

A SPECIAL MINI-PUBLICATION SPECIFICALLY FOR OUR DIGITAL AUDIENCE

MTSU iMAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Blue Raider baseball was one of many highlights of Alumni Weekend 2013

Spring into Middle

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
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TABLE of CONTENTS

Editor's Letter.....	2
Spring Into Middle Recap	3
The Label Maker	4
Success By Design	6
The Faces of Fulbright.....	8
Play Ball!	11
Eye to the Sky	12
<i>Not</i> Horsing Around.....	13
Speaking in Tongues.....	15
Coming into Focus.....	17
Cuba in the Raw	20

Beyond the Printed Page

So many stories, so few pages.

Given the treasure trove of stories of achievement found throughout the MTSU campus, there are simply not enough pages in MTSU's twice-annual print version of *MTSU Magazine* to adequately spotlight all the significant work and accomplishments occurring on campus.

Fortunately, many of these stories do get told digitally at mtsunews.com or in the publications produced by different colleges and departments within the University.

Thanks to the proliferation of technology, there are now more ways to keep "in the know" about all things MTSU. Our goal at *MTSU iMagazine* is to make some of those stories—along with a few new ones—accessible to our ever-growing web and app audiences. We hope



this special "tablet-friendly" edition of *MTSU Magazine* will do just that.

From student research efforts to expert commentary on Cuba, this mini-version covers a broad swath of topics and perspectives.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Middle Tennessee State University
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University Editor

Drew Ruble

Contributing Editors

Michael Burgin, Bill Fisher

Art Director

Kara Hooper

Writers

Mike Browning, Allison Gorman, Patsy Weiler

Videographer

Mike Browning

University Photographers

J. Intintoli, Andy Heidt

Designers

Michael Adcock, Kara Hooper, Micah Loyed,
Susan Phillips, Sherry Wiser George

Special thanks to

Sara Brookfield, Darby Campbell, Bill Fisher,
Rob Janson, Marsha Powers, Jack Ross,
Ty Whitaker, Leslie Wilhite

University President

Sidney A. McPhee

**Vice President for Development
and University Relations**

Joe Bales

**Associate Vice President for
Marketing and Communications**

Andrew Oppmann

MTSU iMagazine is produced periodically.
Correspondence should be sent to
MTSU Editor Drew Ruble, FAIR 130,
1301 E. Main St., Murfreesboro TN, 37132.



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Tennessee's Best

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alumni

Middle Tennessee State University

Spring into Middle

Alumni Weekend 2013 • April 19–21

2013 ALUMNI SPRING WEEKEND

Alumni and friends gathered April 19–21 to celebrate and enjoy the remarkable things happening on campus. Please view this photo gallery of the excitement and make plans to attend next year!

**MIDDLE
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The Label Maker

Kelli Cooper's fashion sense finds purchase in the South and beyond

by Allison Gorman

Kelli Cooper spent her childhood cutting pictures out of fashion magazines and plastering them all over her bedroom walls. But she had never cut out a pattern, or really sewn at all, when she enrolled in MTSU's fashion design program. "I just looked through the catalog and thought, 'Ohhh . . . I want to do that!' And that was it," she says.



4 MAY 2013 | MTSU iMAGAZINE

Sometimes audacity can propel you when statistics would stop you in your tracks. In speaking with Cooper, one gets the sense that it never occurred to her not to pursue a career as a fashion designer—even though she admits that the uncertainty that comes with the job can be “terrifying.” With the exploding interest in fashion, fueled by countless reality shows like *Project Runway*, the market has become saturated and the odds of succeeding in the industry are long. “It’s just so hard,” Cooper says. “There are so many designers, and boutiques are swamped with lookbooks and line sheets and phone calls and emails. And they ignore them.”

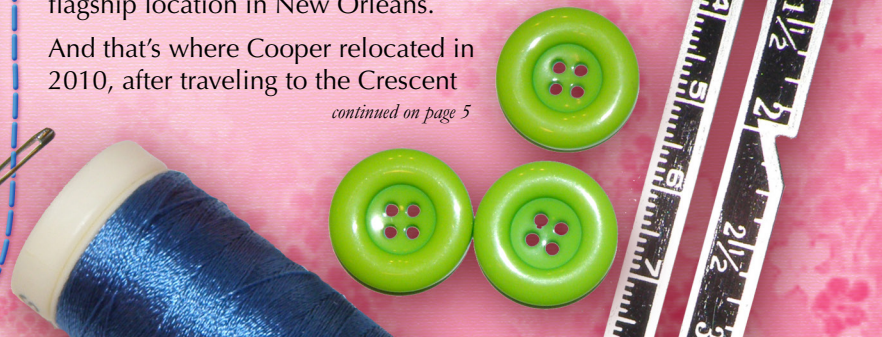
She’s already beaten the odds by launching a successful clothing label, Loretta Jane. And now that she’s catching the attention of national media, it’s clear she’s made the cut in a notoriously tough industry.

