key to his success.

"A lot of people in STEM can benefit from exploring that artistic side of themselves. It gives a different perspective on their work," he explained. "Storytelling is part of everything. I have to write so that the widest audience possible can understand because that's how I get funding."

It's a combination that's paid dividends. Frazier not only basks in Goldwater glory, but he also has taken his talents to other prestigious programs beyond the walls of MTSU. He spent the summer of 2021 working virtually with the interdisciplinary National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates at the University of Michigan, researching computational chemistry, cheminformatics, and other such everyday topics for Frazier.

MTSU's College of Liberal Arts and College of Basic and Applied Sciences recognize the benefits of arts and STEM disciplines complementing each other, an educational approach sometimes referred to as STEAM (adding arts to the acronym). The two colleges are even jointly sponsoring initiatives to promote the pairing of majors, minors, and cocurricular programs to provide a diverse skill set.

ENCORE PERFORMANCES

But how does someone have time to get poetry selected for MTSU's premier creative arts journal, *Collage*; serve as a Phi Kappa Phi student vice president; and present research at the state capitol? Frazier looks no further than the bell tower at MTSU's Martin Honors Building.

"The opportunity the Buchanan Fellowship gave me has definitely been life-changing," he said. "It's one of the most significant things that has happened in my life."

More precisely, the financial freedom and access to great resources allowed him to pursue both passions—science and the arts. The incredible professors and resources at MTSU have made his dreams of research and arts a reality.

"The doors that have been opened for me are incredible. I don't think I'd ever have a chance at the Goldwater or be able to act or be part of *Collage* if I hadn't been awarded the Buchanan Fellowship."

“A lot of people in STEM can benefit from exploring that artistic side of themselves.”

Of course, there is one standout aspect of the Fellowship that he's learned to lean on time and time again—the great people who work tirelessly to support him. He assuredly states that there would be no way he would be where he is now without everyone at the Honors College, including Laura Clippard of the University Fellowships Office.

"Poor Mrs. Clippard, she must sigh every time she receives an email from me," he said with a chuckle. "She's just awesome."

It's just an example of Frazier tapping into opportunities at MTSU, whether in the arts or the sciences. **A**



Jared Frazier in MTSU's 6x10 play festival
Photo by Martin O'Conner



ASSISTANCE AT SENIOR LIVING

Patrick Garland and Carolyn Alderson

A partnership between AdamsPlace Residential Living Center and the Honors College resumed in 2021 following a year hiatus due to COVID-19. Five to seven Honors students sign up to assist AdamsPlace residents monthly with technology and household projects. Now under the direction of current Honors coordinator **Tatum Hochstetler**, the program was started by Honors coordinator **Susan Lyons** in 2015.



Ross Sibley and Judy Thompson



Johari Hamilton (I) and Micki Shumate



June McCash (I) and Lily Woods



Samuel Apigian



Kenneth J. Boyd



Annalise R. Dodson



Casey Epting



Jaymes I. Garcia



Jael S. Guest



Hannah L. Harris



Cadee J. Havard



Delana E. Howard



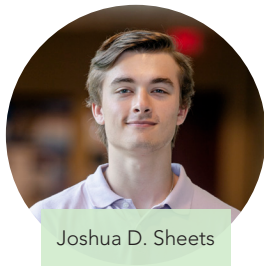
Hannah J. Kadzban



Aidan S. King



Connor A. Prim



Joshua D. Sheets



Emma J. Shillington



Gita Swaminathan



Meredith P. Taft



Zachary N. Thomas



Allison G. Throm



Joshua A. Wheaton



Jacob B. Williams

2021 BUCHANAN FELLOWS INAUGURATED

English professor challenges new scholars in her address

Twenty freshmen representing six states were inaugurated into the Buchanan Fellowship Sept. 3 in a ceremony at the Student Union Ballroom.

Honors faculty member **Rhonda McDaniel**, an English professor, challenged those in attendance (see *accompanying excerpt*). Economics major and musician **Antonio Dodson**, a Buchanan Fellow, performed fiddle tunes prior to the ceremony, followed by a welcome from junior Buchanan Fellows **Jillian DeGrie** and **Ross Sibley**.

Honors College Dean **John R. Vile** and Associate Dean **Philip E. Phillips** assisted with the ceremonial signing of *The Book of Town and Gown*, and Phillips led the recitation of the Honors Creed.

The Honors College awards the Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of alumnus James M. Buchanan (class of 1940), recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The fellowship is the highest academic award given to an entering freshman at MTSU.

To compete for a Buchanan Fellowship, applicants must apply for undergraduate admission to MTSU by Dec. 1 of the year before full enrollment. They also must have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher and a composite score of 30 on the ACT.

RHONDA L. MCDANIEL'S CHALLENGE

Excerpt from Buchanan Fellowship inauguration address



Many years ago, I had a student, a young man in the military, in my General Education literature course Heroism and Villainy in the Middle Ages. This young man already was looking to be deployed to active duty in the Middle East, and how best to prepare for that assignment

in order to stay alive understandably occupied his mind. As a result, he sort of blew off this GenEd lit course full of old stuff (like *Beowulf* and excerpts from the Qur'an) and, as a result, did not do as well on the first exam as he would have liked. He approached me after I returned those first graded exams, clearly frustrated, and explained that he needed to learn how to survive on the battlefield and demanded to know how reading any of the assignments for my class would help him make it through a firefight.

“After you win the battle, you will also have to win the peace.”

I took a moment to make eye contact and then answered, “This course likely will not help you to survive on the battlefield. But fighting is not the only thing you will be doing where you are going. After you win the battle, you will also have to win the peace through your interactions with the people who live there as you patrol, protect, pacify. Don't you think that it will help you win the peace if you know a little about the peoples' religion and history? If you understand a bit about the cultural ideas shaping their world, instead of assuming that they will just automatically understand yours?”

I wish that I had adequate words to describe the change that came over this student's face as those words sank in, as he recognized that his mission was indeed going to be much bigger than just the actual fighting, that winning the fight simply set up the struggle to win the peace that follows after any conflict, and that he would be a foot soldier in that contest, as well. At the end of the semester, when I often ask students to write about the three most

important things they learned . . . this student reflected back on that moment and how it changed his entire attitude not only toward the class but also toward his impending deployment.

. . . This young man was not to my knowledge an Honors student, though he could have been based upon his work in my class for the rest of the semester. . . [But] this soldier stumbled almost by accident into something laid out for all Buchanan Fellows as a clearly marked path. The classical education provided for you in the Buchanan seminars has played a part in shaping the lives of emperors, kings, queens, statesmen, scientists, successful business executives, artists and musicians, judges, philosophers, theologians, Nobel Prize-winning economists, and countless ordinary people like you and me for millennia because, at its heart, a classical education is not about getting a job, surviving a battle, or having an alphabet soup of degrees after your name—it's about you. It's about pursuing the command of the Delphic Oracle to know yourself . . . and then to shape yourself through your studies into a person who understands, embraces, and embodies the virtues of character, creativity, commitment, curiosity, discipline, faith, honor, and integrity and many more. . .

- **First, I challenge you to dream.** Dream widely, imagine wildly the possibilities and impossibilities of how what you are learning may blend with your own unique . . . abilities to affect the people and the world around you. . . .
 - **Second, I challenge you to nourish the small habits that put others first**—a kind word here, a smile there, thinking before you speak, keeping your mask over your nose, practicing hospitality, encouraging others. . . Impacts don't just happen—they start small in the habits of everyday encounters with ordinary people. . . .
 - **Third, I challenge you to enjoy your years as a Buchanan Fellow**, to revel in the richness and diversity of perspectives, experiences, and opportunities that lie before you. . . Your education has purpose and meaning beyond grades or a job—so, explore, discover, take risks, fall, skin your knees, cry, then get back up and luxuriate in learning and growing. . . .
- So, dream, nourish the small habits, and enjoy your education. Then go, and win the peace wherever life takes you.



ODK CELEBRATES CAMPUS ANNIVERSARY

Marzea Akter (l-r), MaKayla Sloop, Matthew Hibdon, Susan Lyons, Liam McBane, and Nathan Wahl

Ken Paulson, former dean of the College of Media and Entertainment, spoke at the fall 2021 Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society initiation ceremony Nov. 1. The circle added 44 new members and celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded in 1914, is "the first college honor society of a national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship."



For more information about ODK, contact Tatum Hochstetler, circle coordinator, at 615-494-7767 or tatum.hochstetler@mtsu.edu.

New initiates

Tessa Allen	Alexander Larabie
Angela Benninghoff	Jordan Latham
Emily Bigler	Rachael Lawrence
Hunter Brady	Kyle Liotta
Taylor Collins	Dimend Little
Madison Collins	Dominic Marcoaldi
Winton Cooper	Fallon Marshall
Alexandra Davis	Sheri Masters
Kelsey Dillard	Kate Matthews
Luciano Donati	Joseph May
Max Douglas	Michael McGee
Sydney Fischer	Caitlin Milligan
Ashlee Gauda	Richard Mobley
Kaitlin Grissom	Foram Patel
Rawan Haj-Hussein	Sarah Roberts
Johari Hamilton	Patricyonna Rodgers
Charese Harrison	Usman Saeed
Kelsey Heck	Alexandra Spadafino
Casey Hester	Tony Taylor
Lillian Hickman	Emaline Tremayne
Aaron Jollay	Olivia Washington
Rebecca Jones	Myea Young



Foram Patel



Ken Paulson presenting "Saving Democracy in a Single Bound"



Matthew Hibdon



Winton Cooper



ODK LEADERSHIP BOOK TALK

Omicron Delta Kappa Circle leaders **Liam McBane**, **Sierra Cruz**, **Tatum Hochstetler**, and **Susan Lyons** were among participants in an October book discussion on *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* led by **Deana Raffo**, a professor in the Jones College of Business. A September book talk on *Leadership on the Line* was led by **David Foote**, a Jones College professor in organizational behavior, leadership, and management. The leadership book talks were held in conjunction with the circle's ODK Leadership Library project.



CEREMONY HONORS 30 INCOMING TRANSFER FELLOWS

First column at left (bottom to top). John R. Vile, Michael McGee, Dominic Marcoaldi, Dimend Little, Foram Patel, Charese Harrison, and Patricyonna Rodgers; second column, Mary Evins, Sarah Roberts, Emaline Tremayne, Hunter Brady, Ava Brittain, and Aaron Jollay; third column, Sheri Masters, Luciano Donati, Kaleb Cardwell, Sidney Creter, Julia Anderson, and Judy Albakry; fourth column, Rachel Booher, Alexandra Spadafino, Abigail Swanson, JoyAnna McDonald, Angela Benninghoff, Magdalene Ofori-Kumi, and Johari Hamilton; and fifth column, Philip E. Phillips, Rachel Jones, Morgan Hutchins, Lillian Hickman, Joy Van Ryckeghem, and Kelsey Dillard.

