

# HONORS *Edition*

University Honors College Newsletter • Fall 2008  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## From the *Dean's Desk*

I am honored to be able to share my sentiments in this newsletter. From August 1, 1989, through July 30, 2008, I worked from the same office in Peck Hall, where I was privileged to serve as chair of the Department of Political Science. Almost from the beginning of my tenure, I have maintained an interest in the Honors College.

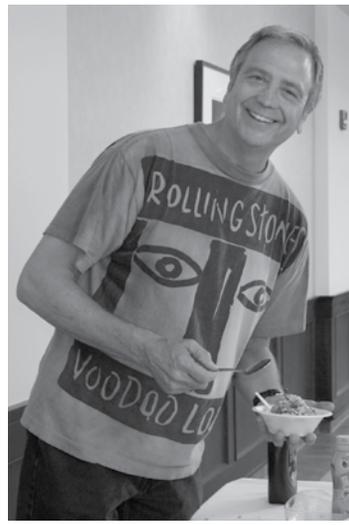
For those of you who do not know me, I grew up in Virginia and attended the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia. I did not qualify for the honors program when I entered the College of William and Mary, but I was nominated by a faculty member to participate at the end of my sophomore year and had the privilege of taking a number of honors classes and seminars in my last two years.

*Dean cont. on page 2*

## *Honors College* Hosts Ice Cream Party

The Honors College welcomed students to campus Thursday, August 28, with an ice cream party. Seven flavors of ice cream and many toppings were available for students and faculty to create custom ice cream sundaes.

MTSU alumni Rich and Andy Karg and their band, the Karg Brothers, performed for party attendees on the Honors patio from 4 to 6 p.m.



Clockwise from left: Merranda Holmes, Shannon Murphy, and Brian Burkeen; Dr. Rich Barnett; Dr. Mary Nichols and Dr. Dennis Oneal; Nellery Marty and Meg Davis; Dr. David Foote, Mrs. Marilyn Mathis, Dr. Phil Mathis, Dr. John Vile, and Mrs. Michelle Arnold



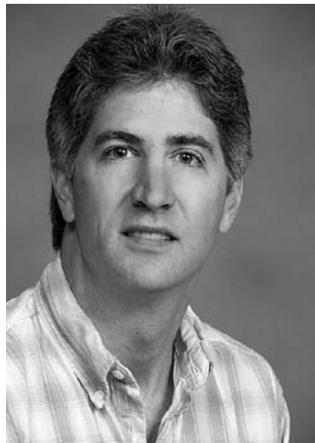
My education at publicly supported institutions has positively changed my life. I have been interested in politics since my youth, and my degrees in government have enabled me to write about a variety of topics relative to U.S. Constitutional law. I am particularly interested in the amending process, in the American founding period, and in civil rights and liberties, and I have especially enjoyed writing books on these topics.

At MTSU, I have had the privilege of teaching two different Honors classes, offering an Honors Option to a number of students who requested it, directing two Honors theses, and delivering a number of Honors lectures. Many of the students I have coached in mock trial have been Honors students. My daughter, Virginia, took a number of Honors classes at MTSU, and I have worked to increase the number of courses that the Political Science Department offers in this college.

One of the things that I learned when my own daughters applied for college was that it is easy to spend a lot of money on an undergraduate education. What I especially like about the Honors College is that it allows students to get a superior education at an affordable state institution. Like a prestigious liberal arts college, the Honors College provides constant contact with highly motivated, highly achieving students and inspired faculty. Like such colleges, it provides for small classes and direct student-faculty contact. The number of MTSU Honors students who have won scholarships and other awards, and who have succeeded in graduate study and in the work force, attests to the quality of the education they receive.

## Honors Faculty Members Win Foundation Awards

MTSU is fortunate to have outstanding, dedicated Honors faculty members who represent the Honors College well and inspire students to learn. Three members of the Honors faculty were recognized for their excellence with MTSU Foundation Awards at the Fall General Faculty Meeting on August 22: Charles A. Higgins, Robb A. McDaniel, and Philip E. Phillips.



**Charles A. Higgins**, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, received an Outstanding Teacher Award. Higgins, who joined the MTSU faculty in 2001, earned his B.S. in physics from the University of Alabama–Huntsville and his M.S. and Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Florida. Before coming to MTSU, Higgins held an NRC postdoctoral research associate position at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and a teaching position at Penn State University.

At MTSU, Higgins teaches astronomy and physics courses, conducts research in radio astronomy, is the advisor to MTSU's Astronomy Club, and mentors undergraduate students in their research projects. Higgins cowrote the astronomy lab

manual used at MTSU and had a recent article on Jupiter-satellite interactions published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. He is also a new contributing author for the text *An Introduction to Physical Science*.



**Robb A. McDaniel**, associate professor in the Department of Political Science, also received an Outstanding Teacher Award. McDaniel, who earned his B.A. from Davidson College and his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, teaches classes in American political thought, politics, modern political theory, American government, and classical political theory.

McDaniel has published essays on the writings of John Locke, Leo Strauss, and Emmanuel Levinas and is currently researching the political fiction of Philip Roth. He advises Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, and the College Democrats. He received an Outstanding Advisor Award in the College of Liberal Arts in 2003 and is a former president of the Tennessee Political Science Association.

## Foundation Awards cont.



**Philip E. Phillips**, associate professor in the Department of English, received a Distinguished Research Award. Phillips, who came to MTSU in 1999, earned his B.A. (cum laude) at Belmont University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English and American literature at Vanderbilt University. Phillips serves as a doctoral member of the graduate faculty and is an URSCA faculty member as well as an active member of the Honors faculty.

Dr. Phillips teaches courses in composition; medieval and Renaissance literature; Milton; and American, British, and European literature. His areas of research include Poe and

the literary aesthetics of early 19th-century American literature, Milton and the epic tradition, and Boethius and the vernacular translation traditions of *The Consolation of Philosophy*. Phillips is director of graduate admissions in English and chair of the Graduate Council. He is also coeditor of *Carmina Philosophiae*, a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal on Boethius, his age, and his influence.

Phillips has written several books including *A Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages*, which is under contract and scheduled to be published in 2009. He has also published a number of reviews and articles on topics relating to Poe, Milton, and Boethius. He regularly organizes panels at conferences and presents his research for groups such as the Modern Language Association, the International Congress on Medieval Studies, and the Medieval and Early Modern English Studies Association of Korea.

Dean cont. from page 2

I am excited about the recent relocation of the Honors Living and Learning Center to the newly renovated Lyon Hall complex, which the staff and I recently toured. I am looking forward to meeting all of the Buchanan Scholars (an MTSU Nobel Prize connection!) and members of the Board of Visitors that Dr. Mathis has assembled. As a new Student Union is built, the Honors College will be “in the center of the action,” and I am also looking forward to this.

Over the next year, I know that I will learn much about the Honors College, but I already know about the devotion of the past directors and deans of this college, about the enthusiasm and support of a variety of alumni, and of the aspirations of the current faculty and staff. As was true when I chaired the Political Science Department, I will have an open-door policy, and I hope that students and alumni will drop in and visit. I want to tell you about our plans, but I also want to listen to your dreams.

As I interviewed for the job, I recognized how fortunate we are to have such solid support from President Sidney McPhee and Provost Kaylene Gebert. I want to continue developing programs of which they, and the University as a whole, can be proud. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead. Please share your dreams with me; I am convinced that the best is yet to be!

—John Vile, Dean 



## Visiting Artist's Seminar, Spring 2009 The Art and Craft of Poetry

**Beth Ann Fennelly** will teach the spring 2009 Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200), a one-week, one-credit class open to Honors students with upper-division standing. This year's seminar is the Art and Craft of Poetry.



"We'll seek to discover the pleasures of poetry through music and rhythm and learn why poetry can contribute to a life rich in joy and understanding," says Fennelly of the class. "Our goal will be to become better readers and appreciators of poetry, and to learn some skills from the writing of poetry that we can apply to other types of writing, so we can become better writers in general." This course will include intensive, interactive craft classes combined with workshops so students can learn by doing. Students (at all levels of experience) will be introduced to various aspects of craft with the goal of helping them better understand how poems make meaning.

Fennelly is the author of three books of poetry—*Unmentionables* (Norton, 2008), *Tender Hooks* (Norton, 2004), and *Open House* (Zoo Press, 2002)—and a book of letters, *Great with Child* (Norton, 2007). Her poems have appeared in such prominent journals as *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly*, and *Shenandoah*, and also in *Best American Poetry 2005* and *Best American Poetry 2006*. She has won the Kenyon Review Prize for a First Book, a Pushcart Prize, and numerous other awards. She has attended the Sewanee Writers'

## Honors Faculty Profile *Robert Pondillo*

Bob Pondillo, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mass media history and American culture at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the author of *Censorship's Golden Age: The Secret Life of NBC-TV's Stockton Hellfrich, America's First Network Television Censor*, (Southern Illinois University Press, 2008), as well as numerous journal articles on early network TV censorship. His research interests include American media censorship, the interplay of news on American democracy, and issues of media and religion. In addition to being an Honors College faculty member, he is on the Graduate School faculty in the College of Mass Communication.

Pondillo was in the media industry—both radio and TV—for more than 30 years before coming to academia. His credits include the Voice of America, Washington, D.C.; WNBC Radio, New York; ABC Radio Networks, New York; and Columbia Pictures Television and Paramount Pictures Television, Los Angeles. He also worked at more than 20 local radio and television stations from Ohio to Florida. He's garnered four Emmy Awards for broadcast writing and producing, and in 2002 he was inducted into the Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.

Dr. Pondillo took his undergraduate degrees (B.S. in broadcasting, B.A. in political science) from Ohio University in Athens. He earned his master's from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and his Ph.D. from the

University of Wisconsin–Madison. He's currently working on a master's in theology and religion.

Pondillo is also an award-winning filmmaker. His short narrative movies, *Would You Cry if I Died?* (2005) and *My Name Is Wallace* (2006), have won dozens of awards from film festivals around the nation and the world including best screenplay, best director, and more than 20 "best of



fest" honors. His latest effort, *My Name Is Wallace*, which Pondillo wrote and directed, was chosen as an official selection in more than 100 film festivals including the prestigious Festival de Cannes in France. He has just completed filming his latest short movie, titled *Wait*.

Dr. Pondillo lives in Murfreesboro with his wife, Edie, a graphic artist and co-owner

of meow.com (an Internet and cat catalog business), and his son, Mac, a student at Riverdale High School. He also has a very sweet dog, Maddy, a terrier mix. Pondillo says he thinks she's a space alien based on her antics around the house.

In his spare time, Dr. Pondillo likes to read, write short narrative stories/films, go to movies, and just spend time around the house with his family.

