

HONORS

*Edition*

2011

SPRING



# In This Issue

## Board of Visitors Tackles Initiatives

### Honors Students

National Merit Finalists .....	6
Study Abroad (Lyndsay Tarus) .....	7
Students Win Gilmans .....	8
Creative Expression Award Winners .....	9
Honors Publications Receive Awards .....	10
Study Abroad (Casey Gaddis) .....	11
Honors Students Study Abroad .....	12
Study Abroad (Rachel Gass) .....	13
Consider This Productions .....	14
Interdisciplinary Seminars .....	15
ODK Fall Initiation .....	16
I Welcome the Honors Challenge! .....	17
Lower-Division Certificates .....	18
Student News.....	19
Homecoming 2010 Tailgate .....	21
Contemporary Issue Projects.....	22
Buchanan Fellows .....	23
2010 Fall Theses Defended .....	24
Faces Around the Honors College.....	26
Honors Fall Open House.....	27
<i>Collage</i> .....	28
Fulbright Interest Increasing.....	29
Honors Students .....	30
New Study Abroad Scholarship .....	32

### Honors Faculty

Foundation Awards.....	33
Clippard, Carnicom Attend Conference...	34
Dr. Tom Strawman.....	35
McPhee Leads Off Lecture Series .....	36
Faculty and Staff News .....	37
Wulfsberg's Career Celebrated.....	39
Book Celebrates Centennial.....	41
Events at Honors.....	42

### Honors Alumni

Alumni and Friends News .....	43
Elliot Dawson.....	44
Witherspoons Recognized.....	44
Honors Grad Wins Research Award .....	45
Contributor Honor Roll..... Inside back cover	

### Cover photo

Stained glass from the Esther Jetton Cunningham Honors Conference Room crafted by Andrew McCausland of Robert McCausland, Ltd. of Toronto, Canada

Donated by Dyanne R. Rice-Mogan, Class of 2004  
photo by Andrew Heidt

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# From the Dean's Desk

September 2011 marks the centennial of the University. Honors has now been part of that history since 1973. The college has helped take the lead in the centennial celebrations. January marked the publication of *Time and Tradition*, a book of poetry that Dr. Phil Mathis, former Honors dean, has compiled to celebrate the University's first one hundred years. Later in the year, Dr. Jan Leone of the Department of History will be publishing another volume detailing highlights of MTSU's history. This book grew largely from a lecture series that the Honors College sponsored in fall 2009 and will feature a chapter on the history of the Honors College. The sales of both books will be used to support scholarships at the University.

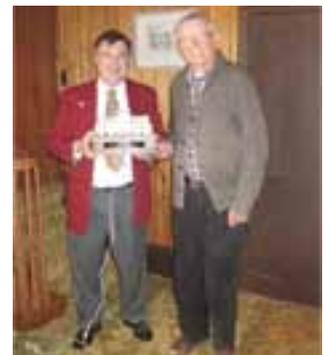
As this issue details, fall 2010 marked the inauguration of a new Board of Visitors for the Honors College. At its first meeting, the board selected Don Midgett as president and voted on an ambitious agenda designed chiefly to encourage the establishments of scholarships for Honors students. Some new board members have already made generous contributions to the Honors College.

The fall of 2010 marked another healthy increase in honors enrollments. The College of Education is among the colleges now working on new classes that will facilitate entry by its students into the Honors program. Several members of the Department of Human Sciences were recently approved as Honors faculty, with the anticipation that more students from this area will also soon be writing theses.

Both this publication and *Collage* received awards, and the college is forging ahead with the publication of its first issue of *Scientia et Humanitas* this spring.

We are hoping to have a new cohort of scholarship winners to tell you about in our next issue. This fall, we nominated a record ten students for Fulbright Scholarships, and we have other nominees for Mitchell, Goldwater, Truman, Rotary, and other scholarship opportunities.

We especially appreciate your responses to our enclosed survey. Please take a minute to update us on your current activities.



Honors Dean John R. Vile presents a replica of Kirksey Old Main to Dr. James M. Buchanan, MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner. Dr. Buchanan received the gift in recognition of his recent induction into the Kirksey Old Main Society for his generous donations to the University.

—John Vile, Dean ●

# BOARD OF VISITORS Tackles Initiatives

The University Honors College Board of Visitors convened Friday, October 15, for its annual meeting. Eleven new members and ten returning members were led by newly elected chair **Don Midgett**.

Midgett, a newcomer to the board, is a retired engineering project engineer from Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tennessee. A Murfreesboro native and graduate of MTSU Campus School, Midgett holds degrees from Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI). He is a longtime Blue Raider Athletic Association member and is the son of the late E. W. (Wink) Midgett, a former professor of accounting and football, basketball, and golf coach at MTSU.

Other Board of Visitors newcomers are **Keta Barnes**, Smyrna Municipal/General Sessions Court judge; **Mary Lee Barnes**, Middle Tennessee Medical Center clinical education manager; **Gordon W. Bell**, codirector of Old Fort Academy (retired); **Eddith**

**Dashiell**, assistant dean, Undergraduate Programs and Services, Scripps College of Communication; **Elliot Dawson**, president, BioVentures Inc.; **Raiko Henderson**, former investment analyst; **Shane Reeves**, partner, Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services; and **Don Witherspoon**, director of logistics, Pfizer Inc. (retired).

**Jim Bailey**, founding shareholder in Johnson and Bailey Architects, is returning to the board and is once again vice chair. Other returning board members are **Don R. Ash**, circuit court judge, 16th Judicial District; **Debra Hopkins**, national curriculum consultant, National Geographic and Hampton-Brown; **Lee Martin**, industrial engineer; **Paul W. Martin Jr.**, chief managing member, Clarity Resources, Knoxville, Tennessee; **Paul Patel**, physician, Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and Surgicenter; **Jim Tracy**, Tennessee state senator, 16th Congressional District; and **Jeff Whorley**, president, Student Aid Services.

Ex officio members of the board are **Joe Bales**, vice president for Development and University Relations; **James M. Buchanan**, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and professor emeritus of economics at George Mason University and Virginia Tech; **Scott Carnicom**, associate dean, University Honors College; **Phil Mathis**, professor emeritus, Department of Biology, and former dean of the University Honors College; **June Hall McCash**, founding director, MTSU Honors Program, and professor emerita, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Ron Messier**, professor emeritus, Department of History, and former Honors Program director; and **John R. Vile**, dean, University Honors College.



Board of Visitors chair Don Midgett and board member Elliot Dawson.



Honors College Board of Visitors members at the October meeting.

CONTINUED  
on page 4

## Initiatives from page 3

4

The group gathered at 9:00 a.m. in the Honors Building amphitheater for a continental breakfast followed by a report on the state of the Honors College. Dean Vile then introduced board members, who signed the Honors College *Book of Town and Gown*, an antique book used to record and preserve the signatures of all those who help shape and sustain the University Honors College.



Board of Visitors members (L-R) Dr. Paul Patel, Don Witherspoon, Gordon Bell, Shane Reeves, and Jeff Whorley listen to a report on the state of the Honors College.

**Marsha Powers** and **Laura Clippard** of the Honors College staff gave brief reports on college publications and national fellowships, after which a panel of seven Honors students spoke to the board about their experiences and achievements.

**Matthew Hibdon**, a history major, told the Board of Visitors that he was initially attracted to the Honors College because of great benefits like priority registration and small class sizes, but it was ultimately the one-on-one attention and assistance he received from Honors staff that solidified his decision to be part of the Honors College. Matthew, recipient of the Honors Outstanding Junior Award, also received an Honors study abroad scholarship that, when combined with a scholarship from the MTSU Study Abroad Office, paid for his entire study abroad trip to London. Matthew serves as a representative for his fellow Honors students on the Dean's Advisory Board and the Honors Council. He is a charter member of MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa and is currently serving as

the circle's president. Matthew is in the process of fulfilling his last graduation requirement for the Honors College: completing his thesis project. He told the board that he is amazed at all the benefits he has received from the Honors College and cannot wait to see what great things the future will hold.



Honors students (front, L-R) Paige Gober, Anna Yacovone, Lana Williams, and (back, L-R) Matthew Hibdon, Katherine Bogel, Miguel Hurtado, and Juan Zelaya spoke to board members.

**Paige Gober**, a theatre student, Buchanan Fellow, and assistant literature editor of *Collage*, chose to attend MTSU because of its strong theatre and honors programs. She told board members that the Buchanan Fellowship Seminar classes have been among her favorites. "The amount of knowledge and inspiration they have given me in science and literature has carried over into all my other courses," she said. "Mostly, the Buchanan Scholarship has awarded me a bountiful group of friends and peers who are equally impassioned about their fields of study as I am with mine, and working with them on several projects over the last two years has been a wonderful experience."

**Juan Zelaya**, an international student, told board members that the Honors College is the ideal conduit to success as a university student. "It fosters the pursuit of excellence, preparing students with values that are hallmarks of highly qualified professionals," he said. Juan, who grew up in extreme poverty in Honduras and is attending MTSU with a full scholarship from the Central Bank of Honduras, is majoring in entrepreneurship. He said he is grateful for the opportunity to study at MTSU and to become acquainted with other students through participation in soccer intramurals and campus ministry activities. "When I return to Honduras, all these things will help me fulfill my dreams to give back to my country through generating small businesses that will cultivate from its vast (yet underdeveloped) natural resources and natural beauty, as well as its rich culture."

**Katherine Bogle**, a transfer student majoring in political science, expressed gratitude for the opportunities MTSU and the Honors College have given her. Transferring from a small, private college, she questioned her ability to stand out, but during her year and a half at MTSU, she has founded a student organization, been elected to several positions of leadership, joined two honor societies, participated in fundraising and humanitarian work, studied abroad, and interned in Washington, D.C. Katie said the Honors program has been of significant benefit to her life and that she knows it will continue to help her as she prepares to enter a top-tier law school. She added, "Not only do Honors courses present me with stronger academic challenges but they also surround me with fellow students who are engaged and passionate about learning."

Transfer student **Lana Williams**, who was inspired to be a special education teacher by the examples of her mother and grandmother, told the board, "While visiting my uncle this summer, I happened to discover MTSU and was impressed with the University and the Honors College in particular and decided to transfer [from Georgia Southern University]." Lana said the Honors College has already been helpful and encouraging. "I love traveling and one of my desires is to teach in other countries once I graduate, where special education programs may not be in place. Through scholarships and study abroad, I know the Honors College will be able to help me achieve these goals." "While I have not been here even an entire semester yet," she said, "I can already tell that this is an excellent place to be, and I know that being a part of the Honors College here at MTSU will be a good experience."

**Miguel Hurtado**, who is studying biology and professional chemistry, told the board that he is not the average, doctor-wanna-be overachiever. A native of Mexico, he came to the United States with his family after elementary school and did not know a word of English. After six months of English as a Second Language classes, Miguel was able to join the Spectrum program for gifted students and eventually finished high school with a 3.95 GPA and an honors diploma. He was unable to receive any kind of federal financial aid for college because of his national origin, but with the help of the Honors College and the Chemistry Department, he now has a Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship and the Albert and Ethel Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship. Miguel said, "There is no denying that the Honors College provides an environment where students are challenged

to think outside the box, encouraged to reach their full potential on a wide variety of activities, and even trained to become leaders; but for me, the Honors College has done this and so much more. There is really no way for me to talk about my current achievements and future career plans without mentioning the Honors College. All the faculty and staff here have been vital to getting me where I am today."

**Anna Yacovone**, an Honors student majoring in global studies and organizational communication, told the Board of Visitors that she has an "insatiable need to travel and learn about other cultures." She plans to pursue a doctorate in intercultural communication because of her belief that understanding communication patterns across cultures fosters cultural tolerance. After studying abroad in Bangkok, Thailand, this spring, she plans to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship and is considering applying to the Peace Corps. Anna said she adores adventure and loathes monotony, so she currently devotes her energy to being active on campus. She is a peer advisor in the Education Abroad and Student Exchange Office and is a member of Rotaract, the Honors Students' Association, Global, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi. She told the board that the Honors College has enriched her college experience through financial assistance and by providing "a warm community of students who can freely express themselves. These students have become not only close friends for life but they are also my brothers and sisters of academia, and our mutual curiosity and love of knowledge continuously encourages me in all my academic pursuits."

