

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2015

Magazine

A Walk on the **WILD SIDE**

Honors student

Logan Whiles's
youthful fascination
with big cats led him
to an international
zoo research project

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Cover photo:
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Logan Whiles

photo:
Andy Heidt

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photo:
Darby Campbell

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Editor's note: On July 1, 2015, the college referred to in the following pages as the College of Mass Communication became the College of Media and Entertainment.



HONORS MAGAZINE

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From the Dean's Desk



An Honorable Legacy

I spend much of my academic life examining and explaining the work of America's founders. The task is often daunting because I am constantly humbled by how creative and productive they were. My own achievements pale by comparison, but I feel obligated to try to match their commitment to public service and education through my writings and lectures.

After seven years of service as dean of the University Honors College, I remain grateful for the opportunities the job offers to influence young lives in a positive direction. In this job, as in the subjects of my scholarship, I am privileged to be in a position that has had such consistently good leadership from its inception.

One of the most gratifying endeavors I have participated in as dean was an event this spring to acknowledge our founding director, Dr. June McCash, and to raise money for a scholarship named for her. June directed the program when there were some at the University who feared that an Honors program would be elitist. Also, at the time, most directors were men. June showed how such a program could benefit the entire University and then became chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. Since "retiring," she continues to write novels and works of nonfiction.

Dr. McCash was succeeded by Dr. Ron Messier. Another scholar among scholars, Dr. Messier had an impressive teaching career and has written a number of books about his archaeological discoveries. Long after retiring from the History Department, he continues to be active locally.

Dr. John Paul Montgomery, from the English Department, was the next Honors director and the first Honors dean. He bore much of the brunt of helping raise matching money for the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, and he did much to increase enrollment. As someone who was a department chair when he was dean, I know how much time he put into encouraging departments to add Honors classes, and how much effort he put into developing special programs for Honors students.

My immediate predecessor, Dr. Phil Mathis, like Dr. McCash, was a winner of MTSU's Career Achievement Award. Like his predecessors, he was both an accomplished teacher and scholar within his discipline (biology). The Buchanan Fellows program was established during his tenure. In his retirement, he continues to write poetry and to serve, with the other former deans and directors, as a member of our Honors Board of Visitors.

I am proud to be in such distinguished company and to have their support, and I strive to continue the legacy of good teaching, scholarship, and service that each of them represents.

John R. Vile

Competitive Fellowships and Internships:

Our Winners



Davis Thompson

Winning Fulbright Scholarships was the culmination of outstanding college careers for 2015 Honors graduates **Tandra Martin** and **Davis Thompson**. The Fulbright winners also won campus awards and a string of other accolades.

Undergraduate Fellowship Office coordinator Laura Clippard said, “[Tandra and Davis] both have consistently been leaders in the national arena with internships in Washington, D.C., and service to others through teaching and mentoring. Each has worked tirelessly to make a difference in their communities.”

In addition to receiving a teaching Fulbright to South Africa and winning the President’s Award, Tandra was awarded the MTSU Community Service Award and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission’s Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award in 2014. She completed an internship with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and studied abroad in Costa Rica and Israel. She was named a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow, received a David L. Boren Scholarship to study Arabic language and Islamic society and politics in Morocco, and was MTSU’s first-ever Rhodes Scholarship finalist.

An International Relations major, Tandra was also a Blue Elite Tour Guide and a Student Ambassador and worked with Read to Succeed and World Servants and sat on the Student Government Association philanthropic committee. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and Phi Kappa Phi honor society and was a Buchanan Fellow.



Tandra Martin

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

Davis Thompson received a teaching Fulbright Scholarship to the Slovak Republic and the Provost's Award. The Political Science and Mass Communication (Journalism) major was a Truman Scholarship finalist, an intern in the Presidential Fellows program at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress in Washington, D.C., and an intern in the office of First Lady Michelle Obama.

Davis was also president of the Honors Student Association and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and competed in Mock Trial and Moot Court tournaments. He was nonfiction editor of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*.

Chelsea Harmon, a Buchanan Fellow, followed up her selection for a DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research Internship in Science and

Engineering) and a Barry M. Goldwater Honorable Mention in 2014 with a second Goldwater Honorable Mention this year. The Chemistry major is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and has been published in

Mathias's goal is to become a high school French teacher to share his passion for education, language, and other cultures with future generations.

Mathias was born and raised in Rwanda but fled the country with his family during the genocide that happened during that country's civil war in 1994. He and his family escaped to the United States in 1997 through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. He has sought specialized training to become an interpreter and has gotten work experience through agencies such as Centerstone Mental Health Center, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Habitat for Humanity, and World Relief.

Sociology major and Buchanan Fellow

Jessica Shotwell

received a Minority Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) Award to travel to Uganda. The summer MHIRT training sessions encourage students from health disparity backgrounds to pursue careers in science, biomedical, clinical, and behavioral health research.



Jessica Shotwell and Philip Phillips

L-R: Katelyn Stringer and Chelsea Harmon



Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression.

Buchanan Fellow **Katelyn Stringer** was chosen as one of 51 Phi Kappa Phi Fellows nationwide for 2015. The fellowship provided \$5,000 for Katelyn's first year of graduate school at Texas A&M. Katelyn majored in Physics at MTSU and received a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Award last year.

Transfer Fellow **Mathias Dusabe**, who is majoring in Foreign Languages (French), was awarded a Benjamin Franklin Travel Grant, which provided a stipend for his travel to study in France.



Mathias Dusabe



Caitlin Henderson

Two students, **Caitlin Henderson** and **Brianna Browning**, were awarded Critical Language Scholarships.

The program provides fully funded overseas language and cultural immersion for American undergraduate and graduate

students with the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries.

Caitlin, an International Relations major, studied Chinese at Beijing Language and Culture University this summer. Global Studies and Cultural Geography major Brianna studied in Gwangju, South Korea.



Brianna Browning

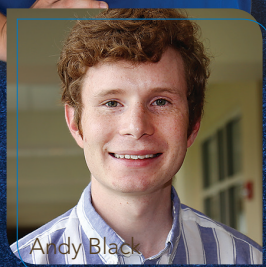
Michele Kelley, a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Physics, won an International Research Experiences for Undergraduates (iREU) to study lasers and optics in Paris. The University of Michigan offered Michele a spot on their Optics in the City of Light team at Cité Universitaire. In 2014, she received a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study in the Czech Republic.



Michele
Kelley



Josie
Lyon



Andy Black



Grayson Dubois



Sydney Smith

Four students received Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory: **Andy Black**, a Physics major; Computer Science major **Grayson Dubois**; **Josie Lyon**, who is majoring in Physics and Mathematics; and **Sydney Smith**, a Science (Pre-medical) major.

Laura Clippard said, "MTSU has had a remarkably diverse fellowship year. The Honors College faculty and staff have been active in helping students reach new opportunities, and other colleges on campus have participated heavily by referring students and promoting leaderships experiences to students. In addition, 32 faculty members attended an information session last fall to learn more about student fellowships." 

Competitive Fellowships and Internships

The Undergraduate Fellowship Office has announced the 2015 winners of various grants, fellowships, internships, scholarships, and awards. Names of these students, their awards, and their places of study (where applicable) are listed below.

Andy Black

Science Undergraduate
Laboratory Internship (SULI)
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Brianna Browning

Critical Language Scholarship
Gwangju, South Korea

Grayson Dubois

Science Undergraduate
Laboratory Internship (SULI)
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Mathias Dusabe

Benjamin Franklin
Travel Grant (France)

Chelsea Harmon

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
Honorable Mention

Caitlin Henderson

Critical Language Scholarship
Beijing Language and Culture
University

Michele Kelley

Research Experiences for
Undergraduates (REU) Award
University of Michigan/Paris, France

Josie Lyon

Science Undergraduate Laboratory
Internship (SULI)
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Tandra Martin

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
Fulbright Scholarship, South Africa
President's Award

Nissi Monsegue

Robert C. LaLance Jr.
Achievement Award

Erin Paul

Harold Love Community
Service Award

Jessica Shotwell

Minority Health Disparities
International Research
Training (MHIRT) Award

Sydney Smith

Science Undergraduate
Laboratory Internship (SULI)
Oak Ridge National
Laboratory

Katelyn Stringer

Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship
Award

Davis Thompson

Fulbright Scholarship,
Slovak Republic
Provost's Award

Honors Students Win MTSU and State Awards



For the sixth consecutive year, Honors students have captured top University awards, this year in three categories. This spring, Tandra Martin, Davis Thompson, and Nissi Monseque received the President's Award, the Provost's Award, and the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award, respectively. Erin Paul received the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award.

"One of the common strengths of Honors College students is their diverse interests, community involvement, and work ethic," said Honors advisor Laura Clippard. "They are often involved in many areas of campus life and the community ranging from working as Student Ambassadors to interning in Washington, D.C. We have the best students in the nation, and they truly care about the world around them."

Accomplished award winners **Tandra Martin** and **Davis Thompson** are highlighted on pages 5–6. Tandra has said, "The Honors College has, without a doubt, been an invaluable component to my undergraduate career. Many of the opportunities I've been given are a direct result of the support and genuine interest from the Honors faculty and staff. On a campus as large as MTSU's it can be difficult to find one's place, but the Honors College has certainly been my place. The experiences I've had here are the ones I will take with me wherever I go."

Said Davis, "The Honors College impacted my college experience in immeasurable ways. It provided a tailored academic approach with

One of the common strengths of Honors College students is their diverse interests, community involvement, and work ethic...
We have the best students in the nation, and they truly care about the world around them.


talented professors and dedicated advisors and a network of fellow Honors students as friends. While providing a thought-provoking and rigorous academic environment, the Honors College also gave me the chance to gain valuable experience. Because of the time I spent at MTSU's Honors College, I am better prepared for professional success."

Nissi Montseque, a 2015 International Relations graduate, received the LaLance Achievement Award. She was one of two recipients of a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship in 2014. Nissi, a nontraditional student, studied at Southwest University for Nationalities in Chengdu, China. She said she is grateful for the Gilman Scholarship because without it her dream to visit China, a nation that always fascinated her, would not have been realized.

A spring resident assistant at Deere/Nicks Hall, Nissi was an MTSU delegate at Model United Nations conferences in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Atlanta. She represented MTSU on the Nashville Cordell Hull United Nations Board of Directors and served a legislative internship with the Tennessee General Assembly. She also had an internship in Washington, D.C., and one with End Slavery Tennessee.

Erin Paul, a Buchanan Scholar, is a junior Interdisciplinary Studies major and Love Community Service Award winner who has spent the past two years teaching English as a second language to refugees and immigrants in a low-income housing community. She has studied abroad in Spain and Kenya and was an exchange student in Japan and Zama.

Erin's love of teaching English has inspired her to go on four mission trips. She taught in Bangkok and at a Korean refugee camp in northern Thailand and did volunteer work in an orphanage. Erin lives in a Smyrna housing project among Korean refugees. She said, "Since working with the Korean people, I knew I was being called to teach. I have been able to form beautiful, lasting relationships with my students and have been reminded over and over again [of] the strong bond between a teacher and student." Erin is applying for a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Thailand for eight months.

Please submit nominations for these awards. Students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and who meet the criteria deserve to be recognized. To nominate a student, submit the student's name and contact information by email to Jackie.Victory@mtsu.edu in the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. 

Spring and Summer 2015 Theses Defended



Biven Alexander¹

Psychology
 "The Effects of Working Memory Capacity on the Isolation Effect"
 Stephen Schmidt, advisor



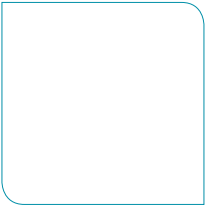
Brent Andrews²

Aerospace
 "Wings of the Ancients—An In-Depth Look at the Discovery of Flight before the Year A.D. 1600."
 Paul Craig, advisor



Nicole Braunwalder³

Psychology
 "The Strategies behind Dance Injury Prevention"
 Kaylene Gebert, advisor



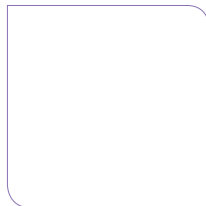
Garrison Breckinridge⁴

English
 "The Medium of the Mystic: Gnosis in the Works of Grant Morrison and Alan Moore"
 David Lavery, advisor



Bridget Carlson⁵

English
 "T. S. Eliot: Children's Poet?"
 Martha Hixon, advisor



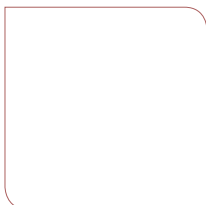
Carly Davis⁶

English
 "Lady Hero Defined: An Explanation of the Female Protagonists in the Works of Robin McKinley and Suzanne Collins"
 Martha Hixon, advisor



Danielle Dye⁷

Exercise Science
 "The Effect of Metronome Use on Heart Rates in Top-10 Drum Corps Percussionists"
 Vaughn Berry, advisor



Matthew Fuller⁸*Biology*

"Initiation and Optimization of American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius* L.) Callus and Suspension Cultures for Use in Plant Regeneration Techniques and Root Cultures"

*Elliot Altman, advisor***Caleb Gray**⁹*Political Science*

"The Effectiveness of President Ronald Reagan Regarding Economic Policy: An Examination"

*Steven Livingston, advisor***Emily Grosskreutz**¹⁰*Animal Science*

"Assessment of somatic cell count, milk production, and hygiene in dairy cows housed in a compost-bedded pack barn"

*Jessica Carter, advisor***Haley Hannum**¹¹*Psychology*

"The Effect of Equine Interaction on Anxiety in a Population of College Students"

*Tony Johnston, advisor***Ashlin Harris**¹²*Biology and Chemistry*

"Identification of single nucleotide polymorphisms associated with growth traits in rainbow trout by RNA sequencing"

*Mohamed Salem, advisor***Jonathan Herlan**¹³*Physics*

"Controlled Cavitation Generation Using Biological Inspiration from a Snapping Shrimp Claw"

*William Robertson, advisor***Adam Higgs**¹⁴*Political Science*

"The Millennial Effect"

*Robb McDaniel, advisor***Jin Kim**¹⁵*Biology*

"Isolation of Bioactive Compounds Found in Traditional Chinese Medicinal Plants—Species of Focus, *Stephania Longa*"

*Norma Dunlap, advisor***Tandra Martin**¹⁶*International Relations*

"Millennium Development Goal 3 and Morocco: A Creative Project"

*Karen Petersen, advisor***Mitch Merryman**¹⁷*Biology*

"Chronological Life Span of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Folate Biosynthesis Mutants"

*Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann, advisor***Brooke Morgan**¹⁸*Forensic Science*

"Investigating How Students Learn Using Collaborative Activities with a Forensic Science Focus in a General Education Physical Science Class"

*Judith Iriarte-Gross, advisor***Trevor Moyo**¹⁹*Construction Management*

"Investigating the Implementation of Residential Housing in Enhancing Economic Development in Sub-Saharan African Nations"

*Frank Michello, advisor***Martina Ramos**²⁰*Biology*

"Construction of *pro 1* Reconstituted Strain of *Cryptococcus neoformans*"

*Erin McClelland, advisor***Amy Ridings**²¹*Biology*

"Drug Discovery: Primary Screening of Traditional Chinese Medicines for Anti-Cancer Activity Using High-Throughput Screening"

*Ying Gao, advisor***Layne Sanders**²²*Animal Science*

"Riding toward Success: A Study of Teaching Methods That Consistently Produce Competitive Success for Equestrians"

*Anne Brzezicki, advisor***Nikita Shokur**²³*Biochemistry*

"Design and Synthesis of Belactosin A Analogs"

*Norma Dunlap, advisor***Tatiana Silvas**²⁴*English*

"Communicators' Miscommunication: Bridging the Gap with Writing Centers, High Schools, and the Common Core"

*Tom Strawman, advisor***Emily Smith**²⁵*Biology*

"The Perceptions of Students about PowerPoint as a Teaching Tool in College-Level Introductory Biology Classes"

*Ryan Otter, advisor***Katelyn Stringer**²⁶*Physics*

"Photometric Calibration of AggieCam"

*Eric Klumpe, advisor***Philip Sugg**²⁷*History*

"Super-PACs, a Brief Study"

*Stephen Morris, advisor***Davis Thompson**²⁸*Political Science and Mass Communication*

"The Need for Asylum in America"

*Vanessa Lefler, advisor***Jay Voorhies**²⁹*Psychology*

"Melting Pot Rapunzel"

*Martha Hixon, advisor***Reid Wiggins**³⁰*Computer Science and Mathematics*

"A Comparison of Conditionally Secure and Heuristic Symmetric Encryption"

*Chrisila Pettey, advisor***William Wright**³¹*Philosophy*

"Offloading Consciousness: Will Cyborgs Have Selves?"

