

Areté

[excellence • virtue]

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2019

ANCESTRAL ADVOCATE

Transfer Fellow Gareth
Laffely infuses history
and hope into music



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2019

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TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

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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Gareth Laffely taken by Andy Heidt

2,500 copies, printed at Falcon Press, Nashville, Tenn.
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I AM *true* **BLUE**

Photo by J. Intintoli



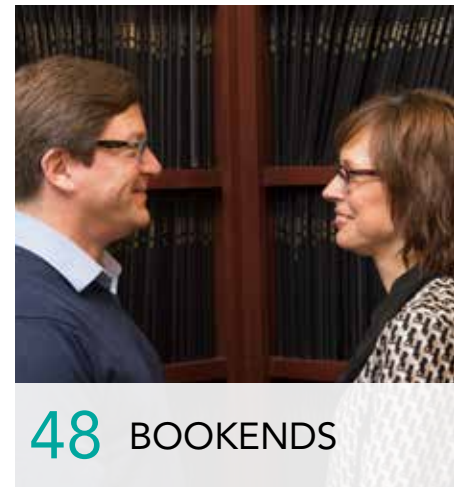
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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK Pursuit of happiness



Students often pick their majors with a view to future jobs, and I firmly believe that one's work, especially if it is also one's vocation, can be very meaningful. As they study, I encourage students to try to look beyond mere jobs to embrace the love of learning for its own sake. There is great wisdom in Plato's understanding that the good, the true, and the beautiful are cut from the same cloth.

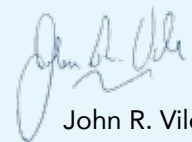
Within the last year or so, I have had three great obsessions, each of which has involved pursuing and mastering a different subject. My research projects on the U.S. flag and the Declaration of Independence have now been published in encyclopedias, while my work on the Liberty Bell is still awaiting publication. In a line that I'm still trying to interpret, a reviewer of the first of these books said that I had provided everything one could want to know about the U.S. flag "and more!" It was fascinating to see how love for the flag and the principles for which it stands has been so pervasive and powerful that soldiers on the field have given their lives to keep it from touching the ground.

As I researched the Declaration of Independence, I kept wondering how someone who attended the institution where I obtained my undergraduate degree and founded the university where I earned my graduate degree had written such an eloquent document when he was only 33 years old. In the end, I concluded that, despite all the historical and philosophical background I was able to provide, his own articulation of principles in the declaration remains superior to that of any of his interpreters. My father used to say that the Bible was like an Idaho potato, with all the writings about it nothing more than "common taters."

I became fascinated with the Liberty Bell—commissioned in 1751, probably to mark the 50-year jubilee of William Penn's historic Charter of Privileges—because its history spans more than 250 years of the American experience. Its inscription, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," may well be the best-known biblical citation in American history.

“As they study, I encourage students to try to look beyond mere jobs to embrace the love of learning for its own sake.”

During my research, I discovered not only that a number of campuses have replicas of the Liberty Bell, but that others, like our own, use bells as symbols of academic success—in our case the successful completion of Honors theses. Like academic majors and jobs, bells are utilitarian. For millennia, they have announced births, deaths, weddings, fires, and invasions. But they are more than masses of bronze that send signals. In bringing melodies to our ears, they bring joy and precious memories to our hearts and minds. An education like the one students can pursue in the Honors College can be similarly transformative. It provides us not only with the capacity to make a living but also with knowledge and wisdom to make life worth living.



John R. Vile

areté

noun (ahr-i-tey)

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

ECONOMICS AND FREE PEOPLE COLLOQUIUM

The Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University sponsored an Economics and Free People Colloquium in MTSU's Student Union Building Nov. 3. Eighteen undergraduate students, including six Honors students, participated in the colloquium's four sessions: Division of Labor, Production and the Disposition of the Laborer, Free Trade vs Protectionism, and Laissez-Faire. Honors participants were **Judah Prieskorn, Bonnie Carroll, Caitlyn Ellis, Steven Santee, Christopher Cowherd,** and **Liam McBane.**



BUCHANAN CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR FALL

The University Honors College and the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at MTSU are holding a Fall 2019 academic conference coinciding with the centennial of Nobel laureate James M. Buchanan's birthday. The Oct. 2-5 conference at Murfreesboro's Embassy Suites is intended to honor and build upon the important scholarship of Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus.

For additional information, email PERI@mtsu.edu

DR. JAMES M. BUCHANAN CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

University Honors College and the
Political Economy Research Institute
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

October 2-5, 2019



Buchanan, born in Murfreesboro in 1919, received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel in 1986 "for his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making." He is broadly recognized as one of the key founders of the field of public choice. Buchanan's generous gifts to the Honors College support MTSU's prestigious Buchanan Fellowship program, with the premier academic scholarship awarded to 20 incoming freshman student scholars each year. In addition to celebrating Buchanan's scholarship and generosity, this conference will provide these Buchanan Fellows and other students with an opportunity to engage his intellectual contributions.

The Political Economy Research Institute, established in 2016, is a joint venture between MTSU's Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the Honors College. The institute's mission is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in research that will further the understanding of business and economic principles, as well as their impact on regional, national, and international financial conditions and the wellbeing of society.



ECONOMIST CHALLENGES NEW BUCHANAN FELLOWS

Incoming Buchanan Fellows had a unique opportunity to hear from an acquaintance of MTSU alumnus **James M. Buchanan**, the Nobel laureate for whom the Honors College's Buchanan Fellowship is named.

Daniel J. Smith, speaker for the Sept. 7 Buchanan Fellows inauguration, earned his Ph.D. in Economics at George Mason University, where he met and interacted with Buchanan on several occasions. Smith, director of the new Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) and associate professor of Economics in the Jones College of Business at MTSU, also wrote his dissertation under a committee comprised of Buchanan's former students and co-authors—all well-known in their own right for their research in the field of public choice. Most of Smith's academic research directly builds on or extends Buchanan's research program.

Smith challenged the Buchanan Fellows to adopt three lessons from Buchanan's life experience that played an important role in his achieved success. The first lesson is

to work hard. Smith said that scholarship requires endless hours of concentration and wrestling with ideas and urged the Buchanan Fellows to practice thinking, and importantly, writing, every day to succeed. The second lesson, according to the PERI director, is to be humble and keep an open mind. Learning and scholarship require healthy doses of both humility and open-mindedness, he said. Smith encouraged the Buchanan Fellows to see opposing ideas as an opportunity for education and engagement, not as a threat to be dismissed or devalued with ad hominem attacks. The third lesson Smith offered was to dare to be different. He challenged the Buchanan Fellows to sample broadly across the curriculum to explore different fields, methodologies, and worldviews.

In addition to hearing Smith speak, the new Buchanan Fellows met members of the Buchanan cohort faculty and were welcomed by **Kelsey Keith** and **Joshua Brinegar**, also Buchanan Scholars.



Daniel J. Smith



Joshua Brinegar



Front (l-r), Grace Millican, Emily McTyre, Dara Zwemer, Catheryn Bolick, Jessika Benson, Miquellie Bonner, Alyssa Chaney, Elizabeth Clippard, Zoë Henley, Olivia Peters, and Jessikah Riley; back, John R. Vile, Joshua Smith, Reuben Savage, John Tudor, Micah Edigar, Liam McBane, Jared Frazier, Mark Blackmon, Robert Humphrey, Jake Duke, Turner Hamilton, and Philip E. Phillips

2018 Buchanan Fellows

Jessika Benson	Liam McBane
Mark Blackmon	Emily McTyre
Catheryn Bolick	Grace Millican
Miquellie Bonner	Olivia Peters
Alyssa Chaney	Jessikah Riley
Elizabeth Clippard	Reuben Savage
Jake Duke	Joshua Smith
Micah Edigar	John Tudor
Jared Frazier	Dara Zwemer
Turner Hamilton	
Zoë Henley	
Robert Humphrey	



Philip E. Phillips and Zoë Henley



John R. Vile and Joshua Smith



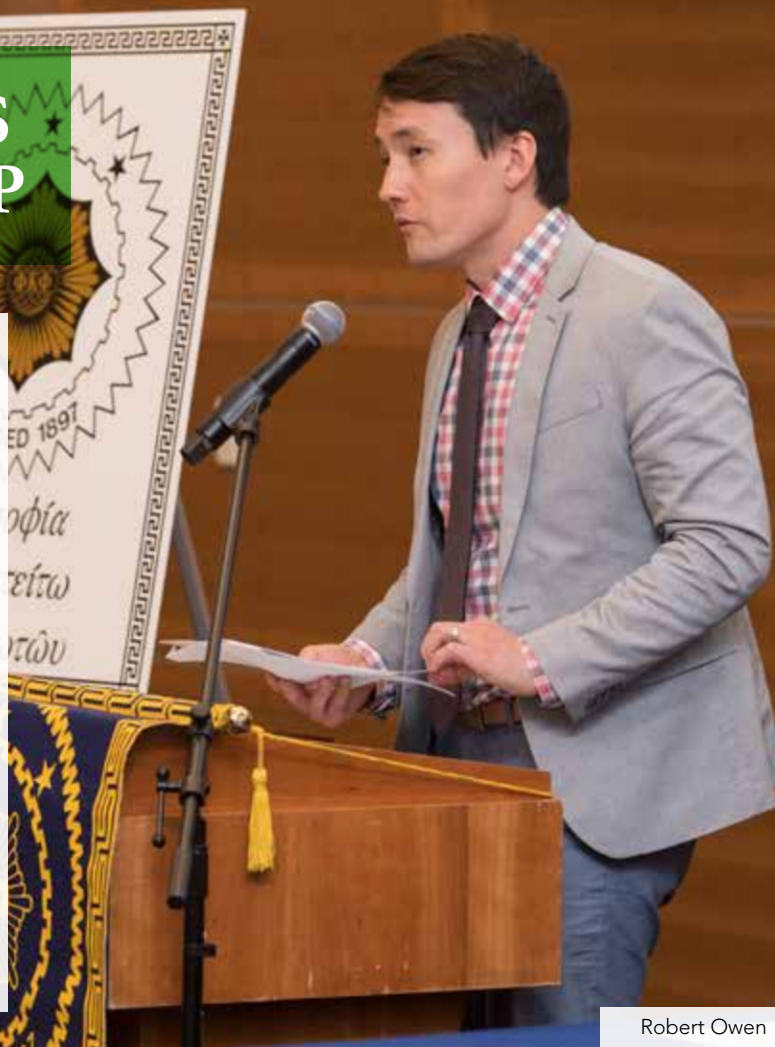
New Buchanan Fellows reading the Honors Creed

HONORS STUDENTS INITIATED INTO PKP

Graduate Studies Dean **David L. Butler** served as keynote speaker at the Nov. 13 initiation ceremony for the MTSU chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP).

Philip E. Phillips, PKP chapter president and Honors College associate dean, presided over the initiation ceremony and presentation of certificates. Student vice president **Benjamin Kulas** introduced the influential faculty selected by new initiates, and former Honors College advisor **Michelle Arnold** also was recognized. Honors Dean **John R. Vile**, who is the PKP fellowship coordinator, introduced the speaker.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Junior initiates must rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class. Seniors must rank in the top 10 percent of their class.



Robert Owen



David L. Butler



H. Stephen Smith and Nathan Wahl

Honors Student Initiates

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Emma Bradley | Skylar Lemon |
| Kirsten Cunningham | Emily Oppmann |
| Beatriz Marie Dedicatoria | Payal Patel |
| Kimberly Edwards | Molly Scott |
| Joseph Gulizia | Jeffery Summers |
| Rachel Hood | Hannah Tybor |
| Brittney Johnson | Nathan Wahl |
| Jasmin Laurel | Georgy Weissman |



Phi Kappa Phi officers (l-r) John R. Vile, Kathy Davis, Lena Tran, Robert Owen, Benjamin Kulas, Maria Bachman, and Philip E. Phillips

Influential Honors Faculty

Tricia Farwell
 Shannon Hodge
 Judith Iriarte-Gross
 Eric Klumpe
 John Pennington
 Jack Purcell
 Jan Zijlstra



Barbara Turnage and Kimberly Edwards



Zeny Panol and Hannah Tybor



PKP welcomed 16 Honors students.

POWERFUL TRUTH

Field trip to lynching memorial forever changes student

By Robert L. Owen, an Honors Transfer Fellow studying Biology

A field trip to Montgomery, Alabama, to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church challenged students in the fall Honors Lecture Series, "Governors: Principles, Programs, Politics, and Policies that Govern," to wrestle with the theme "governance."

The transformational trip, led by professors Philip E. Phillips, Honors associate dean, and Mary Evins, director of MTSU's American Democracy Project, was a first for the Honors College and was sponsored in part by MT Engage, the EXL program, and University Honors College. Two students, Robert Owen and Kimberly Edwards, reflect on the powerful experience on these pages.

"If we have the courage and tenacity of our forbearers, who stood firmly like a rock against the lash of slavery, we shall find a way to do for our day what they did for theirs."

This powerful quotation by American educator and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune encapsulated my response to the Oct. 26 Honors Lecture Series field trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (the "lynching memorial"), the Legacy Museum, and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. This quotation provoked the deepest response I could give: a covenant in my own heart to carry this mission forward.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, both part of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) led by public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson, impacted me, and I am forever changed because of the exposure to such truth. Mary Evins, co-organizer of the field trip with Philip E. Phillips, characterized the day as "important," and I echo that sentiment—particularly in view of the legacy of those who have sacrificed to bring justice to bear in our nation.

I was impressed by the immersive quality and attention to detail of the memorial and museum. Beyond being impressed, I was inspired and convicted by how powerful the sites were. To think of all the money, time, people, creativity, and passion

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

that went into crafting these excellent storytelling facilities left me in awe.

Our visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, a sacred memorial to honor more than 4,400 black lynching victims, was both somber and sobering as we heard the narrative of those who were terrorized. The sky was drab and the drizzle of cold rain appropriately fit the moment: a band of higher-educated, mostly white, young people taking a moment to disconnect from Wi-Fi, put their phones away, and look human history in the eye. The tears from the sky made the beginnings of our own tears less conspicuous.

Emblazoned on an entry panel were these words: "We . . . remember the countless victims whose deaths were not recorded in news archives and cannot be documented, who are recognized solely in the mournful memories of those who loved them. We believe that telling the truth about the age of racial terror and reflecting together on this period and its legacy can lead to a more thoughtful and informed commitment to justice today."

The memorial focuses on honoring the victims of the terror of lynching while at the same time making sure we all know that the core problem has not gone away. Great care and artistry were employed to convey the sheer gravity and scope of the 44,000 victims. Each victim has been given his or her own memorial slab, listing county and state of each lynching, that is symbolically hung from the ceiling—a quiet and honest cry to us and those in the future to taste and feel its undeniably gruesome truth. A story so terrible could never truly be presented in a palatable way, even with the greatest of artistic talent. Yet, by depicting it, the goal can be achieved: We will never forget and are now forever changed.