Following a catered buffet lunch, board members reconvened in the amphitheater for the annual business meeting. The group elected Don Midgett chair and voted to focus on several initiatives during the following year:

- securing Centennial Scholarships for Honors students,
- hosting future meetings of the MTSU Foundation,
- designating an ex officio Honors representative for the MTSU Alumni and Foundation boards
- providing incentives for faculty members to develop and offer Honors interdisciplinary seminars, and
- exploring the possibility of selling bricks with names of contributors and honorees. ●

## National Merit Finalists Participate in Honors College



Ashlin Harris



Tyler Loucky



Christopher Lowry

The Honors College has identified at least three freshmen students who are National Merit finalists. They are **Ashlin Powell Harris**, **Tyler Brooke Loucky**, and **Christopher T. Lowry**, and there may be more!

Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College, noted that MTSU offers a National Merit/Achievement award of \$6,000 a year to incoming students who are National Merit Finalists but that this scholarship is (by national rules) limited to those who designate MTSU as their first choice. Students often decide on MTSU only after comparing prices with institutions they may have designated as their first choice. Mr. Lowry is the only freshman at MTSU who earned the National Merit/Achievement Award. Recipients of this award are not required to participate in the Honors College, but Lowry, an incoming freshman from Morristown-Hamblen High School West who is concentrating in instrumental music education, is fully engaged in the program.

Harris and Loucky are both taking Honors classes as Buchanan Fellows. Loucky is a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro and is majoring in environmental science and technology. Harris, who, like Lowry, also graduated from Morristown-Hamblen High School West, is majoring in mathematics.

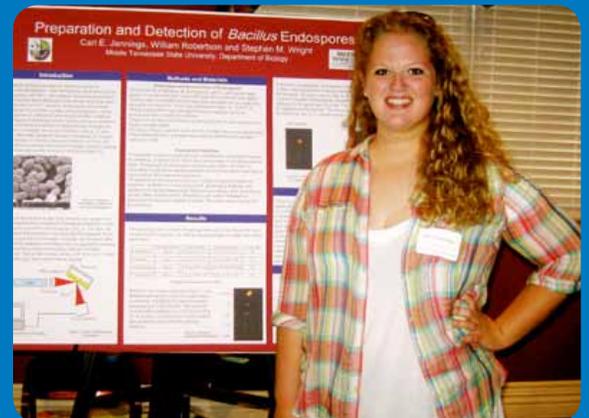
Although National Merit semifinalists are often chosen before they submit college applications, most students do not find out that they are National Merit finalists until after applying. It is therefore possible that there are other National Merit finalists in the freshman class.

Vile said the Honors College has raised next year's minimum ACT score for Buchanan Fellows from 25 to 29 and that an increasing number of applicants have scored in the upper ranges of that test. In such circumstances, it seems likely that next year's class will have even more National Merit finalists. ●



(L) Lauren Rigsby, a physics major, with her poster, "Simulating Helmholtz Resonators in a Wave Guide," which she prepared for MTSU's StepMT poster presentation this summer.

(R) Biology major Cari Jennings, a participant in MTSU's July 23 StepMT poster presentation, with her poster, "Preparation and Detection of Bacillus Endospores."





## The World Is Yours

by Lyndsay Tarus | *Tarus is a sophomore Honors student majoring in Global Studies.*

The decision to study abroad was one that I made when I was about ten years old. With a mom who works internationally, my passion for traveling was sparked early in life. During my freshman year, this dream became reality when I was told, “The world is yours, Lyndsay, only you can decide where you want to begin.” I chose Malaga, Spain, so I could use the Spanish language while learning it. Malaga is a rapidly growing city with tons of students, and the Costa del Sol is absolutely beautiful. Malaga has the beach, city, and mountains, and the rest of Europe and the northern coast of Africa are readily available for weekend jaunts.

Last fall, I lived with two Malagueños in the most comfortable and eclectic apartment with the beach only two blocks away and the Plaza de Toros de Malaga bullring one street over. I woke every morning with the breeze coming through my open door by way of the terraced balcony and with commotion in the street below. After drinking a cup of tea and eating my always-fresh fruit, I caught the public bus and I was thoroughly entertained simply by people watching.

Twenty minutes later, I arrived at the University of Malaga for Exchange Students, where the students come from all over the world. Just in my small class of three other students there was Philipp from Germany, Eveliina from Finland, and Kyung Ju from Korea. I took 25 hours of Spanish classes a week with professors who spoke less English than I speak Spanish (and I’m a beginner). During our breaks, it was amazing to hear all of the different languages—Dutch, Danish, German, Spanish, French, Korean,

Swedish, (the list goes on)—spoken at once. Nothing is more refreshing than the diversity and coexistence I witnessed every day.

After school, I rode the bus back home—just as entertaining as the morning ride—and arrived just in time to smell the aroma of my señora cooking lunch. We ate together, and the food was indescribably delicious. Our table conversations persistently became more in-depth, but between my broken Spanish and their lack of English, there were always hand gestures, reaches for the dictionary, and, of course, our constant laughter. Directly after lunch, we had the infamous siesta! Spain closes shop for at least two hours in the middle of the day for everyone to regroup with a nap and relaxation, and who could complain about that?

[Lyndsay Tarus with her host parents, Paco and Marie Cruz.](#)



Malaga has a buzzing city center where one can always find local artists, music, and street performers, and right across the street from downtown is the port with cruise ships and Africa-bound ferries. With all Malaga has to offer, I still haven't even told you the best part: the easy access to more travel destinations. I was able to see numerous cities in Spain including Madrid, Seville, Granada, and Nerja. One weekend, I even made it to the top of the Rock of Gibraltar. In November, I was in Munich and other places in Germany, and in December: Morocco! My eyes have been opened to so many new cultures, experiences, and pathways to more adventures. ●



Lyndsay Tarus exploring the Plaza de Espana in Seville, Spain.

## Two Students Make the Grade for **Gilmans**

Anna Yacovone received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship of \$2,000 (through the International Student Exchange program) to study at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, for the spring 2011 semester. Anna is an Honors student who is double-majoring in Global Studies and Organizational Communication. She was one of about 850 students from among almost 2,900 applicants to receive the award. One other MTSU student, Barbara Corley, a Philosophy major minoring in Global Studies and English, also received a Gilman Award. She is studying on an independent program at Universersitateea Babes-Bolyai, Chuj-Napoca, in Romania during the 2011 spring and fall semesters. Gilman Scholarships are awarded to U.S. undergradu-

ates who are receiving federal Pell Grants. They are designed for those who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad. Rhonda Waller, director of MTSU's Education Abroad Office, is the local representative for the Gilman Scholarships. The deadline for applicants for the summer 2011, fall 2011, and full-year 2011-12 programs is March 1, 2011. ●



Yacovone

## Collage Announces Creative Expression Award Winners

Four current MTSU students and one alumnus won the fall 2010 *Collage* Creative Expression Awards. **Brooke Rooney** and **Jaime Luna** won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. **Betsy Ochoa**, **Hallie Sullivan**, and **Brett Warren** won Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for best visual submissions.



Brooke Rooney, a senior English major, won the Hixon Award for her fiction story "A Family That Eats Together, Stays Together." Brooke, who is from Knoxville, plans to attend graduate school and seek an M.F.A. in creative writing.

Jaime Luna, a junior from East Nashville, won the creative expression award for his poem "Giggling." He is a political science major with a minor in business administration. His family is from Honduras, and he was born in Costa Rica.



Betsy Ochoa won the Nuell Award for her pointillistic self-portrait, *Bedroom #2*. Betsy, a junior art major with a concentration in studio art, is from Mt. Juliet. After graduation, Betsy's dream is become a concept artist for a major movie studio such as Pixar but says she would be happy being able to make a living doing art.



Hallie Sullivan, an art student with a concentration in graphic design, won the Nuell Award for her color photograph *Innocent, Yet Affected*. Hallie, who is from Franklin, took the photo of a young Haitian boy in spring 2010 several months after Haiti's deadly earthquake.



Brett Warren, a 2009 graduate from McMinnville, won the Nuell Creative Expression Award for his *Wooden Heart* series of color photos. Brett majored in art with a graphic design concentration. After graduation, Brett moved to New York City for three months and interned for photographer Annie Leibovitz. He now lives in Murfreesboro and is a graphic designer at Country Music Television. He has been trying to improve his photography skills.



Each semester the *Collage* staff participates in a blind grading process to select approximately 50 pieces for publication out of about 300 submissions. The *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board gives Creative Expression Awards for outstanding work in prose, poetry, art, and photography and also bestows one alumnus award. ●

# Honors Publications Receive Awards

Two Honors College publications, *Honors Edition* and *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, received awards during the 2010-11 year.



*Honors Edition*, the college's newsletter, won second place in the National Collegiate Honors Council Publications Board newsletter contest. *Honors Edition* was one of 12 entries in the Faculty/Administrator/Student-Published category. Regular features include Honors faculty news and profiles; student study abroad stories, news of these defended, general student news, Buchanan

Fellowship updates, and scholarship and award winners; and alumni news and profiles. Marsha Powers is the editor of *Honors Edition*. The award was received for the fall 2009 and spring 2010 issues.

Early in the fall semester, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, an arts and literary magazine, received a Gold Medalist certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). In December, the CSPA, which is affiliated with the graduate school of journalism at Columbia University

in New York, announced the *Collage* had been selected to receive a Crown Award at the CSPA award program this spring. Crown Awards are the highest recognition given by the CSPA to a student print or online medium for overall excellence.

The Gold Medalist certificate and the Silver Crown Award were awarded for the fall 2009 and spring 2010 issues of *Collage*. The magazines received All-Columbian Honors for special merit in the organization and design categories.



All-Columbian Honors are given only when a publication is in the 95th percentile or higher in one or more of three categories.

Honors graduate Jasmine Gray, who was selected for the USA Today All-USA College Academic First Team, won the MTSU President's Award, received an Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation scholarship, and was editor-in-chief of the fall 2009 and spring 2010 issues of *Collage*. Jennifer Johnson was assistant editor. Art majors Danny McClain and Nathan Henris designed the award-winning issues. ●

Dean John R. Vile, left, Sara Beth Gideon, and Carroll Van West visit the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, where Sara Beth, an Honors student, is exhibit curator of Communities, Competitions, and the University Campus 1926-2010. She created the display exploring high school and college competitions at MTSU as her Honors thesis/creative project. The exhibit will run through May at the Heritage Center at 225 W. College Street.





## Thesis Topic Inspires Scotland Trip

by Casey Gaddis | *Casey is a senior anthropology major from Nashville with minors in Spanish and geology.*

Coming from a family with limited means, there are things I never dreamed I'd have the opportunity to do before I was 30 or 40 years old and had a real full-time job. One of those things was traveling outside of the country. However, the opportunity presented itself, and in July I traveled to the United Kingdom.

My boyfriend, David Muirhead, and I decided to spend a week in Scotland partly for pleasure, and partly because of the topic of my Honors thesis, the Scottish ballad "Tam Lin." The ballad is from around the 1500s and tells the tale of a young woman who refuses to follow her father's wishes in a time when such women were locked up at best. Despite the fact that she is pregnant by a man she believes to be a fairy, she will not marry someone of her father's choosing, and so she sets out to find her lover and demand the truth. She discovers that in order to keep this man that she loves and who is the father of her child, she must eventually save him from the fairy queen.

With a hostel in Edinburgh as our base, David and I set out to explore our surroundings, taking pictures after picture so that I could get a feel for the area as inspiration for my thesis, which will include a creative project, a retelling of "Tam Lin." After a few days in Edinburgh, we opted to take a one-day tour of the Highlands that included amazing views, a visit to an old ruined castle, and a boat ride on Loch Ness, not to mention outstanding fish and chips. Later, we took a city bus down to see the 15th-century Rosslyn chapel. I would recommend all of these sites and more to any tourist visiting Scotland for the first time. After seeing the sights and soaking in the atmosphere, I know that

Scotland and I are not finished. One week there was certainly not enough.

