

# HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2016

*Magazine*

## HOME *sweet* HOME

Home-schoolers find a place of *academic excellence* and *acceptance* in the Honors College

MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY





I AM *true*  
**BLUE**  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## 34

### HOME SWEET HOME

Home-schoolers find a place of academic excellence and acceptance in the Honors College



## 42

### SERVING WITH HONOR

A current crop of Honors students shine in MTSU's Student Government Association



## 46

### WONDER TWINS

Two Honors College graduates turned medical doctors prove the path to success in health care can be activated at MTSU



Cover illustration:  
Daniel Baxter  
danielbaxter.com

At left:  
Campus scene  
photo: Kimi Conro

## DEPARTMENTS

4 Dean

5 Students

50 Faculty and Staff

59 Alumni and Friends

61 Class Notes



## HONORS MAGAZINE

is a twice-yearly publication of the MTSU University Honors College, distributed free to faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

### DEAN

John R. Vile

### EDITOR

Marsha Powers

Marsha.Powers@mtsu.edu

### UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Drew Ruble

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Stuart and Darby Campbell

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sherry Wisner George

### DESIGN SUPPORT

Kathy Bowlin

### UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Andy Heidt, J Intintoli, Eric Sutton

### UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sidney A. McPhee

### INTERIM UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Mark Byrnes

### VICE PRESIDENT OF

### MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Andrew Oppmann

### CONTRIBUTORS

Creative and Visual Services, Patsy Weiler, Vicky Travis, Randy Weiler, Shelley Thomas, Brian Roberts, Matthew Hibdon, Philip Phillips, Laura Clippard, Judy Albakry, Karen Demonbreum, Susan Lyons, Kathy Davis, April Goers, Raiko Henderson, Jake Garrette, Brooke Fitzwater, Gabrielle Armour, Madeleine Kurtz, Joy Shind, Nathan Wahl, Jackson Cole, and Todd Pirtle

MTSU is a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution.

2,400 copies, printed at Courier Printing, Smyrna, Tenn.  
Designed by Creative and Visual Services



0716-3033 / Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, Cope Administration Building 220, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; 615-898-2185.

## From the Dean's Desk



I have found that being a father and grandfather are fairly good experiences for a dean because, as in such paternal roles, I am always ready with a story about one or more of our students or current projects.

This semester, I am particularly proud of the large number of students who have received University awards, who are participating in Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), and who are receiving national and international fellowships.

We are also quite excited that Honors students are serving this year as president, vice president, and senators in the Student Government Association. Our students have now earned Fulbright scholarships for seven consecutive years and received Goldwater Fellowships or honorable mentions for six consecutive years. We are expecting a record number of thesis defenses this fall, and one of our students just piloted a single-engine plane across the United States in preparation for his own creative project. A group of our students spent part of June on the second Honors-sponsored trip to Italy, which was directed by Associate Dean Philip Phillips and Honors advisor April Goers.

We take great pride in our Honors publications, which include the ever-proliferating number of theses; this news magazine, which we publish twice a year and which again won first place in the nation at the National Collegiate Honors Council competition; our literary magazine, *Collage*, which we publish semi-annually; and *Scientia et Humanitas*, which recently published its sixth consecutive printed yearly issue.

This fall, we are planning to launch a campaign to raise money for our award-winning literary magazine. We hope that this is one of the projects to which you will consider giving this year.

Marsha Powers has been editing this magazine since even before I became dean, just as she heads up our other publications. Her efforts continue to be exemplary. Like other members of the staff, she works behind the scenes to highlight college achievements and provide student opportunities.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students as much as we enjoy reporting them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John R. Vile'.

John R. Vile

# WORLD CLASS

17 students land competitive scholarships and internships



According to Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator Laura Clippard, “MTSU students are hardworking, curious, and focused on learning and helping with global problems and challenges.” This year’s fellowship office success seems to confirm her statement, with prestigious organizations recognizing 17 students who possess these qualities.

This spring **Matthew “Dalton” Lauderback** became the 14th MTSU student in seven years to be awarded and accept a Fulbright fellowship, while **Grayson Dubois** was the 11th student to receive either a Barry M. Goldwater scholarship or honorable mention in the past eight years.

Buchanan Fellows **Chloe Madigan** and **Rebecca Clippard** joined 11 other MTSU students who have won Phi Kappa Phi awards since 2007 (the year the Honors College began keeping records). Madigan was selected as a 2016 Phi Kappa Phi Fellow, and Clippard was awarded a Study Abroad Grant.

**Michele Kelley**, also a Buchanan Fellow, became MTSU’s third recipient of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Research Internship in Science and Engineering (DAAD RISE) in Germany since 2013.

In 2016, the fellowships office also had its first Marshall Scholarship finalists, **Tandra Martin** and **Davis Thompson**; six Gilman International Scholarship recipients, **Peter Roldan**, **Dakota Beverly**, **Rookery Baruch**, **Brianna Buford**, **Christian Lawrence**, and **Emily Drew**; a Bridging Scholarship winner for study abroad in Japan, **Rebecca Clippard**; one Princeton in Asia finalist, **Alayna Cate**; two winners of National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), **Kathryn Brittain** and **Karla Robles**; and one Oak Ridge National Laboratory summer internship recipient, **Josie Lyon**.



Dalton Lauderback



Grayson Dubois



Chloe Madigan



Rebecca Clippard



Michele Kelley

In addition to these award winners, finalists, and honorable mention recipients, several students were selected to receive awards but accepted other opportunities instead.

Lauderback, who received a teaching Fulbright to Germany, graduated from MTSU in August 2015 with majors in Political Science and Global Studies. Lauderback was the third MTSU student to be awarded a Fulbright to Germany; other Fulbright recipients have traveled to Brazil, Israel, Laos, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Slovak Republic, Spain, and Tanzania.

Dubois, a senior majoring in Computer Science with a Mathematics minor, was recognized as a Goldwater honorable mention. The only Tennessee schools with funded Goldwater Scholarship winners in 2016 were Vanderbilt with two scholars selected and the University of Tennessee with one.

Madigan, a 2016 Honors graduate with a major in English and minors in Secondary Education and Linguistics Studies, was MTSU's fourth Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award winner in four years. The award provides \$5,000 for graduate school. Madigan is pursuing a master's in Education with concentrations in English Language Learners and Educational Policy at Vanderbilt.

Clippard, whose study abroad program in Japan this academic year is partially funded by her Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant and her Bridging Scholarship, is a junior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Foreign Languages—Japanese and Spanish. Her minor is English.

Kelley, one of 300 funded winners of the DAAD RISE for 2016, is a Physics major with minors in Aerospace and Mathematics. Recipients were selected out of 1,697 North American and British applicants.

Martin and Thompson, 2016 Marshall Scholarship finalists, were both awarded Fulbright scholarships in 2015—Martin to South Africa and Thompson to the Slovak Republic. Both are 2015 Honors graduates, with Martin majoring in International Relations and Thompson majoring in both Political Science and Mass Communication.



Davis Thompson



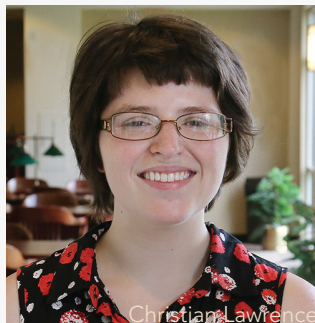
Tandra Martin



Peter Roldan



Brianna Buford



Christian Lawrence



Emily Drew



Alayna Cate



Kathryn Brittain



Karla Robles



Josie Lyon



Rookery Baruch



Dakota Beverly

Gilman winner Roldan, a sophomore Concrete Industry major, traveled to the United Arab Emirates. Baruch, a senior Computer Science major, studied in France. The Gilman funded study in Japan for Beverly, a senior Information Systems major. Buford, an Interior Design student who is minoring in Spanish, studied in the Dominican Republic. Mass Communication major Drew traveled to South Korea with her Gilman funding, while junior Biology major Lawrence is studying in Japan this fall.

Cate, MTSU's Princeton in Asia finalist, was a 2016 Honors graduate who majored in Music. Lyon, recipient of an Oak Ridge National Laboratory summer internship, is a senior majoring in Physics and Mathematics.

The UFO's two NSF REU recipients from MTSU, Brittain and Robles, performed research at Michigan State and the University of Pittsburgh, respectively. Brittain is a senior Biology major with a minor in Chemistry, and Robles is a senior studying Computer Science and Biochemistry.

John Vile, dean of the Honors College, observed that national and international fellowships "continue to demonstrate that MTSU Honors students are competitive with students throughout the United States." 

## Undergraduate Fellowships Office 2016 recognitions

### Dalton Lauderback

*Fulbright Scholarship, Germany*

### Grayson Dubois

*Barry M. Goldwater honorable mention*

### Chloe Madigan

*Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award*

### Rebecca Clippard

*Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship and Bridging Scholarship for Study Abroad to Japan*

### Michele Kelley

*DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research in Science and Engineering)*

### Tandra Martin

*Marshall Scholarship finalist*

### Davis Thompson

*Marshall Scholarship finalist*

### Rookery Baruch

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, France*

### Dakota Beverly

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Japan*

### Brianna Buford

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Dominican Republic*

### Emily Drew

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, South Korea*

### Christian Lawrence

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Japan*

### Peter Roldan

*Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, United Arab Emirates*

### Alayna Cate

*Princeton in Asia finalist*

### Josie Lyon

*Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summer Internship*

### Kathryn Brittain

*NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Michigan State*

### Karla Robles

*NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates, University of Pittsburgh*

I AM *true*  
**BLUE**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Honors Students Receive Campus and Statewide Awards



Honors students captured three of the four top campus awards for a sixth straight year, and the state service award was given to an Honors student for the third consecutive time.

In the Spring of 2016, the University awards program selected **Samuel Hulseley**, **Charlotte Archer**, and **Saraf Chowdhury** this spring to receive the Provost's Award, the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award, and the Community Service Award, respectively. **Chloe Madigan** won the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award.

Hulseley, the 2016 Provost's Award winner, was an Honors Transfer Fellow who majored in Global Studies and Foreign Languages with a concentration in Spanish and a minor in Portuguese. He graduated summa cum laude with distinction from the Honors College in the spring.

The Provost's Award is given to a student who best demonstrates outstanding academic achievement through involvement in scholarly activities. A member of Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies, Hulseley also was awarded a 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant.

Archer, also a transfer student and winner of the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award, has earned her undergraduate degree and is continuing in the Sociology program for her master's. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society.

The LaLance Award is given for remarkable determination, sacrifices, and contributions to the community.

Saraf Chowdhury, recipient of the 2016 Community Service Award, is a senior Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Biology. She served as a member of the spring *Collage* staff and as vice president of Omicron Delta Kappa, representing the MTSU circle at the national convention this spring. She previously served as chief coordinator for Reach Out Bangladesh, a youth-led charity organization, and was a project designer and volunteer for Green Channel, an environmental organization. She also was secretary of Green Sleeves, an environmental society at Nashville State Community College.





The Community Service Award is given to a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Madigan, recipient of the Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, was a Buchanan Fellow who majored in English. She served in various positions on the *Collage* staff, including literature editor and editor-in-chief. She was volunteer director of the Food Recovery Network of MTSU and was a presenter for the Nashville refugee and immigrant task force.

Madigan has worked on campus as a Peer Career Advisor with international students. She has volunteered as an ESL instructor in Nashville, assisted in computer literacy classes at a homeless shelter, and also served as an intern at the Nashville Public Library. She worked weekly with immigrants and refugees from Mexico, Egypt, and Brazil and taught them English. She has also worked with students from war-torn parts of Iraq and Afghanistan and impoverished villages of Haiti, helping them create résumés and prepare for interviews.

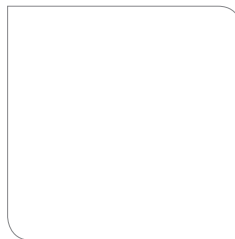
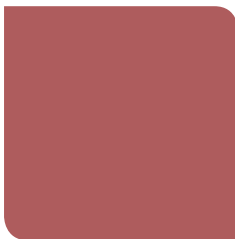
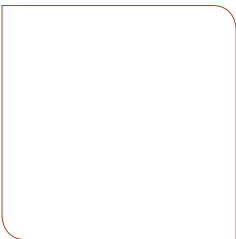
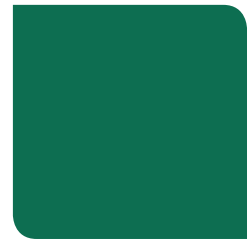
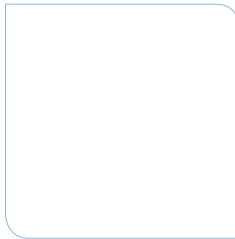
“One of the common strengths of Honors College students is their diverse interests, community involvement, and work ethic,” Honors coordinator Laura Clippard said. “They are often involved in many areas of campus life and the community. Our students truly care about the world around them.”

The President’s Award, the most prestigious award given to a student of MTSU, was awarded to 2015–16 student body president Lindsey Pierce for her superior character and honor and for her achievements. Although not a thesis track Honors student, the Family and Consumer Studies major graduated summa cum laude in the spring and was an EXL Scholar. She is pursuing a master’s degree in Administration and Supervision at MTSU.

All members of the MTSU community are encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and meet the awards criteria. Nominations and applications are accepted each year in February. To nominate a student, submit the student’s name and contact information to Jackie.Victory@mtsu.edu in the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. [H](#)



# Spring 2016 Theses Defended



**Charlotte Archer<sup>1</sup>***Sociology*

"Resource Mobilization and the Hierarchy of Rights: Attitudes, Identities, and Outcomes Among LGBTQ+ Populations"

*Angela Mertig, advisor***Jacob Breeding<sup>2</sup>***Recording Industry*

"The Power of Madness: A Foucauldian Reading of Kafka's *The Castle* and Other Works"

*Linda Badley, advisor***Saraf Chowdhury<sup>3</sup>***Biology*

"Effects of Oxidative Stress in Intestines of *Caenorhabditis elegans*"

*Lynn Boyd, advisor***Samantha Crossland<sup>4</sup>***Organizational Communication*

"Communicating Consent: A Comparative Thematic Analysis of Sorority and Fraternity Hookup Culture"

*Jessica Kratzer, advisor***Morgan Davis<sup>5</sup>***Mathematics*

"Math Dance: Teaching Common Core State Standards of Mathematics Through Concert Dance and Creative Movement"

*Sarah Bleiler, advisor***Justin Farr<sup>6</sup>***History*

"The Mongrel Regime: The Untold Story of Tennessee's African American Policemen During the New South and Jim Crow Eras, 1867–1930"

*Mary Hoffschwelle, advisor***Caleb Hough<sup>7</sup>***Biology*

"Calculating the Frequency of Bioluminescence Genes in *Armillaria mellea* by Screening a Sample of Mutant Isolates"

*James Robertson, advisor***Samuel Hulsey<sup>8</sup>***Foreign Languages and Global Studies*

"*Echando la Culpa*: Social Barriers to Climate Change Adaptation in Peru's Rio Santa Basin"

*Doug Heffington, advisor***Rachel Huttinger<sup>9</sup>***Mass Communication*

"The Secret We Share: A Creative Project About Depression Created with Hand-Drawn Animation Techniques"

*Marc Barr, advisor***Trang Huynh<sup>10</sup>***Biology*

"Assessment of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine Plant Extracts' Potential To Inhibit Activity of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1"

*Stephen Wright, advisor***Charmaine Igot<sup>11</sup>***Biology*

"Attitudes and Barriers to Dental Services"

*Gloria Hamilton, advisor***Michele Kelley<sup>12</sup>***Physics*

"Single Cell Ionization by Laser Trap with Applications Towards Radiotherapy"

*Daniel Erenso, advisor***Yusra Mohammed<sup>13</sup>***Biology*

"Characterization of Aurone X as a Potential Drug Candidate Against *Cryptococcus neoformans*"

*Erin McLelland, advisor***Sophia Morgado<sup>14</sup>***Foreign Languages*

"À Table: A Political History of French Cuisine"

*Ann McCullough, advisor***Nicodemus Myhre<sup>15</sup>***Physics, Aerospace, and Mathematics*

"Computational Analysis of Drag Reduction Methods for a Rearward Facing Step"

*Eric Klumpe, advisor***Erica Newman<sup>16</sup>***English*

"Syllabi Genre Analysis: Examining Technology's Role in the Classroom"

*Kate Pantelides, advisor***Nausheen Qureshi<sup>17</sup>***Nutrition and Food Science*

"Rising from the Depths of Despair: The Healing Arts of Lady Philosophy in Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*"

*Philip Phillips, advisor***Kelly Saine<sup>18</sup>***Biochemistry*

"Antibacterial Properties of Plant Extracts Used in Traditional Chinese Medicine for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*"

*Mary Farone, advisor***Johnny Short Jr.<sup>19</sup>***Global Studies*

"Sex Trafficking In Coffee County, TN"

*Kathleen Darby, advisor***Emily Ann Carroll Smith<sup>20</sup>***Animal Science*

"Horses in Film and Literature: A Critical Review of Accuracies and Fallacies"

*Rhonda Hoffman, advisor***Trevor Smith<sup>21</sup>***Organizational Communication*

"A Comparison of Youth Ministry in the Three Divisions of Christianity: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism"

*Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand, advisor***Nathan Tilton<sup>22</sup>***Aerospace*

"Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Use by Nongovernmental Organizations for Post-Disaster Needs Assessments"

*Nate Callender, advisor***Alison Todd<sup>23</sup>***Anthropology*

"Explore Your Own Site: Tennessee Archaeology"

*Shannon Hodge, advisor***Logan Whiles<sup>24</sup>***Biology*

"Measuring Glucocorticoid Metabolite Levels, Behavioral Profiles, and Weight Gain in Two Hand-Reared, Captive Clouded Leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*): A Preliminary Assessment"

*Brian Miller, advisor*

I AM *true*  
**BLUE**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



# Meet the 2016 BUCHANAN FELLOWS



This fall, 20 freshmen join the elite group of students accepted into the Buchanan Fellowship Program, the highest academic honor bestowed upon entering first-year students at MTSU. The scholarship program is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner. Collectively, the students represent four states and nine cities in Tennessee.



