

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Magazine

Honor to Serve

Students Joseph Mosqueda and Jordan Goen rely on outreach to enhance their learning curves

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE STONE PRIDE

The Honors College is home to some nonliving embodiments of its nobler aspirations



Spring 2014

32

HONOR TO SERVE

Students Joseph Mosqueda and Jordan Goen rely on outreach to enhance their learning curves



36

THE STONE PRIDE

The Honors College is home to some nonliving embodiments of its nobler aspirations



39

FROM LITERARY CANON TO VAMPIRE SLAYING

Dr. David Lavery is crafting a new pop canon, one Buffy at a time



53

WITHOUT RESERVATION

Gordon and Sara Bell invite an Honors College scholar to meet a few of their friends



Cover photo:
Granite lion
located on west
side of Honors
building

At left:
Spring blooms
on campus

photos:
J Intintoli

DEPARTMENTS

4 Dean

5 Students

39 Faculty and Staff

53 Alumni and Friends



HONORS MAGAZINE

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

The publications of the University Honors College are made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Paul W. Martin Jr. in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan and the Buchanan family for their dedication to and their magnanimous bequests in support of the University Honors College and its students.

DEAN

John R. Vile

EDITOR

Marsha Powers

Marsha.Powers@mtsu.edu

UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Drew Ruble

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Bill Fisher

DESIGNER

Sherry Wisner George

DESIGN SUPPORT

Kelsey Greer

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

J Intintoli, Andy Heidt, Darby Campbell

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sidney A. McPhee

VICE PRESIDENT OF

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Andrew Oppmann

CONTRIBUTORS

Creative and Visual Services, Bill Lewis, Candace Moonshower, Jen Stone, Philip Phillips, Susan Lyons, Laura Clippard, Karen Demonbreum, April Goers, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, David Foote, Tom Strawman, Phil Oliver, Claudia Barnett, Matthew Hibdon, Anna Yacovone, Tandra Martin, Matthew Pyles, Collin McDonald, Davis Thompson, Davion Baxter

2300 copies, printed at Lithographics, Nashville, Tenn. Designed by Creative and Visual Services

1213-0798 / Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, Cope Administration Building 220, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; (615) 898-2185.

From the Dean's Desk

A Place for Innovation

One of the reasons I enjoy the Honors College so much is that it's a busy environment that allows innovation. Summer and fall 2013 proved to be no exceptions. The summer witnessed another Institute of Leadership Excellence, a plethora of CUSTOMS (orientation) sessions, and innovative classes in foreign languages.

Fall highlights included a lecture series on beauty, which featured a concert of Renaissance music; a flurry of fellowship deadlines and applications; recruiting trips to several cities throughout the state; a demonstration of new teaching techniques in an introductory world history class; demonstrations in the lobby from an introductory Honors science class; an Omicron Delta Kappa initiation; several Mock Trial trips; and the usual round of meetings.

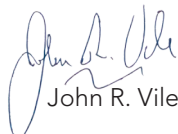
We held a productive meeting with the Board of Visitors that included many new members, some of whom joined us for Homecoming celebrations the following day. As usual, presentations by students were the highlights of the meeting. We welcomed our first group of Honors Transfer Students this fall and held an inauguration similar to those we hold for incoming Buchanan Fellows. These students are already making substantial contributions to our program, and we anticipate that they will add to the growing number of students who are successfully completing theses.

Gordon and Sara Bell (both are friends, and Gordon is a member of our board) have contributed \$25,000 to endow a scholarship that will provide support to students who are researching Native American issues or serving Native American communities. Both share a long-standing interest in reaching out to Native Americans, and I was able to meet with a member of one of the tribal councils with which they maintain contacts.

Dr. Drew Sieg joined us as the first Distinguished Visiting Full-time Faculty member this fall, and he has already developed new classes that he plans to teach, directed students to summer research opportunities, agreed to direct student theses, and participated in the Honors Lecture Series. Dr. Philip Phillips has signed a contract to publish a book of prison writings that grew from a recent lecture series; yet another series provided articles for *Tennessee's Business*, a magazine sponsored by the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. I continue to publish books and articles on the U.S. Constitution and coach our award-winning Mock Trial teams. By the time many of you read this, you will already have seen our latest edition of *Collage*.

In short, the Honors College is a busy place. I enjoy the variety of events and activities because they represent a variety of opportunities. We especially enjoy talking with high school students and parents who drop in for visits or to gather information about our scholarship programs.

We hope that you will enjoy this edition of our newsmagazine.



John R. Vile





Top 20 MTSU Students Inaugurated as BUCHANAN SCHOLARS

The Buchanan Fellowship is both an award and a vote of confidence, a celebration of the past, and a vision of the future." Buchanan Fellow Nathan Tilton delivered this message in his welcome to the 2013 class at the seventh annual inauguration ceremony held September 27, 2013, in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Sophomore Buchanan Fellow Chelsea Harmon said, "We have a faculty dedicated to our education and our futures."

This year's top scholars in MTSU's freshman class are a highly-talented group that includes Advanced Placement and National Merit Scholars, athletes, student government leaders, a Civil War reenactor, pilots, scientists, missionaries, and musicians. They earned an average score of 31 on their ACT exams and an average high school GPA of 3.9. According to Dean John Vile, "MTSU and the University Honors College have once again succeeded in attracting a diverse and auspicious group of scholars."

Dr. Tom Strawman, chair of the Department of English, delivered a challenge to the new students to achieve and maintain balance in their

lives. "Regardless of the majors you have chosen, allow me to leave you with a heartfelt piece of advice. If you have decided on humanities study, please do not waste the opportunity to study math or science in some significant way, perhaps as a minor field. If you have chosen a scientific course of study, by all means find some way to include significant humanities study in your curriculum. In this way, all of you can help to bridge the divide between the two cultures and enact what Samuel Taylor Coleridge advocated as the highest power of the human imagination in the fruitful 'reconciliation of opposites.'"

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of alumnus James M.

Buchanan (class of 1940), recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The fellowship is the highest academic award given to an entering MTSU student.

This class of Buchanan Fellows includes two graduates of Siegel High School, one from Riverdale, two from Blackman, and two from Central Magnet. This year's scholars come from Tennessee, Georgia, Missouri, Belgium, and Germany. Two have declared aerospace as their majors. Political science (pre-law), science (pre-med), psychology, biology, foreign languages and literatures, and music are a sampling of other majors in the group.

continued on page 6



Katiana
Nicholson



John Vile and Nausheen Qureshi




BUCHANAN SCHOLARS CONT. FROM PAGE 5

Notable Buchanan Fellows alumni include Adam Emerson and Eric Guyes, Fulbright Grant recipients; Evan Craig and Robert Daniel Murphy, Goldwater Scholarship winners; Lauren Rigsby, a Goldwater honorable mention; Jennifer Johnson and Leland Waite, winners of the Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship; and Taffy O'Neil, who has written two books including her second novel, which was her thesis.

The 2013 Buchanan Fellows are Dakota Beverly of Athens, Tennessee; Abigail Carter of Spring Hill; Foster Ferrell of Rockvale; Austin Gober of Old Hickory; Jordan Goen of Brussels, Belgium; Claire Henderson of Munich, Bavaria; Kaleb King of St. Louis, Missouri; Victoria Lay of Murfreesboro; Darby McCarthy of Murfreesboro; Collin McDonald and Connor McDonald of Carthage, Tennessee;

Katiana Nicholson of Murfreesboro; Nausheen Qureshi of Murfreesboro; Jessica Shotwell of Bartlett; Dylan Smith of Sikeston, Missouri; Sydney Smith of Brighton; Darcy Tabotabo of Cumberland Gap; Madison Tracy of Murfreesboro; Alden Wakefield of Murfreesboro; and Courtney Wright of Christiana.

To compete for a Buchanan Fellowship, applicants must apply for undergraduate admission to MTSU by December 1 of the year before full enrollment. They also must have a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher and a composite score of 29 on the ACT, provide an official transcript, and write an essay of approximately 500 words.

For more information, call (615) 898-2152 or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/. 



Dr. Tom Strawman's Challenge to the 2013 Buchanan Fellows *(An excerpt)*


Dr. Tom Strawman is chair of the English department.

As you embark this fall on the inaugural semester of your university career, it is not too soon to envision what you would like your lives to be and how your time at Middle Tennessee State University might contribute to the realization of this vision. Do you aspire primarily to a career or a profession that will bring a comfortable material existence, or do you seek a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the world in all its complexity and its infinite variety? Do you want to conduct research or work that leads to exciting new products and new procedures, or would you like to interpret and assign meaning to the human experience? Do you wish simply to get a living from the world, or do you seek to engage with the world and, in so doing, attain an awareness of yourself as a conscious participant and partner in the workings and processes of the infinite universe around you?

Certainly these two goals—a comfortable and secure living on the one hand and a meaningful self-knowledge on the other—are not mutually exclusive, nor even incompatible, but each path represents in the general mind two radically divergent views of what is most important in life. In an iconic lecture delivered at Cambridge in 1959, chemist and novelist C. P. Snow discerned an alarming and growing divide between what he chose to describe as ‘the two cultures,’ namely the sciences and the humanities. He argued that ‘the intellectual life of the whole of western society is increasingly being split into two polar groups’¹ and that this bifurcation is a major obstacle to finding solutions to the world’s problems. From his vantage point as a scientist, he believed British education had placed too great an emphasis on the humanities at the expense of scientific and engineering instruction.

Today, more than sixty years later, however, the pendulum seems to have swung in the opposite direction. STEM education in science, technology, and math

receives all our attention and all our resources. Today the path of applied and vocational science is prized and privileged in public education over the humanities. Disappearing from public education are art and music programs, social science and foreign language and culture studies, and even physical education. Making students employable in an uncertain global economy seems to be the sole focus of American education today, and the way to get there is for students to master those technical and vocational skills that are currently in demand by corporate employers. The truth about what students need to learn in order to be successful and fulfilled in their lives—as always—is more complex than most people acknowledge. Both paths—the one that leads to employability and the one that leads to self-knowledge and self-fulfillment—are equally needful and equally necessary. I would like to challenge you today to strive in your education at MTSU for both.

I know that many, if not most, of you are ambitious and high-achieving students who have already chosen a career path and are deeply committed to accomplishing what it takes to succeed in the majors you have already chosen. Regardless of the majors you have chosen, allow me to leave you with a heartfelt piece of advice: if you have decided on humanities study, please do not waste your opportunity here to study math or science in some significant way, perhaps as a minor field. And if you have chosen a scientific course of study, by all means find some way to include significant humanities study in your curriculum, perhaps as a second major. In this way, all of you can help to bridge the divide between the two cultures and enact what Samuel Taylor Coleridge advocated as the highest goal of the human imagination, namely to achieve that rich and fruitful ‘reconciliation of opposites.’ 

¹ C.P. Snow, *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1959), p. 4.

Honors College Welcomes Inaugural Class of Transfer Fellows



Transfer Fellows, Dr. Vile, Dr. Phillips, and Dr. Martha Hixon

Over 40 friends and family members gathered to celebrate the inauguration of 15 new Transfer Fellows in the amphitheater of Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building October 4.

Modeled after the Honors College's successful Buchanan Fellowship — awarded every year to 20 top incoming freshmen—the Transfer Fellowship seeks to give transfer students the same opportunities to participate in the Honors program. Dr. Vile, who delivered the keynote address, said, "Over time, we've recognized that many of our best students have been transfer students, who bring diversity to our Honors program."

Provost Brad Bartel welcomed students and guests, and senior Honors transfer student Joseph Mosqueda challenged the new students to branch out and take advantage of all that MTSU offers. "MTSU is a wonderful campus because it's so diverse, and you need not go far to engage in activities or events that intrigue you. MTSU provides an environment that fosters creativity, expression, productivity, service, and so much more. The faculty and staff are extremely supportive and more than willing to guide you during this stage of your life.

Most important, we are a family, and you play a vital role in this community."

The new Transfer Fellows are Hassan Jamal Alwan (Science), Amanda Renee Broome (Mass Communication), Bridget Anne Carlson (English), Kori Lynn Garmon (Psychology), Rikki Lee Grieves (Psychology), Emily Louise Grosskreutz (Animal Science), Adam Daniel Higgs (Political Science), Matthew Stephen Knight (International Relations), Brooke Taylor Morgan (Forensic Science), Trevor Daniel Moyo (Construction Management), Birgit Northcutt (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Philip Wayne Sugg (History), Jay Voorhies (Psychology), Tina Denise Warren Shang (Mass Communication), and Loretta Lee Wheeler (Organizational Communication). In his address to the new Fellows, Dean Vile said, "We expect great things from you and want you to feel just as welcome as our entering freshmen."

The Transfer Fellows program is unusual in that it attracts top-tier, nontraditional students. This year's class includes students who attended community college directly after high school, students who have families, and students who have been in the work force for several


years while attending a community college. One thing they all have in common is a desire to attend graduate school. "The Transfer Fellowship offers these students a community of intellectual support and is geared toward students who would find the Honors thesis process very rewarding," said Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor.

To be considered for a Transfer Fellowship, students are required to have a 3.5 GPA and have completed 60 hours of coursework before their first year at MTSU. Also required is a completed application form and admissions packet, which should include official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities, two letters of recommendation from college professors or

administrators, and a 500-word personal essay.

Fellowship recipients who qualify for in-state tuition will receive \$3,500 per semester for up to four semesters. Up to three scholarships of \$7,000 per semester will be available each year for students applying from out-of-state or foreign countries.

Transfer Fellows will also be given special consideration for study abroad scholarships and access to the resources of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, which nominates students for other national and international fellowships.

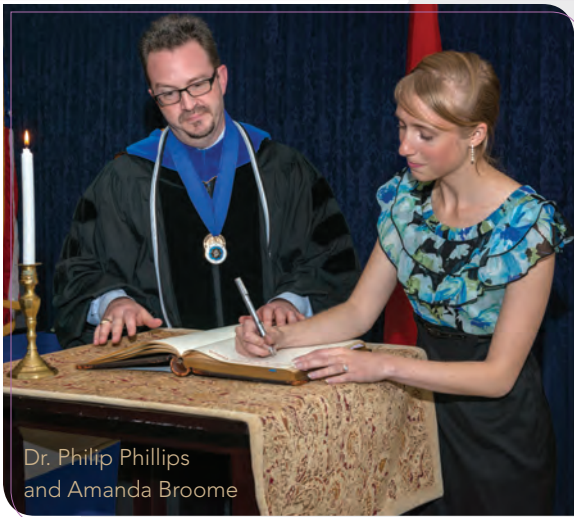
For more information, call (615) 898-2152, or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/. 



Dr. John Vile



Dr. Brad Bartel



Dr. Philip Phillips
and Amanda Broome

I AM *true*
BLUE™

Fall 2013 Theses Defended



Joe Ballard¹ *Mathematics and Economics*
 "Working for the Weekend: A Time Allocation Model for Student Workers"
 Tony Eff, advisor

Brett Bornhoft² *Aerospace*
 "A Computational Investigation of the Twelve-Foot Telemaster Utilizing 3-D Modeling and Computational Fluid Dynamics Software Verified by Wind Tunnel Testing"
 Nate Callendar, advisor

Carolyn Brewer³ *Psychology*
 "Peer-Mediated Intervention Effects on Social Behavior of Toddlers with Developmental Delays"
 Kim Ujcich-Ward, advisor

Cameron Crawford⁴ *Biology*
 "Isolation and Identification of *Entamoeba gingivalis* and *Trichomonas tenax* from Dental Samples Using Microscopy and the Polymerase Chain Reaction"
 Mary Farone, advisor

Patrick Daniels⁵ *Recording Industry*
 "Utilizing the Audio Effect Rack to Simplify and Consolidate Mixing Techniques in Ableton Live"
 William Robertson, advisor

Brandon Hazlett⁶ *Psychology*
 "Synthesis of a Potential HCV NS3-4a Protease Inhibitor"
 Norma Dunlap, advisor

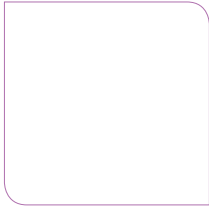
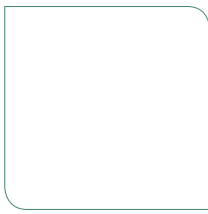
Lacey Johnson⁷ *Mathematics*
 "Implementing a Problem-Based Learning Peer-Facilitated Collaborative Learning Community in an Introductory Teacher Education Class"
 Willis Means, advisor

Katlyn Krueger⁸ *Music*
 "American Roots"
 Paul Osterfield, advisor

Alex McCloud⁹ *Aerospace*
 "Investigating the Effects of Small Scale Topographic Indices to Predict Rill Channels Formation"
 Mark Blanks, advisor

John Meese¹⁰ *Spanish and Economics*
 "Hedonic Quality Adjustment: An Arbitrary Assignment"
 Tony Eff, advisor

Joseph Meyer¹¹ *International Relations and Global Studies*
 "Ethnic Conflict in the Former Soviet Union: Ethnic Demography and its Influence on Conflict Behavior"
 Karen Petersen, advisor



Martin Moran¹² *Exercise Science*

"Effects of a Smart-phone Application on Psychological, Physiological, and Performance Variables in College-Aged Individuals While Running"

John Coons, advisor

Tyler Phillips¹³ *Recording Industry*

"The Effectiveness of Studio Gobos at Sound Field Control for Musical Recording Purposes"

Michael Fleming, advisor

Fernando Ramos Cintrón¹⁴ *Journalism*

"Fractured Tales: A Movement Analysis and Performance of Fairy Tales and Their Characters"

Marsha Barsky, advisor

Emily Randoll¹⁵ *English*

"Experimental Experiences: A Dance Concert Promoting Experiential Learning through the Combination of Dance and English Education"

Laura Clark, advisor

Michael Ripley¹⁶ *Criminal Justice Administration and Political Science*

"Government Access to Cell Phone Location Data: Fourth Amendment Issues and an Inadequate Statutory Framework"

William Shulman, advisor

Kelsey Rogers¹⁷ *English and Art*

"Red Rider: Werewolf Hunter"

Martha Hixon, advisor

Wesley Vanosdall¹⁸ *Anthropology*

"My Experience with Koobi Fora"

Shannon Hodge, advisor

Billy Wilson¹⁹ *Philosophy*

"A Case for Physicalism about Consciousness: Can Evolution by Natural Selection Adequately Explain the Emergence of Mind?"

