

HONORS *Edition*

University Honors College Newsletter • Spring 2009
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the *Dean's Desk*

At a time when the state economy and the university budget are bearish, I remain bullish on the Honors College. My first six months on the job have been kaleidoscopic. I've met prospective students and parents; members of the Board of Visitors; and current undergraduates, professors, advisors, and administrators. I have worked on an incredible number of events and projects to further the mission of the Honors College. In addition, as a political scientist, I had a number of opportunities to comment on the historic U.S. presidential election.

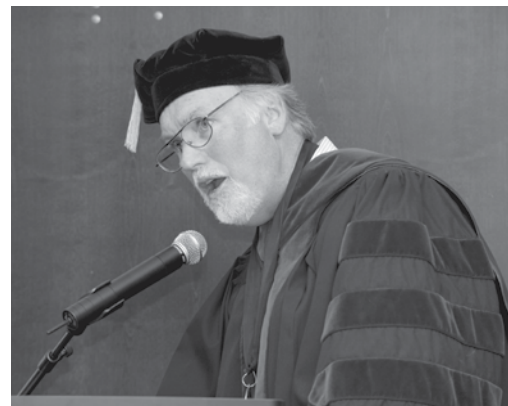
Highlights of the past semester, many of which are included in this newsletter, have included our Buchanan Inauguration, the inauguration of a new Honors interdisciplinary seminar, thesis defenses, two meetings of the Board of Visitors, recruiting students for scholarships, updating our Web site, and raising

Dean cont. on page 2

2008 Buchanan Fellows Are Inaugurated in October Ceremony

Twenty new Buchanan Fellows were inaugurated Friday, October 3, 2008, in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. The 6 p.m. program recognized and challenged the 2008 Buchanans, a diverse group of gifted students who collectively attained an average high school GPA of 3.87 and a 31 average on their ACT exams.

Of the new Buchanan Fellows, six graduated from high schools in Murfreesboro, nine graduated from other Tennessee schools, and five attended schools out of state. Eldridge Alexander and Lauren Rigsby are graduates of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. Kaitlin Beck and Troy Berry attended Oakland High School, and Erica Cathey and Lee Reed graduated from Siegel High.



English Professor Kevin J. Donovan challenges the Buchanan Fellows class of 2008 to "think otherwise."

Inaugurated cont. on page 2



University Honors College Dean John R. Vile (left), master of ceremonies for the 2008 Buchanan Fellows inauguration, is joined by former Honors College Dean Philip M. Mathis and former Honors Program Directors Ron Messier and June McCash for the 2008 Buchanan Fellows inauguration.

Dean cont. from front page

funds to help match a gift by Phil and Marilyn Mathis to support student research. I have also been privileged to continue my previous role as one of the coaches of MTSU's mock trial teams, one of which (composed almost solely of Honors students) is having its best year ever. As an author, I was also able to attend a special event at the Newseum in which I was able to speak with other coauthors about our *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*. Associate Dean Scott Carnicom and I attended the annual meeting of the National Council of Honor Societies in San Antonio in October.

At a time of tuition increases at both public and private schools, MTSU's Honors College continues to deliver incredible "bang for the buck." Honors students have the benefit of small classes with other high-achieving students and the type of personalized instruction that many elite colleges offer but at public university prices. Our students are especially enjoying the new Honors dorm, and an increasing number are taking advantage of opportunities to study abroad.

I have been especially heartened to see the positive response to our fall newsletter and to the latest edition of our literary magazine, *Collage*, which is available online. We are particularly interested in strengthening the section of this newsletter that deals with alumni, and I encourage you to respond to the survey that we have enclosed. We especially want your ideas about how to enhance the Honors experience at MTSU.

—John Vile, Dean 



2008 Buchanan Fellows continued

Inaugurated cont. from front page



Former Honors College dean, Dr. Philip Mathis, and current Honors dean, Dr. John Vile, compare notes before the Buchanan Fellows inauguration in October.

Other Tennessee graduates are Adam Emerson from DeKalb County High School in Liberty; Erica Gober, a graduate of Mt. Juliet High School in Old Hickory; Jennifer Johnson from Maryville High School; Haley Pimentel from Cascade High School in Shelbyville; Shelby Ragan, a graduate of Eagleville High School in Christiana; Nathan Reale, a graduate of Franklin High School; James Skelley from Liberty High School in Jackson; Chad Slaven of Cumberland Gap High School in Harrogate; and Christen Vann from Moore County High School in Normandy.

The five 2008 Buchanan Fellows from out of state are Shelby Barton from Libby High School in Libby, Montana; Holly Cunningham from Clinton High School in Clinton, Iowa; Adam Gimenez from Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama; Eric Guyes from Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, Virginia; and Katie Miller from Cedar Shoals High School in Athens, Georgia.

The Buchanan Fellows and a number of their parents were welcomed to the inauguration program by Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College; Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, president of MTSU; and returning Buchanan scholars Chelsea Curtis and Aaron Scherer. Dr. Kaylene A. Gebert, executive vice president and provost, and several MTSU deans also attended the inauguration, as did former Honors Program directors Dr. June McCash and Dr. Ron Messier.



Dean John Vile signs the Honors College *Book of Town and Gown* during the 2008 Buchanan Fellows inauguration.

Honor Society Interest Meeting

Dr. Philip M. Mathis, who retired as Honors dean in June 2008, introduced the *Book of Town and Gown*, a ceremonial book in which are recorded the signatures of individuals who have helped shape the University Honors College. Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate Honors dean assisted the 20 new Buchanan Fellows as they signed the book. Also signing were the new Honors dean, Dr. John Vile, and Dr. Kevin J. Donovan of MTSU's English Department, the evening's speaker.

Mr. Jeff Whorley, chair of the Honors College Board of Visitors and nephew of Dr. James Buchanan, introduced Dr. Donovan, who challenged the students to dare to "think otherwise." Following Dr. Donovan's challenge to the Buchanan class of 2008, Dr. Jill Hague led the students in the recitation of the Honors Creed.

The Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, accepts only 20 applicants each year and is the highest award given to students entering the Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University. The program provides full payment of tuition and fees and a \$1,000 per year book allowance

Dr. James M. Buchanan was a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College and winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986. The Buchanan Fellowship was established in 2006 by Dr. Sidney McPhee to attract superior scholars from across the country. 📌



Nine students attended a January 21 meeting for those interested in applying to be charter members of a new Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) at MTSU. Attending were (front, left to right) Austin Purvis, Shannon Murphy, Merranda Holmes, Gina Logue, Amanda Alexander, Jessica Harrell, (back) Daniel Vaughan, Nathaniel Green, and James Kamer. MTSU faculty and staff members present were ODK members John McDaniel, Marc G. Singer, Steven Chappell, John R. Vile, and Marsha Powers. Laura Clippard, Honors advisor, and Georgia Dennis, event coordinator, are also assisting in the formation of the new ODK circle. 📌

Members of the 2008 class of Buchanan Fellows pose for a group photograph following their October 3 inauguration.



Lincoln Memorial University Law School Representative visits MTSU

A representative of Lincoln Memorial University met with students in an event jointly sponsored by the Honors College and the Department of Political Science on October 30.

Lincoln Memorial is now accepting applications for an entering law school class for the fall. The school is using the old city hall in Knoxville, where it currently offers other advanced degrees. Lincoln Memorial plans to seek immediate state accreditation for its graduates and hopes to get additional accreditation with the American Bar Association. The school will initially open as a night school with a four-year program, but hopes to add day classes in its second year of operation for a regular three-year curriculum.

Lincoln's will be the fifth law school in the state, joining Vanderbilt, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, and the Nashville School of Law. The first three are accredited by the ABA; the last is only accredited within the state. Dean John Vile, who long served as MTSU's pre-law advisor, notes that the establishment of Lincoln's program could open additional opportunities for students, especially in the Knoxville area, who cannot attend school full-time because of work and family obligations. 📌

Daughtrey to be Martin Lecture Series Speaker

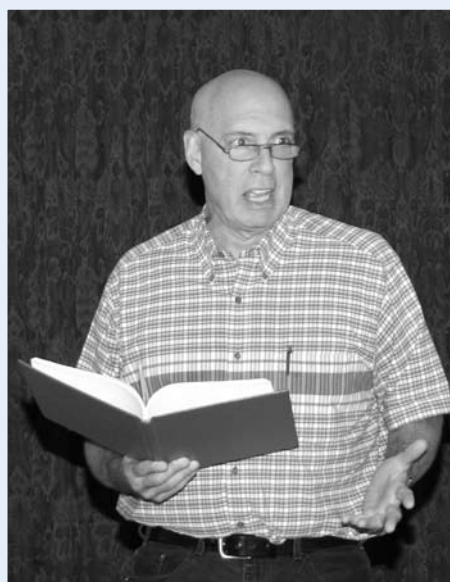
This spring's Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Lecture Series speaker will be Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey. In a lecture scheduled for March 26 and cosponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Fund and by the Women's Studies Program, Daughtrey will present "Judicial Independence in Jeopardy: the First Amendment and the Culture Wars." She will also meet informally with a political science class afterward.

Daughtrey earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University, where she was selected for Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif. After serving as an assistant district attorney, she became the first woman to teach at Vanderbilt Law School. She subsequently served



as a judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, as an associate justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court (the first woman in that role), and on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, where she has recently taken senior status.

Daughtrey has held many volunteer offices and received the Athena Award from the National Athena Program in 1991, as well as many other recognitions. Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, notes that Daughtrey's speech will be an appropriate follow-up to last year's speech by Governor Phil Bredesen. Daughtrey will help highlight the seldom visible, but far from inconsequential, judicial branch. 📌



Poet, author, and Pulitzer Prize nominee **James Reiss** reads a poem during an October 15, 2008, presentation in the Honors Amphitheatre. Reiss visited MTSU at the invitation of Dr. Ron Kates and the MTSU English Department. He had lunch in the Honors Building conference room with students and faculty members before his afternoon presentation. 📌

Summer Internship Experience Benefits Honors Student

by Leonela Carriedo
Carriedo is a senior Honors student
majoring in Biology.

Last summer, I participated in an internship at the Carnegie Institution of Washington Department of Plant Biology, located on the campus of Stanford University. While there, I worked alongside high-profile researchers investigating the cell biology of plants. The project on which I worked studied cell polarity in the leaves of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a common model organism. Understanding this aspect of plant growth is important since leaves are one of the most vital organs of a plant. Ill-formed leaves can be fatal considering that photosynthesis alone is one of the critical biological processes.

The previous study that prompted the latest investigation revealed that there are other small families of genes that help regulate the five primary genes known to control the polarity of cells in leaves. Therefore, we were interested in finding their relationship with these primary genes and how strongly they acted as regulators of leaf polarity. I was respon-

sible for creating mutations in the DNA of *Arabidopsis* that would create physically recognizable defects in leaf structure that would test for loss of function. After many weeks of trial and error, I succeeded in creating the desired mutant strands of DNA.

