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April 25, 2007

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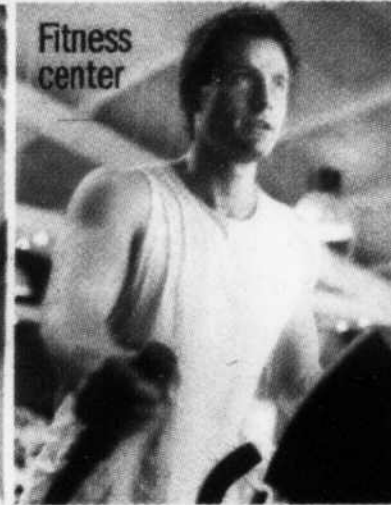
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# School holds reception for new alumni

By Andy Harper

*Campus News Editor*

In honor of graduation seniors, the MTSU National Alumni Association is sponsoring a faculty and family meet and greet Friday before commencement.

"It is a reception for May 2007 graduates and their families," said Molly Cochran, assistant director of Alumni Relations. "In addition to inviting our new alumni, we have invited faculty, staff and advisors to welcome our new grads into the alumni association."

The event will be held at the Alumni Building on Middle Tennessee Boulevard on May 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"For many students, this is their first interaction with the alumni association," said Marla Frisby, chair of the young alumni committee. "We want them to become familiar with us, so that they will feel welcome to participate in future alumni activities."

Planning for the event was high priority for the Alumni Relations office. Several methods were taken to inform students and staff about the event.

"We have a post on the campus Web site," Cochran said. "We also sent out invitations to all the academic departments and put announcements in all the student campus mailboxes."

The response for the event is extremely positive, Cochran said. Despite being the first year the Alumni Association has held a meet and greet, students have had an abundance of support from both faculty and students.

"Both Alumni Relations and the faculty of MTSU want out students to know they have a home here," Cochran said. "We want to encourage them to come back and participate in universi-

ty events in the future."

In addition to immediately working with new alumni, Cochran said relations with both young and old alumni is far-reaching to all graduates of MTSU.

"We hold different National Alumni Association chapter events all over the country," Cochran said. "For example, if the athletic department has events like the Detroit game last December, we contact all alumni in the area and encourage them to attend."

In addition to various alumni gatherings in a variety of areas throughout the country, the Alumni Association also mails the Alumni Record quarterly and promotes campus events like homecoming festivities.

"We want to invite graduates back to campus because they play a role here," Cochran said. "They should come back and the visit with the departments they worked with during their time on campus or talk to students about their field of study."

Although response has been good, Cochran said that Alumni Relations still wants to encourage all faculty and staff to attend.

"Faculty and staff members should come to the house, welcome students and congratulate them," Cochran said. "These are the people who played a significant role in the lives of these students, and I know the students want to introduce their families to the people who played such an important part in their college careers."

As for future receptions, Cochran said the association and Alumni Relations would see how the first one goes, but they expect to hold one for every graduating class from now on. ♦



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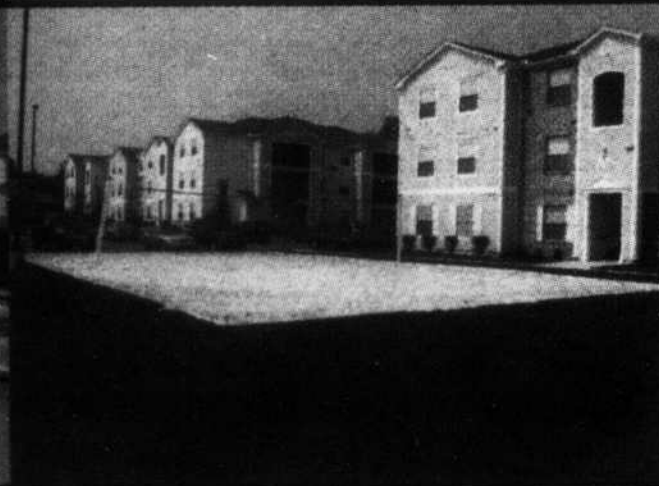
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## Final thoughts

"Don't compromise your quality of life for the sake of efficiency. If you're going to have to stay an extra semester, so what? What will that really matter in the span of your life? Take it easy. Don't just concentrate on grades; instead, focus on knowledge. Because when you have the knowledge, the grades will be easy."

Nishan Derbabian, senior philosophy major

"I have never let schooling interfere with my education."

