



HONORS *Edition*

University Honors College Newsletter • Fall 2009
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the *Dean's Desk*

When this is published, I will have been dean for more than a year. The experience has been both challenging and exhilarating. Although I miss my old haunts in Peck Hall, I have come to embrace my new digs in the Martin Honors Building. Visits by former colleagues and students continue to supplement the many new friendships that I have made here.

The Martin Honors Building, from which we can now see the construction of a new student union and a new College of Education building, continues to showcase MTSU's best. This spring, we hosted valedictorians, salutatorians, and National Merit finalists and their parents as well as students from Governor's School and students and parents who were visiting during CUSTOMS orientation. The newly refurbished Lyon Hall continues to be a draw for incoming Honors students.

Dean cont. on page 2

Honors Students Win Awards

MTSU Honors students have again reaped a variety of recognitions both within the University and in the larger academic community.

Taylor Barnes, who recently graduated with a joint major in Chemistry and Physics, heads this year's list with a \$30,000 award for graduate study in the form of a 2009 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship and one of 60 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships for \$5,000 for study at Caltech. Taylor was also chosen for *USA Today's* 2009 All-USA College Academic Third Team in April and won first place at MTSU's Scholars Week in the undergraduate division for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences for his research. The *Forbes* magazine survey that placed MTSU among the 47 "Best Buys" in the nation listed Taylor as an example of an outstanding recent graduate.



Taylor Barnes

Shannon Murphy, a Biology major, received an Honorable Mention in March from the administrators of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.



Shannon Murphy

Sophomores **Lauren A. Rigsby** and **Adam E. Emerson** received two of 60 Emerging Scholar awards of \$250 each from Phi Kappa Phi.



Lauren A. Rigsby

Merranda Holmes won second place for her research project for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences during Scholars Week.

Rachel Simes, a May graduate with a degree in Recording Industry, won MTSU's annual President's Award. **Jasmine Gray**, with a journalism concentration, is editor in chief of this fall's *Collage*, won MTSU's Service Award, and the state of Tennessee's Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award.



Adam E. Emerson

Inaugurated cont. on page 3

From a financial standpoint, last year is one of the most challenging on record. Although we have sought to do our part in looking for potential savings, I remain grateful that Dr. McPhee and the rest of the administration have largely held the Honors College harmless from cuts. As a college, we recognize that we have a sacred obligation to serve other units that have not been as fortunate. We want our own successes to translate into University successes.

One area in which the college is likely to be affected is scholarships. Many of our scholarship endowment accounts are not expected to pay out any money over the next year. If we are to continue these scholarships this year, we will have to do so from new giving. I am pleased to report that the number of donors to the college has increased in the past year. We still need additional monies if we are simply to maintain the same level of scholarship support that we gave last year.

The Honors College continues to emphasize leadership. Dr. David Foote and Dr. Earl Thomas taught 29 students in the third Institute for Leadership Excellence in May. A variety of speakers made presentations, and participants uniformly praised their experience. The college continues to seek future sponsors for this project, but if the latest leadership institute proves to be the last, we have the satisfaction of knowing that it was among the best. We owe special thanks to Dr. Lee Martin, whose contributions were primarily responsible for this institute. We were privileged to host Dr. Martin's class on techonomics this spring.

Student News

Mary Crouse (Biology) presented her research, "Mechanism of Reduced Sphingomyelinase Activity in Nieman-Pick Type C," at Scholars Day, April 3, along with coauthor **Evan Swift** (Biology).

Michelle Ebel (Accounting) recently completed a summer internship with the FDIC.

Samantha Emerson (Psychology) presented her research, "Personalities to the Beat of a Different Drum: Drummers and the Big Five," at Scholars Day, April 3.

Jasmine Gray (Mass Communication) received third place for the College of Mass Communication's undergraduate division at Scholars Week in April. Jennifer Woodard (Electronic Media Communication) was faculty mentor for Gray's project, "Contrasting Color: Juxtaposing Black Identity and Media Portrayal in America, Ghana, and England." Gray, a McNair Scholar, also won MTSU's Service Award and was one of five students to win the Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award from the state of Tennessee. In 2006, Gray founded Jaz's Jammies, an organization that collects and donates pajamas to needy children in area hospitals. Gray was one of seven McNair Scholars who traveled to China in August accompanied by interim McNair director Steve Saunders. The group visited Beijing and Lanzhou, making presentations at Beijing Normal University and Northwest Normal University.

Jacob Hall (Biology) received URSCA Scholar funding for summer and fall 2009. His proposal is titled "Comparing and Aligning

All Known Snake Mitochondrial Genomes in Sub-family Crotalinae to Develop Unique Primers That Will Allow Sequencing of an Unknown Mitochondrial Genome." His faculty mentor is Dr. Bruce Cahoon.

Merranda Holmes (Biology) received second place for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences during Scholars Week for her project "The Production, Quantification, and Fluorescent Detection of Anthrax-Simulating Endospores." Her faculty mentor was Dr. Stephen Wright. Holmes also received a summer internship through Stones River Medical Association and had the opportunity to work with ten different specialties at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Shane McCoy (English) received URSCA Scholar funding for summer 2009. His proposal is titled "An Examination of Gender and Sexuality through the Character Development of Orlando in Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* and Lady Slane in Vita Sackville-West's *All Passion Spent*."

Shannon Murphy (Biology) was recognized in March as a Barry M. Goldwater Honorable Mention recipient for her research in biomedical science. Murphy interned last summer at the University of Alabama in the Biomedical Science Research program. She studied mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus and malaria. Murphy presented her research, "A Label-Free Method for Detection and Differentiation of *Bacillus* spp. Endospores," at Scholars Day, April 3. She also received a summer internship through Stones River Medical Association to work with ten specialties at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.



Joseph Quarles (English) has been accepted into the McNair Scholars program. His research project is titled "Snow, Glass, and Love Apples." It is a study of Snow White and modern retellings of the tale. He presented his research July 29 at the McNair Program's 10th Annual Research Symposium. Dr. Martha Hixon is his mentor. Quarles, a frequent contributor to the Honors College arts and literary magazine, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, recently received notification that three of his creative works will be published in *Sanctuary*, a regional journal published by the University Honors Program at the University of Alabama–Birmingham.

Two of his works, "Daddy's Hands" and "The Cross," were published in the spring 2008 and fall 2008 issues of *Collage*, respectively. His prose piece, "Leaving Argentina," was published in the spring 2006 issue of *Collage* under the title "Death of Innocence."

Amy Ronner (English) received URSCA Scholar funding for summer 2009. Her proposal is titled "Speech and Dialogue in the Works of Charles Dickens." Her faculty mentor is Dr. Philip Phillips. Ronner presented her research Wednesday, April 1, for the College of Liberal Arts Day during Scholars Week.

Sarah Visocky (Anthropology) received URSCA Scholar funding for summer 2009. Her proposal is titled "The Changing Demographics of Tennessee: Critical Analysis of Social Science Literature on Immigrant and Refugee Communities to the South." Her faculty mentor is Dr. Ida Fadzillah. 📌

Students have formed a leadership chapter on campus that is applying for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa this fall. A team will be visiting from the national headquarters during this time. Omicron Delta Kappa is a particularly good organization for the Honors College to sponsor because of its twin emphases on leadership and scholarship.

The Honors College continues to be involved in activities leading to MTSU's centennial in 2011. This fall our Honors Lecture Series focuses on MTSU's history. Dr. Reuben Kyle is moving forward with his work on the history of the Buchanan family. Senator Jim Tracy helped get a resolution through the Tennessee General Assembly recognizing the signal accomplishments of one of our alumni, Nobel-winning economist, Dr. James Buchanan, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday this fall. His nephew, Jeff Whorley, has been providing outstanding leadership on our Board of Visitors.

Last year, we had a record 240 students apply to become one of 20 new Buchanan Fellows. The Honors College is becoming increasingly interested in high school students who have participated in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. We have met with students at Oakland High School who are participating in this program, and next year the University will be awarding 20 scholarships of \$1,000 to IB graduates with 3.5 GPAs or higher. Students who have accepted the challenge of this program are also likely to accept the Honors challenge, and since many enroll with advance credit, many should also be able to graduate in less than four years.

Student Awards cont. from front page

The three-person team of **Rachel Simes**, **Merranda Holmes**, and **Gina Logue** from the Leaders' Circle in the Honors College, which is planning to apply for a charter from Omicron Delta Kappa, won first place in the annual Quiz Bowl sponsored by the College of Business.

In addition to individual awards, **Collage**, the arts and literary magazine of the Honors College, received a Gold Medalist rating from the Columbia Scholastic Press

Association (CSPA), earning 988 points out of 1,000. The CSPA is affiliated with Columbia University in New York.

The Honors College is putting increased emphasis on external fellowships through its Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO), headed by advisor Laura Clippard. Laura says the University is also working with students who plan to apply for Fulbright, Truman, Phi Kappa Phi, Marshall, Udall, and other fellowships for the coming year. 📌



Dr. Jan C. Hayes presents the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award to Dr. Stephen M. Wright (Biology).



Honors College Dean John R. Vile presents the Outstanding Thesis Advisor Award to Dr. Gloria J. Hamilton (Psychology).



Dr. June McCash presents the Bart McCash Scholarship to Julian C. Kisner (Political Science).



Dr. Tom Strawman (English) congratulates Megan L. Childers (Psychology), the winner of the Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship.

2008-2009 Annual Honors Awards

The Honors College held its annual spring awards program Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in the Honors Amphitheatre. Thirteen students received Honors scholarships, two Honors faculty members were recognized, and four outstanding students received plaques. The Honors College also recognized eighteen Honors graduates from fall 2008, spring 2009, and summer 2009.

Scholarship Recipients
Bart McCash Scholarship
[Julian C. Kisner](#)
 Political Science

Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship
[Megan L. Childers](#)
 Psychology

Lawrence R. Good Scholarship
[Andrew D. Trivette](#)
 Psychology

Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship
[Virginia E. Schlitt](#)
 Biology



Honors College Associate Dean Scott Carnicom congratulates Virginia E. Schlitt (Biology), winner of the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship.

Academic Achievement Scholarships

[Rebekah M. Horton](#)
 Political Science

[Samuel T. Mitchell](#)
 Chemistry

[Sonia Qureshi](#)
 International Relations, Political Science, and Global Studies

Paul W. Martin Scholarships

[Michael D. Gibelyou](#),
 Foreign Languages (French)

[Daniel H. Gouger](#)
 Biochemistry

[Merranda D. Holmes](#)
 Biology

[Shannon B. Murphy](#)
 Biology

[Amy C. Ronner](#)
 English

[Anna M. Yacovone](#)
 Global Studies

Outstanding Student Awards

Freshman

[Lauren A. Rigsby](#)
 Biology

Sophomore

[Adam E. Emerson](#)
 Psychology

Junior

[Amy C. Ronner](#)
 English

Senior

[Taylor A. Barnes](#)
 Chemistry and Physics

Special Awards

Outstanding Honors Faculty

[Dr. Stephen M. Wright](#)
 Biology

Outstanding Thesis Advisor

[Dr. Gloria J. Hamilton](#)
 Psychology



From left, Rebekah M. Horton (Political Science), Samuel T. Mitchell, (Chemistry), and Sonia Qureshi (International Relations, Political Science, and Global Studies), winners of the Academic Achievement Scholarships.



Winners of the 2009 Honors Outstanding Students Awards are, from left, senior Taylor A. Barnes (Chemistry and Physics), junior Amy C. Ronner (English), sophomore Adam E. Emerson (Psychology), and freshman Lauren A. Rigsby (Biology).



Former Honors College dean Dr. Phil Mathis congratulates senior Outstanding Student Award winner Taylor A. Barnes. Barnes, who was accepted to six prestigious graduate schools, is attending Caltech.

Honors Graduates

[Hannah Priscilla Green](#)
Art

[Rachel Kathleen Green](#)
Psychology

[Charysse Lauren Archer](#)
Mathematics

[Taylor Arnold Barnes](#)
Chemistry and Physics

[Leonela Guadalupe Carriedo](#)
Biology

[Anjelica Renea Crawford](#)
Psychology

[Teresa Brook Forsythe](#)
Mass Communication (Journalism)

[Yuliya Maximovna Melnikova](#)
Mathematical Sciences and Foreign Languages (Spanish)

[Mika Eden Meschievitz](#)
Chemistry

[Brittney Dunnae-Najie Oliver](#)
Psychology

[Kirsten Lenae Phillips](#)
Psychology

[Eric Tyler Powell](#)
Philosophy

[Amy Cathryn Powers](#)
Mass Communication
(Electronic Media Production)

[Rachel Anne Simes](#)
Recording Industry

[Erin Danielle Westerman](#)
Political Science

[Kyle J. Williams](#)
Biology

[Lani Danielle Lester](#)
Political Science and Mass
Communication (Journalism)

[Mallory Beth Melton](#)
Anthropology and Foreign
Languages (Spanish) 📍

Dean cont. from page 3

The Honors College will continue to seek fellowships for its graduates. Few students have been as successful as Taylor Barnes, who graduated with a joint degree in chemistry and physics in May, but we are confident that we have other students who can qualify, as did Barnes, for prestigious awards such as the Goldwater Scholarship, the Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship, the USA Academic All-American Team, the National Defense Fellowship, and others. We were especially excited that the Goldwater Scholarship Committee recognized one of our students, Shannon Murphy, last year. Our advisor, Laura Clippard, attended a convention this summer at which she also learned more about Fulbright scholarships for graduating students. Cultivating potential Fulbright scholars is an Honors College priority.

This publication is intended to inform members of our Board of Visitors, alumni, students, and potential students of our successes. I encourage you to respond to the survey that we include in each issue. Just as parents take pride in the successes of their children, we take pride in the successes of our graduates. We have been especially pleased to open our literary magazine, *Collage*, to entries by alumni. As you continue to flourish, so will we!

—John Vile, Dean 📍



Honors Fall Enrollment Up!

The number of Honors students increased a healthy 11.43 percent this fall, and enrollment in Honors classes increased an even healthier 21.9 percent, with almost every section filling to capacity. As the semester began, 731 students were enrolled in 1,218 seats in Honors classes. Overall, 93.8 percent of seats in Honors classes are filled.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the college, observed that much of the credit for the increase belongs to University departments, who worked in conjunction with Karen Demonbreum to schedule new sections. The Department of Speech and Theatre offered two new Honors sections of the introductory class in public speaking; the Department of History added classes in Tennessee history and U.S. history; the College of Liberal Arts opened a University 1010 class. Vile also noted that the Honors College held open houses for incoming students during pre-registration that helped boost enrollment. Representatives of the Honors College were present at each of the incoming orientation (CUSTOMS) sessions.

The college is encouraging additional teachers across the University to consider joining the Honors faculty. Vile said that one downside to the enrollment increases is that students who registered late in the summer often found it quite difficult to find Honors classes in which to enroll. He said the most encouraging aspect of the enrollment increases is that they are likely to lead to more Honors graduates. Also, departments are much more willing to add Honors classes when they are likely to fill. 📌

MTSU Nationally Recognized as *Among the Best*

Forbes magazine recently rated MTSU as the 47th “best buy” among all colleges and universities in the United States. This places MTSU among such schools as William and Mary and the Citadel. The only other Tennessee school to place among the top 100 was the University of Tennessee, which came in 70th.



Forbes also listed MTSU among the top 100 public colleges and universities in the nation. MTSU placed 57th on the list, higher than any other institution in the state. In quantifying best colleges, *Forbes* focused on five criteria: graduation rates, awards won by students and faculty members, student satisfaction with their teachers, average debt upon graduation, and postgraduate vocational success. In addition to affordable tuition, MTSU students are especially satisfied with the quality of instruction provided by their professors.

Forbes specifically recognized Taylor Barnes, a recent Honors graduate who won a Goldwater Scholarship and a National Defense Scholarship, as one of MTSU's outstanding alumni. 📌

Dean John Vile said that MTSU's ranking by a prestigious magazine is a major accomplishment but alumni should remember that ranking colleges is an art rather than a science and that rankings will likely vary from one year to another. He added that MTSU's high ranking is magnified for students when they take advantage of the small classes, specialized instruction, and scholarship opportunities available through the Honors College.



Dr. H. Lee Martin and several students in his technomics class pose for a photo before a class session. Standing from left are Ginny Schlitt, Jessy Richter, Alex Treneff, and Tabitha Almeyda. Seated from left are Jody Geneger and Dr. Martin. Much of the class was based on Martin's book on technomics, a field he describes as “the study of trends in business and society resulting in technological advance and its economic effects.”

Internship Provides Valuable Insights, *Memorable Experiences*

by Merranda Holmes and Shannon Murphy
Holmes and Murphy are senior Honors
students majoring in Biology.

Last spring, we applied to the Stones River and Middle Tennessee Medical Center Summer Mentoring program, designed to expose pre-medical students to a variety of disciplines within the medical field. After an extensive and competitive interview process, we were both awarded positions with scholarships. We spent the summer shadowing physicians and medical staff within ten different specialties including emergency medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, orthopedics, and otolaryngology. In addition to observing patient exams, we were invited to watch several surgical procedures. We also had the opportunity to attend a professional medical society meeting, where we met physicians from around Rutherford County. Here are a couple of our favorite experiences from the program.

Merranda:

While shadowing Dr. Mary Moss in Labor and Delivery, I watched the monitor as an unborn baby's heart rate fell with every contraction. The mother was one centimeter dilated—hours away from delivery—and the baby would suffer severe brain injury if a C-section were not performed immediately. I watched anxiously as Dr. Moss performed the procedure. Amid all the blood and surgical utensils, a seemingly lifeless baby emerged and was rushed to the neonatal critical care unit. While shadowing a pediatrician the following week, I had the unexpected privilege of getting to talk with the family once again and seeing their healthy baby boy. As the couple told me about their previous failed attempts with in

vitro fertilization and their desperate desire to finally have a child of their own, I realized how profound an impact Dr. Moss had made on their lives. This experience taught me the importance of rapid decision making in medical emergencies. I hope someday to be able to bring the same hope and healing into the lives of others.

