

# MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Winter 2012 Vol. 16 No. 4



MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

*traditions of excellence 1911-2011*

## Shell SHOCKED

A historic flood spawns a fresh wave of archeological looting. Dr. Tanya Peres joins the fight to protect state lands.

### *A Traditional Approach*

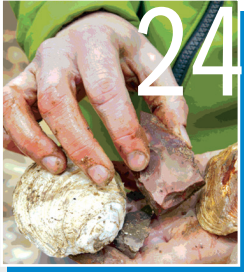
The future of drug development at MTSU lies in **Chinese botanical extracts**

### *Music to the Ear*

MTSU students help **strike up the bands** in Panama

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cover photo: J. Intintoli



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photo: Andy Heirt



Placed in 2005, MTSU's blue horseshoe in Walnut Grove has a penny from 1911 (the year the University was founded) buried beneath it. Alumni, students, and fans are encouraged to touch the horseshoe for good luck before events like a big game, a performance, or even a test.

*[Editor's Note: Beginning this month, MTSU Magazine will be published twice annually in January and July.]*

## Blue Horseshoe

A symbol of tradition and good fortune for Middle Tennessee State University.

WHO TOUCH THE BLUE HORSESHOE  
WILL BE GRANTED GOOD LUCK.

Installed by the MTSU Student Ambassadors.  
Installation and support provided by  
Concrete Industry Management  
for the Walking Horse National Celebration.  
Dedicated October 22, 2005

## The Get-Us-Your- Information Age



Ginger Freeman ('89, '92)

Today, with nearly  
**100,000 alumni,**  
we increasingly rely  
on **electronic  
communication,**  
**web pages,** and  
**social media**  
to provide you with  
the **information  
you need.**

AS DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, I AM committed to finding ways to keep alumni informed and updated on the ever-increasing programs and activities of our diverse campus. We want to be sure that you have all the information you need to stay informed and involved with your alma mater. It's an important part of everything we do, and to do that effectively, we need your help.

Over the past 20 years, the tools we have to communicate with alumni have changed dramatically. Gone are the days of all paper mail—increased postage and printing costs have significantly affected our ability to send everything out by mail. Today, with nearly 100,000 alumni, we increasingly rely on electronic communication, web pages, and social media to provide you with the information you need. Not only is it cost-effective but also electronic communication allows us to reach you much faster. With the tools we have now, we can keep you informed of upcoming events, reserve your spot at an alumni activity, allow you to connect with classmates in your own MTSU community, and even provide you with campus news in real time.

But to do that, we need your help. Our success is heavily based on our ability to communicate directly with you, and to do so we need your email address! I'm not sure how many times I have been asked, "How do I find out about upcoming events?" It's easy. Give the Alumni Office your email address, and we will send you a monthly email newsletter with a calendar of events. We also send messages specific to your major, where you live, or what you were involved in while at MTSU. This is *your* university, and we want to give you the opportunity to be involved and informed about what's going on at the Alumni Office and MTSU. [mtsu](http://mtsu.edu)

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# MTSU MAGAZINE

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Alumni Weekend 2012 • April 12-15

## 2012 ALUMNI SPRING WEEKEND

It's our Centennial year, and there's no better time to showcase MTSU. Bring your family and friends and join us for a great weekend of campus activities and Blue Raider fun! From tours, lectures, reunions, meet-and-greet events, spring football and much more, **become reacquainted with your alma mater and explore the many exciting things happening on campus.**

Visit [MTalumni.com](http://MTalumni.com) or call Alumni Relations at 800-533-6878 for a complete schedule of events and to reserve your place.

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## On the Ball



Sidney A. McPhee

**What we are seeing now, I believe, will be the most sweeping fundamental changes to the college sports landscape in decades.**



**You are currently serving a second term as the Sun Belt conference's representative on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. As one of just 18 voting members, you are in a position to wield significant influence on some of the off-the-field problems afflicting big-time collegiate sports today. You have also been quite active alongside other university presidents nationwide in seeking NCAA reform. Update us on new measures in place to curb improprieties in collegiate sports.**

Last summer, I spent two days in Indianapolis, where a retreat of 54 university presidents and administrators called for swift and serious actions on a variety of fronts. These were the most serious and engaging meetings of presidents and chancellors I've seen since I've been associated with the NCAA. There were a number of significant issues on the table. The impact of what is happening will be felt throughout the NCAA membership. There was absolute resolve to address these issues.

Gone are the days when college coaches—some of them, at least—thought that because they led a nationally regarded program they could cheat, get wrist-slapped, and forge ahead without serious consequences. Going forward, cheating in programs will be handled with swift and severe penalties. We want to get out of the business of enforcing the ticky-tack rules and focus on the major rules and strengthening the penalties.

Also, our board voted to ban Division I teams with a four-year academic progress rate (APR) below 930 from postseason play of any type. Prior to that vote, any team with a four-year APR of 925 or less faced only a loss of scholarships. Had these new standards been in place last March, 12 teams—including Ohio State and Syracuse—wouldn't have been eligible to participate in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

University presidents are the key to fixing this problem. They simply must dictate a culture of ethics and of following the rules on their campuses. Cheating, lack of accountability and low academic expectations have plagued college athletics for too long. What we are seeing now, I believe, will be the most sweeping fundamental changes to the college sports landscape in decades.

Fans should be encouraged by these recent events. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated after the meeting in Indianapolis that college presidents had acted courageously and were leading the way to real reform.

**Alleged incidents of child sexual abuse in athletic departments at Penn State and Syracuse universities have also dominated news headlines in recent months. What is MTSU doing to ensure nothing of the kind occurs on its own campus?**

As part of our efforts to maintain a safe campus, I have reminded all faculty and staff of their obligation, as set out in law in University policy, to immediately inform local law enforcement of suspected child abuse. I have also asked our Office of University Counsel to develop a program to provide information and training concerning risk management and best practices for camps and clinics held on campus.

**Thank you for your time Mr. President. [mtsu](http://mtsu.edu)**

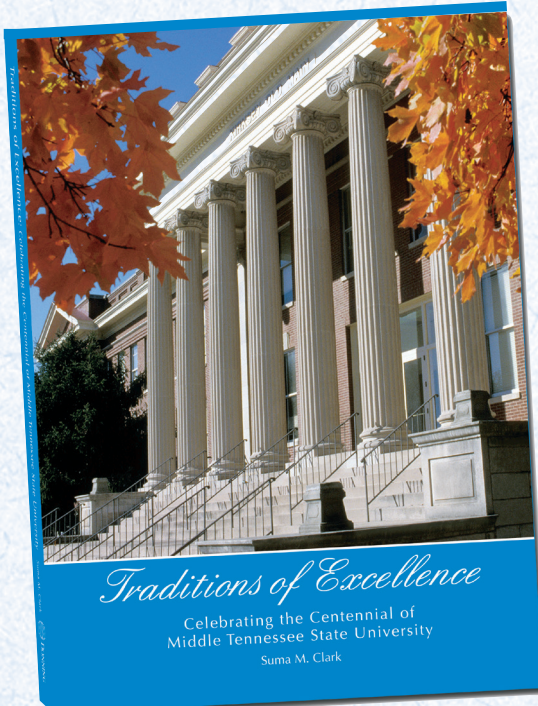
*[Editor's Note: The NCAA Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports, designed to spur scholarly research on intercollegiate athletics and held in conjunction with the NCAA Convention, took place Jan. 10-11 in Indianapolis. Anchoring the agenda was a panel of college officials – including Dr. McPhee – discussing the NCAA's latest iteration of academic reform.]*

MTSU's Centennial celebration will run through our spring commencement in May. Check [www.mtsu.edu/centennial/](http://www.mtsu.edu/centennial/) frequently for updates and events, including new videos, photos, and college-specific information.

Middle Tennessee State University is proud to present

# Traditions of Excellence

by Suma Clark



Middle Tennessee State University officially began on Monday, September 11, 1911, with 18 faculty members and 125 students. *Traditions of Excellence* describes the opening ceremony of the new normal school, the first in the state, and covers the colorful history of this institution, featuring entertaining stories that bring smiles and tears.

Words and images take the reader behind the scenes of some of the successes and setbacks, introducing real people who walked the halls and dusty—sometimes muddy—paths of campus. Photographs, more than 200 and many never before published, help portray the school that grew to be a college and then a university.

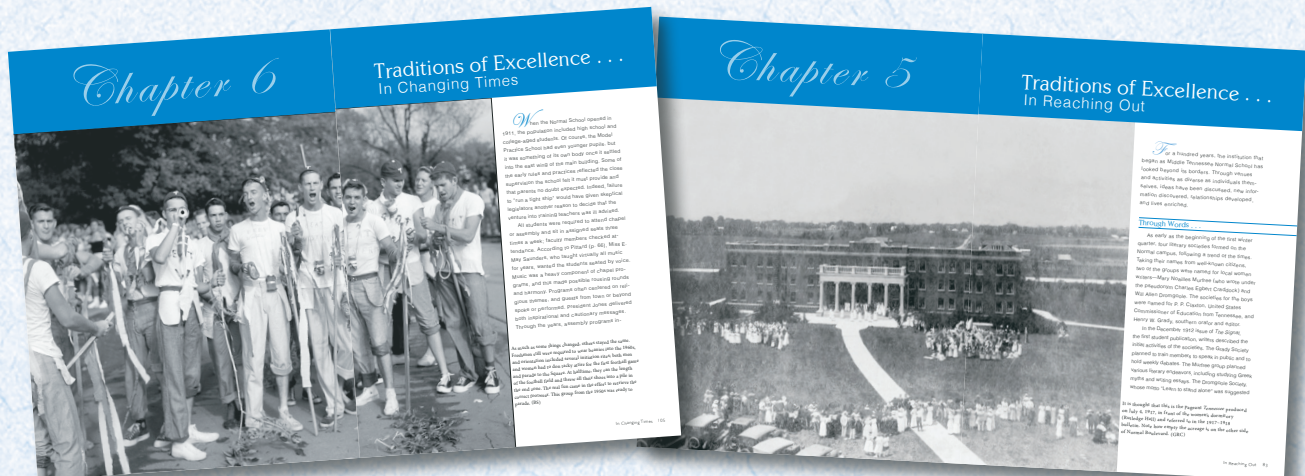
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## Letters to the Editor Policy

*MTSU Magazine* encourages readers to submit letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, or factual accuracy and to reject letters of unsuitable content. Letters may not criticize other letter writers. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of MTSU.

### A Visit Overdue

I REMAIN THOROUGHLY impressed with the new magazine. It not only makes me incredibly proud of my alma mater, but the recent issue (fall 2011) makes me want to come back to campus and see all the improvements. Having lived in Washington, D.C., and now in New Bern, North Carolina, over the past nine years, I have not had an opportunity to come back to



the 'Boro. I am now looking for that opportunity. Thanks for what you've done! Keep up the great work! Blessings.

REV. PAUL CANADY ('98)  
Associate Rector for Youth and  
Young Family Ministries,  
Christ Church  
New Bern, N.C.

### The Right Kind of Rate Increase

WHILE I ENJOYED READING the "100 Things We Love

About MTSU" feature, I could not believe *MTSU Magazine* was bragging about a 52.9% graduation rate. Regardless of how MTSU compares to other Tennessee Board of Regents universities, this is not a statistic to be proud of. Would MTSU dare to line up all of its incoming freshmen and tell them slightly more than half of them will graduate? No, it would not, because this is not a figure we can truly stand behind. I would love MTSU far more if it had a 52.9% graduation rate, the best of all the Tennessee Board of Regents four-year universities, and thought this rate was still not good enough.

GINETTE BROWN ('01)

[*Editor's note: Ginette, thanks for your readership and feedback. I can assure you that improving retention and graduation rates has always been a top priority of the university, and has become an even greater priority since the passage of the Tennessee Complete College Act of 2010, which holds universities accountable from a funding perspective for graduation rates. Also worth noting is that TBR chancellor John Morgan recently publicly acknowledged MTSU's success at graduating more Tennesseans at less cost than any other university in the system.*]

### Make That "101"

THE LATEST *MTSU Magazine* looks great—and the "100 Things" article is a good one—but you are right. The MTSU Center for Environmental Education (CEE) was overlooked. (Although the Center for Cedar Glades, a part of the CEE, was mentioned.) CEE began over 30 years ago as a bookshelf in an education professor's office. Since then, it has changed not only directors (that duty is now shared) but departments (from Elementary Education to Biology) and colleges (from Education to Basic and Applied Sciences). From that move to now, the CEE has garnered millions of dollars of grants and contracts [and] conducted outreach through TV, radio, video, publications, workshops, seminars, classes, and more. We've worked with state and national offices and organizations and received numerous awards and citations—everything from a Silver "Telly" to citations from the governor's office. A number of our public service announcements focused on water quality are included on the EPA Toolbox—a national resource available to municipalities and storm water groups so that they

can develop their own PSAs for distribution. Our faculty and staff continue to provide consulting services, outreach, education, and public service to men, women, and children of all ages. I'm proud of being part of MTSU, and I agree that there are so many great things about the University. Just know that the CEE is probably well within the top 100 of lots of folks. All the best,

CINDI SMITH-WALTERS  
CEE codirector

### A Must Re-read?

I JUST PICKED UP THE latest *MTSU Magazine*, "100 Things We Love about MTSU," once AGAIN to look through it and absorb all the great features highlighted in this publication. I have read through this magazine three different times now and absolutely love it. What a great recruiting tool this publication is! Thank you for keeping me on the list of those who receive your publications. I certainly treasure my more than five years as a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents, and my visits to MTSU and participation in MTSU's Bowl Championship in New Orleans are some of my best memories. I will keep this special Centennial issue of the *MTSU Magazine* and brag about your outstanding university whenever I get a chance.

JUDY T. GOOCH  
Former member,  
Tennessee Board of Regents  
Oak Ridge

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**BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!**



Stress

A **brief** look at important  
research at **MTSU**

Good Medicine: Officers Amy Noreville and Adam Wade ('07) exercise together using a medicine ball in the basement gym located at Murfreesboro Police headquarters.

by Gina K. Logue

# Relief

## Two MTSU scholars study the importance of coping and recovery among local law enforcement

**A**FTER A WORKDAY OF TRYING TO FIND A LOST KID, negotiating a road-rage-fueled feud between drivers involved in a fender-bender, pursuing speeders, and handling a domestic violence dispute, how would you unwind and relax?

Drs. Mark Anshel and Dana Umscheid of the Department of Health and Human Performance wanted to find out if a coping skills program, implemented in combination with a 10-week wellness program, would help officers and dispatchers at the Murfreesboro Police Department deal better with the unique pressures of their jobs.

“One of the things I learned in working with law enforcement and with emergency dispatchers, as well, is they do not have very good recovery strategies,” Anshel says.

Participants, including Chief Glenn Chrisman, were divided into three groups for the study, which was conducted over the spring and summer of 2010.

One group received only instruction on coping skills. Another received coping instruction in conjunction with a wellness program that included fitness coaching from graduate students in MTSU’s Exercise Science program and nutrition coaching from adjunct Human Sciences instructor Ginny Brogle. The third group received only written materials on coping skills—nothing more.

The upshot of the study is that the second group made more progress.

“Our officers are some of the most well-trained in the Southeast,” Chrisman says; however, he notes, “This project illuminated the need for more stress management and physical agility training.”