Ron Bombardi, advisor 

I AM *true*
BLUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Berthelson



Bowen



Chandler



Ciecka



England



Dyer



Grizzard



Hall

Meet the 2015 BUCHANAN FELLOWS

This fall, 20 freshmen joined the elite group of students accepted into the Buchanan Fellowship, the highest academic honor a freshman at MTSU can receive. The students are from three states and twelve cities in Tennessee, have an average score of 32 on their ACT exams, and have average high school GPAs of 3.95.

Hannah Ruth Berthelson is from Arlington, Tennessee, and attended Arlington High School, where she was a member of the band, the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. The daughter of Melissa and Shay Berthelson, she is studying Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Nathan Alexander Bowen, from Hendersonville, Tennessee, attended Merrol Hyde Magnet School. He was a member of the National Honor Society and had a cum laude score on the National Latin Examination. The son of Vicki and Mark Bowen, he is studying Electronic Media Communication.

Nicole Kaylyn Chandler attended Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, where she was Key Club treasurer and a Student Council vice president. She attended Governor's School and the Nissan Summer Engineering program. She is majoring in Mechatronics and is the daughter of Lisa and Terry Chandler.

Jonathan Lee Ciecka, from Peachtree City, Georgia, attended McIntosh High

School, where he was vice president of the National Honors Society and a finalist at the International Science and Engineering Fair. An Eagle Scout, Jonathan is pursuing a degree in Aerospace. He is the son of Gloria and Christopher Ciecka.

Jacinda Margaret Drenckpohl is from Arlington, Tennessee. At Arlington High School, she was a member of the band, the All-West Tennessee Honor Band, and the All-State Band and received a gold medal in Science Olympiad Regional competition. The daughter of Pautonu Drenckpohl, she is majoring in Music.

Kami Sharik Dyer is from Nashville and is a graduate of Hume-Fogg Magnet School. She received the National Scholar/Athlete award from the National Army Reserve, the AP Chemistry award, and the Advanced Calculus award, and was a National Achievement semifinalist. A Chemistry major, she is the daughter of Peggy and Lyder Dyer.

Tatum Lanette England attended Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro. She won the 2013 Tennessee Stock Market Game and the Central

Magnet Tiger award and was named an AP Scholar with Honors. Tatum is pursuing a degree in Nursing and is the daughter of Susan and Tim England.

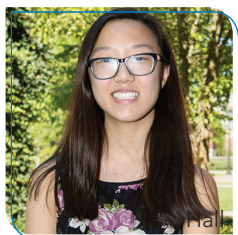
Jake Owens Garrette is from Unionville, Tennessee. At Community High School, he was a valedictorian and participated in the Tennessee Science Bowl and was a delegate to Boys State. Jake was also an ambassador of the Bedford County Board of Education Student Congress on Policies in Education. An Aerospace major, he is the son of Carol and Tony Garrette.

Lauren Kaylee Grizzard attended Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, where she received the President's Award for Academic Excellence and was a member of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, and the National Spanish Honor Society. A Psychology major, she is the daughter of Tammy Garrett and Eric Grizzard.

Hannah Jee-Kaitlin Hall is from Murfreesboro and attended Central Magnet School. She received the President's Award for Academic Excellence and was an Advanced Placement



Grizzard



Keller



Kulas



Tybor

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan ('40), an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner. Read on to learn about the newest Buchanan Fellows.

Scholar. Hannah is pursuing a degree in Biology. Her parents are Sharon and Kenneth Hall.

Devyn Hope Hayes, from Harriman, Tennessee, attended Oliver Springs High School. There, she received the Advanced Placement Biology Award and was a member of the National Beta Club. She was a Girls State delegate and senior class treasurer. Devyn is majoring in Biology and is the daughter of Marcia and Timothy Hayes.

Elizabeth Grace Keller is from Maryville, Tennessee. At Maryville High School, she was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the varsity volleyball team, and a delegate to the Tennessee Youth Leadership Conference. She is an Aerospace major. Her parents are Shanda and Sam Keller.

Benjamin Taylor Kulas is a homeschooled student from Nashville. He won a National Latin Etymology Exam Gold Medal, John Hopkins CTY High Honors, and the Duke University TIP Bevan Scholarship and was a Davidson Institute Young Scholar. The son of Diana and Jeff Kulas, he is majoring in Physics.

Madeleine Joy Kurtz, a homeschooled student from Brentwood, Tennessee, was named an AP Scholar with

Distinction and participated in Model U.N. At the age of 10, she wrote and illustrated a children's book, *A Toy's Journey: A Tale of Lost and Found Treasure*. She is pursuing a degree in English and is the daughter of Jean and John Kurtz.

Alexis Texiera Marshall attended Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, where she received the President's Award for Academic Excellence and was secretary for both the National Spanish Honor Society and the National English Honor Society. She is the daughter of Angie and Bob Haston.

Asfah Fatima Mohammed is from Murfreesboro. She attended Central Magnet School, and was an AP Scholar with Distinction, and received Central Magnet's Golden C Award for academic excellence. She is pursuing a degree in Chemistry and is the daughter of Naimuddin and Sarosh Mohammed.

Mikaela Danielle Ray attended Franklin High School. She was an AP Scholar with Distinction and a member of the Honor Band of America. She was president of the History Honors Society, and arranged music, and performed in three chamber ensembles. The

daughter of Penny and Dale Ray, she is majoring in Music.

Cayman Nash Seagraves lives in Murfreesboro. He attended Baylor School in Chattanooga, where he was a Harris Stanford Scholar. He was an exchange student in Australia and has visited France, Switzerland, Guatemala, Italy, Denmark, and Mexico. A volunteer with the Dewar Gorilla Haven near Atlanta, he is majoring in Finance. His parents are Cathy and Philip Seagraves.

Jacob McKinney Smith is from Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He attended Cascade High School, where he won the Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair grand prize in 2013 and 2014 and earned first place in an MTSU Spanish contest in 2015. The son of Deborah and Wendell Smith, he is pursuing a degree in Forensic Science.

Hannah Mary Tybor, a homeschooled student from Tupelo, Mississippi, was president of the Tupelo Civic Ballet and a member of the Beta Club. She took first place in the Lee County Library Poetry Writing Contest. The daughter of Charmaine and Steve Tybor, she is a journalism student. [H](#)

Photos follow story listing beginning at top left.



Kurtz



Marshall



Mohammed



Ray



Seagraves



Smith



Tybor

Meet the 2015 TRANSFER FELLOWS

This fall, 15 students were accepted into the Transfer Fellowship Program, the highest academic honor for students transferring to MTSU from other institutions.

Bassam Emad Aboona transferred from Nashville State Community College. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. He is pursuing a degree in Physics.

Jennifer Michelle Crow attended Columbia State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies and a senator in the Student Government Association. She is majoring in Biochemistry.

Miranda Shay Dotson is a transfer student from Columbia State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies. She is pursuing a degree in Business Administration.

Amanda Lynn Freuler attended Pellissippi State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She was assistant editor of the college's fiction magazine and an intern with the *Lenoir City News-Herald*. Amanda's major is Mass Communication (Journalism).

Zeke Parker Grissom attended Tennessee Technological University, where he was a member of the baseball team. He received the Ohio Valley Commissioner's Award for student-athletes and was named to the TTU Gold Club. He is majoring in Biology.

Samantha Bernadette Hunt transferred from Pellissippi State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and a recipient of a tnAchieves scholarship. She is majoring in Psychology.

William Edward Johnstone is a transfer student from Jefferson Davis Community College, where he was a member of the Honors program and was on the President's List. He is studying Actuarial Sciences.

Amanda Megan Nadler transferred from Volunteer State Community College. She works as a crisis care peer consultant at Centerstone of Tennessee and volunteers with Family and Children's Services. Amanda is majoring in Nursing.

Todd Ryan Pirtle transferred from Motlow State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He is studying Agriculture and plans to attend graduate school.


JoAnna Kate Ruth attended Nashville State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She volunteers with Love146, an organization that fights human trafficking. Kate's major is English.

Joy Abigail Shind transferred from Motlow State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and took a study-abroad trip to Italy. Joy is majoring in Art Education.

Jensen Mikayla Still transferred from Northeast State Community College, where she was on the President's Honor List. She is majoring in Psychology and plans to work as a counselor for children who have suffered trauma.

Robin Nicole Stone attended Motlow State Community College. She was a member of the Presidential Student Leadership Institute and is now pursuing a degree in Science with an emphasis in Pre-occupational Therapy.

Bonnie Ellen Walker transferred from Pellissippi State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a student ambassador, and a Congressional intern. She has spent nine months in Istanbul, Turkey, and is now majoring in International Relations.

Aaliyah Yahlonda Yisrael attended Jackson State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Black Student Association, and the Biology Club. She is pursuing a degree in Finance. 



Bassam Aboona



Jennifer Crow



Miranda Dotson



Amanda Freuler



Zeke Grissom



Samantha Hunt



William Johnstone



Amanda Nadler



Todd Pirtle



Kate Ruth



Joy Shind



Jensen Still



Robin Stone



Bonnie Walker



Aalyah Yisrael

Photos follow story listing beginning at top left.

I AM *true* **BLUE**™



Outside My Comfort Zone

by Michele Kelley | Michele is a senior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Physics. She received a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grant to conduct research in Paris this summer.

Michele hiking the České Středohoří, a hillside of volcanic rock 40 miles from Prague



The gates of Auschwitz

During World War II, a bombing run over Kassel, Germany, left a B-17 with eleven antiaircraft shells in its gas tank. The oddity was that the 20-millimeter shells had pierced the gas tank without setting off an explosion. It turned out that all the shells were completely empty except one. They contained no explosives, but one shell contained a carefully rolled up note. In the Czech language it read, "This is all that we can do for you now."



St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague



The Hungarian Parliament in Budapest



Graffiti on a Krakow, Poland, building



When my Czech language teacher first told me this story, I thought it was a nice legend, but it actually comes from the autobiography of a World War II veteran named Elmer Bendier. The more I learned, the more I realized how accurately this story sums up the spirit of the Czech people. I found their resilience and quiet strength to be something I wanted in my own life. I believe I accomplished this: somehow during my time in the Czech Republic part of me became Czech.

I have always wanted to study abroad. It was easy for me to imagine myself in places all over the world, though I had never been out of the country. I had never been out of the regional South. However, what drew me to the Czech Republic was that I had absolutely no comforting connections to the country. Putting myself out of my comfort zone was a major part of studying abroad. At first, Prague was overwhelming. I could barely say hello in Czech. (The word is “ahoj,” pronounced like “ahoy.”) Slowly and surely, Prague became comforting as home. Sometimes I feel homesick for Prague. I miss hearing Czech voices and the way they never leashed their dogs. I miss eating knedlíky, soft bread dumplings, and hearing the small jazz set play on Thursday nights down my street.

When I returned home after being in Prague for two months, I was asked what I enjoyed most of all. I absolutely loved trying new foods like *svíčková*, beef with a sweet vegetable sauce served with whipped cream and cranberries on top; hiking in the countryside; and studying the language. My favorite activity was actually a little bit more mundane—grocery shopping. My primary goal in studying abroad was to immerse myself into the Czech life. I did not want to be a tourist. So grocery shopping was a way to try new foods, expand my vocabulary, and most of all not be identified as a tourist. It was always my goal while out in the city, whether just exploring or grocery shopping, to be just another native.

I was fortunate enough to be studying in a city with an excellent transportation system. It was always easy for me to find a metro or tram stop. After classes, I would just ride the metro until I got to a stop I had never been to before. I

would get out and just walk around, desperately trying to soak in the spirit of the city. Getting momentarily lost never fazed me. Getting lost means a lot fewer unfamiliar places—getting lost means you learn how to find yourself again. Just like in all things, messing up means you learn more, experience more, than if you never turned a wrong corner.



The Vltava River and the Charles Bridge, Prague.

Stories come out slowly, and some cannot be told at all. How could I describe my experience when I travelled to Auschwitz–Birkenau? How could I put words to walking through Jewish quarters that were left like ghost towns? Or how can I describe my elation at seeing the incredible Czech countryside from atop a castle ruin after hiking for miles and miles? What I think people really want when they ask for stories from my time studying abroad is their own stories. They want a journal stuck full of tickets and receipts in their own bag. They want to feel the heartache when they board the flight home. I treasure my own experience so much. I have so much gratitude for the Gilman International Scholarship program for giving me the opportunity to have such an experience.

What I learned while studying abroad has become an integral part of me and has altered my view of the rest of the world and my hometown. Simply put, two months in Prague changed my life. It would be easy for me to prattle on about how wonderful my experience was, but I’ll end by encouraging you to take a chance on yourself. Go out, explore, and make your own memories. [H](#)

Michele, right, and other students in front of the John Lennon Wall in Prague

Monuments and Memories

by Connor McDonald | Connor is a junior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Political Science.

In June 2013, my family took a life-altering trip to Washington, D.C. As a homeschooling family, our vacations often centered on historic locations, but we had never traveled to our nation's capital, perhaps the most history-rich city in our country. That changed the summer before my brother Collin and I entered MTSU as Buchanan Fellows.

Before our Washington adventure, my ambition was to study pre-dentistry and to return to my hometown of Carthage, Tennessee, after dental school. I expected eventually to take over my dad's dental practice. Somehow, in D.C., under the watchful eyes of men like Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Luther King Jr., the course of my life changed. As I stood in the shadows of the monuments, I realized that deep down I had always been interested in politics. I decided to major in Political Science and to look for an internship in Washington, D.C.

I have found many opportunities at MTSU since I began here, so I should not have been surprised when I learned about Family Research Council internships and when several faculty members helped make my dream of an internship possible.

But dreams are funny things. Everyone has preconceived notions about how events are supposed to play out, though few ever turn out as planned. Still, as I packed my bags and took off to Washington, I was excited about living in my first apartment with what would no doubt be two of the coolest guys on the planet. I looked forward to weekends at the museums, monuments, and historic sites. Did I mention the

beautiful intern who would be living across the hall from me? Yes. This was going to be the greatest three months of my life. Let the adventure begin!

Reality set in when I got to Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH). The location was incredible! My apartment was directly across the street from the

Supreme Court Building and the Library of Congress and near the Capitol. What a glorious sight! Then I went inside.

From pictures on the Internet, I was expecting a room to rival the Ritz, but that definitely was not reality. My mom, who was helping me settle in, mentioned "Bates Motel" several times, but I decided not to let the disappointing room diminish the pleasure of just being in Washington.

Even though life in D.C. was much different than I had imagined, I got

to see firsthand much that I had learned about in my political science classes. On my first Monday morning, other interns and I walked from our apartments to the Family Research Council (FRC). With midterm elections approaching, FRC put us to work right away. We researched politicians and spoke with several of them about their stands on issues. We watched the polls and did research. Working in a real-life political environment was an incredible experience.

One of the highlights of my internship was going out on the road for a two-week grassroots bus tour. We made many stops from Oklahoma to North Carolina, supporting candidates that we felt best stood for traditional American values. It was eye-opening to observe the politicians and their campaigns.



U.S. Senator Rand Paul

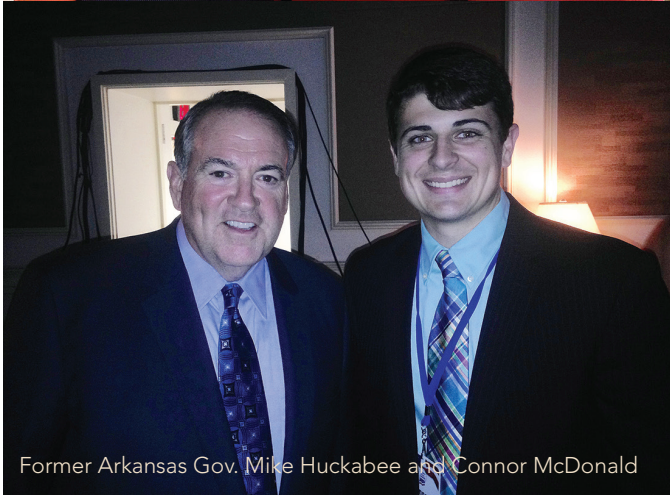
Connor McDonald



Connor McDonald with interns Hillary and Payden



Connor McDonald



Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Connor McDonald



Entrepreneurs David and Jason Benham with Connor McDonald

A second highlight was FRC's annual Values Voter Summit (VVS), an annual convention bringing together outspoken conservative voices in current politics. During VVS, I heard speakers such as Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, and Glenn Beck. To top it off, I had my photo taken with Gov. Mike Huckabee and the Benham brothers. Although the event was exhausting, I was glad to have had the experience.