The Honors College inaugurated the 2021 Transfer Fellows in a Student Union Ballroom ceremony Sept. 10. Current Transfer Fellows **Rachel Booher** and **Nathan Wahl** welcomed the 2021 Fellows.

MTSU's vice provost for international relations, Robert Summers, who completed a Master of Arts in Teaching in French at MTSU in 2001, challenged the students with stories of his own background and educational adventures (see *related story*, page 32).

Honors College Dean John R. Vile has said that "over time, we've recognized that many of our best students have been transfer students who bring diversity to our Honors Program." The 2021 Transfer Fellows are no exception. They are made up of both traditional and nontraditional transfer students of the highest caliber, according to Transfer Fellows advisor Judy Albakry.

Several of the students received Tennessee Reconnect Grants, while two of them—**Hunter Brady** and **Lillian Hickman**—landed Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grants during their first semester at MTSU, Albakry noted.

These transfer students from Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee have varied majors, such

as International Relations, Recording Industry, Biochemistry, Philosophy, Social Work, and Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship. They come from different backgrounds and bring different life experiences to the table. The shared experience among all of these individuals is hard work, Albakry added.

The Transfer Fellowship is modeled after the Buchanan Fellowship awarded to the top 20 incoming first-time freshmen each year. The program offers similar opportunities to 30 transfer students to become engaged and participate in the Honors College.

To be considered, students must have a 3.5 GPA, should apply by Feb. 15, and are required to have completed 60 hours of college coursework before transferring to MTSU.

Transfer Fellows who qualify for in-state tuition are granted \$3,500 per semester for up to four semesters. There are also three Fellowships available for out-of-state transfer students, granting \$7,000 per semester for up to four semesters.



EERIE ESCAPE ROOMS

Captain America, Beetlejuice, and friends



Mystery box



Maria Hite (l) and Marissa Gray



Anika Hite (front) with
Lia Ritchie (l-r), Violet
Stubbs, Alyssa Smith,
and Zoe Garcia



Costume capers



Scientia et Humanitas staff members and advisors for 2021–22 are (l–r): front, Percy Verret (editor-in-chief), Biven Alexander (associate editor), Sophia Maas (reviewer), Allison Haslett (associate editor); and back, Philip E. Phillips (faculty advisor), Sophie Taylor (reviewer), Connor Methvin (associate editor), Patrick Gilchrist (reviewer), Liam McBane (associate editor), and Marsha Powers (staff advisor).

DISPLAYING DIVERSITY OF DISCIPLINES

Journal encompasses “*Scientia et Humanitas*” student research

By Percy Verret and Connor Methvin

Verret, editor-in-chief of Scientia et Humanitas, and Methvin, associate editor, are graduate students studying English.

When its first volume appeared in May 1997, *Scientia et Humanitas* existed under a recognizable but alternative title—*Scientia: The Journal of Student Research*. Originally a publication of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, the journal’s creation was spearheaded by an emeritus professor of Biology and former Honors College dean, Philip M. Mathis, who envisioned the electronic journal as a publishing outlet for students completing research in the sciences. Biology Professor John DuBois served as faculty advisor.

Upon its relocation to the University Honors College in 2010, the journal was renamed *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research*. This alteration reflected the journal’s evolving interest in the research produced by students of all degree programs at MTSU and firmly included the humanities in its broadening scope. This broadening was rewarded by an influx of contributing authors from across campus; in the 11 volumes produced in both electronic and printed form since its acquisition by the Honors College, *Scientia et Humanitas* has published nearly 100 articles by MTSU students and recent alumni.

These articles span both primary and secondary research among such diverse fields as political science, philosophy, literature, film studies, psychology, religious studies, and multiple branches of behavioral and

applied sciences. The subjects of these studies vary widely, with topics ranging from Anna M. Love and Ngee Sing Chong's 2013 primary study "An Exploration of the Gas Phase Reactions of Chlorine Dioxide and Malodorous Compounds of Putrefaction Using FT-IR Instrumentation" to Hanan Beyene's 2019 religious studies analysis "Surviving Hardship Through Religion: Womanist Theology in Beyonce's *Lemonade*." As these titles highlight, the table of contents for each new volume of *Scientia et Humanitas* is a testimony to the diversity of research students are pursuing across campus; that diversity provides unity by the quality of thought and research demonstrated across each essay.

Another point of unity binds the aforementioned essays together: Each received one of *Scientia et Humanitas*' coveted Dean's Distinguished Essay Awards. Given every year to both graduate and undergraduate essays, this award at once honors and rewards excellence among the journal's authors and is conferred by Honors College Dean John R. Vile and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips. Together with Marsha Powers, publications coordinator for the Honors College, Vile and Phillips lend expert faculty oversight to the production of the journal, supplementing the efforts of its student-led editorial staff and guiding the journal through each stage of publication.

Scientia et Humanitas' staff has assumed different structures over the years. In addition to the editor-in-chief, the journal's student editorial board has been composed of readers, reviewers, associate editors, copy editors, section editors, and journal formatters. Staff members are often pursuing degrees

in English, but have also sprung from the natural sciences, political science, and various fields within the humanities. The first volume was produced by an all-undergraduate staff, the third by an all-graduate staff; subsequent volumes have maintained a balance of the two.

Regardless of the staff's exact composition, the journal's goal is to provide the staff with the opportunity to professionalize and develop their editorial skills. While working with the journal, student editors participate collaboratively in staff meetings, review and copy edit submissions, and contribute to finalizing the journal for publication. In this way, *Scientia et Humanitas* contributes to student development on both authorial and editorial fronts.

As *Scientia et Humanitas* forges into the 2020s, it maintains its decades-long commitment to maintaining a space in which students refine their scholarship and professionalism both through publishing their research and through participating in an editorial environment. Equally, the journal aims to remain a publication to which the campus community can consistently turn to sample the breadth and dynamism of MTSU students' research. In these ways, *Scientia et Humanitas* is dedicated to the bettering of scholarship and providing various avenues of opportunity to students to augment their successes both during and beyond their careers at Middle Tennessee State University.



Phil Mathis (l), former Honors dean, and John DuBois

"Scientia" online



We welcome visitors to our website. A new volume is constantly being produced, so student writers who are interested in submitting or applying to the review board should reference the website for relevant deadlines. Readers of the journal will also be interested to review our site's archive of previous volumes.

mtsu.edu/scientia

FALL 2021 THESES DEFENDED



Zepher Barber

Environmental Science
"Imagining a More Sustainable Future: A Survey of Sustainability Planning at MTSU's Peer Institutions"
Clay Harris, thesis director



Kristen Bassette

Organismal Biology and Ecology
"Penstemon hirsutus Flowering Times and Its Effect on Pollinator Species"
Robert Howard, thesis director



Ashton Bazzell

Animal Science/General Science
"Environmental temperature effects on daily production and activity levels of dairy cattle with respect to different breeds"
Jessica Carter, thesis director



Jessika Benson

Animal Science
"The Effects of Diatomaceous Earth on pH and Digestibility in the Bovine Rumen"
Kevin Downs, thesis director



Johnathan Bevers

Computer Science
"The Study of Symmetric and Asymmetric Key Encryptions"
Yi Gu, thesis director



Alison Blanton

Animal Science
"Effects of Heat Stress on Blood Metabolites and Milk Quality in Lactating Holstein and Jersey Cows"
Jessica Carter, thesis director



Miquellie Bonner

Forensic Science
"Novel Method for the Forensic Dye Analysis by Direct Analysis in Real-Time Mass Spectrometry"
Mengliang Zhang, thesis director



Rachel Booher

Japanese
"Kigo and American Poetry: An Analysis of the Japanese Influences on the Haiku of Gary Snyder, with Five Personal Interpretations of the Japanese Seasonal Elements"
Philip Phillips, thesis director



Alyssa Chaney

Tourism and Hospitality Management/Journalism
"Fictional Histories: Short Stories Exploring Historical Events of the 1970s"
Fred Arroyo, thesis director



Antonio Chioccio

Communication
"How Minecraft Lands Amidst the Social Fabric of Young Video-Gamers"
Dee Priddis, thesis director



Nora Chisamore

Apparel Design
"A History of Knitting in the British Isles and My Contemporary Adaption"
Lauren Rudd, thesis director



Maria Clark

Biochemistry
"Synthesis and Characterization of the Therapeutic Potential of B-5"
Kevin Bicker, thesis director



Carlee Cowan

Communication
"I Can, I Will: My Journey to Communication Studies"
Elizabeth Dalton, thesis director



Ian Cox

Audio Production
"A Study on Composing
Music for Film"
Matt Foglia, thesis director



Grayson Garrette

Allied Health Technology
"Providing Medical Knowledge
to Impoverished Families: A
Creative Project"
Dianna Rust, thesis director



Jake Duke

Plant and Soil Science
"An In-Depth Podcast Looking at
the Complex World of Agriculture
Education"
Chaney Mosley, thesis director



Sarah Garriss

Biology
"Comparison of Media
Components for Somatic
Embryogenesis in Tissue Callus of
Vitis aestivalis 'Norton/Cynthiana'"
John Dubois, thesis director



Kylie Dykgraaf

Exercise Science/Psychology
"Athletes' Self-Perceptions of
Depression and Depressive
Symptoms Related to
Athletic Injuries"
Colby Jubenville, thesis director



Maegan George

Psychology/Criminal Justice
Administration
"Examining the Relationship
between Correctional Officer Job
Satisfaction and Perceptions of
Inmate Mental Health"
Meredith Dye, thesis director



Micah Ediger

Audio Production
"Promoting Hearing Loss Protection
and Conservation Techniques
among MTSU Sound Engineers"
Michael Hanson, thesis director



Marissa Gray

Exercise Science
"The Effects of Lifetime Physical
Activity on Working Memory"
Vaughn Barry, thesis director



Rolf Erisman

Video/Film Production
"18XX: A Civil War Screenplay"
Leland Gregory, thesis director



Hailey Hall

Psychology
"Mind Your Pressure: A Study on
the Effect of Trait Mindfulness on
Resting Blood Pressure"
James Loveless, thesis director



Jacob Ford

Accounting
"Zooming In: Online Learning
in the Face of a Pandemic"
Audrey Scarlata, thesis director



Turner Hamilton

Music Education
"Charlie Parker and the Genesis of
Bebop: Transcription Performance
Project and Musical/Historical
Case Study"
James Simmons, thesis director



Jared Frazier

Computer Science
"Comparing the Performance
of Multiple Linear Regression,
Recurrent Neural Network, and
Random Forest Machine Learning
Models for the Prediction of
Weather on Mars"
Salvador Barbosa, thesis director



Cory Harmon

Marketing
"An Analysis of Sponsorship
Strategies in Esports"
Donald Roy, thesis director



Zoe Henley

Anthropology

"Avoiding the 'Rona: A Cross Cultural Analysis of COVID-19 Mask Mandates and Social Distancing Measures"