Pondillo says he is deeply grateful to be working at MTSU and appreciates the collegiality and encouragement of his department and college in his many academic and creative activities.



# Honors Faculty Profile

## Martha Hixon



Dr. Martha Hixon teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in children's literature and in folk and fairy tales in MTSU's English Department. A

graduate of the University of Louisiana–Lafayette with a Ph.D. in English, she came to MTSU in 1999 and joined the Honors faculty and the graduate faculty in 2000. She has taught the Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar (UH 3500) twice on the topic "Folktales and Literature" and regularly teaches lower-division Honors classes in English 1010 and English 2030.

A strong advocate of student-directed research, she directed an Honors thesis, "Harry Potter as Archetypal Hero," written by Ruth Anderson, in 2002. She has directed and served on committees for theses and dissertations in the field of children's literature for graduate students in the English Department. Her own dissertation was about transformations and disenchantments in four popular Anglo-American folktales (a topic about which she has continued to publish and on which she has continued to make presentations.) In 2005, Hixon presented an invited paper on "The Little Mermaid" at the Hans Christian Andersen Centennial Conference in London. In addition to folktales, children's fantasy is a particular interest of hers, and she coedited the first collection of scholarly essays on the work of modern British children's fantasy author Diana Wynne Jones in 2002. Her current projects are a study of the development of animal fantasy in Anglo-American literature and the completion of a book on modern fairy-tale retellings.

Teaching and research go hand-in-hand for Dr. Hixon. She says she learns as much from her students as they do from her. This is why she favors the Socratic method of teaching, asking questions that stimulate discussion rather than giving straight lectures. She also thinks that this is the best way to encourage students to develop habits of critical thinking and intellectual curiosity that can carry on beyond the college classroom. Students in the Honors College are clearly satisfied: Hixon was named an Outstanding Honors Faculty Member in 2003.

Dr. Hixon is active in her field beyond the classroom and the research library; she has just completed a term as president of the Children's Literature Association, the international association for academics and scholars in the field of children's literature. Along with Drs. Ellen Donovan and Jennifer Marchant, she codirects the Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature Conference, held in Nashville every other year and hosted by MTSU. This conference is one of the most highly regarded academic children's literature conferences in North America.

Here at MTSU, Hixon served as chair of the committee that oversaw the placing of the student-produced creative journal *Collage* under the auspices of the Honors College in 2004, and she has served on the *Collage* advisory committee since that time. In appreciation for her work with the magazine, the Honors College instituted the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award, given to the best poem and the best piece of prose in each issue of *Collage*. Dr. Hixon is very proud of the quality of *Collage* since it became an Honors publication and thinks that whatever effort she put into facilitating the transfer of the publication has been well justified. 📌

Seminar cont. from page 4

Conference and the Breadloaf Writers' Conference on fellowship and has conducted more than 100 readings and presentations of her poetry over the past eight years. Fennelly is an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar, an interdisciplinary course taught by an established artist, is offered every spring by the Honors College. While speakers frequently visit campus to address students, the Visiting Artist's Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts an entire week and requires intensive student participation. It's taught at an introductory level so that students from any field of study can participate; it's limited to 15 students; and the only prerequisites are upper-division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

The 2009 seminar will meet February 2–6, Monday–Friday, 3:00–5:40 p.m. It will culminate in a free, public reading by Fennelly and her students on Friday, February 6, at 4:00 pm. The Honors College will host a reception after the reading so that the audience may meet informally with the artist and the students.

The 2009 Visiting Artist's Seminar is supported by the University Honors College, the Distinguished Lectures Committee, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund Committee, and the English Department. For more information, contact the program coordinator, Dr. Claudia Barnett, professor of English (cbarnett@mtsu.edu, 898-2887).



## Michelle Arnold Accepts New Position on Campus

Michelle Gadson Arnold, academic advisor of the University Honors College since the Martin Honors building opened in early 2004, has accepted the position of associate director of the MTSU Admissions Office. Arnold received B.B.A., M.B.E., and Ed.S. degrees from Middle Tennessee State University and is currently seeking her doctorate in education from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville.



Former Honors Advisor Michelle Arnold and daughter Taylor visited the Honors College for its back-to-school ice cream social August 28.

Arnold recently said, "I have truly enjoyed the opportunity of working in the Honors College the past four and one-half years. It was a rewarding experience that allowed me to develop both personally and professionally." She added, "Even though I am moving on to another position as associate director of the Admissions Office, I hope to continue working with the Honors College, only in a different capacity."

In addition to serving as the Honors academic advisor, Arnold has coordinated the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, served on the Whirlpool Corporation Scholarship Committee, the African American

*Arnold cont. on page 8*

## Faculty and Staff News

**Professor Marc Barr** (Electronic Media Communication) has had his work displayed in four art exhibits in the past year: Artful Drinking Vessels at the Pottworks Gallery in Hamilton, Michigan; Tactile Clay at Vanderbilt University in Nashville; Notes on Origin at the Tennessee Arts Commission Gallery in Nashville; and Big Fish, Small Pot 3 at the Third International Small Teapot Competition at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California.

**Dr. Robert B. Blair** (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) received the 2008 Alpha Brown Individual Achievement Award from the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians and the 2007 Southern Business Education Association Outstanding Leadership Award. He was elected 2008–09 president of the Tennessee Delta Unit of Parliamentarians in May. He is also serving as college/university program director for the National Business Association Convention in Chicago, April 8–11, 2009. Blair coauthored two recently published articles: "Factors that Influence Teachers to implement the Stock Market Game Curriculum," written with M. L. Edlin and published in *Georgia Business Education Association*, spring 2009; and "Feedback for Professional Development (Assessment)," written with M. Balachandran and S. D. Lewis, which appeared in *NBEA Yearbook* (no. 45, 146–158). Blair also presented two sessions at the National Business Education Association Convention in San Antonio during April 2008 ("Business Etiquette and

International Experiential Learning"). In July, Blair copresented "Living a Life that Matters: Experiential Curriculum" with Drs. Kaylene Gebert and Jill Austin at the Southern Business Administration Association in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Dr. Tom Brinthaup** (Psychology) has authored six entries for the second edition (2008) of the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. The topics were natural selection, self-disclosure, self-monitoring, Rotter's internal-external locus of control scale, identity, and type A/type B personality. Brinthaup coauthored "Caveat Emptor: Computers in the Classroom," published in 2007 in *Principle* (vol. 87, 76–77). He also coauthored "Serving Students by Helping Faculty: Encouraging Instructional Technology Integration," published in 2008 in *Academic Leader* (vol. 24). Brinthaup recently served as mentor for undergraduate Jessica Busler's URSCA assistant and scholar proposals and for Jaclyn Pearson's URSCA scholar proposal. Busler's "Emotional Eating Relating to Well-being" was funded for spring (\$700) and fall (\$3,170). Pearson's "The Effects of Interventions in Primary and Secondary Schooling on the Overall Success of Dyslexic College Students" was funded for spring (\$1,620).

**Dr. Kathleen G. Burriss** (Elementary and Special Education) presented two papers, "Creating the Outdoor Classroom" and "Play: A Global Reality" at the Association for Childhood Education International World Conference in Moscow in June.

# Faculty and Staff News cont.

**Dr. Larry Burriss** (Journalism) presented “The Internet as Information Source: Potentials and Perils” at the Association for Childhood Education International World Conference in Moscow in June.

**Dr. A. Bruce Cahoon** (Biology) has two recent publications. Cahoon coauthored “A Plastome Primer Set for Comprehensive Quantitative Real Time RT-PCR Analysis of *Zea mays*: A Starter Primer Set for Other *Poaceae* Species,” published by [www.plantmethods.com](http://www.plantmethods.com) in June 2008. Cahoon was senior author of “Nuclear, Chloroplast, and Mitochondrial Transcript Abundance along a Maize Leaf Developmental Gradient,” published in 2008 in *Plant Molecular Biology* (vol. 66, 33–46).

**Dr. Scott Carnicom** (Honors), associate dean of the Honors College and past president of Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council, has recently been appointed by President-elect Lydia Lyons to two committees of the National Collegiate Honors Council (research and large university programs) and has been recently appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Honors in Practice*.

**Ms. Georgia Dennis** (Honors) was presented the 2007 Annual Cultural Preservation Award from the Alliance for Native American Indian Rights (ANAIR) of Tennessee in January. The award was presented in grateful recognition of her devotion in support of Native American culture by her addressing the educational needs of Native American students through her coordination

of the powwow at Middle Tennessee State University. Governor Phil Bredesen was a corecipient of the 2007 ANAIR annual award. In July, Governor Phil Bredesen appointed Dennis to the Archaeological Advisory Council of the State of Tennessee.

**Dr. Laura Dubek** (English) traveled in March with Julian Bond, chair of the NAACP, and 50 other educators, lawyers, and historians on a civil rights bus tour. Highlights of the trip, which was funded by the English Department and the dean’s office, included visits to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Martin Luther King’s parsonage in Montgomery, the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, and the Southern Poverty Law Center; dinner with Congressman John Lewis in Atlanta; and Sunday services at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Dubek’s experiences will inform her English 1020 (Research, Argumentative Writing, and Civil Rights) class and her interdisciplinary Honors seminar, African American Nonfiction. Dubek’s article “‘Jus listenin’ to you’: Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and the Gospel Impulse” will appear in the fall issue of *Southern Literary Journal*. The essay offers a new paradigm for reading Hurston’s most famous novel.

**Dr. Norma Dunlap** (Chemistry) was senior author of “Concise Synthesis of Enantiomers of 4-Aminobutane-1,2,3-triol,” published in 2008 in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (vol. 73, 2928–2930). The focus of the article was the synthesis of isomerically pure aminotriols, which

can then be used to prepare pure samples of adducts that are formed when the environmental toxin butadiene reacts with DNA. Graduate students Tracy Salyard and Leah Martin, as well as undergraduates John Drake and Andrea Martin, contributed to the project. Dunlap coauthored an article, “Substituents on Etoposide that Interact with Human Topoisomerase IIa in the Binary Enzyme – Drug Complex: Contributions to Etoposide Binding and Activity,” that was published this year in *Biochemistry* (vol. 47, 4501–4509). The article resulted from collaboration with scientists at Vanderbilt and the University of Alabama–Birmingham. Former graduate students Mohammed Shadid and Ian Romaine contributed to the project.

**Tim Graeff** (Management and Marketing) received the Outstanding Faculty Award for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

**Dr. Jan Hayes** (professor emeritus, Educational Leadership) has authored *The Split Tongue Sparrow*. The children’s story is a traditional Japanese folk tale and was published in both English and Japanese.