Ron Bombardi, advisor

Victoria Worrell²⁰ *Geoscience*

"A Petrologic and Geochemical Investigation of Tertiary to Quarternary Magma Evolution in the Mt. Hood Region, Cascade Range, North America"

Warner Cribb, advisor

Juan Zelaya²¹ *Entrepreneurship*

"Fresh Bites: A Healthful Dining Alternative in Honduras"

Rachel Wilson, advisor 

From Costa Rica to Israel in One Summer

by Tandra Martin | Tandra Martin is a junior Buchanan Fellow majoring in International Relations.

Studying abroad was definitely something I wanted to incorporate into my academic plan while at Middle Tennessee State University, but I never imagined participating in two different programs in the same term. During the summer of 2013, I had the opportunity to visit Heredia, Costa Rica, and also to participate in a faculty-led study abroad trip to Israel. The exposure I gained was a valuable part of my collegiate experience.

On May 25, I flew from Nashville to Miami for the last leg of my flight to San Jose, Costa Rica. As soon as I stepped outside the airport in San Jose, I was met by an onslaught of taxi drivers waiting to whisk visitors off to their destinations. Luckily for me, my program coordinators rescued me from the chaos. We then waited for other students from all over the United States to arrive before buses took us to our homestays.

I lived with a welcoming, friendly Costa Rican, or Tico, family for five weeks. Family is one of the strongest and most important aspects of Costa Rican culture. My "mama tica" introduced me to her entire family on the first night, including her daughter, daughter-in-law, two sons, and three grandsons.

The family took my roommate and me on a tour of the city, and we got to experience game-day excitement firsthand. Before traveling to Costa Rica, I knew soccer was a huge part of the culture, but I had no idea it would be as lively as it was. That night, the local team from Heredia was playing Cartago in a championship game. There were red and yellow flags hanging from virtually every house window; people were wearing the teams' official colors and jerseys of their favorite players. There was also persistent horn honking as anticipation mounted while we walked the streets of the small city. It was a great welcome to Costa Rica and embodiment of the Costa Rican way of life and the phrase, *¡Pura Vida!*

The next day I had orientation for Universidad Latina, Heredia, where I would be taking Spanish classes in the weeks ahead. It was refreshing to navigate my way through a new university and meet local students. I looked forward to my two-and-a-half mile walk to school each morning and thoroughly enjoyed my Spanish classes.

Tandra Martin in San Jose, Costa Rica

Tandra Martin with students she met in Heredia, Costa Rica

Universidad Latina, Costa Rica




My professor was not only a teacher but also a friend who helped make my time in Costa Rica more special. Each week of school was capped off with a weekend getaway to one of Costa Rica's national parks or beautiful beaches. Whether it was horseback riding at Arenal Volcano, ziplining at Tamarindo, or trying to spot a monkey at Manuel Antonio, each weekend was an adventure. I got to experience much that Costa Rica has to offer, and one of the best things about the trip was being able to take time to enjoy every day and make the most of it. Costa Ricans live life to the fullest and cherish each moment for what it is.

Fast-forward about two weeks and I was jetting off to Israel. Going to Israel was an opportunity that I simply could not pass up. The trip lasted for ten days and focused on the political and religious aspects of Israeli society and particular international issues faced by the country relating to its unique location in the Middle East.

My group's journey began along the Mediterranean Sea, where we visited Caesarea. Then we explored the Galilean valley, gaining immense knowledge about Israel's history, independence,

and development over the past 60 years. We made our way into the northern part of the country, the Golan Heights, for a look into Syria. Had we been there one week before, we would not have been able to see into Syria because the fighting was so close to the border road that access had been blocked. We ventured into the West Bank, and I could not contain my excitement. I anticipated the picture that is painted by Western media of constant conflict and dissent, but it was surprisingly calm. Our guide, a former lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Defense Force, told us that when he was assigned to the West Bank all he had to do to find conflict was follow the news trucks. This was just one of the many eye-opening realizations I had during the trip.

We also trekked through the fortress of Masada, had a nice respite floating in the waters of the Dead Sea, and topped the trip with a three-day stay in Jerusalem, which is an eclectic mix of history and modernity. It is a bustling and incredibly diverse city. During our time, we visited the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The entire experience gave me a new appreciation for Israel, and, as an International Relations major, was probably one of the most pivotal and revealing trips I could have taken. 

Nicole Wolowicz, Tandra Martin, Rhiannon Brown, and Beth Chitwood in Jerusalem

Tandra Martin in Israel

Dome of the Rock



OΔK Initiates 18 New Members

Dr. Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) member, talked about leadership qualities with 18 new initiates to the MTSU circle of OΔK November 18, 2013. He drew his talk from *Lincoln on Leadership* by Donald Phillips and highlighted three lessons on leadership: (1) build strong alliances, (2) honesty and integrity are the best policies, and (3) master the art of public speaking. Dr. Byrnes said, "According to most scholars, Abraham Lincoln was our greatest president. His rise from an impoverished

Dr. Philip Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College and OΔK member, presided over the ceremony, which took place in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Among those initiated were Dr. David J. Urban, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, Dr. Lana C. Seviars, dean of the College of Education, and Ms. Susan Lyons, Honors College event coordinator.

New student initiates were Amanda R. Broome, an Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Mass Communication (Advertising/Public Relations); Hailey L. Horton, a graduate



OΔK new members and circle officers

childhood to the White House required a range of skills, including leadership. Lincoln's life and career provide many useful lessons about leadership."

Also participating in this year's initiation was MTSU graduate student and past OΔK president Matthew Hibdon, who serves on the OΔK National Advisory Board and has been planning for the organization's centennial celebration in 2014. "This group of new members is among the first to receive a special initiation pin which commemorates OΔK's upcoming centennial," said Hibdon. "The organization's national staff and volunteers have a lot of exciting events planned for members during our 100th year. I can't wait to see which of our new initiates will represent the MTSU circle at the centennial celebration and convention next June."

student majoring in Administration and Supervision in higher education; Matthew S. Knight, a Transfer Fellow majoring in International Relations; Alexandra Malone, a graduate student in Administration and Supervision in higher education; Tandra N. Martin, a Buchanan Fellow majoring in International Relations; Brooke T. Morgan, a Transfer Fellow majoring in Forensic Science; Trevor Moyo, a Transfer Fellow majoring in Construction Management; R. Daniel Murphy, a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Physics and Philosophy; Birgit Northcutt, a Transfer Fellow majoring in Foreign Languages and Literatures (German); Philip Sugg, a Transfer Fellow and History major; Joanne S. Tan, an Honors student majoring in Biology; J. Davis Thompson, an Honors student majoring in Political Science and Mass Communication (Journalism);



Mark Byrnes



Leland Waite and David Urban (left) and Trevor Moyo (below)



Lana Seviars

Jennifer H. Travis, a graduate student majoring in Administration and Supervision in higher education; Lori Wheeler, a Transfer Fellow majoring in Organizational Communication; and Mary C. Whitnel, an Honors student majoring in Psychology.

Four sophomores were introduced as OΔK squires and will be eligible for full membership as juniors. They are Buchanan Fellows Kailey D. McDonald, Mason T. Riley, Trevor J. Wiemann, and Larissa C. Wolf.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded in 1914 and now 300,000 members strong, is "the first college honor society of a national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship," according to www.odk.org. The society recognizes achievement in the areas of scholarship; athletics; journalism, speech and the mass media; creative and performing arts; and campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government.

For more information about OΔK, contact Susan Lyons at (615) 898-5645 or susan.lyons@mtsu.edu. [H](#)



ODK members, from left, Davis Thompson, Sam Farish, Larissa Wolf, Birgit Northcutt, Alex Malone, and Chelsea Fleet sign holiday cards for local veterans.

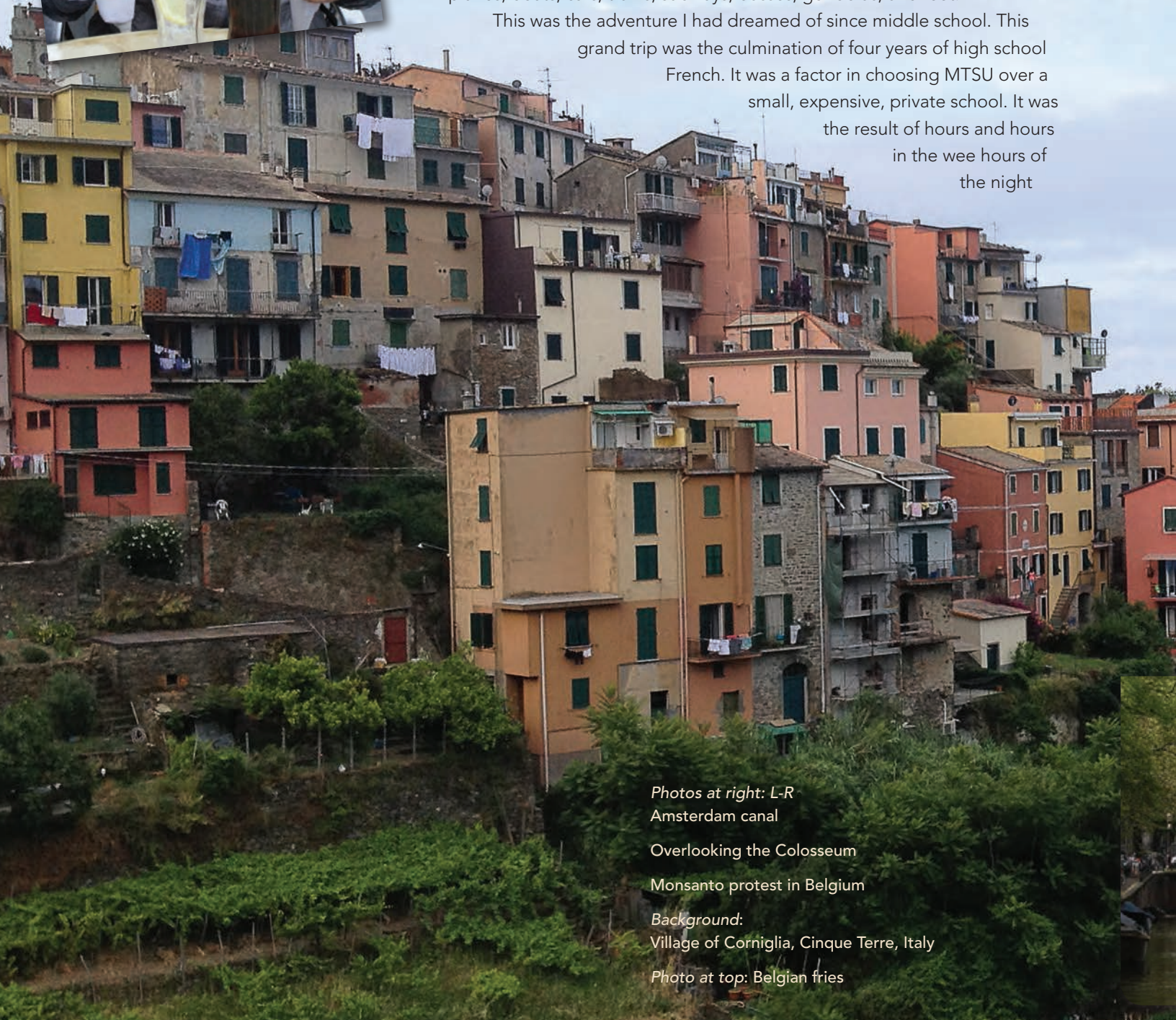


Finding Adventure, Making Friends in Europe

by Matthew Pyles | *Matthew Pyles is a sophomore Buchanan Fellow majoring in music.*

As I checked in for my flight with just my backpack in hand, I told a confused Icelandair representative that I wasn't checking any baggage. My mission: spend 11 weeks backpacking in Europe, sleeping in a combination of hostels, strangers' houses, and trains, and traveling by planes, boats, cars, trains, subways, busses, gondolas, and feet.

This was the adventure I had dreamed of since middle school. This grand trip was the culmination of four years of high school French. It was a factor in choosing MTSU over a small, expensive, private school. It was the result of hours and hours in the wee hours of the night



*Photos at right: L-R
Amsterdam canal*

Overlooking the Colosseum

Monsanto protest in Belgium

Background:

Village of Corniglia, Cinque Terre, Italy

Photo at top: Belgian fries

prowling through guidebooks, websites, and customer service hotlines. And it was, perhaps most importantly, done with the support of my friends' and family's fundraising efforts.

I planned my trip as a way not just to see famous sights as a tourist but rather as an adventurer. I vowed to meet the people, not just see the places, and to do so required me to step out of my comfort zone—something that many people called foolish (or, more nicely, naïve).

And find adventure I did. When in a foreign country and unable to speak the language, even getting out of the airport can be an adventure—or an exhausting disaster. I am a firm believer that how one frames an event determines whether it is good or bad, and for a long time I relished getting lost and getting forced to make a fool of myself trying to communicate with the locals.

But as the weeks (and adrenaline) passed, I had to remind myself that I was adventuring. Each day no longer brought new encounters with new friends but long walks on tired feet. Hours and hours and hours without talking to another person. A constant hungry stomach from having to choose between spending my limited funds to see an attraction or to rest my tired feet and eat. I reminded myself of this when I was sleeping in the attic (complete with bugs) of an

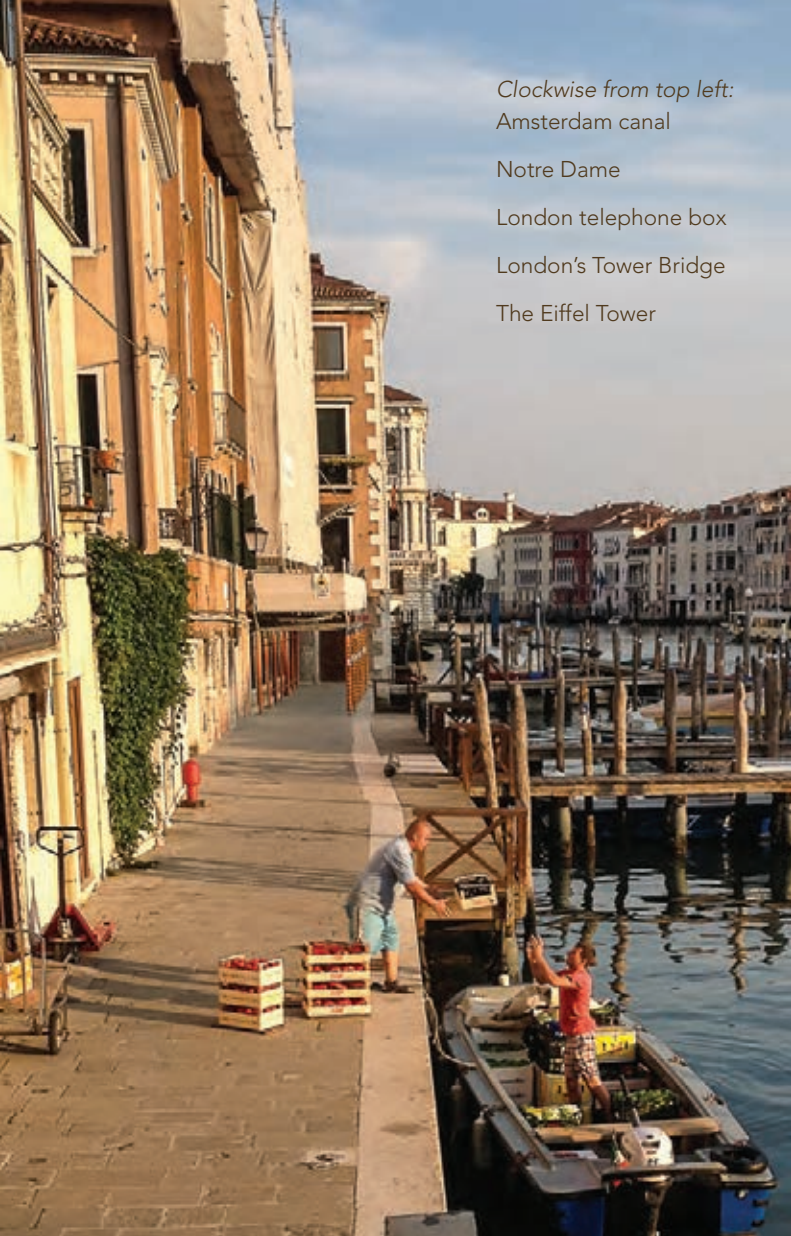
old guardroom-turned-restaurant high above Salzburg. I reminded myself of this again while pretending to sleep a foot beneath a stranger's bed in a hostel in the heart of London and when I was knee-to-knee and face-to-face with six other travelers on an overnight train. I reminded myself when I was lost in the rain in suburban Amsterdam and again when I left (and recovered) my iPhone on the S-Train in Berlin.