The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration was housed in a former slave warehouse and exposed the direct line between

the past and the present. The oft-cited "life without parole" sentence was made apparent victim after victim—many of whom had received that sentence for nonviolent crimes such as stealing a bicycle. It seemed too much to take in as we learned that we are the only country in the world that even now condemns children to life imprisonment without parole; nearly 3,000 juveniles have been sentenced to die in prison, according to Stevenson.

“The tears from the sky made the beginnings of our own tears less conspicuous.”

Each station in the museum felt heavy and just kept coming at us like successive tidal waves. The watery eyes from the lynching memorial now seemed to flow freely, and the silence in the room was deafening—and the pain palpable.

Our final stop of the day at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. pastored from 1954 to 1960, was inspiring. I was honored to visit and touch the place where heroes stood and fought to change the trajectory of a nation, and I appreciated the positive and loving attitude of our tour guide who gave tribute to the spirit of civil action and social justice that Dr. King embodied.

Today's persisting social injustice is more than a derivative of the enslavement and terror of the past; it is a continuation. The connection between the past and today is direct and measurable. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn from these powerful memorials and am inspired to fight for today's victims who are within my own reach.



National Memorial for Justice and Peace memorial slabs



Honors class at the Legacy Museum



National Memorial for Justice and Peace, often referred to as the lynching memorial

“I could feel the deaths of all of them.”



Going to Montgomery was possibly one of the most memorable and emotionally impactful experiences of my life. As a woman of color, I have a personal understanding of the struggles of minorities in America. I thought I also understood the scale of the lynchings post-slavery—I was mistaken. I have never felt as small and powerless as I did standing underneath the bronze pillars of the Peace and Justice Memorial. I am one person, but it was like I could feel the deaths of all of them. It physically hurt to think about their last moments.

What I really gained from this series is a better understanding of my power and the change I am capable of creating. Things may not be perfect in this country or the world, but I have the power to make my voice heard.

—Kimberly Edwards

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CEREMONY



Student participants in the 2018 Institute of Leadership Excellence celebrate the completion of the one-week May class.

FIVE CHOSEN FOR INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP COHORT

Five MTSU students are participants in Generation Lead, a new program announced last summer by the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition. The 10-month cohort program for young emerging leaders in Nashville includes 10 area college students.

These students will join others from Cumberland University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Tennessee State University, Belmont University, and Fisk University in a quest to deepen their social and civic awareness, expand their sense of identity, and learn to amplify their voices through development, engagement, leadership, and advocacy.

MTSU's Education Leaders for 2018–19 are:

Mohamadu Bah, Information Systems

Qierra Doss, English

Hana Sadun, Biology

Jasmine Reyes, Social Work

Linda Williams, Social Work



HANDS-ON AT HONDURAN HOSPITAL

Medical mission opens eyes to realities of serving the underserved

By *Gabriella Morin*, a Biology and Foreign Languages major

Last summer, I completed a three-week internship at Loma de Luz Hospital, a modern 30,000-square-foot, full-service hospital in Balfate, Colón, Honduras. I served as a triage nurse, translator, and supply organizer while acquiring a wealth of knowledge on medical missions. Throughout this experience I gained insight on the inner workings and the reality of public health operations under the strain of limited resources and staff.

At Loma de Luz Hospital, which provides health care to the northern coast of Honduras, American surgeons, doctors, and nurses serve alongside Honduran nurses and technicians providing medical care for over 25,000 patients and facilitating more than 1,200 surgeries each year.

On-site physicians dedicate their lives to building relationships with patients. After years of living in Honduras, they are equipped to provide practical, culturally appropriate advice. As a former missionary, I had frequently encountered short-term medical teams who eagerly approached patients with a well-meaning agenda for quantity of care provided, yet unintentional ignorance of quality of care. The recipe for a well-rounded public health effort, it seems, is longevity and intentionality of care.

I was tasked with organizing the central medical supply building. After three weeks, the patients had faster access to care, with physicians freed up from sorting through boxes in search of necessary supplies. I also was given the opportunity to shadow and translate for a visiting physician, an obstetrician/gynecologist from Mississippi. I assisted with patient preparation for exams and prenatal visits and put patients at ease.

The visiting OB-GYN explained the procedures in detail to patients beforehand and often shared

insights with me, such as anatomical abnormalities and routine factors to check for in prenatal visits. By translating and shadowing, I gained a greater grasp on medical Spanish and patient interactions through a clinical viewpoint. I enjoyed the mental challenge of combining triage, organization, and translating every day.

“Professionals who sacrificed their time and energy . . . displayed character and integrity scarcely seen.”

As a result of my experience at Loma de Luz, I gained a broader understanding of the health care field and the various roles and relationships required for success. While translating and shadowing the doctor, I learned about the reality of life as a clinician, including the physical and emotional toll of the profession and the multi-faceted aspect of patient care.

After working in the missions hospital, I was inspired by the compassion and dedication of health care providers who have chosen to serve the needy. I learned a lot by shadowing professionals who sacrificed their time and energy without pay to serve in a foreign country and who displayed character and integrity scarcely seen. Every patient's story of perseverance strengthened my empathy toward the underserved populations. Loma de Luz not only provided me with an enhanced technical skill set, but also a grounded determination to serve.



Gabriella Morin



Devyn Hayes

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

MTSU medical brigade journeys near jungle of Panama after sudden switch

By Devyn Hayes, co-president of MTSU Global Medical Brigades

In April of 2018, preparations for the MTSU Global Medical Brigades annual service trip were well under way. We were scheduled to take medical and dental clinics to Nicaragua in mid-May, but there was political unrest in the country due to the government's recent social security reforms. As protests turned violent, we were told that our brigade was being rerouted to Panama and for July. The other brigade leaders and I scrambled to get schedules changed. Since we had traveled to Nicaragua a few times before, we had felt comfortable there and now did not know what Panama had in store.

“The howler monkeys became a normal morning alarm.”

After a long day of flights, we arrived in the Panama airport and were greeted by our brigade coordinator, José, and our translators before heading out for a three-hour bus ride to our compound. When we got there, it was dark and raining, and we were exhausted from the day of travel. We fell asleep quickly that night, with a mixture of exhaustion from traveling and excitement for the week to come. Very early the next morning we awoke to the sound of howler monkeys. It was a bit terrifying, and we realized that our compound was on the edge of the Panamanian jungle.

That day, we met community leaders with whom we would be working and heard from some of the health workers who serve their communities throughout the year. We

were able to see over 450 members of the community in three days of clinic and hosted a health fair on our last day in the country. We talked with participants about good hygiene practices, healthy eating habits, and family planning. We saw patients with a range of illnesses: intestinal parasites, asthma, hypertension, and the common cold. We watched dental extractions and helped give fluoride treatments to children in the community. Our time went by very quickly.

By the end of the week, I was not ready to leave. Although I had been nervous and skeptical in the beginning, I enjoyed my time in Panama. The howler monkeys became a normal morning alarm, cold showers became comfortable, and strangers were starting to feel like old friends. I learned to be flexible and to accept changes from the expected norm. If I had been unwilling to accept change, I may have never gotten to experience Panamanian culture, like dancing with the Emberá-Wounaan people or making new friends with our translators and fellow brigaders. If I had the chance, I'd do it all again.

About Global Medical Brigades

MTSU Global Medical Brigades is a chapter of Global Brigades Inc., the largest student-led movement for global health and holistic development. Global Brigades works to create sustainable communities in Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, and Ghana through various brigade programs that focus on health and economic disparities to empower and improve communities in these countries.



SCHERMERHORN FIELD TRIP

Students in Joseph E. Morgan's Honors Introduction to Music (MUHL 1030H) course took a field trip to see the Russian Masters concert at Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

John DuBois and students Sydney Robertson (l) and Lilly Gulliver visit at the Honors College's annual ice cream social last September.

LOWER-DIVISION CERTIFICATES EARNED

Honors students completing 18 or more Honors hours received Lower-Division Certificates of Achievement from the University Honors College in the fall. Students who complete the lower-division certificates only need 11 additional hours, including thesis-related classes, to graduate with an Honors degree.

BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Actuarial Science

Maxwell A. Craig
Trevor Lynn Miles

Aerospace

Tomy Chet
Victoria N. Crouch
Ryan Wiley Doole
Michaela N. George
Christopher Emil Kashif
Jesse Antonio Roseberry

Animal Science

Siarah M. Tribble

Biochemistry

Karly Brianna Alexander
Charles R. Teeples
Hannah Victoria Jones

Biology

Kristen Marie Bassette
Jori E. Graeff
Steffany Marie Jenkins
Hannah Aline Kirby
Cong Huan Ngoc
Marissa Marie Turner

Chemistry

Asya Lazai Cobb

Computer Science

Samuel Gregory
Sophie Duchesne McIntyre
Michael Wesley Schmidt
Brian William Sharber

Environmental Sustainability and Technology

Selah Emmery Weiss

Forensic Science

Sunny Beth Lusins

Plant and Soil Science

Jake A. Duke

Physics

Max Behling
Ethan M. Lawing

BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Criminal Justice Administration

Emily Suzanne Ballantyne

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Noelani Marie Bruinsma

Nursing

Anna Renae Herrell
Rachel Sloan Winfrey

Psychology

Kayci Erika Aavatsmark
Emma Elizabeth Kendall
Chase Daniel Quirk
Mickayla R. Wilkinson

Psychology, Sociology

Emma Jane Bradley

Social Work

Allison Walker Osteen

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Timothy I. Gassman

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education

Madison Paige McConnell

Interdisciplinary Studies

Miranda Elise Herrell

JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Accounting

Samuel J. Shapiro

Business Administration

Jessikah Danielle Riley

Information Systems

Brian A. Hardin

Marketing

Skylar Danielle Lemon

LIBERAL ARTS

Anthropology

Daniel T. Hoelzer

Art

Anastasia Grace Oliver
Amber Nichole Puls

Communication

Gabriela Kay Ortega

English

Hannah A. Sandefur
Megan Lynn Young

Foreign Languages, Global Studies and Cultural Geography

Robin Delaney Cook
Shanee Marie Phillips
Michelle Marie Schmidt
Hannah Marie Solima

History

Ethan M. Young

International Relations

Kerry R. Keitzman

Philosophy

Jeffrey Grant Allen

Political Science

Patrick Nolan Alford
Christopher James Cowherd
Gabriela J. Zotti

Religious Studies

Hanan N. Beyene

Sociology

Valarie Mikhiel Risk
Shelby N. Williamson

Theatre

Meredith Grace Aydelott

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Animation

Devin Bailey Owensby
Rawan Amin Salmin

Audio Production

Joseph Elijah Gunnells
Hannah Jewell Humphress
Samuel Connely Killian
Megan Elizabeth Marchan
Samantha Noelle Stafford

Journalism

Brandon Carter Black
Elizabeth Hayden Hubner
Angele Marie Latham
Carson T. Sisk

Media and Entertainment

Madeline Harper Quinby

Recording Industry

Megan H. Loveless

Video and Film Production

Sarah Kylie Barclay
William Joshua Calhoun
Aliciah Nicole Davis
Michael D. Hollandsworth
Liam Michael Watt
Spencer W. White

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Academic Focus

Madeline E. Garren



JannaKay Bevis

HONORS CLASS CONDUCTS CAREER FAIR

A Career Fair conducted by **Dianna Rust's** Honors UNIV 1010, an MT Engage class, at Reeves-Rogers Elementary School Nov. 15 allowed fifth- and sixth-graders to visit two career presentation tables staffed by MTSU freshmen.

Each MTSU student developed an interactive element to engage the Reeves-Rogers students. **Bridget Robertson**, who plans to become a vocational agriculture teacher, brought a chicken to the school and demonstrated how a vocational ag teacher would discuss poultry production in a classroom.

The MTSU students selected a career to research and share with the students based on the results of Holland Code assessments they each took. They then created poster presentations and handouts.

MT Engage promotes outside-of-the-classroom academic engagement and service learning. This was the second time a UNIV 1010/MT Engage class has conducted a career fair at the elementary school.



Jacob Hamm



Dianna Rust



Cole Hanson (l) and William Moxon



Bridget Robertson



Cyrus Jones



Trevor Henry



Mia Huell



William "Wes" Birdwell

FALL 2018 THESES DEFENDED



Hannah Berthelson
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
"Encouraging the Acceptance of Human Differences through Children's Literature"
Rebecca Fischer, advisor



Casey Brinegar
Leisure, Sport, and Tourism Studies
"The Evolution of Foreign Language Pedagogy"
Ann McCullough, advisor



Nicole Chandler
Mechatronics Engineering
"Kinematic Analysis and Optimization of a Novel End-Effector with Variable Topology"
Brian Slaboch, advisor



Jackson Cole
Physics
"An Interface for Future Comparison of Real and Simulated Interacting Galaxy Pair Morphologies using JSPAM"
Andrew Wyatt, advisor



Sierra Coffee
Sociology
"The War on Drugs, Cocaine, and Their Effect on the Federal Prison Population"
Meredith Dye, advisor



Matthew Cureton
Management
"Restoration, Preservation, and Renovation of Irish Tower Houses: A Regional Study Conducted in County Tipperary, Ireland"
Stacey Graham, advisor



Sarah Dixon-Morgan
International Relations
"Learning from the Student's Perspective"
Ryan Korstange, advisor



Briyana Dyer
Journalism
"The Representation of Female Characters in the Academy Award Winners for Best Picture of the Year"
Jane Marcellus, advisor



Jake Garrette
Aerospace
"The Development and Incorporation of Introductory Aerospace Curriculum into Tennessee Secondary Education Systems"
Andrea Georgiou, advisor



Hannah Giles
English
"All Colors in Balmy Fields: A Modern Floral Dictionary with Accompanying Poems"
Gaylord Brewer, advisor



Lauren Grizzard
Interdisciplinary Studies
"Implementation of Classroom Pedagogies into a Children's Church Environment Through Volunteer Training"
Dianna Rust, advisor



Joseph Gulizia
Animal Science and Science
"Total and Nutrient-Specific In Situ Degradation of Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) in the Bovine Rumen"
Kevin Downs, advisor



Hannah Hall
Biology
"Inducing Somatic Embryogenesis in Grape (*Vitis aestivalis* 'Norton/Cynthiana') Callus"
John DuBoise, advisor



Devyn Hayes

Biology
"Design and Validation of a Live Cell Reporter for Macrophage Activation"
David Nelson, advisor



James Morton

Political Science and International Relations
"Church v. State: From Confessionalism to Judicial Interpretation in *Everson v. Board of Education*"
Michael L. Hanson, advisor



Katelynn Horner

Finance
"One Man's Trash Can Be Everyone's Burden: A Case Study Analysis of Rutherford County's Waste Status"
Tony Eff, advisor



Cameron Oldham

Biology
"Color Guard: Sport of the Arts"
Craig Cornish, advisor



Whitney Ingle

Exercise Science
"The Short-Term Mental Health Effects of Yoga on College Students"
John Coons, advisor



