

MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2014 Vol. 19 No. 1

The Power of DRASBANDON!

State historian Carroll Van West guides one of MTSU's most
respected Centers of Excellence toward a self-sufficient future



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Stone PRIDE

Symbols of courage and character guard the Martin Honors Building

Dr. John Vile, dean of the University Honors College, spent two summers studying at Princeton University, where he was impressed by the statues of tigers spread throughout the campus.

“It was almost as though they were breeding,” Vile says. “One could practically direct a visitor through the campus by directing them from one such statue to another.”

So imagine Vile’s delight when he was at a favorite consignment shop in Nashville a few years ago and saw two gray granite lions. They had been brought from China (with which MTSU has many connections), and both were stately symbols that to Vile seemed to embody the strength of mind, will, and character that the Honors College seeks to imbue. Vile placed the lions outside the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College Building.

The statues resemble Fu dogs. In feng shui, the Chinese art of placement, Fu dogs guard and bring energy and blessings to the places they “protect.” Vile found four other lions later at the same Nashville shop. They have joined the original pair.

The lions dotting the perimeter of the Honors Building have become an unusual artistic signature on campus.

Hear them roar! [MTSU](#)

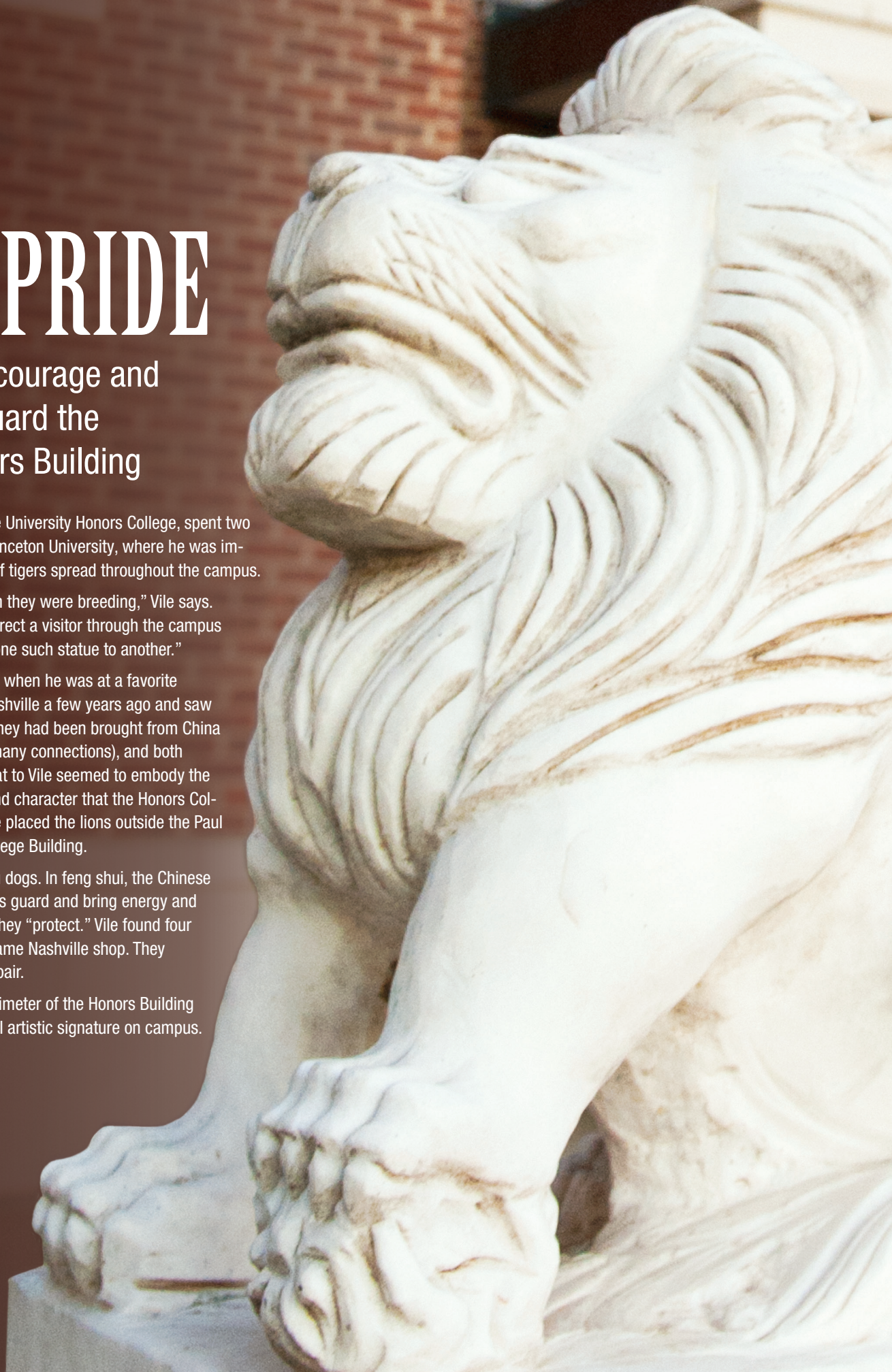


photo: J. Intintoli
cover photo: J. Intintoli

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out for themselves how to move forward. Now, MTSU staff members are often able to translate routine enrollment questions and concerns into opportunities to actively engage students in broader issues related to academic success and graduation. It's a whole new way of looking at a very common set of problems that may have previously led to missed opportunities to help students who are unsure, confused, looking for help, or facing big decisions.

Debra Sells, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, says the overall program is designed to make being enrolled at MTSU easier, more convenient, and barrier-free. "Every interaction we have with the student around issues related to financial aid or enrollment can be an opportunity to retain the student and support his or her broader academic success," Sells says. "From the student's point of view, the functions of these offices need to coordinate seamlessly to prevent barriers to ongoing registration, enrollment, and payment."

The design of the building and the concept behind MT One Stop are aligned with the Complete College Tennessee Act, which requires state appropriations to be based on retention and graduation rates, not enrollment. This bold new approach to providing personal, comprehensive, and coordinated enrollment services to students is in step with Gov. Bill Haslam's "Drive to 55" initiative, aimed at raising the percentage of Tennesseans with college degrees or certifications to 55 percent by 2025.

MTSU is determined to offer students every opportunity to succeed and to make those opportunities easy to find in one central location: MT One Stop.

True Blue!

MT oneSTOP solution

by Drew Ruble

THE RECENT OPENING OF MTSU'S \$16 MILLION STUDENT Services and Admissions Center is the latest example of the University's emphasis on student success and its focus on keeping students enrolled and on track toward graduation.

The 58,000-square-foot facility is connected by a walking bridge to the Student Union Building and houses all functions related to admissions, records and enrollment, financial aid, scheduling, and the Bursar's Office. Having one location for all these services is a new experience for students, who previously had to go to several different offices spread around campus to handle some of their most pressing concerns. The MT One Stop, a comprehensive student assistance center, meets and exceeds all enrollment management needs.

The combination of a new building and the revamping of the University's service model for enrollment management has significantly decreased frustration and allowed students to sharpen their focus on academic achievement.

Gone are the days when students had to seek help from a variety of far-flung departments and offices and then figure

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I AM *true* **BLUE** Abroad



Hannah Morris at Edinburgh
Castle in Scotland

When junior Hannah Morris found out about MTSU's study-abroad program, she jumped at the chance.

"My experience in Scotland has been absolutely incredible. When I found out that MTSU had a program that would allow me to study here for a semester, I jumped at the opportunity," she said. "It has been absolutely life-changing to live in another country."

"I now know that . . . there is a great big world out there full of fascinating people and things to be explored," she said. "I'm very thankful to have been able to come to Scotland for a semester."

It's never too early to begin planning for an international component to your MTSU degree program.

MTSU offers over 400 study-abroad program options in 65 countries.

Visit Peck Hall, room 207, during walk-in hours; call (615) 898-5179; or research the study-abroad website. We look forward to meeting you!

mtsu.studioabroad.com



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Five Minutes *with* President Sidney A. McPhee

Dr. McPhee with Mass Communication students and faculty who worked at Bonaroo this summer

I AM *true*
BLUE

The buzz phrase around MTSU these days is “student success.” I know that means a lot of things to you. Could you spotlight, though, one specific program or initiative that you think speaks to what MTSU means by ensuring student success?

MANY MTSU STUDENTS ARE FIRST-GENERATION college students who are juggling academic and work demands in pursuit of a degree. For many, a relatively small financial barrier—say, an emergency room visit or unexpected car repair—can cause a delay in their studies and progress toward a college degree.

Students who find themselves in a financial pinch can now apply for one-time emergency microgrants aimed at keeping them in school and on track to earning a degree.

Through a wave of local support and the existing Lewis Hazelwood Student Emergency Fund, MTSU can help students with emergency needs. The microgrants are designed to help with verified needs associated with the student’s education such as tuition, fees, books, housing, and transportation.

Grants up to \$250 are available to qualified undergraduate, graduate, and international students. Interested students should contact their college advisors or their dean’s office. The grants do not have to be repaid; however, students may receive such grants only once during their time at MTSU. To be eligible, students must be in academic good standing

with a minimum 2.0 GPA at the time of the request.

I applaud the community’s support for students, many of whom remain in the midstate area following their graduation and invest back into the campus and the surrounding community.

Creation of the funding source followed an effort spearheaded by my wife, Elizabeth, who called on area churches and local citizens to consider financial support for needy students. She pointed to the assistance that she and I received years ago as graduate students that helped us continue our own educations.

I believe **this effort serves as a perfect example of our collective focus on the success of our students, which is the top priority of this University.** These funds are a concrete expression of local commitment to helping us fulfill that mission. We are truly grateful for the support.

Let me also mention two other helpful student assistance programs: the MTSU Food Pantry and Raiders Closet. The pantry, stocked entirely by donations, has distributed more than 3,700 pounds of food in the last two years to students in need. Raiders Closet, an outreach of Jones College of Business, helps students acquire donated professional attire for internships and job interviews.

Thank you, Mr. President. [MTSU](http://mtsu.edu)

Senior education major **Jordan Raines-Ownby** and her husband have four children. Jordan’s niece and nephew live with the couple as well. Last semester, Jordan strongly considered dropping out of school and delaying her graduation in order to get a full-time job to help with the costs of raising six children. The staff of the College of Education helped Jordan acquire a microgrant that kept her on track to becoming a school teacher. “It got me through the semester,” Jordan states. “It really did help. And they also put me in touch with a number of other local programs that help students.”

True Blue!

Anyone wishing to contribute to the microgrant fund can do so at www.mtsu.edu/StudentFund or mail donations to the Office of Development, MTSU Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Make checks payable to the MTSU Foundation, and designate the gift to the MTSU Student Assistance Fund on the memo line. Other information about microgrants can be found at mtsu.edu/studentsuccess/crisis-aid.php.



photo: J. Intintoli



Par for the Course

MTSU golf coach Whit Turnbow proves that one good deed leads to many others

by Bill Lewis

ON THE EIGHT-DEGREE MORNING COACH WHIT Turnbow tweeted an offer to find a winter coat for anyone in need of one, he was shocked by the need he discovered. What didn't surprise him was the generosity of the MTSU family.

"It's a reminder what kind of country we live in," says the Blue Raider men's golf coach. Students, alumni, and local sports fans rallied to support his effort, donating hundreds of coats and the cash to purchase more.

The coat drive grew so dramatically that it earned a name—the True Blue Turnbow Project—and may become an annual event.

The whole thing began quite simply. Turnbow remembers being chilly in his car as he drove to campus at 6:45 a.m. for a team meeting. He could only imagine how cold it was for a man he saw on the street walking without a jacket.

"It was one of those days when the high was 14," he says.

Turnbow picked up his phone and tweeted, "Thinking about the kids who don't have a warm place to wait on the bus or a winter jacket . . . If you know someone like this, DM me, and I will personally see to it that they get a new coat."

"I just thought I'd run down to Walmart and buy a few coats," said Turnbow.

He had no idea just how many coats were needed, or that just a few miles away, two first graders were suffering from frostbite after walking to school in their shirtsleeves.

His tweets went viral among teachers in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County schools and in Bedford County, where Turnbow's brother is a coach.

"Suddenly there were 30, 50, then 70 requests," he says.

He called Murfreesboro businessman Matthew Neal, who offered to drop everything and meet the coach at Walmart. They walked out with \$600 worth of jackets.

The Murfreesboro school system alone received 100 coats, along with mittens, gloves, and scarves, says central office employee Lisa Trail.

"It was truly a blessing," she says. "Children grow so quickly in elementary school, it can be a tremendous strain on families."

She wasn't surprised when she heard about Turnbow's tweets or when he called her to see if the schools needed help getting the coats to children who needed them.

"The MTSU community, especially athletics, reaches out to [our] students on a regular basis," Trail says. "MTSU is a strong community supporter and has a tremendous outreach to our students."

When Director of Athletics Chris Massaro suggested collecting coats at a men's basketball game, fans donated hundreds of winter jackets. The Student-Athlete Advisory Council and members of the men's and women's golf teams collected them at the doors of Murphy Center. At a later women's game, fans made donations of \$20 to \$200 "right out of their pocket," Turnbow says.

For a time, it was impossible to buy a winter coat in Murfreesboro. They had all been snapped up by members of the MTSU community.

"People who brought coats said, 'I had to drive to Smyrna or even Nashville to get this,'" Turnbow says. "We cleaned out Walmart, Kmart, and Old Navy."

The weather in Murfreesboro is warm now, but Turnbow is already planning for next winter.

"We'll replenish the supply at the schools," he says, "Our job will be to make sure they have coats to keep them warm."

Turnbow was awarded the Make a Difference Award for his True Blue Turnbow Project at the third annual Raiders Choice Awards in April. The awards highlight accomplishments in the Blue Raider athletic family. [MTSU](#)

Chasing the Green



Jason Millard during his MTSU days

MTSU golf alum Jason Millard attracted the attention of major sports outlets nationwide in June when he self-reported a penalty for grounding his club in a bunker on the 18th hole of a qualifying tournament that resulted in his disqualification from playing in the 2014 U.S. Open.

PGA.com described Millard's action as "a prime example of the honor code in professional golf." Reaction around the golf world, it added, was first one of shock, then respect and admiration.

Millard admitted he wasn't 100 percent sure he actually grounded the club but that deep down he thought he did. His decision to report the possible infraction to officials deferred his dream of playing in one of golf's annual major tournaments.

That isn't to say Millard hasn't had a breakthrough year in professional golf. A few weeks before the incident, he became the first Blue Raider since Mike Harmon in 1982 to play in a PGA event. Millard qualified and played in the Honda Classic in Florida.

Golf coach Whit Turnbow flew to Palm Beach Gardens to caddy for Millard during a practice round. Though Millard didn't walk away with the winner's share of the \$6 million purse that weekend, he did gain something invaluable.

"He took away the confidence that he can compete at the highest level," Turnbow says. "He's chasing that dream."

The U.S. Open experience no doubt confirms that.

Another former Blue Raider golfer, Hunter Green, later qualified for and played in the PGA Wells Fargo Championship in May in Charlotte, N.C.

Not to be outdone by the men, MTSU freshman Samantha Gotcher qualified earlier this year for the 2014 U.S. Women's Open, becoming only the second Blue Raider in history (Taryn Durham in 2007 was first) to qualify for the prestigious tournament. **MTSU**



Hunter Green



Samantha Gotcher

Teeing Off

For the sixth time in the last seven years, Middle Tennessee's men's golf program earned a bid to the NCAA tournament. Only the nation's top 81 teams were invited to compete in the 2014 tournament. MTSU's regional took place at The Club at Old Hawthorne in Columbia, Missouri, May 15-17. The low five teams from a total of six regionals advanced to the NCAA National Championships. Other universities competing in MTSU's regional included No. 2 Oklahoma State, No. 11 Virginia, No. 14 LSU, No. 24 Arkansas, and 26th-ranked Arizona State. MTSU was led this year by juniors Brett Patterson and Payne Denman.

The MTSU golf team excelled academically in 2014 as well, earning a Public Recognition Award from the NCAA for scoring in the top 10 percent on its most recent multiyear Academic Progress Rates. The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success each semester or quarter by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete. The APR includes eligibility, retention, and graduation in the calculation and provides a clear picture of the academic culture in each sport.

