



HONORS alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Fall 2006
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Bell Tower

The relationship between institutions of higher education and the communities and societies within which these institutions reside has varied greatly over time. In describing the relationship, we often bandy about such terms as "ivory tower"—which connotes the segregation of universities from general society—and "town and gown"—which can indicate a harmonious working relationship between an institution and its surrounding community, but can also indicate just the opposite! It is fair to say that the gap that separates universities from the broader community has never been smaller. Those of us in higher education are more attentive to the alignment of our curricula with the perceived needs of the workplace than ever before, and we eagerly promote public service and partnerships with individuals and nonacademic institutions. The fact that "partnerships" represent one of the three pillars of the MTSU Academic Master Plan implies the relative

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HONORS COLLEGE TO OPEN ADVANCED CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY SPACE

During the past year, the Honors College computer laboratory has been transformed into a new laboratory space that will showcase the latest in instructional technology. The new room (HONR 218), to be called the Cingular Wireless Advanced Classroom Technology (ACT) Laboratory, will demonstrate to a new generation of students that a variety of mobile, wireless devices can be useful, discipline-based learning tools. According to Provost Kaylene Gebert, the new space will not be about new technology for the sake of technology but about learning how to learn, how to communicate, and how to collaborate with the latest devices in an emerging technological environment.

Planning for the ACT space began more than a year ago with a site visit by the Sextant Group, a consulting firm with offices in Pittsburgh and other major cities. Dr. Gebert and Lucinda Lea, vice president for Information Technology, emphasized a team approach to the design process from the beginning. Key team members who helped make the new space a reality also included the Sextant Group, PolyVision, Technical Innovations, and several MTSU offices—Academic Affairs, Campus Construction and Renovation, Information Technology, the Faculty Instructional Technology Center, and the Honors College. Training sessions for faculty will begin this fall followed by practical use of the space in the spring of 2007. The Honors College will work with ITD to arrange for technical support and to facilitate scheduling of this space.



In accepting the plan for the ACT room, Dean Phil Mathis noted that there are 11 TAF-subsidized, fixed-station computer labs on campus and that four are near the Honors Building. He further noted that much of the furniture used in the former computer laboratory was reused to create four computer stations in study areas around the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. These stations allow students to access the Web, check e-mail, print term papers, and do other computer tasks and have already been in use for several months. "As I see it," Mathis said, "our students will gain new learning opportunities without giving up services that were formerly available to them through the computer laboratory." Dr. Watson Harris, director of Academic Technology Planning and Projects and a key supporter of the ACT, noted that it will continue to be a labo-

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emphasis that Middle Tennessee State University puts on the importance of cooperative ventures with individuals, businesses, and agencies outside of academic circles. Key among the factors that drive increased levels of cooperation between universities and the broader public is the increasing dependence of public higher education on private gifts and grants.

As an academic unit of Middle Tennessee State University, the University Honors College seeks to enter into partnerships that will be mutually beneficial to all partners. The Honors College and MTSU seek to lead the region into a future brimming with opportunity. Of course, the opportunities we seek include economic opportunities but, more important perhaps, we also seek opportunities that will allow each individual to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. In the Honors College, partnering with the broader public often brings outside speakers, special visitors, benefactors, political leaders, and others from outside the academic realm to campus.

Because the Honors College is a place where town and gown commingle, it is particularly appropriate that the college has purchased a beautiful, leather-bound book that is approximately 125 years old for use as a guest book where key signatures will be ceremoniously recorded. Under the heading of "Gown," the signatures of Buchanan Fellows, student leaders of the Honors College, editors of *Collage*, winners of the Honors Outstanding Teacher Award, MTSU administrative officials, resident faculty members of the Honors College, and others will be recorded. Under the heading "Town," the signatures of special guests and

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AP CREDIT NOW APPLICABLE AS HONORS CREDIT

This fall the University Honors College will join other honors colleges and programs from across the nation in allowing honors credit in cases where a student demonstrates high competence in a subject based on Advanced Placement/CEEB exam scores. For years MTSU has allowed credit obtained through Advanced Placement (AP) examination to count toward the 120 semester hours required for graduation, provided that the AP exam score was three (3) or higher on a five-point scale.

A new policy, approved this past summer, will allow Honors students to gain up to nine semester hours

of honors credit by AP examination, provided that the AP exam score is four (4) or higher. Dean Phil Mathis indicated that the new policy is similar to policies that have been in place at other honors colleges for some time. "It should help the college in recruiting top students," he said, "because it is understandable that top students want to be rewarded for tackling challenging courses in high school." For details regarding the new policy, faculty and students may consult the Honors College Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact Michelle Arnold, academic advisor, at 898-5464 or marnold@mtsu.edu. 📌

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR HONORS STUDENTS!

In addition to the myriad of other benefits associated with Honors participation, MTSU Honor students now may qualify for priority registration. Dr. David Foote, associate professor of Management and Marketing, chaired the committee responsible for designing this benefit. In exchange for eligibility, students will be required to complete an intent form indicating their educational goals and desire to finish their Honors thesis or creative project. Thus, eligible Honors students will be permitted to register before almost all other undergraduates.

Once qualified, Honors students will be required to maintain satisfactory progress within the program in order to remain eligible for priority registration (see below). The Honors College hosted several workshops in early October to address questions and assist interested students with completing the intent form; additional workshops will take place in the spring. Questions about priority registration can be directed to Ms. Michelle Arnold (marnold@mtsu.edu), Honors College Advisor. 📌

	Year Registration Period	Cumulative Credit Hours Earned	Honors Credit Hours Earned
Freshman	Spring (for following fall)	15	6
Sophomore	Fall (for following spring)	30	12
Sophomore	Spring (for following fall)	45	15
Junior	Fall (for following spring)	60	20
Junior	Spring (for following fall)	75	23
Senior	Fall (for following spring)	90	26

OPEN ADVANCED CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY SPACE

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ratory in the sense that it will be a place where experimentation with new instructional technologies and methodologies will take place before their introduction to the campus community on a more widespread basis.

Goals for the new space, as outlined by Harris, include

- increasing the marketable skills of students,
- encouraging student-to-student collaboration,
- accommodating variable student learning styles,
- providing opportunities for new pedagogical approaches, and
- serving as a way to record class discussions and preserve course material.

To support these goals, classroom features include a Thunder digital projection display and collaboration product, four LCD projectors, projection walls, four plasma screens (for use in group collaboration), a mobile instructor control station (a “walk and talk cordless lectern”), 18 tablet PCs, 6 iPods, recording equipment, and VHS/DVD capabilities (see photos).

Infrastructure to support the space includes wireless and hard-wired networking, a storage closet for convenient recharging of tablet PCs, a variety of software packages, ceiling-mounted microphones, overhead speakers, digital recorders, and a pan/tilt camera. To fully realize the potential of the space, users may employ the Internet for a multitude



of free, discipline-specific podcasts such as the Merrow PBS Report on education, a range of other podcasts from Berkeley and Stanford, and serious educational games from Virtual University. The MTSU faculty will be encouraged to create podcasts to enhance student learning outside of class.

The ACT room will also have a RoomWizard scheduling system that will interface with the campus R25 scheduling software. Because the lab includes features that are straight from the research and development divisions of leading educational technology companies, Technical Innovation and PolyVision have already nominated the ACT Laboratory for the Campus Technology Innovators Award 2006. The letter of nomination states that the space “is a nexus where real learning space intersects with virtual learning space” and that it “raises the bar” for those who desire to provide space for collaborative, interactive learning.



Lucinda Lea



Kaylene Gebert

Dean Mathis noted that much of the impetus for the change came from interested faculty members and the offices of Gebert and Lea. Others who played key roles in the planning and renovation process included Barbara Draude and Steve Brooks (ITD), Kim Sanderson (Construction and Renovation Services), and David Edgar (Facilities Services). Funding for the ACT Lab was jointly provided by a TAF grant and through the Provost’s Office. 📌

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visitors, institutional partners and collaborators, benefactors, government officials, and so on will be recorded.

It is reasonable to ask how the Honors College came up with the idea of a book of town and gown. The answer is actually not that complicated. In the summer of 2005, I was browsing through the Murfreesboro Antique Dealers Association’s annual antiques show when I spotted a book with the title *The Book of Town and Gown Club* printed in gold relief gothic script. To my surprise, when I opened it, 300 completely untouched, lined, hand-numbered pages were revealed. Immediately, I decided that such a book could be used for ceremonial purposes in the Honors College, purchased it from the vendor—Riverview Antiques of Marietta, Ohio—and donated it to the Honors College. Marsha Powers, publications coordinator, added an attractive bookplate earlier this year and arranged for Rebecca Foote, a Murfreesboro calligrapher, to inscribe key headings. The purpose of the book will be to record ceremoniously the signatures of key individuals who helped to shape the Honors College, especially in the year 2006 and beyond. The book, and a special pen, will be secured in the Honors College but will be available for public viewing periodically.

—Philip M. Mathis, Dean 📌



CARNICOM NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN



Dr. Scott Carnicom, an Ohio University Honors Program graduate, has been named associate dean of the University Honors

College, following a national search. His distinguished academic record includes a B.A. summa cum laude in psychology and a Ph.D. in biopsychology from the State University of New York–Stony Brook. As an undergraduate at Ohio University, he was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Psi Chi.

In addition to his scholarly credentials, Dr. Carnicom will bring to the MTSU Honors College a proven ability to work with students and colleagues and recent experience in initiating and administering an honors program at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Dean Phil Mathis anticipates that Carnicom will bring boundless energy, new ideas, and an enthusiasm for excellence that will stimulate greater progress toward the college's overarching goal of providing education of uncompromised quality to a small but diverse student population. Mathis said, "We are excited that Scott has joined us and look forward to utilizing his knowledge and experience in multiple ways. We welcome him to our community and urge others—especially Honors students and faculty—to extend a warm welcome." 📍

HONORS STUDENT MATTHEW BULLINGTON

Matthew Bullington is proud to call himself a Blue Raider. He is the son of Dr. Kimball and Dinah Bullington of Murfreesboro and the oldest of six children. He began his studies here at MTSU at the age of sixteen, having been home-schooled throughout most of his primary and secondary education. He is currently a senior economics student who plans to graduate in December with minors in mathematics and Spanish. After graduation he intends to go on to graduate school and complete a Ph.D. in economics and a J.D. law degree. His aspirations are to work in the financial business sector for a while, move into academics as a professor, and eventually serve in the political sector.

While completing his degree, he has had the pleasure of working with a variety of different offices on campus and in doing so has developed a strong love for this university and the programs it has to offer. The Honors College has been one of the biggest attractions at MTSU for Matthew because of its blend of a small college atmosphere with a broad range of activities available through the larger institution. He has taken a variety of courses through the Honors College, served as a student representative on the Honors Council from 2005 through 2006, and is working on his Honors thesis under the supervision of Dr. Anthon Eff in fulfillment of the requirements to graduate through the Honors College program. He has received both the Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship and the Academic Achievement Scholarship for academic accomplishments and contributions to the Honors program. The Honors College program has challenged him to new heights aca-

demically and provided the faculty and peer support he has needed along the way.

