

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2014

Magazine

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Honors student-athletes
excel on the field and in
the classroom



MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Cover photo:
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photo:
Darby Campbell

At left:
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with the fallen
leaves in the BAS
courtyard.

photo: J Intintoli

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HONORS MAGAZINE

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From the Dean's Desk

Student Success

Recently, Tennessee has begun to shift emphasis from student enrollment to retention and graduation. President Sidney A. McPhee has, for MTSU, subsumed both emphases under the rubric of student success. I recently had the opportunity to participate on a search committee for a new vice provost for student success. And as part of Dr. McPhee's initiative, the Honors College has employed another advisor to help students stay on track and prepare them for work or further study. For this, we are quite grateful.

MTSU reports have consistently demonstrated that Honors students are more likely than others to stay at the University and graduate in a timely fashion. Much of this difference undoubtedly stems from the fact that many are entering the University better prepared and more highly motivated than their colleagues, but I believe there is more.

The Honors College provides a homelike setting in which students can flourish. Buchanan Fellowships and Honors Transfer Fellowships provide opportunities for some of our best students to take common classes together. Because all our classes are smaller, faculty members are able to encourage student participation and answer their questions.

Students can find those of like mind in the Honors Student Association, on the staff of *Collage* or *Scientia et Humanitas*, or in activities sponsored by honor societies like Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa. Students interested in developing their leadership potential can join the Institute of Leadership Excellence, a class offered in May. Others can participate in the summer Foreign Language Institutes. Last summer a record number of our students attended Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) throughout the United States.

The Honors College continues to innovate. In June, my wife and I joined Dr. Philip Phillips and Ms. April Goers, who led the first group of Honors students (16 of them) in a study-abroad trip to Italy. Any parent would have been proud to see their children participating in this culturally broadening experience. Our feet were often tired as we walked the streets of Rome, Florence, Ravenna, Pompeii, Ostia, Pisa, and other cities, but I was proud to join students holding True Blue signs on another continent as they gained a deeper knowledge of themselves and of Western culture.

The Honors College knows that once we recruit students, we are obligated to help them succeed. I am proud of our efforts and of the president's initiative in seeing that an even higher number graduate on time and succeed in subsequent endeavors.



John R. Vile

FOURTEEN RECEIVE COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS



Fulbright Scholarship winners Jennifer Benetti-Longhini and Kevin McDaniel are conducting research in Brazil.

Nearly sixty students have been tapped for national and international opportunities in the seven years since the inception of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO), including Kaitlen Howell, now a student at Harvard University Medical School, and Taylor Barnes, who is completing a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) this year.

In 2013–2014, a record number of fourteen outstanding students received fellowships. Students selected were diverse in their interests and well rounded, and the fellowships were also varied according to Laura Clippard, UFO coordinator. “Tandra Martin, an International Relations major, is studying Arabic in Morocco this fall while Brooke Morgan focused on forensic science research this summer. Phi Kappa Phi scholarship winner Daniel Murphy, who is working toward a Ph.D. in physics, majored in Philosophy,” Clippard said.

The fourteen award-winning students and recent graduates for 2013–2014 were Noelle Anderson, Jennifer Benetti-Longhini, Leigh Gardner, Chelsea Harmon, Mary Hayden, Jonathan Herlan, Michele Kelley, Tandra Martin, Kevin McDaniel, Nissi Monsegue, Brooke Morgan, Martina Ramos, Daniel Murphy, and Katelyn Stringer.



Brazilian Fulbright officials selected graduate student **Jennifer Benetti-Longhini** (see p. 5) for research with the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Jennifer, a butterfly researcher who studied biology and Spanish as an undergraduate and is pursuing a master's degree in biology, is continuing a jointly funded ecological program between the U.S. and Brazil: “Assembly and Evolution of the Amazonian Biota and Its Environment.” She is assisting in a multidisciplinary international project and study under the leadership of Professor Andre Freitas at the University of Campinas, or UNICAMP, in the state of Sao Paulo.

“We’re trying to discover what we can about the natural history of the Amazon region,” she said, adding that her study will focus on two species of butterflies. Her data will be integrated with additional findings of collaborators as part of a larger project aiming to model the natural history of the region.

Jennifer, who is mentored by Professor Andrew Brower, also a butterfly researcher, wrote in her Fulbright application that working in the exuberant biodiversity of Brazil would be an extraordinary way to launch her career as an ecologist.

Fulbright officials also selected **Kevin McDaniel** (see p. 5), an anthropologist and archaeologist who had already visited the country twice, for research in Brazil and the continuation of his work mapping prehistoric sites.

Kevin traveled to Brazil in 2011 to complete an Interdisciplinary Studies minor in Portuguese directed by Associate Professor Soraya Nogueira (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and in spring 2012 to conduct an archaeological survey mentored by Professor Richard Pace (Sociology and Anthropology). Associate Professor Tanya Peres (Sociology and Anthropology), also an archaeology expert, is his other mentor. She advised him to pursue the Fulbright.

Kevin’s research is conducted mainly through studies of soils that indicate the presence of civilizations and by examination of ceramics and other artifacts. With his Fulbright, he is also participating in community outreach activities through the Goeldi Museum in Belem, Para, Brazil.

Chelsea Harmon, a Buchanan Fellow and Chemistry major, was one of 300 students selected from 2,200 applicants for a DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research Internships in Science and Engineering). She worked at Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry in Halle (Saale), performing natural product research on plants of the *Hypericum* genus, all of which are sometimes called St. John’s Wort, a popular traditional medicine used to relieve depression.

Chelsea used a combination of column chromatography and high-performance

liquid chromatography to isolate representative secondary metabolites of different species with the guidance of low- and high-resolution mass spectrometry. She then used nuclear magnetic spectra to elucidate



structures of compounds she isolated and used circular dichroism spectra to help determine the definite stereochemistry of the compounds.

Chelsea's career goals are to earn a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and conduct research in medicinal chemistry and teach at the university level. She also received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship honorable mention.



Mary Hayden

A 2013 Honors graduate and Biology major, **Mary Hayden** received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to continue her studies at Texas Tech. She received three years of support, an annual stipend, international research and professional development opportunities, and XSEDE supercomputer access.

Mary is working toward an M.S. in environmental toxicology. Last fall, she began conducting research using sea turtle and bottlenose dolphin skin biopsies in organotypic culture looking for CYP1A1 induction by contaminants by RNA extraction and qPCR.

While at MTSU, she was a URECA Scholar, the

JONATHAN HERLAN, a senior Physics major, also received a Goldwater honorable mention, his second in two years. Jonathan plans to earn a doctorate in mechanical engineering and to conduct research with structural acoustics at the university level. Jonathan was the recipient of the Physics and Astronomy Department's Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Achievement Award in spring 2014.



recipient of the Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award Scholarship and other biology awards, and a research assistant working with Dr. Ryan Otter on the environmental effects of coal fly ash on freshwater mussels and certain spiders.



Dean John Vile and Daniel Murphy

Daniel Murphy, a Buchanan Fellow and 2014 Honors graduate who majored in Physics and Philosophy, was selected as one of fifty-one Phi Kappa Phi Fellows nationwide. The \$5,000 prize is awarded to outstanding Phi Kappa Phi members entering the first year of graduate or professional study.

Daniel is pursuing his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. He was awarded a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in 2013, and this spring he received the Faculty Achievement Award in Physics at MTSU. He was president of the University's Society of Physics Students for two years.

Aerospace and Physics major **Michele Kelley** was awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study in the Czech Republic this summer. Michele, a Buchanan Fellow, said, "Gilman provided me an experience like none other that will continue to set me apart. Truly, it has changed the course of my life."

Michele said that studying Czech language was helpful, allowing her to communicate on a basic level, and a class she took enabled her to look at post-Soviet issues from a sociological perspective. She was also given the chance to travel to Český Krumlov, Bratislava, Budapest, Vienna, Dresden, and Krakow (Poland), where she toured Auschwitz and Birkenau, an experience she says is "forever etched" in her mind.



Michele Kelley

always fascinated her, would not have been realized.

Nissi interacted with migrant workers' children from a school on the outskirts of Yibin (approximately three hours from Chengdu); visited Emei Mountain, where wild monkeys roamed freely;

rode a riverboat to Leshan to see the largest Buddha statue in the world; and visited a panda research center.

Tandra Martin, a Buchanan Fellow and International Relations major, was named one of twenty Public Policy and International Affairs Fellows and spent the summer at Carnegie Mellon University taking graduate-level courses in statistics, economics, and policy writing.

Tandra was also selected as one of 165 students from an 868-applicant pool to receive a David L. Boren Scholarship for study in regions deemed critical to national security. She is spending this academic year at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco, studying Arabic, Islamic society and politics, and Morocco's international role.

Previously, she completed an internship with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and studied abroad in Costa Rica

and Israel. She is active in campus and community service through organizations such as Read to Succeed, World Servants, and the Student Government Association philanthropic committee. Tandra received the MTSU Community Service Award and the Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award this year.



Nissi Monsegue

International Relations major **Nissi Monsegue** was one of two recipients of a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. A nontraditional student, Nissi studied at Southwest University for Nationalities in Chengdu, China, in spring 2014. She said she is extremely grateful for the scholarship because without it her dream to visit China, a nation that



Tandra Martin

Forensic Science major **Brooke Morgan** (below) was selected for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program in Gaithersburg, Maryland. An Honors Transfer Fellow, she worked with an applied genetics group conducting research on testing procedures used in forensic laboratories when analyzing DNA samples. She was immersed in DNA typing, STR (short tandem repeats) profiling, and qPCR (quantitative or real-time polymerase chain reaction) analysis.

While at NIST, Brooke said, "I am getting hands-on experience and gaining valuable knowledge from some of the greatest scientists around. I am getting a taste of exactly what I want to do in life as a DNA analyst."

Katelyn Stringer, a senior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Physics, was accepted into the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at Texas A&M.

Her project involved measuring how much starlight is lost between the time it enters the Earth's atmosphere and when it is detected by a camera.



Dean John Vile and Katelyn Stringer

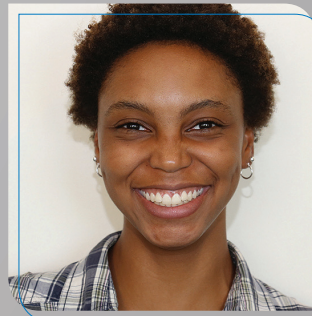


Noelle Anderson, a Biology major, spent the summer engaged in evolutionary genetics research

at San Francisco State University trying to understand how and why genetic structures called introns, assumed to be "junk DNA" since their discovery 40 years ago, have evolved to proliferate in animal genomes.

Biology major **Leigh Gardner**

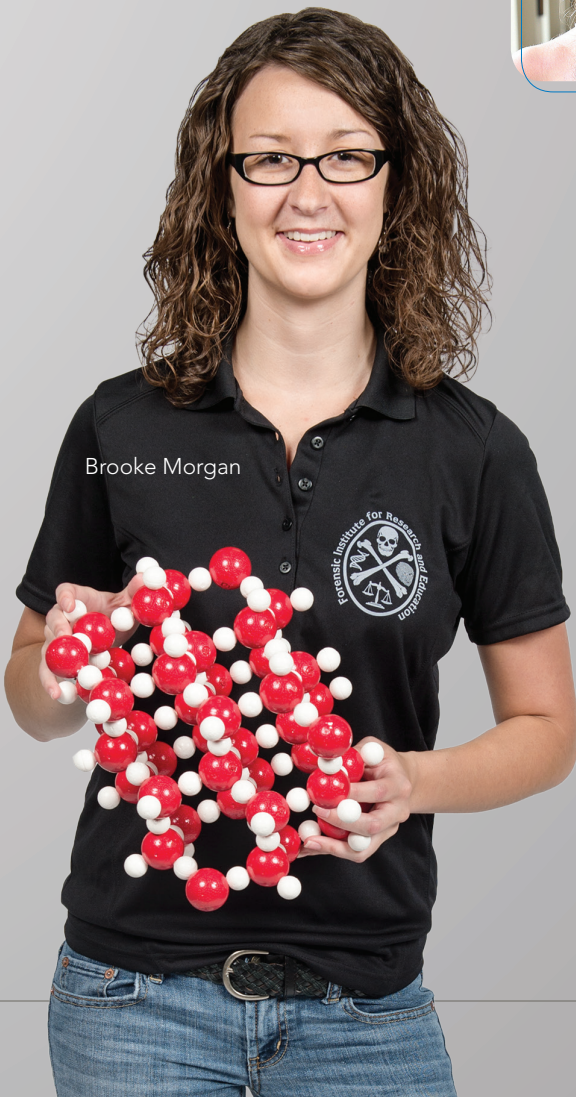
was accepted into the Organization for Tropical Studies 2014 REU summer program at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. Along with a tropical biologist who served as a research mentor and one other student researcher, Leigh participated in a ten-week field botany project surveying lianas (woody vines) to measure growth rates.



Martina Ramos, a Biology major and Chemistry minor, was accepted into an REU program at the

University of Chicago. She spent the summer researching molecular genetics and cell biology and was invited back to make a presentation.

Laura Clippard said the goal for the UFO for 2014–2015 is to educate faculty and students about fellowship options and to connect students with national and international opportunities. She said the Critical Language Scholarship will be a new area of emphasis this year. "Students studying Japanese, Arabic, and other languages deemed critical by the government can apply and receive intensive overseas training in the summer of 2015. We also hope to continue our success with Research Experiences for Undergraduates." [H](#)



Brooke Morgan

Honors Students Keep **Winning Awards**



Tandra Martin



Martin Moran



Loretta Wheeler

For the fifth consecutive year, Honors students captured three of four top MTSU awards. The University selected Tandra Martin, Martin Moran, and Loretta Wheeler this spring to receive the Community Service Award, the Provost's Award, and the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award, respectively.

"One of the common strengths of Honors College students is their diverse interests, community involvement, and work ethic," said Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor. "They are often involved in many areas of campus life and the community ranging from working as Student Ambassadors to interning in Washington, D.C. We have the best students in the nation, and they truly care about the world around them."

Tandra Martin (see p. 8), a Buchanan Fellow and International Relations major, is an exceptional example of caring and service. She earned the Community Service Award for her contributions as executive vice president of Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Delta Pi-Athlon race director, Student Government Association philanthropic committee member and Freshman Day of Service chair, Student Ambassador, Blue Elite tour guide, and Honors College Dean's Advisory Council member and as a volunteer at CentroNia Charter School in Washington, D.C., and Leadership Academy in Murfreesboro. She has also been an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor and a minority scholarship fundraiser.

Tandra's commitment to service also led to her winning the 2014 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, which comes with an award of \$1,000.

Martin Moran won the Provost's Award, which is given to a student who best demonstrates outstanding academic achievement through scholarship. Martin, who was also named Exercise Science Outstanding Major, said, "The Provost's Award symbolizes to me that even the average Joe can achieve . . . by just making yourself do the things that are the most difficult, mind-numbing, exhausting, worthwhile things so that one day you can get to the point where you realize

everything you did in the past was simply a challenge.”

A member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Martin represented MTSU at the 2014 Posters at the Capitol event in Nashville, where he presented his thesis, “Effects of a Smartphone Application on Psychological, Physiological, and Performance Variables in College-Aged Individuals While Running.” He also won first place in the Scholars Week poster competition in the Undergraduate Behavioral and Health Sciences category.

Martin, who worked at the Rec Center, graduated summa cum laude in May and has become a certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in exercise science and to become a certified strength and conditioning specialist. His long-term goal is to become a head strength coach for a collegiate or professional athletic team.

Loretta “Lori” Wheeler, a senior Honors Transfer Fellow from Motlow State Community College, won the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award for her remarkable determination, sacrifices, and contributions to others.

Lori, a Social Work major, plans to become a school social worker. She said, “Being able to connect troubled families with resources to help themselves, helping children succeed in school, and eventually becoming a licensed counselor are

natural extensions of so much that I already do. The volunteer work that I do is important, but an education from MTSU would legitimize my efforts, focus them more, and give me the skills and confidence to initiate programs, not just join existing ones.”

“One of the common strengths of Honors College students is their **diverse interests, community involvement, and work ethic.**”

Laura Clippard

Lori describes the first decade of her life as “a blur of new places, a new home every two or three months, and being shunted between foster homes and relatives.” She said that her mother’s mental illness contributed to living in their car, staying in shelters, and showering at the YMCA. Although she knows she doesn’t have a magic solution to eradicate the problems of today’s

youth, she hopes that her experience and education will help alleviate turmoil for some.

The President’s Award, the most prestigious award given to an MTSU student, was awarded to **Laken Leonard** for her superior character and achievements. Although not a thesis-track Honors student, the Biochemistry major graduated magna cum laude this spring.