While there, I encountered a few customs that I was mildly surprised to find, but nothing was more surprising than finding a bit of the Southern U.S. so far north across the Atlantic. One evening we were visiting the pub near the hostel where we were staying, and I noticed that the board on the wall said that the live music act would be "alternative country/bluegrass." A young Scotsman and his fellows played both original and cover songs, singing about Kentucky, Tennessee, fickle women, and broken hearts—singing them all with a country twang. They played a cover of "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow" made popular by the (fictitious) Soggy Bottom Boys in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou*. We knew some of the words, and being from the South (though not exactly fans of this type of music), we couldn't help a little foot stomping and knee slapping to the beat of such a well-done cover.



Urquhart Castle is situated on the banks of Loch Ness near Inverness, Scotland.

# Honors Students Study Abroad

12

## Winter

**Meghan Davis**, a senior theatre student; **Paige Gober**, a junior theatre student; **Brandee Kent**, a junior advertising student; and **Michael Swift**, a sophomore political science student, studied in London through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA).

**Janina Crenshaw**, a sophomore political science major, studied in Germany from October 2010 through February 2011 through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP).

## Spring

**Erica Cathey**, a junior, and **Jordan Fey**, a senior, are physics majors who are studying in Scotland this spring through ISEP.

**Kelsey Crews**, a junior Spanish student and **Tony Pritchard**, a senior biology major, are studying in Seville, Spain, this spring through the ISEP.

**Lindsay Gates**, a senior History major, presented research at SRM University in India during spring break through the McNair Scholars program.

**Sara Goepel**, a junior psychology major, is studying in Bangalore, India, this spring.

**Anna Yacovone**, a double major in global studies and organizational communication, is studying at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, this spring through ISEP. The senior received a \$2,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for the trip. ●

# CONTINUED

Scotland from page 11

No matter how far away a person goes, and no matter how many wonderful things one gets the chance to see, I suppose a part of home will always show up. Where you are from never leaves you and may even follow you across oceans. If you haven't been to Europe

or to whatever place you've always dreamed of going, do it now. Do it for spring break. Do it next summer! Take every opportunity that comes your way. I did, and it was one of the most amazing times of my life. ●



Edinburgh Castle, the birthplace of King James VI of Scotland and England in 1566, viewed from the Princes' Street Gardens. The castle sits on a relict volcano, the sheer igneous rock providing a nearly indestructible and valuable fortification.



## Sophomore Calls Study Abroad Experience “Amazing”

by Rachel Gass | *Rachel Gass is a sophomore global studies major studying in China on a Confucius Institute Scholarship*

When I first heard that MTSU had scholarships available to study in China for a year, I automatically thought, “That’s not for me.” I believed, as do many students, that studying abroad would cost me a lot of money and would put me behind in my credits. Thankfully, I was wrong. The application process was pretty simple; the study abroad people at MTSU walked me through it; and all of the students who applied got accepted! Now I’m a full-time student in China, and the only thing I had to pay was my airfare!

The experience here has been amazing. The classes are challenging but very interesting, and living in the dorms has been a blast. We have students from all over the world living here (my roommate is from Kyrgyzstan). For students majoring in any foreign language or in global studies, I’d say going abroad is a MUST. Not only am I learning the language from native speakers but also, every day, I learn something new about the culture!

I want to share just one of the cool experiences I’ve had since coming here. A Chinese friend I made here invited me to visit her grandmother with her. Her grandmother lived in a village a few hours away from our city. Going to this village was such a great experience. No one there had ever seen a for-

eigner, and the kids absolutely loved playing with me. The village had no plumbing or anything; it was such an experience to see. The village was a communal group, and unlike anything I’ve ever seen in America. I spent two days there and saw the temples around the village. The Buddhist temples were an amazing sight. I think I took around 500 pictures while I was there! The best part was realizing that there are amazing places like this all over China only a few hours away from me!

The city I live in is pretty modern but still uniquely Chinese. Our dorms, unlike the village, have hot water and all the basic accommodations. The food here is amazing . . . and cheap! You can eat out for \$1 and still get a huge meal. The people here are so friendly and inviting. Everywhere I go, people stop to welcome me to China and often want to take pictures with me! If you ever wanted to live the life of a celebrity—being chased by cameras and asked for an autograph—then China is the place for you! But even if you don’t love all that, you will enjoy the hospitality of the people here. There’s only so much a person can learn about a language or culture from a textbook. Being here to experience firsthand the culture difference makes me truly understand it, and hearing the language constantly has been a HUGE help as well. All of that being said, I hope some of you reading this will come to China! You’ll love it! ●



Buddhist temples surrounding a Chinese village



Chinese schoolchildren enjoy meeting Rachel.

# MTSU Students Assist Consider This Productions

14

Consider This, Inc. a newly re-formed not-for-profit theatre company headquartered in Murfreesboro, opened its 2010-2011 theatre season at the NHC Tower building September 9 with *Arsenic and Old Lace*. The company's founder and president, Barry Hardy of LaVergne, first began Consider This in 1994 as a church group, giving performances at various churches in Rutherford County, but took a ten-year hiatus beginning in 2000 to focus on his family. Since re-forming in the spring of 2010, the theatre company has performed *A Night of Eerie One Acts* in October, a Christmas show paying tribute to Victor Borge and the big band era in December, *You Can't Take It With You* in February, and *Flowers for Algernon* in April.



MTSU students Tom Bradford (left) and Matthew Forman practice for a skit.

Matthew Forman, a non-traditional student at MTSU, joined the company in July 2010 to establish fund-raising programs to build out and equip the theatre and to work with the continual Scholarship and

Outreach programs that the theatre operations will support. All of the members of the extended Consider This family spent last summer in various fund-raising activities, in addition to preparing for the September opening. Although the group has had a few temporary homes since the beginning of its 2010-2011 season, the Swan Performing Arts Center is now permanently located at 1203 Park Avenue.

If theater operations are the heart of Consider This, providing a variety of family-friendly secular entertainment, the various outreach programs are its soul. The wide variety of venues that will be showcased at the "Swan" will be used to support these operations. Consider This will reach out to the families and



Cast members (L-R) Tom Bradford, Vicki Ambrose, Barry Hardy, Thomas Esson, and Matthew Forman read lines from a new script.

organizations of Rutherford County, and the counties immediately bordering Rutherford, by offering various classes in theater acting and technology, the dramatic arts, writers' workshops, personal finance education, Boy and Girl Scouting activities, and in numerous other ways. A scholarship fund is also being established to assist those students from the area who wish to continue their education beyond high school.

Specific upcoming programs and events are productions of *The Rainmaker* in June and *Steel Magnolias* in July; a writer's workshop taught by MTSU Honors student Taffeta Chime in April; and summer theatre camps in June offering classes in the dramatic arts for eight to 18 year olds. In addition to enjoying these upcoming opportunities, visitors to the theatre will have the added benefit of viewing a local art display in the lobby.

Consider This is thankful for the support it receives, including businesses such as TGI Friday's, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Domino's Pizza, and Books-A-Million, which have become close friends of the theater. Additionally, the MTSU family has shown its support as well. The Honors College is a community partner, and the Theater Department looks forward to a long and lasting relationship with the possibility of offering theater students internship credit in the future for work with the classes Consider This will be offering.

Consider This is currently seeking sponsors for a scholarship program that will pay to bring local students to the theatre at no cost to the students. Sponsors are being sought to provide \$100, which pays for 20 students.

To become involved with the theatre company, call Consider This at 615-617-3784; call Sharon Daley, operations manager, at 615-869-8362; or call Matthew Forman at 615-663-6255. More information is available online at [considerthisinc.com](http://considerthisinc.com).

# Interdisciplinary Seminars

FALL 2011

## UH 4600-002

### American Film in the '70s

Dr. Will Brantley

W 6 to 9 p.m. | PH 327 | CRN#: 87542

In *Born to Be Wild: Hollywood and the Sixties Generation* (1984), Seth Cagin and Philip Dray call attention to “the brief but very golden age of the late sixties and early seventies, when a new generation of filmmakers cultivated and claimed a privileged relationship with a new generation of filmgoers.” Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, and other filmmakers responded in passionate but diverse ways to the defining events of a highly charged political era, including Vietnam, Watergate, the emergence of global corporatism, and the continued threat of nuclear holocaust. It was a period when the American film industry reflected the values of the counterculture, which, in turn, had questioned the seemingly sacred foundations of American society. This seminar will focus on a series of films that provide a cultural critique of the seventies, often through explicit statements but more often through the use of metaphor. The course will explore some of the ways in which significant directors, screenwriters, actors, and cinematographers made sense of the so-called “me” decade. Screenings include *Cabaret*, *Carrie*, *The Conversation*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Nashville*, and *Taxi Driver*; readings include selections by Peter Biskind, Cagin and Dray, Pauline Kael, Robert Kolker, Peter Lev, and Robin Wood. The course is open to students who have completed the English general studies requirement and may count as three hours of upper-division English credit.

## UH 4600-001

### Legends of King Arthur

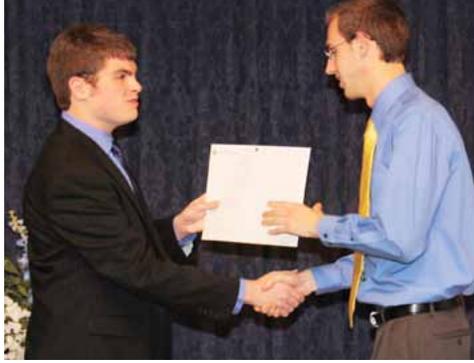
Dr. Amy Kaufman

TR 11:20 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. | HONR 116 | CRN# 87541

Who was King Arthur? Was he a mythical Welsh hero who represented resistance to the many conquerors of Britain, or was he a real Roman warlord who took a stand against the Saxons? While no one can say for certain who the “real” King Arthur was or even whether he existed at all, this course will trace everything we know about the development of Arthurian mythology through medieval literature, architecture, and history. Students will examine the earliest records of Arthur in Latin chronicle and Welsh legend, explore the French Arthurian romance that created the infamous love story between Lancelot and Guenevere, study the alliterative English poetry that celebrated Gawain’s heroism, trace the devolution of Morgan le Fay from mythical goddess to evil sorceress, and even delve into some lesser-known manifestations of Arthurian legend in German, Dutch, Spanish, Irish, Welsh, and Hebrew literature. The course will end with Malory’s *Morte D’Arthur*, the fifteenth-century text from which most contemporary Arthurian legend derives. Students will also do comparative research into popular versions of legendary Arthurian figures in books, film, and digital media. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Kaufman at [kaufmana@mtsu.edu](mailto:kaufmana@mtsu.edu) 



Vanesa Patrick and Haley Pimental take the ODK new member initiation oath.



MTSU ODK circle president Matt Hibdon, left, congratulates new member Chad Slaven.



ODK circle vice president Jennifer Johnson lights five candles representing the society's five areas of leadership.

## ODK HOLDS Fall Initiation

**O**micron Delta Kappa Circle of MTSU initiated fourteen new student members and three faculty members at its fall initiation ceremony Tuesday, November 30, in the Honors amphitheater.

ODK circle adviser John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College, welcomed initiates and guests before a challenge by Karen K. Petersen, political science. Following Petersen's challenge, the circle installed new officers for the 2010–2011 academic year.

New officers are **Matthew Hibdon**, president, **Jennifer Johnson**, vice president, **Lee Whitwell**, treasurer, **Kaitlin Beck**, secretary, and **Caitlin Orman**, public liaison.

New ODK members are seniors **Casey Gaddis**, **Rylee Patrick**, **Sonia Qureshi**, and **Christen Vann**; juniors **Allyssa Beecher**, **Troy Berry**, **Katie Bogle**, **Paige Gober**, **E. J. Hirsch**, **Miguel Hurtado**, **Vanesa Patrick**, **Haley Pimental**, **Laurence Tumpag**, and **Chad Slaven**; and faculty members **David A. Foote**, **Eric W. Klumpe**, and **Karen Petersen**.

All three faculty initiates are members of the Honors faculty. David Foote is founding director of the Institute of Leadership Excellence. He is a professor and assistant dean for learning improvement in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and is a member of the graduate faculty. Eric Klumpe is a professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department and is a member of the Buchanan Fellows faculty. Karen Petersen is a member

of the Buchanan Fellows faculty and coordinator for outcomes assessment and retention in the College of Liberal Arts.