It marks the fourth straight year the men's golf program has been recognized. The women's golf team, led by coach Chris Adams, also received the award, a first for the women's team. **MTSU**



photo: J. Intintoli



Jason Millard

MidPoints

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

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

Success Starts Here

Timecia Terry, a recent graduate who interned this spring with state senator Jim Tracy, (R-Shelbyville), was among 13 MTSU students who worked as legislative interns during the most recent session of the **Tennessee General Assembly**. Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the internships provide students hands-on experience in legislative matters from bill analysis to constituent concerns, research, and general office work. The University funds internships for students serving the Rutherford County legislative delegation. Students can also compete for spots assisting other lawmakers and committees through the broader state legislative internship program. “The vast majority say it’s the best thing they ever did in college,” Byrnes said. Sen. Bill Ketron (R-Murfreesboro) was so impressed with intern **Sara Mejia-Gomez** that he asked her to help in the research for his proposal to study the feasibility of a monorail from Murfreesboro to Nashville. “The quality of the students that I get in my office is simply amazing,” said Ketron, who later hired Mejia-Gomez to work in his private business in Murfreesboro after graduation.



Timecia Terry

Capitol Praise

President Sidney A. McPhee was honored in April by the Tennessee State Senate for his efforts to expand and strengthen the University’s international partnerships and educational outreach. **Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey** welcomed McPhee and his wife, Elizabeth, to the Senate chambers for the reading of a resolution by state senator and alumnus **Bill Ketron** (R-Murfreesboro), pictured here. Under McPhee’s leadership, Ketron said, MTSU “has strengthened its international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, expanded its study-abroad and cultural opportunities, and developed research collaborations with international partners.”



Posterizing the Legislature

Ten student researchers were among 61 undergraduates from across Tennessee to present research at the ninth annual **Posters at the Capitol** event held at the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville this spring. Participants included Emmy Rice (Luray), Brett Bornhoff (Nashville), Martin Moran (Clarksville), Daniel Murphy (Murfreesboro), Shiloh Siegle (Murfreesboro), Christie Sanborn (Nashville), Victoria Harrison (Greeneville), Shannon Allen (Murfreesboro), Lenzie Howell (Chapel Hill), and Rance Solomon (Manchester). Solomon’s research on sickled red blood cells was chosen to be presented later in the spring in Washington, D.C., at the national version of the event.



Senior Shiloh Siegle (left) shares findings from her undergraduate research.



Standing (L-R) legislative interns Michael Joak, Logan Elliott, Timecia Terry, Jared Adams, Jim Carpenter, Sara Mejia-Gomez, Wade Barnett, Nuraldeen Brifkani, Laura Ann Moore, Mark Naifeh and Jake King.



From left, Jed Hilly, Rodney Crowell, Sidney A. McPhee, Bonnie Raitt, Ken Paulson, and Joe Henry



Sidney A. McPhee with members of Maybe April and MTSU students Kristen Castro, front center, and Katy Bishop, center right

Grammy U

Three former MTSU students were nominated for **Grammys** this year, and one was a Grammy winner. **Michael Knox** produced Jason Aldean's *Night Train*, which was in the running for Best Country Album. **Jessi Alexander** cowrote two Best Country Song nominations: Lee Brice's "I Drive Your Truck" and Blake Shelton's "Mine Would Be You." **Luke Laird** coproduced the Kacey Musgraves album *Same Trailer, Different Park*, which won Best Country Album. (Laird also cowrote many of the tracks.) More than a dozen MTSU alumni/former students and faculty have been nominated for Grammy Awards in the last three years, and seven have been winners. The College of Mass Communication hosted an event at the legendary Troubadour nightclub in Hollywood before this year's Grammy ceremonies. Dean Ken Paulson, President Sidney A. McPhee, and department chair Beverly Keel met with alumni and friends at the event in an effort to increase the visibility of the department, long regarded as one of the best in the nation.

Fifty Years of Good Display

The **Baldwin Photographic Gallery's** new home is on the second floor of Bragg Mass Communication Building. **Professor Harold Baldwin** started the photography program at MTSU in 1959 and established the gallery five years later to expose students and the local community to the work of leading photographers from around the world. He built a permanent collection from gallery exhibits of work by artists such as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and Minor White. Now professor emeritus, Baldwin donated \$100,000 in 2012 to find and renovate a new gallery location. The former student newspaper office in the Bragg Building was turned into a 1,300-square-foot photographic gallery featuring 200 feet of wall display space and museum-quality lighting to showcase the Baldwin Collection, traveling exhibits, and student work.



Harold Baldwin



MTSU recording industry seniors and professors join Ryan Smith, center, regional manager for Shure Incorporated, behind \$11,000-plus in Shure equipment

Shure Thing

A team of students from the **Recording Industry Department** won the grand prize in May in the annual **Fantastic Scholastic Recording Competition** sponsored by Shure Inc. (An MTSU team also took top honors in 2012.) The 2014 group of Jimmy Mansfield, Sam Hillman, Charlie Garcia, and Frank Gerdts defeated teams from across the country by producing an original composition that had to be tracked and mixed using special equipment provided by Shure. As the winners, the Recording Industry Department got to keep the "microphone locker" of Shure equipment, valued at more than \$11,000.



Kimi Thompson

A Match Made in Manchester

The **College of Mass Communication** and the **Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival** formed a partnership allowing students to work behind the scenes at the June 12–15 event in Manchester. A select team of students provided multimedia coverage of the world-famous music event for *The Tennessean* and other media platforms. The partnership includes a symposium that MTSU will host this fall on the anatomy of a music festival and the future of such events.

A Legend's Legacy

Nancy Jones, the widow of country music icon **George Jones**, announced in April that the **George Jones Scholarship Fund** she recently established at MTSU had already raised more than \$171,000. "George received help from people as he strove to have a country music career," Nancy said in a press release. "I know he would have loved this." Donations can be made online at www.MTSU.edu/georgejones, or by calling (615) 898-5595.

George and Nancy Jones



Expert Commentary

Internationally recognized First Amendment scholar **Ken Paulson**, dean of the College of Mass Communication, appeared on a recent edition of ESPN's award-winning *Outside the Lines* investigative news program hosted by veteran sports broadcaster Bob Ley. Called "The Art of Noise," the program tackled the topic of rude, crude chants and language by student fans and whether public universities can limit student speech in an arena or stadium. Paulson, president and CEO of the First Amendment Center and former editor of *USA Today*, pointed out that while the remarks are often distasteful and deplorable, the First Amendment provides that government bodies—including public universities—can't set rules on what Americans can or can't say. "We can disagree with that from a policy perspective, but it's the law," Paulson said, adding that universities should be creative in their approach to dealing with the issue, including limiting the location and size of signs but not their content.



Ken Paulson



Mass Appeal

The **College of Mass Communication** was ranked among the top 20 journalism programs in the nation in a survey by the popular news industry trade publication *NewsPro Magazine* in its December 2013 issue. The survey was distributed to members of the Radio Television Digital News Association, with 1,321 respondents participating. MTSU was the only Tennessee university to be ranked.



Students working in MTSU's acclaimed Center for Innovation in Media



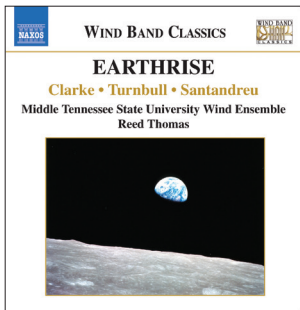
Renowned a capella sextet Take 6. Cedric Dent is second from right.

Take Your Place

School of Music professor **Cedric Dent** and his longtime colleagues in the award-winning group **Take 6** have been inducted into the **Gospel Music Hall of Fame**. A renowned a capella sextet, Take 6 laid the foundation for what has become the norm for professional and collegiate vocal jazz ensembles today (and, arguably, the popularity of televised vocal competitions such as *The Sing-Off* and singing-driven comedies and dramas like *Glee* and *Smash*.) Dent, who joined the faculty in 2005 and teaches music theory, the history of black gospel music, vocal jazz, and music industry, maintained an active touring schedule with Take 6 until 2011.

Double Dip

MTSU's Wind Ensemble continues to stand alone among Tennessee university bands with the recent release of its second CD, *Earthrise*, a collaboration with three



international composers on Naxos, one of the world's most prestigious classical labels. Reed Thomas, director of bands and a professor of music and conducting in the School of Music,

says MTSU is the only school in Tennessee that has even one CD with Naxos, "let alone two." Thomas conducted the Wind Ensemble for *Earthrise* as well as its 2011 release, *Angels in the Architecture*. The 12-song collection is part of the Naxos Classical/Wind Band Classics Series.

Hail to the Chief

MTSU graduate and current master's student **Joshua Crutchfield** traveled to Washington, D.C., in February to introduce President Barack Obama at a gathering of grassroots organizations. The nonprofit Organizing for Action invited him to introduce Obama at the National Organizing Summit on Feb. 25 after reading a letter to the editor from Crutchfield published in the *Daily News Journal*, in which he explained how easy it was for him to sign up for healthcare coverage through the Insurance Marketplace under the Affordable Care Act.



Joshua Crutchfield

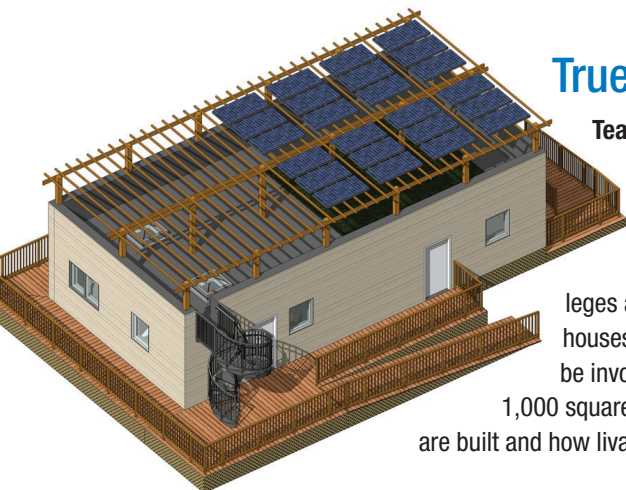


In the Scrum

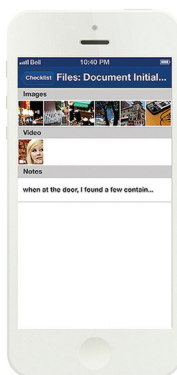
The **MTSU men's Rugby Football Club** qualified for the **Sweet 16** national playoff tournament this spring. The team lost to Missouri in the quarterfinal

round in Bowling Green, Ohio. Other schools in the Sweet 16 included LSU, Georgia, Arizona, Oregon, Stanford, Brown, and Princeton. While men's rugby is not an NCAA-sanctioned sport, it is a fast-growing club sport at colleges nationwide. The MTSU team has a strong alumni association that helps provide scholarships for promising players. The men's and women's rugby teams are overseen by Campus Recreation.

True Blue Team Green



Team Music City, composed of students and faculty in MTSU's College of Basic and Applied Sciences and College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt, and partners from Habitat Nashville, was selected to compete in **Solar Decathlon 2015**, a U.S. Department of Energy event that challenges students to design and build a functioning, energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Twenty teams from colleges and universities across the world have started the nearly two-year process of building their houses. Students in Construction Management, Interior Design, and Engineering Technology will be involved in work leading to the building of a house on the Vanderbilt campus that is less than 1,000 square feet. The Solar Decathlon comprises 10 contests designed to gauge how well the houses are built and how livable and affordable they are.



There's an App for That

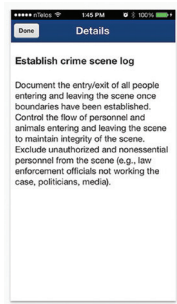
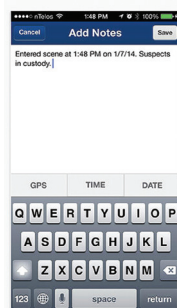
The first moments at a crime scene can be critical to saving lives and ensuring justice. Thanks to an MTSU-led effort, a key to preserving crime scenes can now be held in an officer's hand.

MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE),

led by internationally recognized investigator **Hugh Berryman**, worked with other seasoned investigators across the country to develop a system to guide first-responding law enforcement officers through what can be chaotic and confusing situations. Instead of trying to juggle notepads, cameras, and video recorders, officers can now capture text, photographs, video, audio, GPS information, dates, and times with their smartphones.

Using a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, FIRE partnered with WillowTree Apps of Charlottesville, Va., to create **CASE (Checklist App for Scene Examination)**. LifeWings Partners

of Collierville, Tenn., a healthcare safety and accountability consulting company, provided guidance in developing the application.



Ancient Perspectives

Dr. Tanya Peres launched the MTSU/Rutherford County Archaeology Research Project to learn more about prehistoric peoples that called the area home. Magnolia Valley, near Eagleville, has evidence of Native American occupation starting around 12,000 years ago. Dr. Peres and **Dr. Shannon Hodge**, another MTSU archaeologist, and some of their sociology/anthropology students, are also trying to preserve, protect, and study occupations of

Black Cat Cave in Murfreesboro. The cave is well known among locals as the reputed site of a speakeasy during Prohibition. Since 1971, the cave has been part of a public park, but the entrances have been closed for some time due to vandalism and concern about liability for injuries. Recent discoveries have shown that the cave is an important prehistoric Native American site.

In other news, archaeologist and anthropology professor **Kevin Smith** helped uncover ancient history at the Sulphur Dell construction site where the city of Nashville is building a new minor league baseball stadium. Fire pits and broken pieces of ceramic pans that could date back as far as 1150 C.E. were uncovered, suggesting the site was a place where mineral water was boiled to collect salt for trade. The ballpark will be built over the archeological site, but not in a way that will damage any artifacts.

Marching On

Director of Bands Emeritus **Joseph T. Smith**, who founded what we all know today as the Band of Blue, died in May 2014. Smith was also founding director of the Contest of Champions, one of the longest-running high school marching band contests in the nation, hosted annually by the Band of Blue.



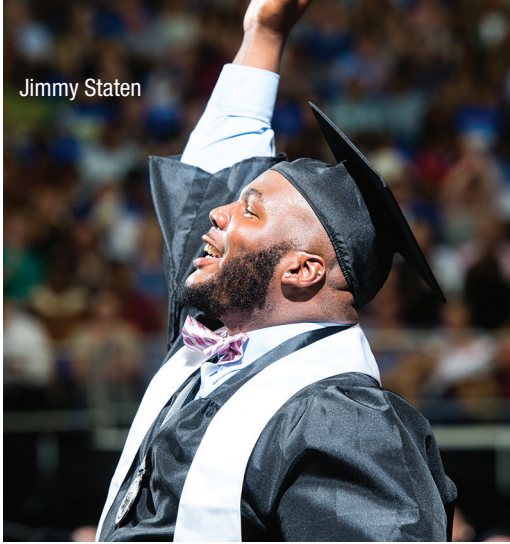
Joseph Smith

The Man Behind the Mask

Senior **Scott Sulfridge's** favorite sport gave his budding art career a boost when fans of the **Nashville Predators** picked his work as the winner of this season's contest to design the helmet and mask worn by Predators goaltender Pekka Rinne. Sulfridge fashioned representations of a guitar neck and strings across the top of the helmet and piano keys around the bottom edge to symbolize Nashville's music industry and the city skyline. The guitar pick on the mask includes the three stars from the Tennessee state flag. Sulfridge's design was forwarded to NHL headquarters for approval and then to Dave Gunnarsson, a Swedish artist who has been painting goalie masks for more than 20 years. On pace to graduate with a degree in fine arts, Sulfridge and his partner, James Mangrum, create different types of masks through their fledgling business, Uncanny Valley Productions. "We specialize in vintage and retro-style monsters like vampires, mummies . . . things like that," Sulfridge said.



Jimmy Staten



Daily Double

Jimmy Staten was selected in the fifth round of the 2014 NFL Draft by defending Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks. Staten found out during his graduation ceremony in May. He was given special acknowledgement by President Sidney A. McPhee and a rousing ovation from the crowd. Other Blue Raiders invited to NFL camps this summer included Sammy Seamster and Kenneth Gilstrap (Ravens), Logan Kilgore (Saints), and Josh Walker (Colts).

A Public-Service Standout

Honors student **Tandra Martin** was selected as a recipient of the **2014 Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award**. She is one of only five students and five faculty or staff members in the entire Tennessee Higher Education system selected to receive a \$1,000 award in recognition of significant public service. Tandra's father is Terry Martin, who works for MTSU in Printing Services. A Buchanan Scholar majoring in International Relations, Tandra recently studied abroad in Costa Rica and Israel. Martin is currently preparing to spend a year in Morocco after winning a David L. Boren Scholarship sponsored by the National Security Education Program.

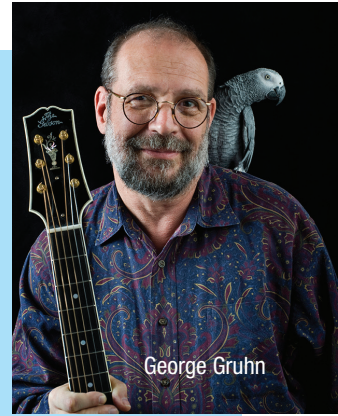


Podium Power

Many acclaimed speakers have visited MTSU in the past few months.