Laken was a four-year letter winner for the Blue Raider women’s basketball team that clinched four regular season titles and two conference tournament titles, was named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for student-athletes three times, was a three-year member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (with two years as president), was one of 16 athletes to earn Winter C-USA Spirit of Service awards, and was a four-year member of the Fellowship of Christian Students, serving two terms as president.

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



Emilie Aslinger¹ *Global Studies and Foreign Languages (French)*
 "Cultural Landscapes of the Upland South: A Roane County, Tennessee, Case Study"
 Doug Heffington, advisor

Kelsi Carter² *Mass Communication (Journalism)*
 "The Contributor: Changing Lives, Challenging Communities"
 Leon Alligood, advisor

Faria Chaudhry³ *Biochemistry*
 "A Survey of Acyl-Coenzyme A: Glycine N-Acyltransferase in Various Animal Tissues"
 Paul Kline, advisor

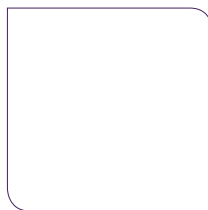
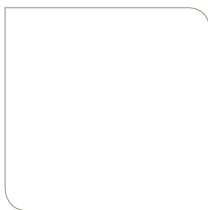
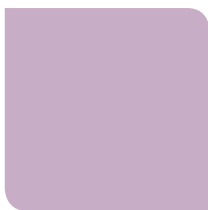
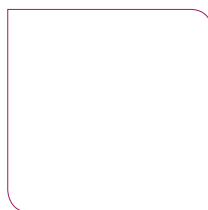
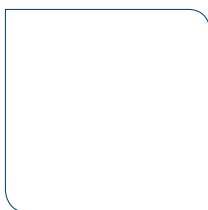
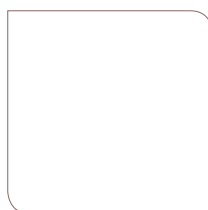
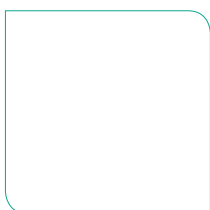
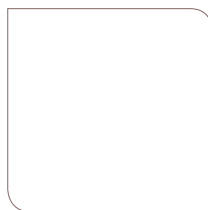
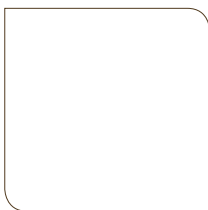
Joseph Dorsey⁴ *Recording Industry*
 "Trois Gymnopedies + Interpretations and a Study of the Development of Ambient Music"
 Spencer Lambright, advisor

Timothy Edgemon⁵ *Sociology and Foreign Languages (French)*
 "Interaction Rituals and Political Identity: A Qualitative Study of the 2012 American Presidential Debates"
 Meredith Dye, advisor

Samantha Farish⁶ *Political Science and Psychology*
 "A Blank Check: Presidential War Powers after the 2012 NDAA"
 Amanda DiPaolo, advisor

Lorel Holsinger⁷ *International Relations*
 "Incentive Structures, Communication Problems, and Tradeoffs in Terrorist Organizations "
 Karen Petersen, advisor

Meredith Holt⁸ *Biology*
 "An Analysis of Beliefs and Attitudes about Preventable Falls in the Elderly"
 Gloria Hamilton, advisor



Michael Lampley⁹ *Biochemistry*
 "Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics
 as Potential BACE Inhibitors"
Norma Dunlap, advisor

Cedar Mittig¹⁰ *Music (Jazz Studies)*
 "Jazz: A Compositional Exploration"
James Simmons, advisor

Omar Mohammed¹¹ *Physics*
 "An Analysis of the Mechanical Properties
 of Breast Cancer Cells Using an Optical
 Laser Trap"
Daniel Erenso, advisor

Daniel Murphy¹² *Physics and Philosophy*
 "Grating Enhanced Linear Optics with
 Photonic Band-Gap Multilayers"
William Robertson, advisor

Emily Orbison¹³ *Biology*
 "Magic Tree: A Three-Part Treble Choral
 Arrangement from a Solo Reading"
Angela Tipps, advisor

Courtney Rodman¹⁴ *Global Studies*
 "Prevalent Personality Types in International
 Non-Profit Organizations"
Doug Heffington, advisor

Peter Schwartz¹⁵ *Physics*
 "Investigating Extensive to General
 Relativity Using Spinning Neutron Stars"
Eric Klumpe, advisor

Savannah Shipman¹⁶ *English and History*
 "Taken by the Other: The Traditional
 Anglo-American Captivity Narrative and its
 Modern American Indian Adaptation"
Tom Strawman, advisor

Logan Smith¹⁷ *Biology*
 "Investigation of Antibiotic Resistance in
Streptococcus pyogenes"
Stephen Wright, advisor [H](#)



Meet the 2014 BUCHANAN FELLOWS

This fall, 20 freshmen were awarded the Buchanan Fellowship, the highest academic honor bestowed upon entering freshmen at MTSU. They include three National Merit Semifinalists, represent five states, one foreign country, and seven cities in Tennessee, and have an average ACT score of 32 and an average high school GPA of 3.9.



Sarah Morgan Anderson, Murfreesboro, attended Central Magnet High School, where she was a valedictorian. She received the National German II Exam Gold Award, the National Merit Scholar Letter of Commendation and the President's Education Award. The daughter of Jamie and David Anderson, she is pursuing a degree in Computer Science.



Holly Elizabeth Aslinger, Kingston, attended Roane County High School. She participated in Volunteer Girls State and the Scholars Bowl. She was on the Student Council and in the school band and orchestra. Holly is majoring in Music and Anthropology. Her parents are Jane and Dennis Aslinger.



Benjamin Cason Burton, from Cleveland, Tennessee, attended Walker Valley High School. He was a Trig-Stars State winner and attended the 2013 Tennessee Governor's School for Computational Physics. He is pursuing a degree in Physics and is the son of Fredda and Mike Burton.



Rebecca Ellen Clippard, Murfreesboro, was in the International Baccalaureate program at Oakland High School. She attended Japanese Supplementary School and participated in Youth Writer's Camp. Rebecca has volunteered at the Discovery Center and was nominated for the Mary Catherine



Strobel award. The daughter of Laura and Steven Clippard, she is majoring in Foreign Languages.

Evan Thomas Conley, Murfreesboro, attended Siegel High School, where he was a valedictorian and a National Merit Scholar semifinalist. He was a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and performed in the All-State and Mid-State Choirs. Evan is pursuing a degree in Science (Pre-medical) and is the son of Beth and Chris West.

Victoria Leigh Crawford, Farragut, is a graduate of Farragut High School, where she was a National Merit Scholar semifinalist. She performed in the orchestra and choir and participated in a Catholic Heart Work Camp mission trip. She is pursuing a degree in International Relations. Her parents are Linda and David Crawford.



Noah Brent Delk, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Central Magnet High School. He was a valedictorian and was a member of the cross-country team, earning All-State and Mid-State honors. Noah is a third-generation Blue Raider whose grandfather, Teddy Morris, was one of the first inductees into the Blue Raider Sports Hall of Fame. Noah is pursuing degrees in Economics and Foreign Languages. His parents are Terri and Brent Delk.



Andrew Stephen Heim, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Central Magnet High School, where he was a valedictorian. He was named Outstanding Delegate in the Model United Nations/Youth in Government organization and attended the Tennessee Governor's School of International Studies. Andrew is pursuing a degree in Psychology. He is the son of Dulcie and Steve Heim.

Andrew Kyle Huff, from Suwanee, Georgia, is a graduate of Peachtree Ridge High School, where he was a National Merit Scholar semifinalist and technical drafting Student of the Year. He interned 20 hours a week to learn live sound engineering. Andrew is pursuing a degree in Recording Industry. His parents are Gretchen and Brent Huff.

Austin Michael Jones, from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, is a graduate of Ocean Springs High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society and performed in the Gulf Coast Honor Jazz Band. He was a sound technician for the school drama program and a cultural center. Austin is pursuing a degree in Recording Industry. His parents are Elizabeth and Stephen Jones.

Hannah Madison Kanyuh, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Siegel High School, where she was a valedictorian and a National



Huff



Jones



Kanyuh



Knickerbocker



Kullmar

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus ('40) and Nobel Prize winner. Below are short introductions of the newest Buchanan Fellows.

Merit Commended student. She attended the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences, was president of the National Honor Society and Excalibur National Honor Society. Hannah is pursuing a degree in Nursing. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Michael Kanyuh.

Daniel Emerson Knickerbocker, Lakeland, is a graduate of Arlington High School, where he scored second in the nation on the National Latin exam. He participated in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, the Model United Nations Conference, and the Arlington High band. He is pursuing a degree in Philosophy. His parents are Janna and Jon Knickerbocker.

Janie Lyn Kullmar, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Siegel High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M National Music Honor Society, and Excalibur National Science Honor Society. She attended the Tennessee Governor's School of the Arts. She is pursuing a degree in History and is the daughter of Ellyn and Doug Kullmar.

Jeffrey Shepard LaPorte, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Siegel High School, where he was a valedictorian and a National Merit Commended student. He attended the Tennessee Governor's School of the Arts and was

a member of the Mid-State Choir for three years. Jeffrey is the son of Amy Phelps and Mark LaPorte.

Bryce H. Marion, from Marshfield, Wisconsin, is a graduate of Marshfield High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction. He played the violin with his school orchestra, earning the Director's Award for Excellence and Leadership. Bryce is pursuing a degree in Physics and is the son of Patricia and Jon Marion.

Margaret Kelly McPheeters, from Hoover, Alabama, is a graduate of Spain Park High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, and Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. Margaret is a noted artist who has won many accolades and awards. She is pursuing a degree in Art and is the daughter of Donna and Britt McPheeters.

Jeanette Haley Stevens, Tellico Plains, is a graduate of Tellico Plains High School. She was a valedictorian and received awards in physics, English, and algebra. She served as editor of the journalism staff and was cocaptain of the PBS Scholar's Bowl team. Jeanette is the daughter of Shelly and Russell Stevens.

Lesley Faye Sweeton, McMinnville, graduated from Warren

County High School, where she was a valedictorian. She attended the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities, was captain of the women's soccer team and was a recipient of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Award of Merit. She is pursuing a degree in English and is the daughter of Valerie and Rocky Sweeton.

Joshua Perry Tilton, Moscow, Russia, is a graduate of Hinkson Christian Academy, where he received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. He volunteered on construction projects with mission teams in Russia and Uganda and served as an English tutor in Russia. Joshua is pursuing a degree in Mass Communication (Journalism). His parents are Penni and James Tilton.

Nicholas Robert Watts, Murfreesboro, is a graduate of Blackman High School, where he received the Advanced Placement Scholar Award and the Advanced Placement European History Award. He was a member of the National Honor Society and volunteered for Blackman's Summer Basketball Camp. Nicholas is pursuing a degree in Anthropology and is the son of Kourtney and Billy Watts. [H](#)

Photos follow story listing beginning at top left.



LaPorte



Marion



McPheeters



Stevens



Sweeton



Tilton



Watts

Meet the 2014 TRANSFER FELLOWS

This fall, 15 students received Transfer Fellowships, the highest academic honor bestowed upon students transferring to MTSU from other institutions. To be considered for a Transfer Fellowship, students are required to have a 3.5 GPA and have completed 60 hours of coursework before their first year at MTSU. The program is unusual in that it attracts top-tier nontraditional students.

Saraf Anan Chowdhury transferred from Nashville State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic Team. She was a member of the 2014 International Scholar Laureate Program and chief coordinator of the Reach Out Bangladesh project serving underprivileged children in India. Saraf is pursuing a degree in Biology.

Walter Norris Duckett transferred from Motlow State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Motlow College Honors Program. He was a Student Government Association senator and president of the Motlow College Paranormal Club. Walter is pursuing a degree in English with a concentration in Literary Studies.

Mathias Dusabumuremyi Dusabe transferred from Nashville State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He works with World Relief Nashville, a social service agency for refugees, and volunteers with Catholic Charities and Habitat for Humanity as an interpreter and mentor for refugees. He plans to major in Foreign Languages (French).

Alesha Denise Hicks transferred from Roane State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is a hospice and bereavement volunteer with Covenant Hospice in three Tennessee counties. She is pursuing a degree in Psychology.

Samuel Kane Hulsey transferred from Belmont University, where he was a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the recipient of

the Dr. Carlos E. Castañeda Memorial Scholarship for International Study Abroad. He has worked as an eco-tour guide in Alaska and has studied Spanish abroad in Cuzco, Peru. Samuel is majoring in Foreign Languages (Spanish) and Global Studies and Cultural Geography.

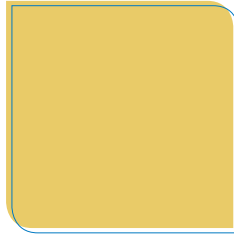
Rachel Mackenzie Huttinger transferred from Austin Peay State University, where she was a member of the Laurel Wreath Honor Society and a Scholar in Residence and worked for two years in the President's Emerging Leaders Program.

Daniel Eric Ingram transferred from Motlow State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and secretary of the Mass Communications Club. He was a presenter at the Motlow Honors Symposium and the Tennessee Honors Collegiate Conference. Daniel is pursuing a degree in Mass Communication.

Michael Paul Klug transferred from Tennessee Technological University, where he served on the Service Committee and the Green Committee for environmental action. He is pursuing a degree in Plant and Soil Science. He plans to breed agronomic crops to produce fresh, wholesome food and make seeds available for others.

Timothy W. Lynch transferred from Motlow State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a Student Government Association senator, and a staff writer in the Communications Department. He was a presenter at the Motlow Honors Symposium and the Tennessee Honors Collegiate Conference. Timothy is pursuing a degree in Anthropology.

Lara Eileen Miller transferred from Volunteer State Community College, where she was president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and a member of the Honors Preservation Society. She is a volunteer firefighter and works part-time as a home health aide for disabled children and seniors. Lara is pursuing a degree in Nursing with an emphasis on mental health.





Hulsey



Rumble



Lynch



Huttinger



Short



Miller



Ingram



Youngman



Newman



Klug




Phillips

Erica C. Newman transferred from Motlow State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and a Student Government Association senator. She served on the Academic Affairs Committee and the International Education Committee and presented research at the Motlow Honors Symposium and the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Conference. Erica is pursuing a degree in English.

Tiffany BreAnn Phillips transferred from Motlow State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and vice president of the Student Government Association. She participated in the Motlow Honors Program and presented at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Conference. Tiffany is pursuing a degree in Sociology.

David Lee Rumble transferred from Nashville State Community College, where he was a member of the International Society of Arboriculture. He is a certified arborist and a member of the Tree Care Industry Association. He was a student in the Nashville State Honors Program and presented research at the Tennessee Academy of Science. David is pursuing a degree in Plant and Soil Science.

Johnny Wayne Short Jr. transferred from Motlow State Community College, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He studied abroad in Spain and took a mission trip to Thailand. Johnny is pursuing a degree in Global Studies and Cultural Geography and plans to become an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Sydney Nicole Youngman transferred from Pellissippi State Community College, where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was nominated to the 2013 All-Tennessee Academic Team. She has volunteered with the Humane Society of Tennessee Valley. Sydney is pursuing a degree in Biochemistry. 

Buchanan Bust, Medallions Unveiled

at May Event

A sculptured clay bust of the late MTSU alumnus and benefactor James M. Buchanan ('40) was a highlight of the University Honors College Inaugural Presentation of the Buchanan Medallions May 9. The sculpture, unveiled by artist Tracy H. Sugg and her son, Philip, both of Bell Buckle, greatly impressed the audience at the dinner event, which was held in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

In addition to the unveiling, newly minted bronze medallions bearing the likeness of Dr. Buchanan were presented to spring 2014 graduating Buchanan Fellows and to those from previous classes.

Buchanan, who died in January 2013, received the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and was professor emeritus of economics at George Mason University. The Honors College will always be grateful that Buchanan, a

distinguished member of the Board of Visitors, lent his name and support to the most prestigious Honors scholarship and that he arranged for a \$2.5 million bequest to the college after his death.

Tracy Sugg delivered a descriptive and thought-provoking presentation before unveiling the bust, which was to be cast in bronze this year. She incorporated quotations from 20th-century British sculptor Albert Toft and French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Sugg said it will "keep green the memory of Dr. James Buchanan in the most impacting and dramatic way" and "will inspire future students of MTSU to pursue their dreams [and] visions and to set high standards and goals, for James Buchanan once walked these halls as a student like yourselves."

Philip Sugg is an Honors Transfer Fellow at MTSU. The Transfer Fellowship is a scholarship for

students transferring from other colleges and universities and is similar to the Buchanan Fellowship.

Two men with strong ties to the college, alumnus and benefactor Paul Martin Jr. ('75) and former Honors College dean Phil Mathis, joined in a standing ovation at the unveiling of the bust.

