

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2017

Magazine

HEAD *of the* CLASS

Student Government Association
President Madison Tracy uses her
Honors and media education
to pursue leadership



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



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HEAD OF THE CLASS

Student Government Association president Madison Tracy uses both her Honors and her media education to pursue leadership



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A MAN OF FIRSTS

From leading a new degree program, to helping establish MTSU's military-friendly reputation, to serving on the University's new governing board, Honors Professor Tony Johnston is a True Blue leader on campus



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Cover photo:
Honors student
Madison Tracy

photo: J Intintoli

At left: A view of
the Student Union
and Commons

photo: Andy Heidt

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HONORS MAGAZINE

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

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From the Dean's Desk



My mother recently asked me if I had heard the news from a niece, before realizing that she was supposed to wait to inform me. I asked her to tell me at least whether it was good or bad news, and she hesitated. I later discovered that my niece, who already has a 1-year-old, is expecting triplets.

The revelation of impending triplets led me to reflect on my own experience in a delivery room. After holding up a screaming baby girl, the doctor looked at me and asked whether there was a history of twins in our families. What I thought was intended to be doctor humor quickly transformed itself into reality as a second daughter joined our first. Needless to say, our life hasn't been the same since. I called my brother, who said that he was thinking of moving closer to his expectant daughter; I suggested he might want to move farther away!

I'm not sure that any of the events that I have experienced as dean have quite equaled birthing twins or triplets, but I've learned that many unexpected developments are good. I have never before worked with such a talented group of students or a more supportive administration. As I sought replacements for a few members of our Board of Visitors who opted to cycle off this year, I was pleased to find some earlier members who were ready to rejoin and some newbies who were anxious to join. I believe that our board is as strong as it has ever been.

I remember thinking the first time that I met the board how important my yearly report would be. I still devote considerable time to explaining the highlights of the previous year, which have consistently involved larger numbers of theses, more national and international fellowship winners, greater numbers of students headed to graduate and professional positions, and increasing devotion to public service.

However, I've learned that the primary way to excite board members is to allow our students to make presentations describing their own scholarly endeavors. I'm always pleased when board members talk more about them than about me.

The accomplishments of our Honors students not only reflect positively on the Honors College, but they also benefit the entire University. Some people regard athletic programs as the "front porch" of a university. Student scholarly achievements can have a similar effect.

I recently had the opportunity to sit on a national Fulbright selection committee. I knew the process was competitive, but my work on the panel reminded me precisely how competitive it is. For 14 MTSU students to have received such awards in the last seven years is truly a monumental accomplishment.

Each semester brings its own joys, which we gladly share in this magazine with you. We likewise encourage you to share your own important life moments with us.

John R. Vile

Contact information for updates can be found on page 64.

EXCERPT FROM

JOAN E. MCRAE'S

Inaugural Address to the Buchanan Fellows Class of 2016



In her address to the new Buchanan Fellows, MTSU faculty member Joan E. McRae, who taught the *Foreign Literature in Translation* class in the fall, made references to the Arthurian quest for the Holy Grail:

You, students, were chosen as Buchanan Fellows, yes, because of top scores and outstanding performance in high school, but also because there was something special about your application, something that stood out in your essay, or something about your past experiences or future study plans that we saw as promising. There was something that let us know that you are up to the task.

We acknowledge that we have stolen you away from other great universities. You have chosen MTSU for many different reasons in addition to being honored with a Buchanan Fellowship—for the special programs MTSU offers: aerospace, recording arts, concrete industry. Some of you were dazzled by the research potential offered by the science programs in their state-of-the-art facility, or perhaps you were tempted by the possibility of learning 11 different foreign languages. You might have chosen MTSU because we are close to home or because you felt at home when you visited the campus. Whatever the reason, you should know that we are thrilled to have you here with us. We look forward to guiding you on the educational trip of your life.

You are embarking on a journey, a quest, much as our friend Perceval set out on his quest. You will learn to wield the sword of rhetoric and use the shield of evidence to defend your ideas. You will cloak yourself in the learning of the masters and strap on the spurs of intellectual curiosity. But beware of potential dangers in these MTSU woods. You may get sidetracked by the lures of tailgating or wander in the wilderness of binge TV watching. You have lots of hermits here to help you find your way back to the path.

We will remind you that you are here to seek your grail. What will your truth look like? What will you seek on your quest? The holy grail of particle physics? Or the holy grail of microeconomics? Of renewable energy storage? Of drone technology? Perhaps you will be driven to rediscover the secrets of the past or uncover the secrets of the

universe. Your holy grail will require commitment and long hours of labor. You will work and work before you find what you are seeking.

You may still feel that you are in the cave of shadows and are not sure yet what you will see on the path outside. But fear not. You have a dedicated, hardworking, and talented faculty and staff holding the lanterns to light your way out of the cave. But it is up to you to choose your path once you emerge.

I urge you not to follow your passion (as the Lover does in the *Romance of the Rose*, ignoring the advice of Reason), but to indulge your Intellect. This is precious space and time for you to explore your current interests as well as those disciplines about which you know nothing at all. It is a luxurious time, to read old books, to meet people different from yourself, to travel and study in foreign lands, to serve others who have less than you, and to learn to be an adult and responsible citizen. 'Cause, most of us are not able to slay a giant or a Red Knight with the rudimentary tools of youth—a slingshot or a javelin. We go off to university. And we learn from those who came before us and now are there to help us.

There will be times when you feel lost in a wasteland. Ask for help.

There will be times when you are at a loss for words. Ask the questions.

There will be times when you will feel you are descending the levels of hell. Follow your Virgil.

There will be times when your senses are overcome. Do not reject the advice of reason (currently embodied in Ms. Clippard).

Know that we are here to help you reach your goal, find your truth, achieve your grail quest.

But it's not **all** about you. We expect you to help your fellow students as well and give back to MTSU some of what you have been given. To quote that last knight of Camelot, John F. Kennedy, "For of those to whom much is given, much is required." 

New Buchanan Fellowship Recipients Should “Exceed All the Expectations”

Senior Buchanan scholar Michele Kelley told the 2016 class of top MTSU academic scholarship winners at their fall inauguration ceremony that “there are ways to make your dreams come true, no matter what your circumstances.”

Kelley, who has taken advantage of multiple opportunities to make her dreams come true, is a December graduate who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Physics. During her tenure at MTSU, she won a Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in the Czech Republic, received a grant to conduct research in Paris, and was awarded a research grant through the German Academic Exchange Service.

The Physics major was one of two students joining Interim Provost Mark Byrnes in welcoming the latest recipients of the Buchanan Fellowship at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building Sept. 9.

Aerospace major Jake Garrette, a sophomore Buchanan scholar, added his welcome to the new class of Buchanan Scholarship recipients. “I have little doubt that you will meet and exceed all the expectations that have been set for you,” he said. “You are some of the best and brightest students, and you help form the backbone of what makes MTSU and the Honors College such great institutions.”

This year’s Buchanan Fellows are a highly talented group with excellent service and leadership, according to Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor. The class, which hails from nine Tennessee cities and the states of Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky, includes four graduates of Central Magnet School and four home-schooled students. Their major areas of study include foreign languages, chemistry, music, recording industry, physics, English, mass communication, concrete industry, and business.

Honors Dean John R. Vile introduced the 2016–17 Honors faculty: Tony Eff, Economics; Amy Kaufman,



Michele Kelley

English; Eric Klumpe, Physics and Astronomy; Joan McRae, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Philip Oliver, Philosophy; Karen Petersen, Political Science; and Jack Purcell, Philosophy.

McRae challenged the new class of Buchanan Fellows. “I urge you . . . to indulge your intellect. This is . . . a luxurious time, to read old books, to meet people different from yourself, to travel and study in foreign lands, to

serve others who have less than you, and to learn to be an adult and responsible person.” McRae left them with this final thought: “But it’s not **all** about you. We expect you to help your fellow students as well and give back to MTSU some of what you have been given.” (See *McRae speech excerpt on page 5.*)

The Honors College awards the Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of alumnus James M. Buchanan (Class of 1940), the recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The fellowship is the highest academic award given to entering freshmen at MTSU.

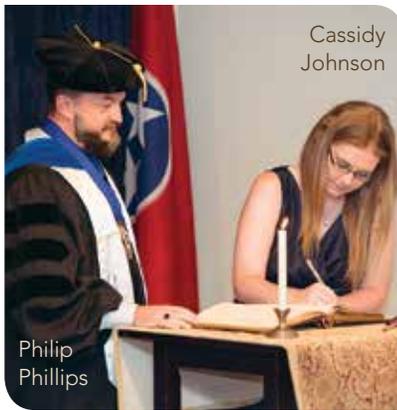
Notable Buchanan Fellow alumni include Tandra Martin, a Fulbright Grant recipient, Marshall and Rhodes finalist, and winner of the Harold Love Community Service Award; Daniel Murphy, a Goldwater Scholarship winner; Chelsea Harmon, a DAAD RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) award winner and a Goldwater Scholarship honorable mention; and Chloe Madigan, recipient of both the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award and the Harold Love Community Service Award.

To compete for a Buchanan Fellowship, applicants must apply for undergraduate admission to MTSU by Dec. 1 of the year before full enrollment. They also must have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher and a composite score of 29 on the ACT, provide an official transcript, and write an essay. [H](#)

University Interim Provost Mark Byrnes



Cassidy Johnson



Philip Phillips



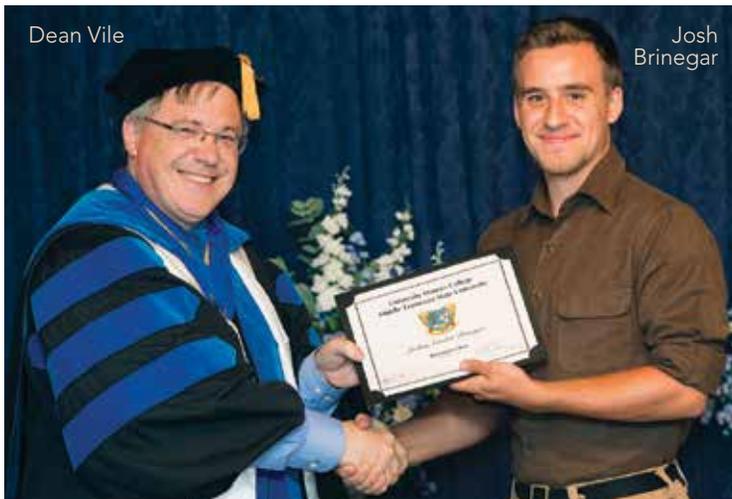
Josh Brinegar

Karen Petersen



Dean Vile

Josh Brinegar



2016 Buchanan Fellows

Brianna Lynn Bauman
Joshua Gordon Brinegar
Arielle Star Brooks
Lindsey Brooke Brown
Nicholas Robert Cummings

Josephine Marie Dowd
Josiah Christopher Ediger
Carson Elizabeth Floyd
Austin Patrick Ford
Eric Spence Goodwin

Alexia Nicole Grogan
Jaron Mark Hengstenberg
Cassidy Marie Johnson
Natalie Rachel Jones
Corvette Delanie McDonald

Jon-Thomas Stephen Neely
Rachel Elizabeth Reece
George Marcus Schroeder
Megan Elise Tudor
Grant Fenn Waldron

TRANSFER FELLOWS

Program Announces Expansion at Inauguration of New Class

By Laura Bryant | Bryant is a sophomore majoring in English and production assistant for Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression.

Senior Honors Transfer Fellows Amanda Freuler and Todd Pirtle welcomed the Fall 2016 class of Transfer Fellows in an inauguration program Sept. 16. Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor, delivered the keynote address to the class of excelling students who were selected for a spot in the Honors program as Transfer Fellows.

The Transfer Fellowship is modeled after the Buchanan Fellowship awarded to the top 20 incoming first-time freshmen each year. The Transfer Fellowship offers the same opportunities to 15 incoming transfer students to become engaged and participate in the Honors Program.

John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College, observed that, "over time, we've recognized that many of our best students have been transfer students who bring diversity to our Honors Program, and as a result, the program will be expanded to include 30 incoming students in the fall."

That aforementioned diversity is fostered by the Transfer Fellows program, which attracts non-traditional students of the highest caliber. These students have all come from different backgrounds and all bring unique life experiences to the table. The shared experience among all of these individuals is hard work. Pirtle said it best: "Uncommon effort equals uncommon results."

This group of Transfer Fellows is one of the most diverse yet, with majors ranging from German to Agriculture Business to Pre-Pharmacy to Studio Art to Pre-Law to Anthropology, and with students from Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Illinois.

To be considered for the Transfer Fellowship, students must have a 3.5 GPA and are required to have completed 60 hours of college or university coursework. Students must complete an application and admissions packet, which includes official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended previously, two letters of recommendation from college professors or administrators, and a personal essay detailing interest in learning and community outreach. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

Transfer Fellows who qualify for in-state tuition are granted \$3,500 per semester for up to four semesters. There are also up to six fellowships available for out-of-state transfer students or transfer students from foreign countries, which grant \$7,000 per semester for up to four semesters. [H](#)

2016 Honors Transfer Fellows

Jonathan Butler

Natalie Foulks

Ashley Friedl

Miranda Hahn

Alicia McGuire

Toni McPherson

Aundrea Paredes

Madison Pitts

Richard Shelton

Sophie Toms

Sarah Wester

Emma Williams

Kaitlyn Williford

William York IV

Justin Young



Dean Vile

Jonathan Butler

Transfer Fellows



Above front: John Vile, Aundrea Paredes, Sophie Toms, Laura Clippard, Sarah Wester, Alicia McGuire, Miranda Hahn, and Philip Phillips; back: William York, Madison Pitts, Justin Young, Toni McPherson, Jonathan Butler, Kaitlyn Williford, Richard Shelton, Natalie Foulks, Ashley Friedl, Emma Williams, Kaylene Gebert, and Martha Hixon



Amanda Freuler



Ashley Friedl



Laura Clippard

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



**MIDDLE
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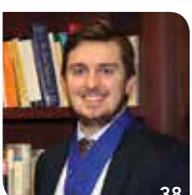
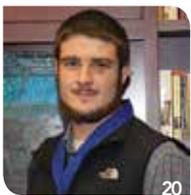
Most advanced science facility in Tennessee
More than 500 study abroad programs in 65 countries
16 Grammy wins from alumni and faculty

3 Nobel Prize winners
College credit at Bonnaroo
Over \$700 million in new construction and renovations

I AM *true* **BLUE**



Fall 2016 Theses Defense



{1} **Mitchell Brisbon**
Political Science
"This Present Kingdom:
Christian Reconstruction's Com-
plicated Relationship with the
United States Constitution"
Robb A. McDaniel, advisor

