

# JEWL

The Magazine of James E. Walker Library

Fall 2014 | Volume 2, No. 1

## Night of the Walker Dead

Week of Welcome Zombie Party emphasizes JEWL's role at the heart of the MTSU student experience

### Trials & Triumphs

Collaboration with MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation extends JEWL's digital footprint

### Supporting the Quest

Exploring JEWL's crucial involvement in student success



JAMES E. WALKER LIBRARY

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# JEWL

The Magazine of James E. Walker Library

Middle Tennessee State University  
library.mtsu.edu  
Fall 2014 | Volume 2, No. 1

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## About the Cover

The design for the library's "zombie party" marketing poster, which doubles as this magazine's cover image, was created by MTSU student Charles "Riley" Jones, a senior from Chattanooga concentrating in New Media Communication. Jones, whose hobbies include playing music and "drinking coffee," was hired as a student design assistant at the library in 2014.

Additionally, many of the photos that grace this edition of *JEWL* were taken by MTSU students James Brummett (Senior, New Media Communication) and Megan Tower (Junior, Digital Animation). **True Blue!**

photo by James Brummett



## Who Was James E. Walker?

James Edwin Walker was MTSU's eighth president. He graduated from Alabama State University with a bachelor's degree in biology, earned a master's in special education from Atlanta University, and graduated from Penn State

University's doctoral program in education. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alabama in higher education administration and was also a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management.

Dr. Walker was provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Northern Colorado before he joined MTSU as president in 1991. He left MTSU in 2000 to become president of Southern Illinois University, the place his teaching career had started decades before. He died in 2006.

Dr. Walker was seen by many as a visionary in preparing MTSU for a new century. The University experienced tremendous growth during his tenure. The library, which opened in 1999, is named in his honor. Walker Library welcomes more than one million visitors in the building each year and has more than one million visitors through its website each year. [JEWL](#)



## Supporting the Quest

Exploring JEWL's crucial involvement in student success.

Anna Kate Mansfield

4

**9** **The Music (and more) Man**  
Grover Baker has music knowledge and library skills.

**12** **Renaissance Woman**  
She's an airman, equestrian, and scholar. The library is proud to call Madi Nichols one of its own.

**14** **Trials and Triumphs**  
James E. Walker Library deftly rides the digital humanities wave. A recent collaboration with MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation offers solid proof.

### SECTIONS

**16** **Centennial Campaign update**  
MTSU's ongoing \$80 million fundraising campaign promises to boost JEWL's efforts to serve the entire MTSU community.

**17** **News roundup**  
Including Zombie Party, Tutoring Spot, Spring Art Exhibit, and a concert by Stephen Wade.



photo by Darby Campbell



# SUPPORTING THE QUEST

Central to the University's ongoing Quest for Student Success initiative, Walker Library is where students like Anna Kate Mansfield get their work done  
by Bonnie Allen, Dean

**M**TSU junior Anna Kate Mansfield loves James E. Walker Library. The Athletic Training/Exercise Science double major from Murfreesboro visits it nearly every school day, whether to research a topic, study for a test, or use a computer and printer to complete an assignment.

Sometimes you'll see her there in the morning; sometimes she's among the last students to leave at night. (Staffers have heard her impassioned pleas for time to print just one more document late at night!) Anna Kate does more, though, than just study, research and write papers, and puzzle over academic

problems and their solutions at the library. She socializes there, too, talking to friends and making weekend plans. For Anna Kate, Walker Library is the hub of the college experience.

So common is it for Anna Kate to be at the library, leaving for the library, or coming home from the library, that a running joke in her family (which includes her father, local attorney and MTSU alumnus Rick Mansfield, and her mother, National Alumni president Paula) is that Anna Kate is "dating James Walker."

The joke is sometimes altered among Anna Kate's Chi Omega sorority sisters. When word spreads that Anna Kate is at her "boyfriend's house," everyone knows she's at the library.

Even Anna Kate has been known to favorably compare her "boyfriend"—who she says is "always there, always helpful, and totally dependable"—to the not-so-fantastic boyfriends of some of her sorority sisters.

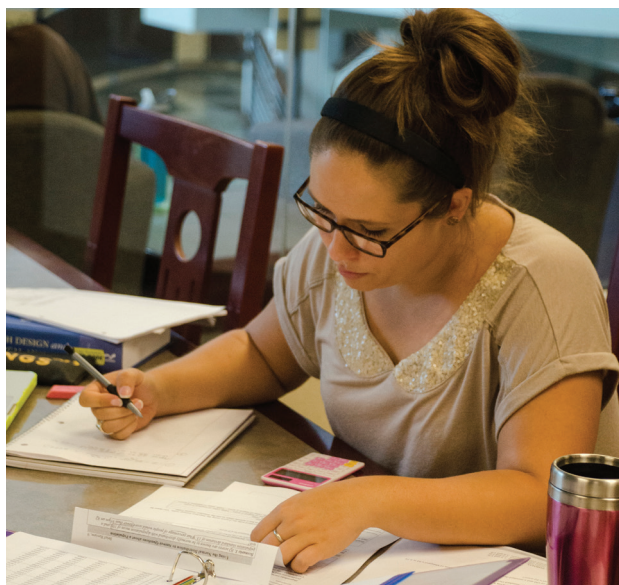
(continued on page 6)

Anna Kate Mansfield is pictured here outside her favorite spot on campus, Walker Library.

## UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCE

Anna Kate isn't the only MTSU student who frequents the library, studies there around the clock, or considers it the best place to experience those "aha" moments. As I walk around campus, I often hear comments from students such as "Let's study together in the library tonight," or, "I'm heading for the library to finish my presentation."

In the library I see every group-study room filled daily with students studying together, their whiteboards filled with formulas and diagrams, working through their latest tasks. At the library, we always want to be prepared: I recently got a call from a staff member asking where we could put a large and noisy chemistry group so they could study for midterms. We were happy to find them the perfect spot.