**Brianna Lynn Bauman** is from Murfreesboro and attended Stewarts Creek High School. An Engineering Technology major, Bauman attended Governor's School for Computational Physics. She is the daughter of Megan Jones.



**Lindsey Brooke Brown** of Murfreesboro is a graduate of Central Magnet School. She participated in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic and volunteered at the Hispanic Center. She is the daughter of Michael Brown and Lori Brown and is majoring in Foreign Languages.



**Joshua Gordon Brinegar**, a home-schooler, is the son of Timothy and Betty Brinegar of Columbia. He has participated in the Civil Air Patrol Tennessee Wing Drill Team and received several honors. His major is Concrete Industry Management.



**Arielle Star Brooks** attended Whitehaven High School in Memphis, where she received a Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Award. She is majoring in Chemistry and is the daughter of Sir Crease and Nakayla Brooks.



**Nicholas Robert Cummings** is from Hebron, Kentucky, where he attended Saint Henry District High School. He was a National Merit Commended Student. He is the son of Robert and Victoria Cummings and is a Recording Industry major.



**Josephine Marie Dowd**, from Smyrna, attended Brentwood High School and is the daughter of Peter and Stacy Dowd. She was winner of the 2015 Congressional Art Competition. She is majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Electronic Media Communication.

**Josiah Christopher Ediger**, who is from Suwanee, Georgia, graduated from North Gwinnett High School where he was a silver medalist on the National Latin Exam. He is majoring in Recording Industry and is the son of Chris and Andrea Ediger.

**Carson Elizabeth Floyd**, the daughter of Dawn Gilbreath, is from Cumberland Furnace. She attended Middle College at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, where she received an American Legion award for scholastic excellence. She is majoring in Recording Industry.

**Austin Patrick Ford** attended Pebblebrook High School in Mableton, Georgia. A Music major, he was in All-State Chorus. He is the son of Victoria Ford and Gregory Ford.



Ford



Goodwin



Grogan



Hengstenberg



Johnson

**Eric Spence Goodwin**

graduated from Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, where he received a silver medal in the National French Contest. He is the son of Wendy Spence and Greg Goodwin and is a Mass Communication major with a concentration in Journalism.

**Alexia Nicole Grogan**

graduated from Smyrna High School as valedictorian. She is a Business major and the daughter of Tammy Grogan and John Grogan.

**Jaron Mark Hengstenberg**

attended Summit High School in Spring Hill, where he received an AP Scholar Award. He is the son of Mark Hengstenberg and Laurel Hengstenberg and is majoring in Physics.

**Cassidy Marie Johnson,**

who is from Hoover, Alabama, attended Spain Park High School and is the daughter of Dian Johnson and Jim Johnson. She won first place at Walter Trumbauer State Theatre Festival in novice sound design and is majoring in Recording Industry with a concentration in Audio Production.

**Natalie Rachel Jones**

of Smyrna graduated from Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro. She was a National Merit Commended Student and was a member of the Tennessee All-State Honors Orchestra. She is the daughter of Noel and Sandra Jones.

**Corvette Delanie McDonald,**

the daughter of David and Lorrie McDonald, is from Carthage. She was the first home-schooler to perform in Smith County After School Theatre. She is a Mass Communication major with a concentration in Advertising and Public Relations.

**Jon-Thomas Stephen Neely,**

a Science major, is from Murfreesboro and attended Central Magnet School, where he received a President's Award for Educational Excellence. He is the son of Chris and Terri Neely.

**Rachel Elizabeth Reece,**

a home-schooled student from Chattanooga, won a grammar bee and received science and band scholarships. The daughter of Kevin and Laura Reece, she is majoring in Foreign Languages with a concentration in Japanese.

**George Marcus Schroeder,**

a graduate of Station Camp High School, is from Hendersonville. He was a member of the Army All-American Marching Band. The son of Timothy Schroeder and Elizabeth Schroeder, he is a Science (Pre-Med) major.

**Megan Elise Tudor**

of Murfreesboro, a home-schooler, is the daughter of Jeff and Jill Tudor. She was a member of the Riverdale High School swim team and is majoring in Chemistry.

**Grant Fenn Waldron**

of Murfreesboro is a graduate of Blackman High School, where he was valedictorian. He attended Governor's School for the Arts with a focus in percussion. He is studying Recording Industry and is the son of Monty and Kimberly Waldron. **H**



Jones



McDonald



Neely



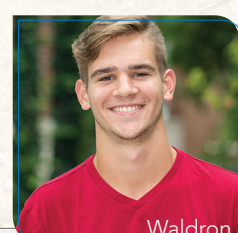
Reece



Schroeder



Tudor



Waldron

# Honors College Welcomes TRANSFER FELLOWS



Honors Transfer Fellows for 2016 with Dr. Martha Hixon are (front, L to R) Justin Young, Natalie Foulks, Alicia McGuire, Sarah Wester, Miranda Hahn, and William York; (back) Richard Shelton, Emma Williams, Ashley Friedl, Kaitlyn Williford, Aundrea Paredes, Madison Pitts, Jonathan Butler, and Toni McPherson. Sophie Toms is not pictured.

This fall, 15 students have joined the elite group accepted into the Transfer Fellowship Program, the highest academic honor bestowed upon students transferring to MTSU from other institutions.

**Jonathan Butler** attended Lincoln Tech and Columbia State Community College, where he received an award for excellence in English. He is pursuing a degree in Foreign Languages with a concentration in German.

**Natalie Foulks** attended Walters State Community College (dual enrollment) and East Tennessee State University, where she was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She is majoring in Speech-Language Audiology and Pathology.

**Ashley Friedl** is a transfer student from Motlow State Community College and Germanna Community College in Virginia. She has volunteered with a horse therapy program for disabled children and is now pursuing a B.S. in History.

**Miranda Hahn** transferred from Central Piedmont Community College in North Carolina, where she served as a tutor. Her major is Anthropology.

**Alicia McGuire** attended Oklahoma City Community College and the University of Central Oklahoma. She has participated in various community service projects and is seeking a degree in Speech-Language Audiology and Pathology.

**Toni McPherson** attended Motlow State Community College, where she was an English tutor in the Writing Center. Her major is Psychology.

**Aundrea Paredes** transferred from Volunteer State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Visual Communication.

## Pirtle Wins Southern Agronomy Poster Competition



Honors Transfer Fellow Todd Pirtle won first place at the Southern Branch American Society of Agronomy poster competition for his agronomic research earlier this year. Pirtle's advisor, Song Cui, a Plant and Soil Science assistant professor, coordinated the trip.

Pirtle's research, "Prediction of Nitrate Concentration of Two Bioenergy Feedstock Grasses Through Using a Spectroradiometer," examined

rapidly assessing nitrogen levels and determining optimum application rate. Pirtle also presented his findings in April at the 2016 Tennessee Water Resources Symposium at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns.

Pirtle, an Agribusiness major, and Lee Rumble, a Plant and Soil Science major and Transfer Fellow, traveled to San Antonio in February for the 113th Meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists.

The objective of the trip was to present recent research findings and continue building professional and academic networks.

Rumble presented his Honors thesis research titled "A Survey of Wounding Frequency among Trees found in Urban and Forest Environments" in the Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science (SRASHS) poster competition. Drew Sieg was his advisor. [H](#)

## TRANSFER FELLOWS *cont.*

**Madison Pitts** is a transfer student from Columbia State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is seeking a degree in Mass Communication with a concentration in Electronic Media communication at MTSU.

**Richard Sheldon** transferred from Lee University. He has served as cinematographer and photographer for mission trips and other events. He is majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Video and Film production.

**Sophie Toms** attended Butler County Community College and Chattanooga State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

**Sarah Wester** attended Motlow State Community College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and received an Outstanding Student Award. She is majoring in Political Science (Pre-Law).

**Emma Williams** transferred from Pellissippi State Community College, where she was a new student orientation leader and an ambassador. She is majoring in Recording Industry with a concentration in Commercial Songwriting.

**Kaitlyn Williford** transferred from Southwestern Illinois College, where she was president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is studying Social Work.

**William York IV** attended Volunteer State Community College. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. He is pursuing a degree in English with a Writing concentration.

**Justin Young** attended Calhoun Community College and Columbia State Community College, where he served as a tutor. His major is Agribusiness. [H](#)



## Fulbright U.S. Program Director Visits MTSU

Dr. Daniel Kramer, director of the U.S. Student Fulbright Program, traveled from New York in Spring 2016 to speak to students and faculty about strengthening Fulbright applications and being competitive for scholarships.

Kramer addressed a capacity crowd in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building on the April 28 study day and lingered to answer questions and chat with attendees at a reception provided by the Honors College. This was MTSU's first visit from a Fulbright director.

Laura Clippard, MTSU's Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator, said Kramer's visit was an overwhelming success with more than 100 students and faculty in attendance. "MTSU students

are interested in contributing to the increasingly complex global community," Clippard said. "The Fulbright Program offers an accessible way to develop their leadership skills further."

Many faculty members who had won either the student Fulbright or faculty Fulbright Scholar awards were among those in attendance. A number of recent student winners of the Gilman Scholarship, Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), and Fulbright Scholarship also attended.

Recent student winners at the event included Fulbright recipients Jennifer Benetti-Longhini and David Owen, both for Brazil; Critical Language Scholarship winner Caitlin Henderson, who studied in China; and Gilman winners Rookery Baruch (France), Dakota Beverly (Japan),

Michele Kelley (Czech Republic), Emily Drew (South Korea), and DeAngelica Rose (South Korea).

MTSU has sent 14 Fulbright winners in the last seven years to a variety of countries. Winners have conducted research or taught in Brazil, Germany, Israel, Laos, Portugal, Russia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, and Tanzania.

The purpose of the Fulbright is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. The grants are designed to give U.S. students the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year. [H](#)

Dr. Daniel Kramer, Fulbright director, speaks about being competitive for Fulbright Scholarships.



### Honors Students Lend a Hand at Habitat Blitz Build

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, left, offers encouragement to students Calla Sharp, second from left, and Yucera Salman and to Dianna Rust, chair of the MT Engage Quality Enhancement Plan Committee, at the MTSU Habitat Blitz Build.

# How to Have a **Strong Fulbright Application**

**Start early** | Freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to learn about international opportunities including the Fulbright, Boren, CLS, and other global opportunities.

**Develop professional skills** | Learning outside the classroom is the key to being a strong contender for national applications. Students should seek to volunteer, conduct independent research, and help with mentoring and teaching others.

**Keep track** | Write down campus and community participation. Use the Career Development Center to develop a strong résumé.

**Meet with Laura Clippard for an individual assessment** | Schedule a meeting and bring a résumé to discuss your academic strengths and to find out more information about how to improve your odds of winning.

**Focus on Education Abroad** | Many options are available for studying overseas. Take the time to meet with the Education Abroad staff to discover best options.

**Read** | Take time to read about opportunities on the Undergraduate Fellowship Office website at [mtsu.edu/honors/ufo](http://mtsu.edu/honors/ufo).

**Keep in touch with overseas contacts** | After completing a study abroad, stay in contact with overseas faculty members and other students. Their assistance might be needed in finding a research placement when applying for a research Fulbright.

**Attend a Fulbright workshop** | Each semester, there are basic information workshops for increasing students' knowledge about the program.

**Think deeply** | The Fulbright is not a study abroad. It is the chance for you to connect deeply with another culture. Students need to be able to explain their reasons for wanting to apply to a specific country.

**Consider less-popular countries** | The United Kingdom typically receives over 1,000 applications for 40 slots, but many Asian or Latin American countries are less popular. Get off the beaten path.

**Be prepared to revise** | The Fulbright application is relatively short, but each essay is important. Many first drafts lack details needed to explain the student's academic journey.

**Share stories in the personal statement** | Many first drafts are too general. Fulbright selection committees want to read about students' specific experiences and thoughts. For each personal statement, be prepared to give an example or share a story.

**Tips for a teaching Fulbright** | Contact one of the many local organizations that work with refugees and volunteer to help out. Many options are available including leading English classes.

**Tips for a research Fulbright** | Start undergraduate research as soon as possible. Talk to faculty members about assisting with their research projects. Plan to complete an Honors thesis and/or apply for Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grant funding.

**For more information contact:**

Laura Clippard  
Coordinator, Undergraduate  
Fellowships Office  
Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors  
Building, room 227  
615-898-5464  
[Laura.clippard@mtsu.edu](mailto:Laura.clippard@mtsu.edu) 



*Photos from left to right:*

Members of MTSU's Korean Club: from left, DeAngelica Rose; Dr. Jasmin Kwon, advisor; Sasha Bright; and Noah Delk

David Owens, former Fulbright researcher in Brazil, talks with Dr. Mary Phillips, associate professor of Accounting.



# Travelers, Not Tourists

By Madeleine Kurtz | Kurtz is a sophomore Buchanan Fellow studying English.

Italy is an old place—layer upon layer, strata upon strata, ancient and modern all woven together in a nation that breathes the air of emperors and artists. One walks through time. Near the bustling bodega where I bought my slightly exotic-tasting Italian Sprite is the Theatre of Pompey on whose steps Julius Caesar was assassinated. On our walk back from the Vatican, we pass the house Dante lived in as a chorus of moped horns and short bursts of Italian vendors hawking their wares resound from the narrow and cobblestoned streets around us. Here every rock has a fascinating story.

I spent two weeks in Italy, staying in Rome for the first and Florence for the second. Every other day, we took trips to the surrounding cities of Pompeii, Ostia Antica, Ravenna, Pisa, and Venice. There were 15 of us students led by Associate Dean Philip Phillips and Honors advisor April Goers, as well as a succession of lovely Italian guides for our Honors in Italy Education Abroad. Together, we explored *Italia*, visiting ancient monuments and graceful basilicas and practicing our earnest but halting Italian with the amused locals. It was an unforgettable trip, yet our adventure didn't begin when we got off the plane in Rome. Instead, it began two weeks before that, with a dive into Italian literature that allowed us to imbibe the vast and sprawling cultural explosion that this smallish peninsula has given to the world.

Under the tutelage of English professor Phillips, we read *The Aeneid* by Virgil, *The Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius, and *The Inferno* and *La Vita Nuova* by Dante Alighieri. It was a lot of work, reading four rather imposing books in 14 days, but exploring these beautiful masterpieces offered us a more intimate view of the literary and cultural landscape of Italy. It also enabled us to develop a more personal connection to the sites we were visiting since many of the places we would explore were featured in the literature we had read.

When I was in Italy, I could hardly believe it. I stood in a place where history, art, and culture seem to be bursting through every crack in the walls. One feels more than amazed at the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes of this incredible place. One feels a sense of wonder.

When we arrived, I was immediately taken by how real the city of Rome was. It was a place that I had read about for years but had only seen in pictures. Yet here it was, this beautiful city of marble and ornamental stone, with vibrantly colored flowers spilling out of window baskets.

My fellow students and I climbed to the top of the Dome of Saint Peter, rode in a Venetian gondola, stood on the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, stared at the mosaics of Ravenna—constellations

of glass crafted by hundreds of hands—and walked through the 2,000-year-old streets of Pompeii.

After a group excursion in the morning, the rest of our days were free, and we got to explore Italy in a way that was truly more valuable than any tour. We haggled with olive oil sellers, sampled cheeses and breads in bakeries, navigated the winding streets, and truly experienced the country as travelers rather than as tourists.

My participation in Honors in Italy was one of the most fantastic endeavors of my life. For those who want to have an adventure of a lifetime, I would urge them to go for it. It is hard work, and it takes a lot of guts to put oneself out there like that, but every moment was worth it. I came back from Italy a more confident, capable, and grateful person. I was refined by this experience and amazed by how big and beautiful the world really is. I came home more appreciative of what I have and hungry to travel again. [H](#)



Left page, from top: At the Forum in Pompeii with Mt. Vesuvius in the background

The Colosseum in Rome

Alex Ingram is True Blue

Gondolas in Venice

Statue of the river god, Tiburinus

Above: Professor Troncarelli with Dante's *Inferno* at the Biblioteca Angelica in Rome

The Honors in Italy group at the Roman Forum





## 7 weeks in Chile: A research dream come true

By Brooke Fitzwater | *Fitzwater is a junior majoring in Biology with a concentration in Organismal Biology and Ecology.*

Nothing can prepare one for traveling abroad alone. A year's worth of planning and research can all go out the window the second one sets foot in another country. Things can go wrong, plans may fall apart, and it can be terrifying. But, at the same time, nothing can prepare one for the enormous impact.

I have known for years that I wanted to go into marine biology. Something about it captivated and mesmerized me. When I received an email about an opportunity to perform marine biology research in Chile, I swallowed my fear and applied. To my great excitement, I was selected and traveled to Chile in March 2015 to see the marine station, Estación Costera de Investigaciones Marinas. ECIM, surrounded by unending

blue ocean, drew me in. I knew, definitively, that I had to return.

For a year I worked closely with Biology professor Dr. Dennis Mullen

---

After arriving  
in Chile,  
**I worked  
harder than  
I ever had  
before.**

*Brooke Fitzwater*

---

and Evie Wieters, my research mentor in Chile, to create a thesis proposal to perform at the station.

