

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2015

Magazine

Tapping into the **ARTS**

A photo essayist's look at
five Honors students and
their creative endeavors

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



Spring 2015

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A photo essayist's look at five Honors students and their creative endeavors



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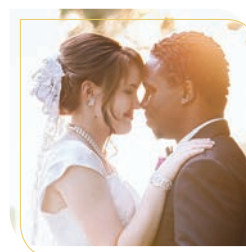
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Cover photo:
Honors Student
Morgan Davis

photo:
Darby Campbell

At left:
Blooming
daffodills on
campus.

photo: J Intintoli

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HONORS MAGAZINE

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

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DEAN

John R. Vile

EDITOR

Marsha Powers
Marsha.Powers@mtsu.edu

UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Drew Ruble

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Bill Fisher and Darby Campbell

DESIGNER

Sherry Wiser George

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

J Intintoli and Andy Heidt

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sidney A. McPhee

UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Brad Bartel

VICE PRESIDENT OF

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Andrew Oppmann

CONTRIBUTORS

Creative and Visual Services, Randy Weiler, Gina Fann, Philip Phillips, Drew Sieg, Susan Lyons, Laura Clippard, Karen Demonbreum, Kathy Davis, Judy Albakry, April Goers, Preston MacDougall, Matthew Hibdon, Chloe Madigan, Birgit Northcutt, Davis Thompson, Sam Hulsey

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From the Dean's Desk



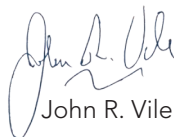
Although our cover story features the arts, the Honors College remains committed to serving students in many disciplines. In some ways, 2014 was the year of the sciences.

I was among many deans, alumni, and students who attended official opening events for the new Science Building in October. The building was finished early and came in under budget and is the most colossal and innovative facility at MTSU. From its three-story atrium with study areas on all floors to its ultramodern laboratories, the building is already a magnet for students not only in the midstate but also throughout the Southeast. It's among the very best of its kind in the nation. I was pleased to see the mother and grandparents of Taylor Barnes at the ceremonies—Taylor was our first Goldwater Scholarship winner and is finishing a Ph.D. at the California Institute of Technology. I can only imagine the pride he would have felt had he been able to attend.

The opening of the Science Building comes at a time when more and more students are engaging in scientific research. Last summer, five Honors students were part of prestigious research programs throughout the U.S. and (in one case) in Costa Rica. Dr. Drew Sieg (Biology) led three undergraduate students in pathbreaking research on hive collapses in honeybee and bumblebee colonies; others received URECA funding for on-campus research. Still others were busily applying for Goldwater Scholarships. (Honors students have received this award for four consecutive years.)

Last fall, students in our introductory biology courses were part of a crowd-sourcing project that involves examining soil samples in the hope of discovering antibiotics that could lead to lifesaving medical treatments. It's just one of several innovative teaching initiatives involving the sciences. I have worked closely with deans Bud Fischer (Basic and Applied Sciences) and Terry Whiteside (Health and Human Sciences), and I know about their intense dedication to their fields and to honors education. I also know about the dedication of professors in their colleges.

In short, science is more robust than ever at MTSU, and the Honors College is pleased to play its part. At some universities, arts and sciences are merged in a single college. Here, both find a welcome home in the University Honors College.


John R. Vile

Global Reach

From staff reports

Buchanan Fellow **Tandra Martin** is among the University's most academically accomplished and well-traveled students



The Honors College

has, without a doubt, been an *invaluable component*

to my undergraduate career.

Many of the *opportunities*

I've been given are a direct result of the *support and genuine interest*

from the Honors faculty and staff. On a

campus as large as MTSU's it can be difficult to find one's place, but the Honors College *has certainly been my place.*

The experiences I've had here are ones

I will take with me wherever I go!

continued on page 6

Global Reach

continued from page 5

In 2014, senior Tandra Martin was selected as one of approximately 325 students to be interviewed for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which provides two years of study at Oxford University. The only problem was that she was in Morocco, where she was studying Arabic as part of a Boren Scholarship, and the interview for the Rhodes Scholarship was in St. Louis.

With the help of the College of Liberal Arts, the Honors College was able to bring Martin back to the U.S. for a memorable weekend. Although she was not one of the 32 scholars chosen for the globally prestigious scholarship, she believes the interview experience will be invaluable.

Undeterred, Martin promptly applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to study in South Africa, which she was awarded in April.

Best and Brightest

Academically, Martin is one of MTSU's best students. A Buchanan Fellow, she was the recipient of the 2015 President's Award and has a perfect GPA majoring both in International Relations and minoring in Spanish and Organizational Communication. She has participated in so many volunteer activities that she received the University Community Service Award from MTSU (2014) and was one of only ten students and faculty/staff members in Tennessee to receive the Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. She served on the Honors College Dean's Advisory Council for the Honors College, and as a Student Ambassador for the Office of Alumni Relations, an officer in Alpha Delta Phi, a Blue Elite Tour Guide for the

Office of Admissions, executive director of the Philanthropic Committee of the Student Government Association, and a tutor for Latino and African American students.


Martin has also been around the world during her time as an undergraduate student. She traveled to the Dominican Republic, spent a month in 2013 at the Universidad Latina in Costa Rica, joined a group of students on a trip to Israel sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, interned at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and took 12 hours of graduate work as a Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. At press time, she was interning with the Association Al Amal Pour le Developpement et Formation in Meknes, Morocco, where she has a two-semester Boren Fellowship to study Arabic and teach English to local women. (Martin has also been an intern for Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.)



Tandra with her parents, Terry and Elaine Martin



The Future's So Bright

It should come as no surprise that Laura Clippard, the coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowship Office in the Honors College, and John Vile, Dean of the University Honors College, pegged Martin as a possible Rhodes Scholar. They still have great expectations for her. Martin hopes to someday serve as a U.S. foreign officer. True Blue! 

[Editor's note: Tandra's father is Terry Martin, who works for MTSU in Printing Services.]



Brad Bartel



Nausheen Qureshi



Debra Hopkins



Collin McDonald



Holly Aslinger

2014 Buchanan Fellows



Voyage Begins for Newest Buchanan Crew

2014 Buchanan Fellows

- Sarah Morgan Anderson
- Holly Elizabeth Aslinger
- Benjamin Cason Burton
- Rebecca Ellen Clippard
- Evan Thomas Conley
- Victoria Leigh Crawford
- Noah Brent Delk
- Andrew Stephen Heim
- Andrew Kyle Huff
- Austin Michael Jones
- Hannah Madison Kanyuh
- Daniel Emerson Knickerbocker
- Janie Lyn Kullmar
- Jeffrey Shepard LaPorte
- Bryce H. Marion
- Margaret Kelly McPheeters
- Jeanette Haley Stevens
- Lesley Faye Sweeton
- Joshua Perry Tilton
- Nicholas Robert Watts

The Buchanan Fellowship is the opportunity of a lifetime," said sophomore Aerospace major Collin McDonald to members of the 2014 class of Buchanan Fellows at their induction ceremony September 12 in Martin Honors Building. "It is the fuel that powers the rocket on this voyage of knowledge." McDonald joined Brad Bartel, University provost, and fellow sophomore Nausheen Qureshi to welcome the newest recipients of MTSU's highest academic award for entering freshmen.

explore the things that interest you, whether they are related to your career goal or not . . . get out of your comfort zone . . . **try something different.**

Qureshi, a Nutrition and Food Science major, told the new Fellows to "explore the things that interest you, whether they are related to your career goal or not . . . get out of your comfort zone . . . try something different."

The inductees included advanced placement and National Merit scholars, and the group was called "diverse and auspicious" by John Vile, Honors College dean.

continued on page 9



2014-2015 Honors Transfer Fellows



Dr. Kaylene Gebert



Saraf Anan Chowdhury



Dean Vile and Mathias Dusabe

New Transfer Fellows Urged to Stay *Curious*

Brooke Morgan and Trevor Moyo, seniors and Honors Transfer Fellows, welcomed the Fellowship's newest members on September 19, at their inauguration in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Morgan said, "Although we come in with two years of college experience behind us, we only have two years to take advantage of the opportunities here at MTSU. I can tell you from personal experience, it's not going to be easy, but it will definitely be worth it." Moyo told the new Fellows, who were joined by more than 70 friends and family members, "Time is of the essence. Use your resources, find your bearings, do whatever you need to do, but listen and listen well: get on it!"

The Transfer Fellowship offers transfer students the same opportunities available to Buchanan Fellows, who begin as freshmen. Dean Vile said, "Over time, we've recognized that many of our best students have been transfer students, who bring diversity to our Honors program."

The Transfer Fellows program attracts high-achieving nontraditional students. This year's class includes students who transferred from Belmont University, Austin Peay State University, Tennessee Technological University, and the following community colleges: Nashville State, Motlow, Roane State, Volunteer State, and Pellissippi State. "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.

Dr. Kaylene Gebert (Communication Studies and Organizational Communication), who teaches the Transfer Fellows Seminar, delivered the keynote. "I want to share several thoughts this evening about characteristics that I hope you will embrace and value as you make choices daily," she said. "As it happens, these elements are also part of our Honors College Creed. One of these elements is curiosity. Curiosity is a driving force that will carry you through many times and situations."

2014-2015 Honors Transfer Fellows

- Saraf Anan Chowdhury
- Walter Norris Duckett
- Mathias Dusabumuremyi Dusabe
- Alesha Denise Hicks
- Samuel Kane Hulsey
- Rachel Mackenzie Huttinger
- Daniel Eric Ingram
- Michael Paul Klug
- Timothy W. Lynch
- Lara Eileen Miller
- Erica C. Newman
- Tiffany BreAnn Phillips
- David Lee Rumble
- Johnny Wayne Short Jr.
- Sydney Nicole Youngman

She added, "I encourage you to look at each challenge as an opportunity to exercise your curiosity about what you can do and achieve."

The new class includes students majoring in Biology, Biochemistry, Nursing, Anthropology, Plant and Soil Science, Foreign Languages, Mass Communication, English, and Psychology. "We welcome each of you to MTSU and expect you to continue to pursue excellence . . . with curiosity, laughter, and discipline," said Gebert. [H](#)

To be considered for a Transfer Fellowship, applicants must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and 60 credit hours before their first year at MTSU. They must submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, two letters of recommendation from professors or administrators, and a 500-word personal essay. The application deadline is February 15.

Fellowship recipients who qualify for in-state tuition receive \$3,500 for each of up to four semesters. Three Fellowships of \$7,000 per semester are available each year for out-of-state or foreign students.

Voyage *continued from page 7*

The new class includes four graduates of Siegel High School, three from Central Magnet High, one from Oakland High, and one from Blackman. They hail from six Tennessee counties and Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. One grew up in Moscow, Russia. Their majors include Anthropology, Foreign Languages, International Relations, Music, Psychology, Recording Industry, Nursing, Philosophy, Physics, Art, English, Mass Communication, Economics, Computer Science, and History.

Honors College alumna and Board of Visitors member Debra Hopkins issued several challenges to the new Fellows. "Choose your mentors and role models wisely; study abroad; learn another language; wrangle yourself an awesome internship; embrace intellectual collaboration; and trust that everyone has something of value to contribute. Find a career and a purpose that gives you joy." [H](#)

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of the late James M. Buchanan ('40), winner of the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. Dr. Buchanan was an enthusiastic supporter of and vital donor to the college.

Buchanan Fellowship alumni include Adam Emerson and Eric Guyes, Fulbright Grant winners; Evan Craig and Robert Daniel Murphy, Goldwater Scholarship winners; Michele Kelley, who received a Gilman International Scholarship; Chelsea Harmon, winner of the DAAD Rise Award; Lauren Rigbsy, a Goldwater honorable mention; and Jennifer Johnson and Leland Waite, winners of the Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship.

The Buchanan Fellowship is extremely competitive, and applicants must apply for undergraduate admission by December 1 of the year before their fall enrollment. They must have high school GPAs of 3.5 or higher and composite ACT scores of at least 29, and they must submit official transcripts and original essays of no more than 500 words.



Honors student Nausheen Qureshi, second from left, prepares to participate in the Parade of Nations, which is sponsored by the International Admissions Office each fall. Nausheen is holding the flag of Pakistan. Other Pakistani students (L–R) are Tayaba Abbasi, Kanwal Qureshi, and Muhammad Qureshi.

Political Science major Caleb Gray reads from the Constitution during the Constitution Day observance in Martin Honors courtyard.



Fall 2014 Theses Defended



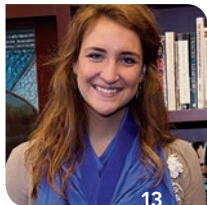
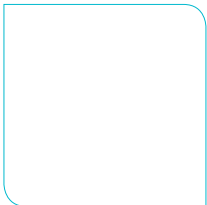
Hassan Alwan¹
Biology and Chemistry
"An Interactive Database for Antibiotics and Pharmaceutical Products"
Preston MacDougall, advisor



Mariah Bragg²
Global Studies
"Microdramas with Many Possibilities: A Theatrical Exploration of Choice and Audience Engagement"
Claudia Barnett, advisor



Amanda Broome³
Mass Communication (Advertising/Public Relations)
"Promotion or Propaganda: An Analysis of the American Government's Promotional Communications during Both WWI and the Twenty-first Century"
Tricia Farwell, advisor



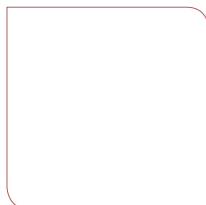
Rhiannon Brown⁴
Interdisciplinary Studies
"Liminality and Constructed Identities in Hotel Fiction"
Jill Hague, advisor



Elizabeth Chitwood⁵
Music
"Hearing between the Lines: Music as Characterization in Five Novels"
Jill Hague, advisor



Joan Crenshaw⁶
Anthropology
"Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of How PTSD Affects the Native American Community"
Ida Leggett, advisor



Jonathan Driver⁷ *Psychology*
 "Working Memory Capacity and Inattentive Blindness in Individuals with and without Depression"
 Stephen Schmidt, advisor

Carly Duffy⁸ *Biology*
 "The Effect of the Deletion of UBX2 on the Expression of Erv25p in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*"
 Matt Elrod-Erickson, advisor

Garrett Ewers⁹ *Accounting*
 "The Battle of Dunkirk: What Really Happened and Its Impact on World War II"
 Louis Haas, advisor

Nicholas Ferran¹⁰ *Finance*
 "New Cannonsburgh"
 Tony Eff, advisor

Kori Garmon¹¹ *Psychology*
 "The Influence of Social Media Use on Social Norm Awareness and Frontal Lobe Functioning"
 Paul Foster, advisor

Andrew Goldstein¹²
Computer Science and Political Science
 "The Blues Styles of Gary Clark Jr. and John Mayer: A Comparative Analysis"
 Craig Cornish, advisor