Shannon:

I followed an interventional cardiologist, Dr. Chester Falterman, who had a profound impact on me. On my second day with him, I went to the cath lab to watch a routine angiogram on a middle-aged man. We quickly saw that an old stent had failed and was now occluding the left coronary artery. When we told his family that he would need emergency bypass surgery, his daughter was so upset that she ran from the room and began vomiting in the hall. Instead of leaving, Dr. Falterman consoled the girl and assured her that the medical staff was going to do everything in its power to help her father. A few weeks later, I was again shadowing Dr. Falterman when the patient returned. His eyes filled with tears as he expressed his deepest gratitude to Dr. Falterman, not only for the medical attention he provided but also for his compassion. I hope to emulate Dr. Falterman in not only his medical expertise but also in his passion for his job and helping others. 📌

Shannon Murphy, left, and Merranda Holmes take a break from their summer internship duties at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Online Forms Now Available

Need to complete an Honors form? Then we have great news! We now have a link on our Web site where students can find all forms in one location. In addition, we have revised some forms that do not require an official signature so they can be e-mailed directly to the appropriate person in our office. What could be easier?

Below is the URL:
www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml

The following forms can be e-mailed directly:

- Additional honors credit form
- Advisor's midterm report (for thesis advisors)
- Collage submission form
- Exit survey for thesis writers
- Honors contract
- Intent to graduate (Honors, not the University's)
- Priority registration application
- Scholarship application form
- Student's midterm report (for thesis writers)
- Study abroad intent form
- Survey form
- UFO interest form 📌



Honors Students Reach Milestone

Twenty-six students completed 20 or more hours of Honors credit and received Certificates of Achievement from the Honors College at the conclusion of spring 2009.

Four of the students reaching the 20-hour milestone are Biology majors: senior **Joseph Boachie**, junior **Leonard Fabian**, junior **Blair Harrison**, and **Lee Reed**, a sophomore. Three Psychology majors—junior **Candice Corley**, sophomore **Adam Emerson**, and senior **Suzanne Hicks**—earned certificates.

Earning 20-hour lower division certificates were the following: Mathematical Sciences majors **Caroline Abbott**, a junior, and sophomore **Jessica Richter**; Mass Communication majors **Eldridge Alexander**, sophomore, and **James Skelley**, sophomore; Aerospace majors **Shelby Barton**, a junior, and sophomore **Nicholas Knoll**; Foreign Languages and Literatures majors **Rachel Carlton**, junior, and junior **Michael Gibelyou**; Chemistry majors **Jordan Cox**, a junior, and senior **Logan Key**; and Science majors **Alexander Dawson**, a junior, and **Lindsey Sharp**, a senior.

Other students receiving Honors certificates were junior Biochemistry major **Christopher Brewer**, junior Political Science major **Chelsea Curtis**, junior History major **Sara Gideon**, junior Recording Industry major **Dustin Hargrave**, junior Marketing major **Danielle Rutherford**, junior Economics major **Evan Totty**, and junior Finance major **Kyle Wishing**.

Karen Demonbreum, Honors executive secretary, tracks all statistical data for the college. She said the 26 certificates earned were more than double the number for fall 2008. Dean Vile noted that students who complete the certificates need only eleven more hours (including the thesis) to graduate with Honors. 📌

Phi Kappa Phi Gives Emerging Scholar Awards to Two Buchanan Fellows

Phi Kappa Phi, a National Honor Society that is supported by the Honors College, recently recognized the MTSU chapter as outstanding. The organization also announced that two MTSU students are among 60 throughout the United States who have received Emerging Scholar awards.

The students, both Buchanan Fellows, are **Lauren A. Rigsby** and **Adam E. Emerson**. Lauren graduated from Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro and is planning to major in Biology. Adam graduated from DeKalb County High School in Liberty, Tennessee, and is major-



ing in Psychology and International Relations.

Specifically created "to respond to the needs of undergraduate students in American higher education," Phi Kappa Phi awards these honors to rising sophomores with a grade point average of at least 3.75. Each award is \$250.

Dean Vile noted that MTSU graduating seniors have consistently won Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships. With students now having won this new award, the college will be encouraging future upcoming sophomores to take advantage of this opportunity for recognition. 📌

Honors Students Initiated into Phi Kappa Phi

Six Honors students were among the 56 MTSU students initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi on April 1, 2009, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Spring 2009 Honors College graduate **Yuliya M. Melnikova** (Mathematical Sciences) became a new member of the prestigious national honor society along with five current students who are planning to complete the Honors program: **Sarah Achelpohl** (Nutrition and Food Science), **Amber Carin Hampton** (Global Studies), **Lauren Grace Johnson** (Political Science), **Laura M. Wilbanks** (Mass Communication), and **Richard Evan Swift** (Biology). Numerous others who have participated in the Honors program were also initiated.

Dr. John Vile, dean, said, "It is heartening to see so many students, many from the Honors College, qualifying for such a prestigious honor society." Vile is fellowship coordinator and treasurer for MTSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, and Kathy Davis, executive aide for the college, is chapter coordinator.

New members were initiated into the organization by Dr. Lucy Langworthy, president of MTSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, and Dr. Wandi Ding, chapter secretary.

The primary objective of Phi Kappa Phi is to encourage and recognize superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. 📌

Institute of Leadership Excellence Provides *Unique Experience*

by Dr. David Foote

The Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) graduated its third class of outstanding students in May 2009. A one-of-a-kind experience at MTSU, this interdisciplinary, undergraduate-for-credit course offers intensive study in leadership for students from across the University spectrum. This year, 27 students representing 18 different majors completed the institute. In all, ILE has graduated 68 students representing 35 major areas of study.

Students who have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours before the start of ILE each May and who have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, or who have been nominated by a faculty member or ILE alumnus, may apply to attend the institute. We were pleased to receive 87 nominations for this summer's ILE class. Thirty-seven students applied; we admitted 31; and 27 enrolled.

The application process is just one of several things that make ILE a unique experience at MTSU. Another significant aspect of ILE comes in the form of substantial tuition scholarships for each student, made possible predominantly by external funding. A generous grant from Dr. H. Lee Martin provided this funding for the first three years of ILE. The universal appeal of the ILE experience has also attracted financial assistance from each of five academic college deans as well as from Dr. John Vile, dean of the University Honors College.

The ILE experience begins with a trip to the Campus Recreation Center on the first day for a three-hour session on the Low Ropes course. Because the institute is only five days



**Institute of Leadership
Excellence class celebration**



Biren Patel and Dr. John Vile

long, there is no time to waste in getting to know each other. These team-building activities enable the class to break down the barriers quickly and learn to interact with each other in effective ways. Recent rains made for slippery ground this year, and the students found it quite amusing when the director "took a nose dive" in an especially muddy spot during one of the activities.

Students benefit from a wide range of perspectives on leadership including those from outside speakers brought in each day during ILE. Just as diversity is considered a primary goal in creating each class of students, a strong effort is made to present a diverse slate of speakers, each of whom has achieved noteworthy professional success and who offers an inspiring story of leadership.

Speakers this year included the executive director of Leadership Middle Tennessee, Ms. Susan Taylor; former U.S. Navy SEAL and current

circuit court judge for Rutherford County, the Honorable Royce Taylor; former Riverdale High School coach and current CEO of Maximum Success, Mr. Micheal Burt; president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville, Ms. Jaynee Day; founder, president, and CEO of Designhouse, LLC, Mr. Louis Upkins; and founding coeditor of *USA Today* and current vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center, Mr. Gene Policinski.

All of the speakers appear without the prospect of an honorarium, simply because they believe in the students and in the mission of ILE. Louis Upkins participated for the third time this year, and Gene Policinski returned for a second time. We also had the pleasure of a visit from former U.S. President James Madison (portrayed by Dr. John Vile), who discussed leadership in the early days of our great nation. Finally, for the third year, Dr. Deana Raffo, coordinator of the Leadership Studies minor at MTSU and an Organizational Communication faculty member in the Department of Speech and Theatre, conducted a

Honors Updates

Honors Credit for Governor's School. The Honors Council recently approved giving Honors credit for a grade of A received in Governor's School.

New Walker Library Policy. Honors students who are working on an Honors thesis are now allowed to check out up to 50 books at a time from the James E. Walker Library during the thesis writing process.

Collage. The Honors College arts and literary magazine has a newly designed, updated Web site, www.mtsu.edu/~collage, with online submission forms. Forms can now be filled out online and submitted by e-mail. Digital submissions of art, photography, design, prose, and poetry can be e-mailed to collage@mtsu.edu.

Priority Registration Forms. Interactive forms to facilitate Priority Registration sign-up are now available on the Honors Web site, www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml. Students will still need to meet with the Honors advisor each semester to ensure continued eligibility for the privilege.

Student, Alumni, and Faculty Updates. The Honors College would like to include news briefs about your honors, scholarships, research, publications, appointments, grants, presentations, elections, panels, certifications, and recognitions in the *Honors Edition*. Send your news to hcnews@mtsu.edu.

Honors Forms. All Honors forms are available on the Honors Web site, www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml.

Honors Survey. An interactive Honors Survey for alumni, students, and friends of Honors can be found on the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/honors/alumni.shtml or at www.mtsu.edu/honors/current.shtml. 📧

Five Win Collage Awards

by Jaz Gray
Gray is a senior Honors student majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Journalism.

Five students won spring 2009 Creative Expression Awards from *Collage*, MTSU's literature and art magazine, after the *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board recently selected their pieces as the spring semester's best work.

Sarah Goodwin won in the art category for *Untitled*, **Brett Warren** won in the photography category for "Red Riding Hood," and **Sarah Sullivan** won in the alumni category for her painting *Limbs and Locks*. **Dylan Morris** won in the prose category for "Clarissa's Bedroom" and **Eric Powell** won in the poetry category for "October Under the Old Oak." All awards are accompanied by a \$50 prize.

"I think that it's a great thing that *Collage* is doing, giving students an opportunity to be published and express themselves," said Powell, a senior Philosophy major.

Marsha Powers, *Collage* advisor, said the visual awards are called Leon Nuell Creative Expression Awards in memory of Dr. Leon Nuell, an art professor who died unexpectedly last year.

She said the literature awards are called Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards in honor of Dr. Martha Hixon, an English professor. Hixon was instrumental in the move of *Collage* to the Honors College after it was cut from the student publications budget.

Powell said he decided to submit his work to *Collage* after reading the publication for several years. He said his piece was inspired by the naturalist philosophy that human

beings are continuous with nature. The award "was very inspiring because I have not sought much publication for my poetry," Powell said.

Morris, a junior English major, said his work was inspired by the idea of creating memories. He said that his piece focuses on "looking back on something and how someone remembers something through sights and sounds." Morris said that he had submitted work to the *Collage* before and did not get published, so he decided to put more effort and time into his submissions. "It really paid off," he said of his additional commitment. "Just don't give up because you get rejected a couple times."

Goodwin, a sophomore Art major, said her work was inspired by an assignment to create a self-portrait of her entire body in an unusual position. "Maybe it was trying to be humorous because my feet were bigger than the rest of my body," Goodwin said. "Getting the award is really helpful for me," she said. "It's extra encouragement, and I can use that money toward my art supplies."

Warren, a senior Mass Communication major, said that receiving an award for his piece, inspired by children's stories, made him feel as though his work had worth. "A lot of times your pictures never leave the computer so it's nice that others can see what you've been up to," said Warren.

Sullivan, who graduated in 2008 with a degree in Art (Studio), is currently in Cambodia creating a collection of paintings to market in the United States, according to Powers.

Institute of Leadership Excellence Provides Unique Experience

ILE cont. from page 9

Myers-Briggs personality assessment and several related activities with the students.

Dr. Earl Thomas and I work hard throughout the year to make ILE a unique, exciting, challenging, and rewarding experience for those students who attend. The process begins in early October with requests for nominations from all Honors faculty and ILE alumni. Nominations are due November 1, and letters of invitation go out to nominated students shortly thereafter,

Louis Upkins

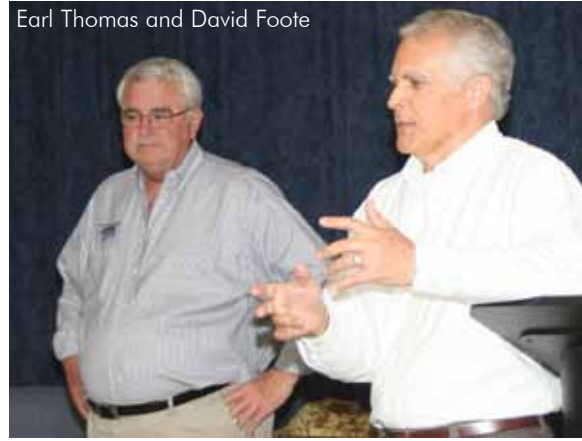


with a due date for applications of December 1. We make admission decisions during winter break and notify admitted students January 15. Throughout the spring semester, we work to line up speakers (Ms. Susan Taylor, at Leadership Middle Tennessee, has been tremendously helpful to us in this regard!), set the curriculum, ensure that enrollment goes smoothly, and process students' tuition scholarships.

This year, we have the added challenge of identifying the funds necessary to continue the program. We believe strongly that ILE is one of the best experiences MTSU students can have, and our graduates' comments consistently affirm that belief. We developed the program in 2005 with the conviction that providing substantial tuition scholarships was essential to the ILE concept, and we remain convinced that to do so will continue to be important.

Without question, the best part of ILE is its students. Again this year, Dr. Thomas and I were amazed at their passion for learning, their love of life, and their potential for greatness. The students who attend ILE are some of the best MTSU has to offer; they are the future—a future filled with promise. Each time we offer ILE, we do our best to make it a rewarding experience for them, and each year knowing these students is the most rewarding experience we have! 📣

Earl Thomas and David Foote



Students receive Creative Expression Awards for their submissions to the spring 2009 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. Winners of the Leon Nuell Creative Expression Award for outstanding visual work are, from left, **Sarah Goodwin** (art), **Brett Warren** (photography), and **Sarah Sullivan** (alumni, art), who was unavailable for the photo. Winners of the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award for literature are, from right, **Eric Powell** (poetry) and **Dylan Morris** (prose).

Collage cont. from page 10

"My inspiration has always been the body and finding new ways to challenge myself with it and my medium," Sullivan wrote in an e-mail. "I wanted to depict the figure not as a person in a setting but as a shape in space." Through *Collage*, Sullivan says she has "a nice documentation of my painting to share with family and friends outside of MTSU, as well as allowing individuals to view it in *Collage* who might not have seen it otherwise."

Collage is published once each semester and accepts submissions year-round. 📣

AP Credit Applicable as Honors Credit

The University Honors College allows Honors credit in cases where a student demonstrates high competence in a subject based on Advanced Placement/CEEB exam scores. MTSU allows credit obtained through Advanced Placement (AP) examination to count toward the 120 semester hours required for graduation if the AP exam score is three (3) or higher on a five-point scale.

The Honors AP policy allows students to gain up to nine semester hours of Honors credit by AP examination if the exam score is four (4) or higher. The policy is similar to policies that have been in place at other honors colleges for some time. For details regarding the policy, consult the Honors College Web site (www.mtsu.edu/honors) or contact Laura Clippard, Honors advisor, at lclippard@mtsu.edu or 898-5464. 📞



Contact our academic advisor, Laura Clippard, 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! 📞

Freshman Accepts Challenge and Nets Scholarships

Two years ago, MTSU freshman **Alissa Ruggle** was a high school cheerleader in Riley, Kansas, with no specific plans for college, but after accepting a challenge from her younger sister, Karly, Ruggle's life has made an unexpected turn.

A recipient of MTSU's most prestigious academic scholarship, the Buchanan Fellowship, in addition to a coveted track scholarship, Ruggle did not begin running track until her junior year at Riley County High School, when she joined the team to train with her sister. With the encouragement of her coach, she progressed quickly as a runner. She said, "He really pushed me to do better, and being able to go out there and get better and watch myself run faster was awesome."

According to Riley County track and field and cross-country head coach Garry Sigle, "Alissa is a good example of someone who tried something that maybe she didn't think she'd be good at, or didn't think she would like, and it has turned out amazingly well."

Because of Coach Sigle's acquaintance with MTSU track coach Keith Vroman, Ruggle visited MTSU, was offered a track scholarship, and was encouraged to apply for the Buchanan Fellowship. The day after signing the acceptance papers for the track scholarship, she learned that she had also received the Buchanan.



Freshman Honors student Alissa Ruggle celebrates her MTSU track scholarship.

Ruggle has been a member of two cross-country teams, one of which won a Class 3A state title and another that finished second in the state of Kansas. She was an all-state selection in 2008 and won the state title for the mile in 2009. She also represented the United States last summer in Australia, running cross-country at Down Under Sports.

In track and field, Ruggle has been a part of two relay teams that broke school records, one of which also won the 3A state title.

She recently told her hometown newspaper, the *Manhattan Mercury*, "Try everything, because seriously, you never know. Last year I would not have guessed that I would be here. I was into cheerleading and shopping, and as a joke, I tried out [for track], and now it's worth [over] \$50,000. So go for it."

At MTSU, Ruggle is majoring in English and pursuing a minor in Spanish. She also plans to take pre-med classes with the goal of entering medical school and possibly becoming a plastic surgeon.

In Ruggle's Buchanan Fellowship application essay she wrote, "Medical school applicants are required to take advanced courses in biology, chemistry, and other difficult sciences, but no medical school requires a student to be fluent in anything other than English. I believe that taking this unconventional route will give me a better sense of communication that I can use when talking with my future patients."

Challenge cont. on page 13

UFO Assists Fellowship Applicants

The Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO) identifies, encourages, and facilitates student applications for undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship opportunities at the national and international level.

The office is housed in the Martin Honors building, and Academic Advisor Laura Clippard is the UFO coordinator and primary contact person. Students do not have to be enrolled in the Honors College in order to receive information and assistance through the UFO.