Not everything about D.C. lived up to my dreams. I did not live in a penthouse, but I enjoyed telling people about the "dive" I lived in while there. My roommates were not just like me, but we found ways to spend time together. I did not meet the girl of my dreams, but I met some nice girls who became great pals. I had always thought I would enjoy the hustle and bustle of big city life, but I learned that I prefer the wide-open spaces in rural Tennessee.

When I visited the monuments in the capital, I thought about the men they represented. Many of

these men were from backwoods places that are only famous because they lived there. The monuments remind us that America is truly the greatest nation in the world. Dreams often do come true, even though they may not play out exactly the way we imagine them. This is the land of opportunity. MTSU is, too. Take advantage of the doors that an internship will open for you. Pack your bags and head off to a new place to live. You may not end up staying there forever, but the experience will last a lifetime.

Looking back on the skyline upon my departure, I silently said farewell to the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument. Who knows? Maybe I'll live in Washington someday. Perhaps the next time will be for four years. I've heard the residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is not too shabby. [H](#)



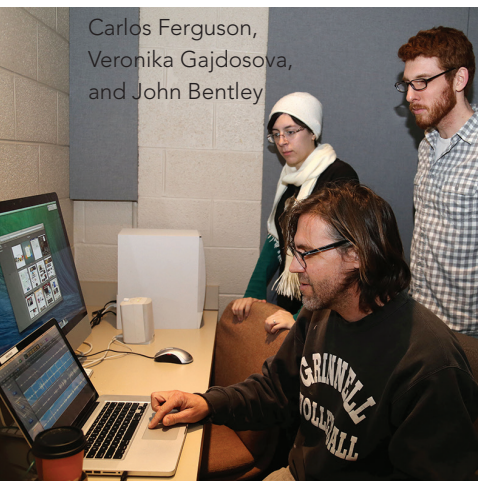
Keaton Stump



Rachel Huttinger and Misty Ross



Emma Stout, William Wright, and Katie In



Carlos Ferguson, Veronika Gajdosova, and John Bentley

Experiencing the Collaborative Process and Stop-Motion Animation

by Emma Stout | Emma is a senior majoring in Nursing.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar was a highlight of my spring semester. Since I love to create, getting an opportunity to collaborate with other students on a stop-motion project was amazing. Besides having fun in the class, I also learned much about the animation process and working with others. I gained more from this experience than I ever could have anticipated.

Our teachers, Katie In and Carlos Ferguson of Tiny Circus, were wonderful. They brought with them experience and guidance to ensure that we completed a product with which we were all pleased. Helping us through each step of the process, they kept us on track as we waded through a pool of ideas.

Animation is a bigger undertaking than I had imagined. The class occupied one of the busiest weeks of my semester. There are many jobs that go into creating even a short video: brainstorming, picking a topic, prop making, music editing, and more. Each person in the group found their niche, and mine ended up being prop construction. I enjoyed my job and was also glad for the opportunity to learn all the other processes so that I could help wherever needed. I think that is one of the great things about collaboration: it gives everyone a chance to figure out where they fit and to learn all the jobs at the same time. It gave me an appreciation for those who make full-length feature films using these same processes.

I learned more about myself during the class as well. I am used to working in a system where each person is assigned a job, and an authority figure tells everyone what to do. In the Visiting Artist's Seminar, everyone was on an even playing field. Even our teachers preferred being called collaborators. I discovered that sometimes I tend to try to take control. I had to remind myself as I talked and worked that we all have something valuable to offer if we give each other the opportunity to provide input and express ideas, things that sometimes aren't possible in a hierarchical situation. This was not just my project; it was everyone's project. The class certainly helped me build my team-working skills and recognize my areas of weakness.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar was a wonderful experience that not only allowed me to understand and appreciate the stop-motion animation process but also how to work with others in a way that let everyone have a significant impact on the finished product. It was a lot of work, but the knowledge I gained was worth all the late nights. I believe everyone should have an opportunity to experience something like the Visiting Artist's Seminar, not only to learn new skills but also to learn more about themselves.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar is an annual spring class sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the English Department, and the University Honors College. [H](#)

Institute of Leadership Excellence

Challenges and Equips

by Nausheen Qureshi | Nausheen is a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Nutrition and Food Science.

What is leadership? Most of us walked into the first Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) class thinking we already knew a thing or two about leadership until we were asked this deceptively simple question. Interestingly enough, after 45 hours of instruction, we were still unable to define exactly what leadership is. Over the course of a week we had learned about every aspect of leadership except for its textbook definition or its ideal method of implementation. In fact, I like to think Drs. Foote, Thomas, and Raffo posed the question to us as a challenge and then offered us the tools and the knowledge to find the answer for ourselves someday.

The institute was anything but ordinary. The week was full of long, exciting days and even longer heated discussions. After the first day of class, it was as if all of us had known each other forever, in part because of team-building exercises. Let's just say that some human knots can only be untied when someone does a backflip, and just because someone tells you it's a low-ropes course, do not automatically assume it is going to be easy.

At its core, however, ILE was an opportunity to grow, a chance to remove ourselves from the distractions of the outside world and focus on the potential within us. Dr. Foote dared us to look beyond the norms we constrain ourselves within and look into the universe of possibility, a place where happiness is truly attainable. Dr. Thomas helped us see leadership as a process, one in which everyone must be involved in order for positive change to happen. Dr. Raffo showed us the value of



Deana Raffo, Nausheen Qureshi, Earl Thomas, and David Foote

Jess Cummings and Samantha Crossland

Tara MacDougall and Veronica Terrell

understanding ourselves first so we can better understand others. She showed us that by recognizing our strengths and weaknesses, we can build a more effective team of people who counter our weaknesses with their strengths and whose distinctiveness can be a big asset.

The ILE experience would not have been the same without the valuable real-life stories we heard from our professors and from the amazing professionals who came to speak to us. These leaders came to impart solid advice to us, and their only compensation was the knowledge that their vision will be carried on.

We felt a weight of responsibility as we walked out of the freezing lecture hall into the warm sunlight on Friday evening and stood around trying to prolong our parting. We felt enlightened and inspired to do good with the knowledge that had been entrusted to us.

All of us may not be born leaders, but what matters is that we take every opportunity to make a positive difference as managers and examples of excellence.

The Institute of Leadership Excellence has been offered since 2006 and has served students from more than 50 majors. It is led by Dr. Earl Thomas, management professor, and Dr. Deana Raffo, program director for the Leadership Studies interdisciplinary minor, and by Dr. David Foote, associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

The ILE is a permission-only course, and students who meet the requirements must apply for admission. Students must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours and must either have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher or have been nominated by a faculty or staff member or ILE alumnus. [H](#)

Omicron Delta Kappa Initiates Twelve



The MTSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) National Leadership Honor Society held its eleventh initiation this spring, bringing the group's membership to 194 since the organization was chartered in 2010.


At the April 21 ceremony, twelve initiates took the OΔK membership oath: four were graduate students, five were undergraduates, two were faculty members, and one was an *honoris causa* initiate.



New members and their guests were challenged to be "leaders who motivate and inspire others in positive and constructive ways" by OΔK member and professor emeritus of Foreign Languages and Literatures Dr. June Hall McCash.

Circle president Trevor Moyo administered the oath to Tiffany Graziano (Management), Arlo Hall (English), Lydia Harris (Anthropology and History), Lt. Gen. Keith Huber (U.S. Army, ret.), Samuel Hulse (Foreign Languages and Global Studies and Cultural Geography), Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry), Mary Kinsman (Psychology), Mo Li (English), Justin Lowe (Anthropology), Dr. John Omachonu (Media and Entertainment), Lee Rumble (Plant and Soil Science), and Dennis Wise (English).

In addition to the challenge from Dr. McCash, Frank Krimowski from OΔK national headquarters addressed the initiates and guests.

Membership in Omicron Delta Kappa is open to juniors, seniors, graduate students, faculty, and staff members who meet the requirements of academic excellence and exemplary performance in various types of leadership positions and to special guests who are initiated *honoris causa*. 



Five Diverse Speakers Present at Leadership Day



Tara Singer

The MTSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) hosted the third annual True Blue Leadership Day April 10 at the Martin Honors Building.

True Blue Leadership Day highlights the core values of the True Blue Pledge by educating participants about the many aspects of leadership. The Honors College invites noted representatives from a variety of professions to share their leadership experiences with students.

Lt. Gen. Keith Huber (retired) opened the morning session with “Leadership from a Military Foxhole.” Huber, who is senior advisor for veterans and leadership initiatives at MTSU, spoke to an attentive audience of more than 60 students.

Tiffany Graziano, a graduate student in Management, found the retired U.S. Army three-star general, who spent 38 years in the military, “very moving and inspiring.” Graziano, who hopes to embark on a military career of her own as an Army dietitian, said, “[He] inspired me to realize communication is the key and to come at people at the human-interpersonal level, face-to-face, rather than [with] a computer or text message.”

First Tennessee Bank’s senior vice president for community banking in Rutherford County, Paula Mansfield, focused on women in the business world. The 2014–15 MTSU National Alumni Association president presented “Connecting the Dots (and Other Success Strategies for Women in the Workforce),” which included advice on developing a network, setting career goals, and understanding one’s strengths.

Tara Singer, executive director of the Omicron Delta Kappa national organization in Lexington, Virginia,

presented a humorous look at leadership called “Starships, Ball Gowns, and Hangovers: Leadership Lessons from Movies.” Using movie clips and costumes, Singer delivered a special perspective on leadership based on famous lines from *Star Trek*, *Apollo 13*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Flight*, and *The Hangover*.

In the afternoon, attendees heard a presentation by attorney John H. Henderson, who is with the firm Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Evansville, Indiana. Henderson’s talk was “Using Passion and Civility to Make a Difference in Your Community.” (Henderson’s wife, Raiko, is an MTSU alumna and a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors.)

The supply chain manager at International Paper, Metrick Houser, closed out True Blue Leadership Day with a dynamic presentation called “Building True Blue Leadership—A Reflection on Opportunities.” Houser, vice chair of the Honors College Board of Visitors, used examples from his career at International Paper, a paper and packaging firm with offices worldwide.

Matthew Hibdon, charter member of the MTSU Circle of OΔK and a member of OΔK’s National Advisory Council and Membership Committee, said, “The event was a great success because its purpose aligns so well with the goals of OΔK and MTSU. OΔK focuses on fostering leadership development by bringing together leaders from the major areas that impact our campus: students, faculty, staff, and community members. Events like this facilitate interaction between leaders from across these areas and helps bring some great speakers to the campus.” [H](#)



Danielle Dye helps a resident with her smartphone.



Susan Lyons and alumna Liz Rhea check out *Honors Magazine*.



Connor McDonald solves an iPad issue for an AdamsPlace resident.

Tech-Savvy Students Honored to Assist AdamsPlace Residents

by Randy Weiler

Each month of the academic year, University Honors College students become the apples of AdamsPlace residents' eyes.

That's because the students help the residents with computers, laptops, iPhones, iPads, Kindles, Nooks, and more.



AdamsPlace provides residential and assisted living and life-care facilities for older adults.

The residents, all retired but busy with modern technology, appreciate the help. The students, nearly

all in their late teens or early 20s, enjoy solving technical issues and spending time with the seniors, and the feeling is mutual.

A visit on January 28 included cake and other treats and drinks, a thank-you to the students and the Honors College. More than 20 residents sought technical assistance from seven students.

The brainchild of Susan Lyons, event coordinator for the Honors College, the collaboration has been a success since January 2014. Lyons rounds up the students, and Betsy Bonds, activities director at AdamsPlace, has no trouble finding seniors needing help with their phones, computers and other devices.

"It's a great partnership," Bonds said. "The students love the residents, and the residents love the students.

The residents here are relatively computer-savvy."

Bonds, front-desk staffer Paige Rijoff, and other AdamsPlace employees help residents with technology issues when MTSU students are not present. Bonds said the student visits "have been a relief."

Transplanted Texans Nancy and Louis Bittrich are among the many residents who've gotten help and advice from MTSU students.

"They are so kind and patient," Nancy said. "If they don't know, they'll find the answer or get someone else to help."

Dani Dye of Franklin, an Exercise Science major who graduated in August, said the visit last January was her second time to help.

"It's fun to meet all of them," Dye said. "You know you're really helping somebody with their technology functions. It's really nice to do that and fun figuring out more about technology and realizing you are teaching them."

The residents include alumna Liz Rhea ('55); Faye Brandon, a former faculty member; and Ida Read, formerly an MTSU librarian.

Dean John Vile and Marsha Powers, publications coordinator, joined Lyons and the students at the visit.

Vile told residents about the Honors College and that he, too, often seeks tech support from students.

To watch a video of the visit, go to <http://youtu.be/RL3R1uYhcPs>. [H](#)

Honors and OΔK Team Up for **Big Event**

by Birgit Northcutt | *Birgit, a spring 2015 Honors graduate, was an Honors Transfer Fellow who majored in Foreign Languages (German). She is attending graduate school at the University of Cincinnati.*

On Saturday, April 11, I was one of a team of Honors College and Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) volunteers taking part in the Big Event, a nationwide, student-run service project. It was the first time that the Honors College and OΔK teamed up for the event, creating an enthusiastic and energetic team of volunteers. An impressive number of participants from many groups met at 8:30 a.m. at the Student Union Building for the Student Government Association-organized event.

After receiving instructions, we met Katherine, our SGA site leader, and representatives from Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation at the General Bragg greenway trailhead. Our team of sixteen was divided into three groups. One large group went to the Manson Pike trailhead to pick up trash, and the two smaller groups walked along the greenway beginning at General Bragg trailhead, one contingent following the river downstream and the other walking upstream.

Each volunteer had a black garbage bag, a grabber, and latex gloves. Along the river, hidden under brush and stuck in bushes, we discovered many different objects. Collin McDonald said, "I was privileged to work with the Honors College in the Big Event at the Manson Pike trailhead. We spent a few hours gathering what trash



we could find along the trail and along the banks of the Stones River. We ended up finding four vehicle tires, half a television set, part of a lawn mower, and cushions from a couch! I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to give back to Murfreesboro by volunteering in the Big Event. I definitely am going to be coming back next year for this and am already looking for other ways to volunteer and help!"

Fortunately, the weather was beautiful for the volunteers, who spent two hours working outside. Joseph Mosquedo took the work seriously and voluntarily waded in the water grabbing pieces of garbage. At lunchtime we were treated to sandwiches, chips, and drinks. It was a great afternoon, and we left the General Bragg trailhead with a sense of accomplishment.

Said volunteer Rebecca Clippard, "It was really motivating to see so many people out supporting the community. Together, all our combined efforts are going to make a huge impact. It felt good to be part of something bigger. The day was beautiful and sunny, perfect for greenway cleanup. I was surprised by the small amount of trash and litter and wondered who else had cleaned up the trails before me. These thoughts made me realize I wanted to help more than one day a year." **H**



Maggie McPheeters,
Nicholas Watts, and
Hannah Kanyuh



Austin Jones



Birgit Northcutt, Rebecca Clippard,
and Laura Clippard



Morgan Murphy, Evan Lester, Philip Phillips, Kathy Davis, John Vile, and Gina Logue

Phi Kappa Phi Holds Spring Initiation

The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated nine Honors students Tuesday, April 14, and recognized eight members of the Honors faculty as influential faculty designated by the initiates.

Three College of Basic and Applied Sciences Honors students were initiated: Biochemistry major Ashley Corson; Chemistry major Chelsea Harmon; and Aerospace major Collin McDonald.