Anna Gray¹³ *Social Work*
 "Onesimus Children's Development Association: Needs Assessment"
 Ariana Postlethwait, advisor

Rikki Grieves¹⁴ *Psychology*
 "Cyberbullying Experiences and Perceptions among College Students"
 Gloria Hamilton, advisor

Tanner Griffith¹⁵ *History*
 "A 'Missing' History of Chickamauga: Casualties and Accountability in Civil War Historiography"
 Derek Frisby, advisor

John Griner¹⁶
Computer Science
 "Religious and Political Stances of Viewers as Determiners of Credibility of Information Sources"
 Gloria Hamilton, advisor

Caleb Hawkins¹⁷ *Music and Foreign Languages (Spanish)*
 "Staying in School for the Music: The Impact of Co-curricular Music Programs on Student Commitment"
 Laura Clark, advisor

Thomas Knies¹⁸ *Mathematics*
 "Dissecting the Rabbit in the Hat: Examining the Mathematics Behind Magic Tricks"
 Dennis Walsh, advisor

Hailey Lawson¹⁹ *Psychology*
 "Measuring Health Literacy with Word Reading and a Comprehension Test"
 Stuart Bernstein, advisor

Kendall Martin²⁰
Animal Science
 "The Effects of Fat Supplementation on Behavior and Glycemic Response in Horses"
 Rhonda Hoffman, advisor

Sara Moadi²¹
Speech and Theatre
 "Perceptions of Native Arabic-Speaking Parents about Second-Language Education"
 Rebecca Fischer, advisor

Joseph Mosqueda²² *Biology*
 "GFP-SEDE: Development of a Fluorescent Tool for Protein Secretion and Detection Using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*"
 James Brian Robertson, advisor

Anna Neal²³ *Biology*
 "Assessing whether foraging range overlap between *Apis mellifera* and *Bombus* species spreads parasites that contribute to colony collapse disorder"
 Drew Sieg, advisor

Caitlin Noonan²⁴ *English*
 "Transformative Choice in the Harry Potter Novels"
 Ted Sherman, advisor

Birgit Northcutt²⁵
Foreign Languages
 "Hamburg, Germany, 1945–1955: Experiencing the Reconstruction Period after WWII"
 Sonja Hedgepeth, advisor

Cheyenne Plott²⁶
Organizational Communication and Foreign Languages
 "A Tennessean Jewish Perspective on Twenty-First Century Judaism, American Society, and the State of Israel"
 Rebekka King, advisor


Jamison Price²⁷
Biology
 "Illustration of Anthropomorphism"
 Ashley Doughty, advisor

Sanna Shaban²⁸
Nursing
 "Education Tool Targeting Hispanic Preschool Children"
 Amanda Flagg, advisor

Joanne Tan²⁹ *Biology*
 "The Effects of Build-Ups in Leg or Foot Pain and Physical Activity Level"
 Sandra Stevens, advisor

Hannah Todd³⁰ *Psychology*
 "Analysis of the Efficacy of a Health Literacy Intervention in Middle Tennessee"
 Stuart Bernstein, advisor

Kaitlyn Wallace³¹ *Psychology*
 "Clothing Size: The Impact of Body Image and Visual Perceptual Skills in College Females"
 Kim Ujcich-Ward, advisor

Austin Wood³² *History*
 "A True Blue Move: Increasing Student Involvement Through Athletics"
 Mark Owens, advisor 

I AM *true*
BLUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

OΔK Initiates 23 New Members



New OΔK Members, Fall 2014

New OΔK Members, Fall 2014

Gabrielle Armour (sophomore squire)
Emily A. Ball (junior)
Saraf A. Chowdhury (junior)
Austin Currin (sophomore squire)
Keaton A. Davis (junior)
Colby A. Denton (junior)
Walter N. Duckett (junior)
Carly R. Duffy (senior)
John A. Duke (junior)
Mathias D. Dusabe (junior)
Derek W. Frisby (faculty)
Kori L. Garmon (senior)
Caleb P. Gray (junior)
Erin Herbstova (sophomore squire)
Haley E. Imhoff (junior)
Amanda Leachman (sophomore squire)
Chloe M. Madigan (junior)
Kayla D. McCrary (junior)
Hilary J. Miller (faculty)
Lara E. Miller (junior)
Joseph R. Mosqueda (senior)
Cynthia L. Phiffer (graduate student)
Nausheen Qureshi (junior)
Johnny W. Short Jr. (junior)
Jasmine A. Stevenson (junior)
Denarius Stinson (sophomore squire)
Katelyn M. Stringer (senior)
Katherine E. Stubblefield (junior)

Trevor Moyo and Hilary Miller



Emily Ball and Larissa Wolf



In November, MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) welcomed 23 new members at a ceremony in Simmons Amphitheater. The circle's new inductees included 16 juniors, 4 seniors, 1 graduate student, and 2 faculty members. Five sophomore circle squires (who will be eligible for full membership as juniors) were also introduced.

Philip E. Phillips, associate Honors College dean, formally presented the initiates; Trevor Moyo, president, Larissa Wolf, vice president, and Birgit Northcutt, secretary, led the ceremony; and Karen Petersen, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, delivered the traditional challenge to the initiates.

At the close of the ceremony, new OΔK squire Austin Currin rang the Martin Building bells to mark the occasion.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded at Washington and Lee University in 1914, recognizes meritorious leadership and service and encourages good citizenship. New student members must be juniors, seniors, or graduate students; must maintain a 3.5 GPA; and must be involved in leadership and service on campus and elsewhere. [H](#)



OΔK members (L-R) Gabrielle Armour, Larissa Wolf, Matthew Hibdon, Joseph Mosqueda, and Davis Thompson deliver holiday cards to the Tennessee State Veterans' Home in Murfreesboro. Many OΔK members wrote personal messages to the residents.



Karen Petersen

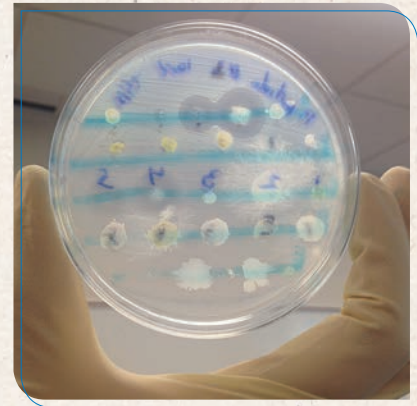
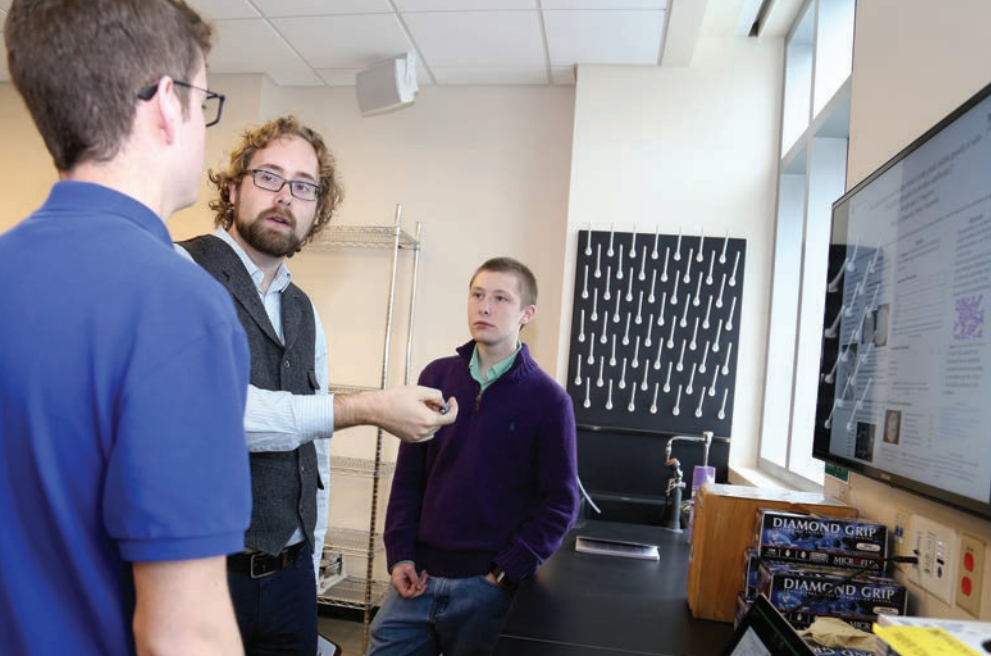
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It's a Small World After All: Authentic Research Experiences in Introductory Biology

Honors students in Drew Sieg's fall introductory biology courses participated in the Small World Initiative, a global undergraduate research collaborative focused on the search for new, effective antibiotics.

Working in teams, students in Sieg's major and nonmajor classes examined bacterial isolates taken from soils at Flat Rock Cedar Glades near Murfreesboro. One hundred isolates were screened to see if they produced chemical compounds that might be used to prevent infections prevalent in hospitals.

Nonpathogenic bacterial cultures (close genetic relatives to common hospital pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus faecium*) were grown alongside the cedar glade isolates, and students looked for evidence of growth inhibition due to antibiotic production. They also screened the isolated microbes for resistance to commonly used antibiotics including kanamycin, tetracycline, and gramicidin, to determine if antibiotic resistance is common in cedar glade bacteria.

To finish the project, each group used molecular biology techniques (such as 16s rRNA gene sequencing) to identify their most promising cedar glade bacteria to species. Dr. Sieg said, "Since little is known about cedar glade microbial communities, this research provides

exciting new avenues for undergraduate research, especially for potential new Honors theses."

Sieg's goal was to give students an authentic research experience with all the highs and lows common to an unpredictable project. "The hands-on exposure to science was exceedingly well received by participating students, even though fewer than half of them plan to pursue a degree in biology," he said.

Participants said that the class equipped them with the ability to perform research and interpret data and the realization that failures tend to reveal more answers and potential information.

The students displayed their research findings to faculty on the last day of the semester, during a poster session that mimicked the environment of a scientific conference. [H](#)

Clockwise from left:

Ethan Wright (left) and James Fingerroot discuss their findings with Dr. Sieg.

Honors biology students (L-R) Kate Perry, Kayleah Bradley, and Risa Witherow explain their procedures.

An example assay plate test for antibiotic production by 20 cedar glade soil isolates.

Phi Kappa Phi Recognizes Students, Faculty



Philip Phillips, president of MTSU's Phi Kappa Phi chapter, displays a certificate recognizing the group for its 25 years of association with the national organization.



Last November, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated 13 Honors students and recognized 14 Honors faculty members as Influential Faculty chosen by those students.

Basic and Applied Sciences students initiated were Biology majors Trang Huynh, Mason Riley, and Yucera Salman; Biochemistry major Kelly Saine; Aerospace major Evan Lester; and Computer Science major Kailey McDonald.

Mass Communication students were Recording Industry major Jacob Breeding and three Electronic Media Communication students—John Duke, Rachel Huttlinger, and Patrick Murphy.

Nausheen Qureshi, a Nutrition and Food Science major, represented the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences; Lydia Harris, a double major in History and Anthropology, represented the College of Liberal Arts; and Trevor Wiemann, a Finance major, represented the College of Business.

Named as Influential Faculty members were Linda Badley (English), Nate Callendar (Aerospace), John DuBois (Biology), Roger Heinrich (Electronic Media Communication), Shannon Hodge (Sociology and Anthropology), Eric Klumpe (Physics and Astronomy), Dawn McCormack (History), Robb McDaniel (Political Science), Nuria Novella (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Philip Phillips (English), Earl Thomas (Management and Marketing), John Vile (Political Science), Stephen Wright (Biology), and Jan Zijlstra (Mathematical Sciences).

The society welcomed a total of 74 students and recognized 54 Influential Faculty members during the ceremony in the Student Union Building. Debra Rose Wilson (Nursing) was the speaker.

Philip Phillips, associate dean, is chapter president; John Vile, dean, is treasurer and fellowship coordinator; Honors executive aide Kathy Davis is chapter coordinator; Gina Logue, News and Media Relations, is chapter secretary and public relations coordinator; and Morgan Murphy is student vice president.

Phi Kappa Phi recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Junior initiates must be in the top 7.5 percent of their class; seniors and graduate students must be in the top 10 percent. [H](#)

A Semester in the Andes

by Samuel Hulsey | *Sam, a transfer student, is a Foreign Languages and Global Studies double major. He received a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship in 2014 and a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) from the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University in 2015.*

Tupananchiskama wayqey." ("Until we meet again, my brother.")

Those were my parting words to Fernando Hermoza, my Quechua professor of four months. As I walked out of class after my final exam, it hit me that my semester in Cuzco, Peru, had really come to an end.

It felt as if it were just yesterday that I was sitting on a plane rehearsing how I would introduce myself to my host family, and now I found myself reluctant to leave. Despite a premature sense of nostalgia for the city and culture that I had grown to love, I felt incredibly empowered and confident as I continued my journey through South America, thanks to all that I had experienced during my time in the Andes.

Academically speaking, the spring 2014 semester has been my favorite thus far. Apart from studying subjects such as the Hispanic modernism movement as well as literature of the conquest, I had the opportunity to explore the most widely spoken native language of the Americas, Quechua. The language of the Inca civilization and the second official language of Peru, Quechua is spoken by over 10 million people throughout Andean countries.

Whether taking a bus to class or people-watching in Wanchaq market, I heard conversations in the native dialect throughout Cuzco that became increasingly prevalent the further I got from the city. Quechua is the first language of many Peruvians

of the Sierra, so when locals found out that I knew a fair amount, our conversations would instantly turn into never-ending vocabulary quizzes.

In addition to being immersed in an extraordinarily interesting curriculum, I spent a fair amount of time working as a volunteer through a program called ELAP, in which I was placed with a local organization based on my interests and abilities. I mainly worked with La Academia de Música: Guitar Hero, an after-school program that caters to the youth of Cuzco by offering lessons in instruments such as pan-flute, guitar, violin, drums, and piano.

Music has always been a huge part of my life, so naturally La Academia struck me as an appealing volunteer placement option. On my résumé I




listed that I play guitar and mandolin and had recently begun learning piano but was by no means an expert of any kind. I thought I had made it very clear that I am self-taught with no formal training; however, I don't believe I was ever fully able to get this idea across.

When I met the program director, Fritz, on my first day volunteering, he asked me what instruments I play. I told him exactly what I had listed on the résumé, trying very hard to emphasize that I had just begun exploring the piano three months before and was still technically illiterate in terms of music. When I finished my explanation, Fritz just looked at me with big eyes and said, "Piano?" Before I knew it, I had

followed him down a hall until we reached a room with two young girls practicing some pretty advanced material. I was immediately introduced as their "professor" of piano and they were told to pay attention to what I had to teach them. He then gave me a reassuring thumbs-up and left me to it. Needless to say, my improvisation skills were seriously put to the test during my time working at La Academia.