But for every time I felt the weariness of travel, I found that I really had no need to think about adventuring—because I was so actively engaged in it. I was adventuring when I was higher than planes fly on top of Mont Blanc; when I was hiking down the Swiss Alps into a system of underground waterfalls; when walking for 10 minutes through a pitch-black abandoned tunnel while searching for a beach in Cinque Terre; and again every time I found a local who would talk to me for hours in a coffee shop or biergarten.

From couch surfing to befriending workers at local shops and seatmates on trains, I have learned one lesson again and again: no matter the culture or language, people are people. And what's more . . . people are good. It is incredible how much a smile and willingness to laugh at one's self can disarm even the staunchest of locals and create lasting friendships.

continued on page 18





Clockwise from top left:
Amsterdam canal
Notre Dame
London telephone box
London's Tower Bridge
The Eiffel Tower



Friends in Europe cont. *from page 17*

When I was spending a month studying photography in Paris and was tasked with the terrifying project of creating posed portraits of Parisians, I worked up the courage to ask a passerby if I could photograph her (en Français). I struck gold. Her name was Muriel, and when I asked “Parlez-vous Anglais,” she exclaimed in a perfect Eliza Doolittle–like British accent “Well yes, I do. Aren’t you lucky!” She invited me to sit with her, and we made easy conversation for half an hour before I even remembered what I had come to do. A month later, she emailed me saying “Unexpected events—when happy ones . . . are the best ones, especially with traveling!”

In the end, it was not seeing the sights but rather

talking to the people that made my trip magical. I returned from Europe significantly poorer financially but richer in experiences and friends. I returned with a new appreciation of the weaknesses of America . . . and the strengths. I realized why Europeans want to come to America—even when they think our politics are a laughing stock of inefficiency and small-interest groups. I felt proud when they told me I was an honorary European citizen and even more proud when they told me they wanted to come home with me. I wouldn’t have traded my summer abroad for anything in the world, but it’s good to be back home in the United States of America . . . as a citizen of the world. 


MTSU Honors Students Win **Mock Trial Awards**

In the fall, the Honors College once again offered a section of the mock trial class for Honors students, who helped lead the teams to victory. A team headed by Davis Thompson, a Political Science major from Alamo, Tennessee, won an honorable mention by compiling a 5–3 record at the Washington University invitational in St. Louis October 19–20 by splitting ballots with two teams from the University of Iowa and a team from Loras College in Iowa and winning both ballots against a team from St. Louis University.

Other Honors students on the team included Connor McDonald, a political science major from Carthage; Jacob Goza, an economics major from Cleveland, Tennessee; and Jessica Shotwell, a Psychology major from Memphis. Davis Thompson won an award as one of the tournament's top attorneys, and Connor McDonald received an award as a top witness.

A team captained by Sam Farish, a senior Political Science major from Crossville, took fourth place in MTSU's own invitational tournament November 8–9 with a 6–2 record by splitting a set of ballots against a team from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, winning both ballots against a second University of Tennessee team, splitting ballots with the University of Texas–Austin, and winning both ballots against Georgia Tech. Other Honors students on the team included Philip Sugg, a History major from Wartrace; Elizabeth Bickel, a Chemistry major from Murfreesboro; Mitchell Brisbon, a Political Science major from Old Hickory; and Darby McCarthy, a Foreign Languages major from Murfreesboro.

A reconstituted team captained by Davis Thompson and Sam Farish came in second at the Blues City Scrimmage at Rhodes College in Memphis November 23–24 by splitting a ballot with a team from Rhodes and winning both sets of ballots against teams from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, Washington University, and Millsaps College. Other team members included Clark Palombo, Darby McCarthy, Philip Sugg, Jessica Shotwell, and Laura Morgan.

The teams are coached by Dean Vile of the Honors College, by attorneys (and mock trial alumni) Brandi and Shiva Bozarth, and by Rachel Harmon, a graduate assistant in Political Science. Teams will engage in regional and national competitions in the spring. 



Mock trial participants at a Washington University tournament included (front L–R) Jessica Shotwell, Curtis Campbell, Davis Thompson, Asia Kennedy, (back) Connor McDonald, Laura Morgan, and Whitney Flatt.



Dreams of Flying

by Collin McDonald | Collin McDonald is a freshman Buchanan Fellow majoring in Aerospace.

Every child has aspirations of what he wants to do when he grows up. Sadly, those dreams often fade from memory as one grows older and maybe starts believing that these dreams are not possible. But I am privileged to have my dreams become a reality.

Since my brother, sister, and I were homeschooled from kindergarten through high school, our parents have had a very strong influence in our lives. They taught us that if we worked hard enough, we could be whatever we wanted to be. At a very young age, I knew what I wanted to be: a pilot. But I didn't just want to be a pilot to make money or because it was an awesome job; I wanted to help people with my flying skills.

Growing up with a strong Christian heritage has also given me the dream of being a missionary to a foreign country. That's all it was—a dream; that is, until this past spring when in early March my brother Connor and I found ourselves preparing for a mission trip to the jungles of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

For many years our church has supported Matt Allen, an aviation missionary in PNG. Matt knew of my interest in mission aviation and invited us to spend a month in PNG. Getting to go on this trip was exciting, but the opportunity to visit a missionary using aviation to spread the Gospel made this trip even more exciting.

Papua New Guinea is about 80 percent jungle and very mountainous. We found out first-hand just how tough a place it can be. Connor and I each spent a week in the bush "roughing it" with one of the other

missionaries. While there, we had to bathe in a river, sleep on dirty floors, and eat mostly local food. The outhouse was "state-of-the-art"—it had four walls! It was an eye-opening experience to see how blessed we are in America and makes me hope I will never take it for granted.

After getting back from the bush, we helped in the mission station in several ways. It was not the first time I have swung a hammer, so I was able to help work on the buildings at the compound. My brother also helped with construction, cleared roads, and even assisted in the clinic when they needed him. I enjoyed the work, but by far, my favorite activity was getting to fly with Matt.


On the mornings we were flying, we would get up at 5:30 and eat breakfast before making the 45-minute drive on an ATV to the airstrip. Once we made it to the airstrip, we would preflight the airplane and get ready to make the day's hauls. Matt hauls cargo for the locals from the town out to the bush runways in addition to making emergency medical flights to the city.

It is amazing how much time can be saved with an airplane. The distance covered in a 12-hour hike can be reached in less than 10 minutes in the Cessna 206. The primary use of the airplane, though, is transporting missionaries' supplies and national pastors. The airplane allows fewer people to cover a much larger area with the Gospel of Christ.

While in PNG I was able to fly, and it was awesome! Flying there takes much more training than it does here due to the mountainous

terrain. Weight of cargo and fuel, lower aircraft performance due to high-altitude runways, and extremely unstable air patterns are major concerns that have to be considered every flight. Landing is quite different in New Guinea due to the volatile weather and severe mountain wind shear that can completely change within minutes. It takes about six months for a commercial pilot with at least 500 hours' flight time to get certified to fly in the country because of these increased hazards.

Another aspect of mission aviation is aircraft maintenance. Since none of the nationals can work on the engines, aviation missionaries need to have a maintenance license (known as an Airframe & Powerplant, or A&P for short). While here at MTSU, I am going through the Aerospace Department to receive my A&P so that I can be ready to go back to PNG following graduation.

Some might wonder why I want to go to New Guinea. It is a very distant country, it is extremely harsh there, it is difficult to travel around the country, and it has many different illnesses, some of which are fatal. In my mind though, I don't see those factors. I see people—humans, who need the Gospel. I want to make a change that counts in eternity. I want to help people around the world. I want to please my Savior, Jesus Christ. I know it is dangerous to go there, but it's my dream—I want to live it! 





Students



INSPIRED BY THE *Unexpected*

If “creativity comes from looking for the unexpected and stepping outside your own experience,” as Japanese industrialist Masaru Ibuka once said, then the fall 2013

Collage Creative Expression Award winners are truly creative. Each winner has a story of encountering the unexpected, seeing beauty, and being inspired to create.



Rich in Spirit

Grace Boto, a senior art major concentrating in graphic design, captured her award-winning photo *Rich in Spirit* in Nampula, Mozambique. “In Mozambique,” Grace said, “the people either run away from the camera or run toward it. It took getting lost deep in the village to find a subject who did neither.” Grace stumbled upon a young boy wearing a shirt with the word “RICH” printed across the chest. The boy was leaning against his very modest home. “It was a moment that was unexpected and uncontrived,” said Grace. “While he may have been living on only a quarter a day, the value of his spirit seemed beyond measure.” After taking the photograph, Grace noticed an additional detail, which she called “a beautiful and lucky juxtaposition.” In the image there is a rough coal drawing depicting a mansion with a yard and flowers on the side of the boy’s home. “This is a typical practice of the village children,” Grace said. “Essentially, it is their form of daydreaming [about] a more prosperous life.”



Anna Houser, a recent alumna with a degree in English, won the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award with her poem “Her.” The poem beautifully describes the deep love of an elderly man for his recently deceased wife of fifty years. Anna’s inspiration came, she said, as she “was sitting on a bus on a rainy day, looking out the window as we were stopped at a light. I saw an old man, hunched and bent, just staring. He looked so lost in himself that I just couldn’t shake the image. His back was toward me, but the way he was standing—the way he held his cane—it really affected me. I felt that there was a story there, and I jotted the words down on some scraps of paper. I’ve always wondered what the real story was. I just had to make my own up in the absence of reality.”

Flowers of Lebanon

Taffeta Chime, pursuing a Master of Arts in English, found inspiration for her story "Flowers of Lebanon" while watching a World Food Programme YouTube video, "Images Tell the Story of Refugees from Syria," produced by Marco Frattini. Taffeta said, "I combined the stories of Saia, a mother of three, and Huma, the owner of an olive vineyard, both of whom fled their homes in Syria for a refugee camp in Lebanon. The video shows an image of Huma's tent with yellow flowers outside, and this really struck me. These women were heart-broken, confused, and struggling to make ends meet in the disaster zone, but they had still taken time to create some joy. It was a powerful thought about the human condition." Though Taffeta's story and the characters therein are inspired by Frattini's video, they are not based entirely on reality. "I was touched by these stories and wanted to explore them through creativity," she said.



Through the Family Lens

Kelsi Carter, a senior Honors student studying journalism, earned a Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award for her painting *Through the Family Lens*, which was inspired by a number of antique cameras she's collected over the years. Kelsi said, "I had a few cameras I had bought from antique stores and a couple that had been passed down to me from my grandmother. These family heirlooms mean a great deal to me because they were used to photograph both my mother and my grandmother as children. I decided a still life of these objects would be perfect for capturing exactly what I wanted to express through this painting. While this painting means a lot to me because it incorporates both my love for art and photography, it means much more because it will provide a permanent memorial of the cameras that captured so many precious memories for my family."



The four award-winning creative works were published in the fall 2013 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, copies of which are available in the Martin Honors Building and in magazine racks across campus.

Creative Expression Awards for poetry and prose are named in honor of MTSU English professor Dr. Martha Hixon, a long-time supporter of *Collage*. Art and photography Creative Expression Awards are named in memory of the late MTSU art professor Lon Nuell. Recipients receive \$50 awards. 📷



Members of the fall *Collage* staff are (front, L-R) Garrison Breckenridge, Zach Hampton, Della Wheeler, Brianna Diffenderfer, Caitlin Noonan, J. T. Cobb, Kimi Conro, Patrick Murphy, (second row) Katie Parker, Alexa Games, Whitney Flatt, Biven Alexander, Emily Randall, Shelby Flatt, Rikki Grieves, Erin Potter; (standing) Davion Baxter, Savannah Shipman, and Sheila Smotherman. Tatiana Silvas, Chloe Madigan, Davis Thompson, and Ana Antunovic are not pictured.



L to R: John and Linda Vile, right, with Philip Phillips, left, Sharmila Patel, and Honors College Board of Visitors member Raiko Henderson and her children, Sarah, Michael, Samuel, and Rebecca at Homecoming.



Board of Visitors member Don Witherspoon and his wife, Hannah, left, join Dean John Vile and his wife, Linda, center, and Philip Phillips, associate dean, and his wife, Sharmila Patel, during Homecoming.



Members of the Honors Student Association (L-R) Matthew Knight, Carter Gibson, and Joey Mosqueda at the HSA Homecoming tent.

HOMECOMING

HONORS FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Column 1:
April Goers meets new freshmen

Dean Vile with senior Juan Zelaya

Column 2:
Freshman Buchanan Fellow Collin McDonald

Freshmen Honors students sample the ice cream

OΔK officers Leland Waite, Dr. Philip Phillips, and Matthew Hibdon

Column 3:
Dean Vile serves Transfer Fellow Trevor Moyo

Morgan Murphy serves a passing student

Drew and Tracey Sieg

Evan Lester, Morgan Murphy, and Dr. Diane Miller

Honors Students Initiated by Phi Kappa Phi

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated seven Honors students into its MTSU chapter Tuesday, November 19, and recognized three current members of the Honors faculty as Influential Faculty designated by the initiates.

Honors students initiated were **Amanda Broome** (Mass Communication), **Rhiannon Brown** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Elizabeth Chitwood** (Music), **Danielle Dye** (Exercise Science), **Andrew Goldstein** (Computer Science and Political Science), **Tandra Martin** (International Relations), and **Sanna Shaban** (Nursing).

Meredith Dye (Sociology and Anthropology), **Tom Strawman** (English) and **Donald Snead** (Educational Leadership), all Honors faculty members, were recognized as Influential Faculty.

Chapter president Gina Logue welcomed initiates and guests to the ceremony in the ballroom of the Student Union Building. Following the induction, Col. Wayne Dillingham, U.S. Air Force (retired), addressed the new initiates.

Dean **John R. Vile** is fellowship coordinator of the chapter, associate dean **Philip Phillips** is secretary, and **Kathy Davis**, Honors College executive aide, is chapter coordinator.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. [H](#)

Dr. George Lankford, professor emeritus of folklore, Lyon College, Batesville Arkansas, lectured October 17 on how folklore, ethnology, archaeology, and many other disciplines can intersect to reveal insights into the recent and ancient past that would otherwise remain lost both to scholars and to native peoples.



Fall 2014 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

Revisiting and Re-Visioning the Hometown

UH 3500-001 • MW 12:40–2:05
HONR 218 • CRN# 84605
Dr. Ron Kates

In this seminar, MTSU Honors students will have a remarkable, interdisciplinary opportunity to gain diverse perspectives on their individual hometowns. In this writing-intensive course, students will compile a multigenre portfolio that offers a platform for reflecting on how these places have affected both personal development and future goals.

Students will engage in a project-based relationship with their peers, instructor, and community while creating a portfolio containing creative, nonfiction, historical, and reflective written pieces, as well as projects involving visual and multimedia forms of communication. Each assignment will have an impact on the finished product, including a major project each student will undertake following consultation with the instructor. The course's project-based nature demands that each student synthesize what he or she has learned in other classes to create a suitable and effective approach to the chosen topic or format. This course will have a significant workshop element that will enable participants to continually share their work with their peers. During these intensive peer workshops, students will gain valuable constructive criticism that will ultimately encourage them to

further hone their final portfolios. Full workshop participation is expected and is not optional.