The work itself was not difficult; I found myself well-prepared with my brief introduction to biotechnology here at MTSU in Dr. Bruce Cahoon's lab. Prior to entering the lab at Carnegie, I was afraid that I would not be well received by all of the scientists. I was pleasantly surprised at the wonderful learning environment facilitated by everyone. I was one of four interns: two were from Stanford and one was from Berkeley. I was the only out-of-state intern in the lab. I received a lot of guidance and advice from the post-docs regarding additional training and graduate schools. I left Carnegie with a greater sense of what I want to accomplish and what course of study to pursue as a graduate student. By the end of the summer, I felt a greater level of confidence and was proud to acknowledge my emergence as a young scientist. 📌

Upcoming Events

Spring Break
March 8–14

**UHC Video Night:
*The Sari Soldiers***
5 p.m., Thursday, March 19
Honors 106

**UHC Scholarship
Application Deadline**
Friday, March 20

Martin Lectureship
Martha C. Daughtrey
U.S. Court of Appeals (Sixth Circuit)
1 p.m., Thursday, March 26
State Farm Room, BAS 102

Scholar's Week
Monday, March 30–Friday, April 3

Thesis Deadline
Tuesday, March 31

**Collage Staff
Applications Due**
Friday, April 10
Honors 224

Honors Awards
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 15
Honors 106

**Collage Recognition
and Reception**
5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16
Honors 106 📌



Inauguration Day at Lyon

Honors students join John R. Vile, dean; Laura Clippard, advisor; Honors faculty member Preston MacDougall; Housing and Residential Life associate directors, Andy Bickers and Amy Korstange; and Kara Westmoreland, area coordinator, in the basement of Lyon Complex to watch the January 20 inauguration of President Barak Obama. Scott Carnicom, associate dean, also hosted a group of Honors students, staff, and faculty, who watched the inauguration on CNN.com in the Honors Conference Room. Following the ceremony, the Honors carillon played "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Stars and Stripes Forever." 📌

AP Credit Now Applicable as Honors Credit

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

A new policy allows Honors students to gain up to nine semester hours of Honors credit by AP examination, provided that the AP exam score is four 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, faculty and students may consult the Honors College Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean, at Carnicom@mtsu.edu or (615) 494-7611). 📞

Thank You!

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

—Marsha Powers, editor

President's Reception for the Buchanan Fellows



MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee greets the 2008 Buchanan Fellows and guests at his home September 18, 2008.



Buchanan Fellows pose in front of the president's home during the September reception.

Habitat for Humanity: An Opportunity for Those in Need and for Those with Something to Give

by Adam Emerson
Emerson is a freshman Honors student majoring in Psychology.

I looked up with displeasure as I shoveled a seemingly unshrinking pile of gravel onto the patch of ground destined to be a driveway. The inquisitive, incomprehensible faces of two young children stared back at me. They did not yet understand the fact that the incongruous combination of piles of lumber, boxes of nails, and bags of concrete on a patch of bare ground would one day become their home. Nevertheless, they thanked me. This is when I knew that what I was doing was well worth my time and effort.

Nothing can bring about as great a sense of self-satisfaction as physical labor done without personal benefit or compensation. I do not believe that many of my DeKalb County High School football teammates understood this fact before I helped convince them to build a house. My coach and I had decided this would be a fine way of giving back to the community that had given so much to us, and so we recruited more than half of the sixty-man squad to come to the work site on a Saturday morning. As the day wore on, we hammered, shoveled, lifted, and poured. By the time we were through, many of them had learned just what I meant when I described the satisfaction received from volunteering.



The house my teammates and I helped construct in Liberty, Tennessee, is now completely built, fully furnished, and thoroughly lived in. Soon after the first, construction on another new home began next door. When my Spanish teacher asked me for ideas for group activities, I did not hesitate to suggest sponsoring an outing to the work site. A few phone calls later and the date was set for the Spanish club to come help at the house. I made the rounds again, recruiting members who had a free Saturday, making offers to give club members a ride, and even persuading many second-time volunteers with experience from the football team's outing.

We arrived at the project house early in the morning. At first, some of our members were wondering why they had come at seven in the

morning; however, all the volunteers soon perked up when they were given hammers, some nails, and wood to pound them into. Any time I heard someone question the reason they were there, I pointed to the home next door and told them how much satisfaction I received from helping to build that house. Later in the day, as I was hammering nails into what would be the frame of the master bedroom, I looked up with happiness and saw the same two children from the home next door, a couple of years older and much wiser. They knew perfectly well what I was doing this time, and they asked me if they could help.

I've helped out numerous times at other work sites since these experiences, and every time I do, the experience is just as rewarding as it was the first time. The sense of fulfillment created by helping a person to rebuild their life in a new home is indescribable. I know that with every new group of people I help expose to volunteering, I am improving not only the lives of the people they are volunteering to help but also the lives of the volunteers themselves. In the future, I hope to encourage support in the MTSU community for the worthy cause that the Habitat for Humanity program promotes so that others can feel the sense of accomplishment that can only come from selfless giving. 📌

Priority Registration for Honors Students

In addition to the myriad of other benefits associated with Honors participation, MTSU Honors students may qualify for priority registration. In exchange for eligibility, students will be required to complete an intent form indicating their educational goals and desire to finish their Honors thesis or creative project. Thus, eligible Honors students will be permitted to register before almost all other undergraduates.

Once qualified, Honors students will be required to maintain satisfactory progress within the program in order to remain eligible for priority registration (see below). The Honors College hosts workshops each semester to address questions and assist interested students in completing the intent form. Questions about priority registration can be directed to Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors associate dean, at Carnicom@mtsu.edu. 📧

Phi Kappa Phi Recognizes Honors Students and Faculty

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society recognized three Honors faculty members and at least nine University Honors College students at its initiation ceremony Tuesday, December 2, 2008, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

All the Honors students recognized were from Tennessee and included Andrew Harris (Chemistry) of Shelbyville, Hannah Green (Art) of Knoxville, Tabitha Almeyda (Economics) of Clarksville, Daniel Galyon (Mass Communication) of Copperhill, Nathaniel Green (Economics) of La Vergne, Mary Crouse (Biology) of Murfreesboro, Shannon Murphy (Biology) of Murfreesboro, Katy Vogt (Concrete Industry Management) of Franklin and Hayley Harmon (Mass Communication) of Lebanon.

Student initiates selected Dr. Gloria Hamilton (Psychology), Dr. Robb McDaniel (Political Science) and Dr. John Vile (Political Science) as faculty members who had positively influenced their lives.

To be eligible for membership in Phi Kappa Phi, seniors and graduate students must rank in the top 10 percent of their respective colleges, and juniors must rank in the top 7.5 percent.

The primary objective of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is to recognize and encourage superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. The society is convinced that in recognizing and honoring those persons of good character who have excelled in scholarship, in whatever field, it will stimulate others to strive for excellence.

Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College, is the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship coordinator and treasurer. Kathy Davis, Honors College executive aide, is chapter coordinator. Phi Kappa Phi is administered through the Honors College. 📧



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

Student News

Charysse Archer

(Mathematics) was selected to present her poster "Feedback Control System for Laser Power



Recycling Cavity" at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February. Her faculty advisor is Yun Liu of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Archer also received URSCA Scholar funding for spring 2009.

Taylor Barnes

(Physics and Chemistry) recently learned that his graduate application to the University of California–Berkeley Department of Chemistry has been accepted



and that he has been named one of the 2009–2010 Chemistry Department Scholars. Chemistry Department Scholars are judged to be among the best applicants at Berkeley and receive an upgraded fellowship. He has also been accepted to California Institute of Technology in Pasadena; Duke University; and to the University of Chicago Department of Chemistry, where he has been offered the Freud Fellowship, an award of \$10,000. The Freud Fellowship also provides him the option of starting work at the University of Chicago during summer 2009 with a \$5,000 stipend.

Barnes presented "Quantum Dynamics Simulations in MADNESS" at the 2008 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical

Society on November 15. He submitted a video of the Chemistry Club's activities to the annual STEPTube competition in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, and it won the STEP^{MT} Choice Award. He also presented two posters at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville.

Chelsea Curtis (Undeclared) was elected president of the Raider Republicans and public relations liaison for the Honors Student Association for 2008–2009.

Meg Davis (French and Theatre) was elected vice president of the Honors Student Association for 2008–2009.

Daniel Gouger (Chemistry) was elected president of the Honors Student Association for 2008–2009 and led the organization's food drive benefiting the Rutherford County Food Bank during the fall semester.

Merranda Holmes

(Biology) was selected to present her poster "The Production, Quantification, and Fluorescent Detection of Anthrax-Simulating Endospores" at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February. Her faculty mentor is Stephen Wright.



Elizabeth Hunt (English) received URSCA Scholar funding for spring 2009.

Yuliya Melnikova (Mathematics) received URSCA Scholar funding for spring 2009.

Brittney Oliver (Psychology) presented "Current Trends and Attitudes toward Health and Healthcare Practices among Middle-Aged and Elderly Adults" at the 2008 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium November 18, 2008, at MTSU.

Josh Parker

(Physics) was selected to present his poster "Constructing and Testing of a Microphone Array for Acoustic Interferometry" at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February. His faculty mentor is William Robertson.



Amy Ronner (English) presented "Student Reactions to the Library" as part of a library research project at the 2008 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium in November at MTSU.

Jessica Taylor (Chemistry) received the Jubran and Judy Wakim Chemistry Scholarship for excellent academic performance for 2007–2008. She was named Outstanding Freshman Chemistry Student for 2007–2008, an award sponsored by the Chemical Rubber Company (CRC) for excellent scholastic achievement. She also received the 2008 CRC Press Chemistry Achievement Award.

Dani Westerman (Political Science) received URSCA Scholar funding for the completion of her Honors thesis, "Judicial Standing: the Next Frontier of Victims' Rights."



MTSU Mock Trial Team Wins Tournament

For the first time since 1994, an MTSU mock trial team has placed first in the Mid-South Invitational Tournament, which the University has been hosting since 1992. A team led by junior Daniel Vaughan in mid-November posted a perfect 8-0 record in its division, and, on the basis of its strength of opposition, won the tournament over another 8-0 team from Georgia Tech in a field of 50 teams. In addition to Vaughan, team members were Rachel Harmon and Austin Purvis, who, with Vaughan, played the part of attorneys, and Lani Lester, Samantha Ferrell, and Lee Whitwell, who played witnesses. Lester received a top witness award for her performance.

Each team at the tournament participated in four rounds (two on each side), which were each judged by two attorneys. MTSU's team met the University of Mississippi, Rhodes College, the University of Georgia at Athens, and Mississippi Valley State University.

Other MTSU teams had records of 6-2, 5½-2½, and 4-4.

In addition to Lester, MTSU's Jacob Strait won an award as an outstanding witness, and Nikke Vandewalker won an award as an outstanding attorney. Lester and Strait are Honors College students, as are Vaughan, Harmon, Purvis, and Ferrell.

The Mid-South Invitational is one of the nation's largest tournaments. It began in 1989 at Rhodes College, subsequently moved to Bellarmine University, and has been at MTSU for the last seventeen years. Teams attended from Alabama, California,

Trial cont. on page 12

Study Abroad: Russia and the International Recording Industry



Recording Industry major Rachel Simes, a senior Honors student, visits a waterway in Moscow while studying abroad in Russia.

by Rachel Simes
Simes is a senior Honors student majoring in Recording Industry.

In July 2008, I traveled to Russia to study the international recording industry and other international entertainment industries. I spent two weeks, from July 21 to August 4, exploring the country by visiting major metropolitan areas such as Moscow and St. Petersburg. I also was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Russian countryside and to meet people who are pivotal in the growth and development of this former communist country. My experience in Russia was beneficial for my career path of intellectual property law as well as my personal development, as I learn more about the global infrastructure.

The Russia study abroad trip was organized by Dr. Stephanie Taylor for the Department of Recording

Industry at MTSU. The focus of this trip was to learn about the international recording industry with specific focus on the Russian recording industry. The Recording Industry program at MTSU had hosted Russian exchange students during the fall of 2007. These students served as guides for my study abroad experience and helped the group communicate with the Russian people. This was the first trip to Russia for the Department of Recording Industry, and the recording industry students received a diverse view of the global entertainment industry.

The Russian recording and entertainment industries have received very little attention compared to other entertainment industry markets in the European Union and Asia. Many of the industry leaders within Russia have focused on increas-



Rachel Simes poses by a statue in the Moscow Metro during a study abroad trip to Russia.

ing the global visibility of Russian music and entertainment products. Industry professionals in other countries wrongly assume that Russia has few or no copyright laws, and the assumption continues with the belief that Russia does nothing to enforce intellectual property protections. This is a misguided belief system and was part of my academic focus throughout the experience.