Ida Leggett, thesis director



Bethany Higgins

Psychology

"Low GPA and College Attrition Predictive Factors: Using Crossed Random Effects Models in Predicting Exam Grades of Students in Introduction of Psychology Course"

Stuart Bernstein, thesis director



Kristi Jones

Journalism

"Finding Doe"

Leon Alligood, thesis director



Kyle Liotta

History

"The Mechanic's Pay: A Look into the L&N Workshop in Paris, Tennessee, and Its Role in the Local Economy"

Lynn Nelson, thesis director



Liam McBane

Music Industry

"Post-Tonal Compositional Techniques of Alexander Scriabin in the Piano Music of Nikolai Roslavets and Frank Bridge"

Joseph Morgan, thesis director



Grace Millican

Biochemistry

"Evaluating the importance of Cited 1 gene expression in *Cryptococcus neoformans* infected host macrophages through production of a CRISPR/Cas9 knock-out cell line"

David Nelson, thesis director



Zane Reed

Mathematics

"Using Compartmental Models to Evaluate the Effectiveness of COVID-19 Interventions"

Yixiang Wu, thesis director



Rosemary Reid

Tourism and Hospitality Management

"Universal Design in the Restaurant Industry: Bridging the Gap Between ADA Guidelines and Customer Needs"

Elizabeth Whalen, thesis director



Jessikah Riley

Marketing

"(dis)Connected: A Series of Interviews on Society and Spirituality in the Modern World"

Rebekka King, thesis director



April Rittenberry

Criminal Justice Administration

"Racial Disparities in Federal Drug Sentencing"

Joshua Harms, thesis director



Joshua Rowell

Business Administration

"Pumper: The Future of Filling Up"

Adam Smith, thesis director



Reuben Savage

Leisure and Sport Management

"The Impacts of Rock Climbing on Climate Change: A Comparative Study on Carbon Emissions and the Ethics of Nature-Based Recreation"

Rudy Dunlap, thesis director



Emma Summers

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

"The Effects of a Pandemic on Speech Therapy for Children"

Kathryn Blankenship, thesis director



Cynthia Torres

Psychology

"Gender Difference in Self-Talk"

Thomas Brinhaupt, thesis director



Heather Whittaker

Tourism and Hospitality
Management

"How a Federal Bottle Bill Can
Increase Recycling Rates in the
United States"

Anthon Eff, thesis director



Aubrey Vest

Aerospace Maintenance
Management

"Creating Greener Skies: A Cost-
Analysis of Using an All-Electric Fleet
at MTSU's Flight School"

Nate Callender, thesis director



Dara Zwemer

Psychology

"Investigating the Relationship
Between Workload and Officer-
Involved Shootings of Unarmed
Individuals"

John Pennington, thesis director



HONORS HIKE

Honors students participated
in an Honors Ambassadors-
sponsored half-day hike to
Machine Falls last October.



U SCREAM, I SCREAM, ICE CREAM

Fun and games at
the annual Honors
Ice Cream Social

Austin Garley (I), Dylan
Simmons, and Anika Hite
Photos by J. Intintoli



Kaytlyn McManus (I) and Sarah Kamar



Kap Paull



Amanda Wilson



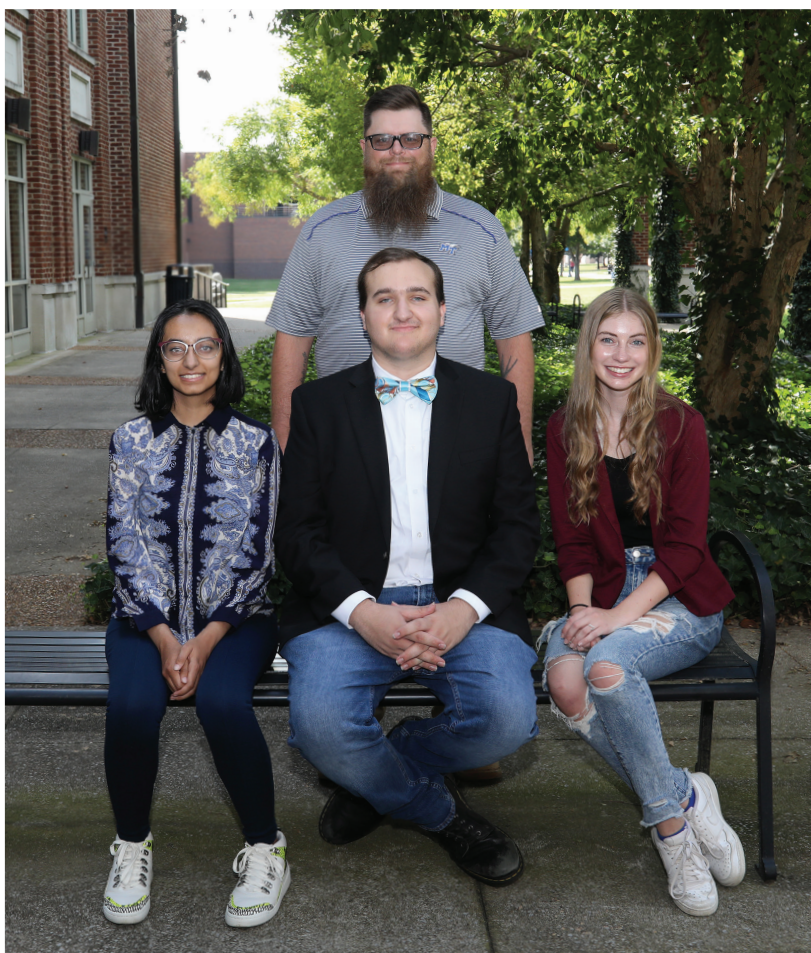
Charese Harrison (l), Lillian Hickman, and Myea Young (r)

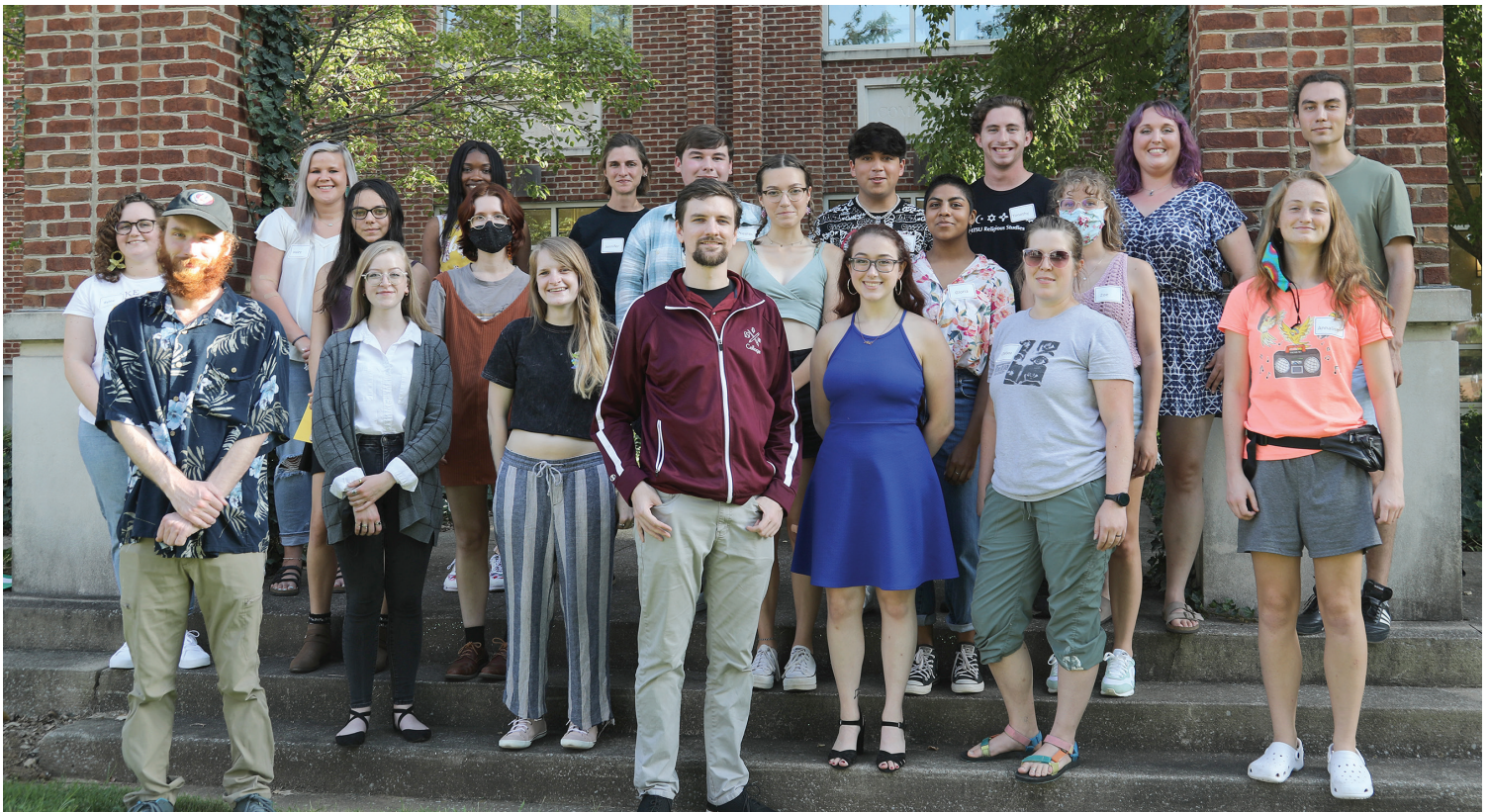
DEBATE TEAM TAKES NATIONAL TITLE



The 2020–21 debate team, which included five Honors students, won numerous state, regional, and national awards. Led by Communication Studies Professor Patrick Richey, the team debated online from the comfort of Jones Hall and won a state championship and the national season-long title for team debate. Honors students on the team included **Bismah Aslam**, **Joseph Mego**, and **Sydney Robbins** (pictured), along with **Jonathan Locke** and **Luke Arnold**.

Honors students from the 2020–21 debate team (l–r): Bismah Aslam, Joseph Mego, and Sydney Robbins, with Professor Patrick Richey (back).





Twenty-one staff members attended the first meeting of the semester to plan for the fall issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. Copies are always available at the Martin Honors Building and are distributed each semester in magazine racks around campus.

EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE EXPRESSION

"Collage" issues
awards for fall edition

Five students won Creative Expression Awards for their outstanding submissions to the fall 2021 issue of *Collage*. Each semester the *Collage* staff participates in a blind grading process to select approximately 60 pieces for publication.

Literature Creative Expression Awards are named in honor of English Professor Martha Hixon for her longtime commitment to and support of *Collage*. Visual Creative Expression Awards are named in memory of Art Professor Lon Nuell. Each student received an award certificate and \$75.