In coordination with the Honors College Study Abroad Tutorial, the MTSU International Education and Exchange office, and the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) program, he was able to participate in an intensive study abroad program in Segovia, Spain, this past summer. Matthew said it was a life-changing experience, during which he boarded with a family that spoke only Spanish, took two university courses through the KIIS program, and spent his weekends on group and individual excursions around the country. The exposure to a foreign culture was an incredible addition to his educational experience, opening his eyes to new perspectives of the world he lives in. It further strengthened his admiration for the breadth of education available here at Middle Tennessee State University.

Over the past couple of years he has become increasingly involved in various programs and departments. He enjoys a variety of different studies and works on campus as a tutor for Disabled Student Services and the Athletic Enhancement Center in an endeavor to encourage academic excellence in other students. Matthew served as a senator in the Student Government Association during the 2005–2006 term. As a senator, he initiated a survey of students' opinions of University life and program offerings. During the same time, he worked with Dr. Deana Raffo of the Leadership Development Office to start up MTLeadership, an electronic campus network connecting student

MATTHEW BULLINGTON RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S AWARD

In a ceremony held on March 25, 2006, Associate Vice President of Academic Support Services Debra Sells and President Sidney McPhee presented the President's Award to Matthew Bullington. This award honors a student for exemplary character and achievements in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Matthew Bullington is committed to identifying campus needs and instigating change through involvement. He's active in numerous student organizations including the Student Government

Association, the University Honors Council, Raider Representatives, and the University Orchestra. He has brought other student leaders together by initiating and creating a communication network. Matthew performs monthly in a string ensemble

at local residential care centers, serves as a volunteer debate coach for a local home-school debate team, and assists in a weekly worship service at Park View Meadows Assisted Living Center. He holds an MTSU Presidential Scholarship and membership in two of MTSU's top



President Sidney McPhee presents Matthew Bullington with the President's Award.

honor societies: Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key International. Although his major is Economics, Matthew has taken a broad range of courses and has completed 114 credit hours in two and a half years while maintaining a 3.96 GPA. He helps others achieve

academic success as a tutor for the Athletic Enhancement Center and Disabled Student Services. He intends to enter a doctoral program in economics after completing his undergraduate studies. 📢

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leaders to try to help improve communication between organizations. This network has gone a long way toward rekindling leadership interest at MTSU and encouraging students to become involved on campus. Throughout the past three years, he has been involved with a variety of other administrative, business, Christian, and social organizations and programs here at MTSU, striving toward the promotion of the qualities valued by the University: academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and school spirit. This past spring he was honored with the Presidential Award for 2005–2006 in recognition of his academic and leadership endeavors. (See story this page.)

Matthew is also a regular volunteer with the Admissions Office as a tour guide, and when he talks to new students he always encourages them to become involved on campus in more ways than just academics by joining organizations or efforts on campus or starting new ones.

There are so many opportunities for students to become active on campus, and your educational experience will be broadened when you involve yourself on a higher level at MTSU. You'll enjoy both benefiting from and contributing to your University. Be loud, be proud, be blue! 📢

HSA INVOLVED IN NCHC SERVICE DAY

In conjunction with NCHC Student Service Day, the Honors Student Association participated in the Spring Preview Day for High School Students on our campus.

The students set up an information booth and answered questions about Honors programs and curricula. Materials were available for sharing about all facets of the Honors College program including coursework and seminars, the Living and

Learning Center, the independent research projects, fellowships and scholarships, study abroad, and the many other program benefits.

Most important, students and parents were able to visit directly with Honors students and hear from them what being a University Honors student is all about! 📢



HAGUE RETURNS TO TEACHING



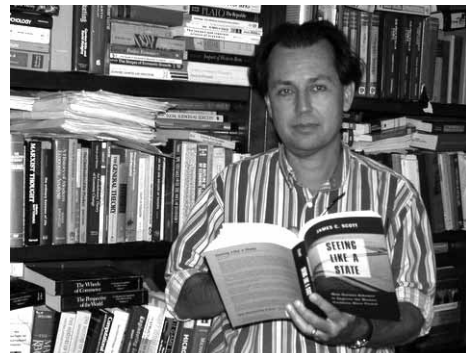
Angela (Jill) Hague, professor of English, relinquished her post as interim associate dean of the University Honors College effective August 1,

2006. Dean Phil Mathis praised Hague for her work as interim dean, citing particularly her role in developing the Buchanan Fellows Program and a transfer agreement with directors of honors programs at area community colleges. Mathis described Hague as an effective administrator who will be missed. In reflecting on her departure to return to the classroom, he noted that there is a silver lining behind every cloud. "In Jill's case, the silver lining is that she will be staying right here in the Honors College where she will continue to stimulate, motivate, and inform some of this university's best students." The entire Honors community—students, staff, and members of the Honors Council—will miss Jill in her role as associate dean but are thankful that she will be nearby where her warm smiles and infectious laughter will be seen and heard on a frequent basis. 📌

HONORS FACULTY MEMBER E. ANTHON EFF

E. Anthon Eff received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Louisville and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the MTSU faculty in 1990. He teaches courses in urban and regional economics, the history of economic thought, econometrics, and—for the Honors College—principles of macroeconomics. He supervised the Honors theses of Lynne Napatalung (2005) and Christa Jensen (2006) and is now supervising the thesis of Matt Bullington. Dr. Eff received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2001.

Matt Bullington's thesis applies the analytical tools of the economist to detailed census data on migration



within Mexico in an effort to advance our understanding of the alternative destinations available to Mexican migrants. Much of Dr. Eff's current research focuses on migration, and his interest in Mexico stems back to his days as a 19-year-old college student, when he rode a bicycle from Kentucky to Guatemala. He lives in Nashville with his wife and their two children. 📌

A COOL CHEMISTRY FIELD TRIP

Students in Dr. Preston MacDougall's spring semester of Honors General Chemistry went on a class field trip that featured some "cool chemistry."

Dr. Joel Harp, the mustachioed director of the Macromolecular Crystallography Laboratory at Vanderbilt University, invited Dr. MacDougall to bring his class for a lab tour and demonstration of the use of X-rays in the high-resolution determination of biomolecular structure.

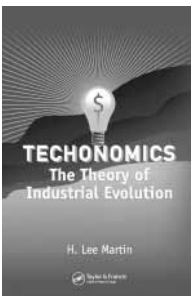
Among other fascinating highlights, Dr. Harp explained how a stream of nitrogen at its boiling point (about 200 degrees below zero, on the Celsius scale) is used to "freeze out" unwanted molecular motions in a tiny crystal of Z-DNA that is about to get blasted by a beam of X-rays.



After a set of "diffraction reflections" were obtained (with Dr. MacDougall and the students safely shielded), Dr. Harp walked the class through the data refinement process. While this is still done in "reciprocal space," and thus requires extreme mental agility, modern computer graphics and automated algorithms make this part of molecular structure determination a cool breeze compared to the laborious number crunching done back in the day. 📌

MARTIN TO GIVE NOVEMBER LECTURE

H. Lee Martin, inventor, entrepreneur, author, and benefactor of the Honors College, will deliver a public lecture on November 13, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in room 106 of the Martin Honors Building. Interested students, faculty, and the general public are invited to attend. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be served at the post-lecture reception.



The lecture, titled "Techonomics: Understanding the Sources of Global Change," will highlight some of the ideas from Martin's recently released book *Techonomics*:

The Theory of Industrial Evolution (CRC Press, 2006; 256 pp., ISBN: 0849370671). Phil Mathis, Honors College dean, expects the lecture to be of interest to both the on-campus and off-campus community. "Considering the rate of change in the global economy and our stake in it, we can not afford to miss the guidance and wisdom that Lee Martin will share with us," Mathis said.

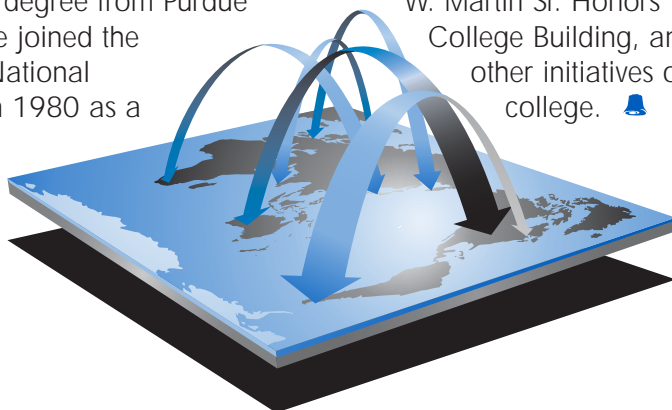
Martin earned his B.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an M.S. degree from Purdue University. He joined the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1980 as a

development engineer creating robotic systems for zero-human-access environments. In 1986, he cofounded TeleRobotics International,



which later became iPIX Corporation, the developer of 360° imaging. This technology is now used to show interactive, immersive images of real estate and other facilities on the worldwide web. Dr. Martin holds 20 U.S. patents in the field of robotics, image processing, and electric vehicles and has authored more than 20 papers in his field. He was named the national young engineer of the year in 1986 by the National Society of Professional Engineers and has since won several national awards for research and technological innovation. He is presently a managing member of Clarity Resources, a group specializing in mentor capital and a major supporter of both the University of Tennessee and the MTSU Honors College. In recent years, Martin has contributed generously toward the building that bears his father's name, the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors

College Building, and to other initiatives of the college. 📌



Honors Scholarships

Honors scholarships are available to students who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses. Details about the scholarships and the applications are available in the Honors College Office (HONR 205) or on our Web site at <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/Scholarships.htm>.

All scholarships are for returning students and will be applied to fall 2007 accounts. These scholarships dollars are added on to any other scholarships students may have already received. Award winners will be recognized at the annual Awards Reception in April 2007. Check with our office early in the spring 2007 semester for deadline dates.

Honors College Residential Society (HCRS)

2006-07 Officers

President: Stephanie Renfroe

Vice President: Ashlea Ramey

Secretary: Kevin Vaughn

Treasurer: Zach Reves

Public Relations: Aaron Burcham

HCRS Administrative Sponsor:
Michelle Arnold

HCRS membership includes unique parties, academic support, community service programs, and access to the Honors faculty outside the classroom. Join HCRS at anytime! For a one-time membership fee of \$15, members also receive a t-shirt and water bottle.

Student Advisory Council

The 2005–2006 academic year saw an important development in the Honors College's attempt to involve students closely in the policies and administration of the College. The Dean's Student Advisory Council, made up of Honors students Carolyn Crawford, Courtney Ledford, Katie Onks, Jessi Torres, and Erin Weber, met with the dean and associate dean throughout the year to propose several significant initiatives that have and will become part of the Honors College's special offerings for students. The council helped develop and approve the Honors Creed, a set of guiding principles that will govern both students and faculty, and it proposed that a model for thesis tutorial proposals be made available to students when they register for the thesis tutorial course (UH 4900).