The MTSU circle of ODK was chartered in April 2010 with fifty members, including President Sidney A. McPhee, then-Congressman Bart Gordon, MTSU Foundation president Murray Martin, and Roy Martin, brother of Paul W. Martin Sr.

In June, the national ODK organization named the MTSU circle a 2009–10 Circle of Distinction. Three MTSU circle charter members—Jasmine Gray, Merranda Holmes, and Shannon Murphy—applied for and received ODK Foundation scholarships.

Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. ODK was the first college honor society of national scope to recognize and honor meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and encourage development of general campus citizenship.

MTSU's ODK circle accepts applications from juniors, seniors, and graduate students who maintain a 3.5 GPA and who are involved in leadership and service roles on campus and in the community. The society recognizes leadership in five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and mass media; and creative and performing arts. ●



Petersen



## I Welcome the Honors Challenge!

by Kaela Armbrister | *Kaela Armbrister is a junior transfer student majoring in English.*

I am a junior and a recent transfer student from the Smyrna, Tenn., teaching site of Motlow State Community College. I graduated as an honors student with an associate of arts degree in English. As a senior in high school, I entered the dual-enrollment program at Motlow because I wanted to jump-start my college career. After enrolling, I was highly encouraged to take honors courses and to participate in leadership opportunities.

I became a member of the Presidential Student Leadership Institute and Phi Theta Kappa. I served as a sophomore senator for the Student Government Association, and I was actively involved in the honors program. The faculty at Motlow told me that taking honors courses would not only challenge me but would also help prepare me for my future educational goals. Honors courses challenged me and fostered an intense desire to learn and succeed as a student.

When the time came to make a decision about where to further my education, my advisors at Motlow encouraged me to consider the University Honors College at MTSU. After visiting the beautiful facility and meeting with the staff, I noticed something very special about the Honors College: the administration and students shared the same

desire I had—to create and be in an environment where learning is a process that goes beyond the textbook and is an experience that challenges and develops creativity, integrity, and honor.

Seeing this environment and already knowing the importance of an honors education, my decision to enter the University Honors College at MTSU was easy. Currently, I am majoring in English with an emphasis in cultural studies and a concentration in journalism. After graduating, I plan to attend law school. In terms of my career, I would love to combine my experience in the entertainment industry with my interest in the law field. Practicing media law will provide a means by which I can assist people in turning their creative ideas into reality.

In the time I have been here, my first impression of the University Honors College has not faltered; my regard for the college has only grown. The faculty desires to see me excel and succeed, which encourages me to keep growing as a student. I am truly looking forward to the opportunities that are ahead for me here. I believe my experiences will not only equip me to be a better student but also a better leader. The education I will receive here is going to give me the ability to advance toward my goals. ●



MTSU Omicron Delta Kappa circle president **Matthew Hibdon**, center, and vice president **Jennifer Johnson** present cards signed by ODK members to Veterans Administration Medical Center assistant chief **Anthony Stevens**.

## Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In January, Karen Demonbreum, administrative assistant, announced that 28 students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received lower-division certificates of achievement from the Honors College. The 28 students represent a wide variety of majors.

Fifteen sophomores reached the 20-hour milestone: **Kevin A. Carroll**, **Tori L. Craddock**, and **Alexander G. Murphy**, mathematics majors; **Catherine E. Hughes**, a family and consumer studies major; **Araz A. Amedy** and **Opal Rayne Leonard**, science majors; **Kaci A. Brewer**, an English major; **Erin E. Hall**, recreation and leisure services major; **Kylie D. Forte** and **Emma Fredrick**, psychology majors; **Elizabeth D. Pellegrine**, an animal science major; **Joseph A. Huckleberry** and **Stephanie S. Smith**, political sci-

ence majors; **Dylan A. Phillips**, a recording industry major; and **Stanley A. Feener**, undeclared.

Eight juniors earned certificates: **Ellen W. Goertzen**, an animal science major; **Clifton W. Barnett**, undeclared; **Robert D. Hutchens**, exercise science major; **Patrick K. Morrison**, international relations; **Emily N. Pilaczynski**, a psychology major; **Kaela A. Riek**, nursing; **Kelsey L. Wells**, mass communication; and **Kenith A. Willoughby**, an aerospace major.

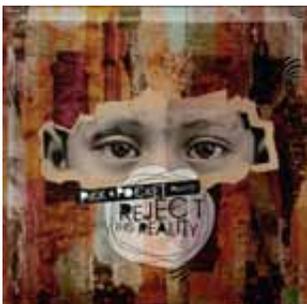
Five seniors received lower-division certificates: **Rebekah M. Horton**, a political science major; **Jarrold A. Phillips**, an economics major; **Brett J. Schneiderman**, recording industry; **Kathryn A. Tackett**, a geoscience major; and **James M. Turner**, an English major. ●

## Student News

**Zac Barker** (Political Science) was an attorney for one of three MTSU Mock Trial teams that participated in the 20th annual Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, held at MTSU November 12–13. The team, which included Rachel Harmon, posted a 7–1 record and came in second overall out of 64 teams.

**Kaitlin Beck** (Economics), a junior Buchanan Fellow, earned one of eight “best attorney” awards at the University of Georgia’s second annual invitational mock trial tournament in late October. She also served as an attorney on one of MTSU’s three teams at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at MTSU in November. Kaitlin is the MTSU circle secretary for Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.

**Troy Berry** (Mass Communication) is a member of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board for 2010–11. He is a new member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.



**Joanna Branson** (Psychology and Mass Communication) contributed photography to the book *Reject This Reality*, a book about poverty by Pick a Pocket Books. The sophomore took the photos in Ethiopia.

**Trent Brewer** (Biochemistry and Psychology) has been accepted at the University of Tennessee–Memphis College of Medicine. He plans to graduate from MTSU in August 2011.

**Erica Cathey** (Physics) worked with Dr. Nathaniel Smith under a STEP grant to research nanocrystal applications in solar cells during summer 2010. During the fall semester, she was copresident of the

Society of Physics Students and participated in an astrophysics space grant with Mr. Jeffery Gritton modeling near-contact binary stars. This spring, she is studying physics at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. Erica is a Buchanan Fellow.

**Meghan Davis** (Speech and Theatre) is the author of *Zest*, a play that was performed on campus this fall with Paige Gober directing. The play began as Meghan’s Honors thesis project.

**Samantha Farish** (Political Science) was an attorney for one of MTSU’s three teams at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament in November.

**Rachel Gass** (Global Studies) received a Confucius Scholarship and is studying in Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China.

**Lindsay Gates** (History) is an editor for the student research journal *Scientia et Humanitas* and a member of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board.

**Paige Gober** (Speech and Theatre) worked with the Governor’s School for the Arts in 2010 as a theatre performance counselor and production assistant. She is a 2007 alumna of the Governor’s School program. In the fall, she directed *Zest*, a play written by Honors student Meghan Davis for her Honors thesis/creative project.

**Constance Grieves** (Political Science), a junior who transferred to MTSU from Motlow State, won one of seven “best witness” awards at the University of Georgia’s second annual invitational mock trial tournament in October. She won a similar award at MTSU’s 20th annual Mid-South Invitational Tournament in November.

**Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages) is science editor for *Scientia et Humanitas* and a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board. Daniel is also president of the Honors Student Association (HSA) and is doing undergraduate research in organic chemistry.

**Heather Haggard** (Criminal Justice Administration) served as an attorney for one of MTSU's three teams at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament in November.

**Matthew Hibdon** (History), is president of Omicron Delta Kappa for 2010-11 and is participating in the ODK Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow program March 10-13 at the Omni Hotel and the University of Richmond in Virginia. He applied and was accepted in the fall for the program, which prepares members of ODK for service on non-profit boards of directors. He is also a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board.

**Lorel Holsinger** (undeclared) completed Read to Succeed literacy tutor training.

**Cari Jennings** (Biology) is an editor on the *Scientia et Humanitas* staff and a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board for 2010-11.

**Jennifer Johnson** (Psychology), a Buchanan Fellow, is vice president of the MTSU circle of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.

**Sam Mitchell** (Chemistry) did summer 2010 research with Dr. Andrienne Friedli's team on the synthesis of mesoporous silica films and presented posters at the STEP<sup>MT</sup> exposition. During the summer, he also shadowed Jei Martin, M.D., at her office in Nashville and was horn sergeant of Music City Drum and Bugle Corps, which won sixth place at the Drum Corps International World Championships. In the fall, Sam did research with Dr. Friedli on relative detection of protein-antibody binding in porous silica. Through the Honors Student Association (HSA), he coordinated bake sales in October and November for Candle Wishes, a nonprofit group that fulfills birthday wishes for underprivileged children. In September, he organized a campus clean-up project through the HSA.

Sam is an editor on the *Scientia et Humanitas* staff and a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board.

**Taffy O'Neal** (English) presented "Pursuing Passion: My Road to Publication" at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop on November 22 at Lipscomb University. She described the writing and publication process for her books *Stoodie* and *The Last*.

**Caitlin Orman** (Psychology) was named editor-in-chief of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* for a second term this semester. She is a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board and is the public liaison for Omicron Delta Kappa. She presented "Creating a Literary and Arts Magazine" at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop on November 22 at Lipscomb University.

**Lema Sbenaty** (Chemistry) shadowed and interned with doctors at Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and the VA hospital in the fall.

**Amanda Scott** (Aerospace) recently received the Girl Scout Gold Award, which requires the completion of a large service project. She conducted a book drive that collected hundreds of children's books, which she donated to Mercy Children's Clinic in Franklin, Tennessee. The clinic allows each young patient to choose a book from the collection to keep.

**Lisa Starke** (Mass Communication) was named a top-10 witness at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament held at MTSU in November.

**Andrew Trivette** (Psychology) has taken a record 44 hours of lower-division Honors credit.

**Lee Whitwell** (Political Science) was an attorney for one of MTSU's three teams at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at MTSU in November. Lee is treasurer of the MTSU circle of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.

**Stuart Wright** (International Relations, Asian Studies minor) received a Confucius Scholarship and is studying at Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China. ●

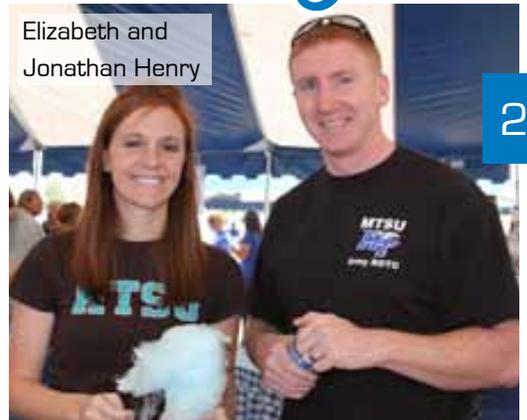
# Homecoming 2010 Tailgate



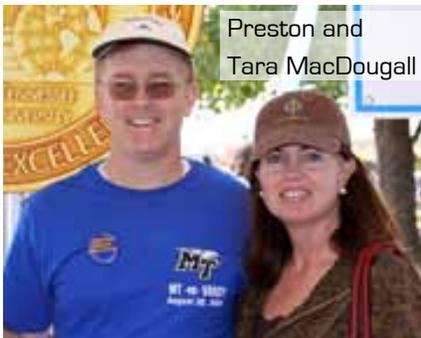
Steven West and Jennifer Johnson



Kelsey Crews



Elizabeth and Jonathan Henry



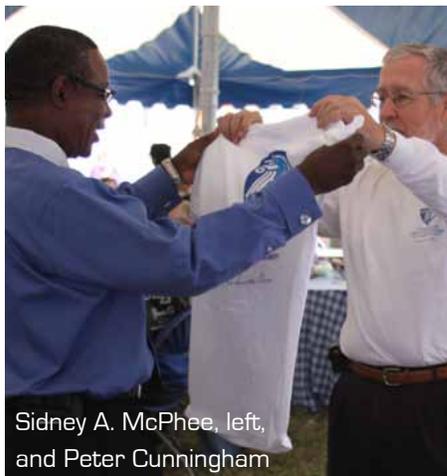
Preston and Tara MacDougall



Derek Frisby, left, and Don Witherspoon



Pamela White Ogg



Sidney A. McPhee, left, and Peter Cunningham



Georgia Dennis and Nathaniel Greene



Bridget Snell, left; Chad Slaven; and Emilie Aslinger



Matthew Hibdon and Nathaniel Greene



2010 Buchanan Fellows,  
inaugurated October 1.

# Contemporary Issue Projects



*Clockwise from top:*

Amos Bailey makes a presentation on acid rain in Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross's Honors Contemporary Issues in Science class in November.