Daniel Murphy, a Buchanan Fellow who graduated this year, said receiving the medallion "is a huge honor and culmination of four years of hard work." Daniel earned degrees in Physics and Philosophy and is pursuing a doctorate in physics at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville this fall. In 2013, he received a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest academic award given to an entering MTSU freshman. To learn more, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/buchanan.php or call (615) 898-2152. [H](#)





At left: Sculptor Tracy Sugg and son Philip of Bell Buckle unveil the clay bust of Dr. James M. Buchanan (1919–2013), for whom the Buchanan Fellowship is named.

Below, left: Members of the Buchanan family (L–R) Nancy Boone Allsbrook, Jenny Travis, Rita King, Joan Clark Mann, and Lee Allsbrook

Below, right: Dean John R. Vile and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips with the Buchanan bust.

Bottom left page: Buchanan Scholars who graduated in May and Buchanan alumni received medallions.



Worrell Excels on General Education Test

Victoria Worrell earned the highest score among all graduating Honors students on the fall 2013 and spring 2014 General Education Tests. Her score was six points above the average for Honors graduates this year and 13 points above the MTSU average.

A Buchanan Fellow, Victoria graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Geoscience in May and received a graduate fellowship funded by Anadarko Oil Company to study professional geology at Baylor University this fall.

Although a specific score on the General Education Test is not required in order to graduate, good scores reflect upon the University as a whole and ultimately affect the value of degrees. Exam results help the University determine the effectiveness of General Education courses and what changes may be needed.

All undergraduate students must take the General Education exam during the semester they graduate. The current exam is the California Critical Thinking Skills Test, which is designed to measure general knowledge required of all undergraduates. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research administers the exam. [T](#)



Adventures Abroad=Fresh Perspective

by Emilie Aslinger | *Emilie, a May 2014 Honors College graduate, majored in Global Studies and Cultural Geography and Foreign Languages.*

I am confident that almost everyone has some sort of preconceived notion about studying abroad. We have all heard a few stereotypes: expensive, time-consuming, scary, or simply out of reach. For me, studying abroad was the only thing I knew I wanted out of my college career. When I heard or read “study abroad,” I thought “adventure.”

I was fortunate to go on four adventures during my time at MTSU, and it is beyond impossible to condense their impact into a few words. Nevertheless, I found that the cliché is absolutely true; more than anything else, my study-abroad experiences were separate journeys that comprised a larger voyage of personal growth. Four years later, I believe that those with open hearts and minds can find exactly what they need with a little (or large) dose of adventure.

It is difficult for me to describe what I needed, but I think it was a fresh perspective. I needed to lighten up and worry less, and the challenging situations I faced eventually showed me that everything really will be okay. This new mentality was invaluable as I muddled through difficult classes and other situations presented by the later years of college. I needed to understand that I could be happy living out of only a suitcase and that I don't actually need that burdensome closet full of clothing.

Because of my travels, as life moves me from place to place, I find that I do not actually need very many possessions to be happy. I needed to accept and embrace imperfection. If I continued to fight imperfection, I would never be content. In a more general sense, study-abroad experiences gave me the opportunity to see and understand other cultures' worldviews and how a group of people might collectively interpret events and issues.

In addition to changing one's perspective, studying abroad may very well change one's course and affect his or her career. I developed many useful qualities and skills that may set me apart from other candidates in the job market. For example, I am much more adaptable and resilient as a result of my time abroad, and I became a more effective communicator. Additionally, there are countless new options and opportunities to discover as a result of studying abroad. Though I'm still unsure about my career path, I've considered teaching or attending graduate school abroad. Whichever path I choose, I know that it will have an international component.

I could say much more about the benefits of study abroad, but the truth is that you won't know if you don't go. I encourage every student to give the matter some serious thought because there are programs that can fit almost any budget or schedule. Even if scheduling or finances are issues, I urge any interested student to discuss the options with a study-abroad advisor. Your college career is what you make of it, and if you want to go abroad, you should make it happen! 📖

Left column from top:
Bayeux Cathedral, France

Eiffel Tower, Paris

In the Alps at the Obersalzberg
Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden,
Bavaria, Germany

Right column from top:
Sword Beach, Normandy
Invasion site

Liberty Road,
Sainte-Mère-Église, France

Little Italy in Toronto

Background: La Fortuna waterfall,
Costa Rica



In the Footsteps of Dante

In summer 2014, the University Honors College reached its goal to offer a signature Honors education-abroad experience, and it happened in Rome and Florence.

In the interdisciplinary seminar Dante and the Legacy of Classical Rome, students read selected works by Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) in translation, including *La Vita Nuova* [*The New Life*] and the *Inferno*. Rome, Ostia Antica, Vatican City, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Florence, Pisa, and Ravenna served as “classrooms” in which the whole group reflected on Dante and the classical and late antique Roman authors who influenced his intellectual and artistic development. Tours of world-renowned historical sites added depth to the group’s experience of literature and culture from Classical Rome to Renaissance Italy. Free time in the evenings presented opportunities to explore contemporary Italian culture.

The course was limited to Honors students with minimum 3.25 GPAs chosen by a committee comprising Honors staff and faculty and preapproved by the Office of Education Abroad. The sixteen students who participated were Susannah Barry, Nicole Braunwalder, Kathryn Gerard, Marissa Goad, Caleb Hough, Trang Huynh, Amanda Leachman, Evan Lester, Collin McDonald, Conner McDonald, Nausheen Qureshi, Jessica Shotwell, Sydney Smith, Alison Todd, Madison Tracy, and Alden Wakefield. Dean John Vile and Linda Vile accompanied the group.

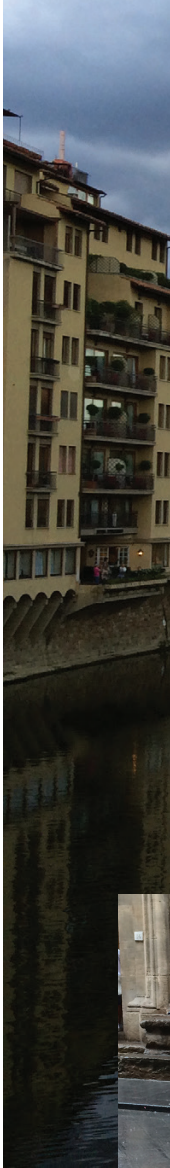
Associate Dean Philip Phillips, who developed and taught the course, led the program with April Goers, Honors advisor, who coordinated travel arrangements and planned a scavenger hunt in Florence. The college invited Fabio Troncarelli, professor of paleography at Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, to come to MTSU as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in March 2014 for the Honors Lecture Series, where he delivered a lecture on medieval Rome. He later joined Professor Phillips to teach a class on Dante to the students who traveled to Italy. Paolo Volpe-Rinonapoli, lecturer in Spanish and Italian at MTSU, offered two Italian language and culture workshops to participants before their departure.

In addition to wonderful food, trip highlights included an audience with Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square before a tour of St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican Museum (including the Sistine Chapel); a visit to the Colosseum; a walking tour of the Forum and Palatine Hill led by Dr. Phillips; a cruise on the Tiber to Ostia Antica; a guided tour of the Pantheon and a lecture at the Biblioteca Angelico by Dr. Troncarelli, who introduced students to rare illuminated manuscripts including early editions of Boethius’s *Consolation of Philosophy* and Dante’s *Inferno* and pointed out the best place in Rome for gelato; a day trip to Pompeii and Herculaneum followed by pizza in Naples; a walking tour of Florence that focused on Dante; a day trip to Ravenna, where students saw famous sixth-century mosaics and visited Dante’s tomb; a morning exploring the famous Uffizi Museum in Florence; and a day trip to Pisa, where students were given special access to “Ugolino’s Tower” from the *Inferno* and climbed the leaning Tower of Pisa.

Perhaps some of the best parts of the trip happened when students explored the riches of Rome and Florence on their own in small groups. Of course, the final meal in Florence was memorable for all.

During the trip, students gained knowledge of and appreciation for Dante’s works, life, and continuing influence by “experiencing” the poet in places he knew. They wrote critical essays on assigned works by Dante, Vergil, Boethius, and Augustine and recorded their personal and intellectual experiences in travel journals modeled on the *Letters* of Pliny the Younger, which contain detailed descriptions of upper-class Roman life in the first century.

This fall the Honors College hosted a reunion for the Honors in Italy students to reflect and share their thoughts on their transformative experiences abroad. [H](#)





Clockwise from top:
Florence, Italy (By Caleb Hough)
Honors in Italy participants
Caleb Hough
(L-R) Connor McDonald,
Evan Lester, April Goers
and Caleb Hough



(L-R) Collin McDonald,
Nausheen Qureshi, Philip
Phillips and Marissa Goad
Sydney Smith





Nausheen Qureshi



Collin McDonald



Madison Tracy



Evan Lester

In the Footsteps of Dante— What Four Student Travelers Had to Say

Gelato. Everyone told me how great it would be, and I was not disappointed! What I wasn't told, however, was how Italy was a perfect blend of busy city and scenic nature. The new buildings somehow worked with the preserved ruins that seemed to pop up randomly as I walked down the street. At night, everything became even more magical as the streetlights came on. As we traveled from one city to another, you could say that we all picked up some Italian mannerisms. We learned to use our elbows to get onto the already jam-packed bus, to say "no grazie" to persistent street peddlers, and to keep a lookout for refreshing fountains. My experience wouldn't have been the same if not for the wonderful people who were on the trip with me. Our group was fun, interesting, smart, and caring. No one was ever left behind, and we did our best to take care of each other. We bonded early on through our excitement for the things to come, and by the end we became an Honors family joined in shared experience and strong friendship.

—Nausheen Qureshi

This trip has truly been life-altering for me. Getting to walk in the footsteps of great men like Da Vinci, Dante, and Galileo was surreal. The most memorable aspect of the trip was the fact that we didn't go to historical sites; all the locations were historical sites. Walking on steps that had been standing for centuries was awe-inspiring. My greatest experience in Rome had to be visiting the Colosseum, while the highlight of Florence was the day trip to the Tower of Pisa. I am glad I was allowed to go on the inaugural study-abroad trip for the Honors College and hope to be able to join other study-abroad groups in years to come.

—Collin McDonald

From the moment we arrived in Italy for study abroad with the Honors College, I knew that the sacrifices I had made to get to that point were all worth it. The program . . . incorporated many of the historical texts we had studied prior to our trip and helped me develop, in context, a greater appreciation for the ancient literary and classical works of writers such as Dante and his contemporaries. This experience enriched my desire for learning and helped me appreciate new and exciting culture with some of the best faculty and fellow students the University has to offer, which is why I am proud to say, "I am True Blue!" I would definitely recommend study abroad to anyone who wants to enhance their college experience.

—Madison Tracy

Anita Desai once wrote, "Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow." Before the Honors study-abroad program to Italy, I was a little nervous. Though I travel frequently in the United States, I had never traveled abroad. Traveling with fellow Honors students and faculty was a great choice for me, and it helped me grow as a person in several ways. Students and faculty bonded like a family. I had never experienced this type of group dynamic. Working well with others in a group setting will be an important skill in my career as a flight dispatcher or aviation administrator and in many other areas of life. The Honors in Italy program has made a lasting impact on my life. After our stay at a hotel in Rome, we spent a week in apartments in small groups in Florence, exploring the city and traveling to other cities during the day. I got a taste of what it might be like to live as an Italian citizen. I gained a different perspective about the world, even the United States. After this experience, I am now viewing the world in a new, bigger, and better light.

—Evan Lester

David Foote



Spring initiates: Sharmila Patel, Kailey McDonald, Marian Norris, Larissa Wolf, (back) Amy Sayward, Nathan Tilton, Trevor Wiemann, Brenton Andrews, Dusty Doddridge

OΔK Initiates Nine Leaders

It's been almost 100 years since the first students and faculty were initiated into the Alpha Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, December 3, 1914.

Today, membership is open to juniors, seniors, graduate students, faculty, and staff members who meet the requirements of academic excellence and exemplary leadership. Since the MTSU Circle was chartered on April 30, 2010, only 159 persons have been invited to join. On April 22, 2014, nine students were selected for membership, and four others were recognized as squires, an honor reserved for sophomores who already embody the ideals of the society.

At the ceremony, new initiates and guests were challenged to excel by OΔK member and associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, David Foote. Seven juniors were initiated: Hassan Alwan (Pre-pharmacy and Biochemistry), Brenton Andrews (Aerospace), Kailey McDonald (Mathematics), Mason Riley (Biology), Nathan Tilton (Aerospace), Trevor Wiemann (Finance), and Larissa Wolf (Biology). Two graduate students, Marian Norris

(Curriculum and Instruction) and Sharmila Patel (Professional Studies, Strategic Leadership), also became members. Four new squires received certificates of recognition: Keaton Davis (Business Administration), Caleb Gray (Political Science), Claire Owens (Nursing), and Nausheen Qureshi (Nutrition and Food Science).

One of OΔK's original purposes was to create a society in which student and faculty leaders could work together for positive change on collegiate campuses. Continuing the tradition, the MTSU Circle invites leaders among faculty and staff to join the organization. This spring John William "Dusty" Doddridge and Amy L. Sayward accepted membership.

Doddridge is assistant director for employer relations in the Career Development Center. He has a passion for helping students and previously worked as an MTSU academic advisor. He teaches courses in the Jones College of Business and the University College. He spends most of his time serving students, but he also enjoys traveling and photography.

Sayward has served as interim associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and brings numerous leadership experiences to the group. She volunteers with programs such as National History Day and Great Books in Tennessee Prisons, frequently publishes and presents new research, and served as chair of the History Department before joining Graduate Studies.

The OΔK Circle traditionally has a newly initiated squire ring the Martin Honors Building bells to celebrate new members at the end of an initiation ceremony. The honor fell to Keaton Davis this spring, but because of electrical damage to the building's bells, he rang a handbell to mark the occasion. Afterward, new initiates joined current members for a reception. [H](#)



Keaton Davis and Leland Waite



Trevor Moyo and Lt. General John Knapp, chair of the OΔK Centennial Celebration Planning Committee

Matthew Hibdon

National Convention Celebrates 100 Years, Inspires a New Generation

by Trevor Moyo | *Trevor is a senior Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Construction Management.*

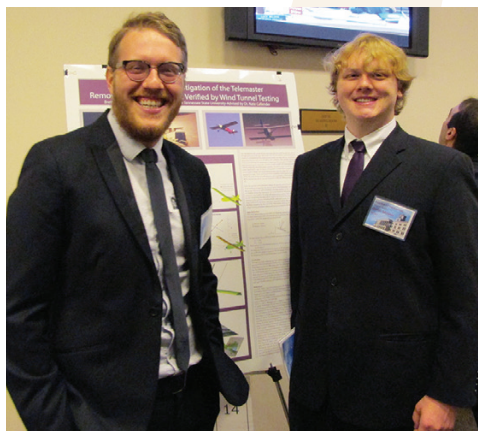
One hundred years ago, on December 3, 1914, fifteen students and faculty members of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, met with the objective of forming a new organization to unite faculty and students from all phases of collegiate life who had distinguished themselves as leaders. They christened the new fraternal society Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK).

The OΔK circle was created to include a balanced group of leaders from five aspects of collegiate life: scholarship; athletics; campus or community service, social or religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and the mass media; and creative and performing arts.

Matthew Hibdon and I had the honor of experiencing the OΔK spirit at the 48th Biennial National Convention in June at Washington and Lee University. The occasion was even more special because it officially marked the beginning of the celebration of OΔK's second century.

Over 300 members from around the U.S. gathered for five days of fellowship, celebration, education, and service. Much could be said of the milestone event, but there is one idea I feel most compelled to convey: OΔK is an organization that does more than merely preach leadership to students—it offers opportunities to reach heights occupied by some of the most highly esteemed leaders in the world and stand there as colleagues.

For 100 years, OΔK's fundamental belief that leadership is the truest form of service has inspired and helped elevate hardworking men and women from all walks of life to deserved greatness. Through partnerships with organizations like Teach for America, OΔK continues to inspire the best and brightest leaders of this nation and the world. Over the past century, the "OΔK idea" has united thousands in a collective dedicated to leadership. The society continues to welcome high achievers who seek an environment in which continued growth is facilitated and encouraged. Thanks to the initiative of 15 men 100 years ago, OΔK can look forward to a second century of meaningful service through inspired leadership. [H](#)



Aerospace major Brett Bornhoff, left, and Daniel Murphy, a Physics and Philosophy double major, at Posters at the Capitol.



Jones College of Business dean David Urban listens as Sanja Simic, a student in Dr. Judith Iriate-Gross's Contemporary Issues in Science class, explains the science behind the movie *Wall-E*.

Hargett, Martin Headline OΔK Leadership Day

Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) hosted its signature leadership development initiative, OΔK True Blue Leadership Day, April 4 at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Tre Hargett, Tennessee Secretary of State, and H. Lee Martin, president of Trinity Health Foundation, headlined the occasion, which featured returning speakers from the inaugural event in 2012 and new presenters who spoke to approximately 80 students and visitors about leadership.