George Gruhn, an expert on vintage guitars and owner of Nashville's Gruhn Guitars, a mecca for musicians and collectors worldwide, kicked off a series called "The American Guitar."

Award-winning broadcast journalist **Soledad O'Brien** was the keynote for MTSU's National Women's History Month celebration. A former CNN anchor/reporter who joined Al-Jazeera America last year as a special correspondent, she delivered an address on diversity.



George Gruhn



Gen. Max Haston

Major Gen. Terry M. "Max" Haston

(an MTSU alum) spoke at Senior Day. Haston is adjutant general of the Tennessee National Guard. He had a special reason for attending: his son Travis graduated with a degree in Mass Communication in May.



Tre Hargett

Tre Hargett

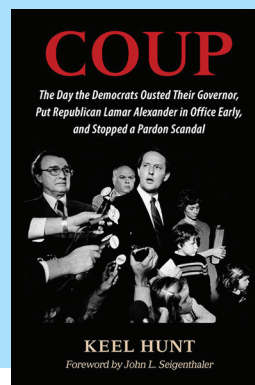
Tennessee secretary of state, spoke during Omicron Delta Kappa True Blue Leadership Day on Friday, April 4, in Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. The event also featured business leaders H. Lee Martin and David McGowan.

Former Blue Raider placekicker **Alan Gendreau**, who was in high school when he told his parents he is gay and was a college freshman when he told Coach

Rick Stockstill, spoke at the first LGBT+ College Conference hosted by MT Lambda and the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

Willie Wilson, former major league outfielder with the Kansas City Royals, was the keynote speaker at the annual Baseball in Literature Conference produced by the College of Liberal Arts.

The Windham Lecture Series in April welcomed **Senator Lamar Alexander**, public affairs consultant and former journalist **Keel Hunt** ('71), former U.S. Attorney Hal Hardin (also an MTSU alumnus), and *The Tennessean* editor emeritus John Seigenthaler to an in-depth discussion of the 1979 political scandal involving then-Gov. Ray Blanton and his unprecedented bipartisan ouster.



Soledad O'Brien



Alan Gendreau

MTSU Scorecard

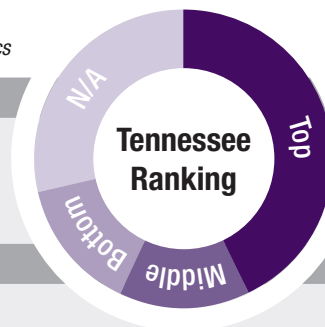
The scorecard rates MTSU in comparison to 14 peer institutions nationally and to eight Tennessee public, four-year universities on student performance and financial data. In each category, MTSU is ranked in the top, middle or bottom third according to the color code in the key at right.

Source, unless otherwise noted: National Center for Education Statistics

Institutional Characteristics	
● ●	Enrollment: 26,442
● ●	Student-to-faculty ratio: 20:1
● ●	Tenure-track faculty: 655
Student Performance	
● ●	Bachelor's degrees granted: 3,868
● ●	Graduation rate: 51.6%*
Cost Per Undergraduate	
● ●	Undergraduates receiving grant/scholarship aid: 66%
● ●	Undergraduates receiving Pell Grants: 41%
● ●	Full-time, first-time undergraduates receiving grant/scholarship aid: 95%
● ●	Full-time, first-time undergraduates receiving Pell Grants: 48%
● ●	Average net price: \$9,148*
● ●	Indebtedness upon graduation: \$14,500 [†]
● ●	State appropriations per FTE (an efficiency rating): \$4,387
Endowment	
● ●	University endowment: \$64,494,524
● ●	Endowment per FTE: \$2,802

*Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission November 2012 Report

[†]Source: College Affordability and Transparency Center College Scorecard



Infographic: Amanda Hooten

Up, Up, and Away

MTSU signed a memorandum of agreement with the **Civil Air Patrol**, the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, resulting in an aerospace education partnership to benefit area youth. Civil Air Patrol has a cadet program for youths age 12 to 21 that can benefit from access to MTSU's aerospace facilities, which include a \$3.2 million, 360-degree air traffic control tower simulator.

The Great Debate

The **Blue Raider Debate** team hosted the **International Public Debate Association's National Championship Tournament and Convention** for colleges and universities in April. Almost 300 teams from 33 colleges and universities in 13 states showcased their debating skills. Participating schools included Boise State, Southern Illinois, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. It was the largest tournament IPDA has ever hosted and the first time the national contest was held at MTSU.

Military Honors

Military Times magazine named **Jennings A. Jones College of Business** among its Best for Vets Business Schools 2014. Jones College is one of just 64 schools in the country to make the list. Academic quality, outcomes and policies, school culture, student support, and cost were factors in the judging.



MTSU's student-led veterans group, the **Blue Raider American Veteran Organization (BRAVO)** was recognized in March 2014 by the Student Veterans of America national organization as its chapter of the month. BRAVO grew from five to 300 members in 2013 alone. Malcolm Stallard, BRAVO president, said hosting events for nearly 1,000 student veterans and their dependents has stimulated growth and awareness across campus and helped lead to the recognition. "Veterans helping veterans is helping with our retention," he said.

BRAVO member **Sean Martin**, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq, is the only student representative on the 10-member Tennessee Veteran Education Task Force created by Gov. Haslam last year to help combat veterans returning to the classroom. The group met at MTSU this spring.



Sean Martin

continued on page 35



BACK TO THE GROOVE

VINYL MAKES A COMEBACK,
AND AN INDUSTRY NOTICES.
BY DREW RUBLE

VINYLS IS BACK. ACCORDING TO NIELSON SOUNDSCAN retail figures, album sales leapt 33 percent in 2013.

While the total number of units sold (six million) isn't going to save the recorded music industry, it's not insignificant, either—particularly for middle Tennessee, where the economy is in part dependent on strong sales. So what exactly is fueling the vinyl revival?

In the world of Recording Industry professor Paul “Doc Rock” Fischer, vinyl has never fallen out of style. A vinyl collector since age twelve, Fischer started working in record stores as a teenager in the 1970s for \$2.10 an hour. Like all music lovers since then, Fischer adapted to format changes through the years, from records to tapes to CDs to digital downloads; but unlike most, Fischer never chucked his vinyl while buying everything all over again on CDs.

About 15 years ago, Fischer began accumulating vinyl again in earnest, mainly by going to estate sales in and around Nashville. The fact that his hobby evolved into his becoming a second-hand vinyl dealer, frequently traveling to record shows in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Louisville, Huntsville, Indianapolis, and Dayton, is evidence that the world has caught up with his obsession. But so, too, has the industry.

“All of the major record labels are doing it now,” Fischer says, citing the proliferation of vinyl recordings by modern day acts like Nashville-based pop star Jack White. “It is one of the few categories of physical media . . . growing in sales of new music.”

Fischer, who has been cited in publications nationwide regarding the uptick in vinyl sales, points to several reasons for the trend. First and foremost is the important distinction that purchasing vinyl nowadays is smartly paired with a modern method of consuming music.

“If you buy new vinyl—the record companies are very smart—you also get the download code for all of the songs,” Fischer says. “So at no additional cost, you can get the digital version of it for your iPod or other mobile digital music player and you can listen to that wherever you go, but you can listen to the vinyl when you get home.”

Next, he says, is the younger generation's growing appreciation for packaging and album art—an integral part of the music-buying experience that older generations were accustomed to (and now wax nostalgic about) but one that younger music fans never experienced.

“I know that when I was a kid, that was part of the thrill—digging into the liner notes and the additional art,” Fischer

says. “Whole generations of kids who grew up with digital downloads and access to all of the music that they want, either free or streamed or downloaded, didn't even know what that experience was like until now. An LP with a big picture and maybe a gatefold and a booklet in the center—that adds a lot to the sitting and listening experience at home.”

Also key to the vinyl revival among younger listeners, according to Fischer, is that most of their parents tossed out their old record collections.

“So this is also a cultural, generational kind of thing,” he explains. “Most moms and dads did not hang on to their vinyl. So it can be cool all over again. For the younger generation, it's like they discovered it for themselves. It is of their generation.”

continued on page 20

photo: Andy Heidt



Paul “Doc Rock” Fischer at his home in Nashville

Fischer also believes the tactile nature of retrieving music from a vinyl record and a turntable with a needle is key to the medium's revival, especially in a time where a few taps on a smartphone can play music.

"When you push the button to start your CD player, you are not manipulating the laser. You are telling the machine to go to work," Fischer says. "However, when you have that tone arm in your hand and you poise it over the entrance groove to the record and you let it drop, that's a different kind of relationship with what you are listening to."

When explaining vinyl's revival, many experts are quick to cite the opinion of many that music played on vinyl with a needle—despite the hisses and pops that accompany it—sounds better, or "warmer" than today's compressed digital files. Martin Fisher, curator of recorded media collections for the internationally recognized Center for Popular Music at MTSU, believes nostalgia, not sound quality, has more to do with the opinion that vinyl offers a superior listening experience.

"I don't think the sound is better. In fact, in many instances it's a lot worse," he says. "Some people might call it warmth; I call it noise, which is basically what it is . . . but it gives some people something to plant their ears on. With CDs, by comparison, there is no room noise there so the bottom falls out, and from a listener's perspective you are kind of left hanging there in dead space."

In essence, according to Fisher, it's not the sound the vinyl is making but rather what listeners are hearing.

"Does it sound better? Not really. It's all subjective," he says.

"I think a lot of it is nostalgia, while the sonic explanation of it is probably



Martin Fisher in his lab on campus

because there is a security in having some sort of a noise floor to hold on to."

Are nostalgia-less younger listeners perhaps better judges of what does or does not sound good when it comes to recorded music? Fisher argues they are not.

"They are running around with earbuds or listening to a system that has digital artifacts introduced through MP3 coding," he says. "They don't know what sounds good. I'm not demeaning them. They simply haven't been exposed."

In addition, most of the new vinyl being pressed by younger musicians (which is accounting for most or all of the increase in vinyl sales) is actually cut from digital masters.

"So it's like taking a CD and putting it on plastic, which is going to have a relatively high noise floor with distortion," Fisher says. "A music collector would say, 'What's the big deal?'"

VINYL REVIVAL

U.S. VINYL ALBUM SALES, 2006-2013

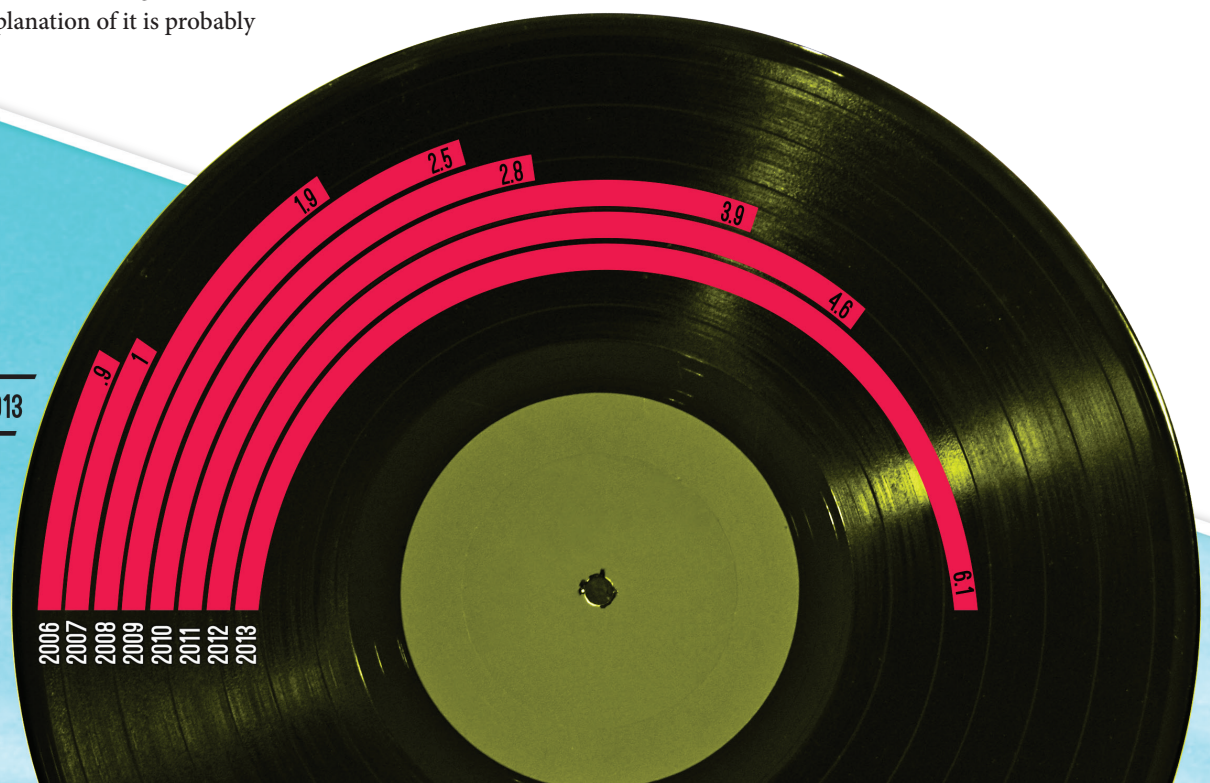
U.S. SALES, 2013

165 MILLION CDS

118 MILLION DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

6 MILLION LPS

SOURCE: NIELSEN SOUNDSCAN



The creation of new vinyl product from digitally compressed files etched in plastic would seem to offer proof that the medium's revival is more tied to packaging or cultural resurgence, not sound quality.

photo: J. Intintoli



Melodie Phillips in Lil' Shop of Records in Murrressboro

Jennings A. Jones College of Business professor Melodie Phillips, who specializes in entertainment marketing, says business and social factors are indeed part of the revival. Not unlike sweeping support for local farmers, local mom-and-pop shops, and local artisans, people today—especially 15- to 30-year-olds—are turning to local sources for music. That's helped the revival of record shops, where older generations were accustomed to shopping for music.

From a retail perspective, according to Phillips, society is collectively reprogramming its patterns and priorities.

“We think locally as opposed to supporting big corporations. We're thinking local groceries and organic foods. We support local farmers and farmers' markets and businesses and entrepreneurs,” she says. “And the push to local businesses, local artists, and local farmers that has in large part grown out of social marketing has also really been the genesis for some of the success experienced in efforts like Record Store Day, where people are encouraging and promoting and reconnecting at college age with the idea of getting their music from an actual local record store as opposed to a Best Buy or Target or virtually through iTunes.” (Record Store Day was conceived in 2007 at a gathering of independent record store owners as a way to celebrate and spread the word about the unique culture surrounding nearly 1,000 independently owned record stores in the United States.)

Phillips points to the success of the grassroots push “Local Saturday” as an answer to “Black Friday,” which has successfully persuaded Americans to intentionally shop locally one Saturday each year.

“The idea is the same,” she says. “Don't just run to Best Buy for price; instead, come to your local community shops and support them, because these are the people who live and work in your community. Plus, you can find unique items there, not the mass-produced, generic big corporation items.”

Phillips also emphasizes that the return of the desire for a personalized point of sale for recorded music—not an electronic transaction—is partly driving vinyl's resurgence.

“It's like the old days,” Phillips says. “There's a person there to talk with who knows music, perhaps alerts you to an upcoming concert, even lets you try an album out first before you buy it.”

A recent *Tennessean* business article offered more hard proof of vinyl's revival. The newspaper reported in May that Nashville-based United Record Pressing, one of the nation's leading vinyl record makers, announced plans to open a second location to try to meet demand. According to the report, United recently paid \$5.5 million for a warehouse where it plans to add 16 presses and storage space. The article added that several existing independent record stores around the city are expanding and that new retail stores are opening.

“DON'T JUST RUN TO BEST BUY FOR PRICE; INSTEAD, COME TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOPS AND SUPPORT THEM . . . ”

Got an old turntable gathering dust in the attic? It might be time to dig it out. Though still modest, the trend in recorded music in America today appears clear: what's old is new again.

[Editor's Note: Most of the business reporting on vinyl sales focuses exclusively on new vinyl being sold by record companies for the first time. But there's an untracked secondary market of vinyl sales taking place at flea markets, record shows in hotel conference rooms, and second-hand music stores that never went away. Arguably, such sales are not important to the industry. They don't make a dime on it. These are the places where people like “Doc Rock” Fischer, who are passionate about vinyl and looking for collector's items, can be found. Though invisible on most business reports, that scene is a large part of the vinyl resurgence.]