Hannah Todd, a Psychology major, and Nursing major Lara Miller represented the College of Behavioral and Health Science. Philosophy major William Wright and Sociology majors Jessica Shotwell and Ginny Whaley represented the College of Liberal Arts. Amber Wisner, an Accounting major, represented the College of Business.

Honors faculty members recognized as influential were Marsha Barsky (Theatre and Dance), Paul Craig (Aerospace), Catherine Crooks (Psychology), Norma Dunlap (Chemistry), Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), Dennis Mullen (Biology), Philip Phillips (English),

and Jan Quarles (Electronic Media Communication).

Forty-nine students and 32 faculty members were recognized during the ceremony in the ballroom of the Student Union Building. Dr. John Omachonu was the speaker.

Dr. Philip Phillips, Honors College associate dean, is chapter president; Dr. John R. Vile, Honors College dean, is treasurer and fellowship coordinator; Dr. Dianna Rust is vice president; Honors College executive aide Kathy Davis is chapter coordinator; Gina Logue is chapter secretary and public relations coordinator; and Honors students Morgan Murphy and Evan Lester are vice presidents.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Junior initiates must rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class. Seniors and graduate students must rank in the top 10 percent of their class. [H](#)

Spring 2016 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

American Culture and Society of the 1920s

UH 3500-002 • TR 2:40 to 4:05
HONR 218 • CRN# 16811
Dr. James Beeby, History

This discussion course is an interdisciplinary seminar that will analyze American culture and society of the 1920s. It will take both chronological and thematic approaches to a myriad of topics. It will present a chronology of political, social, and cultural events, and will offer critical analysis and interpretation of them from a wide range of perspectives. We will focus on the period from 1920 to 1929. We will study the causes and consequences of the transformation of the U.S. into an urban-industrial and consumer society. We will analyze the prosperity of the Jazz Age, labor, the middle class, women's issues, race relations, religious and intellectual movements, sport, and pop culture

(music, film, and dance). We will also read three novels from the period and watch three silent films (or parts of the films).

The Holocaust and After: Protested Prejudice and Preventing Genocide

UH 3500 • TR, 9:40–11:05 a.m.
HONR 116 • CRN 15057
Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth

What about human rights and the dignity of each human being? Collectively, we may be quick to agree that these are important issues, yet it seems that we continue to live in a world where human life is often devalued and individuals can do nothing to make things better. Instead of being frightened by the enormity of injustice in the world, many believe that study and discussion of prejudice and intolerance can help to move us closer to finding better ways to coexist.

In this seminar, we will study the history of the Holocaust, trace the rise of Nazism, and consider the institutionalization of genocide. What does the fact of the Holocaust tell us about humanity? Does knowledge about the Holocaust cause us to despair, or can we learn from this horrific event in order to protest intolerance and prevent genocide today? This seminar is intended to empower the students and professor through the study of texts, films, and discussion. After a thorough study of the Holocaust, we will explore reactions of survivors, historians, scientists, politicians, writers, and artists as well as everyday citizens after World War II. We will ask ourselves if there are still lessons from the Holocaust for us to learn today.

The course is open to students with a 3.25 GPA and junior-level standing. For more information, please contact Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth at Sonja.Hedgepeth@mtsu.edu. [H](#)



Dean John R. Vile, left, and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips, right, present the Deans' Distinguished Essay Award to Clint Bryan (center) for his submission to volume five of *Scientia et Humanitas*, "'Oh, Terrible, Windy Words': Witty Wordplay in Jonson's *Poetaster*." Clint served as editor-in-chief of the 2015 issue of the scholarly research journal, which featured nine graduate and undergraduate essays and was published in June.

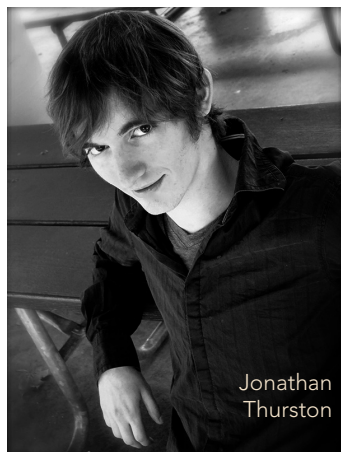


Collage spring 2015 editor-in-chief Caitlin Noonan, center, holds the staff's 2015 Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown Award. Designers of the award-winning magazines Della Wheeler, left, and Alexa Games, right, flank Caitlin. Spring staff members were (front, L-R) Biven Alexander, Anna Neal, Nausheen Qureshi, Chloe Madigan, Wheeler, Noonan, Games, Amanda Broome, Luke Judkins, Emily Vonckx, Erin Potter, Patrick Murphy, (back) Sara Snoddy, Josh Tilton, Jeanette Stevens, Jacques Beasley, Aly Booker, Sydney Smith, Emily Anderson, J. T. Cobb, and Lauren Smith. Not pictured: Mary Vaughan, Rebecca Clippard, Melissa Snyder, Brett Turner, Ethan Clark, and Shelby Flatt.

Contributors to the fall 2014 and spring 2015 issues of *Collage* were recognized at a celebration on April 28. The event marked the publication of the spring issue of the magazine and celebrated *Collage's* third Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown Award and ten years of the Honors College's sponsorship of the magazine.



Collage Announces Spring Creative Expression Award Winners



Jonathan
Thurston



Anna
Houser



A. J. Holmes



Amber
Lelli

Three students and a recent graduate won the spring 2015 *Collage* Creative Expression Awards. **Jonathan Thurston** and **Anna Houser** won Martha Hixon Awards for their top-rated literature submissions. **A. J. Holmes** and **Amber Lelli** won Lon Nuell Awards for best visual submissions.

Jonathan, a graduate student studying English, won the Hixon award for his short story "Concerto." He has written several books and is the owner of the Nashville publishing house Thurston Howl Publications.

Jonathan said, "I grew up in a world of books and one of music. This story is my attempt at combining the two. I remember hearing my music teacher say that counting the rests was the hardest part of music, usually. This idea of silence being complex fascinated me. This story is one man's journey to understanding meaning in the spaces in between."

Anna, a summer 2013 graduate, won for her poem "Canopy." She majored in English with a concentration in Writing and is now a high school English teacher in South Korea. "Canopy" is her reflection on the "savage sadness" of Alzheimer's disease.

Anna said, "The past is carried with us, and while it is sometimes buried, it undeniably remains under the surface and grows increasingly heavy. It fascinates me that this disease slowly eats away at recent memory, and ultimately leaves sufferers alone with their pasts, further brutalizing them with occasional and tantalizing lucidity."

A. J., a Mass Communication major with a Photography concentration, won for his photograph *Juxtaposition*. The image is from a larger work, *Fashion Forward*, which he created working with six models and a team. His goal was to demonstrate the relevance of

using traditional film photographic processes in a commercial atmosphere.

After receiving a Canon Rebel 35mm camera and 20 rolls of film from his parents in 2006, A. J. was "instantly enthralled and enamored by the surface simplicity of photography. I soon found how difficult it was to create profound, unique images with a film camera," he said. "After years of research and growing, I finally found myself able to express my art and my visions through this medium. Film has always been part of my growth in creating art through photography."

Amber, who is completing her B.F.A. in Art this fall, won for her three-dimensional piece *Days of Paradox*. She has won several awards and scholarships for her work and is apprenticing with a Nashville-based sculptor. She is a studio mentor with Poverty and the Arts in Nashville, and her work has been featured in several exhibitions, including an internationally curated show, *Compass*, in California.

Days of Paradox is an interactive sculpture standing over five feet tall. It incorporates 84 slides taken by Amber and her family that present a narrative about childhood, family, identity, and growing into adulthood.

Each semester the *Collage* staff participates in a blind grading process to select approximately 60 pieces for publication from around 300 submissions. The *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board gives awards to outstanding submissions of prose, poetry, art, and photography.

Copies of the spring issue of *Collage* are available free in the Martin Honors Building. [H](#)

Student Commons Named in Honor of Dr. June Hall McCash

Dr. June Hall McCash arrived at the amphitheater in the Martin Honors College Building on June 21, 2015, to give a speech to initiates of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society (see page 22). Following the speech and initiation, participants were asked to go to the lobby for a ringing of the Honors bells.

As Dr. McCash left the amphitheater, she realized that there were some 50 extra people gathering. She discovered that they included some of her family members from as far away as Massachusetts, President Sidney A.

McPhee, members of the Honors Board of Visitors, and friends from across the University and the local area. They hardly had to shout "Surprise!" for McCash to know the night was designed not simply to recognize high-achieving students but also to honor her.

The Student Commons on the first floor of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building is now the Dr. June Hall McCash Student Commons.

The idea for the naming came out of the fall 2014 Board of Visitors meeting, when Raiko Henderson, an alumna and board member, suggested it would be appropriate to name a room in the college for its founding director. President McPhee and others were enthusiastic about the suggestion, and plans were made to keep it a surprise. Henderson joined Paul Martin Jr., Pam White Ogg, Debra Hopkins, Dean John Vile, staff members, and others to plan the occasion.

Dr. McPhee and Dean Vile spoke to the audience and reminded all present of the groundbreaking work of Dr. McCash.

An esteemed teacher and scholar, McCash received



the MTSU Foundation's Career Achievement Award in 2003, the Distinguished Research Award in 1996, the Honors Outstanding Faculty Award in 1980, and the Agnes Scott College Outstanding Alumna Award

in 1996. After serving as founding director of the Honors Program, Dr. McCash chaired the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. After retiring, she added to her already impressive body of writing with award-winning books of history and historical fiction. She is an honorary member of



the Honors College Board of Visitors.

A plaque acknowledging her contributions is now installed in the commons.

Family and friends also contributed over \$20,000 to help establish the June McCash Honors Enrichment Fund. When the total reaches \$25,000, the money will be used to provide unrestricted funds for students, supporting activities for those who seek to submit papers or deliver presentations at scholarly conventions, study abroad, or do research.

After the reception, family members who had come from afar stayed for more than an hour to visit with one another. More than ever before, the commons felt like home. [H](#)

Twelve Honors Ducklings

Lead Their Own Graduation Procession

by John Vile

A 28–30 day wait was rewarded on Monday, May 4, when 12 of 13 duck eggs hatched in the courtyard of the Martin Honors Building. The mother duck, dubbed Ivy, had chosen to nest in the ivy in front of the building.

After learning that the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 protected wild ducks, the college had summoned campus security to rope the area off with police tape and had posted suitable warnings for well-wishing bystanders (some of whom had thought the mother was in distress) to keep away. Ivy timed her ducklings' arrival to correspond with exams, when there is a lower-than-normal flow of students into the building. She also chose a day in which the Honors bells twice pealed for students who had successfully defended their theses.

By the afternoon of their hatching, the mother was leading the ducklings across campus to a pond where they would meet their father and from whence it is hoped they will grow into adulthood and fly south for the winter, spreading the news of the Honors College. Ivy thus got a jump on graduation, which was not scheduled until Saturday. (When this part of the story was read on the news on Channel 4 in Nashville, one announcer asked the other how the ducklings knew their father. The other announcer, perhaps the parent of Honors students, said that they asked him for money, and he gave it to them!)

The college responded to the birth with an announcement of the naming of the brood; the honor (and a \$50 award) went to Kyeesha Wilcox, who named the ducklings after the eight virtues inscribed on the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building: Valiant (integrity), Harper (creativity), River (creativity), Emery/Emory (industrious



leader), Jasper (keeper of treasure), Spirit (faith and spirituality), Sage (wise one), Alina (light), Irie (blessing, favor), Cleo (glory, pride), Hudson (humanity, knowledge, creative ability), and Jada (knowing, peace, and harmony).

The second-place winner was Colby Denton who dubbed the ducklings Mallory (mallard), Dabble (dabbling duck), Muscy (mucovy duck), Mergie (merganser duck), Woody (common wood duck), Drake (male duck), Waddles, Quackers, Trumpet, Preena (after preening), Peck, and Loona (common loon).

Three students tied for third. Samuel Hulsey chose to name the ducklings for individuals known for one or more quackery ideas that nonetheless contributed to human progress. His suggestions were Ptolemy, Miasma, Hubble, Perimutter, Schmidt, Riess, Rush, Colon(a), Vulcan(a), Aristotle, Franz, and Halley.

Gabrielle Armour sought identification with the mother duck by naming them after Ivy League–type schools: Harvey (Harvard), Stan (Stanford), George (Georgetown), Prince (Princeton), Penny (University of Pennsylvania), Andrew (St. Andrews), Camila (Cambridge), Ford (Oxford), Virginia (University of Virginia), Kuke (Johns Hopkins), and Northwest.

Angelica Bennett also played off the mother's name by looking for related flora. Her suggestions were Daisy, Snapdragon, Daffodil, Tulip, Vine, Blossom, Lily, Aster, Rosie, Viburnum, Orchid, and Buttercup.

The Honors Facebook page added a number of photographs and videos of the ducks. (By the way, a group of ducklings is known as a "safe" when on land and a "raft" when on the water.) [H](#)

CALA Summer Language Institute: A Brain-Based Approach to Teaching Languages

by Brian Roberts and Shelley Thomas

The Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), in partnership with the University Honors College, hosted its 12th annual Summer Language Institute (SLI) at the Martin Honors Building from late May through early August.

CALA's approach to language learning puts the focus where brain research says the most long-term memory takes place: the five senses. The brain is a natural pattern seeker, and it internalizes the patterns of a new language by using them—not talking about them.



Jie (Helen) Zhou, right, CALA Chinese instructor, poses with her class after a fun session of storytelling in Chinese.

The biggest session ever, this year's SLI provided teacher training, English as Second Language (ESL) workshops, and 14 courses in six different languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish.

Shelley Thomas, an Honors faculty member, founded CALA in 2003 to offer more effective language instruction. Thomas had completed a three-year certification in brain-based learning and used her knowledge to create a learning experience that results in fast, unconscious, long-term acquisition of languages.

One CALA Spanish participant, a professor of education, said, "[The methods were] interesting and motivated us to use language rather than just 'study' it, using a 'hands on' not just 'minds on' approach—more in tune with the way language acquisition occurs."

Early CALA instruction includes experiences that are physical, fun, relevant, repetitive, and social. Activities like games, songs, sports, and storytelling are especially effective in language learning.

A CALA participant who studied French said, "I thought the methods were extremely effective and

Shelley Thomas and Brian Roberts, director and assistant director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), respectively, thank J. Paul Vaughan, director of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation, for a generous grant that made it possible for more than 50 high-achieving students and teachers from Rutherford County to attend CALA language and workshop classes.



engaging. There was no pressure to perform, but the ability to do so came very naturally and easily.”

The CALA curriculum is designed toward acquisition by working four basic skills—listening, speaking, writing, and reading—of the most frequently occurring words used in daily interaction.

A high school English teacher and CALA Arabic language student said, “The methods were very effective. They were fun, which kept anxiety low. Just enough of each language modality—speaking, listening, reading, writing.”

In Phase I of the program, Total Physical Response (TPR), learners have physical experiences with a core set of high-frequency vocabulary words and about a dozen grammatical structures. The experience of walking, drawing, playing games, and touching the vocabulary contributes to moving learning into long-term memory.

In Phase II, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), basic vocabulary words and grammatical structures are woven into stories that are performed and processed through a variety of activities designed to promote listening, speaking, reading, and writing fluency.

In Phase III, students begin to read a simple novel in the new language. This phase introduces a few more

words and grammatical structures in context, which leads to talking and writing in the new language.

CALA provides professional development to local, regional, national, and international teachers. To support local educators, CALA offers a free methodology workshop. Teachers in the workshop can learn about brain research and comprehensible input tools like TPR and TPRS and explore and practice ways

to better promote brain-based learning in the classroom. CALA has joined MTSU’s Confucius Institute to provide similar methodology training to more than 30 ESL teachers from China.

Almost 40 Rutherford County high school teachers and students took advantage of CALA this year. As a part of its mission to support high-achieving students and promote positive outcomes for local schools, the Jennings and Rebecca Jones

Foundation sponsored their attendance.

Through the generosity of various University departments and private donors, CALA will continue to encourage and improve language learning in Tennessee schools.

To learn more about CALA and see class offerings, please visit the website: www.mtsu.edu/cala. [H](#)

This workshop has helped me **shape my idea of teaching** and how to engage students.



photo by Andy Heidt

Honors student
Logan Whiles's
youthful fascination
with big cats led him
to an international
zoo research project

A Walk on the WILD SIDE

by Diane Hughes

You could say that Logan Whiles was a bit of a wild child. Wild about animals, that is.