{2} **Richard Cox**
Global Studies and
Anthropology
"Crusades and Jihad: An
Examination of Muslim
Representation in Computer
Strategy Games"
Richard B. Pace, advisor

{3} **Keaton Davis**
Accounting
"Business as Mission Coffee
Shop: Transforming Murfreesboro
One Cup at a Time"
David A. Foote, advisor

{4} **Grayson Dubois**
Computer Science
"Holographic Reduced Repre-
sentations for Working Memory
Concept Encoding"
Joshua L. Phillips, advisor

{5} **Bethany Faust**
Psychology
"Working Memory
Performances as a Function
of the Autistic Scale"
Stephen R. Schmidt, advisor

{6} **Foster Ferrell**
Audio Production
"A Comparative Analysis on
the Unique Characteristics of
Microphone Preamplifiers"
Michael L. Hanson, advisor

{7} **Brooke Fitzwater**
Biology
"Effects of Predator Kairomones
and Starvation on *Tegula*
tridentate Behavior in a Chilean
Subtidal Ecosystem"
Dennis M. Mullen, advisor

{8} **Amanda Freuler**
Journalism
"The Emergence of Tuition-Free
Higher Education in the United
States: The Perspective of
Students in Tennessee"
Christine C. Eschenfelder,
advisor

{9} Erin Gardner

Public Relations
 "Creating 'Camelot': An Analysis of John F. Kennedy's Public Relations Campaign"
 Tricia M. Farwell, advisor

{10} Jordan Goen

French
 "Cultural and Linguistic Challenges Faced by Immigrants in Tennessee"
 Mohammed A. Albakry, advisor

{11} Mary Beth Gormsen

Biology
 "The Effectiveness of Chlorine Dioxide in Inactivating Influenza Virus"
 Stephen M. Wright, advisor

{12} Bronwyn Graves

Economics
 "Growth of the U.S. Government: 1915–2015"
 Tony Eff, advisor

{13} Zeke Grissom

Biology
 "Underwater Treadmill Training in Acute Complete Spinal Cord Injury: A Case Study"
 Sandra L. Stevens, advisor

{14} Caitlin Henderson

International Relations
 "Creating Global Citizens through Model United Nations"
 Vanessa A. Lefler, advisor

{15} Erin Herbstova

Biology
 "Evaluation of Traditional Chinese Medicine Plant Extracts for the Treatment of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis"
 Jeannie A. Stubblefield, advisor

{16} Tyler Holweg

Economics
 "Effects of Exonerations on Indigent Defense"
 Michael A. Roach, advisor

{17} Bennie Hunt

Psychology
 "Female 'Empowerment' through Clothing and Media and Its Correlation with Body Image"
 Kimberly Jo Ujcich-Ward, advisor

{18} Ashley Johnson

Nursing and Spanish
 "Navigating through an Undergraduate Nursing Program"
 Michelle E. Boyer-Pennington, advisor

{19} Kate Ruth Johnson

English
 "Baba Yaga: The Judicious Magistrate of Russian Folklore"
 Martha P. Hixon, advisor

{20} William Johnstone

Actuarial Science
 "Major League Baseball Long-Term Contracts Compared to Winning Percentage, Playoff Appearances, and Repeat Playoff Appearances through Descriptive Analysis"
 Donald P. Roy, advisor

{21} Luke Judkins

English and Music Education
 "'Athens of the South': How the Athenian Partheonon Reinforces and Shapes the Cultural Identity of Nashville, Tennessee"
 Dawn M. McCormack, advisor

{22} Joey Kennedy

International Relations and Spanish
 "The Social Liberalization of South America"
 Vanessa A. Lefler, advisor

{23} Kaleb King

Finance
 "MLB Draft vs. College"
 Michael A. Roach, advisor

{24} Victoria Lay

Biology
 "Behavioral and Psychological Responses to Simulated Predator-Induced Stress in the Eastern Box Turtle, *Terrapene carolina carolina*"
 Matthew Klukowski, advisor

{25} Kayla McCrary

International Relations
 "Brexit: An Analysis of British Skepticism Toward the European Union"
 Vanessa A. Lefler, advisor

{26} Collin McDonald

Aerospace
 "Retracing the Birth of Air Travel: A Creative Project"
 Paul A. Craig, advisor

{27} Connor McDonald

Political Science
 "Thomas Jefferson and Justice Joseph Story's Rival Conceptions of Christianity in the Common Law System of the United States"
 Robb A. McDaniel, advisor

{28} Natalie Musselman

Biology
 "Use of Functional Electrical Stimulation to Improve Hand Function with Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: A Case Study"
 Sandra L. Stevens, advisor

{29} Todd Pirtle

Agribusiness
 "Rapid Assessment of Nitrogen Concentration of Two Bioenergy Feedback Grasses Using Hyper-spectral Reflectance Spectroscopy"
 Song Cui, advisor

{30} Adam Proctor

Economics
 "Determinants of Median Income"
 Christopher C. Klein, advisor

{31} Joy Shind

Art
 "Promoting Global Understanding: An In-Depth Study of Neoclassic Frescos Located at Villa Di Geggiano, Siena, Italy"
 Gloria J. Wilson, advisor

{32} Jodi Shockney

Political Science
 "Mediation: A Viable Alternative to Litigation"
 Clyde E. Willis, advisor

{33} Sara Snoddy

Journalism
 "'Man is not one, but truly two': Victorian Repression of Feminine Monsters in the Gothic Closet"
 Rebecca B. King, advisor

{34} Jensen Still

Psychology
 "Applying a Model of Bystander Apathy: Increasing Intervention in Child Emotional Abuse"
 John T. Pennington, advisor

{35} Madison Tracy

Public Relations
 "Humans of MTSU: A Strategic Public Relations Campaign"
 Tricia M. Farwell, advisor

{36} Carson Turner

International Relations
 "The Creation of Nation and Culture: Hypotheses on Nationalism and the Work of Ralph Ellison"
 Andrei V. Korobkov, advisor

{37} Amanda Leachman Uhls

Biology
 "The Effect of Sample Date on the Propagation Success Rate of the Grape *Vitis aestivalis*, Norton/Cynthiana"
 John D. Dubois, advisor

{38} Alden Wakefield

Accounting
 "The Potential Impact of Integrated Reporting on American Corporations"
 Stephen B. Salter, advisor

{39} Bonnie Walker

International Relations
 "Understanding Polarization Observed Among Ethnic Groups: A Case Study of Ethnic Kurds in Turkey"
 Vanessa A. Lefler, advisor

{40} Jake West

Psychology and Criminal Justice Administration
 "Leadership Excellence in the Vietnam War: The Contribution of MTSU ROTC to Past Conflicts"
 Hilary J. Miller, advisor

{41} Aimee Wilson

Biology
 "A Protocol for Endophyte Free Callus Tissue of the Grape *Vitis aestivalis*, Norton/Cynthiana"
 John D. Dubois, advisor

{42} Courtney Wright

Mathematics
 "Standards for Mathematical Practice 7 and 8: What's the Difference?"
 Sarah K. Bleiler-Baxter, advisor 

STUDY ABROAD

HONORS STUDENTS SHARE THEIR JOURNEYS

CONFLICT AND CONTRASTS

Israel class trip provides a close-up look at a land divided in the Middle East

By Noah Delk | *Delk, a Buchanan Fellow, majors in Foreign Language (German) and International Relations.*

Delk traveled to Israel with the College of Liberal Arts under the leadership of Interim Provost Mark Byrnes and Liberal Arts Interim Dean Karen Petersen.

As an International Relations major, studying in Israel was an experience like no other. During the course, we were given opportunities to witness differences between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and cultures by observing the way they lived their daily lives, structured their homes and villages, and even worshipped, to some degree. Viewing the conditions and climate in which the nationals lived allowed us, as visitors, to add to our understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East region.

Contrasts are especially obvious along the state's borders with what was Syria. From the safety of Israel, one stop on the tour allowed for a vista across the border, well out of harm's way, where we witnessed a Syrian town hit with some form of artillery/mortar strike. We could see the smoke and hear the explosions of the civil war being fought before our eyes, all from the comfort and total safety of the mountaintop overlook. This highlighted the contrasts between our comfortable lives in America versus the realities of life in the Middle East.

We were also able to gain valuable insight from the testimonies of those who live there and experience the conflict on a daily basis, such as our guide, Israeli historian and former Israel Defense Forces Lt. Col. Ronny Simon, and from our official visits to the Knesset (Israeli

Parliament) and Israeli Foreign Services department. Additionally, College of Liberal Arts Interim Dean Karen Petersen arranged for us to meet with an MTSU graduate finishing her master's degree at Hebrew University, who shared her experience as an American living in the midst of the conflict for almost a year.

The Israel study abroad covers many of the major sites and cities in the state, such as Jerusalem, Galilee, Tel Aviv, and the Golan Heights. This wide scale of study allows the student to see the vast range of geography, cultural and topographical, that exists within this tiny nation (about the size of New Jersey). This country is a land of contrasts that go deeper than just Arab or Jew or religion against religion. For example, although Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are only about 42 miles apart, they are as different as night and day. Tel Aviv, a modern, liberal metropolis full of high rises, contrasts greatly with Jerusalem, a more conservative city where buildings must all at least partially be made with the same type of stone.

The course, Advanced Studies in Comparative Politics: The Politics of Being Israel, is a unique and rewarding opportunity that provides the chance to expand one's horizons and world perspectives and gain insight into the conflicts that face our world today. I highly recommend it to anyone attempting to understand the Middle East. This land allows for lessons that simply cannot be learned in Europe, Asia, or South America.

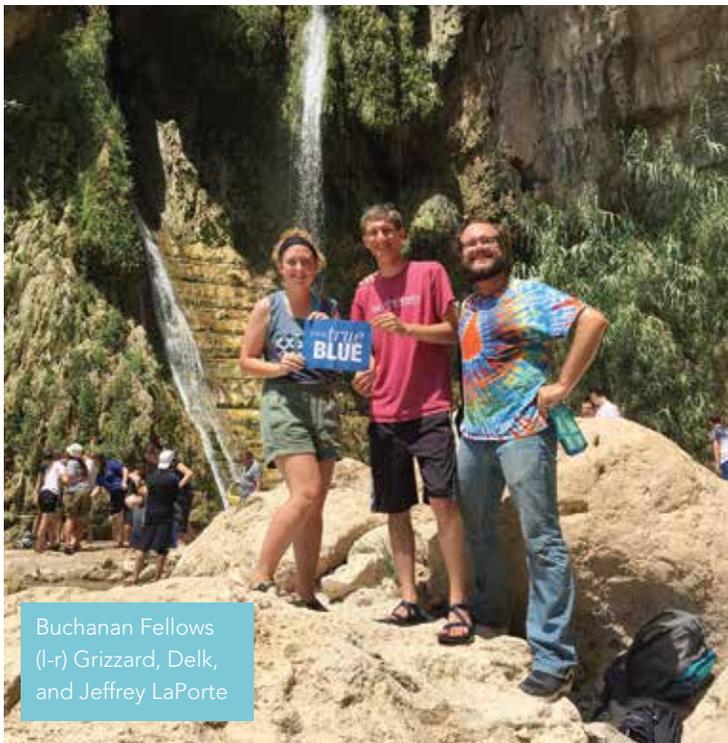
"This country is a land of contrasts that go deeper than just Arab or Jew or religion against religion."



Buchanan Fellows Lauren Grizzard and Noah Delk at the Mount of Olives



Grizzard and Kristie Patterson ride a camel.



Buchanan Fellows (l-r) Grizzard, Delk, and Jeffrey LaPorte



Grizzard at the Temple Mount archaeological dig site

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Israel shows stability in a 'tough neighborhood' as student visits land of her faith during study abroad

By Lauren Grizzard | *Grizzard, a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Education, traveled to Israel with the College of Liberal Arts.*

After deciding to go to Israel with MTSU, I did not know what to anticipate, which in this case worked to my advantage. I wanted perspective on the land of Israel—the land of my faith—that I knew I would not get by any other method, but I wasn't aware of the blessing my travels would truly be.

Within my first 24 hours, I saw that Israel is a beautiful place filled with gorgeous landscapes, rich history, and diverse culture. As each day passed, I fell more in love with the country. I fell for the beauty of the land from the Golan Heights to the Judea Desert and for the love that the Israeli people have for their country. They cherish it, and their love is contagious. To me, it gave a new sense of what patriotism really means, more than I would have experienced in any other country in the world.

However, what truly showed me the character of the state of Israel was the sense of peace and accomplishment that rang throughout the land, even in conflict. In the midst of all of the chaos that its neighbors are faced with daily, Israel remains stable and sure. Even with its own flaws and tension that run rampant throughout, Israel is



"I fell for the beauty of the land . . . and the love that the Israeli people have for their country."

STUDY ABROAD *continued from page 13*

there to stay, even if it is in a "tough neighborhood," as our guide phrased it. This pride was truly amazing to experience firsthand.

Each day we were shown many different aspects of Israel, giving us the opportunity to look at the state of Israel with many lenses, whether political, historical, geographical, or religious. That was the greatest part of the study abroad itself, being able to grasp the full picture of the current happenings in that part of the world. Not one aspect was excluded.

I enjoyed everything from hiking through Beit She'An to visiting the Garden Tomb. Overall, being able to go to the land of Israel and experience the culture, geography, history, and people for myself aided me in gaining perspective and looking at the nation through the eyes of an Israeli, which is worth more than any normal classroom can teach.

I am incredibly thankful for the Honors College for financial help getting to Israel and of course to College of Liberal Arts Interim Dean Karen Petersen and Interim Provost Mark Byrnes for the opportunity of a lifetime through this study abroad. Do not hesitate to look into this amazing program, because it changed my life. I will forever cherish what I experienced and learned while in the unique and beautiful state of Israel. [H](#)



Lauren Grizzard at the Temple Mount

STUDY

LEARN TO THRIVE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD

with the Gilman Scholarship

Susannah Barry contributed to this article.



Brianna Buford



Christian Lawrence

The nature of the Dominican Republic is “as diverse and vibrant as the people that inhabit it,” recalls MTSU’s Brianna Buford, a past Gilman Scholarship recipient. Other sights remain just as memorable to her as well. “No ocean looks the same shade of blue and every home façade and fence was unique to the owner. The interstate and main streets had spray paint murals of the history of the country, from tyranny to revolution. The attention to detail was mind-blowing,” she said.

During her time as a Gilman scholar, Buford learned that studying abroad is an opportunity to become a more open-minded individual. She said her time abroad completely changed her professional path and outlook on life. “The best thing was immersing myself in a new culture and history—learning why and how a culture is the way it is through my daily activities,” she said.

Buford, an Interior Design major and Spanish minor, and Christian Lawrence, who studied in Japan for four months, are among past MTSU recipients of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The Gilman Scholarship, a Congressionally funded program sponsored by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, is administered by the Institute of International Education. The scholarship program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad.