Clippard recently said, "High-ability students need to explore opportunities for travel, scholarships, and funding for graduate school. Students who are involved in campus leadership, Greek life, athletics, research, and internships may be ideal candidates for working with UFO."

Clippard said that fellowship organizations are looking for students who have made a difference in the world around them and have leadership roles that impact others. "For example, listing six campus organizations on your resume does not make you a better candidate: what makes you a better candidate is having in-depth leadership in a single organization and working closely with faculty," she said.

The UFO is focusing on the Fulbright Grant, Truman Scholarship, Goldwater Scholarship, and Udall Scholarship during the upcoming academic year. Students are encouraged to review requirements on the Web and then contact Clippard. Many scholarships allow universities to nominate more than one student.

Fulbright Grants for Graduating Seniors

The Fulbright program is the largest U.S. international exchange program, offering opportunities for

students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools in over 100 nations. More information about the Student Fulbright program can be found at <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html>.

Truman Scholarships for Juniors

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation gives \$30,000 merit-based scholarships to selected college students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. Selected applicants will receive leadership training, graduate school counseling, preferential admission, merit-based aid to attend premier graduate institutions, and internship opportunities with federal agencies. For more information, go to www.truman.gov. The campus deadline is December 1, 2009.

Goldwater Scholarships for Sophomores and Juniors

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education program was created in 1986 to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering and to foster excellence in these fields. Nominees for Goldwater Scholarships must include in their nomination materials a statement of interest in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering, detailing how they believe their academic programs and their overall educational plans will prepare them for a chosen career goal. The typical Goldwater Scholar plans to earn a Ph.D. Scholars receive up to \$15,000 to cover tuition, fees, books, and room-and-board expenses. For more information, go to www.act.org/goldwater. The campus deadline is December 1, 2009.

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship for Sophomores and Juniors

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation has merit-based scholarships for outstanding Native American or Alaska Native college students who intend to pursue careers related to the environment or who intend to pursue careers in Native American health care or tribal public policy. The foundation seeks future leaders across a wide spectrum of environmental fields such as policy, engineering, science, education, urban planning and renewal, business, health, justice, and economics. Each scholarship covers tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$5,000 for one year. For more information: www.udall.gov. Campus deadline is January 15, 2010.

For more information on undergraduate fellowship opportunities, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/ufo/ or contact Laura Clippard at fellows@mtsu.edu. 📍

Challenge cont. from page 12

Ruggle said that according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, language barriers prevent one-fifth of Latinos from seeking medical attention. She said, "This is a huge factor when you consider that Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language in the United States."

"To me," Ruggle added, "becoming fluent in Spanish is more than just learning to speak the language. I will learn the traditions, customs, and values of that culture. With this knowledge, the shared language becomes a vital tool in proper medical treatment between my patients and myself." 📍

Summer Research



Ginny Schlitt handles a northern water snake captured from a middle Tennessee river. Schlitt's summer research was for her Honors thesis, "Analysis of Snake Thermal Preference: Thigmothermy versus Heliothermy and the Influence of Geographic Variation."



McKenna Rhea works on research for her Honors thesis, "The Distribution and Mechanism of Fish Oil Anti-Bacterial Effects."



Jake Hall, left, and **Tony Pritchard** engage in summer research on snake mitochondrial genomes. The two senior Honors students are Biology majors working on their Honors theses. 📌

Priority Registration for Honors Students

In addition to the myriad other benefits associated with Honors participation, MTSU Honors students may qualify for priority registration. In exchange for eligibility, students are required to complete a Priority Registration application indicating their educational goals and desire to finish their Honors thesis or creative project. Eligible Honors students will be permitted to register before almost all other undergraduates.

In order to qualify and remain eligible for the Priority Registration privilege, Honors students must do the following:

- Complete the Priority Registration application (once). This form is online and can be submitted by e-mail. Go to www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml or to the Honors Web page, then to "current students," and then to "forms."
- Maintain a 3.25 cumulative GPA.
- Take Honors classes on a regular basis, working toward the thesis requirement.

- Meet every semester with the Honors advisor before the posted deadline.

Honors students can also earn additional Honors credit by

- having a 4 or 5 on AP test scores (up to nine Honors hours given),
- having an A in Governor's School classes (up to three Honors hours given), or
- using study abroad college credits (must have approval before trip) for up to 9 Honors hours.

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 hosts workshops each semester to address questions and assist interested students with completing the Priority Registration application.

Students must meet each semester with the Honors advisor. Additional forms may be required. Questions about Priority Registration can be directed to Laura Clippard, Honors advisor, at lclippar@mtsu.edu. 📌

Year: Registration Period	Cumulative Credit Hours Earned	Honors Credit Hours Earned
Freshmen: spring registration (for subsequent fall semester)	15	6
Sophomore: fall registration (for subsequent spring semester)	30	12
Sophomore: spring registration (for subsequent fall semester)	45	15
Junior: fall registration (for subsequent spring semester)	60	20
Junior: spring registration (for subsequent fall semester)	75	23
Senior: fall registration (for subsequent spring semester)	90	26

Actress/Playwright Is Spring Visiting Artist

Heather Raffo, actress and playwright, will spend a week in residence at MTSU this spring to present a staged reading of selections from her award-winning play *9 Parts of Desire* and to teach the Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200).

The staged reading will take place Tuesday, February 23, 9:40–11:05 a.m., at Tucker Theatre as part of both UH 3200 and THEA 1030 (Theatre Appreciation). The event is free and open to the public.

The five-day Visiting Artist's Seminar will meet February 22–26 or March 15–19, 3:00–5:40. Students may register for this class through PipelineMT.

A one-woman show told through the lives of nine Iraqi women, *9 Parts of Desire* is Raffo's first work as a playwright. Through it, she has found a unique voice bridging Iraqi and American culture. Her father is originally from Iraq and her mother is American. She grew up in Lansing and was shaped tremendously by the events of the first Gulf War during her time as a student at the University of Michigan.

Raffo first performed *9 Parts of Desire* in 2003 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It later moved to Bush Theatre in London's Off-West End, where critics hailed it as one of the five best plays in London in late 2003. Its New York premiere was in the fall of 2004 at Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, where the show ran for nine sold-out months, had five extensions, and was a critics' pick (*New York Times*, *Time Out*, and *Village Voice*) for 24 weeks in a row.

Raffo is the recipient of a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and the Marian Seldes-Garson Kanin Fellowship. She

received a 2005 Lucille Lortel award for Best Solo Show as well as Helen Hayes, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League nominations for outstanding performance.

Since 2005, *9 Parts of Desire* has been produced across the U.S., including the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage in D.C., the Guthrie in Minneapolis, Actors Theater of Louisville, Wilma Theater in Philadelphia, Geva Theater in Rochester, the Alliance in Atlanta, the Lyric in Boston, and Next Theater in Chicago. It is being translated for international productions in Brazil, Greece, Sweden, Turkey, and France. Publications are by Northwestern University Press and Dramatists Play Service as well as a number of anthologies.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200), an interdisciplinary Honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered seven times so far and has included topics as diverse as poetry writing and papermaking. Artists frequently visit campus to speak to students, but the Visiting Artists Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts for five days and requires intensive student participation.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar enhances culture and creativity on our campus and touches students' lives in an unusual way. It is taught at an introductory level so students from any field of study can participate. The seminar is limited to 15 students. The only prerequisites are upper-division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

For the spring 2010 seminar, Raffo has drawn on her experience writing

and performing *9 Parts of Desire* to develop a course called Writing Identity. She explained,

Essentially, what I felt was unique about the process of creating *9 Parts of Desire* was how I wrote using the tools I had come to have as an actress. Also, the poetic rhythm and structure I employed was heavily based on what I felt was an Iraqi vernacular rhythm as it translated into English. So I have tried to incorporate some ideas on how to use or teach these tools in a writing process that would have as the end result a monologue or poem that could be performed or read, depending on the student's intention.

I am very much interested in immigrant culture and I think much of the joy of writing *9 Parts* was because I was able to immerse myself in a cultural community so different from the Michigan one I grew up in. I think it might be of interest for the students to have to do something similar. And that the community of voices we pull together for the production would itself be a community of immigrant voices from your region. Perhaps even (with some work) worthy of being united as a play telling the immigrant story at MTSU.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar will be a five-day writing-intensive course exploring cultural identity from the first-person singular perspective. The aim of the class will be to create a performance monologue, poem, or other first-person fiction based on immigrant identity. Students will be asked to choose an individual, either real or fictional, with a specific cultural identity and set of given circumstances they wish to explore.



Johnson First Recipient of Scholarship

Lauren Grace Johnson, a junior Political Science major, is the first recipient of the Hannah/Harris Honors Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship. Five hundred dollars was awarded to Johnson in the spring for her summer study abroad trip to France.

Richard Hannah (Economics and Finance) and Watson Harris (Academic Affairs) created the scholarship to aid Honors students who desire to study abroad. The application deadline for the scholarship is in mid-March. 📌



Honors student and McNair Scholar Jasmine Gray, right, accepts a donation for her "Jaz's Jammies" pajama drive. Gray, who founded Jaz's Jammies because of her own numerous hospital stays, collects new pajamas for sick children. Gray was the recipient of the spring MTSU Service Award and the state of Tennessee's Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award. 📌

Interdisciplinary Seminars Spring 2010

UH 4600-002

Economics and Culture
MW 4:10 to 5:35
HONR 118
CRN# 10201

This interdisciplinary seminar will not use a traditional economic text. Instead, texts reflective of the evolving American cultural experience (and its global context) are one medium through which economic thinking will be taught. All the texts will be nontechnical and readable for students who have not had economics prerequisites. Other learning media will include online video streaming and interactive group dynamics within the class. Assessing culture-centric thinking and how it shapes economic behavior and policy is an important component of this course.

The general objective is to enrich and expand student critical thinking skills by relating economics to arts and sciences in a manner that does not rely on prior technical knowledge about economics. The basic idea is that critical thinking transcends disciplines, and Honors students in particular have the ability to rely on this development of intellect to penetrate new dimensions of thinking. In this context, the specific objective is to add eco-

nomics reasoning to critical thought when contemplating the cultural experience within which one lives. Specific examples include economics as reflected in (1) literature and drama, (2) advances in technology, (3) changing demographics, (4) globalization, and (5) commercialization of almost every aspect of American life.

The globalization aspect of the course will start with an overview of Canada to illuminate misconceptions about the country and its similarities with the United States. Examples include contrasted views of bilingualism, immigration, health care, conservation, energy, and Canada's role on the global stage. With this basic framework, we will explore perspectives from other countries. The degree and type of coverage will depend on the numbers and diversity of students enrolled. Past courses have benefited greatly from perspectives of students who worked or studied abroad or who are attending MTSU from other countries.

This course may also count as three hours of upper-division Economics credit.

For further information, contact Dr. Richard Hannah at (615) 898-2228, or e-mail rlhannah@mtsu.edu. 📌



Youth Rutherford students participate in a critical-thinking activity during a visit to the Honors College in the spring.

Interdisciplinary Seminars

Spring 2010 cont.

UH 4600-001

Living the American Dream

M 2:40 to 5:40

HONR 218

CRN# 10200

Every culture honors core myths that define its nature and purpose. One that is most enduring for Americans is “the American Dream.” The theme shows up in books, movies, television series, art, poetry, music, and architecture. Ask anyone on the street what it means, and standard responses would vary. Some would say the American dream is to be “rich as Rockefeller”; others might say it’s just to own their own home; still others would say it’s to make the most of ourselves, to be happy, or simply to be free. It sounds so simple. But when we discover its many expressions around us and then examine its meaning for ourselves, “the American Dream” becomes more complicated, far richer, even problematic in a time of economic crisis. Is it still true; is it still possible?


The fact is, the American dream means different things to different people, and it has meant different things over time. The American dream, in other words, has a history, and like all history its meaning becomes clear only when we examine how it affects and has effects on our own lives, here and now, and the lives of the people around us. In this course, we will examine all of this. What are the terms—political, economic, social, cultural—

Americans have used to define the dream? How have they expressed it in word, sound, picture, and artifact? How have Americans used the dream? How do they use it today? What is it about the dream that inspires us, pulls us forward, defines us as a special people?

At the same time, the dream can become a nightmare, especially for those excluded from its potential. What makes it a nightmare? What obstacles stand in our way to realizing it? How have people responded to those obstacles?

Finally, the American dream only has meaning when it becomes personal. So in this course students will examine themselves—their gifts, desires, potential. What does the dream look like for you? Each student will find a way to express it using the gifts he or she has—narrative, music, art, poetry, and video. What will it take to realize the dream? What obstacles may we/I have to overcome to achieve it? Who’s the dream for, anyway? At the end, students will have had an opportunity, using their university education, to reach out beyond themselves and connect to a greater vision that can inspire.

This course may also count as three hours of upper-division History credit.

For further information, contact Dr. David Rowe at (615) 898-2646 or e-mail drowe@mtsu.edu. 

Artist cont. from page 15


Students are encouraged to reach out to immigrant members of their community or immigrant family members.

Participants will be asked to come to the first class with a body of information, such as recorded interviews or notes, concerning the person about whom they wish to write. Students will define the given circumstances of the individual from which a character will be created: the who, what, where, when and why. Students will establish the character’s objective and super-objective, as defined by Stanislavski, and do class improvisations to uncover the bones of the character’s motivation, rhythm, and behavior. In this way, students will employ an actor’s set of tools for the writing process and will then be asked to write stream-of-consciousness style and “in character” from the first person. The writing will be honed during the course of the week into the form of a monologue, poem, or other first-person fiction. The week will culminate with a reading or performance of each work.

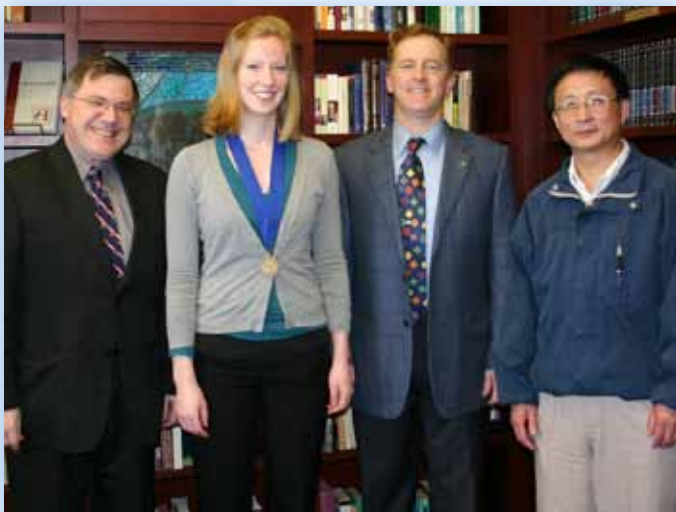
No acting or previous writing skills are necessary for this class. The use of the actor’s tools in the writing process creates more freedom with the flow of ideas and character motivation with less focus on exposition and narration. The result is a personal and theatrically driven style of writing.

Students will present their work on Friday, February 26, at 4:00 p.m. in the Honors Amphitheater. A reception with Heather Raffo will follow. This event is free and open to the public.

Heather Raffo’s visit is made possible by the generosity of the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, the Department of Speech and Theatre, the Department of English, and the Middle East Center.

For more information, contact Dr. Claudia Barnett, professor of English and coordinator of the Visiting Artist’s Seminar, at cbarnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. 

Theses Defended



Charysse Archer

(Mathematics)

"Consecutive Pythagorean Triples and the Generation of Pythagorean n-tuples"

From left, Archer with her thesis committee: Dr. John R. Vile; Ms. Archer; Dr. Preston MacDougall; and Dr. Xiaoya Zha, advisor.



Taylor Barnes

(Chemistry and Physics)

"Computational Analysis of the Intramolecular Interactions of Electronegative Atoms"

From left, Barnes with his committee: Dr. Preston MacDougall, advisor; Mr. Barnes; and Dr. John R. Vile.



Amber Hampton

(Global Studies)

"Los Desaparecidos: the Forgotten Youth of El Salvador"

From left, Hampton with her thesis committee: Dr. John R. Vile; Dr. Gloria Hamilton; Ms. Hampton; and Dr. Ida Leggett, advisor.

Spring 2009

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Lani Lester

(Political Science and Journalism)

"The Torture Debate: Exploring the Issue of Torture in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Abu Ghraib Detention Centers: Is Military Necessity a Limit or License?"

From left, Lester with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Lester; and Dr. Clyde Willis, advisor.



Mallory Melton

(Anthropology and Spanish)

"Non-Elite Animal Use during the Late Prehistoric Period: A Case from the Castillian Springs Site (40SU14), Tennessee"

From left, Melton with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Dr. Tanya Peres, advisor; Ms. Melton; and Dr. Allen Hibbard.



Mika Meschivitz

(Chemistry)

"A Concise and Biometric Route to Biologically Active Aryl Naphthalene Lignans"

From left, Meschivitz with her thesis committee: Dr. Preston McDougall; Dr. John R. Vile; Ms. Meschivitz; and Dr. Scott Handy, advisor.

Theses Defended



Shannon Murphy

(Biology)

"A Label-Free Method for Detection and Differentiation of *Bacillus* spp. Endospores"

From left, Murphy with her thesis committee: Dr. John R. Vile; Dr. Rebecca Seipelt; Ms. Murphy; and Dr. Stephen Wright, advisor.



Kirsten Phillips

(Psychology)

"Gender-Neutral Pronouns and Feminism"

From left, Phillips with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Phillips; and Dr. Michelle Boyer-Pennington, advisor.