Students registering for this course may also register for the UH 3001 Service-Learning Practicum and devise and implement a community-based project after consulting with the instructor.

This course should particularly interest those who plan to complete an Honors Thesis. Interested students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Ron Kates at (615) 898-2595 or Ron.Kates@mtsu.edu, or drop by his office, Peck Hall 342, before enrolling in the class. He has materials related to the class and will sit down with prospective students to discuss assignments and expectations in more detail. This course is open to students who have completed their English general studies requirement and may count as three hours of upper-division English credit (group V, or a writing concentration elective) and also toward the English minor and the writing minor.

Legends of King Arthur


UH 4600-001 • TR 1:00–2:25
HONR 118 • CRN# 85395
Dr. Amy Kaufman

Who was King Arthur? Was he a mythical Welsh hero who represented resistance to the many conquerors of Britain, or was he a real Roman warlord who took a stand against the Saxons? While no one can say for certain who the "real" King Arthur was, this course will trace his journey through

medieval literature along with his companions Merlin, Morgan le Fay, Guinevere, Gawain, and Lancelot. We will study the earliest records of Arthur in Latin chronicle and Welsh legend, explore the French Arthurian romances that created the infamous love story between Lancelot and Guinevere, and read Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, the medieval source for most contemporary Arthurian stories. We will also examine Arthurian legend after the Middle Ages in literature and film and discuss the changing concepts of history, mythology, heroism, and legend in the Middle Ages and today. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Kaufman at a.kaufman@mtsu.edu.

Science and Myth

UH 3500-002 • TR 2:40–4:05
HONR 218 • CRN# 86822
Dr. Drew Sieg

The junior interdisciplinary seminar Science and Myth (UH 3500) examines the interplay between science and folklore/myth/pseudoscience from ancient Greece to the modern era. The course traces the development of the scientific method and applies it to common mythological phenomena (including ghosts, ESP, and witchcraft, among others). Students use scientific literature, primary and secondary accounts, and television/film to distinguish between science and pseudoscience and recount how different cultures have been shaped by the scientific and the supernatural throughout history. 

Honors Worthy {student achievement}



Dr. Martha Hixon, right, congratulates Fernando A. Ramos Cintrón and his mother Ibel Cintrón following the performance of his Honors creative project *Fractured Tales*. Fernando used the psychological themes in six fairy tales and created an original ballet exploring intricate relationships.



Honors student Morgan Farmer, center, played a bird in MTSU's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad* in November. Haley Brown, left, and Abbey Karidolf also played birds. *photo by Martin O'Connor*

Honors student Emily Randoll choreographed "Experiential Experiences: A Dance Concert Promoting Experiential Learning through the Combination of Dance and English Education" for her Honors creative project. Participants in the October 26 dance program were (L-R, front) Logan McCage, Monday Johnson, Brianna Morris, Annah Slayton, Nicole Braunwalder, Kiersten Posey, Katherine Ort; (back) Jacqueline Hamby, Kyle Knight, Dylan McMurry, Randoll, Alyssa Baranski, Morgan Davis, Lakota Gordon, Haley Santilli.





Senior Honors student Chelsea Fleet (front, third from left) was an assistant director for the MTSU Arts production of *A Year with Frog and Toad* in November.



Honors students (L-R) Patrick Murphy, Brooke Morgan, Amanda Broome, and Trevor Moyo serve on the Dean's Student Advisory Board.



Far left: Honors Students Chelsea Harmon, center, and Shannon Allen explain their chemistry research at the Summer Research Celebration Poster Session in July.

Left: Daniel Murphy, a Buchanan Fellow, discusses his physics research with Katelyn Stringer, also a Buchanan Fellow majoring in Physics.

Applicants for the Marshall Scholarship, (front L-R) Katie Nicholson, Sydney Smith, (back) Joey Mosqueda, and Amanda Broome accompanied Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator Laura Clippard to Belmont University in the fall for a Marshall informational meeting.



Honors Worthy {student achievement}



Elementary School Projects

Clockwise from top left:

Dr. Hilary Stallings reads a sixth-grade Discovery School student's story.

Honors learning community students David Walsh, right, and Alex Lempin assist Discovery School students with a writing project.

Discovery School students in Stacey Burt's sixth-grade class brainstorm story ideas.

Mitchell Neilson Primary School students present their projects completed with the assistance of students from Dr. Ron Kates's and Dr. Hilary Stallings's Honors learning community.





Political Science/ Psychology Class Projects

Left to right:

Four Honors EXL History 2020/Psychology 1410 Raider Learning Community (RLC) freshmen, left to right, Ariel Klontz, Atarah Abdullahmuhammad, Tyra Houseton, and Brandon Baker, participated in the intercultural community program "Arab American Stories: Serving the Nation" as part of their civic and experiential



learning of American attitudes on immigration history and American diversity in the fall.

Dr. Michelle Boyer-Pennington reads from the Constitution in front of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.



Class Meets Visiting Scholar

Students in Kaylene Gebert's Interviewing Communication class welcome visiting scholar Hu Liu (Leo), standing, of Zhejiang University and Ge Xiaochun (Shannon) of Zhejiang Gongshang University in China.



Science Class Project

Students in Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross's Honors Contemporary Issues in Science class, (from left) Maddy Little, Tyler Armstrong, Jordan Peffley, Alexandria Dukes, Kelly Maynard, and Brandon Phillips, learn about the science used in the movies *Dante's Peak*, *Tron*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, *Star Wars VI*, and *The Day After Tomorrow*.

HONOR



A Listening Ear: Honors student Joey Mosqueda visits with Mr. Donald Clark at the York Veterans Hospital.

photo: J. Intintoli

TO SERVE

by Jen Stone

Joseph Mosqueda and Jordan Goen rely on outreach to enhance their learning curves

Honors College students are usually identifiable by their drive and determination to succeed. But for two current students, that drive is as focused on helping others as it is launching their own careers. In both cases, before their careers have even gotten off the ground, their experiences and desires to give back to others are shaping their futures.

Paying it Back

Joseph Mosqueda, a junior Biology major, is a young man with a passion for education who has had to fight to get his goals on track.

Bard College in New York State invited Mosqueda to a meet-and-greet with administrators from their early-college program when he was still in high school. He ended up attending on an academic scholarship, and dropped out of high school to pursue his college education.

But when his family couldn't afford the costs, Mosqueda was unable to register for his second semester, so he worked with his high school guidance counselor to apply his college credits and graduate with his class. Schools such as Yale and Cornell offered him admission, but not without the transcripts from Bard College, which he couldn't get without paying his past due tuition. Roane State Community College in Harriman finally said he could enroll as long as he got his transcript by the end of the first semester. He was unable to enroll for his second semester while he finished paying everything off, but he finally completed his general education courses at Roane State.

While there he learned about genetic engineering, and after researching biology and genetics programs at universities all over Tennessee, Mosqueda decided MTSU was the best choice. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology, with the hope of working on medically relevant gene therapy techniques.

In his spare time, Mosqueda volunteers with the Boys and Girls Clubs and the VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro. "I wish I could say there was a desire to help those two groups particularly, but I'm not so selfish with my time that I limit it to specific groups," he says. "I am happy to volunteer and give back to any group or organization that needs it. If I could somehow determine who needs my help the most, I would pursue that."

Anthony Stevens, Mosqueda's supervisor at the VA hospital, says in the short time Mosqueda has been there, he's had a big impact on the veterans who visit the facility. "His personality exudes passion and caring for the veterans in the medical center," Stevens says. "He brings a lot of energy to the office, and it shows through his interaction with staff and potential volunteers."

In the past, Mosqueda has volunteered to clean up yards; has planted trees to help cut electric bills; and has worked with the homeless, senior citizens in nursing homes, and children in after-school programs. He says his experience with homelessness gives him a greater sense of empathy but that it was "merely kindling to an already raging flame" and that his desire to give back stems from his early childhood.

That volunteer spirit has also shaped his career plans. Mosqueda wants to be involved in finding cures for diseases and helping many more people.

continued on page 34



Embracing It All: Jordan Goen with one of her many friends at Wherry Housing.



continued from page 33

Going the Distance

Another Honors student doing her best to help others is Jordan Goen, a freshman majoring in English and French with a focus on secondary education. She plans either to live abroad and teach English as a second language or teach French to American students on the high school or college level.

Goen's love of language started developing in 2010, her junior year of high school, when her family moved to Brussels, Belgium, to start a new campus of the Smyrna-based LifePoint Church. Goen and her two brothers decided they wanted to make the most of their short time in another country, so they decided to seek full immersion by enrolling in a French-speaking school.

She knew no French before the move, but says, "After the first year, I was very confident. All my classes were taught in French. My exams were also in French." In her second year at the school, Goen also began learning Dutch and German and discovered a passion for foreign languages.

Goen brought that life-changing experience with her to MTSU and hopes to help other young people to have similar experiences.

"Since I learned how to speak a few foreign languages as a teenager," she says, "I would love to help other teenagers learn the importance of other languages."


Goen's time in Europe also helped her get more involved in a community service endeavor she enjoyed before moving abroad. Wherry Housing is a low- to moderate-income housing community in Smyrna, serving refugees from Thailand and Burma. Goen began volunteering there through her church before her family's move, but when she returned she joined a program called Community Servants as an intern. There, she is again experiencing total immersion, living in the community. She works twelve hours a week, offering free after-school care, homework help, and English tutoring to neighborhood children. She also helps teach ESL classes to adults twice a week.

Goen says the experience has been a blessing. "By living in the community, you become a part of it," she says. "It has definitely helped with my understanding of other cultures. Living in Wherry Housing is like getting to experience Thailand without leaving middle Tennessee."

A Shared Experience

Both Mosqueda and Goen think that volunteering is a valuable experience for any student.

Mosqueda says he would encourage everyone to volunteer at least once in their lives and try to be matched "with an organization where they [can] thrive and receive a sense of accomplishment or worth. That way, they [will] want to continue volunteering, and maybe one day find the value in giving back, no matter the form."

Goen agrees. "It's a great feeling to know that you have made an impact on your community. I know that the things I am doing at Wherry Housing matter." 



MTSU has a beautiful campus. There are many beautiful buildings (both new and old) and several important landmarks that include the enduring columns of Kirksey Old Main, the obelisk at the Main Street entrance, the horseshoe in Walnut Grove, the columns in the roundabout from the Old Capitol Building, and the new veterans memorial near the University's four original buildings.

Enter the lions.

Those who know John Vile, dean of the Honors College, know that, next to writing, he loves to collect. Vile and his wife spend many Saturday mornings going to estate sales and flea markets, and the dean has a special fancy for old books, political collectibles, and art.

The hobbyist/collector just happened to spend two summers studying at Princeton University, where he was especially impressed by the statues of tigers spread throughout the campus.

"It was almost as though they were breeding," Vile says. "One could practically direct a visitor through the campus by directing them from one such statue to another."

Imagine Vile's delight, then, when he was at a favorite consignment shop in Nashville a few years ago and saw two gray granite lions.

Though he says he was tempted to carry them to his own front porch, both had been brought from China, with which MTSU has many connections, and both were stately symbols that in Vile's mind seemed to epitomize the strength of mind, will, and character that the Honors College seeks to imbue. Vile placed the lions outside the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, facing visitors approaching from the College of Mass Communication or the College of Education to the west.

"I thought perhaps they would also inspire courage," Vile says. "After all, the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* is so memorable because it so contradicts the stereotype."

To be precise, the lions are actually Fu dogs. In feng shui, the Chinese art of placement, a Fu Dog is a door guardian. The lion-like statues usually appear in pairs (a male and a female) and have muscular bodies, fearsome faces, and curly hair. Fu dogs are sometimes referred to as lion dogs, temple lions, or Chinese guardian lions.

continued on page 38

The Honors College is home to some nonliving embodiments of its nobler aspirations

THE STO

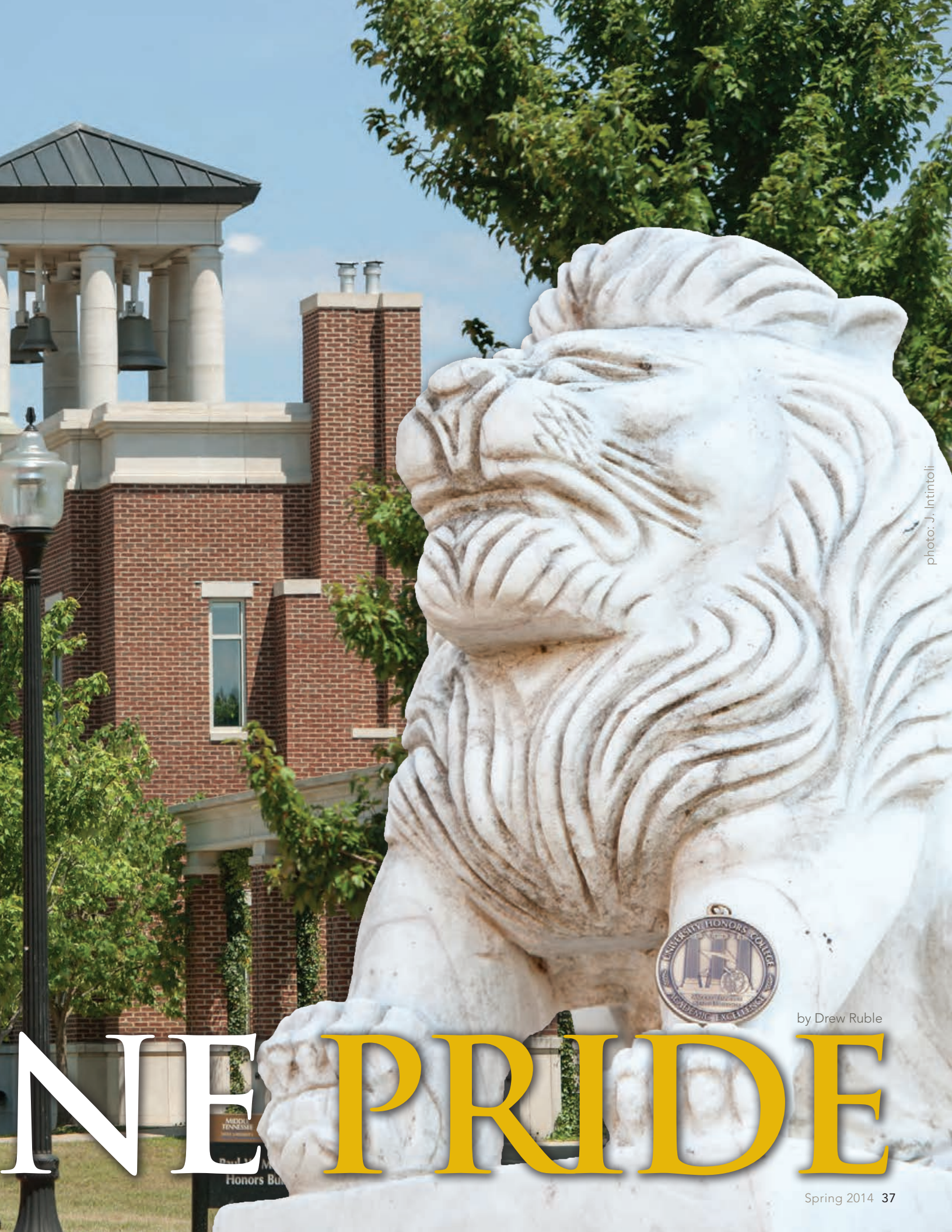


photo: J. Intintoli

by Drew Ruble

NEW PRIDE

continued from page 37

Fu dogs guard and bring energy blessings to the places they “protect.” They are traditionally displayed in front of a door or a hallway near a door to prevent bad spirits and harmful energy from entering a home or business.

Vile says he only purchased the lions because of the University’s China connection and because he liked them—not because he is a follower of feng shui (or was even fully aware of the connection at the time). “I think they add a bit of personality to the entrances,” Vile says. “The Chinese consider them to bring good luck. And if they do so, then that’s just an added bonus!”

The deal was done after some negotiation. Luckily for Vile’s pocketbook, the owner had an MTSU connection and was proud to have the statues ending up on campus. Vile soon discovered that each lion seemed to weigh about a ton! He recruited one of his strongest students, who helped lift them into the dean’s Honda Odyssey and eventually onto the back steps of the Honors Building, where they now regally reside.

Smitten with his first pair of guardians, the search was on for Vile.

He found four other lions later at the same Nashville shop. They are now found on the other side of the Honors Building, facing the Rec Center and the new student services building. They are white rather than gray, smaller, look more distinctly Chinese than the first two, and are perhaps more whimsical than imposing. Two have marbles in their mouths.

Lions are often associated with strength, but Vile says he thinks the six now perched outside the Honors Building also look just a bit wise.

“The statues help remind me that the Honors College values not only the retention of facts but also strength of character and wisdom,” Vile says. “That, at least, is what I think of when I look at them. It seems fitting that statutes from one of the world’s most ancient civilizations, which values wisdom, have found a home at the Honors College.”