MTSU is making great strides in understanding and addressing issues students face in the pursuit of their degrees. We understand the sacrifice families make to send their children to college, often as first-generation students. The library's contribution to student success may be taken for granted or lost in the attitude that "everything is on the Internet; why do we need libraries?" But it shouldn't be. In many ways, Walker Library is at the heart of the MTSU student experience and their personal quest for success.

Evidence of student life being connected to the library sheds light on the question of library relevance. Obviously, I believe libraries are important in more ways than ever before. Libraries have responded to the expectation that information should be easily and quickly found with a smartphone or tablet. Libraries work to meet the needs



of freshmen as well as advanced scholars. A visit to any research university library website reveals many levels of service—from chats with a librarian to electronic collections and library-developed repositories and data centers. Sophisticated networks to connect research centers have completely changed the way scholars conduct research. The advantages are not always appreciated by incoming freshmen. In time, as with Anna Kate, they are very much appreciated.

## THE LIBRARY'S ROLE IN STUDENT SUCCESS

So why is Walker Library so valuable to the average incoming student? Answers can be found by examining the overall educational environment. Universities are held to a high standard of accountability by those who primarily fund higher education: parents and students. Our legislatures are requiring state schools to demonstrate a greater return on investment even as funding is shrinking. MTSU is looking at a number of ways to demonstrate its value through its Quest for Student Success initiative.

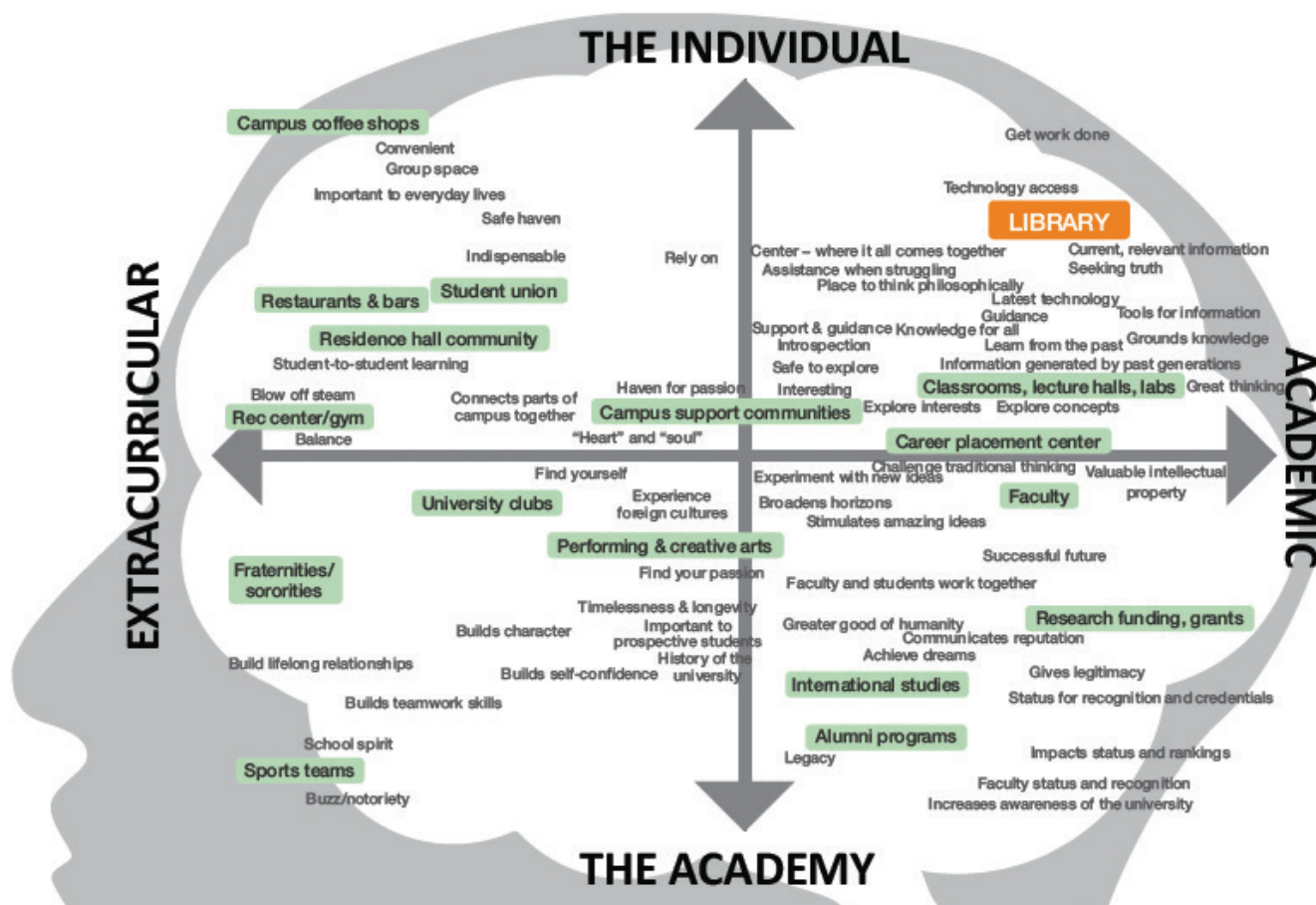
What encourages student success and how is that to be measured? MTSU is evaluating every step of a student's progress toward graduation as a measure of institutional success. Classes have been redesigned to better support learning while remaining rigorous. More advising and tutoring are available to guide students through difficult times.

What is the library's role in the Quest for Student Success? How does the library contribute to a successful academic career? Specifically, what does Walker Library need to do to help students achieve their academic goals? For answers, I sought out research reports and compared our internal statistics to a broader experience.

Our statistics and surveys show that Walker Library has a high level of use by MTSU students. The library also receives a high score on

# CAMPUS PERCEPTION MAP

According to a recent study, the role of the library in student success was rated above classrooms and faculty.



campus surveys of student satisfaction. Some reasons for these positive statistics stem from well-appointed facilities and vigilance in maintaining high standards of customer service, collections, and technology. Students know they can get work done in Walker Library.