Eric Powell

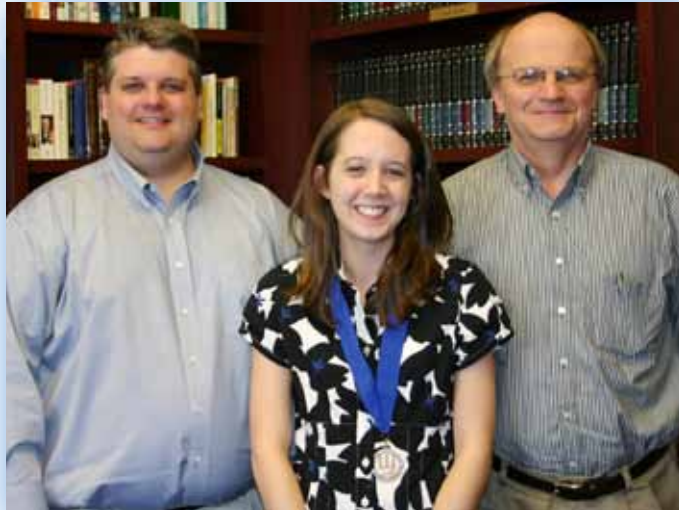
(Philosophy)

"The Zoography of Plato and Descartes: Toward an Archaeology of Animality"

From left, Powell with his thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Dr. Jack Purcell, advisor; Mr. Powell; Dr. Ron Bombardi, advisor; and Dr. David Foote.

Spring 2009

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Amy Powers

(Electronic Media Production)

"Dust to Dust," A Short Film

From left, Powers with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Powers; and Dr. Robert Spires, advisor.



Amy Ronner

(English)

"A Fight for an Imaginative World: Speech and Dialogue in Charles Dickens' Novels"

From left, Ronner with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Ronner; Dr. Philip Phillips, advisor; and Dr. Richard Hansen.



Rachel Simes

(Recording Industry)

"IndiaShare and the Digital Dissemination of Intellectual Property with the Indian Marketplace"

From left, Simes with her thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Simes; Dr. Stephanie Taylor, advisor; and Dr. Richard Barnett.

Theses Defended Spring 2009



Dani Westerman

(Political Science)

"Judicial Standing: The Next Frontier of Establishing Victims' Rights"

From left, Westerman with her thesis committee: Dr. Ron Kates; Dr. John R. Vile, advisor; Ms. Westerman; and Dr. Scott Carnicom.

Fall Events

Proposals for Independent Study Due

October 1

Freshman Buchanan Fellows Inauguration

Saturday, October 3

Board of Visitors Meeting

Friday, October 16

Homecoming

October 24

Completed Thesis: Ready for Defense

November 2

Commencement

December 19 📍

Sophomore Samantha Mallory reads a poem to her class. Mallory was a participant in the spring Visiting Artist's Seminar, The Art and Craft of Poetry.



Visiting Artist's Seminar

*by Samantha Mallory
Mallory is a sophomore Honors student majoring in English.*

I have always hated poetry vehemently, but Beth Ann Fennelly taught me that poetry isn't just about deep metaphors, fancy words, and incomprehensible couplets. It's about expressing exactly how I feel about something, someone, a situation, a concept, ANYTHING using various, uncomplicated techniques.

As a result of February's Visiting Artist's Seminar, The Art and Craft of Poetry, I learned that poetry can be

anything from a few words to three pages (although three pages would be a bit of overkill); I expanded my love and understanding of literature into realms I never would have explored on my own; and I met fellow students that I would have passed blindly on the Quad if not for the seminar experience.

Of everything that I got out of the seminar, I value my interaction with Beth Ann Fennelly the most. Under no other circumstances would I have met her on such a personal level. She spoke openly about her children and husband, welcoming us into her life and encouraging us to return the favor. She pushed us to write personally—no-holds-barred—and then to turn those random writings into comedic, dramatic, and/or thought-provoking

Artist Seminar cont. on page 29



Officers of MTSU Leaders Circle in the Honors conference room following spring elections. Officers are (from left) Amanda Alexander, treasurer; Shannon Murphy, secretary; Nathaniel Greene, president; and Merranda Holmes, vice president.



Members of MTSU Leaders Circle prepare to pick up trash on campus on Earth Day, April 22. Participants are (front, from left) Amanda Alexander, Austin Purvis, Michael Walker, and Daniel Vaughan; (center) Jessica Taylor, Merranda Holmes, Shannon Murphy, and James Kramer; and (back) Nathaniel Greene. The Leaders Circle is applying to become a chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society.

Fall 2009 Honors Lecture Series

BLUE RAIDER MILESTONES:

APPROACHING THE CENTENNIAL

All lectures are free and open to the public. Lecture topics are subject to change.

Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.
Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors
Building, Room 106

OCTOBER 12

Sports at MTSU
Dr. Fred Colvin, History

OCTOBER 19

Fall break – no classes

OCTOBER 26

Built Environment of Campus
Dr. Lorne McWatters, History

NOVEMBER 2

History of the Honors College
Dr. Phil Mathis, professor emeritus,
former dean, University Honors
College

NOVEMBER 9

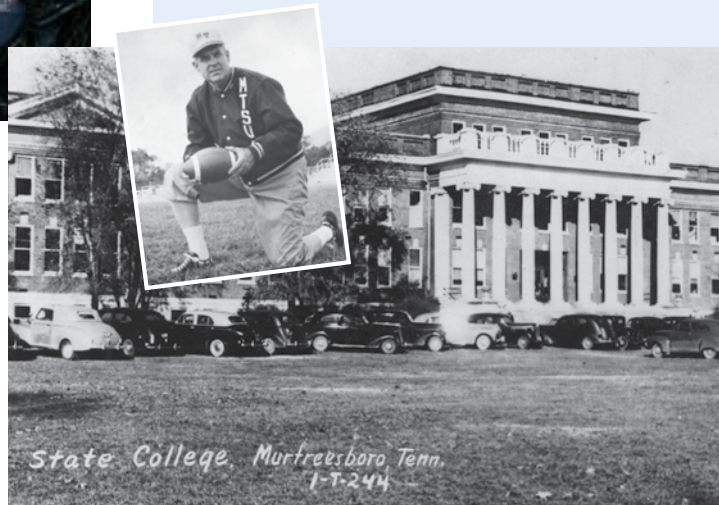
ROTC/Forrest Hall Issue
Dr. Derek Frisby, History

NOVEMBER 16

Military Training on Campus
Dr. Ellen Garrison, History

NOV. 30 / DEC. 7

student thesis presentations 📌



Meet the Freshman Buchanan Scholars

This fall, 22 freshmen joined the elite group of students accepted into the Buchanan Fellowship program, the highest academic honor bestowed upon entering freshmen at MTSU. Collectively, the students, who represent five states and 14 cities in Tennessee, have an average ACT score of 31 and an average high school GPA of 3.9.

The Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner, carries with it the largest merit scholarship offered by the University.



Anna Christine Caruso is from Cowan, Tennessee, and graduated from Franklin County High School in Winchester. She was the grand

prize winner of the 2008 Sir John Templeton "Laws of Life" Essay Competition and won first place for both promotional and informational public speaking in 2007 at the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association public speaking competition. Caruso has also participated in the Global Explorers Leading the Way program, serving as a mountain climbing guide for blind and visually impaired teens in the Peruvian Andes in 2007. In 2008, she was a hiking and rafting guide for Global Explorers, assisting with a 20-day, 250-mile Grand Canyon whitewater rafting and hiking expedition and assisting Grand Canyon researchers in assessing the canyon's environmental issues. She is considering a major in Animal Science (Horse Science) or Science (Health Science).



Evan Matthew Craig graduated from Bolton High School in Arlington, Tennessee. He received a National Merit Achievement

Award in Science as a ninth grader and participated in his school's honors program, earning an invitation to the Honors Assembly for the top 20 in his class. He has helped rebuild houses in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Kentucky, helped rebuild a hurricane-damaged church in New Orleans, and worked with orphans and homeless people in Washington, D.C. He is interested in majoring in Biology (Microbiology) and may also study cellular and molecular biology.



Lucy Christine Estes is a graduate of Centennial High School in Franklin, Tennessee, where she received an

Academic Athlete Award, was in the top 10 percent of her class,

and earned an honors diploma. She participated in a mission trip to Guatemala and taught Sunday school and children's choir at her church. She hopes to major in Interdisciplinary Studies (Secondary Education) or English.



Chelsea Lynn Fleet is from Arlington, Tennessee, and attended Fayette Academy in Somerville. She was chapter secretary of

the National Honor Society and was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and on the National Honor Roll. She has tutored children and participated in many church activities such as block parties, preschool Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, nursing home visits, and mission trips in the United States and abroad. She has also acted, directed, and served as stage manager for community and school theatre productions. She plans to major in Speech and Theatre.

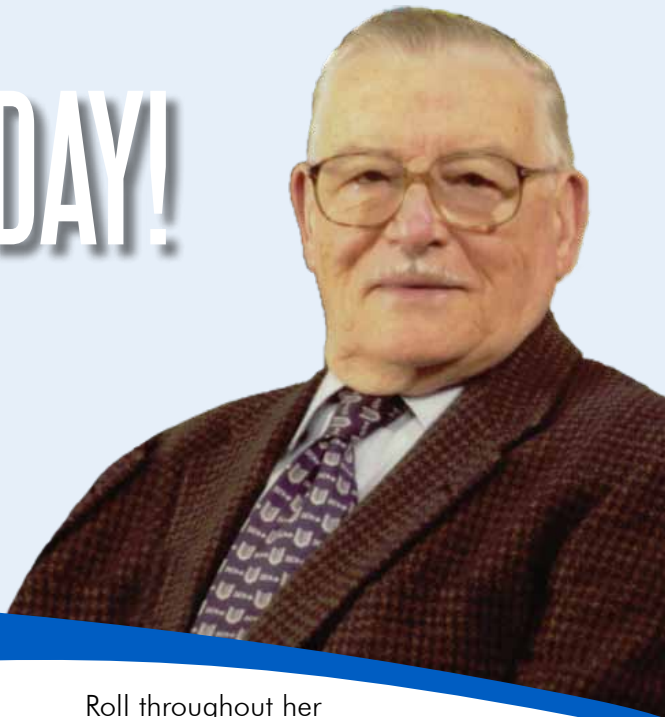
HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY!

Dr. James M. Buchanan

October 1919

MTSU, Class of 1940

1986 Nobel Prize in Economics



Celia Teresa Gendron

graduated from Smyrna High School in Smyrna, Tennessee. She mentored and coached three-

to seven-year-olds and volunteered for the Obama campaign, assisting with voter registration. While in high school, she was accepted to the STEP^{MT} program for undergraduate research. She plans to major in Biology, perhaps with a concentration in Microbiology.



Joseph Alexander Gibson

is a graduate of Cookeville High School in Cookeville, Tennessee, where he was

student body president and Beta Club vice president. He was named Rotary Senior of the Month and was a Make-A-Wish Foundation volunteer, which included serving as a Leadership Council member of Kids for Wish Kids. Gibson has volunteered many hours of technical work for River Community

Church and community theatre. He is considering a major in Mass Communication (Electronic Media Communication) or Recording Industry (Audio Production).



Ellen Woodring Goertzen

graduated from Slidell High School in Slidell, Louisiana. She performed with the Louisiana Music Educators

Association Academic All-State Orchestra in 2006–07, 2007–08, and 2008–09 and earned the Instrumental Music Award at Slidell High School in spring 2008. She also volunteered at Lewis Stables in Slidell, grooming, feeding, and exercising horses. She plans to major in Animal Science (Horse Science) or Music.



Courtney Dianne Hancock

is a graduate of Columbia Central High School in Columbia, Tennessee,

where she was in the gifted program and was on the High Honor

Roll throughout her high school career. She expects to major in Biology (Animal Biology) or follow the Animal Science track in preparation for pursuing studies in pre-veterinary medicine.



David Lanier Hull

attended Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he was a member of the Cum Laude Society,

a National Merit Commended Student, and the Thomas Jefferson Essay Contest winner. He was a summer junior volunteer at Erlanger Hospital and donated time to the Baylor after-school community service program. He plans to major in Music or English.



Tyler Richard King

is a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. He was a National Merit Commended Student and

participated in Governor's School for International Studies. He was

Meet the Freshman Buchanan Scholars

continued

the Siegel Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Year for 2006–07 and 2007–08. King has volunteered many hours at the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, teaching young children about environmental issues, and at Murfreesboro Ensemble Theatre, where he got hands-on experience in the technical side of theatre assisting with *It's a Wonderful Life* in 2006. King expects to major in Political Science, International Relations, or Recording Industry.



Emily Patricia Kubis attended Morristown Hamblen High School West in Morristown, Tennessee. She placed first in original oratory

at the Harvard National Forensics Tournament and placed third in original oratory at the Wake Forest National Forensics Tournament. She ranked in the top 10 percent on the National French Test in Tennessee. Kubis was a Special Olympics volunteer and a peer tutor in her school's special education program and organized youth activities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She is considering a major in Mass Communication (Journalism), Political Science, or Speech and Theatre.



Opal Rayne Leonard graduated from Lewis County High School in Hohenwald, Tennessee, where she

was Anchor Club secretary and a Tennessee Scholar. She was an organizer and fundraiser for Relay for Life and participated in community theatre as an actor and fundraiser. She plans to major in Mass Communication (Advertising/Public Relations) or English.



Cody Ethan Malone, a graduate of South Oldham High School in Crestwood, Kentucky, won the 2008 Washington and

Lee University Book Award and was in the top 10 percent of his class in 2006, 2007, and 2008. He was named to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Academic All-State First Team in 2006, 2007, and 2008. Malone raised money for the Louisville U.S. Marine Hospital in association with the Kentucky Society Children of the American Revolution. He assisted with hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, during spring break from 2006 to 2008. He expects to major in Aerospace (Professional Pilot) or Spanish.



Jackson James Mooneyham is from Gallatin, Tennessee, and graduated from Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville. He was

a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, and his art was includ-

ed in the Frist Young Tennessee Artist's Exhibition. He was a participant in the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science and had an abstract of a paper published in its journal. Mooneyham is considering a major in Animal Science or Biology.



Elizabeth Dianne Pellegrine is from Bell Buckle, Tennessee, and attended Cascade High School in

Wartrace. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was selected to the Kern County Honors Choir and the Advanced Women's Chorus. Pellegrine's community service activities in high school included peer counseling, homework tutoring, and assisting with a children's reading program and an adopt-a-sibling program. She plans to major in Animal Science in preparation for studies in veterinary medicine.



Dylan Alexander Phillips is from Bell Buckle and is a graduate of Cascade High School in Wartrace, Tennessee. He

was a member of the National Honor Society and was cited for Excellence in Geometry in 2008. He was active with the student council, participating in service

projects, such as canned food drives. Phillips also assisted the National Forest Service with its Passport in Time project, which involved excavation and documentation of a ghost town. He plans to major in Recording Industry (Music Production or Music Business) or Business Administration.



Alissa Kathleen Ruggle is from Manhattan, Kansas, and attended Riley County High School in Riley, Kansas.

She attended Kansas Girls' State and was named Cross Country Academic All-State. She volunteered at a retirement home and a free clinic and was also a volunteer middle school cheerleading coach. Ruggle plans to major in English or Chemistry (perhaps Pre-Medical).



Lema Sbenaty graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, where she was a member of the National Honor Society

and a National Merit Commended Student. She received the University of Tennessee High School Model United Nations Award and was president of Siegel's Key Club. Sbenaty was also coordinator of the school's canned food drive. She hopes to major in Chemistry (Pre-Medical) or another discipline to prepare for studies in biomedical engineering.



Chelsea Nicole Shrum is from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, and graduated from Ezell-Harding Christian School in Antioch. She was a Volunteer

Girls' State delegate and a member of the Beta Club and won the Advanced English III Award. She served as class and student body treasurer and helped organize many service projects. She is considering a major in Nursing or Biology.



Hillary Anne Tyson, a graduate of La Vergne High School in La Vergne, Tennessee, won Honors World History Student of the Year her

freshman year and Honors Spanish II Student of the Year her sophomore year. She also received the 4.0 Award her freshman and sophomore years and was in the top 10 percent her junior and senior years. She participated in community service projects through her involvement with the Girl Scouts and the National Honor Society. She is considering majors in Spanish and Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Education).



Leland Thomas Waite is a graduate of Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho. In 2008, he received a bronze

medal for his score on the Idaho Mathematics Exam. He also participated in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional Competition in 2008, receiving first place for Desktop Publishing and Small Business Management Team. He earned his private pilot license in 2007. Waite is majoring in Aerospace and plans to become a professional pilot.



Kelsey Lee Wells, a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, is a National Merit Commended student, won Siegel's German

Award, and attended Governor's School for the Arts in 2007. A summer volunteer at Linebaugh Public Library, Wells is considering a major in Political Science (International Relations), Physics, or Recording Industry. 📞

Leaders Circle Team Wins Quiz Bowl

Eleven teams lured by the possibility of fame, fanfare, and \$175 competed for the 20th Quiz Bowl crown March 26 in the television studio at McWherter Learning Resources Center.

The Honors College sponsored three teams: Honors College I, Honors College II, and MTSU Leaders Circle. The Leaders Circle team represents a campus organization that is applying for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, this fall.

The three-person Leaders Circle team of **Gina Logue**, **Merranda Holmes**, and **Rachel Simes** won first place and took home the \$175 prize. The *Sidelines* team—Chris Martin, Tiffany Gibson, Michael Stone, and Alicia Wilson—won second-place honors and \$100. The Honors College I team, which included **Jarrett McCall**, **Shannon Murphy**, **Mattie Ragland**, and **Rebekah Horton**, received \$75 for their third-place finish.

The Honors College II team of **Paige Gober**, **Tony Prichard**, **Paz Elad**, and **Danielle Ferraro** was eliminated from competition by the Leaders Circle team.

The Scotty Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl was cosponsored by the Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma Fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Dr. Lucy Langworthy is president of the MTSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, and Dr. Ken Hollman is advisor to the MTSU chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma insurance fraternity. 📌

Penchant for Useless Information Aids in Quiz Bowl Win

by Gina Logue

Logue is an August 2009 graduate who earned a degree in Political Science.