View issues at mtsu.edu/collage



ART

Animation major **Emily Rink** captured a Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award for her *Nightmare on My Street*.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ross Sibley, a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Biochemistry, won for his photograph *Redlands*.



VIDEO

Hunter Hoffman, a Marketing major, received an award for his video *Shrine of the Wind Goddess*.

POETRY

Psychology major **Emily Hagan** earned a Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award for her poem "Six Days Later: The Service."



PROSE

Micaela Anderson, who is studying English and French, won for her prose piece "A Run."



Shrine of the Wind Goddess
by Hunter Hoffman



Nightmare on My Street
by Emily Rink



Redlands
by Ross Sibley



Photo by J. Intintoli

LITTLE LIBRARIES PROMOTE LOVE OF LEARNING

Two campus child care centers received Little Free Libraries during the fall semester as part of a joint project to promote the love of learning to children under the age of 5 and to improve access to books for both children and adults.

Chapter 246 of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP), MTSU's most prestigious honor society for all academic disciplines, received a \$1,200 literacy grant last summer from its national headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) National Leadership Honor Society simultaneously received a \$500 grant from its national headquarters to purchase books on leadership for its new Leadership Lending Library and, as part of that project, decided to partner with the PKP chapter to build and stock the little libraries.

Thanks to the efforts of our student leaders, Little Free Libraries have been installed at MTSU's Child Development Center located at the Fairview Building and the Ann Campbell Early (ACE) Learning Center on Baird Lane. Each was constructed by graduate student Nathan Wahl, a PKP student vice president and a carpenter. Wahl called the libraries an "opportunity for discovery."

Connie Casha, director of early learning programs for MTSU's College of Education, said she was very excited to have the ACE Little Free Library on campus, explaining the importance of books to childhood development.

"We think about books as being windows or mirrors, windows into things that they can't see immediately and mirrors being a reflection of what they already know," Casha said.



Little Free Library at ACE

Forty-two percent of the children served by the Child Development Center come from families of color, and 22% are from families who are not native English speakers. Director Stephanie Clift-Bourgault said the free library will help teach the students new English words in compliance with the center's mission.

Forty-five percent of the children served by the Ann Campbell Early Learning Center have a disability. Campbell Center Director Christy Davis said the location of its free library will provide greater access for people who struggle with reading.

A third campus center, the MTSU Child Care Lab on Alumni Drive, which closed in December, received books for their children to enjoy during the center's final weeks. Director Nancy James, who recently retired, said the children were allowed to keep a favorite book or two, and the remainder were distributed to the two remaining child care centers.

In addition to Wahl, PKP and ODK student officers Maria Hite, Jared Frazier, Liam McBane, Rachel Booher, and Percy Verret and faculty/staff officers David Foote, Philip E. Phillips, John R. Vile, Gina Logue, Marsha Powers, and Tatum Hochstetler contributed to the literacy project.



PKP WELCOMES RECORD NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS

MTSU's chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) initiated a record number of new members, 98 students and seven faculty and staff members, in its fall 2021 virtual ceremony.

Longtime chapter coordinator Kathy Davis, who retired in 2019, returned to assist with the ceremony. Wendi Watts, the incoming chapter coordinator, and Davis put together a successful virtual ceremony that included a welcome by chapter president Maria Bachman, a message from national PKP Executive Director Mary Todd, an explanation of PKP symbols by chapter past president Philip E. Phillips, an explanation of initiation requirements by membership secretary Judy Albakry, and the recognition of new initiates by Honors Dean John R. Vile.

New faculty and staff members initiated were David Foote, Beverly Keel, Cindy Phiffer, Ben Stickle, Rick Vanosdall, Greg Van Patten, and Watts.

Foote, a professor of Management in the Jones College of Business, was the distinguished speaker for the evening. In his talk, he explained that in

order to live by the Phi Kappa Phi motto, "Let the love of learning rule humanity," we must see ourselves as people who are striving to learn and recognize that people who are different than us are no less valuable to this world.

Foote quoted Václav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic, who said, "Seek the company of those who seek the truth and run from those who have found it." We should continue learning and resist the urge to separate ourselves into "us" and "them," Foote said. Ultimately, we are not that different from each other, and most of our differences are not things under our control. Our differences do not make it acceptable to be unkind to each other, he added.

The ceremony concluded with the introduction of 48 influential faculty and staff members designated by the student initiates and closing remarks by Rachel Booher, student vice president.



Going Places

A Tennessean comes home to MTSU focused on bringing students the world

By Allison Gorman



When you're in the middle of nowhere, it can be hard to imagine going anywhere. Just ask **Robert Summers**, who's from the middle of nowhere, Tennessee.

That's how he describes the place in Putnam County, between Algood and Livingston, where he grew up, where there was not much to do and not much reason to think he'd ever leave. As a high school kid working part time at a body shop, his only post-graduation plan was to go full time.

His mom, a teacher, had different plans for him. She pushed him out of the nest and off to college. Still, he didn't really "fly" until he went abroad. (That's also literally true. His first time on an airplane was when he traveled to France as an undergraduate.) The experience broadened his mind and boosted his confidence. It also put him on a path that led him to places he never imagined going, including back home to Tennessee.

Since he joined MTSU as vice provost for international affairs, Summers has been preaching the virtues of study abroad, taking that message beyond the Honors College—where it has long been encouraged and supported—and spreading it campuswide. He's determined to help every Blue Raider experience the world, even if that means bringing the world to them.

THE MISSIONARY

Summers talks about travel with a missionary's zeal, perhaps because he's experienced its saving power himself.

When he tells his own story, as he did at the Honors Transfer Fellows inauguration last September, he explains how a succession of academic mentors gave him wings to the wider world, altering the course of his life. He might only allude to the unspoken boundaries imposed on a kid raised by a single mom in a deeply religious community.



Sometimes the middle of nowhere is a state of mind. After leaving the nest and landing a half-hour away, at Tennessee Tech, Summers still couldn't envision his path forward. He struggled through his classes before finding a subject that intrigued him—Indochinese history. Then, at his advisor's urging, he took French as a complementary course.

"Lo and behold, I was pretty good at it," he said.

He thought he might go to law school after completing his bachelor's degree in History, but he abandoned that plan when his grandfather died. Instead, he stayed home to wind down the family farm and complete a second bachelor's degree at Tech, in French. It was a French professor who talked Summers into studying abroad. The subsequent month he spent in France left him empowered and inspired.

"I absolutely fell in love with France," he said. "I came back and wanted to get my master's."

Study abroad isn't just about academics, Summers said; it's about self-sufficiency. He learned to handle all sorts of unfamiliar situations, from getting a passport to navigating the metro.

"I'd never been on mass transit until I went to France, never been on a subway," he said. "We didn't even have buses where I grew up—you either had a car or you didn't. These [experiences] are important to us just in general, so that we won't be intimidated by things we don't understand."

That's especially true for someone raised in a homogeneous community. Summers tried and enjoyed foods he'd never heard of, and met and liked people who weren't just of a different Christian denomination than his, but of a different religion altogether.

"To see that they weren't immediately bursting into flames, to see that they were still decent people, that was just something," he said. "Because you don't see different things like that in east Tennessee. It's a beautiful place, but it really is limiting if you don't ever leave."

“Study abroad isn't just about academics. It's about self-sufficiency.”

FOLLOWING THE PATH

After graduating from Tennessee Tech, Summers left home. First stop: MTSU.

Having met with June Hall McCash, the first director of the University Honors Program and then director of what is now the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Summers enrolled as a master's student in French. He credits several professors, including Nancy Goldberg, Shelley Thomas, and Jun Da, with helping him find his



Daniel Smith



MTSU alum Robert Summers, now
vice provost for international affairs

Photo by Andy Heidt

professional interest—the teaching of languages—and encouraging him to follow that path wherever it led.

He was among the first cohorts of Blue Raiders to participate in the summer study abroad program at the University of Caen, in Normandy. That experience led to an internship with the French government, which in turn set him up for a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology at the University of South Florida. At every stop along the way, new doors opened as his professional network expanded.

“There are people I got hooked up with on my dissertation committee that I’m still in contact with today, who also have very high positions in academia,” he said. “My methodologist is the current vice provost of international affairs at Penn State. One of my committee members is the chancellor of Texas Woman’s University, in Denton. . . . I spent some time during my Ph.D. at Université Laval, in Quebec City, and up there I got to work with some of the most high-profile applied linguists in the world.”

After earning his doctorate, Summers kept walking through open doors. He accepted positions as coordinator for language technologies and infrastructure at the University at Albany; then director of international programs in the College of Education at the University of Alabama; then assistant dean for international and exchange programs and, eventually, provost for global engagement at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

“He’s determined to help every Blue Raider experience the world.”

It was a path built on vision, yet Summers never saw it leading back to MTSU. But when he saw another open door—his current vice provost position, whose duties include overseeing the Office of Education Abroad—he loved the thought of giving wings to a new generation, just two hours from home. He started the job in July 2020.

“It’s been a great experience,” he said. “It’s really nice to give back to MTSU what they gave to me, and to help these kids that are really similar to me—who never thought about going abroad, maybe at one point never even thought about going to college—to help them understand that study abroad is something that they can and should do.”

LOWERING BARRIERS

It’s not hard to explain the “should”; the “can” is the larger challenge, especially when college students often have little time and money to spare. That’s why the Honors College highly encourages study abroad but won’t mandate it, Summers said.

His solution is to make study abroad more accessible for all students by lowering the top two barriers to it.

The first is relevance. “We’re pretty good at making sure that all the classes that the students take fit in directly to their course plan, so it won’t delay their graduation and, in fact, gives them better skills to get a better job after they graduate,” Summers said. “We’re also working hard at getting more international internships for our students.”

The second is cost. While MTSU has awarded nearly \$1 million in study abroad scholarships (including several through the Honors College) over the past five years, Summers plans to find new funding sources for travel as well. Given the dual national trends of declining state allocations for higher education and a steadily decreasing college-age population, he said, universities must become “entrepreneurial” in their approach to education abroad experiences.

Summers credits his staff for securing \$100,000 in new grant funding in his first year at MTSU. That includes a Tennessee Board of Regents award supporting study abroad by students from underrepresented groups, facilitated by faculty members from those same groups.

He’s also asking faculty leaders to reduce travel costs at the line-item level. He says the cumulative savings from simple changes—flying into Gatwick instead of Heathrow, taking mass transit rather than chartering a bus—can put study abroad within reach for more students.

“Sometimes students won’t enroll in classes just over a \$300 hold on their account,” Summers said. “I mean, I don’t want to spend an extra \$300 if I can avoid it . . . but for a 20-year-old who’s waiting tables at Cracker Barrel and going to school here, \$300 is a big deal. So, if we can reduce those costs, they’re going to be more apt to go.”