Cooper’s career path hasn’t been seamless, or even straight. In fact, it parallels her description of sewing: “You always have to be thinking a step ahead, and it’s a constant learning process. It’s more complicated than you’d think.”

That path took her from MTSU, where she graduated in 2002; to Nashville, where she worked for a bridal and formalwear designer; to Atlanta, where her mother lives; and back to Nashville, where she eventually started working at Hemline, a boutique in Green Hills. There, Cooper got invaluable lessons from the buyer’s perspective: she met small designers, saw new clothing lines scrutinized, learned about price points, and began to understand what stores and their customers want. In 2008, she put together a collection of nine pieces reflecting what would become her signature style: lightweight retro fabrics, short skirts, and feminine silhouettes evocative of mid-20th-century couture. The owner of Hemline in Nashville bought the collection, as did franchise owner Brigette Holthausen, who placed Loretta Jane pieces in several Hemline stores, including its flagship location in New Orleans.

And that’s where Cooper relocated in 2010, after traveling to the Crescent

continued on page 5





continued from page 4

City to meet with Holthausen. “As soon as I got out of the cab in the French Quarter, I was completely in love with it,” she says.

Cooper found limited success sending her portfolio to stores—a shotgun strategy all aspiring designers use. “I sent out maybe 15 lookbooks and got a call back from one,” she recalls. More often, Loretta Jane sold itself. Buyers saw the line in other boutiques and began calling Cooper, who went from sewing all her own clothes to outsourcing piecework to factories in New Orleans and Atlanta. Loretta Jane now has a presence in six states, including New York, and Cooper hopes to hire her own production staff as she expands to boutiques across the country.

She explains that succeeding in the fashion industry is all about strategy—and staving off self-doubt. “You’ve got to think so far in advance; you’ve got to have your style, your aesthetic, your samples ready six to nine months before your collection actually comes out. And every season you think, ‘What if nobody buys my stuff this season? What if nobody buys it next season?’”

Those questions were running through her mind last November, when she packed up her spring 2013 samples and drove to her first trade show (in Atlanta). Like dozens of other designers, she spent the first excruciating hours sitting in a booth on a nearly empty floor. Unnerved by the quiet, she finally took a break to visit the market showroom upstairs. Within minutes she got a text: “*Southern Living* just came by your booth. They love it. Get down here now.” By the time Cooper got back to her booth, the writer was gone.

In life, as in fashion, timing is everything.

Despite the slow start, Cooper made good sales in Atlanta, and the praise for Loretta Jane started coming in—first on industry blogs and then, in January, on *Southern Living*’s website, The Daily South, which named Kelli Cooper one of Five Southern Designers to Know in 2013.

By then, of course, she was already a step ahead, creating her fall collection and preparing for the New York trade show. And her plans extend far beyond that: “I want to go all the way,” she says. Odds are, she will. **MTSU**

Success by Design

One current MTSU textile student is well on her way to a professional career in clothing design

by Mike Browning

When Alycia Gillaspie was just 12 years old, she threaded her mom's sewing machine with no problem. Soon after, she taught herself how to make prom dresses and took an interest in sculpture.

"I think that is what helped lead me into doing design and especially apparel because it's like a sculpture on a human," she explains.

Gillaspie enrolled at MTSU and began the concentration in apparel design within the textile, merchandising, and design major. Recently, Project OR, a competition held by the trade show producer Outdoor Retailer, contacted five universities, including MTSU, looking for talent. They chose Gillaspie.

In the competition, Gillaspie and four other national top competitors were limited to 48 hours to create a backcountry ski jacket.

"The challenge was figuring out what I was making because the brief actually says a convertible, backcountry ski/snow jacket with an ear covering accessory," she says. "So I had to read it about six times to break it down. I also had to include the ear covering accessory, some sort of hat or head band and something—that was probably the first challenge."

The next challenge was figuring out what she could do in the 48-hour time frame without sleep.

"I chose to do just enough design elements that I thought I would have time to completely complete, to sew and finish, all the way until it was done, there's nothing more you could do with it."

Even though it wasn't required, she also made it finished on the inside.

"I think that's what really made a difference for me—being able to sew it and construct it really well," Gillaspie says.

A double-hood feature on the jacket allows a skier to fit a larger outer-shell hood over a helmet.