Esther Parson

English
"The Strong Memory of Past Love"
Marion Hollings, advisor



Elizabeth Keller

Aerospace
"Dare to Fly: Women's Air Race Classic 2018"
Tyler Babb, advisor



Herschel Paulk

Management
"Southern Pride Lawn Care and Landscaping"
Kristen Shanine, advisor



Marilyn Kelley

Mathematics
"Analyzing Students' Understanding of Isomorphism"
James Hart, advisor



Jana Pehrson

Textiles, Merchandising, and Design
"Consumers' Evaluations of and Purchase Intentions toward Online Styling Services"
Jasmine Kwon Vu, advisor



Jocelyn Mercado

Political Science
"National Reconciliation Initiatives: South Africa, Burundi, Kenya"
Moses Tesi, advisor



Mikaela Ray

Music
"Music Educators' Attitudes Toward Integrating Science into Curricular Ensemble Rehearsals"
Christopher Dye, advisor



Madyson Middleton

Biology
"Synthesis and Characterization of Antifungal Peptoids Against *Cryptococcus* by Means of Structure Activity Relationship"
Kevin Bicker, advisor



Michael Schmidt

Computer Science
"An Implementation of Integrated Visualization and Endpoint Modelling"
Ryan Otter, advisor



Jacob Smith

Criminal Justice Administration
"The Effect of the Consumption of Pornography on the Rate of Sexual Crime"
William Shulman, advisor



Jacob Wilder

Journalism
"The NFL: Can Diversity Really Be Valued in the World's Greatest Meritocracy?"
Colby Jubenville, advisor



Sabrina Spicer

Biochemistry
"Exploration of Antifungal Peptoid, AEC5, for Use as an Antimicrobial Therapeutic Against Cryptococcus neoformans"
Kevin Bicker and Erin McClelland, advisors



Sarah Wilfong Joblin

Music
"Orchestrating O'Carolan: Initiating a Folk Composer into Baroque World"
Carol Nies, advisor



Clinton Warren

Biology
"Intrasexual Behaviors in the Nonnative Mediterranean House Gecko Hemidactylus turcicus"
Matthew Klukowski, advisor



Kaitlyn Williford

Social Work
"Access to Nutritional Food for SNAP Recipients through the Sustainable Farming Method of Aquaponics"
Kathleen Darby, advisor

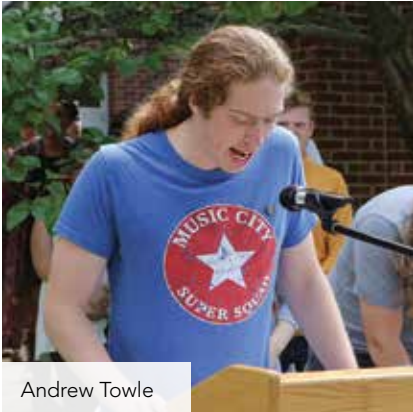


SCIENTIA ET HUMANITAS STAFF

Members of the 2018–19 Scientia et Humanitas staff are (l–r): front, Myranda Uselton and Amy Harris-Aber, Brielle Campos; and back row, Elizabeth Anderson, Jake Castle, Michael McDermott, and Matt Spencer.



Peter Roldan



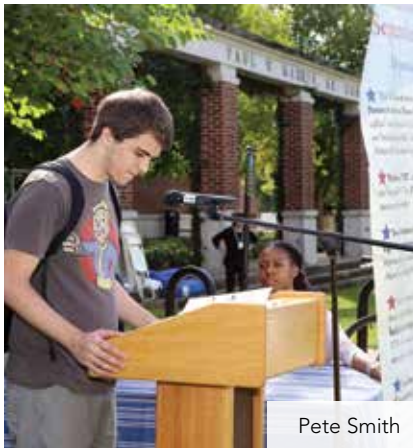
Andrew Towle



Student Government Association students with Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett (l) and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee



Megan Loveless



Pete Smith



Merna Ghobria



Michael Sharber



John R. Vile, Monica Haun, Mary Evins, and Tre Hargett



Kerry Keitzman

31 TRANSFER FELLOWS INAUGURATED





Bud Fischer, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, addressed the Fall 2018 class of 31 Transfer Fellows during an inauguration ceremony Sept. 14 in the Student Union Ballroom. Senior Transfer Fellows **Sarah Wilfong Joblin**, who provided the music for the evening, and **Robert Owen** welcomed the new students.

Honors Dean **John R. Vile** introduced Honors Transfer Fellows faculty member **Martha Hixon**, who led the recitation of the Honors Creed. Transfer Fellow Academic Advisor **Judy Albakry, Vile**, and Associate Dean **Philip E. Phillips** facilitated the students' signing of the Honors College's *Book of Town and Gown*.

Pictured following the 2018 Transfer Fellows inauguration are (l-r): front, Philip E. Phillips, Martha Hixon, Laura MacLean, Aleana Boudle, Britney Brown, Kaylee Lindgren, Tia Shutes, Tre' yana Ogilvie, Rachel Eccles, Morgan Marshall, Laneece Hurd, John R. Vile, and Bud Fischer; second row, John McKeon, Ashley Brooks, Audrey Creel, Frank Merlock, Samir Qattea, Caitlyn Ellis, Sandra Flavin, Lillian Beck, Montgomery Barreto, and Judy Albakry; third row, Kaleb Askren, Landon Johnson, Anuradha Nugawela, Sabrina Washington, Anthony Weatherford, Molly McCarthy, Lisa Hardie, and Katherine Carter; and back, Anthony Czelusniak, Elliot Bright, Angela Womack, Sarah Wilfong-Joblin, Robert Owen, David Zoz, and Ekaterina Valuiskaya.

ART AND ADVENTURE IN THE UK

Film student explores world through summer Fulbright fellowship

By Emily McTyre, Video and Film Production major



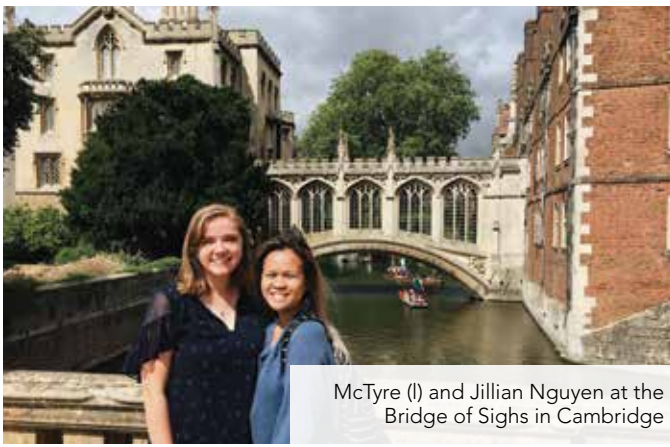
Emily McTyre at Carlisle Castle in England

I have always considered myself a dreamer, and traveling has always been one of those dreams. The United Kingdom, in particular, has been my No. 1 dream destination for as long as I can remember. The UK's culture has influenced me from a young age; my family history is rooted in the Scottish Highlands and English countryside. Those cultural elements have followed me as I have grown up, shaping me into who I am today.

Mary Poppins was forever on repeat when I was child, and eventually, my interests grew to include *Harry Potter*, *Sherlock*, and *Downton Abbey*. The UK media have greatly impacted my perspective on film and guided me toward a career in the industry. These films and shows have prompted me to set out and create my own. To have the chance to study this art form in the country that provides my inspiration and to explore where my family came from was a dream come true.

“I discovered that the line between dreaming and doing is much thinner than I ever thought.”

Last summer, I was awarded the honor of attending the Fulbright Commission's UK Summer Institute for Film and Media at the University of Birmingham in England. Each day was filled with something new to discover through people, classes, and travel. I made friends from all corners of the globe, and we worked together to express ourselves through



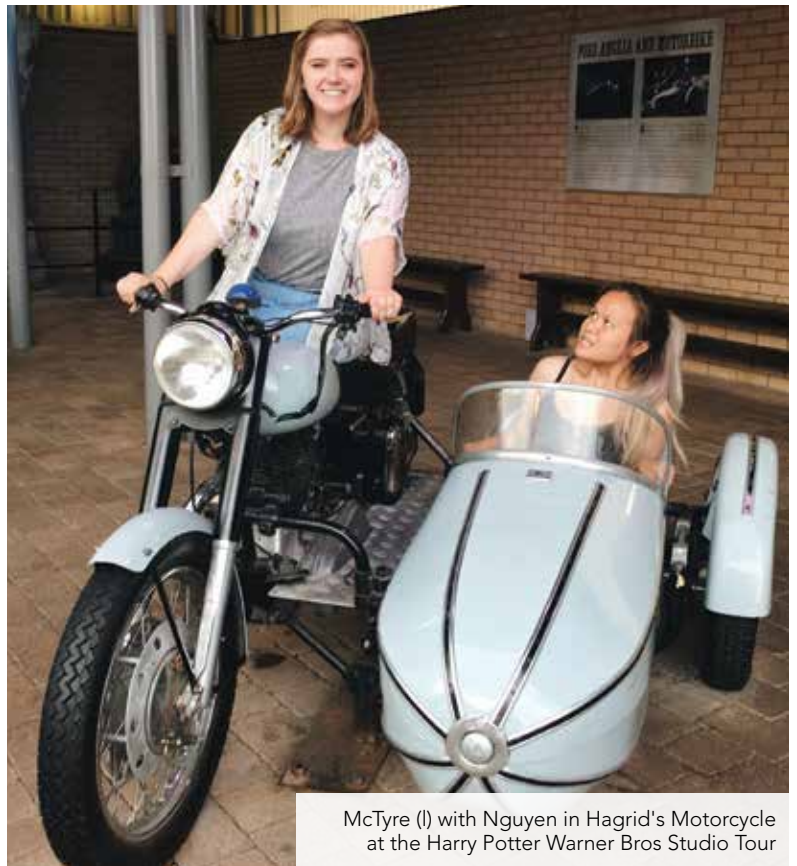
McTyre (I) and Jillian Nguyen at the Bridge of Sighs in Cambridge



McTyre at the BBC Birmingham Radio Station



McTyre at the London Eye with Erin Brown



McTyre (I) with Nguyen in Hagrid's Motorcycle at the Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio Tour

film. Our schedules were filled to the brim with adventure around every turn. From classes to trips, I had much time to experience the culture and grow with the people around me.

Everything I witnessed in the UK came at me like a whirlwind. I couldn't predict what would come next. Not only did I expand my knowledge of film and media, but I also learned about myself, which I didn't really anticipate.

The late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright once said, "Our future is not in the stars but in our own minds and hearts." We create ourselves by molding pieces of our environment together with what is inside. I discovered that the line between dreaming and doing is much thinner than I ever thought. I found a confidence that I had been missing. I realized the importance of the people in my life and the importance of allowing new people in. I explored more of the world that is really so much smaller than we think. Through it all, my mind and heart came together to fuse all that I am with a fresh perspective of who I can be.

I have always thought of the arts as a universal language. We can all hear a series of musical notes and feel a certain way. We can put a brush to a canvas or move our bodies in dance to express what we cannot say. We can watch a film and, no matter the language, relate to the images and emotions. By studying abroad in the UK, I was able to speak this universal language.

I connected on a personal level with people I never would have met if it had not been for this program. We connected through filmmaking. We made goofy, low-budget movies; explored a new country and its culture; and made lifelong bonds from those three short weeks spent together.

Take the leap of faith. Buy the ticket. Apply for a scholarship. A life-changing experience might come from it. Art is fueled by humanity, and if we do not go out into the world, we are just artists stuck at the drawing table. One is not required to travel miles across the ocean to find what is out there, either. It is in our backyards, our families, our friends, our history, our towns. We have the whole world right in front of us. Let's go explore it.

“ I have always thought of the arts as a universal language By studying abroad in the UK, I was able to speak this universal language. ”



ODK INDUCTS 46 IN FALL CEREMONY

John R. Vile, MTSU ODK circle faculty advisor, congratulates Emily Rouse.

The MTSU circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leadership Honor Society initiated 46 new members at a ceremony last November. Circle president **Jonathan Ciecka** welcomed initiates and guests, while Honors College Dean **John R. Vile** was the featured speaker for the occasion.

Seven sophomores also were introduced as ODK squires and will be eligible for full membership as juniors.

Other student officers for 2018–19 are **Tatum England**, vice president; **Tammy Nunez**, secretary; and **Nathan Wahl**, program coordinator for service.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded in 1914, is the first national college honor society to give recognition for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship. 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, MTSU circle coordinator, at [615-898-5645](tel:615-898-5645) or susan.lyons@mtsu.edu.



Vile and Brady Lundt



Vile was the featured speaker.

New Initiates

Hannah Abid	Madison McConnell
Asmaa Alsaadiy	Delanie McDonald
Elizabeth Arrington	Wesley Merrill
Kallie Attig	Jennifer Miller
Anna Austin	Maiko Morgan
Emily Butch	Leo Pagan
Shelby Cox	Caroline Parker
Austin Dickey	Michael Rhoten
Rachel Eccles	Emily Rouse
Marissa Edwards	Michelle Sabir
Virginia Euler	Charles Samuels
Sandra Flavin	Payam Sharif
Noah Fryman	Brenna Sharpe
Kristen Gallant	Cody Solomon
Carlton Grace Gay	Savannah Starbuck
Makayla Henley	Steven Stedry
Rachel Hood	Meena Swaminathan
Landon Johnson	Thuylinh Tran
Rebekah Juergens	Madeline Vowell
Kerry Keitzman	Nathan Wahl
Kaylee Lindgren	Sabrina Washington
Mary Margaret Loyd	Georgey Weissman
Brady Lundt	Angela Womack



ODK officers (l-r) Nathan Wahl, Tammy Nunez, Tatum England, and Jonathan Ciecka take the oath of office, led by Vile.



Sabrina Washington

Sophomore Squires

Catheryn Bolick	Gabriella Morin
Chase Burton	Ashlin Murphy
Chadwick Daugherty	Nottely Seagraves
Cody Maness	



Jonathan Ciecka



Vile and Meena Swaminathan

NEW HONORS MINOR PROTECTS FINANCIAL AID

By Morgan Murphy, a graduate student studying Media and Entertainment

A new minor is available at MTSU starting with the Fall 2018 semester, but it is not open to just anyone. The University Honors College last August announced the addition of the Honors minor for students on track to graduate from the college.

The minor was created as a safeguard after a change in federal financial aid rules. The Course Program of Study (CPoS) mandates that students take only courses required for their program of study. Taking additional or optional courses can result in the loss of financial aid. Currently, this program affects only federal funding, like Pell Grants or Direct Loans.

"Honors courses in the past have always counted toward elective requirements, but not all students need electives," said Judy Albakry, an Honors College advisor. "If a student ran out of elective hours, there is a possibility the thesis class, or any upper-division Honors class, would not count toward a degree requirement."

This Honors minor is a little different from other minors offered at MTSU. Lower-division Honors classes can still fulfill general education or major requirements while also counting toward the Honors minor.

"Normally, classes you take in your minor can't count toward your major or another minor, but everything

in Honors can still double-count like it always has," Albakry said.

There are actually two versions of the minor program—the Honors minor that requires completion of 29 hours in the Honors College, as well as the Honors Associate minor which only needs 11 hours of Honors courses.