BLUE RAIDER FOOTBALL



SAVANNAH STATE
AUGUST 30 - HOME

MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 6 - AWAY

• WESTERN KENTUCKY
SEPTEMBER 13 - HOME

MEMPHIS
SEPTEMBER 20 - AWAY

• OLD DOMINION
SEPTEMBER 26 - AWAY

• SOUTHERN MISS
OCTOBER 4 - HOME

MARSHALL •
OCTOBER 11 - AWAY

UAB •
OCTOBER 18 - HOME

BYU
NOVEMBER 1 - HOME

FIU •
NOVEMBER 15 - AWAY

FAU •
NOVEMBER 22 - HOME

UTEP •
NOVEMBER 29 - AWAY

• C-USA GAME



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photo: J. Intintoli

Carroll Van West guides one of MTSU's most respected Centers of Excellence toward a self-sufficient future

by Katie Porterfield

WHEN CARROLL VAN WEST FIRST VISITED a Selma, Ala., home that served as a safe haven for Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders during the Civil Rights movement, he was just a stranger to the homeowner, Richie Jean Sherrod Jackson. West, an MTSU history professor and director of the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), had been invited to the home to help Jackson nominate it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. As

Jackson pointed to the chair where King sat the day he learned of the assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers, she said, "I don't let anyone sit in that chair."

By the end of the visit, however, Jackson had changed her tune, telling West not only that he was welcome to sit in the chair (an offer he respectfully declined) but also that on his next visit he should come to the back door—

AN HONOR AND AN OPPORTUNITY

In July 2013, Carroll Van West, CHP director, was appointed state historian by Gov. Bill Haslam.

“Gov. Haslam and his staff made it clear that one reason they asked me is that I am active in all 95 counties, and they want to be able to rely on that experience whenever necessary,” said West.

While he’s thrilled and he acknowledges that there is no greater honor for someone in his field than to serve as state historian, he also sees the appointment as a way to create more opportunities for MTSU Historic Preservation majors.

“People are always asking me, ‘Do you have someone who can do this, do you have someone who can do that?’” West says. “Sometimes there isn’t a match, but there often is, and a student gets an internship or an entry-level job. In today’s job market, just being able to open doors can matter.”



the one used by two Nobel Peace Prize winners, King and Ralph Bunche.

“That’s how friends enter the house,” Jackson said.

Well known in a field that’s as much about gaining trust as it is about preserving structures, West excels at forging close relationships with those who have interesting stories. Since becoming CHP director in 1985, he’s established a reputation that’s helped make the center and MTSU historic preservation students familiar in places well beyond Tennessee’s borders. And he’s far from finished. As he leads the center into its 30th year, he hopes to get funding to formalize the Historic Preservation major program’s

hands-on approach and expand the CHP’s reach nationally and internationally.

“What does that do?” West asks. “It ends up creating more opportunities for students, and what are we about but that?”

Focusing on students has been part of the CHP’s foundation since it was established in 1984 by the Tennessee General Assembly as MTSU’s first Center of Excellence and one of nine original centers at Tennessee Board of Regents universities. The CHP became a full-time research and public service entity in 1991. Its mission is two-fold: to help Tennessee communities identify and use their heritage assets (historical sites, artifacts, and narratives that tell stories of the past) and to support and direct student

research and experiential learning opportunities. Through the years, the CHP has helped communities develop historic preservation plans, historic structure reports, heritage tourism plans, National Register nominations, and more. Along the way, M.A. and Ph.D. students in Public History have worked alongside West and his staff, putting “boots on the ground,” as West calls it, and getting real-world historic preservation experience.

“There is no better way to learn history and develop a passion for it than to go put your hands on it,” West says. “It’s a great competitive advantage because when our students go on interviews they talk about their projects, and employers know from the get-go that they have real experience.”



The Conflict Continues

1864-1865
photo illustration: Micah Loyed

“It ends up creating more opportunities for students, and WHAT are we about but THAT?”

Today, the mission of the CHP is still the same, but West and his staff have expanded its reach to include the Midsouth, which West defines as the area within about a six-hour radius from Murfreesboro.

“It makes for long days, but it really broadens the student experience,” he says. “Our students get to say they worked on something in Appalachia or in the Mississippi Delta. You can’t go other places to get that, so again, it gives them a competitive advantage.”

West and his staff began to aggressively venture into other states in 2002, when they accepted an invitation to document Civil Rights churches in Birmingham. (The invitation came after they had successfully obtained a National Register nomination in the late 1990s for the Glenview neighborhood in Memphis, one

of the first parts of the city to integrate in the 1950s.) The Birmingham project led to several others in Alabama, including a recent effort to assist in marking Civil Rights sites in Selma. Shortly after crossing into Alabama, the CHP started working with the Mississippi Blues Commission on the Mississippi Blues Trail, and the rest, as they say, is history.

“I saw how much the students benefited,” says West. “I thought, ‘Well, if they don’t mind the travel, I don’t.’”

Today, in addition to the Selma undertaking, the CHP is working in Kentucky, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, and, of course, Tennessee.

“That’s still our core mission,” West says. “But to entice students and to get good students, you’ve got to do more than that.”

And they have done more. In the early days, the CHP tackled about four projects a year. Today, West, his staff, and students engage

UNLEASHING THE POWER TO PRESERVE



preservation officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Brown is one of the key figures working to protect America’s national treasures.



Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, among other activities.

MTSU has produced a True Blue army of preservationists whose effect on communities large and small is unmistakable. One of MTSU’s most celebrated historic preservation graduates is **David J. Brown**, chief preservation officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Brown is one of the key figures working to protect America’s national treasures.

The program is equally proud of graduates like **Jessica White**, who recently took a position with the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission in Alabama. Since then, she’s worked as fieldwork preservationist for the



photo: J. Intintoli

A CENTURY MARK

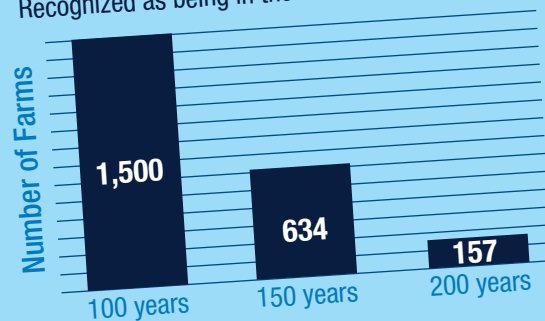
In 1985, the Center for Historic Preservation began administering the Tennessee Century Farms program to identify, document, and recognize farms that have been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years.

There are Century Farms in each of Tennessee's 95 counties, and the program has certified more than 1,500 farms. Of that number, 157 are at least 200 years old and 634 are at least 150 years old.

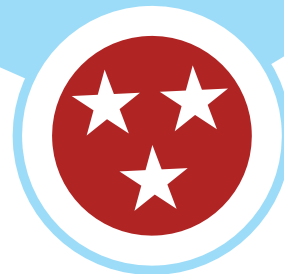
In addition to honoring these farms and families, the program allows the CHP to collect information necessary to interpret the agrarian history and culture of the state and provides learning opportunities for MTSU student research assistants.

Tennessee Century Farms

Recognized as being in the same family continuously



(Editor's Note: Nothing written about the Tennessee Century Farms initiative would be complete without the name Caneta Hankins, who was indispensable to the program's success since it was transferred from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to the CHP in 1984. She was director of the program for 12 years before her retirement in 2013.)



"MTSU's historic preservation program (and especially the public service work of the Center for Historic Preservation) has a strong reputation for producing well-prepared and well-rounded graduates who have a lot of practical experience as well as the intellect necessary to work in this profession," Durbin says.

in fifteen to twenty projects annually, and the CHP typically provides funding for at least sixteen graduate assistants. This year, the center is supporting ten Ph.D. candidates and six master's students.

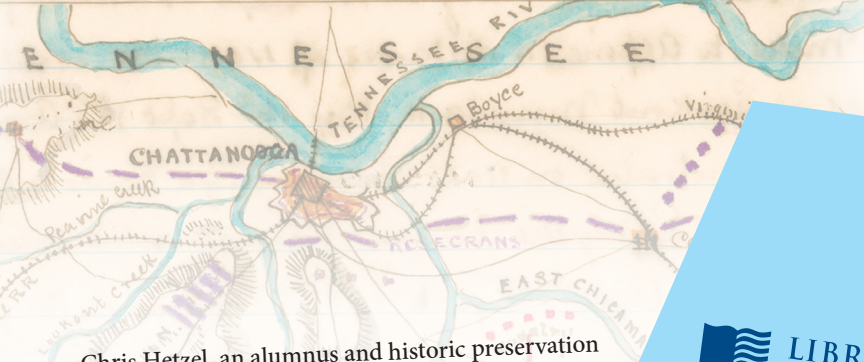
As have many distinguished graduates before them, those students are likely go on to careers in historic preservation. They'll find jobs in a variety of public and private settings including state historic preservation offices, military bases, national parks, federal agencies, historic sites and museums, preservation or cultural resources management consulting firms, and departments of transportation.

Several MTSU Historic Preservation alumni hold high-profile positions in Washington, D.C., including David Brown

('77) at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Blythe Semmer ('98) at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Jeff Durbin ('89) at the National Park Service.

"While none of us walked into our current positions straight out of graduate school in Murfreesboro," says Durbin, "I do believe that our education and hands-on training at MTSU gave us a foot in the door, which undoubtedly led to where we are now."

Durbin not only speaks highly of Dr. West and his experience at MTSU but also lauds the historic preservation program's reputation.



Chris Hetzel, an alumnus and historic preservation consultant working on compliance-related projects across the country, agrees with Durbin, saying MTSU's program has long had a good reputation in the field. "MTSU's program always has high visibility and presence at national conferences and the like, largely due to Dr. West and his many students who have moved on to jobs and positions throughout the country," says Hetzel.

Graduates not only do work that strengthens MTSU's reputation but also create more CHP projects and form a network for other graduates seeking jobs.

"The students who come out of this real-world environment grow over time, and when they, themselves, are in hiring mode, they want people from that same process," West says.

West would like to safeguard that process for years to come.

"We need to make sure that the center's vision and boots-on-the-ground approach to doing history is institutionalized and sustainable in the future," he says.

His goals include figuring out ways to underwrite fieldwork.

"Then we can really work with communities in need and we can make sure this fieldwork-centered approach is here five years from now, ten years from now, twenty years from now," he says.

With money for travel, the CHP could continue to spread its national and international reputation.

With no plans to slow down, West is forging ahead (including blogging to stimulate dialogue about the CHP's work). With the help of staff members who offer fresh perspectives, he's doing everything he can to ensure that the CHP is ready for the future.

"I'm lucky," he says. "I have great people to work with: my colleagues work hard, the students who come to MTSU are almost invariably motivated, and then communities allow you to work on these projects."

In other words, bring on the next 30 years. MTSU



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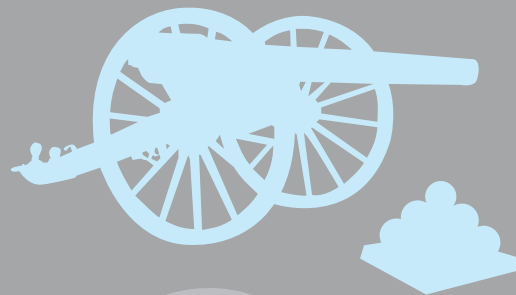
In 2013, when the Library of Congress released the first issue of *Teaching with Primary Sources Journal*, it was all about the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation's work in Tennessee teaching the Civil War era in a multidisciplinary context. Thousands of teachers across the nation have read the edition and many use the materials in their classrooms.

"Teaching about the Civil War with primary sources—original documents and objects that were created at the time under study—provides opportunities for expanding this familiar topic in history into subject areas as varied as geography, language arts, and science," the *Journal* said, "giving students unique opportunities to discover how this epic struggle bled into nearly every aspect of American life."

NINETY-FIVE PIECES OF HERITAGE



The sesquicentennial of the Civil War has been widely commemorated in recent years. Dr. Carroll Van West, director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, cochaired the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, which was created to highlight the state's Civil War history and to encourage tourism. Because each of Tennessee's 95 counties was touched by the war, the heritage area directed by West is the nation's only one to cover an entire state.



The Centennial Campaign, the largest fundraising campaign in MTSU's history, is having a transformative effect on programs and students across campus. The campaign is focused on four priorities:

- **Fostering an innovative learning environment** by building partnerships, learning spaces, and programs that support the needs of the modern workforce
- **Maintaining an exceptional student body** by bolstering scholarships and student aid
- **Assuring the highest quality faculty and staff** by increasing tools needed to improve recruitment, retention, and graduation
- **Competing at the highest levels athletically** by matching up against top-notch competition, improving facilities, and focusing on academic success

Here is a glimpse at a few of the gifts made to the University during the ongoing Centennial Campaign. **True Blue!**



Better by Design

MTSU's new **Mechatronics Engineering** program promises to elevate the University's

Department of Engineering Technology to the next level.

Mechatronics is a design process that includes a combination of mechanical, electrical, robotic, and computer programming as well as control systems. MTSU's program is based on a three-level international certification system created by Siemens AG, a German engineering company. An example of a mechatronic system is a surgical robot, which performs precision mechanical work under sophisticated electronic and sensory control.

Last fall, the new program received its first gift—\$15,000 from the southeast chapter of the International Beverage Packaging Association—to go toward endowing student scholarships. Southeast chapter member Jimmy Davis of Murfreesboro describes the new program as a “game-changer.” Davis, an MTSU alumnus and past president of the Engineering Technology Advisory Board, is the owner of Murfreesboro-based the Davis Groupe, which supplies machinery, tools, and parts to Toyota, General Motors, and Nissan, among others.

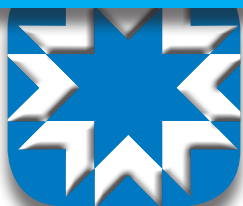
There's a high demand for skilled workers to maintain and repair mechatronic systems. People trained and certified in mechatronics engineering can expect high-growth opportunities and wages. MTSU alumnus and state senator Bill Ketron, a small-business owner and a member of the Engineering Technology Advisory Board, says the economic impact of the new program will be significant.

“Once we start training these young people and the industries and manufacturing concerns realize there's a good, trained, and educated workforce for their needs, they'll start locating here,” he says.



from staff reports

at Keep on Giving



Without Reservation

Sometimes **Gordon and Sara Bell's** friends have to choose between electricity for light or propane for

heat. They can't always afford both, but when it's as cold as 50 below zero outside, and your house is made of tarpaper and a few old boards, the choice is easy.

That's why the Bells make a point of taking candles when they visit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, as they have every year for 30 years. Gordon ('73) and Sara ('72, '84) became aware of the daily struggle for life on the reservation when they joined a church mission trip. Sara has since been adopted into the tribe. On each visit, they are confronted with a crisis of health and poverty invisible to most Americans. But they are inspired by the resilience and dignity of their friends in the Lakota Sioux tribe.

They hope the student who receives their newly endowed MTSU scholarship will join them on their journey—physically, intellectually, and perhaps spiritually. Each year, a University Honors College junior or senior researching Native American topics will be selected for the scholarship.

"After all, 99.9 percent of Americans don't think about Native Americans. They're out in the middle of nowhere," Sara says. "It's easy to forget, if you ever knew. Maybe that one student will make people aware."

Sara Bell stands in front of a gift from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation



All Systems Go

A bequest from **Steve and Kathy Anderson** will create an endowed

chair in computer information systems at MTSU and give students the benefit of a nationally prominent faculty member who understands the important challenges and opportunities in information systems and technology.

Steve Anderson ('77) majored in Marketing with a minor in Information Technology. While studying for his M.B.A. in 1978, Anderson worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the Information Technology Department.

Upon completion of his M.B.A., he began working with what was then called Andersen Consulting (now Accenture). During his 25 years with Accenture—15 years as a partner—Anderson's client work focused on large-scale manufacturing, supply chain, and information technology strategy for Fortune 500 industrial and consumer products companies. Several of these efforts were global in scope and included teams working across Europe and the Far East. He led major restructuring efforts for several Fortune 500 companies. He also led lean manufacturing programs in over 20 different facilities across the U.S. and Europe. Anderson's client work garnered him national press recognition in publications including *BusinessWeek* and *CEO Magazine*.

Anderson's vision for the Chair in Computer Information Systems is to hire a chairperson who embodies the qualities possessed by Dr. Richard Callahan, a highly-dedicated and much-loved former professor in the then School of Business. According to Anderson, the chair will (among other objectives) expose students to creative, value-added uses of technology and conduct "innovation fairs," where student teams will develop their own innovative ideas to be judged by their peers and by business leaders.

continued on page 30



photo: Andy Heidt

Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) meeting featuring guest speaker and alumni Steve Anderson, Accenture

GIFTS *that Keep on Giving*

continued from page 29



Serving It Up



A new **indoor tennis facility** is under construction at Old Fort Park that will greatly improve MTSU tennis and give local tennis lovers a new place to play.