Teaching music lessons and learning how to function in new language situations was incredible, but the most memorable part of the whole experience was the time I spent in the mountains. A hiker's paradise, Cuzco is nestled between the two parallel cordilleras that make

up the Andes range. Trailheads were only a short walk from the city, and the trails themselves often led to perfectly preserved Inca ruins. The best hike I took was a five-day trek up, in, and around Ausangate, the tallest mountain in the region, with a pass that reached 5,200 meters (17,060 feet) above sea level. The snow-capped peaks and deep-blue glacial lakes have a beauty that words fail to describe but will forever be etched in my mind.

It was an incredible semester full of new experiences, and I will never forget all the relationships forged and lessons learned during my time abroad. Nevertheless, whenever I think of Peru, I will always think of the mountains. 

Photos by Taylor Freund and Kylie Slayden



Using an Honors Thesis to **Uncover Family History**

by Birgit Northcutt | Birgit is an Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Foreign Languages.

She has been admitted to the University of Cincinnati's MA Program in German Studies for fall.

My father, Uwe Jens Kröger, born in 1934, grew up in the postwar rubble of Hamburg, Germany. This much I knew at the age of twelve, when my family moved from South Africa to my father's hometown. It was then that I finally met my father's parents.

As I grew into adulthood, I questioned my grandparents about their World War II years, and I recall how they were not willing to disclose much information. I badgered my father to write down his memories and experiences as a child during the last years of the war and during the reconstruction period. As with my grandparents, my father did not want to remember or to share, it seemed. I had to wonder why.

For my Honors thesis, I chose to research and write about the post-WWII period in Hamburg. The work I did was a compelling, meaningful journey, and I learned about the difficulties Hamburg citizens had to overcome with my father and grandparents always in mind.

Hamburg was one of many German cities that suffered great destruction from Allied bombing raids. In one terrible attack that lasted five nights, 55,000 died and only 21 percent of apartments documented in 1939 remained undamaged. By the end of the war, the port of Hamburg had lost 80 percent of its functionality, and the wrecks of 2,900 ships crammed its entrance.

I was intrigued to read about the *Trümmerfrauen* (rubble women), who worked diligently to clear the city



of debris after Germany's surrender. Those who worked hardest got more ration cards; however, the rations provided only an insufficient 1,550 calories per day. I wondered how my father and his parents survived on 4g cheese, 10g meat, 4g coffee, 5g fat, 350g bread, 16g sugar, and 32g nutrients (such as beans) per day.

Thus, citizens had to be resourceful to survive. Day-to-day struggles were filled with bartering on the black market and *Hamster-Kartoffel Fahrten* (hoarding excursions). The CARE parcels that many Americans sent to European countries also helped. Each weighed

Hamburg, Germany, 2008





Birgit Northcutt with her father
Christmas 1967, Johannesburg,
South Africa

Birgit with her father in 2000 in
Derby, England

44 pounds and contained 10 daily 4,000-calorie rations and included soap, cigarettes, and chocolate. I wonder if my father's family was helped by the CARE program.

The stability of a new currency, the *Deutsche Mark*, and large-scale infusions of American aid under the Marshall Plan helped lead to the *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle) of the 1950s. Hamburg's economic wreckage gave way to growing prosperity.

During this time, my father, then 16, began a three-year apprenticeship at a chemical company. He was eventually recruited by a shipping company in Walvis Bay, Namibia (called Southwest Africa in those days). He left Hamburg at 22 (in 1956) to pursue a career, and my family was finally able to achieve a better life.

Many questions remain unanswered. My father did not talk much about life after the war, but I remember him saying, "Those were difficult times." Now I understand the magnitude of the difficulties he and his parents overcame. [H](#)



Aftermath of the July 1943 Bombing of Hamburg



Fellowship, Fulfillment, and Friendship

by Davis Thompson | Davis is a senior majoring in Political Science and Mass Communication. He spent the spring semester as an intern in the office of first lady Michelle Obama. He received the 2015 Provost's Award and has been offered a Fulbright Scholarship to the Slovak Republic.

During my junior year, I had the opportunity to participate in the Presidential Fellows program at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress in Washington, D.C. I was one of about 75 students from universities across the nation chosen by the program to learn about U.S. leadership and governance.

Some of the Fellows are funded by their universities, and some are self-funded. MTSU is fortunate to have a private donor to lend support for an annual Fellow. The generosity of alumnus **Stephen B. Smith** (2011) and the **Dorothy Cate** and **Thomas F. Frist Foundation** made it possible for me to have this amazing opportunity.

To be a part of the program, a Fellow must attend two conferences in Washington, D.C., and conduct in-depth research on an aspect of the presidency.

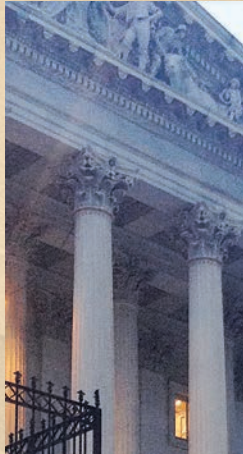
Fellows can be majors in any discipline, but they all must have strong academic credentials, a demonstrated interest in the institutions of the presidency and Congress, and a desire to make public service a part of their careers.

The conferences were a wonderful chance to get to know other Fellows, hear interesting lectures, and participate in group discussions of our projects. I heard members of the Fellows program, sitting senators, former ambassadors, and former cabinet members. Speakers included senators Joe Manchin and Susan Collins, former cabinet secretary Chris Lu, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak. One of the most interesting speakers was Egil "Bud" Krogh, who worked in the Nixon administration and played a role in the Watergate scandal.

Another interesting part of the Fellowship was the mentoring program to assist Fellows with their research. For my research project, "No Comment: A Retrospective Study on the Office of the White House Press Secretary," I analyzed changes in the office since its creation under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Each Fellow was matched with a mentor who was either a young professional who had completed the program or someone with more professional experience. My mentor was Jeff Rosenberg, and I was fortunate to work with him. Mr. Rosenberg was director of National Public Radio for more than a decade and had a working relationship with several different White House press secretaries. He helped my research and writing.

Another great part of the program is the lasting friendships Fellows make with other students across the country. I've stayed in touch with several of the Fellows I met. I even got to spend time with some of them over the summer because we all had internships in D.C. [U](#)



An Intern's Refining Insights

by Davis Thompson



When one thinks of summer, sandals and bathing suits are usually some of the first things that come to mind, not suit jackets and neckties. But it was all of the latter and none of the former for me last summer. In May, I packed as much as I could fit into my suitcase and relocated to Washington, D.C., for three months on an internship that I knew would be interesting, and I hoped it would also be fun.

I had no idea that I would learn so much.

For 12 weeks, I split my time working for two different congressmen: six weeks with Rep. Jim Cooper, who represents Davidson, Dickson, and parts of Cheatham counties, and the next six with Rep. Steve Cohen, who represents Shelby County. I was also enrolled in the Washington Center Internship Program, which offered academic credit for my internship plus a three-credit-hour class.

Cooper and Cohen are the only two Democrats who serve in the Tennessee delegation, but they are very different, so I had two different experiences learning about how a congressional office works.

The internship with Rep. Cooper was very structured and his staff was large, including nine interns. Most of us had some Tennessee connection. Each week, we were assigned to a specific staffer with whom we worked closely for that week. If the staffer had a meeting with constituents or lobbyists, we were allowed to sit in.

During my six weeks in Rep. Cooper's office, I worked with his press secretary, scheduler, staff assistant, and legislative correspondent. The office also coordinated several sightseeing tours for the intern class. We visited museums and art galleries, attended a Washington Nationals baseball game, and toured the White House.

I think the most interesting aspect of my time in Rep. Cooper's office was the daily "intern time." Each day the congressman was in D.C.,

he met with the interns to discuss current events. Each of us was expected to select a news article that interested us and present it to the group with a critical analysis. If the congressman didn't care for what we had to say or thought our logic was flawed, he would not hesitate to let us know. It was stressful and nerve-wracking preparing for our meetings, but I left the office better able to express and defend my views and with a deeper appreciation for the value of reading the news.

Rep. Cohen's internship program was very different but just as revealing. Because the program was smaller, interns spent much time in the office, and we all had our own workspaces. This allowed us more easily to help with policy research and the writing of letters and press releases. We always had a constant amount of work, whether helping a staffer draft a letter, working the front desk, or giving a tour of the Capitol to a constituent. On occasion, we were asked to attend briefings on behalf of staffers who were unable to attend.

One benefit of Rep. Cohen's smaller program is that I got to know members of his staff very well.

I had an amazing summer and was definitely sad to leave D.C. The experience helped me refine my career goals and figure out what steps I need to take to realize them. [H](#)

Collage Award Winners Take Inspiration from Different Sources

The idea of finding beauty and satisfaction in unlikely places was the inspiration for one fall 2014 Creative Expression Award winner. Others found inspiration in the faces of Ugandan children, in memories of a grandmother, and in religious faith.

The *Collage* staff and faculty advisory board chose Savanna Erath and StarShield Lortie as Martha Hixon Creative Expression award winners for their writing. Rebecca Poole and Chelsea Bastoky won Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for visual submissions.



Honors student **Savanna Erath's** short story, "The Business of Falling in Love with Strangers," is about a seemingly ordinary man who sees and experiences great and wonderful things while driving a taxi for a living. Savanna wrote the story during a slump in creativity. A friend suggested she use an online random-prompt generator to jump-start her work. She took the suggestion and got the words "city" and "yellow." She said she then "... made a simple connection between the two: a taxi. Once I had that central idea in mind, the narrative began to grow and take on an identity of its own."

A freshman English major, Savanna hopes to become a full-time writer or work for a publishing house. She has been writing fiction and poetry since age seven and is an avid reader.



Rebecca Poole's winning photograph, *Reflection*, was taken during a May 2014 study-abroad trip to Uganda. She lived and taught children in a village outside Kampala. "When I left the States," she said, "I knew I would find students in Uganda, but I didn't know I would find so many dear

friends. Not a day goes by when I don't think of their darling little faces, smiles, or laughter. Their lives have spoken to mine. They are immeasurably valuable, loved, seen, and were created intentionally for great things. This was the message that I hoped to bring."

Rebecca, a senior majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Photography, believes that art is a gift from the ultimate Creator and that visual communication speaks to us in a way that sometimes nothing else can. She hopes to use photography to make a difference for others, to give voice to those who have none, to bring to light things that should be seen, to reveal injustice, and to show beauty.

Graduate student **StarShield Lortie** wrote her award-winning poem, "Grandma's Kitchen," at the 2013 Southern Literary Festival. "During one of the poetry workshops, we were given the prompt 'In that kitchen . . . ' and ten minutes to write," she said. "I had not previously written anything about my grandmother, so I was a little surprised at what came out. She was constantly covered in flour dust . . . and would often dole out bits of life wisdom as we tried to keep up with her baking lessons."

StarShield, a student of Native American shamanic and Toltec traditions, said her poetry often reflects the sacred journey of life by exploring the process of becoming. She has self-published two chapbooks, *Voices in My Heart* (Pure Heart Press, 2007) and *Graceful Storm* (Create Space, 2014). She also wrote a small volume of jaguar stories called *The Jaguar Diaries* (Create Space). She's working on a collection of poems based on the photography of Bruce Davidson.



Sinking Deep in Mercy's Sea, **Chelsea Bastoky's**

winning painting, is about her faith in God.

"Because of God's great love for me, I can rest in his mercy," she said.

"Despite the depths of my humanity, God's

sovereignty is deeper, much like the water." Chelsea often uses water as a visual metaphor. "The relationship between the female figures and the water can be interpreted as both a spiritual and a nonreligious allegory by the viewer," she said. "Making these paintings is an act of worship, a humble reminder that I belong to God, who has granted me the skills necessary to create this art."

Chelsea is an Art major with a Studio concentration.

Each semester the *Collage* staff uses a blind-grading process to select some 60 pieces for publication out of 250 to 300 submissions. The staff and its faculty advisory board give Creative Expression Awards in four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography. [H](#)

Homeschooled Students Find a Second Home

The Honors College has long been aware of the diversity and intellectual rigor that homeschooled students have brought to MTSU, particularly since 16-year-old Taylor Barnes transferred to MTSU in 2005.

Taylor earned degrees in Chemistry and Physics and won many awards including a National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship, a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship, and a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Taylor choose to attend the California Institute of Technology, one of six prestigious graduate schools to which he was accepted and where he is now finishing his Ph.D.

Since Taylor's graduation in 2009, the Honors College has welcomed many talented homeschooled students. Recent graduate Chelsea Fleet Phillips majored in Theatre and is now working at a local primary school. Another graduate, Lorél Holsinger, is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Colorado–Boulder.

Honors classes are appealing to homeschooled students for many reasons. The Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building is a place to study and relax between classes close to dedicated advisors, staff, and faculty, and it fosters a sense of community. Many homeschooled students appreciate the importance of small classes that focus on discussion. They respond well to the challenge of Honors creative

projects or theses, which are similar to independent projects many have done while being schooled at home.

During a recent homeschooled student meeting, Cheyenne Plott, an Organizational Communication and Foreign Languages (Spanish) double major said, "Honors classes are typically more engaging [and] more focused and require a deeper level of thinking."

Senior Anna Neal, did research with an Honors professor to examine the causes of hive collapses in bumblebee and honeybee colonies, said she prefers Honors classes for similar reasons: small classes and truly in-depth study.

Aerospace major Collin McDonald (who was not able to attend the event) hopes to be a missionary pilot. "The Honors College has been a tremendous blessing not only financially but also academically and socially," he said. "As a homeschooled student, I was very tentative about the transition to college. The Honors College helped ease the transition with smaller classes and personal staff. The Honors College reinforces the values of honesty and integrity [and] motivates me to do my best work—values that were important parts of my homeschool career."

Jonathan Herlan, a Physics major who earned two Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship honorable mentions,



Anna Neal and Dr. Drew Sieg



Jonathan Herlan



Calla Sharp and Jesse Noe



Collin McDonald



Dean Vile and Cheyenne Plott

said the small-group setting of Honors courses is a welcoming factor for students who have been educated at home. Additionally, he said many Honors courses bring a critical element of self-discipline and independent learning that both challenge students to learn their material well and promote a mode of learning perhaps more familiar to homeschoolers. "In my opinion, the Honors general education courses were far more engaging and familial than the non-Honors courses," he said.