I would be researching the effects of predators on snail behavior, and while I had to pick from a list of topics the research station offered me, I made the project my own.

This summer I traveled alone for my seven-week stay since Gabby Armour, the other student researcher in the program, was coming later. Part of me had always wanted to travel alone. The thought of only having to worry about myself and being able to truly soak in the experience intrigued me. A part of me, though, was afraid—afraid of what could happen to me, if I would be a “good scientist,” and if I would ever have a moment to myself.

I arrived shaken due to transportation issues, but when I saw that beautiful, enchanting sea, something in me changed. I had



Brooke Fitzwater



photos by Brooke Fitzwater



made it, and the very thing I had longed for lay before me. I had to do this, not just for me, but for those who had supported me. I would see the project to its finish.

After arriving in Chile, I worked harder than I ever had before. I stayed up doing 24-hour behavior monitors in the cold night air with wet socks that had no chance of drying any time soon. But, at the end, the hard work was worth it. I can look back on those difficult moments and say to myself, *"I did that."*

I was able to engage in a world apart from mine and connect with people who have a culture different from my own. But amidst the cultural differences, there is something to be said about the deep human connection made when speaking to someone in a language that is not your own and seeing a sense of understanding in their eyes. In that moment, boundaries are broken and a connection is made. It is a truly rewarding feeling. I hit roadblocks with my research project, and there were hard times; however, the project grew and evolved. Whenever I felt a little down and out, all I had to do was look at the sea to remind myself of why I was there. I saw some of the most beautiful views of my entire life. I was awestruck and invigorated. I am happy and privileged to have had the experience. I know this trip has impacted me, and I will never be the same. Chile has changed me, for the better. [H](#)

# Adapt and Thrive: Research Opportunity Pays Off

By Gabrielle Armour | Armour is a senior majoring in Biology with a concentration in Organismal Biology and Ecology.

A year ago I applied and was given a wonderful opportunity to conduct research for my Honors thesis at ECIM (Estación Costera de Investigaciones Marinas) in Las Cruces, Chile. I arrived at the end of May and had an incredible experience learning life skills, meeting new people, and performing thesis research in my field of study.

Though I had previously done terrestrial research, this was my first time conducting marine research. This was also my first time living in another country for an extended period of time. Even with a year of preparation, I did not completely know what to expect.

Because of initial language and cultural barriers, I had to learn to be

patient to get what I needed done. Originally, my project was based upon plant-to-plant communication; however, with limited resources and the environmental conditions, my project became centered on the behavior of organisms (snails) that consumed plants (kelps) and whether those organisms showed preference for different qualities of plants that were presented.

I used a snail species known as *Tegula tridentata* and a kelp species known as *Lessonia trabeculata* to see why the snails preferred the kelp they chose to consume. My task was to determine whether the snails preferred naturally damaged kelp, artificially damaged kelp, or healthy kelp. Besides individual snail behavior, I wanted to see how that

preference might change when a population of snails was introduced. All of this related to my bigger picture of how grazers (snails) affected the density of kelp, which related to how artisan fisheries may affect subtidal ecosystems.

This change in projects required adaptability as well as patience. Without learning situational adaptability, I would not have been able to continue my project. Even though I did not end where I started, I think that I am better off for it. I am able to use my new experiences and apply them to everyday life. This is important in biological fields since we study systems that consistently change.

When I applied for funding for my project, I required help from



Rodrigo Ireland and Gabrielle Armour



Though I did not  
end where I started,  
**I think that I  
am better  
off for it.**

*Gabrielle Armour*



many people in the Honors College and the Biology Department. I worked rigorously for a year alongside my advisor, Dr. Dennis Mullen, to come up with a project that would be both applicable to the needs of the research station, i.e. Evie Wieters, as well as to the needs of my Honors thesis project. I also obtained a lot of help from Rodrigo Ireland, a man who was assigned to work with my project. Without him, my project and that of Brooke Fitzwater, the other MTSU student conducting research in Chile, would not have gone as smoothly.

It was amazing to be able to conduct my thesis in a field of study that interests me. This opportunity allowed me to gain experience in ecology, the field of study I plan to continue to pursue in graduate school.

All in all, my experiences allowed me to become a better scientist as well as a world citizen. It gave me the experience I need to continue my education and become the best scientist that I can be. I would recommend such an experience to anyone. [H](#)

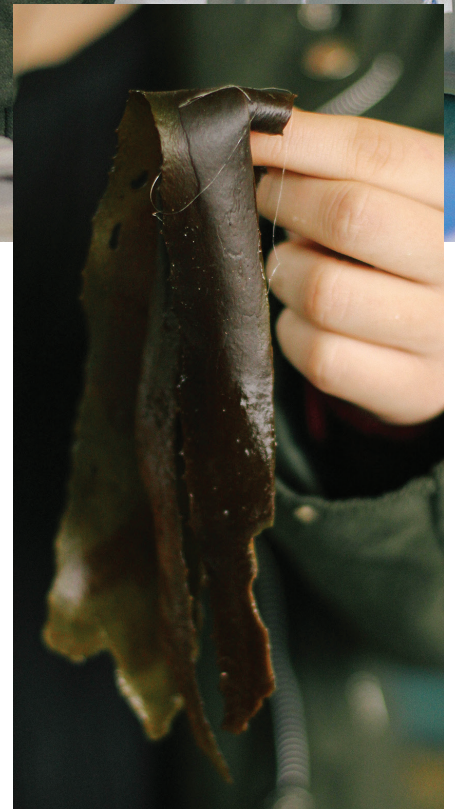




photo by Wendy Hardin Photography

photo by Wendy Hardin Photography

## Coast-to-Coast Flight

McDonald retraces aviation history for thesis project

Senior Buchanan Fellow Collin McDonald left Murfreesboro May 19, 2016, on a cross-country journey following the flight path that aviation pioneer Cal Rodgers made more than 100 years ago.

Rodgers made the first transcontinental airplane flight across the United States, beginning Sept. 11, 1911, in Long Island, New York, and ending Nov. 5 in Long Beach, California, via Chicago and Dallas.

McDonald landed in Long Beach, completing his transcontinental flight June 11, 2016. He called his adventure “Vin Fiz 2” because Rodgers’ plane was called the Vin Fiz after a grape soft drink.

“The whole purpose of the trip is to get more young people and adults alike—but especially the next generation—involved with general aviation,” said McDonald, 22, a Carthage native who is majoring in Aerospace Maintenance Management. He said



general aviation in young adults “has significantly declined in the last 20 years, and what that’s going to cause in the future is a massive pilot shortage as well as additional funding required to sponsor FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] and general aviation programs.”

McDonald flew a family-owned four-passenger 1995 Maule MX-7-160 nicknamed “Molly” on the 6,600-mile journey, which was part of

McDonald’s Honors thesis project. He funded his flight through scholarship awards, a GoFundMe account, and the sale of commemorative T-shirts.

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, McDonald arrived back at Murfreesboro Airport, where he was greeted by faculty and staff from Aerospace and the Honors College and by family and friends. [T](#)

(See related story, Home Sweet Home, on page 34.)

# Making of a Memory

Students share experiences in visiting artist's filmmaking seminar

*By Joy Shind | Joy is a senior Transfer Fellow majoring in Art Education.*

The opportunity to learn a new skill while having fun rarely presents itself to busy college students. The Honors College co-sponsors a one-week seminar each spring that gives students the opportunity to have fun while pushing boundaries in learning.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar allows students to work with experts in fields of interest who arrive at MTSU ready to share a wealth of knowledge with students.

Jesse Epstein, award-winning documentary filmmaker, took the reins of the February 2016 Visiting Artist's Seminar. Students worked one-on-one with Epstein to learn new skills required to make a successful documentary and were then challenged to create three- to five-minute documentaries on the topic of "play."

The nine participants represented a variety of majors and possessed varying skill levels. Students were strategically paired so that each team contained various talents including video recording, film editing, and creative planning. Teams were challenged to create a documentary film in just four days.

Each team took a different approach to the topic. One team used MTSU's Recreation Center to focus on using exercise for play. Another team took a broad approach and interviewed students on campus about what they considered "play" to be. The third team exposed the difference between how children and adults view play.



Jesse Epstein, second from right, pictured with students who participated in the seminar.

Working with Epstein was delightful. She checked on us during the process to give us instructions and feedback. We were proud of our final products. I recommend the Visiting Artist' Seminar to students seeking to enhance their education in a fun and challenging way.

*by Nathan Wahl | Nathan is a sophomore majoring in Organizational Communication.*

The documentary filmmaking seminar gave me the opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and learn some of the intricacies of making a documentary.

A video scavenger hunt gave us a chance to get acquainted with the cameras while finding objects to film and using new techniques. This exercise gave us some of the tools that would be necessary for filming our own documentaries.

We were separated into groups and came up with working titles and general ideas. Our project developed a life of its own as we were filming, evolving as we progressed.

Being in a small class meant we had lots of one-on-one interaction with Jesse Epstein and Professor Marc Barr. When technical issues arose, Barr had the insight and ability to help us find the answers.

My teammates were genuine and hardworking, and I was proud of our effort and results. We each did an interview, contributed footage, and worked together on the editing. I would recommend the Visiting Artist's Seminar to anyone with an interest in learning new skills and having fun in the process. [H](#)

# Learning the Ropes of Leadership

By Jackson Cole | Cole is a junior majoring in Physics.

This past May, I had the great pleasure of taking part in the Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE). I was unsure of exactly what I should expect of a week with ILE director Deana Raffo, instructor David Foote, and faculty coordinator Earl Thomas, but I can say with conviction that the institute far exceeded any expectations I could have had.

ILE was held during the second week of May. The first day of the class incorporated team-building activities which included, but were not limited to, valiant class-wide attempts at completing ropes courses. Needless to say, we all became fairly comfortable with one another quite quickly, and the rest of the institute was more effective as a result.

The course focused on the development and real-world application of critical leadership skills, but did so in a way that allowed us to explore the best possible leadership style for ourselves individually. Each professor presented leadership techniques with the caveat that when in leadership roles, no one particular brand of leadership works for every leader. It was emphasized that we should learn more about ourselves, our personalities, and the way that we work with other people individually in order to cultivate a leadership style that actually works for us. For that reason, I felt as though the professors




Jackson Cole, fourth from the left in the back, along with twenty-four students who completed the 2016 Institute of Leadership Excellence.

completely understood and respected that we had our own individual abilities and attributes, and that they primarily were seeking to develop those in a way that would help us lead.

The entirety of ILE was incredibly worthwhile, but the distinguishing element—the quality that will continue to be the focus of the praise I have for the institute—is simply the learning

environment that the instructors so skillfully cultivated. Within the first hour of the week, we were told that the experience that each of us was to have as a participant in the institute was wholly our own. We were told that we could speak up as much or as little as we wished, and that our contributions were always welcome since they each had merit. The classroom atmosphere created opportunities for us, as students, to learn not only from the instructors, but also from every person that walked into the room and from the collective breadth of life experiences shared among us all.

For any student that has the opportunity to apply to take part in the Institute of Leadership Excellence, the benefits of doing so are many. It is a week spent with incredible professors who take great pride and care in preparing every aspect of the institute in such a way that those who participate cannot help but walk away feeling as though they took part in something really great. 

# Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates



Sixty-three students successfully completed a minimum of 20 hours of lower-division Honors coursework and received certificates of achievement from the University Honors College on Jan. 28, 2016. Honors Dean John Vile and Associate Dean Philip Phillips presented the certificates at a special ceremony in the Simmons Amphitheatre of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Twenty-one students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences reached the 20-hour milestone including seven Biology majors: Muhammad F. Ali, Kayla N. Conner, James S. Dean, Pel S. Doski, Brooke M. Fitzwater, Trang T. Huynh and Cassandra N. Legier. Four Physics majors, Benjamin C. Burton, Bryce Marion, Eden M. Ross, and Beverly G. Warner also reached the milestone.

Other students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences earning certificates were Chemistry majors Muhammad O. Ali, Clayton V. Mitchell and Anna A. Sparkman; Animal Science majors Seneca J. Ewing and Madeline M. McDonald; Mathematics students Kenneth T. Goit and Courtney A. Wright; Jonathan L. Ciecka, an Aerospace major; and Rookery S. Baruch and Austin B. Ferrell, Computer Science majors.

Twelve students from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences received certificates: Hannah M. Kanyuh and Rebecca E. Lopez, Nursing; Seth K. Kantorik, Criminal Justice Administration; Emily M. Hardin, Social Work; Macie E. Mussleman, Industrial and Organizational Psychology; Brooke T. Haskins and Janie L. Kullmar, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; and Psychology majors Abigail L. Carter, Spenser P. Crutcher, Kelee N. Dawson, Andrew S. Heim, and Katherine E. Hitchcock.

Eighteen students representing the College of Liberal Arts reached the milestone. Receiving certificates were Political Science majors Jason Fleischmann, Kelly B. Richardson, and Jodi M. Shockney; Daniel E. Knickerbocker, a Philosophy major; International Relations students Noah B. Delk, Joseph L. Kennedy, Ashley T. Martinez, and Jeanette H. Stevens; and Ariel P. Klontz, Lesley F. Sweeton, and Brandon J. Taylor, English majors. Anthropology majors Holly E. Aslinger, Lydia A. Harris, and Nicholas R. Watts received certificates along with History major Quinlan D. Odum and Foreign Language students Rebecca E. Clippard, Maia L. Council, and Jasmine S. Floyd.

The College of Media and Entertainment had seven students who reached the 20-hour mark: Andrew K. Huff and Brandon H. Ingram, Recording Industry; Katherine E. Benton, Elisabeth H. Bradley, and Erin L. Gardner, Journalism; and Electronic Media Communication majors Kelsey B. Massey and Margaret K. McPheeters.

Abigail P. Parsley from the College of Education earned a certificate, along with four students from the College of Business: Melody Jih, Information Systems; Ryan S. Golden and Kaleb S. King, Finance; and Darnell M. Butler, Marketing.

Students who complete the lower-division certificates only need 11 additional hours (including thesis-related classes) to graduate with an Honors degree. The culminating emphasis on undergraduate research gives many students a competitive edge when entering graduate school, professional school, or the workforce. MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee recognizes students who complete the thesis and graduate from the Honors College at commencement. A special medallion also marks the achievement. [H](#)

## Duo Represents MTSU at ODK National Convention

In June, Honors Transfer Fellow Saraf Chowdhury and Liberal Arts advisor Matthew Hibdon, members of the Omicron Delta Kappa circle of MTSU, attended the 48th Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The event took place on the campuses of Grand Valley State University and Hope College.

Chowdhury, the official convention delegate for the MTSU circle, had served as the circle's vice president during the 2015–16 academic year. She attended plenary sessions and also represented MTSU during the Circle Showcase, an opportunity for 11 circles to display posters depicting ODK events held on their campuses since 2014's Centennial Convention in Lexington, Virginia.

Hibdon, MTSU ODK national liaison, was invited by the chair of the ODK National Advisory Council, Bruce Forbes of Morningside College, to present at a workshop. The session titled "Signature Events Make Stronger Circles: How to Choose?" highlighted programs from three distinctly different institutions: MTSU, Morningside College, and the University of Richmond. The workshop provided an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate on ways to further the mission of the society.

During awards night, the MTSU Circle was recognized by the national headquarters as a Superior Circle. Chowdhury accepted the circle's certificate, which is now on display in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Hibdon received a 2016 Eldridge W. Roark Jr. Meritorious Service Award for his work on the National Advisory Council with the Membership and Circle Standards Committee and for creation of an exhibit about ODK history during the 2014 Centennial Convention. The Meritorious Service Award was established in 1951 and is awarded by the ODK Board of Directors to demonstrate the board's appreciation to those who serve the Society.

During the convention, the society launched two new websites—ODK Leadership Matters and ODK Careers. These websites will serve student and alumni members as platforms for leadership development and networking. [H](#)



Matthew Hibdon and Saraf Chowdhury accept awards from Dr. Michael Christakis, past president of the national ODK board of directors.

## MTSU Will Help Host 50-Year Convention

In 2018, ODK will have its "Golden Convention." The society plans to hold the 50th Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference in Nashville. Although most functions will take place on the campus of Belmont University, the MTSU ODK Circle has already been tapped to serve during the event. All members of MTSU's circle are invited to register for the convention. MTSU's circle is positioned for growth and excellence as it nears its 10-year anniversary in 2020.



## Local Leaders Headline True Blue Leadership Day

Industry leaders and an MTSU faculty member brought their wit, wisdom, and knowledge to the table during the annual Omicron Delta Kappa True Blue Leadership Day. The daylong event, held April 15 in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, brings noted professionals from a variety of professions to share their leadership experiences with MTSU students and faculty.

The ODK True Blue Leadership Day highlights the core values of the True Blue Pledge by educating participants about multiple aspects of leadership.

Guest speakers were

- Tara MacDougall, *CEO of the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring*
- Ryan Hirsch, *operations manager of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's Center for the Public Trust*
- D.J. Smith, *marketing director with Just Love Coffee*
- Kevin Baugherle, *director of sales for Gigi's Cupcakes*
- Jeremy Sather, *assistant professor of Japanese in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures*
- Bob King, *founder and CEO of Cavalry Logistics LLC*

Akmal Ishmetov, a sophomore Biochemistry major, and Jordan Welborn, a junior Business Management major, were part of the group listening to Smith and Baugherle, whose companies are co-branding.

Ishmetov, who is from Moscow, Russia, learned a great deal: "How to do everything, have a goal, pursue it, don't stop, and learn how to take failure and move on," he said.

Welborn, who is from Murfreesboro, requested and received business cards from both men.

"I'm just exploring a lot of different of options and making as many connections as I can," she said. "I really enjoyed their stories, background and what they do with adoption."

