

Areté

[excellence • virtue]

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2018



MAKING A COLLAGE

For 50 years, *Collage* magazine has published student poems, stories, and art that reflect issues of the day

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TENNESSEE

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ARETÉ MAGAZINE

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

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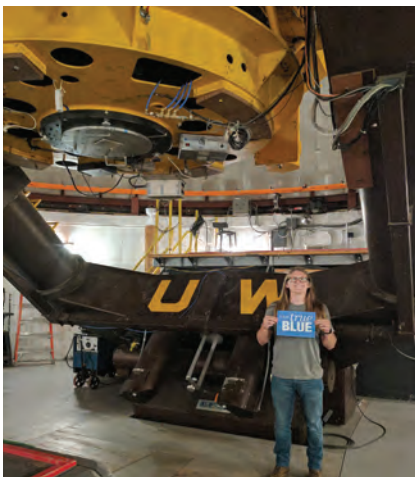
COVER PHOTO

Collage editor-in-chief Rebecca Clippard (I) and designer Veronika Gajdosova

2,500 copies, printed at Falcon Press, Nashville, Tenn.
Designed by Creative and Visual Services

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I AM *true* **BLUE**



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36 Faculty and Staff



42 Alumni and Friends

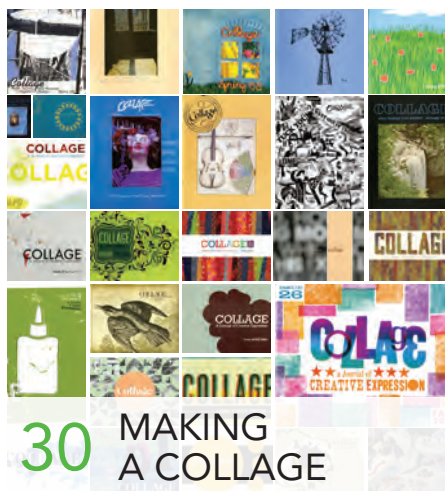


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For 50 years, Collage magazine has published student poems, stories, and art that reflect issues of the day



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Nearly a decade after graduating from MTSU, Taylor Barnes is considered one of the nation's most accomplished young minds in computational chemistry

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK What's in a name?



For many years now, this magazine has been named the *Honors Magazine*. Before that, we called it the *Honors Edition*. Although both terms are certainly accurate and to the point, neither has been especially creative. Prior to the time I became dean, our newsletters had been called the *Honors Alternative*, *The Honor Guard*, and the *Honors Syndrome*. At least in retrospect, the latter name, which has a hint of irony, seems a bit clinical—almost as though the special treatment we provide for Honors students is intended to cure what ails them, rather than building upon their strengths.

The MTSU College of Education has named its magazine *Aspire*, which has a great ring to it and which led us to wonder whether we could find a similar term to express the Honors ideal. We thought about using the word “perspire,” but thought that we might get some kickback from the athletics department. One suggestion with some appeal was to call the magazine *The Ivy* to highlight our ivy-covered columns and to emphasize our aspirations to model ourselves on the liberal arts often associated with Ivy League institutions. Those who remember the duck that nested outside the college and whose ducklings we named, will not be surprised that one staff member said we could name the magazine *Quackers* or *Waddles*, but then decided that readers might think it referred to me!

We then began looking at possible Greek or Latin words that might be appropriate. As personified in our journal *Scientia et Humanitas*, this would also serve the purpose of connecting the Honors College back to its classical roots.

After considerable consultation, in which I tried to remember the two years of Latin I had in high school and a semester when I audited Greek in graduate

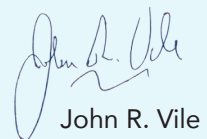
school, we decided to rename our magazine *Areté* [pronounced *ahr-i-tey*]. This Greek term has a double meaning. It refers to excellence of all kinds, as well as to moral virtue. In Greek thought, the two were closely linked, with philosophers believing that excellence was only achievable through the exercise of virtue.

“ This Greek term has a double meaning. It refers to excellence of all kinds, as well as to moral virtue. ”

I think that *Areté* is a good name for our magazine because we emphasize not only excellence in all endeavors, but we also try to accentuate the importance of a number of virtues. These values are so important that they are engraved on our building, as well as listed at the bottom of each cover of our magazine. The ideas of **honor, commitment, integrity, discipline, faith, curiosity, character,** and **creativity** are not only expectations, but also continuing aspirations.

Undoubtedly, some readers will see the cover and wonder what *Areté* means, but at a time when almost everyone has access to electronic media, it shouldn't be terribly difficult to find the term.

We hope that *Areté* will not simply be a catchy title, but additionally a call to further excellence, achieved through honorable means.


John R. Vile

areté
noun (ahr-i-tey)

the aggregate of qualities, as valor and virtue, making up good character



Dianna Z. Rust



Jennifer Woodward (l), Political Science faculty, left, and James Morton



PKP HOLDS FALL INITIATION CEREMONY

Pictured following the 2017 PKP initiation are (l-r): Gina Logue, Dianna Z. Rust, Kathy Davis, John R. Vile, Allison Bradford, Peter H. Cunningham, Timothy Hulse, Kaylene Gebert, and Philip E. Phillips.

Honors Student PKP Initiates

- Rebecca Clippard**
Foreign Languages
- Jessica M. Fox**
Family and Consumer Studies
- Hannah Hall**
Biology
- Natalie R. Jones**
Foreign Languages
- Alex Knight**
Biology
- Sunny Lusins**
Forensic Science
- James M. Morton**
History and Political Science
- Brian Sharber**
Computer Science
- Richard G. Shelton**
Mass Communication

Timothy Hulse, associate provost of the Honors and Scholars Program at the University of Tennessee, served as keynote speaker at the Nov. 14 initiation ceremony for the MTSU chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Members of the Honors faculty recognized as influential faculty were Sonja Hedgepeth, Allen Hibbard, and College of Liberal Arts Dean Karen Petersen.

MTSU's chapter president, Dianna Z. Rust, presided over the initiation ceremony and presentation of certificates. Student vice president Allison Bradford introduced the influential faculty selected by new initiates. Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College and past president of PKP, introduced the speaker.



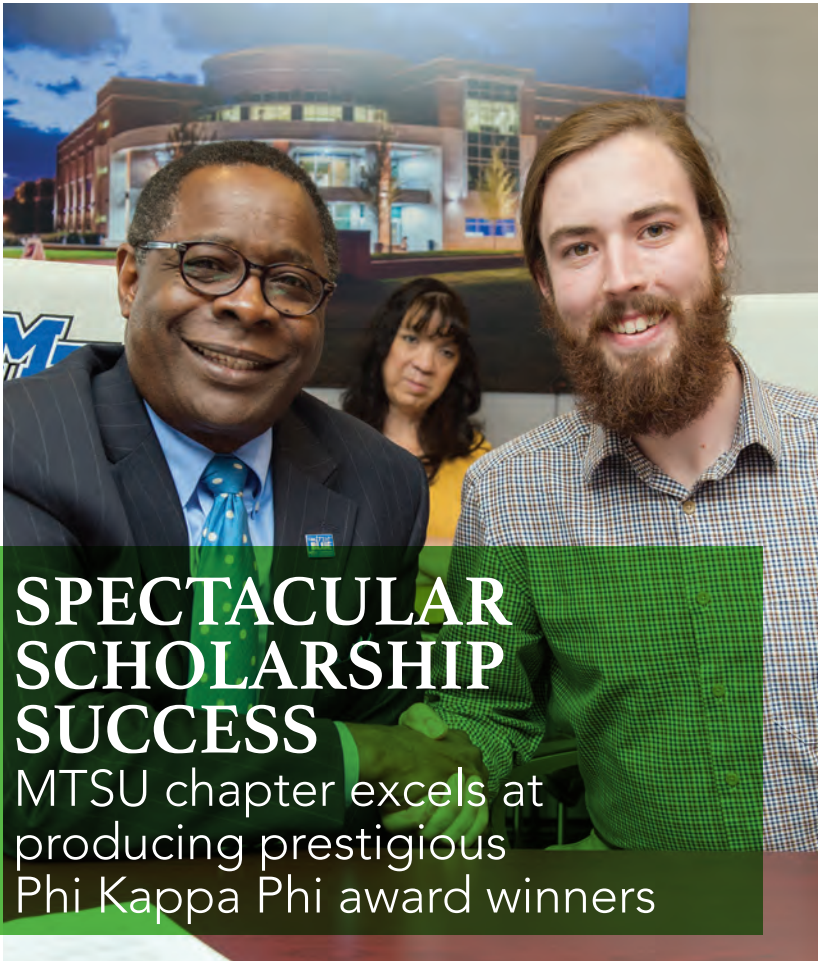
College of Media and Entertainment Associate Dean Zeny Panol and Billy Farmer



Timothy Hulse



PKP Student Vice President Allison Bradford



SPECTACULAR SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

MTSU chapter excels at producing prestigious Phi Kappa Phi award winners

Sidney A. McPhee and Sam Hulsey



Front (l-r), Gina Logue and Dianna Z. Rust; back, John Vile, Kaylene Gebert, Philip Phillips, and Kathy Davis



John R. Vile and Katelyn Stringer

The MTSU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, which celebrated 30 years on campus in December, has seen its students reach extraordinary levels of success.

Twenty-two members have won prestigious PKP scholarships since 1999, including MTSU's first award winner Ryan Durham, a Business major, who used his Fellowship Award to help fund law school at the University of Tennessee.

The most recent Fellowship winner, Natalie Musselman, applied her \$5,000 Fellowship award toward physical therapy school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis last year. "I highly encourage anyone at MTSU looking into the Phi Kappa Phi or other fellowships to utilize all the resources the Honors program has to offer," Musselman said. "Being a graduate student and having the opportunity to pursue my passion has been surreal. It is spectacular to be in a room every day with people who are all dedicated, kind, and hardworking students."

The Honors College has played an important role in MTSU's PKP scholarship success, with involvement from Honors Dean John R. Vile, former PKP

president; Kathy Davis, Honors College executive aide and MTSU PKP chapter coordinator; and Laura Clippard, Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator, who assists with the selection and application process for MTSU's top candidate.

Honors Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips, immediate past president of MTSU's PKP chapter, has supported the organization and its members in various roles. He participated in the 2015 PKP Partnering for Success Leadership Summit in Utah; attended two biennial conventions; and is serving a two-year term on the national Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Selection Committee.

"Having won the \$5,000 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship consistently over the past several years, our chapter's goal should be for one of our students to win the \$15,000 award. It is a highly competitive process, but our students are fully capable of being selected for this prestigious award," Phillips said.

Among the Honors students who have captured PKP awards are College of Basic and Applied Sciences alumni Eric Freundt, Jacob Basham, and Taylor Barnes. Freundt, a Biology major, won a Fellowship Award in 2003 and became the first MTSU

graduate to enroll at the esteemed University of Oxford in England under the National Institutes of Health's Biomedical Research Scholars graduate program. Basham, a 2013 Fellowship Award winner, attended medical school at the UT College of Medicine in Memphis and was twice selected as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Research Fellow at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Barnes (*whose story is featured on page 42*) earned a Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology, known more popularly as Caltech, and is a computational chemistry research scientist.

Students in the social sciences have won their share of PKP awards. Virginia Vile, a 2002 graduate with majors in Political Science and French, received a PKP Fellowship Award and earned a law degree at the College of William and Mary. Katie Crytzer, a Political Science major and a current member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, won a Fellowship Award and attended George Mason University School of Law.

Phi Kappa Phi also awards grants that encourage MTSU students to pursue opportunities abroad. "I had never been to South America before," said Tiffany Miller, an International Relations and Spanish dual-major who spent Spring 2017 in Santiago, Chile, through a PKP Study Abroad grant. "I went to school at one of the local universities, and all of my classes were completely in Spanish. I stayed with a Chilean family and got to learn interesting

cultural practices. I participated in an internship that allowed me to teach English to a group of Chileans on a weekly basis. I explored the beautiful scenery along the coast of Chile and will never forget my time abroad."

Pursuing her Japanese and Spanish majors, Rebecca Clippard received a PKP Study Abroad Scholarship and spent the 2016–17 academic year in Osaka, Japan. "I loved making international friends and visiting all the different cities, shrines, and temples," recalled Clippard, who attended Japanese classes at Kansai Gaidai University, participated in cultural events, and lived with a host family.

Seniors and graduate students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class and juniors who rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class are nominated for membership to Phi Kappa Phi, a 120-year-old organization.