**Dr. Allen Hibbard** (English, Middle East Center director) gave a keynote address at the Fourth International Conference in Tangier,

Alumni Achievement Award Selection Committee, and search committees for director of judicial affairs and Honors College associate dean. Arnold also served as scholarship chair on the Executive Board for Women in Higher Education. She has been named a Phi Kappa Phi Influential Faculty Honoree and was a National Academic Advising Association scholarship recipient in 2007. She has been included in *Who's Who among American Colleges and Universities*.

Retired Honors Dean Phil Mathis recently said, "The loss of Michelle Arnold is a significant loss for the Honors College, but her promotion to associate director of Admissions is a just reward for the outstanding work she did over the past four and one-half years in Honors."

Arnold, a Chattanooga native, lives in Nashville with her husband Randy, an MTSU alumnus, and daughters Taylor and Paige. 📍

## Thank You!

Special thanks to all who contributed information and stories; to the Honors staff, Phil Mathis, Karen Demonbreum, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, Scott Carnicom, and John Vile; to Sherry Wiser George and others at Publications and Graphics; and to MTSU Photographic Services.

—Marsha Powers, editor

# Faculty and Staff News cont.

News cont. from page 7

Morocco. MTSU's Middle East Center was an official sponsor of the conference, and Hibbard was on the conference organizing committee.

### Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross

(Chemistry) was awarded the King-Hampton Award by the Association of Faculty and Administrative Women and the June Anderson Women's Center at MTSU. The award recognizes a woman who has made outstanding contributions to improve the status of women on this campus.

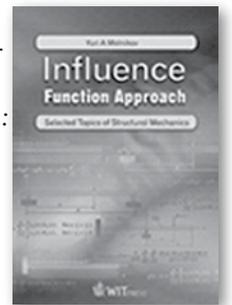
### Dr. Jane Marcellus (Journalism)

recently was on a panel cosponsored by the History and Cultural-Critical Studies divisions of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, which met in Chicago. Her talk was titled "When the Crocodile's Belly Is Empty: Elusive Primary Sources in a Changing Mediascape." Marcellus will also be part of a panel titled Representation of Employed Black Women in the National Urban League's *Opportunity Magazine* during the 1920s and 1930s at the Urban History Association Conference in Houston in November. As of this writing, she was to present a peer-reviewed paper titled "'Come Rally to Our Standard': Nashville Newspapers and the 19th Amendment during the Summer of 1920" at the American Journalism Historians Association National Conference in Seattle, October 2.

**Dr. Philip M. Mathis** (Honors) attended the Southern Regional Honors Council in Birmingham, Alabama, where he presented "Resource Development in Honors: A New Initiative at Middle Tennessee State University." He was also a panelist on the overall topic of development in honors. At the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council hosted by the MTSU Honors College in February, he presented, with Dr. Scott Carnicom, "A Thumbnail Sketch of the University Honors College, Middle Tennessee State University" and was a coauthor (with Talia Cunetto, Jolene Barto, Marsha Powers and Scott Carnicom) of Carolyn Crawford's paper, "Collage: The Benefits of a Literature and Visual Arts Magazine."

### Dr. Yuri A. Melnikov

(Mathematical Sciences) has published *Influence Function Approach: Selected Topics of Structural Mechanics*. The book, which is designated as a graduate text, was published by WIT Press.



**Dr. Felicia Miyakawa** (Music) presented "Modern (Jewish, Electronic, and Gay) Motherless Children" in Lexington, Kentucky, at the spring meeting of the American Musicological Society, South-Central Chapter. She also presented "Modern Motherless (and Fatherless) Children: Revisiting Samuel Floyd's 'Sometimes' Troupe" in Iowa City at the annual meeting of the International

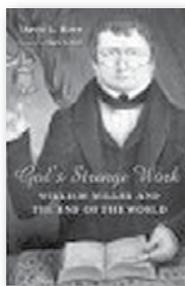
# Faculty and Staff News cont.

Association for the Study of Popular Music. In February, Miyakawa read an invited paper, "Know Your History" for From Jazz to Hip-Hop: The Influence of Black Music on Culture, a panel presented for Black History Month celebrations at Austin Peay State University. In April, she served as a panelist for Issues in Popular Music, which was presented at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Educators Association in Nashville.

**Dr. Bob Pondillo** (Electronic Media Communication) is completing his book on NBC-TV's Stockton Helffrich and early network television censorship. The work is scheduled to be published in 2009 by Southern Illinois University Press and is expected to be marketed as a supplemental academic text for mass communication, radio-TV, sociology, and popular culture classes. Pondillo's latest short film, *Wait*, was accepted as an official selection of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival's Short Film Corner. This is the second year in a row that one of his MTSU student-crewed shorts has made it to Cannes. The film has also been accepted by the DigiFest Film Festival in Italy and is a finalist in the HaydenFilms 2008 Online Film Festival in Los Angeles. Pondillo has just written a new short film, which is in preproduction, called *The New, True, Charlie Wu*, a fantasy/comedy/musical.

**Ms. Marsha Powers** (Honors) was renamed to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Board of Judges.

**Dr. David Rowe** (History) has written *God's Strange Work: William Miller and the End of the World* for Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing. Rowe's book, available through Amazon.com and other sites, is the first major biography of the Calvinist Baptist preacher best known as the founder of Seventh Day Adventism. Rowe's book is introduced by Mark Noll of Notre Dame. Professor Paul S. Boyer, the author of *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture*, notes that Rowe has employed "psychological insight and a wealth of primary sources to present William Miller as a fully rounded human being."



**Dr. Shelley Thomas** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) coordinated ten five-day language institutes in June at the University School of Nashville, offering six different languages: Spanish, German, French, Mandarin, Gaelic, and Arabic. In July, she was invited

to deliver the keynote address at the National TPRS Conference at the University of Minnesota. Her title was "New Developments in Language Acquisition."

**Dr. John R. Vile** (Honors) is the editor, with David L. Hudson Jr. of the Freedom Forum and David Schultz of Hamline University, of the *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, a two-volume work published by CQ Press.



The book's forward is written by journalist John Siegenthaler Sr. The volumes contain over 1,400 entries contributed by more than 200 scholars from around the nation.

**Dr. Terry Whiteside** (Psychology) was named interim dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science on May 1.

**Dr. Gary Wulfsberg** and **Dr. Preston MacDougall** (Chemistry) have published an article along with undergraduates Rachell Briggs and Taylor Barnes and colleagues at the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Colorado State University. The article, "Silver Dichloroacetate: A Compound with Weak Ag-Cl Bonding Interactions and an Extraordinary Range of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  NQR Frequencies," was published in the international journal *Inorganica Chimica Acta*. 📌



## **Mathis Named Professor Emeritus**

Dr. Philip M. Mathis was one of only seven retired MTSU

faculty members named faculty emeriti Saturday, August 9, 2008, during the Summer Commencement ceremony.

Mathis, who retired from the University Honors College in June 2008 after serving four years as dean, also spent 34 years as an active professor of biology at MTSU. His significant contributions to teaching, research, and service have been widely recognized, and he received an MTSU Career Achievement Award in 2001.

Among his many honors, Mathis was cited for outstanding teaching by the MTSU Foundation in 1985 and for research by America's Names and Faces Library in 1977. He was recognized by the Tennessee Academy of Science when he was elected Fellow in 1987 and by the Society of College Science Teachers as Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher in 1999. He is also a member of several honor fraternities including Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Beta Beta, Sigma Xi, and Kappa Delta Pi.

The Kentucky native has overseen 13 grants, served on many University committees, and played key roles in several professional organizations. He has published dozens of reviews and articles in peer-reviewed journals and has authored, coauthored, or contributed to nine books.

*Mathis cont. on page 11*

# *Meet Members of the Honors* **College Board of Visitors**

## **John F. (Jeff) Whorley Jr.**

Board Chair  
Executive Vice  
President, Debt  
Management  
(retired), SLM  
Corporation,  
Indianapolis



Jeff Whorley served as executive vice president for SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae), where he oversaw operational sites in eight states, until his retirement in January 2007. Before joining SLM, Whorley was senior vice president of USA Group, the nation's largest guarantor of student loans. From 1987 to 1993, he was chief of staff for U.S. Representative Bart Gordon (D-Tennessee).

Whorley attended Middle Tennessee State University's Campus School and graduated from Webb School in Bell Buckle. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of the South (Sewanee) and an M.B.A. from the University of Indianapolis.

A present member of the Visiting Committee at the University of the South and an active supporter of United Way and Shade Tree Women's Shelter, Whorley also serves as a trustee on the MTSU Foundation Board.

## **James H. (Jim) Bailey III**

Board Vice Chair  
Johnson and  
Bailey Architects,  
Murfreesboro

Jim Bailey is a founding shareholder in Johnson and Bailey Architects, which provides architectural services to clients in Rutherford, Williamson, Marshall, and Sumner counties in Tennessee and to National HealthCare Corporation (NHC), the largest provid-



er of assisted living and nursing care in the southeast United States. Bailey and his firm have received recognition for outstanding architectural design from the Tennessee School Boards Association, the National Masonry Institute, and the Murfreesboro Architectural and Zoning Society.

Bailey completed pre-architecture studies at Central Michigan University and later earned a bachelor of architecture degree from Ball State University. As a professional, he has served as treasurer, vice president, and president of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and as a board director for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He is also a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Bailey has served on several boards for the city of Murfreesboro, the Middle Tennessee State University Industrial Studies Advisory Board, the MidSouth Bank Advisory Board, and the Union Planters Bank Board of Directors.

## **Mark A. Hall**

Turnage  
Professor of  
Law, Wake  
Forest University,  
Winston-Salem,  
North Carolina



Mark Hall is  
the Fred D.

and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law and Public Health at Wake Forest University School of Law and School of Medicine. He is also an associate in management at the Babcock School of Management.

Hall received his undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University, graduating from the then-fledgling Honors Program, and received his law degree (J.D.) from the University of Chicago with highest honors.

During his distinguished career as an attorney and legal educator, Hall has served as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina. He specializes in health care law and public policy, with a focus on economic, regulatory, and corporate issues. His present research interests include doctor/patient trust, managed care regulation, health care rationing, genetics, and insurance market reform. He is the author of ten books on health care law and policy.



**H. Lee Martin**  
Chair, Abunga.com,  
Knoxville

Lee Martin is chair of the online bookstore Abunga.com. Prior to assuming a leadership role with Abunga, he was a managing

member of Clarity Resources, a mentor capitalist group specializing in technological innovation. Martin has a broad range of interests and skills and is an engineer, entrepreneur, inventor, author, musician, and teacher.