Mark Twain

"Take the time to do what's necessary. If you study, you get good grades. There's no such thing as failure in college if you put the time in. I came back to college after 30 years, and this time, I focused, and my GPA reflects that. Put hours into [studying] everyday. Be serious. Don't play around. Play later."

Mary Armstrong, senior business major

"Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son."

"Animal House"

"The chief value in going to college is that it's the only way to learn it really doesn't matter."

George Edwin Howes

"Don't always listen to what the people in Customs say. Go out and do the research for yourself before following orders. And don't have too much fun. Study now, party later, or else you might end up getting kicked out or failing. And always, sleep is good. Sleep is your friend."

Meleah Clendenon, senior health education major

"College is a refuge from hasty judgment."

Robert Frost

"The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means to an education."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Education is what remains when one has forgotten everything he learned in school."

Albert Einstein

"The university is the archive of the Western ideal, the keeper of the Western culture, the guardian of our heritage, the dwelling of the free mind, the teacher of teachers."

Adlai Stevenson

"Don't just sit in your dorm room. Get out and be social, but always keep your priorities in order. School comes first. But still, don't weigh yourself down. Always leave time for yourself."

April Powers, senior pre-school special education major

"The freshmen bring a little knowledge in and the seniors take none out, so it accumulates through the years."

A. Lawrence Lowell

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Tom Brokaw

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George W. Bush

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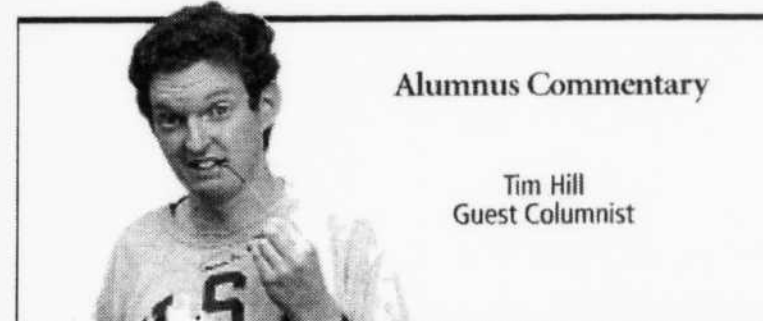
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## MT alumni find valuable work



**Alumnus Commentary**

**Tim Hill**  
Guest Columnist

If you think that you can get away with missing these final days of the semester, think again. Graduation for you is no longer a tiny light across the field; it is literally days away. Your alleged IHOP study times, 20 credit hour-loaded summer sessions and several fiancées may have been your guidance to get you to this time of your life. That's what you have had to do on your end. MTSU's part was to offer your major and classes in a student-centered way without bureaucratically denying you an earlier graduation date.

When you drive through Murfreesboro, you don't get "handed a degree." Even though a rational argument can be made for the full phase-out of MTSU's football program, a degree from this school does indeed go a long way. I graduated in December 2006, and the only obstacles that have prevented me from getting hired in my ideal job in the nation's capitol was the Democratic take-over of Congress. Since my resume lacks any congressional campaign experience, I've been passed over by political power player haters. It may be hard up here, but I have found a nice job in the mean time.

In late January, I became a substitute teacher in the Fairfax County Public School system. After a couple of weeks, I was placed into a long-term assignment in an autistic preschool program. While basic confidentiality etiquette rules prevent me from divulging too much, I can say that I've never felt so exhausted, challenged and rewarded at

the same time. The kids are all very smart in their own ways, and for the first time in my life, I'm thankful that there is a government program that is here to help them.

Working alongside elementary school kids has been fun, too. I subbed for one of the fourth grade classes, and I've gotten to know the students a little bit better. Teaching has taught me a lot about my life, such as how unprepared I didn't know I was for my eventual role as a husband and father. Fortunately, I'm learning new things every day, just like the kids.

In regards to my career in journalism, I have restarted my job hunt. I may move out to Oklahoma to write obituaries and answer phones for a smaller daily newspaper. In this industry, that is how the next Bob Woodwards are born. A friend of mine in the Bush administration has told me that substitute teaching "transcends politics," and that teaching is more lasting than any federal policy that comes and goes in Washington, D.C. There are even two former journalists who are now certified teachers at the elementary school where I sub. They have said that their careers have helped prepare them for teaching.

And you can't have a career like that without a degree like the ones they hand out here.

*Tim Hill is a December 2006 liberal arts graduate of MTSU, and an alumnus of Sidelines from 2004-2006. He currently resides in his parents' basement in Annandale, Virginia.*

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Now that you're graduating,  
what do you plan to do next?