While in Japan, Lawrence went about her day living side by side with people of over 20 different nationalities in international housing. She said the different ways of thinking in Japan surprised her daily. “Being there can be both wonderful and confusing, but I understood both the world and myself more and more every day,” she said.

By focusing on undergraduate students who have high financial need, this program has succeeded in supporting students who have been historically underrep-

resented in education abroad, including but not limited to first-generation college students, students in STEM fields, ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, and students attending community colleges.

Gilman applicants who plan to study a critical-need language while abroad in a country in which the language is predominantly spoken will automatically be considered for the Critical-Need Language Award, which provides additional funding. Critical need languages include Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Turkic, Persian, Indic, Korean, Russian, Swahili, and Bahasa Indonesian.

Gilman prefers non-traditional study and intern destinations, particularly in areas outside of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Benefits include up to \$5,000 (additional \$3,000 with the Critical Need Language Award) to help cover program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, international airfare, and insurance. The Gilman helps students gain international experience and cultural awareness, develop language skills, and gain critical skills for interacting on a global market.

Who Can Apply

The Gilman Scholarship is an extraordinary opportunity that allows students to overcome financial limitations to study or intern abroad.

To be eligible, applicants must be undergraduates in good standing who are receiving a federal Pell Grant. They must also be citizens of the United States and in the process of applying for or have already been accepted for a study abroad or internship program (four weeks for four-year institutions and two weeks for community college students).

BARCELONA AND BEYOND

Educational exploration across Europe yields awareness and wonder, from bustling burgs to relaxed regions

By Emiliya Mailyan | *Mailyan is a junior majoring in Global Studies and Foreign Languages.*

From the moment I arrived in Barcelona, I felt a sense of wonder—much like, if you can imagine, being a kid and walking through streets of festive decorations and lights during the holiday season. Everything seems magical, almost unreal—like a dream.

Barcelona bustles with life. It is a city of such wonder that every day feels like its own adventure. I was in awe of the striking contrasts of the modern mixed with the old within the city's walls and architecture, and there was always something new to discover, some kind of gem that I would find, simply by taking a different path on my usual routes, whether to university or to a café.

I went abroad with the International Studies Abroad (ISA) program. My studies took place at Pompeu Fabra University, where the campus library resembles something straight out of Hogwarts—and this was, without a doubt, one of my favorite places to spend time. I was able to study subjects like Barcelona design, the Jewish history of Spain, and the marketing of FC Barcelona (the city's adored soccer team) and to look at public television screening around the world. My studies abroad allowed me to develop more of a global awareness and a change in mindset. I gained an appreciation for human diversity and the multiculturalism of our world.

Part of my "awareness awakening" had to do with the journeys I took during my time in Europe. I traveled to Sitges and Valencia, two very diverse cities in the Catalonia region of Spain, as well as Toulouse, Carcassonne, and Collioure, three cities in the south of France that have their own Mediterranean flair. I also traveled to Rome, Florence, and Pisa in Italy; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Manchester, England. Visiting each city, even if just for a day, made me realize that it is possible to call any city home as long as one keeps an open mind and welcomes adventure.

Traveling and experiencing these places firsthand gave me the opportunity to live life at a different pace—specifically, at the pace of the locals of each city. I felt the relaxed atmosphere of Mediterranean Spain. I enjoyed the laughter and merriment of the Italians. I felt the mystery of the rainy cities of south France. In Copenhagen, I felt like a child again, in awe of the colorful buildings and worry-free as I enjoyed the beautiful, fairy-tale city.

After my travels, I am confident that we all have the ability to become global citizens in our own ways, making the world more interconnected as we go. Everywhere I went, I felt like a local, experiencing different aspects the city had to offer.

I am grateful for my adventures abroad and appreciate the Honors College scholarships that helped make these experiences a reality for me. Within my first few weeks in Barcelona, I discovered I wanted my adventures there to never end, but all my travels through Europe helped me learn one last important lesson: the story of study abroad is never-ending.

More Info

Honors College students who are interested in learning more about overseas opportunities should visit mtsu.edu/honors/ufo or contact Laura Clippard at 615-898-5464 or laura.clippard@mtsu.edu. 

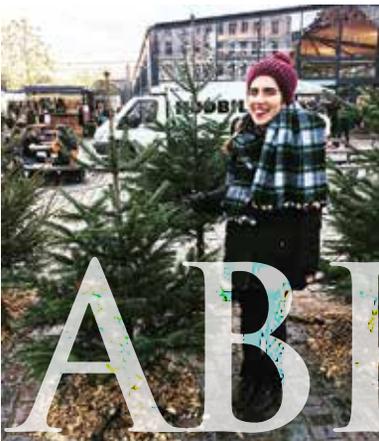
Top right: The seaside city of Collioure, France

Bottom right from left:
Copenhagen market

Barcelona Gothic Quarter pastry shop

Phone booth in Manchester, England

STUDY



ABROAD

STUDENT SERVICE

HONORS STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

MTSU MEDICAL BRIGADES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Amanda Leachman Uhls | Uhls graduated in December 2016 with a B.S. in Biology.

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of working and serving with the campus organization MTSU Global Medical Brigades. Groups from our University have travelled to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Ghana to help the nonprofit organization Global Brigades Inc. achieve its self-sustainability model for these communities. Personally, I have served on medical and dental brigades and a partial architecture brigade in Honduras and medical, dental, public health, and water brigades in Nicaragua.

MTSU Global Medical Brigades is associated with Global Brigades, whose mission is to empower volunteers and under-resourced communities to resolve global health and economic disparities and inspire all involved to work collaboratively toward an equal world.

Medical brigades make a huge impact in health care for people in these communities who otherwise would have to travel all day to even get to a clinic. The communities, which do not have basic necessities that we often take for granted in the United States, such as access to clean water, are being built from the ground up, and Global Brigades is making sure they have the proper resources and wisdom needed to make it happen.

Medical brigades are also helpful to the self-sustainability model since Global Brigades will send in a water brigade if the most common illness we see while in a community is parasites or will send a public health brigade if the most common health problem we see is lower back pain or diseases related to poor hygiene.

In August 2016, I helped work on a public health and partial water brigade in Nicaragua in which we built four latrines (includes a shower, toilet, and clothes-washing station) and installed four septic tanks. It was great to see firsthand how Global Brigades uses the information learned from those brigades to continue making a lasting and sustainable impact.

During medical and dental brigades, volunteers travel far into the country to communities to set up stations for triage (to take vitals on patients and learn why they have come for medical help), consultation (students shadow doctors and dentists to aid in the overall diagnosis and treatment of the patients), data informatics (to enter patient information), and pharmacy.

There are also stations, such as sexual education, for older teens and adults; OB/GYN, for women who are pregnant or may be pregnant; and charla, a station for children to learn basic hygiene skills such as how and when to brush their teeth. In Honduras, I was able to participate in and see these medical brigades in action. Our partial architecture brigade helped a community build the foundation for a bank so that a microfinance brigade could have a place to conduct formal meetings.

Global Brigades holds a special place in my heart for allowing me to engage in these trips, and I encourage anyone who is looking to make this world a better place to consider doing the same. [H](#)





AN OBLIGATION, NOT AN OPTION

What I learned about giving back amidst the hardships of my native Bangladesh and why I returned to my homeland to serve others

by Saraf Chowdhury

Growing up in a Bangladesh—the 13th-most densely populated country in the world, to be exact—I realize the importance of communities and how people dwelling in them are dependent on each other for their well-being.

Through community service, one can reach out to another in need. Since childhood, my family and friends have always inspired me to come alongside people experiencing hardships, and I have taken that as a purpose of life—to help others.

In 1998, a devastating natural disaster hit Bangladesh that left over 30 million people homeless. Fortunately, my family and I were staying in a part of the capital that was damaged by the historic flood to a lesser extent than the surrounding areas.

Even though I was only 6 years old, I could not take the misfortunes of the people around us lightly. My cousins and elders from the family began fundraising, and I tagged along to help and to bring smiles to those affected.

During high school, I worked with UNICEF and the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) as a teacher. The smiles of my students helped me feel that I was doing something good in life.

One boy whom I taught in Bangladesh named Shojol was born to a very poor family that left him near a garbage can when he was only 7 days old. A kind old man found him and gave him shelter until he was 5. When the man passed away, little Shojol spent his days in the streets of Dhaka picking up trash to earn a living. A team from BCCP picked him up and put him in school where I met him. Before I left Bangladesh, Shojol told me that I was his inspiration and that he would continue his education until he became a doctor (because according to him, that's what good boys do). His words

“Even though I was only 6 years old, I could not take the misfortunes of the people around us lightly.”

made me cry and smile at the same time. I realized I could make a positive difference in my community through service.

Last summer, I returned to Bangladesh for three months and spent time with the children at BCCP again. The school has grown from 12 to 30 students now, and doctors and students from a new medical center nearby provide free dental and maternity care to area residents. It was an amazing learning experience to work there and meet many good people who filled my heart with warmth and showed incredible hospitality despite their daily struggles.

On my second week of working at the maternity clinic, I met a middle-age woman named Salma. She com-

plained of severe stomach pains and traveled 70 miles (accompanied by her eldest daughter) to get there. She had learned about the clinic from her neighbors who had previously received primary health care free of cost there.

Salma was already a mother of five children, and she delivered all

of them at home with the help of her female neighbors because she could not afford professional medical care. One month later, I assisted in delivering her sixth child at our clinic free of cost. I'm sharing Salma's story not because it is unique but because it is common: Salma represents hundreds of needy women who receive free medical attention through this clinic at present.

During the trip, I also spent time working closely with a dentist and her team. Over a two-month span, our team provided dental care to hundreds of patients who had never before received dental care or even had any knowledge of dental hygiene.

I'm an MTSU and Honors graduate now. Looking back, my three years at MTSU were challenging for me. But spending time serving the community rejuvenated me.



Being engaged in the community not only has given me a sense of my social responsibility, but it also has helped sculpt me into a young adult who is independent and fearless during the tough times in life.

We should all give back to our communities no matter what our stage in life, because giving back is an obligation, not an option. [T](#)

Editor's Note: Chowdhury, an Honors Transfer Fellow, served as vice president of MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa and was the recipient of MTSU's Community Service Award in 2016.

Our team provided dental care to hundreds of patients who had never before received dental care or even had any knowledge of dental hygiene.



SERVICE

STUDENT RESEARCH

HONORS STUDENTS LOOK TO CHANGE THE WORLD

TRAILING THE ILLUSIVE BOX TURTLE

Worth All the Blood, Sweat, and Tears

By Victoria Lay | Lay is a senior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Biology.

If you had asked me two years ago if I wanted to do my Honors thesis on turtles, I would not have had a clue. While I knew I wanted to do research involving animal behavior, I had never considered turtles as the subject of the study.

After meeting my Honors thesis advisor, Matt Klukowski, we soon began brainstorming about topics for my project. After a lot of discussion, he suggested studying the behavior of box turtles. It turned out to be my favorite project of my college career.

We initially went to work laying out what we wanted to look at and decided to study anti-predator behavior associated with one of the animal's most defining characteristics, its hinged shell, which is capable of sealing at both the front and back ends. We wanted to know under what circumstances this portable shield was utilized. We also decided to look at a few other factors, such as other behaviors performed in response to a predatory threat, how much the stress hormone corticosterone would increase, how much lactate levels would rise, and how strong the seal of the shell actually is.

After writing the proposal and getting the proper permits and approvals, we set out for our field work in the Nickajack Trace Wetlands. The first few visits were met with success, and we found several turtles near the entrance. It was also during these first few visits that we

began to tinker with our methods and recording sheets since one cannot always predict everything needed until actually getting out in the field.

The year progressed, and the summer heat, mosquitoes, and chiggers soon arrived. We stopped finding a lot of turtles at the entrance of the wetlands and had to trek further and further into the field. Sometimes hours would pass with no turtles in sight. We would occasionally go off the beaten path and try to force our way through the thick growth of the woods where trees and thorns scratched our faces, arms, legs, and bodies. Sometimes it would rain, and we would stand there, drenched, while trying to observe a turtle. In spite of all the literal blood, sweat, and tears, it was one of the most worthwhile experiences I have ever had.

It was exciting to walk through the woods, stopping to figure out where we were, then look down and be surprised to see a turtle right at our feet. It was thrilling to watch a turtle sitting in the water of the creek and then try to speed-walk through the trees to keep up when it decided to swim downstream. I loved the chance to interact with the turtles and see the personalities of each one. While it could be rough going at times, I would do it all over again for the chance to learn about what is now my favorite animal—the box turtle. 



From top (l-r): Using pinch gauge on ALL
ALL checking out the research data
One of Victoria Lay's research participants, BCL
A juvenile turtle
Lay observes a box turtle
AHV on the muddy riverbank

COLLEGE OPENS STUDENT'S EYES TO OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPACT LIVES

By Zeke Grissom | *Grissom is a senior Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Biology.*

College at MTSU will forever be a focal point that brought about great change and direction in my life. My experience speaks to a time of endless opportunity for unique adventures and academic investment.

The Honors College has also been a catalyst in my life, propelling me to valuable experiences and success. The program and its exceptional faculty guided me into research that has provided me with priceless experiences and friendships.

Over the past year I have completed a case study on the safety and effectiveness of Underwater Treadmill Training (UTT) in the acute phase of recovery following a traumatic spinal cord injury in a 19-year-old woman. This study gave me extended exposure to the challenges of helping someone whose life had been dramatically impacted and quality of life forever altered. I was able to see firsthand how so many different areas of a person's life can be affected by one moment that goes far beyond the physical impairment; this provided me valuable exposure to the issues I may see as I pursue a career in health care. It effectively revealed that if I seek to help people recover through health care, I must be able to be patient in circumstances that I may not always understand.

In addition to the UTT study itself, the relationship with my research advisor has been one of the greatest blessings on my academic journey here at MTSU. Professors can sometimes seem distant; however, this



study allowed me to learn from someone who has a wealth of wisdom. She became a mentor who helped me develop my skills as a writer, an observer, and a person in general.

Although the coursework involved in college is usually viewed as a necessary evil, it is indeed at the heart of why this chapter of life is even written. It can get monotonous, sometimes requiring a little

kick-start motivation, but the late hours in the library were investments in the development of the product that is me. Through a demanding course load that has included two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, and Organic Chemistry, the classes I completed at MTSU provided me with the background that led to my acceptance at Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis.