In some degree programs at MTSU, students must have two minors. The Honors minor gives students the ability to graduate from the Honors College while still completing other minors as required by major, if necessary.

Students don't need to file for the Honors minor to take lower-division Honors classes, however. "Once they enroll in a UH course, I'll send them an email asking them to fill out the minor form," Albakry said. "Everything up to that point still counts for something else, not just Honors."

The Honors minor form must be filed by an Honors College advisor. If a student decides not to continue with the Honors College, the minor can be removed from their program.

For more information, visit mtsu.edu/honors or email judy.albakry@mtsu.edu.



3 FELLOWSHIPS ADDED TO HONORS HAUL

Clorissa Campbell



Ethan Willis



Katelynn Horner

The Undergraduate Fellowships Office produced three scholarship winners in 2018 in addition to the 17 prestigious awards announced in the fall issue of *Areté*: **Katelynn Horner**, **Ethan Willis**, and **Clorissa Campbell**.

Horner and Willis were awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for study abroad in the summer and fall of 2018, respectively. Willis, a Computer Science and Mathematics major, traveled to Finland. Horner, majoring in Finance and in Environmental Sustainability and Technology, studied in New Zealand.

Campbell, who is a Biology major, participated in the Rhodes College Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program. She assisted with research on nocturnal and diurnal frogs during her education abroad trip to Brazil last summer. She hopes to attend medical school following her planned graduation this May.

The French Revolution and Beyond

UH 4600 01
HONR 117
MW 12:40–2:05 p.m.
CRN 82601
Joan McRae

Relive the French Revolution in a course structured around a Reacting to the Past role-playing game. Students will plunge into the intellectual, social, and political turmoil that swept through France in the summer of 1791 as they become leaders of factions in the National Assembly and on the streets of Paris. Students will consider the intellectual origins of the Revolution and contemporary reactions to it through the works of French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Irish statesman Edmund Burke, among others. After the game, we will explore the social upheaval and governmental chaos that led to the terror and ultimately the rise of Napoleon. The course concludes with a consideration of the lasting influence of the French Revolution through its continuing treatment in literature, film, and art.

FALL 2019 INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS

American Film in the '70s

UH 4600 02
PH 324
W 6–9 p.m.
CRN 87008
Will Brantley

In *Born to Be Wild: Hollywood and the Sixties Generation* (1984), Seth Cagin and Philip Dray call attention to “the brief but very golden age of the late sixties and early seventies, when a new generation of filmmakers cultivated and claimed a privileged relationship with a new generation of filmgoers.” Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, and other filmmakers responded in passionate but diverse ways to the defining events of a highly charged political era, including Vietnam, Watergate, the emergence of global corporatism, and the continued threat of nuclear holocaust. It was a period when the American film industry reflected the values of the counterculture,

which, in turn, had questioned the seemingly sacred foundations of American society.

This seminar focuses on a series of films that provide a cultural critique of the 1970s, often through explicit statement but more often through the use of metaphor. The course explores some of the ways in which significant directors, screenwriters, actors, and cinematographers made sense of the so-called “me” decade. Screenings involve *Cabaret*, *Carrie*, *The Conversation*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Nashville*, and *Taxi Driver*; readings include selections by Peter Biskind, Cagin and Dray, Pauline Kael, Robert Kolker, Peter Lev, and Robin Wood.

This course is open to students who have completed the English general studies requirement and may count as 3 hours upper-division English credit.

ANCESTRAL ADVOCATE

Transfer Fellow Gareth Laffely infuses history and hope into music *By Skip Anderson*

The gates of an unassuming private road 30 miles north of San Francisco swing open to allow entrance to Gareth Laffely, a junior MTSU transfer student majoring in Marketing. Laffely, 20, turns left at Lake Ewok to arrive at Skywalker Sound, a massive recording studio where E.T.'s voice came to life and *Raiders of the Lost Ark's* iconic theme was laid to tape. The studio is part of the famed Skywalker Ranch established more than 40 years ago by George Lucas, creator of, among other films, the *Star Wars* movie franchise. Neither the ranch nor Skywalker Sound is open to the public. If you're there, it's because you're there for a purpose. And Laffely, a student in MTSU's Honors College, has a clear purpose.

Laffely, sometimes known professionally as "Gareth," is an uber-talented multi-instrumentalist known most prominently as a flautist who, at the age of 17, became the youngest artist to reach No. 2 on the *Billboard* New Age chart. He is of Native American ancestry—a bloodline that prominently traces back to the Mi'kmaq (pronounced "mick-maw") and Cree tribes. Laffely recently enrolled at MTSU to pursue marketing as a means to help him promote his career as a musician after earning an associate's degree from Volunteer State Community College. His passionate performances of original compositions that promote social justice and historical awareness are helping to propel him to bona fide status as an impact activist for the Native American community.

He wrote the title song of his debut album, *The Journey* (2015), to honor the Native Americans who died along the Trail of Tears, an abhorrent chapter of American history when President Andrew Jackson ordered Native Americans to be forcibly removed from their ancestral lands in the Southeast. Four thousand members of the Cherokee Tribe alone died during the harrowing march at gunpoint to lands set aside west of the Mississippi River.

“Music can have a purpose and a power to touch people on a deep level. Music can heal.”

"I wrote this song to honor their spirits," Laffely speaks, as an acoustic guitar repeats a refrain in "The Journey," easily evoking heavy footsteps carrying an entire people far from their ancestral homelands.

Laffely's use of music as a tool for advocacy dates back to early childhood. He was playing drums by age 4, and his parents—who are both musicians—enrolled him in classical piano at age 5.

"Through music, I've always been able to express how I feel," Laffely said.

When he was 12, a lifelong friend of his and his parents died of cancer.





Gareth recording at Skywalker Symphony



"She and my mother used to be in a band together and would play music with me when I was a little kid—she taught me the power of music. Years later, she was misdiagnosed as having Stage 1 cancer when it was really Stage 4," Laffely said. "It was so hard for her to let go and to leave her family behind. I wrote a song called 'Move On' and partnered with the American Cancer Society to spread that message through different parts of the country."

PURPOSE AND POWER

The next year, Laffely used music to rise above being bullied. And he found a way to illuminate an elevated path in the hope others being bullied might follow.

"In response to being bullied, I wrote a song called 'This Time,' " he said. "Whatever you're going through, you always have the choice to say 'I'm not going to take this anymore' and step away from a situation."

Ironically, he was being bullied for doing martial arts.

"A friend started teasing me, and that developed into something more," Laffely said.

"It stopped being playful teasing, and it showed me bullying can be physical or mental—and that it can also be from a friend. That's why I wanted to create this school program that showed people being bullied how to get away from that and get help. I was 13. At 14, I toured elementary schools in Maine, Kentucky, Florida, and Tennessee."

Years later, a tearful fan told Laffely after a show that his music had saved her life.

"Music can have a purpose and a power to touch people on a deep level," he said. "Music can heal. I was performing at a powwow at Long Hunter State Park, and a woman told me that that my performance the year before had helped her to decide not to commit suicide. I want to use music to make differences like that on a large scale."

“Through music, I’ve always been able to express how I feel.”

In his new release, *Voices of the Guardians* (2018), Laffely teamed up with Emmy-winning composer and producer Lance Bendiksen. The 12-song LP prominently features the artist playing a traditional Native American flute, carved from wood.

"The type of flute I play is a minor pentatonic scale. Actually, it's a courtship instrument," Laffely said. "If a man plays it outside a woman's home, and she comes out to see who's playing it, they would marry. After they married, he would wrap the flute in a blanket and hide it. If he were to play that flute again, it would mean he was looking for another woman."

Interested in resuscitating the traditional instrument, Laffely traveled to Penobscot, Maine, to the reservation once known for crafting it.

"They used to make the flute on the island, but not in the past 100 years," he said. "I worked with the reservation to bring back production of the flute."

AWARENESS OF NATIVE CULTURE

The songs on *Voices of the Guardians* tell stories from Native American cultures around the country. Actor Wes Studi, who has appeared consistently in major films since *Dances With Wolves* in 1990, provided narration for seven of the songs.

"We wanted to raise awareness of Native American culture by telling the stories of Native American leaders," Laffely said. "The last recording was at Skywalker Ranch in California, but we also recorded in Montana, New Mexico, New York, and Nashville."

Studi is a Native American of Cherokee descent.

"Wes is an advocate of young Native American people stepping out of their communities and making a difference," Laffely said. "We recorded with him in



Santa Fe. He plays bad guys in his movies, but he's an awesome guy and so easy to work with."

Studi, also well known as a voice actor, voiced the character Eytukan in James Cameron's epic *Avatar*, the 2009 triple-Oscar winner.

"Gareth is a quite a talented young man, both in his music writing and flute performances," Studi said. "As a fellow musician, I found it a true pleasure to work with him on *Voices of the Guardians*. I was fascinated to learn he taught himself to play. And how he uses his talent today to bring awareness to important issues is an inspiration to many generations."

"Wes is actually a very good guitar player, and we got to do some jamming with him," Laffely said. "I was playing flute, and we had a little fun on the spot."

The album inspired a fascinating 26-minute documentary, called *Spirit Song*, on the stories told through the *Voices of the Guardians* album. It is available for viewing on the GoUSA smartphone app. **A**

More information about Gareth Laffely is available at garethmusic.com.

GOOD FELLOWSHIPS

Many of Tennessee's best and brightest freshmen begin their academic careers at MTSU's Honors College. That's not to say the college isn't equipped to attract Honors students like Gareth Laffely, who take a less traditional, but increasingly popular, route to campus.

Transfer students have been chosen to participate in MTSU's innovative Honors Transfer Fellowship program since the 2013–14 academic year. The program was modeled after the popular Buchanan Fellowship, awarded to 20 outstanding incoming freshmen each year. Students chosen to participate in the Honors Transfer Fellowship receive \$3,500 per semester for four semesters of work. It is the highest academic scholarship for students transferring from other schools.

The Honors College received support for the Honors Transfer Fellowship from the Division of Student Affairs, Provost's Office, and directly from President Sidney A. McPhee. Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College, and associate professor Rebecca King designed the fellowship seminar.

Attracting Honors transfer students and helping them succeed has academic and financial benefits for the University, Honors Dean John R. Vile points out.

"Transfer students often bring unique life experiences," Vile said. "They help keep us honest because they have a point of comparison. "The beauty of students who have already completed two years of work elsewhere is that we already know whether or not they are prepared for college work."

Laffely, as his life story well exhibits, has plenty of unique life experience. And he has channeled that experience to do good for others. He recently received both MTSU's Community Service Award and the Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC)—one of only a handful of students and faculty or staff members in the entire Tennessee higher education system selected to receive the award in recognition of significant public service. The award is named for Harold Love Sr., who served on the first Metro-Nashville Council in the early 1960s and later in the Tennessee House.



GOLDEN TOUCH

Collage announces Creative Expression Award winners for fall 50th anniversary issue

Fall 2018 *Collage* staff members present at the final editing meeting are (l-r): front, Katelin McVey, Katrina Scott, Briyana Dyer, Rebecca Clippard, Bea Dedicatoria, Destiny Seaton, Hannah Tybor, and Stacy Yabko Misra; and back row, Moose Williams, Heaven Morrow, Nathan Wahl, Anthony Czelusniak, Jake Garrette, Emma Cryar, Todarius Morris, Simone Strange, Elizabeth Clippard, Lisa Hardie, and Kate Carter. (Not pictured: George Boktor, Jordyn Starks, Grace Hollowell, Miranda Herrell, Nibraas Khan, Kaylee Schilling, and Jake Bruce)

Six submitted works were selected to receive Creative Expression Awards from among over 500 entries to the 50th anniversary issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* in the Fall 2018 semester. **George Boktor** and **Kory Wells** captured Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for their literature submissions, while **Jasmine Weatherspoon** and **Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton** were awarded Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for their visual submissions. **Will Banks** and **John Lane** won in the audio and video categories, respectively.

The *Collage* staff selects approximately 60 submissions for publication each semester based on the results of a blind grading process. Creative Expression Award winners are selected by the staff and the *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board from among the highest-rated entries. Creative Expression Awards are awarded for each of six areas: prose, poetry, art, photography, audio, and video.



Art

Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton, an associate professor of Studio Arts in painting and winner of

an MTSU Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 2014, received a Creative Expression Award for her work *Aftermath/Debris: Secret War on Laos*. The 16-by-8-foot acrylic painting on canvas was installed at the Nashville International Airport from March through August last year.

Born in Vientiane, Laos, in 1976, Phouthavong-Houghton and her family immigrated to the U.S. from Nong Khai refugee camp in Thailand. She holds an M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University and has had numerous honors and exhibitions. Her research has been funded several times by the Tennessee Arts Commission and MTSU grants. Phouthavong-Houghton has partnered with the Frist Museum, Oasis Center, and Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee.

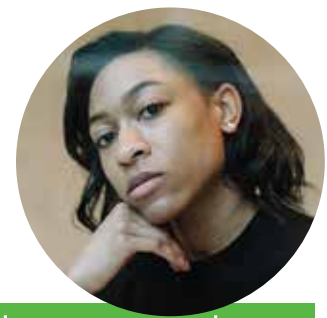


Aftermath/Debris: Secret War on Laos by Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton



Prose

English major **George Boktor** won an award for "Sacred Places." An Honors student, Boktor is minoring in Computer Science. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. and hopes to find a way to marry his love of language and linguistics to the practice of Computer Science, primarily through the field of language processing and recognition. The recipient of MTSU's 2017 General Education Writing Award, Boktor serves as an editor for *Collage* and *PotentCode*. He was recently selected as an associate editor with *URCA*, the National Collegiate Honors Council's undergraduate journal.



Photography

Jasmine Weatherspoon, a Media and Entertainment major with a concentration in Photography, was given a Creative Expression Award for her photo *Dance*. Weatherspoon has been pursuing photography professionally for three years. Her favorite type of photography is editorial, including portraits and fashion photos.

For her photo *Dance*, Weatherspoon says she stepped out of her comfort zone and challenged herself to photograph indoors with low lighting and underwater. MTSU Photography professors encouraged her experimentation, while fellow Photography student Sergio Villa and model Kayla Paredes helped her to create *Dance* by placing her camera in a fish tank and suspending it in the MTSU Rec Center pool (photo on page 40).

Poetry



MTSU alumna **Kory Wells** received the Creative Expression Award for her poem, "So Long to the Good Ole Moon." She is author of the poetry collection *Heaven Was the Moon* (March Street Press, 2009). Wells performs her poetry on an album, *Decent Pan of Cornbread*, a collaboration with her daughter, old-time musician Kelsey Wells, who's a former Buchanan Fellow and current marketing coordinator for MTSU's Creative Marketing Solutions.

A seventh-generation Tennessean, Kory Wells was born in Chattanooga and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from MTSU. In 2017, she was named the inaugural poet laureate of Murfreesboro. She is the founder and frequent host of Poetry in the 'Boro, a monthly poetry reading and open-mic event. Her work has appeared in *Ascent*, *POEM*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, and other publications.