Martin holds three degrees in the field of mechanical engineering: a B.S. from the University of Tennessee, an M.S. from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. with specialization in control systems and robotics from the University of Tennessee.

After beginning his career as a development engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Martin founded TeleRobotics International, a company specializing in the development of robots for hazardous environments. During his time with TeleRobotics, the company developed, patented, and introduced to market an immersive interactive imaging method called iPIX, a method now used worldwide to remotely display real estate, automobiles, vacation spots, and current events.

Martin is the founder of the Tennessee Technopreneurial Leadership Center, has published more than 20 technical reports and scholarly articles, holds

22 U.S. patents, and has received two Research and Development Magazine "R&D 100" awards for innovative new products. He was recognized by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1988 as the National Young Engineer of the Year, and he recently authored *Technomics: Theory of Industrial Evolution*.



**Gregg F. Morton**  
President, ATT–  
Tennessee

Gregg Morton, recently appointed corporate president for AT&T–Tennessee,

has 30 years of telecommunications experience. Morton began his career working for Southern Bell from 1978 to 1989, holding positions of increasing responsibility. In 1989, Morton was promoted to director for legislative affairs in BellSouth's Washington, D.C., office. In 1997 and 2004, he was promoted to vice president for legislative and regulatory affairs and vice president–legislation and chief of staff, respectively.

In his current position as president of AT&T–Tennessee, Morton oversees the company's regulatory, legislative, and community affairs in the state. He works closely with community leaders and state policymakers to help meet the company's objective of bringing the best new technology to consumers.

Morton was born in Aiken, South Carolina, and graduated from Clemson University in 1978 with a B.S. in administrative management. He has been involved in numerous community and civic organizations throughout his career including United Way, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Advisory Board of the School of Business and Behavioral Science at Clemson University. He is a former chair of the Board of Regents for Leadership South Carolina and past chair of the Clemson University Board of Visitors. 📌

*Mathis cont. from page 10*

Mathis holds an undergraduate degree from Murray State College, graduate degrees from MTSU and Peabody College, and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. His areas of specialization and special interests include plant ecology, applied statistics, cytogenetics and transmission genetics, science education, and the history of science and education.

Although Mathis retired as Honors dean in June, he remains an important part of the Honors staff, working on a half-time basis. 📌

## Board of Visitors Update

By the time this newsletter goes to press, the University Honors College Board of Visitors will have met October 2 and 3. According to board chair John F. (Jeff) Whorley, this year's meeting was to build on the successes of last year's inaugural meeting, and one of his specific goals was to develop concrete plans for creating heightened awareness of the Honors College among area students, parents, and guidance counselors.

The spring issue of *Honors Edition* will contain a complete report and photographs from the October meeting. 📌

## Carnicom Attends Harvard Program

From June 14 to June 26, Scott Carnicom, associate dean, participated in the Management Development Program at Harvard



University. The program is part of the Graduate School of Education's Institute for Higher Education Administration and attracts academic leaders from across the globe.

"This was a fantastic experience," said Carnicom. "It was really like returning to school . . . we stayed in the dorms; we were in class from 8:00 to 4:00 every day; and we had group meetings, study sessions, and homework every night. That might not sound appealing to everyone, but this was an incredible learning experience and I returned exhausted but exhilarated."

Institute faculty included Harvard professors and college presidents from across the United States. Carnicom said, "The town of Cambridge and the Harvard campus are so beautiful and historic. I felt honored to be learning with such fine classmates in such a special place and greatly appreciate the support of Kaylene Gebert, John Omachonu, and Phil Mathis, all of whom greatly supported my application." 📌

## Fall 2008 Honors Lecture Series

### **POLITICS AND THE PRESS: The Relationship between Government and the Fourth Estate**

Free and open to the public  
Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.  
Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors  
Building, Room 106

#### **October 20**

**Between Jesse Jackson  
and Barack Obama: Race  
Management, Electoral  
Populism, and Presidential Politics**

Sekou Franklin, Political Science

#### **October 27**

**Politics, the Presidency, and Film**

Mark Byrnes, Associate Dean,  
College of Liberal Arts

#### **November 3**

**Correspondents, Columns, and  
Caricatures: Politics and the  
Press in the Civil War**

David Foote, Management and  
Marketing



#### **November 10**

**Politics, Nontraditional Media,  
and Young Voters**

Bob Spires, Electronic Media  
Communication

#### **November 17**

**Agenda-Setting Images in  
National Politics**

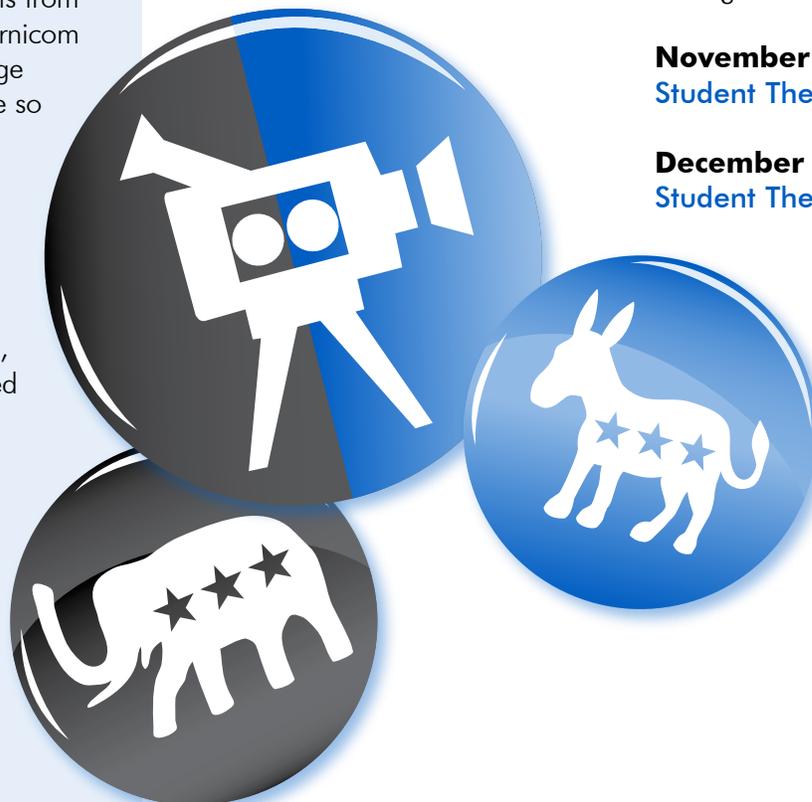
John Omachonu, Associate Dean,  
College of Mass Communication

#### **November 24**

**Student Thesis Presentations**

#### **December 1**

**Student Thesis Presentations** 📌



# Upcoming Events

## Pre-thesis workshop

4:30 p.m., Monday, October 20

## Honors Studies Association social

3 p.m., Thursday, October 30

## Thesis completion deadline

Monday, November 3

## MTSU Homecoming vs. Louisiana-Monroe

**Honors Homecoming tailgate**  
Saturday, November 8

## Collage staff applications due

Friday, November 14

## American Indian cultural video

5 p.m., Thursday, November 20

## Fall Commencement

December 13

## Spring classes begin

Monday, January 12

## African American cultural video

Thursday, February 5

## Collage submission deadline for spring magazine

Friday, February 6

## GRE workshop

4:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 10

## Priority registration workshop

Monday, February 16

## Weekend GRE prep course

Friday, February 20, though  
Saturday, February 21 

## Windrow Steps Down from Board, Accepts Campus Position

Vincent Windrow (B.S., 1991), a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors since its formation in 2007, recently stepped down from the board and accepted the position of director of the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs (formerly Multicultural Affairs) at MTSU.



Windrow was vice president of Zycron Inc., an information technology staffing firm headquartered in Nashville with offices in Memphis, Chattanooga, and Dallas. He is currently pastor of Olive Branch Church, which has thriving congregations in Antioch and Murfreesboro.

A Murfreesboro native, Windrow graduated from Oakland High School and holds two bachelor's degrees from MTSU: a B.S. in University Studies (1991) and a B.S. in Industrial Management Technology (1994). As an alumnus, he has given generously of his time in support of MTSU, including serving on the Honors College Board of Visitors and frequently speaking to minority alliance participants in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. He was recently recognized for work with MTSU's African American Alumni Council and made a generous donation of books to the Honors College Michael Martinelli Memorial Library in January 2008.

Windrow recently said that he has thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Board of Visitors and getting to know the Honors College staff. He plans to continue spreading the news about the college from his new position in Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. 



## Gretchen Jenkins

receives the President's Award from Dr. and Mrs. Sidney McPhee at the President's Celebration of Excellence April 12.

## McNair Scholars Present Research

The Middle Tennessee State University McNair Scholars program held its ninth annual Research Symposium in the Tom H. Jackson Building in July. McNair Scholars made oral presentations of their summer research and displayed their research posters. The Honors College was well represented among the McNair Scholars: eleven Honors students made presentations; three of them are on the thesis track.

Brittney Oliver, who completed and defended her thesis project in spring 2008, was among the presenters as were Jasmine Gray and Anjelica Crawford, who are currently enrolled in the thesis tutorial. Associate Dean Scott Carnicom said, "It is wonderful that our Honors students can also participate in the prestigious McNair program. We greatly value this partnership, a partnership that cultivates scholarship in a new generation of intellectuals. The McNair Research Symposium was fantastic, celebrating the creative work of some of our best and brightest students. Kudos to Dianne, Steve, Cindy, and the McNair students for a job extremely well done."

Other Honors College participants who took part in the symposium were Suzanne Hicks (Psychology and Biology), Christina Runkel (History), Jeremy Minton (Psychology), Dean Andrews (Political Science), Stephanie Mills (Music), Jordan Dawdy (Animal Science), Jason Gerald (Finance) and Eterial Burrell (Biology).

The McNair Program is designed to support and assist low-income/first-generation and underrepresented undergraduate students as they prepare to complete a doctoral degree in their chosen fields. 

## Meet the Buchanan Scholars!

This year's freshmen Buchanan Scholars represent a diverse mix of gifted students who will be taking some of their classes as a cohort during their first two years at MTSU. Collectively, the students had an average 31 on their ACT exams and a GPA of 3.87. This year's Buchanan Scholars are listed below.

**Eldridge Alexander** graduated from Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. He was president of his school's National Honor Society, president of DECA, and a member of Mu Alpha Theta and he was voted "Most Intellectual" by his high school peers. His volunteer activities included maintaining a Web site for his youth group, serving as a magician for inner-city children, and serving as a child-care assistant at a Mexican orphanage. He hopes to major in Mass Communication, Marketing, or Curriculum and Instruction (Secondary Education).