It was important to Anshel and Umscheid that dispatchers were included in the study. Anshel characterizes them as “unsung heroes in our community” for handling calls that range from tragic emergencies to frustrating inanities.

Umscheid observed that the dispatchers’ jobs are so sedentary that they must get up and take advantage of exercise

opportunities even when they’d rather not do so. Now dispatchers are taking the stairs to the fitness room and working out with weights or on a treadmill during 10–15 minute breaks.

Another frustration faced by dispatchers and officers alike is the lack of opportunity to talk about their stress levels.

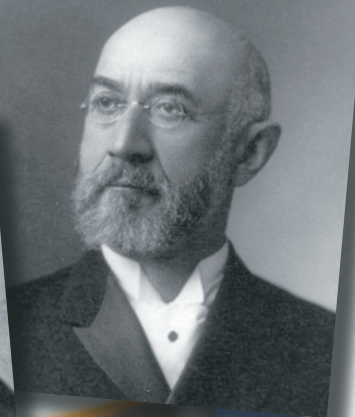
“Most of us have friends and family we can vent to when our job is frustrating,” Umscheid says. “In many ways, our colleagues are the only ones who understand what the job is like, day in and day out.”

**“This project illuminated the need for more stress management and physical agility training.”**



Anshel and Umscheid’s research was presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in August, but the scholars found the opportunity to give back to the community and the men and women who protect it even more rewarding than the academic kudos.

“We hope this study will help bring light to the need for police stress management training, resulting in a healthy police force nationwide,” Chrisman says. [MTSU](#)



# A *Titanic* Legacy

June Hall McCash looks at the lives of Ida and Isidor Straus before their doomed final voyage

photo: J. Intintoli

by Candace Moonshower

**O**n April 15, 1912, the RMS *Titanic*, a passenger liner on its maiden voyage from England to New York City, struck an iceberg and sank. *Titanic*, the 1997 blockbuster movie version of what happened during the one and only voyage of the great ship, tells the story of Jack and Rose—star-crossed lovers played by young, vibrant, and good-looking Hollywood icons Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet—who spend four enchanted days together before Jack dies in the frigid ocean.

The **real love story** behind Jack and Rose's fictional one may just be that of Isidor and Ida Straus

The real love story behind Jack and Rose's fictional one may just be that of Isidor and Ida Straus, who were not so young, not so vibrant, and, possibly, not so good-looking. But their love was one built on more than 40 years of marriage and parenting together. The couple is depicted in the 1953 movie version of *Titanic*, and in the

movie *A Night to Remember*. In James Cameron's 1997 retelling, an elderly couple is shown briefly, lying together in bed, awaiting the crushing waters. While the scene may be intended as an allusion to the Strauses, their final moments together were quite different. But the story of Isidor and Ida Straus is a powerful one of love and honor, and definitely worth a book of its own.

And now, that story is coming to life as a result of author and longtime MTSU professor June Hall McCash, who first came to MTSU in 1967 to teach French. In 1973, she became the founding director of the Honors Program (now Honors College), and in 1980, McCash was appointed chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. She stepped down as chair in 1992 and retired in 2004. She remains closely connected to the University as professor emerita, and also through her service to MTSU's Centennial Committee. Her newest book, *A Titanic Love Story: Ida and Isidor Straus*, is planned for publication in March 2012 by Mercer University Press. The timing is perfect.



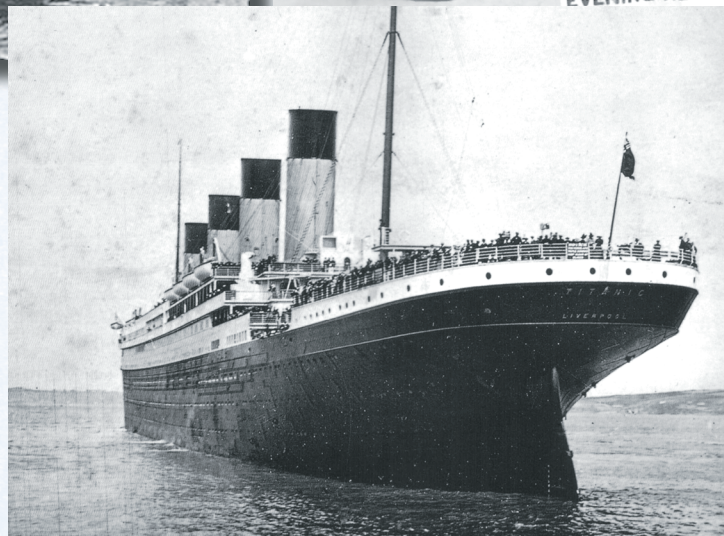
This spring will mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of *Titanic*.

Years before his fateful voyage, Isidor Straus, businessman and one-time congressman, went into business with the owners of the R. H. Macy store. Isidor and his brother Nathan eventually became sole owners of what would be the largest department store in New York City.

By 1912, Isidor was turning over responsibility of the store to his three sons. He and Ida, 67 and 63 years old at the time, spent several months in Europe on vacation in 1912 and had their return voyage already booked on the *Olympic*, another White Star Line ship.

Because of a coal strike, the White Star Line couldn't fuel both ships, and a return on the *Olympic* would be delayed. Fatefully, Isidor Straus booked their return to the United States on *Titanic*, and the couple, along with Ida's new maid, Ellen Bird, and Isidor's valet, John Farthing, boarded the ship and moved into their first-class accommodations. As *Titanic* was sinking, Ida boarded a lifeboat, but when she realized that her husband would not get on the boat while there were women and children still aboard the ship, she returned to the deck. Ida gave her maid her fur coat and her own seat in one of the lifeboats.

Like her movie counterpart 100 years later, Ida Straus did stay on the ship with the love of her life; unfortunately, neither survived. They were last seen embracing on the deck. When *Titanic* went



They are, I think, role models that could benefit the me-centered world in which we live today.

down, Ida was one of only four adult women from first class who died.

Have we learned everything there is to know about the voyage and sinking of the *Titanic* and all of the people whose lives it affected? We asked our resident expert, McCash.

"We will never know everything, but I believe that the

documented sources concerning the sinking have been thoroughly examined and that we know, most probably, everything we will ever know. New documents surface from time to time, but they tend to shed more light on the lives of the victims than about their deaths. Information will continue to be gleaned from private papers, such as those I have used for this book.

And that information transforms them into real, living persons we have not previously known.

"Ida and Isidor Straus are much more complete when one examines not just their deaths, but their lives—what they stood for, what they believed in, and what they valued. Those values impacted their deaths and why they chose to die together rather than live alone. The more I learned about the Strauses, the more I admired them. They are, I think, role models that could benefit the me-centered world in which we live today. At the end, neither thought of himself or herself, but of others. Honor and loyalty were values that defined them as human beings." [MTSU](#)

[Editor's Note: McCash was named Georgia Writer of the Year for her first novel, *Almost to Eden*. Her new novel, *Plum Orchard*, will be published in January 2012.]

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

compiled by Kayla Bates, Gina E. Fann, Gina K. Logue, Paula Morton, Drew Ruble, Tom Tozer, Randy Weiler and Doug Williams



## The Century Marked

Amid a sea of sparkling décor and commemorative backdrops, 1,200 blue-clad attendees shared in the once-in-a-lifetime Blue Tie Gala honoring MTSU's Centennial Celebration. The much-anticipated event was held Sept. 9 at Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center. In a prerecorded video statement, Gov. Bill Haslam told gala attendees that "tonight, we are all **true blue**."

## Resident Expert

Film composer George S. Clinton ('69), the man behind the music of *Mortal Kombat*, *The Santa Clause 2* and the *Austin Powers* film series, shared his expertise with MTSU students this past fall as the 2011 Department of Recording Industry Artist-in-Residence. During his visit, the Grammy- and Emmy-nominated Clinton presented two free public events and several master classes for MTSU recording industry students.



## We Salute You

Military personnel past and present joined activities surrounding the 30th annual Salute to Armed Services/Veterans Day ceremonies at the MTSU-Arkansas State football game in Floyd Stadium on Nov. 19. About 700 retired and active-duty personnel and their families attended. Prior to the game, the Joe Nunley Sr. Award was given to former State Sen. Doug Henry of Nashville, a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. At halftime, the MTSU Band of Blue performed official fight songs as the veterans and active-duty personnel and their families walked across Jones Field.





## Street Performers

MTSU, home of North America's largest collegiate recording industry program, was a prime sponsor of the fourth annual Capitol Records Street Party in Nashville. One hundred undergraduate and graduate students in the Electronic Media Communication and Recording Industry departments, along with faculty and alumni, also helped produce the free public event, held on Demonbreun Street near the Music Row roundabout. Students worked with Music Row professionals to produce the show in MTSU's new \$1.4 million mobile production lab, handling HD cameras, boom mikes, street interviews, and other duties. More than 10,000 people attended.

## Economic Indicators

Mark A. Emkes, retired CEO and president of Bridgestone Americas Inc. and currently the commissioner of finance and administration for the state of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker at MTSU's much-anticipated annual Economic Outlook Conference. Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, said that with the University's increasing emphasis on international education and affairs, it was "appropriate to have a conference headliner who has the business breadth and depth that Mark possesses" at the 19th annual event.



## Strong as Silk

Last fall, MTSU's Confucius Institute and the School of Music hosted "Song of Silk," a free concert of songs, instruments, dance, and Beijing opera. A production of the Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera at Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York, the concert included faculty from Binghamton University and the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, as well as the Melody of Dragon Chinese Ensemble and the Amber Dance Troupe. The Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the West and Middle East, is a metaphor for efforts to create a bridge between Chinese and Western cultures.



## Journalism Giants

The news industry's finest father-son team came to MTSU last fall to discuss how they've been "Living the First Amendment." John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center, and John Seigenthaler Jr., former NBC News journalist and CEO of Seigenthaler Public Relations—New York, drew on their decades of print, broadcast, and online journalism experience at the free public event, which launched the 2011 Seigenthaler Speaker Series.



## Partners in Progress

MTSU and Motlow State Community College signed a memorandum of understanding to help students who earn a two-year associate's degree to apply those credits toward earning a four-year bachelor's degree. MTSU's Dr. Sidney A. McPhee and Motlow's Dr. Mary Lou Apple officially authorized the Dual Admission Program to ease the transfer process between the two Tennessee Board of Regents institutions and encourage students' academic success. MTSU and Dyersburg State Community College also recently signed an agreement that provides a framework for programs to enhance the educational experience of students attending both schools. The agreement, signed

by McPhee and Dyersburg State President Karen A. Bowyer, includes dual admissions, concurrent enrollment, reverse transfer, consortium agreements and cooperative advising for students. MTSU has already established dual-admission programs with Chattanooga State and Nashville State Community Colleges. "In light of the recent Complete College Tennessee Act, which was historic legislation passed and approved by the General Assembly about a year and a half ago, universities and community colleges have made additional efforts to provide what we call 'hassle-free pathways' for our community-college students to move on to the university and pursue their undergraduate degrees and other professional training," McPhee said.

## Welcome to the Club



MTSU athletics booster Jeff Hendrix posthumously donated \$1 million for the construction of a football stadium club at Floyd Stadium. Hendrix died in May 2011 at age 53 after a 13-month battle with cancer. His final gift stands as the largest unrestricted donation in the history

of MTSU athletics. The project, which involves renovating and glassing in the club level of Floyd Stadium, should be finished before next football season.

## Mockup

An MTSU team was crowned the Mid-South Mock Trial Invitational Tournament champion, defeating such programs along the way as UT-Knoxville, the University of Georgia and Rhodes College. The tournament, which has been held annually at MTSU for 20 years, is among the largest and most prestigious in the nation. This year's tournament featured 48 teams from 24 colleges and universities in 11 states. MTSU's winning team, led by senior Rachel Harmon, also included Zac Barker and Constance Grieves, who also played attorney roles, and Chris Hardman, James Johnson, Curtis Strode and Chanekka Pullens, who played the roles of witnesses. Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College, and local attorneys Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth, coach the MTSU teams.



## A Distinguished Guest

MTSU celebrated the U.S. Constitution and civility in September with help from a very special guest: James A. Leach, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A 15-term member of the U.S. Congress from Iowa, Leach delivered the Centennial Constitution Day Distinguished Lecture, sponsored by the American Democracy Project and the Distinguished Lecture Committee. The address, "Constitutional Responsibility and Civil Society," was the highlight of Centennial Constitution Week.





## Bold Step

MTSU took top honors in the Bold Warrior Challenge regional competition in Fort Knox, Ky., out of a field of 44 teams from a five-state area. The first-place finish earned the team a berth in the international Sandhurst Competition next April at West Point, N.Y. All cadets on the winning MTSU team hail from Tennessee. The Bold Warrior event tests a team's endurance, strength and leadership abilities while negotiating a 16-mile course that includes challenges ranging from land navigation to weapons assembly and disassembly, marksmanship, one-rope bridge, hand grenades, obstacle course, combat lifesaving and water-borne operations.

## Street Cred

On September 11, 1911, the State Normal School for the Middle Division of Tennessee opened for business on a 100-acre site described by *The Tennessean* in a February 1910 article as "a beautiful 100-acre plot located on East Main Street about a mile from the public square and just outside of the corporate city limits." Joe Black and Tom Harrison generously donated 80 acres of the land for the project and sold the remaining 20 acres for \$5,000. The original campus property featured the first four buildings constructed on what is today Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). The gift from Black and Harrison also encompassed the original campus core, now known as Walnut Grove. The University recently renamed the street that surrounds Walnut Grove and links many of the original campus structures in honor of this important contribution to MTSU's history.

**Spotlight on the Arts**  
MTSU announced plans to better promote its arts programs, including dance, music, theatre and visual arts, and increase public awareness and participation in its varied offerings.

**MTSU Arts**  
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

A new brand for the combined marketing effort, MTSU Arts, will be used in marketing of events by schools and departments within the College of Liberal Arts. The University values community interaction and participation and sees stronger promotion of the arts as an opportunity to bring more people to campus. Visit [www.mtsuarts.com](http://www.mtsuarts.com), a new calendar and reference tool for the MTSU Arts efforts.

## There's an App for That

MTSU Mobile, an Android app developed by five MTSU computer science students, helps students look up class and schedule information, map classrooms and offices, get times and dates of sporting events, and check dining specials. The app also provides maps to classrooms, offices and other points of interest on campus. Students can also access academic information through their pipeline account, calendar information, and email and phone contact information of their professors. The app started as a class project, with Dr. Sung Kun Yoo as the project advisor. Yoo later received a grant that provided funding for the project. The team also received support from the Information Technology Division at MTSU. The app can be downloaded at: <https://market.android.com/details?id=com.MTSUAndroid>

## Wild Horses

This past fall, MTSU hosted an event that both glorified the underdog and revealed a transformation like no other: Extreme Mustang Makeover. The event was the culmination of a 100-day period during which trainers worked with previously wild horses to develop them into trained mounts. Participating horses were made available for



adoption by competitive bid after the event. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages these feral animals on nearly 27 million acres of Western rangeland. With over 50 percent of the BLM's wild horse program budget accounting for holding costs, adoption of these animals is crucial—not only for their well-being but also for the American taxpayer. It costs the BLM roughly \$12,000 per horse over the lifetime of the animal to maintain it in BLM pastures and corrals. Taxpayers spend more than \$36 million dollars a year maintaining these animals in holding facilities.