Just Love Coffee founder Rob Webb and his wife, Emily, adopted two daughters from Ethiopia. He felt led to support other adoptive families, which led to Just Love Coffee Roasters. To date, more than \$500,000 has been provided to adoptive families, mission-minded groups, and nonprofits trying to make a positive impact on the world. [H](#)



# Spring Creative Expression **Award Winners**

Three undergraduates and one graduate student won the Spring 2016 *Collage* Creative Expression Awards. **William C. Brown** and **Justin Farr** received Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. **Kyle T. Brown** and **Alyxandra Booker** captured Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for best visual submissions.



William Brown, who earned his master's degree in English in May, won a Hixon award for his poem "Haint." The poem was written about the untimely death of his brother. "This poem was a way for me to wrestle with my sense of loss."

Brown defended his master's creative thesis on contemporary poetry in the spring and has

previously been published in *JAB*, *One Throne*, *Agave*, and *Kestrel*.

Farr, a Spring 2016 Honors graduate who majored in History, won a Hixon award for his story, "The Image of God," a fiction piece about an African-American child in the South during racial segregation.

Farr defended his Honors thesis in the spring on the topic "The Mongrel Regime: The Untold Story of Tennessee's African American Policemen During the New South and Jim Crow Eras, 1867–1930." An article about his thesis research appeared in the Spring 2016 *Honors Magazine*.



Kyle Brown, an Army veteran who served three years at Fort Campbell, won a Nuell award for his photograph "Floating Rock." Brown is majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Photography.

He has been a photographer for over six years with special interest in landscape, commercial, and automotive photography.

Booker, a senior Art student with a concentration in Graphic Design, won a Nuell Award for her painting, "Vulnerability."

Booker was a member of the *Collage* staff for two semesters, serving as designer in Spring 2015 and art editor in Fall 2015. [H](#)



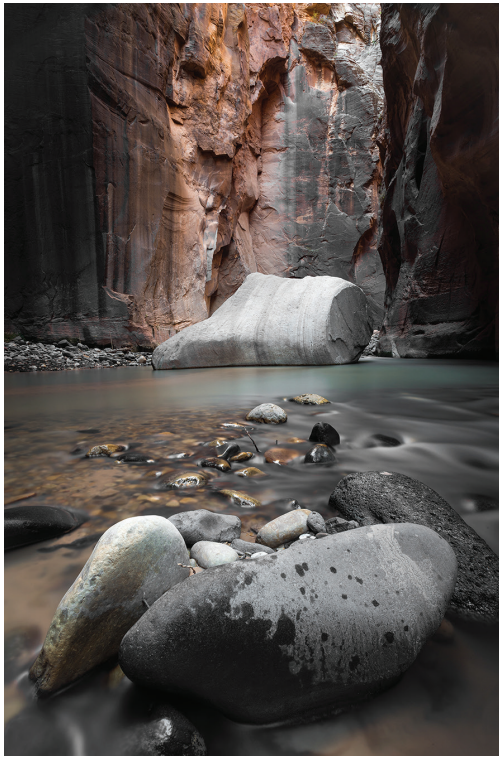


Each semester the *Collage* staff participates in a blind grading process to select approximately 60 pieces for publication from around 300 submissions. Creative Expression Awards are presented for each of the following four categories: prose, poetry, art, and photography.



Right: Kyle Brown

Far right: Brown's photograph titled "Floating Rock"



Left: Alyxandra Booker

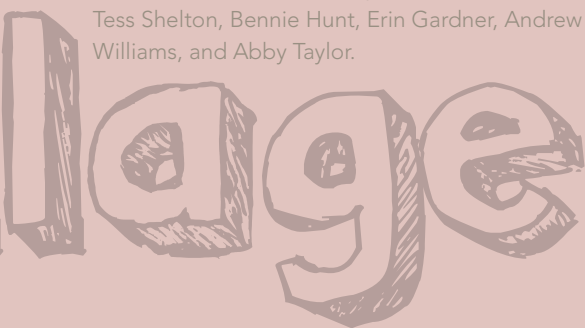
Far left: Booker's painting titled "Vulnerability"



Nausheen Qureshi, center front, led the spring 2016 *Collage* staff as editor-in-chief. She is joined by staff members, from left, Rachel Huttinger, visual arts editor; Patrick Murphy, photography editor; Luke Judkins, literature editor; Whitney Alexander, designer; and Melinda Lewis, assistant editor. Other staff members contributing to the spring issue are, from left, Laura Bryant, Matthew Olive, Jeffrey Harrell, Sydney Smith, Maddie Kurtz, Saraf Chowdhury, Grace Hollowell, Kayla McCrary, Sara Snoddy, Aaron McMillian, Whitney Ingle, Adriana Swatzell, J.T. Cobb, Rebecca Clippard, Kayleah Bradley, Kimi Conro, Alyssa Haddock, and Bronwyn Graves. Staff members not pictured are Jake Garrette, Tess Shelton, Bennie Hunt, Erin Gardner, Andrew Williams, and Abby Taylor.



Contributors to the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 issues of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* joined spring editor-in-chief Nausheen Qureshi, front left, in late April for a celebration of the two editions.



# 12 Honors Students Inducted Into **Phi Kappa Phi**



The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated 12 Honors students into its MTSU chapter on April 13 and recognized five current members of the Honors faculty as influential faculty designated by the student initiates.

Five College of Basic and Applied Sciences Honors students were initiated: Biochemistry major Rebecca Craighead and Biology majors Fariz Ali, Pel Doski, Connor Moss, and Richa Phulwani.

Four students from the College of Liberal Arts were initiated: Global Studies major Nina Goad, Organizational Communication major Katelyn Brooks, English major Chloe Madigan, and Foreign Languages major Tiffany Miller. Katherine Benton and Grace Roberts, Mass Communication majors, represented the College of Media and Entertainment. Bailey Bogle, an Accounting major, represented the College of Business.

Honors faculty members recognized as influential were Nate Callender (Aerospace), Paul Craig (Aerospace), Willis Means (Education), Dennis Mullen (Biology), and Stephen Wright (Biology).

The honor society initiated a total of 49 students and recognized 14 influential faculty members during

the spring initiation ceremony at the ballroom of the Student Union Building. Dianna Z. Rust (University Studies), the 2016–17 president of MTSU's Phi Kappa Phi chapter, was speaker for the event.

During the initiation ceremony, Honors student Rebecca Clippard (Foreign Languages) was recognized for receiving a national Phi Kappa Phi study abroad grant. Honors students Lydia Harris and Chloe Madigan were recognized for Phi Kappa Phi awards.

Honors College Associate Dean Philip Phillips was the chapter's 2015–16 president, while Honors College Dean John Vile served as treasurer and fellowship coordinator. Rust was vice president, Honors College executive aide Kathy Davis served as chapter coordinator, and Gina Logue was chapter secretary and public relations coordinator. Honors students Evan Lester, Collin McDonald, and Nausheen Qureshi were student 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 must rank in the top 10 percent of their class. [H](#)

# Spring 2017 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

## Human Behavior and Evolutionary Theory

UH 4600-001 • CRN# 16382  
TR 2:40–4:05 • HONR 117  
Tom Brinthaupt and  
Andrew Brower

Have you encountered stories about the fields of evolutionary psychology, human behavioral genetics, or sociobiology in the popular press? Have you thought about what evolutionary theory holds for individual and human social behavior? How should you interpret the claims and theories being presented by evolutionary psychologists and sociobiologists? Do you want to know more about the controversial application of evolutionary theory to human behavior? If so, you should enroll in Human Behavior and Evolutionary Theory.

This seminar will introduce you to theories of and research in human behavior, genetics, and evolution from the perspectives of biology and psychology. A main focus of this course will be popular treatments of “nature versus nurture” and “genes and behavior” issues.

From a psychologist’s perspective, what does evolutionary theory hold for human individual and social behavior? From a biologist’s perspective, how should we assess the claims, research, and interpretations arising from the evolutionary psychologists? Special emphasis will be placed on the critical evaluation of data, research, and theories underlying these approaches.

Human Behavior and Evolutionary Theory will be co-taught by Tom Brinthaupt (Psychology) and Andrew

Brower (Biology). All students should have successfully completed General Psychology (PSY 1410 or PSY 1410H). The course can substitute for upper-division credit from either department.

## Gothic Culture

UH 4600-002 • CRN# 16511  
TR 11:20–12:45 • HONR 117  
Linda Badley

From vampires to psychotic serial killers to deathrock, contemporary Western culture is haunted by Gothic iconographies and themes. They inform and are informed by popular psychology, science, ethics, academic theory, and a culture of violence, terrorism, and trauma that often seems to live out in our myths. With this context in mind, we will study Gothic culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, beginning with a brief historical overview from the late 18th century to the present, noting how its forms and themes have infused art, architecture, literature, film, social institutions, ideologies, and contemporary mass media culture.

Spinning off of literary texts such as *Carmilla* (1872), *Books of Blood* (1984–87), and *American Psycho* (1990), we will study Gothic themes in key documents in psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology, queer theory, and gender studies.

This course is open to students who have fulfilled their general studies requirements and will count 3 hours credit toward an English major or minor.

For more information, contact Linda Badley at [lbadley@mtsu.edu](mailto:lbadley@mtsu.edu).

## The Constitutional and Political Legacy of America’s Founders

UH 3500-001 • CRN# 16816  
TU 6-8:30 PM Jan./Feb • HONR 106  
John Vile

The state of Virginia was the site of America’s first permanent English settlement in North America, a colonial capital, and the home to four of the first five presidents. Its statesmen helped author such seminal documents as the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Virginia and Maryland contributed the land that became the nation’s permanent capital.

This capital remains the seat for all three branches of government, the repository of the nation’s most important documents, and a treasury of early American artifacts. This course will explore seminal early American leaders, key texts that they wrote, and the governmental system they created through a one-week trip to Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Students will meet in several classes prior to the trip to gain basic knowledge of the founding of the United States and the U.S. Constitution. Students prepare and present a book report prior to the trip, maintain a journal during the trip, and submit a reflective essay of 8–10 pages within two weeks of returning.

This seminar fulfills the University Honors College requirement for upper-division, interdisciplinary coursework and counts as an MT Engage course. [H](#)

# HOME sweet HOME

by Patsy B. Weiler

Home-schoolers find a place of *academic excellence* and *acceptance* in the Honors College

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, once said his idea of a great education was a professor sitting on one end of a log and talking with a student at the other.

The reference is about William Small, Jefferson's mentor and a teacher of mathematics and natural philosophy at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Scottish educator taught and inspired his young charges using the Socratic method, engaging them with the tools of critical thinking and discussion.



"I am always excited when I learn that a home-schooler is interested in our program at MTSU," Honors College Dean John Vile said. "Like Jefferson, parents who choose to home-school their children recognize the great value of personal instruction and interaction."

The number of families who opt to teach their children at home is increasing dramatically. A 2012 article on the Education News website by author Julia Lawrence found that since 1999, the number of children who are being home-schooled has increased by 75 percent. "Although currently the percentage of home-schooled children is only 4 percent of all schoolchildren nationwide, the number of primary school kids whose parents choose to forego traditional education is growing seven times faster than the number of kids enrolling in K-12 every year," Lawrence wrote. That same year, *U.S. News & World Report* reported home-schoolers entering college have a graduation rate of nearly 67 percent.

According to Vile, home-schooled students like Honors classes because they are smaller and more interactive. Additionally, they do well on writing an Honors College thesis because they have often previously engaged in extended research projects on their own. Many, he said, have gone on to become some of the University's most illustrious students and alumni. Vile specifically cites Taylor Barnes ('09), MTSU's first Goldwater Scholar, who came to the University at age 16 and recently earned his Ph.D. at Cal Tech.

For Fall 2016, on the list of the students being awarded a 2016 Buchanan Fellowship, four of the recipients—20 percent—will come from home-schooled backgrounds. The prestigious Buchanan Fellows honor is limited to 20 individuals per year and is the highest award given to an entering MTSU freshman.

Including the incoming class, 14 students with home-educated backgrounds have been Buchanan scholars since 2011. Nick Myhre, the first of this group, graduated in May 2016 with a double major in Physics and Aerospace and wrote his Honors thesis on computational fluid dynamics. This fall, he will be a graduate research assistant at Florida's Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Though not exhaustive in nature, the following list profiles many of the current Honors students—some of whom are Buchanan scholars—who hail from a home-schooled background. Most of them think home schooling is a more accepted form of education than it once was by society, and they are quick to dispel the misconception that they are academic geniuses or wore pajamas during home schooling. From aerospace to writing, their interests span the alphabet of future careers.



Home-schoolers Benjamin Kulas, Joshua Williams, and Meghan Miller are now Honors College students.



## Meghan Miller

*A place to ride high*

Although she was only home-schooled for a limited time, Meghan Miller thinks she learned a lot from the experience.

“You don’t have to do what’s ‘normal’ or expected all the time,” she said. “Education doesn’t have to be traditional or mainstream to be valuable. I’m totally comfortable having a more obscure major because I truly believe it’s the best option for me.”

Her major is Integrated Studies with an emphasis in corporate leadership and a double minor in Psychology and Agriculture with a focus on horses. The majority of her time outside of class is spent in a horse barn.

“I have two horses of my own and have a very strict training schedule,” said Miller, whose commitment and long hours have landed the talented rider a coveted spot on the U.S. Dressage Federation’s Young Rider Dressage Team for this region. She traveled to Colorado in July 2016 to compete in the prestigious North

American Junior and Young Rider Championship for riders ages 14–21, with an eye on someday participating in the Olympics.

She views home schooling and college as experiences requiring a lot of self-control and discipline while providing flexibility.

“I’m a responsible person and I love being in control of my schedule,” she said. “Home schooling and college have allowed me to practice juggling school, riding, free time, etc. When I’m my own boss someday, this skill will come in handy.”



Buchanan Fellow Meghan Miller and Remington, a 16-year-old horse, competed in the Adequan/FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships in late July 2016 in Parker, Colorado, about 25 miles southeast of Denver.

A junior Integrated Studies major, Miller has ambitions that include riding in the Olympics and becoming a trainer, teacher, and professional rider.

## Foster Ferrell

*A place to pursue your passion*

Throughout high school, Foster Ferrell planned to attend college and study engineering. However, as graduation neared, the Murfreesboro native chose to pursue his passion and study audio production in the Department of Recording Industry at MTSU instead.

“I absolutely love writing and performing music, and I hope to use my degree to produce records,” said the senior, who plans to graduate in December 2016. “This would allow me to combine my passion for creating music with the technical skills to record and preserve it.”

He chose to plug in to his dual interests by writing his Honors thesis on the fundamental differences between well-known types of microphone preamplifiers and why they are used for different applications.

“This has been a really cool way to get hands-on experience with my education and study something within my field that wouldn’t typically be covered in the program,” he said.

His home schooling and MTSU education have looped well together, as Ferrell said he learned at an early age how to be accountable for managing his time. Outside of school, the talented musician is a guitarist and worship bandleader at New Vision Baptist Church, where he produced a full-length live album in 2015. Also, he is a studio guitarist and recently traveled with Penny Rae and the Daniel Doss Band.



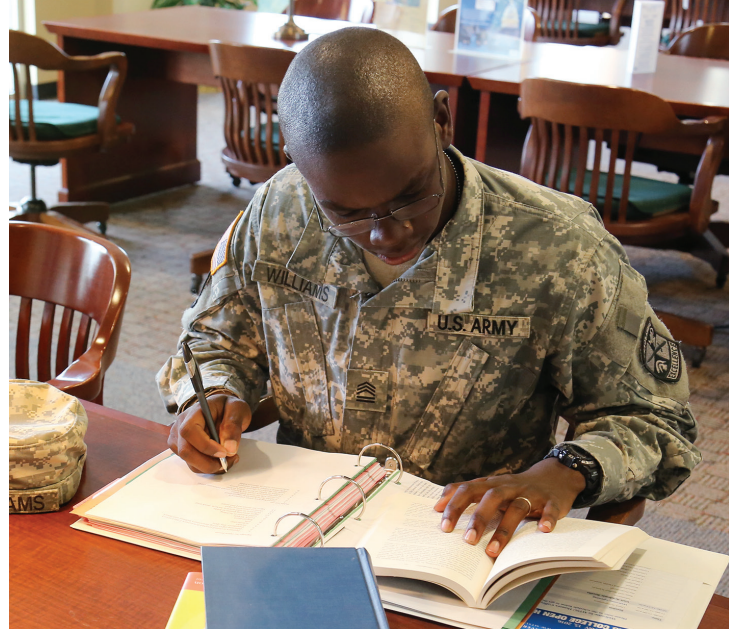
# Joshua Williams

*A place of academic intensity*

Junior Joshua Williams is a sterling example of the many home-schooled students who are in the Honors College and making important contributions to the MTSU community. Taught at home by his mother, Williams started taking classes on campus at a young age when he was 16. A sophomore from Smyrna, studying Criminal Justice Administration with a concentration in Law Enforcement, he said his home schooling was rigorous in nature.

“Having studied this way all through high school, I wanted to retain an academic intensity throughout college,” Williams said. “When I received an email that I was eligible for the Honors College, it was an immediate no-brainer.”

Active in the University’s ROTC program, Williams plans to graduate as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. Following his time in the military, his goal is to work for the FBI or CIA.



Williams holds memberships in the National Society of Leadership and Success and the National Society of Scabbard and Blade military honor organization. He also is active in the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

# Benjamin Kulas

*A place where you feel like you belong*

In fall 2015, an exciting and at times challenging new world opened its doors to 14-year-old Benjamin Kulas when he experienced his first taste of campus life as an MTSU freshman. The gifted scholar is majoring in Professional Physics. Calling himself an introvert, Kulas said the friendships he has made in the Honors College so far have “made all the difference for me and provided a social group in which I feel I belong.”