Immanuel V. Chloco, a student in Judith Iriarte-Gross's Honors Contemporary Issues in Science class, presents "Energy Efficiency of the MTSU Raider Buses."

Katy Gold, a student in Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross's Honors Contemporary Issues in Science class, presents "A Parking Lot Full of Possibilities."



# HONORS COLLEGE INAUGURATES Buchanan Fellows

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The University Honors College inaugurated a new class of Buchanan Fellows on October 1 in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

University Provost Brad Bartel joined Dean John R. Vile in welcoming the Buchanan Fellows, their parents and friends, and members of the Honors faculty. Buchanan Fellows Kaitlin Beck, a junior, and Leland Waite, a sophomore, also welcomed and encouraged the newcomers. Dr. Karen Petersen of the Political Science Department, a member of the Buchanan faculty, challenged the Buchanan Class of 2010 to excel and to immerse themselves in the opportunities offered at MTSU.

The 20 new Buchanan Fellows were then invited to sign the Honors College *Book of Town and Gown*, a book containing the signatures of those who have supported and shaped the Honors College. The new signees are Emilie Aslinger, Joe Ballard, Patrick Daniels, John

Griner, Ashlin Harris, Lorel Holsinger, Meredith Holt, Greta Jochmann, Cory Long, Tyler Loucky, Cedar Mittig, Daniel Murphy, Tyler Phillips, Courtney Rodman, Amanda Scott, Lauren Smith, Josh Stein, Zach Stevens, Meredith Stringer, and Tori Worrell.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest academic award given to an entering student at Middle Tennessee State University. It is named in honor of MTSU's Nobel Prize-winning alumnus, Dr. James M. Buchanan. The scholarship is limited to 20 students per year and is open to incoming freshmen with a minimum GPA of 3.5 and a minimum composite ACT score of 29 (SAT 1280). A separate application and essay are required. ●



MTSU faculty and administrators (L-R) Scott Carnicom, Tom Strawman, Eric Klumpe, and Brad Bartel welcome and support the new Buchanan Fellows.

(L) Dr. Karen Petersen of the Buchanan faculty challenges the new Buchanan Fellows.

(C) Leland Waite, a sophomore Buchanan Fellow, welcomes incoming scholars.

(R) Junior Buchanan Fellow Kaitlin Beck welcomes the new Buchanan Fellows.





**CAROLINE ABBOTT** [Mathematics]

**"The Papin Sisters: Case Study  
Across Country, Time, and Genre"**

From left: Dr. Allen Hibbard; Caroline Abbott; Dr. Claudia Barnett, thesis advisor; and Dr. John R. Vile.



**SARA GIDEON** [History]

**"The Grand Host: MTSU and Community Interaction  
through Athletic Competitions"**

From left: Dr. Carroll Van West, thesis advisor; Sara Gideon; Dr. John R. Vile; and Dr. Alfred Lutz.



**JOSEPH BOACHIE** [Biology and Chemistry]

**"Characterization of Biofuel Additives in  
Gasoline via Infrared Spectroscopy"**

From left: Dr. Preston MacDougall; Joe Boachie; Dr. Beng Ooi, thesis advisor; and Dr. John R. Vile.



**TAFFETA O'NEAL** [English]

**"The Last: A Creative Project in Science Fiction,  
Detailing the Necessity of Human Interaction  
in a Post-Apocalyptic Society"**

From left: Dr. Allen Hibbard; Taffy O'Neal; and Dr. Scott Carnicom.



**MEGHAN DAVIS** [Speech and Theatre]

**"Efforts Miraculous: A Student-Written Play"**

From left: Dr. Deborah Anderson, thesis advisor; Meg Davis; and Dr. Scott Carnicom.

2010  
Theses D



**CAITLIN ORMAN** [Psychology]

**“Vocabulary, Morphology, and Prosody  
in English Language Learners”**

From left: Dr. Stuart Bernstein, thesis advisor;  
Caitlin Orman; Dr. Teresa Davis; and Dr. Scott Carnicom.



**DANIELLE RUTHERFORD** [Sociology]

**“Fashion Media’s Detrimental Effect on Young Women”**

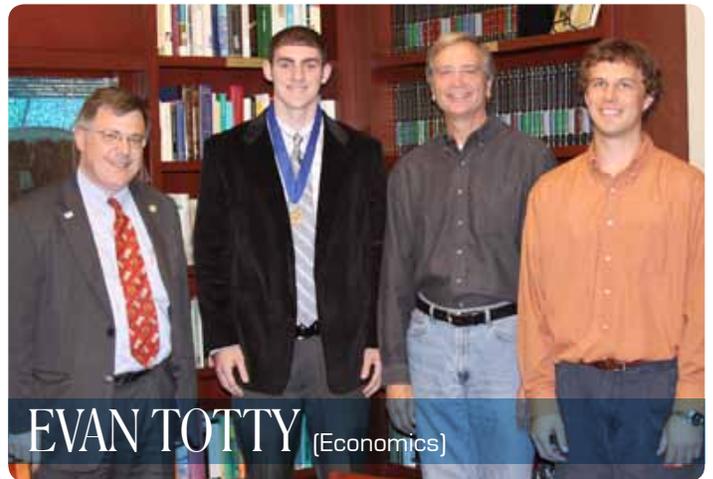
From left: Dr. John R. Vile; Dani Rutherford;  
Dr. Meredith Dye, thesis advisor; and Dr. Teresa Davis.



**CHLOE ROBINSON** [Family and  
Consumer Studies]

**“Changes in Courtship Patterns in Accordance with  
College Students’ Attitudes about Dating”**

From left: Dr. John R. Vile; Chloe Robinson;  
and Dr. David Foote, thesis advisor.



**EVAN TOTTY** [Economics]

**“Salary Caps in Professional Team Sports: A Measure  
of Competitive Balance”**

From left: Dr. John R. Vile; Evan Totty; Dr. Rich Barnet; and Dr.  
Mark Owens, thesis advisor.

# Fall Defended



**KYLE WISHING** [Finance]

**“Labor Unionization and Bankruptcy”**

From left: Dr. Charles Beauchamp, thesis advisor;  
Kyle Wishing; and Dr. Scott Carnicom. ●

# Faces Around the Honors College

Visitors to the Martin Honors Building may encounter several graduate and undergraduate student workers: Kaela Armbrister (see page 17), Jordon Fey, Ashlee Kasper, Morgan Matchok, Mallory Melton, Scott Rife, Emma Stickel, and Zhang Zhang (Christine).



**Jordon Fey**, senior physics major, scholarship worker



**Ashlee Kasper**, freshman business administration major, scholarship worker



**Scott Rife**, freshman economics and mathematics major, scholarship worker, and building attendant



**Emma Stickel**, senior mass communication major (electronic media production), scholarship worker



**Zhang Zhang (Christine)**, graduate student in French and graduate assistant for Shelley Thomas



**Mallory Melton**, left, graduate student in professional counseling, and **Morgan Matchok**, graduate student in quantitative psychology



Visiting writer Julie Hensley at a September 22 lunch with Ron Kates and interested students. Hensley is an award-winning writer of poetry and fiction. An assistant professor at Eastern Kentucky University, she is a core faculty member of ECU's creative writing M.F.A. program.



Julie Hensley, left, and R. Dean Johnson, right, faculty members in the Eastern Kentucky University creative writing M.F.A. program, visited MTSU on September 22 and shared lunch with Ron Kates and a group of students interested in writing. The writers also talked to Kates's class and gave a reading.



R. Dean Johnson, an assistant professor in Eastern Kentucky University's Brief Residency M.F.A. program, visited MTSU September 22 and spoke to Ron Kates's class and other interested students. Johnson and his wife, writer Julie Hensley, shared lunch with Kates and students in the Honors conference room.

# HONORS STUDENTS

## Honors Fall Open House



**1** Kelsey Greer, Courtney Rodman, Amanda Scott, and Laura Clippard

**2** Laura Vo **3** Ashley Sweeten, Zachary Frazier, Taylor DeBord, and Rachel Forbes

**4** Tyler Parrow, Jayme Jones, and Scott Carnicom **5** Chad Slaven, Haley Pimental, and Alex Kraft

**6** Timothy Thomas, Troy Berry, and Richard Skelley

# Collage



Members of the fall 2010 Collage staff on the steps of the Martin Honors Building in October for an editing meeting. Front (L-R), Emily Collins, Callie Durham, Kristina Amsler, Caitlin Orman, Kaitlin Beck; Second row (L-R), Paige Gober, Chris Ranker, Casey Gaddis, Samantha Swift; back (L-R), Jessica Harris, Junyan Wang, Jennifer Johnson, Sheila Smotherman. Not pictured: Claire Gerdau, Jalesa Lowe, and Julius Smith.



Honors student Taffy O'Neal, center, Collage designer Emily Collins, left, and Collage editor-in-chief Caitlin Orman led student sessions at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop November 22 at Lipscomb University in Nashville.

Marsha Powers, publications coordinator for the Honors College, accompanied the students.



Newly selected members of the spring 2011 Collage staff met for lunch on Study Day in December. Front (L-R), Bethany Harris, Caitlin Orman, Jennifer Johnson; back (L-R), Katie Bogle, Taylor Hixson, Casey Gaddis, Jonathan Siler, Sam Swift. Members not present were Emily Collins, Sheila Smotherman, Bethany Wilson, Patrick Casey, Sean Pietzsch, Jalesa Lowe, Chris Ranker, Jessica Harris, Callie Durham, E. J. Hirsch, Kaitlin Beck, Fernando Ramos Cintron, and Martin Moran.

## Student Interest in Fulbright Program Increasing

Fulbright workshops held in the KUC Theater in conjunction with the campus Study Abroad Fair in November attracted 31 interested students, according to Undergraduate Fellowships Program Coordinator Laura Clippard.

Clippard was pleased with the turnout and suspects that the University will see another large increase in Fulbright candidates in 2011. Clippard said the University has had a nearly 500 percent increase in the number of Fulbright applicants in recent years and a 100 percent increase from 2009 to 2010. "We had five applicants last year and 10 this year," she said following the fall workshop.

Two of the five 2009 Fulbright candidates received the Fulbright Scholarship. Kaitlin Howell was selected for medical research in Germany, and Eric Little was awarded a Fulbright to teach in Portugal. Fulbright winners for 2010 will be informed of their awards in the spring.

The Fulbright Scholarship program is the largest cultural exchange program in the world, according to Clippard. The program sends students, professionals, scholars, and teachers abroad to foster cultural awareness and to increase mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations.

Interested students should apply for the Fulbright in May of their junior year, Clippard said. The application process is long, she added, taking nearly a year and a half.



Undergraduate Fellowships Office Coordinator Laura Clippard, second from right, provides Fulbright Scholarship materials to interested students during a recent Fulbright Workshop held in conjunction with the campus Study Abroad Fair in November.

Clippard has worked to increase student awareness of the Fulbright and other undergraduate scholarship opportunities since assuming the role of Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator in 2008.

More information about the Fulbright Scholarship is on the program's website, <http://fulbright.state.gov/>. Students interested in the Fulbright, Goldwater, Rhodes, Truman and other fellowships may contact Clippard for an appointment. Her email address is [Lclippar@mtsu.edu](mailto:Lclippar@mtsu.edu). ●



Students in **Dr. Shelley Thomas's Honors French 1010** joined their teacher for some impromptu caroling in the Honors Building on the last day of classes in December. (L-R) Emily Randall, Katie Herbst, Brian Roberts, Ryan Williams, Oslin Youngblood, Brandon Hazlett, Mariah Bragg, Meagan Loftis, Pete Jones, James Polston, Bethany Burrell, Sarah Gallagher, and Dr. Thomas.