The \$3.7 million building will have eight indoor courts, an electronic scoreboard, a pro shop, locker rooms, a lounge, and a meeting area. It will be open to the public and serve as the home of Blue Raider tennis.

The project was funded in part through private donations and is also part of the University's \$80 million Centennial Campaign. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to open this fall.

Numerous donors have made the new facility possible. For example, the scoreboard will be named in honor of the LaLance families of Murfreesboro in recognition of a donation from the families of Richard "Dick" and Jan LaLance and the late Robert "Bob" and Martha Lou LaLance. A court will be named in honor of the late Carolyn Reeves, a former high school tennis coach and community leader, in recognition of a donation from Shane and Amanda Reeves and the Reeves-Sain Foundation.



Standing Tall

John Stanford came to MTSU in the 1950s after serving with the Air Force, where he won acclaim

as a baseball pitcher. He made his mark on Blue Raider baseball by becoming an All-OVC player.

After graduation, Stanford turned pro, pitching two seasons for the Washington Senators before serving as baseball coach for Shelbyville Central and Motlow Community College. In 1974, he returned to his alma mater to cultivate one of the most respected programs in college baseball. His Blue Raider record of 402–272–4 is second only to that of his successor, Steve Peterson. Blue Raider squads under Stanford made repeated trips to the NCAA Tournament, and Stanford won multiple coach-of-the-year honors. Later, as the University's athletic director, he worked with donors to improve baseball facilities and scholarships, upgraded the golf program, and advocated the formation of the women's softball program and field (among other accomplishments).

Stanford, who died in July 2013, has now been honored with the placement of a 10-foot bronze statue outside the gates of Reese Smith Jr. Field. A similar statue of the late Reese Smith Jr., a Nashville alumnus for whom the stadium is named and whose two sons played baseball for MTSU, stands next to Stanford's.

One of Smith's sons, Stephen B. Smith ('11), provided the funds to erect the statues. Chair of the board of Haury & Smith Contractors, a six-decade-old middle Tennessee development and home building company, Smith also served on the board of directors of the Blue Raider Athletic Association, is a member of the Blue Raider Sports Hall of Fame, chaired the search committee for MTSU's athletic director, spearheaded the successful effort to raise \$5 million to remodel the baseball stadium, and now is an important part of the University's \$80 million Centennial Campaign. He was named an MTSU Distinguished Alumnus last year. [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu/supportMT)



To donate, visit www.mtsu.edu/supportMT.

10

Myths about Today's MTSU

And why you should send your child or grandchild to your alma mater

by Drew Ruble

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER. The most obvious is to write a check. The time to do just that has never been better because MTSU is pursuing the largest fundraising campaign in its history. Reaching and even exceeding financial goals will be a big step in the continued advancement of the University, academically and athletically, as one of the finest public institutions of higher education in the Southeast.

Another way to support MTSU is to make it possible for your children and grandchildren to attend your alma mater. What's stopping you? In my time as editor of *MTSU Magazine*, I've heard a few alumni offer an occasional reason for being a little hesitant to send their children and grandchildren to MTSU. Many of those reasons were flat-out wrong. I was all too happy to set the record straight.

Here, then, is my personal list of the top 10 myths about today's MTSU or, put another way, the top 10 reasons to send your child (or grandchild) to college here. True Blue!

Myth:

MTSU's campus isn't that pretty.

FACT:

In addition to beautifully landscaped grounds, several new buildings have significantly elevated the overall look of campus. The \$65 million Student Union Building, the soon-to-open \$147 million Science Building (see below), the three-year-old College of Education building, and the brand-new Student Services Building are some of the most beautiful on any campus in Tennessee—period! Add in older structures, including the four beautiful 103-year-old original buildings (still in use today), and your eyes will tell you all you need to know about MTSU's aesthetic appeal!

Myth:

Parking on campus is a nightmare.

FACT

Last year, MTSU opened two new student parking garages. The four-level structures (valued at \$23.5 million) added almost 1,000 net parking spaces near the campus core. More surface lots have also recently been opened.

2



3

Myth:
Sports at MTSU can't be nationally prominent.

FACT:

Last year, MTSU joined Conference USA (C-USA) for intercollegiate athletics. C-USA teams and players have made nearly 700 NCAA championship appearances since the league's inception in 1995. Sixty-seven football programs have earned bowl bids; 90 men's basketball teams have participated in NCAA and NIT postseason play; 47 women's basketball squads have appeared in the NCAA Tournament; and 53 baseball programs have made NCAA tournament appearances, including 12 College World Series and a national crown for Rice University in 2003. Also, 61 men's and women's soccer teams have participated in NCAA tournaments, and Charlotte competed for the men's College Cup in 2011. We can do this!

Myth:

4 *State tuition increases across Tennessee's*

higher education system have made even schools like MTSU unaffordable for families.

FACT:

Perhaps the highly regarded *Princeton Review* said it best when it named MTSU one of the "Best in the Southeast" on its 2014 list of the nation's top colleges. Editors of the list, which recognized 138 institutions in the 12-state Southeast region, called MTSU "a growing school on the rise, [where] you get a quality education and you aren't in crippling debt afterward." *Forbes* once even ranked MTSU as the 47th "best buy" among all public colleges and universities in America!

5

Myth:

MTSU doesn't rank academically—regionally or nationally—like other name-brand schools.

FACT:

Nationally recognized programs and courses of study at MTSU include aerospace, recording industry, horse science, forensic science, concrete industry, historic preservation, agriculture and agribusiness, and accounting, just to name a few. MTSU also boasts what may be the best nursing and teacher-training programs in the state. In addition, it's home to one of the largest business schools in America. In these areas and more you simply cannot send your child or grandchild to a college better suited to equip them with the knowledge and skills they will need to achieve their personal and professional dreams!

6

MTSU is not interested in student success; it's only interested in enrolling as many students as possible.

FACT:

Actually, University efforts are unilaterally geared toward retention and providing continuous support to keep students enrolled and on track to graduation. From the retooling of classes that too many students historically have failed to the recent opening of a \$16 million Student Services and Admissions Center and the new MT One Stop, an all-in-one student assistance hub, examples abound of MTSU's focus on student success. This "quest for student success," as President Sidney A. McPhee describes it, is not code for grade inflation. It's simply the right thing to do. And it's also perfectly aligned with the goals of the state legislature and governor's office. As McPhee likes to say to faculty and staff, "If students become an interruption in your day, you're in the wrong business."

Myth:

7 FACT:

Myth:

There are few important graduate programs at MTSU, and little significant research is conducted.

Many are surprised to learn that one out of five degrees awarded at MTSU is a graduate degree. In fact, the College of Graduate Studies offers more than 100 programs. The reality is that MTSU is aggressively transitioning from a primarily undergraduate institution to a doctoral research university with high research activity. New interdisciplinary doctoral programs ranging from educational assessment (the only such program in the state) to molecular biosciences are driving that shift. For example, in partnership with the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning, China, MTSU has the opportunity to develop new Western medicines based on plant extracts used in the healing art of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Several recent pharmaceutical successes stemming from the use of active chemical ingredients in Chinese herbal medicines to develop conventional Western drugs reveal just how big a deal MTSU's new partnership may be. The partnership has already yielded about 40 results that show promise in treating cancer, viral infections, and other ailments.



MTSU is exclusively a commuter college.

FACT:

A college education is more than an accumulation of course credits. Students don't spend all their time in class. College life is also about expanding your worldview through exposure to cultures, perspectives, and lives different than your own. With a new \$65 million, 211,000-square-foot Student Union Building, highly active service and special-interest clubs, and a wealth of extracurricular activities, students at today's MTSU enjoy the full college experience and never have to leave campus to keep busy and have a great time—even during nights and weekends! (The proliferation of affordable off-campus housing has also played a big role.) MTSU's new student involvement program, aimed at connecting students to the University through extracurricular activities, attracted more than 2,700 first-time students last year, and more than 1,100 of them attended four or more events during fall 2013.

9 Myth:

MTSU is exclusively a regional school.

FACT:

MTSU was recognized last year by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright award winners. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the government's flagship international exchange program. MTSU was the only Tennessee college or university to earn the *Chronicle's* distinction. Today's students simply must communicate across cultures effectively if they are to participate in the international workplace. At MTSU, internationalization of the student body is a priority. International student enrollment has increased from 396 to 789 in five years, and the University has 335 students in its study-abroad programs this summer. It has more than 40 exchange agreements with institutions around the world. Finally, MTSU's strong connections with China in terms of academic partnerships and research/industry collaborations rival any university in America.

10 Myth:

Only average students attend MTSU.

FACT:

The ACT average for the fall 2013 freshman class (22.0) continued to be above the national average (20.9) and above the Tennessee average (19.5). The average high school GPA for the fall 2013 freshman class was 3.35. Buchanan Fellowship recipients in fall 2014 comprised the strongest entering class since the University's premier academic scholarship began in 2006. Limited to around 20 students, the fellowship had 166 applications from ten different states, and the average ACT score of the applicants was 30.75. Also, enrollment in doctoral programs at MTSU increased by nearly nine percent last year.

So c'mon—send your kids to MTSU! Make it a family affair. It's a great place to get an education. Plus, how special would it be to share the same alma mater with your children? You can all be True Blue! MTSU





THANK YOU

Last year, 9,097 alumni, parents, and friends supported MTSU with philanthropic gifts. The impact of these gifts on our students, faculty, and the communities around us was profound, helping deserving students complete their degrees, advancing cutting-edge research that is solving real-world problems in Tennessee and beyond, and bringing renowned experts, lecturers, and artists to campus.

To all our generous supporters, we say thank you.

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Looking East



President Sidney A. McPhee signed various agreements with **universities in China** this spring.

The partnership with Hangzhou Normal University for a Confucius Institute at MTSU was granted a five-year extension. The institute is sponsored by China's Education Ministry to promote Chinese language, history, and culture through tours, exchanges, and academic partnerships. MTSU joined Hangzhou Normal to open the institute in 2010.

Another pact will allow select juniors from China's top communication university to complete their bachelor's degree studies in Murfreesboro and then earn master's degrees from MTSU in one year. The agreement aligns MTSU's acclaimed College of Mass Communication with Communication University of China, known as "the cradle of China's broadcasting and television talents."

MTSU gained an international partner with expertise in mechatronics engineering through a pact signed with Shanghai Second Polytechnic University (SSPU) enabling student and faculty exchanges and joint research projects. SSPU specializes in energy generation and manufacturing motor vehicles and aircraft. MTSU recently launched a Mechatronics Engineering degree program.

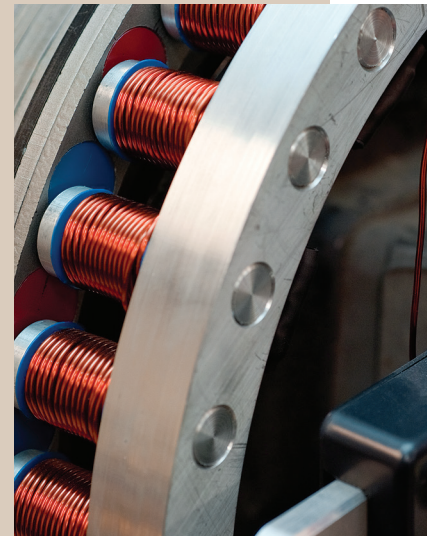
An agreement with Xiangnan University in Chenzhou, which specializes in teacher training and medical sciences, will also allow student and faculty exchanges.

Last, MTSU signed an agreement with Shaanxi Normal University (SNU) in Xi'an, home of some of China's top cultural sites including the archaeological dig of terra-cotta warriors at the mausoleum of the first Qin emperor. Both universities began as teacher training schools and remain committed to that mission. SNU was among three hosts for a group of Rutherford County schoolchildren and parents visiting China in July as part of a Confucius Institute cultural exchange.



Hybrid Thinkers

MTSU has partnered with Meliksah University and Firat University in Turkey to further develop Dr. Charles Perry's **retrofit wheel-hub motor**, which converts a standard gasoline-powered vehicle into a plug-in hybrid with just a minor alteration to the rear wheel hub, cutting a vehicle's fuel consumption by half or more. "Turkey is like the Detroit of Europe," said Dr. Andrienne Friedli, director of the Center for Advancement of Research and Scholarship. "Many European automobile companies manufacture cars there, and because of the high price of gasoline, people in the region are already spending \$1,000 to retrofit their cars to use cheaper fuels."



Drive to Succeed

Jared Brentz, a 25-year-old Criminal Justice Administration major and amputee golfer, successfully defended his 2013 Mesquite NV ParaLong Drive National Championship in May 2014, blasting a 409-yard drive in the final round. Brentz was born with club feet and arthrogyrosis, a rare congenital condition that causes stiff joints and muscle weakness. At age 12, after consultation with his parents, he decided to have both legs amputated below the knees. Undaunted, Brentz competed on his middle school golf team in the eighth grade, and his team won the district title. He was a four-year letterman in both golf and wrestling in high school and was named to the All-District team as a senior.





**MEREDITH DYE STUDIES AN
OFT-IGNORED FEMALE POPULATION**

by Katie Porterfield



As a little girl, Assistant Professor Meredith Dye (Sociology and Anthropology) watched a lot of *Scooby-Doo*.

“At the end of each show, when they unmask the bad guy or the ghost, they see that it’s a real person, and it’s usually someone they know,” says the 37-year-old Dye, who mentions her affection for the cartoon to help make sense of what’s perhaps an unlikely calling: prison research.

“I have a tendency to see people in prison as people, not for what they’ve done,” she says.

It’s this tendency that fuels Dye’s most recent research on women serving life sentences in prison, a small population (5,000 in the United States) that receives

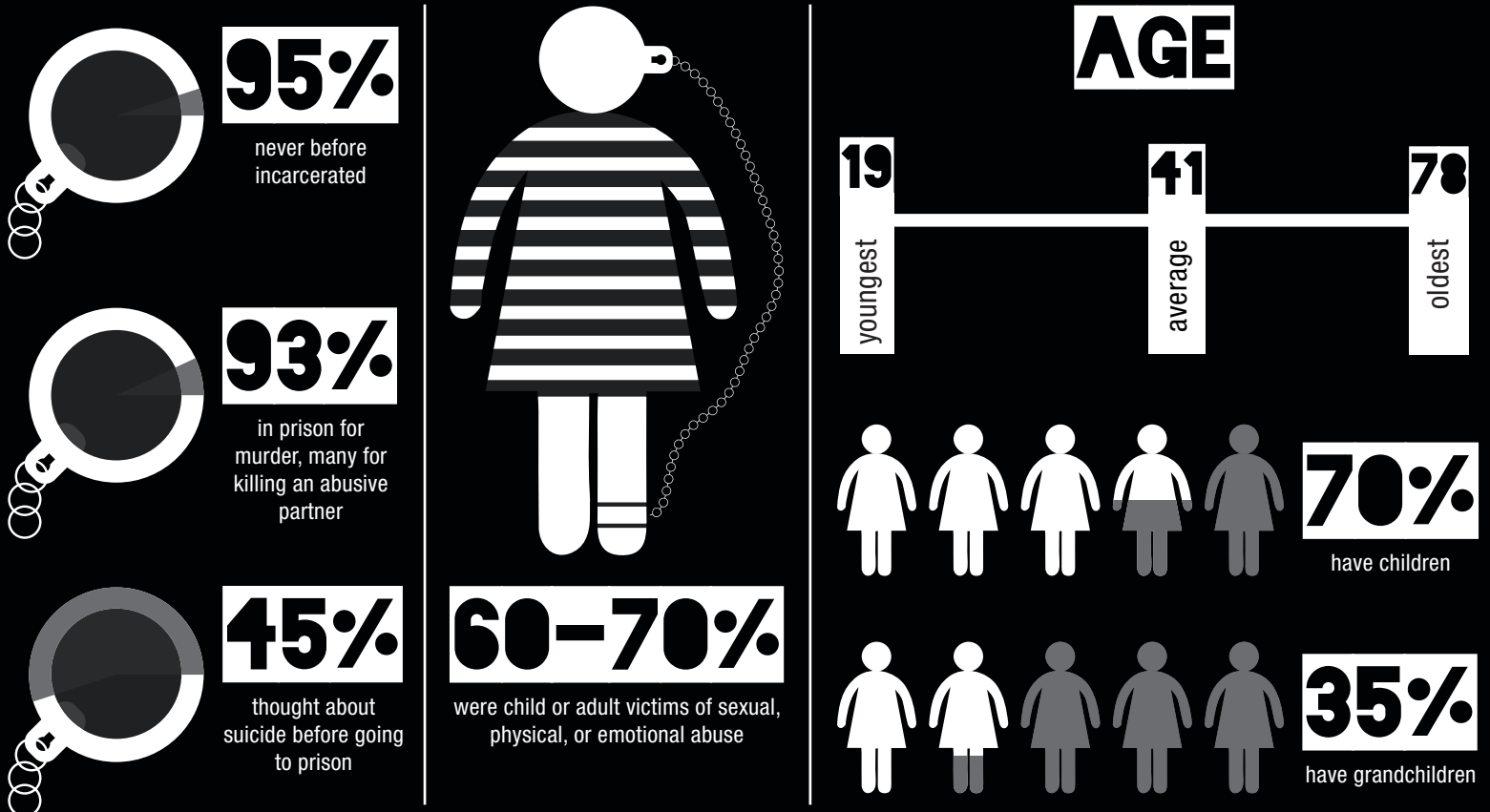
little research attention. In fact, in 2010, she and her colleague Professor Ron Aday (Sociology and Anthropology) visited three Georgia prisons and surveyed 214 of the 300 women serving life sentences in the state. As far as the pair knows, their data represents the largest sample of its kind. In addition to the fact that female lifers are an overlooked prison population, it’s difficult to get permission to work with them.