# from **Flora** to **Pharma**

**MTSU's latest collaboration with China bodes well for the health of a nascent Tennessee industry**

By Drew Ruble

Several recent **pharmaceutical successes** stemming from the use of active chemical ingredients in **Chinese herbal medicines** to develop conventional Western pharmaceutical agents reveal just **how big a deal** MTSU's new **partnership** may be.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC connections to the Middle Kingdom rival those of any university in America. But it is MTSU's latest collaboration with the Chinese that may hold the greatest potential to yield significant dividends for Tennessee's economy—and cure some of the world's worst illnesses at the same time.

In his ongoing efforts to internationalize MTSU, President Sidney A. McPhee has been forging relationships in China for more than a decade. Over that span, McPhee has gained the trust of many powerful Chinese officials. They include the vice governor of the large province of Guangxi (pronounced Gwan-Chee) and leaders of a unique enterprise located there, the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants (GBGMP). In its beautifully manicured gardens, GBGMP grows every plant that has ever been used in the healing art of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). And now, as a result of a new collaboration forged by McPhee, MTSU has gained exclusive access to the GBGMP library of extracts, creating the opportunity to develop new Western medicines based on TCM's proven healing powers.

MTSU professor Dr. Eliot Altman, recently arrived from the University of Georgia to head MTSU's new Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. program, says in partnering with GBGMP, McPhee has unlocked a potentially lucrative research opportunity for MTSU. A lifetime drug developer currently taking another drug he helped develop to phase 1 clinical trials, Altman knows the drug development path from test tube to human trial.

"One thing I know very well from my years of intellectual property development is a good idea when I see one," says Altman, who is conducting MTSU's newest research project

photo: Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

in concert with Quangchi native and MTSU research assistant professor Iris Gao, a key liaison in the project. “This could be an unbelievable opportunity.”

The partnership also represents a perfect marriage of institutions with different strengths. GBGMP has identified and grown 500 plants or herbs that have been shown to have the potential to treat a variety of diseases via TCM. The 2,500 extracts that have been prepared represents a library of 50,000 to 250,000 individual compounds. MTSU, meanwhile, is expert in screening extracts to identify those that show promise for the treatment of cancer, AIDS or other important diseases. “Clearly, there is great synergy here,” McPhee says.

tree) and used to treat various cancers, and Artemisia, isolated from *Artemisia apiacea* (a herb called sweet wormwood) and used to treat malaria. (It has already saved millions of lives.)

“It’s clear these plants work,” Altman says. “And we’ve just scratched the surface.”

David Windley, pharmaceutical industry analyst for Jefferies in Nashville, says Big Pharma is always looking for the next drug, and that these success stories stemming from TCM are in fact changing attitudes.

“The proprietary pharma industry in the United States would certainly view anything that’s patentable and provable as an opportunity worth looking at,” he says.

What’s the potential financial impact if a new drug were to emerge from MTSU’s study of TCM extracts? Altman says universities that have developed a drug can get anywhere from \$100 million to \$700 million per year in licensing fees for at least 10 to 15 years. But to get a product to market and create the windfall, universities usually partner with large pharma outfits (often based outside their state) to fund the discovery process.

Alternatively, McPhee believes there is a homegrown option that could create big opportunity for Tennessee.

“This could lead to significant jobs, perhaps the establishment of a real pharmaceutical company in our state, and with

a manufacturing plant where the drugs might be made,” McPhee says. “This is one of those significant opportunities to potentially seed state dollars to grow industry here. We don’t have to partner with anybody. We can own and leverage the final product. So perhaps this is an investment opportunity the state should pursue.”

*continued on page 20*



photo: Dr. Ying “Iris” Gao.

Several recent pharmaceutical successes stemming from the use of active chemical ingredients in Chinese herbal medicines to develop conventional Western pharmaceutical agents reveal just how big a deal MTSU’s new partnership may be. The two most prominent examples are Taxol (Paclitaxel), isolated from *Taxus brevifolia* (the yew

**Looking West:** MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee visits with Dr. Yuan in the extraction lab on the campus of the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning, China.



**Heads of State:** Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam visits with Dr. Zhangliang Chen, Vice Governor of the Gaungxi Province in China, at the Tennessee Executive Residence last April.



Left to right: Tom Cheatham, Saeed Foroudastan, Ying Gao, Governor Bill Haslam, Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, Bill Doyle, Elliott Altman

Dr. Elliot Altman, director of MTSU's new Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. Program, conducts research in metabolic engineering and peptide therapeutics. Altman holds 10 patents and has many others currently pending. Dr. Ying "Iris" Gao joined MTSU's faculty in 2011. With her expertise in Traditional Chinese Medicine, her relationships within Guangxi officials and her command of English, Gao helped launch the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research at MTSU.

*continued from page 19*

Jump-starting the pharmaceutical industry in Tennessee is certainly an important priority for state economic development officials—in large part because the state doesn't have one to speak of. And it is not unprecedented for the state to fund projects like this at other universities across the state.

**"Clearly, there is great synergy here,"** McPhee says.

"We have biotech supporting pharma but we don't have Big Pharma [in Tennessee]," McPhee says. "And Nashville is ripe for Big Pharma. It's the perfect place for it."

Windley concurs, stating flatly, "Like Tennessee, most states would like to see at-the-bench discovery work and pharma development."

To date, the state's reaction to MTSU's newest partnership bodes well for the university. When McPhee presented his handiwork to Gov. Bill Haslam recently, he got the governor's endorsement for the creation of the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research at MTSU, where the screening of these TCM extracts will take place. Once Haslam signed off on the project, the Center received approval from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) in record time.

For the health of people and the Tennessee economy alike, the promise of TCM drug discovery at MTSU is one to watch. [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)



*Tucker Gorman, class of 2014*

## HELP STUDENT DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

Tucker Gorman dreamed of flying but his family couldn't afford to send him to MTSU's renowned Aerospace program. Thanks to the Donald and Frances McDonald Scholarship, Tucker is studying aerospace at MTSU and planning for his career as a pilot.

You can help fulfill dreams by creating an endowed scholarship at MTSU. There are many ways to fund a scholarship through your estate, including a number of options that provide tax benefits and a lifetime income to you and your family.

To learn more, contact the Office of Development at (615) 898-2502 or visit [www.mtsu.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.mtsu.edu/plannedgiving)

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY.  
*Development Office*



A coaching legend's role  
in making MTSU a  
color-blind campus

# a race WELL RUN

by Bill Lewis

MTSU'S TRACK AND SOCCER STADIUM IS NAMED FOR COACH Dean Hayes, but the greatest monument to his accomplishments is not a structure; it's the diversity of the students who come to the University.

When Hayes first stepped onto the campus in 1965, almost all of the 5,500 students enrolled were white. Olivia Woods, the University's first black student, had graduated. A few African American athletes played sports, but no African American scholarship athlete was competing on a varsity team.

The campus offered no black fraternities or social organizations. A plaque honoring the Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest, the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, still stood on campus.

As he took on the task of recruiting the best athletes possible, Hayes unconsciously took on another role—as an agent of social change who participated in breaking the color barrier.

"When I got down here [from Chicago], they were still fighting the Civil War," Hayes recalled during a 2003 interview for the MTSU Oral History

Collection, archived at the Gore Center. "I blundered through it," he said of the process of integrating

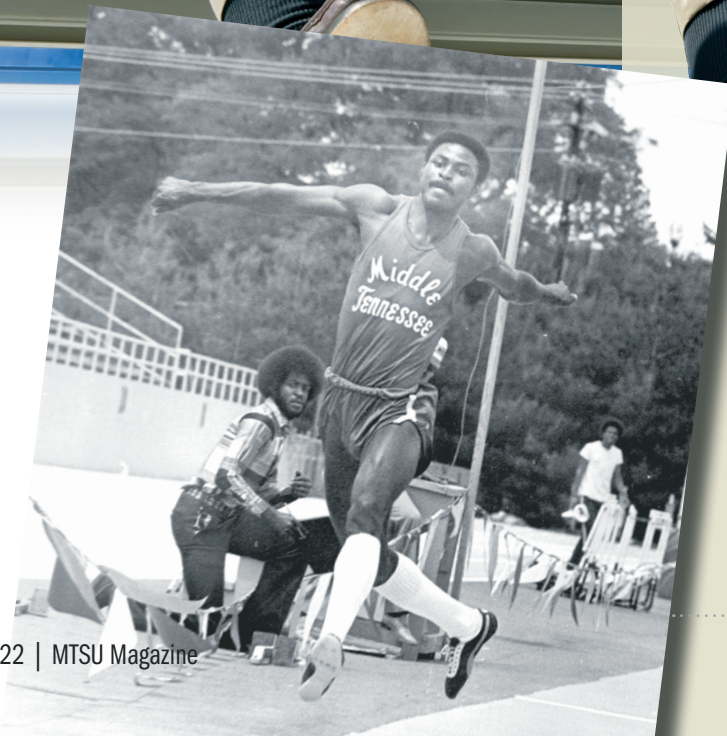
his teams. "It wasn't much of an issue for me."

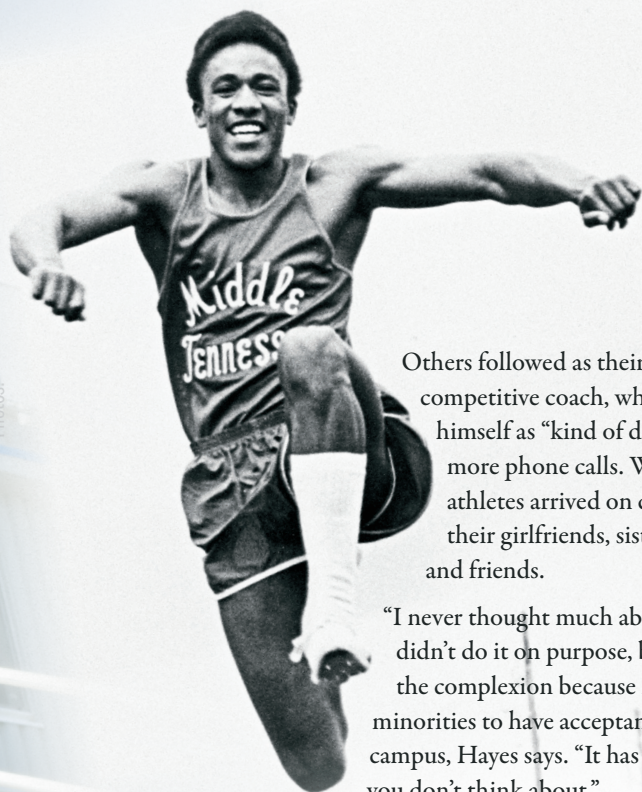
Forty-six years later, the campus looks like America. More than 15 percent of students at MTSU are African American. Others are Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, or members of other minority or ethnic groups. It all started with a phone call Hayes made soon after being hired as MTSU's track coach.

"The very first guy I recruited was a black guy. It cost me 35 cents for a phone call," he recently recalled.

The young man who answered the phone, Jerry Singleton, became the first African American varsity scholarship athlete at MTSU.

**Evening the Playing Field:** Legendary MTSU track coach Dean Hayes is credited with integrating MTSU athletics. He also deserves credit for integrating campus, and, more recently, for helping internationalize MTSU.





Others followed as their quietly competitive coach, who describes himself as “kind of defiant,” made more phone calls. When those athletes arrived on campus, so did their girlfriends, sisters, brothers, and friends.

“I never thought much about it because I didn’t do it on purpose, but it changed the complexion because it allowed minorities to have acceptance” on campus, Hayes says. “It has consequences you don’t think about.”

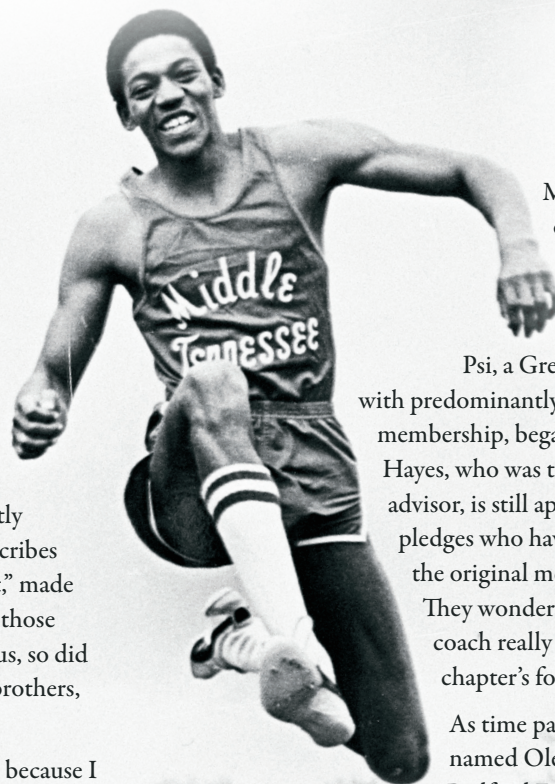
Hayes’ reputation for competitiveness (he throws away second-place trophies) and fairness attracted other black athletes to MTSU, says Tommy Haynes, an All American in the long and triple jumps.

“I turned down a scholarship [offered by another school] so I could go to MTSU and train with Coach Hayes. That’s how much respect I had for him,” Haynes says.

Two years after graduating in 1974 and beginning his military career, Haynes briefly returned to Murfreesboro to train with Hayes for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. He never felt like he was bumping against a color barrier on campus.

“Success breeds success when you have the same goal in mind,” Haynes says.

African American athletes felt welcome in Murfreesboro, but trips to events deeper into the post-Jim Crow South revealed a different reality. Haynes, who retired as a major after a distinguished career in the U.S. Army and is a member of the Blue Raider Hall of Fame, recalls being denied service in restaurants because of his race. Before a road trip, the coach tried carefully to map out restaurants and motels along the route that were known not to discriminate.



Meanwhile, times were changing with the arrival of more African American students on campus. Kappa Alpha Psi, a Greek letter fraternity with predominantly African American membership, began a chapter at MTSU. Hayes, who was the fraternity’s first advisor, is still approached by confused pledges who have to memorize the original members’ names. They wonder whether this white coach really is one of the chapter’s founders.

As time passed, a hound dog named Ole Blue replaced Nathan Bedford Forrest as the University’s

mascot. And one day then-president Sam Ingram walked out of his office and took down the plaque honoring Forrest.

“If you didn’t live through those times, I don’t know how much you’d appreciate it,” Hayes says of today’s diverse campus.


But taking diversity for granted may be the greatest victory of all, Hayes adds.

“Their parents and grandparents went through that so today’s kids wouldn’t have to. That bothers me because I saw it and I think these kids should appreciate it,” says Hayes. “But they’re not supposed to appreciate it.”

What is appreciated at MTSU is Hayes’s seminal role in making MTSU the diverse environment it is today. [MTSU](#)

*[Editor’s Note: Hayes also deserves much of the credit for the increased presence of international students at MTSU. Under his guidance, international athletes began arriving from Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and other places in the 1970s. Joe O’Laughlin, a middle-distance runner from Ireland, says being recruited by Hayes in 1978 opened up opportunities that he never would have had. “It changed my life totally, being on a team with members from all walks of life,” he says, adding that the experience positively shaped his views of other races and nationalities.]*

**“I turned down a scholarship [offered by another school] so I could go to MTSU and train with Coach Hayes. That’s how much respect I had for him,”**  
Haynes says.