In many ways, the lions dotting the perimeter of the building also provide a new, signature, artistic marker for the campus.

Hear them roar. 🦁



photo: J. Intintoli

From Literary Canon to Vampire Slaying

by Candie Moonshower

Dr. David Lavery is crafting a new pop canon, one Buffy at a time

“I’ve been asked a hundred times why I’m interested in *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*,” says Dr. David Lavery, director of Graduate Studies in English at MTSU. “I say it’s because it makes me feel like my education wasn’t for nothing.”

Connecting the respected canon of literature to a TV show about vampires and a heroine slayer isn’t the typical self-reflection one might expect from a professor of English literature with curriculum vitae long enough to warrant an ISBN number. But Lavery isn’t typical.

Since 1978, when he earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Florida, Lavery’s career trajectory, which began with a desire to focus on American literature and specialize in Native American literature, has taken a surprising detour out of the realm of the canon and into the uncharted waters of popular culture, particularly television studies. The first leg of that journey was his dissertation, which came out of a push to see a Federico Fellini film. Then, during an early stint at the University of Memphis as a professor of communication and film studies, Lavery was asked to teach a class called TV and Culture.

“At first, I thought it was ridiculous, but I enjoyed it,” he said. Little did he know, but he was in the first group of scholars engaged in groundbreaking studies about TV and its impact on our culture.

Since arriving at MTSU in 1993, he has continued to break new ground, bridging the gap between pop culture and the canon.

continued on page 40



continued from page 39

Lavery created the first scholarly book devoted to an individual TV series



“It’s exciting to teach at a school with such a comfort level,” Lavery says. “Here at MTSU, I can teach Wallace Stevens and then Joss Whedon,” the latter being the creator of *Buffy*, the director of recent box-office smash *The Avengers*, and other iconic shows and movies. (Lavery recently published a book titled *Joss Whedon: A Creative Portrait*.)

According to Lavery, the division between low and high culture is not as strong as it once was—or as people thought.

“As a graduate student, I used to hate TV,” he admits. “I thought it was Orwellian and would ruin our souls. I never pictured myself here, in this career. And I’m having fun.”

Lavery adds, “No one has ever invited me to Australia to talk about Wallace Stevens, but they have invited me there to talk about *Buffy*.” (His eyes twinkle as he tries not to smile too broadly.)

One promising aspect of this burgeoning area of study? The need for scholarly articles and books. Lavery created the first scholarly book devoted to an individual TV series, *Twin Peaks*.

“No one had thought of taking on a book about TV—and I certainly never anticipated being that person,” he says. Since that seminal work, Lavery has authored, coauthored, edited or coedited over 20 books and over 150 published essays, chapters, and reviews, including the aforementioned book-length biography of Whedon.

Lavery believes MTSU is a leader in the integration of pop culture and traditional English studies. He acknowledges that while English departments have accepted film studies, many have not yet taken on TV, which he calls misguided.

“TV shows are like novels,” he says. “They cover a long narrative time, and they should be part of the canon. The canon will grow.”

It’s not the first time MTSU has done pioneering scholarly work related to pop culture. Lavery points to former professors Michael and Sara Dunne (also noted pop culture scholars) and the much-celebrated Charles Wolfe, who became, arguably, the most important music scholar in the world writing about country music.

For Lavery, it all starts with *Buffy*.

“I hated the movie, so I didn’t watch the show on TV,” Lavery admits. “Four years in, students wanted me to watch. They said, ‘It’s your kind of show!’ I finally watched it, and it changed my life. Those students changed my life.”

And what about Joss Whedon, around and about whom a good deal of Lavery's work has been centered?

"Whedon is the champion out there for all of us out here who once thought we were losers," he says.

Lavery boldly places Whedon studies as a natural complement to those of a better-known literary icon.

"Shakespeare . . . has kept English teachers busy for 400 years," Lavery says. "Whedon . . . has tapped into how our imaginations work and changed TV. He has reached whole families and spoken in a language we understand. Like Shakespeare in his day, Whedon is one of us."

Lavery is one of us, too. Tori Warenik, a former student of Lavery's who received her master's in English from MTSU in 2013, says she enrolled specifically to study under Lavery.

"I first met Dr. Lavery in 2010 at Slayage, a popular culture conference on Joss Whedon, which convenes every other year. When applying for graduate programs, I contacted Dr. Lavery, who volunteered some advice: 'Go where you feel like you belong.'" (Lavery was a cofounder of the Slayage conference, and the *Slayage Journal*—each outgrowths of the Whedon Studies Association Lavery also cofounded.)

Warenik chose MTSU.

"Many people don't get the opportunity I did to make a connection with someone so plugged in to his area of interest as well as to his legacy: his students," Warenik says. "Though he has written and edited a veritable shelf of books and academic papers, Dr. Lavery wants his students to succeed in their chosen paths as he has, which in academia, is actually extraordinary."

Warenik, now a high school English teacher in Florida, says she is excited to try to make those same types of connections with her own students.

What is next for David Lavery? His ambitions are many and varied. He certainly doesn't want to be pigeonholed. He admits that he has always chafed at the "turf" of academia.

"In my perfect world, the English Department and the Chemistry Department would teach together," he says.

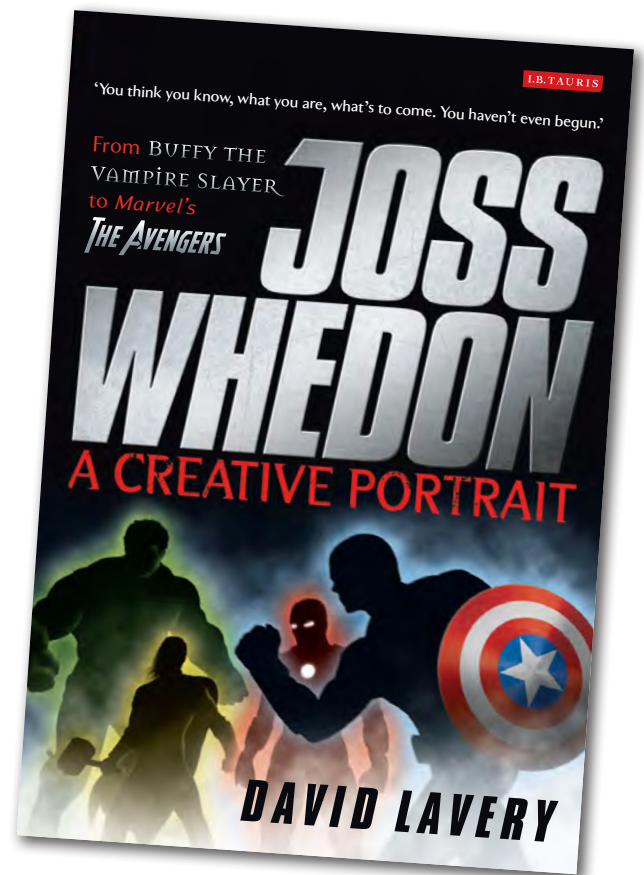
Lavery says he has enjoyed teaching in the Honors College and would like to teach an interdisciplinary course on the topic of creativity.

"Our Honors [program] does an incredible job of giving good students a chance to think outside the box," he says, acknowledging that MTSU is the number-one target for the state's best and brightest students.

In summer 2014, Lavery is teaching Special Topics in Popular Culture: James Tiptree, Jr. and Science Fiction—a graduate class. He is also finishing a book called *Finale* about the great television finales of all time.

And the canon?

"I'd like to write a book on Wallace Stevens," Lavery says with a smile. 



MTSU is a leader in the integration of pop culture and traditional English studies.



Honors Advisor Discovers the **Wonders of Peru**

by April and Brent Goers | *April Goers is an academic advisor for the University Honors College. She has traveled abroad extensively and is leading the Honors study-abroad trip to Italy this June along with Philip Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College.*

Many people asked us why we chose Peru for our summer travels. It was an easy choice. From the iconic ruins of Machu Picchu to the wonders of the floating islands, Peru offers an array of amazing attractions to explore without a big price tag. Tourism is one of the top economic industries for Peru, along with mining and fishing. The third largest country in South America and the birthplace of the potato, Peru is also the number-one exporter of asparagus and silver and contains a significant part of the Andes Mountains. The Amazon River, the world's biggest by volume, rises in Peru.

The first stop on our adventure was the capital city of Lima. The country's largest city, Lima was the most modern of the cities we visited. In Lima, which is on the coast, we were encouraged to try ceviche (raw fish marinated in citrus juice). It was delightful!

Our stops in Lima included the House of Pizarro (Government Palace) and San Francisco Monastery, famous for its 17th-century architecture and world-renowned library. Most interesting to us were its

catacombs, part of Lima's original cemeteries, which were built under churches. Seventy-five thousand bodies were buried under this monastery with the bones exposed and stacked in strange patterns. We also watched the changing of the guard at the House of Pizarro.

From Lima we flew to Cuzco, a city that is so exquisite that everything else about it seems irrelevant and no glut of tourism can quite cancel its charm. The Plaza de Armas, one of the world's great squares, has two splendid colonial churches, including the cathedral known for a painting of the Last Supper depicting Christ and the apostles dining on guinea pig. Our three-night stay in Cuzco overlapped with the second-largest festival in South America, the Festival of the Sun. For one week in July (winter solstice in Peru) there is an Incan festival of thanksgiving and spiritual preparation for the coming year. We saw parades and enjoyed traditional music and dancing.

Cuzco is the closest major city to Machu Picchu. We left our hotel at 4:30 a.m. and arrived at Machu Picchu nearly seven hours later. The opportunity to experience this

brehtaking ancient citadel was well worth the two bus rides and scenic train ride. Machu Picchu is 8,000 feet above sea level in the Andes and was built around 1400. The "City of the Incas" was abandoned and forgotten for centuries until historian and U.S. explorer Hiram Bingham rediscovered it in 1911. It is said that much of this impressive historical site is still under ground.

As we toured the 140 standing structures of Machu Picchu, we were in complete awe. The Incas built the buildings with perfectly carved stones held together by gravity alone—no mortar was used. Machu Picchu also has imaginative agricultural terraces built with soil hauled from the valleys below and complex irrigation systems that provided fresh spring water from structure to structure. When we weren't learning as much as we could about this site, we found ourselves perched at one of the highest points of the ruins simply taking in the magical setting.

We returned to Cuzco for a final day of leisure, touring the impressive Colonial Cathedral and the Koricancha. The Koricancha, or Temple of the Sun, is ornate, with gold



and silver lining nearly everything inside. This temple was one the most important religious sites of the Incas, and allegedly the floors were once covered by sheets of solid gold. That evening we had our first taste of alpaca, an animal indigenous to Peru well known for its excellent wool.

From Cuzco, we took an all-day bus trip to our last stop, the city of Puno. The long drive was made more bearable with stops at the Incan archaeological site of Raqchi (14,225 feet above sea level) and volunteer time at a small village school. Our time at the school was incredibly rewarding. Some students walk one to two hours each way over a mountain to attend. They were eager to read with us, play, and sing and there were plenty of hugs to go around. With no running water, limited supplies, barely any technology, and buildings that were falling apart, it was wonderful to see these

students doing well academically.

Puno sits on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and offers amazing views. Our time in Puno mostly consisted of a voyage out on the lake to the Uros Floating Islands, floating man-made blocks of totora reeds. The purpose of the islands was originally defensive, but they are still inhabited. The islands were on the brink of disappearance, but islanders found that tourism would help them keep their ancestral grounds. Being on the islands was like stepping back in time. We were fascinated by how the tribe lives and the many uses of totora reeds. The reeds are used to build the islands, their homes, boats, watchtowers, and craftwork and are a staple in the inhabitants' diet. About 2,000 Uros still live on the islands, though many have left to live in the city. Life on the Uros Islands is certainly not easy.

Overall, we found Peru and its people to be inviting and interesting, and the experience was so much more than we expected. The layers of history, the rich buffet of exquisite scenery, and the amazing treasure trove of diverse cultures and traditions make Peru an amazing place to visit. [H](#)

Photos top row: Koricancha, an Incan temple converted to a Spanish monastery

Llamas freely roam the grounds at Machu Picchu

Uros people welcome visitors to their floating island

April and Brent Goers at Machu Picchu

Government Palace, Lima

Cuzco City center

Second row: Musical competitors parade through the streets of Puno

April with a Puno schoolgirl

Machu Picchu view

Dr. Philip Phillips Becomes Permanent Associate Dean of the University Honors College

Veteran English professor Philip Phillips recently accepted MTSU's offer to become the permanent associate dean in the University Honors College.

"I can think of no place on this campus I would rather be than the Honors College," Dr. Phillips said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to serve as associate dean and to work with such fantastic students, faculty, and staff. It's a wonderful community of learning."

Dean John Vile said Phillips has "done an extraordinary job for three successive years" and that "he's perfect" for the job. "He's a good teacher [and a] good scholar, and he already knows the job."

Dr. Phillips, the lone on-campus applicant, was among 19 candidates for the job. He had served as interim associate dean for more than two years.

To view a video about Phillips being named permanent associate dean, go to <http://youtu.be/j0gl6TwRxnw>.

About the hiring committee, Dr. Vile said, "We had five that we interviewed by phone, and when we got done, everyone said we got at least four out of the five who would be great associate deans, but we have someone here who's now in his third year of doing it as a one-year position—why don't we offer it to him? That sounded wise to me and to the people above me, and so that's what we did."

Dr. Vile added that Dr. Phillips had "done an extraordinary job" in coordinating the fall and spring Honors Lecture Series. In addition, Phillips provided innovative ideas for the new Honors College transfer scholarship and a number of other initiatives.



MTSU alumnus and current graduate student Matthew Hibdon said he was pleased to learn Dr. Phillips would be the permanent associate dean.

"I'm so thrilled he has the permanent position now because since I've known him, he's always been so student-centered," Hibdon said. Hibdon worked closely with Phillips in Omicron Delta Kappa, a student honors organization. "He has such a passion for helping our student leaders become better leaders in the future," Hibdon added.

In fall 2011, Dr. Phillips became interim associate dean when Dr. Scott Carnicom accepted an administrative fellow role in the Office of the University Provost. In January, Carnicom left MTSU to become dean of the College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Phillips, who joined the English faculty in 1999 and the Honors faculty in 2000, earned his bachelor's degree from Belmont University and his master's degree and doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He participated in the Management Development Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2013.

Dr. Phillips is a recipient of the MTSU Foundation's Distinguished Research Award. His most recent book, *Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana*, based on his Honors Lecture Series on prison writing, is forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. For more details about his teaching and research areas, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/staff/Phillips.php. [H](#)

Phillips Elected President of the Poe Studies Association

Dr. Philip Phillips (associate dean, Honors, and professor of English) was recently elected to serve as president of the Poe Studies Association (PSA) for a two-year term, effective January 2014.


Established in 1972, the PSA provides a forum for the scholarly and informal exchange of information on Edgar Allan Poe, his life, and works. With members including scholars and Poe enthusiasts from the United States and around the world, the PSA sponsors panels related to Poe at the American Literature Association Conference in May and the Modern Language Association Conference in January. The association has sponsored three international conferences in cities related to Poe's life and works—Richmond (1999), Baltimore (2002), and Philadelphia (2009). In 2015, it plans to sponsor its fourth international conference, this time in New York City. The PSA also produces *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*, the official journal of the group (published by Pennsylvania University Press).

Before his election as president, Dr. Phillips served a one-year term on the editorial advisory board of *The*

Edgar Allan Poe Review and a two-year term on the Poe Studies Association Executive Committee. He has held research fellowships at the Boston Athenaeum and at the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern

French Studies at Vanderbilt University in support of Poe-related research projects. He has delivered papers on Poe at the Bicentennial Conference on Poe in Philadelphia in 2009; the Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe Conference in Florence in 2012; and at the Positively Poe Conference in Charlottesville in 2013. His recent publications on Poe appear in *Poe Studies*, *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*, *Approaches to Teaching*

Poe's Prose and Poetry (MLA, 2008), *Edgar Allan Poe in Context* (Cambridge UP, 2013), and *Deciphering Poe: Subtexts, Contexts, Subversive Meanings* (Lehigh UP, 2013). Dr. Phillips continues to serve on the Advisory Board of the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston, which is in the final stages of raising funds to install a life-sized bronze statue of Poe (*Returning Home*, by Stefanie Rocknak) in Boston near the site of his birth.

For more information about the Poe Studies Association, please visit the official website at www2.lv.psu.edu/psa/index.html. 



Honors faculty and staff joined Academic Affairs and Health and Human Performance staff members at Sir Pizza in November to celebrate the 91st birthday of Loretta Gebert, mother of Kaylene Gebert, professor, Speech and Theatre, and Honors faculty member.