“If it weren’t for Ron, I don’t think I would have been able to get access to prisons to collect data,” Dye says, explaining that Aday, who wrote a book on women aging in prison, has a contact in the Georgia Department of Corrections who paved the way for them. “When I was at Georgia [in graduate school], I was discouraged to hear that it took someone 13 years to

establish a relationship that enabled him to gain access.”

Teaming up with Aday after joining MTSU is just one of the many experiences that shaped Dye’s interest in prison research. In other words, *Scooby-Doo* isn’t solely responsible for her “pathway to prison,” as she calls it. As she got older, her concern and compassion for people portrayed as “bad guys” spilled over to her academic career. At Erskine College, where she majored in behavioral science, she helped a Ph.D. student conduct research on deviant behavior in controlled and isolated environments. Between undergraduate and graduate school, she worked as a counselor at a residential treatment center for juvenile sex offenders and found herself asking questions about the environment and its

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Infographic: Kelsey Greer

continued from page 37

approach to helping patients. While working toward her master's in sociology with a concentration in criminology at the University of North Carolina–Greensboro, she developed a fascination with those who must live in and adapt to institutions in which their lives are completely controlled. She began to focus mostly on prisons and wrote her thesis and dissertation on factors associated with prison suicides (using secondary data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics). In 2008, after getting her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, she ventured to MTSU, where she met Aday just as she was beginning to look at gender differences related to suicide in prison.

After working with Aday to gather data, she published "I Just Wanted to Die" in *Criminal Justice and Behavior Journal*. The article compared suicidal ideation among women before receiving life sentences and then while in prison. Her latest study, "The Rock I Cling To: Religion in the Lives of Life-Sentenced Women," was cowritten for the *Prison Journal*.

Dye is far from finished. She's yet to write a general paper on the characteristics of women serving life sentences, and because her survey contained closed and open-ended questions, she has a wealth of material that should eventually lead to a

book. Her findings so far, she explains, are myth breaking in that they don't fit most preexisting perceptions of who women serving life sentences really are.

"One thing that stands out right away when you meet these women is that they're like your mom and your grandmother," Dye says. "They are aging. They have wheelchairs, walkers, white hair, and health problems associated with aging. Or they are middle-aged women who never saw themselves ending up in prison, much less serving a life sentence."

Unless they are serving life without parole, most women serving life sentences will not be in prison for life. Yet, as Dye explains, they are almost invisible because they comprise such a small population. (Less than one percent of all Georgia inmates are female lifers.)

"What I heard from them over and over again was 'We are overlooked,'" says Dye. "The prison administration and staff are more concerned about people serving shorter sentences and getting them

back into society so they don't come back to prison."

Though Dye readily cites useful and interesting percentages about the women she surveyed (see page 37), she's quick to point out that her research isn't just about crunching numbers. It's also about telling the stories of incarcerated women "nobody seems to care about."

"I'm not saying these women don't need to be in prison, but who are they, how did they get there, how are they serving their time? Do I think this particular research will lead to a change in policy or their daily lives? Probably not, but I think we always need to ask ourselves what we're doing."

Meanwhile, she thinks she's exactly where she needs to be. "A professor who does research on gangs told me one time that he always tells the people he interviews that for just a series of different life circumstances, choices, or opportunities, he could be where they are," Dye says. "I feel the same way. I feel privileged and fortunate. I've had a lot of opportunities, and I think this is what I'm supposed to do." MTSU

**I HAVE A TENDENCY TO SEE
PEOPLE IN PRISON AS PEOPLE, NOT
FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.**

Professor Meredith Dye sits in a typical cell at the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center.



photo: J. Intimoli

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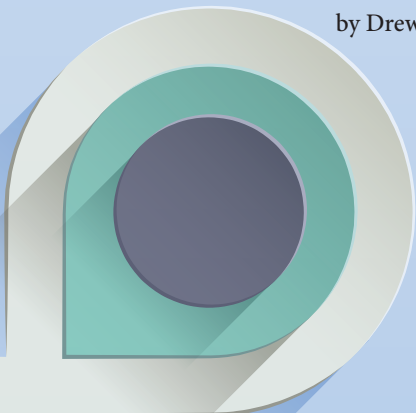
Path to

A good deed from the past continues to support MTSU's mission

by Drew Ruble



James and Josephine's eight children



I am **trueBLUE.**

as a member of this diverse community.

I am a **VALUABLE CONTRIBUTOR** to its

PROGRESS SUCCESS I AM **ENGAGED LIFE** IN THE **community**

I am a **RECIPIENT & a GIVER**

I AM A **listener & a speaker**

I am **HONEST** in word and deed

I AM COMMITTED TO REASON, **NOT VIOLENCE**

I am a **learner** **NOW & FOREVER true BLUE.**

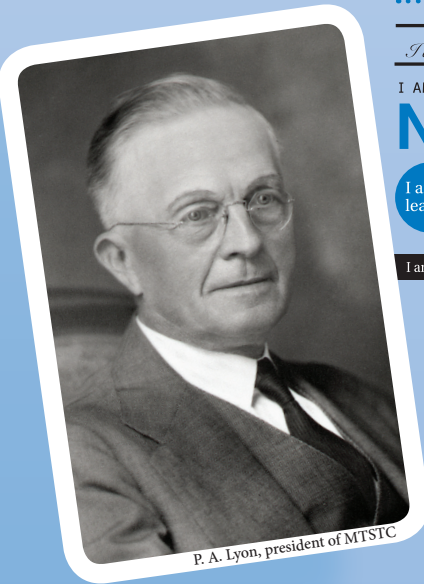
I am a **BLUE RAIDER.** Middle Tennessee State University

The phrase "I am True Blue" is more than just a marketing phrase. Each time these words are repeated, they express not only the ideals the University wishes to share with its students—that it is working to develop a community devoted to learning, growth, and service—but also the commitment to a student-centered culture that has been an ingrained part of the institution for 103 years.

The actions of an MTSU president in the 1930s show that being True Blue is not a newfound notion. So, too, do the recent actions of an area business leader to repay the kindness of that president. The story reaffirms MTSU's long history as the institution of higher education in middle Tennessee, where people receive education—often as first-generation students—that raises their status to new levels of social and financial good.

A Fateful Journey

James Lafayette Hitt was born in Savannah, Tenn., on March 13, 1879. Josephine Meredith was born in Wayne County, Tenn., on Dec. 9, 1882, but moved to Savannah at an early age. Both attended



P. A. Lyon, president of MTSTC

Progress

Savannah Institute (the equivalent of high school), where James graduated as valedictorian and Josephine as salutatorian. Hitt had saved money working at his father's sawmill with the expectation of going to college.

An extended bout of typhoid fever, however, erased both his money and his dream of college. He would later jokingly say, "I got married instead." Jim and Josie Hitt were married June 11, 1903. They had eight children—four boys and four girls.

Hitt was determined that his children would attend college and that each one would earn a degree. The Hitts were able to send their first child to college for two years in the 1920s. Then came the Great Depression, and they realized that their only hope of achieving the goal of college for the other seven was to move the family to a college town. Memphis was closer to Savannah, but Murfreesboro had Middle Tennessee State Teachers College (MTSTC) in a smaller, more suitable community. In 1930, James Hitt set out for Murfreesboro to find a new home for his family. It no doubt took a lot of courage and faith for a 51-year-old to uproot his family during the Depression and move to a new town without a job, but that is precisely what he did. While riding the bus between Nashville and Murfreesboro, fate placed Hitt in a seat next to P. A. Lyon, president of MTSTC. The two men talked, and Lyon learned about Hitt's story and his

family's mission. Lyon was so impressed that he immediately offered help. He told Hitt that he would personally see to it that each

SUCCESS

child would be given a job on campus, and until then they were to come to his office to have their registration cards signed. Even though the two oldest Hitt children were teachers back home in Hardin County during the school year and could only attend MTSTC during the summer, Lyon's gesture allowed all eight to pursue B.S. degrees.

With that grand offer in hand, the Hitt family moved to Murfreesboro, where James's first job was at a sawmill making \$1 per day. There were many lean, hard years, but conditions improved as, one by one, all eight children enrolled in college and helped others in the family.

All eight received degrees from what is today MTSU. Three went on to receive master's degrees and one earned a Ph.D. Five of the eight children became teachers, and two of those spent more than 35 years in the Tennessee public school system. Another became a high school principal. One became a published author and chair of the English Department at a private prep school in Tennessee. One became chair of the English Department at a public university in Mississippi.

Paying It Forward

One of those eight children was Virginia Hitt. After graduating with a certificate to teach English, Latin, science, math, and home economics, she started her working career as a home demonstration agent (now called county extension agent) in Carthage, Erin, and finally, Lewisburg, where she met and married James R. Patterson in 1947. She stayed home to

raise three sons. When the youngest was in first grade, she began teaching seventh-grade math and continued doing so for most of her 25 years as a Marshall County schoolteacher. She endeared herself to students across three decades with a reputation of being both strict and fair. Her life's greatest sorrows were the drowning death of her youngest son, Ralph Wallace Patterson, at age 14 in 1967 and her husband's death in 1976. Her greatest joys in 30 years of retirement were honing her intellect with reading, doing crosswords, watching *Jeopardy*, and indulging her passions for cooking, vegetable gardening, and traveling the country with longtime friends.

Her son, James K. Patterson, a Nashville businessman and a 1972 graduate of MTSU, has established two scholarships at MTSU: the Hitt Family Scholarship in honor of his grandparents, which supports students minoring in education and planning to be secondary school teachers, and, with one of his brothers, the P. A. Lyon Faculty Award, which supports faculty excellence in the College of Education.

In the past year, Patterson increased his family's donation to the University by adding to the amount of the annual Hitt Scholarship. Patterson says his mother never forgot the kindness of Dr. Lyon or the effect he had on her family's future. She considered it a privilege and duty to honor him in some way and make a contribution, as he did, to advancing the teaching careers of others.

The Hitt/Patterson story shows how something as simple as a conversation on a bus can lead to a legacy of good works and an ongoing testament to the meaning of True Blue!

GIVER

listener

MTSU

NOW &
FOREVER

by Allison Gorman

FORWARD MARCH



Rickey Smith works to build tomorrow's U.S. Army

RICKEY SMITH ('78) DRAWS WISDOM from the past. He quotes great military strategists as easily as most of us recite our phone numbers. But as director of ARCIC Forward—the strategic engagement wing of the Army Capabilities Integration Center—he's focused on the future, helping transform the U.S. Army into an ultra-modern fighting force ready to battle on any front, whether subterranean or in cyberspace.

CLASSIFIED

That's no small task. Historically the least agile branch of the U.S. military, the Army has 980,000 active and reserve troops. The Department of Defense is reducing military spending as the war in Afghanistan draws down, yet far greater threats to American interests remain. Those threats are global, complex, and constantly changing, and as the logistical backbone of the joint military forces, the Army must be ready for them.

"Have you ever heard of building a bridge while walking on it?" Smith asks. "Welcome to my world."

"The next war will be won in the future, not in the past."

—Gen. Douglas MacArthur

The center's job is to plan how to train, structure, equip, and position the Army to thwart present and future enemies as quickly and efficiently as possible. Smith's job is to convey that vision to those inside the Washington beltway. He works with Congress, administrative offices, and think tanks to help keep the ARCIC mission moving forward and to explain why, in a remote-control world, America's land fighting force is more relevant than ever.

Before he retired from the U.S. Army and became civilian director of ARCIC Forward in 2009, Smith did "futures work" on the military side, helping oversee the most sweeping reorganization of combat operations since World War II. Now an even more dramatic modernization is underway, and Smith is helping shape a force facing limited funding but near-limitless combat scenarios.

"I don't use the phrase 'irregular warfare,'" he says. "It's just warfare. What used to be conventional is now unconventional. That's the chaotic dynamic we're working in." So while the Army has institutionalized the practice of learning from its mistakes (with, for example, the Center for Army Lessons Learned), its best weapon going forward might be adaptability.

Troops may fight the next big battle in one of the growing number of "megacities," tracking a loosely

organized enemy through sewers or high-rises. Or they might have to swap their Humvees for horses, using GPS to call in airstrikes, as they did in the mountains of Afghanistan. "Our challenge is we have to do these things as an away game anywhere on the globe," says Smith.

He predicts that cyberspace will become more treacherous as hackers learn to disable military computers and redirect GPS units. ("That's what we would do, so that's we should expect our enemy to do. They're not idiots.") He also considers chemical and biological weapons credible threats.

"We're facing an active, dynamic, resourceful adversary that doesn't have the same legal or moral structure that we do," he says. "How do we deal with that?"

ARCIC offers two answers: adaptation and innovation. The hoped-for result is a leaner, smarter, more flexible U.S. Army that leaders expect to have in place by 2025.

Already, the Army's traditional strength-in-numbers approach has given way to smaller brigade combat teams—nimble tactical units that are now its primary fighting force, Smith says. Increasingly sophisticated unmanned systems will complement boots on the ground.

"Whosoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times."

—Niccolò Machiavelli

ARCIC helped shape new cyberspace operations units, including one focused on missile defense, as well as a "consequence management" formation to assess and contain damage from a weapon of mass destruction. The center has also increased the Army's focus on biometrics and forensics and sees particular promise in human performance and material science research.

And then there's technology that should make formations faster and more resilient: innovations such as bandages that cauterize wounds, uniforms that store solar power or a soldier's own kinetic energy, "Iron

continued on page 44

Forward March *continued from page 43*

Man” helmets with heads-up displays, and devices that pull water from air. “Some of these things are past the testing phase,” Smith says. “Now we’re assessing where we should put them in the force.”

Whether the question is where to station troops or what technology to buy, Smith says it all boils down to cost-benefit analysis—a perfect challenge for a former finance major.

“There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity.”

—Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Smith attended MTSU on a four-year ROTC scholarship, choosing his hometown school out of 350 options because he felt it offered him the best chance to succeed on his own merits. “Even with the growth of the University,” he says, “it remains a place where you can achieve your personal excellence, even if you didn’t come from a long line of college graduates, which I didn’t.”

Yet succeed he did.

At MTSU, Smith joined the riflery team and was cadet battalion commander. He also married his high-school sweetheart, Margaret Smith ('84). After graduating in 1978, he joined the Army as a field artillery officer, completing tours of duty in Germany and Korea. He earned an M.B.A. and a master’s in national security strategy. He participated in START treaty negotiations in Geneva and after 9/11 was a Department of Defense coordinating officer for disaster relief and homeland security before moving on to futures work.

All along the way, he says, he’s drawn on lessons he learned as a cadet at MTSU. “The notion of being able to examine problems, come up with courses of action, do a kind of cost-benefit analysis . . . that all stems from those early days.”

As ARCIC’s point person in Washington, Smith considers himself less an advocate than an educator, and those analytical skills are still critical. At a time when military decisions can boil down to numbers, he presents the cost of arbitrary change versus the benefit of restructuring the Army in an intellectually driven way.

“At the end of the day, the nation will have the army it wants to resource,” he says.

Central to ARCIC’s philosophy is the conviction that no unmanned system and no amount of remote firepower can replace the need for boots on the ground.

“Don’t get me wrong—I want the world’s greatest air force and navy,” Smith says. “But that won’t drive you to a strategic resolution . . . and by launching that bomb, you may have created ten adversaries you didn’t have before.”

With troops in more than 100 countries, the U.S. Army is positioned to deter war by addressing its underlying human causes, he says.

“Clausewitz said that war is the ultimate expression of politics. . . . The human aspect of military operations is about changing behavior. Lethal means—the battle, the firefight—that’s a last resort. If you really want to change behavior, you’ve got to start through engagement.”