VIRTUAL TRAVEL

Of course, when Summers arrived at MTSU in 2020, that \$300 wouldn’t have made a difference anyway. Borders were closed and study abroad was scuttled due to the COVID-19 global outbreak. Yet, remote alternatives that evolved during the pandemic have



shown that the University can provide global experiences to students who can't participate in traditional ways.

International internships that went virtual during the pandemic turned out to be not only impactful but also "great equalizers," Summers said. Students who couldn't have afforded a \$2,000 plane ticket to work in Vietnam did so remotely instead. In fact, one former remote intern recently accepted a permanent position there. She's still working virtually for now.

And Summers is continuing a hybrid international exchange program he launched when faculty travel shut down. Money that would have funded exploratory trips to establish new study abroad partnerships has been reallocated as grant funding to establish online exchanges instead.


Through this new program, an MTSU faculty member can partner with a colleague abroad to develop a project their students will collaborate on virtually. Ideally, Summers said, the project will culminate with a joint in-person gathering on one campus or the other.

"Plenty of people have said that the pandemic has made the evolution of higher ed speed up, and I certainly see it with the evolution of study abroad—it has sped up these online intercultural exchanges," he said. "So I'm happy that we have the funds to do this and faculty that are interested in doing it."



PASSPORT





“A succession of academic mentors gave him wings to the wider world.”

AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS

All these changes reflect one of MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee's longtime priorities: to give every MTSU student an international experience, even if it's right on campus.

"An international experience is something as easy as sitting beside an international student in math class, making friends with that person, and understanding that they're not going to eat during Ramadan—and maybe getting invited to the feast when they break their fast," Summers said.

There are around 500 international students at MTSU, including in the Honors College, and Summers has been working with McPhee to recruit more. (The 2021 Bahamas Bowl doubled as a recruitment trip; Summers and McPhee hosted 100 people over three days.)

MTSU usually hosts students from around 50 countries, historically led by Saudi Arabia, the Bahamas, and China. But weekly enrollment reports show the number of total countries growing and the top countries changing, Summers said. A recent report indicated "tremendous growth out of Africa," as well as upticks from Southeast Asia, Iran, and Oman.

Whether you're talking students or stocks, diversification is a smart strategy, Summers said. But international students bring much more to a university than revenue, he added. They are an integral part of an enriching campus environment.

"We have a language-diverse, religion-diverse, perspective-diverse campus, and our students need this to be successful in 2021, 2022," Summers said. "Somebody that's used to homogeneity is not going to be successful when they go into the workplace. They need to be able to work with people with different perspectives and from different cultures."

To that end, he's planning a variety of multicultural events on campus—like 'Boro International, the free festival that was moved to MTSU from Cannonsburgh Village for the first time last year—where Blue Raiders can get to know foreign students and their traditions.

"I want students to understand that not everybody speaks English, not everybody plays the violin—they may play the erhu or the Chinese long zither," he said. "I want them to understand that there's more out there, you know?"

So much more. And Summers is living proof that you can get there from here at MTSU. **A**

NEW STAFFERS COME ABOARD



Tatum
Hochstetler



Wendi
Watts

The Honors College welcomed two new staff members in October, **Tatum Hochstetler** as Honors coordinator and **Wendi Watts** as executive secretary. Hochstetler moved from MTSU's June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students after Susan Lyons was promoted to the role of Honors academic advisor for freshmen and sophomores. Watts, who previously worked in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, filled the position vacated when Sandra Campbell transferred to the Department of Psychology.



Gregory Pitts

Abdough Kattih (l) and Bobbie Ibarra
participate in the MT Engage lecture.



LECTURES ADDRESS CONSTITUTION AND THE PRESS

The Honors College once again offered two fall 2021 lecture series: "Rewriting the Constitution," led by **Mary A. Evins** (History) and **Philip E. Phillips** (Honors) on Mondays, and "The Press," led by **Gregory G. Pitts** (Journalism) on Tuesdays.

"Rewriting the Constitution" offered a combination of in-person and Zoom sessions, an MT Engage panel in the Student Union Parliamentary Room, and a Constitution Week lecture held in Tucker Theatre. In addition to lectures by MTSU faculty Amy Sayward, John Vile, Michael Federici, Aaron Treadwell, and retired Lt. Gen. Keith Huber, students heard from


U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen and Yilin Zhang of the League of Women Voters from Washington, D.C.; George Laws Garcia of the Puerto Rico Statehood Council; and Barbara Ibarra of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women via mtsu.edu/live.

"The Press" featured talks by MTSU professors Sanjay Asthana, Sally Ann Cruikshank, Keonte Coleman, Katie Foss, and Elise Helford. MTSU's Sarah Calise, archivist at Gore Research Center, and Ken Paulson, Free Speech Center director, contributed to the series along with Matthew Pressman of Seton Hall University, Amber Roessner of the University of Tennessee, and Tracy Lucht of Iowa State University.

AT HOME ABROAD



Salt formations at the Dead Sea



MTSU alum living out his dream in Israel wields science to provide needed fresh water around the world

By Patsy Weiler

For Eric Guyes, life since graduation from the MTSU Honors College has been a whirlwind of research, adventure, and self-discovery. Following a stellar undergraduate career (Guyes graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Physics in 2013), the Virginia native was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research and study in Israel at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, in Haifa, a port city on the Mediterranean and the country's third-largest metropolis. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds the Fulbright, one of the world's most prestigious educational exchange programs.

Israel was a destination Guyes had been to before. In 2012, the Buchanan Fellow was part of a 10-day Jewish Birthright trip where he said he experienced an immediate connection to the country.

Now, nearly a decade later, Guyes still lives and works in Israel and has fully embraced the country and its culture.

“There are lush forests, rose-tinted deserts, snow-capped mountains, and beaches on four distinct seas . . . in a country approximately the size of New Jersey.”

Honors College Dean John R. Vile remembers vividly how strongly Guyes—even as an undergraduate—had his mind set on studying in Israel. Vile also expresses no surprise that Guyes, now 32, has remained in the country as long as he has.

“When Eric first contacted us about applying for a Fulbright fellowship to Israel, we told him that Israel had very few openings and he would have a better chance being accepted elsewhere,” Vile said. “We soon realized that Israel was where he wanted to be, and I believe he was accepted not only because of the quality of his application, but also because of his passion for that country.”

MAN OF MANY TALENTS

For his Fulbright fellowship, Guyes worked on a technology called flameless oxidation. The idea is to lower the combustion temperature in jet engines so they will produce less nitrogen oxide gases (NOx), which are harmful to humans, animals, and vegetation.

"However, key parts of the project had already been studied for years," Guyes said. "I wanted to dive into a newer, less-explored topic where there was more freedom of purpose and more basic research that needed to be done."

“Producing clean water for human populations without upsetting natural ecosystems is complex and challenging.”

By the time the Fulbright's 10 months of aerospace research ended, Guyes was certain he wanted to continue his graduate studies in Israel. He also knew he wanted to take the plunge, so to speak, in researching how to develop the next generation of water treatment technologies.

"There are two reasons I chose to stay," Guyes explained. "One, Israel is an incredible place, and I felt a sense of belonging I never had before. . . . Two, water is an important field with many complex

problems, and Israeli research institutions do a lot of interesting water research.

"As I continued living in Israel, a country with perpetual water shortages, I became more aware of the environmental importance of water, not only for human consumption but also as an integral part of natural ecosystems. I also became aware that producing clean water for human populations without upsetting natural ecosystems is complex and challenging."

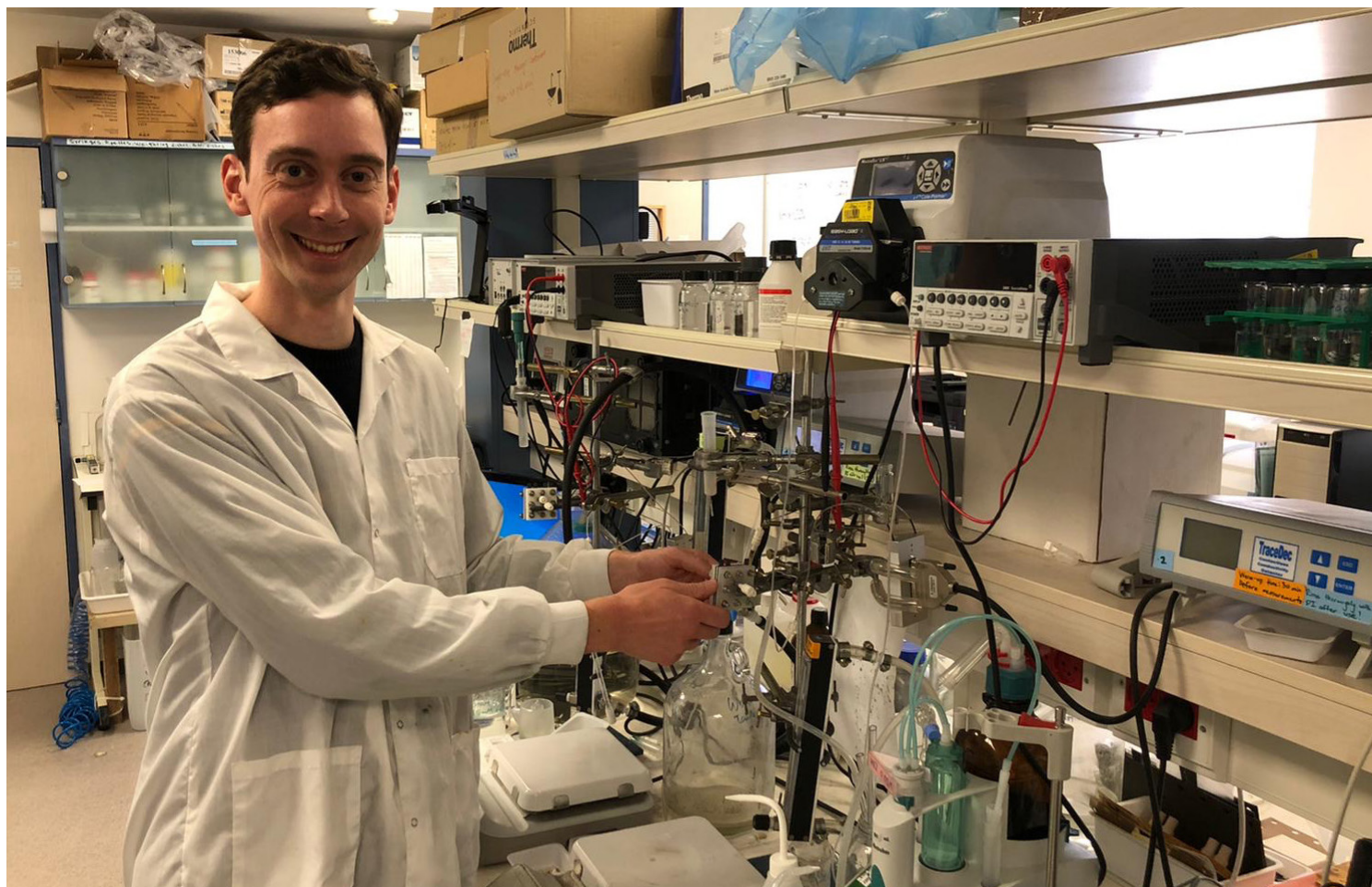
Guyes finished his master's degree in Israel in 2017 and completed his doctorate in 2021 from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Technion.