Nationwide, Phi Kappa Phi annually awards 51 fellowships amounting to \$5,000 and another six \$15,000 fellowships to members entering the first year of graduate or professional school. Seventy-five \$1,000 study abroad grants are given out each year, and 200 Love of Learning awards for \$500 each are distributed for graduate or professional studies, doctoral dissertations, continuing education, career development, or education-related travel. Each active chapter may select one local applicant to compete for the Fellowship Award. **A**



Philip E. Phillips and Natalie Musselman



Lauren Rigsby



Jacob Basham

MTSU PHI KAPPA PHI AWARD WINNERS

Ryan Durham, 1999, Fellowship Award

Natalie Woodward, 2001, Award of Excellence

Virginia Vile, 2002, Fellowship Award

Eric Freundt, 2003, Fellowship Award

Andrea Walker, 2004, Fellowship Award

Katie Crytzer, 2006, Fellowship Award

Matthew Bullington, 2007, Fellowship Award

Gretchen Jenkins, 2008, Award of Excellence

Taylor A. Barnes, 2009, Fellowship Award

Adam Emerson, 2009, Emerging Scholar Award

Lauren Rigsby, 2009, Emerging Scholar Award

Merranda Holmes, 2010, Fellowship Award

Jacob H. Basham, 2013, Fellowship Award

Lauren Rigsby, 2013, Love of Learning Award

Samuel Hulsey, 2014, Study Abroad Grant

Daniel Murphy, 2014, Fellowship Award

Katelyn Stringer, 2015, Fellowship Award

Rebecca Clippard, 2016, Study Abroad Grant

Chloe Madigan, 2016, Fellowship Award

Evan Lester, 2017, Love of Learning Award

Tiffany Miller, 2017, Study Abroad Grant

Natalie Musselman, 2017, Fellowship Award



TRANSFER FELLOWS WELCOME

First expanded group of 30 transfers inaugurated

The Honors Transfer Fellows program, previously limited to 15 new students per year, expanded starting in 2017–18, allowing for 30 new fellows to be selected and inaugurated in the fall.

Transfers came to MTSU from 14 different schools, including eight from Motlow State Community College and five from Columbia State Community College. Four transferred from out-of-state schools in Georgia, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

The ceremony took place Sept. 15 in the Student Union Ballroom. Returning Transfer Fellows Natalie Foulks and Bassam Aboona welcomed the new students, while University Honors College Dean John R. Vile gave the evening address.



John R. Vile and Lucas R. Williams



John R. Vile and Sunny B. Lusins



Philip E. Phillips and Roqué Marcelo



Front (l-r), John R. Vile, Destiny Seaton, Joseph Gulizia, Jacob Wilder, Christina Huggins, Seth Jones, Ariellah Huisinga, Sheridan Hitchcox, Caitlin Miller, Lucas Williams, Elizabeth Foreman, Jessica Dejong, Emma Cryar, Dylan Palmer, Jonathan Cannon, Kaylene Gebert, Philip E. Phillips; back, Robert Owen, Aaron Kelly, Clinton Warren, Roqué Marcelo, Jana Pehrson, Sarah Wilfong Joblin, Stacey Yabko Misra, Emily Gleason, Sunny Lusins, Alea Hollandsworth, Emory Bibb, Hannah Giles, Sierra Coffee, Abrial Goen, Judy Albakry, and Matthew Cureton



Philip E. Phillips, John R. Vile, and Kaylene Gebert

BUCHANAN FELLOWSHIP INAUGURATION

Honors College greets
21 new scholar recipients



A capacity crowd watched as 21 freshmen, including a record seven graduates of Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, were inaugurated as Buchanan Fellows on Sept. 8 at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Tatum England and Benjamin Kulas, both junior Buchanan Fellows, welcomed the new scholars. Honors faculty member Rebekka King, assistant professor of Religious Studies, challenged the group.

Pictured following the 2017 Buchanan Fellow inauguration are (l-r): front, Dean John R. Vile, speaker Rebekka King, Hector N. Hernandez, Anna C. Levine, Jiwoo Park, Kelsey Keith, Hayley Payne, Sarah Jones, Catherine Farone, and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips; middle, Isaac Shirk, John Mehne, Katrina Scott, John Gustafson, Emily Oppmann, Channing Mullinax, Carma Sharp, and Nathan Smith; and back, Max Behling, Dirk Sims, Miranda Hall, Cameron Maddux, Alyssa Maloney, and Isabelle McCurdy.



FALL 2017 THESES DEFENDED



Mahmuda Akter
Biochemistry
"Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics as BACE Inhibitors"
Norma Dunlap, advisor



Muhammad Fariz Ali
Biology
"Investigating the Invertebrate Response to *Cryptococcus neoformans*, a Fungal Pathogen"
Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann and Erin McClelland, advisors



Gabby Armour
Biology
"Analysis of Kelp Quality and Starvation on Grazing Behavior of *Tegula tridentata*"
Dennis Mullen, advisor



Kyra Boots
Chemistry
"Effects of Gallium Protoporphyrin IX on *Acinetobacter baumannii* Catalase"
Anthony Farone, advisor



Kayleah Bradley
Chemistry
"Analysis of the Polysaccharides in *Cannabis sativa* joey and *Cannabis sativa* Fedora 17"
Paul Kline, advisor



Jennifer Crow
Sociology
"No One Else Was Talking About It, So It Must Be Taboo: Social Responses to Mormon Feminists"
Gretchen Webber, advisor



Paige Fairrow-Davis
Exercise Science
"Lowering Blood Glucose Levels: The Effect of Active Static Flexibility on Plasma Blood Glucose of Those With Type 2 Diabetes, Prediabetes, and Those at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes"
Vaughn Barry, advisor



Natalie Foulks
Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology
"Narrative Discourse Performance in Older Adults"
Kathryn Blankenship, advisor



Katherine Hitchcock
Psychology
"STEM: Increasing Fourth-Grade Girls' Confidence, Interest, and Efficacy through a Five-Session Afterschool Club"
Michelle Boyer-Pennington, advisor



Andrew Huff
Recording Industry
"Modern Craft and Trade: An Investigative Internship"
Kaylene Gebert, advisor



Nolan Jolley
Animal Science
"Investigation into Timing of Cuttings for Maximum Propagation Efficiency of *Vitis aestivalis* 'Norton/Cynthiana' Grapevines"
Tony Johnston, advisor



Janie Kullmar
Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology
"Word Learning in Authentic Versus Explicit Conditions"
Kathryn Blankenship, advisor



Catherine Latham
History
"When the Yellow Ribbons Fade: War, Memory, and the Military Community"
Mary Hoffschwelle, advisor



Madeline McDonald

Animal Science
"Equine Temperament Examination through Novel Object Exposure: Suitability for Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies"
Holly Spooner, advisor



Alicia McGuire

Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology
"Assessing the Speech for Speakers of Nonstandard American English Dialects"
Rebecca Fischer, advisor



Cassandra Mihalko

Biochemistry
"Establishing Tissue Culture of King of Bitters (*Andrographis paniculata*) and Comparison of Callus Versus Plant Neoandrographilide Production"
John DuBois, advisor



Morgan Murphy

Public Relations
"A Montessori Approach to Teaching the Fruits of the Spirit"
Dianna Rust, advisor



Matthew Posey

Mass Communication
"Leadership, Management, and Organizational Culture in High School Athletic Departments from the Perspective of Athletic Directors: A Thematic Approach"
Elizabeth Dalton, advisor



Richard Guy Shelton

Mass Communication
"Funding Nonprofits Through Photographs"
Jonathan Trundle, advisor



Jeanette Stevens

International Relations and Global Studies
"The Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) on Life Expectancy in Sub-Saharan Africa"
Stephen Morris, advisor



Lesley Sweeton

English
"The Women Who Made Me"
Kate Pantelides, advisor



Andrew Swehla

Biology
"Infectivity of Novel Intracellular Bacteria for Eukaryotic Cells"
Mary Farone, advisor



Xoe Thacker

Biology and Psychology
"Determination of Optimal Auxin and Cytokinin Levels in Tissue Culture Media for Callus Induction and Growth of Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa L.*)"
John DuBois, advisor



Kimberly Warren

Forensic Science
"Effect of Drain Cleaner Exposure on the Molecular Integrity of *Sus Scrofa* DNA"
Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann, advisor



Nicholas Watts

Anthropology
"Position Labeling in the NFL: An Anthropological Study of the Labels Imposed on Professional Football Players"
Ida Fadzillah, advisor



William V. York IV

English
"Moments of Men: Rural Masculinity"



BUCHANAN FELLOW AND TRANSFER FELLOW GAME NIGHT

Buchanan Fellows (l-r) Jake Garrette, Lauren Grizzard, Tatum England, Hannah Berthelson, Hannah Tybor, and Nick Cummings



Buchanan Fellows George Schroeder, Delanie McDonald, and Austin Ford



Buchanan Fellows Jake Garrette, Hannah Berthelson, and Lauren Grizzard



New and current Buchanan Fellows Benjamin Burton, Janie Kullmar, Emily Oppmann, and Kelsey Keith join advisor Laura Clippard.



Fellowships coordinator Laura Clippard (r) talks to Honors students Ella Morin and Ariellah Huisinga.



HONORS COLLEGE FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Benjamin Kulas and Abigail Williams serve ice cream to students, faculty, and staff.



Shelley Thomas, Honors French professor and director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition, welcomes Honors Lecture Series speaker Tara McKay (l) of the Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society.



Honors Dean John R. Vile (r), Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips, Tara McKay, and Shelley Thomas converse during the annual ice cream social.



Buchanan Fellow Nathan Smith reaches for an ice cream topping during the annual Honors fall ice cream social.

OMICRON DELTA KAPPA CIRCLE ADDS 50 IN FALL CEREMONY

Nashville immigration attorney Elliott Ozment was initiated into MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society Oct. 23 and also served as guest speaker for the occasion. The circle installed its new local officers and added 45 junior and senior student members, four sophomore squires, and *honoris causa* initiate Ozment.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded in 1914, is "the first college honor society of a national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship," according to its website, odk.org. The society recognizes achievement in the areas of scholarship; athletics; journalism, speech and the mass media; creative and performing arts; and campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government.

For more information about ODK, contact Susan Lyons, circle coordinator, at [615-898-5645](tel:615-898-5645) or susan.lyons@mtsu.edu.



Allison Bradford, Kyra Boots, Kimberly Warren, and Alex Knight



John R. Vile and Elliott Ozment



Philip E. Phillips and Nathan Wahl



John R. Vile and Whitney Ingle

New Initiates

Basic and Applied Sciences

Mahmuda Akter
Emory Bibb
Jessica DeJong
Emily Gleason
Joseph Gulizia
Michael Harber
William Johnstone
Gabriella Lindskoug
Sunny Lusins
Tammy Nunez
Peter Roldan
Brian Sharber
Margaret Stubblefield
Andrew Swehla
Ethan Willis

Behavioral and Health Sciences

Casey Brinegar
Samantha Eisenberg
Ellen Engle

Whitney Ingle
Dylan Palmer
Abigail Young

Education

Amber Brown
Natalie Norton

Jones College of Business

Matthew Cureton
Andrew Huff
Fallon Endsley
Abrial Goen

Liberal Arts

Kimora Cross
Jacinda Drenckpohl
Bishoy Fam
Elisabeth Foreman
Hannah Giles
Eric Goodwin
Sasha Hines
Aleea Hollandsworth
Natalie Jones
Seth Jones

Sarah Wilfong-Joblin
Abigail Williams

Media and Entertainment

Nicholas Cummings
Briyana Dyer
Roqué Marcelo
Kaylee Schilling
Destiny Seaton

University College

Meghan Miller

New Squires

Basic and Applied Sciences

Isabella Barnett

Jones College of Business

Skylar Lemon

Liberal Arts

Brittany Johnson
Nathan Wahl

FALL 2018 INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS

The Holocaust and After: Protesting Prejudice and Preventing Genocide

UH 3500-001
TR 11:20 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
HONR 116
Sonja Hedgepeth (Foreign
Languages and Literatures)
CRN: 86957

What about human rights and the dignity of each human being? Collectively, we may be quick to agree that these are important values to uphold, yet it seems that we continue to live in a world where human life is often devalued and individuals can do nothing

to make things better. Instead of being frightened by the enormity of injustice in the world, study and discussion of prejudice and intolerance can help to move us closer to finding better ways to coexist.

In this seminar, we will study the history of the Holocaust, tracing the rise of Nazism, and we will consider the institutionalization of genocide. What does the fact of the Holocaust tell us about humanity? Does knowledge about the Holocaust cause us to despair, or can we learn from this horrific event in order to protest intolerance and prevent

genocide today? This seminar is intended to empower the students and professor through the study of texts, films, writing, and discussion.