The default response whenever someone spews out a line of specific information in a casual conversation seems to be something like, “Well, you’re just a font of useless information!” For someone whose childhood intellectual diet included episodes of *G.E. College Bowl*, that retort is absurd. There was no such thing as useless information as long as you could buzz in quickly enough and say it to win the 20-point tossup question and beat Princeton or Slippery Rock or whoever.

That’s part of what made competition in MTSU’s Quiz Bowl interesting to me. In the classroom, at least at the undergraduate level, the emphasis is more on participation than on competition with moments of collegiality. At the Quiz Bowl, I managed to experience all three.

Being teamed with Rachel Simes and Merranda Holmes was a blessing. Merranda is a whiz at science, a discipline with which I struggle. Rachel is a sharp student who went on to win the President’s Award at the end of the spring semester. I didn’t know what I would be expected to contribute. My only desire was to not make a fool of myself. We made up the Leaders Circle team.



The Leaders Circle Quiz Bowl team shares a moment of triumph after successfully eliminating a competitor. The team, (from left, Gina Logue, Merranda Holmes, and Rachel Simes), bested ten other teams on March 26 for the Quiz Bowl crown.

The question topics ranged from religion to history, from biology to sports, from geography to pop culture. The waits between rounds seemed interminable, but the rounds themselves sped along in a flurry. I recall more answers than questions somehow—“Dred Scott,” “Calgary,” “Lorne Greene,” “Theodore Roosevelt.”

As was the case with *College Bowl*, nobody minded if I buzzed in before the moderator finished reading the entire question—except the competition. Of course, premature combination is a calculated risk. If your itchy trigger finger takes control but your answer is wrong, the other team has an opportunity to answer correctly and score points at your expense. My strategy was not to buzz in unless I was absolutely sure of my answer. Fortunately, that strategy did not slow us down.

However, the flip side of that coin is to watch the other team blow an answer only to have a case of brain lock when the moderator asks you if you can provide the correct answer. I knew that Red Grange, “The Galloping Ghost,” had played football at Illinois. It was somewhere in



Honors College I team members, left to right, Rebekah Horton, Shannon Murphy, Jarrett McCall, and Mattie Ragland, confer before answering a Quiz Bowl question. The team finished third in the competition.



Members of the spring 2009 *Collage* staff take a break from editing for a staff photograph. Pictured from front left: Jennifer Johnson, Amy Powers, Samm Mallory, Leonela Carriedo. Center: Victoria Ogle, Jolene Barto, Ashlie Wolfenbarger, Beth Rich, Jasmine Gray, Danny McClain. Back: Miccah Defreiz, Dean Andrews, Jonathan Siler, Merranda Holmes, Enitan Aladejana, and Tommy Talmage. Not pictured: Hannah Green, Courtney Ferraro, Jenna Puckett, and Caitlin Orman.

the back of my mind, but I didn't have enough mental strength to pull it to the front of my mind.

One thing I learned midway through the evening is that humility is at least as much of a virtue at a quiz bowl as it is in the rest of life. One gregarious foursome emerged from a second round victory seeking out our team, knowing that we were slated to compete against them in the upcoming round. After we identified ourselves, we were informed by a highly zealous contestant that we were being psyched out, and we were destined

to plunge into the ignominious abyss of defeat. (He didn't phrase it exactly that way.)

We routed that team 12–2. Psych, indeed! Curiously, we never saw or heard them exit the building.

The Leaders Circle lived up to its name by winning the 20th Scotty Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl. All members of the top three teams left with a little extra money in their pockets and a little extra perspective.

Allen Ludden, the host of *G.E. College Bowl*, would have been proud. 📌

Artist Seminar cont. from page 22

poetry. My journal is now full of random, seemingly meaningless tidbits thanks to Beth Ann's inspiration to write down every tiny, potentially great thought.

I will probably never become a serious poet (if those exist), but after this seminar, I plan to venture further into this aspect of literature I previously overlooked. I also plan to keep in contact with Beth Ann because she has a glowing personality and soft spirit. Class ran well over one night, but I was still hesitant to leave because I absolutely loved being around her.



Poet Beth Ann Fennelly helps students in her class "discover the pleasures of poetry through music and rhythm." Fennelly taught the spring Visiting Artist's Seminar, *The Art and Craft of Poetry*, in February. She has published three books of poetry and a book of letters.

For anyone planning to participate in a Visiting Artist's Seminar, all I can tell you is keep your mind open. I have done a complete 180 from loathing poetry to writing it in my head as I walk to class. Go into the seminar planning to learn something new. Don't shut down when things get slow (as they will), and be prepared to work (as you will). The seminar was an exciting week for me and has opened my eyes to something totally new. 📌

Three Weeks in Cherbourg

by Meg Davis

Davis is a junior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Foreign Languages and Literatures (French) and Speech and Theatre.

When I embarked on my journey to France, almost everything was taken care of for me. The Honors College paid for practically everything; my mother and aunt helped me pack; and my father threw mountains of spending cash into my bank account. The only thing remaining was something more personal.

Months went by, and I became increasingly nervous. A knot was growing in my stomach as the days passed and my doubts about my semifluency crowded my thoughts and nightmares. Every time I couldn't recall a word in French class, it was like a miniature panic attack. When we got off the train in Cherbourg, everything was chaos. I wandered around like a lost puppy until a giant bent his back and said, "Meg?" This was my first encounter with my "father," Olivier. My image of the short, pouty Frenchman was instantly dissolved when I craned my neck to look into the grinning visage of my 6'6" French father.

For a while, I couldn't bring myself to speak any French. Fortunately, Olivier is practically fluent and my "mother," Lydie is a brilliant communicator and instructor. After two days, the command was given at dinner, "Okay, Meg. Tomorrow is no more English. French only!" I gulped and nodded. By the end of the first week, I learned that "French only" did not mean "French only." Rather, "French only" meant "French only, except for first thing in the morning and late at night once we've had a few and start talking about Neil Young or David Bowie."

No matter how often my eyebrows huddled together in fear of incomprehension, the most important things were never lost in translation. One night, we went out to dinner because I had gotten news about good grades from the previous semester. I was ambushed with gifts, yet another round of birthday presents. "Body, mind, and soul," Olivier told me. Jewelry, a book of modern French theatre, and chocolates. I nearly cried until I was forbidden to do so and had a beer pushed in front of me.

Cherbourg cont. on page 31

Honors Student Discovers *Faces of France*

by Jennifer Johnson
Johnson is a sophomore
Buchanan Fellow
majoring in Art.

Obviously, when individuals study abroad in France, they will learn some French language and culture, but one other lesson that applies to every aspect of life stuck with me more than any foreign vocabulary lesson. Anywhere you go and in everything you do, the people you encounter make or break your experience. For example, when you visit a restaurant for the first time the food may be so-so, but if the service is outstanding you will more than likely return to that restaurant. The same goes for traveling and visiting monuments, cathedrals or the beach: the people you meet and/or travel with truly make the difference in your entire perspective. There is no way that I can summarize a month's worth of activities in a timely manner, but I can share some of the characters we encountered during our time abroad. I am delighted to present to you the following:

Jean-Michael

A twenty-five-year-old French policeman with a proficient knowledge of the English language was on patrol with a few of his comrades. Wearing rollerblades, Jean-Michael spun to a stop to assist us in our search for La Banque de France. Not only was this man willing to go out of his way to aid a few tourists but he did so with an endearing smile!

Sparky and Bubbu

As Jenny stood in line at the Monoprix grocery store, she noticed an older gentleman, "Sparky," in line behind her with only a box of popsicles. Jenny graciously permitted "Sparky" to proceed to the checkout before her. "Bubbu," who had been two places behind Jenny, was suddenly stirred to anger by this



Dr. Ann McCullough (Foreign Languages and Literatures) teaches French to a group of MTSU students studying abroad in Cherbourg, France.

kind gesture and snatched a baguette from Jenny's arms, beat "Sparky" on the head with it, then returned the broken baguette to Jenny. This event resulted in a fistfight, at which the cops arrived swiftly. Unfortunately for Jenny, Jean-Michael was not one of the cops, and she was reprimanded for not understanding their French.

Pierre

An English woman stands in the subway with her five-year-old son, who is munching on a bag of chips (yes, American chips, not French fries). A grandfatherly looking man named Pierre sees the child and the exhausted mother, offers the mother a seat on the subway, and hands the child a man-sized fistful or a child-sized armful of fresh black cherries. The child smiles at the man and offers his mommy a cherry, too.

Mr. Stealth

En route to the Monoprix, Hilary walked ten feet after leaving the hotel when a man bumped into her while passing the opposite direction. Hilary didn't think much of it until the man reached backward to cup the pocket of her jeans and slide his hand up to her belt. Fortunately for Hilary, she was carrying all of her belongings in a shirt pouch, thus the would-be pickpocket parted empty handed. It wasn't until a few seconds later that anyone realized what had just occurred.



Buchanan Fellows Kaitlin Beck (left) and Meg Davis with a pirate statue outside a seafood store in the Centre Ville de Cherbourg.



MTSU students (left to right) Jennifer Johnson, Catherine Gomez, Jennifer Grissom, Nisha Patel, Meg Davis, and Kaitlin Beck meet at L'Eldorado in Cherbourg, France.

Philippe

In order to visit St. Malô, our group hired a driver named Philippe for a chartered bus. On our second day with Philippe, Dr. McCullough, our faculty advisor, was rushed to the hospital, leaving 14 students behind with a hired driver. Philippe drove us all to the hospital and then drove us all back home to Cherbourg. The following week, we were going to visit Caen and had hired a driver through the same company. When the bus arrived and Philippe stepped out smiling, everyone cheered!

Harnold and Thomas

A couple of the people in our group were lucky enough to have two amazing brothers as hosts. Harnold and Thomas showed our group around town, chauf-

feured us everywhere, and even paid for our pool games. We were able to practice casual conversational French with absolutely no pressure when we were with Harnold and Thomas, and I feel like I learned the most about the French language just through low-key chats with friends like these.

In retrospect, we experienced our ups and downs, but overall, the French people were very pleasant and welcoming, and they were always willing to help us out with our conversational skills. Staying with a family enabled us to gain first-hand experience in the culture and to be completely immersed in the language. Sometimes it was overwhelming, but everyone made a great effort to learn to communicate effectively, as was necessary, and in the end the valuable lessons that each learned have proven to be priceless—not available through any other program or form of learning. 📌

Cherbourg cont. from page 30

Dinner parties were also quite the experience. Too much food and far too much wine. Always at the exact moment that a young American girl would decline another glass, a bottle would be brought to the table that had been made by a distant relative, a bottle from which you *must* taste. After that, it's over. You find yourself holding onto your American friend, singing the American national anthem in a voice that is really far too loud and far too high. You both collapse in laughter and end up saying "Pourquoi pas?" to every glass thereafter.

The same friend and I learned that the French are wild about banana pancakes and BLT sandwiches. We made an American four-course meal for our hosts one Sunday afternoon which included grilled cheese, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, Goldfish crackers, and Oreo cookies. As much as they loved our meal, we enjoyed afternoons of baguettes, brie cheese, fresh strawberries, and white wine.

Our third and last week in Cherbourg was spent primarily with family. We shrugged at the local bars and parties and, for the most part, went directly home after school to spend time there. I made a cake with my father one night, talked with my mother about her family, and amazed my little sister with stories of the number of horses in Tennessee. I helped them search for their turtles in the backyard and watched the larger turtle chase the cat across the grass. The last weekend, my family took me out to the coast. They showed me the "Ireland of Normandy" and told me about a family tradition. Everywhere you go, you have to take a picture of your foot being there. They all have pictures of their feet in Morocco and India. So I took a picture of my foot at the coast, and they all seemed quite pleased.

Some things require no translation: the way your father hugs you and kisses the top of your head before you leave for the station, the note your little sister leaves on your pillow telling you how cool she thinks you are, the way your mother clacks down the platform in her heels to give you one last hug and kiss goodbye, and the bond that three weeks can conjure between an American girl and her French family. 📌

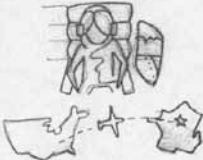
Kaitlin's Ten-Step Guide to Study Abroad

Step One - Apply.



6 MONTHS to Go

Step Two - Fly.



3 MONTHS to Go

1 month to Go

Step Three - Meet your family.



Step Four - Get to know them



Erren
Caren
Caren

Step Five - Get homedick.

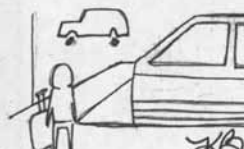


Step Six - Keep in touch.

Step Seven - Make new friends.



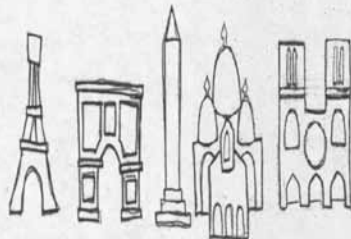
Step Nine - Come home.



Step Ten - Miss it.

Repeat steps one through ten for a well-rounded college experience!

Step Eight - See the sights.



H-Option Revised and Renamed!

In an effort to streamline the H-Option process and eliminate bureaucracy, the Honors Council has approved revisions in procedures. The option has been renamed the **Honors Contract**, and students may now apply for Honors credit in upper-division courses in their majors at the beginning of the same semester in which the course is being taught. The window of opportunity will be up until the day to drop a course *without a grade*. The dean or associate dean will determine Honors credit approval. In some instances, administrators may seek input from an Honors faculty member in a specific discipline.

To get the form, visit the Honors College Web site, click "Current Students" in the sidebar, click "FORMS" on the next page, then click "Honors Contract." There is also a link to the Honors Contract application at <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/h-option.htm>. 📌

Get Published!

Go beyond the thesis to getting published! Check out our Undergraduate Research Journal Web page, which lists a variety of both print and e-journals that accept undergraduate research and creative work: <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~hcevents/journals.html>. 📌

Thank You!

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Honors Edition: to the Honors College staff, John Vile, Scott Carnicom, Karen Demonbreum, Laura Clippard, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, and Philip Mathis; to Sherry Wiser George and the Publications and Graphics staff; and to MTSU Photographic Services.

—Marsha Powers, editor

My Life as a Writer, So Far

by Taffeta Chime
Chime is a junior Honors student who is majoring in English.



Though I have enjoyed a wide variety of interests throughout life, I have always had a passion for writing. Since I learned to write in first grade I've been creating stories. In fact, in first grade, I wrote my first "book," titled *My Pet Cheetah*. It was never published . . . or finished. But to me, it was a book because I was so happy with the story and with my motivation to write it.

Between then and now, I have written countless creative works, most spanning over 25 single-spaced typed pages. It's hard for me to function if I don't have something to write. In fact, I sleep better when I kick around story ideas I have right before I go to bed! And though I love writing so much, I never got an opportunity to write competitively—except through the Future Problem Solving International Scenario Writing competition. This competition was available through my school's gifted program, and it was a great opportunity for me to write.

Among some of the program's rules: the word count had to be no more than 1500, the setting had to be 20 or more years in the future, and the topic had to be from a predetermined list set every year. I wrote my first scenario, *The Last*, in fourth grade. I wrote a scenario every year through my entire school career from then on out. My scenarios have won second in state competition twice, first six times, fifth in internationals once, third once, and first internationally twice. When *The Last* placed first internationally, I thought, "I must be pretty good at this!" and decided then that writing was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

When I entered high school, my parents and my FPSP coach (who was also the county director of the gifted program) arranged with my English teachers and my administrators for me to participate in an Independent Study in Creative Writing. This meant that I would have a writing class of my own. (Greenbrier High was too small to warrant a writing curriculum.) Among things such as doing an extra assignment in every English class and reading various books on writing, my main objective was to write a novel throughout high school and begin the steps toward publication by graduation. I immediately knew that I wanted to expand my favorite scenario, *Stoodie*, into a novel. I wrote *Stoodie* in seventh grade; it was my one scenario that hadn't won a single award. But I would honor the story by transforming it into a novel.

I followed a game plan as best as I could. The summer before my freshman year, I made an outline of the general story line so I would know how many chapters there would be, what would happen in every chapter, how to pace the story, etc. My freshman, sophomore, and half of my junior year were spent writing as much as possible. By Christmas of my junior year, I put my manuscript on CDs and distributed them to students and teachers to read over Christmas break for critiques. I spent the remainder of my junior year revising. In the fall semester of my senior year, I took a computer/business class called Integrated Input Technologies, and in December, we scheduled a "job shadowing" day when everyone in the class would

spend a day at a business. My teacher recommended that I visit a POD (print on demand) printing syndicate in La Vergne, Lightning Source Industries (LSI). I had a great time, and when I told the workers there that I was an author, they were eager to help me. I was so excited that I could hardly speak!

My sister (Auburn, a portrait artist) and I spent most of Christmas break together working on pictures, and by around February, I gave LSI a call. The paperback version of *Stoodie* was completely published and printed in April.

The first people I wanted to have the opportunity to buy copies of *Stoodie* were the students and teachers of Greenbrier Middle School, for several reasons. First, I wrote the original story while at GMS. Second, it was there that I learned to like reading. I confess that though I love to write, I have trouble reading. I always think to myself, "Why should I read this when I could be writing my own story?" Plus, the logistics of the story always distract me, and I have trouble focusing on the story line itself.

In middle school, however, I began reading books by Anne McCaffrey, and she bolstered my love of reading. I later read in Stephen King's memoirs that a person can't be a good writer without being a good reader first. I actually joined the book club in high school to force myself to read, and I ended up being elected president my senior year!

The third reason I chose GMS students as my first customers is that *Stoodie* is meant for an audience their age. I wanted them to know that I had them on my mind while I was writing it. Fourth, I taught a small writing class during the summer at GMS, and I knew some of my students would be among the audience. The final reason I wanted GMS students and staff to be the first ones to buy *Stoodie* is that Mr. Weaver is an actual person.