We strive to continuously improve the library and stay current with changes in every discipline. For example, we have extended outreach to academic departments through our librarians who spread the news about new resources and services. We encourage faculty members to partner with librarians to better prepare students through research workshops and instruction services. Librarians reach out to departments to make sure the library meets the changing needs of the curriculum and acquires the collections, technology, and services needed to maximize learning. We have obtained new software to make research easier using the hundreds of electronic resources of the library. We evaluate ways to make using the library more convenient through our website <http://library.mtsu.edu/> and reservation systems. We use

assessments to make better purchasing decisions and examine how well we are meeting the needs of the campus.

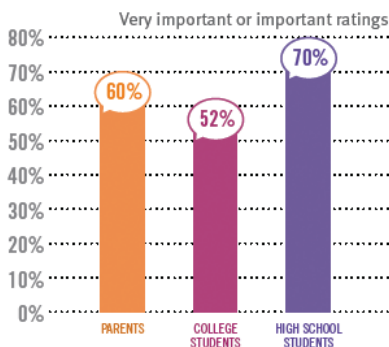
## COMPARING ORANGES TO ORANGES

As I pursued research pertaining to the role libraries play in student success, I was seeking documentation supporting my position that the library is relevant and valuable. One recent report was especially instructive. The research sought to measure the perceptions of students and parents in choosing a college, and the views they held about the impact of campus services on academic success.

The report is called "At a Tipping Point: Education, Learning and Libraries." (The electronic version is available free at [www.oclc.org/reports/tipping-point.en.html](http://www.oclc.org/reports/tipping-point.en.html).) The report, published earlier this year, contains findings of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in collaboration with the University of Kansas Library and Baker Library at Harvard. OCLC is an international nonprofit member-owned library cooperative that has grown to international

(continued on page 8)

## AN ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE MATTERS



incentives. Consumers have developed technical skills that allow self-sufficiency and convenience in almost every aspect of life. Tools such as smartphones and tablets are affordable, multifunctional, and portable. The cost of higher education is rising faster than incomes, and consumers are looking for lower-cost alternatives, particularly through online education. Making the choice between an on-campus experience and online education is often influenced by convenience and cost. The OCLC study shows that the on-campus experience is valued most by students and parents.

The research project was conducted through a partnership of Research Now, an independent online research panel, and Glass Box research company. Glass Box drew a random sample of 1,610 adults in July 2012. The pool was a composed of alumni and parents of currently enrolled students. The survey sought to understand how university customer perceptions shape beliefs and attitudes about the university experience and the role libraries play.

Parents and alumni were asked to evaluate seventeen campus services and facilities commonly found on university campuses: classrooms, labs, student unions, libraries, athletics, arts facilities, and offices for services. These were evaluated along with convenience and technology, and the results were analyzed with a technique to map perceptions for emotional and functional dimensions. This technique is a reliable means of determining distinct perceptions and removing popularity counts from the analysis.

The upper half of the campus perception map (see page 7) relates to individual student outcomes, and the lower half is more closely associated with the university. The left half of the map deals with extracurricular activities and the right half is associated with academic elements.

Libraries were associated with elements that unite individual and academic pursuits and were grouped with classrooms, lecture halls,

prominence and continues to offer a broad range of services and research capabilities.

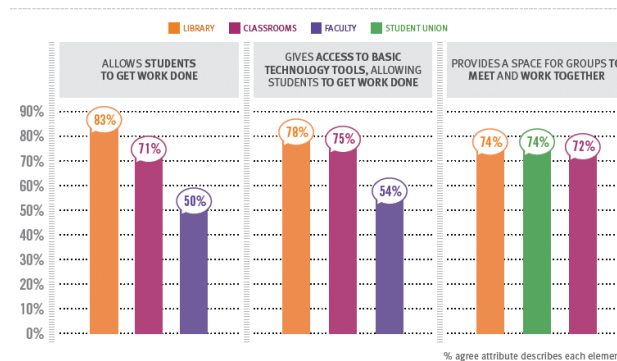
The OCLC report describes in convincing detail how the stars have aligned for education and libraries. The stars in this case are consumer behavior, effective technology, and economic

and campus support communities. Libraries stand out for students as places to get work done. Technology access, current and relevant information, and a place to meet with others were recognized as things that help students get work done. The role of the library in student success was rated above classrooms and faculty.

Perceptions of the library are important in understanding how the library affects a student's experience. Students view the library as a place to get work done with the appropriate tools. The library, the faculty, and the classroom are the key areas for academic work.

The importance of the library to everyday academic work makes it easy to understand why parents and students consider libraries when choosing a college. Three quarters or more of parents and students choose a college based on predictable factors of academic programs, affordability and financial aid, reputation, levels of degrees, and the time it takes to get a degree. Interestingly, 65 percent of parents and students said access to a physical library and to its online collection are important factors in college choice.

## CAMPUS LIBRARIES Help students succeed



## WALKING THE WALK AND TALKING THE TALK

Last summer, Walker Library staff members attended more than a dozen CUSTOMS sessions and transfer student orientations. At every session, we talked to many students and parents about the library: the hours, the availability of technology and special services, and the overall support offered to students as they progress through degree programs. Parents know the library is important to student success, and the library is seen as a trusted partner of students and faculty.

As I enter my third year at MTSU, I will be focusing on sharpening Walker Library's services and collections to ensure that this trust is well deserved and that the quest for even greater success continues.

JEWL

# The Music Man

(and more)

Grover Baker has music knowledge and library skills

by Diane Hughes

photo by Darby Campbell

Grover Baker's office shows his love for music: from the music-themed clock on the wall to the trumpet on the bookcase to the vintage turntable just behind the desk, his musical inclinations are evident.

As head librarian for the Center for Popular Music (CPM) from 2006 to 2013, Baker developed a comprehensive knowledge of the that music collection. He spent seven years in collection development, acquisition, and cataloging, becoming deeply familiar with MTSU's musical assets.

But now, in addition to music, his job encompasses much more.

In August 2013, Baker became visual and performing arts librarian at James E. Walker Library. Dean Bonnie Allen thinks Baker is perfect for the job.