After a thorough study of the Holocaust, we will explore reactions of survivors, historians, scientists, politicians, writers, and artists, as well as everyday citizens after World War II, and we will ask ourselves if there are still lessons of the Holocaust for us to learn today.

This course is open to students with a 3.25 GPA and junior-level standing. For more information, please email Sonja.Hedgepeth@mtsu.edu.

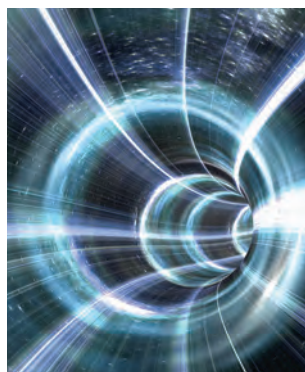
Back to the Future: Time-Traveling Across the Disciplines

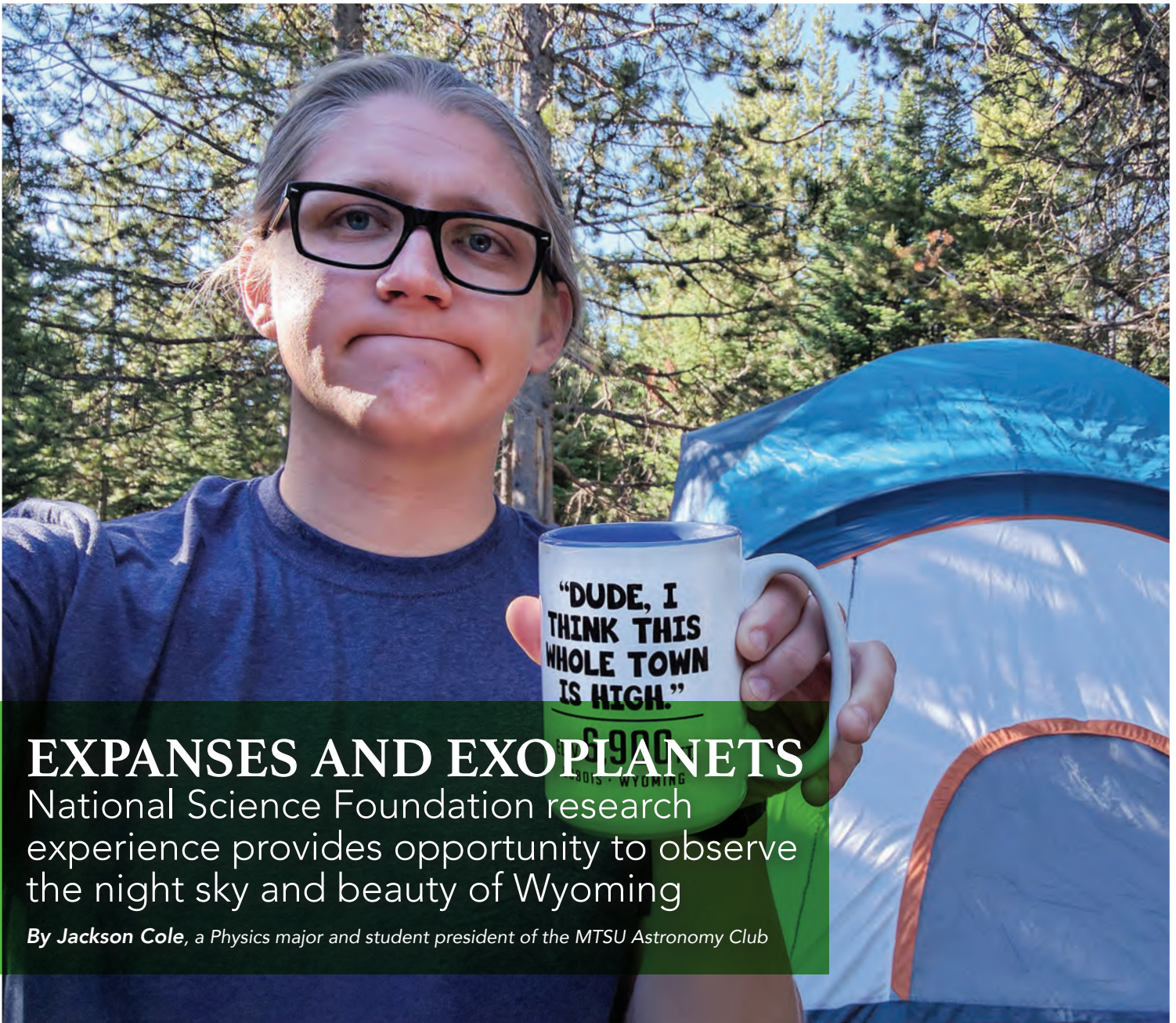
UH 4600-001
T 2:40–5:40 p.m.
HONR 218
Maria Bachman (English)
CRN: 82917

If you could take one ride in a time machine, which way would you go—the future or the past? And what exactly might you expect to find once you reach your destination? Whether your preferred mode of transportation is a tricked-out DeLorean, a TARDIS, a wormhole, or teleportation, you won't want to miss out on this "excellent time-travel adventure."

Since the publication of H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* in 1895 and the introduction of Albert Einstein's theory of

relativity in 1905, time travel has been an ongoing source of fascination for writers, scientists, philosophers, and filmmakers. UH 4600 will be the portal through which we'll journey through more than a century of literary, philosophical, and scientific investigations into time travel. Throughout this odyssey, we'll explore the myriad theories, paradoxes, and possibilities of time travel and consider the evolution and ethics of time travel in fiction and popular media. In doing so, we'll have the opportunity to hone our cultural analysis skills, while contemplating the physical, emotional, and metaphysical motivations for connections to the past and predictions of the future.





EXPANSES AND EXOPLANETS

National Science Foundation research experience provides opportunity to observe the night sky and beauty of Wyoming

By *Jackson Cole*, a Physics major and student president of the MTSU Astronomy Club

Wyoming is possibly the most beautiful state I've ever seen. When I arrived in Laramie for my National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) at the University of Wyoming, I had to pass through Medicine Bow National Forest and the Laramie Range, and I quickly noticed that the horizon is filled with mountains. The Laramie Range is to the east, the Snowy Range is to the west, and the Rockies are immediately south. The wildlife is unbelievable. Antelope are everywhere, along with moose, black bears, and an occasional mountain lion.

The first full day we were at UW, our group of REU students observed with a professor and a grad student, and within a week the REU students took the project's reins. In the afternoons, we met in the astronomy



computer lab to reduce data, discuss data reduction/processing techniques, and talk about the specifics of the data analysis that we were conducting. Also, professors and grad students gave talks on various topics.

Around 6 p.m. each day, those who were observing that night would load the observatory vehicle to head to work. The observatory was about 45 to 60 minutes away, with a 30-mile drive to the base of Jelm Mountain, followed by a 5- to 7-mile drive on dirt mountain roads with steep dropoffs.

We spent the summer observing giant exoplanet transits, which allowed me personally to spend about 30 nights operating a world-class 2.3-meter infrared telescope on top of a mountain in Wyoming with my REU peers. Our project was specifically focused on confirming prior published results, confirming and updating transiting exoplanet ephemerides for our targets, and providing adequate data for characterizing their atmospheres. Basically, this boiled down to a collective total of 66 nights of continuous observation of 12 targets, coupled with a significant amount of time programming and reducing data.

“ We spent . . . about 30 nights operating a world-class 2.3-meter infrared telescope on top of a mountain in Wyoming. ”

In the fall, the other REU students, the grad school project leader, and I co-authored a paper. We also created posters about our research, which we presented at the American Astronomical Society conference in Washington, D.C., in January 2018.

While in Wyoming, I hiked, camped next to Jackson Lake in the Grand Tetons, stepped in thigh-deep snow, visited the hot springs, watched Old Faithful, swam in Jackson Lake even though it was 40 degrees, and wished I lived there.

All in all, it was an absolutely unbelievable experience and a lot of fun. I am incredibly thankful to have been able to spend a summer in beautiful Wyoming being paid for doing astronomy. **A**



STUDENT SUMMER LEARNING EXPERIENCES



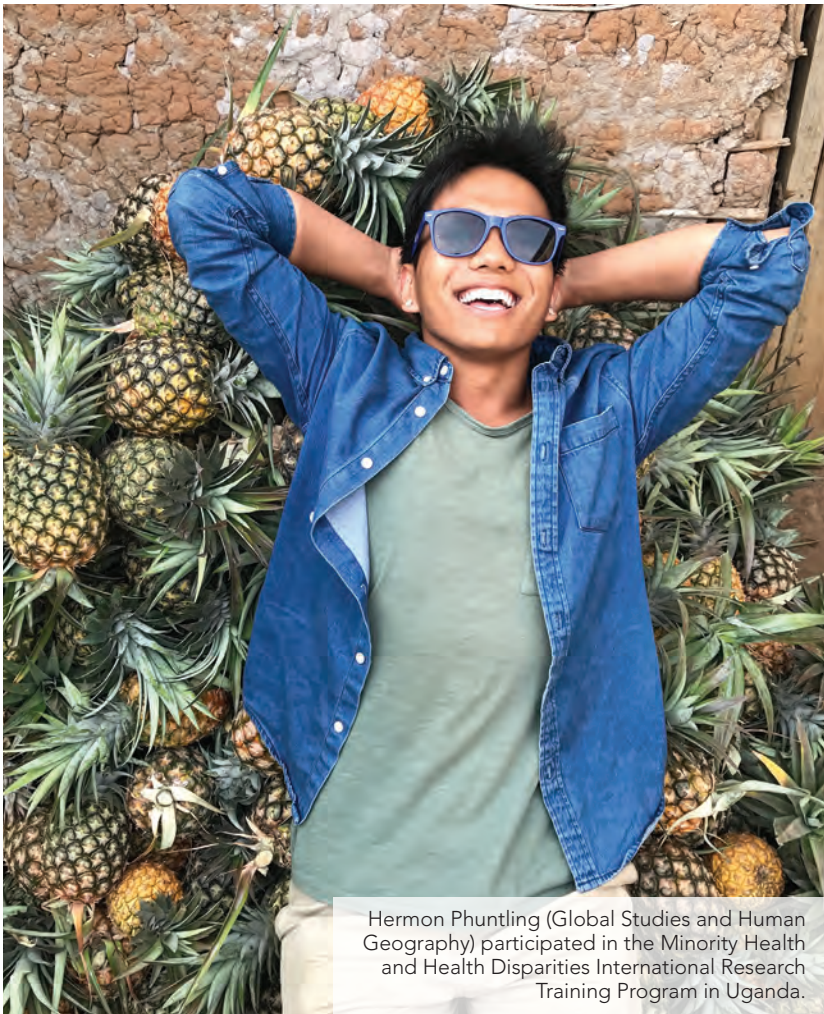
Rebecca Clippard (Japanese and Spanish) spent a year in Japan with the help of a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship.



Physics major Bassam Aboona received National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) funding to conduct research at Texas A&M.



Kelly Richardson (Political Science) participated in the Public Policy and Internal Affairs Junior Summer Institute at the University of Minnesota.



Hermon Phuntling (Global Studies and Human Geography) participated in the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program in Uganda.



Bonnie Boley, an International Relations major, was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study Turkish in Azerbaijan.



Tiffany Miller, right, a double major in Spanish and International Relations, received a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship for an immersion experience in Chile.



Hannah Hall (Biology) spent the summer of 2017 at the University of California–Riverside with an NSF REU grant.

GREAT UNEXPECTATIONS

Honors track leads to amazing and unforeseen study abroad and internship experiences

By *Samuel Musili*, a senior Honors student studying political science



During my first freshman advising meeting with Honors advisor Judy Albakry, she adamantly stated that I should get involved on campus and take advantage of opportunities that came my way. As a first-generation American and college student, I did not expect to have the opportunity or money to participate in activities outside of the classroom. I also had a part-time job and was taking a full course load, which consumed most of my time, so I politely smiled and dismissed her advice. Little did I know that I would not only study abroad twice, but I would also have an opportunity to intern with one of the best environmental firms in Washington, D.C.

During my sophomore year in 2016, I made my first study abroad trip to Prague, Czech Republic. The Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) offered a program in Prague with courses that counted towards my minor and Honors requirements, so my main concern was funding the trip. Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, helped make the impossible happen. I received scholarships from the Honors College, Study Abroad Office, and KIIS. These scholarships, coupled with my financial aid, allowed me to study abroad for the summer and visit many countries throughout Europe.

