

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Magazine

BRIGHT MINDS

MTSU is a top producer
of Fulbright scholars

*Kaitlen Howell's remarkable life
journey is part of that success story*

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
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24

GOOD FELLOWSHIPS

The Honors College adds another path—
and another guide—for student success



32

THE FACES OF FULBRIGHT

Kaitlen Howell represents how far one person can
go with perseverance and some helping hands



36

A TRIPLE PLAY

A look at the great diversity of student research
and achievement in the Honors College



42

FIDDLIN' AROUND

Kelsey Wells is well on her way to becoming
a jack-of-all-trades (master of some)



Cover photo:
MTSU alumna
Kaitlen Howell

At left:
Spring blooms
on campus

photos: Andy Heidt

DEPARTMENTS

4 Dean

5 Students

24 Faculty and Staff

50 Alumni and Friends



HONORS MAGAZINE

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

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From the Dean's Desk

Reflections in Memory of my Father

My father, Ralph, died Friday, July 27, 2012, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was almost 87 years old. As he was ending his life's marathon, the Olympics were beginning in London. Just the day before, my wife and I had the opportunity to see our first grandchild. The circle of life continues.


I have been blessed to have had godly parents who valued education and who encouraged me in my own academic endeavors. My parents began life's journey together as missionaries until ill health intervened. After they returned to the States, both of my parents taught in public schools and continued their educational outreach in church and in other activities. The house in which I was raised, like that where I now live, was filled with books. Dad's primary love was study of the Bible, so much so that toward the end of his life, children often called him "Mr. Bible." The childhood trips that I most remember were often to historic sites. My parents were hospitable people and often included me in conversations with adult visitors about both spiritual and political affairs.

In a world that worships outward signs of success, my parents constantly reminded me that success is not accurately assessed until one meets one's maker. They often admonished that "Only one life, will soon be past; only what's done for God will last." My father found his outlet in singing (often to the accompaniment of my mother on the piano) and in poetry. I am not particularly good at either, but I had the honor of editing two books of poetry and a book of proverbs for him and of being able to do so while he was alive.

My dad lost his hair early and did not have a middle name; both situations bothered him. As of now, I have yet to inherit his bald pate, and he and mother made sure we all had middle names. I was the first-born son, and my middle name is Ralph. I use my middle initial in my professional life in order to honor him. I hope to leave a legacy similar to that of my father. He did not worry about the accolades that he received, but simply went faithfully about his job. He always had time for others. He was a man of principle who stood for what he believed was right. He lived what he believed. He was faithful to my mother and to the family. He believed that it was as important to develop one's mind as to take care of one's body. If I can follow his example, I believe that my life will have been worth living.

I am extremely grateful to be able to serve in the Honors College. I consider it my mission field every bit as much as my parents considered their first job in Central America to be theirs. Very few of you have met my father, but I hope that when you interact with me, you will get some sense of my dad's finest qualities.




John R. Vile

Special Ceremony Highlights

20 Top Freshman Scholars by Randy Weiler

The top scholars in MTSU's 2012–13 freshman class—a “strong and diverse” group, according to John Vile, Honors College dean—were formally recognized last fall. The college's 20 newest Buchanan Fellows participated in an inauguration ceremony Sept. 28 in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

“This class is as strong and as diverse as any,” Vile said. “I consider it a tribute to MTSU and to the Honors College that we have succeeded in attracting such an auspicious group of scholars.”

Incoming Fellows include band, choral, and choir members; thespians, Advanced Placement Scholars, National Achievement Scholars, and athletes; a member of the Civil Air Patrol; a Presidential Volunteer Service Award winner; and yearbook editors.

The Honors College awards the Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of alumnus James M. Buchanan ('40), winner of the 1986

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The fellowship is the highest academic award given to entering students. The 2012 ceremony welcomed the University's sixth class of Buchanan Fellows.

The class includes ten graduates of Murfreesboro high schools, and the other ten come from all across Tennessee and from Georgia, Washington state, and Mississippi. This year's class average ACT score was 31.1, Vile said. The new scholars' average high school GPA was 3.915.