Before leaving for Russia, I was required to review an essay titled “Multi-Jurisdictional Developments in Russian Copyright Law” by G. Kline Preston IV, which details changes in the Russian legal system that strengthen copyrights in Russia. This essay focuses on how Russia honors United States laws for intellectual property issues and has attempted to honor intellectual property rights for natives and foreigners. However, despite the recognition of intellectual property laws, the government within the Russian Federation is not stable enough to fully implement and monitor copyright issues within the country. The development of intellectual property is important to Russians, and the country should not be excluded from international trade agreements on intellectual property law.

The prevalence of communism in Russia is a fact that one would not be fully aware of from outside the country. I saw many hammer and sickle symbols in and on numerous buildings throughout the country. While I am aware that these symbols are supposed to be merely remains from another era, the people in Russia repeatedly cited the government’s control as an important issue within the country. In addition, many souvenir shops and street vendors sold communist memorabilia as items for tourists. These items ranged from conspicuous propaganda to communist symbols embedded into souvenirs that consumers would not normally notice. The communist undertones throughout the country opened my eyes to the potential differences in government and culture between Russia and the United States.

Overall, my study abroad experience in Russia taught me a great deal about international countries in the entertainment marketplace. I would never have received such a thorough experience by taking a class instead of actually traveling to Russia. I believe that every student should utilize the opportunity to study abroad. By taking the unique opportunity to explore another country firsthand, one’s education will be enhanced through the ultimate experiential learning experience. 📌

Rachel Simes (front left) and other Recording Industry students visit St. Basil’s Cathedral while studying abroad to learn about the international recording industry in Russia. The students were accompanied by Chris Haselev, chair of Recording Industry, and Stephanie Taylor, associate chair.



Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee. MTSU alumni and friends drove from as far away as northern Virginia to help team coaches judge this tournament; local judges and attorneys also responded to the call for help. Results of the tournament are posted on the Web site of the American Mock Trial Association, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa.

MTSU teams are coached by Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College; Ms. Brandi Snow, an MTSU mock trial alumna; and Dr. Amanda DiPaulo, of the Department of Political Science. Vile notes that the winning MTSU team was the same team that placed third in the nation's first tournament of the year at St. Louis University.

The week after MTSU's tournament, the winning team attended the Tobacco Row Invitational at Duke University, where it came in fourth with a 6-2 record. The team's tournament record for the season is now 21-3. 📌



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! 📌

Collage Names Fall Creative Expression Award Winners

by Susan Hill
Susan Hill is a December 2008 graduate of MTSU. She majored in Mass Communication with a concentration in Journalism and was prose editor for the fall 2008 issue of Collage.

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression has named its Creative Expression Award Winners for the fall 2008 edition. Awards were given in the categories of art, poetry, prose, and photography.

Taffeta Chime has been named the recipient in the fiction category for her excerpt from a longer work titled *Barefoot*.

Chime is a sophomore English major with minors in Writing and Speech and Theatre. She has been published on numerous occasions, including two previous pieces published by *Collage*. In 2007, Broken Oak Publishing and Lightning Source Industries published her novel *Stoodie*, which is available at Amazon.com.

In the poetry category, **Jen Hayes** won the Creative Expression Award for her entry titled "Strawberry Picking." Hayes is a junior majoring in English and Theatre. She has had two poems previously published by *Collage*, is the vice president of the Young Artists and Writers society, and is a frequent performer at the Grind.

Marcus Laxton has been named winner in the photography category for his entry titled "Daybreak." He previously had a poem published

in the spring 2008 issue of *Collage*. Laxton is a sophomore majoring in Mass Communication with minors in Photography and Media Design and Graphics. He enjoys traveling and plans to work in the field of commercial photography after graduation.



Adam Gaskill is the Creative Expression Award recipient in the art category for his entry titled *Rag and Bone*, the first of many sculptures Gaskill has built out of abandoned bicycles. He is an Art major with a concentration in Studio Art. Interested in printmaking and sculpture, he is currently working on meshing silkscreen and sculptural transportation.



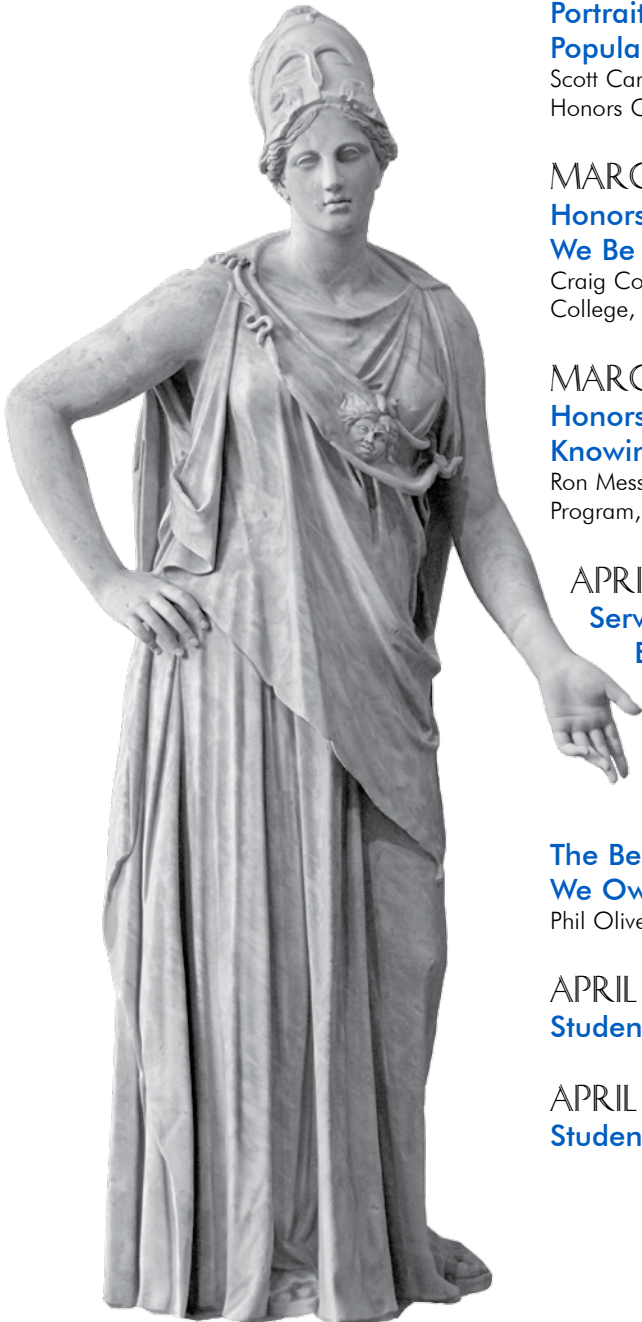
The Creative Expression Award began as the Martha Hixon Award in fall 2007, awarding one winner with a \$100 check. The awards have been expanded to four categories to include the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards in poetry and prose and the Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards in art and photography. Each of the four winners receives a \$50 award.

Previous winners include Criminal Justice Administration major **Grace Langeland** for her entry titled *3 a.m. Fiction*, Art major **Miki Sato** for the digital illustration *Self Control*, and Mass Communication major **Justin Keoninh** for the photograph "Drake Dreams." 📌

Spring 2009 Honors Lecture Series

SEARCHING FOR ATHENA: An Exploration of Honors and Gifted Education

Free and open to the public
Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.
Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building,
Room 106



MARCH 2 How Would Athena Score on the ACT? Wisdom and Knowledge in Honors Education

Ada Long, editor, *Honors in Practice* and
*Journal of the National Collegiate Honors
Council*

MARCH 9 Spring Break; No Classes

MARCH 16 Portraits of "Intelligence" in Popular Films

Scott Carnicom, Associate Dean, University
Honors College

MARCH 23 Honors in 2025: What Should We Be Thinking About?

Craig Cobane, executive director, Honors
College, Western Kentucky University

MARCH 30 Honors Education Means Knowing "the Other"

Ron Messier, director, MTSU Honors
Program, 1980–1990

APRIL 6 Serving Our Brightest Elementary Students: A Local Blueprint

Linda Clark, principal, Discovery
School at Reeves-Rogers

APRIL 13 The Best and Wisest Gift: What We Owe All Children

Phil Oliver, MTSU Department of Philosophy

APRIL 20 Student Thesis Presentations

APRIL 27 Student Thesis Presentations 📣

Honors Lecture Series Looks Inward

This semester, the Honors Lecture Series will look inward, examining both honors education at the collegiate level and gifted education at the elementary and secondary levels.

As in previous semesters, this series will feature experts from the MTSU community. Additionally, several other speakers will make presentations, including two former directors of MTSU's Honors Program, Dr. June McCash and Dr. Ron Messier. On February 9, Dr. Rolland Pack (dean of the Honors College at Freed-Hardeman and treasurer of the National Collegiate Honors Council) will discuss definitions of honors. On March 2, Dr. Ada Long (past president of the National Collegiate Honors Council and editor of *Honors in Practice* and the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*) will discuss standardized testing. Additional speakers will include Dr. Linda Clark (principal of the Discovery School for the gifted and talented at Reeves-Rogers) and Dr. Craig Cobane (executive director of the Honors College at Western Kentucky). 📣

Welcome to the Jungle



Welcome to the Jungle is one of two compilations of student writings assembled by Dr. Laura Dubek's fall 2008 Honors Expository Writing classes and printed by the Honors College. The second compilation is called *Unfiltered*. A copy of each project is available in the Honors Scholarship Display in the Thesis Defense Room, Honors 203B. 📌

Fall 2008 Collage Cover



The fall 2008 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* is available on magazine stands in Peck Hall, KUC, Todd Hall, Bragg Mass Comm, and the Martin Honors Building. 📌

Honors Student Enjoys Study Abroad Experience in Costa Rica

by Samantha Emerson

Emerson is a junior Honors student majoring in Psychology.



Honors student Sam Emerson holds a young crocodile during a study abroad trip to Costa Rica.

If you've never considered studying abroad, let me give you a few things to think about: mountains, flowers, jungles, dancing, sloths, beaches, locals, hiking, volcanoes, zip lines, surfing, crocodiles, bars, friends, exploration, monkeys, *gallo pinto*, life. These were just a few things that I was able to experience last summer in Costa Rica, a trip I never thought I'd take and one that—as cheesy as it sounds—has actually changed my life.

The trip was offered through a program called KIIS (Kentucky Institute for International Studies) that included students from all over the South; so even before the trip had begun, we were making new friends. But the real fun began as soon as our plane landed in Costa Rica and we took a long bus ride to the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica. We spent most of our trip there at Tecnológico, which was located in the interior of the country in the small town of Santa Clara. Because of this location, we were able to get a feel for the small-town life that the majority of *ticos* (Costa Ricans) actually live.

The school itself provided some interesting opportunities for us to explore. A small trail off the road led through a small stretch of jungle to a frog habitat, then to a butterfly habitat, then through a beautiful garden of exotic local flowers, and finally to a crocodile pit. Each day we were exposed to something new. One night we took a salsa lesson with locals and later did a bit more modern dancing. Another night we watched a traditional Hispanic dance by a group that represented the country in an international Central American dance competition. Perhaps my favorite experience during our stay there was the two-and-a-half hour hike up a mountain to see an unnamed waterfall. But even something as mundane as going to the pool became an adventure when we discovered what happens when iguanas lose their tails. However, no matter what the day brought us, we always found ourselves spending our nights at Happy Land, the local bar, with all of the locals.

Sam Emerson takes a ride on a zip line while studying abroad in Costa Rica.