University Provost Brad Bartel introduced Tre Hargett, who talked about his approach to leadership in his personal life and political career, including his current position as chief executive officer of the Tennessee Department of State.

H. Lee Martin, a clinical professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, closed the day with “The Leadership Dare from a Simple Square.” Martin has a special connection to the University Honors College; he and his brother, Paul Martin Jr., provided more than half the money required to build the Honors Building.

Four other speakers also shared valuable insights. Dusty Doddridge from the Career Development Center gave students advice about showcasing leadership experiences in a well-constructed résumé. Deana Raffo, program director of the Leadership Studies interdisciplinary minor, led a session about identifying personality types and their influence on individual styles of leadership.

David McGowan, a supporter of the University’s Concrete Industry Management Department, discussed leadership lessons he learned as president of Regent Homes and through volunteer positions such as working with the Adventure Science Center in Nashville. David Foote, associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, challenged attendees to examine the definition of leadership, explaining that leadership is not simply about getting things done.

Matthew Hibdon, member of the 2012–2014 OΔK National Advisory Council said, “The event was a great success because its purpose aligns so well with the goals of OΔK and MTSU. OΔK focuses on fostering leadership development by bringing together leaders from the major areas that impact our campus: students, faculty, staff, and community members. Events like this facilitate interaction between leaders from across these areas and help bring some great speakers to the campus.” [H](#)



Clockwise from
top left:

Dr. Bartel

Tre Hargett

Lee Martin

Deana Raffo

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LION?

by Dean John Vile



About a week before spring graduation, I did a double take when I saw that one of the four marble Chinese lions on the east side of the Honors Building was missing. Readers of the last issue will know the “pride” that I have in these statues, which I found in a Nashville consignment store. We want the missing one back!

My first assumption was that this was probably a graduation prank and that the lion would reappear, perhaps in an odd place. (I understand that science students sometimes put a boat in a tree; although, with the weight of the lions, I certainly wouldn’t advise this.) I scanned Murphy Center closely at graduation to see if the missing lion might be in the audience and have scoured other likely habitats without success.

As with any victim of a kidnapping, I have summoned members of MTSU’s constabulary to file my report and have been patiently waiting for any ransom demands. (I found that I got almost immediate service when I called to say that one of my lions was on the loose.) I considered removing the three remaining lions, who continue to pine for their companion, but decided to leave them in hopes that the absence of their comrade might shame the perpetrator of this crime most foul.

I know it is heavy—indeed, one of my students said I should scan the Rec Center for suspects with huge biceps capable of lifting the beast—but should the miscreant responsible for this deed read this magazine, I would like the lion back, no questions asked.

Getting the family back together is a matter of “pride.”



Hundreds Attend **President's Day Open House**

For the fifth annual University Honors College President's Day Open House on Monday, February 17, people came from as far away as Florida, Missouri, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Virginia and one, who has grandparents living in Murfreesboro, came from France.

More than 650 prospective students and their families attended the event, which included tours of campus, the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Walker Library, the College of Mass Communication's recording studios and mobile production lab, and the Aerospace Department's air traffic control lab.

Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor, said attendance "far exceeded expectations."

President Sidney A. McPhee spoke of the University's strengths and fielded questions from students who attended a breakfast held for recipients of Chancellor, Presidential, Academic Service, and Provost scholarships and the Buchanan Fellowship.

Dean John Vile addressed the scholarship breakfast group and a later information session for other prospective students and their families. Evan Lester, a sophomore Aerospace major and Buchanan Fellow, welcomed the students and shared his experiences in the Honors College.

Austin Jones of Ocean Springs, Miss., who attended the event with his father, Steve, said he likes the University's diversity and is excited about opportunities offered by the Honors College. A 2014 Buchanan Fellowship recipient, Austin is majoring in Recording Industry.

During their President's Day visit, Andrew Swehla and his father, Jerry, both from Murfreesboro, made a side trip to see the \$147-million Science Building on the south side of campus. Neither of them had known about the new building; they heard the news from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences dean, Bud Fischer, and its preprofessional coordinator, Jennifer Hendrix. Andrew is studying biology and plans to become a doctor some day.

Ethan Clark, graduate of Hardin Valley Academy in Knoxville, won the Presidents' Day Quiz and received a copy of Dean Vile's book, *The Men Who Made the Constitution: Lives of the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention*. [H](#)

Spring Collage Creative Expression Award Winners

Three students and a recent graduate won the spring 2014 *Collage* Creative Expression Awards.

Shelby Rehberger and **Heather Hickox** won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. **Davion Baxter** and **Joshua Petty** won Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for best



visual submissions.

Rehberger, a senior majoring in Art and Anthropology, won an award for her story "Room 214," which

is excerpted from a journal she kept after a suicide attempt in 2012. In an author's note following the nonfiction piece, Shelby said, "I shared this and published it because I want you to know that if you hurt, someone else hurts the same way."

Shelby was voluntarily committed for four days to the Parthenon Pavilion at Centennial Hospital, where she received a diagnosis and medication for her disorder. Since then, she has been committed to telling others that there is help for those who are ready for it, including an excellent suicide prevention hotline (1-800-273-TALK).

Hickox, a senior English major with a minor in Writing, won an award for her poem "Hands." A transfer student, her concentration is Literary Studies.



Heather wrote the poem last year on the 30th anniversary of the death of her father, who was killed by a drunk driver. She

says "Hands" describes how someone else she knew stopped loving and

caring and became angry and abusive because of alcoholism. She says two significant people in her life have been stolen from her by alcohol. Since writing the original poem, Heather has expanded it into a series that examines the literal and figurative transformations that occur because of alcoholism.



Baxter, who majored in Art and Mass Communication (Photography) and graduated in December 2013, won for his photograph *Mama's Minion*. Davion took the picture while studying abroad in Taiwan in 2013.

"Shot from the Hip," a feature in the fall 2013 *Collage*, chronicled Davion's Taiwan experience and included four of the over 5,000 photographs he took. He said, "I was just overwhelmed when I first got there. There were so many things to see and take photographs of. The trip exposed me to so many different settings. It really makes me want to get out there and see what else the world has to offer."

Petty, a senior Art major, won the Nuell Award for his painting *IO*. Josh graduated magna cum laude with a B.F.A. in May.




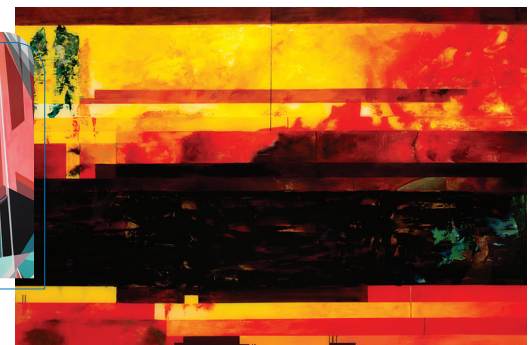
Josh's artist statement explains his inspiration: "The major themes of my work are duality and the nature of reality. I find the balance between extremes integral to both my process and . . . growth. . . . It is the collision between different cultures and modes of thinking that I find inspirational.

As we struggle to adapt to the rapid pace of our digital society, it becomes increasingly difficult to see the implications of our changing behavior. My work is focused on generating a dialogue by which we may better come to understand ourselves and this world we are creating."

He also said, "*IO* relates heavily to the ideas expressed in my artist statement. I tried to blend a digital aesthetic with the allure of the art object. These two modes of working represent a clash of ideas and the cultures they occupy."

Each semester, the *Collage* staff uses a blind-grading process to select approximately 50 pieces for publication from some 300 submissions. The journal's faculty advisory board chooses the winners of Creative Expression Awards from each of four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography.

Copies of the spring issue of *Collage* are available in magazine racks near Peck Hall, Todd Hall, the Student Union, and Martin Honors Building. 





Nathan Abelt



Caitlin Noonan



Brittney Wheeler



Collage Supporters Celebrate Creativity

Supporters of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* gathered in the Martin Honors Building amphitheater April 29 to celebrate the year's successes, roll out the spring issue, and recognize the talented contributors to the fall 2013 and spring 2014 issues of the journal.

The highlight of the spring celebration, as always, was a presentation of selected pieces from the two issues. Eleven contributors read their prose and poetry, and some talked about their inspiration. Art and photography from the recent issues was displayed in the reception area.

Five of the year's eight Creative Expression Award winners attended and were recognized for their outstanding contributions. They received

certificates, *Collage* T-shirts, and \$50 awards presented by two longtime members of the *Collage* faculty advisory board, Martha Hixon and Noël Lorson.

Collage is a biannual publication of the University Honors College. Submissions are accepted year-round from students and recent alumni and are reviewed anonymously and selected by a student editorial staff. Staff members are selected each semester from a pool of applicants and must complete an application, provide two letters of recommendation, and maintain a 3.0 GPA. For more information, contact the editor-in-chief or advisor at collage@mtsu.edu. [H](#)



Members of the *Collage* staff at the final meeting of the spring semester were (front, L-R) Sydney Smith, Caitlin Noonan, Leigh Stanfield, Jennifer Boyd, Emily Vonckx, Tatiana Silvas, Emily Ball, Chloe Madigan, Nicole Wolowicz, Patrick Murphy, (second row) J. T. Cobb, Amanda Broome, Katie Parker, Erin Potter, Biven Alexander, Shelby Flatt, Della Wheeler, Alexa Games, Starling Sensing, Brett Turner, (back) Melinda Lewis, Davis Thompson, Whitney Flatt, Garrison Breckenridge, Russ Humensky, and Tina Reid. Emily Randall and Kaitlyn Hawkins were not present.

CALA Leads in Language Learning

For ten years, teens and adults have jumpstarted their understanding of new languages during the University's Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) five-day Summer Language Institute. Many people with no experience in Spanish or French who took the 2013 placement test at MTSU tested out of one to four semesters of instruction after taking CALA sessions.

Dr. Ron Messier, professor emeritus and second director of the Honors Program, attended a CALA Spanish class this summer before a trip to Spain. "The class has been great! Even better than I had hoped. Brian [the instructor] is really a very skilled teacher," he said.

Dr. Fred Mensch, an MTSU Latin teacher, observed the new 2014 CALA Latin class and reported, "It was enjoyable and instructive. . . . [The methods] are worth trying [and] should be made available to all prospective teachers."

Dr. Ann McCullough, a professor of French at MTSU, tested into fourth-semester German after 10 days in a CALA German class.

Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and founder/director of CALA, said, "We all understand that we don't acquire a taste for coffee by looking up its qualities on the Internet nor do we acquire the skill of riding a bike by memorizing its parts. Research on language acquisition shows we acquire our second language the way we acquired our first: through direct experience and engaging contexts like stories."

CALA classes use the intensive language acquisition tools Total Physical Response (TPR) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). There is direct experience with new vocabulary first, then personal

interaction and games to deepen new knowledge. Finally, there's a question/answer session about stories and language.

Some beginners are able to use new vocabulary in just five days.

"We take about 200 to 300 words that students can touch, see, and act out. We don't use any words that they don't actually experience in class, so that it goes into long-term memory. We've had people take Level 1 and come back a year later for Level 2, and they say they are able to pick right back up where they left off," said Thomas.

The CALA immersion classes started with a Special Projects Grant that Thomas was awarded in 2003. Test results for that summer were published in *Fluency through TPRStorytelling* by Blaine Ray, inventor of TPRS. The book is now in its sixth edition, and its publisher, Contee Seely of Command Performance Language Institute Publishing, traveled to MTSU this summer to see CALA classes in action. Seely donated over \$100,000 in 2012 to

support and develop the program.

Since 2003, Thomas has been invited to coordinate classes or teacher workshops at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute in Nashville, the University School of Nashville, O'More College of Design, the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, and the Isha Vidya School in Coimabtoire, India. CALA has also provided volunteer





Mark Byrnes, left, dean of Liberal Arts; Meredith Kerr, development officer; and Philip Phillips, right, Honors associate dean, express their appreciation to publisher Contee Seely for his generous contribution to the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), founded by Shelley Thomas, center.

teachers, free materials, and workshops for the Murfreesboro Hispanic Family Center and Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City schoolteachers.

Laura Clippard, Honors fellowship coordinator, recommends CALA training for Fulbright Scholars who will teach English abroad. An example is Adam Emerson, who said, “I acquired not only an extensive French vocabulary but also an understanding of the ways in which we acquire language, best practices for ensuring my students’ comprehension of important concepts, and effective classroom management techniques.”

Brian Roberts and Ahmad Jeddeeni teach Spanish and Arabic CALA classes, respectively.

Roberts graduated with majors in psychology, philosophy, and Spanish from MTSU. After living and traveling in Spain and France, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching. He learned TPR and TPRS during an internship with Dr. Thomas and was hired as the only language specialist for the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare. He continues to teach for CALA each summer.

Jeddeeni, a native of Syria, earned a degree in English literature from the University of Damascus. He came to MTSU as a graduate student with a Fulbright teaching assistantship in 2009 and taught Arabic for two semesters. He discovered TPR and TPRS in Dr. Thomas’s methodology class. He has taught Arabic for CALA and as a graduate assistant in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department.

CALA offers training in TPR/TPRS in the afternoons immediately following summer language classes.

Rutherford City Schools, Murfreesboro City Schools, and the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute have sent teachers to CALA.

Because of CALA’s success, Thomas was invited to bring the program to the Honors College, and Dr. Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, invited her to give a demonstration to the college’s board of directors this spring.


Thomas told the board, “We want CALA to be an example of brain-based teaching to the teaching profession and continue to evolve and improve methods and teaching skills and provide language classes for the global community.”

Doug Young, board president, asked, “How can we make MTSU number one in this?”

Thomas replied, “The demand for year-round classes requires serious investors who can provide a year-round salary for a full-time assistant coordinator and a full-time teacher. This will make us number one in the nation.”

The program has grown from one TPR/TPRS-trained teacher delivering one week of Spanish class to five weeks offering up to five languages, which Thomas coordinates voluntarily. Course offerings this summer were Arabic, French, Spanish, Latin, and German.

Since 2003, Thomas has written and received MTSU grants to pay teachers and a full-time employee because income from the classes is insufficient. Anyone interested in investing in CALA is encouraged to contact her.

Find details at www.acceleratedacquisition.com or email Dr. Thomas at Shelley.Thomas@mtsu.edu. 

COMPETIT

For many student-athletes, the competitive drive, discipline, and intensity that make them successful in their sports can also make them successful in the classroom. MTSU baseball player **Kaleb King**, cheerleader **Kailey McDonald**, and football player **A. J. Wells** are evidence of that.

King, McDonald, and Wells have all challenged their minds as well as their bodies by becoming Honors College students.

photos by Darby Campbell



TIVE EDGE

by Carol Stuart

Honors student-athletes excel
on the field and in the classroom.



"We've had some top students who have gone through here and competed at a very high level, but it is unusual for them to be in the full-blown Honors College," says MTSU director of athletics Chris Massaro. "We encourage that; we think it's the ideal. You strive for academic excellence, and you push for it as hard as you push for athletic excellence."

King, a sophomore from St. Louis, and McDonald, a junior from Murfreesboro, also are among 20 students annually awarded the prestigious Buchanan Fellowship through the Honors College. Named for Nobel Prize-winning alumnus Dr. James M. Buchanan, the full-ride scholarship is the highest award given to an entering freshman at MTSU. Wells, an All-American punter/kicker from Buena Vista, Ga., graduated from high school early and enrolled at MTSU in January 2014. By August, he already had 29 hours of college credit under his belt.

According to Massaro, it perhaps shouldn't come as a surprise to find that some student-athletes can achieve as much in the classroom as they do on the field of play, especially considering that they are "used to a reaching a very high standard of excellence in everything that they do." The key, he says, is learning how to balance their time. Those who master that, he says, are deserving of high praise.

"[In athletics], it is hours upon hours of training," he says. "To balance that with the rigors of the Honors College program . . . well, it takes a special person to be able to accomplish all that."

RAIDERS KALEB KING #22



KALEB KING, BASEBALL

King, who scored an impressive 32 on the ACT, is among only five out-of-state Buchanan Fellows in his class.

He attended St. Louis University High School to challenge himself academically as well as athletically. He knew that baseball usually has a dozen college scholarships to award among teams of 35.

"I knew that would help me make college a lot more affordable and make me a lot more recruitable," King says.

His dad, who as a young ballplayer himself was considered a major league prospect, played a year at Missouri—St. Louis under current MTSU baseball coach Jim McGuire. McGuire mentioned the Buchanan opportunity during recruiting, and school officials showed King how being in the Honors College and playing baseball could be a winning combination on a résumé.

"Ultimately, it will open up a lot of doors," King says.