Smith says human capital is the Army’s most precious commodity, and today’s soldiers come with fresh, invaluable skills: they are digital natives who find new ways to use technology, often write their own apps, and solve problems through crowdsourcing.

Then again, Smith says, some things haven’t changed since he was a cadet at MTSU. “We’ve got a lot more gee-whiz things now,” he says, “but strength of character, the Army values we embrace—those are enduring.” [MTSU](#)



President Sidney A. McPhee recently hosted a reception for Washington, D.C.–area MTSU alums at Café Berlin. Among those pictured here are (3rd from left) General William Phillips, U.S. Army; (8th from left) McPhee; (9th from left) former congressman Bart Gordon; (10th from left) Rickey E. Smith; and (11th from left) Ken Strickland, NBC News Washington bureau chief.



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On May 10, 2014, during the University's commencement ceremonies, MTSU granted just the third and fourth honorary degrees in its 103-year history. Receiving them were MTSU alumnus Lt. Gen. William Phillips ('76), a U.S. Army three-star general from Bell Buckle, and Madam Xu Lin of China, a vice minister of education and director-general of the worldwide network of Confucius Institutes. Each honoree addressed graduates during commencement exercises.

by Jimmy Hart and Drew Ruble

A Soldier's Soldier

From February 2010 to April 2014, Phillips was stationed at the Pentagon and served as principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the U.S. Army for acquisition, logistics, and technology. He retired in April after 38 years of service.

In a recent House speech honoring Phillips, U.S. Rep. John Carter (R-Texas), a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, called Phillips "a true champion for soldiers and their families," adding, "His dedication to excellence has ensured our beloved soldiers fighting on behalf of the nation have always had, and will continue to have well into the future, the most technologically advanced and reliable equipment whenever and wherever they need it most."

Phillips graduated from MTSU in 1976 with a bachelor's degree. He received a master's in procurement and materials management from Webster University and a master's in personnel management from Troy State University. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Systems Management College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Among his many awards are the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. In 2001, he was named U.S. Army Acquisition Commander of the Year.

A Cultural Icon

Xu Lin leads the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and serves as chief executive of Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing. During her tenure, the organization has experienced tremendous growth. Since 2004, it has expanded to more than 120 countries with more than 440 Confucius Institutes and 650 Confucius Classrooms, reaching more than 850,000 students. MTSU joined China's Hangzhou Normal University to open its Confucius Institute in 2010.

"Under Xu's leadership, Hanban has been committed to making Chinese language and culture teaching resources and services available to the world, meeting the demands of overseas Chinese learners and contributing to the formation of a world of cultural diversity and harmony," said President Sidney A. McPhee.

In October 2013, Xu visited the MTSU Confucius Institute and the Tennessee State Capitol, where she met with Sen. Bill Ketron and Gov. Bill Haslam, among others, to discuss the importance of cultural exchanges between the U.S. and China.

Xu received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Fudan University in Shanghai and a master's degree from Beijing Normal University. She has received many honorary doctorate degrees from universities around the globe. [MTSU](#)

[Editor's Note: Almost 2,300 students graduated at MTSU's spring 2014 commencement ceremonies on May 10. Of that number, 1,893 were undergraduates and 393 were graduate students.]



▼ **Suzette Ervin ('90)**, a production designer for film and television, most recently worked on the award-winning Disney Channel show *Good Luck Charlie*, which once featured special guest the Muppets (pictured here with Ervin). Ervin has a long list of television credits as an art director and production designer, including *The Ellen Show*, *Access Hollywood*, and *Will And Grace*. She designed the feature film *The Last Producer* for director Burt Reynolds. [MTSU](#)

You Do What?

▲ That Disney Channel program your kids are wearing out day after day might have an MTSU connection. **Betsy Sullenger ('88)** is executive producer of the hit show *Liv and Maddie*. She is pictured here with the star of the show, Dove Cameron. This summer, while the program is on break, Sullenger is producing the action/horror/comedy *Scouts vs. Zombies* for Paramount. She is one of the rare producers (male or female) who work in both film and TV. And rarely do they do it at the same time. [MTSU](#)



Raiders of Industry

Nathan Reale and **Matt Houglund** are the latest alumni from MTSU's Computer Science Program to tap the career pipeline to Web service giant Google.

"It is very difficult to get hired at Google, and the fact that a major company like Google is hiring our students is indicative of the quality of the education being offered in the Department of Computer Science at MTSU," said Chrisila Pettey, professor and department chair.

With 12 faculty members and 375 students housed on the third floor of 103-year-old Kirksey Old Main, Computer Science flies under the radar compared to signature programs such as Recording Industry and Aerospace. But Google hires register on everyone's radar.

Google™ IT

by Randy Weiler

Reale, of Franklin, and Houglund, of Christiana, both 24, will be joining Computer Science alumni **Collin Winter** and **Micah Chasteen** as Google employees. **Eldridge Alexander**, a 2012 graduate from the College of Mass Communication, also works for Google in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Reale will work on Google projects at its Mountain View, California, operations outside San Francisco. He says Google "was my dream job." Houglund will be an enterprise technical solutions engineer at Google's Seattle operations, "solving technical problems people and companies have when they begin using Google products," he said. While at MTSU, Houglund participated on a student team that developed an Android mobile app for students to provide easy access to a wide variety of University information. [MTSU](#)



Matt Houglund



Nathan Reale



Mike Kopp

Mike Kopp ('81) has spent more than 30 years helping celebrities, public figures, executives, companies, and organizations create new opportunities for success. The former deputy commissioner of economic and community development for the State of Tennessee and former partner in the Nashville PR firm the Ingram Group, Kopp was also press secretary for Congressman Al Gore. He is cofounder and senior VP of digital marketing for MMA Creative in Nashville. In 2012, Kopp joined Music Row veteran Sharon Corbitt-House to launch HouseKopp, an artist management company whose primary client is singer-songwriter/producer Ben Folds. Kopp is Folds's representative on all fronts: from contracts to bookings and branding to studio work. [MTSU](#)



Christopher Tilton

Christopher Tilton ('79) is cofounder of Smart Planet Technologies in Newport Beach, California. Focused on developing recyclable, environmentally ethical packaging materials, Smart Planet specializes in replacing plastic coatings with mineral composites in frozen food packaging, disposable cups, and other containers, thereby diverting

them from landfills. Tilton's role with Smart Planet includes researching, developing, patenting (he holds over 50 patents), licensing, and commercializing the company's products. Customers include paper giant International Paper and grocer Whole Foods. Tilton, a first-gen student, has six younger siblings who also attended MTSU. He met his wife, **Cynthia ('79)**, at MTSU. One of his brothers, **Col. Charles Tilton ('87)**, recently took charge of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 117th Regional Training Institute in Smyrna. [MTSU](#)



1960s

James T. Cox ('60), Fayetteville, was among just three Tennessee bankers honored in 2013 by the Tennessee Bankers Association with the Leader in Banking Excellence Award. Cox is senior officer of First National Bank of Pulaski.

Thelma Straw ('63), New York, N.Y., is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and writes for the blog *Crime Writers Chronicle*.

Robert Turman ('63), Ijamsville, Maryland, retired after 45 years of federal service, including 25 years as a U.S. Army officer in the Medical Service Corps and 20 years as a budget and program analyst in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Donald Gates ('65), Durham, Connecticut, interim principal

at Coginchaug Regional High School and retired principal of Portland High School, was recognized recently by the National Association of Secondary School Principals with a prestigious Gerry Tirozzi Membership Star Award for 39 years of membership.

1970s

George Bragg III ('70), Old Hickory, is a pilot flying for L-3 Communications after retiring from a 27-year career with Federal Express. In his military career, he was deployed seven times to Afghanistan, three to Iraq, and once to Bulgaria.

Tony Kessinger ('71), Melbourne, Florida, has released his latest book,

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The Whitts

Katherine Batey Whitt ('01) and **Brandon Whitt ('02)** won the Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation earlier this year. Winners are chosen based on their operation's growth and financial progress, Farm Bureau leadership, and contributions outside the Farm Bureau. The couple was presented with an "MTSU Blue" GMC Sierra. Katherine's parents, **John L.** and **Melissa Batey**, are University alumni from the mid-1970s. John L. and Brandon work together to operate Batey Farms, an eighth-generation family farm in operation since 1807. [MTSU](#)



Adam Rector

Adam Rector ('99) is getting noticed in Nashville business media circles with his new online camera rental system, RENTaCAMERA.com, which he launched earlier this year. *The Tennessean* reported that Rector bought the equipment department of the Electric Picture Co., a well-known Nashville-based production retailer, in 2005. He then started The Video Company, which loans its stock of 70 cameras, hundreds of lenses, and other production equipment to “do-it-yourself” operators. The *Nashville Business Journal* reported that the company has averaged 30 percent revenue growth through the years and now has more than \$1 million in equipment. [MTSU](#)



Matt Palmer

Matt Palmer ('03) made his Carnegie Hall debut in February as the only American chosen to present a concert during the D'Addario Performance Series. Palmer has appeared as a soloist throughout the U.S., Europe, Mexico, Canada, South America, and the Caribbean. He won the 2010 Up-and-Coming Guitarist of the Year Award from *Guitar International Magazine* and is author of *The Virtuoso Guitarist*. [MTSU](#)

Micheal Burt

Micheal Burt ('98, '02), an entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and author of books on self-improvement and business success, has entered the world of reality television. His reality show, *Zebbras and Cheetahs*, began airing in January on the CW Network in the Nashville area. Contestants compete in the Zebra Challenge, in which they work to understand what makes them unique; the Cheetah Challenge, in which they determine how agile and quick thinking they can be; and the Final Challenge, appearing before a three-person board of advisors (including restaurateur Peter Demos) to

pitch themselves as most-improved competitor. The concept stems from Burt's book, *Zebbras and Cheetahs: Look Different and Stay Agile to Survive the Business Jungle*, cowritten with Colby Jubenville, MTSU Health and Human Performance professor and assistant to the dean for student success and strategic partnerships in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. Burt's most recent book is titled *SWAG*. [MTSU](#)



1970s, cont.

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Things That Must Take Place: A Commentary on Revelation Chapters 4-22.

Richard (Butch) Chambers ('72), Portland, Oregon, a retired financial consultant and an avid outdoorsman, is a member of the Multnomah

County Sheriff's search and rescue team and recently participated in several high-profile investigations in the Oregon outbreak.

Tim Tackett ('74), Murfreesboro, was named the first athletic director and charter schools coordinator for Rutherford County Schools.

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Andy Haines

Andy Haines ('04) was named manager of the New Orleans Zephyrs AAA minor league baseball club in 2014. Haines, who is rising fast in the Florida Marlins minor league system, previously managed the Class A Jupiter Hammerheads of the Florida State League, where his 2012 team came within one victory of the championship. Before entering the managerial ranks of professional baseball, Haines spent three years as an assistant coach at MTSU. [MTSU](#)

Kevin Reeder

CBS's *60 Minutes* recently profiled **Kevin Reeder ('06)**, a military veteran, about the post-traumatic stress disorder treatment program he runs at the North Little Rock, Ark., Veterans Affairs facility. Reporter Scott Pelley (pictured here with Reeder on set) discussed Reeder's innovative methods of treating veterans struggling with the aftermath of combat in a segment titled "The War Within." According to a recent George Washington University project, one in five veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars—nearly 300,000—have been diagnosed with PTSD. According to the same study, veterans account for 20 percent of all U.S. suicides. Reeder's late parents, Glen and Ernestine N. Reeder, served on the MTSU faculty. His mother was chair of the Human Sciences Department, and his father chaired the Department of Health and Human Performance. [MTSU](#)



1970s, cont.

continued from page 49

John Campbell ('75), Lewisburg, retired after 35 years with University of Tennessee Extension. He served as 4-H agent in two counties before becoming an area farm management specialist with the nationally recognized MANAGE education program.

Vicki Sherrell Sewell ('75), Suwanee, Georgia, recently published her first children's book, *The Magnificent Sprinkles, Growing Up Sprinkleliciously*.

Marcia Melton ('77, '87, '93), Woodbury, supervisor of K–12 instruction in Cannon County, was named Tennessee's 2013–14 Supervisor of the Year.

Carlos Clemente ('78), Lawndale, Calif., was acknowledged as the number one Western Region sales consultant by Cadillac during its annual dealers meeting at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November 2013.

Michael B. Jinks ('78), Morristown, retired from Hamblen County schools and is now an adjunct professor at Tusculum College.

Paula Thomas ('78, '83), Murfreesboro, an accounting professor at MTSU, completed the Chicago Half-Marathon, striking off an ambitious goal from her bucket list—running a half-marathon in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Greg Hartman ('79), Flagstaff, Arizona, retired from the Flagstaff Police Department after 32 years.

William McAdams ('79), Savannah, received the A. F. Bridges Award from the TSSAA for Principal of the Year in the Hardin County High School athletic district. McAdams has been a coach and teacher for 33 years.

1980s

Teresa Brockwell ('81), Murfreesboro, was awarded Teacher of the Year for the elementary school level in Rutherford County Schools. She teaches at Walter Hill Elementary School.

Dewayne Thompson ('81), Cleveland, received the 2013 International Teaching Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

Thomas Carroll ('83), Fort Wayne, Ind., is the new business development director for design-builder and general contractor CME Corporation.

Charles Clary

Charles Clary ('04) creates paper sculptures that seem to come off the wall and reach out to the viewer. Organic topographies, pencil marks, and subtle imperfections reveal that each piece was cut by hand. Given that most Clary exhibits contain hundreds of pieces with thousands of layers—all hand-cut—the sheer volume of work involved is astonishing. Clary recently exhibited at the prestigious Nancy Margolis Gallery in New York City and was a featured artist on the show *Daily Planet*, of Discovery Canada. Highly regarded art journals including *Hi Fructose* have covered him. Clary is also a foundations and painting professor at MTSU, teaching four classes each semester. [MTSU](#)



Kathy Nichol ('84), Daphne, Ala., received the Outstanding Gifted Coordinator award for 2013–2014 from the Alabama Association for Gifted Children.

Christie Allison ('86), McMinnville, won the Hometown Heroine Award from the McMinnville branch of the American Association of University Women. She is a teacher induction coordinator for Warren County schools and has been in education for 28 years.

Gayle Reed Goad ('87) was recently named Teacher of the Year at Millersville Elementary School in Sumner County.

Carla Hausler ('88), Beechgrove, was awarded Teacher of the Year, secondary school

level, for Rutherford County Schools. She teaches at Oakland High School.

Ronald Malone ('88), Murfreesboro, assistant VP for events and transportation at MTSU, recently received the President's Silver Column Award, recognizing his willingness to go beyond the call of duty to make sure that MTSU remains conducive to learning.

1990s

Stephanie Faris Berry ('92), Nashville, recently sold her second book, *30 Days of No Gossip*, to Simon & Schuster's Aladdin M!x imprint. Her next work, *25 Roses*, is set for a 2015 release.

Daryl Welch ('92), Tullahoma, general manager and broker at Harton Realty Company, is chair of the Motlow College Foundation.

Nicole Brown ('93), Chattanooga, along with the UTC Communication Department, produced the documentary *9 United for Equality: Reflections on the Struggle for Civil Rights in Chattanooga*.

Lydia Medlock Kelly ('94), Murfreesboro, self-published three books—*Woodrow: A Memoir*, *Innocence Lost*, and *Power of Faith*—under the pen name Lydia Leigh.

Kenneth Youngstead ('94), Franklin, a CPA with more than

18 years experience, became a member/owner of Nashville-based KraftCPAs in November 2013.

William M. "Bill" Maples ('96), Alexandria, Va., was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Marine Corps while serving in the Pentagon. This fall, Maples will serve as squadron commander of the Wake Island Avengers, a Harrier squadron based in Yuma, Arizona.

Robin Newell ('96), Murfreesboro, principal at Mitchell-Neilson School, won first prize at the seventh annual Read to Succeed Celebrity Spelling Bee.

William Childers ('97), Tullahoma, received his Ed.D. from Lipscomb University in December 2013.

Gabriel Smith ('97), Nashville, was named 2013 Young Advisor Team Leader of the Year by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Mark Cheatham ('98), Lebanon, published *Andrew Jackson—Southerner*. He is also the author of *Old Hickory's Nephew: The Political and Private Struggles of Andrew Jackson Donelson*.