Although hanging out with the locals was enough of an adventure in and of itself, it definitely wasn't the only thing we were able to do. Perhaps you might be a little more interested in the volcanoes we got to see: Poás and Arenal. Poás was quite a sight: we were able to climb to the top and actually look into the crater of an active volcano. The crater was nearly a mile wide and about 900 feet deep with a sulfur lagoon boiling in its center. Despite this being an active volcano, there was only one warning sign on the whole mountain. Leaning over the safety rail, you could read, bilingually, "DO NOT DESCEND TO THE CRATER."

This waterfall in Costa Rica is a popular spot for tourists.



Although we weren't able to look inside Arenal, I thought it was a little more exciting because it happens to be the fourth most active volcano in the world, and it erupted constantly our entire stay. Tecnológico is located not far from the base of Arenal, so we constantly saw the mountain. Unfortunately, our summer is their rainy season, so it was too cloudy to see the summit and its fires for most of the time we were there. However, the clouds did clear up one night just long enough for us to see the glow of the molten lava. That night we happened to be staying a hotel named Los Lagos, which was located directly on the mountain itself!

If that's not exciting enough for you, we were also able to participate in an abundance of other activities throughout the country. We went horseback riding through the jungle; rode on the back of a water buffalo; rode a zip line through the canopy; surfed along the Pacific Coast; visited numerous waterfalls, parks, and zoos; visited a pineapple farm and ate free, fresh, organic pineapple until we were literally sick; went to several local schools and played with the children; and wandered through the capitol, San Jose, trying to speak enough Spanish to find lunch and souvenirs. This is only barely scraping the surface of the things I did on my trip there.



This was my first time out of the country and, like many college students, I didn't think that a trip like this would be possible for me at this point in my life. But the truth of it is that it's even more practical now than it will ever be. The cost of the whole trip was around \$3,000; however, after receiving a Study Abroad scholarship from MTSU, I only had to pay \$1.50. So, if you really want to travel, don't make any excuses. Go by the Study Abroad office in Peck Hall and do it. While this was my first time out of the country, you can definitely bet that it will not be my last. 📌

President McPhee Hosts Board of Visitors



President Sidney McPhee graciously opened his home to members of the Honors College

Board of Visitors for dinner on Wednesday, November 3, 2008. Jeff Whorley, president of the board, Judge Don Ash, and Senator Jim Tracey joined Dr. John Vile, Dr. Phil Mathis, and Dr. Scott Carnicom in discussing the Honors College.

Dr. McPhee described the Honors College as one of the University's "crown jewels." He emphasized that the good is often the enemy of the best and that a time of success should not be a time of complacency. He also said that it is important to look beyond the current fiscal situation to better times and to seek ways to inform high-achieving students in the state of the manner in which the Honors College can provide an Ivy League-style education at reasonable public university prices.

As a result of this meeting, the president asked the Honors College to formulate a new strategic plan that embraces both short- and long-term goals. Board members will be asked to contribute ideas to the plan that the Honors staff will draft and that the board will review in another meeting at the president's house in March. 📌

Honors Homecoming Tailgate

Honors had a great turn out for the November 8 Homecoming event in Walnut Grove.



Chad Slaven, Shelby Ragan, Lauren Rigsby, and Eric Guyes



Hannah Green and Amy Powers



June McCash and John Vile



Holly Cunningham, Christen Vann, and Meg Davis



Laura Clippard and Marla, Scott, and Harry Carnicom

Interdisciplinary Seminars Fall 2009

Folktale and Literature

UH 3500-001 (CRN #84630)

TR 2:40 to 4:05 p.m.

Dr. Martha Hixon

For hundreds of years, storytellers have spun tales of heroes and villains, magic and trickery, good rewarded, and evil punished. How have these stories twisted and turned over the centuries, and how have they defined current expectations of narrative structure and the elements of “a good story”? Why do these stories endure, anyway—in what ways do their themes and archetypes speak to audiences today?

This seminar will study the interrelationship between traditional folktale and contemporary literature. Students in the course will discuss the various cultural contexts of what is commonly referred to as “traditional literature” or folk narrative—folk and fairy tales, myths, and legends—and the embedded themes and motifs that mark these tales and give them life. Participants will also examine contemporary fiction and film versions of some of the traditional stories and will consider possible reasons why literary storytellers continue to build new narratives out of old ones.

This course is open to Honors students who have completed their English general education requirements. It may count as three hours of upper-division English credit.

For more information, contact Dr. Martha Hixon at mhixon@mtsu.edu.

Legends of King Arthur

UH 4600-001 (CRN #84631)

MW 12:40 to 2:05 p.m.

Dr. Susan Hopkirk

This course will study the Arthurian legends from their origins in Celtic-Roman Britain to the late Middle Ages. The primary focus of the course will be Arthurian literature composed from the 12th to the 15th centuries in Latin, Welsh, French, and Middle English (although the text also contains selections translated from German, Old Norse, Italian, Spanish, and Provençal).

The class will begin by exploring the historical and mythical origins of the characters of King Arthur and Merlin. The second major unit (and, in one respect, the heart of the course) will examine the two great love stories connected with the legend: the romances concerning Tristan and Iseult and, of course, Lancelot and Guinevere. This unit will be followed by a study of the tales about Sir Gawain, the most popular of the English knights. The class will conclude by discussing the tragedy of King Arthur (that is, Mordred’s rebellion and Arthur’s death). The course covers a variety of medieval literary forms: the Latin prose chronicle, the poetic epic and alliterative heroic saga, the romance (in both prose and verse), the Breton lai, lyrics and songs, and finally the English prose chronicle.

This course has been approved for English major and minor credit and fulfills categories I, IV, or VII for the English major requirement.

For more information, contact Dr. Susan Hopkirk at 904-8122 or e-mail shopkirk@mtsu.edu. 📢

Fall 2008 Collage staff



Members of the fall 2008 *Collage* staff meet for final editing of the fall issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. Members present for the editing are (front, from left) Beth Rich, Ashlie Wolfenbarger, Amy Powers, Hannah Green, Jenna Puckett, (back) Dean Andrews, Ashley Sherwood, Susan Hill, Courtney Ferraro and Jasmine Gray. Staff members not pictured are Jolene Barto, Graham Wells and Tommy Talmage. 📢

H-Option Revised!

In an effort to streamline the H-Option process and eliminate bureaucracy, the Honors Council has approved revisions in procedures. Renamed the **Honors Contract**, the program allows students to 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 access the form, visit <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/h-option.htm> on the Honors College Web site. 📢

Theses Theses Defended



Anjelica Crawford

(Psychology)

"The Effect of Musical Genre on the Mozart Effect in Undergraduate Students at MTSU"

From left, Crawford and her thesis committee: Dr. John Vile; Dr. Rick Jay Short, advisor; Anjelica Crawford; and Dr. Richard Hansen



Rachel Green

(Psychology)

"The Role of Information Valence in Person Perception Accuracy"

From left, Green and her thesis committee: Dr. John Pennington, advisor; Rachel Green; Dr. David Foote; and Dr. Scott Carnicom

Fall 2008



Teresa Forsythe

(Mass Communication)

"Google and the Price of Free Media"

*From left, Forsythe and her thesis committee:
Dr. John Vile; Teresa Forsythe; Dr. Sanjay
Asthana, advisor*



Kyle Williams

(Biology)

*"Left Ventricular Noncompaction:
Genetic Analysis and Case Study"*

*From left, Williams and his thesis
committee: Dr. John Vile; Dr. Rebecca
Seipelt, advisor; Kyle Williams; and
Dr. Preston MacDougall*

Honors Lecture Series Provides Intellectual Discourse

by Gina Logue

Gina Logue is media representative/producer for News and Public Affairs and is a senior Political Science major.

After recording Honors lectures semester after semester as part of my job in the Office of News and Public Affairs, I was quite familiar with the high quality of intellectual discourse offered in Room 106. The lectures provide me with fodder for "Today's Response," a daily media tip sheet in which I condense faculty experts' views on a subject of academic research and/or societal concern to facilitate reporters' search for story concepts. Few people outside the University community realize that the lectures serve a promotional purpose as well as an academic one.

Last semester's Politics and the Press series was the first slate of Honors lectures for which I enrolled as a student, which, of course, made me as responsible for the required class-work as any other student. With my 20 years of experience as a reporter covering politics for radio, some of my associates might have assumed that I could skate through the semester with nary a brain cell stimulated. They would have been wrong.

From the initial offering by Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence Director Beverly Keel to the final lecture by College of Mass Communication Associate Dean Dr. John Omachonu, I ventured into new arenas of knowledge. Keel's explanation of how the digital media revolution has divided media consumers into groups according to their ability to adapt to technological changes shed light on one reason why some of us are more politically astute citizens than others. Omachonu's message, "Agenda-Setting Images

Lecture cont. on page 21

Halloween at the Honors College

Meg Davis



Elizabeth Henegar,
John Vile, and
Jonathan Siler

Dani Westerman and
Georgia Dennis



Tala Hobballah,
Monica Copciac,
Taffy O'Neal, and
Laura Clippard

AT&T Grant to Provide Service Opportunities



Dr. Phil Mathis (left) and Dr. Scott Carnicom (right), project codirectors for a grant proposal to the AT&T Foundation, inform Dean John R. Vile (center) that the \$20,000 grant will be funded in 2009. The grant will benefit students and teachers at Hobgood Elementary School and the Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers and participating Honors students.

Project codirectors Dr. Phil Mathis and Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors associate dean, received notice that their grant proposal to the AT&T Foundation for approximately \$20,000 will be funded in 2009. The grant will provide fifth- and sixth-grade teachers at Hobgood Elementary School (a NASA Explorer School) and the Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers with special training for cooperating teachers and participating Honors students, new laboratory materials for science and technology, opportunities for use of the Honors College's AT&T ACT Lab, and the chance for Honors College students to participate as mentors for high-achieving and highly motivated fifth and sixth graders.

Dean John Vile said, "We are delighted to get this grant. It will allow the Honors College to provide new opportunities for students to serve others as a part of a structured program. One of our goals is to promote MTSU's best students

for prestigious fellowships and scholarships (such as the Goldwater and Fulbright Scholarships recently won by our students), and service experience is a critical credential for many of these fellowships and scholarships."

The grant will be carried out under the aegis of a 2005 Memorandum of Understanding that calls for MTSU and Murfreesboro City Schools to arrange for mutually beneficial partnerships. In cooperation with school principals Ms. Barbara Sales (Hobgood) and Dr. Linda Clark (Discovery School), Drs. John DuBois (Biology) and Amy Phelps (Chemistry) will serve as special consultants and materials demonstrators in charge of teacher and student mentor training. Approximately 200 fifth and sixth graders, nine classroom teachers, and more than a dozen Honors students will be affected by the project, which is expected to be fully implemented during the 2009–2010 academic year. 📌

Lecture cont. from page 20

in National Politics," provided academic and philosophical context for the never-ending circular dance of press, public influence, and policy priorities.

The lectures that were more historical in nature compelled me to make connections with the contemporary world. Dr. Antoinette van Zelm's lecture about the nonviolent 1867 Williamson County rally by free blacks that descended into violence due to white resentment reminded us that not even the peaceful end of a bloody war that threatened to destroy the nation was enough to change hearts and minds immediately. Dr. David Foote's thespian turn as 19th century journalist Junius Henry Brown, complete with full costume and period language, put us in mind of the 21st century tabloid media and the realization that advocacy journalism is nothing new.

Dr. Mark Byrnes's love of and fascination with political movies, which I share, proved timely for my younger fellow students, who grow and mature in a world where the lines between reality and entertainment are becoming increasingly blurred. (I wrote a special review of this lecture that was published in the *Daily News Journal*.) Conversely, through the documentary format, Dr. Clare Bratten, who has used her filmmaking skill to examine the Kurdish people, reinforced the understanding that real, unscripted life is the most powerful drama of all.