During the summer of my junior year in 2017, I went to Bregenz, Austria. I applied for but was not awarded a Gilman Scholarship. Although I was disappointed, I did not give up on my dream to study abroad again. I received scholarship money from the Study Abroad Office and Honors College to cover some of my expenses, and my financial aid supplemented the balance.

As cliché as it may sound, both of my study abroad trips were life-changing. I had never travelled alone, so navigating airports and train stations all over Europe was liberating and empowering. I was forced out of my comfort zone as I talked to new people who were just as curious to learn about me as I was to learn about them. Instead of learning about concepts in a textbook, I found myself standing in the history of the cultures about which I was learning. Ultimately, my study abroad experiences gave me the courage to apply for an internship in D.C.

In the spring of 2017, I was one of four MTSU students accepted to the rigorous Washington Center internship program, which helps place students from around the world in internship positions in D.C. I was selected to intern at Marzulla Law, a boutique environmental law firm.

“ I had never travelled alone, so navigating airports and train stations all over Europe was liberating and empowering. ”

The semester I spent in D.C. impacted me personally and professionally by allowing me to gain firsthand experience in the legal field while cultivating relationships with influential people who have become my mentors.

As a senior, I am amazed at the things I have been able to achieve at MTSU. I gained confidence in myself and achieved what I did not think was possible. After graduating in May, I plan to take a year off and gain work experience before moving back to D.C. to attend law school to study international and immigration law. I am grateful to the Honors College staff for believing in me and for their constant support. **A**



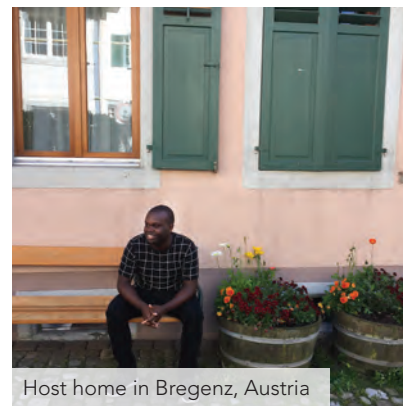
Amsterdam, Netherlands



The John Lennon Wall in Prague



On the Vltava River



Host home in Bregenz, Austria



LIVING ANOTHER LIFE

Immersed in South Korean culture, study abroad adventure builds confidence, too

By Ariellah Huisinga, a junior Transfer Fellow majoring in Global Studies

The mouthwatering, sizzling barbecue was grilled to perfection right before my eyes. With the meat hot off the grill, I wrapped it in a fresh lettuce leaf, added a little garlic clove, and dabbed my chopsticks in a robust sauce for the finishing touch. Never have I experienced a better meal than this dakgalbi served at a local restaurant in Incheon, South Korea.

In total, I spent a month and a half in South Korea living with a kind, married couple who hosted my friend and me in their home. I participated in Songang University's intensive language and culture summer immersion program, soaking in every moment.

Once I was home, I realized that although I left Korea, a part of Korea has stayed with me. Not only do I keep with me the vivid memories that I gained from the experience, but also immense personal growth. I wrote these words near the beginning of my trip to Seoul: "In just a week, I feel like I've almost lived another life. This is my first time completely immersed into new surroundings.

First time stepping onto a plane or subway not knowing exactly what it'll be like when I step off. First time trying to order food or introducing myself to people in another language. First time learning to be comfortable with not knowing how each day will go."

I am certain of this: going overseas stretches a person. I gained self-confidence in realizing that, by the goodness of the Lord, I was able to operate independently as an adult in many different scenarios in a new culture. I also learned a great deal about who I am.

“Once I was home, I realized that although I left Korea, a part of Korea has stayed with me.”



Korean lanterns



When no longer in the known shallow waters of one's comfort zone, one must dive deeper. What is it that I stand for? Am I able to explain my principles and beliefs to people with different backgrounds than my own? I was able to discover the answers to these questions while engaging in wonderfully deep conversations with my classmates from all around the world.

Study abroad is not cheap, but it is worth every penny. I had to plan meticulously and save for a year, ask for financial support, and plan a concert at my local coffee shop to raise funds. I am immensely thankful to have family and friends who supported me throughout the process. I learned, however, that one's own determination is the biggest factor in whether or not one will step onto the plane. I am grateful that I did not allow my fears about finances and the unknown to keep me from having a fantastic, enriching experience. **A**



FROM THEORY TO REALITY Student government leadership and Honors studies help hone skills to improve self and society

By Nick Lembo, a senior majoring in Political Science



Explaining the importance of enrolling in the Honors College must begin with who I am today. I am a lifelong student, a composed leader, and a compassionate human being. Four years ago, I was only bits and pieces of each, and today, even though I am still not the best form of myself, the Honors College has invested in me to help me pursue my passions.

Studying both Political Science and Philosophy, I have been exposed to new perspectives, critically analyzed ideas, and articulated thoughts. By enrolling in the Honors College, I took more demanding classes, which projected me into a rigorous academic environment. The classes promoted consciousness, and with each passing semester, I became more self-critical and curious about ideas, thinkers, and their correlation to society.

In my collegiate career, I have learned about political evil and about the function of education in democratic institutions. Honors courses taught me about these topics and made me realize the importance of social contracts and citizenship. Although, the United States is an amazing country, there is room for improvement. There is always room for improvement in everything, especially in ourselves.

To graduate from the Honors College, one is expected to either study abroad or enroll in the Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE). I chose the latter, and I encourage other students to do the same. ILE was a week-long course I will never forget. It focused on the soft skills in building relationships and developing qualities of a leader,

such as equanimity, respect, and cooperation. In combination with an Honors education, I have applied ILE to other aspects of my life.

For the first three years of college, I was involved in MTSU's Student Government Association (SGA) and the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL). The main goal of each organization is representing student interests and assessing institutional problems and solutions. Within both organizations I became involved in leadership. In SGA, I served as chair of Internal Affairs, and in TISL I was elected speaker of the House. I believe these two achievements were only possible because of my Honors College experience.

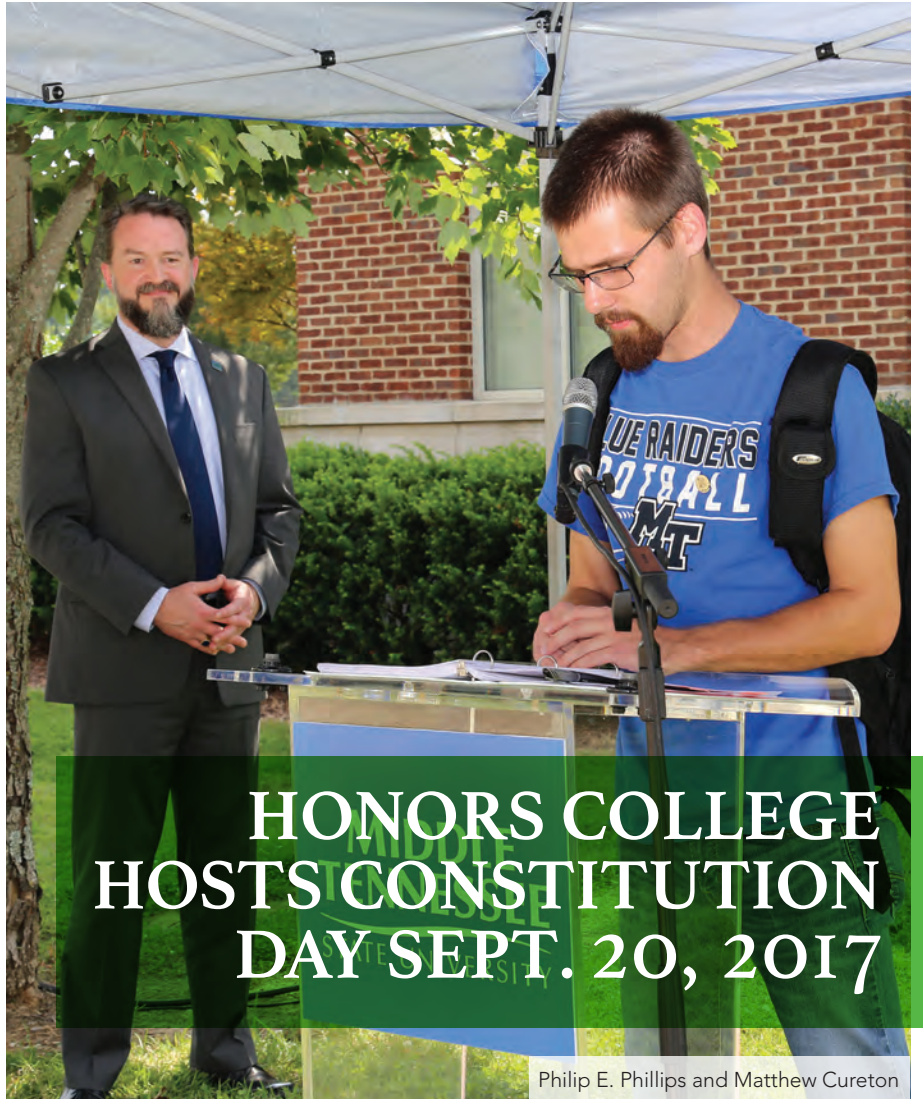
“For too long, politics have boiled down to party lines, zero-sum gains, and dehumanizing the opponent.”

In the grand scheme of my four years in college, I believe the Honors College, ILE, SGA, and TISL have contributed to an even greater understanding of politics, mainly that one should emphasize partnerships—and not partisanship. For too long, an atmosphere of disjunctive politics has clouded searching for real solutions. For too long, politics have boiled down to party lines, zero-sum gains, and dehumanizing the opponent. For too long, solutions have only been one-sided. There can be and is a middle ground. Rather than focusing on tearing down the previous administration's accomplishments, we should focus on implementing real solutions that accommodate both competing political parties.

An Honors College education provides students with a repertoire of knowledge and skills incomparable to other programs. Education is not a piece of paper; it is a license to improve society. I encourage all qualified students to enroll in the Honors College. **A**



Lara Daniel



HONORS COLLEGE HOSTS CONSTITUTION DAY SEPT. 20, 2017

Philip E. Phillips and Matthew Cureton



Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales



Jonathan Cannon



Kelly Richardson and Seth Jones



SCIENTIA ET HUMANITAS STAFF

Members of the 2017–18 *Scientia et Humanitas* staff are (l-r): front, Megan Donelson, Ella Morin, Jasmin Laurel, Rachel Marlin, and Jency Wilson; back, Andrew Black, Nick Dalbey, Will Underland, and Gregory Bronson. Not pictured are Hillary Yeager and Benjamin Kulas.



Honors Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips (l) and Dean John R. Vile present the 2017 *Scientia et Humanitas* Deans' Distinguished Essay Award to Ryan Bearden for best undergraduate paper.



English Ph.D. student Hillary Yeager receives the 2017 *Scientia et Humanitas* Deans' Distinguished Essay Award for best graduate paper from the Honors deans.



IN WITH THE NEW FURNITURE

Sawyer Vals, Kaylee Schilling, Abigail Williams, and Emily Webb try out the new furniture in the McCash Student Commons. The old student commons, seminar room, and downstairs hallway furniture, which dated back to January 2004, was replaced in the fall after President Sidney A. McPhee and Provost Mark Byrnes approved the expenditure, which will allow the Honors College to continue to be a showcase for visitors.



CLEVELAND STATE HONORS STUDENTS VISIT MTSU

Honors students and staff from Cleveland State Community College visited MTSU's Honors College Oct. 30 at the invitation of Honors resident faculty member Mary Evins to learn about programs and opportunities.

Evins, Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips, and Honors advisor Judy Albakry had previously visited Cleveland State and met with Victoria Bryan, Honors program director; Robert Brandon, dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; and several other Honors faculty members.

Bryan and Brandon brought a group of 26 students and other faculty members from Cleveland State's Honors Program to tour MTSU and learn more about the Honors College.

In addition to information sessions about MTSU admissions and the Honors program, students were also able to meet with advisors to learn more about their prospective majors, tour campus, attend the Honors Lecture Series, and meet with current Honors Transfer Fellows.

MAKING A COLLAGE

For 50 years, *Collage* magazine has published student poems, stories, and art that reflect issues of the day

By Vicky Travis

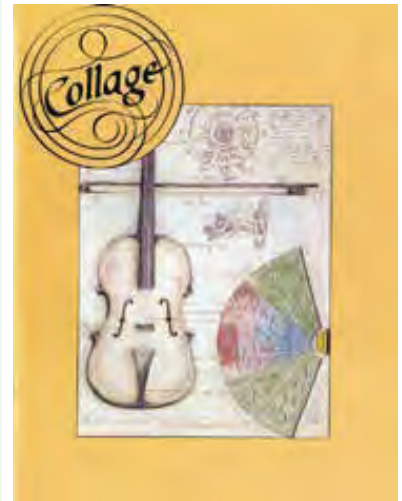
Creativity might get love from mom, stuck with a magnet to the fridge. Sometimes friends, sometimes teachers compliment. But that moment when a jury of peers says it's good, and good enough to be published, well, that can be a game-changing validation.