Sight allows us to witness nature in its fullest, to see our loved ones grow into maturity, and simply function in our day-to-day lives. As one loses sight, one's life can be greatly diminished, as the world grows darker and hazier both literally and figuratively. Additionally, the concepts we perceive to understand fascinate me. Being an optometrist will allow me to delve further into these areas, potentially advance the knowledge we have of vision, and serve people in a way that will significantly impact their lives. In the fall of 2017 I will be starting a new chapter at SCO, one that would not have been possible without my time at MTSU. [H](#)

STUDENT RESEARCH

Fall 2017 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

Legends of King Arthur

UH 4600-002 • CRN# 84540

M/W 2:20–3:45 p.m. • HONR 117

Becky King (English)

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, this course will trace his journey along with his companions, Merlin, Morgan le Fay, Guinevere, Gawain, and Lancelot, through medieval literature.

We will study the earliest records of Arthur in Latin chronicle and Welsh legend, explore the French Arthurian romances that created the infamous love story between Lancelot and Guinevere, and read from Malory’s *Le Morte d’Arthur*, the medieval source for most contemporary Arthurian stories. We will also examine Arthurian legend after the Middle Ages in literature and film and

discuss changing concepts of history, mythology, heroism, and legend in the Middle Ages and today.

For more information, email rking@mtsu.edu.

American Film in the '70s

UH 4600-001 • CRN# 83228

W 6:00–9:00 p.m. • Peck Hall 327

Will Brantley (English)

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 '60s and early '70s, 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 focuses on a series of films that provide a cultural critique of the 1970s, often through explicit statement but more often through the use of metaphor. The course explores 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.

This course is open to students who have completed the General Studies requirement in English and may count as three hours upper-division English credit. [H](#)



Members of the 2016–17 Honors College Deans’ Student Advisory Council are (l-r) Dean John R. Vile, Connor Moss, Elizabeth Kobeck, Jordan Goen, Sophie Toms, Tiffany Miller, Benjamin Kulas, and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips. Council member Todd Pirtle is not pictured.

Clay Grant Enhances ODK's Veterans and Leadership Projects

By Matthew Hibdon | *Hibdon, an Honors College alumnus, is an academic advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. He is a member of the national ODK planning committee for the 2018 Biennial Convention in Nashville, a member of the National Membership and Circle Standards Committee, and chair of the New Circle Charters Subcommittee.*

In the Spring 2016 *Honors Magazine*, we were proud to announce that the MTSU Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) circle received a second Clay Grant in our group's short history. That grant awarded the MTSU Circle \$500 for leadership development programming on our campus and in the community. With the additional funds, we were able to expand our annual Christmas Cards for Veterans service project into three phases: writing notes inside cards for the veterans, delivering the Christmas cards in December, and kicking off the Spring 2017 semester with a leadership lecture.

Members from our ODK Circle delivered cards to residents of the Tennessee State Veterans Home on Dec. 3, 2016 (ODK's 102nd birthday). This facility is unique in our area as it is open to both veterans and military spouses. In fact, we were fortunate enough to interact with a military couple at the home who have been married for 66 years. While his wife was busy

working as a teacher, the veteran was serving in the Army during the Korean War. When we entered their room, he was quick to share two photographs of two major life achievements. The first photograph showed him receiving the Purple Heart in an Army field hospital, and the second featured a 17-pound cabbage grown in his last garden. After completing his tour of duty in Korea, this gentleman went on to work for the Ford Motor Co., graduated from college, and later became a judge in northern Mississippi. While he and his wife shared their life story with our group, he also shared some sage advice with our students never to give up on their education.

As we wound through the three units of the veterans' facility, several residents thanked the students for coming and some even sang Christmas carols to us! Further down another hallway, we visited with a military spouse who was both thrilled to see us and to show off her new Christmas tree. As most parents do, she could not miss the opportunity to brag on her son and how much she loves company, especially at the holidays. Her gratitude went beyond simply being thankful for her son and our visit. She made a point to tell us how much she enjoyed the wonderful, clean facilities and friendly staff there. It was clear from our visits with her and the other residents how well our country's veterans and military spouses are being taken care of at the Tennessee State Veterans Home. With continued support from the ODK Foundation and the MTSU campus, this is sure to grow from a holiday service project to a true leadership development initiative for the campus leaders of today and the community leaders of tomorrow. 

ODK members (l-r) David Hughes, Mary Kinsman, Joshua Williams, Kimberly Warren, Kyra Boots, and Alex Knight visit the Tennessee State Veterans Home in December.





ODK Initiates 65 New Members

The Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Circle of MTSU initiated 65 new members in an Oct. 27 ceremony in the Keathley University Center Theatre. The circle's new inductees included two faculty members and one honoris causa initiate.

Following Honors Dean John R. Vile's welcome, Matthew Hibdon, an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and a member of the ODK national committee, spoke to new initiates and guests and also administered the initiate oath. Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College and faculty coordinator of MTSU's ODK circle, introduced the following initiates.

Students

Bassam Aboona
 Muhammad F. Ali
 Muhammad O. Ali
 Scott Armstrong
 Christopher Ryan Bearden
 Shivan M. Berwari
 Kyra Boots
 Jakob Alexander Bruhns
 Chance L. Cansler
 Stephanie Elise Carpenter
 Jackson Lane Cole
 James Skylar Dean II
 Noah Delk
 Pel Doski
 Kami Dyer
 Rachel Elaine Eddings
 Brooke Fitzwater
 Jason L. Fleischmann
 Natalie B. Foulks
 Bennett Fouts
 Ryan Golden
 Mary Beth Gormsen
 Miranda Juliet Hahn
 Hannah Hall
 Katherine Hitchcock
 Luke Howard Judkins
 Seth James Kantorik
 Alex Knight
 Michael Kramer

Benjamin Taylor Kulas
 Hannah Leyhew
 Aaron M. Lindorfer
 Bethany Marcum
 Cassye Anna-Marie Marsh
 Emily M. McElroy
 Tiffany R. Miller
 Asfah Mohammed
 Lauren Morris
 Andrew Connor Moss
 Morgan Murphy
 Samuel Musili
 Taylor Orr
 Reese Osborne
 Jessica Blaik Paris
 Madison Pitts
 Matthew D. Posey
 Kelly Briana Richardson
 Marisa Rigsby
 Je Suis Andrew Scott
 Ashley Shank
 Sara Snoddy
 Lesley Sweeton
 Nicole Ward
 Kimberley Warren
 Nicholas Watts
 Chrinesha La' Shai Weir
 Sarah E. Wester
 Emma Klare Williams
 Joshua Michael Williams

Kaitlyn Williford
 Mary Wolkonowski
 William Vincent York IV

Faculty

Mary S. Hoffschwelle
 Carroll Van West

Honoris Causa

Bernard McDonald 

Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society founded at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia in December 1914, recognizes and honors meritorious leadership and service and encourages campus citizenship. New members must be juniors, seniors, or graduate students, maintain a 3.5 GPA, and be involved in leadership and service on campus and in the community.

Celebrating Creative Expression

After a record number of fall submissions, four outstanding entries earned awards

Jake Garrette contributed to this report.

Four top-ranked submissions were selected to receive Creative Expression Awards from among over a record 350 entries to the fall issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. **Leah Bailey's** and **Megan Starling's** literature submissions won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards. **Ambre Marie Stewart** and **Alena Mehic** captured Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for their visual entries.

About the Awards

The *Collage* staff selects approximately 60 submissions for publication each semester using a blind grading process and then chooses Creative Expression Award winners by private ballot. The staff awards Creative Expression Awards to outstanding submissions from each of four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography.

Prose

Bailey wrote the award-winning short story, "Sunrise," a story she said was inspired by an old photograph of a boy and his teddy bear on a porch. "It really struck me, and since the boy and the bear faced away from the viewer, it was hard to discern what the boy was feeling and thinking about. I wondered what it could be, and then the story came to me."

Bailey is a graduate student in Media and Communication from Pulaski. Growing up in a small town with Southern roots, she lived in a family that put much emphasis on storytelling. Bailey plans to write and work in higher education in the future.

Poetry

Starling received an award for her poem "Marlboro Man." A junior majoring in Graphic Design, she is originally from Michigan but graduated from Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro. Starling says her love of poetry and writing since she was very young has helped her creativity to flourish.

Her plans include working at either a design or advertising firm and later going freelance in order to spend more time with her family. Starling's ultimate goal

is to become an art director, but she emphasizes that she above all wishes to glorify God with her art.

"I wrote 'Marlboro Man' as part of an assignment for my Advanced Placement literature class in high school during a study on gender roles and stereotypes," she said. "As a woman, it is easy to complain about the stereotypes against my own gender. However, I chose to shed some light on the commonly overlooked fact in our feminist-saturated world that men are stereotyped, too. In order to defeat the stereotypes that pin us down, we must acknowledge that we are all individuals with different similarities and similar differences."

Photography

Stewart won the fall Creative Expression Award for photography with her black-and-white photograph *Down on Broadway*. From Portsmouth, Virginia, the Photography major plans to travel across the United States and pursue a career in photojournalism after graduating.

She takes inspiration for her photography from the people around her. "I'm inspired by people—people who work 80 hours a week to support families, people who dropped out of school to be in a band, and people who are free," Stewart said.

Art

Mehic received the fall Creative Expression Award for art for her painting *Dani*. The Studio Art major with a Painting concentration is originally from Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina, but her family immigrated to the United States when she was 2 years old. She incorporates a common theme of memory and nostalgia throughout her work.

"With this series of work specifically, I took photos of some friends of mine and combined them with texts they had sent in our group message before, highlighting the contrast between the portrait and meaningless, silly messages," Mehic said. "My more recent work, however, draws much more closely upon my displacement as an immigrant and my family, as well as the post-war attitudes of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina." 



Ambre Stewart, Photography

Down on Broadway,
by Stewart



Dani, by Mehic



Leah Bailey, Prose



Alena Mehic, Art



Megan Starling,
Poetry

Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

Fifty-five students successfully completed a minimum of 20 hours of lower-division Honors coursework and received certificates of achievement from the University Honors College in fall 2016.

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Biology

Shivan Berwari
Kathryn Brittain
Hannah Curry
Devyn Hayes
Charmaine Igot
Kayla O'Connell
Cameron Oldham
Haven Poore
Marisa Rigsby
Natalie Schroth
Don Srisuriyo
Andrew Swehla
Kayla Thomas
Aimee Wilson
Biochemistry
Joseph Churchill
Marissa Williams
Chemistry
Akmal Ishmetov
Physics
Jackson Cole
Computer Science
Seong Kim
Forensic Science
Christina Franklin

Kimberly Warren
Science
April Downing
Aerospace
Connor Wood

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Recording Industry

Tiana Burke
Alyssa Haddock
Nathaniel Hobbs
Austin Jones
Anthony Williams
Mass Communication
Emily Drew
Ian Fell
Andrew Gillihan
Morgan Murphy
Ansley Pearson
Madison Stewart

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Psychology
Maeve Bleistein
Elizabeth Kobeck

Natalee Wright
Exercise Science
Whitney Ingle
Criminal Justice Administration
Jacob Smith

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Music
Luke Judkins
Nicholas Thomas
Anthropology
Jeffrey LaPorte
International Relations
Kayla McCrary
Foreign Languages
Tiffany Miller
English
Samuel Musili
Bailey Oldham
Leslie Sweeton
Joshua Tilton
Sociology
Ginny Whaley
Global Studies
Kyeesha Wilcox

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Ethan Gerstein

JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Business Administration

Kyle Blevens
Amanda Sampedro
Accounting
Mary Canterbury
Economics
Emily Lupo

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

Members of the fall *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* staff met Nov. 4 for their final editing session. Staff members in attendance were (l-r): front, Bronwyn Graves, Matthew Olive, Laura Bryant, Jake Garrette, Luke Judkins, Kimi Conro, Holly Aslinger, Abby Taylor, Aleah Grenier, and Whitney Ingle; second row, Marsha Powers, Joshua Tilton, Lacey Kanipe, Pel Dosky, Rachel Huttinger, J.T. Cobb, Melody Tang, Patrick Murphy, and Timothy Lambert; and third row, Lexi Norsby and Kayleah Bradley. Fall staff members not pictured are Adriana Swatzell, Rebecca Clippard, Melinda Lewis, Grace Hollowell, Erin Gardner, Tierney Letcher, and Kayla McCrary.



{1} **Abul Hasnat Muhammed Salimullah**, an Economics graduate student, was given a *Scientia et Humanitas* Deans' Distinguished Essay Award for his economics essay "Granger Causality of Interest Rate and Exchange Rate on Stock Volatility at Chicago Options Market."

{2} **Nicholas Dalbey**, an English Ph.D. student, received a *Scientia et Humanitas* Deans' Distinguished Essay Award from Philip E.



Phillips, left, Honors associate dean, and John R. Vile, Honors dean. His essay was titled " 'Aluen hine iuengen': Fairies, Arthur, and Ideal Kingship in Lawman's *Brut*."

{3} **Melody Cook**, a Spring 2016 Honors College graduate with a degree in English, earned a *Scientia et Humanitas* Deans' Distinguished Essay Award for her undergraduate essay "Joss's Jesus: Christ-Figures in the *Whedonverses*." [U](#)





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4

SUPERHERO SCIENCE

Honors PSCI 1130/COMM 2200 learning community demonstrates science for Pittard Campus School fifth-graders

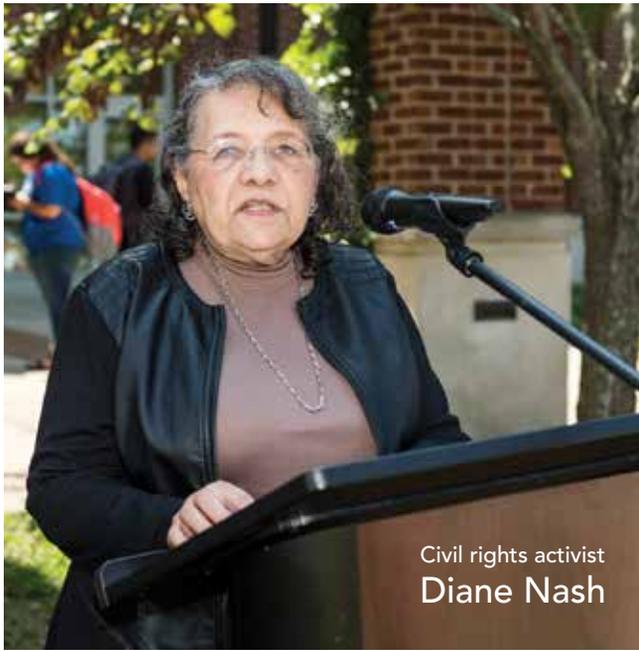
- 1) Emma Sproles assists students as they create different pitches and tones using sound waves.
- 2) Honors Dean John Vile checks in with faculty member Judith Iriarte-Gross before observing her students' experiments.
- 3) Carson Davis discusses the importance of consuming sufficient iron in one's food.
- 4) Zach Mandis demonstrates magnetic slime.
- 5) Lainey Stewart serves Dippin' Dots to Campus School students.
- 6) Sproles and Abigail Williams (l-r) demonstrate properties of sound waves using Slinkys.