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a bright green zip-up jacket and grey cargo pants, stands on the right side of a deep soil profile. She is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. The soil profile is dark brown and shows a network of light-colored tree roots extending from the top left towards the bottom. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees. The overall scene suggests an archaeological or environmental study site.

**“The looters just  
hack into the  
soil with picks and  
shovels,” he says,  
“and if they find  
human remains,  
they just toss  
them over their  
shoulder.”**

**A historic flood uncovers an active stratum of archeological looting**

by Allison Gorman

# Shell SHOCKED

**T**HE THOUSAND-YEAR FLOOD THAT SUBMERGED downtown Nashville in May 2010 also swept away thousands of years of human history: prehistoric burial sites along the banks of the Cumberland River.

Tanya Peres, associate professor of anthropology, is determined to document what is left—if grave robbers don't get there first.

Rivers have always played host to human ritual. Thousands of years before Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, people along the Cumberland gathered at its edge to bury their dead. Peres, an associate professor of anthropology, has surveyed a number of prehistoric gravesites in the southeast United States and one in Panama. But in spring 2010, she still hadn't explored the Cumberland, whose banks harbor the remains of Tennessee's earliest residents.

Aaron Deter-Wolf of Tennessee's Division of Archeology had told Peres that the Cumberland's archaic sites were fascinating but largely undocumented; the division had some artifacts from sites excavated decades ago, but they were never properly analyzed. "I had always wanted to get out to these sites, but other commitments had kept me away," Peres says. "And I thought, 'Well, there's plenty of time.'"

Time ran out in May 2010, when floodwaters eroded as much as 30 feet of shoreline in some places, washing away at least 12 prehistoric sites completely. "Those sites are at the bottom of the Cheatham Dam now," Deter-Wolf says.

As soon as the waters receded, he and Peres set out to survey the damage. They knew they had to work quickly to document what remained.

Unfortunately, looters work quickly, too.

## Shell Games

Grave robbers have long found fertile ground along the Cumberland, where snail and mussel shells mark archaic burial sites, most of them 3,000 to 7,000 years old. Evidence suggests people placed the shells deliberately, Peres says. "There's no evidence of daily life there," she notes. "These are specifically constructed areas where they were burying their dead, and that's what the looters are after."

The shells act as a natural preservative for human remains and the ritual art often buried with them; the gravesites, or "shell middens," remain intact unless they are forcibly disturbed. Days after the flood, Peres and Deter-Wolf

*continued on page 26*

# METHODS . . . and Meth?

Just a handful of people are thought to be responsible for **incalculable damage to archeological sites** along the Cumberland River.

One, believed to claim Native American heritage, leaves tobacco offerings at the graves he robs. (“Such a strange way to placate your karma,” muses Aaron Deter-Wolf.) Some are actually known by name, but there are few resources to prosecute them.

The looters’ methods, though, are similar: They spend their days on the water, they use specialized tools, and they’re savvy. “They’re [selling] mostly through private collections, antique stores, artifact shows—things like that—so it’s really hard to police from a digital perspective,” Deter-Wolf says.

The rise in methamphetamine use, especially in rural areas, has added a new twist to the very old problem of

grave robbing, Tanya Peres notes. In the Southwest, looters now trade Native American artifacts for drugs, she says.

While no definitive link between looting and meth has been established in middle Tennessee, “we’ve been told that a number of these guys are tweakers—but that’s anecdotal,” Deter-Wolf says. “From an objective perspective, looting is a black-market economy, and only certain things move in that economy, drugs and weapons being two of them.”

**“Such a strange way to placate your karma,”** muses Aaron Deter-Wolf.

Whatever their motivation, Peres says, looters share culpability with collectors who willfully ignore the source of their coveted artifacts—and make grave robbing big business.

The shells act as a natural preservative for human remains and the ritual art often buried with them; the gravesites, or “shell middens,” remain intact unless they are forcibly disturbed.

*continued from page 25*

found shell middens savaged by nature and then further plundered by humans, to whom the exposed shells signaled the presence of artifacts highly prized on the black market. Looters had used tools to undercut the flood-shorn riverbanks, leaving holes big enough to stand in.

“We were astonished by the erosion,” Peres says, “and I couldn’t believe the amount of looting that had occurred just in the few days since the waters had receded. So we said, ‘Okay, we need to do something about this.’”

Along with Shannon Hodge, assistant professor of anthropology, Peres and Deter-Wolf applied for an emergency grant to assess the flood and looting damage along 50 river miles. The National Science Foundation approved the \$29,000 grant within 24 hours, Peres says.

The three researchers and 10 MTSU students spent six months surveying 128 riverbank or bank line sites and documenting samples from the 20 most endangered. Student Joey Keasler says he was shocked at the sight of bones scattered like trash along the water’s edge. “The looters just hack

into the soil with picks and shovels,” he says, “and if they find human remains, they just toss them over their shoulder.”

Because the survey area included government land, the team coordinated with agencies like TVA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, meeting with them to discuss how to protect vulnerable sites and recognize signs of looting.

The effort has aligned groups—archeologists, government agencies, Native Americans—that sometimes have had competing interests. “The looting issue brings us all together,” Deter-Wolf says.

## To catch a thief

Raising awareness about looting may prove easier than stopping it.

Deter-Wolf notes that disturbing human remains became illegal only within the past three decades. For years, Tennesseans who never would have disinterred their own ancestors thought nothing of unearthing native remains, and although artifacts

on government property are legally protected, there is no equal protection regarding private land—often the site of the most egregious grave robbing.

Some landowners even abet the looting, leasing their property to people who mine it using backhoes and mechanized shaker screens. Looting on this level is a professional operation, Deter-Wolf says. The target is not “an arrowhead that you could sell on eBay.”

photos: J. Intintoli



Peres is purposefully vague about the targeted artifacts, saying only that they are made of bone, stone or shell, and obviously ceremonial. “They have no wear on them, some are larger than life, and they’re put together in caches,” she says. “When they show up on an auction website—I’ve even seen some on craigslist—it’s clear to archeologists that they came out of a burial.”

The weak economy seems to have triggered more grave robbing nationally, Peres says. But since her work garnered local media attention, she’s seen “a noticeable decline” along the Cumberland. Now Deter-Wolf gets regular tips about looters from “old-timers” familiar with the river. “Some of those guys may have dug when they were young,” he says, “but now they’ve become part of this avocational community that recognizes the value of archeology.”

## Not digging it

With little law enforcement devoted to fighting a “victimless crime,” public vigilance may be the best protector of the Cumberland’s shell middens. Despite their vulnerability, Peres says she won’t excavate an entire site unless it is threatened by development. Instead, she and her students collect a few samples, study them, and turn them over to the state. It’s a balancing act, she explains:

“It behooves us as archeologists to be sensitive to cultural resources, but also to get as much information as we can from them, so we can tell the story of these people, because they’ve left no written record. This is all we have left of them.”

Modern archeology is more about preservation and documentation than excavation, Deter-Wolf adds. “We realize now that we can’t dig up all the things that are there,” he says. “That’s how you end up with 60-year-old collections that haven’t been analyzed. For the first time, we have controlled samples from these sites that Tanya and her students are processing. That’s a baseline for all kinds of future research.”

A number of students are now using the data gathered as a result of the NSF RAPID grant for Anthropology Senior Theses and independent research projects. Deter-Wolf, Hodge, and Peres all

*continued on page 28*

**Raising awareness  
about looting may  
prove easier than  
stopping it.**



photo: Andy Heidt



# Opportunity Rocks



**Any archeologist would have jumped at the opportunity to excavate “a late Ice Age elephant barbeque,”** says Aaron Deter-Wolf, but it was six MTSU students who helped unearth the 14,000-year-old bones of a mastodon, plus the tools used to butcher it, found in a Franklin, Tenn., backyard.

The dig, part of an ongoing collaboration between the University and the state Division of Archeology, was a win-win, Deter-Wolf says. He got help excavating a 14-foot hole, and Tanya Peres and her students, mostly undergraduates, got to analyze one of the few known sites of late Ice Age human/animal interaction.

“I will never get another chance at a site that old and that cool,” Deter-Wolf says. “For Tanya’s students to get a chance to do it—that’s amazing.”

Peres invited Joey Keasler to work the mastodon site after he had spent long days on the Cumberland River, helping her team document flood and subsequent looting damage to archaic burial sites. He went on to intern with Deter-Wolf at the division.

Keasler had enrolled at MTSU after 20 years in the custom automotive business. After that market was hit hard by the recession, he says, “I took the opportunity to do something that had always been of interest to me and to do something with the rest of my life that I was going to really enjoy.”

He says he’s still wrapping his brain around the whirlwind of opportunities he’s had so far. It was, after all, one heck of a freshman year. [MTSU](#)

*continued from page 27*

have several upcoming publications in professional journals. Deter-Wolf and Peres have received a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission to radiocarbon date the shell midden sites they surveyed to create a timeline of prehistoric occupation along the Middle Cumberland River. All of this as a result of the survey/NSF grant.

Peres also has applied for additional funding from the National Science Foundation to more intensely explore one of the most threatened sites she surveyed. The funding request is for approximately \$500,000 over three years. The fieldwork will include MTSU undergraduate students and perhaps some local high school students. (A decision on funding was to be made after press time.)

**“I never really planned on getting involved on this scale,” she says, “but the stars just aligned.**

Peres will clearly play a big part in that future research; she hopes next to use noninvasive technologies like sonar and radar to assess more sites farther from the riverbanks. Although the Cumberland holds archeological secrets that “could span 10 careers,” she says she hadn’t expected to find her life’s work there—or to lead a crusade against crime.

“I never really planned on getting involved on this scale,” she says, “but the stars just aligned. An event happened, we saw what was going on, and it was like, ‘I don’t think I have a choice in the matter anymore.’” [MTSU](#)

*[Editor’s Note: Follow Peres’ blog at [www.southeasternshellresearch.wordpress.com](http://www.southeasternshellresearch.wordpress.com). To contribute to her work, contact [tperes@mtsu.edu](mailto:tperes@mtsu.edu).]*

photo: J. Intimoli



Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building  
Constructed in 2004 with significant philanthropic support

## A CENTURY OF GIVING

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# Music to the ear

Dr. Reed Thomas and his students help strike up the bands in Panama

by Allison Gorman

When MTSU's director of bands, Dr. Reed Thomas, and 26 students from the MTSU Wind Ensemble visited a high school in Panama last May, they were greeted not in Spanish or English but in the universal language of music. It was their first stop in Panama, part of a two-week Central American performing and teaching tour, and they were met by salsa and merengue tunes and teens offering smiles instead of formal introductions. "They had decided that this was a better way to welcome us," says Christen Vann, a senior elementary education major and flutist. "We spent 30 minutes just dancing and listening to music—and grinning from ear to ear."

The MTSU group went to Panama to help train band directors and young musicians in a country that has little standardized music education and no tradition of high school bands. "Panama has one university that has some music courses, but they don't have any music degrees," Thomas says. "Most band directors are basically self-taught, but they have a love for music and they want to see better things happen." Now better things are happening in Panama, where Thomas is part of an effort to establish high school bands throughout the country. Since its inception two years ago, the program "has spread like wildfire," he says.

It's based on a similar, highly successful program begun in Colombia to help keep teenagers out of gangs. Yamaha Corporation supplied instruments to the band members, whose participation became a point of family pride. By 2009, five years after the program's launch, the number of high school bands there had grown from 60 to 1,100. That year, Thomas

met Yamaha executive Juan Ramirez, who planned to start a band program in Panama. "Sign me up," Thomas told him.

In July 2010, Thomas traveled to Panama and spent a week in Santiago de Veraguas, working with aspiring band directors from across the country. Within six months, 75 high school bands had been established, outfitted by Yamaha.

In May 2011, when Thomas returned to Panama with his students, all 75 band directors traveled to Santiago de Veraguas to participate in his nine-hour training course. His students, meanwhile, worked with 50 members of a high school band started through the program.

Giving Panamanian teens more musical opportunities doesn't just help keep them out of trouble, Vann notes. "It also raises the standard of living," she says. "Adding the arts to education is essential to that—or that's the belief we hold, as people who have benefited from it."



It was with that mission in mind that the MTSU group also traveled to neighboring Costa Rica, where Thomas hopes to help establish a new program. Their guide, musician and teacher Cindy Bolandi, says her government, like Panama's, has begun to recognize that music education should not be a privilege of the elite.

The culmination of the Central American trip was a joint concert given by the American and Panamanian students, whose 1,500-person audience included representatives from the government. "The pieces we did with [the Panamanian] students far surpassed any performance experience I have ever been a part of," says Jim McCarl, a trumpeter and fifth-year instrumental music education major.

But the small moments were also rewarding as the American students—most of them music education majors—worked one-on-one with the Panamanian teens. Chase King, a clarinetist and fifth-year instrumental music education and philosophy major, says overcoming the language barrier was easy, thanks to "the universal language of music." He added that the Panamanians' eagerness to learn made them easier to teach than typical English-speaking students.

And the teaching went both ways. While the Americans shared their musical expertise, the Panamanians shared their determination to learn despite lacking the resources many American students take for granted. Trombonist Brad Keesler, a second-year graduate student in music performance, says the Panamanian clarinet players used their lunch money to buy reeds, and trumpet players fashioned mutes from plastic soda bottles. When MTSU's trombonists pooled their money to buy new mutes for their Panamanian counterparts, the teens' band director cried.

On the last day of the trip, the tears flowed again—and this time "it was everybody," Vann recalls. "We had become so attached to each other after so little time."

Ever resourceful, the Panamanians have kept up with their new American friends through the other universal language: Facebook. **MTSU**

*[Editor's Note: "Angels in the Architecture," a CD by the MTSU Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Reed Thomas, was released commercially last year. It is the first and only recording by a Tennessee collegiate ensemble on the world's largest classical music label, Franklin, Tenn.-based Naxos, and its Wind Band Classics subsidiary.]*



# Vatican Voices

MTSU's Schola Cantorum, conducted by Dr. Raphael Bundage, is a select a cappella group hand-picked through two rounds of auditions.

In other words, they are used to pressure.

Still, there's nothing like performing at a Vatican vesper service, which the Schola Cantorum was invited to do last May. The day before the service, the students took a guided tour of the world's largest church.

"They got a real sense of the history, the awesomeness of the place," Bundage says.

Their experience was enhanced by singing music that had been written to be performed at the Vatican.