Jonathan said incoming homeschooled students should know that the college has many students who excel, and, accustomed to being top performers in their homeschool programs, they may at first feel overwhelmed among so many other high achievers. But he pointed out that such an environment was a "motivator" for him.

In short, a homeschooled student with high standards and a record of academic success is very likely to find a second home in the University Honors College. [H](#)

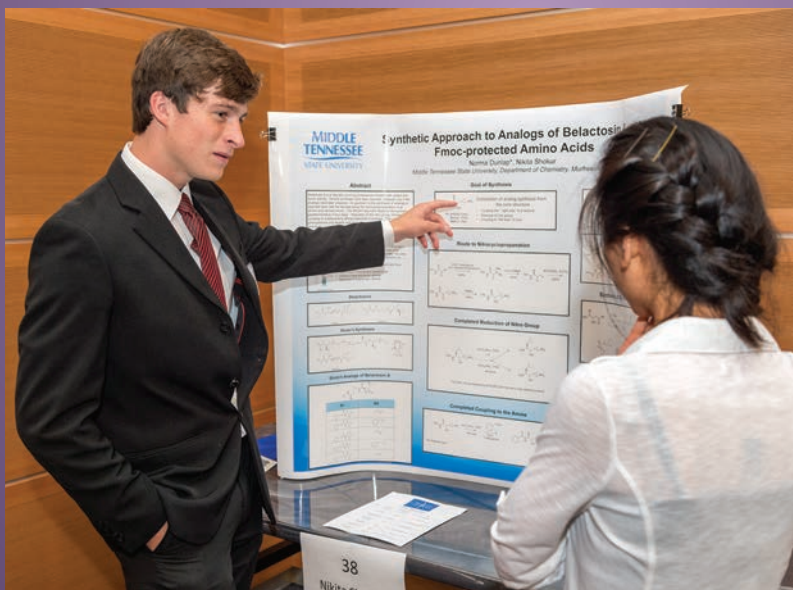
Collage

Students

Members of the fall *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* staff met on Halloween for their final editing session. (L-R, front) Mary Vaughan, Rebecca Clippard, Chloe Madigan, Shelby Flatt, Biven Alexander; (second row) Joseph Kennedy, Davis Thompson, Sara Snoddy, Caitlin Noonan, Garrison Breckenridge; (third row) Patrick Murphy, Amanda Broome, Nausheen Qureshi, Nicole Wolowicz, Trevor Ball; (fourth row) Della Wheeler, Erin Potter; (fifth row) Emily Vonckx, J.T. Cobb, Joshua Tilton, Sydney Smith; (back) Alexa Games, Luke Judkins



Summer Research Celebration



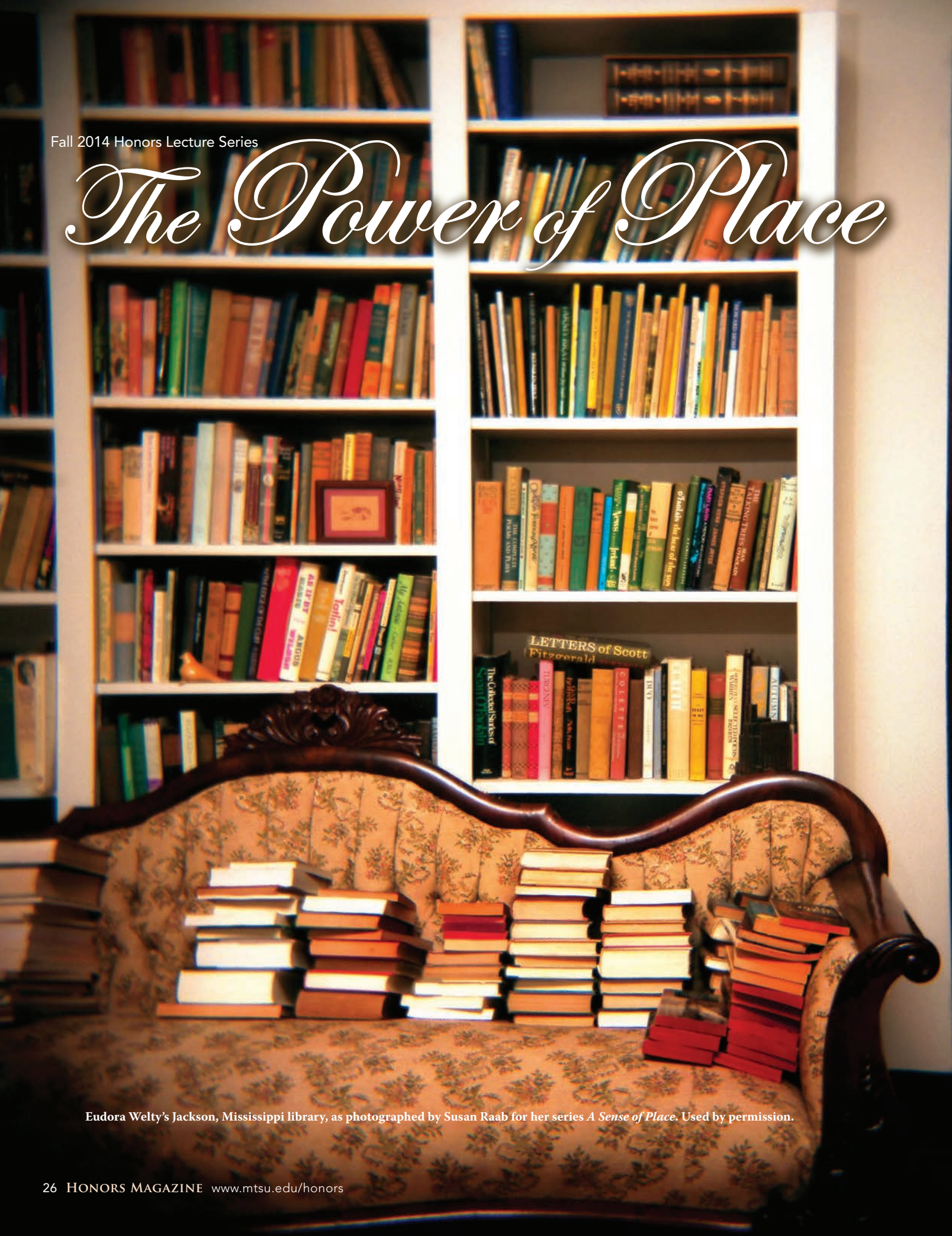
Chemistry major Nikita Shokur explains his research, "Synthetic Approach to Analogs of Belactosin A Using Fmoc-protected Amino Acids," to Biology major Joanne Tan at the MTSU Summer Research Celebration on August 1.



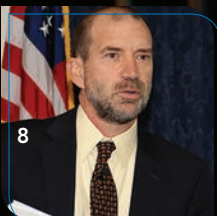
Associate Dean Philip Phillips listens as Matthew Fuller, a Biology major, explains his summer research.

Fall 2014 Honors Lecture Series

The Power of Place



Eudora Welty's Jackson, Mississippi library, as photographed by Susan Raab for her series *A Sense of Place*. Used by permission.



Participants in the fall 2014 Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000) explored the topic “The Power of Place” from many perspectives. The series, which featured

distinguished speakers from such disciplines as English, archaeology, interior design, chemistry, history, law, and architecture, was organized and led by Dr. Philip Phillips, associate dean.

Presentations and speakers included the following:

“Eudora Welty and Place”

Michael Kreyling¹
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English,
Vanderbilt University

“Placing the American Dream: The Founding of Hollywood”

Elyce Rae Helford², English

“Neverlands and Wonderlands: Magical Geography in Children’s Literature”

Martha Hixon³, English

“Environment and Personal Place”

Janis Brickey⁴, Human Sciences

“Catalhöyük: The Development of the World’s First Town”

Brad Bartel⁵
University Provost, Anthropologist, Archaeologist

“SuperMax Prisons: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

Ronald G. Turner⁶
Attorney, Tennessee Department of Correction
(retired)

“One Hundred Years and Beyond: The MTSU Campus Plan”

Patti Miller⁷
(Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning,
Architect)

“Poe Places”

Scott Peeples⁸, English, College of Charleston

“The Importance of Place in Chemistry: Now You See It, Now You Don’t”

Preston MacDougall⁹, Chemistry

After the November 3 “Poe Places” lecture, a Poe-themed reception was held featuring wax skulls, candelabra, ravens, and signs with memorable quotations from Poe’s poems and stories. Serving tables decorated in black, white, and red were filled with Poe-themed food and drink: Purloined Pinwheel Roll-ups, Tell-Tale Heart Cupcakes, Pit and the Pendulum Spinach Puffs, POEtato Nests, and Cask of Amontillado punch.

As always, the series ended with thesis presentations from students chosen by Dean Vile and Associate Dean Phillips. Below are titles and the student presenters:

“The Blues Styles of Gary Clark Jr. and John Mayer: A Comparative Analysis”

Andrew Goldstein
Computer Science, Political Science

“Promotion or Propaganda: An Analysis of the American Government’s Promotional Communications During Both WWI and the Twenty-First Century”

Amanda Broome
Mass Communication (Public Relations)

“Cyberbullying: Experiences and Perceptions among College Students”

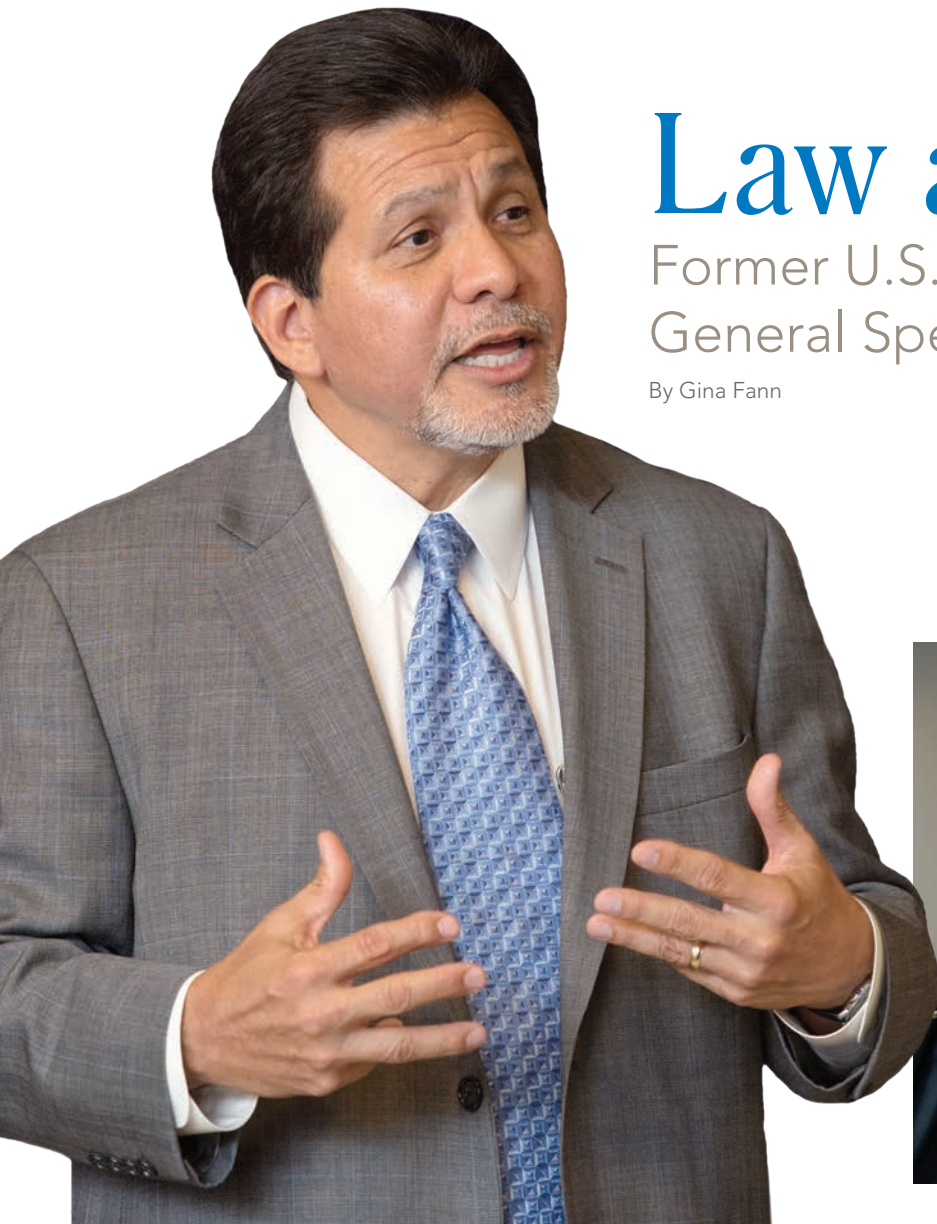
Rikki Grieves
Psychology

“The Effects of Build-Ups on Leg/Foot Pain and Physical Activity Level”

Joanne Tan
Biology

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

The topic for the spring 2015 Honors Lecture Series is “Native American Culture.” For more information, email Dr. Phillips at philip.phillips@mtsu.edu. [H](#)



Law and Order

Former U.S. Attorney
General Speaks to Students

By Gina Fann



A September 25, 2014, talk anticipated as a recruiting tool for his law school turned out to be an opportunity for Alberto Gonzales, former U.S. attorney general, to talk about politics and encourage students to make community service part of their lives.

Gonzales, dean of Belmont University's College of Law, visited MTSU to deliver "Law School and the Legal Profession" at the invitation of the Department of Political Science and the University Honors College.

Gonzales was counsel to George W. Bush when Bush was the

governor of Texas, then joined him in Washington, D.C., as the first Hispanic to serve as White House counsel. He is also a former Texas secretary of state and justice on the Texas Supreme Court.

During his talk, Gonzales expressed empathy for Attorney General Eric Holder, whose resignation had been rumored all that day and was officially announced shortly after Gonzales's visit ended. "Anytime the attorney general announces that he or she is stepping down, it is a sad day," Gonzales said. "Not surprisingly, I'll say that I do not agree with

some of the decisions made by the Department of Justice under General Holder, but I have to honor his service." [Note: At press time, the nomination of Loretta Lynch, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, to replace Holder was stalled in the U.S. Senate.]

"I'm asked sometimes if I have regrets about my time in service. Of course I do," he said. "If you think about the degree of difficulty that an Eric Holder or a President Obama has every day and think they're not making mistakes, you don't understand how difficult these decisions are. But you



Above left: Alberto Gonzales, dean of Belmont University College of Law, fields questions following his September 25 talk.

Above: Honors dean John Vile presents Alberto Gonzales with a gift of appreciation.

At left: Alberto Gonzales speaks with a student after his talk.

identify them, you learn from them, you correct them if you can, and then you move on.”