5



6



Civil rights activist
Diane Nash



Omicron
Delta Kappa
members
help with
voter
registration.

CONSTITUTION DAY



Dean John R. Vile



Associate Dean
Philip E. Phillips



Marquaveon Gray



Cara Kallaher



Jonathan Ciecka

FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



UNDERGRADUATE
FELLOWSHIPS
MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY



Lindsey Brown, Omar Morales,
and Daniel Suarez (l-r)



Mary Evins, Dean John Vile, and
Associate Dean Philip Phillips

HEAD *of the* CLASS

by Katie Porterfield

Madison Tracy, MTSU's 2016–17 Student Government Association president, knows a thing or two about leadership.

Since taking the presidential helm last June, Tracy has attended meetings with University vice presidents and is a member of MTSU's FOCUS Act Transition Team formed to lead the University's transition from the Tennessee Board of Regents governance to that of an individual board of trustees.

Early in her SGA term, she helped address campus safety concerns by passing legislation that asked the administration for emergency call boxes that will be installed across campus this spring.

Like any good leader, she's quick to compliment the people around her.

"I am most proud of my team and how each of them has gone above and beyond their positions," said Tracy, now in her final semester at MTSU. "It's easy to duplicate what has been done in the past, but my team has come up with new programs and really has been in tune with the campus climate."



**Student Government
Association President**

Madison Tracy

**uses both her Honors and
her media education to
pursue leadership**

Born Leader

Tracy's leadership education started long before she set foot on the MTSU campus.

For starters, the Murfreesboro native, Honors student, and Buchanan Scholar is the oldest of seven children.

Growing up in a family environment like that "taught me the importance of influence and leadership from a young age," Tracy said.

She calls her position as the eldest child in the family "one of the most rewarding roles" with which she's "been blessed." And, while scientific studies support the notion that firstborn children cultivate leadership skills, Tracy's birth order also seems to have sparked a strong sense of duty that motivates her to serve others.

"Being the oldest taught me the value of setting an example and made me realize there are always others watching," said Tracy, explaining that her youngest sibling, now 9, was born the day she started middle school.

Those middle school years—a major transition for any child—were particularly significant for Tracy because her mother homeschooled her through the sixth grade.

"I wanted to dive in and become involved," Tracy said about the family decision to enroll her in middle school at Middle Tennessee Christian School at that time.

Tracy certainly remained motivated to get involved when she moved on to Murfreesboro's Central Magnet School. Determined to have a hand in developing traditions at the new high school, she assumed the role of student body president for a record three straight years there.

"I loved leading the student body and preparing programs, some of which continue today," Tracy said humbly.

Brand New World

Once Tracy enrolled at MTSU and heard the then-SGA president speak after Freshman Convocation, she knew that when her time came, she'd run for student body president at the university level, too.

Before making that run, though, she participated in a different capacity of SGA each year, first serving as freshman council member, then senator, and later vice president of marketing for the junior executive board.

As vice president of marketing, she launched a project known as Humans of MTSU, a social media platform on Facebook and Instagram modeled after blogger Brandon Stanton's Humans of New York.

Tracy's goal? To better serve the diverse student body at MTSU.

"When I was running for vice president of marketing toward the end of my sophomore year, I noticed a significant gap in the student body's knowledge of the Student Government Association and the Student Government Association's knowledge of the student body's struggles and needs," Tracy said.



Her Humans at MTSU project aimed to shrink that gap. She did so by capturing photos of students on campus and asking them to share why they chose to attend MTSU. She posted their personal stories on social media, and the results, she said were so inspiring that she selected the project for her Honors thesis topic.

“Each story made me fall in love with MTSU over and over again as I heard beautiful testimonies from nursing students, non-traditional students, graduate students, first-generation college students, and more,” Tracy said.

According to Tracy, the site “helps bring together” a diverse campus and also serves to “educate the SGA on the population it serves.”

“We come up with the most impactful legislation when it is most closely aligned to the students’ needs,” she said.

As part of her thesis, Tracy created a manual detailing every aspect of running the site. This semester, she will pass it on to the current SGA vice president of marketing, and later this spring, that VP will pass it on to the next.

Tracy offered high praise for the College of Media and Entertainment, her home college, and for the faculty there, which she said has always been so helpful, especially with her thesis. Her thesis advisor was Tricia Farwell, an Advertising professor, Honors faculty member, and the statewide faculty regent for the TBR.

“Dr. Farwell has gone out of her way to mentor me,” Tracy said. “She met with me every Sunday afternoon at Starbucks to help me write my thesis and keep me accountable. I am very grateful for both the College of Media and Entertainment and the Honors College.”

The Future Is Now

Focused on ensuring that her entire constituency receives the attention it deserves during her final semester in office, Tracy plans to have the executive board visit each college on campus and “really listen to the concerns of the students.”

She knows she won’t or can’t accomplish everything she has set out to do as SGA president, acknowledging that the most challenging aspect of her position is realizing that there’s not enough time to achieve everything she’d like to do.



What is the greatest lesson she has learned as SGA president? Leadership can be tough, she said.

“Decisions will not always be popular, even if they are for the best,” Tracy said. “Realizing this has been the most useful

lesson I have learned, and moving forward, I know that will benefit me in my future career.”

So what does the future hold, career-wise, for this Public Relations major with an already impressive political background? Tracy has applied to several graduate schools and hopes to pursue an advanced degree in public policy, strategic public relations, or political management, to name just a few of her options.

Regardless of where her road leads her, Tracy said she knows she’ll always remain involved in the communities where she lives.

It should come as no surprise that Tracy encounters constant conjecture that one day she’ll place her name on a ballot for elected office, especially given that statistics show firstborn children are overrepresented among incumbents in various political offices.

“I am confident that God will direct my path,” Tracy said in response. “If that includes running for office in Tennessee, I would absolutely consider it.

“I believe strongly that we need people with integrity in influential positions within our government,” she added. “Because of this, I am very open to running for office in the future.”

As a candidate, Tracy would no doubt have a lot of leadership experience to draw upon from her time at MTSU. [H](#)



BORN *to* INFORM *and* ENTERTAIN

by Vicky Travis

Four other Honors students enrolled in MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment eye bright futures in their respective fields

SGA President Madison Tracy isn't the only Honors College student thriving in chosen academic pursuits in MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment.

The nation's fifth-largest communication program, CME offers degree concentrations in 14 major areas ranging from Recording Industry and Journalism to Filmmaking and Animation.

The four additional Honors College students profiled here have found opportunity in every challenge along the way with a can-do attitude and being ever-ready to learn. Bright students who love every chance they have to connect with others, take on challenges, and surprise themselves when they trust the voice inside telling them to turn this way or that, these College of Media and Entertainment students exemplify some of the best of the best.



Amanda Freuler

Born to Write

Amanda Freuler, 21, a senior majoring in Journalism, has always wanted to be a writer.

After winning a third-grade essay contest, the writing bug had bitten.

Originally from New Jersey, Freuler and her family moved to Lenoir City during high school.

Through the Tennessee Promise tuition-free community college program, Freuler spent her first two undergraduate years at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville. At Pellissippi, she happened to meet a communications teacher who would serve as a change agent for Freuler.

"I talked to her about what I wanted to do (write) and she kind of took me under her wing," Freuler said. That professor is also the one who steered her toward MTSU's nationally recognized Journalism program.

Freuler would apply for and win a Transfer Fellows scholarship for MTSU's Honors College.

That opportunity, along with a True Blue Tour, sealed the deal.

Coming to MTSU as a junior, Freuler immersed herself in the University, began writing for MTSU's student-run *Sidelines* news outlet, and started preliminary work on her Honors thesis. In her second semester, she became news editor at *Sidelines*.

Always open to new ideas and a challenge, Freuler found out how much she enjoyed researching bills and laws and interviewing legislators for a story about the employee campus-carry gun law.

Freuler sees herself eventually going to graduate school. That is, after she finds her niche as she works in media. She leans toward magazines with definite areas of interest in writing about higher education or science.

"No matter what I do, I want to be able to talk to people and tell their stories," she said.

Freuler credits the Honors College with much of her development.

"The Honors College really pushed me out of my comfort zone," said Freuler, who as an Honors student decided to research and write about something near and dear to her, the Tennessee Promise program. Her 80-page thesis, which she defended last November, was titled "The Emergence of Tuition-Free Community College and Its Effects on Students and the Community." She put her journalism skills to work, researching and interviewing 10 students who had very different experiences with Tennessee Promise.

After nerves subsided, Freuler said she thoroughly enjoyed defending her thesis. "It may have been my favorite part," she said. "They asked me questions and offered their own opinions and it was really just a discussion."

Born to Perform

Kristi Hoopes, 18, couldn't be happier with her college choice, despite being an 18-hour drive from her home in Colorado.

She knew that following her dream to work in the music industry meant tough decisions. The well-regarded degree MTSU offers in music business and the location of the University near Nashville drew her here.

"I knew I had to be here," she said. "I love Colorado and it will always be home, but this is like a second home."

Hoopes, a songwriter and performing artist, already has been pursuing a music career for the past eight years. Significant highlights of that career include serving as an opening act for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and for Kenny Rogers.

Focused and hard-working, Hoopes knows that "making it" in the tough-to-crack music industry takes time. But the business-minded Hoopes is ready with a plan, a supply of business cards, and a strong work ethic.

"My hope is within the next two to three years I'll get a publishing deal that will lead to a record deal. I want to take this as far as I can," she said. "There's nothing I won't try or put my foot in the door for. Even if it doesn't go exactly as planned but leads me to success, I'll do it."

"I'm taking the time to pursue and hone my craft," Hoopes added. "When you get that final 'Yes,' it means the most."

Hoopes' itch to perform started early—at 2 years old, belting out Barney songs on top of the family coffee table.

Supportive parents nurtured everything she tried, from gymnastics to ballet to theater. At 10, the music took over. After singing her rendition of "These Boots Are

Made for Walking" at a school talent show, she fell in love with the stage and her calling to be a musician. Following that show, she started performing at festivals and fairs and toured with a musical theater song and dance group.

"Music, once it captures your heart and mind, it won't let go," Hoopes said. Her favorite instrument is guitar, but she has also learned piano and is working on mastering the banjo.

Hoopes said she stays grounded by taking time every day to say a prayer of gratitude. "A lot of my career is heavily grounded in faith," she said. "So I take a minute every morning, grateful for this moment and the people in my life, and think let's go do something amazing with it."





“If I didn’t take that moment to keep myself humble, I’d lose myself,” she added.

In her first semester at MTSU, Songwriting Concentration director (and hit Nashville songwriter) Odie Blackmon tapped Hoopes to be one of six MTSU students to perform at an ASCAP showcase. (ASCAP is a Nashville-based professional organization of 600,000 songwriters, composers, and music publishers, owned and run by its members, providing performance royalties, advocacy, and service for music creators.) Hoopes sang two originals: “Temporary Love” and “San Antonio Sky.”

Her biggest joy, she said, is writing music that reaches people. “I want to be a storyteller to the fullest extent in the most truthful and honest way,” she said.

Born to Sing

Hunter Wolkonowski, 18, rarely has down time between Honors classes, homework, and gigs in and around Nashville. But she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I’d rather play music than sleep,” Wolkonowski said.

Known as Huntergirl, which she admits is a little easier to say than her last name, Wolkonowski rarely turns down the opportunity to perform, volunteer, or work around musicians.

“Sometimes with Nashville gigs, I might get a text just two or three hours before because someone dropped out,” said the freshman, who is focusing on Commercial Songwriting. “I almost always say yes. It doesn’t matter if three people are in the audience. You don’t know who those three people are. It could lead to meeting someone.”

Wolkonowski’s thick Southern accent comes from growing up in Grundy County and later Winchester, which is now home. A love of singing came early. Her family tells her she used to sing-song every little thing as a girl, driving her mom “nuts.” As her talent grew, she also picked up and learned to play the guitar, bass, and ukulele. Her parents encouraged her dream, driving her to more than 60 gigs during the summer of her freshman year in high school.

Wolkonowski also sang in the church where her grandfather preaches, and she continues to sing now with her church band when she’s home in Winchester.

She landed her first gig at Nashville’s historic Bluebird Café at just 15 years old (and sang there again recently).

“If you have something a little bit special and if you think God gave it to you, then you can do anything you want to,” Wolkonowski said. “You just have to be sure, and you can’t do it halfway.”

One of her most poignant experiences happened in summer 2015 while in Chattanooga with a friend who was having her senior photos taken. Less than half a mile away, four Marines and a Navy sailor were shot and killed.

It hit Wolkonowski hard, because her family has deep military roots (six uncles, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather served). She wrote “Pray for Chattanooga” while on lockdown. She never planned to post the music video, but when the sailor died a few days later, she felt compelled. The video went viral.

She wants to record the song and raise \$10,000 for the victims’ families. She also plans to do a benefit concert for veterans, has become close with the families, and is involved with Operation Song, an organization



Hunter
Wolkonowski

that pairs Grammy winners with veterans to write and produce songs.

A connection there led her to send another song to hit Nashville songwriter Don Goodman, whose songs include “Ol’ Red” by Blake Shelton. She submitted “Small Town Mixtape,” and Goodman responded by inviting Wolkonowski to his office in Nashville to work on the song. “It was one of the coolest days of my life,” she said.

Born to Negotiate

Sierra Sotelo, 20, loves a challenge and embraces change. The senior, a Recording Industry major with a concentration in Music Business, will graduate in May after just three years enrolled and will eventually head to law school.

With the intent of becoming a record producer, the Manassas, Virginia, native quickly focused in on MTSU once she discovered its music business offerings.

“MTSU is the only place I applied because it had exactly everything I wanted,” she said.

Sotelo’s mind shifted to a new emphasis on law as a result of Associate Professor Charlie Dahan’s survey class about music business during her second semester in Spring 2015. The section about copyright law captivated her, and she knew she had discovered a new direction.

“I remember the day and time,” Sotelo recalled. “He said, ‘You know this is really complicated and most don’t enjoy it, but if you do you might want to go into it.’ But even before he said that, I remember thinking how much I enjoyed it.

“It’s never the same twice,” she added. “You can argue a case and truly believe one side, but there’s a good standing case for the other. I want to understand how this works the way it does.”

Last fall, as Sotelo talked to her mom about her anxiousness studying for the logic-filled, mental-marathon LSAT, she learned something that gave her peace of mind that her decision to pursue law was a sound one. Her mother told her that she always thought her daughter would turn out to be a lawyer as opposed to a record producer.

“She had never told me that until then,” Sotelo said.