Perhaps of most relevance to the youthful audience were Dr. Sekou Franklin's perceptions of racial issues in the 2008 campaign and Dr. Bob Spires's assessment of how politicians' use of new media is luring young voters to the polls. Franklin's understanding of the

Lecture cont. on page 22

African American politicians who preceded Barack Obama in a quest for the White House went beyond the “history-making” canard with an analysis of just how history brought the United States to this point. Spires showed how the confluence of the digital revolution with the Obama campaign shattered the conventional wisdom that young people’s participation in politics is unreliable at best—perhaps foreshadowing a new era of vibrant youth citizenship.

The careful balance of speakers in the 2008 Politics and the Press lectures illuminates several things about the series. It underscores the quality of MTSU faculty, their intellectual depth, their accessibility, and their willingness to serve the students’ need for deeper, more penetrating educational experiences. It symbolizes the commitment of the University Honors College to encourage more students to dip their toes into an ocean of ideas and to nurture those who want to become immersed in that ocean. Finally, it reinforces the Honors College’s worth to MTSU and to the community at large—to energize young minds for the pursuit of life-long learning and innovative mental exercise that will enrich them in ways no other educational instrument can duplicate. 📌

Donors Benefit Honors College

From its inception, the Honors College has depended on the generosity of others, and recent budget cuts could accentuate this need still further. The following list, which may well be incomplete by the time this newsletter is published, details gifts designated for the University Honors College during the 2008–2009 fiscal year.

Buchanan Fellows

James M. Buchanan has made another generous contribution to the Buchanan Scholars program.

Michael Martinelli Scholarship

Gloria Kharibian and **Mike Martinelli** have donated money for the Michael Martinelli Scholarship, which is named in memory of an Honors student.

Mathis Fund

As announced in the last newsletter, **Phil Mathis and his wife, Marilyn**, have offered a challenge gift of \$10,000 to establish one or more annual scholarships to support the dissemination of Honors student research at appropriate regional and national meetings. The Mathis’s gift stipulates that MTSU and its Honors College must raise at least an additional \$10,000 in order to claim successive \$5,000 pledged gifts for 2008 and 2009.

We are pleased to report that 2008 was a success, thanks to many friends and the Honors College Board of Visitors, including Chair John F. (Jeff) Whorley, whose exem-

plary leadership is much appreciated. For 2008, a total of \$12,450 was raised thanks to gifts from the following:

Don and Rita Ash
James H. Bailey
Ed and Sarah Barlow
Mark Allen Hall
Richard L. Hannah
Emil and Lily Hassan
Debra Hopkins
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
H. Lee Martin
June McCash
Greg Morton
Elaine Royal
John R. and Linda Vile
John and Lisa Whorley

Dean John Vile noted that all funds raised will be used to establish a permanent endowment that will provide annual benefits to one or more student researchers. He further noted that the scholarship will be timely—considering current economic conditions—and in keeping with the Board of Visitors’ priority goal of promoting professional and public awareness of student quality in the Honors College as well as the outstanding educational value available through the college.

Leadership Institute

Raiko Henderson contributed money during MTSU’s annual phonathon to help support the Honors Leadership Institute.

Martin Scholarship

Barry Goss and **Paul Martin** (Pro2Serve Professional Project Services) donated to the Paul Martin Honors Scholarship.

Donors Benefit *Honors College cont.*

Textbook Assistance Awards

Vincent and Stacy Windrow, who have previously donated to the Honors Library, have more recently contributed funds to start a Textbook Assistance Award to be used for historically underrepresented students in the Honors College.

Where Do You Fit?

Although the Honors College has a number of existing funds to which donors may contribute, the college is willing to work with donors to develop new projects, large or small.

Major Gifts

In time, we will be seeking to raise money for a new living-learning center where students will be able to live much nearer to the Martin Honors Building. This is probably our most expensive project, but it is one for which we might be able to get matching money from the state. A large gift might also secure rights to name the new building.

We are also interested in establishing endowed professorships that will be housed in the Honors College and either report exclusively to the college or be shared with another college on campus.

We would also very much like to establish an endowment for another cohort of 20 students in the Buchanan program. This would involve providing full tuition and fees for such students.

We are also looking for scholarship funds to encourage students in specific disciplines to take Honors classes and complete an Honors thesis.

Other Gifts

For those of you with interest in art and literature, we would like to secure funds to increase the size of *Collage* so that we could accept works from students in other honors colleges throughout the nation.

We can also use money to help students with study abroad, for the Honors College Library (please share your publications!), or for other worthy projects. Please share your ideas with us! 📣

Correspondents, Columns, and Caricatures

Honors faculty member Dr. David Foote (Management and Marketing) played the role of a 19th century journalist, Junius Henry Brown, for his November 3, 2008, Honors Lecture Series presentation, *Correspondents, Columns, and Caricatures: Politics and the Press in the Civil War*. In 2008, Foote also moved into a new office, Honors 223, and became an Honors

College Resident Faculty member. He replaced Dr. Richard Hannah who returned to the Business and Aerospace Building. 📣



Board of Visitors Meeting a Success



Members of the University Honors College Board of Visitors with Dean John R. Vile following the October meeting

The University Honors College Board of Visitors met on October 2 and 3 for what proved to be a highly productive gathering. According to Chairman John F. (Jeff) Whorley, this year's meeting built upon the success of last year's inaugural meeting during which board members con-

cluded that the Honors College currently offers education of superior quality and value. They further concluded, however, that the success stories of the Honors College are not as widely known as they need to be and that too many students, parents, and college counselors are unaware of the college's outstanding facilities, students, programs, and faculty.

This year's meetings were held off campus at the new Embassy Suites Hotel (October 2) and on campus at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building (October 3). By spreading the meeting over parts of two days, board members were able to enjoy a relaxed, retreat-like atmosphere that promoted socialization and meaningful progress.

The October 2 evening session gave board members the chance to meet the new dean, Dr. John R. Vile; key staff members and administrators; and a select group of Honors students and faculty. Sophomores Michelle Ebel and

Taffeta O'Neal told the board of their experiences with the Honors College, as did Taylor Barnes, who is a senior. Dr. David Rowe, of MTSU's History Department, gave a speech tying the lessons that he applied to writing his book, *God's Strange Work: William Miller and the End of the World*, to an honors education.

After an evening meal at Embassy Suites, Chairman Whorley challenged the group to develop a list of specific suggestions upon which Dean Vile and the Honors staff will develop concrete plans for creating heightened awareness of the Honors College among several



(L-R) Board members Gregg Morton and Lee Martin and Jeff Whorley, board president

relevant constituencies. Some board members would like to host events for prospective students in their homes and accompany Honors staff members and students on recruitment and good will visits to high schools and academies. Lynn Palmer, MTSU's director of Admissions, spoke to the board on Friday morning to explain what the University does to publicize the



University Honors College Dean John Vile, center, listens to a question during the University Honors College Board of Visitors annual meeting. Seated next to Vile are Honors College Board of Visitors members Debra Hopkins, alumni, Southeast Regional Director National Geographic and Hampton-Brown, and Murfreesboro physician, Dr. Paul Patel.

Stained Glass Donated by Honors Alumna

Visitors to the Martin Honors College Building often comment positively on the beautiful blue, white, orange and clear-paneled stained glass windows in the Administrative Suite, the Honors Library, and the Honors Conference Room. The rearing stallion in the conference room measures nine feet high and 6.5 feet wide, and it and two smaller racing scenes in the library are lit from the back.

The stained glass pieces were commissioned by Dyanne R. Rice-Mogan, who graduated with Honors from MTSU in 2004 with joint majors in English and History and stayed to get a master's degree in English in 2006. She now lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dyanne had been a high school classmate of Andrew McCausland, who is a third- or fourth-generation artist and craftsman working with stained glass. Working with Robert McCausland Limited in Toronto, Ontario, McCausland produced the windows from the finest European hand-blown glasses, some of which were hand-painted. Dyanne originally displayed them in her home but decided to share them with others when the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building was commissioned. Dyanne credits Dr. John Paul Montgomery, who was then Honors dean, with being a major influence in her life; he was especially helpful to her as a mature student, with children of her own.

Dyanne's daughter, Jenn Mogan, graduated from MTSU in Criminal Justice, and two other children are now completing degrees. Mark Halliday is a senior in Political Science, and Sarah Mogan is finishing a master's in Sociology. 📌



Board members Chasity Nicoll, Gregg Morton, and Lee Martin

Honors College. Dean Vile followed by detailing initiatives that the Honors College has taken and sharing his ideas on possible future directions for the Honors College. Over lunch, board members worked to develop a plan for active board involvement in marketing the Honors College. Following lunch, pictures were taken.

In a bittersweet bit of news, Mr. Vince Windrow announced that he was resigning from the board because he has accepted a position as director of the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs at

MTSU. During his tenure on the board, he supported a number of library acquisitions. He announced that he and his wife, Stacy, will be giving \$2,000 this year and another \$2,000 next year to support a fund to provide textbooks for needy students who come from groups traditionally underrepresented at the University.

Some members of the Board of Visitors stayed for the inauguration of the second class of twenty Buchanan Fellows that followed on Friday night. 📌



Clippard Joins Honors Staff as Advisor

In October 2008, the Honors College welcomed Laura Clippard as the new advisor and coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office. An MTSU employee since 2002, Clippard has worked in higher education for over 15 years at UTK and MTSU with three different TRIO programs: Student Support Services, Educational Talent Search, and Upward Bound.



Clippard recently said that working directly with students is her passion, and she believes that every student deserves to be heard and supported. "I applied for the Honors advisor position because of the Honors College's reputation as a supportive and fostering environment for MTSU students with its focus on leadership and community," she said. "I am very excited and honored to have been chosen as the new Honors advisor." Clippard added that her goal is to be student-centered and to be helpful to all students she encounters.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of East Tennessee State University, Clippard has a B.S. in psychology and did undergraduate research on dating problems. She also graduated *summa cum laude* from UT-Knoxville with a master's in human resource development. Her thesis was on job burnout and was later published in *Human Resource Management*.

In addition to a diverse background in higher education that has included intensive academic advising, helping students obtain scholarships, recruiting, leading workshops and arranging large events,

Clippard cont. on page 27

Meet Members of the Honors College Board of Visitors



Don R. Ash
Circuit Court
Judge, 16th
Judicial District,
Tennessee

Judge Don R. Ash, a Distinguished Alumnus of MTSU, has served the 16th Judicial District Court in Murfreesboro since 1994 and was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to the Court of the Judiciary in 2004. Ash practiced law in Murfreesboro before serving on the bench and has written many professional publications. Past president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, he has also won many awards and honors for service to families and communities.

Judge Ash presently serves on the board of directors of Leadership Rutherford and the Tennessee Drug Court Advisory Committee. He is a consultant and teacher and has taught across the country on a wide range of legal topics.

Ash is a graduate of Castle Heights Military Academy (*cum honore*) and holds a bachelor's in history from Middle Tennessee State University. He also has a master's in judicial studies from the National Judicial College (University of Nevada at Reno), where he has served as a faculty member since 2001. His J.D. is from the University of Memphis.



Debra H. Hopkins
Southeast
Regional
Director, National
Geographic and
Hampton-Brown

Debra Hopkins earned a B.S. in mass communication from Middle Tennessee State University, where she graduated with University Honors. While a French minor at MTSU, Hopkins won a graduate fellowship to study in France. In 1991, she earned an M.Ed. in reading and ESL at Texas Woman's University. Early in her career as a teacher she was named ESL Teacher of the Year for the Dallas area. Later, she joined the faculty of the Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos in Barcelona, Spain, where she taught EFL (English as a Foreign Language) to students of all ages.