"I made a hood that was separate from the collar but was still attached to the jacket so the collar could be pulled up around the face without having the hood on, and then the

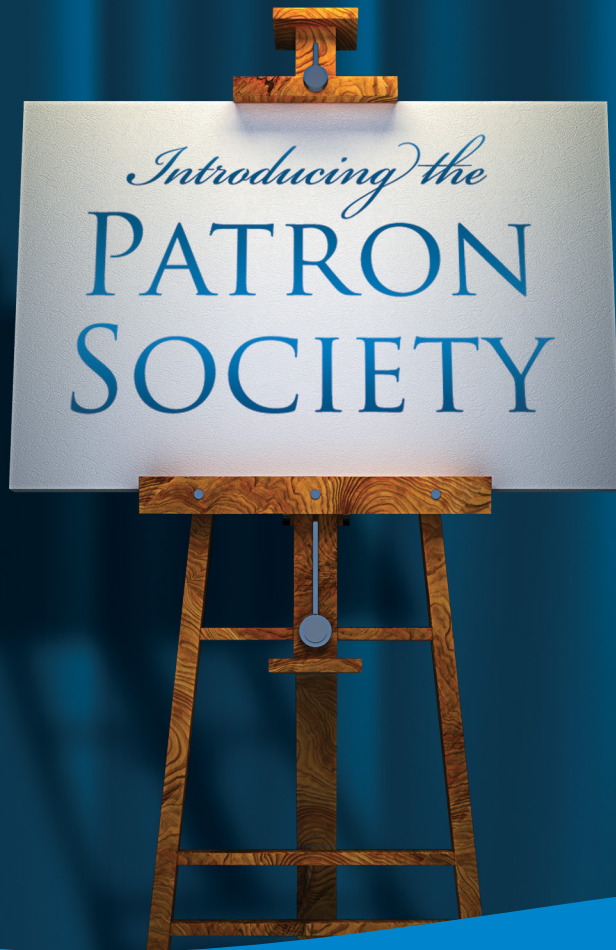
hood would come up and over the helmet," she explains. "Then it would have a bungee cord system inside it where you pull the bungee and it tightens down on the helmet."

The rather complex design did the trick, despite some initial reservations on the part of the judges. Gillaspie won the Judges' Choice Award.

"I about cried," she says. "I was shocked. I could have sworn that the girl who made runner-up won. All I could do was hold my composure, so I didn't cry on camera."

Gillaspie and her design were featured in the March edition of the national outdoors magazine *Textile Insight*. [MTSU](#)





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The Faces of Fulbright

by Allison Gorman

When MTSU was recently named by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright scholars for 2012–13, it joined the ranks of academic powerhouses like Duke, Stanford, and Princeton. Just 108 colleges nationally were recognized.

MTSU was among 17 schools in the Master's Institutions category and the only college or university in Tennessee listed in any of the *Chronicle's* three top-producer categories.

MTSU students have received Fulbright funding to teach or research in a variety of fields—from philosophy to biology to international relations—in countries as diverse as Portugal, Russia, Tanzania, and Laos. While each winner has a remarkable success story, perhaps none is more extraordinary than that of a young woman who enrolled at MTSU despite having been deprived of the most basic education—and who graduated with a Fulbright grant.

A ROUGH START

The biological parents of Kaitlen Howell (not her birth name) were violent and controlling. They withdrew her from public school after first grade, ostensibly to homeschool her. Anything she learned from that point on was self-taught, usually in secret. Although her parents were college-educated and had many books around the house, they largely restricted her access to them.

“The books were there,” she says, “but my parents just collected them the way some people compulsively collect newspapers. There was no value placed on education. I was actually punished if I was caught reading.”

She read anyway, voraciously: *Little Women*, *The Swiss Family Robinson*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Twain, Dickens, Verne. Books were her escape from the horrors of everyday life, and they fed her instinct for learning. But Howell's precociousness masked her lack of formal education. “I had a wide vocabulary and presented myself intelligently,” she says. “I was also able to think on my feet, which was a requirement for my survival.”

At age 15, she was permanently removed from her parents' home and placed in foster care. “It wasn't until I was put into a school setting at a group home that my lack of education started to become evident,” she



Kaitlen Howell represents how far you can come with perseverance and some helping hands

continued on page 9

The following are other
MTSU Fulbright
winners through the years.



BRIAN
CHANCE (2001)



BRANDON
ARMSTRONG (2008)



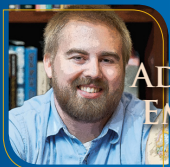
ERIC LITTLE (2010)



PATRICK
PRATT (2011)



KIMBERLY
YARBOROUGH (2011)



ADAM
EMERSON (2012)



DANIEL
GOUGER (2012)



ANNA
YACOVONE (2012)

Fulbright

continued from page 8

says. “I felt a lot of personal shame over it. I considered it my responsibility and my fault, and I honestly wasted a lot of the time I was in school. I refused to do the schoolwork; I just sat there and read the dictionary. I had a deep fear of education because I felt I was incompetent.”