**Shelby Barton** graduated from Libby High School in Libby, Montana, where she was valedictorian and recognized as academic all-state and served as student body president. She is planning to major in Aviation Administration or Business Administration.

**Kaitlin Beck** graduated from Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and the Thespian Society. She earned a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Board for her performance on the PSAT exam and honors recognitions for French and art. She organized the Oakland High School French Club and participated in Murfreesboro Little Theater. She plans to major in French and Science (Pre-med).

**Troy Berry** graduated from Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, where he participated during his sophomore year in the Governor's School for the Sciences. He was senior class vice president and a member of the National Honor Society. He has participated in three mission trips to Jamaica and plans to major in Mass Communication (radio/TV broadcasting or Journalism) or Curriculum and Instruction.

**Erica Cathey** graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, which she represented at Girl's State and at the 2007 Governor's School for the Sciences. She earned a varsity letter in band and made exemplary scores on the National French Exam, levels 1 and 2. She volunteered at the Discovery Center and served as a church volunteer. She is interested in majoring in Physics, Mathematics, or Chemistry.

**Holly Cunningham** graduated from Clinton High School in Clinton, Iowa. She earned a commendation from the National Merit Board, achieved a 99 percent Achievement Award on the Iowa Test of Educational Development, was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and of Righteous Royalty and received the Clinton High School "Character Counts" Award. She served as an intern with Clinton Area Showboat Theatre and plays trumpet and bagpipes at special events. She hopes to major in Recording Industry.

**Adam Emerson** graduated from DeKalb County High School in Liberty, Tennessee. He has volunteered to help with Special Olympics and with Habitat for Humanity. He plans to major in Psychology, International Relations, or Political Science.

## Meet the Buchanan Scholars! cont.

**Adam Raul Gimenez** graduated from Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama, where he received a mayor's award for scholastic excellence and a student director award for his work with the Bob Jones Patriot Singers. He served as the Ovation Arts music director and as a member of the Madison Community Chorus. He plans to major in Music or a related field.

**Erica Gober** graduated from Mt. Juliet High School in Old Hickory, Tennessee, where she was selected to attend the Governor's School for the Arts and was student director of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Erica also participated in the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. She hopes to major in Speech and Theatre (Theatre) and Science (Pre-med).

**Eric Guyes** graduated from Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, Virginia, where he won three academic achievement awards and was a member of the Beta Club. He served as a Hebrew school tutor and as a volunteer for the St. Francis House and hopes to major in Aerospace or Accounting/Information Systems.

**Jennifer Johnson** graduated from Maryville High School in Maryville, Tennessee, where she won a Discipleship Award, ranked ninth in the nation on a national French exam, and took third place in an art show. She participated in many church activities and hopes to major in Interior Design or a related field.

**Katherine Miller** graduated from Cedar Shoals High School in Athens, Georgia, where she received varsity letters in tennis and cross-country and was the Spanish Honors Society Officer of the Year. She also co-edited the school magazine, *Blueprints*.

She served as the online promotions manager of the Battle Against Poverty Concert and hopes to major in Recording Industry, Foreign Languages (Spanish), and/or Mass Communication (Journalism).

**Haley Pimentel** is from Shelbyville, Tennessee, and graduated from Cascade High School, which she represented at the Governor's School for the Humanities and at Girl's State. She also participated in the Interact Club and the Key Club. She plans to major in Science (Pre-dental) or Chemistry.

**Shelby Ragan** graduated from Eagleville High School in Christiana, Tennessee, where she won awards for academic achievement in English, physical science, biology, world history, chemistry, and Spanish and which she represented at the Governor's School for the Humanities. She has served as a volunteer at her church and at a church camp and plans to major in English.

**Nathan Reale** graduated from Franklin High School in Franklin, Tennessee, where he won an essay contest to go to the Washington Youth Tour and received awards for pre-calculus and a Heroes in Training Community Service Award. He has done volunteer work at the Nashville Rescue Mission, taken mission trips, and served as a student ambassador to France and England through the Eisenhower People-to-People program. He plans to major in Information Systems or Mathematics.

**Samuel "Lee" Reed** graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, where he got a silver award on the National Latin Exam. He participated in a number of mission trips and plans to major in Biology and/or Physics.

**Lauren Rigsby** graduated from Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, where she won awards in Latin, English, and physical science and participated in the Midstate Choir. She plans to major in Biology and/or Physics.

**James Skelley** graduated from Liberty High School in Jackson, Tennessee, where he won first place in an essay contest, participated in the Academic Decathlon, and was a junior Rotarian. He served as a Web master and tutored middle and high school students in math and science. Skelley plans to major in Mass Communication (Journalism), Mathematics, or Information Systems.

**Chad Slaven** graduated from Cumberland Gap High School in Harrogate, Tennessee, where he was accepted into the Governor's School for the Sciences and received the Citizens Bank Highest GPA Award. He has participated in the Tri-State Youth Choir, served on a mission trip, and worked at Manna House and plans to major in Science (Pre-dental or Pre-pharmacy).

**Christen Denise Vann** is from Normandy, Tennessee, and graduated from Moore County High School, which she represented at the Governor's School for the Arts, in Girl's State and in the National High School Flute Choir. She has tutored students in math, served as a member of the community choir, and served Thanksgiving meals to the needy. She hopes to major in Music (education), Political Science, or pre-law Political Science.

Returning sophomore Buchanan Scholars are Robert Bridgers, Jordan Cox, Chelsea Curtis, Meghan Davis, Michelle Ebel, Elizabeth Henegar, James Larson, Nellery Marty, Taffy O'Neal, Danielle Rutherford, Aaron Scherer, Jonathan Siler, Richard Skelley, Jessica Taylor, Jordan Timmons, and Andrew Trivette. 📌

## Student Experiences Democratic National Convention

by Lani Lester (Senior, Political Science and Journalism)

I was simply one of thousands of people who traveled from across America to attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver in August, but I couldn't have felt more fortunate.

Every day that week I made my way through the mass of people outside the Colorado Convention Center. Some were selling souvenirs, buttons, t-shirts, magnets and posters; others protested by carrying signs supporting or opposing different issues and candidates. They lined the sidewalks handing out information about the persecution of practitioners of Falun Gong—a form of meditation in China—and carried signs opposing abortion rights or urging people to recycle. Police officers in helmets, vests, and boots carried automatic weapons as they rode in convoys through the streets of Denver to ensure peace and order.

Inside, delegates with caucus passes around their necks toted overstuffed souvenir bags as they searched the halls for their next meeting. The scene reminded me how wonderfully diverse our nation is.

I often found myself standing next to a popular politician or celebrity entertainer and had a story to tell every time I called home. "Mom, I just took a picture with Ray Nagin!" or "I saw Al Sharpton in the airport!" or "You should have heard Joe Biden speak!"

And yet, all of these experiences pale in comparison to sitting in Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium on Thursday, August 28. I stood under the sun for an hour in a line

## Honors Student Feature *Hannah Green*

Fifth-year senior Hannah Green says she has many dear memories of her four years in the Honors College and has had many excellent experiences and opportunities as well. Beginning with her freshman year in the Honors Living and Learning Center, then located in Wood and Felder Halls, Hannah says her first friendships at MTSU blossomed from being close to other Honors students. She also discovered a home away from home and a new family as she worked her scholarship service hours in the Honors office and bonded with the Honors staff.

"At first, I felt uncertain about taking Honors classes," Hannah said. "As a young freshman faced with the intimidating size of our school, I thought I would be greatly challenged by college-level courses and hesitantly signed up for one sole Honors class: The Experience of Literature with Dr. Peter McCluskey. Because of the small size and in-depth discussion, I was amazed at how enjoyable the class was."

Hannah also felt that the other Honors students seemed friendly and had a variety of perspectives that they were open about and willing to share. "Soon, they were



friends," she said. Some students were later in other classes with her, and the friendships have continued even after their graduations. "Needless to say," she added, "I continued to take Honors classes, even completing the Honors Thesis."

"As I worked my way through

the thesis process, I discovered many perks," Hannah said. "Not only did I get to know my thesis advisor better and learn much from him, I learned more about his life as a professor of art, which is what I hope to be after graduate school." Hannah said that other people she encountered during the thesis process presented her with numerous valuable lessons. She learned from family members she interviewed for her thesis and other professors and shop assistants who taught her and discussed various aspects of her thesis. "Throughout my thesis experience, I gained knowledge about my process as an artist, heritage, family members, myself as a person, and what I want out of life," she said.

Hannah said she feels that, academically speaking, completing the Honors requirements further heightened her education beyond the already high standards of

# Honors Survey

We are particularly interested in receiving information from those who have not responded previously and also in hearing of recent developments. Your responses will help us assess our strengths and weaknesses and will provide information for the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

What is your relationship to the Honors College?  current student  alumnus  friend

Other affiliation with Honors? \_\_\_\_\_

What is/was your degree program? \_\_\_\_\_

Year you will receive/received your degree \_\_\_\_\_ What is your profession? \_\_\_\_\_

How many Honors hours did you complete? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you/did you graduate from the Honors College? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently in graduate school? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a graduate degree? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what degree and from where? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your title or position? \_\_\_\_\_

What other positions have you held since receiving your last degree? \_\_\_\_\_

In retrospect, what were the strengths and weaknesses in your Honors studies? \_\_\_\_\_

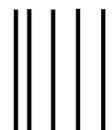
## *Personal data*

Any recent happenings in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to add any additional comments that you think might be helpful. \_\_\_\_\_

Please fold in half so that the address is on the outside; tape the bottom; and mail.

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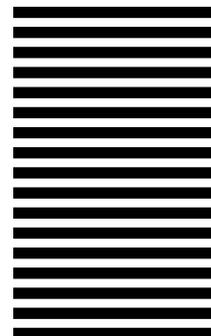
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*Thanks!*

# Law School Recruiters Visit the Honors College

On Wednesday, October 1, the University held its annual Career Day. As part of these activities, the Honors College, in conjunction with the Department of Political Science, invited law school recruiters to hold a forum at the college for students interested in attending. Representatives from six schools attended: Wakeelah Falden, from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School; LeRae Edwards from the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia; Christy Lynn Sherbrook, from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; Sue Ann McClellan, from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis; Karen Britton, of the College of Law at the University of Tennessee; and Dean Virginia Townzen of the Nashville School of Law.

The recruiters reminded students that June, October, or December are the best times to take the LSAT in anticipation of fall enrollment. Most schools represented take the higher score for those who have

repeated the LSAT. The service that analyzes student records, LSDAS, will often report a lower grade point average for students who have repeated classes or filed for academic bankruptcy. Students should seek out persons who know them well for letters of recommendation rather than those who are known for their own positions. Most students should apply to multiple schools rather than putting all their admission eggs in one basket.