"Grover is not only a music scholar and fine librarian, he is a musician," says Allen. "The combination of academic credentials with his experiences as a performer allows him to relate well with the students and faculty that make up the programs in the visual and performing arts."

Baker's duties include serving as subject specialist and liaison for the music, art, theatre, dance, and recording industry disciplines.

(continued on page 10)



photo by Darby Campbell

“The combination of **academic credentials** with his **experiences** as a **performer** allows him to relate well with the students and faculty that make up the programs in the **visual and performing arts.**”

That means you might see him helping a Music major find an important piece of music or helping a Theatre student find a certain play.

“Grover is a primary force in clearing away difficulties for students and faculty searching for print scores, recordings, or historical information in the arts,” says Allen. “Technology has yet to replace his calm, easy manner and his librarian skills.”

Baker knows music, but he admits he is less familiar with dance and drama.

“It is a challenge,” Baker says. “One thing that’s helpful is that the same style periods in music apply both to art and dance. A lot of the early genres and forms of music are tied into dance forms. The same thing with art. It’s helped that I started out in architecture and had architectural history courses.”

Baker also spent 10 years as music and education services assistant in the library at Belmont University—experience that serves him well in his present position.

“Since my background was in music and not education, having to provide help for education students gave me experience working with an area that I wasn’t particularly familiar with. I think that’s helped me to be a little more comfortable with some of my current subject areas that aren’t particularly my forte, like dance,” he says.

Growing up in Inglewood and nearby Goodlettsville, Baker sang in church choir, played trumpet, and took piano lessons. With an interest in art and drawing, he enrolled at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville to study architecture.

“I’d like for Walker Library to be the first place [students and faculty] think of when they need something,” says Baker.

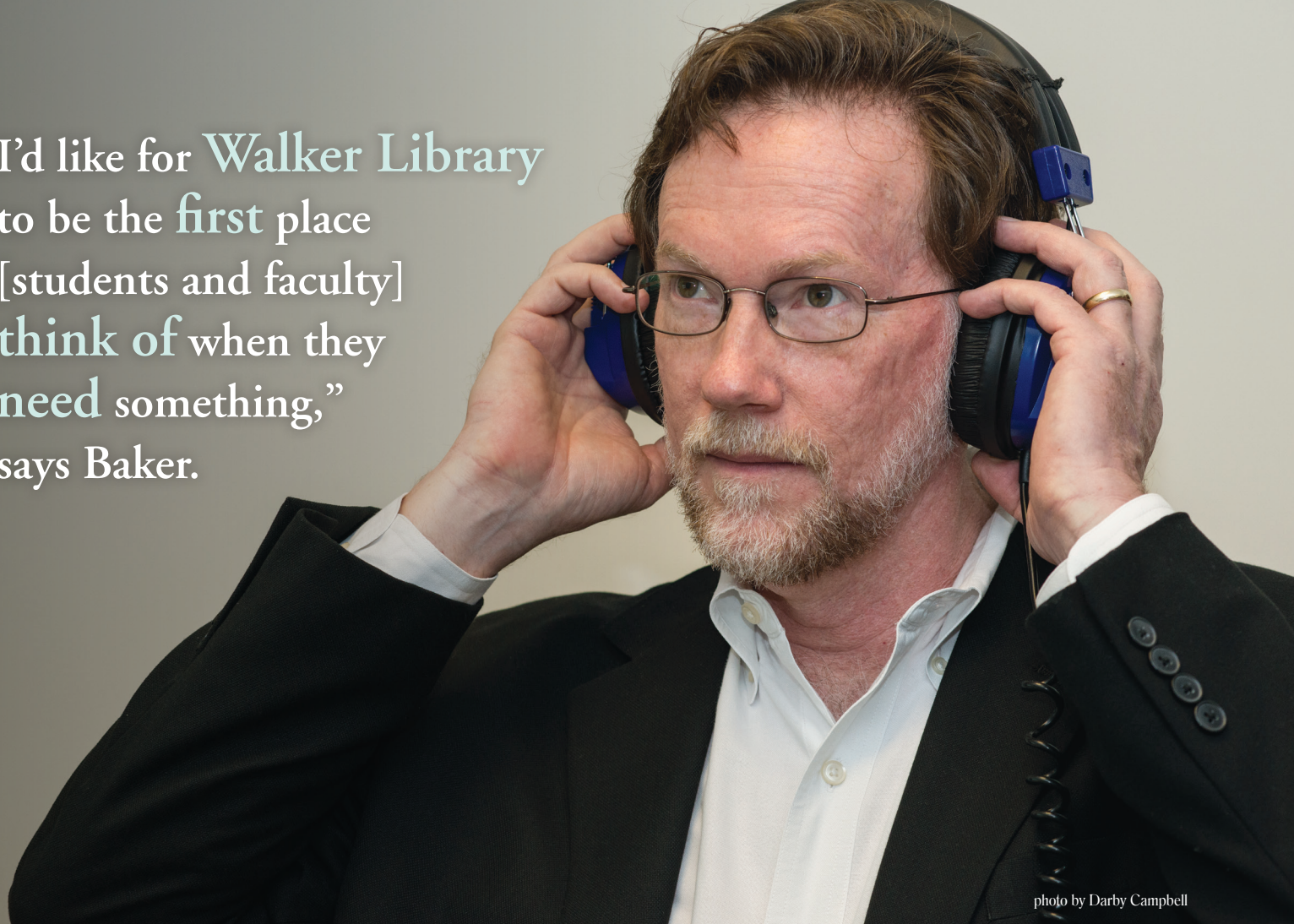


photo by Darby Campbell

“I found out quickly that wasn’t for me,” he says.

Baker returned to music and earned an undergraduate degree at Belmont University and a master’s in church music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Though he planned to earn a doctorate, teach, and conduct a university ensemble, he was encouraged to first get teaching experience.

Back at Belmont, he began work on a master’s in education and—as fate would have it—took a job at the university library. That job changed Baker’s mind and his career course; he dropped out of the program at Belmont and enrolled in UT–Knoxville’s online graduate program in information sciences. He completed the degree in 2006 and landed the position at MTSU’s world-renowned Center for Popular Music that same year.