He is active as a spelling bee judge and was invited to National Harbor, Maryland, near Washington D.C., in May 2016 to share in presenting the opening greeting to 285 participants at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It was familiar territory for Kulas, who advanced as a participant to the semifinal round in 2014.

“My parents provided resources and opportunities for exploration and discovery for what I hope will remain a lifelong love of learning,” Kulas said. “MTSU certainly is large, but it doesn’t feel too big as the Honors College and the departments all feel like individual schools. I’m able to continue to learn new things in different areas while going deeper into the math and sciences that I love most.”

Benjamin Kulas regularly assists senior adults at Adams Place residential living center with technology issues.

Kulas was selected to make a welcoming speech at this year’s Scripps National Spelling Bee. The 15-year-old has participated in the competition twice, advancing to the national semifinals in 2014.



# Delanie, Collin, and Connor McDonald

*A place to open doors*

When Delanie McDonald, 18, started MTSU this fall, the Public Relations major who also has a strong interest in photography became part of something that is believed to be a first in the Honors College—McDonald joined older brothers Collin and Connor as three siblings and Buchanan Fellows in college at the same time.

“Ever since both of them received Buchanans, my last three years of (home-schooled) education have been devoted to earning my Buchanan,” she said. “Every time I visited the Honors College, the faculty and staff took the time to talk to me about my plans for the future and how they could help me achieve those goals.”

An aspiring missionary pilot, Collin McDonald chose Aerospace Maintenance Management as his career path. During the late spring of 2016, he successfully completed a cross-coun-



Connor, Delanie, and Collin McDonald

try trip following in the footsteps of aviation pioneer Cal Rogers in 1911 (*see related article on page 24*).

“My home-schooling background taught me the importance of setting early deadlines for myself, so I would have some leeway to deal with a delay or error that might happen,” the young pilot said. “This skill helped me excel in my classes and have time for a social life, but it was invaluable during my flight because you never knew exactly what might happen.”

Connor McDonald is a senior Political Science major and vice president in MTSU’s Student Government Association (*see related story on page 40*), with ambitions of being

an attorney some day and possibly entering the political arena.

“Most people are actually surprised to find out I was home-schooled because I am a ‘people person,’” he said. “Often people stereotype home-schooled students as lacking in social skills or being recluses with no friends, neither of which are true.”

The parents of the McDonald trio are sold on an MTSU Honors College education, too.

“The Honors College is a small college within a big college,” father David McDonald said. “It is amazing how the entire [Honors] staff is interested in their students succeeding.”

# Hannah Tybor

*A place to follow your dream*

An outgoing sophomore and Public Relations major from Tupelo, Mississippi, who even before her arrival in Murfreesboro was president of the Tupelo Civic Ballet, Hannah Tybor calls MTSU her “dream school. ...When I toured here, I knew I would love it.”

During the summer of 2016, she was a part of the Education Abroad group studying in Italy led by Honors College Associate Dean Phillip Phillips.



Hannah Tybor accepts a Buchanan scholarship at the Honors spring open house.

“My liberal arts education (at MTSU) has allowed me to open my mind in ways that I never before considered,” Tybor said.

She participated in the MTSU Dance Theatre Company and said she was never the shy, home-schooled kid.

“For kids who are home-schooled and worried about college, as long as they enter with an open mindset they will do fine,” she said. “Do not be afraid to introduce yourself, to make friends and smile at strangers”



Nate Tilton



Joshua Tilton

## Joshua and Nate Tilton

*A place to mold your personal story*

“The Buchanan program is the closest thing you will find at MTSU to what you were used to [in a home-school environment],” said Joshua Tilton, 20, a junior English major who grew up in Russia and enjoys intramural sports, has been a member of the *Collage* publication staff, and has written for *Sidelines*, MTSU’s student news outlet. “You are guaranteed more personal interaction with some of the best teachers at MTSU. However, the ball is in your court. The friends and teachers are there for you, but you have to be willing to seek out, open up, and engage with them. College for me has been a chance to mold my own story.”

Josh and his 22-year-old brother, Nate Tilton, were in the Honors College together until Nate’s May 2016 graduation with an Aerospace degree—his concentration was Maintenance Management with research in Unmanned Aircraft Systems operations. Nate continues to be associated with MTSU as a flight instructor at the University’s Jean A. Jack Flight Operations Center at Murfreesboro Airport.

“Like home schooling, you get out of MTSU what you put into it,” Nate said. “I had many academic opportunities at the University to develop as a scholar and a professional, many of which would not have been possible without the habits I formed in home schooling. One of the advantages to being home-schooled was the personalized attention my education received. At MTSU, it’s the same, except the pool of people who care about your success grows exponentially.”

## In Lock Step

The success that students with a home-schooled background in the Honors College are having is really just a microcosm of the success home-schooled students are having across campus at MTSU. And, in fact, the University recently launched a new program aimed at further strengthening the pipeline of quality home-schooled students into the University culture with the opening of the new Dual Enrollment Center in the Andrew Woodfin Miller Sr. Education Center.


All eligible high school juniors and seniors across the state can apply for MTSU admission and, once accepted, take college classes before they graduate, earning both high school and college credit for the same work. MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee expressed strong support of the effort, stating “We at MTSU value the chance to establish ties sooner with students who have identified attending a four-year institution as their higher educational goal.”

## Madeleine Kurtz

*A place to expand your mind*

Drawn to the written word from an early age, Madeleine Kurtz, 19, a sophomore English major with a writing concentration, has worked on *Collage* magazine and maintains an online blog.

“I think home-schooling was the foundation that made me love studying, but college has allowed me to really strive for a well-rounded education,” Kurtz said.

Kurtz, from Brentwood, 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*. 



# Home-School *Revolution*

Honors graduate opts to return to classical education for four children



By Raiko Henderson  
*Henderson, a 2001 Honors graduate with a B.B.A. in Economics, worked as an investment analyst before choosing to stay home with her children. A member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, she and husband John have four children, Sarah, Michael, Samuel, and Rebecca.*

In the middle of my oldest child's fifth-grade year, my husband and I concluded that the latest governmental education reform, the Common Core standards, had dumbed down education in our schools. In response, we decided to use a "revolutionary" approach to education, and we began to home-school our four children.

In reality, home schooling is not revolutionary at all. Revolution means "change." But a revolution is also a "circular motion back to an original starting point." We are among a growing group of parents in this country who are

"returning" to the "traditional way" of teaching. Until recently, teaching at home was the norm. But the passage of compulsory education laws and progressive education reforms in the 1920s shifting the focus of education from liberal arts to vocational skills changed that. So we turned back the clock and chose a classical education curriculum to teach our children.

Classical education teaches about ancient Western civilizations—using the Bible and classic works of the western world—in the pursuit of wisdom and living a virtuous life. Students, like our Founding

Fathers, are inspired to pursue personal excellence by heroes of ancient Greece and Rome. Traditionally, epic poems, like Homer's *Iliad* and Virgil's *Aeneid*—in the original Greek and Latin languages—were required reading for students. These heroes were the “speaker(s) of words and the doer(s) of deeds” (*Iliad*) and risked everything out of their sense of duty and responsibility for the greater good. Our Founding Fathers were able to use the wisdom from ancient writers and philosophers to do something never done before—establish a democratic government based on the promotion and protection of human freedom.

Currently, there is an ongoing debate in America about the value of a liberal arts education, which is ironic since *liber* means “free.” *Artes liberales* is a Latin term used in reference to the seven liberal arts, or skills important to all educated people. The liberal arts balance the literary arts of the *trivium* and the mathematics arts of the *quadrivium* to free the mind of a student by providing skills necessary to pursue and succeed in any endeavor.

Unlike current education reform movements, students are taught at developmentally appropriate stages that must be mastered before moving to the next one. In the grammar stage, memorization of facts builds a solid foundation for future learning. When a student reaches middle school and begins to ask “why” questions, logic is taught. Rhetorical skills are taught in high school. Unlike the modern use of rhetoric, used for the pursuit of self-interest, students learn the art of speech to promote justice, truth, and knowledge. Traditionally, after mastery of rhetoric, students are ready for the quantitative arts of the *quadrivium*.

Unfortunately, modern education has little to do with teaching wisdom and virtue and more to do with job training. Our educational system is not designed to create leaders like our Founding Fathers. I do not believe it is a coincidence that the qualities of the pursuit of knowledge, justice, and truth are lacking in current generations that are not taught the classics and liberal arts.

Many home-school families like ours hope that education will come “full circle” and return to teaching the classics. Until “cyclical” reform happens, many of us are quietly exercising our “right to revolution” against an educational system that we believe is failing American children. Instead, we are “opting out” of an unwanted educational system. We are returning to the classics and home-schooling our children. [H](#)

“*Unlike current education reform movements, students are taught at developmentally appropriate stages that must be mastered before moving to the next one. In the grammar stage, memorization of facts builds a solid foundation for future learning. When a student reaches middle school and begins to ask ‘why’ questions, logic is taught.*”



# SERVING WITH HONOR

by Jake Garrette



A current crop of  
Honors students shine  
in MTSU's Student  
Government Association

On any college campus, a new school year always brings new faces. Perhaps nowhere is that more true than in the early meetings of MTSU's numerous student organizations. Each year, new students must step in to fill the large gaps in leadership left by recent graduates.

MTSU's Student Government Association (SGA), which is essentially the "voice" of every student on campus, is no exception to this rule. Each year, important positions are vacated, leaving open spots that must be filled with new leaders ready to take on the many challenges facing the Blue Raider student body.

The good news is that new students always step up to serve. And this year, many of those new leaders came from the Honors College.



Madison Tracy



Connor McDonald



Macie Mussleman



Nicholas Lembo



Monica Haun

## Good Representation

In all, seven SGA leaders elected by the student body for the 2016 school year are enrolled in MTSU's Honors program: newly elected President **Madison Tracy**; Vice President **Connor McDonald**; and Senators-at-Large **Macie Mussleman, Nicholas Lembo, Monica Haun, Peyton Tracy**, and **Abigail Tracy**. All of these students have since invested significant time and effort into their respective roles on the SGA (some while acquiring more than 20 hours of Honors academic credits).

SGA senators represent the entire MTSU student population, which at any given time hovers above 20,000 in number. The Senate as a whole functions as the legislative branch of student government.

"The Honors College has taught me how to communicate in smaller groups at such a large university," said Haun, a double major in Public Administration and Public Relations, when asked to explain how her enrollment in the Honors College has impacted her SGA service. "As a senator, you often have to approach people and ask questions, and most of these times are in group settings."

Lembo said the critical thinking woven into Honors courses has

helped him navigate the inherent difficulties in representing such a diverse student population. "With a constituency that large, it's hard to gather an opinion from everyone on some issues," he said. "But it also adds to the exciting challenge of improving MTSU for everyone."

“  
*From the  
Honors College,  
I learned  
about the  
power of service*  
”

Madison Tracy

## Heads of the Class

Campus-wide elections are held to elect SGA members, who run for the office of their choosing. Most SGA officers spend several years on the council before being elected to official posts.

That was certainly the case for current SGA President Madison Tracy, who has been an SGA member since her election to Freshman Council. A former Student

Ambassador, a Buchanan Fellow, and a Public Relations major, the senior assumed the job of president loaded with experience.

Regarding her governing style, Tracy also credits the Honors College, saying she tries to avoid the pitfall of alienating other members by keeping too tight of a rein on initiatives and discouraging other opinions.

"From the Honors College, I learned about the power of service," she said. "A good leader must trust the team and be willing to delegate tasks."


"It has been my goal since the very beginning to ensure that my fellow officers have the tools they need to succeed. I want them to have autonomy in their positions but know that I am here to support and guide them as they grow."

Tracy's political background is already impressive to say the least. She is a former three-time student body president at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro (and is the first Central Magnet graduate to become SGA president at MTSU). In her current role as SGA president, Tracy now attends weekly meetings with University vice presidents and is also a member of MTSU's Focus Act Transition Team, formed to lead MTSU's migration from Tennessee

Board of Regents governance to that of an individual governing board.

Tracy works closely with McDonald, the SGA vice president, to work with the entire executive board to set annual goals. In a sense, they are advisors in their own right, nudging the association in the direction they think it should go.

In his role, McDonald acts as speaker of the Senate, meaning he guides the senate in creating legislation. The Political Science major is a natural for the position. One of the Buchanan Fellow's earliest memories was watching election returns during the U.S. presidential election of 2000. At MTSU, McDonald worked his way up through the Senate after being elected in the spring of 2015. He won his SGA vice presidential election by a significant margin.

"I have always loved politics and everything involved with the political realm," he said. "I knew when I came to campus that I wanted to get involved in student government somehow." 

## A PROUD HISTORY

The SGA's purpose as an advocate for students has remained consistent throughout its 78-year history.

"The biggest conduit that the SGA has in regard to effecting change is through the Senate. The legislation is ultimately what is put into play to work changes," said Danny Kelley, SGA faculty advisor.

According to Kelley, one of the SGA's most impactful contributions in recent years has been the legislation put forth that raised the student activity fee a year ago. "It created a fund so that in the future SGA can bring big-name bands and comedians to campus," he said. "During my tenure, it was definitely the most significant contribution."

Kelley sees something special in this most recent crop of campus leaders, many of whom at least this year hail from the Honors College, and offers praise for their enthusiasm.

"It makes a big difference working with students who want to make a difference and are excited about what they are doing," he said. "I love the fact that they are really committed to making campus life more enjoyable for the students. You don't see many that are just using it as a résumé-builder. They have a passion for it."

One thing is for sure in 2016. The newest faces on this historical MTSU student body association have a decidedly "honor"-able look to them.

*[Editor's Note: Jake Garrette is a sophomore Buchanan Fellow majoring in Aerospace. He is assistant editor of the Collage staff.]*

YOUR GIFT

**true**  
**IMPACT**

**THE IMPACT OF  
YOUR SUPPORT**

Last year, private support had a profound impact on our students, faculty, and the communities around us.

Giving by alumni and friends helped provide scholarships to students, brought renowned guest lecturers to campus, strengthened our fine arts programs, and sent students abroad for international experiences.

For these and the many other ways that our college was enhanced by

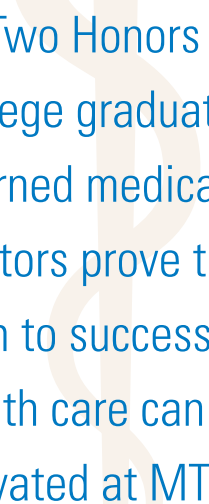
your support, we say

THANK YOU.



# Wonder Twins

by Vicky Travis



Two Honors  
College graduates  
turned medical  
doctors prove the  
path to success in  
health care can be  
activated at MTSU

Most children pretend to be doctors at one point or another. It's another thing to become one. Just gaining the skills and knowledge it takes to apply to medical school involves a great deal of work and preparation.

At MTSU, students can take those important first steps toward a career in medicine. *Honors Magazine* recently caught up with two graduates of the program at MTSU who used the University's Pre-Medical program successfully to prepare for the path to becoming a doctor. Each of them—Shannon Murphy Crook and Merranda Holmes—are now physicians working in Kentucky and Ohio, respectively.

## **A Stellar Example**

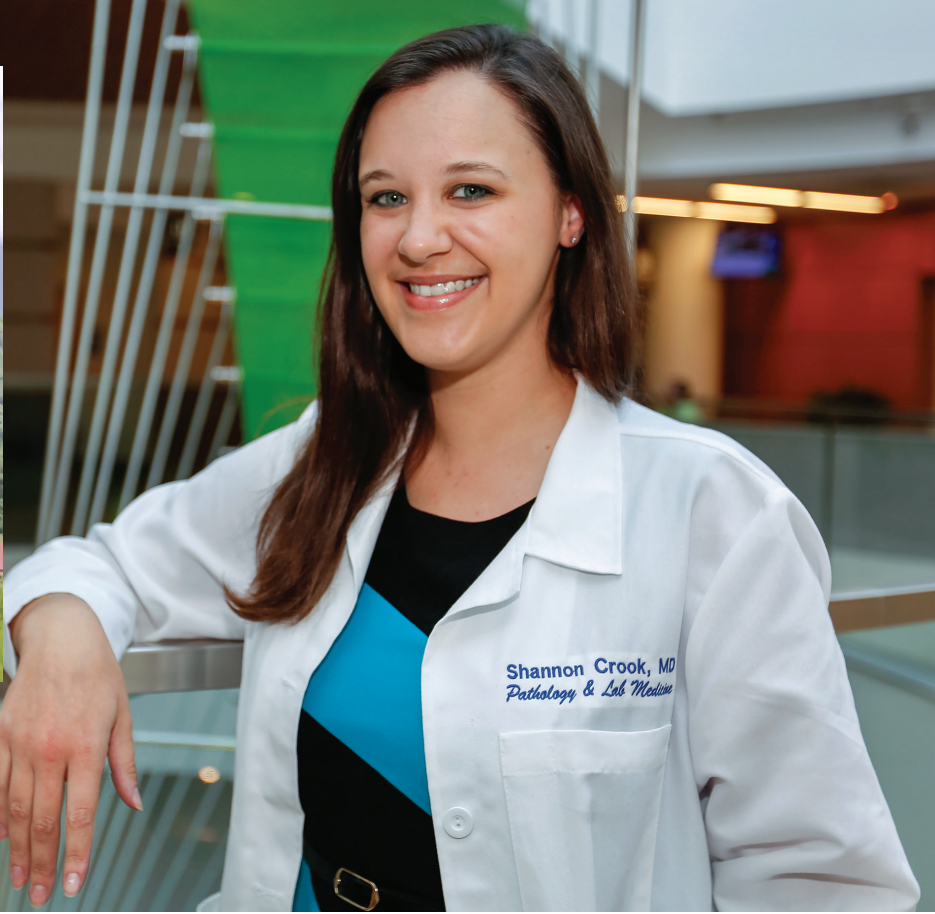
By the time Crook graduated summa cum laude from the Honors College with her bachelor's in Biology in 2010, she had presented her thesis at various conferences around the country and earned several MTSU and national awards.