MTSU students are especially well represented at the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, and the Nashville School of Law (which is unaccredited outside the state but offers classes at night for those with full-time jobs). MTSU graduates have also been admitted to Vanderbilt and to other schools throughout the nation. Law schools generally provide more loan support than outright fellowship support, but some do have scholarships designated for students from specific areas or for those possessing special talents. 📌

## Phil and Marilyn Mathis Issue Challenge for Research Award in Honors

Dr. Phil Mathis and his wife, Marilyn, have generously donated \$5,000 and have promised another \$5,000 to establish a permanent endowment to be used to support the presentation of student research at conventions or scholarly conferences, contingent on contributions of equal or higher amounts by the end of this year and next.

Dr. Mathis (Biology), who served the past four years as dean of the Honors College, believes the new fund will help Honors students take research done in connection with their theses to the next level. Mathis's tenure as dean was marked by an increased number of students who completed the Honors thesis.

Dr. John R. Vile, the current dean, said that the Honors College is increasingly emphasizing published research and that the Mathis's gift will further this objective. He added that donations to this fund are a worthy way of honoring the contributions that Dr. Mathis has made to the Honors College.

Donations may be mailed either to the Honors College or to the MTSU Foundation. 📌



New Honors College dean John Vile visits the new Honors Living and Learning Center in the recently renovated Lyon Hall complex.

## Honors Staff Accepts Awards



Honors Executive Aide Kathy Davis (center) received MTSU's Secretary/Clerical Staff Quarterly Award for Exemplary Performance in December. She is pictured with Dr. Phil Mathis, left, and Ben Jones, Business Office manager.



*Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, MTSU's arts and literary magazine recently won a Silver Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for the second consecutive year. *Collage* advisor Marsha Powers and former *Collage* editor and MTSU alumna Travisty Terry traveled to New York to receive the award at the College Media Convention at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in March.

## Tell Us About You!

Do you have news to share about publications, awards, presentations, appointments, exhibitions, or honors? E-mail your updates to [hcnews@mtsu.edu](mailto:hcnews@mtsu.edu).

# AP Credit Now Applicable as Honors Credit

The University Honors College now allows Honors credit in cases where a student demonstrates high competence in a subject based on Advanced Placement/CEEB exam scores. For years, MTSU has allowed credit obtained through Advanced Placement (AP) examination to count toward the 120 semester hours required for graduation, provided that the AP exam score was three (3) or higher on a five-point scale.

A new policy, approved last year, allows Honors students to gain up to nine semester hours of Honors credit by AP examination, provided that the AP exam score is four (4) or higher. The policy is similar to policies that have been in place at other honors colleges for some time. For details regarding the policy, faculty and students may consult the Honors College Web site ([www.mtsu.edu/~honors](http://www.mtsu.edu/~honors)) or contact Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean (e-mail: [Carnicom@mtsu.edu](mailto:Carnicom@mtsu.edu); phone: 494-7611). 📌

Student Feature cont. from page 16

MTSU. She said that because the Honors College had become like a home to her, she applied and was selected for the position of editor-in-chief of the Honors College arts and literary magazine, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, which will give her another chance to prove MTSU's quality. Hannah said she is excited to represent the Honors College and to showcase student work in the campus-wide publication.

Hannah's first opportunity to represent the University was her selection for the I'm One! marketing campaign. She had the privilege of being on local radio and being featured on the MTSU home Web page and a billboard. She even spoke at a recruitment dinner following President Sidney McPhee. The campaign has since given her many opportunities to speak about the quality of MTSU as

a university and the Honors College as an Ivy League-style college within the University.

"In all my discussions about MTSU as a school, being able to tell the truth while bragging about my school made me happy that I chose to come here and especially that I chose to join the Honors College," Hannah said. "Living around other Honors students, making friends in our small classes, and being taught by professors excited to teach students who want to learn created an excellent learning environment for me. It seemed relatively easy to find a place to belong at MTSU, with countless opportunities to get involved and to learn. The Honors College and MTSU have given me many great experiences and valuable life lessons. Therefore, my time at MTSU has been indispensable, and given the opportunity, I would not trade it!" 📌

Convention cont. from page 16

that stretched nearly two miles outside of the stadium. When I made it to my seat at the top of the stadium, I was dizzy from being up so high. The people below looked like black dots moving across the stage.

But my excitement didn't wane. On that day I witnessed a historic first—the nomination of an African American by a major political party for president of the United States. My hands hurt from clapping for New Mexico governor Bill Richardson and former vice president Al Gore and then . . . for Barack Obama.

On that day, 45 years after Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, a part of his dream was realized. I will always consider myself privileged to have participated in this event and to be able to share my experiences with fellow MTSU students. 📌

## H-Option Revised!

In an effort to streamline the H-Option process and eliminate bureaucracy, the Honors Council has approved revisions in procedures. Renamed the **Honors Contract**, students may now apply for Honors credit in upper-division courses in their major at the beginning of the same semester in which the course is being taught. The window of opportunity will be up until the day to drop a course without a grade. The dean or associate dean will determine Honors credit approval. In some instances, administrators may seek input from an Honors faculty member in a specific discipline.

To access the form, visit <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/h-option.htm>



## Roundabout Opens Near Martin Honors Building

MTSU's new roundabout at Blue Raider Drive and MTSU Boulevard opened in mid-August, providing students, faculty, staff, and visitors with a bit of Tennessee history. Around the perimeter of the circle sit portions of columns that stood at the state capitol when it was completed in 1859.

The old Tennessee limestone columns, which weathered poorly and were removed from the capitol in the 1950s, were once considered for use in the construction of the Martin Honors Building. However, there were not enough columns available for the project, but now the columns have a new home within sight of the Honors Building. Dean John Vile recently said, "I'm pleased to have a piece of the state's political history back in a city that served for a time as the state's capitol." He added, "It's especially exciting to have a tie to the state's historic state capitol building within view at a time when MTSU is approaching its own centennial."



Members of the fall 2008 Collage staff explore the new roundabout and columns located near the Martin Honors Building. Pictured left to right are (front) Graham Wells, Amy Powers, Jenna Puckett, Dean Andrews, (back) Beth Rich, and Hannah Green.

## Student News

**Charysse Archer** (Mathematics) presented "Can Airports Be a Green Source of Energy?" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference and at MTSU's 2008 Scholars Day and was a Basic and Applied Sciences undergraduate winner.



Taylor Barnes meets with U.S. Representative Bart Gordon while participating in Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

**Taylor Barnes** (Physics and Chemistry) received an honorable mention on the USA Today 2008 All-USA College Academic Team and presented "The Quantum Theory of Atoms in Molecules as a Tool for Chemical Analysis" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference. He presented "Coulombic Model of the Anomalous Conformations of the Chlorinated Acetates" at the Council on Undergraduate Research 2008 Posters on the Hill event in Washington, D.C. Barnes received the Provost's Award at the President's Celebration of Excellence and was recently elected president of the Chemistry Club at MTSU. He presented "Measuring Mechanical Deformation of Human Erythrocytes without Using Force Probes in both PBS and Calf Serum" at 2008's Posters

at the Capitol in Nashville and at the 2008 Tennessee Section of the American Association of Physic Teachers, where it won Best Poster Presentation. Barnes presented "Computational Analysis of the Through-Bond Interactions of Electronegative Atoms" at the 235th American Chemical Society National Meeting in New Orleans and presented posters during Scholars Week at MTSU. He worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) during the summer; presented his research, "Quantum Dynamics Simulations with MADNESS," at a summer intern poster session at ORNL; and received the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Achievement Award and the MTSU Chemistry Club Excellence in Leadership Award at the 2008 College of Basic and Applied Sciences Awards Ceremony.

**Jessica Busler** (Global Studies) presented "Eating Behavior and Personal Characteristics" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Bart Davis** (Nursing) presented "How Deeply Do You Listen to Music?" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Meghan Davis** (French, Speech and Theatre) presented "A Conventional Cage: A Ten-Minute Drama" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Cassie Frye** (Biology) received the Biology Department's Mary C. Dunn Freshman Scholarship.

# Student News cont.

**Jason Gerald** (Finance) presented “The Economic Impact of Illegal Immigration in the United States” at the Ninth Annual MTSU McNair Symposium.

**Hannah Green** (Art) was named editor-in-chief of the fall 2008 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, the arts and literary magazine of the University Honors College. She also presented “Genetic Heirloom: A Creative Project” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Jasmine Gray** (Journalism) presented “Contrasting Color: Juxtaposing Black Identity and Media Portrayal in America, Ghana, and England” at the Ninth Annual MTSU McNair Symposium.

**Shaun Guffey** (International Relations) presented “Russian Resurgence: The Strange Alliance between Russia and China” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Merranda Holmes** (Biology) received the Biology Department’s Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship.

**Yuliya Melnikova** (Mathematics) presented “Comparisons of Two Different Methods of Solving Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Jeremy Minton** (Psychology) presented “Coping Behaviors and Alexithymia in College Students”

at the Ninth Annual MTSU McNair Symposium and presented “Family Expressiveness and Alexithymia in College Students” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Stephanie Mills** (Liberal Studies) presented “Music and Politics: Handel’s Coronation Anthems for King George II, 1727” at the Ninth Annual MTSU McNair Symposium and presented “A Creative Project Based on the Life and Work of Manuel de Falla” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Shannon Murphy** (Biology) received the Biology Department’s Ralph E. Sharp Outstanding Sophomore Award and Scholarship.

**Brittney Oliver** (Psychology) presented “Current Trends and Attitudes toward Health and Health Care Practices among Middle-Aged and Elderly Adults” at the Ninth Annual MTSU McNair Symposium and presented “Effect of Culture and Ethnicity on Health Care Practices” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Taffy O’Neal** (English) presented “Stoodie and Other Works: A Young Writer on the Rise” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Josh Parker** (Recording Industry, Physics) presented “Testing and Developing a New Method of Impulse Response” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Jaclyn Pearson** (Psychology) presented “Self-Esteem and Academic Success among Students with and without Learning Disabilities” at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

**Amy Powers** (Mass Communication) received the Electronic Media Communication Country Radio Broadcasters Scholarship.

**Steve Sibley** (Finance) received the new MTSU Kawahito Scholarship for Experiential World Poverty Studies and is studying ten weeks this fall in Bangladesh with the Grameen Bank, the financial institution founded by former MTSU professor and Nobel Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Sibley, a senior from Signal Mountain, expects to graduate in December.

**Rachel Simes** (Recording Industry) received the Recording Industry Miller Harris Scholarship, was finalist for the Recording Industry Copyright Society of the South Award, and received the Recording Industry ARMS Scholarship.