Last year, when Baker moved into his new position at Walker Library, he inherited the Howard Music Library and the Education Media Library. Formerly housed in the McWherter Learning Resources Center, the collection found a new home at

Walker as a result of Dean Allen’s desire to streamline access to materials for students and faculty.

Baker recently moved his office from the second to the first floor of the library.

“That puts me closer,” he says. “When I’m coming in and out and I see a student looking, I’ll ask if they need help.”

One of Baker’s goals is to shape the library collections “so that they fit the curriculum.” He is continually working with professors from various departments to find out exactly what they are teaching.

“I’d like for Walker Library to be the first place [students and faculty] think of when they need something,” says Baker. “My goal would be if someone comes up with a list of things that they think we ought to have, that they would come to the library and find that we already have it.”

With Baker, students in the arts at MTSU seem assured of having access to all the study materials they need . . . and so much more. [JEWL](#)



# Renaissance

## She's an airman, equestrian, and scholar. The library is proud to call Madi Nichols one of its own

**W**alker Library hires more than 200 student workers every year. That's the rough equivalent of 25 full-time staff people. They arrive first thing in the morning to help open up. They are there at two o'clock in the morning to help close. They help by staffing the desks and checking out books. They are the ones shelving books and getting fellow students where they need to be. From time to time, they even perform tasks more commonly associated with professional staff, like offering research help. Some graduate workers regularly advise student researchers and work in the writing center providing critical help.

Simply put, Walker Library, which could never, ever be able to hire 25 more staff people, couldn't operate without its student workers. One of those students is Madison "Madi" Sky Nichols.

Madi's supervisor, Mike Wheaton, assistant manager, Library Technology, says, "Madi is not afraid to take on any project we give her. The outcome has always been outstanding. She

just has a knack for technology. We handed her a bunch of new NUC mini kits (PCs) and the memory and hard drives that go with them. Before I knew it, she was asking me what else I needed her to do. She had already assembled all the PCs and tested them all quickly and professionally. After testing the systems and seeing how well they functioned, the library decided to replace all its outdated PCs. Madi has been involved with the assembly, installation, and testing of these new student computers.

"When the library bought a 3D printer, Madi took it upon herself to research and learn about it. She printed several jobs just to figure out how the thing worked, how to produce the best prints, and how students and faculty could use the printer for classes. She's given several demonstrations of the 3D printer in the atrium. Madi was instrumental in getting the word out and showing students how this new technology could enhance their classwork. We just purchased a 3D scanner, monitor, and camera to augment the library's 3D technology. I immediately thought of Madi to test these technologies for students to use in the near future. She seems to enjoy working with new technology, and I fully expect her to be demonstrating it for our patrons very soon."

**True Blue!** JEWEL



# the Woman

## Here are 10 things to know about Madi:

10

- 01** A senior, Madi plans to graduate in December 2014 (ahead of her high school cohort, despite taking a year off for the Air Force).
- 02** She's a Horse Science student, an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association All Academic Award winner, and an MTSU Horse Science Senior Award winner.
- 03** She's a first-generation college student. ("I did it myself!" she says. "With scholarships, work, and Air National Guard, I pay for it myself!")
- 04** She's been in the Air National Guard since 2011 and was once named Airman of the Quarter for her unit.
- 05** She was a Walker Library technology student assistant for 18 months.
- 06** She is a Distinguished Graduate (2010) of John Overton High School in Nashville.
- 07** She marched with the Band of Blue for two years. She chose MTSU because she was in the Overton High School marching band for four years and always attended the Contest of Champions at MTSU, dreaming of being in the Band of Blue.
- 08** She received the 2014 Senior Honors Student Academic Achievement Award from the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.
- 09** She won a Fred Adams Family Foundation Agriculture Scholarship in 2014.
- 10** She made the Dean's List at MTSU from 2012 through 2014.

# Trials & Triumphs



Turn of the Century Nurses  
(courtesy of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center)

## TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS

James E. Walker Library deftly rides the digital humanities wave. A recent collaboration with MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation offers solid proof

by Gina K. Logue

**I**mages of America's Civil Rights movement flood the memories of many in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. Middle Tennessee, by contrast, where federal dams were built to provide rural flood control in the 1930s, is not exactly awash in memories of Civil Rights struggles against segregation.

Or so it might have seemed until "Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans' Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity."

A collaboration between James E. Walker Library and MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), the online pictorial is divided into five subsections of photographs and artifacts enhanced with illuminating historical essays.

With more than 200 items available, "Trials and Triumphs" chronicles the first tentative post-Civil War steps of African Americans into legal personhood and the exercise of their First Amendment right to freedom of assembly. It also features those who distinguished themselves as accomplished professionals and expressed themselves through literature and the arts.

"The stories you can explore through the objects, songs, photographs, paintings, and documents of this website are often those of challenges and obstacles placed before those who pursued the rights and benefits of citizenship," said Dr. Carroll Van West, director of the CHP and Tennessee state historian.

WHO? WHEN? WHERE?

The Southernaires Female Quartet  
OF MORFESSBORO, TENNESSEE  
AND  
The South's Famous Fairfield Four  
OF RADIO STATION WLAC NASHVILLE, TENN.at the BETHLEHEM CENTER  
15TH AVENUE, N. W. CHARLOTTE AVENUE  
Sun. Afternoon, Aug. 12th

ADVANCE ADMISSION 40¢ AT THE DOOR 60¢



“But they also tell us of the triumphs—that people can scale the most brutal of social, cultural, and economic walls and create still-vibrant communities, institutions, and culture in the wake of their struggle.”

“Trials and Triumphs” was made possible with a \$60,000 grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents. Under the leadership of digital initiatives librarian Ken Middleton, library and CHP staff worked to gather images and organize them in a way that brings heartbreak and heroism to life.

“[We] canvassed the state going to different institutions and repositories looking for anything that pertained to segregation that they'd be willing to share with us,” said Leigh Ann Gardner, interpretive specialist for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

Gardner and her colleague, digital humanities research fellow Susan Knowles, found that county historical societies, universities, and nonprofit organizations were more than willing to collaborate.