On the advice of her father, retired Biology Department chair George Murphy, and her Honors College and Pre-Med advisers, Crook had pushed the limits of her undergraduate education. Along with excelling academically and doing research and an internship, she also spent a summer before her senior year shadowing 10 specialists at Middle Tennessee Medical Center (now Saint Thomas Rutherford.)

Suffice it to say, she was more than ready for her next challenge.



Merranda Holmes



Shannon Crook photos by James Morris/UK HealthCare

“MTSU really prepared me for medical school,” said Crook, a 2014 East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine graduate now in residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky.

“I was very well prepared that first year. Starting with Honors biology and Honors chemistry here, that’s where I learned how to study. The surprise at med school was how quickly I had to learn and the volume of material.”

Choices abound for Pre-Med students. Part of the undergraduate journey for many is figuring out whether they’re drawn to clinical work or research. For Crook, an internship after her junior year at MTSU solidified that she liked the clinical side more than the research side and that medical school would be the next step. As she got further along in medical school, courses helped light the path to her career. The

more she could dig into the details in microbiology, infectious diseases, and pathology, the better.

“I loved that part,” she said.

### Looking Back

Crook boils down the experience of medical school with her fellow students in a few short words. “We studied,” she summed up. “That’s what you did.”

Intense study, made more bearable by taking time out to enjoy “family dinners” with fellow students and hiking the gorgeous east Tennessee mountains, was how Crook described those stressful times.

“Those are the friends I’ll have forever,” she said.

Those friends included fellow MTSU grad Jeremy Crook, her boyfriend at the time. Shannon and Jeremy married in 2014 after both graduated ETSU medical school. (Honors College Dean John

Vile officiated at their wedding on Shannon Crook’s family farm in Murfreesboro.)

Crook’s “family” at ETSU medical school also included her best friend and fellow MTSU Honors graduate, Merranda Holmes. While at MTSU, the two became known as the “twins” among Honors College staff for their striking similarities.

“Both Shannon and Merranda are very goal-oriented, have great attitudes, and care about others beyond them,” Vile said. “We called them twins because they were often up for the same awards, in the same classes, in the same clubs.”

The two women joke that they met as rivals. Both were finalists for an award and found out it would be split between them. “I had to ask, ‘So, who am I sharing this award with?’” Holmes said. “Camaraderie pushed us both, and we became really, really good friends.”

They presented their separate but related theses at conferences at the capitol in Nashville, Washington, D.C., San Diego, and elsewhere, explaining their research to grow spores that would be similar in size to anthrax (to be clear, the spores they grew were not anthrax, just the same size). Their efforts were part of an undergraduate research project conducted with Biology professor Stephen Wright to create a bio sensor that could detect anthrax.

“Many undergrad schools don’t offer a thesis opportunity,” Vile said. “But here, we believe in research early and often.”

Both women said their undergraduate theses had staying power, coming up a few years later when applying for their residencies.

## Living Their Dreams

Holmes is now in her third year of residency in pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and internal medicine at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. She recently spent what she described as a heart-wrenching month in Cameroon at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, where her experiences included resuscitating children; treating children with leukemia, Burkitt’s lymphoma, tuberculosis, cerebral malaria, renal failure, and sepsis; and trying to provide relief in situations where her medical team couldn’t conclusively diagnose the malady. “We treated a lot of really sick patients, ran rounds, and did a lot of things there that in the States I wouldn’t be doing,” she said.

Holmes also taught 12 resident doctors there, preparing six-hour-long lectures for them. “That is one of most important things I can do because it’s sustainable,” she said.

One of the “most humbling and terrifying parts of my job there,” Holmes said, was telling moms of children with a life-threatening disease that there *might* be a mode of treatment at a hospital located several hours away, “and having the family burst into tears and decide to take their child home to die because they couldn’t choose starvation for the whole family to have a slim chance of survival for their sick child,” she said.

But there were also moments that Holmes described as “sweet surprises.” For instance, she recalled the time a 14-year-old, malnourished boy with



HIV and tuberculosis came to the clinic (*photographed at right*). “He couldn’t eat because of ulcers in his mouth and we thought it was just a matter of time,” she said. “But the boy survived and was able to leave the hospital after three weeks.” (Holmes plans to stay involved in international missions and is working on ways to help sustain the hospital in Mbingo through her church in Cincinnati.)

The Crooks are starting their third year of residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Shannon found her passion in pathology, while Jeremy, previously an EMT, practices emergency medicine.

“He loves that pace, that craziness,” she said. “He tells me I’m weird.”

Weird or not, the puzzle of pathology fascinates Shannon Crook. “I love to figure out what happened,” she said, citing a recent event where her medical team found a sebaceous carcinoma that the patient otherwise “would never have known about.”


After her residency concludes in 2018, Crook plans to begin a two-year fellowship in forensics in Dallas at the University of Texas–Southwestern. She hopes to come back to Tennessee to be a medical examiner.

And, no, she guarantees the profession is not like *CSI*, where mysteries are neatly wrapped up in one TV hour. “It’s ultra-focused with a lot more nuances to lab tests,” Crook said. “A lot of it deals with unwitnessed natural deaths, some public health surveillance, and there is some criminal side. No two days will be the same.”

## Model Students

For both “twins,” thoughts of their time in MTSU’s Honors College, where they forged plans for their future, are still vivid and often serve as the source of inspiration.

“I love the Honors College because of the smaller classes and the one-on-one relationships,” Holmes said. “And just having those contacts really helped me develop independence, ask questions, open myself up to opportunities, and made me want to pursue even higher things.”

Crook and Holmes are no longer children pretending to be doctors. With a foundation built in the MTSU Honors College, they became one. As evidenced by their stories, MTSU allows students with a dream of one day being a doctor take those important first steps toward a career in medicine. True Blue! 



# Lecture Series Examines “Liberal Education”



The spring 2016 Honors Lecture Series, “The Value of a Liberal Education,” commenced Monday, Jan. 25, with the course introduction by **Philip Phillips**, Honors College associate dean. Phillips also presented the Feb. 1 lecture, “The Medieval Origins of the *Artes Liberales*,” which outlined and discussed the traditional components of the *trivium*—grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic—and the *quadrivium*—arithmetic, music, geometry, and astronomy—that comprise what are called the seven liberal arts. The lectures



Philip Phillips

in the series addressed contemporary issues related to the role of liberal education in higher education and the world.

**Karen Petersen**, now the College of Liberal Arts interim dean, lectured on “The Political Implications of Assigning Value to the Invaluable” Feb. 8. **R. Drew Sieg** (Biology) presented “Liberal Arts and the Sciences” to class participants and to guests attending the annual



Karen Petersen

Honors College Presidents’ Day Open House Feb. 15.

**Brad Bartel**, Anthropology professor and former University



Brad Bartel

Provost, discussed “The Value of Anthropology” Feb. 22. **Marsha Barsky**, assistant professor from Theatre and Dance, spoke on “The Value of the Performing Arts” Feb. 29.



Drew Sieg



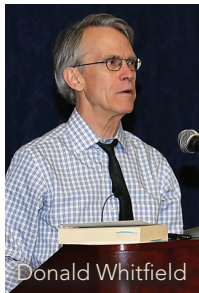
Marsha Barsky

The Honors College welcomed guest speakers

## Liberal Education:

*An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. This approach emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility; strong intellectual and practical skills that span all major fields of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills; and the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.<sup>1</sup>*

**Donald H. Whitfield** and **Laura Stark** on March 14 and March 21, respectively. Whitfield, director of Great



Donald Whitfield

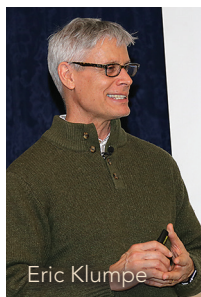
Books Discussions for the Great Books Foundation, presented “Great Books and the Liberal Arts.” Stark, assistant professor at Vanderbilt University’s Center for Medicine, Health, and Society and associate editor of the *History*



Laura Stark

and *Theory* journal, lectured on “Educating the Student Body: What Bio-Medicine Learned from the Liberal Arts.”

Professor **Eric Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy) lectured on “Astronomy: A Road to Connect with Society and Culture” March 28, and **Kaylene Gebert** (Communication



Eric Klumpe

Studies) spoke on “Liberal Education and the 21st-century Workforce.”

As usual, the lecture series concluded with thesis presentations by Honors students.

Organizational Communication major Samantha Crossland



Kaylene Gebert

presented “Communicating Consent: A Comparative Thematic Analysis of Sorority and Fraternity Hookup Culture.” Chloe Madigan, majoring in English, spoke on “Dionysian Archetypes in 1960s Popular Culture.”

The long-running lecture series features focused topics and presenters from multiple disciplines on and off campus. It not only is a required class (UH 3000) for Honors College students, but also is free and open to the public. Focusing on a primary theme, weekly presenters provide perspective, based on their own field of study and research.

**For more information about the lecture series or Honors College, call 615-898-2152. [H](#)**

*The Value of a Liberal Education*  
Spring 2016 Honors Lecture Series • Monday, 3:00–3:55 p.m. • UH 3000 • CRN 10094

*Philosophy Presenting the Seven Liberal Arts to Boethius*  
© Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <i>January 25</i><br>Welcome and Introduction<br>Philip Phillips, Honors  | <i>February 29</i><br>The Value of the Performing Arts<br>Marsha Binsky, Dance  | <i>April 4</i><br>Liberal Education and the 21st-century Workforce<br>Kaylene Gebert, Communication Studies   |
| <i>February 1</i><br>The Medieval Origins of the Artes Liberales<br>Philip Phillips, Honors                               | <i>March 7</i><br>No Class—Spring Break   | <i>April 11</i><br>Applying for Fellowships<br>Laura Clippard, Honors   |
| <i>February 8</i><br>The Political Implications of Assigning Value to the Invaluable<br>Karen Petersen, Political Science | <i>March 14</i><br>Great Books and the Liberal Arts<br>Donald H. Whitfield, Great Books Foundation  | <i>April 18</i><br>Thesis Presentations (TBA)<br>Honors Students  |
| <i>February 15</i><br>Liberal Arts and the Sciences<br>Drew Sieg, Biology   | <i>March 21</i><br>Educating the Student Body: What Biomedicine Learned From the Liberal Arts<br>Laura Stark, Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society | <i>April 25</i><br>Thesis Presentations (TBA)<br>Honors Students  |
| <i>February 22</i><br>The Value of Anthropology<br>Brad Bartal, University Provost  | <i>March 28</i><br>Astronomy: A Road to Connect With Society and Culture<br>Eric Klumpe, Physics and Astronomy  | <small>All lectures are free and open to the public. Lectures are held in Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Topics are subject to change.</small> |

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**



<sup>1</sup> According to a 2013 survey conducted by Hart Research Associates on behalf of AAC&U, 74 percent of employers would recommend this educational approach to college-bound students. For a full report on the survey and its complete findings, see [aacu.org/leap](http://aacu.org/leap).

## Iriarte-Gross Earns National Chemistry Honor

Chemistry professor **Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross** received a great honor from the American Chemical Society this June when she was selected as a member of the 2016 class of ACS Fellows.

Neil D. Jespersen, chair of the ACS Fellows Oversight Committee, wrote to inform Iriarte-Gross that she had been selected for outstanding achievements in and contributions to the science profession and the society. "Once again, please accept my heartiest congratulations on being named an ACS Fellow," Jespersen wrote. "Thank you for your contributions to the chemical enterprise and to the ACS community."

Iriarte-Gross leads the annual Expanding Your Horizons in Math



Judith Iriarte-Gross

and Science event for middle and high school girls and serves as director of the MTSU Women in

STEM Center. She joined the ACS Committee of Minority Affairs this year and also serves on the society's Leadership Advisory Board.

"It's an extreme honor to be recognized for the volunteer work I do for the ACS," Iriarte-Gross said.

Iriarte-Gross, who joined the MTSU faculty in 1996, has received many professional recognitions including Science Educator of the Year in Higher Education by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association in 2015. [H](#)

## In Memoriam: David L. Lavery

David L. Lavery, professor of English and director of the department's graduate program, died Aug. 30, 2016, at the age of 67. He was hired at MTSU in 1993 and won the University's Distinguished Research Award in



David Lavery with Honors student Hannah Mauldin

2006. A member of the Honors faculty, he also served as thesis advisor to several Honors students in recent years and spoke at the fall 2013 Honors Lecture Series.

Dr. Lavery earned his Ph.D. at the University of Florida where he was selected

as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was the author of more than 150 published essays, reviews, and chapters and was author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of over 20 books. He was considered an expert on the television series *Lost*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *The Sopranos* and had lectured around the world on the subject of television. He also served as chair in film and television at Brunel University in London from 2006 to 2008.

Dr. Lavery was survived by his wife, Joyce Kling Lavery; two daughters, Rachel Lavery and her husband Neel Dhingra, and Sarah Porterfield and her husband Jason; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service officiated by Rabbi Rami Shapiro was held Sept. 2 at Woodfin Memorial Chapel. Memorials may be made to the MTSU Foundation. [H](#)



# Asthana Speaks at Global Forum

At the invitation of the United Nations, Journalism professor **Sanjay Asthana** spoke this spring at the Seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Sanjay Asthana

The forum, which kicked off April 26, brought together more than 4,300 participants, including heads of state and government, political officials, civil society representatives, and religious and youth leaders. Participants exchanged perspectives on the main theme, "Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and a Goal."

Asthana, a member of the Honors faculty and Honors Council, presented his paper, "Developing Digital Pedagogies to Contest

Youth Radicalization on the Internet." His work argued that the fields of media education and media literacy urgently need to develop research and praxis-based approaches to explore and contest the intertwined genealogies of religious extremism, violence, terrorism, and radicalization.

Asthana said that the office of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee requested a copy of his presentation and that there was substantial media coverage of the event in Azerbaijan, Baku, and several regions of the world.

The global forum concluded with delegations making a renewed commitment to creating inclusive societies. It was also counted a

success in providing an excellent platform for exchanging ideas, engaging with existing and potential partners, and reaffirming the commitment of various stakeholders representing governments, civil society, religious leaders, and academia.

Asthana is the author of *Palestinian Youth Media and the Pedagogies of Estrangement* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); *Youth Media Imaginaries from Around the World* (Peter Lang, 2012); and *Innovative Practices of Youth Participation in Media* (UNESCO, 2006). He also co-authored the report, "Media Information Literacy: Policy and Strategy Guidelines" (UNESCO, 2013). [H](#)



## To find out more

These links provide information on the UNAOC session in which Asthana participated.

- Sanjay Asthana, Speaker @ UNAOC, Baku  
<http://baku.unaoc.org/speaker/sanjay-asthana/>
- Azerbaijan TV Clip  
<http://video.azertag.az/video/37172>

- Azerbaijan News Story  
[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Middle\\_Tennessee\\_State\\_University\\_professor\\_What\\_the\\_UN\\_is\\_doing\\_for\\_young\\_people\\_is\\_crucial-946004](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Middle_Tennessee_State_University_professor_What_the_UN_is_doing_for_young_people_is_crucial-946004)
- Media Literacy in Baku  
<http://ocaz.eu/en/flash/3407-breakout-session-media-literacy-tools-for-building-resilience-to-violent-extremist-propaganda.html>

# Speaking a New Language

For the 13th year, CALA summer institute offers unique way to quickly learn and teach foreign language

By Brian Roberts | Roberts is assistant director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition and holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from MTSU.

A math coach from Franklin said “I learned more in this class than I learned in a semester of school.”

One Spanish teacher from Blackman High School said the CALA approach “has revolutionized my thinking about language acquisition and instruction.”

For the 13th year, the Summer Language Institute brought together students, teachers, and members of the MTSU and larger community to study the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition’s unique approach to teaching and learning world languages.

The series of five-day accelerated classes in various world languages was hosted at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. New offerings—Japanese and Tamil (a common language in India)—joined Chinese, French, and Spanish this summer. CALA has also previously offered instruction in Arabic, German, and Latin.

In the CALA classroom, activities such as games, songs, and storytelling are used to engage in fun, relevant, repetitious, and social elements of language interaction similar to those characterized in early language learning.

The Summer Language Institute experience was called “a breath of fresh air—fun and exciting, as well

as educational,” by the math coach, who added that “learning in context makes such a huge difference.”

The Blackman teacher “experienced success with comprehension and production” every step of the way. “The varied, yet related activities held my interest and motivated me to learn more.” Additionally, a Central Magnet language teacher was impressed how quickly students can attain fluency in a new language.

CALA came about when MTSU’s Shelley Thomas, a French professor with nearly 40 years of experience,

embarked on a journey in 2001 to change the way of looking at and learning languages in a classroom setting. She began investigating new tools and techniques for helping students not only to learn about a new language, but also to acquire it—to feel and use the language naturally, as we do with our native language. Thomas, who

researched whole-brain learning, discovered activities that foster natural, stress-free language acquisition, and long-term retention by engaging both hemispheres of the brain.

Many deserving Rutherford County teachers and students had their tuition costs generously covered by the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation.



Tamil participants sit in a circle and touch vocabulary pictures called out by the instructor.