In addition, the council recommended that a written guide be developed for thesis advisors and that the Honors academic advisor maintain a list of experienced thesis advisors to help students choose the appropriate ones for their projects, an important step in successful completion of the thesis. Perhaps most exciting, the council requested that priority registration be granted to Honors students. This proposal has recently been developed and approved and should be available for Honors students by spring 2007. (See related story on page 2.) 📌

Building For Your FUTURE

Contact our academic advisor, Ms. Michelle Arnold, to find out how you can graduate from the University Honors College. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. Call for an appointment today! 📌

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AWAITING ENGLISH SPEAKERS IN SOUTHERN INDIA

by Shelley Thomas

This summer I was invited to southern India by a nonprofit organization called the Isha Foundation to spend a month training language teachers in the new methodologies I use in both my Honors classes and the Summer Language Institute at MTSU. There is a growing concern in India that there are not enough English-educated, computer-literate people to handle the huge number of jobs that are pouring into the country due to outsourcing in the U.S. and U.K.

One of the many philanthropic endeavors of the Isha Foundation is a project called Rural Rejuvenation, which has been commended by the president of India for providing onsite medical and nutritional aid to over one million of India's rural population. The center itself feeds approximately 1,500 people per day and provides both skilled and unskilled job opportunities in the form of construction work, farming, domestic duties, and crafts. By providing both job opportunities and language training for rural India during this crucial moment in time, the Isha Foundation hopes to improve the lot of millions of people.

Tamil, one of the oldest known languages (second to Sanskrit), is the native language of both the villagers and the tribal people of the region. Not many middle-class Indians ever have the occasion to even see tribal people, much less observe their learning processes. Consequently, they sometimes have the impression that the tribal children's ability to learn is inferior to

that of children from higher classes. For that reason, I was also asked to pilot a language class for tribal children to test the effectiveness of the new methods and see just how quickly tribal children could learn English.

My 16-year-old son accompanied me on the 36-hour trip and eventually assumed the duties of the official videographer of the project. It was the most exciting, rewarding experience I have ever had and not unlike those I had only read about in *National Geographic*.

The Isha Foundation has a center situated about 30 kilometers from Coimbatore, a city in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The center consists of buildings spread out over several hundred acres surrounded by palm trees and a dense forest. The area is a part of the Nilgiris biosphere, a national reserve forest full of not only wild animals but various tribal communities. Rising above the palm trees are the foothills of the Velliangiri Mountains, and although far from any coast, the location has the look and feel of a Hawaiian island. My son and I enjoyed both the South Indian cuisine and the simple, traditional way of living: cold showers, hand-washed clothes, meals taken sitting on the floor, no napkins or utensils, only the right hand to scoop things in the mouth. Alongside ox-driven carts and plows, there may be mopeds and cell phones. The mixture of first and twenty-first centuries is a charming reality allowing for modern conveniences in a serene setting.

[INDIA CONT.]

The Isha Center has responded to the educational needs of the rural population by launching a project to build and staff 200 schools for villagers over the coming years with English-speaking teachers. The first of these schools, the Isha Vidhya School, was built and staffed one month before I arrived. In addition, the center has taken a local tribe, the Thanakindi, under its wing. Unlike other tribal children living in the forest who suffer from malnutrition, the Thanakindi children receive both food and clothing from the center.

My job at the center consisted of teaching a morning class in the tribal school and an afternoon class in a village school and training teachers in a private school located at the center. Around 9:00 a.m., equipped with camera, my son and I would walk the one kilometer through the forest to a clearing where the Thanakindi tribe lived. In a one-room schoolhouse that had nothing but a chalkboard, I taught English to about 20 children ages two to ten. Monkeys hung in trees and cattle, goats, and chickens roamed in and out of thatched huts on the grounds outside the classroom. Cow dung is periodically spread on floors as a disinfectant. There are no textbooks or paper in these tribal schools. Each child has a tiny slate and chalk. The luggage carrying both our clothes and my materials did not arrive for one week, so the hands-on methods I use were essential. The children were bright, attentive, and incredibly fun.

In the afternoons, I was driven to the new Isha Vidhya School to teach English to a room full of fifty



second-graders while the ten new teachers observed. A third school, located right at the center, is a private, residential school for middle-class children and provides language classes in Tamil, Hindi, and French. This is where my son and I actually lived, along with the other teachers who double as house parents for the children.

At the end of our stay, journalists from two newspapers in southern India, the *Hindu* and *New Indian Express*, were called in for a small press conference to observe and report on what the Thanakindi children had learned after only ten days. On August 21 the *Hindu* reported

These students were from tribal villages scattered in the foothills of the Poondi. They did not know English and some of them had not even heard it being spoken before. Yet, they understood their

teacher perfectly. Through actions, pictures, songs and short stories, they were initiated in the world of English.

The day before my son and I left India was August 15, Independence Day. The Thanakindi tribe allowed me the privilege of raising the Indian flag on their newly installed bamboo flagpole. The Isha Foundation has asked me to return next May to give a larger training session to more teachers in the form of a residential program at the center. I know that being a part of the English teaching project in India would appeal to almost anyone but particularly to those in anthropology and ESL. I encourage anyone who is interested to take advantage of this rare opportunity to experience a rich and ancient culture and teach some of the most beautiful, bright children I have ever met. If you are interested in learning more about teaching opportunities in India, please contact me, Dr. Shelley Thomas, at ssthenomas@mtsu.edu. 📍

Honors Studies Association

The purpose of the Honors Studies Association (HSA) is to encourage members to strive for academic excellence and strong intellectual and personal growth; foster a spirit of unity through programs and opportunities for social, fraternal and volunteer activities; orient new students and maintain ties with Honors alumni; create an appreciation of cultural diversity; cultivate a sense of community within the University Honors College; and ensure student input into the programs and services of the University Honors College.

Membership is available to all students, staff, faculty, and alumni involved or interested in the University Honors College (conditional upon payment of association dues of \$15 per year, due and payable every September.)

For more information about HSA, please contact the Honors College academic advisor at 898-5464, stop by the office in HONR 227, or visit the Web site at <http://mtsu.edu/~hsa>. The application may also be downloaded at <http://mtsu.edu/~hsa/information.htm>.

2006–07 Officers

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Brandy Dorris

Vice President

Katie Onks

Assistant Vice President

Anelisa Lomaseng

Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Gerald and Mandi (Amanda) Wochner

Webmaster/Historian

Derrick Fox

SGA Ambassador

Josh Alexander 📧

VISITING ARTIST, SPRING 2007

Robert Olmstead, *Stones River Anthology*:
A Workshop in the Narrative



Robert Olmstead will teach the 2007 Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200). Olmstead, the author of four

published novels, a collection of short stories, a memoir, and a textbook on writing, has won many prestigious awards. He now directs the creative writing program at Ohio Wesleyan University.

The *New York Times* has praised Olmstead's novel *A Trail of Heart's Blood Wherever We Go*, calling it "a kind of prose *Spoon River Anthology* that moves skillfully through a great range of tonal variations on the subject of burying the dead—the elegiac to the fantastical to the down-home corn pone of hoary jokes and shaggy-dog tales . . . Mr. Olmstead's book runs irresistibly to macabre eccentricity." For example: "Someone drowns in a milk tank. Someone is cut in half by a chain saw. A dead woman wakes up on the embalming table. The oldest body in the town cemetery is a man shot 250 years ago while urinating in the woods when his dog set off his cumbersome Brown Bess musket."

Spoon River Anthology, a collection of poems by Edgar Lee Masters spoken by voices from beyond the grave, has been a major influence on Olmstead's writing. Fittingly, he has designed his seminar as a tribute to Masters's model and also as a way to explore the questions and

themes that concern him as a writer. The focus will be on examining and defining the concept of community. Students will write narratives—not poetry but monologues, dialogues, and choral pieces—to bring a community to life, culminating in their own collection titled *Stones River Anthology*.

The goals of the class are to write about the personal in a dynamic state, to create pieces that are both individual and interactive, to speak from the heart and examine who we are, what we are, and what we're doing. The writing will be a blend of fact and fiction because, as Olmstead has said, "That's what communities are."

The Visiting Artist's Seminar is an intensive one-week, one-credit class open to juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.25 or higher. No previous creative writing experience is required. The class has been offered four times before: Performance Composition with Deb Margolin (2002); Poetry Writing with David Kirby (2003); The Literary Book as a Work of Art with Peter and Donna Thomas (2004); and Playwriting—*Road Trip* with Carson Kreitzer (2006).

The 2007 seminar will meet March 12–16, 3:00–5:40 p.m. and will include two public events in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building Amphitheater: Robert Olmstead will read from his own work on Tuesday, March 13, at 4:30 p.m., and students will read from their newly created *Anthology* on Friday, March 16, at 4:00 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public, and a reception honoring

SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE HELD

The fourth annual MTSU Summer Language Institute took place in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building May 8–12 and June 19–23. Dr. Shelley Thomas from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures originally began the institute in 2003 with seed money from a Special Projects Grant. This year, Dr. Thomas coordinated two classes of Spanish, one class of Mandarin, and a new class of English for local Hispanics from St. Rose of Lima Church. Each class was held four hours per day over a five-day period.



Professional consultants from California, Colorado, and Shanghai who are trained in the methodologies called TPR (Total Physical Response) and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) taught the courses. The methods enable people to achieve in approximately 25 hours a level of proficiency in the new language that normally takes anywhere from 45–90 hours. Participants ranged in ages from 11–72 and included students, educators and professionals.

Sophia Wentz, retired faculty member and former dean of faculty at St.

Andrew's-Sewanee School, attended the Mandarin session in June. She was initially concerned about tackling Mandarin at age 72. After her five-day experience at the institute, she enrolled in a Mandarin class at the University and said, "As I look forward to my University class this fall and look at the textbook, I am further convinced that TPR/TPRS are superior to textbook-based learning . . . instead of feeling intimidated, you feel empowered." When asked by a Chinese teacher from St. Andrew's-Sewanee if her experience made her think Chinese was a difficult language to learn, she responded, "It made me think learning Chinese was fun . . . what a great experience!"

Dr. Thomas, who was invited to India to train teachers in TPR/TPRS during the month of July (see story on page 8), has been asked to return next May to create a similar language institute in Coimbatore, India. 📌

Visiting Artist cont. from page 10

the novelist and his students will follow the Friday presentation.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar is generously funded by the Distinguished Lectures Committee, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund Committee, the

English Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the University Honors College. For more information, contact Dr. Claudia Barnett at cbarnett@mtsu.edu or 898-2887. 📌

Honors Psychology Class Partners with St. Clair Senior Center



Students from Dr. Catherine Crooks's Honors health psychology class at MTSU presented two wellness workshops at St. Clair Senior Center in April. These Staying Healthy workshops are part of a service-learning project that connects MTSU students with seniors in the community.



The following workshops were held at the St. Clair Senior Center:

Solving the Mystery: Staying Sharp

This workshop focused on preventing dementia and preventing depression by keeping the mind and body active.

Fortify Your Castle with the Keys to Safety

This workshop focused on safety in the home, avoiding medication interactions, and avoiding scams. 📌

Felder Library Expanding

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Honors College, Housing and Residential Life, and students in the Honors Living and Learning Center, the Felder Hall library is improving and expanding. Once the home of the Honors Martinelli Memorial Library, the Felder library has languished since the Martinelli collection was moved to its new home in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building in 2004.

In June, Honors student Daniel Bridges saw potential for the Felder library space and sought help improving it. Bridges recently said, "All I saw in Felder lobby from spring 2006 were vacant study cubicles and abandoned bookshelves with more dust than interest. Then one day I quite literally wandered into the Honors College library and wondered why our own wasn't like that." Bridges enlisted the aid of Honors Dean Phil Mathis, and additions and reorganization were quickly undertaken. Bridges recently remarked that since improvements have been made to the Felder library the space is well on its way to looking more like a planned, professional facility.