He was my seventh grade reading teacher. Yes, his name is Mr. Stephen Weaver; yes, the picture on page 100 does look like him; and yes, his personality does correspond to the character's. Mr. Weaver was in my original scenario (with his permission, of course), and when I expanded the story into a novel, it felt weird not to have Mr. Weaver as the teacher. I actually tried characters with different names, but they just weren't the same. I wanted Mr. Weaver to be among the first ones to have a copy of *Stoodie*.

By the way, there are other characters in the book who are directly inspired by actual people. Thompson and Rogers Traditional School is named after W. R. Thompson, my dad's grandfather, and Reba Rogers, my mom's grandmother, both of whom were educators and had huge impacts on my parents. Freeland Elementary is named after my favorite high school teacher, Ms. Sherry Freeland, who died my senior year in a battle against breast cancer. And though G. G. Sasha Willow is not named after her, Ms. Mildred Aston is G. G. Ms. Aston was an elderly woman I visited in the nursing home every Sunday for a little over three years before she also died my senior year.

I have been marketing *Stoodie* since its publication, and it has sold at least five hundred copies in its two years of life—which is pretty amazing to me still! It's difficult for me to believe that *Stoodie* is complete. Considering the original scenario and the four years I spent writing the novel, I have spent about a third of my life working on this book. Is it then unusual to feel that there is more that should be done on it? I am moving on, though—as hard as that is. I am now expanding *The Last* into a novel and am going to turn that in during my senior year at MTSU as my Honors Creative Project. The manuscript is underway, and I will soon begin editing! 📖



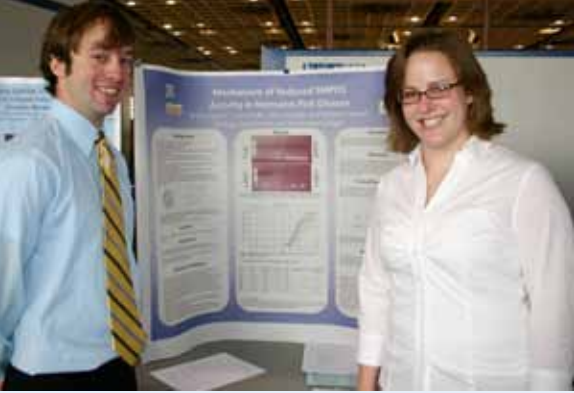
Honors students get first-hand experience with fingerprinting techniques in Dr. Tammy Melton's Chemistry for Consumers class. Pictured with Dr. Melton are, from left, James Skelley, Lauren Rigsby, Shelby Ragan, and Eric Guyes.



Students from Governor's School tour the Martin Honors Building. The Honors College hosted open houses in May and June for Governor's School, CSI: MTSU Camp, and CUSTOMS students.



Dr. John Vile, Honors College dean; Dr. Karen Petersen, Rotaract Club advisor; and Joshua Fryer, Rotaract Club president, display a cake donated by the Honors College for Picnic in the Grove. The picnic to welcome ELS students was held April 24 in Walnut Grove and was sponsored by the Rotaract Club.



Honors Biology students Evan Swift and Mary Crouse present their research, "Mechanism of Reduced Sphingomyelinase Activity in Niemann-Pick Type C." Swift and Crouse were among a dozen Honors students who participated in Scholars Week on April 3.



President Sidney McPhee meets incoming freshman and Buchanan Fellow David Hull and his father during a spring reception at the president's home for prospective high-ability students and their parents.



Jessica Taylor, a returning Buchanan Fellow, and her sister, Jamie, who is now a freshman.

Faculty News

Dr. Sanjay Asthana (Mass Communication) was an invited speaker on three occasions in early 2009. He participated in "New Media, Gaming, and Globalization: Implications for Research and Practice," a panel discussion for the American Educational Research Association in San Diego April 13–17; he took part in the Media Literacy Workshop of Professionals and Media Experts sponsored by the office of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund in Doha, Qatar, February 17–18; and he spoke at the Experts Consultative Meeting on Good Practices in Community Media organized by UNESCO in Paris February 9–11.

Asthana had a journal essay published this year: "Young People, New Media, and Visual Design: An Exploratory Study" appeared in *Youth Media Reporter*, Volume 2. He also contributed a book chapter, "A Study of Media Pedagogies in Three Asian Societies," to *Media Education in Asia*, edited by C. K. Cheung.

Asthana's refereed conference papers for 2009 include "Television, Narrative Identity, and Social Imaginaries in India: A Hermeneutic Approach," presented to the International Conference on Television in India at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India, July 14–15. He also contributed "Advancing the Dialogue on 'Best Practices'" for discussion at the World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC), Broadcast Educators Association (BEA), in Las Vegas April 24.

Dr. Claudia Barnett (English) is an Ingram New Works Playwright-in-Residence at the Tennessee Repertory Theatre for 2009–10. She workshopped her play *Emily Dickinson's Sister* at the Playwriting Symposium

of the Mid-America Theater Conference in Chicago in March, and she spoke on Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day* at the Third International Conference on American Drama and Theatre in Cádiz, Spain, in May. Her short plays and excerpts have recently been published in *River Styx, Poems & Plays*, and *Duo: The Best Scenes for Two for the 21st Century*. In July 2010, she'll teach playwriting in Prague, and she'd love for Honors students to join her there. (Check out www.praguesummer.com.)



Professor Marc Barr (Electronic Media Communication) has been named director for education for ACM/SIGGRAPH, an international organization for those who work with interactive techniques and computer graphics. He will be traveling to China at the end of October in this role. Barr will be a judge and prize awarder at an international student animation competition called Aniwow at the Communication University of China in Beijing. He will also give a talk to students and faculty about the ACM/SIGGRAPH organization and conference.

Exhibits of Barr's computer-designed ceramic work have been at the National Juried Cup Exhibition, Isadore Gallery, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; the Jingdezhen International Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition, Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair, Jingdezhen, China; the 17th Annual Strictly Functional Pottery National, Market House Craft Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Feats of Clay XXII, Lincoln Arts and Culture Foundation (Terrance W. Dorsey Purchase Award), Lincoln, California.

Dr. Robert B. Blair (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) has been reappointed to full membership in the graduate faculty. On August 1, he was promoted to full professor in the BCEN Department. On August 28, he received the 2008–2009 Jones College of Business Outstanding Faculty Member award at the fall faculty meeting.

Blair earned the Professional Registered Parliamentarian credential (one of 350 in the world) during the summer and currently serves as vice president of both the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians and the Tennessee Delta Unit (Nashville) of Parliamentarians. He will present “Parliamentary Procedure: Tools for Leading and Competing” during the Southern Business Education Association Convention in Huntsville, Alabama, in October.

During 2009–2010, Blair will serve as entrepreneurship section editor for *Business Education Forum*. He will also serve as the National Association of Business Teacher Educators research coordinator and the southern representative on the International Society for Business Education board. Blair is scheduled to present “The Professional Impact of Social Networking” at the National Business Education Association (NBEA) Convention in San Diego in April 2010.

Dr. William Brantley (English) talked about Georgia author and early civil rights activist Lillian Smith on March 14 in Smith’s hometown of Clayton, Georgia, during the inauguration of the Southern Literary Trail, a collaboration among eighteen towns that presents creative works, tours, and discussion panels devoted to major authors from Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Smith’s books include the novel *Strange Fruit* (1944) and the memoir *Killers of the Dream* (1949). Brantley’s talk was “What Would Lillian Smith Think About . . .?”

Brantley’s previous work on Smith includes *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir: Smith, Glasgow, Welty, Hellman, Porter, and Hurston* (UP of Mississippi 1993), which received the

Eudora Welty Prize and was cited by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a key work in the rediscovery of Smith that occurred in the 1990s. His essay/review of Smith’s collected letters, *How Am I to Be Heard?*, appeared in *Mississippi Quarterly* (fall 1994). In 1997, Brantley introduced a cluster of essays in *Southern Quarterly* to commemorate the centennial of Smith’s birth. His article on Smith’s FBI file, “Another Story from the Federal Bureau of Investigation: The Surveillance of Georgia Writer and Civil Rights Activist Lillian Smith,” was published in *Georgia Historical Quarterly* (spring 2001), and his biographical article on Smith is included in *The History of Southern Women’s Literature* (Louisiana State UP 2002).

In 2004, Brantley edited a 50th-anniversary edition of Smith’s *Now Is the Time* (UP of Mississippi). Smith envisioned this work as a political tract to help southerners of “good will” accept the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision to desegregate the public schools. Brantley’s afterword stresses the uniqueness of Smith’s vision and charts the response to her small book, including its suppression at the peak of southern resistance to the court’s order.

Dr. Thomas Brinthaupt (Psychology) and Dr. Minsoo Kang have published “Effects of Group and Individual-based Step Goals on Children’s Physical Activity Levels in School,” in *Pediatric Exercise*, 21, 148–158.

Dr. Scott Carnicom (Honors College associate dean) was published in *Honors in Practice* (2009, Volume 5). The article, “Building an Honors Development Board,” was cowritten with Dr. Philip M. Mathis (professor emeritus).

Dr. Yuan-ling Chao (History) has a book, *Medicine and Society in Late Imperial China: A Study of Physicians in Suzhou*, coming out this fall (NY: Peter Lang Publishing, 2009). His article “Poetry and Footbinding: Teaching Women and Gender Relations in Traditional China” was published in *World History Connected* (vol. 6, no. 2, June 2009).

Dr. Dorothy Valcarcel Craig (Educational Leadership) recently had her first book published. Many universities are now using the book, *Action Research Essentials*, published by Jossey-Bass in 2009, for their action research courses.

Dr. David Foote (Management and Marketing) received several honors at the fall general faculty meeting August 28. He was the first associate professor to receive the new State Farm Award for Professional Promise, given to one assistant professor and one associate professor in the College of Business. Foote’s award included \$2,500 cash and \$5,000 for research and/or travel.

Foote also received the Top 30 Score, Student Evaluation of Faculty Performance Award for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, an honor he has earned for the past six years. His peers in the Department of Management and Marketing also nominated him as Outstanding Faculty Member for 2008–2009 in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

Dr. Mary S. Hoffschwelle (History) coauthored an article with Anne-Leslie Owens, public service coordinator at the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU. “Tennessee’s Rosenwald Schools” appears in the September/October 2009 issue of the *Tennessee Conservationist*. Rosenwald schools were public schools built for African Americans during the Jim Crow era and funded by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co., and developed in conjunction with Booker T. Washington of Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Jane Marcellus (Journalism) is presenting “‘Dear D’: Sophie Treadwell’s 1915 Reporting from the ‘Big War Theatre’” at the American Journalism Historians Association conference in Birmingham in October.

Dr. Philip Mathis (professor emeritus and former Honors dean) was notified of the acceptance of two of his poems for publication in a special 25th anniversary issue of the *Journal of Kentucky*

Honors Classrooms and AT&T Lab to Be Updated

The Honors College has been awarded approximately \$100,000 in Technology Access Fee (TAF) funds to update the Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory in the AT&T room of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building (Honors 218). The renovation will include the purchase of new computers, updates to recording equipment, and the addition of a more user-friendly web-conferencing system.

"This room was designed to serve as a pedagogical laboratory for the entire University, where new classroom technologies could be tested," said associate dean Scott Carnicom. He continued, "In that sense, the lab has provided very useful information about technology that fits best in our classrooms. We are very grateful for the institution's commitment to continuously build on the original support provided by our friends at AT&T." The renovations should be complete by spring 2010.

Additional TAF funds have been allocated to upgrade instructor computers in the first-floor classrooms. 📢

Honors College Gets Greener

The Honors College received a grant from the Sustainable Campus Fee program to install nine occupancy sensors in various locations in the Honors building. These sensors turn off lights in hallways and the student lounge when no one is present.

Dean John Vile said the building currently does not have light switches in public areas and is controlled by Facility Services. When the college made the decision to have lights turned off after classes, it became difficult for janitorial workers to do their jobs safely. The new system has remedied this problem and should save the University money.

Faculty News cont.

Studies. The anniversary issue was distributed to participants at a September gathering called *Voices from the Hills: A Celebration of Appalachian Writers*. Mathis' poems, "The Carver's Wood" and "Longhunter's Land," are on pages 60 and 61 of the latest issue of the journal.

Dr. Ron Messier (former director of the MTSU Honors Program) has been working an archaeological dig in Morocco and is writing a book on Muslim views of Jesus. Praeger Publishers has accepted his book *The Almaravids and the Meaning of Jihad* for publication in 2010.

Dr. Felicia Miyakawa (Music) was part of a live broadcast discussion on WNYC in New York on August 26 on *Soundcheck*. WNYC is one of the nation's leading public radio stations, and Miyakawa shared the discussion with Ann Powers, *L.A. Times* chief pop music critic. The discussion included consideration of Miyakawa's book *Five Percenter Rap: God Hop's Music, Message, and Black Muslim Mission*, published in spring 2005 by Indiana University Press. *Soundcheck* is a daily talk show about music that features conversations with musicians, critics, scholars, journalists, and others related to the music industry.

Dr. Loren E. Mulraine (Recording Industry) has been appointed interim associate dean in the College of Mass Communication through June 30, 2010, while Dr. John Omachonu is away on an American Council on Education fellowship. Dr. Mulraine also served in this capacity during the 2007–08 academic year.

Dr. Carl Ostrowski (English) recently published "'Inside the Temple of Ravioli': George Lippard's Anti-Expose" in the journal *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*. In 2010, he has essays scheduled for publication in two academic journals: *Modern Language Studies* and *Libraries and the Cultural Record*.

Dr. Karen K. Petersen (Political Science) has two publications forthcoming, a book and a journal article. Her book is *Prospects for Political Stability in a Democratic Iraq: A Study of the Clusters of Conflict* and was written with Stephen R. Saunders. "Revisiting Downs's Issue-Attention Cycle: International Terrorism and U.S. Public Opinion" is being published in *Journal of Strategic Security* in 2009.

Dr. Philip Edward Phillips (English) delivered a lecture on June 4, "Poe, a Bostonian," at the Boston Athenaeum, where he received a 2008–2009 Mary Catherine Mooney Research Fellowship.

Phillips published a book coedited with Dr. Noel Harold Kaylor Jr. (Troy University) called *The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I: The Queen's Translation of Boethius's De Consolatione Philosophiae*, *Public Record Office Manuscript SP 12/289* (Arizona State University Press, 2009). Dr. Phillips is also coeditor of *Carmina Philosophiae: Journal of the International Boethius Society and New Directions in Boethian Studies* (Western Michigan University Press, 2007).

Dr. Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Public Service Award August 28 during the fall general faculty meeting.

Dr. John R. Vile (Political Science, Honors College dean) made presentations on the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights at a Bill of Rights institute for high school teachers in Shelbyville, Kentucky, in early September.

Dr. Jim Williams (History, Albert Gore Research Center director) has received an MTSU Foundation Special Projects Award as seed money for the development of the Centennial Museum of MTSU History by 2011. Follow the progress of the museum at gorecenter.mtsu.edu.

Dr. Stephen Wright (Biology) participated in a panel discussion on the swine flu outbreak at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville on May 1.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (Chemistry) has been active in research and graduate advising, working with Debbie Rosenthal (D.A. student), Taylor Barnes (Honors student and Goldwater Scholar, B.S. 09), and Gabriel Gillette (D.A. student). The latter two wrote manuscripts (see below). Wulfsberg is also leading a departmental committee to update and streamline the Professional Chemistry degree (more on this in next newsletter). As a member of the International Steering Committee on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions, Wulfsberg was elected to the International Advisory Committee for a symposium to be held above the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva in 2010. He coauthored "Silver Dichloroacetate: A Compound with Weak Ag-Cl Bonding Interactions and an Extraordinary Range of ^{35}Cl NQR Frequencies" with E. Kravchenko, V. G. Morgunov, S. Miller, O. Anderson, T. Barnes, R. Briggs, and P. MacDougall. It was published in *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, 2008, 361, 2471–2482. Gabriel Gillette and Wulfsberg coauthored " ^{35}Cl NQR Spectra of Group 1 and Silver Dichloromethanesulfonates," published in *Hyperfine Interactions*, 2008, 181(1–3), 13–19.

In 2009, Wulfsberg served as departmental advisor to M.S. students who hold S-STEM Graduate Fellowships sponsored by the National Science Foundation. These fellowships allow

recipients to devote more time to their research and complete their degrees faster. Wulfsberg has been working with D.A. students: Gabriel Gillette earned his D.A. degree, and Debbie Rosenthal is writing up laboratory results for her dissertation. Wulfsberg is working on a shortened revision of his textbook *Inorganic Chemistry*, to be adapted to meet new American Chemical Society guidelines for the Inorganic Chemistry course. During January and summer 2009 he wrote over three chapters and field tested them in spring and summer courses, and he is including them in the fall 2009 Inorganic Chemistry course.

For the past couple of years, Wulfsberg has been working with student response systems ("clickers") to enliven and increase learning in relatively large General Chemistry lecture classes. Other members of the department are trying online homework systems for the same purpose. The department plans to compare results to see if any of these methods promote long-term learning.

Dr. Wulfsberg has also been active in the MTSU Science and Spirituality Forum, which sponsored a lecture and video show by cosmologists Joel Primack and Nancy Abrams based on their book *View from the Center of the Universe: Discovering our Place in the Cosmos*. The forum is working to bring in National Public Radio religion correspondent Barbara Bradley Hagerty, author of the recent book *The Fingerprints of God: The Search for the Science of Spirituality*. 📌

Carnicom Attends Summer Institute

In June 2009, Associate Dean Scott Carnicom was selected as a Summer Fellow of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University and completed the Higher Education



Management Institute. For this residential program, Dr. Carnicom lived with 20 other participants from colleges and universities across the country while attending a series of seminars examining a number of topics affecting higher education ranging from diversity to development.

Carnicom said, "About half of the seminars were led by Peabody faculty, and colleagues at other institutions led the other half. The most memorable class was on crisis management and was led by Anne Banos, who discussed the impact of Hurricane Katrina on her home institution, Tulane."