Bessie Batey-Stokes and Liz McPhee, members of the Rutherford County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund board of directors, welcome local high school freshmen to the **Leadership Academy** July 19 in the Martin Honors Building.

# Honors Students



Honors student **Sonia Gureshi** presented "The Human Trash: Stereotypes and Their Victims in Nazi Germany," at the 19th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium on November 3. Her paper was inspired by an Honors interdisciplinary seminar, *The Holocaust and After: Protesting Prejudice and Preventing Genocide*, taught by Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth.



Members of MTSU's three **Mock Trial** teams celebrate awards received at the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament. Senior Rachel Harmon was named one of the November tournament's top attorneys, and Constance Grieves, a junior, was one of the top-10 witnesses. One MTSU team won second place overall with a record of 7-1.



Members of the **Honors College Deans' Advisory Council** with Associate Dean Scott Carnicom, left, and Dean John R. Vile, right, are (L-R) Matthew Hibdon, Lindsay Gates, Daniel Gouger, Caitlin Orman, and Sam Mitchell. Not pictured: Troy Berry and Cari Jennings.



## Research and Creative Projects

Mass Communication (electronic media) major **Richard Skelley** works on his Honors Thesis/Creative Project, "Eric and the Dread Gazebo." His advisor is Marc Barr.



**Meghan Davis**, right, and Paige Gober (both speech and theatre) on the set of *Zest*. The play, written by Davis and directed by Gober, began as Davis's thesis project.



**Jordan Cox**, a chemistry major, does research for his thesis, "A Comparison of Methods for Accelerant Extraction from Fire Debris." His advisor is Ngee Chong.



## Honors Student Association

Clockwise from top: Honors Student Association members visited Rock Island State Park in the fall. On the Collins River Trail [L-R] are Rylee Patrick, Daniel Gouger, Lindsey Allen, Sam Farish, Leland Waite, Kelsey Crews, Alex Gibson, Laura Morgan, Mary Catherine Robinson, Peter Schwartz, Amy Goldstein, Chad Slaven, Emilie Aslinger, and Sam Mitchell.

Honors Student Association (HSA) members hiking the Collins River Nature Trail at Rock Island State Park. [L-R] Daniel Gouger, Kelsey Crews, Laura Morgan, Amy Goldstein, Sam Mitchell, Leland Waite, Lindsey Allen, Alex Gibson, Rylee Patrick, Sam Farish, Chad Slaven, Emilie Aslinger, Peter Schwartz, and Mary Catherine Robinson.

Honors Student Association members [L-R] Emilie Aslinger, Chad Slaven, Laura Morgan, and Leland Waite participated in the fall HSA hike and camping trip at Rock Island State Park.

Honors Student Association (HSA) president Daniel Gouger, left, and Sam Mitchell man the HSA bake sale table in the KUC in November. The organization donated the proceeds to Candle Wishes, an organization that provides birthday parties and gifts for underprivileged children's birthdays.





Dick Gleaves and June McCash

## Former Director Announces Study Abroad Scholarship

Dr. June Hall McCash a former professor of foreign languages and literatures, the founding director of MTSU's Honors Program, and an ex officio member of the Honors Board of Visitors, has announced the creation of the June McCash Founder's Award. The award will go to help a student in the Honors College who is majoring in foreign languages or minoring in a foreign language and who will use the scholarship to study abroad. In time, money will be generated by an interest-bearing account. In the meantime, the college hopes to award \$500 from Dr. McCash's contribution to a student in the spring or summer 2011 semesters. ●



**Joseph Quarles** (English) and Martha Hixon, a member of the Honors faculty and Joe's mentor, with his third place-winning poster. The poster representing Joe's McNair Program research at the 11th Annual Research Symposium in August was called "Snow White: A Cinematic Study."



**Lindsay Gates** (History) with her McNair Program research poster, "From Red to Green: The Influence of Cold War Politics on Indian Agriculture." She presented her research at the 11th Annual Research Symposium in August. Her faculty mentor was Mark Doyle.

# HONORS FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE Foundation Awards

33

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Three members of the Honors faculty, Gary P. Wulfsberg, Mark E. Byrnes, and Stephen M. Wright, received MTSU Foundation Awards at the annual fall faculty meeting Friday, August 27, 2010, in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building Tucker Theatre.

**Gary Wulfsberg**, Chemistry professor, received the Career Achievement Award.

Wulfsberg, who was a member of the MTSU faculty from 1981 to 2010, is an internationally known scholar in chemical education, inorganic chemistry, and organometallic chemistry. His career has focused on research in chemical education and on bench research in nuclear resonance spectroscopy.

Wulfsberg has collaborated on research with scientists worldwide, resulting in numerous joint publications. He has authored or coauthored articles in the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, and numerous other publications.

The author of two inorganic chemistry textbooks, Wulfsberg is widely acclaimed for his innovations in chemical education. His 1987 text, *Principles of Descriptive Inorganic Chemistry*, was the leading textbook in the U.S. and was adopted by universities in Italy, France, England, Spain, Poland, Australia, Canada, Argentina, and Taiwan. Seventy-six colleges and universities worldwide have adopted his 2000 text, *Inorganic Chemistry*.

A supporter of student-centered learning and undergraduate research, Wulfsberg has mentored 13 undergraduates and has supervised nine M.S. theses and eight D.A. dissertations in chemistry. He was a member of the Honors College faculty and has served as graduate coordinator for the Chemistry Department.

The recipient of the MTSU Outstanding Research Award in 1985 and 2002, Wulfsberg has also been honored by the Tennessee Academy of Sciences with the Distinguished University Scientist Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. He received his B.S. in chemistry from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He held postdoctoral appointments at the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt in West Germany and at the Cornell University program on Science, Technology, and Society.

**Mark Byrnes**, Political Science professor and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, received an Outstanding Public Service Award.

Byrnes has been president of the MTSU chapters of Phi Kappa Phi and the American Association of University Professors and of the Tennessee Political Science Association. He has served since 2004 on the Rutherford County Board of Education, including two years as chair and three years as vice chair. As a board member, he has attended more than 320 official school board meetings. He also speaks to citizens about school board matters and to reporters writing stories about politics. In addition, he speaks to civic groups and visits schools.



Wulfsberg



Wright



Byrnes

CONTINUED  
on page 34

# Clippard, Carnicom Attend Conference

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) held its 45th annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri, October 20–24, 2010. Laura Clippard and Scott Carnicom represented MTSU at this meeting of over 1,700 honors leaders and students from around the globe. Laura, who leads MTSU’s Fellowship Office, focused on attending sessions on scholarship opportunities so she can increase MTSU’s participation in prestigious award programs like the Fulbright, Truman, Udall, and Rhodes.

Scott, along with a colleague from Marymount University, Dr. Christopher Snyder, presented “Are Honors Students’ Grades Different in Honors versus Nonhonors Courses?” While many students cite

concerns about the more difficult curriculum and subsequent possibility of lower grades when choosing not to participate in honors courses, Carnicom and Snyder’s research found no significant difference in honors versus nonhonors grades. Scott also represented MTSU at numerous meetings. He serves on the publications board of NCHC and the editorial board for *Honors in Practice*. He is immediate past chair of the research committee and was also a candidate for NCHC’s board of directors.

Both Clippard and Carnicom accepted the second-place award in NCHC’s newsletter competition. This is the second time in three years that the Honors College newsletter has been lauded by the NCHC. ●

## CONTINUED

### Awards from page 33

A native of Murfreesboro, Byrnes received a B.S. in political science from MTSU in 1983 and a diploma in international and comparative politics from the London School of Economics. He earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Vanderbilt University. A specialist in American government and politics, he joined the MTSU faculty in 1991 and has published books on James K. Polk, NASA, and Tennessee politics.

**Stephen Wright**, Biology professor, received a Distinguished Research Award.

Wright’s research often involves collaboration with colleagues and students. His current research focuses on two areas: the epidemiology of Lyme disease and Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) and developing a novel biosensor that can detect antigen-antibody binding or DNA-probe hybridization without labels.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has supported his work with Lyme disease and STARI. The NSF and the Department of Homeland Security support his current investigation, which involves using endospores from nonpathogenic bacilli that model the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, which has been used in biological weapons.

Wright received a B.A. from Northwestern College, a B.S. from the University of North Dakota, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

A clinical microbiologist/virologist, Wright’s primary research interests relate to the epidemiology of infectious diseases. ●



## Honors Faculty Profile: Dr. Tom Strawman

*Dr. Strawman is chair of the English Department and a member of the Honors faculty.*

From my birthplace in Des Moines, Iowa, I saw education as a road to independence and self-determination: for me, this meant westward motion, from a B.S. at Iowa State and M.A. at the University of Kansas (both in English) to the Ph.D. in comparative literature (British and German literatures) at the University of Seattle.

Along the way, however, I sought connection to my ethnic heritage and was fortunate to study in Europe on three occasions: in 1973–1974 at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg im Breisgau (West Germany); in Grenoble and Paris from July to November, 1980; and in 1983–84 at the Karls-Eberhardt Universität in Tübingen (Germany), learning how to work in these “other” linguistic and cultural environments. When stopping in England on all three trips, I visited London, its museums, antiquities, theaters, churches, and symphony halls; walked over 200 miles on National Scenic Trails (northeast coast, West Country, and Lakes District); and bicycled from Freiburg to London in August 1974.

Since coming to MTSU in 1989, I have dedicated myself wholeheartedly to students, colleagues, and the proliferation of quality academic programs. I have taught sixteen different courses at MTSU, written several new ones (in American Indian literatures, literature and the environment, and the intellectual backgrounds of modern Western literature) and taught composition, British Romanticism, Native American literature, methods of literary studies, British literature surveys, and modern European literature.

I have been a member for twenty years of the Graduate and Honors College faculties and have received the Foundation’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, the Honors Faculty of the Year Award, and (twice) the College of Liberal Arts Award as Outstanding Advisor. I served for eight years as associate chair of the English Department, directing the program for majors and minors and advising some 450 English majors each year, and am now in my sixth year as chair of the English Department, the biggest department in the University, far larger in fact than the entire College of Mass Communications (except, of course, in budget). I have quietly but passionately promoted student research during my time at MTSU, having served on eleven Honors theses, seventeen master’s theses, and six doctoral dissertation committees. Sixteen of these students I directed and two I codirected. Over the past several years, I directed two Ph.D. candidates to completion in 2008 and 2010 and am currently advising one Honors thesis writer.

Parallel to a full professional life, I have pursued avocational interests in horticulture and botany, training as a master gardener in Kansas and Washington State and working in whole food co-ops in both places. With my wife, Janet, I have gardened every one of these past thirty-two years and have eaten, preserved, cooked, and shared the bountiful plenty made possible by the gardener’s art. Every summer since the mid-seventies, I have pursued prolonged wilderness trips, often on river raft but exclusively on foot with backpack for the past twenty years or so.



Dr. McPhee introduces "China: A Decade through the Eyes of an American University President."

## McPhee Leads Off Lecture Series

MTSU President Dr. Sidney A. McPhee led off the fall Honors Lecture Series, China: The Middle Kingdom in the Modern World, with "China: A Decade through the Eyes of an American University President." The August 30 presentation in the Honors amphitheater included 190 photographs taken during his numerous travels to China.

Dr. McPhee, who has visited 35 Chinese cities since his first trip in 1999, described a highlight of his first visit, meeting a Chinese farming family. He visited the family's small one-bedroom home, drank Chinese green tea for the first time, and met the farmer's curious, friendly neighbors.

McPhee's presentation included engaging photos of Chinese faces, cultural and historical sites, landscapes and nature, sky-lines and architecture, gates, night scenes, cuisine, leisure, and the Olympics. He also included images depicting friendship and a few favorite photos: a Chinese wedding and a lama with his son.

When asked what the Chinese have taught him, McPhee replied that he has learned the value of friendship. A Chinese friend is a friend for life, he said. In addition, the Chinese people model humility, gratefulness, and contentment, he said.



Guests for Dr. McPhee's lecture included (L-R) Phil Mathis, Ron Messier, June McCash, and Dick Gleaves.

Dr. McPhee's collection of images from his travels to China can be viewed at [www.mtsu.edu/mcpheechinaphotos/](http://www.mtsu.edu/mcpheechinaphotos/).