Gonzales is a native of Humble, Texas, and was one of eight children born to first-generation Mexican-American parents. Despite hardships, Gonzales became an honors student and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy. He earned his bachelor’s degree with honors from Rice University and his law degree from Harvard and returned to Houston to practice law.

Gonzales joined the Nashville law firm of Waller Lansden in

2011 and has served as the Doyle Rogers Distinguished Chair of Law at Belmont College of Law since then. He was named to lead Belmont’s law school in June 2014. He also published *A Conservative and Compassionate Approach to Immigration Reform*, cowritten with Texas immigration attorney David N. Strange last year.

Gonzales encouraged students to use their education to be ready to face opportunities both personal and professional. “You may go to law school, but that doesn’t mean you’re going to practice law,” he

said. “You can do all kinds of things with a law degree. I love what I do, and having that law degree has been very helpful.”

He said public service is the best way to ensure stability and find personal satisfaction. “You have a lifetime to make money, and you have a lifetime to pay back [college] debt. Try to find time to give back to the community.” [H](#)



Citizen and Self: **Awakening**

First-Semester Freshmen to the Past, Their Perceptions, and Their Societal Responsibilities

For three successive fall semesters, Michelle Boyer-Pennington (Psychology) and Mary Evins (History) have taught an Honors Raider Learning Community course that Evins calls “powerful” and “transformative.”

Attitudes, Ethnicity, and Being American: The Psychology and History of Cultural Pluralism, a pairing of Psychology 1410 and History 2020, is taught to a cohort of students in back-to-back time slots. Evins says the course is rigorous and the writing load is heavy, but students examine big issues, and the human interactions make those issues important.

Boyer-Pennington’s and Evins’s interdisciplinary courses blend the psychology of stereotyping and prejudice with the history of nativism, racism, and movements for social justice and, in so doing, explore national goals of liberty and equality for all.

“We do so through the lens of students’ own attitudes and family histories,” Evins said. “We ask, what are our responsibilities as human beings to our fellowman? What are our responsibilities as citizens in a participatory democracy? Social, civic, and self-examination questions focus on citizen and self.”

Students in the Learning Community engage in the American Democracy Project and the Reacting to the Past program. They participate in Constitution Day and voter registration and visit ethnic restaurants to discover new food and people. Some are moved to vote for the first time.

Evins said that trying new things develops empathy, compassion, and humanity. Students begin to reconsider old patterns, pay attention to details they hadn’t noticed before, and see things with different eyes. In the process, students begin to realize the consequences of their actions—and their inaction. They start to see adult roles for themselves in society and understand that they have responsibilities in the wider world. “The course awakens humility, appreciation, and meaning,” she said.

Boyer-Pennington said students are often unaware of biases they have about others. “I have them examine the root of their biases, reflect on their thoughts and feelings about their results, and then plan an encounter, where they can spend 10 hours with members of that group in some kind of service. I see students go from being defensive and naïve about others, often thinking that there are huge, fundamental group differences that can’t be bridged, to a recognition that there is an “us” rather than a “we” and “them”—a huge step in their development of empathy. Their recognition that they have biases that can be changed (and that they now want to change), I believe, will play a valuable role in their encounters with others in the future, as well as their values, beliefs, and civic engagement. It changes them.”

Students in the fall 2014 class echo their teachers’ observations. One said, “This semester has taught me about myself and my place in the world.” Another said, “Voting for the first time made me feel as though I am truly participating in something huge—something that every citizen should be participating in.” A third summed up her experience by saying, “I really started to understand that while everyone has differences, we really aren’t all that different.”

Evins believes that student-faculty interaction is an important aspect of such a class. “We spend a lot of quality time together outside the classroom; students’ access to us is wide open; and they feel a supportive campus environment personally.” In spite of the commitment required, she said, “I can’t revert to old ways of teaching. Interdisciplinary teaching, by definition, elevates the dialogue and calls on students to dig into problems larger than themselves.”

L to R: Jehvon Walker reads a portion of the Constitution on Constitution Day.

Students in the Honors History 2020/Psychology 1410 Learning Community with Secretary of State Tre Hargett on Constitution Day. [H](#)

HONORS FALL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Clockwise from top left:

Madison Tracy, Philip Phillips, and Sydney Smith

Dean Vile meets incoming students

Janie Kullmar, Chandler Warrick, James Kent, and Daniel Knickerbocker

Guest lecturer Michael Kreyling and Philip Phillips

Laura Clippard and Marsha Powers

Walter Duckett dishes it out!

Luke Herndon, Susan Lyons, and Thomas Denney

Fall 2015 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

Gothic Culture

UH 4600-001 • TR 2:40 to 4:05

HONR 117 • CRN 84249

Dr. Linda Bradley

From deathrock to zombie apocalypses to psychotic serial killers to demonically possessed adolescents to vegetarian vampires, contemporary Western culture has been haunted by Gothic iconographies and themes. They inform and are informed by popular psychology, science, ethics, academic theory, and a culture of violence, terrorism, and trauma that often seems to live out our myths. With this context in mind, students in this seminar will study Gothic culture from an interdisciplinary perspective beginning with a brief historical overview from the late 18th-century to the present, noting how its forms and themes have infused art, architecture, literature, film, social institutions, ideologies, and contemporary mass media culture.

Spinning off literary texts such as *Carmilla* (1872), *Beloved* (1987), *Books of Blood* (1984–87),

and *American Psycho* (1990), we will study Gothic themes in key documents in psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology, queer theory, and feminism. A secondary emphasis will be the role of the Gothic in the development of cinema, the horror film, and film theory in general. We will watch up to five films and a number of clips.

This course is open to students who have fulfilled their General Studies requirements and will count three credit hours toward an English major or minor.

For more information, contact Dr. Linda Badley at lbadley@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2597.

Your Brain on Books: Reading Fiction and the Sciences of Mind

UH 4600-002 • TR 11:20 to 12:45

HONR 218 • CRN 87090

Dr. Maria Bachman

What happens when we read fiction? What does it really mean to “get lost” in a good book? Can reading novels rewire our brains?

In this course, we will investigate how recent developments in

the sciences of mind—cognitive psychology, neuroscience, moral philosophy, anthropology, and sociology—can illuminate what happens when we read fiction, particularly novels.

We will employ selected British novels from the nineteenth-through twenty-first centuries as case studies to investigate such theoretical concepts as theory of mind, embodied cognition, mental time travel, and affective narratology. At the same time, we’ll explore some ideas about the evolutionary roots of the arts in general and about narrative, more particularly.

This interdisciplinary Honors seminar is intended to have broad, cross-disciplinary appeal. While *Your Brain on Books* will be of immediate interest to students in English studies, it will also have relevance for students in psychology, sociology, philosophy, education, and anthropology as well as for students who simply like to read and are curious about the power of fiction and its wider role in human experience. [H](#)

Dean John Vile and Associate Dean Philip Phillips presented the Dean’s Award to Joseph Meyer (International Relations, 2014) for earning the highest score on the 2013–2014 Major Field Test.



HALLOWEEN



First row L to R:
Benjamin Burton, Rebecca Clippard,
Janie Kullmar, and Jeffrey LaPorte

Joseph Mosqueda

Judy Albakry, Marsha Powers, and
Laura Clippard

Second row L to R:
Collin McDonald and Laura Clippard

Rebecca Clippard, Tori Richeson,
and Chris Lawrence

Luke Judkins

Third row:
Patrick Murphy, Amanda Broome, and Trevor Ball

Tapping into the **ARTS**

stories and photos by Darby D. Campbell

A photo essayist's look at five Honors students and their creative endeavors

From the opportunities it offers to meet creative professionals through the Visiting Artist Seminar to the challenging standards of its curriculum, the Honors College encourages both creative and scholastic achievement.

Some students take an extra step and incorporate their personal creative pursuits into their academic disciplines.

The following photo essay is a mostly visual look at five Honors students and their passion for the arts.

Whether they are dancing, painting, writing, singing, or playing an instrument, each represents the college well, both as scholar and as artist.

True Blue!

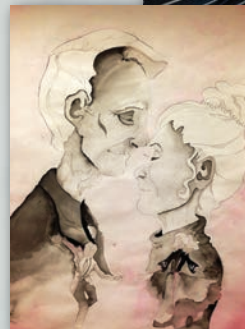


Creating MOTION

Maggie McPheeters was salutatorian of her high school class in Hoover, Alabama. She was drawn to MTSU by the Buchanan Fellowship.

Maggie fell in love with animation when she saw the Disney movie *Tangled*. Now, she's pursuing her passion by concentrating in Animation as part of the B.S. in Mass Communication major. She hopes, one day, to work in children's media, creating works like the one that inspired her.

As an enthusiastic painter, Maggie is hoping to minor in Art. One of her paintings (pictured here) was recently published in *Collage*, the student-produced journal of creative expression printed under the auspices of the Honors College.



A portrait of a young man with short brown hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light grey button-down shirt and a dark bow tie. He is holding a white baton in his right hand, which extends diagonally across the lower right portion of the image. The background is a dark, solid color.

Giving VOICE

Buchanan Fellow **Matthew Pyles**, from Everett, Washington, has become a leader at MTSU. The Music major (with a concentration in Vocal/General Music Education) is president of the MTSU chapter of the American Choral Director's Association, a position that has allowed him to organize trips to operas and conferences. "I am passionate about inspiring future learners and musicians," he says.

Matthew has dedicated himself to becoming a music educator, and he wants to direct high school choirs. He considers himself a "holistic" musician, trying to systematically integrate different styles and influences into his overall understanding. A recent 10-week backpack tour through Europe helped.



A Mighty PEN



Junior **Chloe Madigan** is literature editor for *Collage* and a peer advisor in the MTSU Career Development Center. She is a Buchanan Fellow who also earned a Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship and a Virginia Derryberry Memorial Scholarship. "I am in a unique position to not only use the skills I have acquired in both my English major and my Education concentration but [also] to work closely with other MTSU students and alumni," she says.

Chloe plans to obtain a graduate degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) or comparative literary studies or study for a J.D. in public policy, concentrating in educational policy. [Chloe is also the author of *Ring of Honor* on page 56.]



Finding PATTERNS



Junior **Morgan Davis** is from Ooltewah. She is waltzing toward a degree in Mathematics, with minors in Education and Dance. For her Honors thesis, Morgan is working on a study combining math and choreography.

An Academic Service Scholarship winner, she's also part of MTSU Dance Theater and vice president of the Student Advisory Board of the Dance Program, and she enthusiastically participates in MTeach, a program designed to increase the number of expert mathematics and science teachers across the state and the nation. Her goal is to teach high school math.

A large, close-up photograph of a person's hands playing a clarinet. The hands are positioned on the keys and body of the instrument, which is dark with silver-colored metal parts. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue.

World BEAT

"I live, breathe, sleep, and eat music," says **Katiana Nicholson**, a Buchanan Fellow. "I'm always at the music building if I'm not at work or asleep. Its what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life."

A Murfreesboro native, Katiana is a sophomore Music major in the Instrumental Music Education concentration. She is also a drum major in the Band of Blue, historian of the Omicron Psi chapter of Delta Omicron (a professional music fraternity), a member of the National Association for Music Education, and a resident assistant at Monahan Hall.

She hopes to study abroad through an Honors College program, and she wants to teach music abroad. [H](#)



MURDER

She Writes... and teaches

by Darby D. Campbell

From black widows and femme fatales to villainous vixens, murderesses are the topic in *Women Who Kill*, an Honors course created and taught by professor and playwright Claudia Barnett, who completed her Ph.D. at Ohio State and joined MTSU in 1994.

Offered to Honors students one semester each year, the course delves into the recurring theme of women murderers in literary history. From Seneca's *Medea* to Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and to modern works such as *The Glory of Living* by Rebecca Gilman, *Women Who Kill* spotlights murder from a woman's perspective in many historical and cultural contexts.

"You'd be amazed at how many plays by contemporary American women are about women who kill," Barnett says, citing Gilman, Carson Kreitzer, and Suzan-Lori Parks.



Honors English professor and playwright

CLAUDIA BARNETT

knows of what she teaches

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Barnett is no stranger to stagecraft, and her interest in the course's topic goes beyond teaching to her own writing about women who kill (sometimes just with words). She writes about missing women, women who kill, and women who are silenced. Her personal writing experience and her place as a celebrated playwright gives Barnett special insights to share with students.

Barnett wrote *No. 731 Degraw-street, Brooklyn, or Emily Dickinson's Sister* while serving as playwright-in-residence at Tennessee Repertory Theatre. The play is a tragedy that follows a woman who kills the man she loves and descends into madness. *No. 731* premiered at Venus Theatre in Laurel, Maryland, in November 2013, directed by Deborah Randall. Barnett is working on turning the play into a novel she hopes to have out this fall.

Witches Vanish (the title is a nod to a stage direction in *Macbeth*) is to premiere as part of the Women's Voices Theatre Festival, a showcase for women playwrights to be held in Washington, D.C., and Maryland in September and October 2015. The characters are *Macbeth's* witches, who explore stories of women who have disappeared. The witches travel

from the Spanish Inquisition to a Soviet gulag to Juarez, Mexico. Based on just her first two scenes of *Witches Vanish*, Barnett was awarded the Downstage Left Playwright Residency at Chicago's Stage Left Theatre in 2011.

Barnett's book of plays *I Love You Terribly* draws the reader in with surreal settings, down-to-earth conversations, and witty dialogue exploring romantic relationships and, eventually, the hurt often associated with them. Emily Rollie, artistic director of Independent Actors Theatre in Columbia, Missouri, said the collection is "wonderfully complex and thoroughly engaging." Carnegie Mellon Press describes *I Love You Terribly* as six "glimpses of romance, snapshots of couples in and out of love. Crisp and playful, soulful and sad, these dramas distill life's miseries and joys into stylized sketches with lyrical twists."

CLASS EXERCISE

Barnett's classes are discussion-driven, and students are eager to contribute. For *Women Who Kill*, each student is expected to participate in a scene from one of the plays being studied.



“They love it,” Barnett says. “They look a little scared on the first day when I tell them about it.”

Barnett lights up when she talks about seeing students identify with and then defend their characters in class discussions. The exercise draws students in and adds some entertainment to a serious academic setting.

Because Barnett teaches Honors classes, her students come from an array of disciplines. In any given class, there may be a pre-med student and an agribusiness student discussing literature side by side. Barnett embraces the diversity and appreciates enthusiasm. “The attitude of Honors students is phenomenal,” she says. “They really care and are really good for each other.”

Barnett is especially proud of former student Margaret Hoffman. She and Hoffman have both had plays produced by Independent Actors Theatre in recent years.

A GRACIOUS HOST

Barnett also plays a key role in an important initiative supported by the Honors College—the Visiting Artist Series. She has helped develop the annual Honors College Visiting Artist Seminar, and she coordinates the one-week, one-credit class each February.