Her Honors thesis was “Disruption and Development: How the Uneven Growth of Mexico Has Affected Intellectual Property in the Yucatan Peninsula.” As a sixth-generation Mexican-American, Sotelo said she has always been fascinated with Mexico and Mexican culture.

Wolkonowski loves the support and talent she’s met at MTSU.

“Teachers here really want you to succeed and do well and have a career,” she said. “I love the Honors College with its smaller classrooms. . . . My teachers are awesome, and they know me. They bring it into real life, and it’s furthering my understanding.”



As part of her thesis research, she traveled to Belize to study abroad in Summer 2016 with Associate Professor Deborah Wagnon and landed an interview with the person who runs the office for all Belize intellectual property. Mexico City, she explains, is the hub that processes all intellectual property for that region of the world. She will defend her thesis this spring.

Sotelo describes her Honors College thesis experience as rigorous, but very welcome.

“I didn’t know it would be quite as challenging as it ended up being,” she said. “But I decided to face it head-on. This is exciting. This is work and I appreciate that.”

Sotelo is looking at New York University or Columbia in New York or Stanford or the University of California–Berkeley in California as potential law school destinations. It’s about the school, but also the location near entertainment hubs.

The showtune-loving Sotelo would like to combine her love of music and law as an entertainment lawyer. “I can’t imagine life without music in it,” she said. “Really, it’s always been music, but the focus has changed over time.” [H](#)



photo by Darby D. Campbell

A MAN OF FIRSTS

by Skip Anderson and Drew Ruble

From leading a new degree program, to helping establish MTSU's military-friendly reputation, to serving on the University's new governing board, Honors Professor Tony Johnston is a True Blue leader on campus

Like a fine wine, or the bacterial base for a tasty sourdough bread, good things often require time to come into the fullness of their being.

The same is true for MTSU's forward-thinking Fermentation Science degree program launching in 2017. The program, led by director Tony Johnston, comes in response to game-changing trends redefining the multi-billion-dollar fermentation industry across the country—specifically the brewing industry highlighted by craft beers and small-batch brewing.

Importantly, though, this new degree is not simply about brewing beer and distilling spirits. The full scope for the new degree reaches beyond just fermenting hops and barley—key ingredients in brewing beer—to any and all fermented foods and beverages.

“The science behind brewing beer and fermenting foods is largely the same,” Johnston said. “We use microorganisms such as yeast, bacteria, and mold to create foods we like to consume—cheese, sour cream, buttermilk, yogurt, sauerkraut, summer sausage, pickles, kimchi, to name just a few. That’s fermentation.”

Fermenting foods and beverages elevates nutritional impact.

“The idea is that when we ferment milk, for instance, it has more vitamin content than before because the microorganisms have put more nutrients into the products,” Johnston said.

But the benefits of fermentation aren't limited to what they can add to foods; it's also what the process can remove from them.

“These microorganisms can also convert sugars into acids that are much better for us than the sugars,” Johnston said. “For example, people often don't realize how much sugar is actually in fluid milk—and we have enough sugar in our diets.”

While the practice of fermenting foods is longstanding—credible evidence suggests fermenting dates back 8,000 years or so in China—the science behind the processes continues to evolve. It wasn't until the late 19th century when scientists began to understand that tiny living creatures—including yeast, bacteria, and mold—were at the heart of cheese creation, as well as beer, wine, and alcoholic spirits and thousands of other fermented foods. And even today, scientists are finding new efficiencies by adjusting the balance of the microorganisms that drive fermentation processes.

Honors Professor Tony Johnston

Degrees: B.S. Geophysics, M.S. Food Science, Ph.D. Food Science (Enology and Viticulture), University of Arkansas; Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, University of Florida

Food industry: Six years experience with Tyson Foods, Pilgrim's Pride, and Sara Lee

Beverage background: Six years as owner and/or winemaker at Sumner Crest Winery and Monteagle Winery

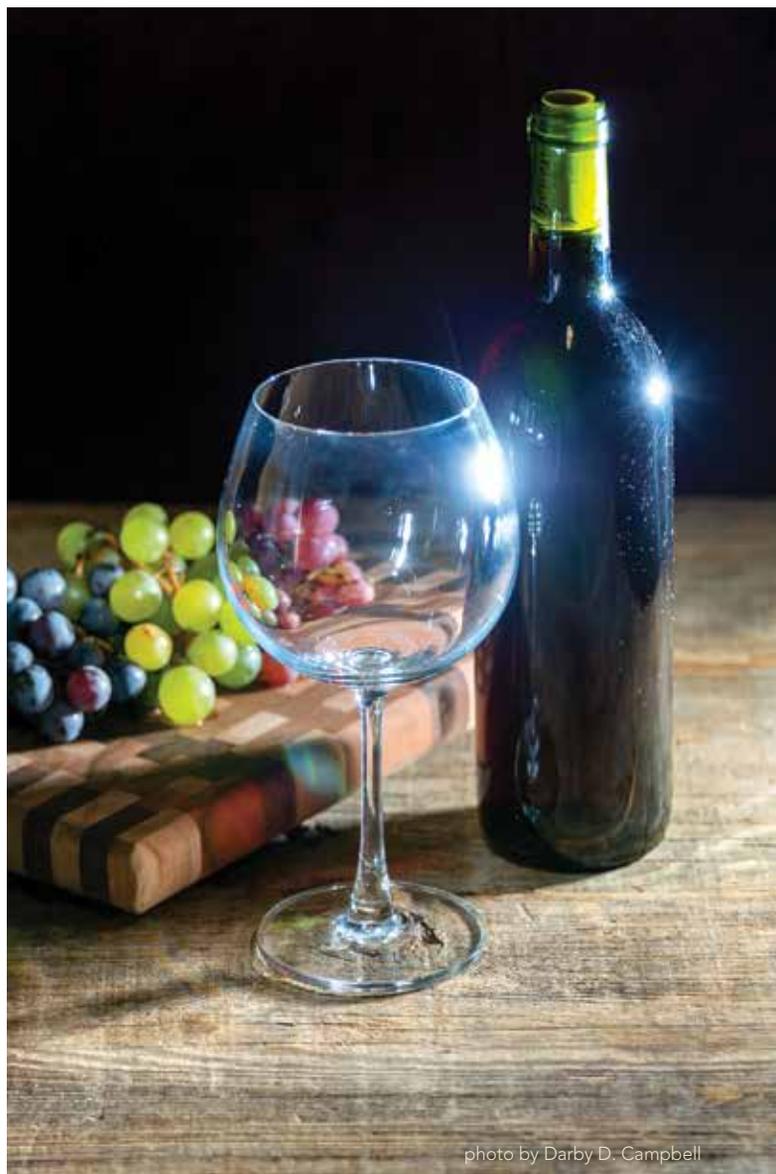


photo by Darby D. Campbell

“Most consumers are concerned with three things: Does it smell good, does it taste good, and is it available for a price I’m willing to pay?” Johnston said. “What consumers don’t understand is there’s a whole world of science that goes into the product sitting on the shelves.”

Johnston, who joined the MTSU faculty in 1995, describes launching the new bachelor’s degree in Fermentation Science as a highlight of his academic career.

“Having worked in the food industry for many years and observed the American public’s interest in fermented foods skyrocket, I am completely convinced that this degree will provide unparalleled opportunities for our graduates,” he said. “They will be well prepared to either directly enter the fermented foods industry or pursue a graduate degree prior to doing so. I am honored that MTSU has put its trust in me to direct the program and am anxious to establish this nearly one-of-a-kind program as the premier program in the country.”

Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to go to work in a variety of positions for major manufacturers operating in middle Tennessee, including General Mills (Yoplait), Kroger (Dairy Division), Brown-Forman (Jack Daniel’s), and Diageo (George Dickel), as well as an ever-increasing number of locally owned and operated fermented food producers.

A Professor and Patriot

Johnston’s leadership role in launching what is sure to become one of the hottest new degree programs in the Southeastern region is not Johnston’s only key leadership role. Johnston is also widely recognized on campus for his crucial role through the years (even before the establishment of MTSU’s new Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center) to ensure that MTSU has been a military-friendly university that provides extra services to student veterans.

Johnston was called to active military duty (from the Reserves) just days after the 9/11 attack and spent two years on active duty before returning to MTSU. Although he had previously left active duty to enter graduate school, his experience returning to academia after this tour of duty was much more emotionally and intellectually jarring, he said.

“I quickly realized that veterans of these wars who were leaving active military duty to return to both academia

as well as civilian life needed more than a pat on the back and well-wishes,” he said. “As such, I vowed to do all I could to help them make the transition easier—whatever that would ultimately mean.”

Johnston first became involved in the effort to get the MTSU Veterans Memorial funded and established and moved on to issues related to current students. After realizing that to make institutional changes, a committee that advises the University president and his executive staff was necessary, Johnston spearheaded the effort to establish the MTSU Veterans and Military Affairs Committee and chaired it for the first two years of operation. He also prepared and presented a “white paper” to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee that detailed the upcoming decline in high school graduates (the end of the Baby Boomer generation’s children) and increasing number of veterans being released from active duty as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan wound down.

“My point was that the timing was ideal to focus recruitment efforts on military veterans, who tend to graduate with higher GPAs, persist to graduation at higher rates than traditional first-time college students, and most importantly arrive on campus fully funded through the post-9/11 GI education bill,” he said.

Through this last effort, Johnston helped focus the University braintrust’s attention on making MTSU more than just a “military-friendly” institution. When Johnston was told that student veterans could not be offered priority registration at MTSU, he requested that his state representative enter a bill to make it a statewide requirement among state-supported institutions of higher education (the bill passed!). When MTSU had not immediately seen the need to work with student veterans, he worked to create a means to help it along. He has offered seminars to faculty members focused on teaching students with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and similar post-combat issues, and he lobbied to get the Veterans Administration on campus to directly interact with our student veterans.

“Since 2003 my overall effort has been to make taking care of shepherding veteran students an institutional objective at MTSU,” Johnston stated modestly. “And I believe we’re almost there.”



photo by J Intintoli

A Seat at the Table

In addition to overseeing the launch of a new degree and serving as a key cog in MTSU's military-friendly environment, Johnston also recently filled a key position in the present and future guidance of the entire University.

MTSU's Faculty Senate recently chose Johnston as the first faculty representative of the University's brand-new, first-of-its-kind Board of Trustees. This newly created MTSU local governing board is a result of Gov. Bill Haslam's FOCUS Act passed by the legislature in 2016 to give the former Tennessee Board of Regents universities increased autonomy to support student success.

McPhee has said this new level of independence for the former TBR universities is truly bold and potentially transformational for MTSU.

Serving with Honors

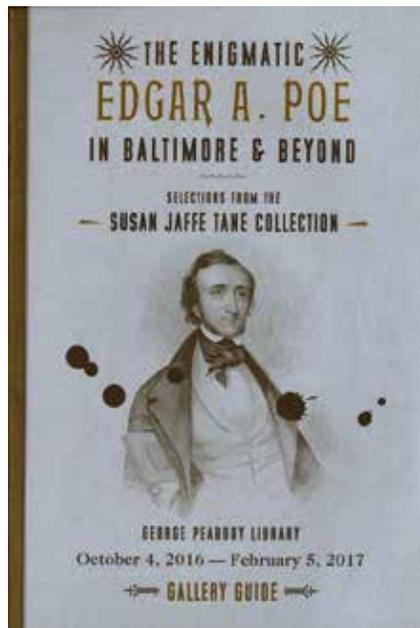
Johnston is quick to relate that one of his other primary joys of working at MTSU is the opportunity he has as an Honors faculty member to work with and teach students enrolled in the Honors College.

"Honors students tend to keep instructors 'on top of their game' and challenge my colleagues and I to teach at a higher level of thinking," Johnston said. "Teaching at this level is exhilarating. [H](#)

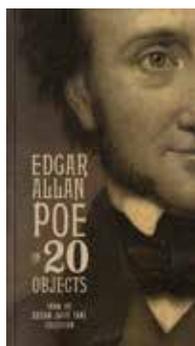
For more information, visit:
mtsu.edu/programs/fermentation/

Honoring Poe in Baltimore and Beyond

Phillips invited to exhibition opening and contributed to book about life of esteemed poet



Gallery Guide, "The Enigmatic Edgar A. Poe in Baltimore and Beyond"



Book cover, Edgar Allan Poe in 20 Objects

The book, *Edgar Allan Poe in 20 Objects*: From the Susan Jaffe Tane Collection, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

More details about the exhibition, which ran from Oct. 4, 2016–Feb. 5, 2017, can be found at guides.library.jhu.edu/specialcollections/exhibitions.

Honors Associate Dean **Philip E. Phillips**, who is immediate past president of the Poe Studies Association, was invited to Baltimore to attend the opening of "The Enigmatic Edgar A. Poe in Baltimore and Beyond." The four-month exhibition showcased rare objects from the Susan Jaffe Tane Collection, widely regarded as one of the world's finest private collections of Poe materials.

Curated by Gabrielle Dean, curator of literary rare books and manuscripts at Johns Hopkins University, the exhibition featured manuscripts and letters by Poe and his circle; first editions, illustrated editions, and important reprints of Poe's texts; objects, works of art, and photographs related to Poe's work and life; and items that exemplify Poe's pervasive global influence.

The curator's opening reception was held Oct. 23 at the George Peabody Library at Johns Hopkins University. The program included a welcome from Winston Tabb, Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums; remarks by Tane, rare book collector and the guest of honor; and Poe poems set to music and performed by soprano Melissa Wimbush and pianist Michael Sheppard. *Edgar Allan Poe's Baltimore* author David F. Gaylin, *Poe-Land* writer J.W. Ocker, and exhibition curator Dean all made presentations as well.

Phillips was one of only 20 Poe scholars invited to contribute an essay on one of 20 objects featured in the exhibition for inclusion in a



Philip Phillips, Gabrielle Dean, and Richard Kopley, L to R, at The George Peabody Library

book, *Edgar Allan Poe in 20 Objects*, edited by Dean and Richard Kopley, published by Johns Hopkins, and first released at the opening event. The richly illustrated book includes reproductions of selected objects pertaining to "People in Poe's Life," "Themes in Poe's Work," and "Mortality and Immortality." The accompanying essays, written for a general audience, attempt to tell the story of Poe's life through their discussions of the objects.

Phillips' contribution to the volume focuses on the gold engagement ring given by Poe to his childhood sweetheart, Elmira Royster Shelton, sometime between late July and late September of 1849, the final year of the writer's life. Poe's marriage proposal to the widow came over two years after the early death of his wife, Virginia, in 1847. Poe, perhaps hoping for a better life in Richmond, and Shelton, feeling some rekindled affection for Poe, to whom she had been engaged briefly when they were teenagers, never married. Their nuptial plans at the time of Poe's mysterious death in Baltimore remain uncertain. **H**

Phillips Serves as Delegate at PKP Biennial Convention



Philip Phillips, English professor and Honors associate dean, represented MTSU's Chapter 246 of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi—the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines—at the 44th Biennial Convention in Atlanta.