Dr. Laurie Witherow, director, Residential Life, has also been considering ways to improve the Honors Living and Learning Center library. She recently said she would like to see Wood and Felder residents enter into partnership with a campus organization that holds yearly book drives. The partnership, she said, would be mutually beneficial with the Honors students offering time to the book drive and receiving unsold books in exchange.

Felder cont. on page 16

BUCHANAN SEMINARS READY TO GO

When the first group of Buchanan Fellows arrives in the fall of 2007, they will find six specially-created General Education courses awaiting them. The courses (six hours in the humanities, eight hours in the natural sciences, and six hours in the social sciences) have been developed for the fellows to take as a cohort group during their first two years in the Honors College. During the first semester they will enroll in ASTR 1030, Exploring the Universe: A Historical and Philosophical Journey through the Universe, designed and taught by Dr. Eric Klumpe. ASTR 1030 will go beyond the traditional study of the planets, stars, and star systems to investigate the philosophical implications of these areas of study including the reasons for paradigm shifts in science, the question of whether or not the scientific method is a valid epistemological tool, and the ramifications of an expanding universe and the possibility of parallel universes. They will also take ENGL 2020, Themes in Literature and Culture: Greek Origins of Western Culture, taught by Dr. Jill Hague, a course that will explore the core themes, values, and aesthetic and cultural ideas of the ancient Greeks and the emergence of these ideas in modern Western culture.

During the second semester of their freshman year, the Buchanan Fellows will take CHEM 1030, Chemistry for Consumers: Chemistry and Crime. Taught by Dr. Tammy Melton, Chemistry and Crime will focus on the relationship between forensic chemistry and crime, using scientific reasoning and knowledge of chemistry to analyze specific case studies, to form

hypotheses, and to create or suggest new scientific analyses in order to provide a clearer understanding of forensic problems. HUM 2610, Foreign Literature in Translation: Questioning Toward the Modern, taught by Dr. Tom Strawman, will introduce many of the central ideas, values, and concepts in art, science, religion, and politics from the Middle Ages through the nineteenth century in order to present students with a unified, interdisciplinary overview of the development of Western civilization.

In their sophomore year, the fellows will encounter two social science courses: Dr. Richard Hannah's ECON 2410, Principles of Macroeconomics: Bigger than America, Brazen as Politics, Better than Plowing, and Dr. Karen Petersen's PSCI 1010, Foundations of Government: Who Gets What, When, and Whom. Dr. Hannah's course will explore traditional macroeconomic theories and topics from a tightly integrated interdisciplinary perspective with an emphasis on the global and political contexts of the subject matter. The class will culminate in a student production of a public television program about the students' learning experiences and views of economics and the relationship of economics to their personal lives and visions of the future. Dr. Petersen will introduce her students to the fundamentals of government from an interdisciplinary, comparative perspective and present the major theories and issues of international politics by focusing on political theory, institutions, and international issues.

Buchanan cont. on page 16

ALUMNI UPDATES

Christa Jensen

May 2006

Christa Jensen has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in economics at West Virginia University with a tuition waiver plus a fellowship from the Regional Research Institute on campus. This is a two year fellowship that will be followed by a two-year departmental research assistantship.

Christa also received a one-month summer fellowship at the American Institute of Economic Research in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, which, in addition to her invaluable Honors thesis experience, further prepared her for graduate school.

Amanda Cotton

May 2004

Amanda received her master's in Psychology with a concentration in Quantitative Psychology from MTSU in August 2006. She and daughter Maleigha have moved to northern California.

Honors Profile

Chasity Wilson Nicoll

December 1995

It's been an active and successful eleven years since Chasity Wilson Nicoll graduated from the Honors program



at MTSU. After majoring in English, minoring in Women's Studies, and completing her Honors, "The Battered Woman Syndrome Defense: Finding Her Voice in Legal Discourse," Chasity went on

to law school at the University of Tennessee, where she studied for a semester in Europe. She met her husband, fellow lawyer John Nicoll, during her final year of law school and married him in 2000. She then joined the Army and served as a JAG officer (as chief of claims) and worked as a labor counselor. Employment law is now her major interest as an attorney.



While she was in the army, the Nicolls returned to Chasity's home in Manchester, Tennessee, where they discovered a 120-year-old Victorian house for sale. They soon bought the house and began renovation, and it now is both their home and the office for their law firm, Nicoll and Nicoll. The house was recently featured on HGTV's Generation Renovation, and they are in the process of placing the house on the National Register of Historic Homes.

When not practicing law and renovating her home/office, Chasity is involved with fundraising to create a Coffee County Humane Society because she is concerned about the kill rates in government-run animal shelters. "My lovely, restored Victorian house acts as a home, an office, and a kennel. I'm living the American dream," she says, a dream that includes her three four-legged children, Murfree, Butkus, and Dobler, all of whom are rescue or pound dogs.

Chasity credits the Honors program at MTSU for her successful career as a law student and attorney, noting that the challenge of Honors classes profoundly enriched her college experience. "Honors classes challenged me in a way that traditional classes did not. They exposed me to people and ideas I would otherwise have missed," she said. She said her Honors work and thesis helped her get into law school and that, in particular, the thesis experience gave her much-needed confidence in her ability to produce high-quality writing and research.

Jacob Acton

Summer 2006

Jacob was accepted into the University of Memphis Health Science Center Medical School and began classes there this semester. He plans to pursue his medical degree in neurosurgery. We hope to get an update from Jacob in the near future! 📌

Spring 2007 Honors College Deadlines

Independent Research or Creative Projects Proposals (to be completed in fall 2007)

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL (FIRST
DRAFT) FOR INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
for committee review
February 16, 2007

FINAL PROPOSAL (SECOND
DRAFT) FOR INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
for Honors Council approval
March 23, 2007

Independent Research or Creative Projects (to be completed in spring 2007)

FINAL COPY FOR
THESIS DEFENSE
One copy due in Honors
Office to be graded by
committee
March 30, 2007

THESIS DEFENSE
BEFORE COMMITTEE
**Date to be
announced.**

PUBLIC DEFENSE
BEFORE HONORS
LECTURE SERIES
April 16 and 23, 2007

FINAL PROJECTS
All post-defense corrections
must be made. Submit two
copies on cotton paper (one
for thesis defense room, the
other for Walker Library)
April 25, 2007

H-OPTION PROPOSALS FOR
FALL 2007 COURSES
March 23, 2007

All materials are due in the Honors
College office, Paul W. Martin Sr.
Honors College Building, Suite 205,
by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date. 📌

UH 4600-001 CREATIVITY AND EXPLORATION MW 12:40–2:05 p.m. (# 05981)

This seminar is about creativity and the exploration of creativity. It is also about learning how to communicate and understand the world in a visual manner for those who do not consider themselves artists.

There are many ways to do this. One approach is to describe how others have created works of art. Another way to approach the problem is to ask the student to be creative. In the study of the visual arts, we have the tradition of introducing art students to the intellectual challenges of art teaching in a university by having them take a basic course or group of courses. In such courses, aspiring art students are assigned projects that introduce them to a wide variety of ways of dealing with line, form, space, color, and image creation. They solve these problems using tools and methods that simultaneously encourage rigor and creativity. We believe that such courses can be of value to nonart students as well. The primary advantage in this case is introducing those without much experience in art to the discipline of thinking in a mode that has a visual rather than verbal orientation.

Honors students will have an opportunity to see the interrelatedness of knowledge beyond the artificial boundaries of departmental structure. For successful students, developing creativity and an understanding of the importance of good design and visual communication skills will carry through to all subject areas.

The seminar will not be open to Art majors. Interested students should contact Professor Marc Barr, Electronic Media Communication, at (615) 898-5118 or mjbarr@mtsu.edu. 📌

UH 4600-003 LIFE STORIES: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE W 6:00–9:00 p.m. (# 05983)


This seminar will seek to engage Honors students in an interdisciplinary study of identity. Subtitled African American Literature and Culture, the seminar will feature oral histories, documentary films, biography, and works of nonfiction that speak to the experiences of blacks in America. Class discussion will focus on the intersections of history and literature as students explore how black American struggles for racial equality and full citizenship interacted with the economic, political, and cultural forces that have shaped modern America. The seminar will be modeled after the Oxford tutorial and can be tailored to meet the interests and specialties of other instructors. The general objective of the course is consistent with the aim of a liberal education: to develop self-directed, intentional learners who are empowered, informed, responsible, and thoughtfully reflective about their education. The primary texts of this course will be *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans*.

This course has been approved for English major and minor credit and fulfills area A or D for the English major and minor requirement (see 2005–2007 catalog, p. 242). For more information, contact Dr. Laura Dubek at ldubek@mtsu.edu. 📌

UH 4600-002 IDENTITY, CHANGE, AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

TR 11:20 A.M.–12:45 p.m. (# 05982)

Rousseau's *The Social Contract or Principles of Political Right* (1762) frames our modern understanding that economic, political and cultural relations center on contract—reciprocal promise and performance—as a core concept for understanding social structure and change. Students in this seminar will explore how social contract frames our sense of identity, our friendship and family relationships, our religious and community institutions, and our commitment to social and political change. We will examine theories and empirical research from several fields including philosophy, economics, politics and government, history, and sociology. Class discussions and multiple writing projects will call upon students to apply these readings through an examination of their personal relations, our community, and current trends in globalization.

This course can count as three hours upper-division Sociology credit. For more information, contact Dr. Bill Canak at wcanak@mtsu.edu. 



Spring 2007 Honors Upper-Division Classes

Any students with a 3.25 GPA may enroll in any Honors course as long as he/she meets the prerequisite(s) and the class has space available.

Priority Registration Begins

November 13, 2006. For the latest up-to-date course offerings, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm.

Honors Upper-Division Courses, Spring 2007

Check the current catalog for prerequisite information.

BIOL 3160 Social Issues and Genetic Technology

BLAW 3400 Legal Environment of Business

BMOM 3510 Business Communication

EMC 3120 Sight, Sound, and Motion

EMC/JOUR 4250 Mass Media Law

EMC/JOUR 4790 Global News and World Media Cultures

ENGL 3340 The Black Experience in Afro-American Literature

PSY 4650 Health Psychology

RIM 3010 Audio for Media


RIM 3600 Survey of the Recording Industry

U H 3000-H01 Honors Lecture Series **Crime: Causes, Detection, Punishment, Fact, and Fiction**


U H 3200-H01 Visiting Artist Seminar **Robert Olmstead, *Stones River Anthology: A Workshop in the Narrative***

U H 4600-001 Creativity and Exploration

U H 4600-002 Identity, Change, and the Social Contract

U H 4600-003 Life Stories: African American Literature and Culture 

THE HONORS H-OPTION

The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors upper-division class. In order to submit an H-Option, students must have completed at least nine hours of lower-division Honors coursework. Honors College students may use the H-Option for a total of nine credit hours. **Proposals for spring 2007 must be submitted to the Honors College by November 15, 2006.** For an application form and instructions, please visit <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/H-Options.htm>. 