Matthew Adair | Production Manager



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Sidelines Editor in Chief Dana Owens, a graduating senior, and News Editor Andy Harper, an upcoming senior, battle out the pros and cons to leaving the cushy world of college.

## Graduating vs. Seniority

I'm starting out on the bottom...

Reality is going to hit me upside the head like a 10-ton brick. And I still don't have a job.

From now until and for the rest of my life, I get one week vacation a year and handful of sick days.

My employers care more about my "experience" than my degree.

Ah the peaceful, dry routine. Forty hours of work, 8 hours of sleep and weekend laundry.

Hello business attire – at least I've got casual Friday's to look forward to.

If my potential employer sees the photos on my MySpace page, it could cost me an interview. And forget it if I get caught on there during office hours!

With my much larger paychecks, I may be able to afford a form of sustenance other than fast food.

I've been cut off from my parents for good. Bills, Bills, Bills – I'm in a Destiny's Child song!

I've made it through in four years, now I get to finally do what I've been anticipating.

I get to be top dog.

I get to be annoyingly idealic and dodge reality for another year.

Good to know I can skip a day of class and no one will really care.

I will still have the academically fabricated version of the "working world."

I start classes at 2 p.m. and can get the sleep-in time I finally deserve, especially after all those parties!

No one cares if I wear my hair long and band T-shirts because really, who am I trying to impress?

Playing around on MySpace and Facebook is still acceptable, nay, required. Who cares what I post or what pictures are tagged?

I've still got another year of Taco Bell, Domino's and the KUC Grille. That's some good eatin'!

Thank goodness for my parent's insurance, pocketbook and sympathy. I still get to be carefree.

I could think about my future, but hey, it is still a year away.

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# Career outlook promising for graduates

## New grads have better chance finding employment in 2007

By Becca Cook

Staff Writer

As graduation draws closer, seniors are beginning to look for jobs in the "real world."

According to the Job Outlook 2007 on the MTSU Employment Center Web site, the class of 2007 has an even better chance of finding a job than in previous years. In fact, MTSU graduates might even stand a chance at finding the perfect entry-level job.

The top 10 degrees that are in demand at the bachelor degree level are accounting, business, administration/management, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, information sciences and systems with marketing/marketing management, computer engineering, civil engineering, and economics/finance.

With a degree in accounting, there are several job opportunities awaiting a new graduate. Employers in banking, accounting and utility companies are seeking accounting graduates.

So what about the college students who are graduating with a master's degree? The top five master level degrees are business administration, electrical engineering, computer science, computer engineering, and mechanical engineering. Graduates with a computer science degree of any kind are in high demand.

Attaining a degree is not always enough to ensure a job. Employers seek specific traits in new hires.

Companies are looking for new college graduates for a variety of reasons. They would rather have a fresh, young and motivated young man or woman than someone who has been burned by the business after being in it so long. They want fresh ideas and the cutting-edge skills that the college

graduates of 2007 can offer.

It's important to have more than just a degree to win that prized job. Employers are looking for potential workers with great communication skills, honesty and interpersonal skills.

For those anxious seniors worrying about their grade point average, as long as it stays above a 3.0, there will be no problems. Although a high GPA is important, there are more important qualities to work on such as computer and organizational skills. Throw in teamwork skills, creativity and some bilingual skills, and employers will be chasing you around the job market.

However, the biggest road block for a new college graduate is experience. The most helpful opportunities available in college are internships or field-related jobs. Not only will this build a resume, it will make job searching a lot easier in the end. By getting this experience before graduation, a new graduate will have a distinct advantage over other candidates in the harsh job market.

Once the experience is gained, actually finding the employers may be a challenge. However, there are many ways to find a job from an on-campus interview to advertisements in the local newspaper. Remember those student organizations joined as a freshman? Now is the time to take advantage of networks created to get an interview with the company of choice.

The first step in job searching is to know who is hiring and then research to find a potential employer. Once the job interview is secured, it is time to spice up that resume with work experience. Finally, a well-prepared college graduate will ace their interview. Be sure to wear the appropriate attire and be ready to respond to questions. It's a good idea to research the company so



Photo courtesy of Morgue File

that you can provide them with an explanation about how your skills will benefit their company.

Networking is unarguably vital when it comes to making a mark in the workforce. In the age of information excess, though, be careful of the profiles Web site such as Myspace or Facebook.

In 2006, ExecuNet executive search firm found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered.