Hopkins has extensive experience as an educator, consultant, and curriculum developer. She is frequently invited to conduct workshops at state, regional, and international conferences. Her workshops for teachers have been given in over 30 states and Canada, Mexico, Spain, Dubai, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar.

In her position as southeast regional director for National Geographic School Publishing and Hampton-Brown, she actively supports the corporate mission of diffusing geographic knowledge while meeting the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse students.



Paul W. Martin Jr.
Chief Managing Member, Clarity Resources, Knoxville, Tennessee

In 1975, Paul Martin received a B.S. from MTSU in finance and political science and became the first graduate of the Honors Program. Martin earned his J.D. from the Nashville School of Law before beginning a career as an international banking officer with Commerce Union Bank in Nashville. In 1981, he joined Humana Corporation where he rose to the position of senior development officer. In subsequent years, he held key posts with several companies. Since 2001, he has been affiliated with Clarity Resources of Knoxville, a mentor capitalist group, where he serves as director and chief managing member.

In 1996, Martin and his brother, Dr. H. Lee Martin, were fundraising catalysts for the building of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building—they provided more than half the money required for construction of the 21,000-square-foot facility.

Martin has a lengthy record of community service and has received many awards and honors including the Stokley Economics Award and the Wall Street Journal Award. He was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of MTSU in 2002. Martin serves as director of the MTSU Foundation and is chair of the Foundation Finance Committee.



June Hall McCash
Founding Director, MTSU Honors Program; Professor Emerita, Foreign Languages and Literatures, MTSU

June McCash was chair of the Department of Foreign Languages at Middle Tennessee State University from 1980 to 1992 and founding director of the Honors Program from 1973 to 1980. In 2004, she retired from MTSU to become a full-time author and has since won awards both for her fiction and her poetry.

McCash has a doctorate in comparative literature from Emory University and has authored or edited six books and numerous articles. Her most recent books are *Jekyll Island's Early Years*, published in 2005, and *The Life of Saint Audrey: A Text of Marie de France*, published in 2006. She has appeared in three documentaries about Jekyll Island and on ABC's *Good Morning America*.

A professor emerita of French and Humanities, McCash was a recipient of the MTSU Foundation's Award for Career Achievement in 2003, the foundation's Distinguished Research Award in 1996, and the Agnes Scott College Outstanding Alumna Award in 1996. She is now president of the International Courtly Literature Society and has served as president of the Southeastern Medieval Association. 📌

Clippard also teaches classes for Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) group leaders. EYH is a one-day conference that promotes math and science careers to middle school and high school girls through hands-on activities.

Clippard's husband, Steven, is a coordinator for Housing Administration at MTSU, and they have two daughters: Rebecca, 13, and Elizabeth, 8. Laura enjoys spending time with her family, reading children's literature, hiking, exercising, and watching classic movies.

Clippard replaced Michelle G. Arnold, who accepted the position of associate director of admissions at MTSU last summer. Clippard can be contacted at 898-5464 or lclippard@mtsu.edu or in her office, Honors 227. 📌



For the second year in a row, the *Honors Alternative* (now *Honors Edition*) was awarded second place in the National Collegiate Honors Council newsletter competition. The award-winning newsletter was edited by Honors Executive Secretary Karen Demonbreum and designed by Sherry Wiser George, a graphic designer with MTSU's Office of Publications and Graphics. 📌

Honors Faculty Profile: David Rowe

Dr. David Rowe (History) has spent a lot of time thinking about the end of the world. Not that he's expecting anything soon.



Actually, for nearly 30 years he has studied the story of Millerites, the thousands of Americans who expected Jesus to return in 1843–1844 to burn the world with heavenly fire and establish the New Jerusalem in what was the first, and (so far) the last, apocalyptic mass movement in American history. Rowe recently completed a biography of the movement's founder and leader, William Miller.

Writing *God's Strange Work: William Miller and the End of the World* reinforced historical lessons that Rowe likes to convey to students in his several Honors history courses. "Always expect the unexpected," he says. The past is rarely what we think it was, no matter how often we have studied it. To Adventist supporters, then and now, Miller was a messenger from God. To their detractors, he was at best crazy, at worst a crook. It turns out, according to Rowe's research, neither view of the man is correct. Rowe contends that humans often create pasts that they are comfortable with and that, whether as historians or simply humans examining what makes us tick, honesty about personal agendas is vital.

Rowe cont. on page 29

Mr. Marc Barr (Electronic Media Communication) has had his work displayed recently in two nationally juried exhibits: Artful Drinking Vessels at Pottworks Gallery in Hamilton, Michigan, and 100 Teapots 4 at Baltimore Clayworks in Baltimore. He exhibited ceramic pieces whose forms and surfaces were designed with the aid of a computer.

Dr. A. Bruce Cahoon (Biology) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Dr. William Canak (Sociology and Anthropology) has had three recent publications: "Immigrants, Employment, and Labor Unions, Nashville: Prospects for Coalition," *Tennessee's Business*, Volume 17, No. 2, 2008; "Immigrants and Labor in a Globalizing City: Prospects for Unionization in Nashville, Tennessee," (with Dan Cornfield), *Labor in the New Urban Battlegrounds*, Lowell Turner and Daniel Cornfield, editors, Cornell University Press, 2007; and "Sociology: Venezuela and Colombia" *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, Library of Congress, Volume 65 (2007).

Canak's elected positions and appointments include 2005–09 chair, National Chapter Advisory Committee, Labor and Employment Relations Association; 2007–2010 chair, Sociological Practice Committee, Southern Sociological Society; and 2008–2010 treasurer, Tennessee Employment Relations Research Association.

Canak received the 2008 Faculty Liberal Arts Grant and additional grants and contracts from the AFL-CIO, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the Mid-

South Carpenters Regional Council, the Labor Arbitration Institute, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

In addition, Canak was recently named faculty advisor for the Kurdish Students Association (KSA).

Dr. Oscar A. Diaz (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was recently promoted to full professor.

Dr. Kevin J. Donovan (English) presented "Being 'Jonsonian' in Strafford's Dublin: The Case of Henry Burnell" at the Sixth International Conference of the Marlowe Society of America at the University of Kent in early July 2008. Donovan also spoke at the 2008 Buchanan Fellows October 3 inauguration. His address, "People Who Think Otherwise," has been accepted for publication in *Honors in Practice* 5 (2009).

Dr. Norma K. Dunlap (chemistry) was recently promoted to full professor.

Dr. Allen Hibbard (English; director, Middle East Center) was a keynote speaker at the Fourth International Conference in Tangier, Morocco, "Borders, Beats, and Beyond," held in May 2008. The MTSU Middle East Center was an official sponsor of the event. Hibbard has written an introduction and served as coeditor for a volume of papers from the conference, *Bowles/Beats/Tangier*, soon to be published in Morocco.

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) presented a talk, "GRITS: Girls Raised in Tennessee Science," and a poster with coauthor **Dr. Martha R. Weller** (Physics and Astronomy), "Contemporary Issues in Science: A

SENCER Course for Non-Majors” at the 20th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at Indiana University in Bloomington in July 2008.

Dr. Yang Soo Kim (Speech and Theatre) was elected to the Awards Nominating Committee for the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA).

Dr. Preston J. MacDougall (Chemistry) was recently promoted to full professor. He is serving as chair of the Honors Council.

Dr. Jane Marcellus (Journalism) received Honorable Mention for “‘Come Rally to Our Standard’: Nashville Newspapers and the 19th Amendment During the Summer of 1920” in the Maurine Beasley paper competition at the American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA). She presented the paper at AJHA in October in Seattle, where she also received a \$1,250 grant to research Sophie Treadwell, an early 20th-century playwright who began her career as a journalist, interviewing, among others, Pancho Villa. The grant was matched by the John Seigenthaler Chair in First Amendment Studies at MTSU.

Marcellus also gave a talk on representation of African American employed women in *Opportunity* magazine during the 1920s and 1930s at the Urban History Association in November.

Dr. Yuri Melnikov (Mathematical Sciences) was awarded an honorary doctorate on October 17, 2008, by the Scientific Council of the

Dnepropetrovsk National University, which is ranked number five among universities in Ukraine.

Dr. Patrick M. McCarthy (Psychology) earned a J.D. degree from the Nashville School of Law and passed the bar exam in 2008.

Dr. Alan D. Musicant (Psychology) was recently promoted to associate professor.

Dr. John T. Pennington (Psychology) was recently promoted to full professor.

Dr. Karen Petersen (Political Science) recently presented “Expanding Down’s Issue-Attention Cycle: International Terrorism and U.S. Public Opinion” at the 2008 annual meeting of the International Studies Association in San Francisco. Petersen also recently published “There Is More to the Story than ‘Us-Versus-Them’: Expanding the Study of Interstate Conflict and Regime Type beyond a Dichotomy” in *Peace Economics, Peace Science, and Public Policy*, Volume 14, Issue 1 (2008).

Dr. Philip Edward Phillips (English) was awarded a 2008–2009 Mary Catherine Mooney Research Fellowship by the Boston Athenæum in support of a book project on Edgar Allan Poe and Boston. The grant, which provides a stipend of \$1,500 for a residency of twenty days, supports the use of the Athenæum’s collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. The Boston Athenæum is one of the oldest and most distinguished independent

“The story is never finished” is another lesson Rowe teaches about the past. There’s always more data to explore, new ways of thinking about it, new lessons to be learned. The past never really repeats itself. Historians thought everything that could be said about Miller had been said. But there were diaries, notebooks, letters, and other primary sources that historians had never consulted in writing the man’s story. Closing “the book” too soon deprived us of “the rest of the story,” as Paul Harvey used to say; gave us a skewed picture of the man; and prevented us from learning valuable lessons his life offers us.

“You can never get it right,” says Rowe. Memorizing facts does not teach us how things happened or what lessons we should take from the past. Miller himself gave three or four different years for the beginning of his end-of-the-world preaching. That changed nothing about what he said or what he meant, all of which is open to interpretation. “I take real comfort from that,” says Rowe. If you’re not memorizing data, you can spend your time thinking about the past, working to glean reasonable lessons based on that data, and applying them to your own life. In the end, the past exists for us, here and now. And that’s the most surprising lesson of all. 📌

Honors College Alumnus First to Reach MTSU McNair Program Milestone



Nathaniel P. Mills, a May 2002 graduate of the University Honors College, has become the first MTSU McNair Scholar to complete a Ph.D. He successfully defended his dissertation in October and received his Ph.D. from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The East Nashville native is completing his residency in Sacramento, California, and accruing hours toward licensure as a psychologist.

"Being the first MTSU McNair Scholar to earn a doctorate feels awesome," Mills said. "I do not believe I could have made it this far without the help of Linda Brown, Cindy Howell, and all the other wonderful people in the McNair Office." Mills also said that the McNair program gave him "amazing opportunities" and that he is pleased to give back to the program by teaching and mentoring.

Mills recently listed Dr. Gloria Hamilton (Psychology), Dr. Terry Whiteside (Psychology) and Dr. J. P. Montgomery (former Honors College dean) along with Linda Brown and Cindy Howell of the McNair Program as some of the most influential people in his academic life. Mills

McNair cont. on page 31

Faculty News cont.

Faculty cont. from page 29

libraries in the United States.

Dr. Phillips delivered a paper, "Alfred, Boethius, and the Victorian Imagination," at the 124th Modern Language Association Annual Convention held in San Francisco December 27–30, 2008.

Dr. Bob Pondillo (Electronic Media Communication) is in preproduction on his new short, narrative film *The New, True Charlie Wu*. Written and directed by Pondillo, the film is a musical fantasy about a young man trying to find his life's real purpose. The project will be crewed and produced completely by MTSU students and will be shot over spring break 2009.