Audio



Darrell Vanzant, a 2011 College of Education graduate with a master's in Special Education, took home the audio Creative Expression Award for his original song "Starting Today," written about his battle with and defeat of cancer in 2007. "I was on a beach in Hawaii vacationing with my family Christmas Day in 2007 and got a call from my doctor that I had cancer," Vanzant said. "The song, which was written just about as fast as I could sing it, was inspired by the battle ahead. Fast-forward to now, I beat the cancer and am living to sing about it every day."

A Nashville-based singer/songwriter and therapist, he has charted numerous singles by major artists on radio airplay charts and streaming services, as well as placements within television, movie, and commercial campaigns throughout his career. He also is the owner of Align Behavior LLC, a company that utilizes applied behavior analysis to bring about lasting behavior change in the lives of adolescents and their families.

Video



John S. Lane, a sophomore majoring in Video and Film Production, works for WMOT and Production Services and volunteers as an officer for the Film Guild. His goal is to someday work in the feature film industry as either a director or cinematographer. His inspiration for *Curtains* came from his time participating in high school theater. Lane said he was backstage during a rehearsal watching two students argue as a red light came through the curtains. The image stuck with him, and it became the basis for his video project.



A NEW TWIST ON VINTAGE ART

COLLAGES REFLECT
COLLAGE'S 50-YEAR
JOURNEY AT MTSU

By Destiny Seaton, a Senior Transfer Fellow majoring in Journalism

C is for Cat by Leslie Haines

Bean bag chairs, lava lamps, Ziploc bags, and Hot Wheels all turned 50 in 2018. More importantly, 2018 marked 50 years of *Collage* giving students a creative outlet at MTSU.

In his 1969 Letter from the Editor in the second issue of *Collage*, student Bill Peters wrote, "This magazine has yet to realize its full potential. . . . Yes, the poetry, essays, and short stories will continue to be an important and vital part of our publication, but the format changes, as does our awareness."

Of course, in the year of the first moon landing and Woodstock, it would have been difficult for Peters to have known just how much the format of the magazine would change.

Fifty years later, Rebecca Clippard, editor-in-chief of the 2018 spring and fall issues, held a sentiment that mirrored that of her predecessors. "Our audio and video submissions would not have been

conceivable in 1968 when *Collage* was founded, but by creating new traditions, we continue to be inclusive and adapt to the modern world," she said.

Known now as *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*—after the Honors College took the reins of the publication in 2004—the magazine is still thriving after its golden anniversary in 2018.

In the past year, the publication:

- won a national Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association
- created a new website complete with all available past issues archived in PDF form
- began publishing audio and video submissions
- gained a new faculty advisory board
- expanded submissions to faculty and staff for the anniversary edition



Toes by Morgan Westerbeck

The decision to accept faculty submissions for the 50th anniversary edition ushered in the incredible opportunity to publish artwork by Leslie Haines, a Visual Communications associate professor. Her digital collages marrying animals with the letterpress alphabet have been featured in shows from Nashville to Australia, were recently turned into a book that sells in stores from the iconic Hatch Show Print gift shop in downtown Nashville to bookshops in midtown Manhattan, and now also grace the pages of *Collage*.

“By creating new traditions, we continue to be inclusive and adapt to the modern world.”

“I embrace the vintage art, and then I give it a contemporary twist, so it’s kind of like the evolution that *Collage* has gone through and what the work looks like and what’s coming out, so it’s really great,” Haines said.

Haines is also a big proponent of soliciting faculty submissions because she believes there can be a disconnect between what students know about the work faculty is producing. She thinks it’s important for students to have a positive example of how to get their own artwork out into the world.

As important as it is for students to have their own works published, the magazine also offers a wonderful opportunity for students on the staff to learn valuable publishing and editing skills.

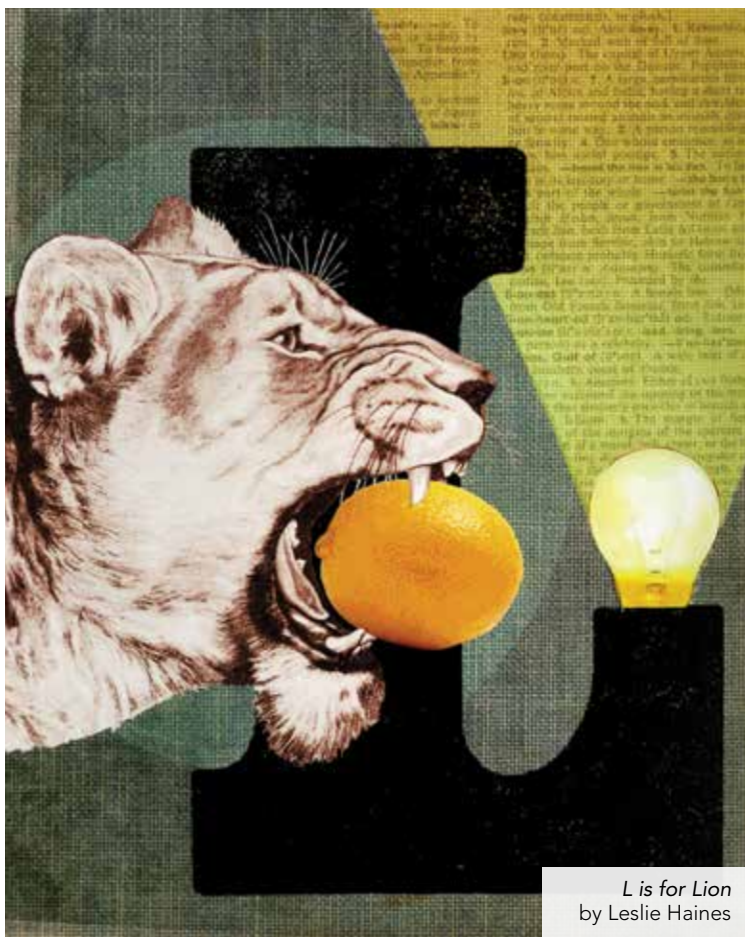
Clippard, who has worked for *Collage* since she was a freshman, says her plethora of roles over the years allowed her to gain leadership and editing experience while being surrounded by passionate individuals. She is always struck by how much love has been put into each magazine and doesn’t feel as if that enthusiasm has changed with time and format.

As the publication moves forward with changing times and format developments, longtime *Collage* advisor Marsha Powers hopes she has taught the staff at least a fraction of what they have taught her.

And—with what is sure to be at the delight of 1969 editor Bill Peters—the staff of *Collage* hopes the presence of the magazine has given the MTSU campus as much as lava lamps have given the world within the last 50 years. **A**



Dance by Jasmine Weatherspoon



L is for Lion
by Leslie Haines



Fall 2017 *Collage* cover



Spring 2018 *Collage* cover

WEARING A CROWN

Collage, the student-produced, biannual magazine of creative arts at MTSU since 1968, was recently awarded a Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (50th anniversary, part 1) issues.

This is the University's seventh Crown Award since 2007, with the last one coming in 2015.

CSPA is an international student press association founded with the goal of uniting student journalists and faculty advisors at schools and colleges through educational conferences, idea exchanges, textbooks, critiques, and award programs.

Crowns are selected for overall excellence in a head-to-head comparison. Student publishing in news, magazine, yearbook, or digital (online) formats are all eligible. During Crown consideration, publications are judged on their excellence as shown by their design, photography, concept, coverage, and writing.

The 2019 Crown Awards, dated for the year in which they are presented, will be handed out in New York City this March. Out of 1,172 publications eligible for judging, 61 print magazines and 20 hybrid magazines published during the 2017–18 academic year were chosen as finalists.

Crown finalists are actual winners, not nominees. Some will be announced as Gold Crowns; the rest are Silver Crowns.

College Print Magazine category finalists:

Ampersand, Webster University, Saint Louis

Apricity Magazine, University of Texas

Axis Creative Arts Magazine, Miami Dade College North Campus

Collage, Middle Tennessee State University

FM/AM, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York

Grub Street, Towson University, Maryland

Hair Trigger 40, Columbia College Chicago

Kiosk, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa

Rebel, East Carolina University

SCAN, Savannah College of Art and Design–Atlanta

Signatures, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York

Skald, Villa Maria College, Buffalo, New York

Voices, McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, Illinois

Windhover, North Carolina State University

HONORS COUNCIL MEETING



Members of the 2018–19 Honors Council pictured at the November meeting are (l–r): front, Kathleen Burris, Roger Heinrich, and John R. Vile; second row, Tricia Farwell, Kristine McCusker, Michelle Boyer-Pennington, and Matthew Cureton; third row, Laura Daniel and Judith Iriarte-Gross; and back, Tony Eff and Philip E. Phillips.

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Honors College executive secretary Karen Demonbreum, second from right, is congratulated by (l–r) Allison McGoffin, Vice Provost Peter Cunningham, and Provost Mark Byrnes on her retirement after 20 years of service at MTSU.



American Sign Language class at CALA



Haley Jensen



Shelley Thomas (r) in sign language class

HONORS HOSTS MTSU'S FIRST AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

By *Tayla Courage*, a junior majoring in Journalism

An American Sign Language (ASL) class, the first ever offered on the MTSU campus, took place last fall in the Martin Honors Building. Shelley Thomas, a professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, offered the class through the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), where she is founder and director.

Thomas was contacted last fall by Eric Workman, vice president and director of interpreting services at Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nashville, about adding ASL to the language teaching institute at MTSU. Workman said that there is strong interest and that the courses would encourage an understanding of the language of the deaf community.

Additionally, Haley Jensen, owner of private ASL company Voice Off, had reached out to Thomas about learning CALA teaching methods. Following Jensen's summer internship with Thomas in 2018, CALA hired her to teach its first ASL class in the fall semester. As Workman predicted, people were eager to sign up, and the class filled in two days. CALA had to close registration with a 40-person waiting list.

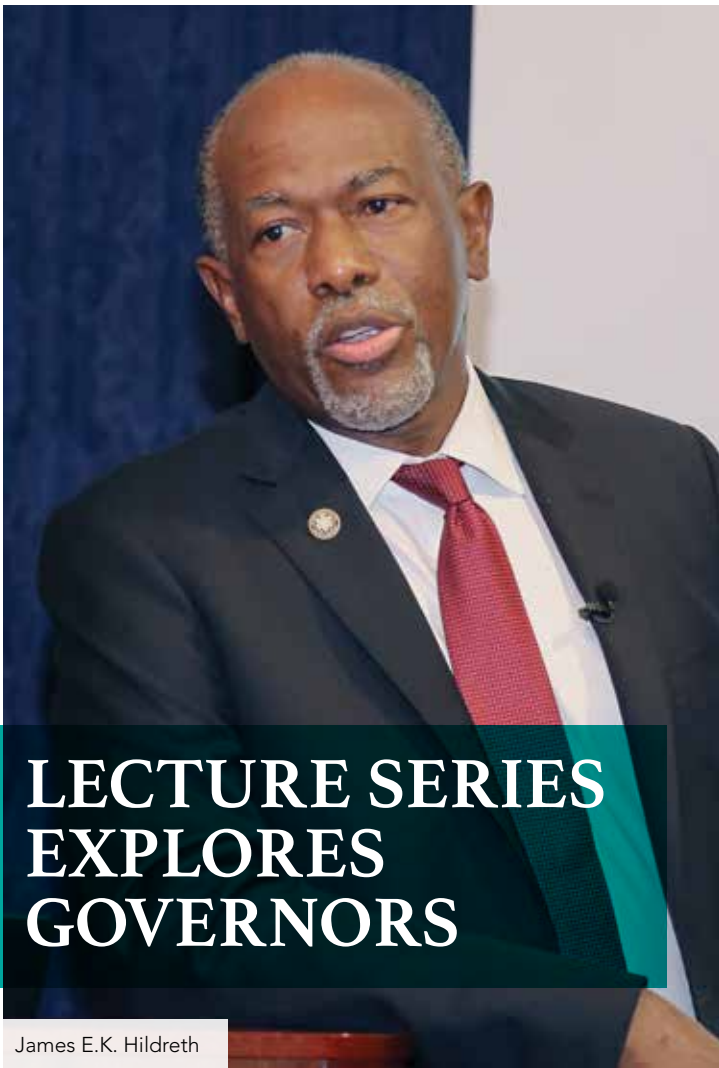
Describing the CALA curriculum, Jensen says that students learn the alphabet, numbers, body parts, clothes, colors, places in the house, feelings, and greetings, along with several other "high-frequency" words and phrases that allow students to express personal information in order to engage in basic

communication. ASL also forces learners to become more aware of facial expressions and emotions because of the lack of vocal inflection that the hearing person would normally rely upon. "You can do the exact same signs, but your face tells you whether it is a statement, a question, or exclamation," Jensen said.

“This is definitely the most fun way to learn a language.”

After the great success of the first ASL class, the ASL course has been offered again this spring. Student feedback mentioned the "passionate, knowledgeable instructor," a "fun, safe environment," the "engaging, humorous games" that help them "retain the information," the "interaction with other students," and "useful and practical" content. One student responded, "Great lesson! Loved the hangman game and chocolate. This is definitely the most fun way to learn a language."

The class cost is about \$20 per hour and is offered in two seven-week sessions. All classes are open to the community, and discounts are available for MTSU students, faculty, and staff.



James E.K. Hildreth



Ashley Riley Sousa



Ron Bombardi



Carole Stanford

LECTURE SERIES EXPLORES GOVERNORS

The Honors Lecture Series in Fall 2018 examined topics related to "Governors: Principles, Programs, Politics, and Policies that Govern." **Philip E. Phillips** (Honors Associate Dean) and **Mary Evins** (American Democracy Project, History) led off the series Aug. 27 with an introduction.

Lectures topics and speakers:

"Early Tennessee Governors from Blount to Browning"
Carole Stanford, Davidson County Historian, and **Robert L. Taylor** (History)

"Indigenous Peoples Respond to U.S. Governance"
Ashley Riley Sousa (History), **Albert Bender**, and **Melba Checote Eads**

"Lessons from a Life in Science: Governing Principles for Leadership in Healthcare"
James E.K. Hildreth, President, Meharry Medical College

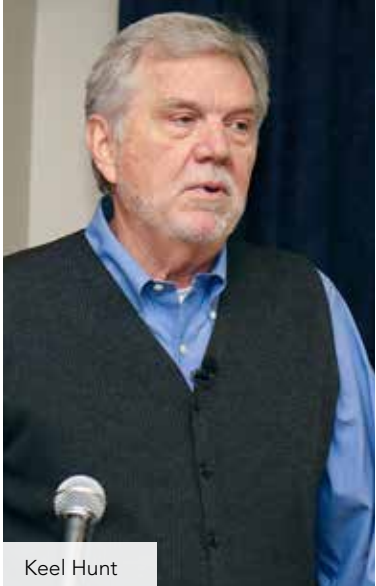
"Accountability Accuracy, and Accessibility: The Case for Truth and Good Governance"
David Plazas, Opinion Engagement Editor, *The Tennessean*

"Music Director as Governor of the Orchestra"
Giancarlo Guerrero, Music Director, Nashville Symphony, and **Reed Thomas** (School of Music)

"From Blue State to Red: Governors Clement to Haslam and Their Times"
Keel Hunt, The Strategy Group



Mary Evins



Keel Hunt



Robert Taylor



Philip E. Phillips



Giancarlo Guerro



Reed Thomas



David Plazas



Melba Checote Eads



Albert Bender

Other November class sessions and activities included reading the Constitution in the Honors Courtyard on Constitution Day (page 23); a field trip to The Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama (page 10); a presentation by **Laura Clippard** on fellowships and scholarships; and Honors student thesis presentations (page 20).