Carnicom concluded, "This institute, coupled with other professional opportunities, has provided me with a broad perspective of the challenges facing higher education in our country, and I'm very thankful to have participated." 📌

Honors students, front, from left, Troy Berry, Erica Cathey, and Meg Davis join Jordan Fey (back) and Honors Dean John Vile in welcoming ELS students to MTSU.



Honors College Produces Master Plan

At the request of President Sidney McPhee, the Honors College produced a master plan in March 2009. The college gathered data about enrollment trends and surveyed and consulted students, alumni, members of the Honors Council and the Student Advisory Board, and others in writing the report. Titled "A Vision for the Future: Master Plan for the Honors College, 2009–2019," the plan is posted on the Honors Web page at www.mtsu.edu/honors/pdfs/Master_Plan.pdf.

The plan is divided into six parts. Part I explores the background of the Honors College. Part II outlines the current goals of the University and the Honors College. Part III measures the college by National Council of Honors Colleges (NCHC) standards for mature colleges. Part IV describes the relationship between the Honors College and the University. Part V outlines future plans, and appendices contain a variety of charts and surveys that were used to compile the report.

Part V divides plans for the college into the periods from 2009 to 2011, 2011 to 2014, and 2014 to 2019. In the next two years, the college plans to focus on increasing publicity, raising scholarship money for anticipated shortfalls in foundation earnings, increasing the number of Honors graduates, implementing a scholarship program for transfer students, strengthening the college's emphasis on leadership, providing continuity in fundraising after Dr. Mathis retires, assisting in publications related to the college, increasing information about Honors graduates, examining the creation of language halls in the Honors Residential Center, and

Master cont. on page 40

Honors College Welcomes Gebert

In July 2009, the Honors College welcomed Dr. Kaylene Gebert to her new office in Honors 220. Gebert, who recently stepped down from her position as executive vice president and provost, has returned to the classroom as a member of the Honors faculty and as the newest Honors Resident Faculty member.



at the high school and university level and held administrative positions at Louisiana State University, Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, the State University and Community College System of Tennessee, and the State System of Higher Education in Pennsylvania.

Gebert holds a doctorate in historical and contemporary communication from Indiana University, a master's from Cornell University, and a bachelor's from Hanover College.

A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Gebert has a home and 7.5 acres in Murfreesboro where she lives with her mother, Loretta, and several horses and pets. Her son, Brandon Long, was formerly the Rutherford County business banker for SunTrust and is now a banker in Dallas. She also has a seven-year-old granddaughter.

Gebert says her greatest strengths are her broad experience in higher education, her success as an administrator in recruiting and working with talented faculty, and her deep appreciation for the importance of emerging technologies. 📌

During her six years as chief academic officer at MTSU, Gebert was involved in Honors College strategic planning, recruitment, budgeting, staffing, and programming. She recently said, "I am particularly proud of the leadership role that Honors faculty take in engaging and challenging our best students." Gebert added that she is excited about returning to teaching and is pleased to be part of the Honors faculty and to work with Honors students. She is teaching two sections of Honors Fundamentals of Communication this fall.

Dr. Gebert came to MTSU in 2003, after holding a similar position (provost and vice president of academic affairs) at the University of North Alabama. She has taught



Ada Long, editor of *Honors in Practice* and *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*, speaks to the spring Honors Lecture Series class. Her March 3 lecture was "How Would Athena Score on the ACT?"

Meet Members of the Honors College Board of Visitors



Holly Thompson
WSMV
co-anchor,
Nashville,
Tennessee

Holly Thompson is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who anchors Channel 4 News Today and the variety show *More at Midday* in addition to producing and reporting special reports and news segments throughout the year. Before joining the WSMV news team in 1997, she sharpened her reporting skills in the Tri-cities (Johnson City, Bristol, and Kingsport) and in St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Thompson graduated with distinction as an MTSU Honors College student, receiving her degree in Mass Communication. She later graduated from Georgetown University's Institute on Political Journalism. She received MTSU's Young Alumni Achievement Award in 2000.

She is a spokesperson for the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition, has served as a big sister in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and is a board member of the American Heart Association. She is a motivational speaker for business groups and Christian conferences, teaches 11th grade girls in Sunday School, and is a contributing writer for *BabyLife* and *ParentLife* magazines. She has emceed many events, including a Tennessee Teacher Hall of Fame Induction, the American Heart Association's Heart Gala, and MTSU's President's Ball.



Utpal P. (Paul) Patel, M.D.
Physician,
Murfreesboro
Medical Clinic
and SurgiCenter,
Murfreesboro,
Tennessee

Paul Patel was born in Baroda, Gujarat India, and came to the United States with his family at the age of five. He attended middle school and high school in Tennessee, graduating as valedictorian of his class at Fayette Academy in 1984. He earned a B.S. degree in biology from the University of Tennessee–Martin and earned his M.D. from the University of Tennessee–Memphis. Patel remained in Memphis for a three-year residency specializing in internal medicine.

Dr. Patel is currently a staff physician at Middle Tennessee Medical Center and is a partner with Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and SurgiCenter. He is also chief manager of Murfreesboro Medical Properties, president and chairman of the SurgiCenter's board of directors, director of the MMC Diabetes Care and Anticoagulation Clinic, and a team physician for the MTSU Athletic Department.



Jim Tracy
Tennessee State
Senator, 16th
Congressional
District

Jim Tracy is a 1978 graduate of the University of Tennessee–Martin and owns Jim Tracy Insurance in Shelbyville and Murfreesboro. Before owning a business, Tracy was a schoolteacher, coach, and TSSAA and NCAA basketball official.

Senator Tracy was elected in 2004 to serve Rutherford, Bedford, and Moore counties and in 2007 was appointed chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. He also serves on the Senate Education Committee, the State and Local Government committee, and several joint committees.

Tracy is an active member of the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, and Fairlane Church of Christ, where he serves as a deacon. 📞

implementing a scholarship for 20 additional students per year.

The college's most ambitious plan, which is scheduled to be implemented from 2014 to 2019 but which could begin earlier if a donor is found, is to construct a living-learning center adjacent to the Honors building. Dean John Vile noted that short of an Honors student being elected President or winning a Nobel Prize, having such a center is probably the single most important thing the college can do to move from its current position as a regional leader to a position of national prominence.

Vile, who is preparing a paper on the report for the national meeting of the NCHC in Washington, D.C., said that writing the report was a great way to learn about the Honors College during his first year as dean and to prepare for the future. The University administration was very supportive of the report. While Vile hopes that the college can accomplish most of its goals, he said that projects not anticipated by the report have already begun. 📌



Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey (center), spring 2009 Martin Lectureship speaker, chats with John Seigenthaler and Dr. Barbara Haskew following Daughtrey's lecture, "Judicial Independence in Jeopardy: The First Amendment and the Culture Wars."

Martin Helps Perry, ET Students

Paul W. Martin III, automotive engineering technology expert and grandson of Paul W. Martin Sr., for whom the University Honors College building is named, is working with Dr. Charles Perry, holder of the Russell Chair in Manufacturing Excellence and inventor of a plug-in hybrid retrofit kit. Perry, whose invention could potentially save 120 million gallons of fuel daily, says that Martin has the right combination of skills and is a perfect match to assist with the project.

Martin is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a bachelor of science in automotive technology, a degree that closely resembles the Engineering Technology with a concentration in Mechanical Technology degree offered at MTSU. Martin says his education has led him through various professions from which he has gained skill and insight into various manufacturing and management processes and benefited from in-depth interactions with people on all levels.

"Dr. Perry allows me to have a wide range of control over the mechanical design of the hub motor," Martin said. Martin contributes his thoughts and concerns about the design and operation of electronic controls for the motor and has been able to turn Perry's original design into a full-scale physical model.

Over the past year, Martin has built several preliminary plastic prototypes using a rapid prototype machine. He has modeled several different variants using Dr. Perry's original idea in the three-dimensional software programs Autodesk Inventor and Auto Cad to produce drawings. "I am



Paul W. Martin III, an automotive engineering technology expert, with Dr. Charles Perry's "Machine for Augmentation, Storage, and Conservation of Vehicle Motive Energy."

currently working on a model that will be the first test prototype to be used for state vehicles," Martin said. "These contributions have allowed me to be added to the current patent application."

Martin also does much of the machining for the various parts the project requires and has benefited from the wealth of knowledge and machining experience of Rick Taylor, Machine Shop director. Taylor assists Martin and trains him to operate many of the complex machines in the Engineering Technology machine shop, and his decades of experience have been applied to helping build some of the more complicated parts.

Martin also helps with student vehicle competition projects. "The vehicles are built from scratch by students and then used to compete against other schools in international competition," he said. "I have helped them in some fashion, whether in designing or building, and [I] help them when the students need to repair them at the competition."

Martin is the son of Paul W. Martin Jr., who along with his brother, Lee, provided \$2 million toward the construction of the Honors building. 📌

Miller Encourages Undergraduate Research

Since coming to MTSU in 1993 as an associate professor of mathematics education, Dr. Diane Miller has served in numerous roles, finding in most of them opportunities to advance undergraduate research.

A long-time proponent of such research, Miller was named in 2000 to MTSU's Task Force on Applied Research, chaired by Dr. Robert Carlton. The University charged the group with finding ways to cultivate and promote broader participation in research and scholarship by both faculty members and students. An outcome of this task force was the creation of the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (URSCA) committee.

In 2002, Miller became interim vice provost for Academic Affairs, a role that gave her the opportunity to create a line in the University budget for undergraduate research. She helped start a pilot program in the Physics and Astronomy department with a budget of \$30,000 that has now expanded to a university-wide Undergraduate Research Center with a budget of \$120,000 to support student work through competitive awards.

Although there had been pockets of undergraduate scholarship on campus for years, the work done by Carlton, Miller, and others began an organization that provides University support for approximately 60 undergraduate students per year, engages them in scholarship, and prepares them for the workplace.

According to Dr. Miller, Honors students were among the first to benefit from funding provided through

URSCA. Students seeking to fulfill the Honors College requirement for undergraduate research or creative activity have often received URSCA funding. Recent Honors graduates who have benefited include Taylor Barnes (Chemistry and Physics), Dani Westerman (Political Science), Yuliya Melnikova (Mathematical Sciences), and Charysse Archer (Mathematical Sciences). Honors students benefiting from URSCA Scholar funding this summer and/or fall include Jake Hall (Biology), Shane McCoy (English), Amy Ronner (English), and Ginny Schlitt (Biology).

Dr. Miller served as director of MTSU's Undergraduate Research Center from 2006 to 2008 and simultaneously directed the McNair Scholars program, a federal initiative designed to prepare first-generation college students with low income and students from underrepresented groups in graduate education for doctoral-level study. Miller served as director of the McNair Scholars program from 2003 to 2009, when she became interim executive vice president and provost.

As interim vice provost for Academic Affairs in 2003, Miller prepared a proposal for an American Association of State Colleges and Universities competition. As a result, MTSU was selected to participate in the Sino-American Leadership Training program (SALT II) promoting partnerships, such as faculty and student exchanges, between universities in the United States and China.

Dr. Miller traveled to Beijing and Lanzhou, visiting MTSU's partner in SALT, Northwest Normal University. This was the beginning of a series of



visits, including a trip to China by President Sidney McPhee in 2008, during which he received a private tour of Gansu Provincial Museum, which houses famous historic relics and a number of rare or extinct animal specimens.

As a result of Miller's proposal and MTSU's subsequent partnership in China, several undergraduates have had the opportunity to travel to China and present their research and hear presentations from Chinese students. In August, seven McNair Scholars, accompanied by Interim Director Steve Saunders, traveled to Beijing Normal University, the top teacher prep university in China, and to Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou. They also visited the Great Wall and the Summer Palace in Beijing and the Gansu Provincial Museum in Lanzhou.

Honors student Jasmine Gray was among the seven McNair travelers and is effusive in her praise for Dr. Miller and her role in the adventure. Said Gray, "The amazing opportunity to go to China and experience this unique, beautiful culture would not have happened without her. She has gone above and beyond to make sure that she is truly serving students in every way possible." 📌

Honors Faculty Members Receive Foundation Awards

Two Honors faculty members, **Dr. Kevin E. Smith** and **Dr. James H. Williams**, received MTSU Foundation Awards Friday, August 28, during the fall general faculty meeting.

Dr. Smith, professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and director of the Anthropology program, received an Outstanding Public Service Award. He serves on the Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council, as an archaeologist on the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Review Board, and holds or has held leadership positions in the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology, the Middle Cumberland Archaeological Society, and the Society for American Archaeology.



His primary area of research is the archaeology of the southeastern U.S. with special interests in the frontier period of Tennessee, the late prehistoric Native American cultures of middle Tennessee, and the archaeology of African American life from slavery through reconstruction.

Smith, who earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Vanderbilt University before coming to MTSU in 1994, has received several teaching, advising, and service awards including the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award and the MTSU College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Advisor Award. He also served as president of the Faculty Senate for 2007–2008.

Dr. Williams, history professor and director of the Albert Gore Research Center, received a Foundation Special Projects



Award of \$8,000 for the development of a centennial museum of MTSU history. The Gore Center plans to develop a historically sound, professionally produced centennial

Awards cont. on page 33

Honors Faculty Profile: *Terry Whiteside*

Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside has been at MTSU since 1973. A psychology professor, he is also interim dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science. "I don't remember if it was the first or second year of the Honors program, but I remember they were trying to find faculty willing to teach some of their classes," he said. "I agreed to teach my Psychology of Social Behavior course and have been involved with Honors since."

Other Honors classes he has taught are General Psychology and Persuasion. Whiteside said, "I was a late academic bloomer and an irony is me teaching Honors General Psychology as I had gotten a C in Introductory Psychology. But that course exposed me to psychology, and I found it fascinating. I became a serious student, and that was my last C."

Dr. Whiteside's involvement with Honors has meant more than teaching. He has been an advisor for several Honors theses and a committee member for many others. Serving many years on the Honors Council, he has chaired it several times. "Those experiences were wonderful, helping to shape and grow the program and being exposed to the impressive and fantastic variety of Honors theses from all academic areas. Interacting with other Honors faculty was also very rewarding," he said.

"Honors has been blessed by having great leadership," he said. "I worked with them all, starting with Dr. June McCash right up to today with Dean John Vile." Whiteside had a front-row seat as Honors moved from program to college status and from a two-room operation in Peck Hall (where the secretary and director shared a room) to



the magnificent building it occupies today. "We owe sincere gratitude to the generous donors that made this possible, especially the Martin family. But there was also a lot of hard work behind the scenes from Dean John Paul Montgomery, Dr. Sidney McPhee, and others," he said.

If anyone has given more Honors Lecture Series talks than Dr. Whiteside, he challenges them to start counting. "I've given 13 or 14," he said. "I finally had to convince them I had run out of things to say. I did offer to start recycling the talks since the audience would be new."

His first lecture was "Brainwashing: It Can Happen to You," which he delivered shortly after the mass suicides in Jonestown in the late 1970s. "I wanted people to realize that we are all vulnerable given the right set of circumstances and that no one is immune," he said. That talk was videotaped and was used for years in Whiteside's Persuasion course. "I had really done a good job putting it together so I figured I'd keep using it," he said. "I had to stop when I looked like the father of the professor in the video."

Other Whiteside lectures have included "The Myth of Accurate Testing" (exposing flaws in intelligence and personality testing), "Love Does Not Exist" (which explores the physiological and cognitive factors involved in deciding whether or not one is in love), and "Con Games" (exploring types of confidence scams and showing that anyone can be fooled).

Whiteside's most recent presentation, "Who's to Blame for Tragedies and Disasters," reaches all the way back to his doctoral dissertation and early scholarly research. In graduate school,



Presenters for *Literally Speaking*, a program sponsored by Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and the NAACP Collegiate Chapter for Black History Month, are from left, Dr. Tom Strawman, Ms. April Lomax, Dr. John Vile, and Mr. Danny Kelley. They are pictured with Vincent Windrow (back), Intercultural and Diversity Affairs director. Dr. Sidney McPhee and Dr. Deb Sells were among those attending the presentation.

he had become intrigued with discovering the psychological factors used to determine personal responsibility for a negative event. Whiteside said, "The research repeatedly showed that when something bad happens, even if it was not foreseeable by reasonable people, we want to blame someone. When the involved person is someone else, our perception changes to 'Well, you should have foreseen it.' Interestingly, we do not apply that standard to ourselves, becoming even more vehement [that] we could not have known."

Whiteside says we see this type of attribution all the time in the media and notes the public need to blame people for tragedies like Katrina, Virginia Tech, Columbine, and 9/11. "It's scary to live in a world where random bad things can happen to innocent people, but that is reality. We can't be protected in advance from all negative random events." He added that gov-

ernment officials feel they have to have protections in place against extremely improbable events, or they will be liable in the eyes of the public. Whiteside considers it a waste of resources when concerns about security are taken to such extremes.

Whiteside says there have been many highlights in his experience with Honors at MTSU, but that having three students change their majors because of his General Psychology class and subsequently earn doctoral degrees in psychology is particularly satisfying. "My first Honors thesis student, Dr. Brynda (Holton) Quinn, has a practice in Murfreesboro and is an adjunct psychology professor for MTSU," he said. Dr. Whiteside says he is very proud of his association with MTSU Honors, and even though he's interim dean of another college, he still wears his Honors College lapel pin. 📌

Awards cont. from page 42

museum consisting of eleven 3x5' panels. Each panel will represent a decade of the University's history, and the eleventh panel will recognize donors and project the mission of the University into the next 100 years. The project should be complete by 2011.

Williams, who has been at MTSU since 1996, holds a B.A. from Westminster College, an M.A. from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. 📌



Fulbright Scholar Jan Jires (center) from Prague, Czech Republic, with Honors Dean John Vile (left) and Steve Saunders, McNair Program assistant director, before his March 3 presentation, "The Role of Central Europe in U.S. Foreign Policy after the Cold War." The McNair Program, the University Honors College, and the International Education Office sponsored the program.



Suma Clark receives a gift from Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, presented by Dr. John Vile, fellowship coordinator and treasurer, at her retirement reception on April 1.