The seminar started in 2002 and has brought expert playwrights, poets, fiction writers, songwriters, filmmakers, and other artists to teach a practical workshop for Honors students. In 2014, Barnett worked with Associate Professor Erin Anfinson (Art) to bring stop-motion animators from Tiny Circus, a traveling, community-based art project group, to MTSU to teach the seminar. At the end of the week, students presented their work to the public. Past visiting artists include actress/playwright Heather Raffo, filmmaker Jesse Epstein, and songwriter Nathan Bell.

SETTLING IN

Barnett maintains a laid-back attitude and lifestyle in Murfreesboro. She lives in a log cabin outside town, surrounded by a few acres of trees—a place she says feeds her creativity. Originally from a city in New York, she says she loves the silence, the fresh air, and the deer in her yard. She says she gets her best writing ideas while yanking weeds.

Barnett encourages Honors students to take advantage of the Visiting Artist Series and to sign up for Women Who Kill, a course she says should not be mistaken for how-to instruction. [i](#)



Putting Ink to Paper

from staff reports

If you ask Dean John Vile what book he's working on, don't be surprised if he asks, "Which one?" He's expecting to have six books published this year. And if you ask how many books he has worked on, don't be surprised if he wants to know if you mean as sole author (14), coauthor (4), editor (4), coeditor (5), or introduction writer (4). He can't tell you how many essays he's written or books he's contributed to.

Vile says writing did not come easily to him at first, but he realized that the best teachers he had at William and Mary and the University of Virginia also happened to be writers. He learned that writing is a way for academics to make their classrooms bigger, and working on several books at once became a habit. He used to struggle to find publishers; now, they come to him with ideas.

Early in his career, Vile wrote several articles (based on his dissertation) on the philosophy of William James and on research he began at Princeton on the Constitutional amendment process. It wasn't until he came to MTSU in 1989, however, that he considered writing books. "A book isn't really much more than a compilation of individual articles into chapters," he said. "If you can write articles, then you can write books if you devote sufficient time and have the desire."

Vile's first book, *Rewriting the U.S. Constitution: A History of Proposals from Reconstruction to the Present*, was published in 1991. The book began Vile's career-long search for alternative visions of the U.S. as embodied in proposed changes to the Constitution. It identified about 40 such proposals, but one of his most recent works, *Re-Framers: 170 Eccentric, Visionary, and Patriotic*

Proposals to Rewrite the U.S. Constitution, more than quadrupled the number of proposals he examined and put him on the trail of dozens of others.

With the exception of two years when he was working on multivolume encyclopedias, Vile has written one or more books (or produced new editions) each successive year. Most of them deal with the writing, ratification, and interpretation of the Constitution.

In 2005, his two-volume encyclopedia, *The Constitutional Convention of 1787* was published. He has coedited volumes on presidents from Eisenhower through Johnson and on James Madison (one of his heroes, in whose persona he sometimes gives speeches). He has also compiled a three-volume work listing more than 10,000 proposed Constitutional amendments.

He's written introductions for a number of books and hopes that future scholars will consider some of his work significant enough to reissue. Yet he knows that not everyone is as excited about his work as he is. When he gave a recent book to a speaker visiting MTSU, he told the visitor that one copy meant the speech was good; if it had not been, the gift would have been two copies.

After *Re-Framers*, new editions of two other books, and his hundredth book review for *Choice* magazine, Vile is updating a two-volume encyclopedia and his *Companion to the U.S. Constitution*. He also has a book forthcoming on a Georgia delegate to the Constitutional Convention and one on an unused mechanism for amending the U.S. Constitution.

Vile says a disadvantage to all this writing is the expense of updating his library to have needed research material

continued on page 47

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Honors College dean

John Vile

is a prolific writer of books about America's framing documents



"Of the making of many books there is no end."

Ecclesiastes 12:12



McCormack, Brinthaup Honored

with Foundation Awards



Dawn McCormack



Thomas Brinthaup

Two Honors faculty members, **Dawn McCormack** and **Thomas Brinthaup**, received MTSU Foundation Awards at the annual fall faculty meeting August 22, 2014, in Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Tucker Theatre.

McCormack, an associate professor in the Department of History, received the Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award.

McCormack came to MTSU in 2008. She earned a B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Honors and Graduate faculties and directs archaeological projects in Egypt.

McCormack sees herself as a mentor as well as a teacher and enjoys sharing her love of the ancient world with students. She is committed to finding ways to teach more effectively and reach students who find history boring. She is an advocate of teaching through unscripted role-playing games to engage students and help them fully understand ancient history.

Thomas Brinthaup, a professor in the Department of Psychology and director of

faculty development for the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center, received an Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award.

Brinthaup holds a B.S. from State University of New York–Oneonta, an M.A. from St. Bonaventure University, and a PH.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He came to MTSU in 1990.

For the past six years, his research has been focused on pedagogy and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has published thirteen papers and made eight presentations for professional organizations and has collaborated with fifteen colleagues at MTSU and other institutions. Brinthaup's publications have focused on enhancing courses through technology, effectively integrating instructional technologies, and developing best practices in technology-related pedagogy.

Brinthaup also received the Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award in 2007, and he received the Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award in 2005. [H](#)

Representatives of the University Provost's office and the Honors College celebrate the 92nd birthday of Loretta Gebert, mother of Kaylene Gebert, an Honors faculty member and professor in the Communication Studies and Organizational Communication Department



Members of the 2014–15 Honors Council at a fall meeting are (front, L–R) John Pennington, Joann Tan, Donald Snead, Meredith Dye, (second row) Jane Marcellus, John Vile, Jackie Gilbert, (third row) Craig Rice, Tony Eff, (back) Philip Phillips, Rich Barnett.



2014-15 Honors Council

Paper

continued from page 44

on hand. He admits that his 500-square-foot home library is bursting at the seams (in part because former MTSU professor Everett Cunningham willed him over 10,000 books). His office in the Martin Building is also overflowing, not only with published books but also with books in progress. The Honors staff fears book avalanches and paper slides, but no one has yet needed to send a search party into the office or library to look for him.

Vile says, “At least in my experience, you don’t make lots of money writing books, particularly if the work is calculated on an hourly basis, but it’s very rewarding to think that you are influencing discussions of important Constitutional issues.” Vile is one of three Honors directors or deans to have received the Career Achievement Award, in part because of his writing.

Vile’s father, a poet, was an early influence on him, and Vile has edited three volumes of his father’s work. He says the level of noise in the home of his large family helped him become able to write between phone calls, emails, meetings, and other duties.

The dean’s advice for aspiring writers is to develop an area or areas of expertise and to write, rewrite, and write again. He says the more he has written, the easier it has become. “I’ve been blessed to have found a profession that I love and to continue to be excited about scholarly ideas and to be able to participate in ongoing debates on some of the most weighty constitutional issues.”

He hasn’t written a children’s book or a collection of short stories yet, but just give him time.

For a complete list of Vile’s books, visit <http://mtsu.edu/honors/staff/vile.php>. [H](#)

Reflections of a Proud Dean


by John R. Vile

I know that not everyone is in a position to give, but the Honors College reached a milestone this year when every one of its staff members participated in the University's United Way campaign. Susan Lyons, who spends most of her time at MTSU on event coordination, kept staff members informed about giving options and the college's progress. The result was 100 percent participation! (By the way, Karen Demonbreum, executive secretary on the Honors staff, won one of three reserved parking spots awarded each year to United Way givers. Congratulations, Karen!)

One of the remarkable things about being the dean of the Honors College has been to see the way that the staff pulls together to send cards or flowers when someone is sick or has lost a loved one. The United Way campaign had hardly ended when staff members filled the boxes that had been set out to collect food for hungry MTSU students. I have seen staff members take up money for a student they knew was in need. A number of them also contribute regularly to the University's endowment, which provides scholarships and other support for students in need.

Members of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society regularly fill out greeting cards for local veterans, visit the VA hospital, and help residents of AdamsPlace with their cellphones and iPads. Members of Phi Kappa Phi honor society have collected books to give to families who move into Habitat for Humanity homes. In five of the last six years, Honors students have received the University's award for community service: Jasmine Gray in 2009, Amy Ronner in 2010, Anna Yacovone in 2011, Meredith Holt in 2013, and Tandra Martin in 2014. Gray and Martin won the statewide Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, the former in 2009 and the latter in 2014.

In addition to their daily work on behalf of students, almost everyone on staff is active in local churches or community organizations. Philip Phillips, associate dean, leads the Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons program.

I believe that privilege and service go hand in hand, and those who are blessed have an obligation to serve others. It's a way to experience true joy. Reaching the 100 percent goal for United Way is just one of many indications that staff members of the Honors College believe as I do and that they put their beliefs into practice. 



Honors College staff members (L–R) Philip Phillips, Susan Lyons, and John Vile give donations for the Student Food Pantry to James Taylor, MT One Stop enrollment counselor; Kerry Boylan, outreach coordinator for Ann Campbell Early Learning Center; and Becca Seul, enrollment counselor and pantry coordinator.

Lawler Addresses Contemporary Political Issues

Peter Augustine Lawler, Dana Professor of Government at Berry College in Georgia, delivered “The Future of Liberty Is Confusing” October 30, 2014, in the Martin Honors Building. The talk was sponsored by the Honors College, the Department of Political Science, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Lawler argued that both Democrats and Republicans are becoming more libertarian, with the former emphasizing social libertarianism and the latter stressing economic libertarianism. He believes the nation is becoming increasingly obsessed with what he called (following Bertrand de Jouvenal) securitarianism. Although the nation once had a reputation for Puritanism, it now focuses less on morality and more on the safety of sex and other behaviors, he said.

Lawler expressed concern about the decline of the middle class, which he

associates with the erosion of safety nets once tied to pensions, tenure, and benefits and the rise of self-contracting. He also pointed to the increase in economic inequality and the growing dependence on screens (computers, televisions, iPads, etc.), which, as in the movie *Her*, are often substitutes for human contact. He argued that entitlements are jeopardized by two demographic factors: longer lives and fewer children. The latter phenomenon is tied, in part, to more two-income families, which make it difficult to care for more than two children.

Barriers to progress once posed by race, gender, sexual preference, and other factors have been lowered, and citizens have far greater access to art and culture than ever before, according to Lawler. However, he asserted that workers are increasingly divided into those who do cognitive

work and those who work for them. He

said that technocrats are controlling more and more work, and workers are increasingly soulless.

Lawler speculated that although biotechnology holds great promise, it’s widening the separation of sex and reproduction. He claims that today’s calls for safer sex could one day translate into demands that the state control reproduction to produce people with more intelligence and better health and no genetic defects.

Lawler said he favors government policies that bolster families.

Dean Vile, who attended graduate school at the University of Virginia with Lawler, called the speaker one of the nation’s leading political theorists, who brings fresh perspectives to topics often only approached from partisan positions. [H](#)



Honors Magazine won first place in the 2014 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) newsletter contest. Philip Phillips, associate dean, accepted the award at NCHC’s annual conference in November. More than 700 member institutions are eligible to enter the contest.



Oh, the Places It's Been!

(Return of the Lion King)

The college was both pleased and disheartened when a student, not believed to have been the kidnapper, found and returned the lion statue that had been missing for several months from the wall on the east side of the Martin Building. We were pleased because the other three statues (particularly the now-retained one's mate on the other side of the wall) are back in balance, but we were sad to see that the statue had been damaged and glued back together.

Too happy to ask too closely about who had custody of the statue during its absence—which was apparently

the result of a prank that got out of hand—we can only imagine that the lion fought many battles on behalf of the Honors College. It should be welcomed home as a hero. Maybe it fought the forces of ignorance and apathy. Maybe it defended students more known for academic ability than for physical prowess.

Whatever the lion's story, the college is happy to have an old friend back. We hope that, in the future, pranksters can find less destructive ways to have fun. H

Prisons and Pedagogy

In fall 2014, the University Honors College and the College of Liberal Arts cosponsored a colloquium, "Prisons and Pedagogy," that explored connections between prison education programs, prison activism, and the university classroom.

In the first half of the program, a panel of MTSU faculty members discussed their participation in prison outreach programs and their research on prison populations. Philip E. Phillips, associate dean and founder and director of the Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons program, introduced the speakers.

Brett Hudson, a lecturer in the Department of English, discussed his role in the prison reading program and explained how the prison classroom has affected his university teaching. David Lumpkin, another lecturer in the English Department, shared his experiences as a creative writing tutor on Tennessee's death row and read an essay written by one of his students. Meredith Dye, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, discussed her research on the criminal, educational, and family backgrounds of women serving life sentences in Georgia prisons.

After the panel discussion, Don Whitfield of the Great Books Foundation in Chicago presented a Shared Inquiry workshop. The Great Books Foundation developed the Shared Inquiry approach for small-group discussions, and faculty members use it with their incarcerated students. Its basic method involves beginning with an open-ended question posed by the discussion leader about a book the students have read.

Attendees also learned about the Great Books program in middle Tennessee, in which MTSU faculty volunteers lead reading group discussions with inmates at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, Lois DeBerry Special Needs Facility, and the Tennessee Prison for Women. The program has been in place since 2008 and is being offered in the spring. [H](#)

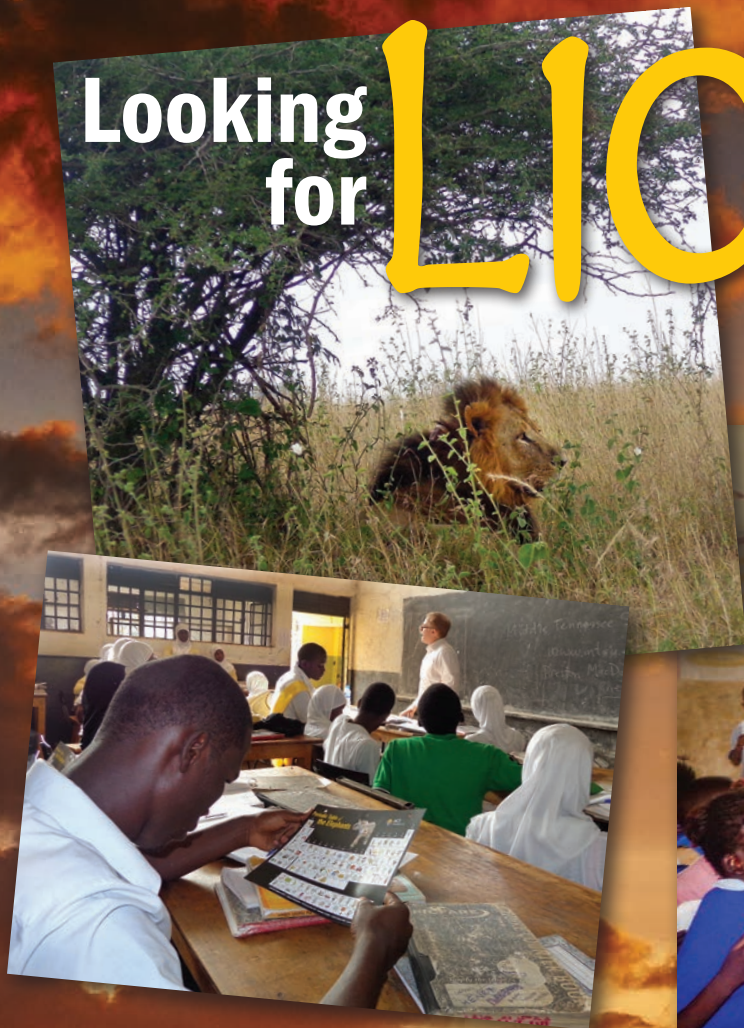
Prisons and Pedagogy panel (L-R) Don Whitfield, Meredith Dye, David Lumpkin, Brett Hudson, and Philip Phillips



Looking
for

LIONS

in
East
Africa



In summer 2014, Honors chemistry professor Preston MacDougall visited East Africa with several objectives in mind. First, he wanted to fulfill a graduation-day promise made to one of his eldest son's Harvard roommates. Second, he had arranged to visit high schools in Kampala, Uganda, whose students wanted to know how to pursue science studies at American universities. Third, he was scheduled to hold seminars at East Africa's two most prestigious academic institutions: Makerere University in Uganda and the University of Nairobi in Kenya. Fourth, he had promised Dean Vile to be on the lookout for the then still lost Honors College stone lion.