“We worked with the state library and archives to have them digitize some things that were not already done,” Knowles said.

The website includes audio and video. Under the “Performing Identity” theme, users may hear the soulful sounds of Josh White singing the protest song “Jim Crow Train.”

Under “Embracing Citizenship,” users may view rare video of African Americans standing in line to vote in Memphis in the 1940s. The work of Rev. L. O. Taylor, which is in the care of the Center for Southern Folklore, shows a thriving black community embracing progress.

A highlight of “Trials and Triumphs” is a section about the 1946 riot in Columbia, Tennessee. After a young black Navy veteran was struck by a white shop owner in a dispute over the



Church of Christ, Jefferson Street

(Courtesy of the Metropolitan Archives of Nashville and Davidson County)

repair of his mother's radio, violence broke out. Four white law enforcement officers were shot. Other officers broke into buildings, stealing cash and guns from African Americans.

More than 100 blacks were arrested and denied bail or legal counsel in violation of their right to due process of law. The situation was so chaotic that NAACP attorneys Walter White and Thurgood Marshall, later America's first black Supreme Court justice, came to Tennessee to try to negotiate a peaceful resolution.

“I can't even imagine how much time it would take to travel the state to see all the things that we use and are now assembled on this website,” said Amy York, Web services librarian at Walker Library.

(continued on page 16)

*Fairfield Four and Southernaires Female Quartet*  
*Race Relations Conference, C. Napier*  
*Trials and Triumphs*  
FALL 2014 15



Employees pouring molten iron into a cast  
(Courtesy of the Chattanooga History Center)

York created the website, which enables users of mobile devices to see the site without having to download an application or zoom in to read the text.

“Rather than having to build two different websites—one optimized for a desktop computer and one optimized for mobile devices—it responds to the screen size,” York said.

In different formats, the library offers many other digital collections online covering Rutherford County schools, back issues of MTSU student newspapers and yearbooks, agricultural activities in Cannon County, Stones River National Battlefield, and more.

Through the Teaching with Primary Sources program of the Library of Congress, lesson plans for K–12 students are being developed for each of the five themes of “Trials and Triumphs.” But elementary and secondary school pupils aren’t the only ones benefiting from MTSU digital collections.

“I’d say about 90 percent of the scanning for these collections has been done by students, some from the Public History program,” said Middleton.

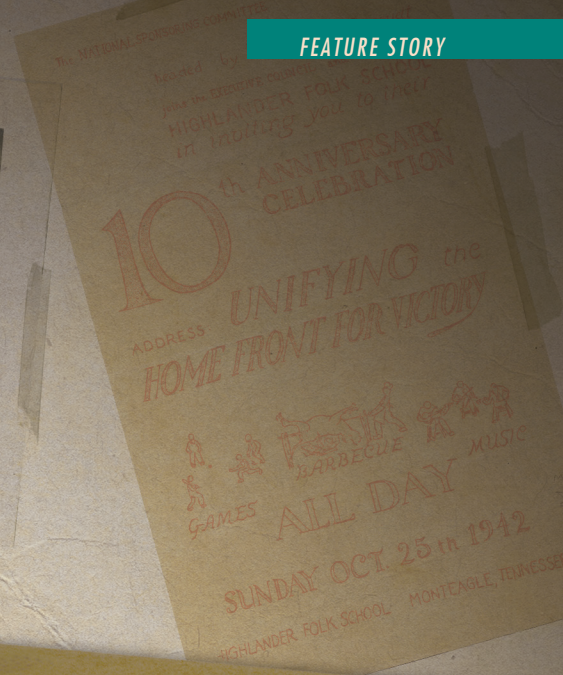
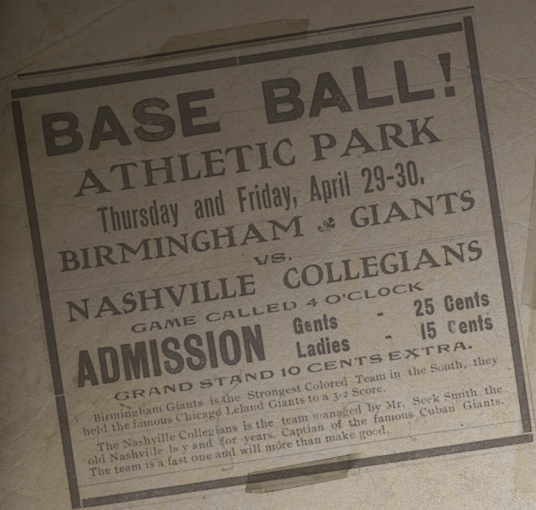
“Tennesseans transformed themselves and their state between 1865 and 1945, but, as we have learned in the 21st century, the



Vine Avenue Service Station  
(Courtesy of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center)

work is never really done,” said West. “Achieving citizenship and making it meaningful to all remains a challenge. We can learn from our past to build better, stronger communities and a better, more successful Tennessee.”

Walker Library’s digital push is allowing researchers and citizens alike to do just that. **JEWEL**



James A. Henry and Graduating Class  
 (Courtesy of the Bessie Smith Cultural Center)



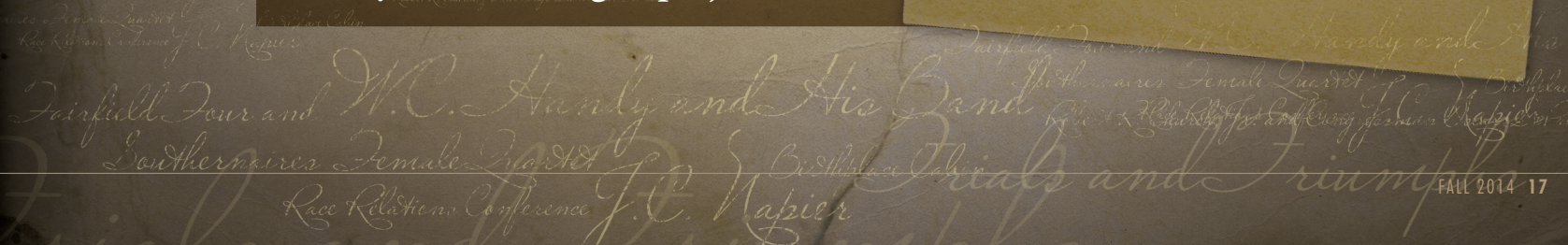
Austin High School Group  
 (Courtesy of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center)