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



BOOK

Husband-wife professors support each other and generations of MTSU Honors students

By Patsy B. Weiler

“Folksy” psychology says opposites attract. That appears to be true in the case of John Pennington and Michelle Boyer-Pennington, a popular pair of Psychology professors on the Honors College faculty who are married.

Michelle is a developmental psychologist, while John’s a social psychologist.

She grew up in the South, he’s from the North.

She graduated from private, research-oriented Emory University in her hometown Atlanta as an undergraduate; he earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan–Flint, a public higher education institution outside of Detroit.

What they do have in common is the University of Florida, where the couple met in the early 1990s as they attained their master’s and doctoral degrees.

“I used a variety of social psychological tricks to get her to go out with me,” John said with a laugh, “and they worked.”

Arriving together at MTSU in 1995, each would rise through the ranks to become full professors. The next year, they married in August “with many of our department colleagues in attendance,” John said. “I even have pictures of some of them dancing the Macarena at our reception,” he said.

Accompanying them to their new positions was the deep appreciation they developed for the

ENDS

Honors programs during their undergraduate years at Emory and UM–Flint.

“Teaching an Honors course encourages relationship-building with students,” Michelle said. “At Emory, I had small seminar classes every week. I wrote an Honors thesis on memory study in children. Writing that thesis was an important part of my education. I stress the importance of good writing skills in my classes.”

For John, being an Honors College student at the University of Michigan–Flint made a deep impact.

“It was a wonderful experience,” he said. “I really enjoyed becoming friends with the other students. I decided that if I got a chance to be involved in an Honors College setting, I was going to take that opportunity.”

“Teaching an Honors course encourages relationship-building with students.”

That door opened at MTSU, allowing him an opportunity “to give back” to his students.

Both of the Psychology professors have continually served as Honors thesis advisors, as well as second readers for many of the undergraduate theses.

“I like mentoring students writing their theses. . . . Overall, it’s going to be a good experience,” John said. “A thesis forces you to be a good writer. They are going to write numerous drafts, and it helps students to learn to do critical thinking and solve problems on their own.”





HERS . . .

Michelle's devotion to actively engaging her students in the classroom led to her being recognized with the 2018 MTSU Experiential Learning Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Additionally, she has been the undergraduate programs coordinator for the Psychology Department for more than 10 years, is a member of the Honors Council, served as chair for three years of the Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grant program, and has been involved with that committee for more than 20 years.

“She makes our class interesting and exciting.”

Michelle was directly involved in the development of MT Engage, the University's Quality Enhancement Plan that is focused on enhancing student academic engagement. Several of her classes are designated as experimental learning (EXL), and one is an MT Engage course. Michelle co-teaches an interdisciplinary Honors/MT Engage/EXL/Raider Learning Community class called “Attitudes, Ethnicity and Being American: The Psychology and History of Cultural Pluralism” with Mary Evins, an MTSU History associate professor. Taught back-to-back, the combined courses explore national goals of liberty and equality for all and integrate activities such as eating at an ethnic restaurant and visiting a voting site.

In Michelle's Psychology classroom, she “uses funny examples to try to make the material stick,” said Sean Mevis, a freshman from Kingston Springs and a College of Behavioral and Health Sciences student. “She makes our class interesting and exciting.”



AND HIS . . .

John also has been actively involved with MTSU's Honors College, having served as a member of the Honors Council in 2012–13 and as council chair in 2013–14. He received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2014.

Along with teaching a variety of Psychology courses, on both the undergraduate and graduate levels, research has remained a constant in his career. John has written and co-authored a number of psychology-related papers and made many local, regional, and national presentations.

Currently, he is involved in two interesting lines of research in the area of sensory science, a field that analyzes the use of human senses for the purposes of evaluating consumer products.

Most recently, John is part of a team headed by Tony Johnston, an MTSU Agriculture professor and director of the school's new Fermentation Science program. With funding from an MTSU Alumni Association Special Projects Grant, they are looking into how lower levels of oxygen and lower atmospheric pressure at high altitudes—such as an environment found in an airplane—affect the sense of taste. Those who have eaten on a plane and thought the meal was bland and tasteless were possibly experiencing this phenomenon.

Additionally, John has studied how packaging and colors can persuade people that food contains flavors and textures it does not. For instance, a person may determine a piece of wintergreen candy tastes like cinnamon if it is colored red.

And, recently, he became the faculty sponsor of the Veg Club, a new student organization for vegetarians, vegans, and the veg-curious. The officers of the organization are Honors students, but the group is a diverse mix of individuals.



AND THEIRS

University Honors College Dean John R. Vile said both John and Michelle have been “exemplary Honors faculty members.”

“They have given special attention to the Honors theses that they have supervised,” Vile added. “Both are knowledgeable and approachable, and we are pleased to have them as members of the Honors faculty.”

Asked about their lives outside the campus setting, the Penningtons note that they share a pescatarian diet—vegetarian with a side of seafood. “If it has a face and it recognizes its mother, I probably won’t eat it,” Michelle said.

Both are fond of traveling, and they have a family cottage in northern Michigan.

The couple has two adult children, daughters Jessica, 23, who is no longer at home, and Briana, 22, who has special needs and “takes up half my brain and time with all her

activities,” her mother said, smiling. Both were adopted through the state of Tennessee. Briana attends an adult day program and is involved in the Murfreesboro and Rutherford County special needs community.

“That is how I became involved with Best Buddies MTSU,” Michelle said, her face lighting up when discussing the program.

The organization’s goal is to build lasting relationships between current students and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the area. Michelle has been the faculty advisor for the group for four years, which “is a bit of a calling, as I have a vested interest in many of my special friends that live in our community.”

She is involved with Life Enrichment and Resource Network of Rutherford County (L.E.A.R.N.), a group of volunteers who provide learning and fun opportunities for children and adults with special needs, and she helps with the

group’s bowling league. The Area 16 Special Olympics also benefits from Michelle’s organizational skills, as she coordinates its adult bowling tournament and Briana participates in the Special Olympics swim team.

With whatever free time she has left, the busy educator enjoys reading and gardening.

Away from the classroom, John likes to dabble in brewing beer at home and expressing his creativity in painting and print-making.

Reflecting on their careers, the couple finds it surreal to realize they have been at MTSU nearly 25 years and are now a segment of the older faculty.

“It has been exciting for us to witness the University’s dynamic growth since the mid-1990s to the present and continue to be a part of the lives of so many great students,” John said.

And hopefully many more to come. **A**



BOARD OF VISITORS

Members of the Honors College Board of Visitors members gathered for their annual meeting Oct. 19. Present at the meeting were (l-r): front, John R. Vile, Liz Bradley, Pam Ogg, Samuel Henderson, Raiko Henderson, Phil Mathis, Debra Hopkins, and Philip E. Phillips; and back, Bob Gerard, Gordon Bell, Lee Martin, Keel Hunt, Don Midgett, Paul W. Martin, Jr., and Don Witherspoon.



Madyson Middleton



Jake Garrette



Kelsey Keith



Sabrina Washington



Gareth Laffely



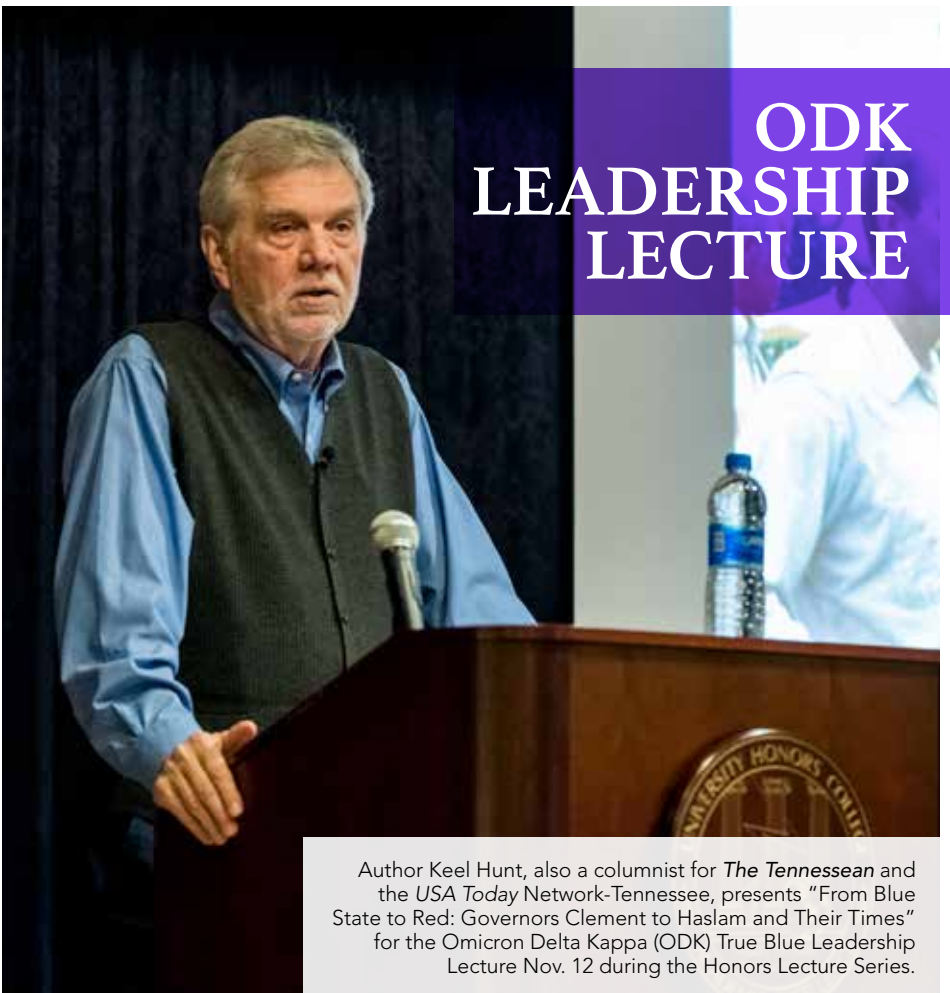
Dan Smith, director of MTSU's Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), speaks to board members.



Emily Oppmann



Nathan Wahl



ODK LEADERSHIP LECTURE

Author Keel Hunt, also a columnist for *The Tennessean* and the *USA Today Network-Tennessee*, presents "From Blue State to Red: Governors Clement to Haslam and Their Times" for the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) True Blue Leadership Lecture Nov. 12 during the Honors Lecture Series.



AWARD OF APPRECIATION

Honors College Dean John R. Vile presents an award to Honors alumnus and Board of Visitors member Paul W. Martin, Jr. for his outstanding support of Honors publications.



Attorney F. Lee Bailey, famous for his many high-profile cases including the O. J. Simpson and Patty Hearst trials, addressed faculty, staff, students, and community members Oct. 17 in the Martin Honors Building amphitheater. Topics included the Senate hearings on the Brett Kavanaugh nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, cross-examination, and polygraph testing.

Honors Dean John R. Vile introduced Bailey and presented a set of his two-volume encyclopedia, *Great American Lawyers*, to the esteemed speaker. The book offers insight into the lives and careers of 100 of America's most notable prosecuting and defense attorneys, including Bailey. Bailey took time to answer audience questions, pose for photographs with several guests, and speak one-on-one with participants.

NOTED ATTORNEY F. LEE BAILEY VISITS MTSU



FORMER PKP PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO STUDENTS

Ann Nalley, a former national president for the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP), spoke to Chemistry Professor Judith Iriate-Gross' students in the fall. Nalley, who served 21 years on the national PKP board, also was president of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in 2006 and received the ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences in 2015.



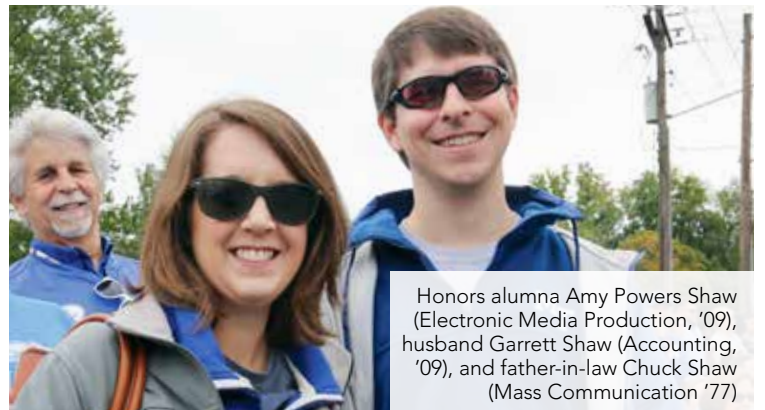


HOMECOMING 2018

Honors student ambassadors (l-r) Roqué Marcelo, Devyn Hayes, Madyson Middleton, Madonna Ghobrial, and Cody Maness at the Honors Homecoming tailgating tent



Sarah, Rebecca, Michael, and Samuel Henderson, who are the children of Raiko Henderson (Economics, '01), an Honors alumna and Honors College Board of Visitors member, and her husband John



Honors alumna Amy Powers Shaw (Electronic Media Production, '09), husband Garrett Shaw (Accounting, '09), and father-in-law Chuck Shaw (Mass Communication '77)