KAILEY McDONALD, CHEERLEADING

McDonald, a junior on the cheerleading squad, took a 10-day study-abroad trip to Israel before the fall semester for three hours interdisciplinary credit in the Honors College.

"That's another opportunity that I've had at MTSU and with the Honors College that not everybody gets," she says.

McDonald had a 4.0 academic record as a Siegel High valedictorian, and the Buchanan scholarship sealed the choice of her hometown university.

"The Honors College is basically funding my education," she says.

She still has a perfect GPA after four semesters at MTSU, despite balancing studying, working at a gymnastics gym, and cheering for Blue Raider football, basketball, and volleyball.

McDonald bursts the pop-culture stereotypes of both bubble-headed cheerleaders and Computer Science majors. She wants to follow her father's example and secure a career in computer programming.

"People usually don't know in class that I'm a cheerleader," McDonald says. "Last year, I had to miss a couple of classes for an away game, so when I told my professor, one of my friends was behind me. He's like, 'Wait you're a cheerleader?' It was super funny."

McDonald grew up participating in competitive sports, winning individual and team Level 8 state championships in gymnastics before moving to competitive and school cheerleading.

He says pushing himself both athletically and academically is a way to thank his parents for giving him opportunities and to prepare for the future. King's mom is an elementary school teacher; his father studied business and sells security systems.

"My dad just kind of told me that he was in the same situation I was and to remember that someday baseball was going to come to an end," the outfielder says.

Baseball players have some of the busiest athletic road schedules, especially in springtime. Practice is 2 p.m.–4:30 or 5 p.m. on nongame days, followed by weight training. Although Monday is the NCAA-required off day, most players work out individually. The squad usually travels every other weekend, missing Thursday and Friday classes.

"It's an every day thing," King says. "It's like another class or two a day, to be able to play a sport. But it's definitely worth it."

King, who is thinking of majoring in Business Administration or Marketing, carries a 3.8–3.9 GPA, has made the Dean's List two semesters, and has received

a Conference USA Academic Medal. Collectively, the baseball team had one of its highest GPAs in spring—in part with the help of King's high marks.

King also excelled on the field his freshman season, starting 10 games at designated hitter or outfield and pinch-hitting. He also recently played in a Midwest summer league and had a July 4 walk-off hit at his home stadium, where *A League of Their Own* was filmed.

His rigorous high school studies, including two hours of homework a night, prepared him for demanding Honors College studies.

"When the professor assigns something, I'm able to get it done and then be able to go to practice and get to bed at a decent hour," King says.

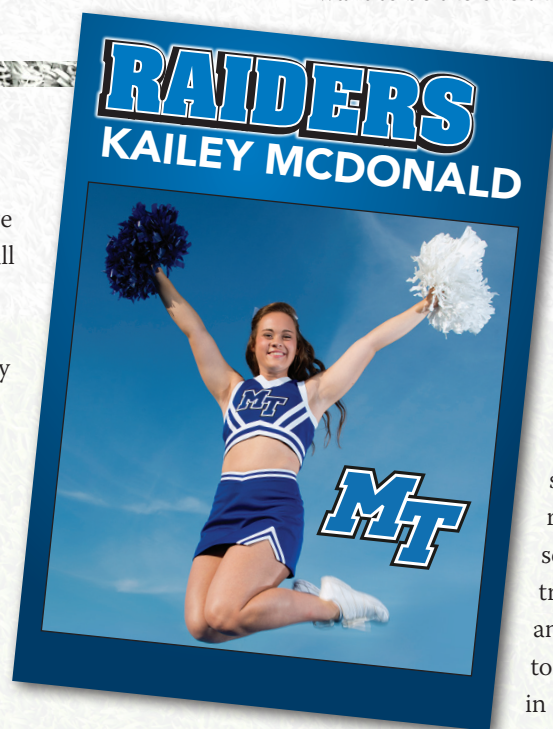
A lot of his MTSU teammates work to come out on top in schoolwork, too, because of the same competitive drive, he adds.

"There's no camera on you while you're studying for a test, but in your mind you're thinking 'I want to be the best. I want to be the one the teacher calls out,'" King says.

As a spirit squad member, her schedule is demanding. Practices are usually three nights a week in the fall and start at 6:30 a.m. in basketball season. Cheerleaders chosen to travel for road games leave Thursday or Friday for the whole weekend. The cheer squad divides into three rotating groups for men's and women's basketball home games and tournaments. Home football games require cheerleaders to arrive four hours before kickoff for Raider Walk and tailgating.

"Pretty much all day Saturday is football games," McDonald says.

"Being in competitive gymnastics, I used to practice 24 hours a week, so I've had to prioritize and manage my time ever since I can remember. That really helps me in college," McDonald says. "Sometimes I have to say no and make sacrifices to my friends or not do other things that I want to do."



That said, there are times when McDonald gets a little relief from her hectic schedule. Her team understands that from time to time McDonald may miss a community appearance or activity due to her difficult academic schedule. It is not unusual for her to be left off the squad selected to travel on longer road trips that require missing several days of classes. But she has traveled to Memphis, North Carolina, and Southern Miss football games and to the NCAA Women's Tournament in Louisville.

According to McDonald, Honors College classes have been her favorites during her first two years.

"The professors are always really open, and the classes are usually more discussion-based instead of just lectures," she says. "That's been really cool getting to see other Honors students' perspective on things."

RAIDERS A.J. WELLS #24



A. J. WELLS, FOOTBALL

Last fall, Wells was a member of a Georgia high school state football championship team and was rated by Prokicker.com as the number-one kicker/punter recruit in the nation. He enrolled early to compete for MTSU's punting job as a freshman.

"It's funny—I feel like a sophomore," Wells says. "It was really hard being the only freshman, being a year younger than everybody on the team, but it paid off."

A tough academic schedule isn't new for Wells, who learned about the Honors College when he was admitted.

"I just thought it was the best education that's possible," he says. "I definitely wanted to come to MTSU for football and for the Mass Communication program. I just felt like Honors would help boost my résumé."

"The people that I talked to told me they enjoyed the Honors classes more," he adds, "and that it was just a great opportunity if you could get it."

Wells' dad graduated from Mercer University School of Law, and his mom, an educator, earned a doctorate at Auburn. They pondered whether to delay Honors College a semester, worried it might be too strenuous to pair with football at first. But Wells took AP and honors classes in high school, even tackling senior English as a sophomore. He ranked fourth in his graduating class but could have contended for valedictorian without his accelerated schedule. The decision was made to make the leap into Honors coursework at MTSU.

Wells quickly learned that Honors College classes were "just a little bit more demanding as far as the workload." Most teammates would leave 7 p.m. study hall after an hour, but he and his mentor would work until 10:30 p.m.

He admits that student-athletes do have the advantage of getting extra academic support through the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center. It only makes sense that they would. Consider that the average MTSU student doesn't have backbreaking February mat workouts where football coaches operate like drill sergeants.

For much of the calendar year, Wells' jam-packed daily schedule begins at 4:30 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m. "I'm just privileged enough to have a chance to do it," he says.

According to Wells, overcoming obstacles as an athlete carries over into the classroom.


"You get put in situations that seem like there's no way out," Wells says. "Nothing is ever going to be harder than training camp. My history class this last semester was the hardest class I've ever taken, but I gritted down."

Wells plans to major in Electronic Media Communication (video production) and minor in Theatre and Writing.

While having a backup plan to pro sports is often used to motivate college athletes to study, he looks at it from a more positive perspective.

"Even if I do make the NFL and have a wonderful career, at max as a punter I'll play 10 to 15 years," he says. "What am I going to do the rest of my life? Just sit around and watch football games?"

So do Wells' fellow Honors College classmates treat him differently since he is a high-profile athlete?

"We'll all in Honors, all high achievers," Wells says. "We all have something else going on. Even with all the stuff that we do, we're still taking enough pride in our education that we're asking for the hardest classes and the biggest challenge." 

Google™ IT

Web giant Google hires MTSU Honors students



In 2014, for the fifth time in the last eight years, Google topped *Fortune* magazine's annual list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

In addition to company stock, perks employees get when they sign on at the "Googleplex" include (according to *howstuffworks.com*) free on-site haircuts, dry cleaning, an on-site medical staff, and a subsidized massage program.

What's the top perk, though? Michael Yang, an ex-Google lawyer now working as general counsel at Pinterest, recently told *Quartz.com* it's the opportunities and ability to learn. "If you can't find something to learn at Google, you just aren't looking," Yang said.

Honors graduate Nathan Reale, 24, of Franklin, is the latest alumnus from MTSU's Computer Science Department to tap into the career pipeline at Google. At MTSU, Reale had a 4.0 GPA in grad school (M.S., Computer Science, 2014) and 3.9 as an undergraduate majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics.

Last April, the former Buchanan Fellow learned he had landed a full-time position with Google Inc. He's now working on Google projects at its Mountain View, Calif., operations near San Francisco.



Nathan Reale

"It is very difficult to get hired at Google, and the fact that a major company like Google is hiring our students is indicative of the quality of the education being offered in the Department of Computer Science at MTSU," said Chrisila Pettey, professor and department chair.

Reale joins Eldridge Alexander, a 2012 Honors graduate from the College of Mass Communication (and also a Buchanan Fellow) at Google. Eldridge presently works for the company in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Four other MTSU graduates have also been hired by Google in the recent past. They include Computer Science alumni Collin Winter, Anthony Mills, Micah

Chasteen, and Matt Houghlum, now an enterprise technical solutions engineer at Google in Seattle.

Chasteen, who has worked for the company for two years, spoke to Computer Science students in February, and Reale was in the audience.

"His topic was getting a job with IT companies, but mostly Google. I applied the next day," said Reale, adding, "Google was my dream job." 



Eldridge Alexander

Where's the

Honors students undertake timely research on the disappearance of honeybees

According to a recent *National Geographic* article, honeybees pollinate a third of the American diet “from nuts to produce—not to mention coffee and cotton.” Sadly, though, the humble honeybee is dying off in staggering numbers. More than half of managed U.S. honeybee colonies have disappeared in the past ten years, the article states—victims of pesticides, fungicides, and viruses, among other factors.

A White House report published this past June produced similar findings, stating that honeybees enable the production of at least 90 commercially grown crops in North America, and that globally, 87 of the leading 115 food crops are dependent on animal pollinators. Overall, honeybees contribute more than \$15 billion to the economy through their crucial role as pollinators, the White House announcement concluded, also stressing that pollination is integral to U.S. food security. President Barack Obama’s response to these findings was to create a task force to address the issue of rapidly diminishing honeybees and other pollinators.

It might be said that Honors student Anna Neal was a step ahead of the White House. Neal and her family have raised bees for several years, but in recent times their beehives have collapsed due to pesticide spraying on properties adjacent to her farm. It led Neal to wonder what other factors could contribute to colony collapse and also to ponder the implications of reduced bee populations in middle Tennessee. Neal began her thesis research this spring analyzing possible cross-transmissions of disease between honeybees and bumblebees.

While bumblebees have not received the same international attention as their smaller cousins, they also pollinate lots of plants. Since bumblebees and honeybees often forage for nectar in the same places, competitive interactions during pollination may increase the likelihood that colony collapse disorder (CCD) agents could spread among species. Noting that very few studies had been conducted on these cross-transmissions of disease in Tennessee, Neal identified it as a worthwhile area in which she could complete her Honors thesis.

Neal conducted an extensive literature review to determine possible causes of the collapse of honeybee hives and found that many factors can contribute to CCD, ranging from microbial pathogens to parasites to invasive pests and to an increasing reliance on insecticides and pesticides by farmers. Importantly, she also found evidence that suggested these agents could spread to native bumblebees as well.

The possibility that honeybees could be spreading pathogens and parasites also piqued Neal’s interest. Partnered with Dr. R. Drew Sieg of the Honors College and two other MTSU biology undergraduates (Chelsey Pennycuff and Gabrielle Armour), she and the team received an Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grant to conduct research to explore whether parasites could take advantage of the competitive foraging behavior of honeybees and bumblebees to infect new hosts and to assess the threat that colony collapse agents pose for bees in middle Tennessee.

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BUZZ?



photo by Andy Heidt





A Bee for Effort

Anna Neal's research project was also a learning experience for Dr. R. Drew Sieg, who began teaching at MTSU last fall and is the first dedicated faculty member in the University Honors College. Sieg's area of expertise lies more in chemical interactions among marine organisms. However, he is eager to provide new research opportunities for undergraduates and show them the interdisciplinary nature of science, and Neal's honeybee project more than fit the bill.

"The project allows students to receive hands-on experience in field ecology, microbiology, taxonomy, and statistics, while simultaneously improving their critical thinking skills," Sieg says. "The open-ended nature of the project also illustrates to them that research rarely has a predefined outcome."

Sieg sees the honeybee project as an example of how Honors students can consider their career plans while getting involved in science that can be found in their own backyards. "Anna, Chelsey Pennycuff, and Gabrielle Armour have all expressed a desire to pursue graduate degrees, and an immersive experience like this can really help them assess whether graduate school is the right direction for them," he says.



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URECA funding allowed the research team to become more invested in the project than if they had been merely volunteering or conducting research as part of a lab course. On a typical day, the team deployed insect traps near honeybee hives at several local farms. They also noted environmental characteristics of each site, such as

the species of plants the bees were likely to visit and the density of flowers nearby.

The traps were collected after three days and brought back to the Honors College, where the bees and any parasites were identified and quantified. Researchers also removed the digestive tract from each bee and screened them for internal microparasites. The team visited farms weekly over the course of the summer, allowing them to track changes in parasite loads at different stages in the bees' life cycle.

Neal says the research project "actually turned out to be quite the adventure." Though she admits the writing and background research required to create a project was a bit tedious, the excitement she felt when she set the first trap more than made up for the paperwork.

"Each new bumblebee species found, each time *Nosema* spores appeared in a slide, and each examined mite was like stumbling upon stashed treasure or receiving an unexpected gift," she says.

Her favorite moment so far? Hands down, Neal says, it was seeing her completed poster for the URECA Summer Celebration.

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“Not only does this poster represent seven months of labor but also reveals my favorite finding: middle Tennessee has nine species of bumblebees, not just the previously documented four. One species in particular, *Bombus auricomus*, was caught most often though experts declared it rare after 1997.”

Even with such successes already under her belt, Neal’s adventure continues. She’ll be defending her research as an Honors thesis this October.

Sieg says that not just Neal and her family but also other local beekeepers are eager to learn what threats exist for their hives so they can employ new strategies to prevent colony collapse disorder.

“The farmers that we’ve interacted with are genuinely excited to see young people interested in the process of beekeeping and are keen to simultaneously teach the students about their trade,” he says. “The easy access to local wildflower honey isn’t a bad perk, either.”