Felder cont. from page 12

Over 120 books have been added to the Felder collection since Bridges began his crusade for an improved library. In addition, the books have been separated according to category with shelf labels to designate each category's location. Current fiction categories include classics, action/adventure, romance, mystery/crime/suspense, inspirational fiction, fantasy/science fiction, and general fiction. Nonfiction categories include textbooks, computer books, religion/philosophy, and general nonfiction.

Bridges commented that in contrast to the Wood Hall lobby's television, which offers "staring material and advertisements," the Felder Hall lobby's bookshelves offer "reading material and expansive thought." He added, "I think anything that promotes reading in a dormitory is wonderful. I'm excited about the potential the Felder library has and what it suggests for our community, especially considering it's in the Honors dorms."

Bridges's vision for the dorms doesn't end with books, however. He was recently heard saying, "Now for some comfy couches . . ."



Buchanan cont. from page 12

Each Buchanan seminar was individually designed by its instructor for the Buchanan Fellows cohort group, with an emphasis on the epistemological, philosophical, and interdisciplinary connections among the various disciplines. The faculty members involved are award-winning teachers and scholars who are experienced in honors education and plan to provide a unique learning experience for these students.



RHEINECKER RECEIVES PH.D. FROM EMORY

Jaime Rheinecker (2001) didn't have to make a "quantum leap" from her undergraduate research in the Honors College to her Ph.D. research in physical chemistry at Emory University, but her recent success is noteworthy in a subdiscipline of science where there is gender gap.

Her Honors thesis, directed by Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), was titled "Quantum Chemical Data Mining for Insights into Classical Chemistry." This prepared her well for her doctoral research with Dr. Joel Bowman, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Theoretical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry at Emory. In February of this year, she successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation, "Quasi-classical and Quantum Calculations of Dynamics of Small Molecules."

On the heels of this success, Rheinecker was selected as one of the winners of the Physical Chemistry Student Poster Award Competition at the March 2006 American Chemical Society meeting in Atlanta.

Jaime sent us a lovely photograph taken after she received her doctoral degree from Emory on May 15. Congratulations Jaime!

As a graduation gift of sorts, and at the time of her writing, there was a trip to Peru in her future




(July). She had been invited to discuss her Atlanta high school teaching experiences as a National Science Foundation PRISM Fellow. This fellowship was concurrent with her research fellowship and involved Rheinecker and other fellows in the develop-

ment of innovative K-12 lessons employing problem-based learning pedagogies.

In the meantime, Dr. Rheinecker had already been awarded another fellowship and begun her postdoctoral studies in the research group of Dr. Dennis Liotta, also in the Department of Chemistry at Emory. The Liotta group uses its expertise in experimental and computational science to design, synthesize, and evaluate potential anticancer and antiviral drugs.

After having set up her new computing resources, she reported, "All is well here, working hard on locating binding sites and other modeling."

We wish her the best of luck in her "modeling career." 

THESES DEFENDED SPRING 2006



Christa Jensen

"Traditional Markets in Mayan Guatemala"

Dr. Tony Eff, major advisor

From left, advisor Dr. Tony Eff, Christa Jensen, Interim Associate Dean Jill Hague, and Honors Council representative Dr. Kevin James.



Maryam Kassae

"Morals Over Money: Sound or Fury?"

Dr. Robb McDaniel, major advisor

From left, Honors Council representative Dr. David Foote, Maryam Kassae, Interim Associate Dean Jill Hague, and advisor Dr. Robb McDaniel.



Breckinridge McFall Castleman

"Conceptualization of Anorexia as a Religious Sect"

Dr. Gloria Hamilton, major advisor

Ever a character, a jubilant McFall shows off her well-earned Honors medallion. Also pictured is her entire committee. From left, Dr. Gloria Hamilton, project advisor, McFall Castleman, Interim Associate Dean Jill Hague, and Dr. Teresa Davis, Honors Council representative.



Kathleen Brittany Clark

"Effects of Urbanization/Industrialization in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland" (photo journal essay)

Dr. Doug Heffington, major advisor

Kathleen Clark, left, with project advisor Dr. Doug Heffington. 🔔

THESES DEFENDED SUMMER 2006



Jacob Daniel Acton

"Investigation of the Hydrosilylation Reaction for Synthesizing Amine-terminated and other End-Functionalized Organosilanes"

Dr. Andrienne Friedli, major advisor

Jacob Acton proudly wears his Honors medallion. Pictured with his committee, from left to right, are Dr. Philip Mathis, UHC dean; Acton; advisor Dr. Andrienne Friedli; and Honors Council representative Dr. Preston MacDougall.



Kyle Jaeger

"Validating Children through Theatre: Using Culturally Diverse, Student-authored Stories to Teach"

Dr. Jette Halladay, major advisor

Kyle Jaeger with his advisor, Dr. Jette Halladay.



Erin Elizabeth Weber

"Nanabozho and Hermes: A Look at the Persistence of the Trickster Archetype in Louise Erdrich's Tracks and Thomas Mann's Death in Venice"

Drs. Jill Hague and Tom Strawman, major advisors
Erin Weber, center, with advisors Dr. Tom Strawman and Dr. Jill Hague. 🔔

Josh Alexander Gets Grant and Scholarships

One never knows where an Honors thesis project may lead. For Josh Alexander, what began as a short film about the last citizen executed in Rutherford County has burgeoned into a much larger and more complex project. Josh, a double major in Philosophy and History, began his film on Albert DuBoise (directed by Dr. Will Brantley) in fall 2005. He first did archival research and contacted local officials and attorneys to gain some insight into the case and to understand better the historical and cultural context of the film's events. He also conducted interviews with the Reverend Woodrow Medlock, a man who knew Albert DuBoise well and spent time at his side before his execution in 1947. The Albert Gore Sr. Research Center at MTSU also provided invaluable photographs, newspaper articles, and oral histories. As more people learned about Josh's project, he was put into contact with government officials and granted access to the former Tennessee State Penitentiary, where films such as *The Last Castle*, *The Green Mile*, and *Walk the Line* were filmed. Josh was allowed to film throughout the prison, including the death row cell block where DuBoise spent his final days.

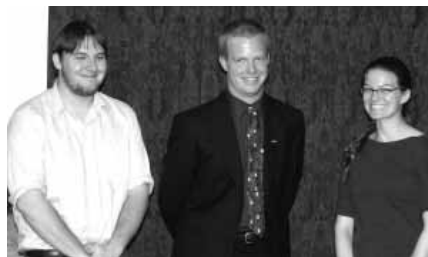
In March 2006 the Tennessee State Library and Archives located the original court documents, which were believed to have been lost, along with evidence descriptions, Governor Jim McCord's personal notes and private correspondence about the case, and appeals for clemency from concerned citizens and family members. Josh received an Undergraduate Research Scholar Grant from MTSU that allowed him to obtain equipment and supplies for a film that had suddenly grown in scope. He soon received an invitation

Alexander cont. on page 19

SPECIAL STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The annual Honors College Awards Ceremony was held on April 19, 2006. Again this year, we were honored to have two special presenters. Michael Martinelli's 11-year old son, Kyle, presented the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship Award, and Paul W. Martin III was in attendance to present the Paul W. Martin Sr. scholarships to four recipients.

Scholarship Recipients



From left, Zachary Hall, Matthew Bullington, and Hannah Green.

Academic Achievement Scholarships
[Matthew E. Bullington, Economics](#)
[Hannah P. Green, Art](#)
[Zachary C. Hall, Mass Communication](#)



Gretchen Jenkins stands with her proud parents, Baxter and Sandra Jenkins, after being awarded the Bart McCash Scholarship.

Bart McCash Scholarship
[Gretchen M. Jenkins, Political Science](#)



Adam Shulman, right, receives his award from Dr. Tom Strawman.

Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship
[Adam C. Shulman, Physics](#)



From left are recipients Brandy Ford, Katie Onks, James Pruitt, and David Rivenbark.

Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship
[Brandy L. Ford, Finance](#)
[Katherine R. Onks, Biology/Anthropology](#)
[James Robert Pruitt, Mass Communication](#)
[David H. Rivenbark, Computer Science](#)

Outstanding Students



Pictured from left are outstanding students Clay Francis, Kyle Williams, and Kristen Sweeney. Not pictured, Emily Carroll.

Outstanding Freshman Honors Student
[Kristen N. Sweeney, English](#)

Outstanding Sophomore Honors Student
[Kyle J. Williams, Science](#)

Outstanding Junior Honors Student
[Clay H. Francis, Undeclared](#)

Outstanding Senior Honors Student
[Emily B. Carroll, Psychology](#)



Young Kyle Martinelli congratulates Sarah McCormick, recipient of the scholarship named in memory of his father.

Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship
[Sarah L. McCormick, Biology/Chemistry](#)

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

by David Foote



Ada Egbuji

One day in spring 2005, Dr. Philip Mathis, dean of the Honors College offered me what seemed to be a rather casual invitation to lunch. Little did I know what would come of that lunch, but after much discussion and hard work, MTSU now has a tremendously exciting new program! In the ensuing months, I chaired a committee of individuals from across the campus who met through the summer to develop what we hoped would become a highly competitive and unique academic offering at MTSU.

The committee membership included Dr. Earl Thomas (Management and Marketing), Dr. Jill Hague (English), Dr. Vic Montemayor (Physics and Astronomy), Dr. Lara Womack (Accounting), Ms. Susan Taylor (executive director, Leadership Middle Tennessee), Mr. Jim Pruitt (student, Recording Industry), and myself. We met several times over the summer and brainstormed, discussed, questioned, modified, and finally arrived at what we believed would be a very special program that we called the Institute of Leadership Excellence. This past May, sixteen students completed the first offering of the Institute of Leadership Excellence, and by all accounts the

inaugural class was an outstanding success! A substantial gift from Lee Martin covered all the expenses for the institute and fifty percent of each student's tuition.

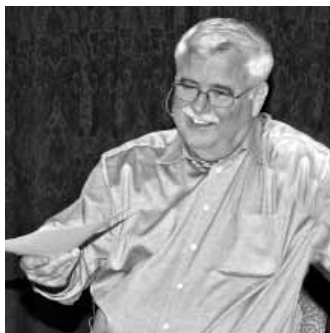
One of our primary goals in developing the institute was to create a truly interdisciplinary program that had strong support from across the University. We accomplished this goal in two important ways. First, our enrollment for the inaugural class included sixteen students from sixteen different majors encompassing all five of the university's colleges. Second, as evidence of widespread support for the program and following an initial challenge from Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones



Dr. David Foote

College of Business, each of the five college deans offered \$100 scholarships to students from his or her college who enrolled in the institute.

Another of our primary goals was to create an experience that would be unique and that would cause students to feel that they had been part of something truly special.



Dr. Earl Thomas

Also, we wanted the institute to provide an intense, total immersion experience in leadership development for those enrolled.