Awesome, indeed.

photo: Andy Heidt

Panama photos:  
Jill Heather Thomas



# Laying the Foundation

50th anniversary

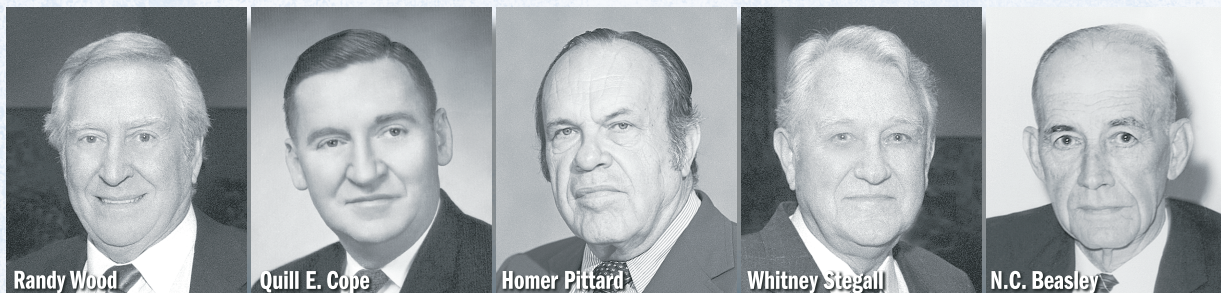
The group that manages the University's endowment reaches an important milestone

**E**arly wisdom and foresight helped lay the groundwork for the MTSU Foundation, which recently completed its first half-century of holding and managing private gifts to MTSU.

by Randy Weiler

The Foundation, which celebrated its 50th anniversary Nov. 18, 2011, has grown to oversee a more than \$37.5 million endowment that has supported chairs of excellence, private and Foundation scholarships, faculty excellence awards, academics, athletics, and more.

"Much more significant to me than the balance—while that's good—is how many students and faculty the Foundation has been able to help," says William S. "Bill" Jones ('82), Rutherford County area executive of Pinnacle Financial Partners and member of the Past Presidents' Executive Advisory Board. "It's rewarding to know the Foundation is able to help and benefit current and future students for a lifetime. The greatest gift you can give somebody is an education. The Foundation helps a wide variety and number of students. That's very rewarding."



Randy Wood

Quill E. Cope

Homer Pittard

Whitney Stegall

N.C. Beasley

Dr. Homer Pittard, considered a brilliant wordsmith, helped prepare the Foundation's organizational material. All five founding members of the Foundation—Wood, Stegall, Pittard, retired dean N. C. Beasley, and then-University president, Dr. Quill E. Cope, signed the charter. Stegall took it to the office of the Secretary of State in Nashville. It also gained the approval of the Internal Revenue Service. The Foundation was incorporated Dec. 31, 1961.

"It was a very small beginning," Wood was quoted as saying in 1994. "Slowly but surely, it moved right along."

All five founding members of the MTSU Foundation have died. Wood passed away April 9, 2011.

Cope served from 1962 to 1968 as MTSU Foundation president. Thirty-eight men and women—a virtual who's who of MTSU alumni and University friends—have followed. People like Pittard ('36), Stegall ('38), Jack Weatherford, David Cullum ('55), Sandra Trail ('72), the late state senator John T. Bragg Sr. ('37), and all the way up to current president, Phyllis B. "Murray" Martin ('75) have served the University tirelessly. Most served multiple roles, guiding the Foundation while maintaining their professional livelihoods and endeavors in business, state government, or education and often serving on other boards and in other organizations.

The Foundation has grown to oversee a more than **\$37.5 million endowment** that has supported chairs of excellence, private and Foundation scholarships, faculty excellence awards, academics, athletics, and more.

In 1960, it was becoming apparent that student fees and state and federal tax dollars were not supplying enough revenue to support the growing University. For a public university, private investment by foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals was becoming a crucial way to supplement funds.

One of the five original founders of the Foundation was alumnus Randy Wood ('41). The founder of Dot Records and creator of Gallatin-based Randy's Record Shop, which grew to become the world's largest mail-order record business, he gave a generous gift of \$40,000 in 1961. That gift led to the drafting of a charter by alumnus and Rutherford and Cannon county chancellor Whitney Stegall ('37) for "The Middle Tennessee State College Loan, Scholarship, and Development Foundation."

H. Lynn Greer Jr., a Nashville businessman and third president of the MTSU Foundation Executive Advisory Board (serving in 1970), says the Foundation has kept a lot of alumni involved in the school. "Traditionally, it has been a good, strong board, with top corporate executives and business and community leaders," Greer says. "It is amazing how far it has come and how much it has grown."

Thanks to nearly 8,500 generous supporters, MTSU raised more than \$8.4 million in the last fiscal year. That's a \$2 million increase over the previous year. These funds provide critical resources that are having a significant impact across the MTSU campus. **MTSU**

[Editor's Note: Joe Bales is executive director of the Foundation. For more information about the Foundation, which is located in the Wood-Stegall Center, call (615) 898-5818 or visit [www.mtsu.edu/development/foundation.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/development/foundation.shtml).]

# War & Peace

An IT specialist escapes a strife-torn land and becomes a part of the MTSU family

by Drew Ruble

In the mid-1990s, Franck Mukendi was an IT specialist traveling in his home country—the Democratic Republic of Congo—setting up satellite offices for the insurance company that employed him. Mukendi was working in a city on the Rwandan border when rebels overtook it. He spent the next six months sequestered in that city, unable to leave and unable to contact his family—even to tell them that he was still alive—after the rebels cut off all communication to other parts of the country.

As time passed, the rebels increasingly allowed business travel in and out of the occupied city. Mukendi and his colleagues forged business documents and made their way out of the city, across the border and into Rwanda, where they attempted to board an airplane. Suspicious Rwandan officials, though, took Mukendi and his group back to the occupied city and turned them over to Congo rebels, charging that they were spies, which led to a week of incarceration in a rebel-controlled prison.

Once the rebels determined that Mukendi and his troupe weren't spies, they were released. A rebel commander, upon hearing Mukendi's story, even made arrangements for the businessman and his colleagues to return home. That's when he found out that his wife had been notified months before that Mukendi had died in a rebel raid.

"It was a joy to see my family," Mukendi says. "But this joy was just for a short period of time."

*continued on page 39*

I'm one!



# By the Book

by Katie Porterfield

## An MTSU professor brings great literature to a most captive, and appreciative, audience

EACH WEEK, WHEN MTSU ENGLISH professor Dr. Philip E. Phillips concluded his literature class, every student lined up to shake his hand. They thanked him for his time, and they thanked him for coming. No, they weren't angling for a good grade—they didn't even receive course credit. In fact, they weren't even MTSU students. They were inmates at Nashville's Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.

"It's really hard to explain the level of gratitude I find at the facility," Phillips says, adding that while his MTSU students might be grateful for what he does, they certainly don't come up and shake his hand after every class.

Phillips, currently the interim associate dean of the University Honors College, began teaching at Riverbend in 2008 as part of Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons—a program that he launched and directs. A partnership between MTSU, the Tennessee Department of Correction, and the Great Books Foundation (a Chicago-based nonprofit educational organization), the program gives inmates the opportunity to read and discuss literary and philosophical works with MTSU English faculty volunteers. In addition to Riverbend, the 10-week course has been offered at the Louis M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility and the Tennessee Prison for Women for the past three years. Two professors moderate each course, and so far, Phillips and his team of volunteers have used three textbooks (published by the

Great Books Foundation), each of which is an anthology containing selections from authors and thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Flannery O'Connor, and Walt Whitman.

"We provide a different learning environment than one customarily finds in a prison," Phillips says, explaining that the 10 to 15 class participants arrange their chairs in a circle whenever possible, and instead of lecturing, the professors facilitate discussion on works the students read before class.

*"So the question for me is what sort of people do we want them to be?"*

For Phillips, the benefit of offering these courses stems from one statistic—an estimated 97 percent of all incarcerated felons are eventually released into the community, according to the Tennessee Department of Correction.

"So the question for me is what sort of people do we want them to be?" he says. "Do we want to lock people up and throw away the key, or do we want to try to provide opportunities for people to enrich their minds, to reflect, to empathize, to work well with each other, to be able to listen to different sides of an argument respectfully, to learn how to make one's position clear—all of those things

that we're able to achieve in this kind of classroom."

Phillips is perpetually hunting for modest grants to pay for textbooks and other class materials. In the past, he's received money, as well as pens, paper, and certificates of achievement, from an MTSU Public Service Grant, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund.

In the meantime, he says the inmates, at least those at Riverbend, know that he'll be back. And while he may not be able to find the words to explain just how much they seem to appreciate the program, one of his students, who admits to being leery of the course in the beginning, doesn't seem to have any trouble at all.

"I refuse to be a part of anything that free-world people introduce inside prison where I feel I would be exploited so somebody will feel good about themselves," an inmate wrote to Phillips. "However, from the time I first met Dr. Phillips [...] I knew that they were here simply because they wanted to share a part of their world with no other expectation than for us to give them a chance to enhance our lives."

That's quite a testament to Phillips and his Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons program. [MTSU](#)

*[Editor's Note: Some of the grant money the Program recently received went toward bringing Donald H. Whitfield from the Great Books Foundation to MTSU to provide a workshop, hosted by the Honors College, for the benefit of the faculty who will be teaching in the prisons in the spring of 2012. They include: Phillips, Rebecca King, Warren Tormey, Brett Hudson, Laura Dubek and Jim Hamby.]*

photo: Andy Heidt

◀ **Reading as Escape:** MTSU English professor Dr. Phillip E. Phillips stands inside the gates of Nashville's Riverbend Maximum Security prison where he has been teaching inmates since 2008.



MTSU's new  
Center for  
Innovation in  
Media goes  
mainstream

# A Communications CONVERGENCE

by Mike Browning

IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT MAINSTREAM MEDIA—print, television, and radio—were separated. It was also true that universities reflected the divisions between journalism and radio-television schools in their academic departments.

Technology has changed all that, blurring those divisions and changing the way journalists and students across the disciplines conduct business. In this new world, content is converging into one electronic location—the internet—where news consumers demand both visual and in-depth content from one location. Case in point: ABC News and the online media company Yahoo! recently announced they are teaming up to share news content, including resources and original videos.

“Convergence” is defined as a communications industry movement wherein different forms of media, formerly in competition, cooperate and work together for mutual benefit. As a result, it is not uncommon these days to see television stations hiring newspaper reporters and newspapers hiring TV reporters and video journalists. As media converges, professionals in the field are forced to adjust to a new business model. They must be as comfortable writing a breaking news story or Sunday feature article as they are

shooting video, producing a podcast, or taking to the radio airwaves. In other words, they must be comfortable creating content on multiple platforms.

In December, MTSU's College of Mass Communication began to reflect this new world of media convergence both visually and programmatically as students and campus professionals began moving into the new \$700,000 Center for Innovation in Media. On the first floor of John Bragg Mass Communication Building, the center combines the newsrooms for *Sidelines*, the student newspaper; WMTS-FM, the student-run radio station; MT Records, the student-run record label; MTTV, the student-operated cable television station; and WMOT-FM, the 100,000-watt public radio station at MTSU. (*Sidelines* had previously operated on Mass Comm's second floor, and the student-run radio station moved from McWherter Learning Resources Center.) The new center enables students from all media disciplines to hone their skills while working under one roof in a state-of-the-art facility.

Stephan Foust, director of the new center, says the new facility is a direct response to the seismic shift in the world of mass communication.

photos: Andy Heidt

“It wasn’t so long ago that a qualified student could graduate with more or less a specialization in print, television, or radio; find a job in one of those areas; and have a reasonable expectation of a long and fruitful career. That is no longer the case,” he says. “In today’s highly competitive digital environment, a graduate must have a working knowledge of web and print writing, video and still photography, nonlinear editing, podcasting, graphics, and social media. Those well-trained and diversified students are the job applicants that are being hired.”

Visitors who pass through the Mass Communication Building can peer through glass windows to see media students at work. Most recognizable is the convergence room, also known as the “egg room” for its shape, featuring a CNN-type newsroom displaying 25 computers for writing and producing content.

“The center is going to put our students front and center, and our faculty into the world of media convergence,” says Leon Alligood, assistant professor of journalism and advisor to *Sidelines*. “In many ways, we’re trailblazing, and that’s exciting.”

Alligood, a longtime, highly respected journalist for *The Tennessean*, says there is no blueprint to follow per se. “There no doubt will be hills, if not mountains, to climb, but I’m very optimistic we can pull it off.”

MTSU’s reputation as a top school for journalism is well established. The new center—a premier facility sure to attract the best and brightest students from Tennessee and the region—reasserts the University’s commitment to maintaining that strong brand. It will seek to supply the next generation of media professionals groomed to work on multiple platforms. [mtsu](http://mtsu.edu)

*[About the author: Mike Browning knows of what he speaks. Browning worked as a TV reporter for 25 years and was among the first trained as a video journalist for a commercial television news station in 2005, using a small Sony digital camera and laptop to capture and edit news stories for daily broadcast on WKRN-TV in Nashville. In addition to shooting videos for MTSU News, Communications, and Marketing as well as writing stories and capturing video for MTSU Magazine and MTSUMagazine.com, Browning also produces MTSU’s monthly television program, Out of the Blue.]*

# 9 for one



THE GENEROSITY OF THE DONORS BELOW—**Cornerstone Donors**—helped make MTSU’s new **Center for Innovation in Media** possible.

**1** **Richard Campbell** is the former director of the MTSU School of Journalism and author of a scholarly book on *60 Minutes*. He currently directs the Journalism Program at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is also the interim chair of the Department of Communication.

**2** **Gannett**-owned media operations in Nashville, Murfreesboro and Clarksville—all of which are helmed by publisher Carol Hudler—are among the inaugural Cornerstone Donors. *The Tennessean* donated through the Gannett Foundation, the charitable arm of the Gannett Co., which owns the Nashville newspaper and its array of multimedia products. *The Daily News Journal* in Murfreesboro and the *Leaf-Chronicle* of Clarksville, both also owned by Gannett, also pledged through the foundation.

**3** The **Tennessee Association of Broadcasters** (TAB) helps deliver public interest standards, consumer product choices, and other information to the public. (See article on page 38.)

**4** The **Tennessee Press Association** certainly lived up to its mission statement when it became a Cornerstone Donor. In addition to promoting optimal quality in Tennessee Press Association member newspapers, the association prides itself on anticipating and meeting educational needs in the fields of journalism, First Amendment issues, advertising, business, and technology.

**5** **Virginia Dodge Fielder**, Ph.D., retired in 2004 as vice president for research at Knight Ridder, the nation’s second-largest newspaper publisher until its sale in 2006. A member of the College of Mass Communication’s Board of Professional Advisors, Fielder also spent time as a reporter and research manager for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

*continued on page 38*



# 19 for one

continued from page 37

**John Seigenthaler** founded the First Amendment Center in 1991 with the mission of creating national discussion, dialogue, and debate about First Amendment rights and values. A former president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Seigenthaler served for 43 years as an award-winning journalist for *The Tennessean*. At his retirement he was editor, publisher and CEO. He retains the title chairman emeritus. In 1982, Seigenthaler became the founding editorial director of *USA TODAY*, serving in that position for a decade. He is chair of the College of Mass Communication's Board of Professional Advisors and founded the College's Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies.

**Jeffery Reid** ('81), a veteran broadcast journalist with more than 28 years of experience, is an executive producer for CNN Productions. Reid oversees editorial content for the network's long-form programming, including *CNN Presents* and *CNN: Special Investigations Unit*. Reid's projects *Black in America 1* and *2* and *Martin Luther King: Words that Changed a Nation*, examined the black experience in America. He has served as executive producer for *Lou Dobbs Moneyline* and *Inside Politics*. He's also worked on breaking news including the space shuttle *Columbia* disaster and the war in Iraq. His other documentary work for CNN includes programs about the Virginia Tech massacre and the Oklahoma City bombing. Reid has been named to *Ebony* magazine's Power 150.