THE PROMISE

Every year, the Kenyan government offers two students full-ride scholarships to Harvard University but only funds one trip home per year. So instead of paying expensive airfares and returning to his native Kenya for college breaks, Isaac Ochieng sometimes went home with his roommate and stayed with the MacDougall family in Murfreesboro. When the young men graduated in 2007, Isaac's Kenyan father was introduced to his "American father." Instead of a brief hello followed by a permanent goodbye, MacDougall promised to visit Kenya one day when his duties took him to that part of the world.

SPAM (NOT!) FROM KAMPALA


Unsolicited emails from Africa often involve Nigerian banks and are thwarted by most spam filters, but one email from Teach and Tour Sojourners made it through the filters and got more than a glance from MacDougall because of his promise. The email described a program designed to connect American educators with schools in East Africa and to provide cultural and safari experiences. In harmony with the advice he gave students in his fall 2014 Honors seminar, The Importance of Place in Chemistry, Dr. MacDougall decided to visit Kenya. Before long, he found himself welcomed by the Ochieng family in their small ancestral village of Ajigo and lecturing to

bright high school students in Kampala's City High School and Kibuli Secondary School.

CHEMISTRY AMBASSADOR

Dr. MacDougall delivered "Computational Modeling and Visualization of Biomolecules" at two well-attended public events at Makerere University and the University of Nairobi. Both were unexpectedly interrupted halfway through. Attendees gave him standing ovations when he announced that he was providing site licenses for two state-of-the-art molecular modeling software packages essential for doing advanced computational chemistry research. Knowing that good ambassadors arrive bearing gifts and that universities in East Africa probably could not afford such licenses, MacDougall had prearranged the gifts with the software developers before he left for Africa.

LOOKING FOR LIONS

Dr. MacDougall had joked with Dean Vile that while in Africa he would keep an eye out for a missing stone lion that had disappeared from its place outside the Martin Building. (Fortunately, it was returned last fall.) But he was serious about the stack of pamphlets he took with him, which described MTSU's prestigious Buchanan Fellowships. The Honors College hopes to have at least one international Buchanan Fellow each year. According to MacDougall, the pamphlets caught the attention of many of the high school students he spoke to. "Who knows," he said, "one of the most promising young scholars might just be lionhearted enough to catch the eye of the selection committee." 

Top left: MacDougall saw many wild animals in Kenya and Uganda, including this lion, which was photographed without a telephoto lens.

Dr. MacDougall is greeted with enthusiasm in a second-grade classroom in Ajigo, Kenya, where he distributed the American Chemical Society's fun and informative Periodic Table of the Elephants.

Bottom left: At Kibuli Secondary School in Kampala, Uganda, Dr. MacDougall answered many questions about chemistry and careers in science and how African students can study in the United States.



A Statue, Evermore

by Randy Weiler

Honors College associate dean Philip Phillips plays a key role in Boston's long-overdue recognition of native son Edgar Allan Poe

Dr. Philip Phillips's 30-year immersion in the life and works of Edgar Allan Poe began innocently enough with a high school English class in the mid-1980s. As a cadet at Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee, Phillips first encountered Poe's work as a junior in Linda McDearman's American literature class.

"It's something that has had lifelong consequences," Phillips said. "I was exposed to Poe and captivated by his dedication to poetry. It inspired me to purchase the Modern Library edition of the complete works of Edgar Allan Poe, which I would read in study hall."

Phillips doesn't remember what he paid for the hardcover volume, which he guesses to be about three

inches thick and which he still owns. A glance at his Poe-related academic achievements since, though, shows that the book was worth every penny.



PSA president Philip Phillips with the artist, Stephanie Rocknak.

Phillips earned a bachelor's in English from Belmont University and a master's and doctorate in English from Vanderbilt before beginning his teaching career. He is now associate dean of the University Honors College at MTSU. A past recipient of a Mary Catherine Mooney Fellowship at Boston Athenaeum, he is president of the Poe Studies Association, the scholarly organization dedicated to the writer's life and work. His research and writings on Poe have appeared

in *Poe Studies*; the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*; *Edgar Allen Poe in Context*; *Deciphering Poe: Subtexts, Contexts, Subversive Meanings*; and *Approaches to Teaching Poe's Prose and Poetry*. He is a former member of the editorial board of the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*.

Most recently, however, Phillips's expert status led him to the forefront of a significant new civic art project in the heart of Boston.

From the Ground Up

In 2012, Phillips was one of just a few handpicked national advisory board members selected by the Poe Foundation of Boston to supervise the creation of a life-sized statue of the writer in the city's core. Others included Sam Cornish, poet laureate of the City of Boston; Paul Lewis, a noted Poe scholar and professor in the Department of English at Boston College; and Dan Currie, past president and cofounder of the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston.

In October 2014, *Poe Returning to Boston* was unveiled in the city-owned plaza at the southeast corner of Boylston Street and Charles Street South—Edgar Allan Poe Square. The bronze statue was created by Stefanie Rocknak, who was selected by Phillips



Poe Foundation of Boston Board members:
Philip Phillips, Katherine Kim, and Rob Vellella

and his fellow advisory board members in 2012 from among 265 artists from 42 states and 13 countries. The Poe Foundation of Boston, to honor the writer's birth in the city on January 19, 1809, oversaw funding and installation. The unveiling attracted a crowd of more than 400 and news coverage by the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*, among others.

"The statue will be enjoyed by generations," Phillips said. "I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that *Poe Returning to Boston* will be, if not already, the most popular bronze statue in the city of Boston, with the possible exception of [the statue of] Paul Revere. It is a dynamic work of public art that invites people to approach Poe on street level."

Just two blocks away from the Carver Street home where his parents (both actors) lived, the statue depicts Poe walking away from the Boston Common Frog Pond area, with a raven, alluding to his famous poem, to his right, attached to a suitcase full of manuscripts that spill onto the street and also a heart (representing "The Tell-Tale Heart"). Tourists and passersby can read the selections, which Phillips helped choose.

Coming Home

The statue is a long-overdue recognition of Poe in his hometown. Before it, very little attention had been paid to the writer's checkered Boston history. Most people associate Poe with Baltimore, a city where he lived that celebrates



photo by Russ Rocknak

his literary achievements with far greater visibility, even extending to the name of its NFL team.

"Poe didn't particularly like the Boston literary establishment, including writers like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose aesthetic notions were very different," Phillips says. "There was a sense that many New England writers came from affluence, that they had the leisure to write, while Poe existed in crushing poverty and was always an outsider." Poe accused many New England authors, notably Longfellow, of plagiarism.

Phillips's research on Poe's often-vindictive behavior regarding Boston won him attention from Poe scholars and enthusiasts. Thus, his role in selecting the works incorporated in the statue's dropped pages is particularly appropriate.

One of those selections, a November 1845 piece called "Editorial Miscellany," which appeared in *Broadway Journal*, a New York literary magazine, illustrates Poe's frustration: "The Bostonians are very well in their way. Their hotels are bad. Their pumpkin pies are delicious. Their poetry is not so good. Their Common is no common thing—and the duck pond might answer—if its answer could be heard for the frogs."

Phillips says that during an 1845 Boston appearance, Poe's speech included a recitation of "The Raven" from the same stage on which his mother had performed, while pregnant, in 1809.

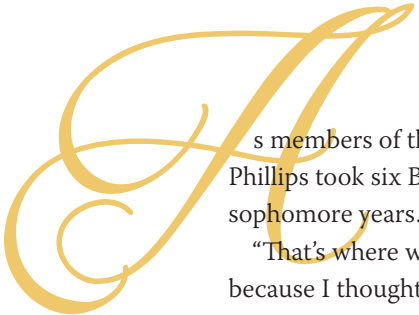
continued on page 59

*Sometimes students
get more out of their
Honors College
experiences than
just a degree.*



Rings
of HONOR

by Chloe Madigan



As members of the third Buchanan Fellows class, Chelsea Fleet and Dylan Phillips took six Buchanan Seminars together during their freshman and sophomore years.

“That’s where we first met, I guess,” said Dylan. “I had already noticed Chelsea because I thought she was pretty.”

Chelsea said, “I was really oblivious. The first time I talked to him, I said, ‘Can I take a picture of your shirt?’ He had a shirt with penguins on it, and I had an inside joke with some friends about penguins. So, I took a picture of his shirt and tagged him in it on Facebook.”

“Obviously, I took this as a sign that she must be into me,” said Dylan. “I sent her Facebook messages and we exchanged numbers but, like she said, she was just really oblivious.”

Though it took a while before the two realized what was happening, they agree that their friendship blossomed when Chelsea had to leave school for medical reasons. During the second semester of her freshman year, Chelsea stayed home while struggling with Crohn’s disease. During that time, Dylan texted her to talk and check on her health.

“When I came back sophomore year, I was in a wheelchair,” Chelsea said. “Dylan was always there to push me around campus from one class to the next. Once, he even carried me across a parking lot when I couldn’t walk.”

Eventually, they addressed their feelings for one another. After a summer of hinting, Dylan asked Chelsea to be his date for Omega Delta Psi Family Night. They both say it was a wonderful first date. They dated on and off for the next two years but not exclusively until they were seniors.

They had a lot of classes together because of the Buchanan curriculum and by their own design. They studied together in the library and eventually became good friends rather than just acquaintances. Chelsea said, “I feel like we were always in each other’s lives. I think we’re so strong now because we had three years of friendship instead of jumping into it when we were super infatuated.”

One of the most important aspects of Chelsea and Dylan’s relationship is their faith.

“Our faith is our life,” said Chelsea. They were both raised as Christians and have attended the same church in Shelbyville for quite some time. “We see everything through the lens of Christ and the Gospel . . . and we attribute our relationship to God’s plan.”

As a road manager for a Christian rapper, Dylan spent months on tour and had been saving for Chelsea’s vintage-style diamond engagement ring while on the road. Each crew member got a per diem for food even though the churches



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Rings

continued from page 59

where they performed usually gave them meals. The crew on his bus came up with an idea to help him out.

“They came up with this idea called ‘per diem challenges.’” Dylan said. “I would have to do something crazy, and they would all give me their per diems for that day.”

Chelsea didn’t know about all this until the Monday after Valentine’s Day last year. To make up for missing the holiday because he was on tour, Dylan told Chelsea he had a special date planned—a visit to all the places on campus that were special to them. Dylan had created a time capsule of their inside jokes and memories from the previous years. After visiting their old dorm, Todd Hall, and Martin Honors Building, they ended the tour near Wisser-Patten Science Building.

“There was a tent set up with candles, and there were pictures of us everywhere,” recalled Chelsea. “And one of Dylan’s friends was there giving us a private concert.” Dylan gave Chelsea a hand-painted wooden sign that read, “Look at the stars; look how they shine for you,” words from the song “Yellow” by Coldplay.

“I think ‘Yellow’ is just the best song ever,” Dylan said. “And one time I had a friend tell me, ‘If you love that song, don’t ever give it to a girl because if you break up you’ll end up hating it.’ But I knew that Chelsea and I weren’t going to break up so I gave her my favorite song.”

Then Dylan gave Chelsea a little penguin figure and said he wanted to bury the time capsule but he needed her to keep lookout because he didn’t want to get in trouble.

“So I was standing with my back to him,” said Chelsea, “and then he taps me on the leg and says, ‘one more thing.’ And I turned around and he was on one knee!”

After four years in a relationship, the two knew that their story was not meant to end with graduation. On September 20, 2014, they became the first couple from a Buchanan class to marry.

Chelsea and Dylan remind us that not every fairy tale features faraway castles and magic spells. Sometimes a new beginning can grow out of library study dates, song lyrics, penguin T-shirts, and true friendship. [H](#)

[Editor’s Note: Chloe Madigan is a Buchanan Fellow majoring in English and literature editor on the Collage staff. See more on Chloe in this edition’s photo essay on page 39.]

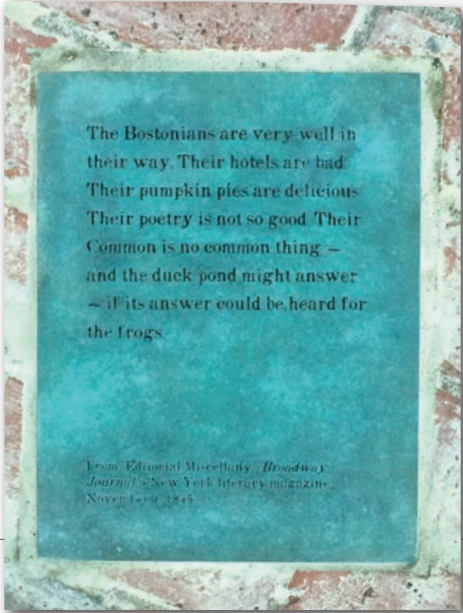
Dylan, who started out as a road manager for Derek Minor, a Christian hip-hop artist and record producer, has embarked on a hip-hop career under the name nobigdyl. “Once [Derek] heard my music, he fired me,” Dylan said. “He told me he didn’t want me posing as a road manager, he wanted me to pursue what I was good at. So I took his advice, and now I’m making music.”