Pondillo's book *America's First Network TV Censor: The Work of NBC's Stockton Helffrich* is scheduled to be published in 2009 by Southern Illinois University Press.

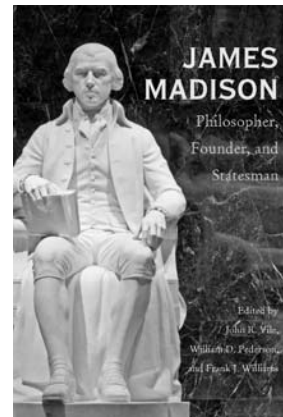
Dr. Wayne Rosing (Biology) received a research fellowship at the Singapore Botanic Garden to collect myxomycetes (plasmodial slime molds) in the primary forests (jungle parks) of Singapore in March 2009.

Dr. William Shulman (Criminal Justice Administration) recently coauthored "Stress Levels of Public Defenders in Tennessee," a paper that has been accepted for publication in *Criminal Law Bulletin* in September 2009.

Dr. John R. Vile (Political Science; Honors College dean), has a book out on James Madison that he coedited with Dr. William D. Pederson, a professor of political science at LSU–Shreveport, and

the Honorable Frank J. Williams, chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The book, *James Madison: Philosopher, Founder, and Statesman*, was published by the University of Ohio Press in Athens.

In addition to coauthoring the introduction that provides background on Madison and on the essays, Vile contributed the essays "James



Madison and Constitutional Paternity" and "James Madison's Report of 1800: The First Amendment, Freedom of the Press, and the Common Law." He also compiled the book's index.

Vile grew up near Madison's home in Virginia and often portrays James Madison for celebrations of the Constitution.

Booklist, the American Library Association's major library review media publication, recently selected Vile's book *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* as a 2008 Editor's Choice/Reference pick and included a starred review of the work in the reference review section of the January 1, 2009, issue.

Dr. Jim Williams (History) became the third director of the Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU on August 1, 2008. The Gore Center is a unit of the College of Liberal Arts and houses archives relating to the late Albert Gore Sr., MTSU, and middle Tennessee history.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (Chemistry) presented “What Should Be Included in the ‘Foundations of Inorganic Chemistry’ Course for the New ACS Guidelines?” and copresented “Clickers in General Chemistry: Two Uses and Studies of Effectiveness” with **Dr. Amy Phelps** and other colleagues at the 20th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at Indiana University–Bloomington in July 2008.

Wulfsberg was a member of the Program Committee for the XIV International Conference on Hyperfine Interactions and XVIII International Symposium on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions, held in August 2007 at Iguassu Falls, Brazil/Argentina. At that meeting, he was elected chair of the International Steering Committee on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions and was elected to the International Advisory Committee for the next symposium in this series, to be held above the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland/France in 2010.

Wulfsberg has had six articles published in the past several years. He was the main author for “Silver Dichloroacetate: a Compound with Weak Ag-Cl Bonding Interactions and an Extraordinary Range of 35 Cl NQR Frequencies” in *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, 2008. Coauthors included Goldwater Scholar **Taylor Barnes** and **Dr. Preston MacDougall**. Wulfsberg also coauthored “35Cl NQR Spectra of Group 1 and Silver Dichloro methanesulfonates” in *Hyperfine Interactions* (2008) with D.A. student **Gabriel Gillette**, who will include the publication as a part of his doctoral dissertation.

From 2004 to 2007, Wulfsberg also authored or coauthored “Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Spectroscopy,” *Encyclopedia of Inorganic Chemistry* (2007); “The Rainbow Wheel and Rainbow Matrix—Two Effective Tools for Learning Ionic Nomenclature,” *Journal of Chemical Education* (2006); “Periodic Table: Trends in the Properties of Elements,” *Encyclopedia of Inorganic Chemistry* (2005); and “The Weakly Coordinating Trichloromethanesulfonate Anion: NQR Comparison of Its Coordinating Abilities via Oxygen with Those of the Chloroacetate Ions,” *Inorganic Chemistry* (2004).



said he is indebted to them for the opportunities and the tremendous amount of support they gave him while he was at MTSU and in successive years.

“The McNair Program was wonderful in giving me opportunities to do undergraduate research and build a competitive vita for applying to graduate school. The Honors College taught me the skills to be able to think independently and perform on a graduate level,” Mills said.

In 2001, Mills successfully defended his MTSU Honors College thesis, “The Personality Correlates of Alcohol Consumption within a College Sample,” and earned a B.S. in psychology, graduating with Distinction from the Honors College in 2002. Because of his desire to be the best at what he does, Mills felt that a graduate education was the only way to sufficiently master his craft. He entered graduate school at Lehigh University, earning an M.Ed. in counseling and human services and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. 🛎

Tell Us About You!

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

Alumni News



Professor Emeritus Phil Mathis, retired dean of the University Honors College, attended Hannah Green's senior art show in December. Green is a December 2008 Honors College graduate.



James Madison (played by Honors Dean John Vile) reads from the Constitution September 17 during Constitution Day activities on campus. Photo by Alex Blackwelder

Rachel Bauer (Chemistry, 2008) presented "Analysis of Stability and Structure of the bZIP Domain of the Protein, ATF5: a Possible Target for Future Anti-Cancer Therapeutics" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference and has had her article "High-Yield Expression in *E. coli* and Refolding of the bZIP Domain of Activating Transcription Factor 5," published by the University of Kansas in the *Journal of Protein Expression and Purification*.

Ginny Barton (Biology, 2002) received a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis in May 2007. She is now a second-year resident in obstetrics and gynecology at UT-Memphis.

Meredith Carr (Psychology, 2008) presented "Non-Emergency Chronic Stress and Burnout in Emergency Medical Technician Ambulance Personnel" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Tim Claytor (Psychology, 2008) presented "School Psychology: Perceptions of Current Training and Future Directions" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Carolyn Crawford (English, 2008) presented "Collage: the Benefits of a Literature and Visual Arts Magazine" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Allison Cummings (Biology, 2008) presented "Characterization of Unknown Strain of Legionella-Like Amoebal Pathogen Found in

Cooling Tower at NASA in Houston" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Chris R. Davis (Biology and History, 2007) is completing a master's degree in global health at George Washington University and hopes to be admitted into a joint M.D./Ph.D. program. He wants to work with indigenous populations in developed countries in order to study parallels such populations face regarding health and human rights.

Amy Duncan (Recording Industry, 2008) was named a finalist for the recording industry's Copyright Society of the South Award. She presented "The Multi-Faceted Flute" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Hannah P. Green (Art, 2008) graduated from the University Honors College with Distinction in December.

Rachel K. Green (Psychology, 2008) graduated from the University Honors College with Distinction in December.

Mark Hampton (History, 1992) received an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and worked as an assistant professor at Lincoln Memorial University and an assistant and associate professor at Wesleyan College. He is a history professor at Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

Megan Imboden (Biology, 2008) presented "Cross-Talk between the JAK/STAT Pathway and the Ceramide Producing Pathway in Neuro-2a Cells" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference and received the Biology Department's Peter I. Karl

Outstanding Senior Award, which is given to a biology major of senior standing.

Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) won the President's Award at the President's Celebration of Excellence in April 2008 and also received a Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence to be used for graduate study. She is attending New York Law School in Manhattan and has successfully completed her first semester. She recently became engaged to Paul Fulcher (2007).

Ranin Kazemi

(English and History, 2004) attended Ohio State University and earned an M.A. in history, concentrating on pre-modern Islam. In 2005, he entered Yale, where his research interests lie in the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East.



Sarah Turner Lane (Animal Science, 2002) received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from UT-Knoxville. She recently moved to San Diego, where she works as a veterinarian.

Courtney Ledford (Psychology, 2007) received an M.S. in industrial/organizational psychology in December 2008 at George Mason University, whose industrial/organizational psychology program is ranked fourth nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*. While attending the Fairfax, Virginia, graduate school, she became a published author with the Society for Human Resource Management on human capital topics. She also worked with Fortune 1000 companies such as AOL/Time Warner and consulted on human capital

analytics projects for large, publicly traded organizations across a variety of industries. She recently started her full-time career with Booz Allen Hamilton as a human capital consultant in organization and strategy. Ledford is a participant in MTSU's "I'm One!" campaign.

Eric Little (Spanish, 2008) presented "Medieval Aragon: Expansionism in a Non-Competitive Arena" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference.

Vivak Master (Biology and Chemistry, 2007) was accepted to the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee.

Megan Parker (Psychology, 2005) received an M.S. in applied educational psychology in December 2008 and entered the Ph.D. program in school psychology, both at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where she is a graduate assistant. She has had several journal publications and has presented her research at state, regional, national, and international conferences.

George Pimentel (History, 1992), chairs the Department of History at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee. He has earned an M.A., an Ed.S., and a D.A. from MTSU since graduating from the Honors College in 1992. He previously served as assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at MTSU and served in the U.S. Army. Recently, Pimentel has received several honors including the 2007-2008 Outstanding Faculty

Award, the 2007 Higher Education Information Technology Award, and the Tennessee Board of Regents Innovations Award in 2008.

Leigh Pittenger (English, 1993) received an M.A. in English from the University of Kentucky in 1996 and a master's from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2003 and is now a Ph.D. candidate at Emory University. Her dissertation is titled "The Moral Imagination of Hannah Arendt." After earning her M.A. degree, Pittenger taught English classes at Lithuania Christian College, in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Colby Sledge (Mass Communication and Spanish, 2007) is a journalist for the *Tennessean*, reporting on higher education. He is also an associate fellow at the Hechinger Institute at the Teachers College at Columbia University as part of a nationwide project on community colleges.

Virginia Vile (Political Science and French, 2002) has completed a J.D. at the College of William and Mary and an L.L.M. at George Washington University. She is practicing law in Alexandria, Virginia.

Sarah Young (Political Science and Psychology, 2008) presented "Relationships of Education and Approval Ratings of Genetic Engineering of Agriculture and Animals" at the 2008 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference. 📌



Impressions of Dhaka, Bangladesh



Employees of Grameen Bank Prashadpur with American interns Kathryn and Steve.



Steve Sibley met Nobel Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus at Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

by Steve Sibley

Steve Sibley is a December 2008 graduate of MTSU. A Business Finance major from Signal Mountain, Sibley was the first recipient of the Kawahito Scholarship for Experiential World Poverty Studies and recently interned for ten weeks in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the Grameen Bank, which was founded by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and former MTSU professor. Below are selections from Sibley's writings about his experience.

September 16, 2008. I finally arrived in Dhaka, Bangladesh, this morning at 8:50 Dhaka time. After about 30 hours in transit, the descent into Dhaka promised an end to what seemed like an endless day. The heat that met me upon disembarking from the plane was unlike any that I had ever felt.

I was met by a great number of young boys, none appearing to be any older than 10, who tried to arrange a cab ride for me, for a small fee of course. The youngest of the group, probably about five or six, was not trying to arrange a ride, but was instead begging for a meal. The desperation in his eyes as he held out one hand while rubbing his stomach with the other told me that he was not lying about his hunger. As the cab drove off, this young boy held onto the door and ran alongside the cab for several hundred feet. I could not turn him down. I handed him a \$1 bill, which I knew, if it had any effect at all, would only stave off hunger for a day or so.