"My research focus is selective ion removal in electrochemical water desalination," Guyes said. "In layman's terms, selective ion removal means we take out undesirable charged substances like sodium while leaving in beneficial ones like calcium and magnesium."

Translation: Human beings can't drink saline water, and Guyes uses science to convert it to needed fresh water.

Guyes' research has been published in well-established science journals ranging from *Environmental Science & Technology* to *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, among others.





Buoyed by research success, Guyes has traveled to international conferences in Europe and Asia through the years, but such globetrotting largely ended two years ago due to COVID-19.

"In 2021, I was invited to present at the European Symposium on Electrochemical Engineering, which was supposed to occur in the Netherlands," Guyes offered as one example. "But, like many recent events, it was held virtually due to the pandemic."

Much of Guyes' research was conducted in a collaborative manner, with many inquisitive minds sharing skills and insights. A natural-born team player, Guyes is proof that the "two minds are greater than one" approach serves researchers well.

"Every person brought a particular skill set, and we were all highly motivated to keep the project moving forward together," he said. "We brainstormed about unexpected results, figured out what experiments would be the most insightful, and filled in gaps in each other's knowledge."

"My role as a Ph.D. student has been to produce a tiny amount of knowledge that takes us a small step toward realizing that broader goal. Collectively, the small steps of everyone in the research community add up to significant progress."

MORE THAN SCIENCE

Apart from his professional success, Guyes said he has grown considerably as a person as a result of his time abroad.

"I was constantly forced out of my 'Americanisms' and my comfort zone," he said. "My experiences are essential to who I am today."

First and foremost, he says, he was struck by the friendliness of the Israelis.

"I was most impacted by the genuine warmth and openness of people here. When I first arrived in Haifa on the train, a stranger in the seat next to mine noticed I was completely lost and offered to drive me to the university. Not only did she drive miles out of her way for me, but she also asked campus security where my dorm was and dropped me off in front of it," Guyes said.

"I was mostly around university students, and they were very accepting and curious. I have been invited by strangers to dinner, holiday celebrations, and weddings, sometimes within a few minutes of meeting them. Those events were a lot of fun."

That's not to say Guyes hasn't also experienced obstacles on his journey.



Guyes (l) and Ebony Rowe performing physics experiments

"Culture shock and language barriers are very real, and you can be confused by your environment and the people around you. Unexpected things will happen. It can be difficult being away from family and friends for a long period of time, so it was important to make new friends and take care of yourself," he said. "Despite the hardships, you will have positive experiences you never could have imagined."

Along the way, Guyes became fluent in Hebrew. He participates in a rowing club on the Kishon River, has explored museums, and stresses how much he savors hummus, freshly made and warm, with pita and pickles.

He also reveled in discovering the amazing aspects of Israel's geographic diversity.

"There are lush forests, rose-tinted deserts, snow-capped mountains, and beaches on four distinct seas [the Mediterranean, Red, Galilee, and Dead]. All this variety is contained in a country approximately the size of New Jersey," Guyes said. "I have been fortunate to travel and hike many times during my time here, and my favorite region is the desert. At first glance, it appears lifeless, but looking closely, one can see it is teeming with life—and sometimes water.

"In addition, the immense history of civilization in this region awes me. My favorite archaeological spot is Bet She'an, a well-preserved ancient city in the Jezreel Valley. A hill overlooking the city contains remnants of more than a dozen civilizations. 'Profound' is the only word that does justice to being in the presence of so many eras of human history."

Guyes credits MTSU with giving him the tools he has needed to be successful both personally and professionally overseas.

"MTSU was far from my hometown, so I had to learn how to live independently without my family, an essential skill during my time abroad. I am deeply grateful to the Honors College for the variety of topics they exposed me to in the Buchanan program," Guyes said. "They supplied a wealth of information and support while I was applying for the Fulbright fellowship, without which I would not have succeeded. Their commitment to academic and personal excellence is a value I will always carry with me." **A**

BOARD MEETS AGAIN BY ZOOM



As usual, the highlight of the annual Honors Board of Visitors meeting was presentations by students who talked about their experiences in the Honors College.

A majority of board members attended the October session, the second straight one held via Zoom video chat: Kaylene Gebert, Raiko Henderson, Paul Martin Jr., Tandra Martin, Phil Mathis, June McCash, Don Midgett, Joseph Olmstead, Judy Powell, and Don Witherspoon. They were joined by most members of the Honors College staff.

Students who spoke to the board were **Yaseen Ginnab** (Biology/Psychology double major), **Natalie Young** (Nursing), **Rachel Booher** (Japanese concentration in Foreign Language), **Antonio Dodson** (Economics), **Ivy Adams** (Aerospace), **Trinity Henderson** (Political Science/English), and **Danny Harp** (History).

Dean John R. Vile opened the meeting noting that enrollments in Honors classes, like those in the University at large, had taken a small dip but that other metrics looked good.

The year, for example, was marked by a record 97 students who completed Honors theses. In addition, two students won Fulbright Awards, and others earned Goldwater, DAAD Rise, Phi Kappa Phi, Critical Language Scholarships, and other awards. The Honors College had another year of outstanding classes of incoming Buchanan Fellows and Honors Transfer Fellows, and Honors publications continue to provide opportunities for students to write and submit their work.

McCash and Paul Martin Jr. both paid tribute to Ron Messier, former Honors director who died in 2021. Despite his many achievements, which included a number of books that he wrote after he retired, he most wanted to be remembered as a friend, and he certainly was.

Before adjournment, Paul Wydra, director of development initiatives at MTSU, also gave a presentation on behalf of the MTSU Foundation that thanked members for their contributions.



TOP-FLIGHT VISITORS

Honors **Dean John R. Vile** welcomed a visit from two former Buchanan Fellows, **Nathan Tilton** (Aerospace, '16), and **Collin McDonald** (Aerospace, '17). Both alumni work for MTSU's Aerospace Department.



MTSU grad Joseph Gulizia, now working on his doctorate in Poultry Science at Auburn University



New Home on the Plains

Animal Science graduate lays down new research roots

By Joseph P. Gulizia

Gulizia was an Honors Transfer Fellow with an Animal Science major. He received an \$8,500 stipend from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to help pay for his graduate degrees.

After graduating from MTSU in 2019, I began pursuing an M.S. in Poultry Science at Auburn University in 2020. Little did I know leaving family and friends in Tennessee would not be my only challenge. I had been in graduate school for just three months when the COVID-19 pandemic consumed American lives. Living in quarantine made it difficult to immerse myself in a new city and university. This added to the challenge of transitioning from Murfreesboro to Auburn. However, over the past two years I have learned to love Auburn, which is truly "The Loveliest Village on The Plains."

This love slowly began during late spring 2020 after I had survived one of the hardest classes of my academic career. From that moment, I gained an immeasurable amount of confidence, which pushed me through what remained of COVID-19 in 2020. Beyond the many classes during my first year, I conducted my first Auburn University poultry science research trial during summer 2020. I managed and collected data on 2,400 broilers (meat-type chickens). After completing that initial trial, I knew this was the perfect environment for me. Since then, I have been involved with several more broiler research trials totaling approximately 7,800 broilers.



Joseph Gulizia and his research lab group

These research trials were possible through the tireless efforts of my major professor, Wilmer Pacheco. He cultivates an environment that promotes professionalism, feed mill and poultry nutrition knowledge, and fellowship between national and international students. I am thankful for the continued guidance and mentorship that I receive.

“My success at Auburn University could not have been possible without first donning my True Blue pride.”

In Auburn, the early months of 2021 began to feel normal (or at least more normal than 2020). I was able to attend classes in person and feel a true sense of community among my fellow poultry science graduate students. My academic journey between February and September 2021 was uneventful,

spending most of those months writing my thesis. Thanks to COVID-19, 2020 felt like an eternity, but 2021 seemed like it never stopped to allow me to breathe. Although other university students and I across the globe endured the trials of a world stricken with a pandemic, we all continued to move toward our academic goals.

On Nov. 8, 2021, I successfully defended my thesis titled “The Effects of Phytase and Non-starch Polysaccharide Enzymes in Poultry Production.” This M.S. research focused on how using exogenous enzymes in broiler feed can enhance growth while simultaneously reducing feed costs. Continued feed additive research is critical, as understanding exogenous enzymes can provide poultry nutritionists with the ability to use a wider range of ingredients during least-cost feed formulations.

My success at Auburn University could not have been possible without first donning my True Blue pride. Priceless and irreplaceable experiences at MTSU shaped my future success in academia and my career goals. Being involved with the MTSU University Honors College was my first step in the right direction. Before MTSU, I had minimal exposure

to research; however, being an Honors Transfer Fellow allowed me to explore various aspects of academia, opening many doors of opportunity.

An additional factor that led to my success was engaging with the resident poultry scientist at MTSU, Kevin Downs, who has been monumental in my achievements at Auburn University. He provides students with the necessary basic and applied knowledge for a successful career in animal agriculture. Over these past two years, I have continued to work with Dr. Downs, collaborating on various poultry nutrition research studies. We have collaborated on six broiler research trials evaluating the use of exogenous enzymes, alternative protein sources, different corn particle sizes, and coloring of poultry feed. In addition, I am a second reader for two MTSU students currently working on their undergraduate Honors theses with him. This opportunity allows me to further improve my writing skills along with contributing my knowledge and experience to the next generation of animal and poultry science students.

As 2021 ended, I rushed to prepare for my next adventure, diving headfirst into a Ph.D. program in Poultry Science at Auburn in spring 2022. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that

await over the next three years. Overall, graduate school has been challenging, but I have been fortunate to receive various fellowships which contributed to my academic accomplishments. During my master's program, I received the Yoerger Presidential Endowed Fellowship from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2020 and the Auburn University Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship in 2021. These honors and awards can be attributed to the experiences had and relationships built while attending MTSU.

“ I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await over the next three years. ”

Although I am 300 miles away from MTSU, I plan to continue collaborating with Dr. Downs and connecting with current MTSU undergraduate students. I am a proud alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and will always be True Blue!





FROM REFUGEE TO TENURED PROFESSOR

Honors professors impart
life-enriching foundation

By *Ranin Kazemi*



Ranin Kazemi at MTSU



Late professor Ronald A. Messier

I recently heard about the passing of Ronald A. Messier, a former MTSU professor who taught in the History Department and the Honors College from 1972 to 2004. I was fortunate enough to take a number of classes with him in 1999–2002, when I was a double major in History and English. Professor Messier also served as one of two advisors for a research project that culminated in my Honors thesis. This work was about the love imagery in the poetry of Jalal al-Din Rumi, a 13th-century Persian thinker who has considerable global readership and influence in the 21st century.