Carnicom Selected **Lock Haven University Dean**



Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, welcomed Dr. Scott Carnicom, former Honors College associate dean, as founding dean of their College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences in December.


Carnicom, who was selected as the first full-time associate dean of the University Honors College in 2006, served under deans Philip M. Mathis and John R. Vile. He participated in administrative training programs at Harvard University and Vanderbilt University in 2008 and 2009 and served as an American Council on Education Fellow at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, in 2011–12. He was an academic affairs administrative fellow in the MTSU Provost's Office from June 2012 to December 2013.

In a statement released by Lock Haven University in December, Carnicom said, "As the newest member of the Lock Haven community, I am humbled and honored to serve as dean of the college, and I look forward to building on such a strong foundation of academic excellence and student success. The sciences, coupled with the arts, humanities, and other fields of study, are

crucial to the future of higher education and our world. I am so pleased to join an institution that clearly holds these same values."

Carnicom received a B.A. in psychology from Ohio University in 1995 and earned a Ph.D. in biopsychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2000. He began his higher education career at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, where he helped establish and served as director of the honors program before coming to MTSU. At MTSU, Carnicom headed the initial committee that selected Buchanan Fellows. Dr. Vile said, "It is always heartening when an individual is able to build on service at one institution to get an even better job at another."

A professor of psychology, Carnicom is an active participant in the National Collegiate Honors Council and has served on editorial boards and committees. His recent scholarship has focused on liberal arts education and honors pedagogy.

The Ashland, Ohio, native has a wife of 17 years, Marla, and a six-year-old son, Harry. 

Kaylene Gebert, former MTSU executive vice president and provost, congratulates Scott Carnicom.

Dr. Carnicom shows off a new bow tie received as a going-away gift at his bon voyage party.

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee congratulates Dr. Scott Carnicom on his new position at Lock Haven University.

Provost Brad Bartel, right, bids former academic affairs administrative fellow Scott Carnicom farewell at a bon voyage party held in his honor.

Honors dean John Vile, left, and Philip Phillips, associate dean, congratulate Scott Carnicom.

The Cow Kicked the Bucket and the Bells Stopped Ringing

by John Vile

Small events can sometimes have huge consequences. As a familiar song recounts, the great fire of Chicago was started when Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked a bucket and created “a hot time in the old town tonight!”

One mid-November day as I came up the stairs into the Honors Building, I noticed a peculiar smell that seemed at once familiar and baffling. I knew I had smelled it somewhere before, but where? Consultations with a number of staff members led to the conclusion that it must have been some kind of cleaning fluid. This seemed peculiar. Shouldn’t cleaning fluids make the place smell better rather than worse? Still, what does a dean know about such subjects? Cleaning fluids they must be.

Two days later, we tried to ring the bells in the building’s tower for a successful thesis defense and found that the remote control didn’t work. It must be the batteries. New batteries didn’t work. Then Dr. Sieg, our resident scientist, pulled out the control panel for the bells in our library to find that it was fried. We wouldn’t be ringing bells for a while.

I headed to Memphis with Mock Trial students and returned about 11 p.m. on Sunday, November 24. On Monday morning about 6:30, I got a call saying that fire trucks had been called earlier in the morning and that we might not be able to get into the building. I explained that we had a concert of thirteenth- through sixteenth-century music in the amphitheater and that we *had* to get in, which we were permitted to do. This time, a large electrical panel near my office was completely melted, and the faint aroma of the previous week was replaced

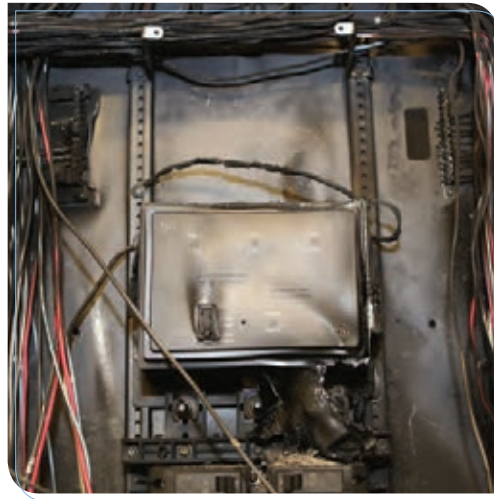
by the overwhelming smell of melted wires that traveled home with me each night. We opened the downstairs doors and installed giant fans but could do nothing to restore lights on the first floor or heat or air on the second. By evening, we were able to install candles in the foyer where most visitors probably thought it was part of the ambience of the occasion rather than our attempts to make the best of the situation.

Because we had no lights in the upstairs classroom, we had to close it down, but we allowed those who could endure the smell to continue downstairs classes. We were able to run a wire into the main offices (where I am practically married to my

computer and telephone) but had to move other staff members to the downstairs student commons room where the biggest item of controversy was whether to leave the fireplace on or cut it off. Most of the time it seemed like one big happy family, but we know it was inconvenient for students who would otherwise be hanging out with us.

Before we left for Christmas break, we finally got both lights and heat. There was a general agreement that there was something wrong with the system’s grounding (which has provided much reflection for sermonizing).

Someday I will probably regale my successors with tales of how we roughed it in the winter of 2013. We certainly learned the virtues of layered clothing and hot tea. We still await restoration of the bells, which required an entirely new panel and keyboard. Until then, Laura Clippard has supplied me with a small handheld chime that makes me seem more like a town crier than a dean but which should otherwise serve the purpose. [f](#)



Partnership Results in Center for Executive Leadership

The Center for Executive Leadership (CEL), a partnership between MTSU and RutherfordCABLE, comprises community business leaders, many MTSU alumni, and strong University supporters who meet to explore topics in the leadership areas of diversity, ethics, power and influence, followership, motivation, intelligence and creativity, financial statement analysis, not-for-profit management, developing and leading teams, and servant leadership.

Dr. David Foote, associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and Dr. Earl Thomas, professor of management, began conversations about a year ago with Paula Mansfield, senior vice president at First Tennessee Bank, and her leadership team at RutherfordCABLE (Kathy Jones, Jean Anne Rogers, Terri Sterling, and Anne

Davis) regarding the design of a program on executive leadership development. After many meetings and discussions and much communication, the RutherfordCABLE Center for Executive Leadership was created.

The CEL is sponsored by the Department of Management and Marketing, the Jones College of Business, and the University Honors College and is underwritten by Nissan. It is a 10-week, 25-hour program that meets Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Honors Building. This fall's meetings were September 4 through November 6 with the September 25 session held on-site at Nissan. Participating faculty from the Jones College of Business in addition to Foote and Thomas include Leigh Anne Clark, Don Roy, Paula Thomas, Dan Morrell, and Deana Raffo.



Paula Mansfield, past president of RutherfordCABLE, presents a framed parchment of remembrances to College of Business associate dean Dr. David Foote for his role as a CEL instructor.

Plans were made to offer an advanced course open to the 26 members of the inaugural class this spring. The partnership is expected to continue in the coming years with additional RutherfordCABLE members participating in the CEL program. [H](#)

Don't miss the
ACTION

Stay connected!
Don't miss any of our events or programs. By signing up for our email list, you allow us to communicate with you in the most timely way.

Update your information by emailing alumni@mtsu.edu with your full name, class year, and updated information, or join the Alumni Online Community by visiting www.mtalumni.com.

alumni

Middle Tennessee State University

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM
true
BLUE



Clockwise from top left: Honors College resident faculty and staff members and English faculty volunteers with the Great Books in Tennessee Prisons program listen to fall convocation speaker Dwayne Betts.

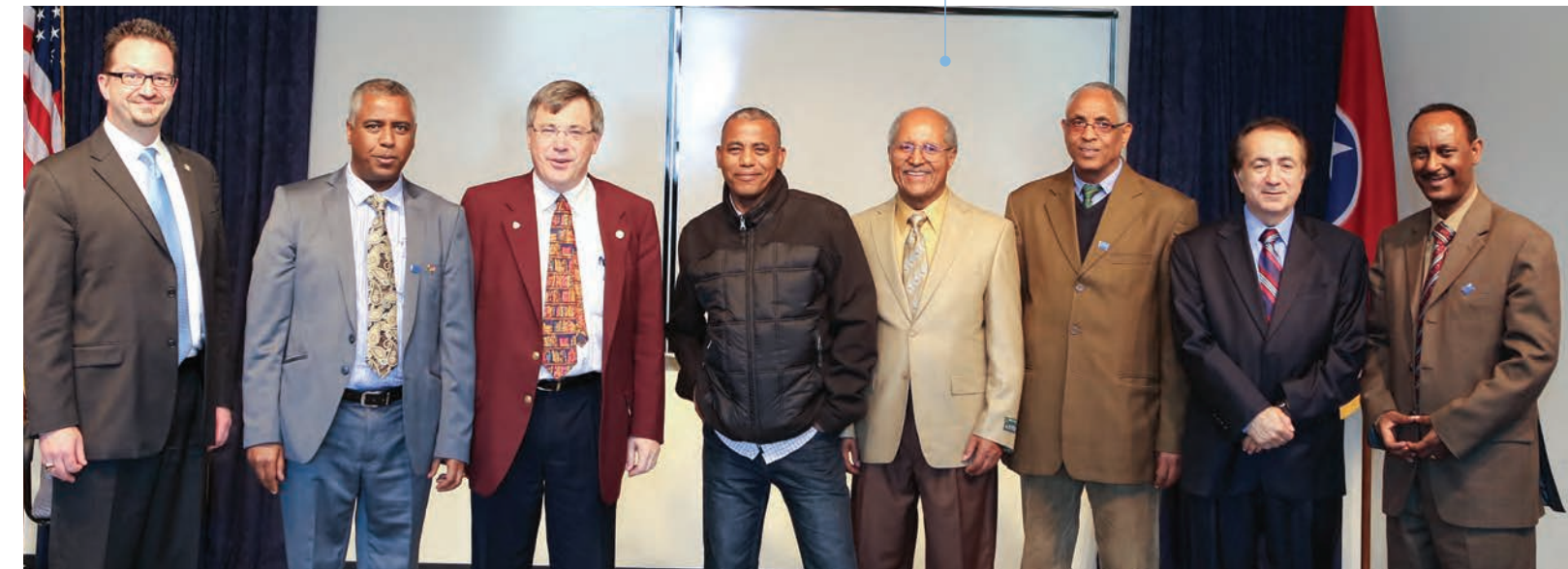
Dwayne Betts, author of *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison*, talks about his book.

Faculty volunteers with the Great Books in Tennessee Prisons program Amy Sayward, Philip Phillips, Becky King, and Warren Tormey meet author and speaker Dwayne Betts. Jim Hamby and Brett Hudson are not pictured.

Carlin Romano, professor of philosophy and humanities at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania and critic-at-large of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, visited MTSU in November for the inaugural Fall Applied Philosophy Lyceum to explain why he thinks America—contrary to popular belief and national stereotype—is a vibrantly philosophical civilization.



MTSU administrators and members of an Ethiopian delegation that visited MTSU in the fall were (L-R) Dr. Philip Phillips, associate dean; Dr. Zaid Negash Zewde, president of Adigrat University; Dean John R. Vile; Mr. Sahleslassie Teka Tedla, head of the Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education of Tigary Regional State; Dr. Tech Wubneh, former director of International Affairs at MTSU; Mr. Gobezeay Weld-earegay Kinfu, head of the Bureau of Education of Tigray Regional State; Dr. Saeed Foroudastan, associate dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; and Mr. Beyene Mikru Samuel, vice president of Tigray Regional State. The Ethiopian delegation visited MTSU to discuss collaborations between faculty and students.



Beauty



The Fall 2013 Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000), sponsored by the University Honors College, focused on the topic of beauty. Students explored the idea of beauty from many intellectual, aesthetic, and cultural perspectives. Organized and led by Dr. Philip Phillips, then interim associate dean, the series featured a wide range of distinguished speakers from such disciplines as astronomy, art history, literature, biology, political science, interior design, sociology, anthropology, and music.

Topics and speakers included "Flickers of Light from Space" by Chuck Higgins (Physics and Astronomy); "Harmony, Proportion, and Order in Early Medieval Art" by Laura Cochran (Art); "Poe's Literary Aesthetics and the 'Death of a Beautiful Woman'" by Philip Phillips (Honors); "Beauty at the Molecular Level" by Becky Seipelt-Thiemann (Biology); "A Biblical Perspective on Beauty" by John R. Vile (Honors); "Flannery O'Connor and the Beauty of the Grotesque" by Jonathan Rogers (English, New College, Franklin); "Beauty and the History of Color" by Janis Brickley (Human Sciences); "Beautiful Bodies: Are Appearances Everything or Anything?" (Jackie Eller, Sociology and Anthropology); "Art Forms in Nature: The Beauty of Adaptation" by Drew Sieg (Honors); and "Retuning the Soul: Concepts of Beauty in Expressionist Music, Art, and Literature" by Mark Rimple (Music, West Chester University).


The series also included an interactive presentation by Laura Clippard (Honors): "Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants" introduced students to the range of opportunities available, the steps necessary to apply successfully, and the resources offered by the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, which is supported by and housed in the Honors College Building.

Following the lecture on November 25, students, faculty, staff, and visitors had the opportunity to attend a special concert—*Beauté Parfaite: Musical Selections from the 13th–16th–Centuries*—performed by Julie Ferris (soprano) and Mark Rimple (lutenist and countertenor). They regularly perform with the Musica Humana Vocal Consort, an early music chamber-ensemble-in-residence at West Chester

University of Pennsylvania. Their repertoire as a duo is the English Lute Air, and they have explored the works of John Dowland, John Danyel, and Robert Jones in great depth. The lute songs they presented at the concert were chosen primarily for the meaning of their texts. These songs, many by the humanist, poet, and physician Thomas Campion, focus on themes of cosmic harmony and the insufficiency of mortal love. The event and the reception that followed were cosponsored by the University Honors College and the College of Liberal Arts.

The series concluded with thesis presentations by Joseph (Joey) Meyers (International Studies/Global Studies), who presented "Ethnic Conflict in the Former Soviet Union"; Wesley Vanosdall (Anthropology), who presented "My Experiences with Koobi Fora"; and Juan Zelaya (Entrepreneurship), who presented "Fresh Bites: A Healthy Dining Alternative in Honduras." Dean Vile and Associate Dean Phillips chose the students from among those who successfully defended Honors theses during the fall semester.

The Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000) consists of weekly, one-hour lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden students' knowledge in a variety of disciplines. The course may be repeated for up to three hours of credit. Honors students are required to earn at least one hour of UH 3000 credit to graduate with University Honors.

The topic for the Spring 2014 Honors Lecture Series is Health and Happiness. For more information, please contact Dr. Phillips or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring%202014%20Lecture%20Series.php. 



The fall 2013 issue of *Tennessee's Business*, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business online magazine, celebrates innovation based on the MTSU University Honors College spring 2013 lecture series. Topics include alternative fuel for commuting (by Cliff Ricketts), the challenges of a global economy (by Pete Barile), the impact of technology on society (by H. Lee Martin), and finding one's leadership strengths (by Deana Raffo, Department of Management and Marketing). Read the magazine at <http://capone.mtsu.edu/berc/tennbusiness.html>



MTSU OFFERS OVER 100 GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Master of Science in Computer Science

Master of Accountancy

Master of Science in Health Science

Ph.D. in English

Ph.D. in Economics

Master of Science in Professional Science

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE, BIostatistics, BIOTECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, GEOSCIENCES, HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Master of Arts in Music

Master of Business Education

Master of Science in Exercise Science

Master of Social Work

PH.D. IN MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES

Master of Science in Management

Master of Science in Biology

Master of Criminal Justice

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Master of Fine Arts in Recording Arts and Technologies

Ph.D. in Public History

Ph.D. in Human Performance

Ph.D. in Mathematics and Science Education

Master of Science in Aviation Administration

BIOLOGICAL EDUCATION, CHEMICAL EDUCATION, INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE EDUCATION, MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement

Master of Arts in Sociology

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Ph.D. in Computational Science

Master of Arts in English

Master of Arts in Psychology

Master of Science in Mass Communication

Master of Arts in Economics

Master of Education

Master of Science in Health and Human Performance

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, LITERACY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Master of Science in Leisure and Sport Management

Master of Arts in Teaching Foreign Languages

Ph.D. in Literacy Studies

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DID YOU KNOW?

One out of five degrees awarded at MTSU is a GRADUATE degree

- **Committed to innovation** in instruction, research, and scholarship
- **Forging partnerships** with vital industries, developing graduate programs to meet emerging employment trends

Graduate programs with a national reputation in the arts, sciences, education, and business

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

615-898-2840

www.mtsu.edu/graduate

Sometimes Gordon and Sara Bell's friends have to choose between electricity for light or propane for heat. They can't always afford both, but when it's as cold as 50 below zero outside and your house is made of tarpaper and a few old boards, the choice is easy.