**Kyle Williams** (Biology) presented “Left Ventricular Noncompaction: Genetic Analysis and Case Study” at MTSU’s 2008 Scholars Day and was a Basic and Applied Sciences undergraduate winner. 📌

## Go Beyond the Thesis!

Get your work published! Check out our Undergraduate Research Journal Web page. It lists a variety of both print and e-journals that accept undergraduate research and creative work.

### Undergraduate Research Journals

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~hcevents/journals.html>



Dr. Larry Gentry and Riki-Lynne Spence view a display of 88 football helmets decorated by females from eight to 88 years of age. The project, "They Have a Story: Feminist View of the Self," was created by Spence and classmates Allison Cummings and Michelle Francescon. The display started as a creative project for Dr. Ron Kates' Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar and was on display in the Honors Building April 10–11.

# 2007–2008 Annual Awards Program

The annual Honors College Awards program was held April 16, 2008. University Honors College graduates for fall 2007, spring 2008, and summer 2008 were recognized; nine honorees signed the *Book of Town and Gown*; and numerous scholarships and awards were presented.

### Scholarship Recipients Bart McCash Scholarship

Hayley Harmon  
(Mass Communication)

### Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Ali Smithson  
(History)

### Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship

Sonia Qureshi  
(International Relations, Political Science, and Global Studies)

### Academic Achievement Scholarships

Meredith Carr  
(Psychology and Global Studies)

Anjelica Crawford  
(Psychology)

Jessica M. Webb  
(Nursing)

### Outstanding Student Awards

Freshman: Michael Gibelyou  
(Psychology)

Freshman: Andrew Trivette  
(Music)

Sophomore: Amy C. Ronner  
(English)

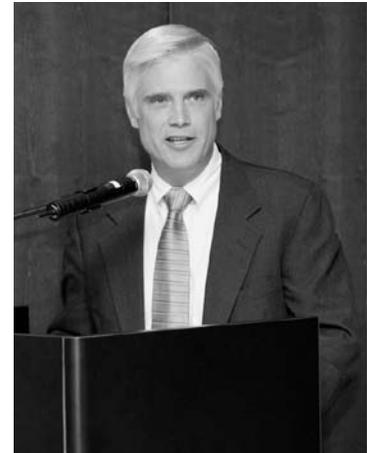
Junior: Merranda Holmes  
(Biology)



Chloe Robinson, winner of the Outstanding Junior Award, and Dr. Phil Mathis.

Junior: Chloe Robinson  
(Child Development and Family Studies)

Senior: Amy Duncan  
(Recording Industry Management)



Dr. H. Lee Martin announced Martin Scholarship winners.

### Paul W. Martin Scholarships

Taylor Barnes  
(Chemistry and Physics)

Mary Crouse  
(Biology)

Hannah Green  
(Art)

Lauren Johnson  
(Global Studies)

# Annual Awards Program cont.

## Book of Town and Gown Signatories

- Dr. Reuben Kyle
- Dr. James W. Garner Jr.
- Senator Andy Womack
- Dr. Catherine Crooks  
(Outstanding Honors Faculty)
- Dr. David Foote  
(Honors Council Chair)
- Dr. Catherine Stogner  
(Honors Council Chair)
- Taylor Barnes  
(Provost's Award)
- Amy M. Duncan  
(Outstanding Senior)
- Gretchen Jenkins  
(President's Award) 📌

Winners of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarships were (left to right) Taylor Barnes, Mary Crouse, Hannah Green, and Lauren Johnson.



Dr. Catherine Crooks, Outstanding Honors Faculty Award winner, signed the Book of Town and Gown.



Andy Womack signed the Book of Town and Gown.



Dr. David Foote, former Honors Council Chair, signed the Book of Town and Gown.



Amy Duncan, Outstanding Senior Award winner, signed the Book of Town and Gown.



Gretchen Jenkins, winner of the President's Award, signed the Book of Town and Gown.

# Theses Defended



## *Rachel Bauer*

**(Biology)**

"Identification of Possible Adenosine Nucleosidase Homologous Proteins in *Arabidopsis Thaliana*"

*From left, Bauer and her thesis committee: Andrew Burden, advisor; Rachel Bauer; Becky Seipelt; and Phil Mathis*



## *Charis Brown*

**(English)**

"The Plight of the Victorian Industrial Laborer in the Novels of Elizabeth Gaskell"

*From left, Brown and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis; Jimmie Cain, advisor; Charis Brown; and Allen Hibbard*



## *Meredith Carr*

**(Psychology)**

"Non-Emergency Chronic Stress and Burnout in Emergency Medical Technician Ambulance Personnel"

*Karen Ward, advisor, and Meredith Carr*

# Spring 2008

# 2008



## *Leonela Carriedo*

**(Biology)**

"The Growth Characteristics of Kudzu (*Puereria Montana*): Effects of Light Regime on the Above Ground Biomass, Area of the Youngest Expanded Leaf, and Stolon Length"

*From left, Carriedo and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis; Sandra Johnson, advisor; Leonela Carriedo; and Tony Eff*



## *Tim Claytor*

**(Psychology)**

"School Psychology: Perceptions of Current Training and Future Directions"

*From left, Claytor and his thesis committee: Cate Stogner; Aimee Holt, advisor; Tim Claytor; and Scott Carnicom*



## *Carolyn Crawford*

**(English)**

"The Representation of Women in P. J. Tracy's Crime Fiction"

*From left, Crawford and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis, Carolyn Crawford, and Richard Hansen (not pictured: Pete McCluskey, advisor)*

# Theses Defended



*Allison Cummings*  
**(Biology)**

"Characterization of an Unknown Amoeba-Resistant Microorganism Found in a Cooling Tower at NASA in Houston"

*Mary Farone, advisor, and Allison Cummings*



*Amy Duncan*  
**(Music)**

"The Multi-Faceted Flute: A Creative Project Exploring Recording Techniques for Solo Flute and the Flute Choir"

*From left, Duncan with her thesis committee: Scott Carnicom; Amy Duncan; and Deanna Little, advisor*



*Katie Evridge*  
**(Electronic Media Communication)**

"The Fort Kent Retreat"

*From left, Evridge with her thesis committee: Richard Hansen; Clare Bratton, advisor; Katie Evridge; and Scott Carnicom*

# Spring 2008

# 2008



## *Mallory Faulkner* (Chemistry)

"Development of a Real-Time Fluorescence-Based High-Throughput Coupled Enzyme Assay for the ATPase Activity of Topoisomerase II"

From left, Faulkner with her thesis committee: Becky Seipelt; Mallory Faulkner; Andrew Burden, advisor; and Phil Mathis



## *Thomas Hefty* (English)

"Perspective and Distance in Gulliver's Travels"

Alfred Lutz, advisor, and Thomas Hefty



## *Megan Imboden* (Biology)

"Cross-Talk between the JAK/STAT Pathway and the Ceramide Signaling Pathway in Neuro-2a Cells"

From left, Imboden and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis; Megan Imboden; William Stewart, advisor; and Amy Jetton

# Theses Defended



*Gretchen Jenkins*  
**(Political Science)**

"Charting the Future: the Supreme Court's View of the First Amendment Right of Free Speech and Press within the College Environment"

*From left, Jenkins with her thesis committee: David Foote; Gretchen Jenkins; John Vile, advisor; and Phil Mathis*



*Yuliya Melnikova*  
**(Mathematics)**

"Numerical Solution of Boundary Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations Using a Green's Function Method"

*From left, Melnikova and her thesis committee: Preston MacDougall; Yuri Melnikov advisor; Becky Seipelt; Yuliya Melnikova; and Scott Carnicom*



*Brittney Oliver*  
**(Psychology)**

"Effects of Culture and Ethnicity on Health Care Practices of Undergraduate College Students"

*From left, Oliver and her thesis committee: Cate Stogner; Gloria Hamilton, advisor; Brittney Oliver; and Phil Mathis*

# Spring 2008

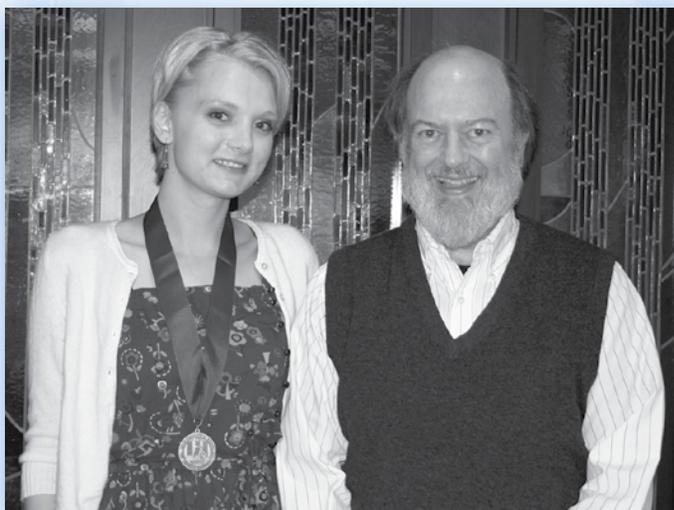
# 2008



*Matthew Schmidt*  
(Chemistry)

"Cyclooxygenase-2 Activity Is Enhanced in the Presence of Calcium"

From left, Schmidt and his thesis committee: Phil Mathis; Amy Jetton; Matthew Schmidt; and Becky Seipelt, advisor



*Ali Smithson*  
(History)

"A Tennessee Family in Photographs"

Ali Smithson and Tom Jimison, advisor



*Sarah Van Wicklin*  
(Psychology)

"Perceptions of Couple Communication"

From left, Van Wicklin and her thesis committee: Greg Schmidt, advisor; Sarah Van Wicklin; and Scott Carnicom

# Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Meets at MTSU



Dr. Preston MacDougall



Taffy O'Neal



Eric Little

MTSU welcomed over 200 participants to the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council (TCHC) annual conference February 15–16. TCHC is the statewide organization of honors colleges and programs, and the annual conference provides an opportunity to exchange ideas on honors pedagogy and celebrate undergraduate scholarship. Nearly 50 of the participants were students, staff, or faculty from MTSU. Dr. Reuben Kyle, retired director of the Business and Economic Research Center, was the keynote speaker, and he spoke about Dr. James Buchanan.



Dr. Reuben Kyle

Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the Honors College, TCHC president, and conference chair, said, "Hosting a conference always presents a challenge, but our wonderful staff did an outstanding job. Many participants commented that this was the finest TCHC conference that they've attended. Kudos to everyone." The next TCHC conference will take place in February 2009 at Austin Peay State University. 📍



Dr. Kaylene Gebert



Carolyn Crawford



Jessica Busler



Tim Claytor



Meg Davis

# Brandon Armstrong Receives Fulbright Award

The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently that Brandon Armstrong, an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and the Honors College, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to study urban sustainability in Berlin.



meet the qualifications for the Fulbright program. After reading Brandon's essay as a part of his Fulbright application process, I knew he would be a recipient." Arnold added that Fulbright wants students who are well-rounded and intellectual and that Armstrong's dedication to scholarship, research, and service made him a strong candidate.