Because it was to be a condensed program, we decided to run the institute during Summer Session I in May. During the first two

weeks, students met Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for lecture, discussion, problem-solving and case study exercises, and other activities. As an example of one of the activities, the first day we spent the entire afternoon going through the Ropes Course at the Recreation Center, where the staff did an excellent job of bringing

Hooper Wins Award

Honors College student Zol Hooper, a senior majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in Actuarial Science and minoring in Insurance, recently received a scholarship check from Brian Spears, an alumnus who is a risk management coordinator with Tractor Supply Company and treasurer of the Nashville-based Cumberland Chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society. Hooper won the scholarship based on intellectual achievement, involvement with Gamma Iota Sigma insurance fraternity, and interest in insurance as a career. 📌

Correction

The faculty accomplishments attributed to Jwa Kim (Psychology) in the spring edition of the Honors Alternative were actually the accomplishments of Yang Soo Kim (Speech and Theatre.) We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight. To review Dr. Kim's accomplishments, see page 15 of this PDF file: <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/Honors%20Alternative%20Spring%202006.pdf> 📌

Alexander cont. from page 18

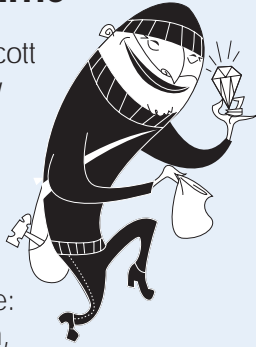
to present his data to the Rutherford County Inns of Court and later to a joint meeting of the Cannon and Rutherford County Bar Association at their annual luncheon in May. At this event, an impressed association presented him with a check to help with research costs of the project.

Josh recently received the Hooper Scholarship from the History Department in addition to a scholarship to study in Cherbourg, France, with Dr. Nancy Goldberg. His project is now coming to a close as he edits the final version of the film. After graduating with Honors from MTSU in December 2006, he plans to do graduate work in philosophy and to incorporate film studies as part of his research. 📌

Leadership cont. on page 20

Spring Lecture Series to Focus on Crime

Associate Dean Scott Carnicom recently announced that crime will be the theme of the Spring 2007 Honors Lecture Series, titled *Crime: Causes, Detection, Punishment, Fact, and Fiction*. Carnicom acknowledged the role of Jill Hague (former interim associate dean) in selecting the theme and the help of Dean Phil Mathis in arranging for speakers. He noted the timeliness of the topic and said that he looks forward to coordinating the series.



Lecture topics will cover a broad spectrum: DNA and crime scene evidence, the death penalty, forensic anthropology, crime intervention, detective fiction, film and crime, the “psychology” of crime, and the death penalty. A lecture by Dr. Robert Glenn, vice president for student affairs, is titled “Sherlock Holmes: Criminal Investigator.” In all, there will be 11 lectures in the series, beginning with invited guest Dr. Andrew Austin (University of Wisconsin–Green Bay) and ending with Honors alumnus Josh Alexander, who will deliver “The Last Execution in Rutherford County, Tennessee.”

The lecture series is free and open to the public. The events take place on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. in room 106 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building beginning January 29, 2007. Honors students who enroll for UH 3000 can receive one hour of upper-division Honors credit by attending. The course may be repeated up to three times for a total of three hours of credit. Make plans now to be a part of this exceptional opportunity to learn more about crime! 📌

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CONT.

Leadership cont. from page 19

our group together in quick order. That made all the difference in the cohesiveness of our group. Dr. Earl Thomas and I team taught the



Greg Parks

course, and I have to tell you we had a wonderful time doing it! Additionally, having two instructors in the classroom enabled the students to experience the give and take of academic discussions, substantially enhancing their learning experience. Another significant catalyst for the tremendously exciting intellectual dialogue that occurred on a daily basis was the diversity of the classroom. As I’ve already mentioned, we had sixteen students from sixteen different majors and each of the five colleges. We also had considerable racial, ethnic, and age diversity in the class, contributing a wealth of ideas, opinions, and perspectives to the issues being addressed.

On nine of the fifteen evenings, we provided dinner for the students and invited speakers to share their experiences and thoughts about leadership. Dr. Lee Martin kicked off the dinners as our first speaker and really set a tone of excellence for the three weeks. Others on the list of speakers included, for example, Mr. Ralph Schulz, president and CEO of the Adventure Science Center; our new head football coach, Rick Stockstill; and Louis Upkins, president and CEO of Designhouse LLC, who has done design work for Oprah Winfrey, Barbra Streisand, and many other well-known personalities.

During the third week, students worked on individual projects then presented



Sweeti Bhakta receives handshake from Dr. H. Lee Martin.

those projects on the final Friday. This was their chance to put their leadership knowledge and skills into practice. Just a few of these exciting projects were

- developing self-awareness workshops for pre-med and pre-pharmacy students that will be conducted for the first time this fall;
- establishing a new student organization for females in the music management field of MTSU’s Recording Industry program;
- establishing a Murfreesboro chapter of CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)—an education, advocacy, and support group for families affected by AD/HD; and
- developing a support and recovery program for traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivors in the middle Tennessee area.

After a day full of presentations, we gathered in the boardroom at SunTrust Bank on Main Street



for an excellent closing dinner and our final speaker, Mr. Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and a longtime friend of Mr. John Seigenthaler Sr. We presented each of the students with a certificate honoring their completion of the institute and a personalized copy of the book *Leadership Presence* by Kathy Lubar and Belle Linda Halpern.

The feedback we received from students and others indicates that our first offering of the Institute of Leadership Excellence was a huge success in every way. We are more convinced than ever that the institute will become a premier experience for students at MTSU, and we look forward with great excitement to next year’s class and to the outstanding accomplishments of our student leaders!



UFO ASSISTS STUDENTS

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult." As Roman philosopher Seneca recognized the value of daring to attempt the difficult, the Honors College Undergraduate Fellowship Office (UFO) not only recognizes the value but also encourages and assists students to strive for difficult-to-obtain fellowships and the honor and recognition that accompany them.

Created in fall 2005, the UFO is housed in room 220 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building and is staffed by program coordinator Michelle Arnold. Arnold, who is also the Honors College advisor, recently said that the purpose of the UFO is to identify, encourage, and facilitate student applications for special honors and recognition at the national and international level. "Students do not have to be enrolled in the University Honors College in order to receive information and assistance through the UFO," she said.

Arnold has thus far nominated four MTSU Honors students for prestigious fellowships in addition to 37 nominations for the National Deans List. Barry M. Goldwater Scholar nominees in 2005 were Travis Denton and Adam Shulman. Matthew Bullington was nominated for the Harry S. Truman National Fellowship, and Erin Weber was nominated for the National Collegiate Honors Council 2005 Student of the Year Award.



Arnold encourages qualified students to apply for prestigious fellowships, noting that MTSU has had a student selected in recent years. In 2001–2002 Brian A. Chance, a former Honors student, was a Fulbright U.S. Student Fellow to Germany, where he studied Germanic languages and literature. Chance graduated summa cum laude from MTSU in 2001, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy and Foreign Languages with concentrations in German and English.

On Wednesday, April 12, 2006, the UFO held a fellowships orientation for juniors and seniors interested in competitive national and international fellowships. The orientation, which served as an introduction to the services of the UFO, was hosted by Arnold, Dr. Divya Saksena, and Dr. Jan Quarles. Students were able to obtain detailed information about several fellowship opportunities as well as ask questions and interact with the speakers. Three fellowships were discussed: Marshall, Fulbright, and Rhodes. The coveted fellowships provide up to nine months of funding support for study and research projects in a wide variety of areas and academic disciplines in countries across the world.

Honors Faculty Recognized at President's Celebration

Dr. Claudia Barnett, associate professor in English, received the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award at the President's Celebration of Excellence held in March. She has been a member of the MTSU faculty since 1994. She is dedicated to helping students and has been described as "going above and beyond to insure that students are not only challenged by her class but that they actually enjoy the class." No student leaves Barnett's class without some increased sense of accomplishment and self worth. She is concerned with increasing, refining, and empowering students with tools, skills, and characteristics they already possess. Barnett has made numerous presentations at conferences and written many articles on contemporary drama and performance.

Also at the ceremony, **Dr. Thomas Brinthaup**, a professor in the Psychology Department since 1990, received the John Bragg Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Brinthaup is known for outstanding efforts in advising and mentoring students. He has worked with undergraduate students, training them to gain valuable research skills needed to pursue careers in behavioral and educational sciences, and he has worked with graduate students, encouraging them to present their research findings at psychological conferences. Brinthaup is advisor for Psi Chi and the Psychology Club. A presenter at international, national, regional, and local conferences, Brinthaup has written five published books. Among numerous articles he has published are several for the *College Student Journal*. 📌

Kimbrell Receives Career Achievement Award



Don Witherspoon, MTSU Foundation Board member, (left) congratulates Dr. Ed Kimbrell as President McPhee looks on.

Dr. Ed Kimbrell, professor of Journalism, received the Career Achievement Award at the 2006 President's Celebration of Excellence ceremony. In his own words, he has not "lived the life of a traditional academic," but he has been most traditional in his dedication to excellence—in teaching, in curriculum development, in his profession as a highly respected peer, and in his dedication to the University. Over his career as both a professional educator and practicing journalist, he has engaged his students to enter arenas of informed public debate and practice the art and craft of journalism. Much honored for his teaching excellence, Dr. Kimbrell has also made broad professional contributions that touch journalism and First Amendment studies in many different ways including service as an expert witness in numerous legal cases. Widely known for his work in television as a producer, performer, and media critic, he has served as a trustee on the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Board of Governors and as president of the Mid-South Chapter.

His innovative contributions to curriculum and program development in mass communication are especially noteworthy. He developed

Kimbrell cont. on page 24

HONORS CREED ADOPTED

On February 3, 2006, the Honors College adopted the Honors Creed, a formal statement of the foundational principles that an Honors education is based upon. Copies of the Honors Creed will be placed on the first floor in the lounge area outside the classrooms and on the second floor near the entrance to the Administrative Suite (room 205).

THE HONORS CREED

University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University

It is evident that a set of guiding principles is useful in charting a course for the future; therefore we, the students and faculty of the University Honors College embrace THE HONORS CREED and hereby acknowledge before others our deeply held beliefs that

CHARACTER, more than anything else, defines the worth of a man or a woman;

COMMITMENT is a virtue that sustains us, guides us, and inspires others during uncertain times;

CREATIVITY is the essential factor that promotes invention, adaptation to our environment, and personal fulfillment;

CURIOSITY, more than anything else, compels human beings to explore and learn;

DISCIPLINE is essential to a culture of order, whether on a personal level or within a political system;

FAITH, and its cousin, hope, are foundational to human knowledge, whether applied to religion or to science;

HONOR is a virtue not to be equated with glory but with respect to purity; and, finally, that

INTEGRITY is the cornerstone of every creed, every code, every profession, every civilization, and every enterprise. Without integrity, truth—the virtual goal of the academic enterprise—can never be found. 📌

HONORS MEDALLION HISTORY AND MEANING

Since 1993, graduates of the University Honors College have received the official Honors Medallion either at the conclusion of the final thesis defense or as a part of the Honors College Annual Awards Ceremony. The medallion is generally suspended over the heart of the wearer by a blue ribbon and indicates that the student has completed a senior thesis and other special requirements prescribed by the University Honors College.