“My music is honest and extremely transparent,” Dylan says. “I am an open book, and if I can motivate, inspire, or help someone through showing my struggles and the hope I cling to, I will gladly expose myself. I believe in the power of the pen. I believe you can greatly affect how someone sees the world by what you write. And I aim to point people to the truth with my words.”

Dylan’s EP *Smoke Signal* dropped January 19, and his debut album, *tribe*, is set for release in late spring. He has gotten more than 50,000 listens on Soundcloud and over 10,000 views on YouTube as of late last fall.

Derek Minor is now Dylan’s mentor and like a big brother. Dylan has also worked with artists such as Chad Jones and B. Cooper. He has performed locally and regionally, most notably on the Rapzilla stage at Flavor Fest 2014 in Tampa. His music and updates can be found at nobigdyl.com [H](#)

Taylor Barnes (Chemistry and Physics, 2009), who recently received the National Energy Research Scientific Computer Center (NERSC) 2015 Award for Innovative Use of High Performance Computing, visits with Dean Vile at the Honors Building.



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Evermore

“My research uncovered that the Boston Theatre and the Odeon were one and the same building, so Poe’s appearance there in 1845 was not the first time he had been on that stage,” Phillips says. “I believe that Poe was aware of this at the time of his appearance there.”

Phillips says that, in her brief career as an actress, Eliza Poe was widely admired as an “ornament of the stage” by drama critics and that Poe wanted to be received in Boston the way his mother had been—with admiration.

Phillips says, “Poe’s mother, Eliza, whom he adored and idealized and who died while Poe was a child, left him a portrait on which she wrote for him always to remember Boston, the city of his birth, and where she had so many friends. That always stuck in Poe’s mind. So when he left Richmond, Virginia, after he had a falling out with his foster father, John Allan, he went to Boston. That was where he went to establish himself as a writer, and, eventually, where he first published poetry.”

Lasting Impact

Phillips delivered a speech in the ballroom of the Park Plaza Boston Hotel just before the statue’s unveiling. Rocknak, Paul Lewis, novelist Matthew Pearl, and former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky, who teaches at Boston University, also spoke.

“I felt great satisfaction in playing a part in the event,” Phillips said. “I never imagined being involved in a committee to erect a piece of art in Boston. I have had a lot of fun.” 

Board of Visitors Gets a Day of Updates

A tour of the new Science Building and presentations by Honors students were highlights of the annual Honors Board of Visitors meeting October 17.

Twelve board members attended the one-day event in Simmons Amphitheater of the Martin Building: Don Ash, Gordon Bell, Katie Crytzer, Donald Gintzig, Raiko Henderson, Debra Hopkins, Metrick Houser, June McCash, Paul Martin Jr., Don Midgett, Howard Wall, and Don Witherspoon.

Bud Fischer, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, talked to board members in one of the new science laboratories. Fischer stressed innovations within his college, the transformative effect of the new building, and his college's continuing cooperation with the Honors College. He said that with its new \$147-million facility, the College of Basic and Applied Sciences is becoming a destination of choice for students from throughout the Southeast.

Seven students shared their Honors College experiences with board members. Nausheen Qureshi, a Nutrition and Food Science major, spoke in part about her trip with other Honors students to Italy last summer. Collin McDonald, an

Aerospace major who also studied abroad in Italy, told of his desire to be a missionary pilot. Luke Judkins, an English and Music double major, talked about being published in *Scientia et Humanitas*. Lee Rumble, a Plant and Soil Science major, and Trevor Moyo, a Construction Management major, both told of their experiences as Honors Transfer students. Anna Neal and Martina Ramos, both Biology majors, rounded out the session by talking about research they had conducted.

Dean Vile spoke about the state of the Honors College, emphasizing increased fall enrollment, increased scholarships and fellowships, the success of the Buchanan and Honors Transfer Fellowships, and various awards that the college had won over the past year.

Shelley Thomas explained the work of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), which is housed in and sponsored by the Honors College. CALA has been awarded outside funding to teach foreign languages through physical movement. The program is open to high school and University students and to the public.



Front row L-R: Raiko Henderson, Donald Gintzig, June McCash, Debra Hopkins, Katie Crytzer, Metrick Houser
Back row L-R: John Vile, Howard Wall, Don Midgett, Paul Martin Jr., Gordon Bell, Don Ash, and Don Witherspoon, and Philip Phillips



Distinguished Visiting Honors Scholar Drew Sieg spoke in the afternoon, describing his work with students over the summer examining hive collapses in honeybee and bumblebee colonies and an exercise in which students in his introductory biology classes test soil samples for antibiotics.

During a buffet lunch for board members in the upstairs study area of the Honors Building, Dr. Vile presented Paul W. Martin Jr. with a 1911 Award from the University Foundation.

The gathering ended with a short business meeting at which board members expressed hope that the college could continue to sponsor a Distinguished Visiting Honors Scholar. A number of board members, including Raiko Henderson and her family, joined Honors staff the next day at the Alumni House for the Homecoming parade. [H](#)

MTSU Is Represented at National OΔK Founders Day

by Matthew Hibdon | *Matthew is an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts, a 2012 Honors graduate, a charter member of the MTSU circle of OΔK, and a member of OΔK's National Membership Committee.*

In December 2014, I made a pilgrimage to Omicron Delta Kappa headquarters in Lexington, Virginia, the birthplace of our society, to attend OΔK Founders Day. The national headquarters is housed in the old Lexington Train Station, which borders the campus of Washington and Lee University.

I made it a point to see significant sites on campus. On the morning of December 3, I visited Reid Hall, where 15 leaders met as members of OΔK for the first time in 1914. Renovations have changed the interior of Reid Hall, but the experience of seeing where OΔK began was remarkable.

In nearby Washington Hall, a commemorative plaque for the society's 25th anniversary hangs on wall next to an exhibit about the leadership of President George Washington. The plaque lists founders' names, a statement about the society's beginning, and the OΔK Key.

While the Washington and Lee buildings are great reminders of the past, the train station, built in 1883 and expanded in 1913, is a particularly special connection to the OΔK founders. Most students and faculty members traveled to Lexington by train at the turn of the twentieth century, and the founders

would have known the train station as it still looks today.

Before leaving Lexington, I completed the last objective of my journey. The OΔK Foundation created a special campaign for the society's centennial, and MTSU's OΔK Circle made a donation of \$100. I presented the check to OΔK's executive director, Dr. Tara Singer, in the lobby through which our founders passed 100 years ago. [H](#)



Matthew Hibdon presents a \$100 donation from the MTSU OΔK Circle to Dr. Tara Singer, executive director.



HOMECOMING

First row L to R:

Mohammed and Judy Albakry and children
Amanda and Sami

Jim and Debra Hopkins, June McCash

Philip Phillips, Sharmilla Patel, Don Midgett,
Linda Vile, and John Vile

Second Row:

Alumni Amy and Garrett Shaw, Biology
chair Lynn Boyd

John and Raiko Henderson and their children
(L–R), Rebecca, Samuel, Michael, and Sarah

Kailey McDonald, Taylor Webb

Third row:

John Vile, Bruce Petrachak, Don Ash

Matthew Hibdon, Joseph Mosqueda,

Austin Wood, Brooke Morgan, Walter Duckett

Linda Vile, Gordon Bell, Don Midgett

Class Notes {students}

Marissa Goad (Science, 2015) has been accepted to the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University and will attend this fall.

Kayla McCrary (Political Science) is working with Leadership Africa USA in Washington, DC this spring. The non-profit partners with African organizations and government institutions in developing and implementing youth leadership programs that emphasize sustainable peace and development. As an intern, Kayla works on development programs, coordinates events for incoming African ambassadors and program officials, and attends Congressional and Senatorial hearings relevant to African interests.

Trevor Moyo (Construction Management) has been appointed as an inaugural member of the national Omicron Delta Kappa Student Advisory Board.

Lee Rumble (Plant and Soil Science, 2016) was selected in the fall as the lone recipient of the Tennessee Vegetation Management Association (TVMA) Scholarship. [H](#)

RECIPIENTS OF FALL 2014 URECA FUNDING

(Undergraduate Research Experience
and Creative Activity)

Ciera Cope	Sara Northcutt
Michaela Edwards	Connor Olson
Kristin Fabri	Bryan Overbey
Emily Grosskreutz	Mason Riley
Lauren Heusinkveld	Sydney Smith
Lenzie Howell	Corrine Wheeler
Thuy Huynh	Logan Whiles
Megan Merrick	Rebecca White

Class Notes {faculty and staff}

A play by **Claudia Barnett** (English), *Witches Vanish*, has had developmental readings at the MultiStages New Works Finalist Festival (New York), the 8th Annual Women's Work Festival (St. Johns, Newfoundland), the Great Plains Theatre Conference (Omaha, Nebraska), and the 13th Annual Page-to-Stage Festival at Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.). The play will have its first full production at Venus Theatre in Laurel, Maryland, in September 2015 as part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival, a collaboration among 44 theaters in the Washington, D.C., area that presents world premieres by women playwrights.



Claudia Barnett with readers
at the Kennedy Center
(photo by Adam S. Lowe
Photography, Venus Theatre)

ASL Adam S. Lowe
Photography

Class Notes {faculty and staff}

Marc Barr (Electronic Media Communication) is chair of the SIGGRAPH 2015 International Conference and Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques, which will be held this August in Los Angeles.

Catherine Crooks (Psychology) received a grant from Dollar General Literacy Foundation to continue work on health literacy. Crooks and fellow Psychology Department member Stuart Bernstein accepted the \$15,000 award at a reception in May 2014 at Nashville Public Library. The money will support expanded efforts of a Murfreesboro City Schools and College of Behavioral and Health Sciences partnership focused on addressing education and environmental issues that affect student and family success.

Lara Daniel (Accounting) recently had an article accepted by the *Journal of Legal, Ethical, and Regulatory Issues*. The article, "Sorrell v. IMS Health, Inc., Supreme Court Ruling on Pharmaceutical Data Mining Fuels Continuing Debate," was cowritten by **Katie Kemp** (Management and Marketing).

Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences) co-organized, cochaired, and spoke at the Minisymposium on Mathematical Modeling and Control of Ecological and Epidemiological Problems at the 2014 SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences, in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 4–7, 2014. Ding was also a coprincipal investigator

for a National Science Foundation grant in support of "A Catalyst to Advance the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic STEM Careers at Middle Tennessee State University," a project she directed with Brad Bartel, Jackie Eller, Karen Petersen, and Judith Iriarte-Gross.

The following Honors faculty members have been tenured and promoted to associate professor: **Meredith Dye** (Sociology and Anthropology), **Tricia Farwell** (Journalism), **Katie Foss** (Journalism), **Amy Kaufman** (English), **Dawn McCormack** (History), **Ann McCullough** (Foreign Languages and Literatures), and **Gina Pisut** (Human Sciences).

Paul Fischer (Recording Industry) and **Beverly Keel**, department chair, were invited speakers last spring on a panel at the United States branch of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music conference at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. Fischer and Keel are both past presidents of the organization.

Martha Hixon (English) received a 15-year service award, and **Marsha Powers** (Honors) received a 10-year service award.



Hilary Stallings
Miller skydiving

Hilary Miller (College of Liberal Arts manager of recruitment and resources) and Marine veteran **Sean Martin** (Sociology and Anthropology) were recently chosen to serve on the Governor's Tennessee Veteran Education Taskforce, a group charged with identifying common educational hurdles for transitioning veterans, researching best practices to serve student veterans, and making recommendations on improving opportunities for veterans to earn a certificate or degree beyond high school.

Philip E. Phillips (Honors) delivered "Honors Education and the Examined Life" to over 400 students at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, at the institution's convocation last November. He also received a 15-year service award last fall and attended the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges annual meeting in Nashville December 6–9.

Angela Hague (English) received the 2014 Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award in December.



David Foote, associate dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, left; David Urban, dean, Jones College; and John Vile, dean of the University Honors College, right, with George Mason University economist Yong J. Yoon, center, who presented "Buchanan's Last Book: *Individualism and Political Disorder*" last October. The book is a collection of papers by Dr. Yoon and the late James M. Buchanan, MTSU alumnus and Honors College benefactor, for whom the Buchanan Fellowship is named.



Connie Schmidt and **Steve Schmidt** (both Psychology) wrote "Inattentional blindness and the von Restorff effect," which was published in *Memory and Cognition* in 2014. The research was also presented as a poster at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in San Francisco.

Dean **John Vile** presented a series of six class lectures, "The U.S. Constitution: Foundation and Interpretation," in Nashville in January and February as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt. More than 160 participants, all over 50, enrolled in the classes. Dean Vile also received a 25-year service award last fall. [H](#)



Honors staff and faculty members congratulate Preston MacDougall on his move to the new Science Building after more than 10 years in the Martin Building. (L-R) Susan Lyons, Laura Clippard, Philip Phillips, Shelley Thomas, Preston MacDougall, Kaylene Gebert, John Vile, Judy Albakry, April Goers.

Class Notes {alumni and friends}



Hannah Hopkins Barnhart

(Organizational Communication, 2012) completed her M.S. in Health and Human Performance in December 2013 and is now working as an independent associate of Isagenix International. She and her husband, Zach (Recording Industry, 2013), live in Knoxville.

Shannon Murphy Crook

(Biology, 2011) is a resident at University of Kentucky Hospital.



Eric Guyes

(Physics, 2013) began a two-year master's program last fall at Technion Israel Institute of Technology in mechanical engineering. He is doing prototype

research and development on water desalination cells.

Matthew Hibdon

(History, 2012) is working as an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts. He is also a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa National Membership Committee and is managing two initiatives in OΔK's long-range plan.

Merranda Holmes

(Biology, 2011) is a resident at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Miguel Hurtado

(Chemistry, 2013) is coauthor of an article published in *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* in September 2014.

Jennifer Johnson

(Psychology, 2012) is a graduate research assistant at Vanderbilt University.

Christopher Merchant

(English, 2012) is working in California for GUSH Productions, which makes documentaries for PBS.

Chelsea Fleet Phillips

(Speech and Theatre, 2013) is working as a behavior intervention educational assistant at Smyrna Primary School.

Dylan Phillips


(Recording Industry, 2013) is a teaching artist with a Nashville-based organization called Southern Word, which teaches language arts in Nashville Metro Schools and conducts after-school programs. Dylan is also an entertainment road manager and merchandise manager and is pursuing a career as a rapper.

Leland Waite

(Aerospace, 2012) is a first officer at ExpressJet Airlines.



Taffy O'Neal Xu

(English, 2011), who is completing an M. A. in English at MTSU, received a 2014–2015 Peck Writing Award. She met her husband, Shane Xu, while studying abroad in China through the Confucius Institute. 

2014 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in 2014.

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Carole M. Carroll
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