Any organization mindful of its image can, and most likely will, access and evaluate profiles on social networking sites during pre-screening of candidates.

As long as the applicant doesn't have pictures of them selves as a contestant in a wet t-shirt contest, there shouldn't be a problem. After all, internet networking is still a potential way to connect with people who may, in the future, benefit a career.

The MTSU Career and Employment Center also provides many outlets for students hoping to enter the workforce.

So, class of 2007, the opportunities ahead look pretty good.

## What do employers look for?

Employers rate the importance of certain qualities

Communication Skills	4.7
Honesty/integrity	4.7
Motivation/initiative	4.5
Strong work ethic	4.5
Computer skills	4.4
Analytical skills	4.3
Flexibility/adaptability	4.3
Organizational skills	4.0
Self-confidence	4.0
Friendly/outgoing	3.9
Well-mannered/polite	3.8
Creativity	3.7
GPA (3.0 or better)	3.6
Sense of humor	3.2
Bilingual skills	2.3

The MTSU Career and Employment Center Web site lists the qualities employers find most valuable, where 5 = extremely important, 1 = not important.

Just make sure to buff up that resume and you will find yourself enjoying the job you always dreamed of, complete with your own 401k retirement plan and the company car. ♦

# Online service, storage allows students to build resume

By Rangebar Merani  
Staff Writer

Looking for a place to post your resume online? MTSU's Student Computing Account and Career and Employment Center are two great ways students can do just that.

MTSU's Student Computing Account provides students with five megabytes of space and an address to create their own personal Web site. Since a lot of employers accept electronic resumes, this would be a great tool for listing resumes and portfolios online. And it's not too difficult to create either.

"I'd say it's very easy to create," Associate Vice President for Information Technology Tim Brown says. "It's a great place for them to put information up, like common files or word documents such as resumes."

The personal Web site can be used to post resumes and clips, and can also be used for those who are interested in creating a Web page.

"The Web site can be beneficial to students wanting to learn how to create a Web page without having to pay for a domain name," says Information Technology help desk employee Brian Ratliff, who graduated in 2005 with a degree in Computer Information Systems. "You can store pictures and other personal things to show friends and family."

But if you really want to get deep into it, you may have to learn about HTML. Short for Hyper Text Markup Language, HTML is the language used to create documents on the World Wide Web.

"You need to know a little bit of HTML to use the Web site, unless you just want to dump files on there and not use HTML pages," Brown explains. "But it's pretty easy to pick up and there are tons of tutorials on how to use it. If you can type up a word document, you can figure it out."

If trying to deal with computers and creating a Web site isn't your thing, MTSU's Career

and Employment Center will be able to help you get your resume online.

The Career and Employment Center is a comprehensive center serving all departments and colleges of MTSU. It provides career and employment information to students and alumni to help them find a job in their field.

"Because employers come to us, the Career Center should be the first place students come to post their resumes," explains Martha Turner, director of the Career Center. "Employers send us positions and we send out resumes that qualify. It's a referral service."

Although there are Web sites such as Monster.com or Careerbuilder.com to post up resumes, the Career Center may be a better choice.

"The Career Center is much better than a site like Monster.com," Turner says. "It's specific for MTSU graduates so it narrows it down to a specific group of people. Monster.com is for everyone."

The Career and Employment Center has a coordinator for each college to help students get their resumes

online.

The Center gives students the opportunity to attend career fairs, on-campus interviews, internships, full-time and part-time jobs.

"It's a really good tool to have your resume and portfolio online," says Assistant Director of the Career Center Karen Austin. "All resumes in our database are available for employers. We're talking about hundreds of resumes every month."

When asked about students posting up resumes on their personal Web site Austin said, "Having their own site should be a supplement to what we can do for them here at the Career



Graphic by Jeremy Wyatt | 2006 Alumnus

Center. If students want to have a more detailed resume or portfolio, having that on a personal Web site is a good idea."

The Center also assists students who are having trouble making a resume. There are templates available online and resumes are critiqued before they are shown to employers.

The ability to post resumes online is extremely popular with employers and MTSU's Student Computing Account and Career and Employment Center are two available options for students to do that. Whether it's creating a Web site or just sending a resume to the Career Center's database, getting a resume online is a great way to get you noticed by employers.

For more information about The Career and Employment Center, visit [www.career.web.mtsu.edu](http://www.career.web.mtsu.edu).

For more information about MTSU's Student Computing Account, visit the Information Technology Division homepage at [www.mtsu.edu/~itd/](http://www.mtsu.edu/~itd/). ♦

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