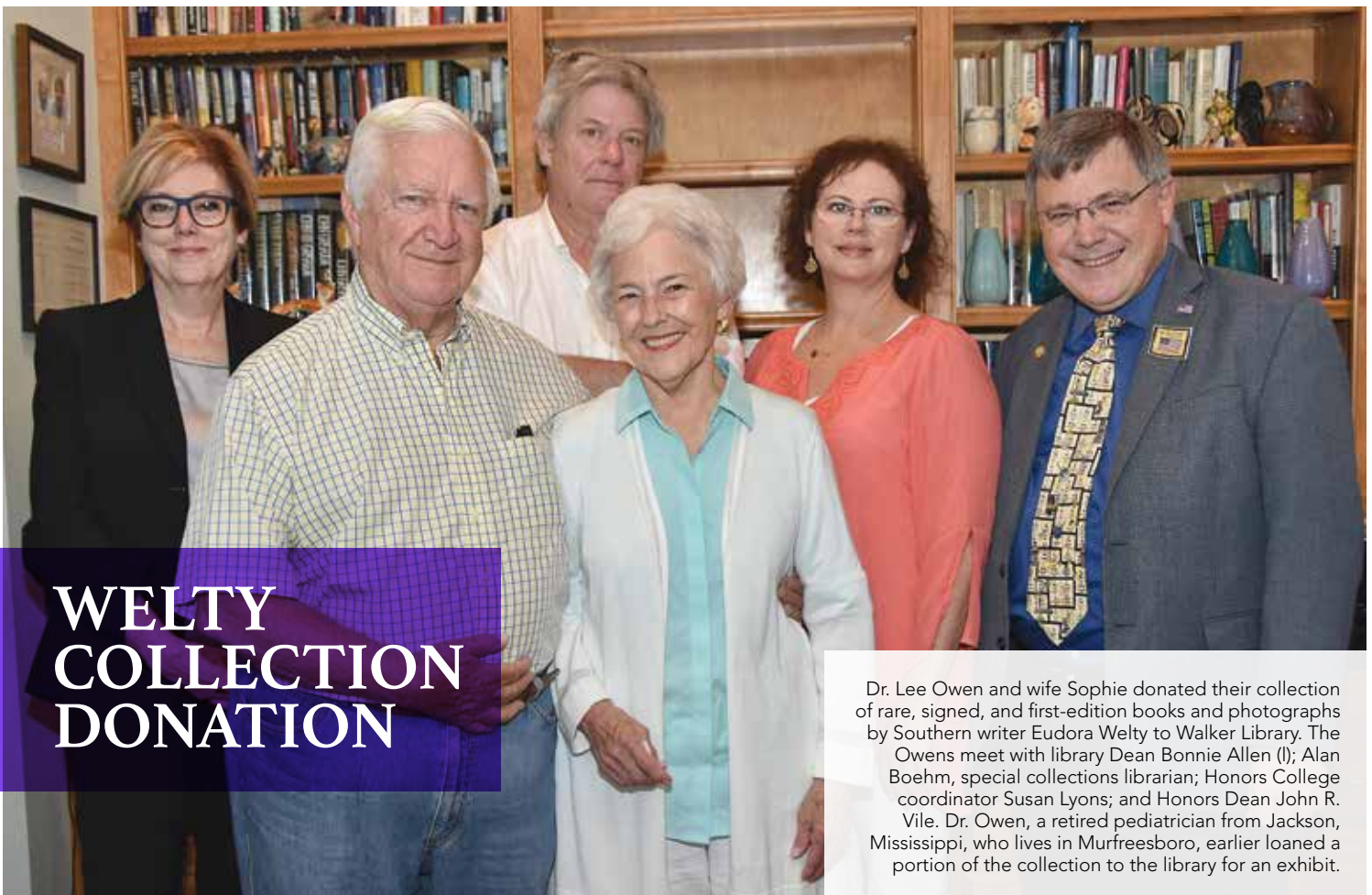
Senior Buchanan Fellow Austin Ford



Honors advisor Judy Albakry with daughter Amanda

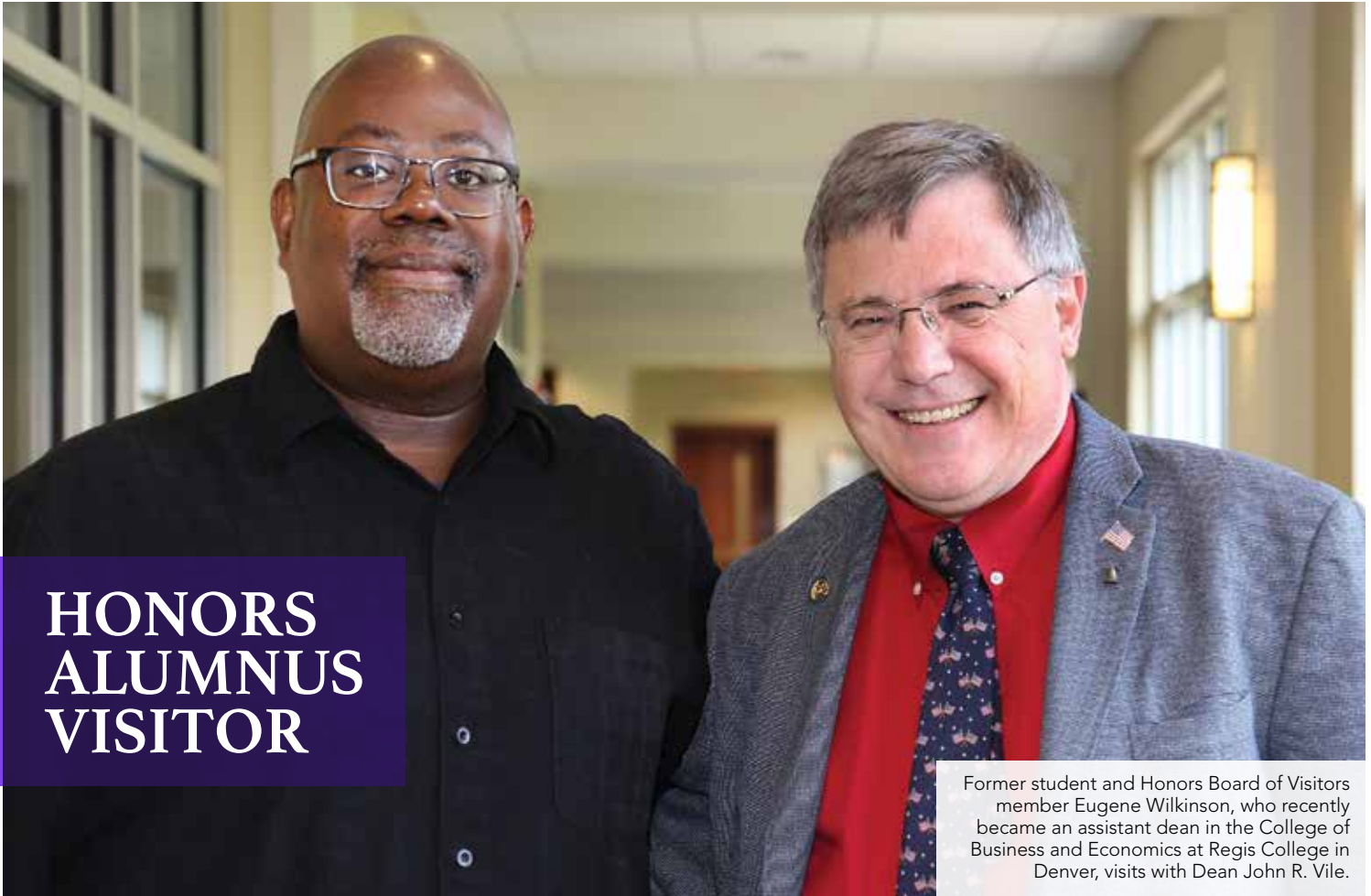


Honors College alumnus Matthew Hibdon (History, '12) with Honors coordinators Susan Lyons (I) and Marsha Powers



WELTY COLLECTION DONATION

Dr. Lee Owen and wife Sophie donated their collection of rare, signed, and first-edition books and photographs by Southern writer Eudora Welty to Walker Library. The Owens meet with library Dean Bonnie Allen (l); Alan Boehm, special collections librarian; Honors College coordinator Susan Lyons; and Honors Dean John R. Vile. Dr. Owen, a retired pediatrician from Jackson, Mississippi, who lives in Murfreesboro, earlier loaned a portion of the collection to the library for an exhibit.



HONORS ALUMNUS VISITOR

Former student and Honors Board of Visitors member Eugene Wilkinson, who recently became an assistant dean in the College of Business and Economics at Regis College in Denver, visits with Dean John R. Vile.

In Memoriam



Elliott Paul Dawson died Aug. 2 at the age of 71. He was the founder and president of BioVentures and a former member of the Honors College Board of Visitors.

Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, Dawson was a decorated Medevac helicopter pilot in Vietnam and later worked as a

licensed stock broker with Merrill Lynch in Manhattan and as a researcher with Veterans Affairs and Vanderbilt University.

Dawson was known for his scientific work in molecular biology, which began with his B.S. in Biochemistry from MTSU in 1970 and eventually led to the founding of BioVentures in 1988. In 1990, Dawson conceived and undertook a plan to develop a range of DNA markers to map the human genome. These DNA markers have been used domestically and by Scotland Yard and Interpol to create a criminal database to determine those responsible for crimes.

BioVentures' discoveries also enabled researchers to identify disease-causing microorganisms and how best to treat them. His efforts led to over 100 patents and have been instrumental in expanding knowledge of human DNA and to the treatment of a number of diseases. His achievements earned a National R&D 100 Award and collaborative research projects with universities in the U.S. and Europe and over 22 published research articles.

Preceded in death by his parents Roy and Annie Dee Dawson, he is survived by his wife Susan Hope Dawson; a daughter; brother Scott (Barbara) Dawson; and sisters

In Memoriam



Harry Elliott Ozment, 71, died Oct. 16 after suffering a stroke. A renowned immigration attorney and passionate advocate of civil rights, he founded The Law Offices of Elliott Ozment, was a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, formerly

served as a Tennessee state representative, and spent many years as a Church of Christ minister. Ozment spoke in the Honors College on a number of occasions.

A Nashville attorney who tirelessly advocated for the rights of immigrants, Ozment was raised in East Nashville. He served a term in the state House representing District 60 in the 1970s, and as an attorney, he is best known for his legal challenge of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement program through

which the Davidson County Sheriff's Office screened detainees for immigration violations.

Ozment was preceded in death by his parents Lecil and Virginia Ozment. Survivors include sons Chris Ozment of Houston, Johan (Laura) Ozment of Nashville, and Alejandro Ozment; daughter Beth (David) Duryea; long-time companion Elizabeth Ozment; and grandchildren Samuel Duryea, Jacob Duryea, and Santiago Ozment.

CLASS NOTES

Students



Aerospace majors **Elizabeth Keller** (r) and **Madison Taylor** pose with a Cessna Skyhawk 172 loaned to MTSU by Textron Aviation's Top Hawk program. In June, Keller and Taylor participated in a four-day, all-women Air Classic Race, covering about 4,000 miles in 40 hours.

Four students who successfully defended their Honors theses in the fall spoke about their thesis writing experiences for the Honors Lecture Series class. Speakers were:

James Morton
History, Political Science

Sarah Wilfong Joblin
Music

Matthew Cureton
Management

Sarah Dixon-Morgan
International Relations



James Morton



Sarah Wilfong Joblin



Matthew Cureton



Sarah Dixon-Morgan

Madysen Middleton (Biology) was first author on "Improved potency and reduced toxicity of the antifungal peptoid AEC5 through submonomer modification" in *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* in October. Scott A. Armstrong and Kevin L. Bicker contributed to the article.

Robert Owen (Biology) and his wife, Ferris, participated in an international mission trip to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, last summer. The majority of the trip was spent in the extremely impoverished, rural community of Pentaguazu. Robert ran triage for the patients, and Ferris served as a medical provider. In three days, their medical team saw about 700 people who typically have no access to medical services.



Sabrina Washington (Journalism), pictured left, was appointed last June by Gov. Bill Haslam to serve as one of two student representatives on the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) Board of Directors.

Her two-year term began in July. The 2018 Honors Transfer Fellow is from Memphis and previously attended Southwest Tennessee Community College (STCC). She is former media director at the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TSIL) and former vice president of the Student Government Association at STCC.



Honors ambassadors **Gareth Laffely** (I) and **Cody Maness** and senior Buchanan Fellow **Rebecca Clippard** represent the Honors College at a Dec. 1 recruiting event in the Student Union Building.

CLASS NOTES

Alumni and Friends

Hannah Hopkins Barnhart

(Organizational Communication, '12; M.S., Leisure and Sport Management, '13) and her husband Zach (Recording Industry, '13) live in Lago Vista, Texas, where he is a student pastor at Northlake Church. The Barnharts welcomed a daughter, Nora, last year.

Kaitlin Beck (Economics, Foreign Languages, '12) is an assistant public defender for Shelby County.

Dani Westerman Bryson

(Political Science, '09) is an assistant district attorney general with the 23rd Judicial District of Tennessee.

Shannon Murphy Crook

(Biology, '10) is a physician fellow at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas.

Keaton Davis (Accounting, '16) is a graduate student in Intercultural Studies at Gateway Seminary in Ontario, California.



Brooke Morgan Duke (Biology, '15), pictured above with Honors College staff member Susan Lyons, has been working for the TBI for three years and has earned the title of special agent forensic scientist.

Mark Hall (Political Science, '77) was voted recipient of the 2018 True Blue Citation of Distinction award in the category of Achievement in Education. He was honored by MTSU Alumni at the Homecoming awards reception.

Hall is the Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest University School of Law.

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry, '16; M.S., Chemistry, '17) won a National Science Foundation Fellowship in early 2018, worth \$34,000 per year. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Utah. The fellowship also includes a \$12,000 allowance. Harmon had previously received a DAAD-RISE internship at the Leibniz Institute for Plant Biochemistry in Germany and a Barry M. Goldwater Honorable Mention.

Matthew Hibdon (History, '12) is working as executive assistant to Warren County Executive Jimmy Haley.

Merranda Holmes (Biology, '10) is an assistant professor of Clinical Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Hannah Kanyuh (Nursing, '18) is a registered NICU nurse at UK

Honors graduate **Holly Thompson** (Mass Communication, 1994) speaks to MTSU graduates during the Dec. 15 afternoon commencement at Murphy Center. Thompson, the host of *News 4 at Noon* and co-anchor of the WSMV-Channel 4 morning show, has earned nine Emmy Awards and multiple Associated Press awards. She is a former member of the Honors College Board of Visitors.



Kentucky Children's Hospital in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Joey Kennedy (International Relations, '16) is attending Belmont University College of Law.

Shane McCoy (English, '10) received a Ph.D. in English at the University of Washington in 2017. He was an instructor at Tennessee Tech in 2017–18 and is currently a lecturer of English at MTSU.

Samuel Musili (Political Science, '18) is working as an administrative assistant to the deputy general counsel for TennCare in Nashville. He plans to begin law school in 2020.

Katiana Nicholson (Music, '18) is assistant band director at Brentwood High School.



Dylan "nobigdy!" Phillips (Recording Industry, '13), pictured above, who signed with Capitol CMG in November 2017, dropped his album *Solar* last June and launched his single "Over Here" in November. He toured with Lecrae and Andy Mineo on the Better Late than Never Tour in the fall and had 7 million streams on Spotify in 2018. He was featured on Reach Records' Christmas album *The Gift* and also on Hip Hop DX. He is headlining a 20-city tour this spring.

Aaron Shew (International Relations, Global Studies, '11) was named the inaugural holder



Former Buchanan Fellow **Jennifer Johnson Tipton** (Psychology, '12), an adjunct instructor of Sociology at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in West Virginia, visits with Honors College staff members Philip E. Phillips and Marsha Powers (l).

of the R.E. Lee Wilson Chair of Agricultural Business at Arkansas State University last July. Shew, a former Distinguished Doctoral Fellow, completed a doctorate in Environmental Dynamics at the University of Arkansas in 2018. He was a postdoctoral research scholar at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education until beginning his academic position at Arkansas State this January. In October, the International Rice Research Institute awarded Shew the 2018 Young Scientists Award for his outstanding scientific study on "New Innovations in agricultural biotech: Consumer acceptance of topical RNAi in rice production."