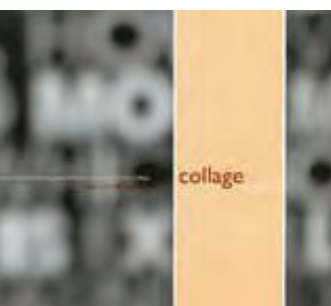
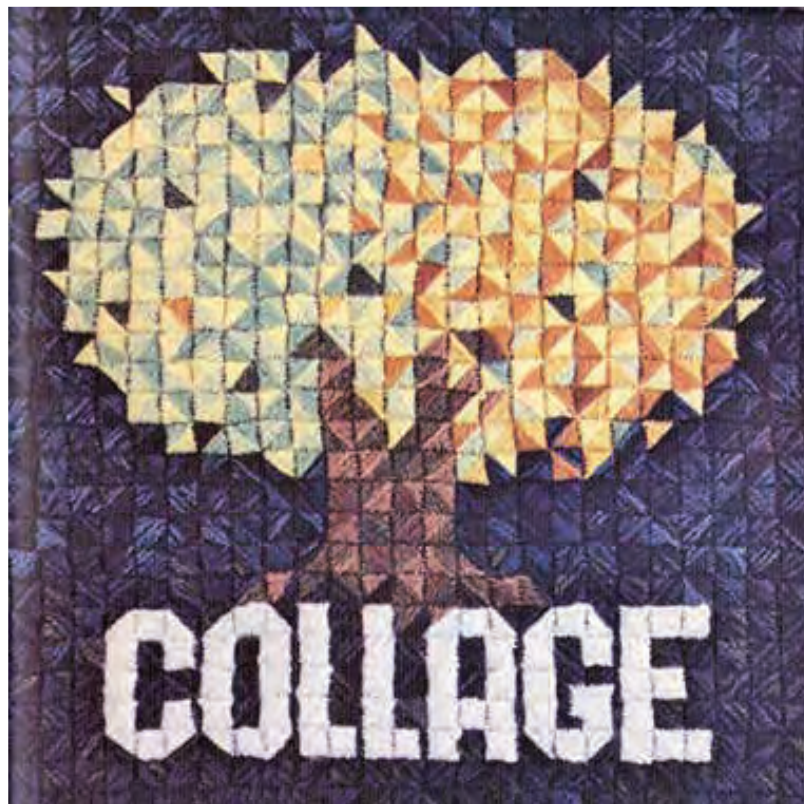
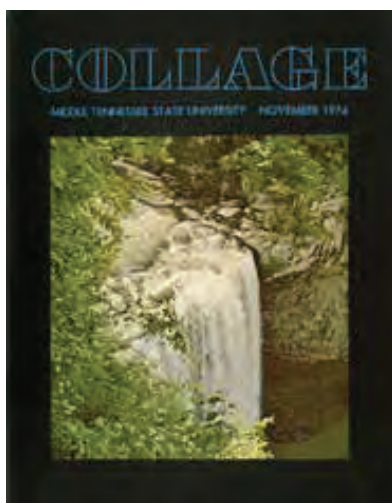
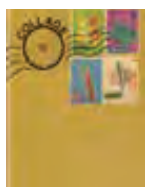
For 50 years, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* has been that vehicle for MTSU students. Publishing artwork, photos, poetry, and short stories created by MTSU students, the magazine has not just validated student talent, but it also has helped launch careers.

Author Leah Bailey was published four times in *Collage* after returning to MTSU for her master's in the College of Media and Entertainment in 2015. She also won the magazine's Creative Expression Award twice. Bailey graduated MTSU with a bachelor's degree in Horse Science in 2005. After several years working in the horse racing industry, and after experiencing a horse-riding accident, she started writing a novel while she recovered. Later she decided to return to MTSU to pursue her graduate degree.

"Coming from a non-English-major background affected my confidence level," Bailey said. But once she was published in *Collage*, she was validated.

“Collage is so beneficial for new and emerging writers.”







"Collage is so beneficial for new and emerging writers," she said. That first publication of a short story opened the door.

"It made me feel like my dream is more likely to happen. It was a validation of that dream," Bailey said. "I was walking on clouds for a little while and didn't tell anyone about it until it was printed—and real."

Bailey then had the confidence to submit short stories to other magazines such as *Southern Writers*, where she won its 2016 writing contest. She's now an adjunct professor at MTSU and Motlow State Community College.

But Bailey is certainly not the only former student who credits experience with *Collage* with launching a professional career.

"It's a place for creative people to share their work, and it's something they can always reference," said Caitlin Noonan, former *Collage* editor and recent graduate who now works at Penguin Random House in New York. "It's proof of good work, and there's not a lot of things like this."

An English major, she joined the staff during her sophomore year as a fiction editor on the literary team. She then became editor-in-chief for two years.

"Collage was such a huge part of my college life and the first introduction into the world that I wanted to be a part of," Noonan said.

The process of carefully going through hundreds of entries individually, then discussing the highest-ranked entries during team meetings to come to consensus on *Collage's* content helped build her professional skills.

"And you don't always get your way," Noonan remembered. "You learn to take all opinions into consideration." Someone might fight for a certain piece and help other team members see things from another perspective.

Those meetings could last hours and get pretty intense. Pizza required.

About 300 to 400 student submissions are considered for each *Collage*, which is published every fall and spring under the advisement of Marsha Powers, Honors College coordinator of special projects and publications.

"One of the prime aspects of *Collage* is that the staff can produce whatever they want," said Kimi Conro, the magazine's current creative director. "Marsha is an amazing advisor. She gives us the reins, and it's our job to take care of it. It's student-led and student-read."

"Students learn about the publication process, editing, and design, with the end product being a portfolio piece and résumé booster.

"We publish something to be proud of, and it really shows the talents of our students," Powers said.

Each semester, one piece of work from each of the major categories—art, photography, poetry, and prose—receives Creative Expression Awards. Submissions are heavily from students within art and literature majors, but many also come from the general student population.

For years, *Collage* was part of the student publications department, which operated student

“Collage was such a huge part of my college life and the first introduction into the world that I wanted to be a part of.”



newspaper *Sidelines* and a yearbook. In 2004, the Honors College took on *Collage*.

"A benefit of housing *Collage* in the Honors College is that we are accustomed to working with talented students from all colleges on campus," Honors College Dean John R. Vile said. Compared with some other creative magazines that seem to focus on shock value, Vile loves the great work and nice balance of the MTSU student volume.

"It's good work in poetry, short stories, and photos—it's helping me get cultured," the self-deprecating dean said.

A few editions of each magazine from 1968 through the most recent issue reside in a neat file drawer in the Honors College building. The poems, stories, and art reflect issues of the day, and still do. Much of the material, though, is timeless—poems and stories about love and dreams, photo essays about topics that run the gamut from family to music to society, and art of every genre, printmaking, oil, watercolors, and mixed media.

While the core of *Collage* will continue to be its print magazine, *Collage* staff and student web designers are working on a website that would allow music and more to be submitted. If all goes well, that new part of *Collage* should be up and running in the Spring 2018 semester, just in time for the 50th anniversary.

"In society now, we're all online and Instagrammed, so it's still important to maintain a classic printed magazine, hold it in your hand, read it, and look at this art with the best quality printing," Noonan said. "But why it's lasted so long is that *Collage* isn't set on staying the same always. I'm so happy they found a way to stay relevant." **A**

Just Dues: A look at some of the awards *Collage* has won through the years

Columbia Scholastic Press Association Awards

Gold Medalist Certificates

2006, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13, '14, '15, '16, and '17

Silver Crown Awards

2007, '08, and '11

Gold Crown Awards

2012, '13, and '15

Southern Literary Festival Writing Contest

Literary Magazine category

Third place, 2016



COLLAGE NAMES CAMPUS CREATIVE EXPRESSION AWARD WINNERS

Members of the Fall 2017 *Collage* staff are (l-r): front, Rebecca Clippard, Bell Doski, Kimi Conro, Hannah Tybor, Kaylee Schilling, Briyana Dyer, and Kayleah Bradley; middle, Aleah Grenier, Veronika Gajdosova, Angelica Bennett, Destiny Seaton, Lacey Kanipe, Katrina Scott, Lucas Williams, and Arlo Jane Knoch; back, Abigail Williams, Nathan Wahl, Jake Garrette, Grace Hollowell, and Oscar Davila. Staff members not pictured are Whitney Ingle, Lexi Norsby, Margaret Sanders, Hannah Owens, and Emma Cryar.



Haydin Oechsle



Beizar Aradini

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression, MTSU Honors College's award-winning arts and literary magazine, chose four individuals to receive rewards of their own for their outstanding contributions to the Fall 2017 issue.

Joshua Tilton and **StarShield Lortie** won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for their literary works. **Haydin Oechsle** and **Beizar Aradini** earned Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for their visual submissions.

From the hundreds of unique submissions each semester, the *Collage* staff selects approximately 60 pieces to be published using an online, blind review process. Creative Expression Award winners from each of the four major categories, photography, poetry, art, and prose, are selected by anonymous votes.



Beizar Aradini

Prose

Joshua Tilton, from Brookhaven, Mississippi, and Moscow, Russia, is an English major who will graduate in 2018. After graduation, Tilton plans to pursue his M.F.A. in Creative Writing. He received a Creative Expression Award for his short story "Something Nothing Coffee." Tilton says he was inspired to write the story by "a study abroad trip to Israel, disappointingly uniform falafel, and a kid jumping off a cliff face."



Poetry



StarShield Lortie, originally from Oregon, moved to Nashville in 1995 and received her B.A. in English from MTSU and more recently earned an M.A. in English. She won a Creative Expression Award for a poem she wrote for her master's thesis, "Lynching Selfie." Lortie says the poem was inspired by photographs of lynching she came across during research for her thesis, "The Heart of the Matter: Poems Inspired by Civil Rights Movement Photographs." She explains the poem is her "attempt to resolve the disconnect between morality and superiority. It is also an attempt to start the conversation again, to push us all outside our own limited box, and deal with the demons of race that continue to haunt our daily lives in this country."

Photography

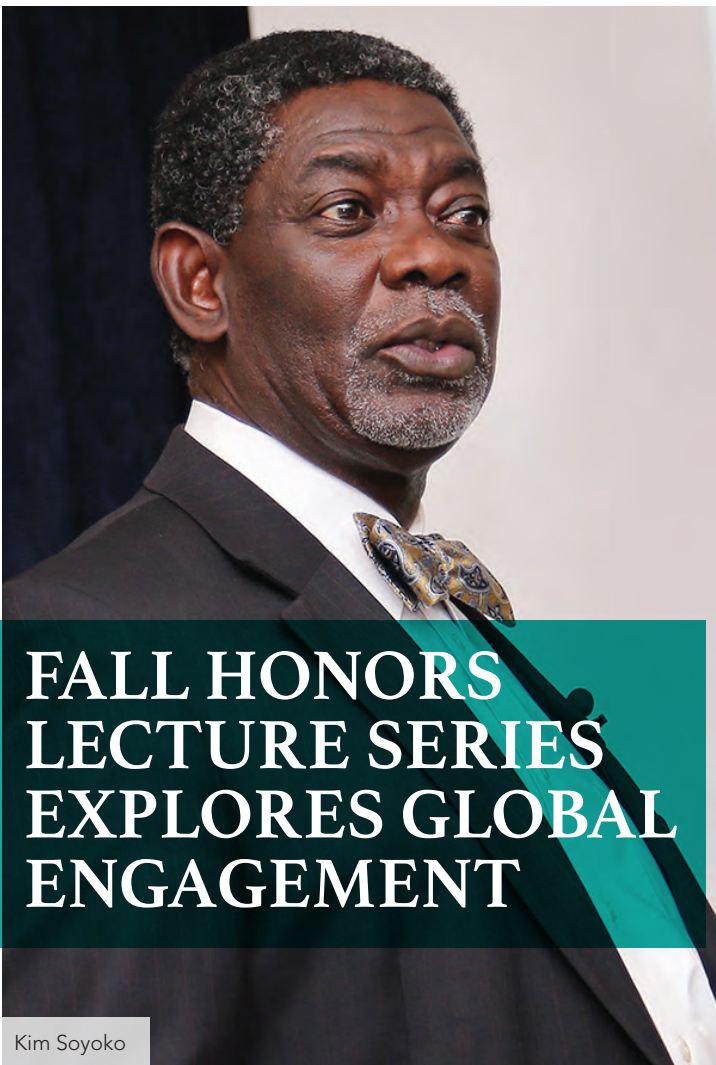
Haydin Oechsle earned a Creative Expression Award for her photo titled *Quintessence*. Oechsle, a Photography major from Smyrna, intends to graduate from MTSU in Spring 2019, after which, she plans to continue operating her photography business and to attend a YWAM (Youth with a Mission) school in France. Oechsle says her award-winning photo "represents what letting go feels like and comes from a time when I was redefining my style in photography." She further explained that the shoot was "a creative outlet that turned out to be a blessing to me in renewing my love for photography."