The medallion itself is a two-dimensional replica of the official

seal of the University Honors College. Made of die cast brass that has been finished to a dull, antique-like patina, the medallion depicts a lighted torch, three Ionic columns, and a lightning bolt directed toward Middle Tennessee State University. The torch symbolizes the search for truth and knowledge. The columns are emblematic of stability and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, and the lightning represents a sudden flash of enlightenment or creative energy. 📌

HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The short film *Would You Cry If I Died?* written, produced, and codirected by **Dr. Bob Pondillo**, professor, Electronic Media Communication, recently was designated an official selection at the San Fernando Valley International Film Festival, Too Short for Hollywood Film Fest (TS4HFF), sponsored by ManiaTV Internet Television of Denver and Pune International Film Festival, Pune, India. Out of 600 entries, only 30 films were official selections. The black-and-white movie also won the Award of Excellence, from the Broadcast Educators Association, Faculty Competition (narrative film) in Las Vegas; third place in the Best Short Narrative Film category at the 2006 Southern Fried Flicks Film Festival; and a second place award in the 2006 Broadcast Educators Association Festival of Media Arts in the narrative faculty video category. In addition, *Would You Cry If I Died?* is archived at the Canadian Film Center's Worldwide Short Film Festival Marketplace Catalogue and Videotape Library, accessible to guests of the festival and industry delegates. In 2005, over 400 shorts were picked up for broadcast or distribution as a result of being included in the marketplace. Pondillo's film was shown locally on News Channel 5 Plus (Comcast Channel 50) in March, hosted by news anchor Chris Clark. MTSU was well represented in the film. Alumni included actors Cara Francis and Tarkan Dospil, Pondillo's former students; Mark Duvall, sound designer and mixer; Matthew Pessoni, codirector, editor, and production designer; and Scott Pessoni, director of photography.

Dr. Pondillo will be contributing two articles to the *Encyclopedia of the*

First Amendment (from Congressional Quarterly Press), which should be available next year.

His book *Censorship's "Golden Age": The Secret Life of NBC-TV's Stockton Hellfrich, America's First Network Television Censor* has just been accepted and will be published (in 2007) by Southern Illinois University Press.

He is now in the editing and post-production process of a new short film, *My Name Is Wallace*, which he also wrote and directed. It's a comedy and should be available before year's end—as early as this fall if things fall into place.

Dr. Elyce Rae Helford, professor of English and director of Women's Studies, received an FRCPC grant in spring 2006 to work on "*A Queer Feeling When I Look at You': Gender and Sexuality in Three Films by George Cukor*," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Bisexuality* (special film studies issue) coming out in 2007.

ABSTRACT: In three classic Hollywood romantic comedies by openly gay director George Cukor and starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, we find constellations of nontraditional performances of gender and sexual orientation. *Sylvia Scarlett* (1935), *Holiday* (1938), and *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) offer both overt and subtle resistance to monogamous, heteronormative relationship structures through bisexual and other queerly configured romantic triangles. These three films share historical closeness, the pairing of two actors known for their highly gender-typed performances, and relationship triangles centered

on a secondary male character that models an alternative gender/sexuality and thereby heightens the bisexual and queer implications of the text.

Helford also recently played the role of April (a wise-cracking prostitute) in Murfreesboro Little Theater's production of Lanford Wilson's *The Hot L Baltimore* in June 2006.

Dr. William Canak, professor, Sociology and Anthropology, has had a busy year. His recent achievements include publication of "Blue Collar Career Mobility" (with Randall Adams) in *Encyclopedia of Career Mobility*, Sage Publications, 2006, and "Sociology: Colombia and Venezuela" in *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, vol. 61, Library of Congress and University of Texas Press.

In April, Dr. Canak received a Certificate of Award for Outstanding Mentoring presented by the MTSU Office of Disabled Student Services in recognition of his mentoring of Latasha Beard, a 2006 graduate.

He was just recently elected chair of the National Chapter Advisory Committee of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA).

Dr. John Vile, chair of Political Science, recently did a presentation as James Madison for the meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities meeting in Snowbird, Utah.

He is currently working as one of three editors for the *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, being published by Congressional Quarterly Press.

Dr. Yuan-ling Chao, associate professor in History, received a Princeton University Library Fellowship for summer 2006 and spent a month and a half at Princeton. He is doing research on the history of acupuncture in China.

Faculty cont. on page 25

Kimbrell cont. from page 19

and established the University's first academic program in mass communication; a major in Mass Communication with a degree in Recording Industry Management (now Recording Industry) followed. Kimbrell chaired the first department housing the two degrees and under his leadership the department grew to over 1,000 majors in advertising, broadcasting, journalism, graphics, photography, public relations, and recording. He was instrumental in bringing over \$17.8 million in new resources to the Mass Communication program including \$1.25 million for the Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies named to honor John Seigenthaler and working with Representative John Bragg to make the Mass Communication building a reality. When the College of Mass Communication was established by the TBR in 1989, Kimbrell was chosen to be the founding dean. His role in the evolution of the College of Mass Communication to its designation as the University's first signature program, which currently serves 3,400 undergraduate and 50 graduate students, has left a deep, pervasive, and lasting imprint on the University. 📌

Honors Alternative Credits

Phil Mathis
dean

Scott Carnicom
associate dean

Karen Demonbreum
newsletter editor

Contributors:
Angela Hague, Marsha Powers,
Shelley Thomas, David Foote, Preston
MacDougall

MTSU Publications and Graphics
copyediting, design, and production

MTSU Photographic Services

SPECIAL FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Outstanding Honors Faculty Award this year went to Marilyn Wood, assistant professor in the Recording Industry Department. The award, funded by Dr. Jan Hayes, was presented by Dean Philip Mathis at the annual Honors College Awards Ceremony held on April 19, 2006. Marilyn Wood has been a teacher for over 30 years. From graduate school to preschool, Marilyn has enjoyed learning from all her students through the years.

Wood is nationally known as a music education clinician and has presented workshops on teaching techniques in over 60 cities in 32 states. She has presented papers and workshops at five national conferences and has been guest conductor for honors choirs in numerous states. Two of her national conference presentations were selected to be videotaped and are distributed internationally as references for teachers around the world. A composer and arranger of children's choral music, her arrangements are frequently performed at choral festivals as well as in school performances throughout the United States. She was commissioned by LifeWay's music division to write a composition for their internationally distributed music magazine, where she has also had another of her songs published.



LifeWay also selected Wood as the teacher for an internationally distributed video master class demonstrating excellence in teaching. As a visiting professor, she teaches summer music education courses at universities across the country.

Courses at Arizona State and Florida State universities are among her semipermanent summer lectureships.

Wood's writings on music education appear in nationally circulated music journals as well as international publications. She has taught in the Department of Recording Industry since the mid 1990s, designing and developing two courses, Musicianship for Engineers and Advanced Musicianship for Engineers. She continues to teach both those courses each semester in addition to an Honors section of Musicianship for Engineers. 📌



HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Faculty cont. from page 23

Dr. Claudia Barnett, professor of English, is the recipient of the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award for 2006. Her essay "A Moral Dialectic: An Experiment with an Air Pump" appeared in *Modern Drama* 49.2 (2006).

Dr. Robert B. Blair, associate professor in Business Communication and Entrepreneurship, completed the requirements for the Certified Online Instructor (COI) designation in May 2006. Dr. Blair is serving as president of the Southern Business Education Association during 2006. He will serve as parliamentarian of the Murfreesboro chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals during 2006–2007.

Dr. Tammie Brown, assistant professor in Educational Leadership, is this year's president of the Southeastern Region Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE). At the SRATE conference recently held in Baltimore, she presented "Teacher Performance and Student Learning: Does Quality Teaching Impact Student Learning?"

In addition, she is also chair of the National Field Directors' Forum, working with field directors across the nation to develop a case study book for establishing policies and procedures for student/intern practice.

Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle, professor in History, just recently had her book *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South* published by the University Press of Florida.

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, associate professor in Chemistry, spent two weeks in a castle in Kruiabeke teaching introductory chemistry to six Brothers of Charity. This religious order serves mentally ill and poor, abused, and abandoned people in countries all over the world. The six brothers were from Sri Lanka, Congo, India, Philippines, and New Guinea and are in the process of earning degrees in special education. In addition to living and teaching in the castle, which was built in the early 1500s and has a moat and a modern computer lab in one of its turrets, Dr. Iriarte-Gross taught lab in the caretaker's cottage on the castle grounds. She also visited the Atomium in Brussels, an iron crystal structure built for the 1958 World's Fair.

In addition, Dr. Iriarte-Gross received a National Science Foundation grant in the amount of \$199,908 for her project called "GSE/DIS: A Dissemination Project to Increase Girls Raised in Tennessee Science (GRITS)."

Dr. Nuria Novella, professor in Foreign Languages and Literatures, has published a book titled *El dramaturgo en su laberinto: El teatro en el exilio de Jose Ricardo Morales*.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, associate professor in History, has a new book out called *Pharsalia: An Environmental Biography of a Southern Plantation 1780–1880*, University of Georgia Press.

Dr. Karen Petersen, assistant professor in Political Science, accepted a 2006–2007 Academic Fellowship

with the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C. Petersen was in Israel from May 27 through June 7 for an intensive series of lectures by academics, diplomats, and military officials from India, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and the United States. Field trips to military, police, and immigration facilities throughout Israel were also part of the program. Petersen said she would bring the experience home to help in more role-playing activities for her classes. Petersen teaches international relations and coaches our Model UN team. We congratulate her on the honor and welcome her home!

Also, as a side note, Dr. Petersen is one of our Honors faculty members who will be teaching in the Buchanan Seminars slated to begin in fall 2007.

Dr. Martha Weller, professor in Physics and Astronomy, represented MTSU at this year's SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) Summer Institute in San Jose, California, in August.

Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate professor in Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Dr. Stacey Borasky, Department of Social Work, have formed a partnership to help bring Spanish language training to the 4,000 employees who work for the Department of Children's Services (DCS) around the state. Dr. Borasky approached Thomas in March about the idea of funneling DCS employees through the five-day Summer Language Institute, which Thomas began with seed money from a Special Projects Grant in 2003. The first group of DCS employees was trained at the end of June in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Dr. Allen Hibbard, English, served as mace carrier for the August 2006 commencement program. **Dr. Richard Barnett**, Recording Industry, served as the Honors College banner carrier. 📌

Honors Newsletter Receives Award

Honors Alternative, the newsletter published each semester by the University Honors College, was a winner in a communications award competition held by the Tennessee College Public Relations Association (TCPRA) in May. Submitted by MTSU Publications and Graphics, the department responsible for University publications, the newsletter won a bronze award in the statewide competition judged on overall creativity of the piece, marketing execution, and impact of message.

Sherry Wisner George, graphic designer in Publications and Graphics, designed the newsletter, following a template she developed last year when she revamped the look of the piece. Suma Clark, Publications and Graphics director, explained: "We work with Dean Phil Mathis and Karen Demonbreun, secretary in the Honors College, who compiles and writes the copy. Bill Fisher, senior writer/editor here, was responsible for editing the copy, and Judy Shook, assistant director, proofread the material. All are to be commended for their roles in putting together a successful piece.

"Sherry has been with us two years. Not only does she bring solid talent to the position, but she brings a wonderful enthusiasm for the job along with an ability to work well with everyone on the challenges each day brings. I am pleased to see her work recognized," Clark continued.