That's why the Bells make a point of taking candles when they visit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, as they have every year for 30 years. Each June and several times throughout the year, the Murfreesboro couple travel to South Dakota, where they are confronted with a crisis of health and poverty that is invisible to most Americans. But they are inspired by the resilience and dignity of their friends in the Lakota Sioux Indian tribe.

They hope the student who receives their newly endowed MTSU scholarship will join them on their journey—physically, intellectually, and perhaps spiritually. Each year, an Honors College junior or senior researching Native American topics will be selected for the scholarship. The University expects to announce the first recipient in May.

“After all, 99.9 percent of Americans don't think about Native Americans. They're out in the middle of nowhere,” Sara says. “It's easy to forget, if you ever knew. Maybe that one student will make people aware.”

Gordon ('73) and Sara ('72, '84) became aware of the daily struggle for life on the reservation three decades ago when they joined a church mission trip. There was no way to prepare for what they found.

“The poverty is Third World,” Gordon says.

He provides statistics that tell the story of a community caught, generation after generation, in a cycle of poverty that not only robs them of hope but also too often of life itself.

- Only in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is life expectancy lower than at Pine Ridge.

continued on page 54



WITHOUT



RESE

Gordon and Sara Bell invite an Honors College scholar to meet a few of their friends



Part of the Fabric: The Bells stand in front of a quilt, a gift from their friends in the Lakota Sioux Indian tribe.

photo: Andy Heald



by Bill Lewis

RESERVATION

continued from page 53

- On the reservation, 97 of every 100 people live below the poverty line.
- For every person with a job, nine others are unemployed.
- Per capita income is about \$4,000.
- The majority of homes, at least 60 percent, are without water, proper insulation, electricity, or bathroom facilities.
- Infant mortality is three times the national average.
- Preventable health conditions are common. Pine Ridge residents are eight times as likely to become diabetic as other Americans and twice as likely to suffer from heart disease. Cervical cancer is five times more common than the national average. Tuberculosis is eight times more prevalent than elsewhere in the United States.
- It is estimated that up to eight out of 10 residents suffer from alcoholism. One in four infants is born with fetal alcohol syndrome or related problems.
- Suicide is twice the national rate; for teens, it is four times as common.

Thirty years ago, the Bells asked themselves a question. The search for an answer has enriched their lives with relationships that have grown far beyond friendship. Sara has even been adopted into the tribe.

“Why have I been so blessed and they live in the condition they’re in?” Sara asks. “The people are so giving. Even though they have nothing, they are so giving.”

The Bells are hopeful each year’s scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to spend time on the reservation. The research those students will conduct may also shine a light on conditions faced by Native Americans and help find the elusive answer to Sara’s question.

The Bells, meanwhile, will continue visiting Pine Ridge with church groups that hold Bible classes, build houses, and deliver needed household items and some clothing. Sara is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing board of directors and coordinates summer Bible

schools and light home repairs. The Bells are also often invited to special events on the reservation throughout the year.

On Feb. 14, as they have since 1998, the Bells opened their historic Maney Avenue home for a Valentine’s Day banquet that raised much-needed funds for the June mission trip. They personally prepare and serve the four-course meal, a tradition they are committed to keeping even though the event has grown.


“It started with a few friends sitting around the table,” Gordon says. Then one year, 51 couples filled their house.

Couples fortunate enough to secure a ticket should step into the library, where they will see the feather Sara was given when she was made a member of the Lakota Sioux tribe and the intricate stone carvings they were given by a member of the Iroquois Nation.

Another room contains other precious gifts—star quilts made by friends at Pine Ridge. One quilt was given to Sara by a man who adopted her as his mother.

“Star quilts are an honor,” Sara says.

So, she says, is the opportunity to serve her “tiospaye” (family) on the reservation.

It is an honor the Bells are pleased to share each year with the student who receives their scholarship. 





Board Adds New Members, Holds Annual Meeting

The University Honors College Board of Visitors held its annual meeting Friday, October 4, at Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Several newcomers were in attendance.

Eight new members were added in the fall, replacing outgoing members James Bailey, Keta Barnes, Mary Lee Barnes, Eddith Dashiell, Paul Patel, Shane Reeves, and Jim Tracy (each had served three or more years). Don Ash, Gordon Bell, Raiko Henderson, Debra Hopkins, Elliott Dawson, Lee Martin, Paul Martin, Don Midgett, Jeff Whorley, Don Witherspoon, Philip Mathis, June McCash, and Ron Messier returned to the board for three-year terms.

New board members Katherine Crytzer, Robert Gerard, Donald Gintzig, Metrick Houser, Bruce Waite, Howard Wall, Eugene Wilkerson, and John Paul Montgomery were recruited by Dean John Vile and Philip Phillips,

interim associate dean, to assist returning members in providing leadership to promote quality and positive change in the Honors College.

The new members have a variety of backgrounds and interests. Katherine Crytzer, a 2006 summa cum laude political science graduate, practices law in Washington, D. C. Bob Gerard is vice president and team lead for the Membership Advantage Program for Fifth Third Bank. Donald Gintzig, father of recent Honors graduate Annie Gintzig, recently retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, and Metrick Houser, a graduate of Auburn University, is general manager of International Paper for the Murfreesboro and Cleveland, Tennessee, facilities. Bruce Waite, a retired forester with the U.S. Forest Service, lives in Meridian, Idaho and is the father of 2012 Honors graduate Leland Waite.

Howard Wall, an MTSU alumnus, is a local developer. Eugene Wilkerson, an assistant professor of global nonprofit leadership at Regis University in Denver, graduated from MTSU in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in political science and was a leading member of the mock trial team. John Paul Montgomery is a former dean of the Honors College and a professor emeritus of the Department of English.

The autumn board meeting convened at 9 a.m. Following a continental breakfast, Dean Vile reported on the state of the Honors College, after which Dr. June McCash, founding director of the college, talked about her latest award-winning book, *Plum Orchard*. Dean David Urban shared new developments in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and a panel of students from diverse majors talked about their experiences with the

continued on page 57

continued from page 56



Above: Student speakers (L–R) were Brett Bornhoft, Rikki Grieves, Birgit Northcutt, and Daniel Murphy.

Left: Board members in attendance at the fall 2013 annual meeting.

Honors College. Students included Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace), Rikki Grieves (Psychology), Daniel Murphy (Philosophy and Physics) and Birgit Northcutt (Foreign Languages and Literatures).

This year's meeting featured a buffet luncheon on the second floor of the Honors Building, where faculty and staff joined board members and Honors students for an opportunity to get acquainted. In the afternoon, Dr. Robert "Drew" Sieg, distinguished visiting scholar, spoke about his experience teaching Honors classes. A business meeting closed out the session.

The role of the Board of Visitors is to facilitate fund-raising through personal giving in support of programs, projects, or scholarships; to provide advice and planning support to help the Honors College marshal resources through alumni, friends, and foundations; and to provide guidance and support that will promote awareness and respect for Honors College programs. [H](#)



Judd Matheny, state representative and chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee in the General Assembly, visits with his former professor, Dean John Vile. Matheny's committee, tasked with exploring federalism issues, invited Vile to speak on the topic of Constitutional Conventions at a November 12 meeting in Nashville.



ACROSS THE

by Anna Yacovone | Anna is a 2011 Honors College graduate who majored in International Relations. She received a Fulbright grant to teach in Laos in 2012–2013 and is now program coordinator of the Department of Diversity and International Affairs at the University of Louisville.

When I told folks in my hometown I was going to live for a year in Laos, a typical reaction was “Why?”

This came second to the most common response: “Where the heck is Laos?”

Some guessed it might be in Central Asia, possibly bordering some post-Soviet state like Uzbekistan, or that it is somewhere in the middle of Thailand. As an avid travel enthusiast and shameless geography nerd, yes, there were times when I wanted to press my palm to my forehead. Understandably though, I get it. Before I first visited Laos in April 2011, I confess I didn’t know much about this landlocked nation in the heart of Southeast Asia. Now, after having visited twice and living there for a year, I can’t help but want to share all that I can about Laos and my relationship to it.

To begin, nothing could have prepared me for the daunting task

in store for me as a Fulbright English teaching assistant. Sure, I was tough enough to take Vientiane’s heat, exotic foods, and the frenzied traffic any day, but I’ll never forget that stomach-churning first day teaching at the National University of Laos. Fifty-five Lao students with raised eyebrows patiently sat through 90 minutes of me stumbling through a writing lecture. Granted, I had at least two weeks of ESL teacher-training, but here I was attempting to teach advanced and complex writing techniques to students who couldn’t speak a lick of English and I, at best, was a novice at Lao.

Fortunately, in the months that followed I learned that teaching a foreign language, despite absolute language barriers, is in fact possible. But aside from building those skills, my time in Laos wasn’t so much about what I was teaching my students—it was much more about what I learned from them.

When you take away many of the Western refinements, which are mostly for the tourists, Laos, especially outside of the capital, can be a tough place.

From torrential rains three months each year to being the most bombed country per capita (with hundreds of thousands of still unexploded weapons embedded in the countryside) to the occasional power outages, squat toilets, and the whole issue of taking a gamble with the local cuisine (to eat or not to eat?), Laos is for many not an ideal travel destination.

As the cliché goes, I was no exception to facing the good, the bad, and the ugly. Although my travel scars make for great stories now, earning them wasn’t so jolly but more a part of the painstaking process one goes through as he or she becomes familiar with a country. Although I won’t go into detail with these stories, I am grateful that they serve as a reminder of how the trials I faced pale in comparison to what many of my students encounter.

My students ranged from 17 to 22 years old (a bit daunting since I was only 23 at the time). Many came from large families that survive by subsistence farming in remote, rural areas of the country. Many were also a part of the ethnic Hmong minority, which often





Adventures of an ETA Fulbright in Laos

faces discrimination from the government and higher classes.

Although there is something to be said about the trials my students endured, their inexorable curiosity and unparalleled thirst for learning are just as remarkable and noteworthy. Yet if I had to choose a word that best captures my students, it's love. Despite all the obstacles facing my students, they love their country, they love each other, they love dancing, they love jokes, they love Lao food, they love Lao traditions, they love speaking English, they love speaking Lao, they love being Lao, and simply put, they love.

My reasons for going to Laos cannot be conveyed with a single and simple response. I went to Laos to learn, to seek, to explore, and to investigate other ways to live. I did not go merely to teach English as an expatriate but also to learn about a country so closely intertwined with America's history as a Fulbright scholar. I cannot say my desire to live in Laos was a selfless notion because I wanted to open my heart and let in some light. I wanted to be a part of Laos

and let it be a part of me. I believe my passion for wanting to understand other cultures, no matter how far away it takes me from my home and family, is what the Fulbright program is about. Satisfying a passion to see the world, I believe, is ultimately done by serving the world.

So for nearly twelve months, I served my students, and I would gladly relive those months if I could. There's nothing like having a class of first-year students sing (in very broken English) "Lean On Me" as a way of saying good-bye or be surprised by year-two students who, on a very rainy day, drove miles on motor-bikes to the airport to wish me farewell.

These moments make up a tableau of memories in which I was always openly welcomed into the lives of strangers. From picnics to festivals to weddings, I ate well, I laughed greatly, and I enjoyed my time tremendously in the company I was with. The generosity I received from Laotians affected me in innumerable and immeasurable ways, and I am forever indebted to Laos and its people. They changed me for the better.

If there's a takeaway from this piece and if there's one request I could ask from the reader, it's to acknowledge and remember Laos. If not for its close ties with American history, then please acknowledge it for the many Lao-Americans who live in the U.S. That said, I also encourage the reader to recognize the Lao-American community in middle Tennessee. Although I cannot empathize with the potential discomforts felt living outside of the homeland, I can at least appreciate one's longing for a land where emerald rice paddies smear the landscape and a plate of papaya salad shared among friends marks the end of a good day.

Where is Laos? I imagine its true essence and what makes it unique can't be found on any map or guidebook. However, for those who seek a place where magic exists, smiles prevail, and hearts are unguarded, eventually I believe they'll find Laos.

(For more stories and adventures, check out my Laos blog at www.acrossthemekong.wordpress.com.)

H



2013 Grad Named Award Finalist

A short story written as an Honors creative project resulted in recognition from the Hurston/Wright Foundation for 2013 graduate Samantha Mallory. Samantha was a finalist for the 2013 Award for College Writers for "Ren," a story she wrote to honor her mother and writer Toni Morrison.

Claudia Barnett, Samantha's creative project advisor, said, "Samantha wrote slowly, turning in maybe two pages at a time, but those pages were like polished gems. Her attention to craft was impeccable, and her characters were riveting. Her goal was to write in the style of Toni Morrison, a great prose stylist, and she achieved it; her novella reads like a lost chapter of *Song of Solomon*."

Samantha said, "Writing is an escape. It's a place where I can create my own world, but sometimes the characters create it for themselves."

The former English major with a minor in African American Studies now works in customer support for 180° Medical in Oklahoma City and says she plans to "keep on writing, even if only as a means of therapy."

The Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers was established by novelist Marita Golden to honor excellence in fiction writing by students of African descent. [T](#)



Attorney Luther Wright, left, Judge Don Ash, and attorney Brandi Snow Bozarth, all former political science students at MTSU, discussed their prelaw careers, spoke about their education and current positions, and answered questions from students during the Dr. Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable October 2 in the Honors amphitheater.



Dr. Frank Essex and Betty Horne at the Dr. Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable in October.

I am a **RECIPIENT &**
a GIVER



– true **Blue** pledge

As alumni of this great University, we have all benefitted immensely from the exceptional education provided to us during our time on campus. The generous support that we provide in return helps propel MTSU to even greater heights. In short, as the True Blue pledge indicates, we are recipients, and we are givers.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/supportMT to make your gift today, or contact us at (615) 898-2502 to discuss the impact you would like your gift to have at MTSU.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

Class Notes {students}

Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace) received fall 2013 URECA funding for research that resulted in the paper "A Computational Investigation with Consideration to Three-Dimensional Flows over Cylindrical and Spheroid Bodies."

Joan C. Crenshaw (Anthropology) presented "Survival of the Fittest: Human Genetic Divergence during the Pleistocene" with Erin Floyd at the fall Social Science Symposium.

Timothy Edgemon (Sociology) served as a moderator and presented "Interaction Rituals and Political Identity: A Qualitative Study of the 2012 American Presidential Debates" and "The Law of Sexuality in the American Public Education System" at the Social Science Symposium.

Lydia Harris (History) presented "Experiences Abroad" at the undergraduate Social Science Symposium in November.

Jonathan Herlan (Physics) was first author on a paper published online in *Journal of Applied Physics* March 28, 2013. William Robertson and Sean LePard coauthored the article, "Loop filters as resonant elements for acoustic metamaterials and stop band structures."

Matthew Knight and Tandra Martin

(both International Relations) received TBR scholarships to the Washington Center this summer. The 10-week

program includes one class day a week and four days of internship. The Washington Center is a well-respected academic organization devoted to teaching civic leadership.

Martin Moran

(Exercise Science) is interning in Nashville with Ensworth High School's strength and fitness program this spring. The position will allow him to study proper exercise techniques in the field, aid in the development and implementation of exercise programs, and lead his own fitness sessions. These real-world experiences will no doubt help him to reach his goal of becoming a strength and conditioning coach or a personal trainer.

Daniel Murphy

(Physics and Philosophy) worked as a research assistant at the University of Tennessee Space Institute Center for Laser Application during summer 2013.




Denise "Nissi" Monsegue

(International Relations) received a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in China.

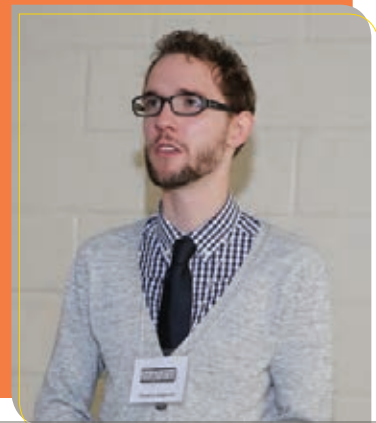
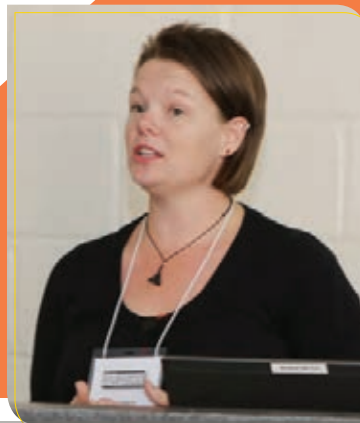
Nick Myhre

(Aerospace and Physics) received fall 2013 URECA funding for research that resulted in the paper "A Computational Investigation of Three-Dimensional Fluid Flow over Rotating Bodies."

Diamondie Wilson

(Biology) won a 2013 Ascend Federal Credit Union Scholarship. 