As a young boy, Whiles spent hours with his favorite zoo-themed video games. In high school, he developed a fascination with clouded leopards after encountering the exotic creatures at the Nashville Zoo. Today, as a college senior, Whiles has turned his childhood pursuits into a college thesis with great potential to lead him into an exciting career.

As a student in the Honors College, Whiles is conducting research on the clouded leopards that previously captivated him at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

“My project is mainly focused on investigating stress in relation to rearing methods in captive clouded leopards,” said Whiles, explaining that certain hormone levels have been shown to indicate stress in the animals.

“He’s doing the type of project that lots of Biology majors hope to do, but very few ever actually get to experience,” said Dr. Drew Sieg, visiting assistant professor and resident Honors Scholar. “Particularly for students who are looking to go in to graduate school, this is the kind of excellent opportunity that prepares them for their future endeavors and gets them accustomed to ‘owning’ their research.”

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photo by Darby Campbell

The Perfect Setting

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Whiles, a 21-year-old from Bristol, did consider other schools, but a place in the Honors College was too good to refuse. “After looking into all of the perks offered by the Honors College and the Buchanan Fellowship, including the support in developing independent research at an undergraduate level, I decided I couldn’t pass up the opportunities MTSU had to offer,” he said.

Whiles’s collaboration with the Nashville Zoo came about when he contacted Karen Rice, the zoo’s carnivore supervisor, to ask about possible research opportunities with his “favorite furballs,” as he calls them.

“Logan came into this process very prepared and well informed,” Rice said. “He had already done so much research and knew a lot about clouded leopards and the studies and research being done with the species.”

Because the clouded leopard is at high risk of extinction in the wild, zoos in several nations have begun to breed and raise them. Those efforts have been somewhat successful, but there are challenges. With captive breeding, the leopards have exhibited stress-related behavior such as pacing, hiding, tail biting, and fur plucking.

By studying stress hormones in the captive animals, Whiles and others in the field hope to not only provide

the animals with a more comfortable environment and life experience but also to perfect breeding protocols in order to increase numbers and protect the species.

Since the Nashville Zoo is a member of the Thailand Clouded Leopard Consortium (a program focused on saving the species through breeding programs at zoos), Rice saw the research project as a win-win-win opportunity—for Whiles, the zoo, and the leopards.

“We have found that hand-rearing clouded leopards is a very successful method to reduce mortality in cubs and stress in the species and allows us to do successful introductions without male aggression toward the females,” said Rice. “I was hoping that we could somehow document what we know. If we could then present this information, maybe others would not be as hesitant or critical of the hand-rearing method and get on board.”

The collaboration with Whiles also allows the zoo to fulfill an important part of its mission: to serve as a learning resource.

“By working with students, I hope that we can pass on our passion for the work while exposing students to the opportunities that exist in the zoo field,” said Rice.

Producing Results

Whiles completed an internship at the zoo this past summer, performing general work in the carnivore department and developing a survey for his project. The survey went out in May 2015 to 40 zoos, asking for data on their clouded leopard populations, including hormonal measures (if available) as well as cub survival rates and information on the general health of the animals. Whiles also hopes to collaborate with and obtain additional information on clouded leopard populations at Zoo Miami; Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Wash.; and Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Fla.

“The more animals, the more data, the more reliable the results,” Whiles said. “I hope to present my results to the Clouded Leopard Species Survival Plan, a committee organized by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to efficiently manage its captive clouded leopard population.”

Though he is excited to be involved in the project, Whiles admits it’s challenging. “Right now, I feel in over my head—but in a good way. It’s an experience I thought I might never have,” he said.

Whiles is on track to graduate in spring 2016. After that, he hopes to earn a year of funded research as a Fulbright Scholar.

He may well get that chance. For six consecutive years, MTSU has had two or more Fulbright winners (a total of 13) and was one of just 108 colleges and universities recognized by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for producing Fulbright International Scholars in 2013, ranked alongside Duke, Harvard, and Yale. (No other Tennessee institution made that list.)

If selected for the Fulbright, Whiles’s goal is to go to Thailand and continue his study of clouded leopards in their native habitat.

“I hope to get realistic experience in remote fieldwork before I pursue my education any further,” said Whiles, who has his sights set on earning a master’s and perhaps even a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology.

Regarding his professional ambitions, Whiles said he simply wants to “balance being a scientist with being someone who just likes being around animals.”

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photo by Andy Heidt

A Genetic Match

Clouded leopards aren't the only animals under the research eye of an MTSU Honors student.

Research on nematodes by senior **Mason Riley** could potentially lead to the prevention and treatment of perplexing medical problems.


Experimenting on *Caenorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*), a type of roundworm, Mason focuses on biochemical pathways involved in roundworm stress responses, including protein degradation due to changes in environmental salinity.

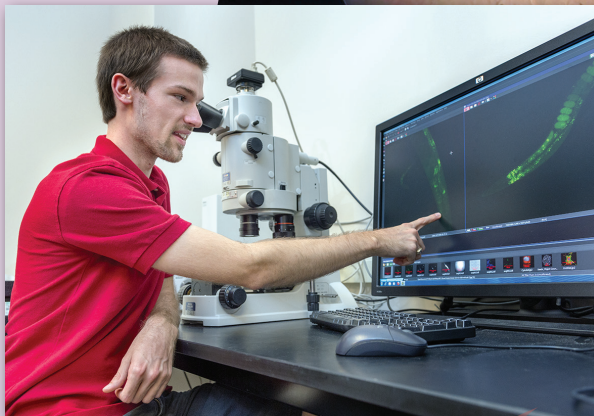
"Our lab has found two components in the pathway so far, and I am currently searching for the final step in this stress response," Mason said. "We use many different stressors to experiment on the worms, such as heat, salt, and ultraviolet light. Because of this, our research could lead to determining the causes of some types of melanoma and to the prevention or treatment of Type 2 diabetes or other medical problems."

Mason's lab work has led to collaborations with scientists at the University of Washington who are working on the same enzyme Mason uncovered. According to his mentor and thesis advisor, Lynn Boyd, chair of the Biology Department, "Not many undergraduate student researchers can say that their results have had the kind of impact that Mason's have shown."

In June 2015, Mason traveled with Dr. Boyd and several graduate students to the Genetics Society of America's international *C. elegans* Meeting (a.k.a. "the worm meeting") in Los Angeles, another opportunity for him to interact with accomplished scientists.

Mason became interested in research after taking Professor Bruce Cahoon's genetics class in his sophomore year. After seeing the many ways diseases could be transmitted and the way seemingly insignificant changes could alter an entire organism, Mason switched his career goal from pre-med to genetics research.

"I decided to try going into research because I like to work out puzzles and I wanted to do something that positively impacts humans in some way," Mason said. "As long as my research can benefit someone suffering from a disorder or disease, I will continue along my chosen path." 



Nematodes viewed with a microscope

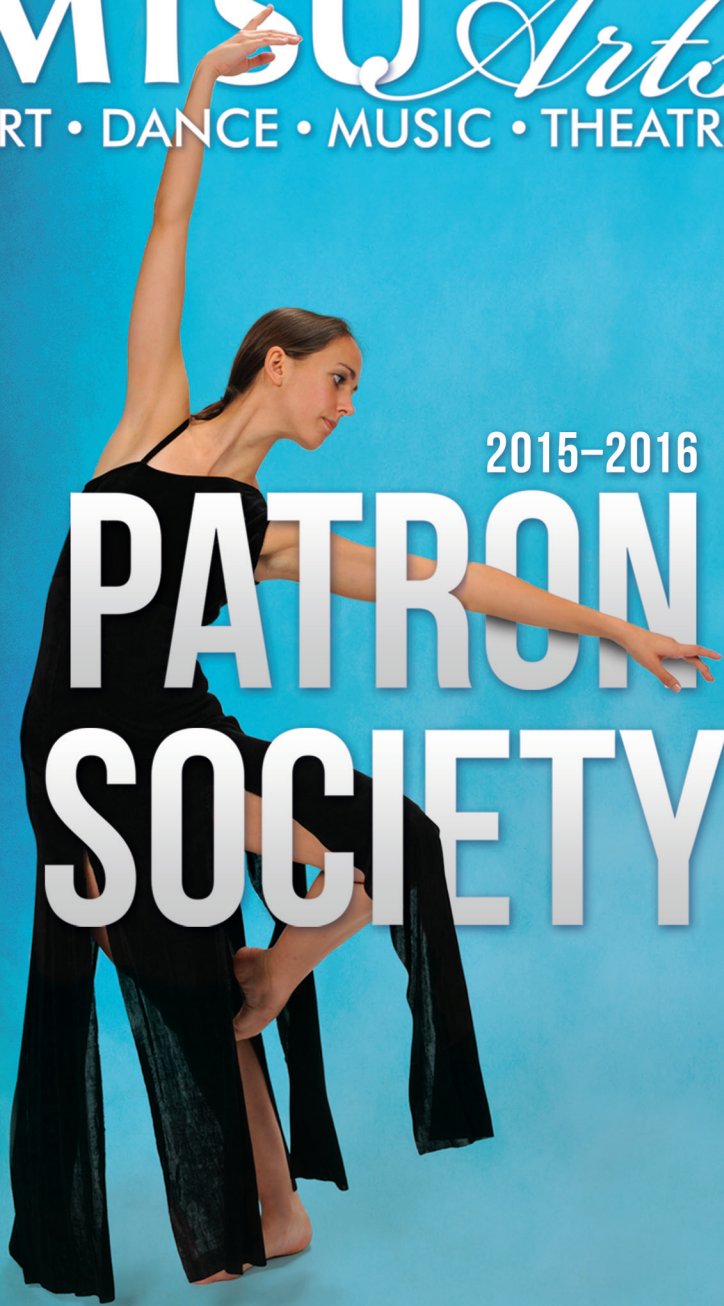
Buchanan Fellow Mason Riley (Sr.) in one of the Biology labs with his research on Nematodes.

“...our research could lead to determining the causes of some types of melanoma and to the prevention or treatment of Type 2 diabetes or other medical problems.”

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Soaring by Patsy B. Weiler
HIGHER

The sky is the limit for six Honors College students majoring in Aerospace

A group of talented Aerospace scholars orbiting the MTSU Honors College are soaring in life and in their academic careers.

The six young men and their Aerospace major concentrations are Pascal Holtkamp (Administration), Evan Lester (Flight Dispatch), Collin McDonald (Maintenance Management), Nicodemus Myhre (Technology), Dylan Smith (Professional Pilot), and Nathan Tilton (Maintenance Management, with research in Unmanned Aircraft Operations Systems). They all excel in their specific disciplines.

They agree that the Aerospace and Honors College faculty have stretched, inspired, encouraged, and challenged them to open their minds to new ideas and lofty goals.

Established in 1942, the Department of Aerospace has long been nationally prominent. The department has many remarkable training tools that draw outstanding students to MTSU. Its 360-degree seamless flight control tower simulator is one of the most advanced of its kind in the world. Just last fall, Aerospace added a concentration: Unmanned Aircraft Operations Systems, or UAS. MTSU is one of fewer than a dozen universities nationwide to offer study in this high-growth field, which industry representatives expect to contribute \$13.6 billion to the U.S. economy in the next five years alone.

Five of the students profiled here received the Buchanan Fellowship, the most prestigious academic award given by the University. The scholarship is named for the late James M. Buchanan ('40), recipient of the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

"Almost every Buchanan class during the past several years has had Aerospace majors," said John Vile, dean of the Honors College. "Although being a pilot can be a fairly lucrative career . . . most of the students in the Honors College who join this program seem more interested in adventure and in the opportunity to help others."

Fasten your seatbelt as we take off and learn about the personal flight plans of these talented students.

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More about Pascal

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would “fly to the moon with friends and take lots of pictures.”
- He is an Eagle Scout.
- He admits that he likes the country-flavored pop sounds of Taylor Swift.

Pascal Holtkamp returned from his summer vacation last year with a souvenir that will never collect dust—his experience of flying in the Swiss Alps.

The 20-year-old rising junior’s journey to college was considerably closer to home.

“Growing up in middle Tennessee, I constantly heard about the great Aerospace Department at MTSU,” said the 2013 graduate of Brentwood High School. “People around the country and in all the aviation industries know about our program and love the individuals that go through it.”

Although excited about attending the University, he encountered a little turbulence adjusting to the size of the campus and was drawn to the smaller classes and camaraderie in the Honors College.

The recipient of an Academic Merit Scholarship, Holtkamp said, “What really pushed me to the Honors College was the immense feeling of community. Being there enhanced my university experience by providing me a sense of belonging and guidance. College is an amazing time in your life, but it’s really easy to get lost or confused, especially at larger schools. Being a part of the Honors College helped me sort everything out.”

Growing up with a father and grandfather who are avid pilots of powered planes and gliders, a fascination with aviation came as natural as breathing for Holtkamp.

“From a very young age, I was surrounded and amazed by planes and what makes them fly,” he said.

As a freshman, he started in the Professional Pilot concentration, an area he loved because of the great flight training and friends he made. However, he later discovered his interests were pointing to a new destination.

“I have decided I truly enjoy the business side of aviation, and this has led me to switch my concentration to Administration, which, I believe, opens up more career doors for me,” he said. “It also allows me to pursue a minor in Economics and Finance.”

Because his parents are European and he is fluent in German, Holtkamp loves traveling and has done a considerable amount of globetrotting.

“Most summers you can find me high up somewhere in the Swiss Alps or visiting a new city in Europe,” he said. “In the winter, I am usually [snow] skiing out West somewhere.”

Earning an M.B.A. is on Holtkamp’s horizon following graduation, but he plans to take a year or two off and explore more of the world.

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Pascal Holtkamp Ready for Takeoff



photo by J. Intintoli



Evan Lester
Safe Landings

photo by J Intintoli

More about Evan

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would “spend time with my girlfriend and family or fly over the Rocky Mountains to San Francisco and see the Golden Gate Bridge.”
- Evan once played on an otherwise all-girls volleyball team.
- An avid traveler, Evan has visited 27 states to date.

Until he was 11 years old, **Evan Lester**, a senior, was terrified of airplanes. Just the thought of flying would put fear in his heart to the point that his family drove to all of their vacation destinations. So when Lester’s mother, Linda, announced to her two children they would be taking to the skies with her on a business trip to San Diego, her land-loving son was petrified.

However, his fears disappeared when he became fascinated with Nashville International Airport.

“When I got to the airport, I was completely mesmerized by the air traffic control tower,” said Lester, 21, and a 2012 graduate of the small K–12 Hampshire Unit School near Columbia. “I loved watching the airplanes take off and land.”

Fortunately, the flight to the West Coast was like a magic carpet ride for the nervous youngster.

“I loved the feeling of taking off and looking out the window at the Earth below and landing safely at San Diego,” he said. “The experience changed my life forever. From that day forward, I knew I wanted to work in the aviation industry.”

Lester’s aspirations led him to the Aerospace Department because of its national recognition and the industry knowledge possessed by its faculty. He is concentrating in Flight Dispatch.

“After reading the professors’ bios, I saw where they had a lot of real-world experience and could teach students the vital skills it truly takes to be successful,” said Lester, who is also a Buchanan Fellow and a recipient of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College Scholarship and the Tiara Foundation Chair Award of Excellence Scholarship.

Lester, who frequently returns to his high school to talk to students about preparing for college, said he was also drawn to the Honors College because of its classes and volunteering opportunities. He participated in the college’s first study-abroad trip to Italy led by Dr. Philip Phillips, associate dean, who nominated Lester for his position as student vice president of MTSU’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Lester is also student manager of the NASA FOCUS lab, a NASA-funded research project designed to better prepare aviation professionals through research into the interactions between them. That role led to Lester’s Honors thesis, “NASA FOCUS Lab Operations Manual.” It will detail the information and procedures needed to successfully operate the lab.

Spending hours in the lab led to one of his best MTSU memories when he traveled to the International Symposium on Aviation Psychology in Ohio with the NASA FOCUS staff.

“We flew on MTSU’s King Air 200 private plane, and I presented a paper on the lab’s high-fidelity simulations, which was published in the proceedings of the conference,” Lester said. “It was an amazing experience.”