Responding when the award was announced, Wisner George said, "I love what I do and hope my zeal for design is shown through my work. It is gratifying to have the hard work I put into a project honored by an award."

The newsletter was one of the three MTSU pieces receiving awards in the 2006 competition, which, according to the TCPRA awards committee, was the largest and most competitive in recent memory. There were 191 entries from 16 Tennessee colleges and universities.

Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations, said he's proud of his division's latest

COLLAGE PROVIDES VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

The third volume of *Collage: a Journal of Creative Expression* was published in April, and based on the experience of recent staff members, it is becoming evident that being part of a publication like *Collage* benefits students in many ways.

Former staff members have reported benefits including making new friends, gaining editing experience, enhancing portfolios, and learning to meet deadlines and work as a team.

Among those benefiting most from their tenure with *Collage*, was spring 2006 Editor in Chief Jessi Torres. A journalism major and spring graduate, Torres embarked upon a job search before graduation. She reported in late May, "I interviewed for three positions and was offered each one!" She added, "Working for *Collage* gave me the tools I needed to enter the workplace after college. I believe my experience with *Collage* has been the main reason for my success. I would highly recommend *Collage* as a way to gain valuable experience."

Online editor Dana Clark was also helped in her job search by her role on the *Collage* staff. Clark said, "I feel that being part of a design team provided my current employer proof that I had experience with deadlines and working as a group to accomplish a crisp publication."

Recent MTSU graduates Jessy Yancey and Jessica Dinkins also had positive experiences to report. Yancey said, "Working for *Collage* was a wonderful experience that really helped me grow as an editor of literature. I encourage anyone to submit their work, and it doesn't matter if their major is English or engineering—*Collage* gives any student a chance to demonstrate their creative talents for the whole University. I think it's very important to have a journal of creative expression on a college campus, as it helps students express themselves whether through writing, drawing, paint-



Jessi Torres, left, gives Melissa Spoonamore a big hug at the Honors College Spring Awards ceremony.

ing, sculpting, or whatever their outlet may be." Designer Jessica Dinkins (2005–06) recently said, "*Collage* magazine was not only a great experience to meet and make new friendships but it was also an invaluable project to collaborate and design in order to

enhance my portfolio and future career."

Not only have former staff members benefited from working on *Collage*, the publication has benefited from their knowledge and commitment to excellence. Several spring 2006 staffers brought skills to *Collage* that enhanced the quality of the publication and did not go unnoticed by the School of Journalism. Jessi Torres was the recipient of the School of Journalism's Outstanding Newspaper/Magazine Graduate Award and of an Outstanding Service Award from the Honors College for *Collage*. Jessica Dinkins received the Special Achievement in Media Design Award through the School of Journalism and an Outstanding Service Award for *Collage*, and Jessy Yancey won the Douglas E. Stults Memorial Scholarship. Journalism/Media Design major Marcus Snyder, a new addition to the *Collage* staff, was the winner of the Outstanding Junior in Media Design Award and the Georgia Speck Hill Scholarship.

The spring 2006 issue of *Collage* was produced by a staff of twelve. Members included Torres, editor in chief; Dinkins, designer; Clark, online editor; Yancey, literature arts editor; and Meghan Vaughan, visual arts editor. Other valuable staff members included Carolyn Crawford, Liz Beeson, Alex Ingalls, Amy Powers, Ashley Sherwood, Audrey Weddington, and Melissa Spoonamore, who was recognized for her outstanding service to *Collage* along with Torres and Dinkins at the Honors Spring Awards.

The spring staff received 186 submissions from which they selected 33 pieces

UFO ASSISTS STUDENTS

UFO cont. from page 21

The Marshall Fellowship Program enables up to 40 college graduates

of U.S. accredited colleges and universities to study in the United Kingdom for advanced degrees in a wide range of academic areas.

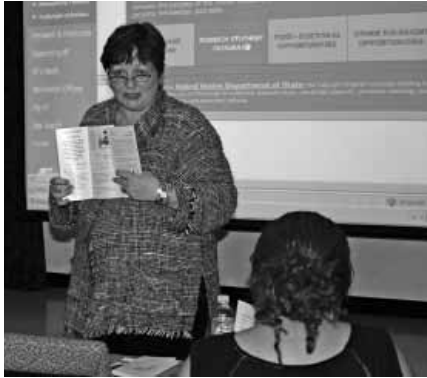
"The program looks for tomorrow's leaders: for high intelligence and academic attain-

ment, for social commitment and responsibility, for leadership potential, and for originality and flair," said Dr. Saksena.

The Rhodes Fellowship Program provides special educational opportunities to talented students who offer the promise of effective service to the world and to promote international understanding. "Quality of both character and intellect is the important requirement for a Rhodes scholarship," Saksena said.

The Fulbright Fellowship Program is to increase mutual understanding

between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills.



The grants are designed to give U.S. students the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year. Dr. Quarles recently said, "Fulbright and other international scholarships offer

students not-to-be missed opportunities, and I hope many more MTSU students will discover these grants and apply. Those who win opportunities to represent the United States abroad almost always report that the experience changed their lives in wonderful ways and opened up their views of the world."

Students interested in gaining more information about fellowships and UFO services should contact Ms. Arnold by calling (615) 904-5263, e-mailing fellows@mtsu.edu, or dropping by the UFO office in the Honors Building, room 220. 📌

Newsletter cont. from page 26

showing. "It's always pleasing to see the work of your colleagues be recognized by their peers, particularly when the competition is so strong," Bales said.

Publications and Graphics has been a consistent winner in recent TCPRA awards competitions, receiving multiple awards the past two years. Clark credits those awards to the talent and enthusiasm of employees like Wisner George and to the team effort of the entire department. 📌

Collage cont. from page 26

to fill the 32-page magazine. *Collage*, which has published three issues since coming under the sponsorship of the Honors College, accepts submissions from any MTSU student. The magazine is published semiannually and seeks to present the best student literature, art, and photography. The magazine is peer-judged and edited, and the grading process is completely anonymous.

The fall 2006 staff is being led by *Collage* newcomer Travisty Vasquez-Terry, an English major. Terry recently said, "I filled out the application and took the position not because it would look good on my resume but because I think I can help set up processes that will make the magazine inspirational from both artistic and managerial points of view." She added, "*Collage* is about legacy. Not starting over but building on the firm foundation that is already in place."

The fall 2006 *Collage* staff of 20 students is the largest ever. Terry said one of her goals for the large fall staff is to allow them to cross-train in several aspects of the magazine if they desire to do so. She also said that being selected to lead the staff is "one of the greatest honors I have ever received. It is almost as if I have been asked to be the overseer of a precious child who belongs to the entire campus community. [*Collage*] gives the entire MTSU campus a place to showcase talent and voice literary genius. *Collage* is bigger than me and the staff. It is about every single individual who is a student on the MTSU campus; with almost 23,000 students, it doesn't get much bigger than that." 📌

HONORS COUNCIL 2006-07

Chair

Dr. Bill Connelly
English

Ms. Jennifer Carter
Student Representative

Dr. Teresa Davis
Psychology

Dr. Tony Eff
Economics and Finance

Dr. Paul Fischer
Recording Industry

Dr. Richard Hansen
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Dr. Amy Jetton
Biology

Ms. Katie Onks
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Dr. Jan Quarles
Electronic Media

Communication

Dr. Rebecca Seipelt
Biology

Vice Chair

Dr. Catherine Stogner
Human Sciences

Dr. Earl Thomas
Management and
Marketing

TAYLOR BARNES HAS DEMOMANIA!

As an Honors student in the chemistry and physics departments at MTSU, Taylor Arnold Barnes has been surrounded by a wealth of information. Most of his time has been spent on the receiving end, but DemoMania offered the opportunity to share some of his knowledge with others. Participation in this event involves preparing for and presenting one or more chemical demonstrations for an audience of high school students. Each demonstrator (commonly known as a DemoManiac) receives the guidance of one of the chemistry professors.

Participants can select from a wide variety of demonstrations. The most popular of these involve explosions, bright color changes, fire, and smoke. Whether someone is blowing flaming methane bubbles out of a beach ball, making a cucumber glow in the dark, or exploding a gummy bear, there is never a dull moment at DemoMania! Working with Dr. Amy Phelps, Taylor chose to focus on color changes. His first demonstration was a presentation of manganese in four differently colored states. Modifying the procedure slightly produced a color change from the initial purple to brown or blue or green. The second demonstration involved a very unhappy blue liquid that became colorless when a volunteer spoke encouraging words to it.

Unfortunately, chemical reactions can be finicky things. Stories abound of



demonstrations that simply didn't work. Sometimes they just fizzle, and other times they result in a dirty mess. Occasionally, a clever demonstrator is able to make use of these situations or even convince the audience, "That *really* was supposed to happen!" Although such narrow escapes are possible, in chemistry a gram of prevention is worth a kilogram of cure. Armed with safety goggles, an armful of beakers, and several bottles of chemicals borrowed from the stockroom, Taylor practiced his demonstrations throughout the week prior to DemoMania. Although he experienced a few completely unexpected reactions in the process, Taylor was eventually able to produce the desired outcomes in his preparations for the show.

On the day of DemoMania, MTSU Chemistry Club members could be seen rushing out of the Davis Science Building with all of the supplies necessary for the demonstrations. With his lab coat donned, Taylor entered the stage of Keathley University Center Theater to perform his demonstrations for an audience of over 200 high school students. After a successful and colorful presentation of manganese, several unsuspecting audience members were recruited to cheer up a solution that was clearly suffering from a case of the blues. These unfortunate

STAND BACK, IT'S DEMOMANIA!—Junior Honors chemistry and physics major Taylor Barnes, at left, demonstrates electron losses and gains—and the resultant color changes—in potassium permanganate solutions with acids and bases as Laura Whitson, a senior American Chemistry Society chemistry major looks on. The pair and nine of their MTSU Chemistry Club colleagues demonstrated a plethora of chemical actions and reactions (including a two-liter soda "fountain," an electrocuted pickle, and a flaming gummy bear) for an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 200 local high school students this past spring as part of the club's annual DemoMania in Keathley University Center Theater. The club assembles a variety of demonstrations every year as a "fun and safe way to encourage students to consider a career in chemistry," said Dr. Gary White, chemistry professor and club advisor. photo by J. Intintoli

youths were asked to sing, laugh, and tell jokes for the unhappy solution in front of two hundred of their peers. Once the liquid turned clear and the teenagers had been sufficiently embarrassed, the underlying chemistry was explained and the students were allowed to return to their seats.

Preparing for DemoMania was a lengthy process, but Taylor believes that all the effort was worthwhile. Many students consider chemistry to be the hardest subject they have ever studied, and DemoMania helps make things a little easier for them. The interesting and eye-catching demonstrations that the University's chemistry majors prepare serve to excite the audience about chemistry. Sadly, more than one high school student has experienced trouble at home or at school while attempting to duplicate one of the demonstrations observed at DemoMania. Although it is always good to hear that students are becoming fascinated with the world of chemistry, Taylor cautions that "these demonstrations should only be performed by a fully certified DemoManiac."

For more information about the Chemistry Club and DemoMania, visit www.mtsu.edu/~chemclub/ or contact Taylor Barnes, Chemistry Club Vice-President, at tab3n@mtsu.edu.

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