Then came a turning point: she agreed to work through a booklet on health and take a multiple-choice test at the end. She found that she was fascinated by human physiology, particularly the circulatory system. She also discovered that she tested well. Because she’d had rudimentary clinical experience attending to her younger siblings’ medical needs, it occurred to her that she might pursue a job in medicine. She began working toward her GED.

At age 17, she met a childless couple from Murfreesboro, Allen and Melanie Howell, who informally adopted her. When she turned 18, she took their last name and a new first name, Kaitlen. “I became my own person,” she says. “I was not my biological parents’ child. I was not the object, the slave they created me to be.” Encouraged by her adoptive parents, Kaitlen applied to MTSU and was accepted as a science major on the pre-med track—against the advice of her last foster mother, who insisted she belonged at a community college. She secured Pell Grants and worked 30 hours a week to pay her tuition.

She walked into her first science course, chemistry, and heard terms she’d never heard before: “carbon,” “atom,” “periodic table.” She switched to an intro-level class. Still, she failed one test, then another. “I remember the paralysis of knowing I was going to fail my test and there was nothing I could do about it,” she says. “I had not studied. I had no idea *how* to study.” Panicked, she went to her professor. “She asked me, ‘Are you reading the textbook? Are you taking notes? What are you doing with the notes?’”

Howell learned how to study and ended up with a B in chemistry. She says it’s the grade of which she is most proud. It’s also the only non-A on her college transcript.

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL

Kaitlen is a perfect example of what can happen when raw talent is noticed and nurtured, says Laura Clippard, who first met Howell as a counselor at Student Support Services. “A number of faculty reached out to work with Kaitlen and encourage her,” Clippard says. “Even though Kaitlen does have great innate ability, she needed encouragement to develop self-confidence.”

Howell agrees: “At MTSU, I found a lot of avenues that fostered my learning, my curiosity, my personal growth, and even my own healing process from some of the things I had to deal with from my past.”

She received free tutoring and guidance from Student Support Services and took 24 hours of remedial coursework to make up for the deficits in her education. But even after the As began piling up, she was astonished when Clippard invited her to become a peer tutor in biology. It was another turning point.

continued from page 9

"I absolutely loved it," Howell says. "It was invigorating, helping people understand the material and relating it to their world. I felt confident."

In 2008, Clippard transferred to the Honors College to become its academic advisor and undergraduate fellowships coordinator. Her job is to advise MTSU's applicants to highly competitive scholarship programs like the Fulbright, the U.S. government's flagship international educational program. Until then, the University had produced two Fulbright scholars; Clippard made it her priority to actively recruit other potential winners. She set her sights on Howell.

Howell had read online about the Fulbright Program. "My initial thought was, 'Well, that's above me,'" she recalls. But Clippard urged her to apply, working with her through the months-long application process. In 2010, Howell was one of two Fulbright winners from MTSU.

THE HUMAN TOUCH

After graduating with dual degrees in biology and foreign languages (German), Howell spent the next 18 months in Germany, conducting epidemiological research as a Fulbright scholar and intern. In March 2012, she returned to the United States, got married, and began applying to medical schools. She has been accepted to Stanford and Harvard medical schools and will visit each campus this Spring. She plans to go into clinical and academic medicine, having learned from her Fulbright experience that she prefers human interaction to pure research.

In fact, the Fulbright Program is as much about human interaction as it is about scholarship. Named for the late U.S. senator J. William Fulbright, it is designed to promote peace and mutual understanding. "Fulbright believed that perspectives aren't changed through governmental policies but through one-on-one interactions," Howell says.

That philosophy is particularly relevant to her experience. "Toward the end of my time with my biological family, I wasn't even sure I wanted to be alive," she says. "At MTSU, my professors treated me with respect, as if I were a human being. Just having them meet my eyes and acknowledge my existence made so much difference in my life. I know that the smallest things truly can impart change."

Even as she prepares for the next step in her education, Howell continues to put the Fulbright philosophy into action as a tutor for MTSU students and local school children. She will also officially represent and promote the program in 2013 as one of 20 Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors on college campuses nationwide.

In a sense, all Fulbright scholars are ambassadors, Clippard notes. "A lot of people think Fulbright is just study abroad," she says. "It's really not. It's about making the world a better place."

Clearly, Kaitlen Howell sees that as her mission now. And wherever that mission takes her, she will be an ambassador for hope, and for the university that saw and fostered her potential in the first place. [MTSU](#)



By the Numbers

Almost 1,700 American students, artists, and young professionals in more than 100 different fields of study were offered Fulbright grants to study, teach English, and conduct research in over 140 countries beginning this fall. Of the 1,700 Fulbrighters, 19 percent are at the Ph.D. level, 17 percent are at the master's level, and 65 percent are at the bachelor's level. Students receiving awards for this academic year applied through 600 colleges or universities.