Meredith Leigh Burton

Meredith Leigh Burton ('07) attended the Tennessee School for the Blind before enrolling at MTSU, where she graduated with majors in English and Speech and Theatre. She obtained her teaching certification and now lives and works in Lynchburg. Her memories and stories about being a blind student at MTSU are expressed in her young adult fantasy novels, which feature disabled protagonists who are called upon to fight against evil. One book, *The Jarah Portal*, is set in a world where all the inhabitants are blind. Through her work, Burton hopes to show readers that disabilities are really blessings and that everyone has a gift and longs to make a difference in the world. [MTSU](#)



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Moose Weekes

Moose Weekes, a former Blue Raider basketball player, is a Harlem Globetrotter. An American entertainment institution, the Globetrotters began in 1926 as the Savoy Big Five. Now, more than 85 years and 20,000 games later, the team has become one of the most recognizable sports franchises in the world. Weekes led the Blue Raiders in blocks as a freshman and broke the school record for most blocked shots in a game with eight. He studied wellness and exercise science in college and hopes to help train other athletes following his playing days. According to the Globetrotters' website, his pregame rituals include listening to country rap tunes while stretching, drinking coconut water, and eating bee pollen. [MTSU](#)

Matthew Hurtt

Matthew Hurtt ('09), who ran for Murfreesboro public office at age 19 and was well known for his outspoken conservative views while an MTSU student, contributing regularly to both the school newspaper and the *Daily News Journal*, now lives in Washington, D.C., where he works in politics. Hurtt, a copywriter for Response America, a direct-mail fundraising firm that has raised millions of dollars for conservative candidates like Florida senator Marco Rubio and Minnesota congresswoman Michele Bachmann, has appeared on domestic and international television talk shows, been published in news outlets including the *Daily Caller*, *RedState*, and *Breitbart*; served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Tampa in 2012; and managed the 2010 campaign of Maryland state senator Alex X. Mooney, chair of the Maryland GOP. [MTSU](#)



Amiee Stubbs

Amiee Stubbs ('12) is the official photographer for the Nashville Zoo and a photojournalist for Animal Rescue Corps. The owner of Amiee Stubbs Photography and UltraViolet Gallery in Nashville, Stubbs was recently profiled in the "people" issue of *Nashville Scene*. In the article, Stubbs tells a story of being bitten by a penguin. According to the *Scene*, Stubbs "might be the most interesting woman in town." Why, you ask? Well, she was a professional wrestler known as Athena who performed on the NWA, TNA, and USA Championship Wrestling circuits from the late 1990s until 2005. According to the article, "After losing the creative outlet of wrestling, Stubbs says she found herself miserable at a corporate job. So she went back to MTSU, and a series of events led her to a black-and-white photography class. That's when she realized she'd wanted to do photography all along." [MTSU](#)





Kensington Sloan Hill



Finn Oliver Huff



Naomi Kathryn Walls



Emerson Honor Williams



Saylor JulieAnn Bishop

BABY RAIDERS

George Lynn Agee, December 19, 2013, to Kelly and **Lauren Gillespie Agee ('01)** of Murfreesboro

Saylor JulieAnn Bishop, August 11, 2013, to **Rawley ('13)** and **Kari Bishop ('11)** of Knoxville

Caleb Scott Corum, March 14, 2013, to Scott and **Mindy Faddis Corum ('03)** of Knoxville

Gabriel Sean Dolan, December 05, 2013, to Jason and **Kandy Dorris Dolan ('02)** of Columbus, Ga.

Finn Oliver Huff, July 25, 2013, to **Elvis ('09, '12)** and **Jessica Hamblin Huff ('11)** of Lebanon

Daniel John King, February 23, 2014, to **Christopher ('03)** and Rebecca Ann King of Southeast Asia

Elizabeth Reagan Maples, May 13, 2012, to **William M. "Bill" ('96)** and Shannon Maples of Alexandria, Virginia

Abigail Rose Mayer, December 23, 2013, to **Thomas ('99)** and Michelle Mayer of Melbourne, Florida

Amon Jerry (AJ) Pack, born on May 3, 2013, to **Andy ('12)** and **Lauren Pack ('12)** of Woodbury

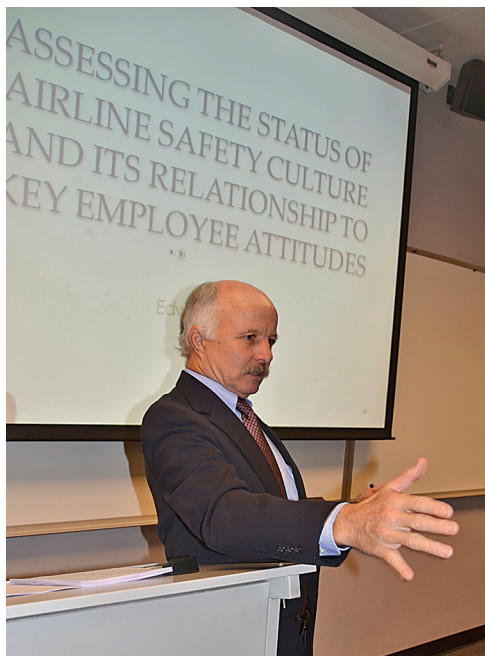
Kensington Sloan Hill, born July 15, 2013, to Donald and **Christie Holman Hill ('98)** of Murfreesboro

Naomi Kathryn Walls, December 20, 2013, to Aaron and **Leigh Tudor Walls ('02)** of Murfreesboro

Emerson Honor Williams, born April 2, 2014, to **Brian ('02)** and Rebecca Williams of Thompson Station

Ed Owen

The Aerospace Department recently celebrated its first online master's degree in Aviation Administration (Safety and Security Management), awarded to **Ed Owen ('13)**. A flight simulator instructor for FedEx, Owen previously spent 30 years as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. It took the nontraditional student two years to earn his master's. The 66-year-old did so from the comfort of his own home nearly 240 miles away from Murfreesboro via the Blue Raider educational community online. Last November, Owen made his first-ever trip to campus to present his 80-page master's thesis, "Assessing the Status of Airline Safety Culture and Its Relationship to Key Employee Attitudes." **MTSU**



2000s *continued from page 51*

Lauren Beard ('03, '07), Murfreesboro, was recognized as Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. She teaches at Northfield Elementary School.

Alanna Vaught ('03), Auburntown, a 2012 MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award winner, recently graduated from Texas A&M with a doctorate in agricultural education.

Frederick "Nathan" Vinson ('03), Birmingham, Alabama, recently joined English, Lucas, Priest, & Owsley in Bowling Green, Ky., as an associate with the firm.

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

2000s, cont.

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John Gibi ('04), Knoxville, a lead technician for Express Jet, a regional airline contracted by United Airlines, won the company's Best of the Best Award in the maintenance category.

Kathleen McCraw Gibi ('04), Knoxville, is a public affairs specialist for the City of Knoxville. Part of her duties include serving as liaison for Let's Move!, First Lady Michelle Obama's

initiative to address childhood obesity.

Cory Bransford ('06), Lafayette, was awarded Teacher of the Year, middle-school level, in Rutherford County Schools. He teaches at Christiana Elementary.

Jessica Lumpkins ('09), Nashville, is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at McGavock High School.

2010s

Sabrina Hayes ('10), Iron City, published her first children's book, *Saturday Morning and Sneaky*, with Tate Publishing.

Michael Brasfield ('11), Knoxville, graduated from the Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Daniel Burt ('11), Murfreesboro, joined the Brentwood office of Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain accounting and consulting firm

on the Information Technology Help Desk team.

Aaron Mead ('12), Smyrna, joined the firm of Edmondson, Betzler and Montgomery as a staff accountant.

Chris Burns ('13), Smyrna, **Brett Johnson ('13)**, Franklin, and **Emily Ziadeh ('13)**, Old Hickory, joined the Brentwood office of Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain as tax accountants.

Briana Woodilee ('13), Woodbury, is a correctional officer at the Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center.

In Memoriam

1930s

Eunice Kenney Taylor ('39), Houston, Texas, December 27, 2013

Pauline Malone Tramel ('38), Nashville, July 23, 2013

1940s

Jessie Buchanan Jr., ('46), Brentwood, December 21, 2013

Lucy Will Case ('42), Lawrenceburg, February 6, 2013

Betty Kelton Dodd ('47, '72), Lascassas, January 20, 2014

Mary McLaughlin Ford ('45), Shelby, N.C., October 27, 2013

Mary Kemp Hayes ('48, '79), Murfreesboro, January 30, 2014

Edwina Fisher Phelps ('46), Brentwood, October 4, 2013

Eulalia Baker Scott ('41), La Vergne, October 3, 2013

Mary Sinclair Stevens ('48), St. Simons Island, Ga., January 15, 2014

1950s

Claude Adams ('59), Murfreesboro, December 25, 2013

Sidney Adams ('59), Murfreesboro, March 26, 2014

Aubrey Adcock ('57), Mount Juliet, October 5, 2013

Lawrence Adwell ('52), Nashville, November 16, 2013

Robert "Harris" Allen ('56), Jackson, December 14, 2013

Guy Buchanan ('51), Waynesboro, March 9, 2014

Dolores Sorrells Crawley ('54), Nashville, January 15, 2014

Helen Merrell Currin ('54), Cleveland, October 29, 2013

Alton Ferrell ('50), Nashville, October 16, 2013

Tyler Ford Jr., ('59), Gallatin, June 12, 2013

Carolyn Ledford Fortson ('56), Athens, Ga., January 20, 2014

George Gardner ('57), Murfreesboro, March 3, 2014

John Hale Jr., ('53), Liberty, May 29, 2013

Ray Hughes ('57, '64), Murfreesboro, December 22, 2013

Jim James ('54, '59), Athens, Ga., November 23, 2013

Anne Waggoner Nunamaker ('55, '59), College Park, Md., April 10, 2013

Maxine Chambers Osteen ('54), Brentwood, July 16, 2013

Ralph O. Osteen ('53), Brentwood, January 17, 2014

E. J. "Joe" Overton ('58), Chattanooga, October 15, 2014

Charles E. Roddy ('58), Huntsville, Ala., July 5, 2012

Marion Rogers ('57), Murfreesboro, October 6, 2013

Donald Sharp ('59), Nashville, February 3, 2014

Billy Shoemake Sr., ('56), Antioch, December 3, 2013

Amanda Smith ('52), Oceanside, Calif., March 7, 2014

Hulan Thomas ('59), Bon Aqua, February 3, 2014

Dan Thweatt ('54, '59), Vero Beach, Fla., November 21, 2013

1960s

Glenn Armistead ('60), Acton, Mass., December 13, 2013

E. Keith Atchley ('66), Como, Miss., February 6, 2014

Joe Baker ('66), Quinton, Va., December 13, 2013

Ralph Bryant ('61), Lafayette, January 1, 2014

Douglas Cassetty ('66, '72), Red Boiling Springs, January 2, 2014

Carolyn Doyle Couch ('65), Dalton, Ga., December 28, 2013

Danny Davis ('69), Brentwood, October 16, 2013

J. L. Ford ('64), Maryville, March 11, 2014

Jerry Gilliland ('68, '71), Nashville, January 11, 2014

Mary Hacker Goff ('69), Bristol, November 8, 2013

Rex Lemay ('62), Columbia, December 7, 2013

Charles Marlin ('63), Hanover, Ind., January 22, 2014

Robert Miller Jr., ('64), Chattanooga, March 10, 2014

Martha Jones Morgan ('68, '69), Signal Mountain, December 31, 2014

James Murray ('66, '67), Tullahoma, January 27, 2014

Edna O'Neal Pickett ('62, '74), Whitwell, February 9, 2014

Richard Randolph ('68, '72), Murfreesboro, November 11, 2013

Freeman Ray ('67), Savannah, December 11, 2013

Robert Roy ('67), Tullahoma, February 24, 2014

Patricia Sharp ('65), Cordova, January 24, 2014

Linda Telford Thompson ('68), Charleston, Mo., January 30, 2013

Billy Todd ('69, '76), Winchester, January 26, 2014

Allen Watts ('60), Murfreesboro, February 18, 2014

Ralph Wrather ('60), Murfreesboro, March 3, 2014

1970s

Marcia Akers ('79), Nashville, November 30, 2013

David Alexander ('71), Brentwood, March 13, 2013

Thomas Askins ('76), Fayetteville, April 17, 2013

Danny Brown ('70, '76, '78), Winchester, October 7, 2013

Dale Clements ('73, '78), Nashville, October 25, 2013

Linda Mullins Cox ('73), Gallatin, July 7, 2012

Robert Crowell ('74), Columbia, October 31, 2013

Donald Daugherty ('74), Cane Ridge, November 26, 2013

Carolyn Haynes Davis ('73, '75), Nashville, January 22, 2014

James Garant ('72), Rockvale, October 11, 2013

Robert Garland ('76), Gainesboro, September 13, 2013

David Groce ('76), Fayetteville, May 18, 2013

James Jobe ('78), Hendersonville, January 17, 2013

Lee Jones ('70, '71), Murfreesboro, February 8, 2014

Geoffrey Kranz ('78), Knoxville, February 23, 2014

Vicki Yarbrough Lambert ('76), Shelbyville, December 13, 2013

Doris Lindsey ('74), Port Charlotte, Fla., December 15, 2013

Brenda Parris Maples ('75), Byhalia, Miss., October 16, 2013

James Melhorn ('73), Lancing, June 21, 2013

Valerie Vaughn Osborne ('78), Chattanooga, February 1, 2013

Karen Parsons ('77), Fayetteville, August 19, 2013

Donna Richardson ('77), Harri- man, February 2, 2014

Victor Ristvedt Jr. ('77), Mur- freesboro, December 26, 2013

Marsha Osgathorp Smith ('70, '78), Milton, January 4, 2014

Sheila Scott ('70), Murfrees- boro, October 28, 2013

Tommy Shelton ('70), Tulla- homa, February 23, 2014

Kenneth Spears ('73), Lufkin, Texas, February 13, 2014

Joseph Steranka Jr. ('72), Dickson, November 16, 2013

Annette Stapler Tillman ('71), Pulaski, December 24, 2013

Elise Black Towry ('74), Hunts- ville, Ala., April 24, 2013

Patrick Work ('72, '75), Sul- livan's Island, S.C., January 28, 2014

Margo Tesch ('78), Miami, Fla., November 30, 2013

1980s

Thomas Bateman Jr., ('82), Nashville, November 18, 2013

Kevin Bevill ('81), Murfreesboro, November 30, 2013

Bryce Boles ('87, '91), Cooke- ville, July 6, 2013

William Cosson ('87), Oak Ridge, March 2, 2014

Michael Flory ('81), Lima, Ohio, January 13, 2014

Michael Harbin ('82), Old Hickory, September 7, 2013

Eric Payton Hodge ('88), Delta, Mo., April 6, 2014

Calvin Howell ('80), Watertown, October 22, 2013

Dorothy King ('84), Troutman, N.C., June 7, 2013

Mary Mason McCauley ('85), Atlanta, Ga., January 26, 2014

James McCullough ('84), Nashville, December 31, 2013

David Patterson ('88), Nashville, November 19, 2013

William Robertson ('83), Columbia, January 21, 2014

Diane Sawyer ('83, '94), Tullahoma, February 8, 2014

1990s

Thelma Moore ('96), McMinn- nville, October 20, 2013

Sharon Napier ('95), Gallatin, April 11, 2014

Marty Plott ('92), Franklin, December 13, 2013

Joseph Potts ('99), Kimberton, Penn., January 28, 2014

2000s

Helen Blankenship ('01, '04), Murfreesboro, March 5, 2014

Daniel Feese ('02), Crestwood, Ky., January 19, 2014

Amanda Richards ('08), Brent- wood, December 17, 2013

Phillip Robertson ('08), Murfreesboro, March 15, 2014

Kristina Tarini ('02), West Hat- field, Mass., November 8, 2013

James Weir II ('09), Memphis, January 13, 2014

2010s

Philip Akoto ('13), Murfrees- boro, December 14, 2013

Lamar Grant ('13), Antioch, January 16, 2014

Larry White ('13), Columbia, March 8, 2014 [MTSU](#)



Jon Scarlett

Jon Scarlett ('72, '94) died July 2, 2013. Scarlett spent 10 years as a faculty member and advisor in the University's Health and Human Performance program, where he was influential in the establishment of the Leisure and Sport Management master's program.

His father, M. G. Scarlett, was president of MTSU from 1969 to 1978. [MTSU](#)

Beth Smith

Beth Smith ('83), a civic leader and former Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity executive director, passed away May 31, 2014. She was 54. Smith's first battle with cancer occurred during her twenties while a student at MTSU. She devoted her life to helping people. One of her favorite projects with Rotary was giving out dictionaries to local third-grade students. [MTSU](#)



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The University Honors College challenges students to excel in their listening, writing, and critical thinking skills. The Honors College is home to the Buchanan Fellowship program, named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus who began his study of Economics at MTSU and eventually won the Nobel Prize in Economics. The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest award given to an entering freshman.