Phillips currently serves as past president of the Middle Tennessee State University chapter and attended the convention as the chapter's voting delegate. He also served as a member of the credentials committee for the July 28–30 gathering.

The convention brought together more than 300 chapter officers, board members, headquarters staff, and guests from across the nation. The event featured a keynote address from Buck Goldstein, co-author of *Engines of Innovation: The Entrepreneurial University in the 21st Century*, and a plenary address from renowned leadership specialist Lou Heckler. Other highlights included a panel of three provosts discussing issues impacting higher education, presentation of the society's \$100,000 Excellence in Innovation Award, regional meetings, chapter development trainings, and elections for the 2016–18 board of directors and regional vice presidents.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines.

Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni annually. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of second-term juniors. Faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The society's mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." For more information, visit PhiKappaPhi.org. [H](#)

Honors College faculty and staff joined Academic Affairs staff members at Sir Pizza in November to celebrate the 94th birthday of **Loretta Gebert**, mother of Honors Professor **Kaylene Gebert**.

Pictured at the celebration are (l-r) Marsha Powers, Karen Demonbreum, Susan Lyons, Kaylene Gebert, Kathy Davis, Loretta Gebert, Allison McGoffin, Kim Bailey, Lynn Sewak, Becky Cole, Janice Lewis, Ken Gebert, Shelley Thomas, Faye Johnson, and Philip Phillips.



Fall Series Focuses on Hot Topic of “Citizenship, Immigration, and Refugees”

Participants in the Fall 2016 Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000) explored the topic “Citizenship, Immigration, and Refugees” from multiple perspectives. This series “provided students, faculty, and guests a forum in which to consider and discuss issues of central importance to our nation, especially during the presidential election season,” Associate Dean **Philip E. Phillips** said. Featuring a wide range of distinguished speakers from such disciplines as political science, sociology and anthropology, English and French literatures, art, education, and health and human performance, the series was led by Phillips and organized by Phillips and **Ida L. Fadzillah** (Sociology and Anthropology).

Topics and speakers included “Immigration and Citizenship: The American Historical Experience” by Honors College Dean **John R. Vile** and “Immigration, Refugees, and the Global Diaspora: Key Concepts and Themes” by Fadzillah. **Robert Barsky**, from Vanderbilt University’s English and French Literatures, visited to discuss “Migrants on the Front Lines: Vulnerability and Arbitrariness in an Era of Fear of the Other.” Another guest, **Daoud Abudiab**, from the Faith and Culture Center in Nashville, presented on “The Intersectionality of Islamophobia and Anti-Immigrant/Refugee Sentiments in Tennessee.”

“Reflections on Volunteering in Lesvos During the Mediterranean Refugee Crisis” was the subject for



John R. Vile



Philip E. Phillips

Denise C. Bates (Health and Human Performance). **Louis M. Kyriakouides**, director of the MTSU Albert Gore Research Center, lectured on “Exodus from Vietnam, Surviving Katrina, and the Oil Spill.”

Sisavanh Houghton (Art) presented on the topic of “Conversational Spaces,” while **Andrei V. Korobkov** (Political Science) talked about “Migration Patterns in the Former Soviet Union.” **Laura B. Clark** (Educational Leadership) discussed “Tennessee DREAMS: Stories of Latino Immigrants in Middle Tennessee.”

The series concluded with student thesis presentations by

- **Mitchell Brisbon**, Political Science and International Relations, “This Present Kingdom: Christian Reconstruction’s Complicated Relationship with the United States Constitution”
- **Grayson Dubois**, Professional Computer Science, “Holographic Reduced Representations for Working Memory Concept Encoding”
- **Erin Gardner**, Advertising and Public Relations, “Creating ‘Camelot’: An Analysis of John F. Kennedy’s Public Relations Campaign”
- **Collin McDonald**, Aerospace, “Retracing the Birth of Air Travel: A Creative Project”

The students were selected by Vile and Phillips to give presentations from among those who successfully defended their Honors theses during the fall semester. [T](#)

UH 3000 consists of a series of weekly, one-hour lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden students’ knowledge in a variety of disciplines. The course may be repeated for up to 3 hours of credit. Honors students are required to earn at least 1 credit hour of UH 3000 credit in order to graduate with University Honors.

For more information about the Honors Lecture Series, please email philip.phillips@mtsu.edu.



Ida Fadzillah



Robert Barsky

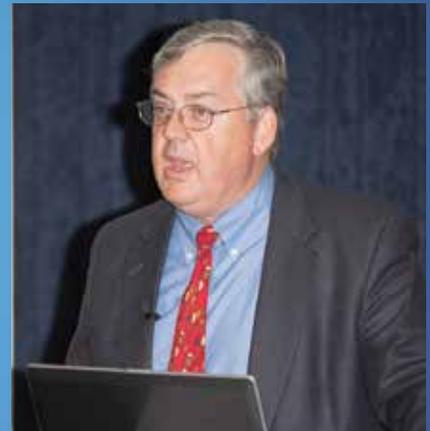


Daoud Abudiab



Denise C. Bates

This series “provided students, faculty, and guests a forum in which to consider and discuss issues of central importance to our nation, especially during the presidential election season.”



Louis M. Kyriakouides



Sisavanh Houghton



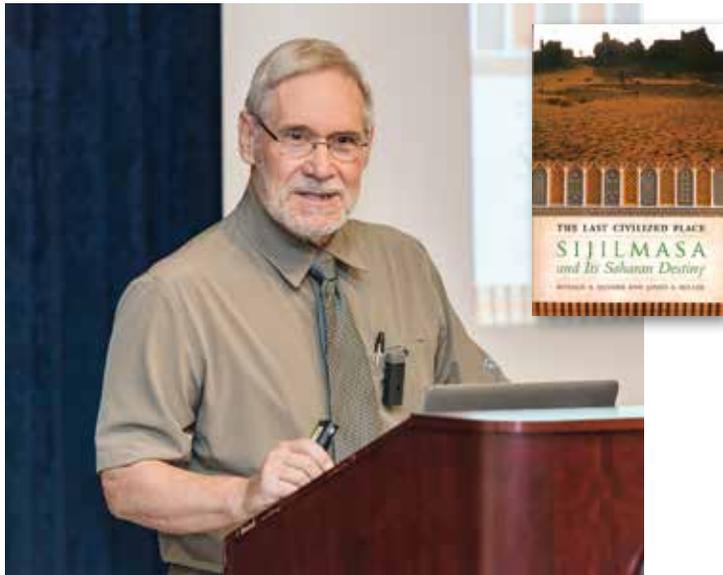
Andrei V. Korobkov



Laura B. Clark

Messier Lectures

on Award-Winning Book



Ronald A. Messier, professor emeritus of History and former Honors director, presented a lecture "The Last Word on The Last Civilized Place" on Nov. 2. He discussed his book, *The Last Civilized Place: Sijilmasa and Its Saharan Destiny*, which he co-authored with James A. Miller, an associate professor emeritus of Geography at Clemson University who now lives in Rabat, Morocco. The book received the 2016 Carl Brown Book Prize as the best book on North African studies. Messier was director of the MTSU Honors program from 1980 to 1990.

Magazine

Captures

National Award

MTSU's *Honors Magazine* won first place in the 2016 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) newsletter contest. **April Goers**, Honors advisor, accepted the award at NCHC's annual conference in November. *Honors Magazine* Editor **Marsha Powers**, Honors Associate Dean **Philip E. Phillips**, and Dean **John R. Vile** display the first-place plaque.



Honors Faculty

Members Win Foundation Awards



Three members of the Honors faculty—Nate Callender, Norma Dunlap, and Amy Kaufman—were recognized with 2016 MTSU Foundation Awards.

The awards, announced at the Fall General Faculty Meeting Aug. 18, are given in recognition of faculty commitment and passion for providing quality academic programs to MTSU students.

Mark "Nate" Callender (Aerospace) received an Outstanding Teacher Award. He has previously been recognized as a "professor who makes a difference" and as an influential faculty member by Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He has enhanced his students' learning experience through tools, such as wind tunnels, a robot in the classroom, and a balsa wood glider design-build-test-fly experience.

Callender, who joined the MTSU Aerospace Department in 2005, earned his Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He received the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010 and has been recognized multiple times for Outstanding EXL Collaborations.

Norma K. Dunlap (Chemistry) earned a 2016 Distinguished Research Award for her work in organic and medicinal chemistry. Her research projects have

led to the synthesis of compounds with the potential to treat major illnesses such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and hepatitis C.

Dunlap, who completed her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Wyoming and a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the MTSU faculty in 1998 after teaching at Vanderbilt University for six years. She has written a textbook on medicinal chemistry, which is due for publication this spring.

Amy S. Kaufman (English) also received a 2016 Distinguished Research Award, for her research on women and gender in medieval literature, religious extremism in the 21st century, and medievalism in popular culture.

Kaufman, who earned her Ph.D. in English from Northeastern University, teaches ancient and medieval literature at MTSU and serves as director of conferences for the International Society for the Study of Medievalism.

Although, not a member of the Honors faculty, **David E. Nelson** (Biology) has served as an advisor for several recent Honors theses. He received a 2016 Special Projects Award for "Establishment of a Quantitative Live Cell Imaging Center at MTSU."



From top:
Mark "Nate"
Callender, Norma
K. Dunlap, Amy
S. Kaufman, and
David E. Nelson



MAKING

**One Honors graduate's
journey from an internship
in the nation's capital to a
Fulbright scholarship to a
presidential campaign**

Davis Thompson is a 2015 Honors College graduate with degrees in Political Science and Mass Communication.

DREAMS COME TRUE

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVIS THOMPSON ('15)

Tell us what really sparked your interests in presidential campaigning.

In November of 2012, my second year at MTSU, my friends and I watched with nervous excitement as the presidential election results were announced.

I watched the first family take the stage that night at McCormick Place in Chicago and knew that I wanted to be a part of a presidential campaign in the future. I never imagined that it would happen in the next election cycle.

How exactly did that happen?

When I graduated from MTSU in May 2015, I was living in Washington, D.C., and had just completed a White House internship program.

The presidential campaign was getting underway; Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, and many others already had declared their candidacy. As my internship came to a close and my hunt for a full-time job began, I learned that I had been selected to receive a Fulbright teaching grant to Slovakia. I knew teaching abroad for a year was an opportunity I couldn't turn down, but I was also aware that by spending the 2015–16 academic year abroad, I likely wouldn't be able to work on the campaign.

After watching the primary unfold from several time zones away and the crowded primary field winnowed down to the final candidates, my year in Slovakia was ending and I was focused on finding a paid position.

Q&A



As I started to apply for jobs from overseas, I received a message from a mentor at my previous Washington, D.C., internship informing me that they were hiring for Hillary Clinton’s research team. I interviewed on the phone at around 10:30 p.m. Slovakia time, and to my genuine surprise I received the position.

The position was based in the Brooklyn, New York, office. I quickly started searching for housing in New York City while still in Slovakia. After speaking over Skype with many different potential roommates, I found a very small furnished room that was available by the needed start date. Despite the hefty rent, I paid the deposit and then moved in July 3.

I had never visited New York City, so it was a bit overwhelming moving there; however, everything turned out great. The room I found online was conveniently located, and the neighborhood was nice.

Talk about your role in the recent campaign.

As a part of the Clinton campaign research team, I had a hand in fact-checking to ensure that all campaign materials and statements were accurate. The work was very fast-paced, and the hours were often long. However, there were many memorable moments during the four months leading up to the election, such as the Democratic National Convention and the presidential debates, which were all very long nights.



As election day neared, staff at the Brooklyn office began temporarily relocating to swing states to assist with our get-out-the-vote effort. The final weekend before the election, a few of my co-workers and I drove to a suburb of Philadelphia and canvassed for the day. It was enjoyable to get out of the city and help with our field effort. At the end of the day, instead of heading straight back to Brooklyn, we decided to stop by the Mann Center in West Philadelphia to attend a campaign rally featuring Clinton and a performance by Katy Perry. It was a great way to finish the last week of the campaign.

Now that we are a few months past the election, what is your takeaway from working with the Clinton campaign?

While November 8th didn't end like I had hoped, it was a great experience. As Hillary Clinton reminded everyone on November 9th, fighting for what's right is always worth it, and I am glad that I had the chance to have a small part of this team.

Thanks, Davis. 🇺🇸





Hendersons Take in Homecoming Parade

Rebecca, Michael, Samuel, and Sarah Henderson, children of Honors College Board of Visitors member and alumna **Raiko Henderson** and her husband John, enjoy the MTSU Homecoming parade.



Retired NSF Mathematician Visits Honors College

Bernard R. McDonald, a mathematical scientist, gave a lecture Oct. 26 in the Martin Honors Building amphitheater. McDonald, who joined the Division of Mathematical Sciences of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1983, received numerous awards and recognitions before retiring from the NSF in 2004. Since

2004, he has taught at several universities in the Washington, D.C., area. McDonald is the grandfather of Buchanan scholar **Benjamin Kulas**, a Physics major, and was initiated into MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa in October along with Kulas and 63 others.



Yacovone Discusses Fulbright Experience

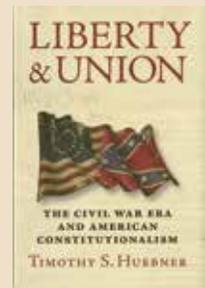
Anna Yacovone, seated, a 2011 Global Studies and Organizational Communication graduate who received a Fulbright English teaching assistantship to Laos in 2012–13, spoke Sept. 27 in the Honors amphitheater about her Fulbright experience. Also pictured are **Doug Heffington**, Global Studies; **Khamski Induangchanthy**, visiting Fulbright scholar; and **Laura Clippard**, Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator.



Author Gives Lecture on "Black Constitutionalism"

Timothy S. Huebner, Sternberg Professor of History at Rhodes College and author of *Liberty and Union: The Civil War Era and American Constitutionalism*, presented an MT

Engage Week lecture titled "Black Constitutionalism, the Civil War, and the Foundations of American Citizenship" Sept. 19 in the Martin Honors Building amphitheater.





Honors Board of Visitors Hear from Students and Staff

A report on the role of the Honors College in the American Democracy Project and presentations by Honors students were highlights of the annual Honors Board of Visitors meeting Oct. 14.

Fourteen board members attended the one-day meeting in the Simmons Amphitheater of the Martin Honors Building: **Mary Lee Barnes, Gordon Bell, Liz Bradley, Raiko Henderson, Debra Hopkins, Metrick Houser, Keel Hunt, Lee Martin, Phil Mathis, Ron Messier, Don Midgett, Pam Ogg, Liz Rhea, and Don Witherspoon.**

Mary Evins, associate professor of History and director of the American Democracy Project for Civic Learning who now has an office in the Honors Building, made



a presentation to board members. **Laura Clippard**, Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator, also gave an update on the activities and successes of her office.