Sierra Sotelo (Recording Industry, '17) is studying at the Texas A&M School of Law in Fort Worth.

Lesley Sweeton (English, '18) married Kyler Kominos in June and is working as a teacher at Lavergne High School.

Joanne Tan (Biology, '14) has completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Tennessee State University and is a physical therapist PRN at Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia.

Xoe Thacker (Biology, '18) was first author on "Determination of Optimal Hormone and Mineral Salts Levels in Tissue Culture Media for Callus Induction and Growth of Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa L.*)" in *Agricultural Sciences* in the fall. Other authors were Kayla Thomas, Matthew Fuller, Shannon Smith, and John DuBois.

Joshua Tilton (English, '18) was accepted into the University of Memphis M.F.A. program with a full graduate assistant position.



Juan C. Zelaya (Entrepreneurship, '14), pictured above, is seeking an M.Sc. in Finance at BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo, where he was awarded a full scholarship for the two-year program. Zelaya is a part of an honors society that gives students access to beneficial networking events with the university's corporate partners.

CLASS NOTES

Faculty and Staff



Marsha Barsky (Theatre and Dance) received an Individual Artist Fellowship (IAF) in Choreography from the Tennessee Arts Commission for fiscal year 2019 after submitting her artist statement and two examples of work she created, "The Suppliants" and "That You Have." "The Suppliants," performed by undergraduate students for the MTSU Dance Theatre Fall 2017 Dance Concert, examines how contemporary choreography can serve as a path for trans-disciplinary research in migration and refugee studies. "That You Have" was commissioned by the Frist Museum for the Phantom Bodies Exhibit and created for Barsky's personal dance company, Company Rose, alongside MTSU students. *Photo by Martin O' Connor*

Judy Albakry and **Laura Clippard** (Honors) were selected as readers for the Critical Language Scholarship, an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American college students.

Mohammed Albakry (English) delivered the keynote, "Framing English in a Global Context: The Good, the Bad, and the Ambivalent," at the International Conference of the Association of Professors of English and Translation at Arab Universities in Jordan last November. He organized a symposium at the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, titled "Language, Culture &

Pedagogy: Challenges and Realities in Diverse Literacy Contexts." Albakry also launched a podcast, "On Translation," that delves into the issues of translation and translation studies from the classical past to the global present. Additionally, he published a book chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Arabic Translation* in 2018.

Sanjay Asthana (Journalism and Strategic Media) had a new book, *India's State-Run Media: Broadcasting, Power, and Narrative*, published by Cambridge University Press in December.

Maria K. Bachman (English) had a peer-reviewed article, "Back to the Future: Charles Dickens and

the Prospective Brain," published in *Dickens Quarterly* last September. Appointed to the Dickens Society Board of Trustees in 2018, Bachman also was an invited guest lecturer at Oakland University in October, where she presented "Reading Charles Dickens in the Age of Neuroscience." She made another presentation, "The Gentleman-Thief and the Looting of the Leisure Class," at the Victorians Institute Conference in October. She contributed a book chapter, "Hammer Films and the Perfection of the Frankenstein Project," with Paul Petersen for *Adapting Frankenstein: The Monster's Eternal Lives in Popular Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Kevin Bicker (Chemistry) had a student, Madyson Middleton, who served as first author on an article that was published in *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*. Bicker and Scott A. Armstrong were co-authors.



Sandra Campbell, pictured above, was previously an operational analyst for MTSU's Undergraduate Admissions. She has joined the Honors staff as executive secretary, replacing Karen Demonbreum, who retired.

Laura Clippard (Honors) was chosen by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to serve on the organization's study abroad grant selection committee.

Eric Detweiler (English) had two articles published in 2018: "Toward Pedagogical Turnings," which came out in Volume 155 of the *ADE Bulletin*, and "The Weirdness of Rhetoric, The Rhetoric of Weirdness," which appeared in Volume 5 of the digital journal *Textshop Experiments*. He also has a chapter in an edited collection called *Approaches to Teaching Alison Bechdel's "Fun Home,"* published last fall.

John Divincenzo (Chemistry) made a presentation last November at the SETAC North America 39th annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Sacramento, California, on "Assessment of Pesticide Impacts on Soil Microbial Viability Using Fluorescent, Nitrate, and Carbon Dioxide Assays."

Andrew Dix (Communication Studies) published new research in August revealing flawed officiating against female players at historically black colleges compared to female

basketball players from predominately white institutions. Dix examined publicly accessible data from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) website, which included all 333 teams that played every season in Division I between 2008 and 2017. A press release about his research, published in the *Howard Journal of Communications*, was disseminated to 500 media outlets and resulted in stories in *The Daily Mail* (London), *HBCU Digest*, *Insidehighered.com*, and numerous other outlets.



Mark Doyle (History), pictured above, was editor of *The British Empire: A Historic Encyclopedia*, published with ABC-CLIO last summer.

Claudia Barnett (English) was named a 2018 Tennessee Playwrights Studio (TPS) Fellow and worked on a new project as part of the yearlong development lab: *Kingdom* (a play about *Snow White* and climate change), which had a staged reading in November at the Darkhorse Theatre in the TPS Festival. In October, her short play *Absent Grace* was adapted into an opera and performed at Boston Opera Collaborative's Opera Bites. *Photo by Dan Busler*

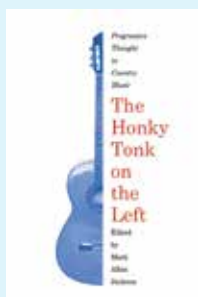




Norma Dunlap (Chemistry), pictured above, authored *Medicinal Chemistry* with Donna M. Huran of the University of Pennsylvania last spring. The textbook, which teaches the essential concepts of medicinal chemistry from the perspective of practicing chemists, was published by CRC Press.

Brian Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology, Office of Student Success) was promoted to the faculty rank of professor in August and to associate vice provost for data analytics and student success in October. Hinote and Rick Sluder, vice provost for student success and the dean of University College, delivered a one-day workshop on leading successful student success initiatives at EDUCAUSE, a national conference of higher education IT and technology leaders from around the country. Hinote also presented a discussion of next-generation advising at the conference.

Mark Jackson's (English) edited collection, *The Honky Tonk on the Left: Progressive Thought in Country Music*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press last summer.



Tony Johnston (Agriculture) mentored Honors students Nolan Jolley and Amanda Uhls, whose findings were published in the *Agricultural Sciences* journal.

Johnston also was Kayley Stallings' Honors thesis advisor. Jolley and Stallings each presented their Honors thesis work at the Tennessee Academy of Science meeting in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Johnston received the Alumni Association Special Projects Grant ("Exploration of Sensory Perception Under Hypobaric and Low Oxygen Conditions," \$17,000). Johnston's research has several recent publications, including in *Food and Nutrition Sciences*, *Molecules*, and the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

Robert Kalwinsky (Media and Entertainment) presented "Negatively Marked Polite Behaviour—Politeness vs. Compassion—in an Arab Context" with Cherifa Benkaddour at the third Annual United Arab Emirates conference. It is being reviewed for publication in the *Journal of Pragmatics*.



Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), pictured above, received an Outstanding Public Service Award at MTSU's 2018 fall faculty meeting. MacDougall has taught in the Honors College since 1999 and continues to do independent research, as well as supervise research of undergraduate and graduate students, in theoretical and computational chemistry. He also explores creative writing as a pedagogical tool in chemical education. In the area of public service, MacDougall has been very active and is a recognized

leader in both public relations on behalf of the chemistry profession and in expanding the public's opportunities for high-quality informal science education.

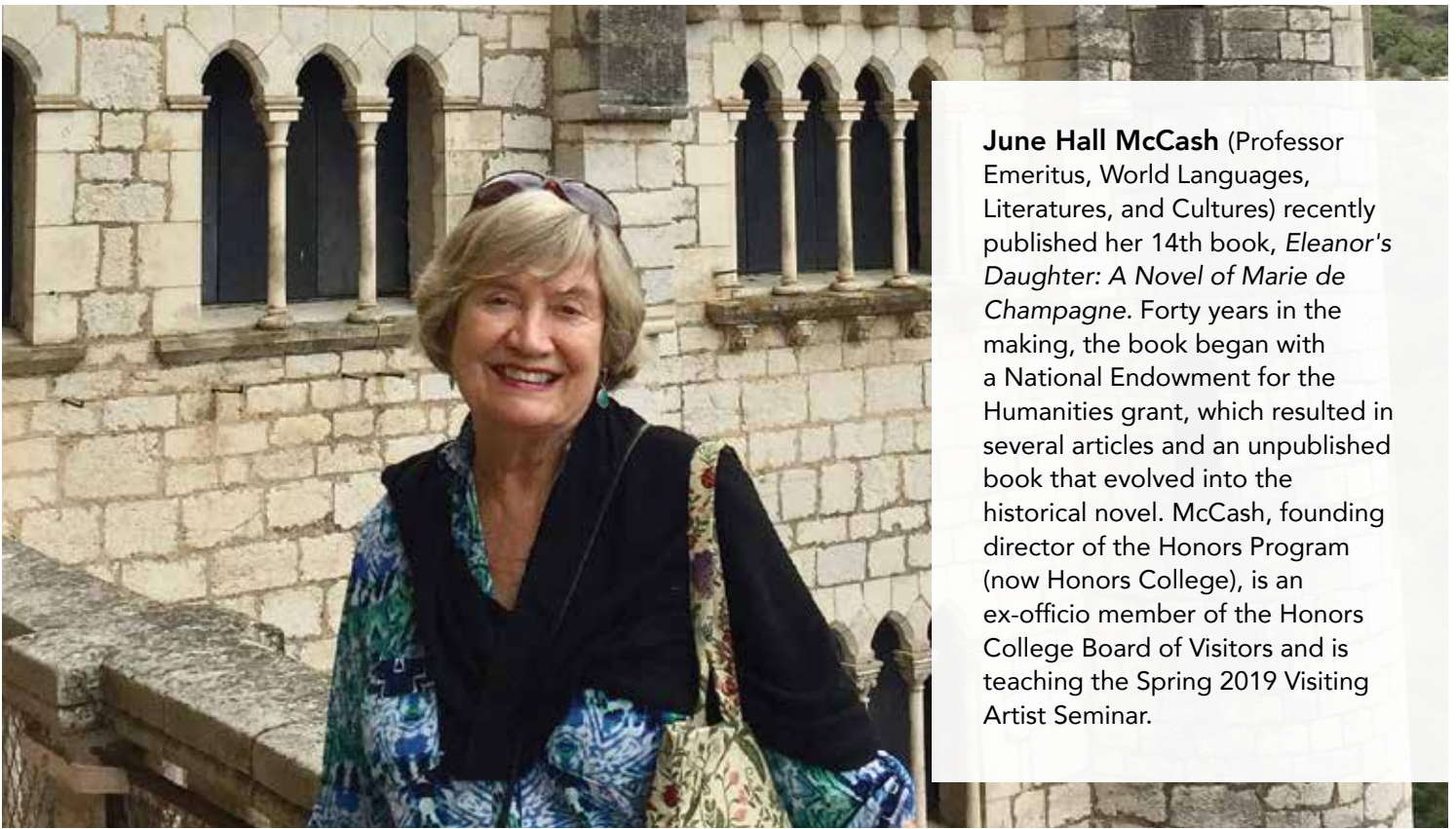
Jane Marcellus (Journalism and Strategic Media) had her essay "My Father's Tooth," published last year in *Sycamore Review* and listed as a Notable in *Best American Essays 2018*. Marcellus also won the Betty Gabehart Award for non-fiction writing given by the Kentucky Women Writers Conference in September.



Katherine Mangione (Elementary and Special Education), pictured above, co-authored a book chapter, "Inquiry-Based Strategies for English Language Learners," in *Teaching the Content Areas to English Language Learners in Secondary Schools* by de Oliveira, Obenchain, and Oliveira.

Philip E. Phillips (Honors, English) was elected to serve a two-year term on the national Board of Directors of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the biennial convention held in Minneapolis last summer. He also was featured in an Oct. 23 article by his alma mater, Belmont University, which included his recent achievements and current interests.

Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton (Art and Design) exhibited her art in 2018 in numerous shows, such as the "Hunter Invitational Exhibition IV" at Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga; "The Power of Color"



June Hall McCash (Professor Emeritus, World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) recently published her 14th book, *Eleanor's Daughter: A Novel of Marie de Champagne*. Forty years in the making, the book began with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, which resulted in several articles and an unpublished book that evolved into the historical novel. McCash, founding director of the Honors Program (now Honors College), is an ex-officio member of the Honors College Board of Visitors and is teaching the Spring 2019 Visiting Artist Seminar.

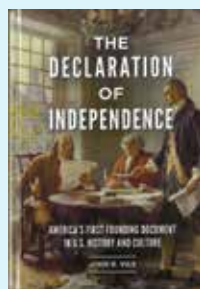
at Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel, Mississippi; the "Flying Solo Exhibit: for Arts" in the Airport at Nashville International Airport; and "Re-Mixing History" at the Sam Ross Gallery at Christian Brothers University in Memphis.

Phouthavong-Houghton has been involved with numerous recent publications. She painted a portrait of author Bryan Thao Worra for the cover of his 2019 book *Before We Remember the Dream*. She was the subject of "Meet Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton" by Leo Collins in the Aug. 8 issue of *Voyage Houston* and was a featured artist in Deborah Sickler-Voigt's new book, *Teaching and Learning in Art Education: Cultivating Students' Potential from Pre-K through High School*.

Shelley Thomas (World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) was invited to give workshops at the Webb School to language teachers from a

consortium of four independent schools last July. At the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association yearly conference in November, she gave a presentation titled "How to Keep Beginner Classes 100% Comprehensible."

John R. Vile (Honors) has authored



three new books: *The American Flag: An Encyclopedia of the Stars and Stripes in U.S. History, Culture, and Law* (ABC-CLIO, 2018); *The Declaration of Independence: America's First Founding Document in U.S. History and Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2019); and *A Constellation of Great Men: Exploring the Character Sketches by Dr. Benjamin Rush of Pennsylvania of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Talbot Publishing, 2018).



Louis Woods (History, Africana Studies), pictured above, won the John Pleas Award in February 2018. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* published his article, "The Inevitable Products of Racial Segregation: The Multidimensional and Generational Consequences of 20th-Century Exclusionary Housing Policies on the African American community, 1910–1960," in the fall.

Promoted to professor in 2018

Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences)
Charles Higgins (Physics and Astronomy)
Brian Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology)
Shannon Hodge (Sociology and Anthropology)
Mark Jackson (English)
Ryan Otter (Biology)

Tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2018

Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand (Philosophy and Religious Studies)
Patrick Richey (Communication Studies)
Lauren Rudd (Human Sciences)

MTSU Foundation Awards

Eric Detweiler (English), Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award
Angela Hague (English), Professor Emerita
James Hart (Mathematical Sciences), Outstanding Teaching Award
Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry), Career Achievement Award
Tony Johnston (Agriculture), Special Projects Award
Noël Lorson (Art), Outstanding Public Service Award
Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), Outstanding Public Service Award

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