I worked with Professor Messier to prepare for graduate school, as well. Several years of working with him and other learned and dedicated professors at the Honors College, coupled with the broad and rigorous training I received at MTSU in general, led to admission to multiple research universities in the

country. I ultimately completed my graduate work at two different institutions: the Ohio State University, where I obtained a master's degree in History in 2005, and Yale University, where I was granted two additional master's degrees and a Ph.D. in History.

“ Since my graduation from MTSU, I often thought about how the Honors College positioned me to succeed in a career that has been both competitive and rewarding. ”

My training at Yale focused on the social, economic, and environmental history of the modern world. I wrote a dissertation on the social and economic causes of an important revolutionary movement in the Middle East in the 19th century. This topic remains one of the key areas in which I have published in the past several years. I currently hold a tenured position in the Department of History at San Diego State University, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in world history, historical methods and research, the history of social protest and popular movements, the global history of everyday objects, and the history of the Middle East and North Africa. I could not possibly have arrived at this juncture in my career without the support I received from professors like Ron Messier and the work I did at the Honors College.

Since my graduation from MTSU, I have often thought about how the Honors College positioned me to succeed in a career that has been both competitive and rewarding. Professors like Ron Messier were not few. I had the privilege of working with a number of others, and I have often drawn lessons from the classes I took with Yuan-Ling Chao, Alfred Lutz, and Allen Hibbard, who was also co-director of my Honors thesis.

The classes I took with these professors taught me a great deal about critical thinking and creative and academic writing. I learned how to read with and against the grain, how to synthesize and think broadly, and how to detect the interconnectedness of different disciplines. I even learned to feel comfortable speaking publicly in a second language about topics ranging from the tragedies of Shakespeare to the historical origins of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But the training I received at the Honors College was not just a foundation for my academic career, it also enriched my life in so many ways.

When I attended MTSU, I was in my early 20s and had seen a good deal of uncertainty in my life. I had grown up in the Caspian region of Iran until age 17 and had become a refugee because of my family background. I had lived precariously in a couple of different countries before arriving in Nashville in late 1996. Before attending MTSU, I had also taken odd jobs to be able to do some preliminary coursework at then-Nashville State Technical College and Tennessee State University before transferring to MTSU in the fall of 1999.

“ But the training I received at the Honors College was not just a foundation for my academic career, it also enriched my life in so many ways. ”

I was much older than my age and had my own struggles. It was not easy for me to do well in my English classes, for example. I was shy and was often embarrassed to acknowledge that I was originally from Iran. My work at the Honors College helped me grow intellectually, expand my horizons, and develop self-confidence. I also gained a better understanding of the world and my place in it. I am forever indebted to the Honors College and professors like Ron Messier who helped me in the process. They were erudite, possessed excellent pedagogy, and cared much about their students.

In Memoriam: Joe Douglas Powell

Joe Douglas Powell, the beloved husband of Honors College Board of Visitors member Judy Powell, was 77 when he died peacefully Sept. 23, 2021.

He and his wife endowed an Honors College scholarship, the Julia Powell Scholarship, for a student studying Nursing or pursuing a career focused on older adult health.

A resident of Murfreesboro, Powell was born and raised in Atlanta. A truck driver for 30 years, he was a collector of cars, coins, guns, and heavy equipment and

was known for his sense of humor. He enjoyed sports, golf, travel to exotic locations, projects employing heavy equipment, and his family and friends.

Powell was survived by two brothers, his wife, two sons, and his children and great grandchildren. A funeral service officiated by Krislyn Durham of First United Methodist Church was held at Woodfin Memorial Chapel with interment at Evergreen Cemetery.



CLASS NOTES

Students

Brady Armstrong (Audio Production) is a recipient of a SoundBetter Music Scholarship. The Buchanan Fellow was chosen for his mixes, production, recording, ambitious industry goals, and writing. SoundBetter is a leading music marketplace that awards 10 scholarships per year to U.S. residents studying music.

Rija Asim (Psychology), was awarded a gold URECA research award for her project "Changes in Motivation Following Oxytocin Receptor Inhibition." Tiffany Rogers was her mentor.

Hunter Brady (Biology) received a gold URECA research award to help fund his project, "Chlorine Dioxide Gas Promising Potential for Use as an Anti-Viral Agent." Anthony Newsome was his faculty mentor.

Anika Chowdhury (Biology) worked with mentor John DuBois and earned a gold URECA grant for her research project "Cross-Breeding Industrial Hemp (Cannabis sativa) Varieties to Assess Changes in Cannabinoid Content."

Marissa Gray (Exercise Science) received a URECA grant for her research project with Vaughn Barry, "The Effects of Lifetime Physical Activity on Working Memory in Older Adults."

Danny Harp (History) worked with Martha Norkunas on his URECA research project, "Commemorations on the Landscape: Seven African American Women Who Helped to Define R&B and Country Music." He received gold-level URECA funding.

Lillian Hickman

(Recording Industry) received a creative activity URECA award for her project "Arista Brook Project 1990–1999." Denise Shackleford served as her mentor.

Maria Hite (Biology) worked with mentor David Nelson on her silver URECA grant-winning research project "Determining the Effect of *Cryptococcus Neoformans* Infection on the Phosphorylation and Subcellular Localization of CITED1 in Macrophages."



Aaron Jollay (Accounting), pictured above, was selected for his exceptional leadership characteristics to receive a \$25,000 Calvin and Jean King Scholarship. The Calvin A. and Jean C. King Foundation is a major benefactor of the Tennessee Society of CPAs scholarship program, which provides scholarship awards to deserving accounting students at Tennessee colleges and universities. Calvin King, a U.S. Navy veteran and a CPA, joined the TSCPA society in 1959 and was elected a life member in 1999. Jean King had a passion for supporting charitable causes and logged more than 10,000 volunteer hours at a Memphis hospital.



Jessikah Riley (Philosophy), pictured above, was awarded a silver URECA grant for her creative activity, "(dis)Connected: A Series of Interviews on Society and Spirituality in the Modern World." Her mentor was Rebekka King.

Kaytlin Stout (Philosophy) volunteered at the Salvation Army End-of-School Bash in May 2021 to help inform local children about a new free summer day camp program. She and other event volunteers were pictured in the June/July issue of *VIP Murfreesboro*.



Carina Vazquez (Physics), pictured above, was mentored by William Robertson on her gold URECA award-winning research project "Electrical Analog of Ring Resonator Structures and an Acoustic Demultiplexer."

Dara Zwemer (Psychology) received a gold research URECA grant for her project "Child-Level Reading Variables and Gist-Based Memory: An Interactive Model." Her mentors were Emily Farris and Tim Odegard.

CLASS NOTES

Alumni and Friends

Liz Bradley (Honors College Board of Visitors) welcomed a grandson, James "Buck" Buchanan, in the fall. He was born to Marshall and Jourdan Whorley of Clifton, Texas.

Leonela Carriedo (Biology, '09) a scientist at Joyn Bio in the Sacramento area, has been working as a technical project leader since July 2020.

Audrey Creel (History, '20), recently started a position as a museum educator at EarlyWorks Family of Museums in Owens Crossroads, Alabama.

Shannon (Murphy) Crook (Biology, '10) and **Jeremy Crook** (Chemistry, '10) welcomed their first child, Tessa Mackenzie, July 15. Shannon is working as assistant medical examiner in Nashville, and Jeremy is working with Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Lebanon in emergency medicine and engages in emergency training and LifeFlights.



Keaton Davis (Business Administration, '16), pictured above, and wife **Ashley (Sams) Davis** (Interdisciplinary Studies, '16) welcomed their first child, Ryman Alexander Davis, Oct. 12. The Davises live in Murfreesboro.

Eric Goodwin (Global Studies and Human Geography, '20) is seeking a master's degree in Geography from the University of Utah.

Daniel H. Gouger (Biochemistry/Spanish, '12) is moving to Baltimore in 2022 for three years to complete combined fellowships in Neurocritical Care, Surgical Care, and Neuroanesthesiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is currently finishing his last year of anesthesiology residency at Richmond's Virginia Commonwealth University Health.



Alissa (Rugge) Hershberger (Chemistry, '13), pictured above, is an assistant instructor of nursing at the University of Central Missouri.

Merranda Holmes-Stanfield (Biology, '10) is working as a pediatrician at Vanderbilt.

Samantha (Farish) Higgs (Political Science, '14), married **Adam Higgs** (Political Science, '15) Oct. 10. The couple lives in Washington, D.C.

Cari Jennings (Biology, '12) started a position in October as an analytics advisor at NaviHealth in Nashville.

Katie Miller (English/Business Administration, '12) started a new position as project and client management director at Harker Bos Group in Durham, North Carolina.

Collin McDonald (Aerospace, '17), a graduate teaching assistant studying Aviation Safety and

Security, works as an aircraft maintenance technician at MTSU. He and his wife, Katie, have a daughter, Amelia, and son, David.

Connor McDonald (Political Science, '17) recently passed his comprehensive exams to earn a Master of Law in taxation from the University of Alabama School of Law. He is one of only two attorneys in Wilson County with an additional degree in tax law. He and wife Kaylee had a daughter Georgia Rose March 2.

Jana Pehrson (Textiles and Merchandising Design, '19) and husband Colton welcomed daughter Aubrey Jana on July 26.



Courtney Rodman (Global Studies/Organizational Communication, '14), pictured above, is an associate attorney at Cole-Frieman & Mallon LLP in Denver.

Michelle (Ebel) Schmidt (Accounting, '11) started a new position as senior manager of accounting at U.S. Endo Partners last summer.

Guy Shelton (Mass Communication, '18), who is teaching digital media at Knoxville Catholic High School, married Jessica Counts in June.

Trevor Smith (Organizational Communication, '16) and **Chelsea Harmon Smith** (Chemistry, '16; M.S. in Chemistry, '17) welcomed a son, Jeremiah, Oct. 24.



Hannah Solima (International Relations/Criminal Justice Administration/French, '21), pictured above, is pursuing a master's degree in International Relations and Regional Studies at the University of Tartu in Estonia.

Kayley Stallings (Fermentation Science/Biochemistry, '20) was

accepted into a Ph.D. program in Biological Sciences at Clemson University with full funding.

Davis Thompson (Political Science, '15) was promoted to senior associate at Burness Communications in Washington, D.C., in October.

Jennifer (Johnson) Tipton (Psychology, '12) is a doctoral student in Counselor Education at the University of Tennessee.

Leland Waite (Aerospace, '13; M.S. in Aviation Administration, '16), is now flying the Airbus 320 for Delta after teaching at MTSU for two semesters.

Grant Waldron (Psychology, '20) and wife Danielle welcomed a son, Lewis Fenn, Oct. 31.