Five students shared their Honors College experiences with board members, and one Recording Industry major performed for the group. Student participants were **Skylar Dean** (Biology), **Michele Kelley** (Physics), **Samuel Musili** (English), **Todd Pirtle** (Plant and Soil Science), **Madison Tracy** (Mass Communication), and **Kristi Hoopes** (Recording Industry).

Dean **John R. Vile** made a presentation on the state of the Honors College, and **Pat Branam**, MTSU's director of development, gave a Development Office report. [U](#)

Board of Visitors members present at the October 2016 meeting were (l-r): front, Lee Martin, Raiko Henderson, Don Midgett, Liz Rhea, Metrick Houser, and Debra Hopkins; and back, Dean John R. Vile, Keel Hunt, Don Witherspoon, Liz Bradley, Gordon Bell, Mary Lee Barnes, Pam Ogg, and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips. Attendees not pictured were Phil Mathis and Ron Messier.

Class Notes {students}

FALL 2016 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (URECA) FUNDING

Samantha Diane Addis

Geology

Muhammad Fariz Ali

Biology

Christopher Ryan Bearden

Psychology

Pel Doski

Biology

Grayson Dubois

Computer Science

Devyn Hayes

Biology

Katherine Hitchcock

Psychology

Akmal Ishmetov

Chemistry

Hunter Mason

Biology

Kelsey Massey

Global Studies

Evidence Nwangwa

Biology

Wesley Riley

Biology

Peter Roldan

Concrete Industry Management

Michael Schmidt

Computer Science

Ethan Willis

Computer Science



Aimee Wilson (Biology) was first author on “A Protocol for Endophyte-Free Callus Tissue of the Grape *Vitis aestivalis*, Norton/Cynthiana (Vitaceae),” published in *Agricultural Sciences*. Other authors were Matthew Fuller, Shannon Smith, and MTSU faculty members John Dubois and Tony Johnston.

GIVE TO THE HONORS COLLEGE!

The Honors College is raising funds to support educational enhancement opportunities for our talented students, particularly scholarships, study abroad, student research and travel to conferences, and Honors publications.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift.

- To make a gift online, go to mtsu.edu/supporthonors.
- By mail, please make your check payable to MTSU Honors College and send it to Middle Tennessee State University Development Office, MTSU Box 109, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

“Thank you in advance for your support!”

MCDONALD'S SPIRITS SOAR AGAIN AFTER ACCIDENT

By Mazharel Rodriguez
*Rodriguez is a graduate student
studying Media and Communication.*

Remarkably, senior Aerospace major Collin McDonald attended the first day of classes less than a week after suffering nearly 100 fractures in his face during a Jan. 11 plane crash.

McDonald, 23, was injured in the plane crash while returning home from a short flight to Lebanon, Tennessee. Molly, the 1995 Maule MX-7-160 he was flying, crashed on the airstrip beside his family's farm in Carthage.

A very experienced pilot, McDonald received his pilot's license at age 16 and has logged over 400 hours of flying time. The recipient of the Excellence in Aviation Award and other accolades, he retraced the first transcontinental flight made by Cal Rodgers over a century ago for his MTSU Honors thesis project last year. The 6,600-mile flight began May 19, 2016, when McDonald left Murfreesboro to fly to Long Island, New York, and ended in Long Beach, California, on June 11.

Following the crash, McDonald was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center via LifeFlight in stable condition. After initial treatment, he was sent home to allow the swelling to subside and then attended the first day of classes at MTSU six days later.

On Jan. 19, McDonald underwent surgery to correct his facial fractures and reportedly kept the medical staff in stitches. His mother, Lorrie McDonald, recalled that he joked with doctors assessing his injuries. Someone remarked that most accidents occur near home, and he immediately responded that the family should pick up and move. Six days after the surgery and two weeks after the crash, McDonald was released to drive.

Not one to let anything deter him—even a plane crash—he had completely caught up on his academic work, only missed two EMT courses he is attending in addition to a rigorous schedule, and continued to maintain one of the highest averages in his class within weeks of the accident.



McDonald's propensity for exceeding every expectation by leaps and bounds is also shared by brother, Connor, and sister, Delanie. The McDonald family is the first at MTSU with three siblings each receiving Buchanan Fellowships, the highest academic award given to incoming freshmen.

The unfortunate incident has not stalled McDonald's plans in the slightest. Less than a month after the crash, he resumed duties as a flight instructor. When asked about any nervousness or apprehension about flying, he said, "I wouldn't quit driving had I had a car accident. I will fly again."

After graduation in May, he will continue to add ratings to his flight certificate and teaching. McDonald also plans to obtain a degree in Theological Studies and to become a missionary in developing nations to provide relief through aviation and ministry.

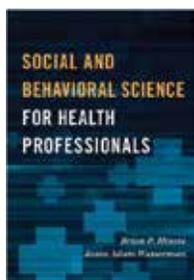
In 30 days' time, McDonald managed to crash a beloved aircraft and return to his regular life with some sense of normalcy. According to his mom, that is exactly what one would expect of him. [H](#)

Class Notes {faculty and staff}



Editors **Mohammed Albakry** (English) and **Rebekah Maggor** (Cornell University, Performing and Media Arts) published *Tahrir Tales: Plays from the Egyptian Revolution*. The 10 plays represent contemporary Egyptian drama and offer unprecedented grassroots perspectives on the terror, hope, and heartbreak of mass uprising as seen during and in the wake of the Tahrir Square demonstrations. The plays collectively trace events as they unfolded in Egypt from the last days of Hosni Mubarak's regime through Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's ascendance to the presidency.

Linda Badley (senior affiliate professor, English) co-edited *Indie Reframed: Women's Filmmaking and Contemporary American Independent Cinema* (Edinburg University Press, 2016).



Brian Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology) is working as a faculty fellow in the Office of Student Success. He is leading strategic initiatives in Supplemental Instruction (mtsu.edu/si) and education technology at MTSU, focused on improving MTSU students' ability to persist and complete their degrees. His latest book, *Social and Behavioral Science for Health Professionals*, was published in October. Written with Jason Adam Wasserman, the book examines various social and behavioral factors that affect health and illness, with a particular focus on how these phenomena inform clinical practice. The book introduces interdisciplinary insights from fields like sociology, psychology, and epidemiology to elucidate important and often problematic features of patient care routinely confronting physicians, nurses, and other allied health practitioners.

Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) is the recipient of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, sponsored by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. Iriarte-Gross will accept the award at an April 4 ceremony in conjunction with the 253rd ACS national meeting in San Francisco.

Noted Nashville immigration law specialist **Elliott Ozment** spoke on the "History of Xenophobia in America" Wednesday, March 15, in the Simmons Amphitheatre of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. An alumnus of MTSU for his undergraduate degrees in political science and history and Vanderbilt University for his law degree, Ozment has focused his practice on immigration law since 1998. He has provided initial consultations to more than 1,000 individuals and families and represented hundreds of clients in Immigration and Naturalization Services cases in Tennessee and around the country.



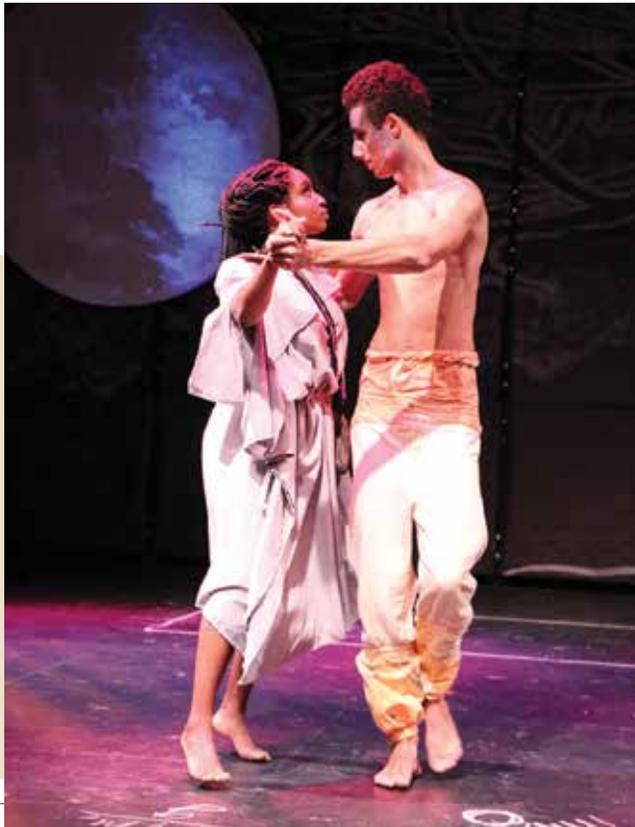
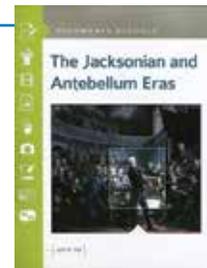
Elyce Rae Helford (English) co-edited *The Woman Fantastic in Contemporary American Media Culture* with English graduate students **Shiloh Carroll**, **Sarah Gray**, and **Michael R. Howard II**. The book, which was published in November, furnishes an important contribution to ongoing discussions of gender and feminism in popular culture.



Philip E. Phillips (Honors associate dean) attended the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Dec. 3–6, where he participated in preconference workshops on “Creating a Manageable, Effective, and Sustainable Program Assessment Plan” and “Strategic Planning in Higher Education.” A member of MTSU’s SACSCOC Leadership Team and chair of the MTSU 2015–2025 Academic Master Plan Committee, Phillips has been appointed by the provost to serve on the MT Engage Oversight Committee.

Kim D. Sadler (Biology) has been promoted to professor.

John R. Vile’s (Honors dean) new book, *The Jacksonian and Antebellum Eras*, was published recently by ABC-CLIO. The book, the third of four by Vile in the publisher’s *Documents Decoded* series, pairs key documents with in-depth analysis. Vile was recently chosen as a Fulbright specialist, which makes him eligible for appointments of two to six weeks abroad on an as-needed basis for scholarly projects.



Maya C. Boyd and Brenden Peifer appear in the University of Pittsburgh Stages production of *Aglaonike’s Tiger*, written by MTSU’s Claudia Barnett. Photo: Amanda Olmstead.

Claudia Barnett’s (English) play *Aglaonike’s Tiger*, about the first female astronomer in ancient Greece, had a workshop production at 5th Wall Productions in Charleston, South Carolina, in July and a lab production at the University of Pittsburgh in October.

Class Notes {alumni and friends}

STUDENTS, FACULTY,
ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS,
WE WANT YOUR

Class Notes updates!

Recognitions and awards

- Special achievements
- Graduate or professional school
- New job or title
- Internships
- Research publications
- Presentations

Email Class Notes updates
to marsha.powers@mtsu.edu

Trevor Ball ('15, Mass Communication) was recognized by the NewFilmmakers New York Film Festival in June 2016. His film *Joshua* was an official selection of the organization.

Katie Bogle ('12, Political Science) married Bryan Podzius on Oct. 22. They live in New York City, where she is assistant district attorney at the New York County District Attorney's Office. Bogle studied law at the University of Virginia School of Law.

Brett Bornhoft ('14, Aerospace) earned a master's degree in Aerospace in 2016 from North Carolina State University, where he was a research assistant. He currently is working as a research scientist for Taitech Inc. in Columbus, Ohio.

Carolyn Crawford ('08, English) is teaching English in Italy after completing a term at Three Lions: English for Life, a language school in Krakow, Poland.

Adam Emerson ('12, Psychology) married Fernanda Buriel on Nov. 22. Emerson is a political science teaching assistant at Washington State University, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. Emerson, who was a Buchanan Fellow, served as a Fulbright teaching assistant in Russia during 2012–13.

Emma Fredrick ('12, Psychology) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Gender Studies and Social Psychology at East Tennessee State University.

Alissa Ruggle Hershberger ('13, Science) is studying nursing at Loyola School of Medicine.

Gretchen Jenkins ('08, Political Science) married Mark Mohr Oct. 22 in Nashville. The couple lives in New York City, where Jenkins is assistant district attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. She studied at New York Law School.

Kailey McDonald ('16, Computer Science) and **Trevor Wiemann** ('15, Information Systems) were married Oct. 18. The couple met as Buchanan Fellows in 2012.

Christopher Merchant ('13, Mass Communication/Journalism) is working as social media coordinator at the University of California–Berkeley.

Brooke Morgan ('15, Forensic Science) married Travis Duke Oct. 7 in Waco, Texas. Duke is an area coordinator for MTSU Housing.



Tori Kyes ('05, Recording Industry), co-founder of Pomp & Plastick in Los Angeles, is a producer and entrepreneur in the entertainment industry. She develops and launches artists, independent films, entertainment business ventures, and product lines.

Chad Slaven ('12, Chemistry) graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree (D.D.S.) and is completing a pediatric residency in Memphis. He was class president and was selected into the Dean's Society. He received the Leadership Award, Pediatric Award, and Oral Biology Award.

Leigh Stanfield

('15, Organizational Communication) is a member of the Legal Aid Society and the Entertainment Law Society at Belmont University College of Law, where she is seeking a J.D.

Nathan Tilton ('16, Aerospace) and **Morgan Lang** ('12, Interdisciplinary Studies) married Dec. 17 in Murfreesboro. Tilton is working as a certified flight instructor and aviation maintenance technician.

Amanda Leachman Uhls

('16, Biology) is a microbiologist with the Tennessee Department of Health Division of Laboratory Services.

Leland Waite ('13, Aerospace) earned an M.S. in Aviation Administration at MTSU in December.

Juan Zelaya ('14, Entrepreneurship) is working in financial services in Honduras.



Philip Sugg ('15, History) has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army (Infantry) and along with three other men was awarded the Army Achievement Award for saving the life of a comrade. Sugg, a former Honors Transfer Fellow, is continuing his training at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Daniel Gouger ('12, Biochemistry), a former Fulbright recipient and a fourth-year medical student at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine, has been selected for a prestigious fellowship. Following graduation from medical school this spring and prior to seeking medical residency, Gouger will serve as the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Education and Advocacy Fellow in Washington, D.C. He will spend a year augmenting his formal medical training with the opportunity to delve deeply into critical issues affecting access to affordable and quality health care, global health equity, diversity in the health care workforce, and medical professionalism. Gouger has served as the national chair of AMSA's medical education team and as cultural sensitivity coordinator within the Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Division of AMSA.





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OUR STUDENTS!

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IMPACT

2016 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who made giving to the college a priority in 2016.

Jane and Dennis L. Aslinger
Mary Lee and Terry Barnes
Taylor Arnold Barnes
Patricia G. and Gene Branam
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