Honors Program Helps Student Achieve the Unimaginable

by Janet G. Hudson

Hudson is a 1989 MTSU Honors graduate in history. She has since earned a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, where she works as an assistant professor of history. Hudson has recently published her first book, *Entangled by White Supremacy*.

Statistically speaking, an analysis of college honors students would find me in the tails of a normal distribution or as a distant outlier.

In 1986, I came to MTSU as a transfer student and as a nontraditional undergraduate. I was over 25 years old, married, and a mother and had already attended four undergraduate institutions in a seemingly endless journey to make up for not preparing for college while in high school. But my three-and-one-half years at MTSU ended my long quest to become a college graduate, the first in my family, and began the unanticipated journey that made undergraduate education my life's work.

MTSU's Honors Program was flexible enough to accommodate my atypical preparation. Moreover, it proved to be an ideal place for helping me realize my potential by providing both a supportive environment and the necessary challenge. Many things stand out from my experience in the MTSU Honors Program—most significantly, engaging professors, opportunities to expand learning outside the classroom, and a program of study that prepared me for graduate school.

I discovered the Honors Program early, and it shaped my experience at MTSU. The Honors Program director at the time, Dr. Ron Messier, inspired and motivated me. He exuded enthusiasm and a sense of possibility in and outside the classroom. Before graduating I had the fabulous opportunity to participate in his first archaeological season (1988) at a medieval Islamic site in southeastern Morocco—Sijilmasa. This stands as one outstanding highlight of my undergraduate experience, but only one.

Unimaginable cont. on page 45

Honors Faculty Profile: Robert Spires

A lifelong curiosity about the world brought into his boyhood home by his mother's magazine subscriptions has led Dr. Robert Spires, a professor in the Electronic Media Communication Department, to develop a mid-career passion for international travel and education.

"When I was growing up in the hills of Kentucky, my only real connections to the world beyond were a badly received, flickering TV image but, more importantly, from the rich variety of magazines my mother always made sure came into the house. I remember thinking I would probably never be able to travel to all those places, but in the back of my mind I always wondered how they would look, or smell, or the sounds of the cities, or inside the homes of the people."

When the opportunity presented itself, Dr. Spires took (and continues to take) full advantage of international travel opportunities. "I have been incredibly fortunate to make friends in many places around the world," he said. "I always joke that I have so many friends in China, I could just show up at mealtime at a dozen doors in half a dozen China cities. That is so far beyond the wildest childhood imagination of the kid in the hills of Kentucky flipping the pages of the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, and *Look* magazines while dreaming of other countries. I can hardly believe it has happened to me. It has enriched my life so much; I am only sad I waited until mid-career to begin traveling."

Dr. Spires has been Visiting Scholar at Glasgow University and Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland and at Hunan Normal University in Changsha, China. He has negotiated exchange agreements on behalf of the College of Mass Communication and MTSU with Hunan Normal University, China Agricultural University in Beijing,



Communication University of China in Beijing, and University of Northampton in England, and assisted in negotiating an exchange agreement with Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, China.

Dr. Spires, who was named an Outstanding Honors Faculty member in 2004 and was awarded the MTSU Distinguished International Service Award in 2006, is the advisor for

MTSU students who study abroad in the U.K. and China. "MTSU has made it so easy for a qualified student to study abroad," he said. "I push and push and push them. I try to persuade them to take advantage of the incomparable opportunities MTSU provides. Slowly, ever more MTSU students are venturing into the world. It's very satisfying to see."

When advising exchange students coming to MTSU from the U.K. and China, Dr. Spires uses a parental, pragmatic approach. "As a parent of college students, I know how I would want my children treated if they were thousands of miles from home, and that is how I try to treat these students," he said. "I feel my task is to go beyond just seeing them in an occasional office visit to really caring about them and to show them a side of America that is beyond their preconceived, media-implanted notions of who we are and how we live. Whether it's a trip to donate to a food bank or Christmas dinner at my house, I want to give them a realistic look at the U.S. In doing so, I have learned so much about the life, culture, food, and outlooks on life of these brilliant students and their families.

"I urge students to travel while they are at MTSU. There are so many ways to study abroad, and the University supports it as never before," Dr. Spires said. "There is no reason for any MTSU student today to be like the kid who only saw the world through magazines." 📣

Stallings Joins Honors Faculty

The University Honors College welcomes Dr. Hilary Stallings to the Honors faculty. The Honors Council recently approved Stallings' request to teach Honors University 1010, and she is teaching one section this fall and two sections in fall 2010.



Stallings earned an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, one of the top-ranked graduate schools of education in the nation, in 2002. She is manager of recruitment and resources for the College of Liberal Arts.

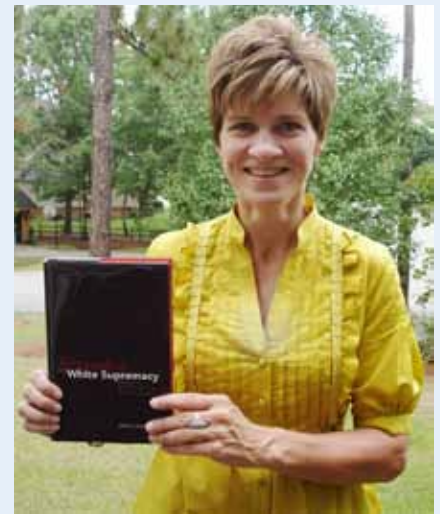
Stallings has taught MTSU's Freshman Seminar (UNIV 1010) for eight years. Honors College graduate Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) is one Honors student who benefited from her class. Jenkins, who received the University's President's Award as a senior and is now attending law school in New York, recalled her freshman seminar experience: "I did not want to take University 1010. The first day I walked into class, I had already made up my mind that I didn't want to be there and didn't need to be there . . . and then I met Dr. Stallings. She was a radiant ball of energy with a captivating personality. It didn't take long to warm up to her or University 1010. Dr. Stallings is the type of professor that every student dreams of. She challenges and pushes you to think deeper and explore further. She is incredibly intelligent and articulate."

Stallings says her goal for the Honors section of University 1010 is "to create an environment where students will learn about the university but, more importantly, about themselves, the world, and their ability to contribute to that world in meaningful ways." Stallings uses Bloom's *Taxonomy of Critical Thinking* as the foundation for the course. She said, "Freshman seminar is thought of as a 'college

success course,' and to me that means the development of strong critical-thinking skills. Even orientation-type activities such as visiting the library or the career center can be taught through this lens."

The Honors University 1010 class syllabus includes a visit to Walker Library to work on a research assignment, but two class members and Stallings also visited Linebaugh Library, Murfreesboro's public library, August 29. Alexa Scully and Michael DeHoff met convocation speaker Michael Gill and heard him talk about his book *How Starbucks Saved My Life*. Gill's story is a biographical look at having it all and losing it and how accepting a job as a barista at a Manhattan Starbucks made him a better, happier man.

This is the second time the Honors College has offered Honors University 1010. It was first offered in fall 2007. At that time, Michelle Arnold, who was Honors Advisor and is now associate director of Admissions, taught the class.



Honors alumna Janet G. Hudson with her recently published book, *Entangled by White Supremacy*

Most of the friends I made at MTSU I met in the Honors Program. I also had the good fortune to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Convention in New Orleans during my time at MTSU. Through the rigors and opportunities in the Honors Program I also chose a major (history) and a career—college professor.

Taking Honors history courses, particularly Dr. David Rowe's United States history survey, revealed possibilities for questioning and analyzing the human experience that I'd not realized. This excited me and convinced me to declare myself a history major.

The Honors thesis provided the capstone experience that merged my budding interest in historical research with my experience in the Honors Program. My topic, a historical research project about the possibility of African Americans in Tennessee becoming landowners after the Civil War and Emancipation, received the prize in 1989 for the best Honors thesis that year.

The project served as great preparation for graduate school. As I confronted the task of writing a master's thesis, it was not a complete mystery since I'd had a trial run that afforded me the confidence necessary to tackle the challenge that awaited me. Moreover, my

Dr. June McCash, founding director of the MTSU Honors program, receives a framed Honors medallion from Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors associate dean, before her February 2 lecture, "Why Honors? Precedents, Perceptions, and Perspectives."



Alumni and Friends News

Ph.D. dissertation built upon the same research foundations laid with my Honors thesis. Examining the efforts of African Americans to resist their oppression and to push America to live up to its ideal of freedom and equality has remained my area of scholarly study. My recently published book, *Entangled by White Supremacy*, examines black South Carolinians' challenge to white supremacy in the World War I era, when a white minority controlled the state's politics and economy.

May 13, 1989, remains a special day in my life. I graduated summa cum laude with Honors from MTSU, an accomplishment that had seemed unimaginable five years earlier. Making the celebration all the more exciting, graduation Saturday was also the due date for my second child, a daughter who graciously waited six more days to be born, enabling me to proceed across the stage proudly.

The experiences associated with taking eleven years and attending five institutions to complete my undergraduate degree (and spending my senior year pregnant) have encouraged me over the years to reach out to students who struggle with some aspect of the college experience. My academic career, like my undergraduate "career," has taken a circuitous route and facilitated my contact with nontraditional students. My position at the University of South Carolina involves teaching only in the evenings in a wide range of circumstances—on the main campus of South Carolina's flagship research university, on a military base with full-time military personnel and adult students, in an accelerated format with two-and-one-half-hour classes nightly, through two-way video with students from around the state, and online. With each challenge I'm reminded of my unlikely success at MTSU and push forward. 📣

Tell Us About You!

Students, faculty, and alumni: do you have news to share about awards, publications, appointments, scholarships, grants, exhibitions, or honors? Please e-mail your updates to hcnews@mtsu.edu. 📣

Erin Elizabeth Gowan Alexander (Psychology, 2002) received an M.A. and an Ed. S. (with a concentration in school psychology) and was a graduate assistant at the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia at MTSU. She got married in 2008 and is now is a school psychologist for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Charysse Archer (Mathematical Sciences, 2009) graduated magna cum laude in May and spent the summer at Penn State University, working on a research project in biomedical engineering. This fall, she is taking engineering classes at UTK in order to apply to a Ph.D. program in biomedical engineering next year.

Taylor Arnold Barnes (Chemistry/Physics, 2009), who graduated summa cum laude, was named to *USA Today's* 2009 All-USA College Academic Third Team in April 2009. He won first place at MTSU's Scholars Week in the undergraduate division for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences with his research "Computational Analysis of the Through-bond Interactions of Electronegative Atoms." His faculty mentor was Preston MacDougall. In March, Barnes was selected from among over 2,000 applicants to receive a 2009 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship covers full tuition and fees for three years and provides a yearly stipend of over \$30,000. Barnes was also one of 60 students chosen from throughout the U.S. to receive a \$5,000 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship. Barnes was accepted to the University of California–Berkeley, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, and Duke and was offered full tuition, health insurance, a stipend, and additional fellowships at each institution. He was also accepted at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He chose to attend Caltech.

Rachel Bauer (Biology, 2009) presented "Identification of Possible Nucleosidase Homologous Proteins in *Arabidopsis thaliana*" April 3 during Scholars Week.

Allison Marie Cummings Brady (Biology, 2008) is a graduate student at the University of Alabama–Birmingham, working toward a master's of public health in epidemiology. She served an internship at the School of Medicine at UAB during summer 2009, studying the prevalence of macrolide-resistant mycoplasma pneumoniae infections in children.

Alex James Brown (Biology/Chemistry, 2001) received a doctor of medicine degree in 2005 from the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. He is currently a third-year internal medicine resident at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. He recently began a sports medicine fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital/University of Cincinnati that will last through July 2010.

Leonela Carriedo (Biology, 2009) is in the University of California–Davis Ph.D. program plant biology graduate group this fall.

Tim Claytor (Psychology, 2008) is a graduate student at Lipscomb University, working toward an M.A. in special education. He is also teaching a behavior intervention class at Greenbrier High School in Robertson County.

Jennifer Fleshman Davis (English, 2008) is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee–Chattanooga working toward an M.A. in creative writing. She married **Jeremy Davis** (Mass Communication, 2008) in May 2008.

Kalina Ferencei (Political Science, 2008) works for Verizon and plans to pursue a master's degree in justice studies from Southern University in New Hampshire.

Teresa Forsythe (Mass Communication, 2009) is working as a resident consultant for Alpha Omicron Pi at West Virginia University.

Zol Hooper (Mathematical Sciences, 2007) received a summer internship with Travelers Insurance in Hartford, Connecticut.

Janet G. Hudson (History, 1989) recently published *Entangled by White Supremacy* (University Press of Kentucky, 2009). She is an assistant professor of history in the Extended University unit (continuing education) at the University of South Carolina.

Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) was recently elected Student Bar Association president at New York Law School in Manhattan. She works part-time for a criminal defense attorney specializing in narcotics and homicides.

Sandi Jobe (Animal Science, 2000) recently became director of annual giving and alumni relations coordinator at Webb School in Bell Buckle. Previously, she worked in technology sales at Dell for seven years.

Maryam Kassaei (International Relations, 2006) graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee College of Law. She is a volunteer at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of East Tennessee and plans to practice law in Tennessee.

Lani Lester (Political Science/ Journalism, 2009) spent the summer in Washington, D.C., with the Fund for American Studies' Institute on Political Journalism at *Politics Magazine*. As part of the program, she presented a testimonial before the National Press Club. She will be spending this year in Memphis, where she will work part-time and prepare to apply to law school. She graduated cum laude in August.

Gina Logue (Political Science, 2009) presented "Bulletin! Reporters Caught in Bed with Star-Making Machine!" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council

annual conference February 14 at Austin Peay State University. Logue graduated in August.

Mallory Melton (Anthropology, 2009) presented "Castalian Springs Site (40SU14): Faunal Remains in Non-elite Context" April 3 during Scholars Week. She graduated cum laude in August and will continue graduate studies at MTSU in professional counseling in the Psychology Department.

Mika Meschievitz (Chemistry, 2009) presented "A Concise and Biometric Route to Biologically Active Aryl Naphthalene Lignans" April 3 during Scholars Week and graduated magna cum laude in May. She received a full scholarship to Vanderbilt's organic chemistry Ph.D. program.

Brittney Oliver (Psychology, 2009) presented two research projects during Scholars Week: "The Effect of Culture and Ethnicity on Health Care Practices" and "Health Care Practices of Young and Middle Years Adult Populations of the Middle Tennessee Area." She graduated cum laude in May.

Kirsten Phillips (Psychology, 2009) graduated cum laude in May and is in graduate school at MTSU studying mental health counseling.

Jessica Amanda "Mandy" Ray-Jones (Psychology, 2000) founded and established a local nonprofit, Artsy Mamas, and serves as executive director. She is the full-time mother of three children and is beginning home school this year.

Amy Powers Shaw (Mass Communication, 2009) graduated magna cum laude May 9 and married **Garrett Hamilton Shaw** (Accounting, 2009)

May 16. Following a honeymoon cruise in the Caribbean, the couple returned to Murfreesboro, where they live. Garrett is employed by NHC as an accountant.

Rachel Simes (Recording Industry, 2009), who graduated summa cum laude May 9, is attending Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire. Simes received the President's Award this spring at MTSU.

Travisty Vasquez-Terry (Liberal Studies, 2007; editor-in-chief, fall 2006 *Collage*) is a Web developer for the Office of Information Technology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. She recently gave birth to her fourth child, a daughter.

Sheila P. Umayam (Psychology, 2007) has been selected as a member of a research team for Vanderbilt Medical Center's Center for Quality Aging.

Virginia Vile (Political Science/French, 2002) continues practicing law in Alexandria, Virginia. She and her husband, Keith Wesosowski, have bought a franchise of Cookies by Design, which they are managing in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dani Westerman (Political Science, 2009), who graduated magna cum laude in the spring, will be attending the University of Tennessee School of Law this fall and is engaged to marry Spencer D. Bryson of Birmingham, Alabama, in June 2010.

Kyle J. Williams (Biology, 2009) presented "Genetic Analysis of a Case of Familial Left Ventricular Noncompaction" April 3 during Scholars Week and graduated magna cum laude May 9. 📌



Dr. Frank Essex, standing, professor emeritus of political science, with six of his former students who participated in a roundtable March 3 in the Honors College Amphitheater. Former MTSU students are, from left, Judge Mark Rogers, attorney Reba Brown Carter, Judge Ben McFarlin, Associate Chief Deputy Attorney General Lucy Honey Haynes, District Attorney Mike Bottoms, and attorney Gerald Melton. The panel discussed careers in law and changes in Tennessee's judicial system.

How You Can Help!

The Honors College prides itself in providing scholarship support for students. The University uses state funds to provide support for the Buchanan Fellows, but the college has a number of named scholarships that it gives annually.

Those who follow the stock market will probably not be surprised to learn that for the first time in many years we will not be receiving interest from our Foundation accounts this year. This leaves us needing about \$10,000 of support simply to fund the scholarships that we normally provide for the year ahead. We know that some of you are experiencing the same downturns as the economy, and we don't want anyone to give out of need, but we would certainly appreciate any contributions from those of you who remain in a position to give.

In the same vein, this is the second year that Dr. Phil Mathis and his wife, Marilyn, will contribute \$5,000

to a scholarship to support the dissemination of Honors student research at appropriate regional and national meet-

ings. This gift is contingent on the Honors College matching these funds. Last year, we were able to raise \$12,450 for this scholarship.

In recent years, we have been subsidizing costs of prep courses that our students have taken to prepare themselves for standardized tests for graduate and professional schools. We are no longer permitted to use state monies for such purposes. We would like to continue what we believe to be an important program with private dollars.

In addition to the above, we are always open to your ideas about long-term improvements, whether for new scholarships, a new living-



learning center, endowed professorships. You might have ideas that we may not have even contemplated. We are also amenable to establishing scholarships within individual majors or colleges for students who are pursuing Honors degrees.

For a description of existing Honors Scholarships, please visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/scholarships.shtml.

You may send designated donations to:
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