**Beverly Keel** ('88) is senior vice president of media and artist relations for Universal Music Group (UMG) Nashville. She was previously a recording industry professor at MTSU, where she also served as director of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. Before joining UMG Nashville, she was also a nationally recognized music journalist who covered Nashville for more than 15 years. She served as a Nashville correspondent for *People* magazine for a decade and was also entertainment editor of *American Profile* and celebrity columnist at *The Tennessean*. Keel's husband **Ronnie Steine**, who was reelected Metro Nashville councilman-at-large in 2007, also contributed to the project. He previously served as councilman-at-large from 1991 to 1999. He was elected Nashville's fifth vice mayor in 1999 and served until his resignation in 2002.

The slogan "Can You Hear Me Now?" employed by **Verizon Wireless** reflects the company's commitment to deliver the most reliable wireless network in America. But it's not just the company's network that earns praise. Verizon Wireless has been identified as one of the best-run companies in America and also ranked among America's best employers. The company's 85,000 employees (including many at its Murfreesboro call center), enjoy an industry leading pay and benefits package and work in an environment that inspires excellence. Verizon Wireless is a longtime sponsor of the MTSU College of Mass Communication. **MTSU**



## Built by Association

The Tennessee Association of Broadcasters sees its support of MTSU's new media center as an investment in its own future.

A 2011 study by Woods & Poole Economics Inc. of Washington, D.C., found that \$1.17 trillion of U.S. annual GDP (gross domestic product) originates in the commercial local radio and television industry. The study also found that 2.52 million jobs are attributable to the local radio and television industry annually. Direct employment is estimated at more than 300,000 jobs nationwide.

"That's why MTSU's new Center for Innovation in Media—and its students and graduates—have such a bright future ahead," says **Whit Adamson** ('71), president of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters (TAB).

From its beginnings, TAB has also been a focal point for learning and teaching for the industry—a commitment evidenced once again through its generous Cornerstone donation to the MTSU media center project.

According to Adamson, MTSU students will benefit greatly from working in the center, given the ever-increasing demand for fluency across the digital broadcasting spectrum.

"The technology and consumer choices that are being created today, from multicasting to mobile TV to other high-quality programming, will be well served by these MTSU graduates," Adamson says. "This center will provide the education and content development

opportunities graduates will find necessary to serve America's news innovations."

Adamson also believes the new center, which houses MTSU's television and radio enterprises under one roof, puts MTSU in a leadership role in the multidirectional broadcast news industry in Tennessee.

"MTSU students are educated in a real-world environment, employing all facets of electronic media and utilizing a skilled mix of professional and academic resources," he says. "The cosmopolitan vibe of a major TV market like Nashville also exposes them to everything they are likely to encounter in their careers. It's a perfect match." **MTSU**



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**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

# War & Peace

*continued from page 33*

Within months of returning home, rebels overtook Mukendi's home city as well. Concerned for the safety of his wife and children, Mukendi took his family and fled the Congo with the help of a Red Cross program. While stationed at a refugee camp in West Africa, the family was granted transport to begin a new life in the United States.

Why Murfreesboro? The First Presbyterian Church agreed to sponsor the family, giving them a place to stay and startup assistance for a few months. One member of the church, MTSU Chemistry professor Preston MacDougall, along with his wife, Tara, helped Mukendi find a job at the University at which he could use his prodigious IT skills. He joined MTSU's Information Technology team almost a decade ago.

These days, Mukendi can be seen all over campus fixing computer problems experienced by senior VPs and rank-and-file workers alike. Ongoing instability in the Congo has kept him from ever returning.

"I have become an American citizen," Mukendi says. "This is home." MTSU

# Class Notes

## Raiders of Industry

by Mike Browning

Some of us live life day-to-day, month-to-month, or year-to-year. The MTSU alumni featured on this page live by seconds. Engaged daily in gathering and disseminating television news and weather for middle Tennessee, these MTSU alumni work fast, constantly conscious of time to ensure that their television content is ready to broadcast at the designated hour. Whether producers, directors, audio engineers, reporters, anchors, or meteorologists, they are willing slaves to the almighty clock. Missing a deadline is considered a mortal sin, but then again these professionals prefer the adrenaline of their fast-paced careers over the everyday nine-to-five. After all, they chose the “seconds-to-air” lifestyle when they graduated from MTSU’s highly respected programs in electronic media communication or recording industry. They are highly visible examples of MTSU’s significant role as a supplier of Nashville’s workforce. [MTSU](#)



### NewsChannel 5 and 5+

#### NewsChannel 5 and 5+

**P**hil Williams, WTVF NewsChannel 5 chief investigative reporter, has won multiple Emmy, DuPont, and Peabody Awards for being the reporter no one wants to see coming. Williams graduated with honors from MTSU in 1985. His investigations of corrupt court systems, insider contracts, government waste, and sex offenders have earned national respect for his career and NewsChannel 5.

**Kelly Cox**, a familiar face to those who watch early morning weather, helped start MTSU’s first morning news show. She attended MTSU on a Presidential Scholarship and graduated summa cum laude in 2001.

LEFT TO RIGHT BACK:

**Brian Bates** ('94), executive director, NewsChannel 5+; **Lucas Wyatt** ('06), technical operator, NewsChannel 5; **Phil Williams** ('85), chief investigative reporter, NewsChannel 5; **Dwayne Stewart** ('07), traffic coordinator, NewsChannel 5; **Mark Martin** ('79), news operations manager, NewsChannel 5; **Kevin Sherrill** ('99), director, NewsChannel 5; **Andrew Diemer** ('08), producer/director, NewsChannel 5+

LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT:

**Jamie Berry** ('98), news producer, NewsChannel 5; **Rachel Ward** ('07), assignment desk, NewsChannel 5; **Lacey Strader-Devlin** ('06), web producer, NewsChannel 5; **Kelly Cox** ('01), weekend meteorologist, NewsChannel 5; **Mareliena Ramos** ('06), producer/director NewsChannel 5+; **Samantha Smith** ('08), producer, NewsChannel 5

NOT PICTURED: **Danielle Allen** ('06), associate producer, NewsChannel 5; **Mitzi Gargus** ('06), director, NewsChannel 5; **Takahiro Hamada** ('08) graphic artist, NewsChannel 5; **Sarah Moore** ('00) news producer, NewsChannel 5; **Rob Harrison** ('06) audio engineer, NewsChannel 5; **Clifton Hunt** ('79), promotions producer; **Debbie Hunt** ('81), account representative, News Channel 5

#### WSMV Channel 4

**M**iddle Tennessee has been waking up in the morning to a cup of coffee and Emmy Award-winning journalist **Holly Thompson**, co-anchor for Channel 4 News Today, since 2000.

**Regina Raccuglia** earned Reporter of the Year honors from the Associated Press while working in Huntsville, Alabama.

LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Michael Lester** ('96), director, *Channel 4 News Today*, morning show and midday; **Alicia Collins** ('09), editor; **Holly Thompson** ('94), anchor, *Channel 4 News Today*, morning show and midday; **Regina Raccuglia** ('05), reporter; **Mary Katherine Rooker** ('98), producer, 5 p.m.

NOT PICTURED: **Forrest Sanders** ('07), reporter/photographer; **Nancy Van Camp** ('95), meteorologist; **Elizabeth Emmons** ('97) producer; **Corinne Gould Jasso** ('04), producer; **Chuck Morris** ('90), digital content manager; **Matthew Parriott** ('05), morning show producer; **David Weathersby** ('98), investigative producer; **Craig Landschoot** ('07), photographer; **Tiffany Sawyer** ('08), producer; **Jessica Turri** ('06), producer



### WSMV Channel 4



**FOX 17**

**F**OX 17 morning co-anchor **Nick Paranjape** is proud to say he grew up in Murfreesboro and earned his degree from MTSU. Before coming to Nashville, Paranjape sharpened his news skills in Knoxville and Memphis.

After 30 years of forecasting weather in Tennessee and Kentucky, FOX 17's morning meteorologist, **Craig Edwards**, is one of Tennessee's most trusted.

LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Toni Taylor Fitzgerald** ('97), account executive; **Dennis Breckey** ('96), chief operator, sister-station WNAB; **Amanda Ward** ('07), morning editor; **Craig Edwards** ('78), morning meteorologist; **Greg Pollard** ('91), local sales manager; **Nick Paranjape** ('91), morning co-anchor

NOT PICTURED: **Michelle Heron** ('10), associate producer; **Orlando Rodriguez** ('02), commercial producer; **Brittany Thomas** ('05), producer assistant; **Randy Keys** ('80), program coordinator; **Sarah Shiverdecker** ('04), morning producer; **Marty Spears** ('02), traffic dept./copy coordinator; **Kim Watson** ('93), commercial producer

photos: J. Intintoli

**WKRN NEWS 2**

**K**aren Higbee and Heather Jensen began work as associate producers for News 2 while attending classes at MTSU. These days Higbee also hones her craft as a video journalist. Jensen, likewise, isn't afraid to do what needs to be done to tell the story, working as a photographer, editor, producer, reporter, and anchor to bring viewers the news.

LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Rebecca McGrath** ('10), sales associate; **Nick Oliver** ('09), account executive; **Laura Schrader Crenshaw** ('83), account executive; **Joe Gregory** ('79), chief video journalist; **Lisa Denny Hustedt** ('81), account executive; **Bart Baird** ('94), assignment editor; **Heather Jensen** ('99), video journalist; **Beau Fleenor** ('01), video journalist; **Joe Dubin** ('97), sports anchor/reporter (recently departed WKRN)



NOT PICTURED: **Karen Higbee** ('07), video journalist; **Alison Coe** ('02), assistant news director; **Glenn Proffitt** ('78), account executive



1960s

## Marynell Meadors

Nashville native **Marynell Meadors** ('65, '66) coached basketball at MTSU before it was a varsity sport and before Title IX. Today, she is head coach and general manager of the Atlanta Dream, two-time defending Eastern Conference champions of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). In fact, Meadors was one of the original eight head coaches in the WNBA when it began in 1997. Meadors also served as one of four court coaches during the USA Basketball Women's National Team training camp last year. In all, Meadors has been a member of four USA Basketball team staffs, including gold medal winners. In 2009, she earned WNBA Coach of the Year honors. [MTSU](#)

**Tom Lawless** ('76), Nashville attorney and former Davidson County Republican Party chair, was ranked as a leading bankruptcy litigation practitioner in the 2011 edition of *Chambers USA*. Lawless, who has 30 years of legal experience, was the only solo practitioner in Tennessee to be included in the directory of recommended lawyers and law firms. Lawless is also secretary of the powerful Tennessee Judicial Nominating Commission, which selects the small pool of candidates to fill vacancies occurring on the Tennessee Supreme Court, the State Court of Appeals and the State Court of Criminal Appeals due to the death, resignation, or impeachment and removal of a sitting judge.

**Brian Lampkin** ('78), Atlanta, received the 2010 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service with the FBI. He is currently the special agent in charge of the Atlanta FBI office for the entire state of Georgia.

## 1980s

**Cynthia Alder** ('80), Fayetteville, retired as a Title I reading teacher with the Fayetteville City School System, where she taught for



## Larry and Martha Tolbert

**Larry** ('73) and **Martha Tolbert** recently took a two-week cycling tour of France. They cycled in Paris, the battle beaches of Normandy, the Loire Valley, and Alp d'Huez. They report that they had a great time answering, as best they could, French questions about their MT jerseys. MTSU is truly internationally known! [MTSU](#)

## 1970s

**Peter Toggerson** ('70), Lawrenceville, Ga., has retired from the Georgia Association of Educators after 26 years of service as a UniServ director.

**Don Goldman** ('74), Orange, Calif., is secretary of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU). Goldman is vice president of Word and Brown University for Word and Brown Insurance Administrators Inc., a member of the NAHU board of trustees and a past president of the California Association of Health Underwriters.

## Garry W. Hood

**Garry W. Hood** ('77) worked as a basketball manager doing video for Coach Jimmy Earle during his years at MTSU. That experience led to a 10-year stint with the classic variety show *Hee Haw*, first doing cue cards and later as stage manager. Since those halcyon days, Hood has risen to the top of his field. He has served as stage manager for every major awards show on television including the Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, Tonys, and CMAs (to name just a few). He's worked both the Democratic and the Republican national political conventions since 1988 and has been lead stage manager for the Kennedy Center Honors for over 20 years. The 2004 Distinguished Alumnus is the son of former state lawmaker turned MTSU senior official **John Hood** ('54, '74). [MTSU](#)

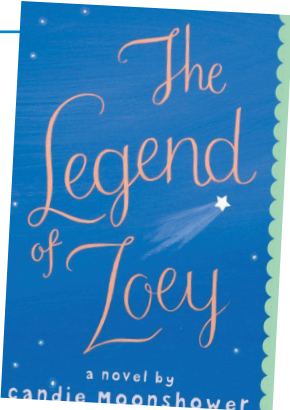
## Peggy Chabrian

One trip in the sky changed everything for **Peggy Chabrian** ('80). After accepting a ride from a local pilot, Chabrian signed up for flying lessons, changed her major, and transferred to MTSU. Chabrian received both bachelor's and master's degrees from MTSU. After obtaining her doctorate in education administration and serving at four universities, Chabrian had the idea for a conference for female aviation students. From its first conference in 1990, the International Women in Aviation Conference now has 3,000 participants and 200 exhibitors. Chabrian is president of Women in Aviation, International (WAI), an organization hatched from the conferences that has 75 chapters with 8,000 members from 40 different countries. She also heads WAI's magazine *Aviation for Women*. [MTSU](#)



## Candace Moonshower

The sinking of the *Titanic*—the topic of this month's *Ask an Expert* article on page 12, isn't the only significant anniversary happening this year. This winter, specifically now through February, marks the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquakes, which rocked west Tennessee and eastern Missouri for months on end in 1811–1812. The quakes are believed to have been even stronger than the 1906 San Francisco quakes—church bells rang as far away as Boston. On Feb. 7, 1812, the quakes were so powerful that they pushed the Mississippi River backward, drowning a village of Chickasaw Indians and forming Reelfoot Lake. There is a legend surrounding Reelfoot (a crippled Chickasaw chief) and his kidnapping of a Choctaw princess, Laughing Eyes, and how this led to the curse that ended up destroying Reelfoot's village and



people. *The Legend of Zoey*, a book by the author of the *Titanic* article, **Candace Moonshower** ('96, '09), came about because Moonshower had heard the legend of Reelfoot from her great-grandmother, a Creek Indian. Moonshower's storyline arose from her desire to throw a modern-day girl back in time 200 years and see if she could survive. A portion of the manuscript won the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Sue Alexander Award. It was also Moonshower's master's thesis at MTSU. Moonshower went on to publish the manuscript with Random House—she had sold it even before it was graded—and it has since been named a Volunteer State Book Award Nominee. Moonshower, who first attended MTSU in 1979, has been associated with MTSU for five decades now. It is definitely home to her, especially now that she's recently been hired as a full-time member of the MTSU English faculty. [MTSU](#)



L. to R. Garry Hood, Jim Free, Dolly Parton and John Hood at the Kennedy Center Awards in 2006

## 1980s, cont.

13 years. She previously served 21 years as a special education teacher with the Lincoln County Department of Education.

**Karen Ward ('82)**, Cordova, is senior vice president and chief human resources officer for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

**James Bart Burton ('83)**, Clifton, Va., has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general, U.S. Army.

**Regina Puckett ('87)**, Christiana, has released her latest romance

novel, *Waiting for Mary Elizabeth*. This is the fifth book in a series that is set in Murfreesboro.