Following his anticipated spring 2016 graduation, Lester plans to enroll in the Aerospace Department’s graduate program, pursuing a major in Aviation Administration.

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More about Collin

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would "spend time with my family on their farm or fly to Alaska to see the breathtaking scenery."
- He is a Student Ambassador and a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies.
- An enthusiastic singer and musician, he can play five instruments, including piano and tuba.

Collin McDonald, a junior, took his first solo flight in an airplane before he first drove alone in a car.

"I started my flight training when I was 15 and had to wait two years to solo because I was too young," said McDonald, who grew up on a 100-acre farm near Carthage and was homeschooled. "I first became interested in aviation when I was eight years old and took a homeschool field trip to the Lebanon airport. I soon became enamored with flight."

McDonald wants to work with a faith-based aviation mission group as a pilot in Papua, New Guinea.

"To work there, you not only have to have the appropriate pilot ratings but also the Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance License. Because of this, I decided to study the maintenance discipline in aerospace," said McDonald, who owns a light, single-engine plane, named Molly, that sports True Blue stripes. (A hayfield back home doubles as a runway; McDonald parks the plane in his backyard.)

McDonald chose MTSU because "it has the best aviation program in the Southeast, and I was privileged to receive the Buchanan Fellowship, which has honestly been one of the biggest accomplishments of my life."

McDonald, 21, also received the Wallace R. Maples Aerospace Scholarship and the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College Scholarship.

Even without the Buchanan Fellowship, McDonald is confident the Honors College is where he would have landed at MTSU.

"I would have joined the Honors College because of the exceptional faculty. Some are now dear friends and sometimes feel like family," he said. "I cannot remember a time when Dr. Vile has not cordially welcomed me into his office and [we] talked about everything from classwork to personal events."

Although not completely planned, a coast-to-coast flight from New York City to Los Angeles is what McDonald has proposed for his Honors College thesis. He intends to follow the route of the first transcontinental flight, made by Cal Rodgers in 1911.

"My plan is to follow his route and write a documentary comparing the original flight to mine, how aviation has evolved since then, and why Rodgers has inexplicably vanished into obscure aviation history," he said.

Serving others, he said, is more important than earning money.

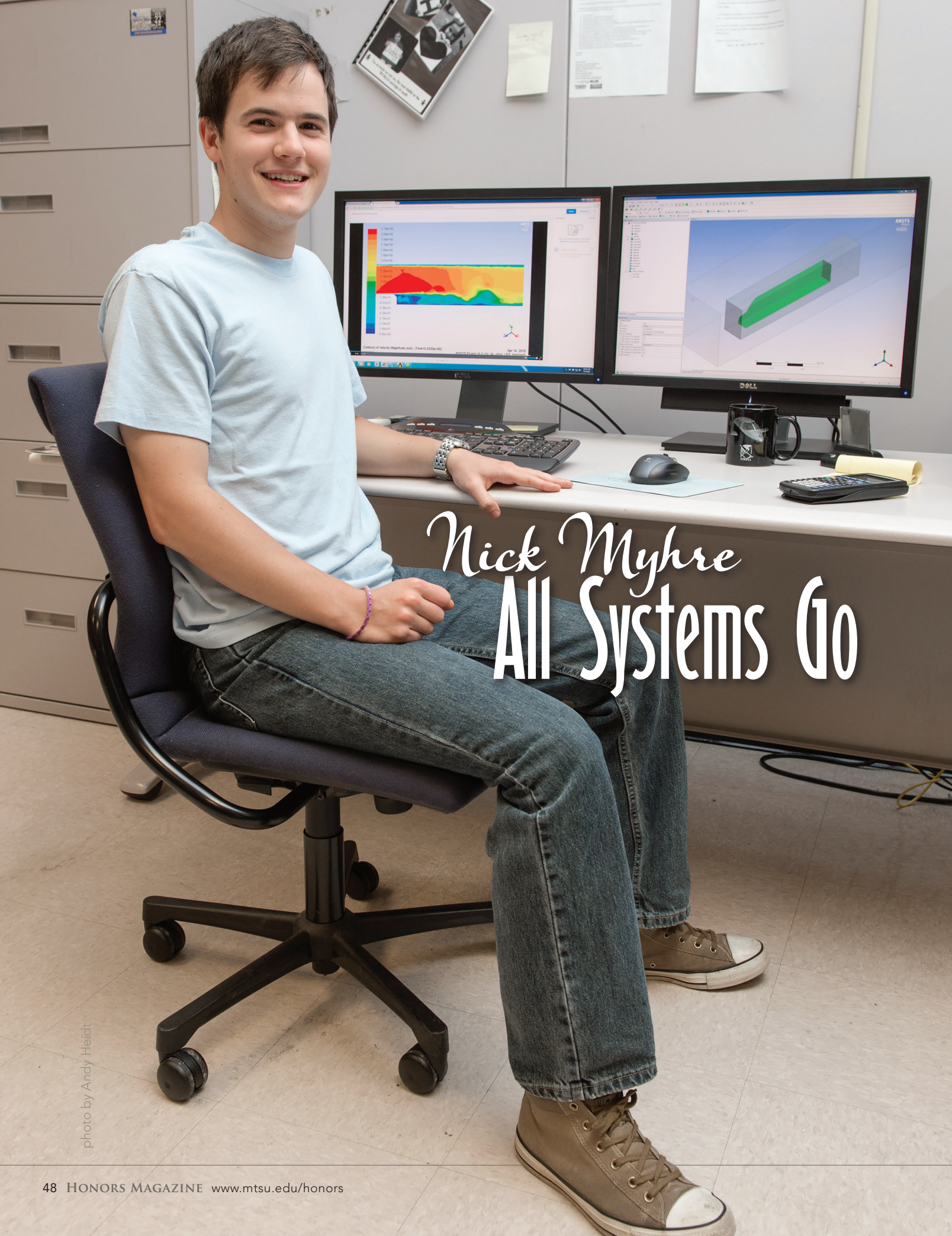
"I'm considering getting a master's degree in theological studies. My career right now is more focused on helping others than making a million dollars by the time I'm 30," he said.

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Collin McDonald Up, Up and Away



photos by Wendy Hardin Photography



Nick Myhre
All Systems Go

photo by Andy Heidt

More about Nick

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would “spend it outdoors hiking or camping, or fly to Barrow, Alaska, the northern-most town in America, a trip on my bucket list.”
- Although he studies physics, Nick hated high school algebra.
- He enjoys building virtual rockets in the Kerbal Space Program game.

Happy snapshots of flying together with his father fill an album of childhood memories for **Nicodemus “Nick” Myhre** of Murfreesboro.

“My dad has been a pilot for my whole life, and I’ve always looked up to him. I remember flying with him when I was very young and have always had good memories of airplanes,” said Myhre, who is a double major in Aerospace and Physics and holds a private pilot’s license. “I’m not in the pro-pilot program, but my dad is definitely the main reason I’m in this field.”

Myhre’s love of mathematics and problem solving influenced his choice to study aviation technology. Under the guidance of Dr. Nate Callendar, (Aerospace) and Dr. Eric Klumpe, (Physics and Astronomy), he is writing his Honors College thesis on computational fluid dynamics, or CFD.

“I’m using the powerful computers in the tech lab to solve complex aerodynamics problems,” said the 21-year-old fifth-year senior.

Homeschooled through high school, Myhre won a Buchanan Fellowship. He said while the choice to attend MTSU was made in part because it was affordable and close to home, the Honors College played an important role in his decision.

“I wanted to have the opportunity to be around dedicated students and take classes that would hold me to a higher standard,” he said. “I’ve found the Honors coursework to be a good complement to an in-depth specialty like aerospace.”

Awarded the Col. Jean A. Jack Aerospace Scholarship, Myhre has been pleased by the faculty.

“I was pleasantly surprised by the abundance of good professors at MTSU and in the Honors College specifically. They have been some of the best,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed a lot of great courses here and learned a lot. I will never forget them.”

Myhre plans to head to graduate school and earn an engineering degree. He would like to work for NASA as an engineer or for a private-sector space-related corporation.

“I will probably continue down the road of doing CFD research, working on a spacecraft, likely with computers,” he said. “It’s something I enjoy, and it is becoming more and more prevalent in the engineering world.”

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Dylan Smith
A View from Above

photo by J Intintoli

More about Dylan

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would “fly over the Rocky Mountains or the wilderness of Alaska.”
- Dylan rode bulls and wrestled steers on amateur rodeo circuits.
- During his limited free time, he enjoys tinkering with old farm equipment. In his hangar, there are two 1940s tractors, torn apart for restoration.

A random Google search by his father led **Dylan Smith** to MTSU.

“My dad actually stumbled upon MTSU after Googling ‘aerospace pilot programs.’ Following some research, we were impressed with the reputation and esteem of the program and decided we should visit,” said Smith, 20, a Sikeston, Missouri, native.

The Buchanan Fellowship has allowed the young man from a small midwestern farm town to pursue a future above the clouds.

“It has meant everything to me,” Smith said. “I simply could not have afforded to attend MTSU and go through pilot training courses on my own. It has undoubtedly enabled me to chase my dream and graduate without crippling debt.”

Smith’s interest in aerospace developed fairly early after he discovered that his great-grandfather was a waist gunner in aircraft during World War II. His curiosity about vintage military planes also led to a general interest.

“One day, an older gentleman took me for a ride in a vintage open-cockpit biplane,” Smith said. “I was hooked from that moment on. I simply could not imagine myself doing anything else other than flying. The cockpit is home for me, my domain, my canvas.”

The rising senior came to the University with 35 credit hours from advanced-placement and dual-enrollment classes and was attracted to the Honors College because of its superior academic standards.

“The Honors College [accepts] an elite group, and I knew it was where I belonged. The courses have exposed me to areas of academia I would not have seen otherwise,” said Smith, who is one of the first recipients of the Shanda Carney Fanning Memorial Aviation Scholarship (named for an Aerospace alumna who was killed in the crash of a UPS plane).

“Being on campus has broadened my horizons,” Smith said. “The town where I grew up was fairly homogenous. At MTSU, I’ve had the pleasure of being exposed to individuals and influences from the entire world, with extremely diverse backgrounds, which is something new to me.”

When he is not on campus, Smith can usually be found at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport, where he works as a flight instructor. It is also where his plane, Lucy, a 1947 red and white Luscombe 8E Silvaire, is hangared. Smith holds a commercial pilot certificate for single-engine and multi-engine aircraft, an instrument rating, and a flight instructor certificate.

“I flew a vintage Cessna 170B from Kalispell, Montana, to Shelbyville—about 1,600 nautical miles—on a delivery job. Flying through passes in Glacier National Park and over the Badlands National Park was an awesome experience,” he said. “In July 2015, I flew with friends to Wisconsin to the Oshkosh EAA AirVenture, which is the largest fly-in in the world. We camped under the airplane’s wing for a week among about 10,000 aircraft.”

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More about Nathan

- Given 24 hours to do anything or fly anywhere, he would “return to Russia to see a good friend or fly across New Zealand, the setting of the *Lord of the Rings* films, to see the beautiful scenery.
- Nathan’s younger brother, Joshua, is also Buchanan Fellow.
- During summer 2015, Nathan completed an internship in the Middle East, where he trained in first aid.

Nathan Tilton, a 21-year-old rising senior, grew up in places around the world, but it only took a half-hour visit with Honors College Dean John Vile for him to decide that MTSU would be his college home.

All his life, Tilton has owned a well-used passport and has had diverse learning experiences because of his parents’ work in international economic and social development. Soon after his first birthday, his parents moved to Kyrgyzstan. They now live in Moscow.

“I’ve gone to Russian preschool, homeschool, online school, international schools, and U.S. public schools. I’ve had a little taste of everything,” said Tilton. “But during my visit to MTSU, Dean Vile invited me into his office to talk. More than any other university I visited, it felt like this is where I belonged. I was impressed by the Aerospace program and the Honors College—they both genuinely cared about my success.”

A Buchanan Fellow, Tilton is in the Maintenance Management concentration because he plans to work as an aviation mechanic in disaster relief or medical aviation in an international setting.

“Aviation, in particular, is an expensive major, and without the Buchanan Fellowship, I would not have been able to come to MTSU,” he said. He also received the Tiara Foundation Chair Award of Excellence from the Aerospace Department and is one of the first recipients of the aforementioned Shanda Carney Fanning Scholarship.


A former Student Ambassador who speaks Russian and some Turkish, Tilton has developed an interest in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). His curiosity was ignited when he was a part of an URECA (Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity) grant testing UAS.

“It started me thinking about how UAS could be implemented into disaster relief projects,” said Tilton, who is also a flight instructor at the MTSU Flight Operations Center at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport.

To get hands-on experience with unmanned aircraft, Tilton traveled to Mendoza, Argentina, in December 2014 as part of a team of Aerospace and School of Agribusiness and Agriscience students. Led by faculty members Dr. Tony Johnson (Agribusiness and Agriscience) and Doug Campbell (Aerospace), the group used data they gathered from the trip to help growers with grape and olive production.

“After this experience, I decided the topic was worth pursuing further,” said Tilton.

His exploration led to the development of his Honors thesis, a cost-benefit analysis of using unmanned aircraft for humanitarian aid operations, which, some studies indicate, can be as little as one-tenth the cost of using manned aircraft.

“I think in 10 years’ time, UAS will transform humanitarian aviation, and I would love to be a part of that process,” Tilton said. “I want to use aviation as a means to impact people around the world.” 

Nathan Tilton Not Under the Radar




photo by J Intintoli

LEADING MAN

by Allison Gorman

*Theatre professor, movie expert,
and study abroad chaperone*
Richard Hansen
has spent his life studying the stage

photo by Andy Heidt



Every neighborhood has that one kid who regularly invites all the other kids over to watch movies. Richard Hansen was that kid in his suburban neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. His home theatre seated 10.

Except this was the '60s, so the movies Hansen showed every Sunday afternoon were 8mm films he'd bought from a local department store, for which he'd rigged up sound and projection himself.

"I scored musical soundtracks for silent films," he said. "It was one way to get a neighborhood kid to watch a two-hour silent movie."

Hansen grew up to teach theatre—he's an associate professor and a member of the Honors faculty—but film was his first love. On the way to earning his Ph.D., he ran two cinemas, appeared in two movies, and joined the Screen Actors Guild, to which he still belongs.

And from the youngest age, he studied films with an academic fervor, memorizing movie trivia almost by osmosis, the way other kids memorized batting averages.

Hansen still fields calls from friends, and sometimes journalists, wanting to borrow from his reservoir of film facts. He knows that Orson Welles was drunk when he nailed his famous *Moby Dick* speech in one take; that *Frankenstein 1970* was the first movie to include the sound of a toilet flushing; and that the "original" *Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney is actually a 1929 reediting of the silent 1925 version.

He knows things that Google doesn't—and that's fitting for a man who eschews technology he considers unnecessary or, worse, detrimental. He doesn't have a cellphone, and he rues the fact that movie and theatregoers do and can't seem to put them away. He considers digital projection one cause of the decline of film as an art form.

It's unsurprising that Hansen doesn't teach online. Or it might be expected of such an instructor in the small-college environment of the Honors College. Whether he's teaching Honors Theatre Appreciation or leading a study-abroad group in London, Hansen's job is less to lecture and more to feed his students' intellectual curiosity.

The annual trip to what Hansen calls "the theatre capital of the world," which he leads every other winter, alternating with Professor Scott Boyd, is "a potentially life-changing experience," he said. In London, he likes to hold classes in unconventional places—say a pub or the lobby of Drury Lane Theatre in the heart of West End. Convinced that every college student should study abroad if possible, he's also established a scholarship named for his parents (also educators) to help offset the cost of the trip for theatre majors.

Hansen is still an ardent student of film (he's a longtime supporter of the Nashville Film Festival), and he uses film references to teach theatre, pointing out, for example, that the ancient Greeks invented Hollywood conventions like the sequel and the trilogy.

"Often, my students have not been to many plays, if any," he said. "But they have seen movies. So I can use their movie reference base as a way to access theatre, and sometimes that's a very good connection."

That's what good teachers do: find that connection. It's exactly what Richard Hansen has been doing since he was a boy scoring soundtracks in Garfield Heights, Ohio. [T](#)

Honors Lecture Series Highlights

Native American Culture

A gift to the Honors College in 2014 by alumni Gordon and Sara Bell of Murfreesboro was the inspiration behind the theme for the spring Honors Lecture Series: Native American Culture.