Race Relations Conference  
 (courtesy of the Nashville Public Library)

**The Digital Frontier**  
 Walker Library has rows and rows of books on shelves, but they only make up about half its entire collection—the other half is accessed through a keyboard or a smartphone. Significantly, though, that pathway to information isn't limited to the library's standard collections. Beyond its own materials, Walker Library has also partnered with other academic units to make some of the University's priceless intellectual holdings available electronically. Walker Library has become a true hub for humanities research. Much more than a warehouse for books, the library is an online portal to a world of information.

Visit the online digital collection at  
[library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects](http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects).



# ZOMBIE PARTY

The Division of Student Affairs decided to extend 2014 Week of Welcome activities to include Labor Day weekend, mainly because MTSU's first home football game of the season was Saturday night, and many students planned to stay on campus.

Deb Sells, Student Affairs vice president, called Bonnie Allen, dean of the library, and asked if the library wanted to host a party during Week of Welcome to greet freshmen and new students. Without hesitating, the dean said, "Yes!" Then, of course, she thought, "Oh no! What? When? Where? And how?"

Allen asked several students who were in the library studying for summer classes if they were "still really into zombies." They said they were, and the theme of the library party was set.

Kristen Keene, Library External Relations said she "wanted a cool title" for the library party. The dean had picked the zombie theme, prompting Keene to think about Night of the Living Dead and the Walking Dead. That's when she came up with the theme of Night of the Walker Dead. "Faculty, staff and student volunteers were asked to help plan and work the event," Keene said.

Week of Welcome encourages students to get to know MTSU and each other. So the library party let students get to know the library and find some friends along the way. The staff made the event all about food, fun, and friends. Zombie-themed food was available: barbecued brains (meatballs), bloody punch (fruit punch with floating ice hands), and eyeball cupcakes. Activities throughout the library included "digging for brains," "zombie cornhole," and a photo booth with zombie props. More than 500 students attended and got acquainted with the library in a whole new way.

*Sidelines* reported, "James Walker Library delivered an undead welcome to swarms of freshmen this past weekend during the University's Week of Welcome Activities. The typically prestigious building was overrun with zombified librarians, student zombie hunters and hundreds of unsuspecting victims from 6 to 9 p.m. this past Labor Day. Called Night of the Walker Dead, the event served as a fun, bloody welcome to campus for new MTSU students. It featured a wide variety of undead-themed food and games."

More than 500 students and faculty gathered in a celebration of zombies at James E. Walker Library during the Week of Welcome.



Staff at James E. Walker Library during the Week of Welcome.



Students entering library



Library front doors



Students in photo booth



Food



Games



Student Brittany Estes (Junior, Business)



## Tutoring Spot

Also part of the Quest for Student Success Initiative, a Tutoring Spot is now open on the first floor of Walker Library. There are other spots in departments all over campus. At every stage of the academic journey, tutoring can help understanding, recollection, and the application of classroom material.



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## NEW NEIGHBORS!

In the past few years, hundreds of millions of dollars in new facilities have opened at MTSU, including the new \$147-million Science Building next to Walker Library. About 80 percent of students will take classes in this new building. The Science Building has more than 250,000 gross square feet of teaching areas, faculty and student research laboratories, and collaborative learning spaces. And more than ever, Walker Library is in the middle of the action on campus!



Like us on Facebook:  
**James E. Walker Library**  
(MTSU)



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**@mtsulibrary**



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**walkerlibrary**

## Spring Art Exhibit

Artwork in the first-floor atrium of James E. Walker Library at the end of the spring semester was the sixth annual student installation from Erin Anfinson's Drawing 2 classes. "Thou Doth Print Too Much," the title a nod to Shakespeare's 450th birthday, greeted visitors with two handheld paper skulls evoking a scene from *Hamlet*.

In fall 2013, Walker Library visitors used more than 4.5 million sheets of paper. One of Anfinson's students figured that amount was equivalent to the collected works of Shakespeare printed 3,600 times. And so the idea for the installation was born. The project was made entirely of discarded paper from library recycling bins and was completely recycled when the project was removed. There was also a comment wall for students to write about conservation or comment on environmental waste.



## 3-D Printing!

The whole world is going 3D, from 3D movies in the theater to now 3D printing in the Library. This new technology allows students and faculty to create objects for classes from Chemistry models to Geosciences topography maps to prototypes for Engineering and scale models for design classes. The library is currently testing a 3D camera, scanner and monitor for student and faculty use.



A student inspects a 3-D printing machine.



## Erhu in Concert

The School of Music, Walker Library, and the Confucius Institute partnered to host a Chinese music event in the library atrium on Tuesday, April 22. Hundreds of students gathered to hear Xiaojun Huo, a well-known musician who has appeared on stages all over the world. She played the erhu, a two-stringed bowed instrument sometimes called a spike fiddle or southern fiddle that is sometimes known in the Western world as a “Chinese violin.” The erhu is used in traditional and contemporary music including pop, rock, and jazz. It can be traced back to instruments introduced in China more than 1,000 years ago.



## Stephen Wade: Songs and Stories

Renowned folk scholar Stephen Wade presented music, stories, and photos of Depression-era Southern field workers during a Sept. 24–25 visit that featured free public concerts and chats. Wade held a mini-concert at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 24, in the library atrium, followed by an informal meet-and-greet in the periodicals lounge. A Grammy-nominated folk musician/scholar/author, Wade incorporated music and spoken narrative to tell stories from his

award-winning book *The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience*. It's a collection of Library of Congress field recordings made from 1934 to 1942 in places from Southern Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta and includes Wade's research and personal interviews. Focusing on Tennesseans from frontier days to the present, the boisterous

banjoist played tales of Col. David Crockett and his adventures in Arkansas, crashed into Uncle Dave Macon clawhammer banjo style to preach an alliterative “Beauty and the Beast,” and provided his own percussion with rhythmic clogging.