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 318,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. In the past 66 years, more than 44,000 students from the United States have benefited from the Fulbright experience. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright is one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships and its flagship international educational exchange program.

Among the thousands of prominent Fulbright alumni is Muhammad Yunus, a former MTSU faculty member who is managing director and founder of Grameen Bank, and the recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. [MTSU](#)



PLAY BALL!

by DREW RUBLE

A not quite A-to-Z look at former Blue Raiders playing their trade in professional baseball this spring

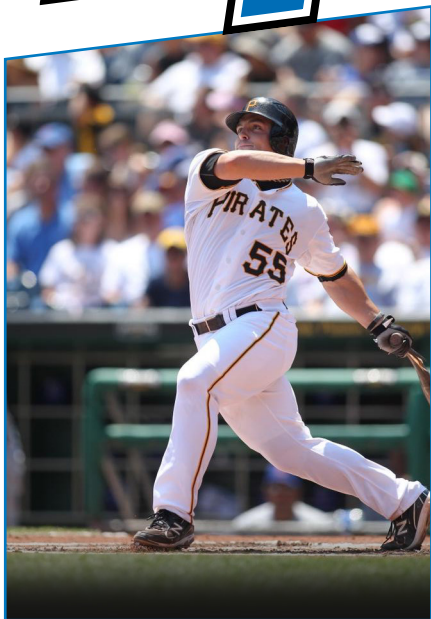


photo: Dave Arrigo/Pittsburgh Pirates

Among the many wonderful signs of spring at MTSU is the distinctive “ping” of aluminum bats hitting baseballs at Reese Smith Jr. Field.

The MTSU baseball club is once again highly competitive in the Sun Belt Conference this year and no doubt has several players on the roster who will get a chance to play professionally in the years ahead.

Many of their Blue Raider baseball predecessors are already earning a living playing pro ball, either on the “senior circuit”—Major League Baseball—or in the minor leagues, where they continue to chase their dreams of winding up in the “big show.”

Here’s a quick photo gallery of former Blue Raiders and their current status on the professional ladder as baseball season kicks in to full gear. [MTSU](#)

EYE TO THE SKY

by Patsy Wieler

Eric Guyes is a young man who has his feet on the ground and his eyes on the sky.

A fifth-year senior, the Virginia native has targeted a future in aeronautics research and maybe teaching. Meanwhile, as an undergraduate, Guyes has been seizing as many learning opportunities as possible, including undertaking two research projects as well as working as a physics professor's research assistant in 2011.

"I have been fascinated with aerospace my entire life," he says.

Guyes wrote his Honors thesis about developing a functioning motion analysis program in MATLAB (Matrix Laboratory), a high-level technical computing language. Future students will utilize sense-and-avoid technology, which is used in unmanned vehicles to automatically maneuver them safely.

"The ultimate goal is to create a program that can be implemented in autonomous air- and ground-based vehicles to prevent them from colliding with obstacles," Guyes says. "This project allows me to simultaneously explore my interests in aerospace and physics."

Guyes, a licensed pilot (who likes to run with his friends and is interested in nutrition and martial arts), enjoyed working with his thesis advisor, physics professor Eric Klumpe, who "was a great motivator." Both share an interest in aerospace, and Klumpe has previous computer programming and modeling experience.

The recipient of a Buchanan Fellowship—the highest academic award offered by MTSU and the University Honors College—Guyes also received a \$2,500 URECA grant. URECA (Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity) is an interdisciplinary, campus-wide initiative that provides financial support to encourage students to get involved in research and creative projects.

Guyes used his grant to develop a laboratory module designed to give aerospace technology students practical and theoretical understanding of the physics employed in jet engines.

"The entire creative process has been enormously rewarding," says Guyes.

Working closely with assistant professor Nate Callender in the Aerospace Department, Guyes says the "developmental cost of an in-house model will be a fraction of a commercially produced unit's price while satisfactorily educating students about gas turbine theory."

Guyes, who was also a physics tutor, says the teaching module will consist of a small operational gas turbine engine and a laboratory procedure.

The procedure will show students how to operate the engine, how to obtain data, and how to perform data analysis to determine results.

"Since the laboratory module will be under [Callender's] direction once it is completed, he will have significant influence on the project's development," Guyes adds.

Following graduation, Guyes hopes his hard work will help him soar toward achieving his next educational goal.