The Bells have spent more than 30 years of their married life working with the Lakota Sioux tribe in South Dakota. They established an endowed scholarship for MTSU juniors and seniors who do Native American research.

The gift led Associate Dean Philip Phillips to choose the subject for the series. "I wanted students to have a greater appreciation of their regional history and national history, an important part of which includes Native American culture."

The series began Monday, January 26, with an introduction by Phillips. Professor Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology) gave the keynote address, "Gifts from the People: The Cultural Legacy of Native America," on Monday, February 2.

The February 9 lecture, "From Ethnobotany to Natural Products Chemistry: Using Native American Folklore as a Source for New Medicines," was presented by Drew Sieg (Biology). Lauren Rudd (Human Sciences) delivered "Traditional Native American Dress and Clothing" on February 23.

Alumna Sara Bell presented the Monday, March 2, lecture, "Life on Pine Ridge Reservation: The Good, the Bad, the Beautiful." Emma "Pinky" Clifford, executive director of Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing, delivered "Lakota Housing at Pine Ridge: A Trail of Hope" on March 23. Provost Brad Bartel presented "Fort Lewis: Military Post, Native American Boarding School, and Liberal Arts College" on March 30.

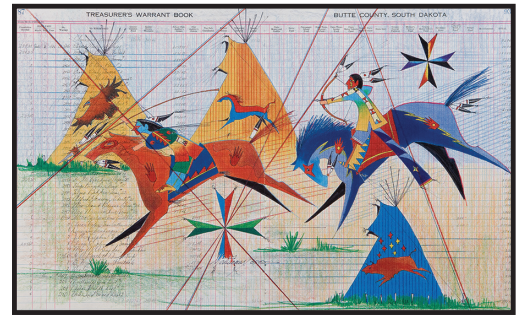
James "Bo" Taylor of Cherokee, North Carolina, was the Distinguished Visiting Lecturer on Monday, April 6. He presented "Cherokee History, Language, and Culture from a Native Perspective." At 5:00 p.m., he offered a special presentation of storytelling, music, and dance, followed by a reception hosted by the Honors College.

Taylor visited MTSU several years ago, participating in the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) program. The program is housed in the Honors College under the leadership of Professor Shelley Thomas.

Krystal S. Tsosie of Vanderbilt delivered "The Controversial Nature of Genetics Research in Native American Communities" on Monday, April 13. Tsosie, a Navajo, is a Vanderbilt University doctoral candidate and researcher. On April 20, Tom Strawman (English) presented "Beyond the Human/ Nonhuman Binary: Cultivating Ecological Imagination in Louise Erdrich's *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*."

The series is a required class (UH 3000) for Honors College students but is also free and open to the public.

For more information about the Honors Lecture Series or general information about the Honors College, call (615) 898-2152. [H](#)



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email: montileaux@knoology.net



SymPOEsium on PLACE



Philip Phillips

William Engel
and Harry Lee Poe

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) is a difficult author to “place” biographically and artistically because many of his works evince a dark obsession with death while much of his life reveals a relentless pursuit of beauty.

A consideration of “place” in Poe’s life and works leads to a more complex understanding of his relationship with the cities in which he lived and worked, despite his

life of loss and crushing poverty, as well as those places he claimed to have lived but did not, and those imaginary places that can be found in his most esoteric writings.

Last fall semester, invited speaker and past president of the Poe Studies Association **Scott Peeples** (College of Charleston) presented a lecture, “Poe Places,” as part of the Honors Lecture Series, The Power of Place. Peeples called Poe as a “nowhere man” whose peregrinations, which included Richmond, London, Charlottesville, Boston, Sullivan’s Island, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, reveal a pattern of seeking the idea of “home sweet home.”

During the spring semester, the University Honors College hosted the SymPOEsium on PLACE, organized by current Poe Studies Association president and Honors associate dean **Philip E. Phillips**. The two-part event offered short symposia: Poe and Europe (in February) and Poe and the Universe (in April).

Poe in Europe featured distinguished speakers **Alexandra Urakova** (Gorky Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences), who presented “Poe in St. Petersburg,” discussing a place never visited by Poe but one that embraces his legacy in literature and art; **Sonya Isaak** (University of Heidelberg), who presented “Poe’s Germany,” an exploration not of a place but of an idea—the gothic—associated with Germany, a country Poe mentions but never experienced; and Associate Dean **Philip Phillips** (MTSU), who

presented “Poe in France: Baudelaire and Beyond,” a consideration of Poe’s reception in France (where Poe set his Dupin trilogy but never visited) and the remarkable dissemination of Poe’s works throughout Europe through Baudelaire’s masterful translations.

Poe and the Universe featured distinguished speakers **William E. Engel** (Sewanee: The University of the South), who presented “Angelic Places in Poe’s Works,” which called the audience’s attention to some of Poe’s imaginary places, those inhabited by angels, whether “good” or “ill,” and the ambiguous meaning of absence; and **Harry Lee Poe** (Union University), who presented “Everywhere Man: Poe and the Universe,” which brought the series full circle by considering Poe as an “everywhere man” instead of a “nowhere man,” as an artist and thinker concerned with the material world and the divine volition behind the expansion and contraction of the universe.

A special one-day exhibition, Selections from the Harry Lee Poe Collection (with additional selections from the George Poe Collection), was held in James E. Walker Library following Poe and the Universe. Professor Harry Lee Poe gave a gallery talk in which he discussed in some detail the gems from his collection of Poe materials that are uniquely associated with Poe “places.” Professor **George Poe** (Sewanee: The University of the South) augmented his cousin’s collection with first editions of Baudelaire’s translations in five volumes of Poe’s works and with related materials.

The University Honors College, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, James E. Walker Library, and the MTSU chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi sponsored this series of special events. [H](#)

“Poe Places” (November 3, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5NxXKB8P0s>

SymPOEsium, Part One:

“Poe in Europe” (February 19, 2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0hFR-IYlYs>

SymPOEsium, Part Two:

“Poe and the Universe” (April 8, 2015)

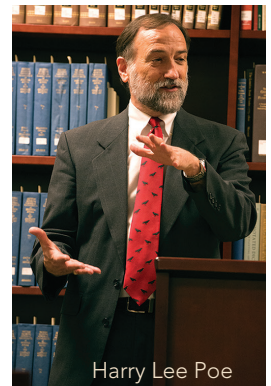
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pu8RG5DfsgM>



Alexandra Urakova



Sonya Isaak



Harry Lee Poe

ALUMNI EVENTS



Cunzhong “Richard” Tang, (left) deputy director of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation at Hunan Normal University, tours the Martin Honors Building with **June Hall McCash**, (center) first director of the MTSU Honors Program, and John R. Vile, (right) dean of the University Honors College.

Essex Practitioners Roundtable

Michael Dagley (History, '78), an attorney known as a skillful and innovative negotiator of complex settlements, addressed the Dr. Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable in April. The event is named after Professor Emeritus Frank W. Essex, who taught in the Department of History for 27 years.

L-R: Frank Essex, Michael Dagley, John Vile, and Mark Byrnes



Dean Vile gives a tour of the Martin Honors Building to alumni **Debra Jackson** (Philosophy, '96), second from left and **Tracey Grandmaison-Landers** (Psychology, '99), right. Debra is an associate professor of philosophy at California State University–Bakersfield, and Tracey is a school psychologist with Siegel and Walter Hill schools in Murfreesboro. Debra's husband, Michael Tann, a retired law enforcement officer, also joined the June 26 tour.



Dewey Dodson, center, a friend of the Honors College, presents a basket of coffees, teas, and snacks to Associate Dean Philip Phillips, left, and Dean John Vile, right.

Class News {student awards and scholarships}

Students of Note: Scholarships, Awards, Grants, and Ambassadors

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Gabrielle Armour (Biology),
Honors Travel and Research Grant*

Trevor Ball (Mass Communication),
Outstanding Student Award*

Mathias Dusabe (Foreign
Languages), McCash Founders Award
Scholarship, Honors Travel and
Research Grant*

Erin Gardner (Mass Communication),
Hannah/Harris Study-Abroad Scholarship

Haley Greene (Nursing),
Honors Travel and Research Grant*

Rikki Grieves (Psychology),
Outstanding Student Award*

Caitlin Henderson (International
Relations), Outstanding Student Award*

Luke Judkins (Music, English),
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Evan Lester (Aerospace), Ingram-
Montgomery Research Scholarship, Paul
W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

Rebecca Lopez (Nursing), Lawrence
R. Good Scholarship

Chloe Madigan (English), Paul W.
Martin Sr. Scholarship

Emiliya Mailyan (Global Studies and
Cultural Geography), Outstanding
Student Award*

Kayla McCrary (International
Relations), Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

Collin McDonald (Aerospace),
Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

Evidence Nwangwa (Biochemistry),
Bart McCash Scholarship

Nausheen Qureshi (Nutrition and
Food Science), Paul W. Martin
Sr. Scholarship

David Lee Rumble (Plant and Soil
Science), Ingram-Montgomery Research
Scholarship, Paul W. Martin
Sr. Scholarship

Nikita Shokur (Biochemistry), Marilyn
M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Sara Snoddy (Mass Communication),
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Madison Tracy (Mass
Communication), Paul W. Martin Sr.
Scholarship

Jay Voorhies (Psychology),
Honors Travel and Research Grant*

Logan Whiles (Biology), Michael
Martinelli Memorial Scholarship

Courtney Wright (Mathematics),
Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

Sydney Youngman (Biology),
Academic Achievement Scholarship

*Sally and Howard Wall support Travel and
Research Grants. Raiko and John Henderson
support Outstanding Student awards.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Samantha Crossland
(Organizational Communication)

Keaton Davis (Accounting)

Collin McDonald (Aerospace)

Nausheen Qureshi (Nutrition and
Food Science)

Madison Tracy (Mass Communication)

Sydney Youngman (Biology)

SPRING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (URECA) GRANTS

Melody Cook (English)

Matt Fuller (Biology)

Trang Huynh (Biology)

Michael Klug (Plant and Soil Science)

Yusra Mohammed (Biology)

Lee Rumble (Plant and Soil Science)

Kelly Saine (Biochemistry)

Logan Whiles (Biology)

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Tandra Martin (International
Relations), President's Award

Davis Thompson (Political Science),
Provost's Award

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GIVE TO THE HONORS COLLEGE!

The Honors College is raising funds to support educational enhancement opportunities for our talented students, particularly scholarships, study abroad, student research and travel to conferences, and honors publications.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift.

- To make a gift online, go to www.mtsu.edu/supporthonors.
- By mail, please make your check payable to "MTSU Honors College" and send it to Middle Tennessee State University Development Office, Box 109, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Thank you in advance for your support!

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Nissi Monseque (International Relations), Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award

Erin Paul (Interdisciplinary Studies), Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award

SUMMER URECA GRANTS

Kathryn Brittain (Biochemistry)

Ashley Corson (Biochemistry)

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry)

Samuel Hulsey (Foreign Languages and Global Studies)

Martina Ramos (Biology)

Kelly Saine (Biochemistry and Psychology)

Larissa Wolf (Biology)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Charles W. Alexander (Information Systems), Computer Information Systems Outstanding Junior

Brent Carpenetti (Mathematics), B. L. Hong Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Science

Catherine M. Davis (Mathematics), Diane and Jim Miller Teaching Mathematics Scholarship

Grayson Dubois (Computer Science), Nancy Wahl Computer Science Scholarship



Brooke Fitzwater (Biology), Mary C. Dunn Freshman Scholarship

Charlie Hansen (Aerospace), Deaver Phoenix Foundation Scholarship

Jonathan Herlan (Physics), Berhanu Welde Michael Memorial Award for Excellence in Physics Research

Lauren Heusinkveld (Biology), Elliott Dawson/BioVentures Biotechnology Scholarship

Trang Huynh (Chemistry), Creighton and Elizabeth H. Rhea Leadership Scholarship, Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship

Michele Kelley (Physics), Modern Physics Award for Excellence, Theoretical Physics Award

Seong E. Kim (Computer Science), Outstanding Freshman Award

Michael Klug (Plant and Soil Science), Theodore C. Bigger Outstanding Plant and Soil Science Senior Award

Matthew Laws (Chemistry), Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Pharmacy Scholarship

Evan Lester (Aerospace), Colonel W. James Gregory Scholarship, Tiara Foundation Scholarship

Collin McDonald (Aerospace), Wallace R. Maples Aerospace Scholarship

Kailey McDonald (Computer Science), Nancy Wahl Computer Science Scholarship

Clayton V. Mitchell (Chemistry and Business Administration), Frances Stubblefield Calculus I Award, Clay M. Chandler Outstanding Freshman Biology Award and Scholarship, Mary C. Dunn Freshman Scholarship

Brooke Morris (Mathematics), Martin Chair of Insurance Scholarship

Andrew Connor Moss (Biology), Clay M. Chandler Outstanding Freshman Biology Award and Scholarship, Ellis Rucker Freshman Scholarship

Joseph Mosqueda (Biology), Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award

Maleia Nelson (Biology), Patrick J. Doyle Freshman Scholarship

Martina Ramos (Biology), Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award

Lee Rumble (Plant and Soil Science), TREE Fund Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship, Herb Society of Nashville Scholarship, Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship, Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship, School of Agribusiness and Agriscience/Boxwood Farm Scholarship

Kelly Saine (Biochemistry), Virginia McCullough Pre-Medicine Scholarship

Michael W. Schmidt (Computer Science), Outstanding Freshman Award

Nikita Shokur (Chemistry), Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship

Dylan Smith (Aerospace), Shanda Carney Fanning Memorial Aviation Scholarship

Sydney L. Smith (Chemistry), Hypercube Award

Katelyn Stringer (Physics), Astronomy Club Service Award, Faculty Achievement Award in Physics



Nathan Tilton (Aerospace), Shanda Carney Fanning Memorial Aviation Scholarship, Don Ace Memorial Aerospace Scholarship, Jim Price Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Corrine Wheeler (Computer Science), Nancy Wahl Computer Science Scholarship

Reid Wiggins (Computer Science), Computer Science Scholarship

Aimee Wilson (Chemistry), Chemical Rubber Company Award, Jubran M. and Judith H. Wakim Freshman Scholarship

Diamondie Wilson (Biology), C. W. Wiser Medical/Allied Health Award and Scholarship

Rachel A. Yates (Biology), Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship, Elliott Dawson/BioVentures Biotechnology Scholarship

Roxana Yavari (Computer Science), Nancy Wahl Computer Science Scholarship

Valerie Yelton (Chemistry), Chemistry Faculty Achievement Award

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Biven Alexander (Psychology), Larry W. Morris Outstanding Senior in Psychology, Willard A. Kerr Award of Excellence, Outstanding Senior in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Michaela Edwards (Psychology), Second place, Scholars Week

Paige Fairrow-Davis (Exercise Science), Leona Drake Scholarship

Mabel Rodriguez (Nutrition and Food Science), Roddy Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Todd (Psychology), Larry W. Morris Outstanding Senior in Psychology; First-place Award, Scholars Week

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Mollie Adcock (Organizational Communication), Outstanding Senior in Organizational Communication

Elizabeth Chitwood (Music), Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Music History

Michaela Edwards (Organizational Communication, Industrial/Organizational Psychology), Outstanding Debate Leadership Award, Communication Studies Student Scholar

Morgan Farmer (Theatre), Robert Aden Memorial Scholarship

Lydia Harris (History and Anthropology), Edward L. and Aileen O. Jennings Scholarship in History

Caleb Hawkins (Music), Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Vocal/General Music Education

Matthew Holder (History), Ernest Hooper History Scholarship, James E. Taylor Scholarship, William J. Connelly Writing Award

Sarah Jarrett (Organizational Communication), Outstanding Service in Organizational Communication

Hailey Lawson (Psychology), Outstanding Senior Debater Award

Tandra Martin (International Relations), Jack Justin Turner Award

Birgit Northcutt (Foreign Languages), Ortrun Gilbert Memorial Scholarship

Cheyenne Plott (Foreign Languages and Organizational Communication), Outstanding Student in Spanish, Outstanding Academics in Organizational Communication

Erin Potter (English, Art), William J. Connelly Writing Award, David G. LeDoux Scholarship

Megan Rogers (Foreign Languages), June McCash Award

John Sells (Music), Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Horn

Leigh Stanfield (Organizational Communication), Academic Excellence in Communication Studies

Lisa Starke (Mass Communication), Meritorious Service Award

Davis Thompson (Political Science and Mass Communication) Meritorious Service Award, Norman L. Parks Award

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT (FORMERLY MASS COMMUNICATION)

John Duke (Mass Communication), Dr. Tom Berg Memorial Scholarship

Eryka Hammonds (Mass Communication), Country Radio Broadcasters Scholarship

Sara Snoddy (Mass Communication), John Seigenthaler Journalism Award for Outstanding Student in Media Studies, Dorothy and Donald Line Scholarship

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Caitlin Couch (Marketing), J. D. and Marge Vance Scholarship in Marketing

Keaton Davis (Accounting), Jennings A. Jones College of Business Dean's Scholarship

Noah Delk (Economics), Economics and Finance Scholarship

Garrett Ewers (Accounting), Todd T. Ravin Scholarship

Bronwyn Graves (Economics), Richard and Emma Hannah Endowed Scholarship

Madison Walley (Accounting), Martin Chair of Insurance Scholarship 

Class News {student news}

Elizabeth Chitwood (Music) was accepted to Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, and was named a Justice Joseph Story Intellectual Law Property Fellow. The scholarship covers full tuition for three years.