Notable Buchanan Fellows alumni include Adam Emerson, a Fulbright Scholar; Evan Craig, a Goldwater Scholarship winner; Lauren Rigsby, a Goldwater honorable mention; Jennifer Johnson, winner of the Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship; and Taffy O'Neal, author of two books, the second of which was also her Honors thesis.

“In terms of future achievement, the sky is truly the limit for our Buchanan Fellows.”

John Vile

continued on page 7



EMILY ANNETTE BALL, Christiana, Riverdale High School, accounting

KEATON ALEXANDER DAVIS, Murfreesboro, Siegel High School, history

JACOB CHARLES GOZA, Cleveland, Walker Valley High School, economics

CHELSEA REBECCA HARMON, Johnson City, University School, science

MORGAN GREGORY HUNLEN, Decatur, Ga., Chamblee Charter High School, aerospace

ZACHARY KENT HUTCHERSON, Greeneville, Greeneville High School, aerospace

MICHELE KELLEY, Murfreesboro, Siegel High School, undeclared

EVAN MICHAEL LESTER, Columbia, Hampshire High School, aerospace

CHLOE MCKENZIE MADIGAN, Murfreesboro, Siegel High School, English

KAILEY DAWN MCDONALD, Murfreesboro, Siegel High School, mathematics

YUSRA FATIMA MOHAMMED, Murfreesboro, Siegel High School, science

ERIN GRACE PAUL, Smyrna, Smyrna High School, early childhood education

LINTON GENE PRIESKORN III, Murfreesboro, Heritage Covenant High School, undeclared

MATTHEW THOMAS PYLES, Everett, Wash., Henry M. Jackson High School, music

MASON TRENT RILEY, Christiana, Riverdale High School, science

TREVOR DILLON SMITH, McKenzie, McKenzie High School, computer science

NATHAN SCOTT TILTON, Brookhaven, Miss., Hinkson Christian Academy, aerospace

LOGAN JOHNSON WHILES, Blountville, Tennessee High School (Bristol), biology

TREVOR JAMES WIEMANN, Murfreesboro, Riverdale High School, finance

LARISSA CHRISTINA WOLF, Murfreesboro, Blackman High School, biology



In Memoriam: James M. Buchanan

The Honors College sadly notes the passing of Dr. James McGill Buchanan Jr., who died Wednesday, January 9, in Blacksburg, Virginia. The Rutherford County native and 1940 graduate of MTSU was 93. An economist best known for his work on public choice theory, he is the only MTSU alumnus to win a Nobel Prize.

Two MTSU scholarships were established in Buchanan's honor, the Buchanan Scholarship in 1997 and its successor, the Buchanan Fellowship, which is the highest academic scholarship offered at MTSU, in 2006.

James M. Buchanan Jr. was born October 3, 1919, the son of a farmer and a schoolteacher, Lila Scott Buchanan. His grandfather, John Price Buchanan, was Tennessee's governor from 1891 to 1893.