In addition to improving their language skills, some participants took advantage of the teacher training workshop, a 12.5-hour exploration of CALA's interactive teaching tools along with guided practice. Each year, CALA offers this program free as a professional service to K-12 and university teachers.

For instance, a technology teacher from Memphis-area Arrington plans to incorporate the impressive method more in the classroom, saying it helped with visualizing content and meaning.

The training CALA has provided teachers has received the attention of area administrators interested in implementing CALA's engaging, interactive approach to language learning in their own schools. The Webb School in Bell Buckle has invited CALA to train its entire foreign language department. In addition, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, which hires CALA-trained teachers, is now purchasing CALA textbooks. [H](#)



Chinese participants Alex Tyshkevych and Mary Mancuso have leading roles in a story designed for learners to practice their Chinese.



CALA's Spanish Part 1 class takes time out for a class photo.

## Breaking Down Language Barriers

**International instruction:** CALA's teacher training also reaches internationally through its partnership with the Confucius Institute. This summer, it continued its annual tradition of providing instruction and coaching in brain-based learning to English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers from universities in Inner Mongolia, China. An English teacher from Tongliao, Inner Mongolia, said the student-centered and effective methods are quite different from traditional methods in China and are welcome approaches.

**Translation help:** CALA partners with local organizations working to improve community connections and outcomes. Salvation Army Capt. Monica Seiler contacted CALA to assist with a much-needed translation effort for its Angel Tree Project, which provides holiday gifts to local families with financial need. CALA was able to translate forms and documents in order to facilitate the Salvation Army's work with local Latino families.

**Outreach for outside the walls:** CALA is also now a part of Doors of Hope, an organization offering training and material support to men and women nearing release from incarceration in Rutherford County. Maridel Williams, Doors of Hope founder, invited CALA to join the program by piloting Spanish classes to women. These efforts have been helpful in promoting successful transitions from incarceration to community life. [H](#)

**For more information** on CALA's community partnerships, year-round evening classes, teacher trainings, and language learning programs, please visit [mtsu.edu/cala](http://mtsu.edu/cala).

# Taking Yoga from India to Prison

to help workhouse prisoners re-enter the workplace

by Shelley Thomas, Ph.D.  
*Thomas is an MTSU French teacher and member of the Honors faculty. She is the founder and director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA).*



Shelley Thomas continues the tradition of tonsure, whereby new trainees may opt to shave their head as a part of the Hatha Yoga Teacher Training Program in Coimbatore, India.

On July 15, 2015, I arrived at the Isha Yoga Center, an ashram in Southern India tucked away in the Nilgiri Biosphere. This international reserve, surrounded by mountains and palm trees and full of wild animals, has the feel of a primitive Hawaiian island and is home to various tribal communities.

The purpose of my six-month stay was to become part of a unique program that trains and certifies people from all over the world in the classical science of Hatha Yoga. There were 140 participants from 27 different countries who spent over 1,700 hours learning yoga, listening to lectures on Ayurvedic and Siddha Medicine, and visiting sites of historical importance to the ancient yogic tradition. Participants followed the ashram's traditions of cold showers, hand-washing clothes, and eating with the right hand while sitting on the floor.

My trip to India was preceded by 12 years of learning yoga and meditation from Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, a yogi and the founder of the Isha Foundation. In 2014, I was invited to present my journey and reflections on my experience in a talk titled "Yoga and Meditation with an Indian Guru," which was a part of the "Health and Happiness" Lecture Series headed by Dr. Philip Phillips, Honors College associate dean.

Vasudev was originally invited to the United States through the Physician Wellness Program at Vanderbilt in 1997. Dr. Paul Ragan, the former medical director of the

program, sought to bring attention to an often neglected aspect of patient care and well-being: mindfulness as it relates to the body's natural ability to calm itself. The presentation was so well received that Vasudev was offered additional speaking engagements at leading U.S. institutions and also globally at the United Nations and the World Economic Forum. He had the honor of giving one of the first TED Talks in India. His book "Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy," is currently a *New York Times* bestseller.

My initial interest in hearing what Vasudev had to say about yoga and meditation began in 2004 when I began a three-year training program on the brain. Brain-based learning is the focus of my research and basis for my graduate methodology course for the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program in the MTSU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. This research led to an aspect of teacher training that has been sorely neglected in many teacher-training programs: stress management. As a result, I invited a certified Isha Hatha yoga teacher, Rishi, trained by Vasudev, as a guest lecturer to teach my students simple practices that they could continue after the semester concluded, equipping them with stress-management tools that could provide support in their everyday lives and jobs.

As I introduced these tools to my graduate class, I also opened up weekend Isha Hatha yoga classes to

MTSU faculty, staff, students, and the surrounding community. “I consider this a very valuable weekend,” Dr. Philip Waldrop, associate dean of the MTSU College of Education, said about his experience in the class. “My goal was to learn a system of practice that I could continue on my own, and the weekend certainly satisfied that goal. I would definitely recommend the experience to others.”

Isha Hatha yoga classes were also added to the teacher in-service training given each summer through CALA, which is housed in the University Honors College. Lori Taylor, language teacher from West Creek High School in Montgomery County, Tennessee, wrote of her experience in the teacher-training workshop: “The relaxation movements that we learned are important to our profession because mental and physical health are imperative to being professional.”

The success and relevance of the Isha Hatha yoga classes led me to a unique partnership with the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center (RCCWC). This partnership is a direct result of my two-year experience as one of the co-facilitators of the *Great Books* program in Nashville prisons, initiated and directed by Phillips for the past nine years.

In May, I responded to an invitation to help start a yoga pilot program by offering Rishi’s Hatha Yoga classes to the men of RCCWC. Maridel Williams, founder of Doors of Hope, and Kimberly Salyer, program director at the RCCWC, have been working together to lower recidivism rates through educational programs in Rutherford County, and it has been a huge success. Their hope is that yoga will help equip the men to manage their stress and function successfully as they re-enter society

and the workforce. One of the men participating in the RCCWC program noted of his yoga experience: “I really like this class. I feel like I’m getting a workout. . . . My focus is getting better.”

As indicated by decades of research from the neurosciences, yoga and meditation have been validated as powerful tools for reducing stress by activating the body’s natural mechanisms for relaxation, improving performance by increasing focus, and humanizing relationships by changing the brain in ways that promote compassion. I am grateful to be a part of an academic community that encourages the type of environment which fosters well-rounded success—something that our students, faculty, staff, and surrounding community so richly deserve. [H](#)

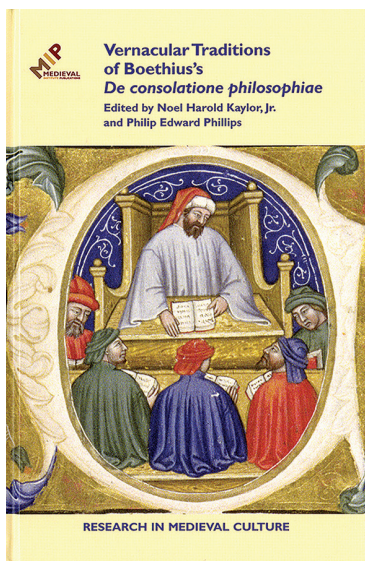


Yoga with Rishi at the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center

# Phillips Publishes Sixth Book, His Fifth Related to Boethius

Philip Phillips, MTSU Honors College associate dean and English professor, recently published his sixth book, *Vernacular Traditions of Boethius's "De consolatione philosophiae"*, which he co-edited.

This interdisciplinary collection of essays by renowned Boethian scholars provides a detailed examination



of the widespread reception and influence of Boethius's masterpiece from the Middle Ages to the present in England and Germany, as well as in the Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Catalonia, and Byzantium.

The book, which Phillips edited with Troy University's Noel Harold Kaylor Jr., was published by

Medieval Institute Publications, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius, who was unjustly accused of treason against the Theodoric the Ostrogoth, wrote *The Consolation of Philosophy* ca. A.D. 523-4 while imprisoned in Pavia and awaiting execution. The work demonstrates that Boethius, known as the "Last of the Romans" and the "First of the Scholastics," not only was an important Roman author but also a significant translator and adaptor of philosophical and scientific works written originally in Greek. Students participating

in the MTSU Honors in Italy program in 2014 and '16 had the opportunity to read the *Consolation* and visit historical sites in both Rome and Ravenna related to Boethius's life and works as part of Phillips' class.

Phillips's other books related to Boethius include *Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana* (edited), 2014; *A Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages* (co-edited), 2012; *The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I: The Queen's Translation of Boethius's De Consolatione Philosophiae* (co-edited), 2009; and *New Directions in Boethian Studies* (co-edited), 2007. Phillips also is the author of *John Milton's Epic Invocations: Converting the Muse* in 2000, as well as numerous articles, book chapters, and reviews concerning Boethius, John Milton, and Edgar Allan Poe.

He is the former co-editor of *Carmina Philosophiae: Journal of the International Boethius Society*, a position he held for over 15 years. Phillips currently serves as secretary of the International Boethius Society, the immediate past president of the Poe Studies Association, and the program chair for the 2018 International Poe and Hawthorne Conference in Kyoto, Japan. His current book project, *Poe and Place*, is in progress and under contract to be published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Phillips has received the MTSU Foundation Distinguished Research Award twice, in 2014-15 and 2007-08. [H](#)



Dean John Vile, advisor Laura Clippard, and others were among Honors College and Biology Department members who gathered to wish faculty member Drew Sieg (center) well in his new position. Sieg will teach non-majors biology and marine biology at Young Harris College in Georgia.



# In Memoriam: Shelby Rene Glisson

Shelby Rene Glisson, granddaughter of Harry and Judy K. Hiza, friends of the Honors College, died Feb. 4, 2016, following complications of a lung transplant. She was 21.



Shelby Rene Glisson

The niece of the late Michael Martinelli Jr., an MTSU Honors student who died in 1996 and for whom the college’s Michael Martinelli Library was named, Ms. Glisson had a rare lung condition that required her to be on oxygen from the age of nine months and undergo a double lung transplant at the age of 12.

In spite of her health challenges, Ms. Glisson graduated from Friendship Christian School in Lebanon and attended the University of Tennessee–Chattanooga where she was a nursing student. She was a member of the Student Nurses Association and Sigma Kappa sorority. She loved animals and volunteered at New Leash on Life, a nonprofit, no-kill animal shelter in Lebanon.

According to her mother, Michele Glisson, Ms. Glisson was a good friend who was empathetic to others’ burdens. She loved life, had a positive attitude,

and was tenacious. Her story inspired others to overcome obstacles and keep fighting for their dreams and goals. “Shelby was brave. She probably didn’t think about it, but she faced situations with poise and grace that would make more experienced adults crumble,” her mother said.

In May 2015, Ms. Glisson posted online, “I want to leave this earth knowing that I left an impact.” Her short life is making a difference in the lives of others through the Shelby Glisson Memorial Scholarship for nursing students at UT–Chattanooga. The scholarship gives preference to students with health challenges and financial need.

A primary funding source for the scholarship is Shine for Shelby, an annual 5K glow run/walk and fun run for kids held in the fall. This year’s race is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, on the Winfree Bryant/Collage Hills Church of Christ campus in Lebanon.

Scholarship donations can be made directly by mailing checks payable to UCF–Shelby Glisson Memorial Scholarship to UTC Development and Alumni Affairs, 615 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403.

Ms. Glisson is survived by her parents Dickey and Michele Glisson; grandparents Harry and Judy Hiza, Gloria Martinelli, and Hazel Glisson; and aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by grandparents Mike Martinelli Sr., Doris Jean Cox, and Johnny C. Glisson and uncle Mike Martinelli Jr., for whom the Honors College awards a scholarship each year. [H](#)

“*I want to leave this earth knowing that I left an impact.*”

— Shelby  
May 2015

# In Memoriam: Elizabeth Anne Chitwood

The Honors College and School of Music mourn the loss of Elizabeth Anne “Beth” Chitwood, a 2015 Honors graduate with a degree in Music Industry. Ms. Chitwood died Aug. 28, 2016, from complications of a pulmonary embolism.

The 23-year-old was a second-year student at Vanderbilt Law School, where she was a recipient of the Chancellor’s Law Scholarship. She was selected as a member of *Vanderbilt Law Review* and was active in the Women’s Law Student Association and the Vanderbilt Law School Ambassadors.



Philip E. Phillips, Elizabeth Anne Chitwood, and Dean John R. Vile

At MTSU, Ms. Chitwood was the recipient of the Buchanan Fellowship, the highest academic scholarship awarded by the University to incoming freshmen. English professor Jill Hague, who was on the Buchanan selection committee and served as Ms. Chitwood’s thesis advisor, remembers her as an outstanding student with a bright future ahead of her. “I feel very lucky that I was able to direct her thesis,” Hague said. Ms. Chitwood’s thesis was titled “Hearing between the Lines: Music as Characterization in Five Novels.”

Ms. Chitwood was an active member of the School of Music, participating in the Clarinet Choir, Symphonic

Band, Wind Ensemble, and the Music Student Advisory Council. “Beth Chitwood was an exceptionally talented clarinetist,” said Todd Waldecker, a professor of Music. “Her contagious smile, genuine enthusiasm, and perpetual optimistic attitude were a blessing to everyone she worked alongside. It was a joy to make music with Beth.”

Friend and fellow clarinetist Katie Nicholson called Ms. Chitwood an inspiration, an encourager, and a sweet soul. “She always wore a flower in her hair and even had a black one for concerts,” Nicholson said.

“She was an ideal, dream student, and we were lucky to know her.”

A Facebook post on the MTSU Clarinet Studio’s page described Ms. Chitwood as having a “contagious smile, genuine enthusiasm, and a loving spirit.”

Ms. Chitwood enjoyed studying abroad and was a volunteer in the local community at PAWS Pet Adoption and Animal Welfare

Society and at Linebaugh Public Library. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

She is survived by her parents Madolyn Cofer Chitwood and Scott Chitwood of Estill Springs; sister Emily Chitwood of Cookeville; grandmother Wilma Chitwood; and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins. She is also survived by her devoted boyfriend Zach Dresch (Recording Industry, 2015), who was a fellow Buchanan Scholar at MTSU.

The Honors College tolled its bells in memory of Ms. Chitwood at noon Sept. 3, in conjunction with the start of her funeral service in Winchester. [H](#)

# Class Notes {students}

## UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE SPRING AWARDS

**Gabrielle Armour** (Biology) Hannah/Harris Study  
Abroad Scholarship

**Kathryn Brittain** (Biology) Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

**Laura Bryant** (English) Outstanding Freshman Award

**Rebecca Clippard** (Foreign Languages) Paul W. Martin Sr.  
Scholarship, Outstanding Junior Award

**Jackson Cole** (Physics) Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

**Ashley Corson** (Biochemistry) Marilyn M. and Philip M.  
Mathis Research Award

**Samantha Crossland** (Organizational Communication)  
Ingram–Montgomery Research Scholarship, Outstanding  
Senior Award

**Skylar Dean** (Biology) Outstanding Sophomore Award

**Grayson Dubois** (Computer Science)  
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

**Ellen Engle** (Speech-Language Pathology and  
Audiology) Lawrence R. Good Scholarship

**Justin Farr** (History) Ingram-Montgomery  
Research Scholarship

**Brooke Fitzwater** (Biology) Paul W. Martin  
Sr. Scholarship

**Jake Garrette** (Aerospace) Paul W. Martin  
Sr. Scholarship

**Nina Goad** (Global Studies) McCash Founders  
Award Scholarship

**Lauren Heusinkveld** (Biology) Marilyn M. and Philip  
M. Mathis Research Award

**Devin Irish** (Political Science) Michael Martinelli  
Memorial Scholarship

**Emiliya Mailyan** (Global Studies) Paul W. Martin  
Sr. Scholarship

**Tiffany Miller** (Foreign Languages) Paul W. Martin  
Sr. Scholarship

**Collin McDonald** (Aerospace) Ingram–Montgomery  
Research Scholarship, Academic Achievement Scholarship

**Emily McElroy** (Biochemistry) Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship

**Todd Pirtle** (Plant and Soil Science) Academic  
Achievement Award

**Molly Scott** (Recording Industry) Ralph and Elizabeth  
Gwaltney Centennial Scholarship

**Jessica Shotwell** (Sociology) Bart McCash Scholarship

**Sierra Sotelo** (Recording Industry) Paul W. Martin  
Sr. Scholarship

**Madison Tracy** (Mass Communication) Academic  
Achievement Award



## COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES SPRING AWARDS

**Mahmuda Akter** (Biochemistry) BioVentures Inc.  
Chemistry Scholarship

**Muhammed Osama Ali** (Chemistry) Dan D. Scott  
Chemistry Scholarship

**Gabrielle Armour** (Biology) David Sanborn Ecology  
Scholarship, Jim Kemp Biology Scholarship, John A.  
Patten Scholarship, Wayne Rosing Biology Scholarship

**Bassam Aboona** (Physics) Theoretical Physics Award  
for Excellence

**Benjamin Burton** (Physics) Frances Stubblefield  
Calculus II Award

**Nicole Chandler** (Mechatronics Engineering) Edwin S.  
Voorhies Scholarship in Engineering

**Jonathan Ciecka** (Aerospace) Excellence in Aviation  
Scholarship in Aerospace, Wallace R. Maples  
Aerospace Scholarship

**Morgan Davis** (Mathematics) Richard and  
Mary Ann McClary Scholarship

**April Downing** (Science) Creighton and  
Elizabeth H Rhea Leadership Scholarship

**Grayson Dubois** (Computer Science)  
Richard Detmer Endowed Scholarship

**Kami Dyer** (Chemistry) Outstanding  
Freshman Award

**Page Fairrow-Davis** (Exercise Science)  
Robert Brent Cook Memorial Scholarship

**Brooke Fitzwater** (Biology) Jim Kemp Biology  
Scholarship, John A. Patten Scholarship, Wayne Rosing  
Biology Scholarship