Grayson DuBois (Computer Science) received an internship to do research at Oak Ridge National Laboratories in summer 2015.

With the assistance of the Honors College and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, **Brooke Morgan Fitzwater** (Biology) began marine biology research in Chile earlier this year for her Honors thesis.

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry) presented "Comparative Studies in the Phytochemical Profile of *Cichorium Intybus*," a comparative study of the medicinal metabolite content of extracts obtained from wild chicory versus chicory plant culture, at the American Society of Pharmacognosy meeting in Copper Mountain, Colorado, in July.

Sam Hulsey (Foreign Languages, Global Studies and Cultural Geography) received a scholarship from the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University for an intensive study of the K'iche' Mayan language this summer.

Evan Lester (Aerospace) gave a presentation at the International Symposium on Aviation Psychology in Dayton, Ohio, in the spring.

Chloe Madigan (English) was Nashville Public Library's Adult Literacy intern this summer.

Connor McDonald (Political Science) attended the Intercollegiate Studies Institute regional meeting in Indianapolis in the spring. The conference hosted 66 students from 25 universities in 15 states, and the topic was "How Markets Work."

Katiana Nicholson (Music) was a counselor at the 2015 Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts.

Jenny Parrish and **Emiliya Mailyan**, were among 18 students from Judith Iriarte-Gross's Honors physical science class who presented a STEM Extravaganza to more than 60 fifth graders at the Discovery School this spring.

Nausheen Qureshi (Nutrition and Food Science) is presenting a poster based on part of her thesis, "Rising from the Depths of Despair: The Healing Arts of Lady Philosophy in Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*," this November at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference.

Mason Riley (Biology) attended the *C. elegans* 20th international meeting in Los Angeles in June. The meeting, sponsored by the Genetics Society of America, attracts top researchers of the species of roundworm that was the first multicellular organism to have its genome sequenced.

Nikita Shokur (Chemistry), with support from the Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award, presented a poster at the 249th American Chemical Society Meeting and Exposition in Denver in March.

Sydney Smith (Chemistry) was chosen for a Department of Energy Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in summer 2015. He worked on a project called "Molecular Simulation Bioenergy."

Madison Tracy (Mass Communication) received a Tennessee Board of Regents scholarship to intern at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., this summer.

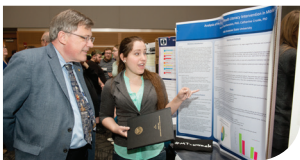


Top: Gabrielle Armour, Shana Williams, and Mason Riley present research results after analyzing runoff from the Bark Park to determine its affect on the Stones River in Drew Sieg's spring Honors EXL Ecology course.

Bottom: Students in Drew Sieg's spring Honors EXL Ecology course present their research, "Evaluating Runoff from the Bark Park into Stones River." Pictured are Mahsa Etemadifar, Sydney Youngman, Brady Inman, and Marshall Baughman.

Honors Students Excel at Scholars Day Poster Competition

HONORS STUDENT WINNERS:



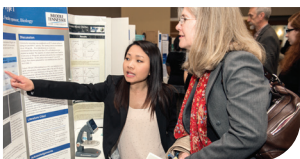
Hannah Todd

Tied for first place
College of Behavioral and Health Sciences



Michaela Edwards

Tied for second place
College of Behavioral and Health Sciences



Hailey Lawson

Tied for second place
College of Liberal Arts

Anna Neal

Tied for first place
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Trang Huynh

Tied for first place
College of Basic and Applied Sciences



Students and Honors staff interested in learning more about Marshall Scholarships gather in the Honors conference room before departing for a workshop at Vanderbilt University.

Workshop attendees were **Jacob Breeding, John Vile, Anna Neal, Judy Albakry, Nausheen Qureshi, Richard Cox, Tiffany Phillips, Laura Clippard,** and **Erica Newman.**

MTSU Debate Team member **Leigh Stanfield** won the novice division title at the International Public Debate Association's National Championship Tournament at Boise State University in March. It was the communication studies major's first year on the team.

Photo by Jimmy Hart



Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

Fifteen Honors students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received lower-division certificates of achievement from the University Honors College following the fall 2014 semester. The students represent a variety of majors.

Three students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences completed 20 or more Honors hours: sophomore computer science major **Grayson Dubois**; **Darcy Tabotabo**, a junior professional science major; and biochemistry major **Daniel Morris**, a sophomore.

Three Mass Communication majors, sophomore **Marresa Burke**, junior **John Duke**, and sophomore **Phillip Ray**, received certificates.

From the College of Liberal Arts, students reaching the 20-hour milestone are sophomore English major **John "J.T." Cobb**, and **Jessica Shotwell**, a junior sociology major.

Four students from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business received certificates: information systems majors **Jeffrey Abell**, a sophomore, and **Devin Green**, a sophomore; **Bronwyn Graves** a sophomore economics major; and **Daniel Stiles**, a sophomore marketing major.

Sophomores **Alexandra Piper** and **Calla Sharp** from the College of Education received certificates.

Brandon Baker, a junior criminal justice administration major from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, also reached the 20-hour milestone.

Dr. John Vile said that students who complete the lower-division certificates only need 11 additional hours (including thesis-related classes) to graduate with an Honors degree.

Biology major **Joseph Mosqueda** discusses his research with State Senators Richard Briggs, MD, left, and Bill Ketron at Posters at the Capitol in February. [U](#)



Class News {faculty and staff}

David Carlton (Political Science) received the Faculty Student Success Award at the College of Liberal Arts spring awards ceremony.

Laura Clippard (Honors) presented “Creating a Fulbright Culture on Your Campus: Three Perspectives from Beginning to Established Programs” at the National Association of Fellowships Advisors eighth biennial conference in Oakland, California, in July.

Shannon Hodge (Sociology and Anthropology) was the featured speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Rutherford County Archaeological Society in January. She presented “Nashville Zoo Cemetery: Revealing the Unknown through Bioarchaeology and DNA.” Her work at the zoo was featured in a report on WSMV-TV in Nashville. **Tanya Peres** (Sociology and Anthropology), Rutherford County Archaeology Research program director, presented “Prehistory beneath Our Feet: Doing Archaeology in Rutherford County, Tennessee” at the February meeting. Laura Fyock Bartel (Motlow State Community College) is the founder of the group.

Mary Magada-Ward (Philosophy) received a Faculty Teaching Award at the spring College of Liberal Arts awards ceremony in April.

Diane Miller (Mathematical Sciences), a resident member of the Honors Faculty, is retiring this year.



Ryan Otter (Biology) was chosen this spring as the eighth recipient of the President’s Silver Column Award, which was established by President Sidney A. McPhee in 2004. A member of the management team for the University’s Quest for Success Initiative, Otter also was part of a team of environmental toxicologists that assessed the impact of the 2009 ash spill near TVA’s Kingston Fossil Plant. Otter used long-jawed orb-weaver spiders to gauge the contamination of the Kingston spill by measuring toxins absorbed in the fat levels in hundreds of specimens he collected at the site.

Philip Phillips (Honors) was designated a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in the spring for his contributions to the organization.

Drew Sieg (Biology) received the Honors College Exemplary Service Award at the spring awards ceremony.

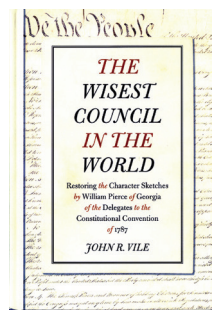
Tom Strawman (English) received an Outstanding Honors Faculty Award at the spring Honors College awards ceremony.

Kathleen Therrien (English) was recognized as an Outstanding Faculty Advisor at the College of Liberal Arts spring awards ceremony.



Dean John Vile, left, and Associate Dean Philip Phillips, right, with 2014–2015 Honors Council chair Jane Marcellus (Journalism), center.

John R. Vile (Honors) has recently published *The United States Constitution: One Document, Many Choices* (Palgrave/Macmillan); *The Wisest Council in the World: Restoring the Character Sketches by William Pierce of Georgia of the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787* (UGA); *A Companion to the United States Constitution and Its Amendments, 6th ed.* (Praeger); *Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789–2015, 4th ed., 2 vols.* (ABC-CLIO); and *The American Founding Period: Documents Decoded* (ABC-CLIO).



Cornelia Willis (Office of Student Success) is directing a portion of proceeds from the sale of her book, *Mama Said: A Word to the Wise is Sufficient*, to the University’s emergency microgrant fund established last year. Qualified students may apply for a grant of up to \$250. Willis’s book is a collection of her mother’s favorite parables, quotes, and proverbs. [H](#)



Philip Phillips, right, Honors College associate dean, presents the 2014–2015 Outstanding Honors Faculty Award to English professor Tom Strawman, left.

Class News {alumni and friends}

Hassan Alwan (Biochemistry, '15) is attending the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Nashville.

Brandon Armstrong (Foreign Languages, '05) and his band, the California Feetwarmers, were nominated for a 2015 Grammy Award in the Americana Roots category for the song "Old Me Better," a single by singer/songwriter Keb' Mo'. It was Armstrong's second Grammy nomination. A music minor, Brandon wrote an Honors thesis called "Musicolor: A Translation of Heinrich Ullrich's *MusikFarbenSpiel*." He received a Fulbright to study in Germany in 2008.

Taylor A. Barnes (Physics and Chemistry, '09) was first author for the feature article "Ab Initio Characterization of the Electrochemical Stability and Solvation Properties of Condensed-Phase Ethylene Carbonate and Dimethyl Carbonate Mixtures" in the January 2015 issue of the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*. He recently completed his Ph.D. at California Institute of Technology and began working at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in July. Earlier this year, he received the National Energy Research Scientific Computer Center 2015 Innovative Use of High-Performance Computing Award.



Tyler Whitaker

Jacob Basham (Mathematics and Science, '13) won a research fellowship from Howard Hughes Medical Institute that allowed him to take a year off from medical school and conduct research on treating cancer using genetically engineered cells at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Jacob is the first University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine student to receive a Howard Hughes award.

Troy Berry (Mass Communication, '12) was named head coach of Middle Tennessee Christian School's volleyball program this spring.

Bridget Carlson (English, '15) is seeking an M.A. in English at MTSU.

Beth Chitwood (Music, '15) accepted a summer internship in the legal department of SoundExchange in Washington, D.C. She was accepted at the law schools of Case Western Reserve University, George Washington University, the University of Richmond, and Vanderbilt University. She chose Vanderbilt, where she received a Chancellor's Law Scholarship and a Dean's Leadership Award.

Cathy Crabtree (History, '05) has, for the last five years, been teaching as an adjunct in the MTSU History Department. The Honors graduate, who completed a creative thesis project called "The History of Quilting" in 2005, has lectured on the history of quilts and the lives of women during the Civil War. Cathy received an M.A. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in textile and quilt studies.

Joan Corinne Crenshaw (Anthropology, '15) is working with the French Ministry of Education and the French Embassy in Rouen, France, for a year.

Tyler Whitaker (Anthropology, '14), who has completed her first year of studying linguistic anthropology at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, researched the revitalization of the American Indian language Tunica in Louisiana this summer.

Meg Davis (Speech and Theatre, '11) is in the second year of her doctoral program in theatre at Texas Tech, where she is a graduate part-time instructor. She is working with a federal Promise Neighborhood grant that sends her to underfunded and underserved schools to help them foster creativity in the classrooms and establish after-school theatre sessions.

Danielle Dye (Exercise Science, '15) is working as a physical therapy technician and plans to continue her physical therapy education.

Garrett Ewers (Accounting, '14) interned at an accounting firm in Kingsport before beginning work on a Master of Accountancy degree at MTSU this fall.

Andrew Goldstein (Computer Science and Political Science, '15) is attending Belmont University College of Law, where he received a 100-percent-tuition Bruin Scholarship.

Nathaniel Greene (Political Science and Economics, '11) graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he was an articles editor for the *Tennessee Law Review* and a research editor for *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*. He has passed the bar and is now working as an associate for Harwell Howard Hyne Gabbert & Manner's corporate law group in Nashville, where he assists clients with secured and unsecured financing transactions; leasing, acquisition, disposition, and financing of real estate and commercial properties; and general contract negotiation.

continued on page 66



John Griner (Computer Science, '14) is working as a software engineer in Washington, D.C.

Jessica Taylor Haynes (Chemistry, '11) was valedictorian of the 2015 graduating class at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis and scored the highest to date on one part of the National Board Examinations of Optometry. She is a resident at the VA Hospital in Memphis. Jessica was a member of the Honors College's first class of Buchanan Fellows.

Jonathan Herlan (Physics, '15) is pursuing a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Mississippi.

Sara Moadi (Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology, '15) is seeking a master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

Joseph Mosqueda (Biology, '15) is attending Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and genomics. He received one of eight Chancellor's Graduate Fellowships out of 2,000 applicants.

Caitlin Noonan (English, '15) was chosen by New York University School of Professional Studies to participate in its 2015 Summer Publishing Institute.

Dylan Phillips (Recording Industry, '13) is recording his first solo album, *Tribe*, under the stage name nobigdy. He is working with indie tribe, a collective of producers, artists, videographers, and graphic designers he met while at MTSU. He released his first EP *smoke signal*, in January, which he offered free on Rapzilla.

Cheyenne Plott (Foreign Languages and Organizational Communication, '15) is studying at the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She received a merit scholarship covering all her tuition.

Lauren Qualls (Psychology, '13) received an Outstanding Clinical Graduate Student Award at the spring College of Behavioral and Health Sciences award ceremony.

Dima Sbenaty (Biology and Chemistry, '12) has completed her master's degree and is working at Hoxworth Blood Center at the University of Cincinnati.

Lema Sbenaty (Biochemistry, '13) has been admitted to optometry school at the University of Alabama–Birmingham.

Sanna Shaban (Nursing, '15) is studying to be a physician's assistant at Trevecca Nazarene University.

Tatiana Silvas (English, '15) is attending graduate school at Miami University of Ohio.

Emily Smith (Biology, '15) is seeking a master's degree in Biology from MTSU.

Joanne Tan (Biology, '14) is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at Tennessee State University.

This fall, **Hannah Todd** (Psychology, '15) accepted a spot in Louisville with Spalding University's clinical psychology program, which includes a graduate assistantship and Health Resources and Services Administration Scholarship.

James P. "J. P." Urban (Recording Industry, '11) has joined the Nashville entertainment law firm DeSalvo & Levine as an associate. He received his J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School, where he was on the Dean's List and was a Chancellor's Law Scholar and the executive editor of the *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law*. He won many honors and awards in law school, including the Chris Lantz Memorial Outstanding Service Award; Vanderbilt Scholastic Excellence Awards; the Lightfoot, Franklin, & White Best Brief Award; and a Phi Delta Phi Award.

Eugene A. Wilkerson (Political Science, '93) has been promoted to associate professor in the College of Business and Economics at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. A member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, Eugene also works on the University Assessment Committee and completed a report for AACSB accreditation this spring. [H](#)



2014 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who made giving to the college a priority in 2014.

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The bells at Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building

photo by J Intintoli