Tyler Whittaker (Anthropology, '13), pictured above, finished a master's degree in Anthropology at Southern Illinois University in 2017 and is now living in Clarksville, Tennessee, creating training modules for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Sarah Wilfong-Joblin (Music, '18; M.A. in Music, '20) received funding for the University of Oregon's violin doctoral program. She and her family have relocated to Eugene, Oregon.

CLASS NOTES

Faculty and Staff

Kristie Abston (Management) was tenured and promoted to associate professor recently.

Anne Anderson (Weatherford Chair of Finance) published "Treasury Triples and the Efficiency of the U.S. Treasury Marketplace" with Richard J. Kish in *International Journal of Monetary Economics and Finance* in 2021. She also published "Accounting for the Impact of Sustainability and Net Present Value on Stakeholders" with David H. Myers in *Journal of Accounting and Finance* and "The Crowdfunding Down Payment Option" with Richard J. Kish in *Journal of Housing Research*.

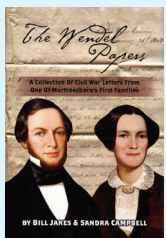


Claudia Barnett (English) saw her play *No. 731 Degraw-street, Brooklyn, or Emily Dickinson's Sister* performed at Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York Aug. 22–26.



John DuBois received recognition from Dean John R. Vile (l) and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips as Honors Council chair for 2020–21.

Rich Barnett (Recording Industry), a former Honors College resident faculty member, was named professor emeritus in 2021.



Sandra Campbell (former Honors executive secretary) co-edited a book, *The Wendel Papers*, with Bill Jakes. The book is a collection of Civil War letters from one of Murfreesboro's first families.

Jim Chaney (Global Studies and Human Geography) was newly tenured last summer and promoted to associate professor.

Jon DiCicco (Political Science and International Relations) was recently tenured and promoted to professor.



Laura Clippard (Honors, Undergraduate Fellowships Office), pictured above, has been selected for the national inaugural cohort of Gilman Advisor Ambassadors. The Gilman Advisor Ambassador Program is aimed at deepening the U.S. Department of State's USA Study Abroad Branch connections with the higher education community by creating a cohort that will act as a source of expertise, guidance, and feedback regarding the current best practices in the field of education abroad. Only 20 individuals were selected from a national pool.

Tricia Farwell (Journalism and Strategic Media) published a book chapter, "Using Women Reporting War to Teach Edith Wharton's *Writing a War Story: An Added Context for Gendered Writing*." The chapter appeared in *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction*, published by Palgrave/Macmillan, Springer. She also was a guest speaker for a webinar associated with the publication. Farwell was an ANA Educational Foundation visiting professor last summer, and students from one of her classes earned Honorable Mention for their campaign, 411 Project, to prevent anti-Asian sentiments. The competition was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and EdVenture Partners.



Keith Gamble (Economics and Finance), pictured above, received an MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology.

Jackie Gilbert (Management) was recently featured in *Industrial Safety & Hygiene News* and *Communication Intelligence Magazine*.

Nancy Goldberg (World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) was named professor emerita in 2021.



Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry), pictured above, director of MTSU's Women in STEM (WISTEM) Center, and **Barbara Turnage**, associate dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, were recognized in August when the WISTEM Center received a 2021 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. The center was selected based on its efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of young people to consider careers in STEM through mentoring.

Iriarte-Gross' Tennessee Girls in STEM (TGIS), formerly known as EYH (Expanding Your Horizons), celebrated its 25th anniversary this year.

Tony Johnston (Agriculture) organized and made a presentation in a live international webinar with colleagues from the San Juan Bautista Private University in Peru and Maza University in Argentina titled "Wines and Spirits of the Americas" on June 3. This seminar focused on the wines of Argentina, the traditional Peruvian fermented spirit Pisco, and the craft distilled spirits being produced in the U.S. today. He also published several research articles in spring 2021: "Production of biologically active human interleukin-10 by *Bifidobacterium bifidum* BGN4," co-authored with Nayoun Hong, Seockmo Ku, and Kyungjin Yuk; "Isolation, Characterization, and Biosafety Evaluation of *Lactobacillus fermentum* OK with Potential Oral Probiotic Properties," with Soyong Mann, Myeong Soo Park, Geun Eog Ji, Keum Taek Hwang, and Seockmo Ku; and "Oral probiotic activities and biosafety of *Lactobacillus gasseri* HHuMIN D," with Soyong Mann, Myeong Soo Park, Yeun Eog Ji, Keum Taek Hwang, and Seockmo Ku.

Bob Kalwinsky (Media Arts) was named professor emeritus in 2021.

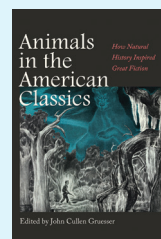
Ida Fadzillah Leggett (Sociology and Anthropology) published a book, co-edited with **Will Leggett** (Sociology and Anthropology), *Field Stories: Experiences, Affect, and the Lessons of Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century* through Lexington Press.

Phil Oliver (Philosophy and Religious Studies) participated in the 25th annual meeting of

the Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at Ottawa University in Kansas in July. He presented a talk on Dostoevsky, baseball, politics, and injustice.

Carl Ostrowski (English) had an anthology, *Collected Tales, Poems, and Other Writings of Edgar Allan Poe*, published by Bloomsbury Academic.

Ennio Piano (Economics and Finance) published "Organizing High-End Restaurants" in *Economics of Governance* and "In persona Christi Capitis: Agency problems when God is the principal" in the *Journal of Economics, Management, and Religion* in 2021. He also published "The Artist As Entrepreneur," discussed on *MTSU on the Record*, in *The Review of Austrian Economics* in 2021 with Rania Al-Bawwab. Piano also presented at the Public Choice Society Meetings and the Southern Economic Association Conference.



Philip E. Phillips (Honors associate dean), pictured above, received an MTSU Foundation Distinguished Research Award

for the 2020–21 academic year. He received this award twice previously (2007–08 and 2014–15). His most recent essay, " 'At the same time more or less than a man': The Ourang-Outang in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue

Morgue,' " will appear in *Animals in the American Classics: How Natural History Inspired Great Fiction* (Texas A&M University Press), edited by John Gruesser and scheduled for publication in June.

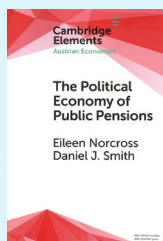


Patrick Richey (Communication Studies), pictured above, was selected to join the National Executive Council of the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) as the executive secretary in fall 2020. Richey helped lead a thriving debate organization of over 150 colleges and universities. His role includes sanctioning all tournaments, keeping records of all tournament points for the season-long awards, and making policy decisions for the organization with the other two members. Richey stepped down as chair of the Governing Board to assume the new role but will continue to be the IPDA historian.



Dianna Rust (University Studies), pictured above, received an MTSU Foundation 2021 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Kim Sadler (Biology) earned an MTSU Foundation Outstanding General Education Award.



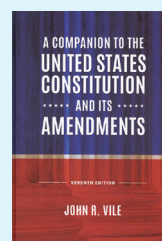
Daniel Smith (Economics and Finance) published *Money and the Rule of Law* (Cambridge University Press), with co-authors Peter Boettke and Alexander William Salter, and *The Political Economy of Public Pensions*, with co-author Eileen Norcross, in 2021. The recipient of the Bill and Kathy Jones Outstanding Professor Award for the Jones College of Business in 2021, Smith also published "Long Live the Doge? Death as a Term Limit on Venetian Chief Executives" with George R. Crowley and Sebastian J. Leguizamon in *Public Choice* in August. In addition, he was promoted to professor in 2021.



Ben Stickle (Criminal Justice Administration), pictured above, who received tenure in 2021, also was the recipient of a Foundation Distinguished Research Award. He published numerous practitioner articles, technical reports, research briefs, journal articles, and short works in 2020 and '21. He has a new book in 2022, *Police Behavior, Hiring, and Crime Fighting: An International View*, with John Eterno, Diana Peterson, and Dilip Das. He was editor of *Field Studies*

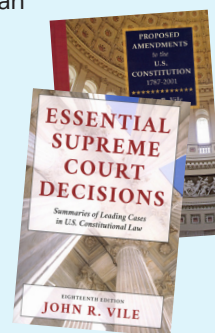
in *Environmental Criminology*. His most recent academic journal article is "Conservation Officer Perceptions of Stress Associated with Traditional Policing Duties" in the *International Journal of Police Science and Management*, written with Logan S. Ledford, Dustin L. Osborne, and Bradley D. Edwards.

Shelley Thomas (World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), who was designated professor emerita in 2021, also received an Exemplary Faculty Award from the Honors College.



John R. Vile (Honors dean) has several new books, including the seventh edition of *A Companion to the United States*

Constitution and Its Amendments (Praeger), which updates it through the end of the 2020–21 term of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Lawbook Exchange also has published a new supplement to his three-volume set *Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, 1787–2021*, which covers the years 2001–21 and replaces an earlier supplement covering the years 2001–10. Additionally, Rowman and Littlefield has published the 18th edition (this is the fifth edition Vile has authored) of *Essential Supreme Court Decisions: Summaries of Leading Cases in U.S. Constitutional Law*.



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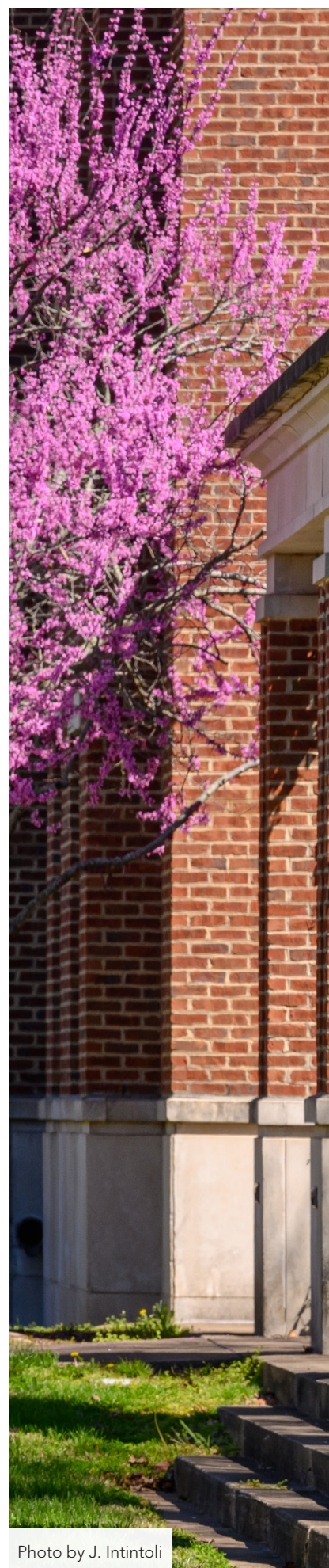


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