## 1990s

**Robert Alder ('92, '94)**, Fayetteville, retired as supervisor of engineering, construction, and maintenance for the Lincoln County Department of Education after 22 years of service.

**Dana Barrett ('93)**, Murfreesboro, is the campaign associate for Rutherford and Cannon County United Way.

**J. Raney Pollos Linck ('93, '00)**, Minneapolis, is chair of the



## Leslie Hafner

**Leslie Hafner** ('92) always has her eye fixed on the next rung. Last summer, Gov. Bill Haslam named Hafner to a key post as his director for legislation, a promotion from her position as deputy director. It was the fourth significant job change for Hafner in two years. In 2009, the former director of government advocacy for powerhouse law firm Bass, Berry & Sims launched her own lobbying firm, which she merged in 2010 with the influential government relations firm McMahan Winstead. She eventually joined Haslam's office, which also includes fellow MTSU graduate **Warren Wells** ('09), the deputy director of legislation. [MTSU](#)

## 1990s, cont.

baccalaureate nursing program at Globe University/Minnesota School of Business in Richfield, Minn.

**Michael Buck** ('93), Crossville, is the boy's basketball coach at Stone Memorial High School. He was named 2011 PrepXtra boy's Coach of the Year.

**Lisa Baird** ('95), Woodbury, received the 2010 Woman of Peace Award from the Women's Peacepower Foundation.

**Quincy J. Byrdsong** ('95, '97, '05), Glen Allen, Va., is assistant vice president for health sciences, academic and research affairs, at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

**Joe Legge** ('96), Ooltewah, has been recognized by the Tennessee Associated Press as Best Anchor in the Small Market category. He anchors WDEF News 12's three-hour morning show.

**Brad Cliff** ('98), who received a Ph.D. in sports science at MTSU, was appointed chair of the health and physical education department at private Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Cliff's previous professional stints included three years as chair of the health and physical education department at Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn.

**Nicole Lester Russell** ('98), Murfreesboro, is Rutherford County election administrator.

## 2000s

**Ron Duncan** ('00), a sergeant in the 38th Infantry Division Band, performed "Taps" for the Indianapolis 500 Memorial Service at Fountain Square in downtown Indianapolis May 27,

2011. Sgt. Duncan, who served as an MTSU graduate teaching assistant from 1997 to 1999 with the Band of Blue, also played "Taps" at the opening ceremonies of the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 on May 29.

**Angie Grissom** ('00) was named one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the accounting industry by *Accounting Today*

magazine in fall 2011. Grissom is executive vice president of Nashville-based Five Star 3 and director of the Rainmaker Consulting Group division. Grissom is pursuing a master's in business administration at MTSU. She serves as vice president and program director for the American Society of Women Accountants' Music City Chapter and is a



## Shana Martin

**Shana Martin** ('02) was feeling a little homesick when she first began making her grandmother Anna Mae Hagewood's bread. That nostalgia turned in to a full-fledged business—Greensboro, North Carolina-based Anna Mae Southern Bread Co.—when Martin had her home certified as a home-based food processing facility and began working day and night using the same 24-hour process her grandmother used to produce the rolls in her 12x12-foot dining room. At first, Martin sold her product at farmers markets and community events and to locally owned grocery stores and restaurants. She eventually moved her one-woman operation out of the house and into a small facility. Then, last year, Martin struck a deal with national upscale grocery chain The Fresh Market (also based in Greensboro) to launch three flavors of her frozen rolls in 101 stores spread across 20 states. Martin's "taste of home" is now a full-scale handmade roll operation. [MTSU](#)



## Brian Tipton

Who are your favorite country music artists? Chances are **Brian Tipton** ('98) knows them personally. As photo manager for CMT.com, Tipton handles all photo content for the website and shoots for its editorial coverage, including concerts, CD release parties, in-house media days, and the like. His primary job is to work with labels, publicists, and Getty Images to meet all of CMT.com's photo needs. The former BMI media relations specialist also shoots freelance gigs, both in and out of the music business. [MTSU](#)

## 2000s, cont.

member of the National Speaker's Association and the Institute of Management Consultants.

**Julie Eubank** ('01), Washington, D.C., is a program manager with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, where she promotes civic education and strengthens transatlantic ties.

**Brian Gillespie** ('01), Falls Church, Va., is a foreign service officer with the United States State Department. His first diplomatic posting will be as general services officer in the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan.

**Meagan Frazier Grosvenor** ('01), Nashville, is president of the 2011–2012 board of directors of the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates Association. She is a lobbyist and attorney at Smith Harris & Carr in Nashville.

**Bounthavy Janetvilay** ('02), Murfreesboro, is a systems engineer for Gaylord Entertainment.

**J. P. Kraft** ('02), Manchester, is the city forester for the City of Tullahoma.

**Jan Lentz** ('03), Medina, is an associate for Rice, Amundsen & Caperton Law Firm.

Navy airman **Jared R. Brewer** ('05), Great Lakes, Ill., completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruitment Training Command.

**Elizabeth Wheeler Coleman** ('05), is an entertainment lawyer in Atlanta.

**Joseph Coleman Jr.** ('05), is the senior motion graphics artist for Bark Bark in Atlanta.

**Sara Houghland** ('05), Nashville, is director of government affairs and public relations for Comcast.

**Rhiannon Selina Huffman** ('05), Murfreesboro, received a juris doctor degree from Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, R.I.

**Nathan Nichols** ('05), Readyville, graduated from the Nashville School of Law.

**Kaleigh Cantrell Black** ('06), Nolensville, is executive assistant to Commissioner Steve Cates in the Tennessee Department of General Services.

**Rika Cooley** ('07), Ladson, S.C., is a CVS pharmacist in Charleston.

**Leslie Merritt** ('07, '08), Collierville, has been promoted to senior chapter services manager for Kappa Delta National Headquarters in Memphis.

**Rebecca Hurst** ('08), Dublin, Ohio, is the director of distribution for Quality Supply Chain Co-op, part of Wendy's restaurant company.



## Casey Guimbellot Pash

"It's like running the mini-White House," says Tennessee Executive Residence manager **Casey Guimbellot Pash** ('06). The former First Tennessee Bank event planner and private banker turned a non-profit connection into a job offer when she was recommended to First Lady Chrissy Haslam through a friend. The appointment literally came out of the blue. "I mean I voted for him personally, but they wouldn't know that," Pash says. "I had never met them." Nor

had she seen the Executive Residence before its complete renovation during the Bredesen administration, which included the creation of the Conservation Hall event space, which is open to public group rentals for a fee. The residence now also has tenants: Knoxville residents the Haslams actually live there. (The Bredesens lived in their Nashville residence during renovations.) "First and foremost, it is a home," Pash says. "Secondly, it is event space." The Haslams entertain quite a bit, and Pash manages events from small dinners to larger dinners of 100 or more. (The Haslams recently had 25 farmers to dinner to celebrate 25 years of the Pick Tennessee Products initiative.) She remains passionate about MTSU (she grew up about a mile from campus) and plans now to pursue her M.B.A. in the near future. The current vice president of the MTSU National Alumni Association, Pash bleeds blue. "If I find out you are an MTSU alumnus, I'm going to bring you back an MTSU button or pin or notepad." Witness to that promise is Executive Residence horticulturalist **John Wilson** ('74), now in his 27th year on the job and serving his fifth gubernatorial administration, who received MTSU goodies from his new manager. "I want to see other people bleed blue and that their number one choice of color is true blue," says Pash. [MTSU](#)



## David Harris

Although it's likely that no one knew it at the time, when **David Harris** ('06) was attending MTSU between 2004 and 2006, he was fresh out of a prison cell. Harris served seven years after being convicted of committing nine armed robberies in five weeks in order to feed his drug habit. His story of redemption was the subject of a national report on *CBS Sunday Morning* last July. At press time, Harris was still waiting to find out if he had passed the Tennessee Bar Exam and would receive his license to practice law in Tennessee. If so, he will have completed his journey from behind bars to becoming a member of the bar. (Incidentally, through his encouragement, Harris's wife, Melissa [Beane] Harris, also pursued her degree and graduated in 2010.) [MTSU](#)

## 2000s, cont.

**Katherine McCartney** ('08), Murfreesboro, is the marketing director for Black River Entertainment.

**Richard L. Billings** ('09), Cordova, has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

**Ashley Alexander Kraft** ('09), Manchester, is an independent support coordinator for

the Community Development Center of Shelbyville.

## 2010s

**Patrick Pratt** ('10), Tullahoma, has received a prestigious Fulbright Award. He was chosen by the Fulbright committee to spend a year conducting research on poverty reduction in Tanzania at the University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Developmental Studies.

## Izabela Kozon

Former Blue Raider volleyball standout and 2010 Sun Belt Player of the Year **Izabela Kozon** ('10) participated in the World University Games in Shenzhen, China, this past summer as a member of the Polish National Volleyball Team. A native of Warsaw, Kozon was added to the team after a great senior campaign for the Blue Raiders, during which she became the second player in school history to earn both Sun Belt Player of the Year and Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors. She is one of three current or former Blue Raiders who competed at the 2011 games, joining golfer Jason Millard (USA) and track athlete Rosina Amenbede (Ghana). [MTSU](#)



## Mary Smith

Chattanooga-based Corky Coker, owner of the world's largest supplier of vintage and collector vehicle tires and wheels, is an icon in an industry he helped create. Vintage tires were a sideline for his father's automotive service center, which was launched in 1958. But since Corky took over the vintage division in 1974, it has grown to become 95 percent of Coker Tire's business. Now he is known around the world and regularly sought out by moviemakers in need of vintage cars and race cars. **Mary Smith** ('03), recently named director of operations at the company, started out in the accounting department as an assistant. Her long hours and fascination with the company have clearly paid off. She's been part of many operational decisions through the years that have helped lead to the company's phenomenal growth. Now she's the point person in charge of identifying and streamlining problem areas in the company's operations. [MTSU](#)

## In Memoriam

### 1930s

**Daisy Rook Corlew Frey ('35)**,  
Atlanta, Ga., June 8, 2011

**Mary Dishongh Willis ('37)**,  
Lawrenceburg, Tenn.,  
April 17, 2011

**Elizabeth Joyce Woody ('37)**,  
Columbia, Tenn., April 1, 2011

**Virginia Hitt Patterson ('38)**,  
Lewisburg, Tenn. Aug. 15, 2011

**Minnie Dee Stallard ('39)**,  
Asheville, N.C., Aug. 6, 2011

### 1940s

**Jane Miller Covington ('40)**,  
Nashville, Tenn., April 15, 2011

**Mary Neal Alexander ('41)**,  
Nashville, Tenn., July 1, 2011

**Margaret Braden ('41)**, South  
Pittsburg, Tenn., June 24, 2011

**Lurlene Dill Rushing ('41)**,  
Murfreesboro, April 28, 2011

**Shannon McDonald ('42)**, Atlanta,  
Ga., May 12, 2011

**Elizabeth Robertson Barnhill ('44,  
'69)**, Murfreesboro, July 1, 2011

**Ralph E. Hitt ('48)**, Columbus,  
Miss., Jan. 30, 2011

**Katherine Meggs ('46)**,  
Springfield, Tenn., June 25, 2011

**Carl Neal ('49, '62, '75)**, Milton,  
Tenn., April 17, 2011

### 1950s

**Harvey W. Clark Jr. ('50)**,  
Murfreesboro, May 25, 2011

**John Lawrence Connelly ('50)**,  
Lawrenceville, Ga., March 17,  
2011

**Jackson Sharber ('50)**,  
Goodlettsville, Tenn., July 8, 2011

**Thomas Henegar ('51)**, Franklin,  
Tenn., July 26, 2011

**Rhea Garrett McClanahan ('51,  
'69)**, Ringgold, Ga., April 28,  
2011

**William Stem ('51)**, Fayetteville,  
Tenn., Nov. 4, 2010

**Aubrey Wilson ('51)**, Murfreesboro,  
April 17, 2011

**Ralph Thomas ('52)**, Murfreesboro,  
April 20, 2011

**Imogene Walker ('53)**, Lexington,  
Tenn., May 9, 2011

**Rebecca L. Chunn ('56)**,  
Tulahoma, Tenn., May 18, 2011

**Margaret Louise Seat Mann  
( '56)**, Nashville, Tenn., April 27,  
2011

**Joe Jernigan Shelton ('56)**,  
Eagleville, Tenn., April 28, 2011

**Charles Duncan ('57)**, Antioch,  
Tenn., April 17, 2011

**Raymond Smith ('57)**, Collierville,  
Tenn., July 21, 2011

**Evelyn Sanford ('58)**, Antioch,  
Tenn., July 7, 2011

**Doris Beard Wakefield ('58)**,  
Columbia, Tenn., April 14, 2011

### 1960s

**Sam G. Littleton ('60)**, Knoxville,  
Tenn., March 22, 2011

**Thomas Garrett ('61)**, Vancouver,  
Wash., March 22, 2011

**William Brinton Jr. ('62)**,  
Nashville, Tenn., April 28, 2011

**Paul Currin ('62)**, Hazel Green,  
Ala., June 25, 2011

**Gerald Hayes ('63)**, Franklin, Tenn.,  
May 18, 2011

## R. Eugene "Gene" Smith



**R. Eugene "Gene" Smith ('57)** who served as interim president of MTSU in 2000 and 2001, passed away on July 21, 2010. Smith was a strong supporter of MTSU and provided great leadership during his tenure. He was awarded the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievement in 1997. He is the only Tennessean to ever be elected president of both the Southern and National Association of College and University Business Officers. He is survived by his wife, Anne Clement Smith, and his three children, Danny, David, and Genie Ann. [MTSU](http://mtsu.edu)

**John Walker Fitzgerald ('64)**,  
Hermitage, Tenn., March 20, 2011.

**David Long ('65)**, Los Fresnos,  
Texas, June 26, 2011

**Robert Scott ('65)**, Okeechobee,  
Fla., Jan. 22, 2011

**Robert Walker ('65)**, Jupiter, Fla.,  
July 7, 2011

**Edwin Cannon ('67)**, Harrisburg,  
Ill., June 19, 2011

**Donald Wayne Schwendimann  
( '67)**, Hohenwald, Tenn., Feb. 28,  
2011

**George Davis Warren ('67, '79)**,  
Winchester, Tenn., April 26, 2011

**Robert Theodore "Ted" Hoge Jr.  
( '68)**, Simpsonville, S.C., July 19,  
2011

**Kenton Hull ('68)**, Madison, Tenn.,  
March 16, 2011

**Paul Simpson ('68)**, Franklin,  
Tenn., June 30, 2011

**Edith Long Wright Elrich ('69)**,  
Anderson, S.C., June 20, 2011

**Carl Henderson ('69)**, Mount  
Juliet, Tenn., April 20, 2011

**Sandra G. Lappin ('69)**, Cary, N.C.,  
July 9, 2011

**Eugene Frederick Manfredini  
( '69)**, Sherwood, Ark., May 16,  
2011

**Roger Preslar ('69)**, Brandon, Fla.,  
June 29, 2011

### 1970s

**Barbara Johnson ('70, '71)**,  
Smithville, Tenn., Feb. 26, 2011

**Virginia Patton ('70)**, Norris, Tenn.,  
Jan. 28, 2011

**Janice Pittard Sasser ('70, '80)**,  
Franklin, Tenn., June 8, 2011

**Anne "Nancy" Shackett ('70)**,  
West Union, S.C., June 11, 2011

*continued on page 50*

# You Do What?

## Hail to the Chief!

by Drew Ruble

Activity—Keaton's  
lifeblood—  
is the draw to  
the Senate job.