Armstrong began his study in September at the Institute for Sustainability at the Technische Universität in Berlin. He will also conduct research through work with "experimentcity," a project of the Institute for Creative Sustainability, which is a nonprofit organization that explores and publicizes the links between culture, ecology, economy, and community.

Former Honors advisor and Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator Michelle Arnold, who worked with Armstrong during the application process, said, "Brandon has experience studying abroad and has exceptional credentials that

Armstrong is one of over 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008–09 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student program. The Fulbright program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. 📌

## Spring 2009 Honors College Deadlines

### Independent Research or Creative Projects to be completed in fall 2009

Final proposal for independent research for committee review: February 12

Committee meeting to discuss proposal: weeks of February 16 and 23

### Independent Research or Creative Projects to be completed in spring 2009

Completed thesis ready for defense; one copy due in the Honors College Office to be graded by committee: March 31

Thesis defense before committee: weeks of April 6 and 13

Public defense before Honors Lecture Series: April 13 and 20

Final Project—any post-defense corrections required must be made, and two copies, printed on special cotton paper, must be submitted (one for the thesis defense room, the other for Walker Library; additional copies can be purchased for \$15 each: April 22. 📌



## Taylor Barnes

receives the Provost's Award from Dr. Kaylene Gebert and Dr. Sidney McPhee at the President's Celebration of Excellence April 12.

## Priority Registration for Honors Students

In addition to the myriad of other benefits associated with Honors participation, MTSU Honor students may qualify for priority registration. In exchange for eligibility, students will be required to complete an intent form indicating their educational goals and desire to finish their Honors thesis or creative project. Eligible Honors students will be permitted to register before almost all other undergraduates.

Once qualified, Honors students will be required to maintain satisfactory progress within the program in order to remain eligible for priority registration (see below). The Honors College hosts workshops each semester to address questions and assist interested students with completing the intent form. Questions about priority registration can be directed to Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors associate dean at [Carnicom@mtsu.edu](mailto:Carnicom@mtsu.edu). 

# Interdisciplinary Seminars— Spring 2009

## Mythology and Film

**UH 3500 (CRN# 16276)**  
**W 2:40 to 5:40 p.m. – HONR 117**

Mythology and Film explores the relationship between mythological narratives and symbols and the film genre, focusing on how film transforms mythic patterns into cinematic art. Students will begin by reading Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* to understand Campbell's influential theory of the "monomyth" and will then study Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Two films will be analyzed that represent very different uses of mythic narrative: *Troy* (2004) attempts a historical adaptation of the *Iliad*, while *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000) uses a modern setting and the plot of the *Odyssey* for parodic and comic purposes. The next unit will look at

the relationship among the rational, irrational, and creative dimensions of the human psyche. The myths surrounding Apollo and Dionysus will be studied as students read Euripides' *The Baachae* and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* and view Luchino Visconti's 1971 film adaptation of Mann's novel. The irrational aspects of the mythic paradigm of the "trip to the underworld" and the role of shamanism will be examined as students read selections from Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and the Profane* and *Shamanism* and watch two films that make use of these structures: David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* (1986) and Peter Weir's *The Last Wave* (1977). Mythology and Film will be taught by Angela Hague. As an interdisciplinary seminar, the course fulfills the Honors College requirement for interdisciplinary or upper-division Honors coursework. This course also counts as credit toward the English major and minor, fulfills Area H for the English major, and counts as credit toward the Classical Studies and Film Studies minors. Students interested in taking the course should contact Dr. Hague at [ahague@mtsu.edu](mailto:ahague@mtsu.edu).

## Identity, Change, and the Social Contract

**UH 4600 (CRN# 10236)**  
**TR 9:40 to 11:05 – HONR 116**

Since Rousseau published *The Social Contract* or *Principles of Political Right* in 1762, our modern understanding that economic, political and cultural relations center on contract—reciprocal promise and performance—has been a core concept for understanding social structure and change. The trajectory of our modern era, from the Enlightenment to the postmodern FaceBook network, charts the rise of markets, institutions, and networks based on changing visions

Year: Registration Period	Hours Earned	
	Cumulative	Honors Credit
Freshmen: spring registration (for following fall)	15	6
Sophomore: fall registration (for following spring)	30	12
Sophomore: spring registration (for following fall)	45	15
Junior: fall registration (for following spring)	60	20
Junior: spring registration (for following fall)	75	23
Senior: fall registration (for following spring)	90	26

# Interdisciplinary Seminars— Spring 2009 cont.

of the social contract. Students in this seminar will explore how social contract frames our sense of identity, our friendship and family relationships, our religious and community institutions, and our commitment to social and political change. We will examine theories and empirical research from several fields, including philosophy, economics, politics and government, history, and sociology. Class discussions and multiple writing projects will call upon students to apply these readings through an examination of their personal relations, our community, and current trends in globalization.

This course may count as three hours upper-division Sociology credit. For more information, contact Dr. Bill Canak at wcanak@mtsu.edu.

## Techonomics: Anticipating the Future

**UH 4600-003 (CRN# 10238)**  
(Cross-listed with BCEN 4200 and  
MGMT 4990)  
**MW 2:20 to 3:45 – HONR 218**

We live in fast-changing times in which the effective utilization of resources is critical to organizational success. This course provides students with a framework to analyze trends in their fields of interest by quantifying the effects of technological advancement on their professional/organizational endeavors. As students apply techonomic processes to their decisions, they will be better able to capitalize on the trends that will determine the ultimate economic success of their efforts.

This course is ideal for students who seek leadership roles in their communities, businesses or service organizations. The main prerequisite

is a desire to understand the inner workings of the economics driving organizations and a willingness to read, write, think, and debate the key factors that are shaping our future. The general level of presentation is targeted at upper-class and graduate students with business, leadership, or technical backgrounds.

The course is taught by Dr. H. Lee Martin, who holds three degrees in the field of mechanical engineering: a B.S. from the University of Tennessee, where he served as class torchbearer; an M.S. from Purdue University; and a Ph.D. with specialization in control systems and robotics from the University of Tennessee. He is the founder and former director of the Tennessee Technopreneurial Leadership Center, which he started at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville in 2000. He has published more than 20 technical reports and scholarly articles and holds 22 U.S. patents. He has received two “R&D 100” Awards for innovative new products from *Research and Development* magazine. The National Society of Professional Engineers recognized him as the National Young Engineer of the Year in 1988. Recently, Dr. Martin wrote *Techonomics: The Theory of Industrial Evolution* (CRC Press, 2006) and has taught entrepreneurial and leadership courses at the University of Tennessee and Cumberland University. 📌

## Scholars Day

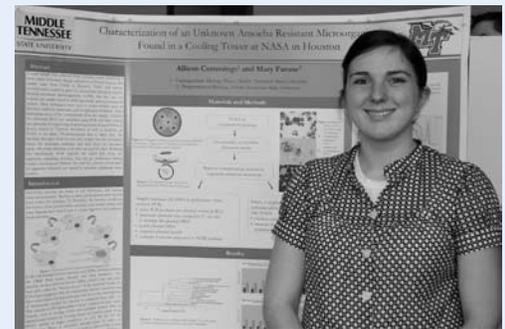
Pictured are some of our students who participated in Scholars Day.



Brittney Oliver participated in Scholars Day 2008.



Honors student Taylor Barnes displayed his research at Scholars Day.



Allison Cummings explained her research at Scholars Day.



Sarah Young displayed her research at Scholar's Day.

## Alumni Feature

# Nephi Niven Stogner

Nephi Niven Stogner, a former Honors student and 2006 MTSU graduate, is now living in Paris, where he works as a freelance photographer under the name Nephi Niven. Six images of people and places he has encountered during his travels are hanging in the Paul Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Three of Niven's photographs are displayed in the upstairs hallway: "In Flight," taken in the streets surrounding the Egyptian bazaar in Istanbul; "Solace," photographed on an oppressively hot day on the coast in Deauville, France; and "Fast Train," a candid photograph taken in one of France's many SNCF trains in transit from the coast of Normandy to Paris.

In the upstairs study area of the Martin Honors Building hangs "The Smile," a candid photograph taken in the dominantly African neighborhood of the area of Paris known as Barbès. In the Honors conference room is "Reverence," an image Niven describes as "a lone worshipper taking an unusual but poignant posture of reverence while standing on the prayer rugs in one of Istanbul's many expansive and beautiful mosques." On display in the downstairs hallway is "The Columns of Tokyo." This image is an inverted reflection of the columns of Paris's famed Palais de Tokyo, which has an

abandoned majesty that echoes the unfinished, progressive exhibits it often features.

Niven's initial interest in photography began soon after his family relocated to Tennessee from Utah during his junior year in high school. He took photography classes under Eileen Haynes at Oakland High School and spent many hours in the darkroom becoming acquainted with technical procedures. He also began reading books devoted to the art of photography. He was drawn to portraiture and documentary-style photography and was especially influenced by the work of Mary Ellen Mark and Richard Avedon.

After graduating from Oakland with honors in 2001, Niven spent a year in Portoviejo, Ecuador. During his stay there his interest in documentary-style photography was heightened by a desire to capture subject matter that was honest rather than obvious.

In 2002, Niven began his college education at MTSU studying photography and Spanish. He later changed to a double major in Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) with a minor in Mass Communication. In May 2006, he graduated summa cum laude from



MTSU with academic awards from his major as well as the Honors College.

After MTSU, he accepted a position as a teacher

at Albert Fracasse Primary School in Deauville, France. It was during this time that he began investing more time in photography. Niven captures street landscapes and urban shots using a documentary style, and his portraiture focuses on capturing personal and intimate moments. His photographs often exhibit introspective reflections in his subjects because of his concentration on honesty over flattery. Technically, Niven enjoys exploring contrast, textures, shadows, layers, reflections, and various ways of revealing multiple dimensions. In May 2007, the office of tourism of Deauville sponsored Niven's first French exhibit, *Le regard d'un Américain sur Deauville*.

In July 2007, Niven moved to Paris, where he has continued working as a freelance photographer. His work has been published in *Tetu* magazine as well as other publications in France and Italy. His focus remains on portraiture and urban landscape. His Web site, [www.nephiniven.com](http://www.nephiniven.com), displays a collection of his work. 📌

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**The Honors Alternative**  
**University Honors College**  
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Murfreesboro, TN 37132