Beyond White House studies, student research, and agricultural analyses, the disappearance of bees has become an impetus for deeper discourse. In a recent



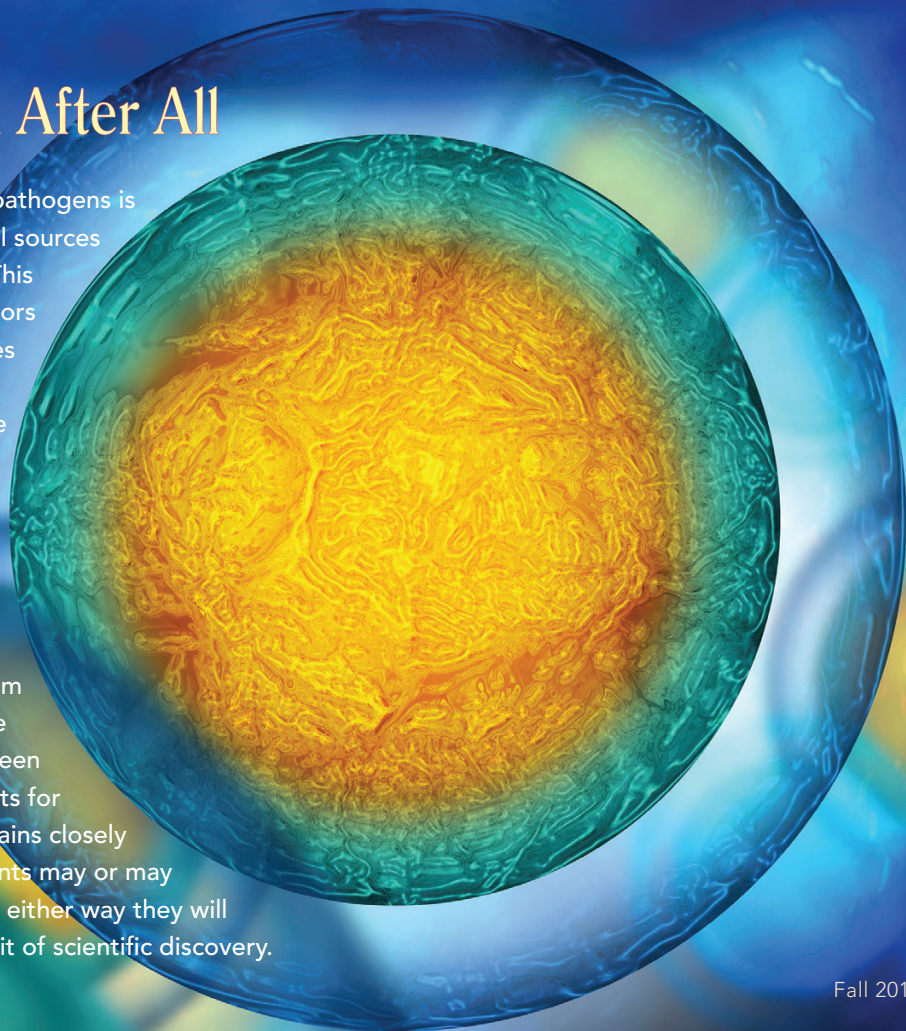
L to R: Neal, Armour, and Sieg

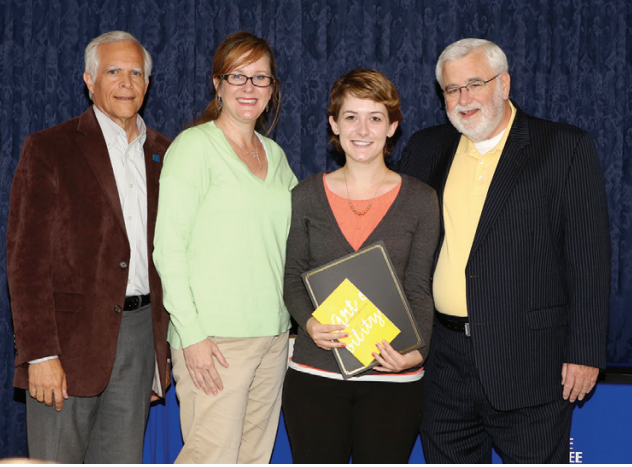
New York Times opinion piece, Mark Winston, a biologist and author of the forthcoming book *Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive*, wrote:

“We can best meet our own needs if we maintain a balance with nature—a balance that is as important to our health and prosperity as it is to the bees . . . Honeybee collapse has much to teach us about how humans can avoid a similar fate, brought on by the increasingly severe environmental perturbations that challenge modern society.” [H](#)

It's A Small World After All

The increase in antibiotic-resistant pathogens is causing researchers to look for natural sources to isolate new medicines and drugs. This fall, students in Dr. R. Drew Sieg’s majors and nonmajors Honors biology courses will join the search through the Small World Initiative, a research experience designed in conjunction with Yale University. Collaborators from over 60 universities are crowdsourcing the search for new antibiotics and making it a unifying theme for introductory biology lab experiments. In Dr. Sieg’s class, students will isolate bacteria from local soils, identify them through gene amplification and sequencing, and screen the bacteria and their chemical extracts for inhibitory activity against bacterial strains closely related to common pathogens. Students may or may not isolate the next wonder drug, but either way they will get first-hand experience in the pursuit of scientific discovery.





ILE: A One-of-a-Kind Experience

A fantastic classroom experience, “excellent and informative” and “enlightening and encouraging,” are some of the comments made by 32 students who immersed themselves in a week of study in the Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) held in Martin Honors Building in May.

Students representing 24 majors participated in discussion-based sessions in which they were encouraged to share opinions, ideas, and questions. They heard a range of perspectives on leadership from outside speakers and ILE leaders David Foote, associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business; management professor Earl Thomas; and Deana Raffo, director of the Leadership Studies interdisciplinary minor.

This year’s guest speakers included Paula Mansfield, Kathy Jones, Terri Sterling, Anne Davis, and Jean Anne Rogers, who comprised a panel from RutherfordCABLE, a women’s business group; Cristina Allen, diversity advocate and entrepreneur; Ronald Roberts, president and CEO of DVL

Public Relations and Advertising; Stephanie Taylor, an entertainment and music industry attorney at Bone McAllester Norton; and Ken Weaver, former president of U.S. and Canada Commercial Tire Sales Division, Bridgestone America, and executive vice president, Bridgestone Americas (retired).

ILE has been called a one-of-a-kind experience, and many of this year’s participants agree. One student said, “Thank you for this wonderful experience. It came at a time in my life when I was at a crossroads and you have helped me remember to stay true to myself and follow my passion.” Another said, “I have learned so much about myself.” A third commented, “Thank you so much for not only the opportunity to learn and rediscover myself but for the chance to meet other dedicated students.”

The institute has been offered since 2006, and more than 200 students from many different majors have graduated. ILE is a permission-only course, and those who meet the requirements must apply. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 45 credit hours and either have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a nomination from a faculty or staff member or an ILE alumnus.

ILE is grateful to financial sponsors **First Tennessee Bank**, **Financial Services and Solutions**, **Pinnacle Bank**, and the **Greater Nashville Association of Realtors** for their generous support of this year’s successful program. [ti](#)



"Tiny Circus is an experience not to be missed. Each day is an uncharted collaborative adventure in learning, creating, and play resulting in an imaginative, one-of-a-kind, stop-motion animation marvel."

—Sarah,
member of
Tiny Circus

Spring 2015 Visiting Artist's Seminar

Tiny Circus: Collaborative Process and Investigative Stop-Motion Animation

In February 2015, Carlos Ferguson and Katie In, two members of Tiny Circus, will spend a week in residence to teach the Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200): Collaborative Process and Investigative Stop-Motion Animation. Ferguson and In will work "to facilitate collaborative experiences for our project participants while making films that are meaningful and engaging for our audiences."

Students will work on a community-based documentary animation project. During the weeklong class, the collaborators will determine a topic of inquiry, conduct interviews, gather audio, and plan and execute an animated exploration of the topic.

The interdisciplinary Honors course will meet February 23–27, 3:00–5:40 p.m. The class is open to all students who have earned GPAs of 3.25 or higher. Registration is through Pipeline. Students with a class conflict should contact the other professor, get written permission to miss the class, and forward the permission, M#, and request to Kathy Davis at Kathy.Davis@mtsu.edu.

The seminar will end with a celebratory lecture, presentation, and screening of Tiny Circus pieces and the debut of the work created by the class. A reception honoring the artists and students will follow.

The Tiny Circus visit is made possible by the generous support of the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, and the Departments of Art, Electronic Media Communication, and English.

For more information, contact Claudia Barnett at claudia.barnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. [H](#)

Some Words from the Visiting Artists

Carlos Ferguson

"Tiny Circus, at its core, is about exploring radical structures for communication and shared labor. We've been working for seven years developing techniques and language that help people in a group to listen to each other and develop a shared purpose. Stop-motion animation serves as a perfect vehicle for group creativity, collaboration, and communication."

Katie In

"A workshop with Tiny Circus is a multilayered experience: on one level, the group works to complete an animation; on a second level, the group finds a shared point of interest in a socially or politically significant topic and has meaningful conversation around that topic; and on a level above that, the group works on making the group dynamic as egalitarian and collaborative as possible."



Big Event Volunteers Make a Difference


Volunteering for the Big Event is an unusual way to spend a Saturday making a difference, according to Honors Transfer Fellow Brooke Morgan. Brooke was one of fourteen members of an Honors College team that participated Saturday, April 5, in the Big Event, the largest one-day student-run service project in the nation. "Spending time with friends while helping the community that has embraced me with open arms was simply an amazing experience," she said.

The team was led by Honors coordinator Laura Clippard and also included Birgit Northcutt, Abigail Carter, Keaton Davis, Christian Flack, Haley Greene, Morgan Hancher, Joseph Mosqueda, Nikita Shokur, Sydney Smith, Loretta Wheeler, Courtney Wright, and Georgena Xammar.

Charged with helping at the MTSU Child Care Lab on Alumni Drive, the team was asked to paint a children's restroom, pull weeds and plant seedlings, and clean two storage sheds and the playroom. They finished their work within four hours and also snacked on pizzas furnished by Nancy James, lab director.

The Child Care Lab serves MTSU students and employees with children ages three to five.

Birgit Northcutt said the weather was beautiful and "everyone participated happily." She added, "We left the Child Care Lab feeling elated about our accomplishments and having had the opportunity to do a good deed."

Joseph Mosqueda said, "It felt great giving back to the community, especially knowing that our efforts would help provide a safe, clean, and fun environment to so many children. When I was younger I thought it was quite funny when people would say, 'Children are the future,' but I really appreciate that concept now; every child has so much potential, and I love that MTSU has programs in place to not only foster education and life lessons in young adults but the children in the community as well." 



From top right: Brooke Morgan, Sydney Smith, Laura Clippard, and Nikita Shokur

Fourth Issue of *Scientia et Humanitas* Published

The University Honors College published its fourth volume of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research* in June. The volume includes eight essays—five from the humanities and three from the sciences.

To boost the journal's prestige, second-year editor-in-chief **Sarah Gray**, an English Ph.D. student, led the staff to adopt a faculty review board. Nine faculty reviewers from a variety of disciplines help ensure the accuracy of the publication's research. Volunteer reviewers are David Urban (Jones College of Business dean), David Foote (Management and Marketing), Jane Marcellus (Journalism), Janis Brickley (Human Sciences), John Vile (Political Science), Amy Sayward (History), Philip Phillips (English), Kaylene Gebert (Speech and Theatre), and Drew Sieg (Biology).

The 2013–2014 *Scientia et Humanitas* student editorial staff consisted of eight graduate students led by Gray. **Kayla McNabb** served as managing editor, and **Jacquelyn Hayek, Dennis Wise**, and **Clint Bryan** were section editors for the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, respectively. **Khristeena Lute**


and **Morgan Oldacre** were proof-readers. **Morgan Hanson** formatted the journal and served as another proofreader.

Dean's Distinguished Essay Awards went to **Dennis Wise** for "Classical Poetry and Modern Political Philosophy: Spenser and Machiavelli in *A View of the Present State of Ireland*" and **Ellen Goertzen** for "Impact of Deworming Treatments on Intestinal Parasite Load in Equines from Middle Tennessee," a revision of her Honors thesis. **Sarah Gray's** "Escaping Eden: Milton, Melancholy, and Radcliffe's Gothicism" received an honorable mention for the 2013–2014 William R. Wolfe Graduate Writing Award.

Other essays in the issue were "Defining Nineteenth-Century Womanhood: The Cult of Marmee and *Little Women*" by **Sarah Rivas**; "Robert Frost's 'The Road Not Taken': Regret in the Human Psyche—A Critical Essay" by **Luke Judkins**; "Whose 'Womanish Tears' Are These?: Performativity in *Romeo and Juliet*" by **Cori Mathis**; "The Link Between Cardiovascular Disease and Periodontal Disease: A Literature Review" by **Holly Plemmons**; and "Faith-Based Aviation: An Ethnographic Study of Missionary Flights

International" by **Joseph Cooper**.

The printed journal, formerly an online publication called *Scientia* and founded by Dr. Phil Mathis, emeritus professor of biology and former dean of the Honors College, was renamed in 2010 to reflect its wider scope. The journal accepts submissions from all academic disciplines and provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students and recent graduates to publish their work. Philip Phillips, Marsha Powers, and John Vile served on the staff advisory board. The journal was supervised by Marsha Powers, who also directs the Honors College publications *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* and *Honors Magazine*.

The Honors College publishes a yearly issue of *Scientia et Humanitas* and is accepting submissions for volume five through Monday, February 9, 2015. Students interested in contributing can get further information at capone.mtsu.edu/Scientia or by emailing scientia@mtsu.edu. 



Dennis Wise, a Ph.D. student, was one of two Deans' Distinguished Essay Award winners for a contribution to volume four of *Scientia et Humanitas*. Wise won for "Classical Poetry and Modern Political Philosophy: Spenser and Machiavelli in *A View of the Present State of Ireland*." Ellen Goertzen, now in graduate school at North Carolina State University, won the award for "Impact of Deworming Treatments on Intestinal Parasite Load in Equines from Middle Tennessee."

Honors Worthy {student notes and achievement}

Spring 2015 Interdisciplinary Seminars

Courses are open to students who have completed the English General Education requirements and may count as three hours upper-division English credit.

American Film in the '70s

UH 4600-001 (CRN# 14537)

Dr. Will Brantley

TR 2:40 to 4:05—PH 327

In *Born to Be Wild: Hollywood and the Sixties Generation* (1984), Seth Cagin and Philip Dray call attention to “the brief but very golden age of the late sixties and early seventies, when a new generation of filmmakers cultivated and claimed a privileged relationship with a new generation of filmgoers.” Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, and other filmmakers responded in passionate but diverse ways to the defining events of a highly charged political era that included Vietnam, Watergate, emerging 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 seventies often through explicit statement but more often through 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.

Folktales and Literature

UH 3500-H01 (CRN# 16886)

Dr. Martha Hixon

MW 2:40 to 4:05—HONR 117

For hundreds of years, storytellers have spun tales of heroes and villains, magic and trickery, good rewarded and evil punished. How have these stories twisted and turned over the centuries, and how have they defined our expectations of narrative structure and the elements of “a good story”? Why do these stories endure, anyway—in what ways do their themes and archetypes speak to audiences today?

This seminar is a study of the interrelationship between folktales and contemporary literature. Students will discuss the various cultural contexts of what is commonly referred to as “traditional literature” or folk narrative—folk and fairy tales, myths, and legends—and the embedded themes and motifs that mark these tales and give them life. We will also examine contemporary fiction, film, art, and musical versions of some of the traditional stories, and we’ll consider possible reasons why literary storytellers and other artists continue to build new narratives out of old ones.

For more information about the spring and Folktales and Literature seminar, contact Dr. Martha Hixon at Martha.Hixon@mtsu.edu. [H](#)

Mock Trial Success!

An MTSU Mock Trial team placed second in a 20-team competition at Georgia Tech January 25–26. A team captained by senior Political Science/Psychology major Samantha Farish of Cookeville and Davis Thompson, a junior Political Science major from Alamo, Tennessee, won all six ballots against teams from Flagler University, the University of Miami, and the University of Carolina and dropped close contests to Miami University of Ohio, winner of the tournament.

Farish received a top attorney award, and Laura Morgan, a Biology and Mathematics senior from Maryville, won a top witness award.

Other teams that placed were the University of Florida, which matched MTSU's 6-2 score, the University of South Carolina (against which MTSU took both ballots), and Florida State University.

With Farish, Thompson, and Morgan on the team were Erick Ivey, a Political Science sophomore from Seymour, who played both an attorney and a witness, and others who played witness roles: Philip Sugg, a junior History major from Jackson; Darby McCarthy, a freshman Foreign Languages (Spanish) major from Murfreesboro; Jessica Shotwell, a freshman Psychology major from Memphis; and Elizabeth Bickel, a freshman Chemistry major from Murfreesboro.

Dr. John R. Vile, University Honors College dean and a Mock Trial coach who accompanied the team, said that the tournament, the last before regional competition in Clinton, Mississippi, marked the second time

the team had placed second in recent months. (It also did so at Rhodes College in late November 2013.)

In February, MTSU made it through regional competition at Mississippi College in Jackson, Mississippi, and sent two teams (the maximum allowed) to the Opening Round National Competition in Memphis.

Although neither team advanced to the final tournament, both had a great year and included a number of Honors students: Farish, Thompson, Morgan, Sugg, Bickel, Shotwell, McCarthy, and Adam Higgs, a junior Political Science major.

In addition to the accomplishments above, MTSU got an honorable mention in a tournament at Washington University in St. Louis and took fourth place in MTSU's tournament.

Dr. Vile offers an Honors Mock Trial class (Courtroom Procedures, PS 2100) each fall but has turned over most of his competition responsibilities to Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth, Mock Trial alumnae and local attorneys. [H](#)

Lower-Division Certificates: Milestones Reached

Twenty-eight students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received Lower-Division Certificates of Achievement from the University Honors College this spring. The students represent a variety of majors.

Twelve students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences were recognized: Aerospace major **Collin McDonald**, a sophomore; Animal Science major **Caitlin Chase**, a junior; junior Biochemistry major **Ashley Corson**; Biology majors **Caleb Hough**, a junior, **Victoria Lay**, a sophomore, **Mei Zhi Wang**, a sophomore, and **Rachel Yates**, a junior; a junior Computer Science major, **Kailey McDonald**; and four sophomore Science majors, **Hunter Mason**, **Natalie Musselman**, **Sydney Smith**, and **Dominic Woods**.

From the College of Liberal Arts honorees were Global Studies major **Susannah Barry**, a junior; **Taylor Witt**, a junior English major; **John Sells**, a senior Music major; junior **Alison Taylor**, a History major; junior Foreign Languages major **Makens**

Kastl; and **Wesley Jeffers**, a junior Speech and Theatre major.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, Information Systems major **Charles Alexander**, a junior, and **Adam Day**, a sophomore Business Administration major, received certificates.