Helped by Laura Clippard, who coordinates undergraduate fellowships in the Honors College, Guyes has applied for a prestigious Fulbright Scholar award. He will learn in spring 2013 if he was selected for a Fulbright grant. MTSU

1

Three young scholars who separately have studied parasites in horse manure, written a new language, and soared to new heights in aerospace research serve as good examples of the varied student research efforts occurring daily at MTSU.

photo: J. Intintoli

*Collecting manure doesn't
deter horse enthusiast
Goertzen's desire to help area equines*

Not

Horsing Around

2

Three young scholars who separately have studied parasites in horse manure, written a new language, and soared to new heights in aerospace research serve as good examples of the varied student research efforts occurring daily at MTSU.

by Patsy Wieler
photo: Amy Riley

“Horse owners can use the data and information in my project to make better decisions for the health of their animals.”

Animal science major and Buchanan Fellow Ellen Goertzen knows her research isn't something most people would discuss during dinner. After all, collecting and freezing manure samples and then studying them for equine intestinal parasites is a project few might want to touch. However, Goertzen, who owns, trains, and rides horses for fun and competition, felt right at home in the various barns where she collected her specimens.

“My research focused on horse parasites, the eggs of which can be seen in the manure when examined under a microscope with a special technique called the McMaster technique,” Goertzen says. “This technique uses specially marked slides with a slot in which I injected the feces after some processing.”

The Slidell, La., native says her main motivation for pursuing this area of research is a desire to contribute to the overall well-being of horses.

“As a horse owner and enthusiast, I have a strong personal interest in any research that leads to improving the health of our horses,” she says. “A parasite study was relatively straightforward and required some equipment but nothing too complex or expensive. I could do most of the research on my own, and because I could freeze my samples for later use, I could do it in my own time.”

Goertzen gathered at least two samples from 60 horses boarded at six different barns. When frozen, the airtight bags of manure were kept in various Davis Science Building freezers and defrosted under hot water before being tested.

“The project was a survey of horse deworming programs that are currently being used in this area, and then I compared these practices with the actual need [amount and type of parasite eggs found in the feces of the horses],” Goertzen says. “I then designed a program for each barn based on actual results.”

Her findings showed it is more effective to use a rotation of treatments rather than just one product, and that a fairly aggressive deworming program is needed to maintain low to zero levels of parasites.

“Horse owners can use the data and information in my project to make better decisions for the health of their animals,” Goertzen says. “Even if individual fecal testing might be impractical, I have at least shown that rotation of products is much more effective than nonrotation, and that a relatively frequent deworming program is necessary for this region.”

She says the horse owners, MTSU equine veterinary medicine specialist Johnny Haffner, Rebekah Norman of the UT Extension, and her advisor, biology professor Anthony Newsome, provided a great deal of time and expertise for her project.

Goertzen (who cooks and plays the violin and is an MTSU equestrian team member), says her work “is a good starting place for further study in parasite management research. A good project is a small part of the definite answer, which takes many more repetitions and followup studies.” [MTSU](#)

A love of “making things out of other things” has always been an important part of anthropology major Tyler A. Whitaker’s life.

The Nashville native, who is a consummate creative tinkerer, likes “making furniture out of cardboard or costumes out of old clothes. Music is another big love of mine, and I like to sing and write songs,” she says. “I like messing around with *The Sims 2*, both playing the [video] game and modifying the software.”

As a child, Whitaker remembers trying to teach herself languages. “[I] would make up my own. I’ve always wanted to know a lot of languages and learn about how people communicate in the context of a different culture,” she says.

Taking a linguistics course at MTSU opened her eyes to “how much science there was behind language. The underlying physiology and structure of language fascinated me just as much as the cultural aspects of it. I believe that you can’t fully appreciate language without all the parts,” she says.

A senior scheduled to graduate in May 2013, Whitaker plans to go into linguistic anthropology. Her Honors thesis, “Reforming the Vision: A New Approach to the Creation of Auxiliary Languages Informed by Creole Language Research Methodologies,” was about her research into developing a pidgin and creole language.

Whitaker named her pidgin language “Ingilisi” and her creole language “English.” Kevin Smith, professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was her advisor.

While there is no set-in-stone definition about these terms, generally a “pidgin” refers to a blended language that has no native speakers but develops out

of the need for communication when two or more groups know little, if anything, of each other’s languages.

A “creole” evolves from a pidgin and is usually developed by the first generation born into the newly formed speech community.

“The process of language creation, colloquially known as ‘conlanging’ (constructed language) or planned language, was something with which I had a lot of personal experience, so I felt I could speak with some authority on it,” says Whitaker.

Whitaker, who is also president of the MTSU Linguistics Club, developed extensive reference tables for her thesis, showing the transfer of English sounds associated with vowels and consonants to their use in her pidgin language, Ingilisi.

Then, she showed how Ingilisi developed into her creole language, English. She also provided a lexicon of words used as objects or to indicate questions or actions, comparisons, numbers, and more. She explained grammar usage and made charts showing how a word was pronounced in English and the two other languages.