Art



Beizar Aradini, originally from the northern Iraqi region of Kurdistan, graduated in December 2017 with a B.F.A. She hopes to attend graduate school to continue her studies of fiber and textiles art. Aradini won a Creative Expression Award for her two hand-embroidered pieces, *Family Ties* and *Mother, Moving but Standing Still*. She was inspired to make these pieces in order to share her family's story of being refugees and to depict their journey to America.



FALL HONORS LECTURE SERIES EXPLORES GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Kim Soyoko



Rebekkah King



David Schmidt



Laura White

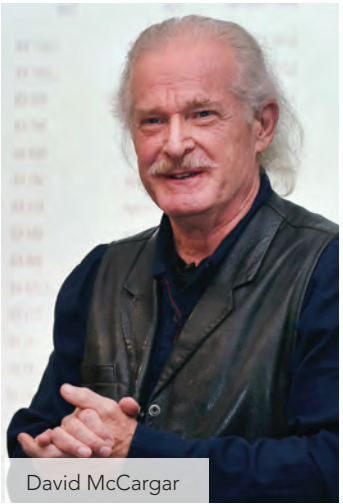
The Fall 2017 Honors Lecture Series examined numerous topics related to “Global Engagement” and included speakers from Vanderbilt, TSU, MTSU, and Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). The weekly series opened Aug. 28 with an introduction by Honors Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips.

Tara McKay of Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society spoke on “Pursuing Social Justice through Global Health Research and Science” Sept. 11. **David Schmidt**, MTSU’s vice provost for international affairs, lectured on “Nowhere and Everywhere Is My Home: Travel and a Lifetime of Global Engagement” Sept. 18. **Debra Hopkins**, English Learning coordinator of professional learning for MNPS and member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, addressed the topic “Surpassing ‘Limits’: Accelerating Language Acquisition for Emerging Multilingual Students” Sept. 25.

October lectures were “Turning Points: Afghanistan and Beyond” by **David McCargar** of Tennessee State University; “Memory,

Representation, and Political Conflict: A Case Study of Buddhist Monks in Southern Thailand,” given by **Rebekkah King**, assistant professor of Philosophy and Religion; “Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine Meets Western Biotechnology” by **John Dubois**, Biology professor; and “Haunted Borders: Ghosts and Global Connections in Contemporary Anglophone Literature,” presented by **Laura White**, associate professor of English.

Kim Sokoya, MTSU’s Jones College of Business associate dean, discussed “Globalization and U.S. Competitiveness” Nov. 6. Other November class sessions included a student roundtable on education abroad, a presentation by **Laura Clippard** on fellowships and scholarships, and Honors student thesis presentations. Buchanan Fellows **Kami Dyer**, **Tatum England**, and **Rebecca Clippard** were joined by senior **Anthony Williams** on the student roundtable. **Lesley Sweeton**, **Morgan Murphy**, **Madeline McDonald**, and **Nicholas Watts** made presentations about their thesis projects.



David McCargar



Philip Phillips



Debra Hopkins



Tara McKay



John DuBois

About the Honors Lecture Series

UH 3000 consists of a series of hour-long lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden students' knowledge in a variety of disciplines. The course may be repeated for up to 3 credit hours. Honors students are required to earn at least 1 credit hour of UH 3000 in order to graduate with University Honors. For more information about the Honors Lecture Series, please email philip.phillips@mtsu.edu.

HONORS COUNCIL MEETING



Members of the Honors Council gather following their November meeting (l-r): front, Philip E. Phillips, Tony Eff, and John R. Vile; second row, Teri Davis, Rebecca Clippard, and Delanie McDonald; third row, John Mullane and Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann; fourth row, Nate Callendar, Sanjay Asthana, and Roger Heinrich. Not pictured are Kathleen Burris, Rudy Dunlap, Rebekka King, Kristine McCusker, and Donald Snead.



David Butler



PKP VISIBILITY WEEK SPEAKERS

Dusty Doddridge



Gregory Van Patten

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi offered Visibility Week information sessions to all students Oct. 24–26. Gregory Van Patten, department chair of Chemistry, spoke on “Building a Resume that Stands Out.” David Butler, dean of Graduate Studies and vice provost for research, educated students about “Getting into Graduate School—and Getting Paid for It.” Dusty Doddridge, assistant director of the MTSU Career Development Center, discussed “Leveraging LinkedIn and Social Media in Job Searches.”



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Rebekkah King (Philosophy and Religious Studies), leads an interfaith dialogue with representatives from the Bahá’í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Quaker faiths. The event, “Finding Shared Truths among Our Differing Faiths,” was presented by the Rutherford County Interfaith Council.

CLIPPARD ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD



Laura Clippard (third row, center), MTSU's Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator, was elected to the National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA) Executive Board at its ninth biennial conference in Philadelphia in July. She is pictured with other board members.

DEVELOPMENT AND DEANS



Paul Wydra (center), director of development initiatives at MTSU, visits with Dean John R. Vile (l) and Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips. Wydra is representing the University Honors College in the Development Office.

VISITING POLITICAL SCIENCE SPEAKERS



Visiting speakers Oleg Manaev and Maryna Bahdanovich signed the Honors College Book of Town and Gown following their lecture "The Role of Media within the 'Slavic Triangle': Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine" Oct. 18. The speakers are pictured with Professor Andrei Korobkov, back left, and Michael Federici, chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations.

RUNNING ON BRAINPOWER

Nearly a decade after graduating from MTSU, Taylor Arnold Barnes is considered one of the nation's most accomplished young minds in computational chemistry

By Patsy B. Weiler

One of the biggest bangs to come out of Middle Tennessee State University is Taylor Arnold Barnes, who graduated summa cum laude in 2009 with a double major in Chemistry and Physics.

Proudly claimed by the University Honors College, Barnes attended MTSU as a 15-year-old and eventually researched and wrote an Honors thesis in each discipline.

"I had what you might call an unusual journey through academia," Barnes said.

Nearly a decade later, Barnes, 27, is considered [nationally] one of the most accomplished young minds in computational chemistry.

Starting with a Bang

Although Barnes hasn't watched a lot of the famous television show, some of his friends have compared him to the Sheldon Cooper character on the popular CBS comedy *Big Bang Theory*.

There are similarities. Both were considered child prodigies. In addition to possessing brilliant and focused intellect, they earned their doctorates at the California Institute of Technology, or Caltech—considered one of the top graduate schools in the country, according to 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings—with one caveat in these equations. One story is fact. One is not.

Before he was 2 years old, Barnes had his first computer; at age 8, when many boys are thinking about baseball cards and bicycles, he was reading college textbooks about how to write coding. And Barnes' hard-earned Ph.D. in Chemistry is real, not television fiction.

“I had what you might call an unusual journey through academia.”

What also is real, Barnes said, is that he “spent some of my most formative years at MTSU.” The excellent undergraduate education he received at the University under the guiding hand of then-Honors College Dean Phil Mathis—who remembers Barnes as thoughtful, mature, and advanced by any standard—and mentoring by professors Preston J. MacDougall and Gary Wulfsberg (Chemistry) and Daniel Erenso (Physics) formed a strong nucleus for his future success.



"My introduction to the field of computational chemistry was a direct result of the research that I conducted for my Honors thesis," Barnes said. "Working under the guidance of Dr. MacDougall, I became acquainted with the key concepts and tools of my field. Additionally, the Honors College worked hard to ensure that my scholarly activities would be recognized nationally."

His academic accolades included earning the University's first Goldwater Scholarship at just 16, a distinction presented to students showing exceptional promise of becoming the nation's next generation of research leaders in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering; a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship; and inclusion in the *USA Today* All-USA Academic Team. The budding scientist spent a summer interning at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the largest Department of Energy lab in the nation, and received a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship to support his first three years of graduate studies.

"These opportunities and others (such as research presentations at American Chemical Society meetings) enabled me to be competitive for entrance into the best graduate programs in the nation," Barnes added.

A Scholar's Story

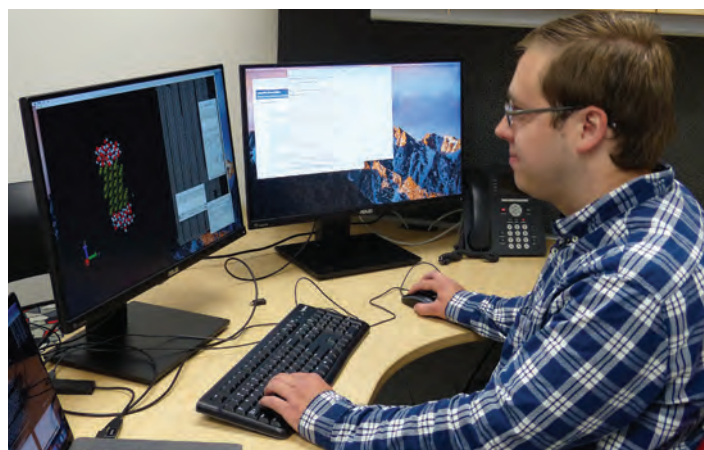
It was a matter of sheer convenience that Barnes grew to love computers. While working in the garage, his dad would place him in front of a computer screen to pass the time away—even as a 1-year-old.

Mary Lee Barnes, Taylor's mother (and a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors), said she was "horrified to walk into my husband's office, with a hard floor laid over concrete, to see my 14-month-old baby sitting in his father's big office chair, propped up on books, reaching out to a keyboard and mouse, with my husband nowhere to be found. . . . But Taylor was as happy as could be, and that was the beginning of his career."

Barnes was so enthralled by computers that by the age of 18 months, long before entering kindergarten, he had a computer built just for him.

"I would place Taylor on my lap for his daily computer time, and we would click away on the MS-DOS programs as I learned how to use a computer along with Taylor," his mother said. "He had incredible concentration, focus, and attention span even at that very young age."

During an October 2017 campus visit as guest speaker for the Honors College Board of Visitors meeting, Barnes, stylishly sporting an MTSU necktie,





“When I finally did get into a college chemistry laboratory, I was a little disappointed. I had already done much more dangerous things in the kitchen.”

masterfully shared the story of his “unusual academic journey,” leading to his current position as a software scientist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He captivated the audience, sharing his memories of being a home-schooled student. Always curious, he often had a veritable chemistry lab in the family’s kitchen—and fortunately there were no holes in the

ceiling from his many experiments! Barely in double digits in age, he completed the last assignment from shelves full of books his mother selected to educate Barnes through high school. At 13, his mother drove him to classes at Hinds Community College, near their home in Jackson, Mississippi, where Barnes attended for a short time.

“When I finally did get into a college chemistry laboratory, I was a little disappointed. I had already done much more dangerous things in the kitchen,” Barnes said.

The next stop on this early life’s journey involved Barnes’ grandfather, David Arnold, now retired, who taught in MTSU’s then-named Department of Speech and Theatre and who first brought his grandson to visit Mathis.

“He asked if I thought Taylor would fit in the Honors College,” Mathis recalled. Barnes did fit in and, in fact, shined as bright as the flame of a Bunsen burner.

Too young to live on campus, the teenager moved in with his grandparents and thrived in the small classes and challenging, individualized instruction of the Honors College. He eventually began tutoring fellow students and interned by teaching chemistry and physics laboratory classes. The academic atoms of the Honors College and Barnes merged magnificently into a great fusion.

Barnes has fond memories of being a member of MTSU's Chemistry Club. There he participated in demonstrations for high school classes, where students were often older than him.

"We had some pretty big bangs and lost some arm hair," he said with a laugh.

Current Dean John R. Vile credits Barnes as being an important early catalyst in drawing attention to the Honors College.

"We are particularly proud of Taylor because he was our first Goldwater winner," Vile said. "He also helped us understand how important it was to keep home-schooled students in mind for our recruiting."