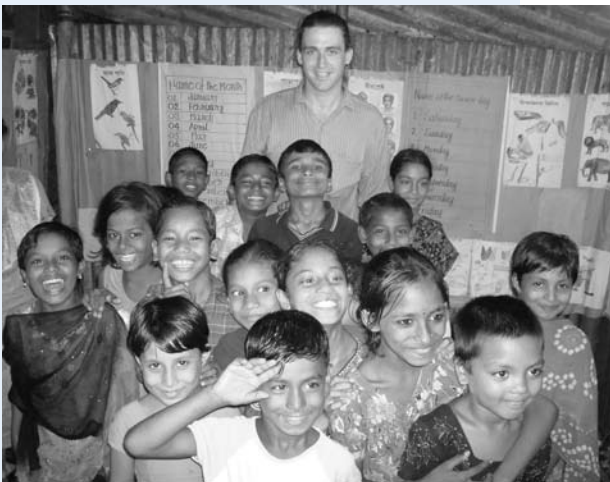
As the cab driver took me into the city, the traffic was unlike any I had ever seen. I didn't know that it was physically possible for five lanes of traffic to occupy four lanes. The constant din of honking was somewhat unnerving but had much less effect on me than what I was about to see. Traffic ground to a halt. Beggars approached cars (and particularly my cab) from all sides.

One man was showing the gnarled black infection on his ankle; another had legs so skinny and useless that he was only able to beg in traffic by walking on his arms. Women with small babies clinging tightly to their necks had that same look of desperate hunger worn on the face of the young boy at the airport. It quickly became apparent that handing out money to all of these desperate people was not only impossible, due to my meager funds, but also futile. Certainly, the relatively large number of beggars on this one road into Dhaka was a small number when compared to the number of poor, starved souls begging for sustenance throughout the city.

Had I not been so dehydrated from the constant sweating, I would have been weeping. Unable to afford the moisture for tears and exhausted by my travels, I was able to maintain my composure, but I was on the verge of a breakdown. Finally, after an hour and a half of breathing diesel fumes and dust on the road to the hotel, I arrived drenched in sweat and light-headed due to thirst and exhaustion.

Getting out of the cab, I was struck by the putrid smell of rotting food, diesel, urine, and God knows what else. The stench was intense and the filth unlike any I had ever seen. There was a three-foot tall pile of trash, from which the rotting food smell was likely emanating. A young boy of approximately 10 was sifting through this pile of rotting trash in search of food or anything else of value.

I checked into the hotel and immediately ordered two liters of water from room service. The bottles were labeled "Acme Premium Drinking Water: Free from Arsenic." The fact that it is necessary for a manufacturer to advertise that its water is free from arsenic indicates exactly how difficult it is to find clean, safe drinking water here. After a small lunch, I showered and headed to Grameen Bank.



Students of Grameen Slum School visit with Steve Sibley.

On the five-minute walk to the bank, I saw men urinating in the gutter, more young boys sifting through garbage, and more men with legs skinnier than my wrists either walking on their hands or pushing themselves along on makeshift carts. People were performing all sorts of jobs on the side of the street. I saw a teenage boy underneath a car with a welding torch. Many people were cooking and selling food, while others were selling bananas. A boy no older than four was begging alongside an elderly blind woman. The plight of the Bangladeshi people is immense.

Arriving at Grameen Bank headquarters, I was thrilled to be off the streets. The staff there was excited to see me. They each knew my name and were aware that I was coming. They hugged me despite my sweat-drenched clothes. I was relieved to find that I will have such supportive, kind, and generous people helping me.

I'm not sure if my exhaustion is the result of jet lag or of such an extremely emotional day of seeing so many who are so poor. As a compassionate person I want to help, but I don't see how anything can alleviate the extreme poverty that I witnessed today. I hope that Grameen demonstrates that it is possible to help and that progress can be made.

September 21, 2008. When I showed up at 9:30 a.m. to begin my first full day at Grameen, I was delighted to discover that another American intern, Kathryn, was starting on the same day I was. To add to my elation, she is staying at the Grand Prince Hotel along with me. This completely alleviated my concerns about being alone in a country where I cannot adequately communicate with anyone.

Thursday was my first trip out of Dhaka and into one of the villages in which a Grameen Bank branch operates. After two days of witnessing what seem to be helpless people in hopelessly poor circumstances, today's excursion has renewed my optimism that there is perhaps a light at the end of the tunnel for these impoverished people. Microcredit, as practiced by Grameen Bank, can help alleviate poverty. At least, it can help motivated poor people to help themselves.

Before relating my experience in the village, perhaps it is necessary to briefly describe what Grameen Bank does and how it is organized. Grameen practices microcredit, the lending of money to poor people who lack collateral or credit. In order to apply for a loan, a prospective borrower assembles a group with four other prospective borrowers who live in the same village and have similar socioeconomic situations. Prospective borrowers receive instruction on the basic principles of borrowing and repaying both principal and interest. After they understand this process, the group members form loan proposals, which include a basic description of what they plan to do with the money they receive and the term over which they will repay the loan.

Once the proposals are approved and the loans are disbursed, the borrowers (who join the bank as members) use the funds to start their own small businesses. These businesses are as varied as groceries, small agricultural ventures, or transportation services, to name a few. Members repay principal and interest on these loans in uniform weekly payments over the term of the loan. After the initial loan is paid off, members often apply for additional, larger loans with which they can expand their businesses.

So today, Kathryn and I visited a center meeting and asked questions of several members. Morjina, who had been a member for three years, said, "Today I am borrowing 100,000 taka." (At an exchange rate of approximately 68 taka per U.S. dollar, this amounts to \$1,470.) Her first loan had been for 15,000 taka and the second for 30,000. With each of Morjina's loans, she expanded her husband's already existing grocery business and also bought a milk cow and some chickens for eggs.

Morjina described the amount of income she and her husband were able to earn with their various business ventures. Both her children were in school and were not having to work to help support their family. Obviously, Grameen's financial assistance had helped improve their livelihood.

In addition to offering a temporary escape from the low roar of traffic, the pungent odor of rot, and the constant pleading of beggars, the trip to the village offered hope that the bleak poverty of the Bangladeshi villagers could be alleviated. I am optimistic about the ability of the tools of finance to solve societal problems like poverty.

September 27, 2008. Monday, September 22, we made our first overnight visit to a branch office. After an hour-and-a-half taxi drive through the morning traffic of Dhaka and down one-lane two-way roads, we arrived at the branch and met a Bangladeshi intern and the branch manager, who escorted us to the morning's center meeting at a nearby village.

At this center, we spoke to a woman, Nasima, who was especially vocal about how much better life in the village is since Grameen started operating there 20 years ago. Before Grameen, she says that she lived in a one-room, one-roofed house (exposed tin roof). She ate dahl (lentils) and rice for most meals and had one type of meat, chicken, only once per week. She had only one 150-taka sari (the traditional dress of Bangladeshi women), which she wore for a month.

Nasima says that she now lives in a three-room, two-roofed house (wood underneath the tin) and is preparing to build another roof (insulation?). She says that she currently eats three types of meat—chicken, beef, and fish—three times per week. Her clothing now consists of three 500-taka batik saris.

October 20, 2008. On Tuesday, Kathryn and I visit one of Grameen Shikha's slum schools in Mirpur-10. Entering the classroom, Kathryn and I are overwhelmed with a huge "Good morning! How are you?" from a sea of smiling children. They are very happy to receive us and show off their basic spoken English. Kathryn and I respond with an equally enthusiastic "Good morning!" Lacking desks, the children are seated on the floor, and we are invited to sit with them. Kathryn and I introduce ourselves.

Honors Survey

We are particularly interested in receiving information from those who have not responded previously and also in hearing of recent developments. Your responses will help us assess our strengths and weaknesses and will provide information for the newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

What is your relationship to the Honors College? current student alumnus friend

Other affiliation with Honors? _____

What is/was your degree program? _____

Year you will receive/received your degree _____ What is your profession? _____

How many Honors hours did you complete? _____ Will you/did you graduate from the Honors College? _____

Are you currently in graduate school? _____ If so, where? _____

Have you received a graduate degree? _____ If so, what degree and from where? _____

Where do you work? _____

What is your title or position? _____

What other positions have you held since receiving your last degree? _____

In retrospect, what were the strengths and weaknesses in your Honors studies? _____

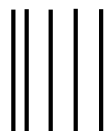
Personal data

Any recent happenings in your life? _____

Please feel free to add any additional comments that you think might be helpful. _____

Please fold in half so that the address is on the outside; tape the bottom; and mail.
This survey is also available online at www.mtsu.edu/honors/alumni.shtml
and may be e-mailed to hcnews@mtsu.edu.

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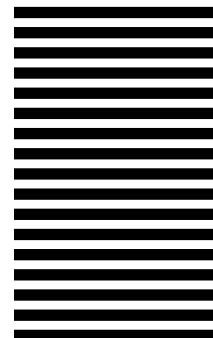
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Thanks!

After the introductions, the teacher asks the students to stand up, and the whole class sings a song for us, complete with hand and body motions. We are told that the song is about rowing a boat, although the song's subject was quite obvious from the students' gestures. After the song is finished, we clap and other students stand to perform.

After the performances, Kathryn and I interview a twelve-year-old named Sultan. He tells us that he goes to school from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., and then he works sewing designs on garments from 11:30 until at least 4 or 5 p.m. Inferring from the name of Grameen's "slum school," I had expected that the children would be very poor and that the classroom would be inferior to those of my youth, but I am amazed that a twelve-year-old boy works, at minimum, 24 hours per week. We ask Sultan what he would like to be when he grows up. He says that he wants to be an architect. His dream will be difficult to realize, however, as the economic circumstances that require him to work at least five hours per day as a twelve-year-old will likely force him to get a job in a garment factory when he turns fourteen.

We ask the rest of the class of ten- to twelve-year-olds what they would like to be when they grow up. A little girl named Laaki wants to be a doctor, so that she can serve the people. Others

reply in turn that they want to be doctors, teachers, and police officers. Several boys reply that they want to be in the Navy or the Air Force. The hopes and dreams of these children, much like their songs and dances, mirror those of the classmates of my youth. I am saddened by the overwhelming odds stacked against them. Yet, considering the minute amount of money that their labor contributes to their family's monthly income, I also think it is a shame that so little truly stands in their way.

Kathryn asks what work they do after school to help contribute to their families' incomes. Most of the students make designs on garments. One little boy, Islam, who wants to be a teacher, says that he works at a garage as a taxi repair assistant. Another boy, Kobe, who wants to be in the Navy, works in a hotel. I am amazed that such little children with such bright smiles and big dreams must perform such difficult labor. While I am happy that Grameen is trying to help the young children of these poor slums, I feel that much more must be done to help them accomplish their dreams. I struggle to hold back the tears.

November 18, 2008. I safely returned from my journey in Bangladesh late Friday night. It was pleasantly surprising to be able to move efficiently through traffic without rickshaws and CNGs. It was pleasant to drive down streets not populated with maimed and starving beggars and not polluted with litter, excrement, and diesel exhaust.

Over the course of my 36-hour flight, I had the opportunity to see the deserts and mountains of Iran and the glaciers and ice sheets of arctic Canada--both of which were incredible sights. After two months of Bangla, it was strange to be surrounded by English-speakers during my stopover in Houston, Texas. The cold, clean water available at the Houston airport water fountains was delightful. It was wonderful to see familiar faces welcome me in the airport.

I am truly thankful to have been given this unique experience, available to few. While I learned so much during my time in Bangladesh, I feel that my work there did little to help the Bangladeshi people. I feel I need to do more. I feel I must return someday. Perhaps, upon my return, I will get sick and need medical attention. It is my sincere wish that one of the children I met in the slum school will have achieved their dream and will care for me as a doctor or a nurse. Perhaps the wages earned and benefits enjoyed by the Grameen Knitwear employees will be the standard for Bangladeshi garment factories. Hopefully, there will be fewer beggars in the street and fewer children with starving bellies. Perhaps, someday I will return to find that there is no longer a need for Grameen Bank and its sister companies, as Bangladesh is no longer an impoverished nation. 📌

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