“Some people come just for the tuning,” Wade wisecracked during a quiet moment while he adjusted one of his historic banjos. The audience looked down from the library's upper floors to an almost-full first floor. “I'm so excited to be back at the ground zero of Uncle Dave Macon!” Wade said during a meet-and-greet after the show.

Wade has been described as a walking, singing, and sometimes dancing encyclopedia of traditional American music. He became intrigued by traditional music and folklore while growing up in Chicago in the 1950s and '60s, when he met musicians moving from the Mississippi Delta and Southern Appalachia. His acclaimed theater performances, including *Banjo Dancing and On the Way Home*, led to his inclusion in the public television documentary *The Unquiet Library, a Study of the Library of Congress's Music Division*. He has recorded and/or produced more than a dozen albums, including his most recent, the Grammy-nominated *Banjo Diary: Lessons from Traditions*, on the Smithsonian Folkways label.

Wade's MTSU appearances were cosponsored by the College of Mass Communication, the Center for Popular Music, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of History, the School of Music, and the Virginia Peck Trust. His visit was the latest in the Tom T. Hall Writers Series. [JEWL](#)



## Orientation

Each year, the library participates in activities to help incoming students and faculty get acquainted with campus and the library in particular. From freshmen and transfer student CUSTOMS in the summer, to new faculty, graduate student, and international student orientations before semesters start, to Question Tent during the first few days of class, the library helps students get started off right. It's all part of Walker Library's support of the University's Quest for Student Success initiative.

# Gifts That Keep On Giving

## Support Walker Library through a donation to MTSU's ongoing Centennial Campaign

**J**ames E. Walker Library opened in 1999. Since then, library services and collections have been redefined by the use of technology in ways previously unimaginable. Walker Library has responded well to the challenge of change through the years while staying focused on supporting students as they work toward and complete their education.

Today, Walker Library is the learning hub of campus. The library has more than a million visits each year by MTSU students and faculty. The purpose of visits may be research, studying with other students, completing assignments, or getting expert assistance from a librarian. The use of library collections is no longer confined to the building—the online catalog and electronic collections can now be accessed from anywhere, whenever needed. The high number of campus library visits and the explosion in the use of electronic library resources demonstrate the library's continued relevance and importance for a successful academic experience.

As students advance in their studies, their needs for collections and services change. Undergraduates use our reference and research coach services to support their learning and use computers, specialty software and equipment, and study rooms for collaborative work. Faculty and graduate students require comprehensive collections for their research and quiet spaces for solitary work.

Donor support is vital if Walker Library is to continue to meet the needs of the MTSU community.

The following are four strategic funding priorities for James E. Walker Library.

**Innovation.** Creation of a Digital Scholarship Laboratory as a shared resource for campus archives and Walker Library. The project team will digitize unique MTSU collections and serve in a lab where graduate students can take advantage of the team's expertise and the lab's equipment to publish their research digitally.



The development of a Digital Scholarship Laboratory at Walker Library is the result of collaboration between the library and campus archives, which include the Center for Popular Music, Gore Research Center, and the Center for Historic Preservation. The Digital Scholarship Lab brings together needed technology and expertise so that valuable and unique collections can be digitized and made available to researchers through the library's digital collections portal.

Graduate students conduct their research and publish using a variety of technological methods. The resources of the Digital Scholarship Lab enable scholars to integrate video, images, and sound recordings in their research and create dynamic data environments to illustrate change under different conditions. The lab fills a need for expert assistance and good equipment and can be a place for cross-disciplinary work between graduate students and faculty to learn new techniques to discover and disseminate their research.



## **Collections. Development of a comprehensive research collection for current and proposed graduate programs.**

MTSU has an ambitious academic agenda that includes increasing graduate degree offerings. Funding for this priority will enable the library to rapidly expand its research collections to keep pace with academic program development.

Maintaining strong collections that support the advanced researcher as well as the incoming freshman requires not only funds for content but also technology to organize and manage electronic databases, journals, and books. The advantage of an increasingly electronic and media-rich collection is its ease of access for researchers and its time-saving search features.

## **Students. Development and support of a learning enrichment program for the undergraduate experience.**

The undergraduate learning experience is also about expanded horizons and exposure to new ideas. Walker Library has developed a series of experiential learning opportunities intended to enrich the college learning experience.

- **Lecture series and displays.** Funding would support travel and honoraria costs for visiting lecturers and shipping costs for traveling exhibits to introduce students to new topics and experts. Walker Library has been successful in presenting lecture series such as the Science and Spirituality Forum, a series of discussions of a specific book related to the intersection of science and faith. Traveling

exhibits can support classroom instruction or present resources beyond the University to expand learning opportunities.

- **Paid internships** in graphic design, marketing, Web development, and technology applications give undergraduate and graduate students résumé-quality work experience in their area of study while they support library operations.
- **Student research awards.** The library plans to encourage students to learn the value of writing and research by submitting papers that demonstrate the use of primary sources and research collections and are examples of good writing. An annual goal of \$1,000 is the minimum to award \$500 prizes to an outstanding undergraduate and an outstanding graduate student each year.

## **Staff. Maintain a knowledgeable and trained workforce.**

Because of changes in the use of technology and developments in instructional best practices, learning styles, and library services, sustaining and growing a contemporary library requires a qualified, engaged workforce.

Ongoing training for faculty and staff enables Walker Library to maintain excellence in support of the academic community. Investment in faculty and staff will allow us to pursue development opportunities in the form of research projects, skill advancement, and professional growth. [JEWL](#)



Dean Bonnie Allen



photos by Andy Heidt

## JEWL Magazine

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## A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LIBRARY

James E. Walker Library delivers exceptional services in an environment that inspires learning and interaction, bridging the intellectual and social aspects of our university.

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