In reflecting on his former student Barnes, MacDougall said, "To this day, but beginning when I was his research advisor, I have been impressed by Taylor's dedication to science. He spends very long hours, many in the lab but many more at home, grappling with very complex software, and generating and then analyzing in meaningful ways, enormous amounts of data."

After graduating from MTSU, Barnes pointed his compass west and entered Caltech for graduate school. He was a member of the school's Miller Group, comprised of students focused on developing theoretical and computational methods

“We had some pretty big bangs and lost some arm hair.”

of understanding a variety of molecular processes, advised by researcher and professor Thomas F. Miller III. While there, Barnes' interest in computation chemistry—the field where chemistry, physics, and computer science intersect—continued to flourish.

"The goal of computation chemistry is to perform computer simulations of chemical systems in order to study things that would be difficult or impossible to investigate through laboratory experiments," he explained. "Since all chemical processes happen on such a small scale and during such a limited period of time, even the best light microscopes can't see them."

Enter the laws of physics. Why? Because they govern the behavior of the atoms and molecules that make up chemical systems. Although these laws are difficult to calculate, methods have been developed to make them suitable for computer simulations. But there's a challenge: The process can be very slow, and speeding it up can result in less accuracy.

“If my life's work is useful in some meaningful way to a large number of people, I will consider it to have been successful.”

Barnes embraced the challenge, and his research provided a "better combination of speed and accuracy than would be possible with any one method, which allows us to perform calculations that would otherwise be impractical," he said. Barnes wrote his graduate thesis about the "Development and Application of Embedding Methods for the Simulation of Large Chemical Systems." The former Blue Raider's work was featured on the cover of the *Journal of Physical Chemistry C*, and he was recognized with an Early Career Award for Innovative Use of High Performance Computing from the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC).

This led to becoming the Admiral Grace Murray Hopper Postdoctoral Fellow (named after a U.S. pioneer in computer programming) at NERSC's Lawrence-Berkeley National Laboratory in the San Francisco Bay area. The California lab is home to Cori, considered the fifth-most powerful supercomputer in the world. During his two-year tenure, Barnes was responsible for improving the efficiency of computational chemistry software used there.

A Budding Professional Life

With many career options orbiting in his cosmos, including attractive commercial offers, Barnes' next stop in the late spring of 2017 was at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. His True Blue fingerprints can now be found on the computers at the Molecular Sciences Software Institute (MolSSI), a cutting-edge research initiative funded by the National Science Foundation and housed in the school's Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.

Barnes and his new research colleagues are tasked with developing and building new, powerful software

Taylor's Basic Elements

Recently in his reading stack:

Einstein: His Life and Universe, by Walter Isaacson

Meal out:

"Mexican, but Italian is good"

Snack or sweet pick:

Rarely eats them

24 hours to go or do anything:

"Travel near the event horizon of a black hole and watch the universe dance"

Historic person with whom he would want to spend an afternoon:

"Sir Isaac Newton. I would ask him about his experiences as warden of the Royal Mint and his investigation (and conviction) of William Chaloner (a coin counterfeiter and con man), among other things."

Music of choice:

Classical

Movie favorite:

"Marvel movies. *Captain America: Winter Soldier* might be my favorite."

Video game:

Civilization VI



tools to help tackle complex, data-dense issues—from cancer to Alzheimer's disease—that impact lives worldwide. The \$19.4-million project aims to build a national team of software scientists to design tools that can help researchers of all stripes address wide-ranging, data-heavy issues like those mentioned above, as well as create new energy storage systems that can help stem climate change.

"No organization quite like MolSSI has ever existed," Barnes said. "I believe that it has the potential to improve the state of computational chemistry in ways that would not be possible in the context of industry or more traditional academic settings."

Bringing his academic journey full circle, he anticipates being a mentor to graduate and post-doc fellows coming through the institute as well.

"There are few methods by which a student can have a greater impact on the advancement of scientific inquiry than by contributing to the development of a well-written, efficient, user-friendly software package," Barnes said.

These days, Barnes is too busy to be concerned about the imprint he may leave on the field of computational chemistry.

"Much of the work of computational chemists doesn't generate press releases," he says. "If my life's work is useful in some meaningful way to a large number of people, I will consider it to have been successful." **A**

ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS IN LIFE

ODK comes full circle in guiding career for former Honors student

By Matthew Hibdon, a 2012 Honors College graduate with a B.A. in History. Hibdon earned an M.Ed. at MTSU in 2014 and then worked as an academic advisor. He is now director of leadership programs at Omicron Delta Kappa's national headquarters in Virginia.

My favorite part of the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) initiation ceremony is the affirmation that “life is all too short for the completion of the tasks that lie ready to our hands.” Spring 2018 marks the eighth anniversary of chartering the MTSU Circle of ODK. In those eight years, it is truly remarkable how the MTSU group has grown—and how much ODK developed me as a leader.

In high school, I was very active in 4-H, student council, and any other extracurricular activity I could cram into my schedule. But when I arrived at MTSU as a freshman, I was not very involved my first semester. That changed when I became a student orientation assistant with CUSTOMS and dove headfirst into student groups the next term. Between the Student Government Association, Collegiate 4-H, and a campus ministry, it was miraculous that I had time for my campus jobs and going to class by the end of my second year at MTSU. Then, I heard that the Honors College was chartering a circle of ODK. Of course, I had time for another organization; what Honors student doesn't?

Accepting the offer to join ODK was one of the best decisions in my life. Locally, it brought me to the same table with faculty and student leaders from across campus, both from within and outside the Honors College. The joint student-faculty nature of ODK is one

“Of course, I had time for another organization; what Honors student doesn't?”



of the most important things about the leadership honors society. Students, faculty, and staff all had equal voices at our meetings in planning leadership development initiatives. That collaborative approach to leadership led to the creation of two signature events that have had an impact on both the campus and Murfreesboro. The Christmas card project for veterans teaches leadership development through service, and True Blue Leadership Day offers a series of sessions with leaders from across the city, state, and nation. Helping to plan these events gave me tangible logistical skills that I still use in my job today.

Early into my ODK journey, I understood the importance of being involved with the organization on a national level—both for me and the circle. The circle sent a delegate to the national convention in 2010, just two months after being chartered, and MTSU has sent two ODK members to every convention since! MTSU is one of the official hosts for the 2018 convention in Nashville, and I am confident there will be a strong delegation at Belmont’s campus later this year. Within these eight years, the MTSU circle had six ODK Foundation Scholarship recipients, received two Clay Leadership Development Grants, hosted a regional drive-in conference, and was recognized as a Presidential Circle of Excellence.

“Accepting the offer to join ODK was one of the best decisions in my life.”

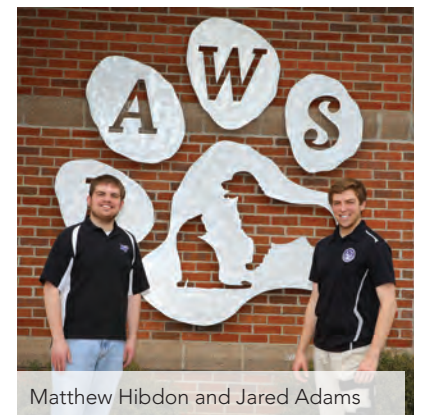
On a personal level, ODK taught me how to harness my passion for positive youth development. Whether it is volunteering with 4-H, coordinating a National History Day contest, or working directly with college students, it is now clear that is where I focus my energy. With that knowledge in hand, I was able to seek out internships, volunteer opportunities, and employment that matched my strengths. ODK also gave me the chance to network with leaders from across the country and still affords that opportunity as part of the national headquarters staff. Being an ODK member has taught me to become a more collaborative leader, allowed me to pursue additional educational programs, and empowered me to help the campus leaders of today become the community leaders of tomorrow. **A**



Matthew Hibdon, Susan Lyons, and Philip E. Phillips



Hannah Hopkins Barnhart, Georgia Dennis, and Matthew Hibdon



Matthew Hibdon and Jared Adams



PAIR OF HONORS ALUMS MARRIED TO SUCCESS

By **Destiny Seaton**, an Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Journalism



The MTSU Honors College is known for its contributions to students' success after graduation, but on occasion it is also known to be a matchmaker.

Brandon H. Ingram and Erin L. Ingram (formerly Gardner), both 2017 MTSU Honors College graduates, met in 2013 during their first Honors class and were married Dec. 2, 2017.

For this couple, the Honors College has also greatly contributed to their post-graduation success.

Brandon now works for Sony/ATV Music Publishing after majoring in Music Business, while Gardner is a communication specialist for the state Department of Treasury, utilizing her Public Relations degree.

In Brandon's Honors thesis, he analyzed what makes a song commercially successful and wrote his own songs that employed those characteristics. The subject of his thesis research undoubtedly played a role in the impression that he was able to make during his job interview with the world's No. 1 music publishing company.



“Other classes were just doing the work, but the Honors College went deeper.”

Brandon said doing an undergraduate thesis improved his work ethic and “definitely forced me to use better time management and pushed me to do my best work.”

For her thesis, Erin simulated what John F. Kennedy’s social media campaign would have been like. Writing the thesis helped Erin hone her critical thinking skills, which she puts to use assisting the Treasury department with its social media, marketing, ads, design, and press releases.

“Other classes were just doing the work, but the Honors College went deeper,” she said.

The Honors College positively changed the Ingrams’ lives in many ways. Brandon called the program a great addition to an education and said he would recommend it to anyone.

In the immediate future, the Ingrams want to remain with their companies and stay in the Nashville or Franklin area. Brandon plans to continue writing his own songs, while Erin said she is excited about their life as a married couple with their two dogs, Tate and Jack. **A**



FROM MEMPHIS TO MTSU TO UGANDA

Buchanan award allows student to embark on a journey to become a health researcher and public servant

Jessica Shotwell is a May 2017 Honors graduate with a degree in Social Work.



Jessica Shotwell, center, in Uganda's Botanical Gardens.

While applying to college as a 17-year-old black girl from Memphis with two parents who neither married nor finished college themselves, I came across MTSU's James M. Buchanan Fellowship, a prestigious Honors College scholarship awarded annually to 20 incoming freshmen. I applied and was one of only two black students awarded the fellowship. In Fall 2013, I embarked on a journey at MTSU that I knew few before me had undertaken.

During my undergraduate career, I participated in multiple research projects that shaped my desire to become a sociologist. I had a passion for social justice and advocacy against racism, but my first experience researching inequality abroad helped narrow my research interests. After my sophomore year, the National Institutes of Health's Minority and Minority Health Disparities International Research

Training program selected me to intern in Uganda. For 10 weeks, I conducted scientific research on community health risk factors and disparities in access to health care in a rural town in the southwestern region of Uganda.

“Ultimately, I want . . . to work for effective social policies to reduce racial/ethnic health disparities, poverty, and social inequality.”

Here, I first discovered I wanted to become an academic researcher. Seeing firsthand the social and economic barriers that vulnerable populations face in their access to health care powerfully influenced me to pursue a career in health research and gave me a deeper understanding of the policy effects of health disparities.

Last summer, I continued my research training in health, working as a Health Equity Intern at the Center for Global Policy Solutions, a social change think tank and action organization in Washington, D.C. The purpose of my project was to identify social issues affecting access to health care and to support local residents in living a healthy lifestyle.

I also completed an MTSU Honors thesis, "Civic Engagement Among College-Aged Youth in Middle Tennessee," a project exploring whether black youth in the region are attracted to protests, civil disobedience, and other forms of high-risk social activism and examining their rate of participation. From my independent research, I found that almost half of surveyed black students have taken part in high-risk civic engagement in the past two years, and many were influenced by the political context of the Black Lives Matter social movement.

After graduating from the Honors College with distinction in May '17, I was hired as an interviewer for the National Behavioral HIV Surveillance project, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health, and the Shelby County government. This national research project is examining HIV risk factors associated across 22 cities with men who have sex with men.

My Honors degree from MTSU and my various research experiences have prepared me for the rigorous research training and the dissertation process as a graduate student at the University of California in Berkeley, where I have applied for the Sociology Ph.D. program. After obtaining my doctorate in Sociology, I intend to work either as a college/university professor or a full-time research fellow at a think tank or university research center. Ultimately, I want to become a sociologist and use my training and knowledge to work for effective social policies to reduce racial/ethnic health disparities, poverty, and social inequality. Ultimately, I seek not only to become an academic researcher, but a public servant to the oppressed and all others negatively impacted by systemic racism and discrimination. **A**



Nombre Health Center, Uganda



Jessica Shotwell



Jessica Shotwell and nurse assistant



Jessica Shotwell and Philip E. Phillips



BOARD OF VISITORS ANNUAL MEETING

Honors Dean John R. Vile (back left) and Associate Dean Phillip E. Phillips (back right) are shown with Board of Visitors speakers (l-r): front, Kelly Richardson, Hannah Tybor, Kirsten Cunningham, and Rebecca Clippard; back, Austin Ford, Robert Owens, Benjamin Kulas, and Taylor Barnes. Barnes is an Honors College alumnus, and the rest are current Honors students.