Whitaker says she hopes “the use of the language I created [will help] to facilitate global communication. The language aims to be easy to pronounce and to learn, so people of practically any linguistic background would be able to use it.” MTSU

3 Three young scholars who separately have studied parasites in horse manure, written a new language, and soared to new heights in aerospace research serve as good examples of the varied student research efforts occurring daily at MTSU.

by Patsy Wieler

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

photo: J. Intintoli



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F Coming Into FOCUS



photos: J. Intintoli

by Drew Ruble

It could be said that a new photo gallery soon to open at MTSU has been more than a half-century in the making.

A few years after arriving from Colorado in 1959 to teach industrial arts at MTSU, now-retired photography professor and Murfreesboro resident Harold L. Baldwin launched the University's photography program. He soon realized the need for gallery space to augment the instruction he was providing in the rapidly expanding program.

"We needed to bring in popular photographers to enhance the student experience," Baldwin said. "That was the one thing that was lacking. Students couldn't get exposed to the work of top professional photographers like all the big schools on the East and West Coasts."

Baldwin began working with the Eastman Kodak Company to bring exhibits to campus, but the Kodak shows did not match his vision.

"They were the traditional pretty prints; they didn't have any real meaning to them," he explained. "I knew I needed to get some true artists to campus."

Baldwin started contacting well-known photographers. One of the first was American photographer Ansel Adams.

"This was before big PR agencies handled big photographers. They handled their own shows," Baldwin recalled. "So I wrote him a letter asking him to come, and he sent me a postcard, saying, 'I'm going to send you one of the best little shows you have ever seen.' And I thought, 'Well, my God!'"

That exhibition, as well as others Baldwin arranged, hung in what is now the Tom H. Jackson Building. At each exhibit, the professor

found a way to cobble together funds to purchase a print; some of the artists donated prints to the University.

As a result, Baldwin said, "I just kind of accumulated a permanent collection here."

While a full appraisal has never been conducted on the collection, which was formally established in 1961, Baldwin recently funded an independent assessment that values it "easily in excess of a million dollars."

In fact, the value could be quite a bit more. One piece of the collection alone—a print of one of Adams's most famous photos, *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*—is considered quite valuable.

In addition to Adams, other photographers who have exhibited their work at MTSU through the years include Richard Avedon, Sally Mann, André Kertész, Henry Horenstein, and Arthur Fellig (who was better known by his pseudonym, Weegee). Photographers whose work is part of the Baldwin collection though they never exhibited on campus include Edward Weston, Minor White, Paul Strand, and Jerry Uelsmann.

Slowly developing

For many years, works from the collection were shown in a hallway of the McWherter Learning Resources Center, a space that was renamed to honor Baldwin in 2009.

Now a \$100,000 donation by Baldwin will support plans to develop a new photography gallery in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

The renovated space will become the new permanent home of



continued from page 17

MTSU's photography archive—the million-dollar-plus collection that Baldwin pieced together during his decades of service to the University.

In its new home on the second floor of the Bragg Building, the Baldwin Gallery will feature movable walls and contemporary lighting and will also showcase traveling exhibits and student work.

The gallery will be the third specialized media area in the building, which is already home to the Center for Popular Music and the Center for Innovation in Media.

Baldwin's gift is part of MTSU's Centennial Campaign. With his commitment, the campaign has surpassed \$60 million in gifts and pledges toward its \$80 million goal.

"Harold's gift truly embodies the spirit of the Centennial Campaign," said Nick Perlick, director of development. "He has been part of this campus family for decades, and now he has chosen to make an investment to enhance the particular aspect of the University that means so much to him. We are extremely grateful for his generosity."

Worth a Thousand Words

The expanded new gallery will no doubt become a significant cultural asset for MTSU and Murfreesboro.

"It's an opportunity to display what we are doing here, what's happening, and get the word out. It is a good advertisement for the photography program itself," said Baldwin, who shifted to teaching photography full-time in 1968 and taught thousands of photographers until his retirement in 1991.

Baldwin said that he hopes his gift will inspire others to donate to the gallery. "Recent cutbacks mean we have only been able to host a limited number of shows in recent years," he said. "More gifts would help keep that gallery rolling."

Now 85, Baldwin is busy working with the University to reestablish the gallery. He's also excited about a trip he has planned in February 2014 to the Galapagos Islands. He and his daughter are two of 30 photographers included in a 10-day trip guided by a *National Geographic* photographer.