"I enjoy work,"  
he says. "It's not  
really work because  
I enjoy what  
I'm doing."

WHEN DON KEATON ('61) WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, he got tangled up in a stirrup and was dragged by a horse for about a mile. It nearly killed him. As a result of the lingering effects of that injury, he spent six months during high school bedridden, unable even to sit up.

Maybe that explains why Keaton, now 71 years old, is one of the most active people you'll ever meet. In fact, he says he can't remember a time when he wasn't holding down two to three jobs at once while simultaneously engaging in side projects.

Keaton's primary job these days is one of the more peculiar but necessary jobs in all of Tennessee. As chief sergeant of arms for the Tennessee State Senate, Keaton is the key man in charge of carving order out of chaos on Capitol Hill.

Working at the will of Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey—who appointed him to the position—Keaton and staff are often asked to find a lawmaker in the halls of legislative plaza and bring him or her to the committee room for a vote or to constitute a quorum. (Back in the old days, the sergeant of arms and his staff were often dispatched to the Tennessee countryside to pull elected lawmakers off their farms and up to the Capitol for votes.)

Keaton and staff would describe themselves more as servants than enforcers, though.

"One of biggest problems is lawmakers will leave their offices, head for legislative hearing rooms, and get stopped by lobbyists or some special interest group," Keaton says. "And they feel like they are obligated to talk to their constituents. So we help to get them where they need to go."

Keaton has, in all, spent 11 years on the Hill. He doesn't do the job for the money. A savvy private investor, Keaton was among the earliest investors in Cracker Barrel and Wilson County Bank (among other smart investments). His long professional career included stints as city hall finance commissioner for the City of Lebanon and economic opportunity commission executive director for Lebanon/Wilson County. (Keaton was also the primary provider of photographic services to Cracker Barrel for many years.)

No, not money, but activity—Keaton's lifeblood—is the draw to the Senate job. "I enjoy work," he says. "It's not really work because I enjoy what I'm doing."

What else does Keaton do to keep himself busy? One of his primary entrepreneurial hobbies is firearms design. Keaton holds a patent

on the use of embedded magnets to quickly change the length of gunstocks in the manufacturing process. He also now holds a provisional patent on the use of the same principle of magnets (reverse polarity) to create an invisible spring or cushion on the butt of a gun to reduce recoil.

“Even Bubba can understand that,” he says.

For pure enjoyment, Keaton also works part-time at Bass Pro Shops in Opry Mills, helping customers select gun sights. But taking care of senators remains Keaton’s primary passion.



**“Don Keaton is an outstanding public servant and a true gentleman. The generosity of spirit he displays in his work at the Capitol is something you see rarely in this day and age. I’m honored to know him and proud to call him a friend.”**

— Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey (pictured above)

photos: Andy Heidt

Sen. Kerry Roberts, who replaced Congresswoman Diane Black in the Tennessee State Senate last March, and who had never served in an elected position in his life, called Keaton and his staff “life-savers” when he arrived on Capitol Hill the morning after his special election.

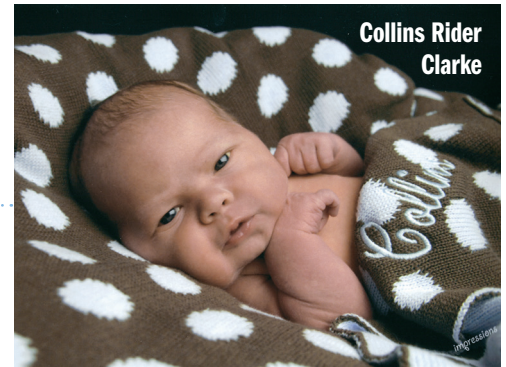
“What surprised me was that Don and his staff immediately knew who I was,” the freshman lawmaker Roberts says. “Don has a heart of service. He takes care of everything, and he does it with joy. He and his staff, they are true public servants.”

Spend a little time on the floor of the state Senate and one fact quickly becomes obvious. Every senator there deeply appreciates the attitude that Don Keaton and his staff come to work with.

And Keaton? He just appreciates the opportunity to go to work. [MTSU](#)

## BABY RAIDERS

**Camryn Neely Dean**, born March 21, 2011, to David and Lori **Fitzhugh Dean ('90)** of Smyrna, Ga.



**Collins Rider Clarke**

**Trit Yates**, adopted in April 2011, by **Patrick O'Leary ('95)** and **Daniel Yates ('10)** of Eagleville, Tenn.

**Collins Rider Clarke**, born Aug. 31, 2011, to **Charlie ('01)** and **Megan Martin Clarke ('01)** of Murfreesboro.

**Sophia Riley Farmer**, born May 9, 2011, to Eric and **Jackie Farmer ('98, '04)** of Murfreesboro.

**Molly Sue Cook**, born July 1, 2010, to **John ('01)** and Lauren Cook of Mount Juliet, Tenn.

**Thaddeas Blake**, born June 16, 2011, to Maj. **Jude ('99)** and **Shelly Aldridge Blake ('94)** of Fort Carson, Colo.

**Beau Thomas Campbell**, born July 28, 2011, to **Brent ('02)** and Tammy Campbell of Murfreesboro.

**Ava Elizabeth Lyons**, born Feb. 15, 2011, to **Brigham ('99)** and **Lisa K. Lyons ('05)** of Johnson City, Tenn.

**Anderson Fenner Nale**, born May 3, 2011, to **Bryan ('02)** and **Erica Nale ('02)** of Murfreesboro.

**Rylan Edward Bernhardt**, born March 14, 2011, to Nathan and **Tiffany Melton Bernhardt ('00)** of Olive Branch, Miss.

**Aleena Beth Roberts**, born March 26, 2011, to Bradley and **Marilyn Ridner Roberts ('02, '03)** of Manchester, Tenn.

**Sloane Vivien Graham**, born April 2, 2011, to **Dr. Robert ('00)** and **Ashley Elizabeth Swafford Graham ('01)** of Winston-Salem, N.C.

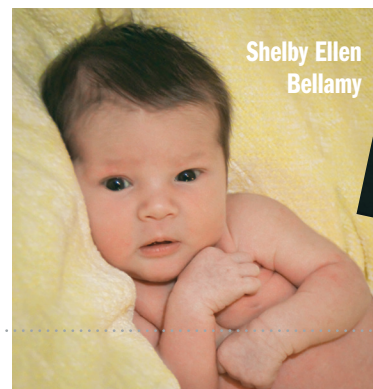
**Marley Rose Hitchcock**, born July 4, 2010, to Larry and **Stephanie Hitchcock ('04)** of Antioch, Tenn.

**Mason Clark Carney**, born April 29, 2011, to Joshua Blake and **Amy Clark Carney ('05)** of Shelbyville, Tenn.

**Clara Victoria Frances Sutherland**, born July 24, 2011, to Pete and **Melissa Figart Sutherland ('00)** of Portsmouth, Va.

*continued on page 50*

**Shelby Ellen Bellamy**, born May 2, 2011, to **Robert ('01)** and Ingrid **Christina Bellamy ('04)** of Senoia, Ga.



**Shelby Ellen Bellamy**



**Ava Elizabeth Lyons**

continued from page 49

## BABY RAIDERS

**Jayden Rodrigo Carpenter**, born June 7, 2011, to **Andre ('05)** and **Monica S. Carpenter ('05)** of Murfreesboro.

**Kellen Hunter Foster**, born Aug. 2, 2011, to AJ and **Jennifer Hennessee Foster ('06)** of Smyrna, Tenn.



**Ava Lorraine Hicks**, born April 19, 2011, to Lee and **Kelly Dewey Hicks ('07)** of Bradyville, Tenn.

**Bradley Michael Flanigan**, born May 2, 2011, to **Michael ('10)** and Amanda Flanigan of Corryton, Tenn.

continued from page 47

## In Memoriam

### 1960s, cont.

**David Weber ('70)**, Fayetteville, Tenn., April 4, 2011

**Billie Jean Clement ('71)**, Murfreesboro, May 24, 2011

**Charles Edmondson Estes ('71, '72)**, Fort Collins, Colo., June 1, 2011

**Jimmie Hale ('71)**, Manchester, Tenn., Feb. 24, 2011

**William "Bill" Johnson ('71)**, Arrington, Tenn., April 24, 2011

**Gary Clifford Keeling ('71)**, Bolivar, Mo., June 29, 2011

**Stephen Samuel Lawrence ('71)**, Franklin, Tenn., May 14, 2011

**Michael D. Mitchell ('71)**, Hermitage, Tenn., May 21, 2011

**Edward Sudbury ('71)**, Palm Harbor, Fla., March 8, 2011

**Roger Dale Bailey Sr. ('72)**, Harrison, Tenn., July 29, 2011

**Peggy W. Campbell ('72)**, Carthage, Tenn., July 22, 2011

**Joy Sullivan Cox ('72, '78)**, Murfreesboro, May 20, 2011

**Sylvia Manley ('72)**, Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 6, 2011

**Thurman L. Whitson ('72)**, Clinton, Tenn., Aug. 3, 2011

**Lawrence Vaughn ('73)**, Jeffersontown, Ky., March 7, 2011

**Sara Caroline "Carol" Cheshire ('74)**, Nashville, Tenn., July 12, 2011

**Kathleen Grimes ('74)**, Hermitage, Tenn., Aug. 7, 2011

**Richard Hannah ('74, '76)**, Murfreesboro, April 20, 2011

**Steven Lindsey Collins ('75)**, Salem, Ore., March 22, 2011

**Jane Weaver Trimble ('75)**, Brentwood, Tenn., May 8, 2011

**Cynthia Hulsey ('76)**, Cane Ridge, Tenn., July 6, 2011

**Juanita Arnold Murrey ('76)**, Franklin, Tenn., March 31, 2011

**William Edward Walker ('77)**, Cookeville, Tenn., March 26, 2011

**Frank Mitchell "Mitch" Brown ('79)**, Glasgow, Ky., June 17, 2011

**Richard Easterly Sr. ('79)**, Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 22, 2011

**Robert Maples ('79)**, Land O' Lakes, Fla., March 9, 2011

### 1980s

**Ronald Christopher George Sr. ('81)**, Brentwood, Tenn., Sept. 6, 2011

**Brenda K. Moore Mills ('81)**, Shelbyville, Tenn., Dec. 25, 2010

**Michael Tompkins ('82)**, Smyrna, Tenn., July 14, 2011

**Rhonda L. Martin ('84)**, Woodbury, Tenn., Jan. 14, 2011

**Dana Swain Estes ('85)**, Lewisburg, Tenn., May 28, 2011

**Candace Page ('86)**, Brentwood, Tenn., July 7, 2011

**Cecilia Parker ('86)**, Ringgold, Ga., April 2, 2011

**Daniel Wulfers ('86)**, Antioch, Tenn., April 28, 2011

**Ingrid Kallenberger ('89)**, Murfreesboro, April 14, 2011

**Thomas Norfleet ('89)**, Hermitage, Tenn., May 27, 2011

### 1990s

**Manson Muir ('92)**, Franklin, Tenn., Aug. 19, 2011

**Carol Phillips Acklen ('93)**, Macon, Ga., April 2, 2011

**Pattie Anne Richardson ('94)**, Lebanon, Tenn., March 17, 2011

**Paige Robinson Dixon, Jr. ('95)**, Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 23, 2011

**Penny Lynne Mauldin ('96)**, Cleveland, Tenn., Dec. 16, 2009

**Eric Agnew ('97)**, Franklin, Tenn., April 20, 2011

**Anne Kathryn Barkley Whalen ('97)**, Cordova, Tenn., March 19, 2011

**James Hood ('99)**, South Fulton, Tenn., March 13, 2011

### 2000s

**Christopher Todd Lewis ('00)**, Carthage, Tenn., May 26, 2011

**Christy Tucker Bethel ('01)**, Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 2011

**William Graff ('02)**, Brentwood, Tenn., May 6, 2011

**Sandra Charlene "Sandi" Walker ('02)**, Cleveland, Tenn., Aug. 6, 2011

**Sherry Wilcox ('07)**, Murfreesboro, May 4, 2011

**Douglas Reynolds Jr. ('08)**, Hermitage, Tenn., April 29, 2011

**Moses Thompson ('08)**, Choctaw, Miss., April 24, 2011

Send us your news at

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# VOICES HEARD



## Insight from friends and fans in MTSU's social network

We turned to the fertile ground of MTSU and MTSU alumni Facebook pages and asked our thousands of followers to complete the following sentence: **“You are so MTSU if . . . ?”** Below is a selection of the responses we received organized by decade.

### You're so MTSU in the 1960s if . . . ?

“You had ads for bellbottom jeans in the college newspaper.”

“You're my parents.”

Clint Palmer

Arthur Majors III

“You still call Peck Hall ‘the new classroom building.’”

Carolina George

### You're so MTSU in the 1970s if . . . ?

“You registered for classes with punch cards!”

Wanda Stout Hillhouse

“Tuition for 15 hrs. in fall 1975 = \$202.”

Bobby Patton

“You saw Charlie Daniels, Elton John, Chicago, and Elvis in the same school year for under \$25 total.”

Chuck Shaw

“You still refer to Kirksey Old Main as Old Main, the James Union Building as the SUB, and Peck Hall as the NCB! And you know what the letters NCB stand for!”

Kim Bailey

“You're a fan of the ‘slanted’ MTSU logo and remember when campus parking permits cost just \$5—good for all year!”

Clyde McClaran

### You're so MTSU in the 1980s if . . . ?

“There weren't even 8,000 students enrolled when you went there!!”

Hunter Meaders

“Dean Paul Cantrell or Dean Judy Smith would walk into the Grill and give you that look . . . and you would wonder, ‘Who did WHAT now!’”

Michael G. Fann

“Murfreesboro was the country.”

Schuyler Goad

“The Wright Music Building was brand spankin' new.”

Charlene Potts

“You carried a can of Aqua Net in your book bag.”

Jackie Johnson Gardner

### You're so MTSU in the 1990s if . . . ?

“You remember when the football stadium had two sides instead of a bowl.”

Keith Bennett

“You got to experience having both Ole Blue and Lightning as mascots and registered for classes by phone.”

Rob Janson

“Thank you for calling TRAM. Listen carefully to the options that follow. To register for classes, press 1. To drop or add a class, press 2.”

Sharon Kay Edwards

“You remember the knoll before all the construction.”

James Gardner

### You're so MTSU in the 2000s if . . . ?

“Al Gore was your professor.”

Joshua Hood

“Your favorite team joined the Division I FBS.”

Drew Simmons

“You remember when the roundabout was a 4-way stop!”

Will Strickland

“Andy Mac meant something to you.”

Matthew Guy

“You brought the goal post down for our first Division I victory, our second D1 victory, and tried to get Vandy's after our first SEC victory.”

Frank Mayberry

The MTSU and Alumni Relations Facebook pages feature new content daily. Please visit [www.facebook.com/mtsublueraiders](http://www.facebook.com/mtsublueraiders) and [www.facebook.com/mtsualumni](http://www.facebook.com/mtsualumni).

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