University Honors College deans, Board of Visitors, and friends pictured at the Oct. 6 annual board meeting are (l-r): front, Liz Bradley, Samuel Henderson, Raiko Henderson, and Taylor Barnes; back, John R. Vile, Bob Gerard, Don Witherspoon, Gordon Bell, Don Midgett, Ron Messier, and Philip E. Phillips.

FALL 2017

Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Awards

Muhammad Fariz Ali
Biology

Rachel Bailey
Biology

Danielle Bonner
Biology

Benjamin Burton
Physics

Natalie Foulks
Health and Human
Performance

Christian Glandorf
Chemistry

Devyn Hayes
Biology

Janie Kullmar
Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology

Madeline McDonald
Animal Science

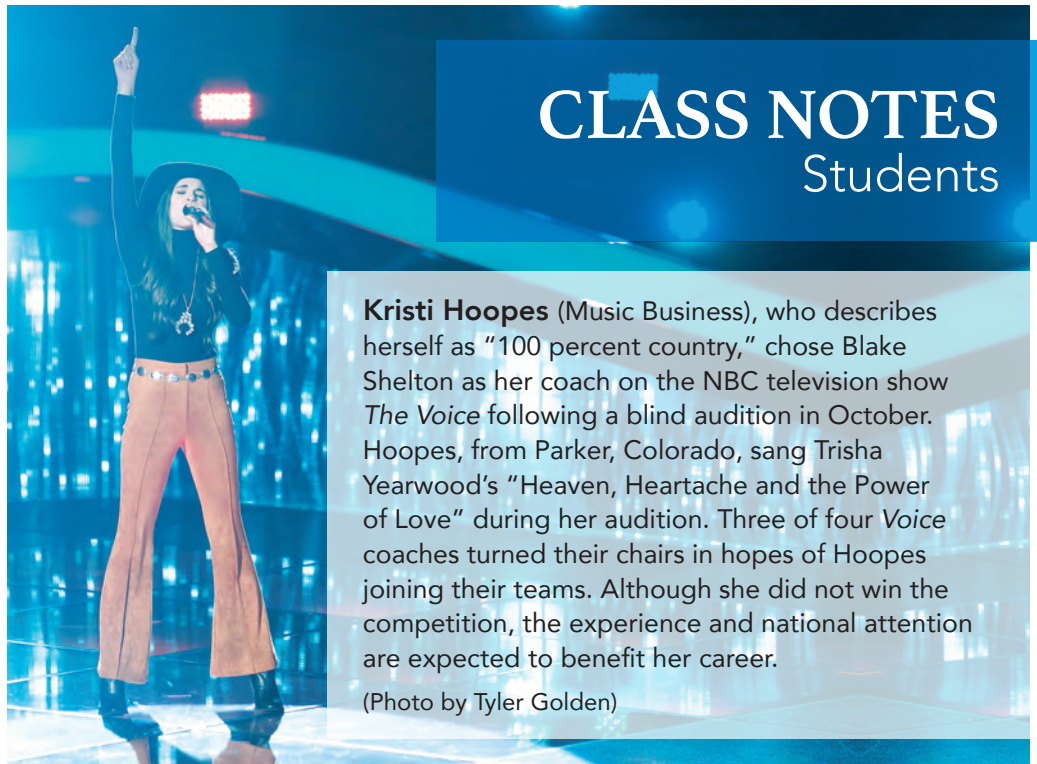
Sydney Smith
Physics and Philosophy

Jeffrey Summers
Physics and Mathematics

Myranda Uselton
Chemistry

CLASS NOTES

Students



Kristi Hoopes (Music Business), who describes herself as “100 percent country,” chose Blake Shelton as her coach on the NBC television show *The Voice* following a blind audition in October. Hoopes, from Parker, Colorado, sang Trisha Yearwood’s “Heaven, Heartache and the Power of Love” during her audition. Three of four *Voice* coaches turned their chairs in hopes of Hoopes joining their teams. Although she did not win the competition, the experience and national attention are expected to benefit her career.

(Photo by Tyler Golden)



STUDENT ROUNDTABLE ON STUDY ABROAD

Kami Dyer, Tatum England, Anthony Williams, and Rebecca Clippard

STUDENT THESIS PRESENTATIONS TO THE HONORS LECTURE SERIES



Lesley Sweeton



Madeline McDonald



Nicholas Watts



Morgan Murphy

CLASS NOTES

Faculty and Staff

Claudia Barnett (English) won the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2017. Her play *Aglaonike's Tiger*, about the first female astronomer in ancient Greece, premiered at Venus Theatre in Laurel, Maine, in September.

(Photo by Mike Landsman)



Mohammed Albakry (English) served as editor for *Translation and the Intersection of Texts, Contexts and Politics: Historical and Socio-Cultural Perspectives*, published in July. The book analyzes the impact of historical, political, and



sociocultural contexts on the reading, rewriting, and translating of texts. It widens the scope of current scholarship to include

perspectives from literature, literary criticism, intellectual history, gender studies, and cultural studies.

Marsha D. Barsky (Theatre and Dance) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Nate Callendar (Aerospace) has received tenure and was promoted to associate professor.

Kevin Donovan (English) was the editor of *Milton, Materialism, and Embodiment: One First Matter All*, published by Duquesne



University Press in 2017. Thomas Festa, associate professor of English at the State University of New York–New Palz, was co-editor.

Katie Foss (Journalism) published her second book last summer. *Breastfeeding and Media: Exploring Conflicting Discourses That Threaten Public Health* is a study of more than 200 years of media coverage and depictions of breastfeeding, highlighting how news, entertainment, and online media undermine health messages about breastfeeding, place responsibility on individual women, and ignore the breadth and diversity of breastfeeding mothers and their experiences.



Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) was recognized by peers as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow last year. She and other AAAS Fellows were honored during a formal ceremony at the organization's annual convention in Boston. She is the first AAAS Fellow from MTSU. Iriarte-Gross, director of MTSU's Women in STEM Center and the 21-year-old Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Conference for girls and young women, has won several awards and recognitions in recent years for her accomplishments.

Julie Myatt Barger (English) received the MTSU Foundation's Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award. A member of both the Honors and graduate faculty, Barger endeavors to help students recognize the power of the written word, to discover the pleasures of reading, and to learn how their own writing can make a mark on the world. A past recipient of the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Student Success Award, she has organized the Peck Research on Writing Symposium for the past eight years.



Ron Nichols, Sidney A. McPhee, Julie Myatt Barger, and Mark Byrnes

Yang Soo Kim (Communication Studies and Organizational Communication) has been promoted to professor.



Rebekka King (Philosophy and Religious Studies) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award. King, who also was given the 2017 MTSU Outstanding EXL Faculty Award, co-directed the curricular development, program application, and institutional implementation of the new Religious Studies major. An advocate for learner-centered pedagogy, she utilizes high-impact assignments, integrative learning, and

experiential learning opportunities to promote critical thinking skills.

Susan Lyons (Honors College) is serving as chair of the special events team for the 2018 Omicron Delta Kappa Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference at Belmont University.

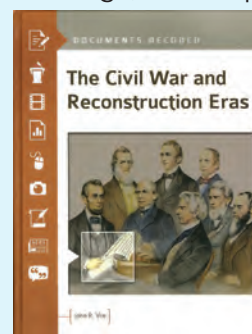
Karen Petersen (dean, College of Liberal Arts) and **Dawn McCormack** (associate dean, College of Liberal Arts) co-authored a chapter in *Playing to Learn with Reacting to the Past*, which was published in 2017.

Jason L. Pettigrew (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Marsha Powers (Honors College) is serving on the Programming Committee for the 2018 Omicron Delta Kappa Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference in May at Belmont University.

Kathleen M. Therrien (English) has been promoted to professor.

John R. Vile (dean, Honors College) has completed the



last of four volumes in a Documents Decoded series for ABC-CLIO. The final volume, published in 2017,

is entitled *The Civil War and Reconstruction Eras*. Earlier volumes were *Founding Documents of America*, *The Early Republic*, and *The Jacksonian and Antebellum Eras*.

Selected Faculty Emeriti in 2017

Linda C. Badley, English

Marc J. Barr, Media Arts

Gloria J. Hamilton, Psychology

CLASS NOTES

Alumni and Friends

Megan Parker Peters (Psychology, '05) received a Hollingsworth Award from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in November 2016 for her research on gifted education. Peters, an assistant professor of education and director of teacher education and assessment at Lipscomb University, was honored alongside Emily Mofield, the lead consulting teacher for gifted education for Sumner County Schools, during the NAGC's 63rd annual convention.



Megan Parker Peters (l) and Emily Mofield

Eldridge Alexander (Mass Communication, '12) is IT lead at Cloudflare in San Francisco.

Gabrielle Armour (Biology, '17) is seeking an M.S. in Professional Science at MTSU.

Jacob H. Basham (Mathematics, '13) was nominated by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as a delegate to the 2017 London Summit held by the American Academy of Achievement at the storied Claridge's Hotel in England. The Summit allows approximately 70 delegates to mingle with notable Academy of Achievement honorees and encourages delegates to become leaders who aid in solving world problems. Among the honorees met by Basham were gymnast

and Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles; actor Jeremy Irons; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch; Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner (Sting), winner of 16 Grammy Awards; and Rwanda president Paul Kagame.

Saraf Chowdhury (Biology, '16) will begin studies at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy this fall.

Evan Lester (Aerospace, '16), who is currently completing his master's degree in Aviation Management at MTSU, received three scholarships in 2017: the Great Tennessee Airshow Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Scholarship, and Redstone Chapter of the American Helicopter Society Scholarship.

Kayla McCrary (International Relations, '16) started graduate school at Royal Holloway, University of London in the fall.

Trevor Moyo (Construction Management, '15) earned a master's in Finance at MTSU in August 2017.

Lindsay Gates Paturalski (History, '12), a research assistant and Ph.D. candidate at Boston College, welcomed a son, Oliver Paturalski, Aug. 20, 2017. She and her husband Ryan live in Manchester, New Hampshire.

2017 CONTRIBUTOR HONOR ROLL

The Honors College deeply appreciates the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in 2017.

Jane A. and Dennis L. Aslinger

Mary Lee and Terry Barnes

Taylor A. Barnes

Philip D. Bowles

Patricia G. and Gene Branam

Lori and Michael E. Brown

Carole M. Carroll

Jonina M. Clay

Katherine Crytzer and Joseph R. Oliveri

Nancy P. and Bobby J. Cummins

Lara W. and Joseph Steve Daniel

Shellie R. and Randall A. Davis

Peggy A. and Lyder W. Dyer

Susan D. and Timothy L. England

First Tennessee Bank, Jeff L. Fleming

Rebecca A. and David A. Foote

Kaylene A. Gebert

Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Inc.

Mark A. Hall

Carla H. and Robert P. Hay

Laurel M. and Mark W. Hengstenberg

Raiko and John Henderson

Mark T. Hill

Debra Hollingsworth Hopkins and James Hopkins

Kimberly B. and Robin Hundley

Marsha M. and Keel Hunt

Alice K. and Bruce C. Huskey

Courtney Hutcherson

Jennifer J. and Terry Jordan-Henley

Katherine D. and Robert C. Knies

Diana Kulas

Rebekah M. and Scott T. Malone

Daphne M. and Terry Martin

Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis

June Hall McCash

Lorrie and David McDonald

Christina J. Miller

Kimberly J. and George Murphy

Morgan M. Murphy

Paulette R. and Tracey C. Nash

Megan R. and Ryan S. Peters

Sharmila J. Patel and Philip E. Phillips

Pinnacle National Bank, M. Terry Turner

Ira Elizabeth H. Rhea

Erin P. Roth

Susan T. Sanders

Catherine M. and Philip A. Seagraves

Tisha L. Sherfield

Darryl Sims

Jill and Jeff Tudor

Linda K. and John R. Vile

Sally and Howard D. Wall

Kelsey L. Wells

Stacy B. and Vincent L. Windrow

Hanna R. and J. Donald Witherspoon

Kristi L. and Mark A. Worrell

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