When asked if photos from that trip might be shown in the new campus gallery, Baldwin laughed and said, "I haven't even thought of that!" [MTSU](#)





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By Mike Browning

CUBA IN THE RAW

A STORY OF SUGAR

An MTSU Professor helps tell the tale of pre-revolution Cuba

When someone mentions Cuba, most people conjure images of Fidel Castro, cigars, the missile crisis, or even people on makeshift boats risking their lives to reach the United States and freedom.

Still communist, still isolated, and still ruled by Castro (albeit Raul, not Fidel), Cuba is America's closest off-shore neighbor, yet so little is known about it here in the States.

Dr. Ric Morris, an MTSU professor of Spanish, intends to change that. He recently produced and narrated a 58-minute documentary film titled *Cuba in the Raw: A Story of Sugar*.

Morris has traveled to Cuba seven times. *Cuba in the Raw* is his first documentary, one borne from his observation of how little American students know about the history of Cuba.

"Cubans know a lot more about American history than we do," Morris says. "They know a lot more about the Cuban-American history, the shared history, than we do, and it's a little bit embarrassing."

Morris says he produced the documentary to fill in the gaps of Cuban history. The film centers on Cuba's rich history of sugar production. As narrated in the film: "Slaves worked it; Europeans consumed it, traded and dreamt about it. And nations went to war over it. Sugar was the petroleum of its time."

Cuba's production of the world's sugar has declined to just 10 percent, but at one time the island produced up to 40 percent of the world's supply. Sugar plantation owners grew wealthy using slaves, who worked the fields and processed the sugar.

"To get at the crystals, you have to boil that 80 percent of water away," Morris explains. "Traditionally, this was done in a series of kettle-like vats that were tended around the clock by the slaves, usually in four-hour shifts because the heat was so intense."

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Morris's "story of sugar" begins with Christopher Columbus's discovery of Cuba in October 1492. Morris says sugar was available in Europe at the time, but it was exotic and expensive because it had to be transported in caravans from India.

It wasn't long before Spaniards and other Europeans were migrating to Cuba and Hispaniola to become sugar farmers. It required heavy labor, and the Spanish turned to African slave labor. As the film depicts, by 1505, just 13 years after Columbus's first voyage, the first shipments of African slaves arrived in Hispaniola for the primary purpose of working the sugar cane. The work was backbreaking. Planting and cultivating resulted in heat exhaustion and heart attacks, and the boiling and refining of sugar in intense heat was equally labor-intensive.

By the 1600s, uses grew beyond table sugar. As explained in the film, sugar brandy was a rich alcoholic beverage distilled from molasses, the dark, syrupy byproduct of the sugar refinement process. Unlike wine and beer, sugar brandy traveled well. Sugar brandy became associated with pirates and later was refined into rum.

According to the film, rum manufacturers sprang up across the Caribbean, and by the close of the 17th century, rum was being produced not only in Spanish-speaking Cuba and Hispaniola but also in English-speaking Barbados and French-speaking Martinique and Guadalupe. Slaves became the most important cog in what was now a perfect economic machine, Morris says. Sugar cane was made into rum; rum was used to buy slaves; and slaves harvested more sugar cane. Rum production doubled, then tripled. By 1770, Cuba was home to about 39,000 slaves, about a quarter of the total population of the island. By 1850, the slave population had increased to 460,000, or nearly half the population.



So why didn't the U.S. do just that? Morris explains that antislavery sentiment and concern over legitimizing Southern slaveholders kept one administration after another from annexing Cuba.

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Fast forward half a century, and Cuba's role as a primary producer of sugar cane continued to play a role in American life. With Prohibition in the Roaring '20s, Americans flocked to Cuba to enjoy rum. According to the film, the American thirst for booze was intensified when the Bacardi company, in business since 1862, ran ads in American magazines inviting readers to come to Cuba and bathe in Bacardi rum.



Dr. Ric Morris

By the late 1830s, Cuba was the largest cane sugar producer, accounting for 25 percent of the world's supply. Small wonder, then, that early on, American politicians eyed Cuba with interest and spoke openly of acquiring it as a state or territory. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams saw the acquisition of Cuba as the next logical step in the nation's manifest destiny. He wrote to President James Monroe that, "the annexation of Cuba to our federal republic will be indispensable to the continuance and integrity of the union itself."

Rum demand and air service combined to make the Cuban-American relationship mutually dependent. But when other countries flooded the market with sugar, the price dropped. As the film depicts, Cuban-owned sugar mills defaulted on their loans and went bankrupt. Banks folded. The U.S.-owned mills, whose loans were more secure, fared better. American corporations bought up sugar mills and real estate.

It is here where Morris's documentary ends. After repeated coups, military crackdowns, and economic instability, Fidel Castro led a revolution in the late 1950s and took control of Cuba. But Morris is in no way finished with his fascination for Cuba. In the future, he hopes to explore the Cuban legacy of American chocolate maker Milton S. Hershey.