The fall Honors Lecture Series met each Monday through December 6 and included speakers such as the director of the MTSU Confucius Institute, the director of Asian Studies at Belmont University, and several MTSU faculty members. ●



Members of the Honors staff help celebrate the 88th birthday of Loretta Gebert, Kaylene Gebert's mother, at Sir Pizza. At the November 16 party are (L-R) Kathy Davis, Kaylene Gebert, Loretta Gebert, Marsha Powers, Karen Demonbreum, and Georgia Dennis.

## Faculty and Staff News



**Linda Badley** (English) wrote *Lars von Trier*, published by the University of Illinois Press in January 2011 as a volume in the Contemporary Film Directors series edited by James O. Naremore. With R. Barton Palmer, she serves as general editor of the Traditions in World Cinema series at Edinburgh University Press.

**Claudia Barnett** (English) published "AIDS=Purgatory: Prior Walter's Prophecy and *Angels in America*" in *Modern Drama* (Winter 2010) and attended Venus Theatre's staged reading of her play *Another Manhattan* at the 9th annual Page-to-Stage Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Labor Day 2010.

**Robert B. Blair** (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) and Maria L. Edlin, assistant director of the Center for Economic Education, received a \$10,000 award from the Council on Economic Education to conduct an advanced-training workshop for high school economics teachers: Best Practices for AP Macro/Microeconomics. Blair and Edlin also received a \$36,000 grant from the Foundation for Teaching Economics to coordinate the December Right Start Institute in Knoxville.

**Bruce Cahoon** (Biology) and graduate student Noah Flanigan produced a short film, *Kenaf Callus Hoedown*, which won the grand prize at the recent Chlorofilms Plant Biology Video Contest.

**Georgia Dennis** (Honors staff) served six weeks on the Financial Aid phone bank during summer 2010 and was able to help many students and their families. She says, "It was an opportunity to experience

and wonder at the work of others on campus and to realize that each of us needs to know we are important pieces in the foundation of something much greater than ourselves."

**Wandi Ding** (Mathematical Sciences) and Suzanne Lenhart published *An Introduction to Optimal Control for Discrete Models with an Application to Disease Modeling in the AMS-DIMACS Series on Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science*, Vol. 75, 109–119, October 2010.

**Tony Eff** (Economics and Finance), was promoted to full professor.

**David Foote** (Management and Marketing) received a promotion to full professor and was initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Judith Iriarte-Gross** (Chemistry) and her Honors Chemistry 1130/1131 undergraduate students led Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School students in several experiments on campus, including combining Diet Coke and Mentos, an egg in a bottle, and balloon skewering. The Honors students helped the fourth-through-sixth graders perform the experiments and explained the science behind the phenomena they observed. The Mitchell-Neilson students visited MTSU December 1 as part of the Practices in Science and Math (PRiSM) program, a collaboration between the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and Murfreesboro City Schools. Rebecca Calahan and Diana Cheng from the Department of Mathematical Sciences direct PRiSM.

**Martha Hixon** (English) has two articles coming out in the spring: "'Whose Woods These Are I Think I Know': Narrative Theory and Diana Wynne Jones's

*Hexwood* in *Telling Children Stories: Narrative Theory and Children's Literature*, edited by Mike Cadden and published by University of Nebraska Press, and "Power Plays: Paradigms of Power in *The Pinhoe Egg* and *The Merlin Conspiracy*" in the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 21.2 (2010): 12-29.

**Ron Kates** (English) was promoted to full professor.

**Yang Soo Kim** (Speech and Theatre) had her paper, "Communication Competence and Psychological Adaptation among Young Korean Immigrants (1.5ers) in the U.S.," accepted as a top session paper in the Korean American communication session at the 96th National Communication Association national convention in San Francisco, California, in November 2010.

**David Lavery** (English) recently signed a contract with Blackwell to write a major new textbook, *Television Art*. Another book (coedited with Michele Byers), *On the Verge of Tears: Why the Movies, Television, Music, and Literature Make Us Cry*, was published in October by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Three more books will appear in the spring: *The Essential Sopranos Reader* (coedited with Douglas Howard and Paul Levinson), University Press of Kentucky;



*Joss Whedon: Conversations* (coedited with Cynthia Burkhead), University Press of Mississippi; and *Supernatural: TV Goes to Hell* (coedited with Stacey Abbott), ECW Press. Lavery also presented "What Was *Lost*? Where TV's Most Extraordinary Series Came from and Where It Took Us" October 28 in the State Farm Room of the BAS.

**Patrick McCarthy** (Psychology) was promoted to full professor.

**Loren Mulraine** (Mass Communication) was promoted to full professor.

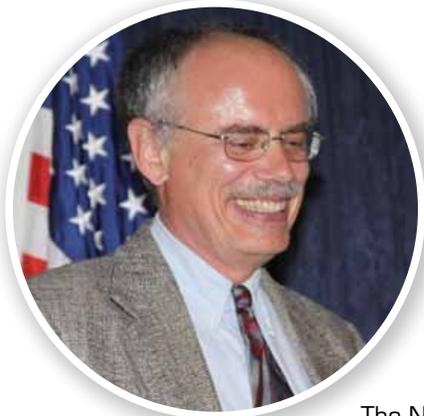
**Lynn Nelson** (History) was promoted to full professor.

**Phil Oliver** (Philosophy) has been granted tenure. He participated in a summer symposium at Harvard and in Chocorua, New Hampshire, to mark the centenary of philosopher William James's death. Oliver chaired a session on James's "The Will to Believe" and visited the home in New Hampshire where James spent his summers. The next day, symposium attendees reconvened 100 miles south at Harvard for several more conference sessions, a preview of a new museum exhibit on James at the Houghton Library, and a walking tour of Cambridge. James's great-great grandson joined the group for the walking tour. Oliver wrote a blog post (<http://osopher.wordpress.com/2010/08/18/in-transition/>) about the experience. The blog has a postscript with links to more info about the symposium.

**Ryan Otter** (Biology) is the author of *How to Win at the Game of College: Practical Advice from a College Professor*, published in October by Milroy Press. Otter wrote the book to help students transition from high school to college. In the book, he explains the sometimes "elusive truths" about the "game" of college and provides practical advice for all students, including a novel step-by-step approach on how to choose the right career.



**Karen Petersen** (Political Science), who was recently promoted to associate professor and granted tenure, published "Conflict Escalation in Dyads with a History of Territorial Disputes" in *International Journal of Conflict Management*, Vol. 21, No. 4 (2010).



## Wulfsberg's Career and Achievements Celebrated

The Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society, in conjunction with the Chemistry Department and the University Honors College at MTSU, hosted a celebration of Dr. Gary Wulfsberg's career of achievement in chemistry September 24 in the Honors Amphitheater.

Dr. Preston MacDougall, professor of chemistry; Dr. Linda Wilson, professor emerita of chemistry and the first recipient of a Doctor of Arts degree in chemistry at MTSU; and Dr. Barry Farris, head of the Science Department at Columbia Academy, briefly spoke at the program honoring Dr. Wulfsberg, professor emeritus of chemistry and recipient of the 2010 MTSU Career Achievement Award.

National Section members of the American Chemical Society, friends, colleagues, and former students were invited to the celebration. ●



Jessica Cowan, a student in the last Honors Chemistry lab section that Wulfsberg taught, and Daniel Gouger, whose scholarship duties are to help prep the Honors Chemistry labs, attended the celebration of Wulfsberg's career.

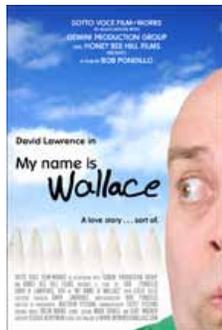


Big Fella, right, a Nashville-based recording artist, with Recording Industry professor and Honors faculty member Rich Barnet at the Honors College Building in the fall. Big Fella, also known as "The Hustlin' Gourmet," hosted a cooking show and published a cookbook while he was a student at MTSU.

**Bob Pondillo** (Electronic Media Communication) has completed the full-length screenplay of his short film, *My Name Is Wallace*, which is being considered as a possible feature film. An independent film group

in Los Angeles is seeking funding, and the plan is to shoot the film in Murfreesboro and the surrounding area. Pondillo's newest short film, *The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill*,

won the Special Achievement in Short Screenwriting 2010 award from the SoCal International Film Festival.



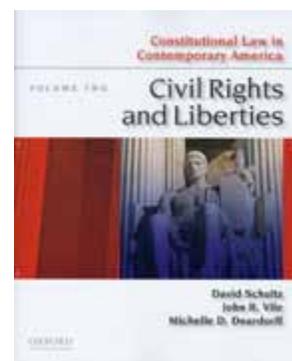
**Wayne C. Rosing** (Biology), D. W. Mitchell, G. Moreno, and S. L. Stephenson have had "Additions to the Myxomycetes of Singapore" accepted for publication by *Pacific Science* in 2011.

**Rebecca Seipelt** (Biology) received a promotion to full professor.

**Linda Seward** (Speech and Theatre) has been promoted to full professor. In spring 2010, she presented "Drugs, Culture Shock, and Journals: Planning an Effective Syllabus for Study Abroad" to the

Tennessee Communication Association at the TNCIS conference. In September, she presented "When Intercultural Theory Meets Mohammed and Jesus: Structuring an Oral Communication Course for International Students." In November, she was one of the keynote speakers at two events (one in Nashville and the other in Knoxville) organized by the Society for Universal Dialogue. The theme for the interfaith event was "Empathy—Walking in Another Person's Shoes. She serves on the advisory board for the journal *Women and Language*.

**John R. Vile** has published *Civil Rights and Liberties*, the second volume of *Constitutional Law for America* (Oxford), coauthored with David Schultz and Michelle Deardorff. Vile has written four essays for ABC-CLIO's new database for high school students studying American government as well as book reviews for *Choice* and for the *Law & Politics Book Review*. Vile served as moderator of a forum on religious freedom and toleration at MTSU in October and gave a speech to the Society of Universal Dialogue in Nashville in November. He also directed MTSU's 21st Mid-South Mock Trial Invitational Tournament in November. ●

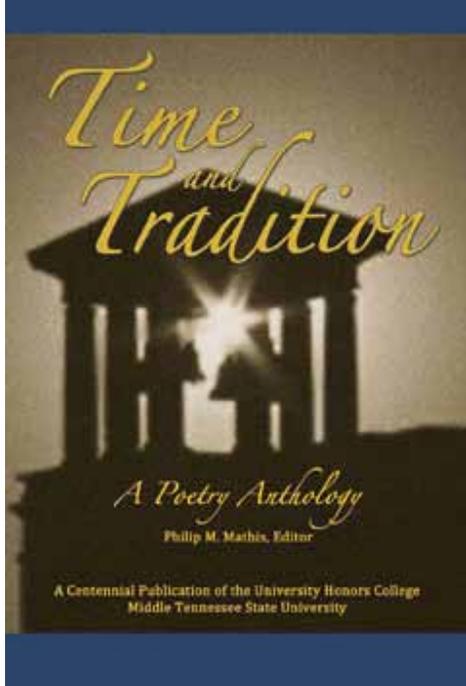


I'm fortunate to have friends to hike with regularly in Tennessee's Cumberland and Smoky Mountains and friends to backpack with summers in Washington's Olympic Mountains.

Compelled by a passion to climb peaks, I search for and identify spring-blooming plant species from March in Tennessee to July in Washington and find many biotic parallels (despite their wide north/south displacement) that stem from a shared rain-forest habitat. I have written over thirty articles on

nature poets for the quarterly *Friends of South Cumberland*, the newsletter of a middle Tennessee land preservation organization that protects sensitive wilderness and park lands facing commercial and other development. I enjoy daily walking and bicycling to work.

MTSU has been a fulfilling place to pursue my professional career, and its students—including those in the Honors College—continue to be a constant inspiration to me. ●



## HONORS FACULTY

# TIME AND TRADITION Celebrates Centennial

**a** As MTSU turns 100, the Honors College is helping to celebrate with the publication of a 100-page poetry collection, *Time and Tradition*, which highlights the college's long-standing support of the creative arts and scholarship.