Five students from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences earned certificates: junior Nutrition and Food Science majors **Nausheen Qureshi** and **Mabel Rodriguez**; **Meredith Denning**, a junior Family and Consumer Studies major; and Psychology majors **Jamie Foster**, a junior, and **Alexandra King**, a sophomore.

Two Mass Communication majors, **Kelly Maynard**, a sophomore, and **Tasha Storie**, a junior, received certificates.

Erin Paul, a junior Interdisciplinary Studies major from the College of Education, also reached the 20-hour milestone.

Dr. John Vile said that students who complete lower-division certificates need only 11 more hours (including thesis-related classes) to graduate with an Honors degree. [H](#)



Veronica Blanchard takes a passport photograph of Buchanan Fellow Madison Tracy during Passport Day in March. Madison was one of twenty students taking advantage of Passport Assistance scholarships.

New Honors Advisor: **Judy Albakry**

We were pleased to welcome new academic advisor Judy Albakry in September. She joins advisors April Goers and Laura Clippard and will focus on helping sophomores, juniors, and seniors progress through the Honors program.

Judy is new in the Honors College, but she's a familiar face on campus. She worked as an advisor in the College of Liberal Arts from 2006 to 2013.

Judy is from Arizona and received her undergraduate and master's degrees from Northern Arizona University. She and her husband, Mohammed Albakry (professor, English Department), moved to Murfreesboro in 2005 when Dr. Albakry was hired at MTSU. They


have two young children, Sami and Amanda.

The Albakrys spent the 2013–2014 academic year in the Northeast, where Dr. Albakry completed a residential fellowship at the Humanities Institute of the University of Connecticut.

Judy said, "We enjoyed our time away and loved being able to explore the New England area. It was a fantastic opportunity to introduce our children to the earlier parts of our country's founding. For example, we took them to Plimoth Plantation on Thanksgiving Day, toured Paul Revere's house, and lived very close to the family home of Revolutionary War hero Nathan Hale. While the time away was a good experience, I was also very



excited to come back home to middle Tennessee and am thrilled to now be a part of the Honors College. I'm looking forward to being a member of this close-knit community and helping our students find their way through the program requirements, on and off campus opportunities, and the thesis process."

Judy's office is in Honors 229 (next to April and Laura). She can be reached at Judy.Albakry@mtsu.edu or (615) 494-8819." 



June Hall McCash, professor emerita and founding director of the Honors Program, and her son, History professor Brenden Martin, recently coauthored *The Jekyll Island Club Hotel*. McCash is the author, coauthor, or editor of ten books—including eight nonfiction works and two historical novels—and has written a number of books and articles about Jekyll Island and its history. Her current project is a novel about the DuBignon family, set in the time of the French Revolution.

Prison Narratives: From Honors Lecture Series to Published Book

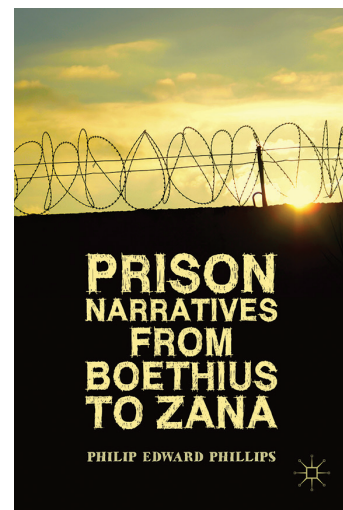
Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana, edited by Associate Dean Philip Phillips and arising from the spring 2012 Honors Lecture Series on prison writing, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in July. The book explores works from the sixth to twenty-first centuries by writers who were imprisoned for their beliefs.

The collection argues that figures such as Boethius, Thomas Malory, John Lilburne, John Bunyan, Henry David Thoreau, Louise Michel, Alice Paul and members of the National Woman's Party, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly), Malcolm X, and Mehdi Zana epitomize the tradition of speaking truth to power and sacrificing freedom—even life itself—in the service of truth. Chapters examine the subjects' lives, provide close analyses of their works, and contextualize their prison writings.

Featuring faculty members who were part of the lecture series, the book includes an introduction by Phillips and Dean John R. Vile. Chapters are "Boethius the Prisoner and *The Consolation of Philosophy*" by Philip Phillips (English, Honors); "'For This was Drawyn by a Knyght Presoner': Sir Thomas Malory and *Le Morte Darthur*" by Amy

S. Kaufman (English); "The Self-Incriminator: John Lilburne, the Star Chamber, and the English Origins of American Liberty" by Robb McDaniel (Political Science); "John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and Nonconformist Prison Literature" by Brett Hudson (English); "Henry David Thoreau and the Principle of Passive Resistance" by Tom Strawman (English); "The Radicalization of Louise Michel" by Nancy Sloan Goldberg (Foreign Languages and Literatures); "'From Prison to People': How Women Jailed for Suffrage Inscribed Their Prison Experience upon the American Public" by Jane Marcellus (Journalism); "Dietrich Bonhoeffer: An Exemplar of Costly Discipleship in Action" by John R. Vile (Political Science, Honors); "'The Jail House is Full of Blues': Lead Belly's Prison Pleas" by Mark Allan Jackson (English); "*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and the African American Quest for Freedom and Literacy" by Laura Dubek (English); and "Mehdi Zana and the Struggle for Kurdish Ethnic Identity" by Kari Neely (Foreign Languages and Literatures).

According to reviewer William E. Engel, Nick B. Williams Professor of English at Sewanee, the



University of the South, "*Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana* encourages readers to educate themselves about very important and relevant topics. This is a unique and timely contribution to the world of letters and the humanities broadly conceived . . . a viable platform for learning more about key incarcerated figures in the Western tradition as well as about related social and political movements."

Another reviewer, Donald H. Whitfield, vice president of the Great Books Foundation, wrote, "The eleven stimulating biographical essays in this collection are certain to prompt readers to reflect on how the experience of being locked up by society for crimes of conscience can unlock a rich and distinctive array of written reflections on society's most fundamental values."

The University Honors College is making plans to host a book launch and reception honoring contributors to the volume. The event will be free and open to all. [H](#)



Chemistry professor and Honors faculty member Judith Iriarte-Gross became the first recipient of the ATHENA International Leadership Award May 15 at a RutherfordCABLE ceremony and program at Stones River Country Club. Martha Mayhood Mertz, ATHENA International Awards founder and guest speaker at the event, presented the

award. RutherfordCABLE, a local women-in-business network, sponsored the award to honor women who exemplify "leadership, commitment to community, and unselfish assistance to women and girls while excelling in their careers."

Photo by Cynthia Jones/Cynthia Jones Photography



Bob Pondillo

Showcasing Distinguished Faculty the “Last” Time

Retired or soon-to- retire faculty members who have proven their mettle by long service, their influence by the esteem in which they are held, and their intellectual vigor by their still-formidable skills at the lectern are the focus of the Honors College’s latest series of special events.

This spring, the college launched the Last Lecture Series, open to any Honors faculty member about to retire. Two stepped forward to deliver lectures in the Honors Amphitheater on topics of their choice. Both have been longtime members of the Honors faculty, and both have been recognized for outstanding teaching. Brochures announcing the lectures featured the colors of the institutions where they earned terminal degrees, a tradition that the Honors College plans to continue.

Dr. Bob Pondillo, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2003 and has taught in the College of Mass Communication since 2001, presented the first lecture, “Why College?” He described his experience as a first-generation college student and his continuing faith in America’s higher education system. He emphasized the need to examine our assumptions and even our most cherished beliefs in pursuit of truth. Dr. Pondillo has worked for some of the largest media companies in the world, and he is an award-winning writer and director of short films.



David Rowe

The second lecture in the series was delivered by Dr. David Rowe of the Department of History, who specializes in U.S. religious history. Dr. Rowe earned his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia in 1974 and came to MTSU in 1981. He spoke of his experience in attempting to apply his Christian faith at a state school and offered insights into what has been called emergence Christianity, which blends old and new beliefs in somewhat unusual configurations.

Among Dr. Rowe’s publications are the books *God’s Strange Work: William Miller and the End of the World* (2008) and *Thunder and Trumpets: The Millerites and Apocalyptic Thought in Upstate New York* (1985).

Dean Vile said that both lectures were well received and well attended. Like the spring and fall Honors Lecture Series, the college hopes to make the Last Lecture Series a recurring event.

Vile said that however important it is to recruit new Honors faculty, it’s also important to learn from the academic lives of those with much experience. “In listening to Dr. Pondillo and Dr. Rowe,” he said, “it was apparent that both are retiring from the University at the top of their games.” [H](#)



Spring 2014 Honors Lecture Series



Phil Oliver



Ronnie Littlejohn



Shelley Thomas



Ken MacLeish



Fabio Troncarelli



Yuan-ling Chao



Students participating in the spring 2013 Honors Lecture Series—Health and Happiness (UH 3000)—explored the topic from different intellectual and cultural perspectives. The series featured distinguished speakers from disciplines such as philosophy, foreign languages, health and human performance, history, and speech and theatre. It was organized and led by Associate Dean Philip Phillips.

Lecture speakers were the following: “Splendid Health, Penultimate Happiness: A Pragmatic Perspective,” **Phil Oliver** (Philosophy); “Daoist Instructions for Making Transcendent Bodies,” **Ronnie Littlejohn** (Philosophy, Belmont); “Yoga and Meditation with an Indian Guru,” **Shelley Thomas** (Foreign Languages and Literatures); “Beyond Diagnosis: PTSD and the Work of War Making,” **Ken MacLeish** (Center for Health, Medicine, and Society, Vanderbilt); “Health and Happiness of the Body and Happiness as Health of the Soul in Classical and Late Antique Thought,” **Fabio Troncarelli** (Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy); “Body, Health, and Happiness: Classical Medicine in China,” **Yuan-ling Chao** (History); “In the Pursuit of Happiness, What Happens to Men’s Health?” **Derek Griffith** (Center for Health, Medicine, and Society, Vanderbilt); “Collaboration in Allopathic Medicine: Caring for the Whole Person—Mind, Body, and Spirit,” **Jeffrey D. Woods** (Trust Point Hospital); “Health and Happiness: Reducing Stress,” **Katherine Foss** (Journalism), **Kaylene Gebert** (Speech and Theatre), and **Mary Beth Asbury** (Speech and Theatre).

The series also included a presentation by Laura Clippard (Honors): “Applying for Fellowships and Scholarships,” which introduced students to available scholarships, how to apply, and resources offered by the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, which is supported by and housed in the Honors College.

To take advantage of special guest Fabio Troncarelli’s visit, the college invited him to present an additional lecture March 19 on medieval Rome, after which students, faculty, staff, and visitors attended a reception in his honor.

The series concluded with the following student thesis presentations: “*The Contributor: Changing Lives, Challenging Communities*,” Kelsi Carter (Journalism); “*Magic Tree: A Three-Part Treble Choral Arrangement from a Solo Reading*,” Emily Orbison (Biology); and “*Taken by the Other: The Traditional Anglo-American Captivity Narrative and Its Modern American Indian Adaptation*,” Savannah Shipman (English and History). The students were chosen by Dean Vile and Associate Dean Phillips from those who successfully defended their Honors theses during the spring (see p. 12).

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

The fall 2014 Honors Lecture Series is **The Power of Place**. For more information, please contact Dr. Phillips or visit <http://mtsu.edu/honors/Fall%202014%20Honors%20Lecture%20Series.php>. [H](#)



Derek Griffith



Jeffrey D. Woods



Mary Beth Asbury



Kaylene Gebert



Katherine Foss

Opening Doors

by Gina K. Logue

Few people are more fervent advocates of education than concerned parents. That's why Raiko Henderson, stay-at-home mother of four, is a believer in the University Honors College.

Henderson, a native of Seoul, South Korea, was adopted by an American family at age two and has lived in American Samoa and Seattle. In 1995, she accompanied her then-husband to Nashville, where she worked as a legal secretary while he attended law school at Vanderbilt.

With a few transfer classes under her belt, she became an MTSU Honors student, graduating in 2001 with a bachelor's in Economics with minors in Business Administration and English. But her fondest memories are reserved for liberal arts courses with wide-ranging discussions that took her imagination to new levels.

"It was more than just going into a class, taking two or three multiple-choice tests, getting a grade and leaving," Henderson says. "You really got to know your instructors."

She cites Dr. David Rowe (History), who retired in 2014, as "a really phenomenal teacher" and Dr. Jill Hague, former interim associate dean of the Honors College, and Dr. Will Brantley (English) as particularly memorable.

"I initially donated to the Honors College to give back scholarship money I received when I attended MTSU," she says.

However, after she was invited to join the Board of Visitors and listened to students' stories, she was inspired to do more.

Henderson had intended to go for a graduate degree, but remarriage and the birth of her four children changed the direction of her life. Her keen intellect and probing mind are now devoted to making sure nine-year-old Sarah, seven-year-old Michael, five-year-old Samuel, and three-year-old Rebecca have the best possible preparation for life. The family lives in Henderson, Ky., a town founded by her husband's ancestors. He works as an attorney across the river in Indiana, where the children go to school.

One of Henderson's big challenges has been Michael's struggle with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Henderson is doing research to determine whether Michael also has dyslexia.

"Part of me feels like I'd like to do something to help these children with learning disorders because a lot of them aren't getting the help they need, especially if they're severe cases,"

Henderson says. "Unfortunately, a lot of times [teachers don't] catch it until third or fourth grade, and, by then, [the children] are so beaten down."

That's why she wants the Honors College to establish scholarships for students with learning disorders by using a test-optional model for admission.

"Rather than using standardized testing as the main criteria for acceptance, use graded schoolwork, interviews, and personal essays," Henderson says. "There are many bright students who could contribute a lot to the Honors College who are unable to show their strengths on standardized tests."

Henderson sees the social stigma such youngsters face as another stumbling block on the path to quality education. And the children aren't the only ones who need educating.

"I see parents ignore their children's disabilities and subsequently watch their children struggle because they are afraid that their children will be labeled as 'stupid,'" she says.


Henderson says children with learning disabilities frequently have assets that go overlooked by mainstream society, including the ability to think abstractly and to master a macroview of the world that others miss.

Waning emphasis on the humanities is another of Henderson's concerns. She fears that dismissing liberal arts as irrelevant or even expendable would be a terrible mistake. She sees the connection between in-depth classroom discussions and the world outside college as an obvious one.

"Do the brokers on Wall Street worry about the social repercussions on actual people on the losing end of a trade?" she says. "Could they learn more from Jurgis Rudkus and the Joad family in books like *The Jungle* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, or do they simply follow the Machiavellian mantra that the 'ends justify the means'?"

That said, Henderson would like to see more students with business and vocational/technical-oriented majors graduate from the Honors College. She believes they could benefit from the collegiality and increased attention. "It's really a self-contained little community within MTSU. When I see the students, I feel like they have a family there," she says.

As for her personal aspirations, that graduate degree she put on hold to care for her kids is still a possibility.

"If I go back to get a graduate degree, which I would like to do, I'll probably be the oldest person there," Henderson says with a chuckle. 

Alum Raiko Henderson strives to
increase access to the Honors College
experience.





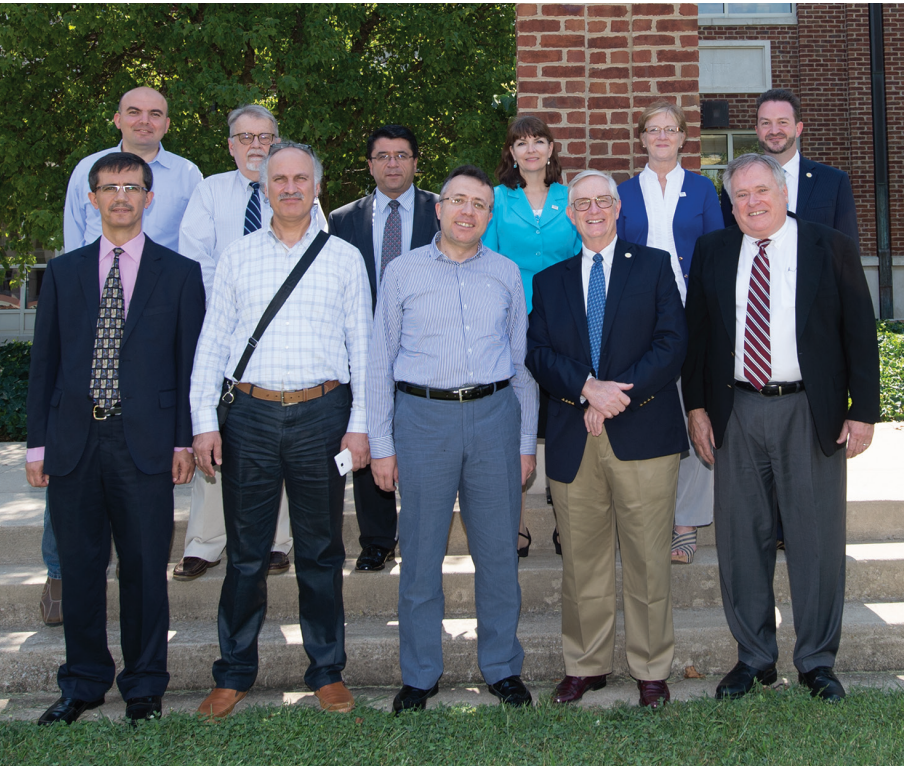
Susan Lyons, who oversees an ongoing service project at AdamsPlace that benefits both students and residents, helps retired Murfreesboro physician **Liz Rhea** ('55), independent-living resident, with her iPad.