**Jake Garrette** (Aerospace) Excellence in Aviation  
Scholarship in Aerospace, Wallace R. Maples  
Aerospace Scholarship

**Hannah Hall** (Biology) Ralph E. Sharp Outstanding  
Sophomore Award and Scholarship, Mary C. Dunn  
Freshman Scholarship

**Chelsea Harmon** (Chemistry) Outstanding Senior Award

**Devyn Hayes** (Biology) Creighton and Elizabeth H Rhea  
Leadership Scholarship III, Patrick J. Doyle Freshman  
Scholarship, Ellis Rucker Freshman Scholarship

**Erin Herbstova** (Biology) Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith  
Pre-Medical Scholarship

**Pascal Holtkamp** (Aerospace) Metropolitan Nashville  
Airport Authority Scholarship

**Charmaine Igot** (Biology) Walter Chitwood  
Pre-Dental Scholarship

**Elizabeth Keller** (Aerospace) Curtis Marshall Selle Memorial  
Scholarship, H. Miller Lanier Memorial Scholarship

**Michele Kelley** (Physics) Society of Physics Student Service Award

**Benjamin Kulas** (Physics) MTSU Physics and Astronomy Alumni Scholarship

**Victoria Lay** (Biology) J. Gerald Parchment Biological Field Station Scholarship, John A. Patten Scholarship, Kevin Driver Memorial Scholarship

**Josie Lyon** (Physics) Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Achievement Award, Thomas D. Forrest Abstract Algebra Award, Jim and Lucinda Lea Mathematics Scholarship

**Bryce Marion** (Physics) Frances Stubblefield Calculus II Award

**Hunter Mason** (Chemistry) Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-medical Scholarship

**Collin McDonald** (Aerospace) Colonel W. James Gregory Scholarship, Tiara Foundation Scholarship

**Kailey McDonald** (Computer Science) Computer Science Scholarship, Outstanding Senior Award

**Emily M. McElroy** (Biochemistry) ACS Analytical Award

**Yusra Mohammed** (Biology) Jim Kemp Biology Scholarship, John A. Patten Scholarship

**Natalie Musselman** (Biology) Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship

**Peter Roldan** (Concrete Industry Management) Concrete Supply Company Scholarship

**Lee Rumble** (Plant and Soil Science) BB Gracy Jr. Outstanding Agriculture Senior Award

**Yucera Salman** (Biology) Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-medical Scholarship

**Michael W. Schmidt** (Computer Science) Outstanding Junior Award

**JeSuis Scott** (Aerospace) Alphonse Cimino Memorial Scholarship

**Darcy Tatotabo** (Biochemistry) Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship (2015–16)

## CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**Michele Kelley** (Physics) Student Organization President of the Year

**Jessica Shotwell** (Sociology) June Anderson Center Outstanding Female Student Award

**Lee Rumble** (Plant and Soil Science) June Anderson Center Outstanding Nontraditional Male of the Year

## SPRING 2016 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (URECA) FUNDING

**Kayla Conner**, Biology

**Justin Cousineau**, Physics

**Grayson Dubois**, Computer Science

**John Lasseter**, Chemistry

**Evan Mason**, Biology

**Collin McDonald**, Aerospace

**Yusra Mohammed**, Biology

**Todd Pirtle**, Agribusiness

**Calla Sharp**, Early Childhood Education

**Darcy Tabotabo**, Chemistry

## SUMMER 2016 URECA FUNDING

**Mahmuda Akter**, Biochemistry

**Muhammad Fariz Ali**, Biology

**Gabrielle Armour**, Biology

**Rebecca Clippard**, Foreign Languages

**Kayla Conner**, Biology

**Amanda Couch**, Anthropology and History

**Pel Doski**, Biology

**Brooke Fitzwater**, Biology

**Mary Gormsen**, Biology

**Victoria Lay**, Biology

**Margaret McPheeters**, Mass Communication

**Evidence Nwangwa**, Biochemistry

**Quinlan Odom**, History

**Joy Shind**, Art Education



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SCHOLARS DAY PARTICIPANTS

**Charlotte Archer**, Sociology and Anthropology

**Melody Cook**, English

**Caitlin Henderson**, Political Science and International Relations

**Jessica Shotwell**, Sociology and Anthropology

SPRING SCHOLARS WEEK  
UNIVERSITY EXPOSITION  
PARTICIPANTS

**Mahmuda Akter**, Biochemistry  
**Muhammad Fariz Ali**, Biology  
**Muhammad Osama Ali**, Chemistry  
**Mustafa Alwan**, Science  
**Kathryn Brittain**, Biochemistry  
**Evan Conley**, Science  
**Kayla Conner**, Biology  
**Samantha Crossland**, Organizational Communication  
**Skylar Dean**, Biology  
**Paige Davis-Farrow**, Exercise Science  
**Justin DeMello**, Political Science  
**Pel Doski**, Biology  
**Grayson Dubois**, Computer Science  
**Amanda Freuler**, Mass Communication  
**Chelsea Harmon**, Chemistry  
**Erin Herbstova**, Biology  
**Alesha Hicks**, Psychology

**Michele Kelley**, Physics  
**Ashley Martinez**, International Relations  
**Collin McDonald**, Aerospace  
**Yusra Mohammed**, Biology  
**Nick Myhre**, Physics, Aerospace and Mathematics  
**Kayla O'Connell**, Biology  
**Nausheen Qureshi**, Nutrition and Food Science  
**Mabel Rodriguez**, Nutrition and Food Science  
**Lee Rumble**, Plant and Soil Science  
**Kelly Saine**, Biochemistry  
**Yucera Salman**, Biology  
**Calla Sharp**, Early Childhood Education  
**Emily Ann Carol Smith**, Horse Science  
**Darcy Tabotabo**, Biochemistry  
**Kimberley Warren**, Forensic Science  
**Logan Whiles**, Biology  
**Aimee Wilson**, Biology

**Cast Members**

for the Theatre Department's  
production of  
*West Side Story*

**Megan Castleberry**, Theatre  
**Alex Irwin**, Theatre  
**Jeffery LaPorte**, Anthropology

**Amanda Pratt**, Theatre  
**Robbie Ramirez**, Theatre

**PETER PAN**  
BROADWAY'S  
TIMELESS MUSICAL

November 3–6

For times and tickets, go  
to [mtsarts.com](http://mtsarts.com) or call  
1-888-71-TICKET

# Class Notes {faculty and staff}

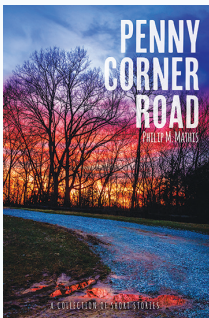
**Steve Howard** (Biology), a new member of the Honors faculty, is teaching Honors Ecology this spring. He received an MTSU Foundation award for excellence in research in 2004 and currently mentors students' projects relating to the evolution and ecology of cedar glades communities in middle Tennessee. Howard, who came to MTSU in 1994, received his Ph.D. from Indiana University. He has taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate classes and has published peer-reviewed research papers in multiple high-impact journals.



Dean Vile and Eric Klumpe

**Eric Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy) received the Exemplary Faculty Service Award from the University Honors College at its spring award ceremony.

**Philip M. Mathis** (professor emeritus, past dean of the Honors College) has published a collection of short stories entitled *Penny Corner Road*. The book, which



describes his childhood memories of growing up in western Kentucky in the 1950s, is available for \$12 at [TwinOaksPress.com](http://TwinOaksPress.com). In addition to numerous scholarly works, Mathis, a winner of MTSU's prestigious Career Achievement Award, has previously published collections of poetry under the titles *Time and Tradition* (Twin Oaks Press, 2011) and *Wandering in the Woods* (Xlibris, 2012).



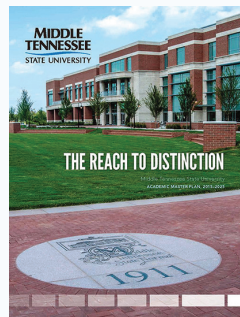
Philip Phillips and Anne McCullough

**Anne McCullough** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award at the spring awards ceremony.

**Mark and Trisha Murphy** (former Honors development officer) welcomed a son, James Anderson Murphy, on May 13 at 4:06 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds and 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Trisha, a 2012 and '13 graduate of MTSU, was assistant director of annual giving. Mark ('09, '11) is a transfer enrollment coordinator in Admissions.

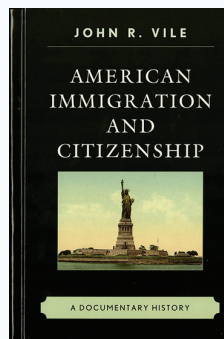


**Philip Phillips** (Honors associate dean) served as chair of the MTSU 2015–2025 Academic Master Plan Committee, which published *The Reach to Distinction*, and as a member of MTSU's SACSCOC Leadership



Team in preparation for the University's 10-year reaffirmation visit in Spring 2016, which resulted in no recommendations. As the immediate past president of MTSU chapter 246 of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, he represented the chapter as a delegate to the Phi Kappa Phi Biennial Convention in Atlanta, July 28–30, 2016.

**John Vile** (Honors College dean) has published two books in recent months: a revised second edition of *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding*, 2 vols., published by Talbot, and the edited volume *American*



*Immigration and Citizenship: A Documentary History*, published by Rowman and Littlefield. Vile attended the American Political Science Convention in Philadelphia over the Labor Day weekend and has spoken to numerous civic groups in connection with this year's election and developments related to the U.S. Supreme Court.

# Class Notes {alumni and friends}

**Emily Ball** (Accounting, 2016) is working as a staff accountant for National Healthcare Corp. in Murfreesboro where she interned for two years while at MTSU.

**Jacob Basham** (Mathematics and Science, 2013) was selected as a second-year medical research fellow by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). The HHMI Med Fellows Program enables M.D. students to engage in high-quality research for an entire year. Basham, a medical student at the University of Tennessee, spent last year conducting research on tumor immunology at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. "This second year will allow me to expand my current data, gather new technical skills, paint a clearer picture of the phenomena I am observing in the lab, and bring it all together as a contribution to the biomedical community in the form of a publication," he said.

**Mathias Dusabe** (Social Work, 2016) is working as a social worker with World Relief Nashville, a refugee resettlement agency.

**Michelle Ebel** (Accounting, 2011) is an audit manager at Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain, PC in Brentwood.

**Matthew Fuller** (Biology, 2015) was awarded the Arlene Griva Memorial Scholarship for MTSU's Master of Science in Professional Science program in the spring.

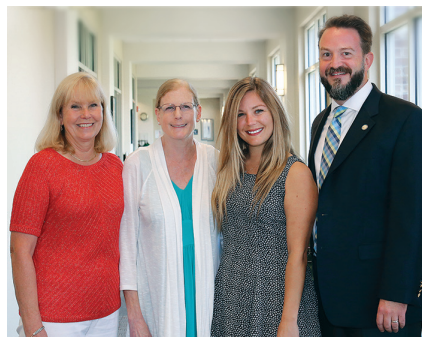
**Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages, 2012) is chair of the Medical Education Leadership team of the American Medical Student Association at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine, where he is a fourth-year student. He was AMSA's Cultural Sensitivity Coordinator in 2015.

**Jessica Taylor Haynes** (Chemistry, 2011) is an optometry resident at Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Matthew Hibdon** (History, 2012), who works as an advisor for the College of Liberal Arts, was awarded the Eldridge W. Roark Jr. Meritorious Service Award by the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society during the society's national convention in June.

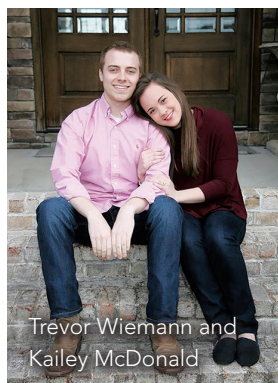
**Zach Hutcherson** (Aerospace, 2015) is working as a first officer for Endeavor Air.

**Jennifer Johnson** (Psychology, 2012), pictured second from right, received a Master of Education



in Clinical Counseling degree from Vanderbilt University this spring and is a national certified counselor.

**Kailey McDonald** (Computer Science, 2016) is working as a software engineer for Asurion in Nashville.

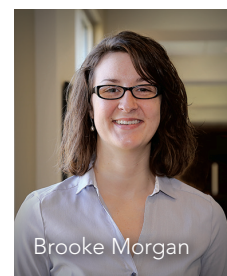


Trevor Wiemann and  
Kailey McDonald

She and Trevor Wiemann (Information Systems, 2015), who met at MTSU through the Buchanan Fellowship, are getting married Oct. 16. McDonald said, "If it weren't for the Honors College and Buchanan Fellowship, we likely would have never met, so thank you, Dr. James Buchanan, for bringing us together!"

**Brooke Morgan** (Forensic Science, 2015) is working as a special agent forensic scientist for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in Nashville.

**Anna Neal** (Biology, 2015) is seeking a master's degree in Professional Science at Colorado State.



Brooke Morgan

**Tony Pritchard** (Biology, 2011) graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree.

## {alumni and friends}

**Matthew Pyles** (Music, 2016) is teaching middle school choir and general music and directing musicals at Harpeth Hall School in Nashville. He is also teaching private voice and piano lessons through the school and is church accompanist and assistant music director at Trinity United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro.

**Sonia Qureshi Khan** (International Relations, 2011) is working as an ESL teacher at La Vergne Lake Elementary School. She received her master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction for teaching English as a second language in May 2016.

**Mason Riley** (Biology, 2016) is in graduate school at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

**Courtney Rodman** (Global Studies, 2014) is a judicial extern at Cook County Circuit Court. She is also studying international law at the Illinois Institute of Technology–Chicago Kent College of Law.

**Trevor Smith** (Organizational Communication, 2016) has accepted a position as a missionary with Life Teen Missions and is training for Catholic youth ministry missions in north Georgia.

**Logan Whiles** (Biology, 2016) is currently based out of Asheville, North Carolina, working with AmeriCorps doing trail maintenance and habitat restoration. Following 12 weeks with AmeriCorps, Whiles plans to volunteer at the Aula Global Biological Reserve, a remote private reserve located in the mountainous regions near Montverde, Costa Rica, through mid-November.

**Larissa Wolf** (Biology, 2016) is attending medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

**Victoria Worrell** (Geoscience, 2014) recently earned her master's degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

**Wesley Vanosdall** (Anthropology, 2014) was accepted into the Anthropology Ph.D. program at the University of Wyoming in February of 2015 and awarded a graduate assistantship. She has completed her first year of graduate school. [H](#)

## 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 [mtsu.edu/supporthonors](https://mtsu.edu/supporthonors).
- By mail, please make your check payable to MTSU Honors College and send it to Middle Tennessee State University Development Office, MTSU Box 109, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

*Thank you in advance for your support!*

# 2015 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 2015.

Jeffrey C. Abelt  
Rita and Don Ash  
Jane and Dennis Aslinger  
Patricia G. and Gene Branam  
Rebecca A. and Paul Bookner  
Veronica and Joseph Bosnak  
Philip D. Bowles  
Elizabeth Whorley Bradley  
Semanthie and Sylvester Brooks  
Judy and Jerry H. Brookshire  
Jeff Brown / Financial Services and Solutions, Inc.  
Estate of James M. Buchanan  
Julie and Mark E. Byrnes  
Laura Clippard  
Delores and Patrick J. Doyle  
Susan and Timothy England  
Kaylene A. Gebert  
Robert Gerard  
Valerie and Christopher Goertzen  
Laney and Stanford B. Golden  
Greater Nashville Association of Realtors Inc.  
Mark A. Hall  
Richard A. Hansen  
Angela Haston  
Barbara S. and Jerre Haskew  
Raiko and John Henderson  
Judi K. Hiza  
Debra Hollingsworth Hopkins and James Hopkins  
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi/MTSU Chapter  
Alice and Bruce C. Huskey  
Delorese J. Johnson  
Jennifer J. and Terry Jordan-Henley  
Joan E. McRae Kleinlein  
Gloria D. Kharibian (Martinelli)  
Katherine and Robert C. Knies  
Carroll and Reuben Kyle  
Bob Lamb Realty/dba Exit Realty Lamb and Associates  
John M. Long  
Emilie M. and Paul Madigan  
Carla and H. Lee Martin  
Michael Hall Martin  
Paul W. Martin Jr.  
Marilyn and Philip M. Mathis  
June Hall McCash  
Kathryn McCash  
Lorrie McDonald  
Tara and Preston J. MacDougall  
Emily G. and Ron Messier  
Carolyn and Don C. Midgett  
Christina J. Miller  
Kimberly J. and George Murphy  
Paulette and Tracey C. Nash  
Tom L. Naylor  
Pamela W. and Robert Ogg  
Sharmila Patel and Philip E. Phillips  
William A. Patrick  
Pro2Serve Professional Project Services/Barry Goss  
Katherine Elaine Royal  
Peggy and Frank D. Sheppard  
Sandra R. and Samuel Truitt  
Pinnacle National Bank/ M. Terry Turner  
Roxanne and George Vernardakis  
Linda K. and John R. Vile  
Sally and Howard D Wall  
Linda M. West  
Eugene A. Wilkerson  
Doris and William T. Windham  
Stacy and Vincent L. Windrow  
Hanna and J. Donald Witherspoon  
Gary P. Wulfsberg  
Anna M. Yacovone

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE

---

STATE UNIVERSITY

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 169  
Murfreesboro, TN

## Honors Magazine

University Honors College  
MTSU Box 267  
1301 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



photo by Andy Heidt