Two Honors deans, an Honors director, an Honors professor, two Honors alumni, and an Honors student contributed the sixty poems in the anthology. Dr. Philip M. Mathis, dean from 2004 to 2008, edited *Time and Tradition* and contributed eleven poems. Dr. June McCash, founding director of the Honors program, contributed ten. Dr. John R. Vile, current dean, contributed the foreword and a single poem. Dr. Ron Bombardi, a philosophy professor who teaches in the Honors College, contributed ten poems.

Alumni and current students have contributed about half of the selections. D. Michelle Adkerson, an Honors alum from the 1980s who teaches at



Nashville State Community College, contributed ten poems, as did Kory Green Wells, another alum, who is now a mentor with the MTSU Writer's Loft and the mother of an MTSU Buchanan Fellow. Taffeta Chime, a current Honors student who will soon be publishing her second novel, contributed nine poems to the collection.

The anthology has been published by Twin Oaks Press, a local press that is the brainchild of Dr. June McCash and Dr. Ron Messier, who succeeded McCash as director of the Honors program. Ms. Georgia Dennis, Honors College events coordinator, played a major role in formatting and design of the volume, which features a picture of the Martin Honors Building bell tower on the cover, photographed by MTSU alumnus Chris Kennedy.

*Time and Tradition* may be purchased from the Honors College for \$12.00, which includes sales tax. This money will be deposited in the college's scholarship account. ●



Isa Afacan, director of Academic Affairs at the Istanbul Center, a prominent Turkish-American institution in Atlanta, presented "Civil-Military Relations and Democratization in Turkey" September 23 in the Honors amphitheater. Mr. Afacan has taught international affairs for three years at Florida International University, where he is now a Ph.D. candidate in the School of International and Public Affairs.

Steve Saunders of MTSU's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program presents "The Effect of China's Ascendancy on U.S. Foreign Policy." The November 8 lecture was a part of the fall Honors Lecture Series, China: The Middle Kingdom in the Modern World.



# Events at Honors



English professor Claudia Barnett continues her class during a tornado warning after relocating to the relative safety of the Honors amphitheater.



Construction workers from the new student union building were among those gathered in the Honors amphitheater during a fall tornado warning. Due to lack of space, they were seated behind a screen that was lowered to show live tornado information from the Internet.



*Collage* faculty advisory board members join advisor Marsha Powers for a late fall meeting. Board members are (front, L-R) Randy Livingston, Martha Hixon, (middle, back) Noel Lorson, and Jackie Heigle (back, right). Not pictured are Amy Jetton, Kimberly Dummons, Kathleen Therrien, Jennifer Kates, and Alfred Lutz.

## Thank You!

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Honors Edition; to the Honors College staff, John Vile, Scott Carnicom, Karen Demonbreum, Laura Clippard, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, and Philip Mathis; to Preston MacDougall and all who submitted articles and information; to Sherry Wisser George and others at Creative and Visual Services; and to MTSU Photographic Services.

—Marsha Powers, editor

## Alumni and Friends News

**Don Ash** (Honors College Board of Visitors member and Circuit Court judge, 16th Judicial District) was inducted into the Tennessee Boys and Girls Club's Hall of Fame in October. He was honored for 24 years of service and four years as president of the Boys and Girls Clubs Tennessee Alliance. Ash was a founding board member of the Boys Club unit in Rutherford County and helped establish the Rutherford County Boys and Girls Club.

**Mary Lee Barnes** (MTMC's clinical education manager, graduate of MTSU's nursing and HPER programs, and member of the Honors College Board of Visitors) is the daughter of David Arnold, longtime professor in MTSU's Speech and Theatre Department, and the mother of Taylor Arnold Barnes, award-winning graduate of the Honors College. After attending this year's Board of Visitor's meeting, Barnes made a generous contribution to scholarships for MTSU Honors students.

**Taylor Barnes** (2009, Chemistry and Physics) was listed as a featured member on the July 2010 Phi Kappa Phi honor society website. He was the recipient of a 2009 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship. In December, the Cal Tech Ph.D. student attended the Pacific Coast Chemistry Conference in Honolulu.

**Jeffrey Benson** (1994, Finance) is supervisor of sales and marketing for **Finivation.com**. Since receiving his degree, he has worked as vice president of Financial Services Practice and as CIO of SunTrust Securities. He is currently building a new company that focuses on the financial services market.

**Anna Wilson Cook** (2004, English) taught British literature and creative writing at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville for three years and has since worked as a NAZA coordinator and data manager

for the Martha O'Bryan Center in Nashville. She and her husband, Eric, also an MTSU alum, are expecting a daughter in 2011. They live in Hendersonville.

**Katie Crytzer** (2006, Political Science/Pre-Law) graduated magna cum laude from George Mason University School of Law and served for a year as a law clerk to the Honorable Raymond W. Gruender, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in St. Louis. She is now an associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, in Washington, D.C.

**Elliot Dawson** (Chemistry, 1970, and member of the Honors College Board of Visitors) spoke at the November 18 meeting of the Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society. Dawson is president of BioVentures Inc., a Murfreesboro-based life sciences company he founded in 1988.

**Amanda Cotton Ferrer** (2004, Psychology) is a special events coordinator for Cache Creek Casino Resort in Esparto, California. Amanda earned an M.A. in psychology from MTSU and has worked as a benefits and workers' comp representative. Her daughter, Maleigha, is now in high school.

**Jasmine Gray** (2010, Mass Communication [Journalism]) received an Omicron Delta Kappa scholarship and is attending Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communication. In addition to learning film and television production, she is developing an independent project, *Notes to a Young Filmmaker*, a series of interviews with established filmmakers that she plans to turn into letters to aspiring filmmakers. Jasmine's goal is to own a production company.

**Gretchen Jenkins** (2008, Political Science), a student at New York Law School with a focus in criminal

# Elliot Dawson, Speaker at American Chemical Society's MTSU Meeting

44



Elliot Dawson, a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, was the speaker for the November 18 meeting of the Nashville section of the American Chemical Society, which met in the Wiser-Patten Science Hall at MTSU. His speech was titled

“Development of a Ribosomal RNA Bacteria Typing Assay for Determination of Contamination in Consumer Products: A Case Study.”

The lecture focused on the need for rapid assays that can be performed by nontraditional analysts with little specialized training or education to test for contamination of food and products, especially since cases of contamination seem to be occurring more frequently these days.

Dawson is president of BioVentures Inc., a Murfreesboro-based life sciences company he founded in 1988. BioVentures develops, manufactures, and supplies products to large life science companies and major academic institutions, government

agencies, and pharmaceutical companies around the world. He is a coauthor of several scientific papers and actively collaborates with university scientists to identify genetic contributions to human diseases such as hypertension.

Dawson is an inventor or coinventor associated with more than fifty U.S. and foreign patents or patent applications related to molecular biology and genetics. He serves on the College of Basic and Applied Sciences advisory board and the Honors College Board of Visitors and, along with his wife, Hope, has established scholarships in the departments of Chemistry and Biology.

He graduated from MTSU in 1970 with a B.S. in chemistry then served in the Medical Service Corps as an aviator, flying dust-off helicopter missions in Vietnam, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star and Air Medals. Dawson has a broad range of business and scientific experience, having been a broker/trader with Merrill Lynch, head of an immunology and a toxicology laboratory, and a partner in several businesses. ●

## Witherspoons Recognized As Distinguished Alumni



**Don Witherspoon** (B.S., 1964) and his wife, **Hanna Romans Witherspoon** (B.A., 1964) were honored as Distinguished Alumni by the MTSU Alumni Association during Homecoming 2010.

The Witherspoons, who chose to retire in Murfreesboro more than 10 years ago, are focused on the betterment of MTSU through leadership and volunteerism and were selected because of their service to the University. Don is a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, and he and Hanna have undertaken leadership roles with the Alumni Association, the MTSU Foundation, the Blue Raider Athletic Association, and various University departments. The Witherspoons also established the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship.

The MTSU Alumni Association annually selects distinguished alumni who have rendered service to their community, their profession, or MTSU. ●



## Honors Grad Wins Research Award

Christa D. Jensen, a 2006 Honors graduate who is now a Ph.D. student in economics at West Virginia University, recently won an international award for research examining how commercial and industrial waste moves between geographic areas and how it relates to economic and socioeconomic factors.

A native of Tennessee, Jensen received her undergraduate degrees, a B.S. in economics and a B.A. in foreign languages (Spanish) at MTSU in 2006. The summa cum laude graduate completed an Honors thesis titled "Traditional Mayan Markets in Guatemala: A Gravity Approach."

Jensen's award-winning economics paper, "What Causes Waste Flows? An Interregional Analysis of Welsh Waste Shipments," was coauthored with Stuart McIntyre of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. The Early Career/Doctoral Student Award for Best Paper was presented at the 39th

annual meetings of the British and Irish section of the Regional Science Association International in Glasgow.

A graduate research fellow at WVU's Regional Research Institute (RRI), Jensen (and McIntyre) chose Wales for their study because it is one of the few places that collects data on solid waste shipments within the country. She made two three-week research visits to work with colleagues in the United Kingdom at Cardiff University in Cardiff, Wales, and at the University of Strathclyde.

"My interests have always been at the intersection of economics and the environment," she says. "I enjoy studying how economic decisions affect environmental outcomes. Some of my current research aims to determine how consumption decisions affect waste creation. However, it occurred to me that waste is almost never created and disposed of in the same location." ●

law, expects to graduate in May 2011. She has interned for the Manhattan district attorney, the Queens district attorney, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District. In the fall, she won the Frossel Moot Court Competition against 124 competitors. She won Best Oral Advocate and the Morris Orland Award for Excellence in Written and Oral Advocacy. Her panel of judges consisted of Hon. George Bundy Smith, Hon. Jed Rakoff, Hon. D. Brooks Smith, Dean and President Richard Matasar, and Professor Susan J. Abraham, all of New York.

**Christa D. Jensen** {2006, Economics and Foreign Languages (Spanish)}, a graduate student and Regional Research Institute fellow at West Virginia, expects to receive her Ph.D. in economics in May. She married October 9 in Bell Buckle.

**Raiko May Henderson** {2001, Economics} is a newly inducted member of the Honors College Board of Visitors. Her Honors thesis was "Reformation of Social Security." She is a former investment analyst with Courage Capital Management in Nashville and lives in Kentucky with her husband, John Henderson,

and children Sarah, Michael, and Samuel. After attending this year's Board of Visitor's meeting, Henderson made a generous contribution to scholarships for MTSU Honors students.

**Eric Little** {Foreign Languages (Spanish)} is enjoying his experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Faro, Portugal. He has decided to pursue full-time ministry when he returns to the U.S., and he is applying to seminaries.

**Utpal (Paul) Patel** (Honors College Board of Visitors member and Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and Surgicenter physician) was one of 15 community leaders to participate in the Read to Succeed 2010 Celebrity Spelling Bee held at Patterson Park in November. The event raised \$37,000 for Read to Succeed, a nonprofit organization promoting literacy.

**McKenna Rhea** (2010, Biochemistry) is enrolled at the University of Alabama–Birmingham Dental School, where she is pursuing a four-year degree. She plans to specialize in orthodontics. She became engaged to Adam Wood in the fall. ●



Members of the Honors Council following their December 6 meeting are (L–R) Scott Carnicom (Honors), Craig Rice (Elementary and Special Education), Mark Owens (Economics and Finance), Tony Eff (Economics and Finance), Tom Berg (Electronic Media Communication), Troy Berry (Electronic Media Communication student), Teresa Davis (Psychology), Larry Burriss (Journalism), Kaylene Gebert (Speech and Theatre), Becky Seipelt (Biology), Alfred Lutz (English), Norma Dunlap (Chemistry), Matthew Hibdon (History student), and John R. Vile (Honors). Joey Gray (Health and Human Performance) and Don Snead (Educational Leadership) are not pictured.

# 2010 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

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

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‡Old Main Society (lifetime gifts of \$100,000 or more)

**The Honors Edition**

University Honors College  
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MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, second from left, poses with Louise Parker, second from right, and Don and Carolyn Midgett. The Midgetts have committed to endow a Centennial Scholarship for the University Honors College in memory of Carolyn's parents, Ralph and Elizabeth Travis Gwaltney, both graduates of Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. Parker, who is also an MTSTC alumna, is the sister of Elizabeth Gwaltney.