Lydia Harris and Timothy Edgemon
at the Social Science Symposium



Claudia Barnett (English) wrote the play *No. 731 Degraw Street, Brooklyn; or, Emily Dickinson's Sister*, which had its world premiere at Venus Theatre in Laurel, Maryland, in November.

Class Notes {faculty and staff}



photo by Curtis Jordan

Deborah Belcher

(Human Sciences) was promoted to professor last fall.

Ron Bombardi (Philosophy)

published "On the Neurobiology of Truth," in *Biosemiotics*, edited by Marcello Barbieri and published by Springer. The article was developed from an outline for an Honors lecture Bombardi presented in April 2008.

Nate Callender (Aerospace)

completed his doctoral dissertation in August 2013 and received a Ph.D. in engineering science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute in December.

Scott Carnicom

(Psychology, Honors, Office of Provost) was recently named founding dean of the College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences at

Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Carnicom was associate dean of the Honors College before completing fellowships in higher education leadership at Harvard and Vanderbilt and a year-in-residence at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He served as assistant to the provost at MTSU and was active in the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Laura Clippard (Honors) was chosen as a member of the Gilman Scholarship selection panel for 2013. The panel met in Houston on

November 5. The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship offers awards for undergraduate study abroad. Clippard was also recently named the Critical Language Scholarship program advisor for MTSU.

Wandi Ding (Mathematics), who was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor, was invited to join the Mid-Career Faculty Development learning community by MTSU's Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center. She gave a presentation at the American Mathematical Society 2013 Fall Southeastern Sectional Meeting at the University of Louisville in October. She also spoke at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute in Columbus, Ohio, in October.

Norma Dunlap (Chemistry)

published "Synthesis of nitrocyclopropyl peptidomimetics"

David Foote (Management and Marketing) has been promoted to associate dean in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. He recently coauthored an article with Randy Clark (Management and Marketing), Leigh Anne Clark (Management and Marketing) and Amanda Hanna (State Farm Insurance) titled, "Time to Regroup: Further Validation of a Fourth Equity Sensitivity Dimension," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. In an October story written by Laura Beth Payne and photographed by Angie Gambill of Gambill Photography, *Murfreesboro Magazine* featured Foote as one of Murfreesboro's "15 Most Beautiful People" for 2013.



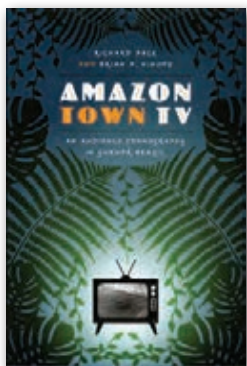
in *Tetrahedron Letters* in September with several coauthors including Honors graduate Jacob Basham, whose Honors thesis was part of the project, and alumnus Will Shelton, whose thesis also contained a part of the project.

Anthon Eff (Economics and Finance) had two articles published in September. "When one wife is enough: A cross-cultural study of the determinants of monogamy," written with Malcolm M. Dow of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University, was published in the *Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology*. "A measure of technological level for the Standard Cross-Cultural Sample," written with Abhradeep Maiti, was published in *World Cultures*.

Nancy Sloan Goldberg (Foreign Languages and Literatures) has three forthcoming publications: "Rereading Ventura García Calderón" in *Hispania*; "Nationalism, Sin, and Redemption in Vicente Blasco Ibáñez's *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* and its American Film Adaptations" in *Mnemosyne and Mars: Artistic and Cultural Representations of Twentieth-Century Europe at War*; and "Qui donc fermera la porte entr'ouverte?": the Home and the Nation in Women's War Poetry" in *Essays in French Literature and Culture*.

Roger Heinrich (Electronic Media Communication) was promoted to professor last fall.

Brian Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology), who was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor, is the new director of Graduate Studies for Sociology and the coeditor-in-chief (with Kevin Breault, Sociology and Anthropology) of the peer-reviewed social science journal *Sociological Spectrum* and a member of the Faculty Senate. His paper "Reflexive Modernity and the Sociology of Health," published in 2013 in *Medical Sociology on the Move: New Directions in Theory* (written with Jason Adam Wasserman and edited by William C. Cockerham). His book, *Amazon Town TV: An Audience Ethnography in Gurupá, Brazil*, was



written with **Richard Pace** (Sociology and Anthropology) and published by the University of Texas Press in 2013.

Robert Kalwinsky (Electronic Media Communication) has had two recent publications: "Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing Health Communications: The Clash of

Western and Indigenous Perspectives," published in *Journal of Nursing, Allied Health, and Health Education* and "Mobile Education: Pedagogy, Technology, and Collaboration," which was published in the *Online Journal of Communication and Media Technologies*.

Amy Kaufman (English) presented "Medievalism and the Pleasures of Patriarchy" at the 20th International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds, Leeds, U.K., in July 2013; "Medievalism, Masculinity, and Authenticity" at the Conference on the Middle Ages in the Modern World at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in June 2013; "Skyrim's Teutonic Shadows and the Impossibility of Time" at the National Popular/American Culture Associations' Conference in Washington, D.C., in March 2013; and "Goddesses and Objects" at the 128th MLA Annual Convention in Boston in January 2013. Her paper "Our Future Is Our Past: Corporate Medievalism in Dystopian Fiction" was published in *Studies in Medievalism* in 2013.

Nancy Kelker (Art) had a new monograph about the work of the Latino pop artist Mel Casas published in September: *Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster*.



John Lipinski (Management and Marketing) was recently promoted to associate professor.

Jane Marcellus (Journalism) who was promoted to professor last fall, coauthored *Mad Men and Working Women: Feminist Perspectives on Historical Power, Resistance, and Otherness* with Erika Engstrom, Tracy Lucht, and Kimberly Wilmot Voss. The book, published by Peter Lang, uses AMC-TV's *Mad Men* as a lens through which to explore gender and labor in the 1960s.

Ryan Otter (Biology) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Karen Petersen (Political Science) has two recent publications: "Comparing Student and Faculty Perceptions of Online and Traditional Courses," written with Ryan Otter, Scott Seipel, Tim Graeff, Becky Alexander, Carol Boraiko, Joey Gray, and Kim Sadler, was published in *The Internet and Higher Education*, and "Jackson's Zone of Twilight: Foreign Intelligence Surveillance and Federal Court Decision Making," written with Amanda DiPaolo, was published in *Homeland and National Security Law*

Review. Peterson also presented “The Conflict Behavior of Hybrid Regimes (and the Potential Implications of the Arab Spring)” at the European International Studies Association meeting in Warsaw, Poland, in September 2013. Petersen and Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, led a group of 17 students to Israel last July and plan to make a similar trip in July 2014. Interested students should contact Petersen at karen.petersen@mtsu.edu or visit www.mtsu.edu/kpetersen/Israel.php for more details.


Philip E. Phillips (Honors College associate dean) attended the 2013 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) annual meeting December 7–10, in Atlanta.

Craig Rice (Elementary and Special Education), who was recently promoted to professor; **Jeremy Winters** (Elementary and Special Education); and **Dovie Kimmons** (Mathematical Sciences) have received a grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents to do research about students

with disabilities and their access to deep mathematics.

R. Drew Sieg (Biology) was coauthor of “Chemical Ecology of the Marine Plankton,” the cover article in the November 2013 issue of *Natural Product Reports*.

John R. Vile (Honors) published *The Men Who Made the Constitution: Lives of the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention* (Scarecrow Press 2013). The book contains biographies of the 55 men who helped write the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia in summer 1787. Vile previously published *Encyclopedia of the Constitutional Convention of 1787* and *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution*.

Louis Woods (History) was tenured and promoted to associate professor last fall. 



Class Notes {alumni and friends}

Kaitlin Beck (Economics, 2012) is victim/witness coordinator for the Shelby County District Attorney’s office in Memphis.

Dan Duggin (Mathematics, 2005) has been working for seven years with Bryan Pendleton Swats & McAllister LLC, a Wells Fargo Company that specializes in employee benefit consulting. He has worked in the Louisville,

Kentucky, office since 2006. He is an associate member of the Society of Actuaries and is pursuing fellowship requirements. He and his wife (**Krista Rader**, Finance, 2007) have a son, Timothy.

Annie Gintzig (Biology, 2013) is conducting research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with a pediatric oncologist.

Rachel Simes Guttman (Recording Industry, 2009) is an attorney in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Mark A. Hall (English and Philosophy, 1977), the Fred and Elizabeth Turnage Professor of Law and Public Health at Wake Forest University School of Law and School of Medicine, delivered “Should the Young Subsidize Health Care for the Old and Other Obamacare Conundrums of Social Justice” on October 7. The lecture was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the University Honors College.



Dan Duggin and Family



Paul W. Martin Jr.

(Finance, 1975) was one of three CFOs of the Year recently selected by the *Greater Knoxville Business Journal* and Financial Executives International's Knoxville chapter for his community service and his contributions to the success of Pro2Serve, a technical and engineering services company.

Mary Hayden (Biology, 2013) married Brian Gendron in August and is working on a master's degree in environmental toxicology at Texas Tech. Since the fall, she has been conducting research involving sea turtle and bottlenose dolphin skin biopsies.

Miguel Hurtado (Chemistry, 2013) is a research assistant at the Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Rayne Leonard (Biochemistry, 2013) began the master's program in biology at MTSU in the fall. She is also a GTA in the Biology Department.

Otto Mayo (Aerospace, 2005) is working for American Airlines in Dallas as a maintenance operations support workload planner. He has worked for American Airlines in various positions in Nashville, Tulsa, and Dallas since 2006.

Caitlin Orman (Psychology, 2011) graduated in August 2013 with a master's degree in clinical psychology. In the fall, she worked as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Psychology at MTSU and was hired by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation as a statistical analyst.

Austin Purvis (Political Science, 2010) has graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Law, and is an attorney at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz, PC in Knoxville.

Alissa Ruggle (Science, 2013) has been accepted to Des Moines University College of Podiatric

Medicine and Surgery, class of 2018. She was also awarded a merit scholarship.

Stephanie Smith (Political Science, 2013) is attending the University of Alabama School of Law.

Daniel Vaughan (Political Science, 2010) graduated from Regent University School of Law.

Leland Waite (Aerospace, 2013) received an ACE-200 Coin Award from the Federal Aviation Administration in recognition of his contribution to making the central region Flight Standards "above the rest." Leland interned with the FAA from May 1 to August 20, 2013.

Kory Wells (Computer Science, 1986; Industrial Technology, 1991) was featured in an August 19 *Daily News Journal* article: "Technology Careers Top Hot Jobs' List." Wells was a contributor to *Time and Tradition: A Poetry Anthology*, a 2011 Honors College publication. She is the mother of Kelsey Wells, a 2013 Honors graduate and Buchanan Fellow.

Anna Yacovone (International Relations, 2011) is working as program coordinator for the Department of Diversity and International Affairs at the University of Louisville. [H](#)

Gwen Sandlin (Interior Design, 1986) visited the Honors College last fall. Her daughter, Katie Bogle, a 2012 Honors graduate, is attending the University of Virginia School of Law.



Katie Bogle

B.A. 2012, Political Science

Enrolled in MTSU from a small private university. Thanks to the Honors College, I received funding to study abroad in South Africa, a good coding experience at College, was initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor society, and was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar finalist (with help from the Undergraduate Fellowship Office). I started a new student organization, held positions in the Student Government Association and the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, interned for the United States House of Representatives and the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and received the MTSU President's Award, which helped me create a job in Washington following graduation and acceptance to the University of Virginia School of Law.

MIDDLE

2013 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made the college a priority in 2013.

Nancy P. and Bobby Cummins
Financial Services & Solutions Inc./
Jeff Brown

Kaylene A. Gebert

Robert Gerard

Mark A. Hall

Barbara and Jerre Haskew

Raiko and John Henderson

Jennifer J. and Terry Jordan-Henley

Judy Hiza

Metrick M. Houser

Alice and Bruce C. Huskey

The Estate of James D. Ingram

Ann and Joseph Howard

Greater Nashville Association
of Realtors Inc.

Jerry A. Katz

Katherine and Robert C. Knies

Emilie M. Madigan

Marilyn and Philip M. Mathis

Carla and Lee Martin

Paul W. Martin Jr.

Gloria D. Kharibian and Mike Martinelli

June Hall McCash

Emily and Ronald Messier
Carolyn and Don C. Midgett

Christina J. Miller

Katherine J. Miller

Jean H. and Donald Moser

Philip E. Phillips and
Sharmila J. Patel

Katherine Elaine Royal

Peggy and Frank D. Sheppard

Sharon J. Stringer

Linda K. and John R. Vile

Edith and Bruce Waite

Christine and Steven L. Weaver

Kristen West

Eugene A. Wilkerson

Stacy and Vincent L. Windrow

Hanna and J. Donald Witherspoon

Pro2Serve Professional Project
Services/Barry Goss

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 169
Murfreesboro, TN

Honors Magazine

University Honors College
MTSU Box 267
1301 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

The Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building at sunset

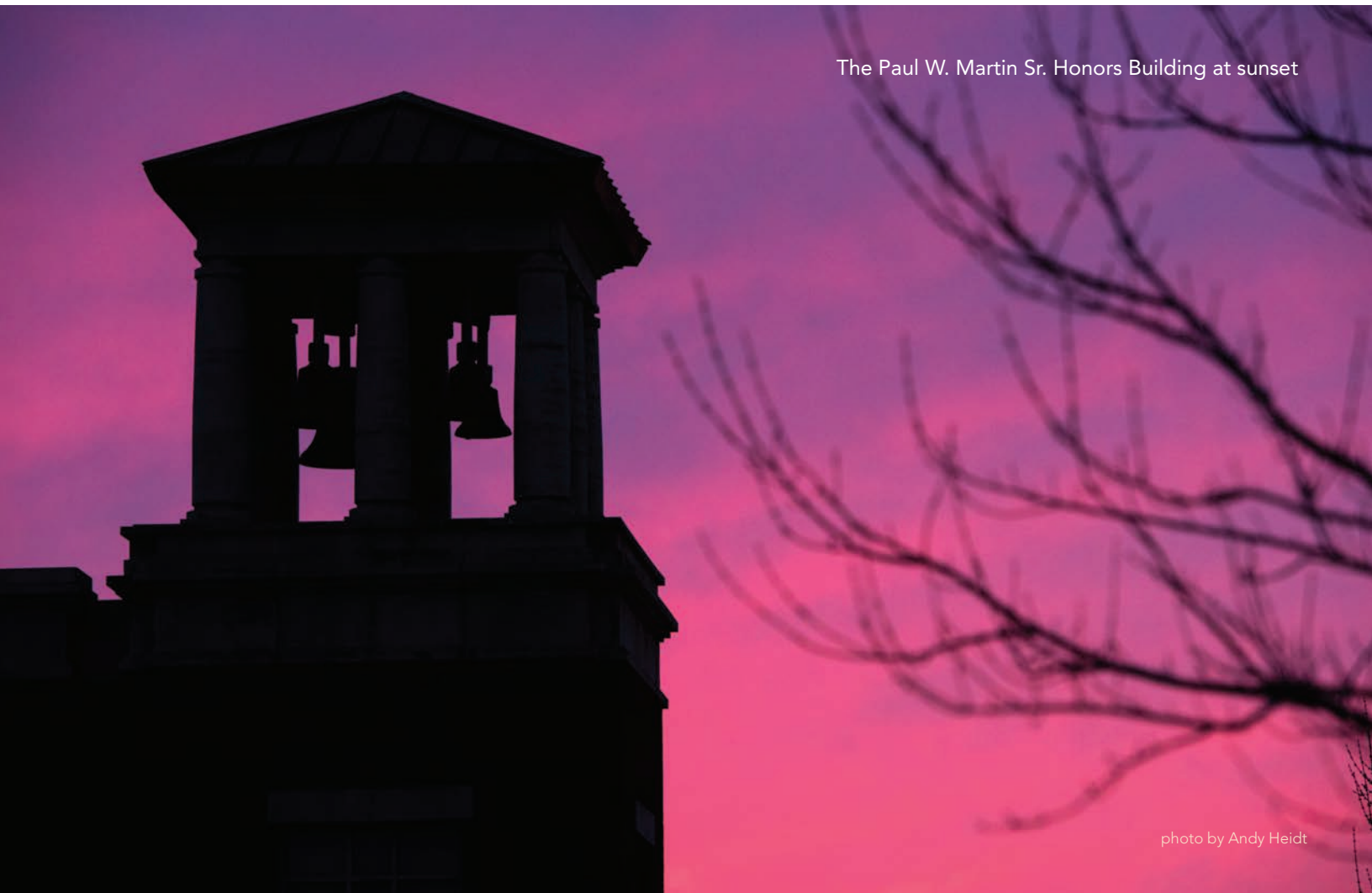


photo by Andy Heidt