Amy Beth Hale (Recording Industry Management, '93), member of the Academic Master Plan Committee, tours the Martin Honors Building with Philip Phillips, associate dean and committee chair. Hale works for SESAC in Nashville.



Taffy Xu received an honorable mention certificate from David Lavery for the William Wolfe Graduate Writing Award during the spring Liberal Arts awards ceremony.

ALUMNI EVENTS



Honors College alumnus and Board of Visitors member **Paul W. Martin Jr.** assisted MTSU in developing a business relationship with industrial representatives from Kayseri, Turkey. Turkish representatives are partnering with Meliksah University and MTSU to obtain a grant from the Turkish government to develop switch reluctance motor technology for a patented wheel hub motor created by Dr. Charles Perry. Pictured in front of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building in August are, front (L-R), Ismail Fidan, Tennessee Tech University; Mustafa Okandan, ENR Investments, Kayseri, Turkey; Halil Cankaya, ENR Investments, Kayseri, Turkey; Paul W. Martin Jr.; Charles Perry, Russell Chair in Manufacturing Excellence, MTSU; back, Metin Oguzmert, Southern Polytechnic State University; Lou Svendsen, Tennessee Board of Regents; Murat Arik, associate director, Business and Economic Research Center, MTSU; Andrienne Friedli, director of special projects, MTSU Undergraduate Research Center; Jackie Eller, interim vice provost for research and interim dean, College of Graduate Studies; Philip Phillips, associate dean, University Honors College



Honors College alumnus and 2012 Fulbright Scholarship winner **Daniel Gouger** spoke in several classes in February about his experiences as a Fulbright Scholar and a medical student. Daniel is in his second year at Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.



Virginia Vile (Political Science and Foreign Languages, '02), who recently took a new job as a prosecutor in Winchester, Virginia, visited her father, Dean John Vile, this spring.

Class News {student awards and scholarships}

Honors College 2013–2014 Awards



John Pennington (Psychology)
Outstanding Honors Faculty Award

Michael Hammock (Economics)
Exemplary Service Award

Diamondie Wilson (Biology)
Bart McCash Scholarship

Cori Crenshaw (Anthropology)
McCash Founders Award Scholarship



Anna Gray (Social Work)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Joanne Tan (Biology)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Sydney Smith (Chemistry)
Hannah/Harris Study-Abroad Scholarship



Madison Tracy (Mass Communication)
Hannah/Harris Study-Abroad
Scholarship

Kelsey Crews (Psychology)
Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Brandon Hazlett (Psychology)
Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Michael Lampley (Biochemistry)
Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Hannah Owens (English)
Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Nikita Shokur (Biochemistry)
Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship

Sanna Shaban (Nursing)
Lawrence R. Good Scholarship

Brenton Andrews (Aerospace)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

John Duke (Mass Communication)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Brooke Morgan (Forensic Science)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry)
Research Resources Scholarship

Jonathan Herlan (Physics)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship



Trang Huynh (Biology)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Evan Lester (Aerospace)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Chloe Madigan (English)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Anna Neal (Biology)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship



Joanne Tan (Biology)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Nathan Tilton (Aerospace)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Victoria Lay (Biology)
Outstanding Freshman

Sydney Smith (Chemistry)
Outstanding Sophomore



Chelsea Harmon
(Chemistry)
Outstanding Junior



Jin Kim (Biology)
Outstanding Senior

Lisa Starke (Mass Communication)
Gordon and Sarah Bell Scholarship
in Native American Studies

Savannah Shipman (English)
Gordon and Sarah Bell Scholarship
in Native American Studies

Class News {student awards and scholarships}

SCHOLARS WEEK WINNERS

Brandon Hazlett

First place, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Cameron Crawford

Third place, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Martin Moran

First place, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Alison Taylor and Katherine Stubblefield

Second place, College of Liberal Arts

2014–2015 STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Cori Crenshaw Torres (Anthropology)

Brooke Morgan (Forensic Science)

Nathan Tilton (Aerospace)

Madison Tracy (Journalism)

2014 UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Martin Moran (Exercise Science), Provost Award

Lori Wheeler (Global Studies), Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award

Tandra Martin, Community Service Award

SUMMER URECA FUNDING

Jered Chua (Industrial and Organizational Psychology)

Ryan Daugherty (Mechatronics Engineering)

Tiffany Jih (Music)

Brooke Morgan (Forensic Science)

Anna Neal (Biology)

Cheyenne Plott (Foreign Languages)

Mason Riley (Biology)

Nikita Shokur (Biochemistry)

Joanne Tan (Biology)

Larissa Wolf (Biology)

Rachel Yates (Biology)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES SPRING AWARDS

Brenton Andrews (Aerospace)

Donald Pettet Memorial Scholarship

Joe S. Ballard (Mathematics)

Harold S. Spraker Senior Mathematics Award

Cameron Crawford (Biology)

Peter I. Carl Outstanding Senior Award

Grayson Dubois (Computer Science)

J. C. and Judy Hankins Scholarship

Carly Duffy (Biology)

Elliott Dawon/BioVentures Biotechnology Scholarship

Matthew Fuller (Biology)

Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship

Jonathan Herlan (Physics)

Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Achievement Award

Keith L. Hollingsworth (Mathematics)

Charles F. and Ethel E. Lewis Scholarship Award

Michael W. Lampley (Chemistry)

Dan Scott Chemistry Scholarship

Victoria Lay (Biology)

Clay M. Chandler Outstanding Freshman Biology Award and Scholarship

Evan Lester (Aerospace)

Kenneth H. Peek II Endowment Fund and Frank and Harriet Hedrick Scholarship

Kendall Martin (Biology and Animal Science)

Sam Paschal Award for Outstanding Horse Science Student

Collin McDonald (Aerospace)
Excellence in Aviation Scholarship

Daniel Murphy (Physics)
Faculty Achievement Award in Physics

Nick Myhre (Aerospace)
Theoretical Physics Award for
Excellence and Colonel Jean Jack
Aerospace Scholarship

Dillon Nall (Biology)
Mary C. Dunn Freshman Scholarship

Anna Neal (Biology)
Mary Ann Harrison McClary and
Richard E. McClary Scholarship

Sydney Smith (Chemistry)
Chemical Rubber Company Award
for Freshman Chemistry and Jubran
and Judy Wakim Scholarship

Katelyn Stringer (Physics)
Astronomy Club Service Award

Nathan Tilton (Aerospace)
Tiara Foundation Chair Award
of Excellence, Patrick Michael
Couch Memorial Scholarship,
and Deaver Phoenix Foundation
Annual Scholarship

Courtney Wright (Mathematics)
Charles F. and Ethel E. Lewis
Scholarship Award

Rachel Yates (Biology)
Ralph E. Sharp Outstanding
Sophomore Award and Scholarship

Roxana Yavari (Computer Science)
Outstanding Sophomore Award

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES SPRING AWARDS

Danielle Dye (Exercise Science)
Buleah Davis Scholarship

Anna Gray (Social Work)
Marian Clark Scholarship

Martin Moran (Exercise Science)
Exercise Science Outstanding Major
and first place, College of Behavioral
and Health Sciences Scholars Day
poster presentation

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SPRING AWARDS

Nathan Abelt (History)
James Leonard History Scholarship

Emilie Aslinger (Global Studies
and Foreign Languages)
June Hall McCash Award for
Excellence in French

Michaela Edwards (Industrial/
Organizational Psychology)
Outstanding Debate
Leadership Award

Morgan Farmer (Speech and
Theatre)
Robert Aden Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Farish (Political Science
and Psychology)
Norman L. Parks Award and
Meritorious Service Award

Krysta Lee Frost (English)
Homer Pittard Creative Writing Award

Lydia Harris (History and
Anthropology)
James Taylor Scholarship and James
Leonard History Scholarship

Hailey Lawson (Psychology)
Outstanding Debate
Leadership Award

Chloe Madigan (English)
Virginia Derryberry
Memorial Scholarship

Erin Potter (English and Art)
William J. Connelly Award for
Upper-Division Writing

Joey Meyer (Global Studies and
International Relations)
Meritorious Service Award

Leigh Stanfield (Speech and
Theatre)
Communication Studies Academic
Excellence Award

Davis Thompson (Political Science
and Journalism)
EXL Award

Chris Wysocki (Speech
and Theatre)
Outstanding Freshman Debate Award



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COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Class News {faculty and staff}

Sherry Wisner George (Creative and Visual Services) received a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Special Merit Award for her art direction of the cover of the fall 2012 *Honors Magazine* (illustration by Daniel Baxter). MTSU's Marketing and Communications team competes in CASE District III, which recognizes the best university communication work in the southeast. MTSU received a record nine awards in the 2013–2014 competition.

Nancy Goldberg (Foreign Languages and Literatures) received a 25-year service award.

Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) received a STEM Award for promoting women's and girls' education in science, technology, engineering, and math at the first annual MTSU National Women's History Month Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment gala.

Alfred Lutz (English) received a 15-year service award.

Philip M. Mathis (professor emeritus, Biology) had two short poems, "Spring Breeze" and "Bloom of Spring," published in the spring 2014 issue of *The Avocet*, an Arizona-based quarterly devoted to nature poetry. His poem "Life Partners" was published in the spring/summer 2014 issue of *Pegasus*, the journal of the Kentucky State Poetry Society.

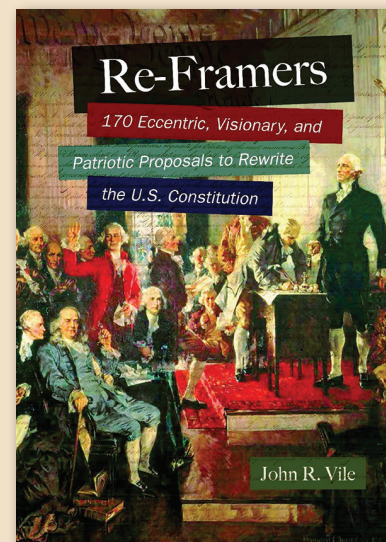
Robb McDaniel (Political Science) received a 15-year service award.

R. Drew Sieg (Biology) and several coauthors published "Poor resource quality lowers transmission potential by changing foraging behavior" in the February 2014 edition of *Functional Ecology*, an online publication of the British Ecological Society.

Kathleen Therrien (English) received a 15-year service award.

Philip E. Phillips (Honors associate dean) is having a busy year. He chaired a session, "Testimony from the Medieval Tradition," at the 16th Christianity in the Academy Conference at Union University's Stephen Olford Center in Memphis on March 7. He chaired the opening session of "Revisiting the Legacy of Boethius in the Middle Ages," a conference at Harvard University March 14–15. He attended the American Literature Association Conference in Washington, D.C., May 22–25, where he presided over the business meeting of the Poe Studies Association, of which he is president. He attended the SACS-COC Tenth Annual Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation in New Orleans July 20–23. And he was elected to a two-year term as president of the MTSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and was a delegate at its biennial convention in St. Louis August 7–9.

John R. Vile (Honors dean) recently published a book titled *Re-Writers: 170 Eccentric, Visionary, and Patriotic Proposals to Rewrite the U.S. Constitution* (ABC-CLIO, 2014). The same publisher has released the second edition of Vile's *The United States Constitution: Questions and Answers*. The dean also published an article in the spring 2014 issue of *Colonial Williamsburg* titled "Ridicule, Scorn, and Approbation: Delegate William Pierce's Notes on His Constitutional Convention Colleagues." In July, Vile appeared with law professors from University of Texas–Austin and Tulane University on two national radio broadcasts of *Scholars' Circle* to discuss the 2013–2014 term of the U.S. Supreme Court and various contemporary issues surrounding the constitutional amending process.



Class News {alumni and friends}

Joe Ballard (Economics and Mathematics, '14) received full funding to attend Ohio State, including a university fellowship for the first year and a GTA or GRA position for two to five years. The award includes tuition waiver, health insurance, and an annual stipend.

Jacob Basham (Mathematics and Science, '13) and Ashley Whitlow welcomed daughter Paisley Autumn Basham in February.

Hannah Hopkins Barnhart (Organizational Communication, '12) earned an M.S. in Leisure and Sport Management from MTSU in December. She and her husband, Zach, live in Knoxville.

Kaitlin Beck (Economics, '12) is attending the University of Chicago School of Law.

Meg Davis (Speech and Theatre, '11) is pursuing a Ph.D. in theatre at Texas Tech University.

Timothy Edgemon (Sociology, '14) is seeking a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Georgia.

Samantha Farish (Political Science, '14) was accepted to George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Amber Hampton (Global Studies, '09) began graduate school at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work in 2013.

Lorel Holsinger (International Relations, '14) is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Colorado—Boulder.

David Hull (Music, '13) works as production coordinator for Naxos of America, a classical music label/distributor based in Franklin.

Jennifer Johnson (Psychology, '12) served as first-year representative for the Human Development Counseling program in the Human and Organizational Development Department at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. She was also a Peabody Graduate Student Association General Board representative-at-large and volunteered as a counselor with SENSE Theatre.

Katlyn Krueger (Music, '13) is working for the City of Murfreesboro as a cultural arts programming specialist and is also teaching piano lessons.

Michael Lampley (Biochemistry, '14) is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Vanderbilt.

Rayne Leonard (Biochemistry, '13), who is pursuing an M.S. in Biology at MTSU, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct research in Beijing this summer.

Daniel Murphy (Physics and Philosophy, '14) is pursuing a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Tennessee.

Brittney Oliver (Psychology, '09) won second place in the graduate category for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at Scholars Day poster presentations in April. She defended her dissertation in June for the Ph.D. in Human Performance. Her dissertation was "Bhutanese Refugees' Health Behaviors and Perceptions: A Qualitative Approach to Understanding Bhutanese Refugees' Post-Resettlement Experiences with Health Care Services in Middle Tennessee."

Tony Pritchard (Biology, '11) passed the dental school second-year National Board Dental Examinations last winter and is now working with patients. He is in his final year of dental school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

Nathan Reale (Computer Science, '12) received the Paul Hutcheson Computer Science Graduate Scholarship. He has accepted a job with Google (see p. 39).

Courtney Rodman (Global Studies, '14) is attending Illinois Institute of Technology–Chicago Kent College of Law to study international law. She was named an honors scholar and received a full-tuition scholarship.

Savannah Shipman (English and History, '14) is studying medieval history at Western Michigan University.

Jonathan Siler (English, '11) is an information associate at Virginia Commonwealth University's James Branch Cabell Library.

Rick Skelley (Mass Communication, '11) is working for Intersign Corporation in Chattanooga.

Chad Slaven (Chemistry, '12) is studying in the dental surgery program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis and has passed the first part of the National Board Dental Examinations.

Leland Waite (Aerospace, '12) was one of six University flight instructors hired earlier this year under an agreement between the Aerospace Department and Georgia-based ExpressJet. Leland accepted a class date with ExpressJet Airlines and started training in July.

Tyler Whitaker (Anthropology, '13) is pursuing a master's in linguistic anthropology at Southern Illinois University.

Lee Whitwell (Political Science, '11) was elected president of the Moot Court Board at the University of Memphis Law School before graduating in May. He started work this summer as an associate attorney at Spence Law Firm in Memphis.

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Class Notes updates!

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Graduate or professional school • New job or title
Internships • Research • Publications • Presentations

E-mail Class Notes updates to hcnews@mtsu.edu
or to marsha.powers@mtsu.edu.

Bret Reid Wiggins (Computer Science, '12) received the Computer Science Alumni Award this spring.

Victoria Worrell (Geoscience, '14) received a graduate fellowship funded by Anadarko Oil Company to study professional geology at Baylor University.

Taffy Xu (English, '11) presented her research at the International Association of Chinese Language and the North American Conference of Chinese Linguistics Conference at the University of Maryland in May. This spring, she won honorable mention for the William Wolfe Graduate Writing Award and a writing award through the Confucius Institute's Chinese writing competition. She married Shane Xu this summer and plans to finish her M.A. in English in December.

Juan Zelaya (Entrepreneurship, '14) is interning with Bankers Life and Casualty before starting graduate school in 2015.

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I AM A *listener & a speaker*

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