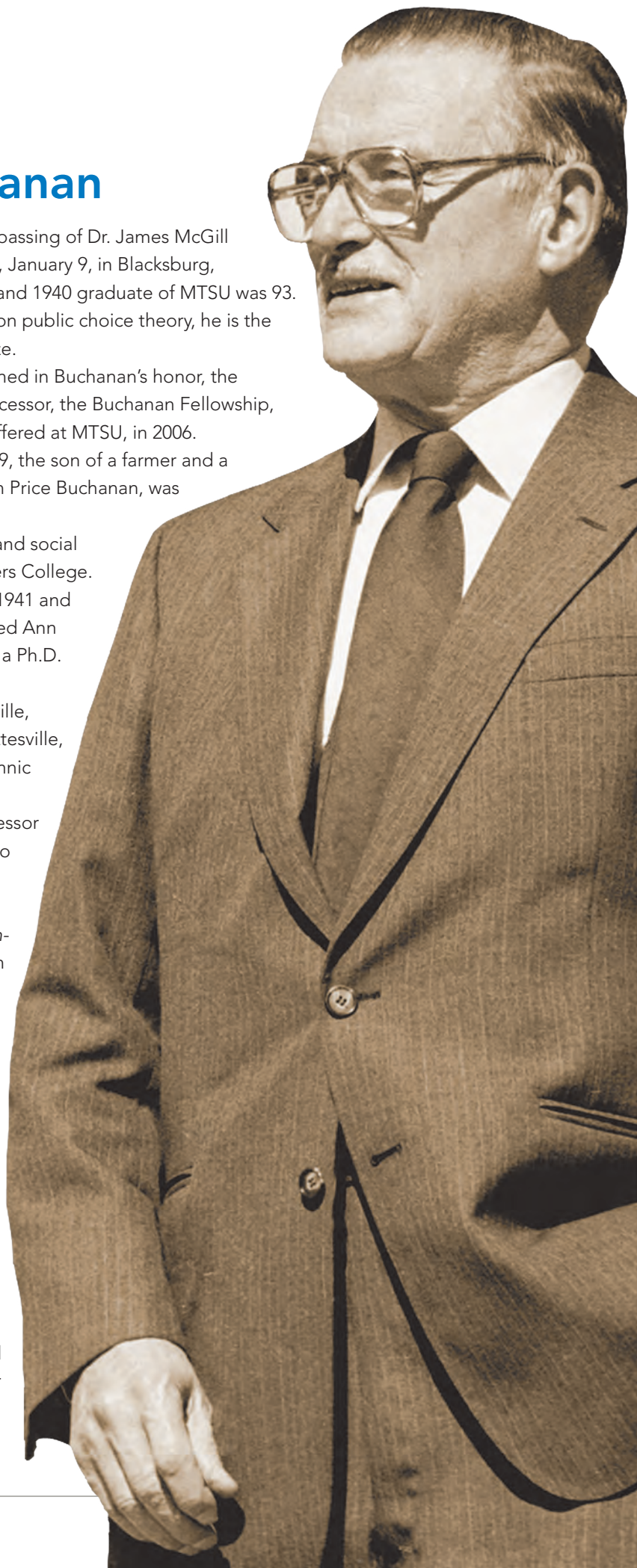
Buchanan majored in mathematics, English literature, and social science at what was then Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. He received an M.S. from the University of Tennessee in 1941 and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. In 1945, he married Ann Bakke (who passed away in 2005), and in 1948 he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Buchanan taught at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, Florida State University, the University of Virginia–Charlottesville, the University of California–Los Angeles, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and George Mason University.

A January *Forbes.com* article by Richard J. Grant, professor of finance and economics at Lipscomb University, refers to Buchanan as "one of the greatest proponents of limited government and free markets in the 20th century." His best-known book, *The Calculus of Consent: Logical Foundations of Constitutional Democracy*, a collaboration with Gordon Tullock, is considered a classic work on public choice theory.

Buchanan is survived by two sisters: Lila Graue of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Elizabeth Bradley of Pearland, Texas, and by nephews Doug Graue, Jim Whorley, and Jeff Whorley. Jeff is a member of the Honors College Board of Visitors.

Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College, noted that Dr. Buchanan earned membership in the MTSU Foundation's Old Main Society for his financial contributions to the Honors College and that the college regularly updated him on the progress of the Buchanan Fellows. Vile said that the college continues to provide opportunities for students from throughout the state and region who might not otherwise have the opportunity for a first-class liberal arts education within the environment of a larger state university. [H](#)



Buchanan Fellows Party

OCTOBER 30

- 1** Nate Tilton, John Vile,
and Thomas Knies
- 2** Katelyn Stringer
and Daniel Murphy
- 3** Courtney Rodman
- 4** Morgan Hunlen
- 5** Linton Prieskorn, Mason Riley,
Kailey McDonald, and
Trevor Wiemann
- 6** Nick Myhre
- 7** Eric Klumpe
- 8** Yusra Mohammed
and John Vile



Freshman Scholars


continued from page 5

At the ceremony, junior Katelyn Stringer of Smyrna and sophomore Nick Myhre of Murfreesboro welcomed the inductees on behalf of previous Buchanan classes. Provost Brad Bartel also provided welcoming remarks, and Preston MacDougall, professor of chemistry, challenged the new class with a speech titled "Don't Think (That as an undergraduate student you cannot change the world)." (see page 10) Astronomy professor Eric Klumpe led the recitation of the Honors Creed, and senior Buchanan Fellow Kelsey Wells of Murfreesboro provided fiddle music before the ceremony.

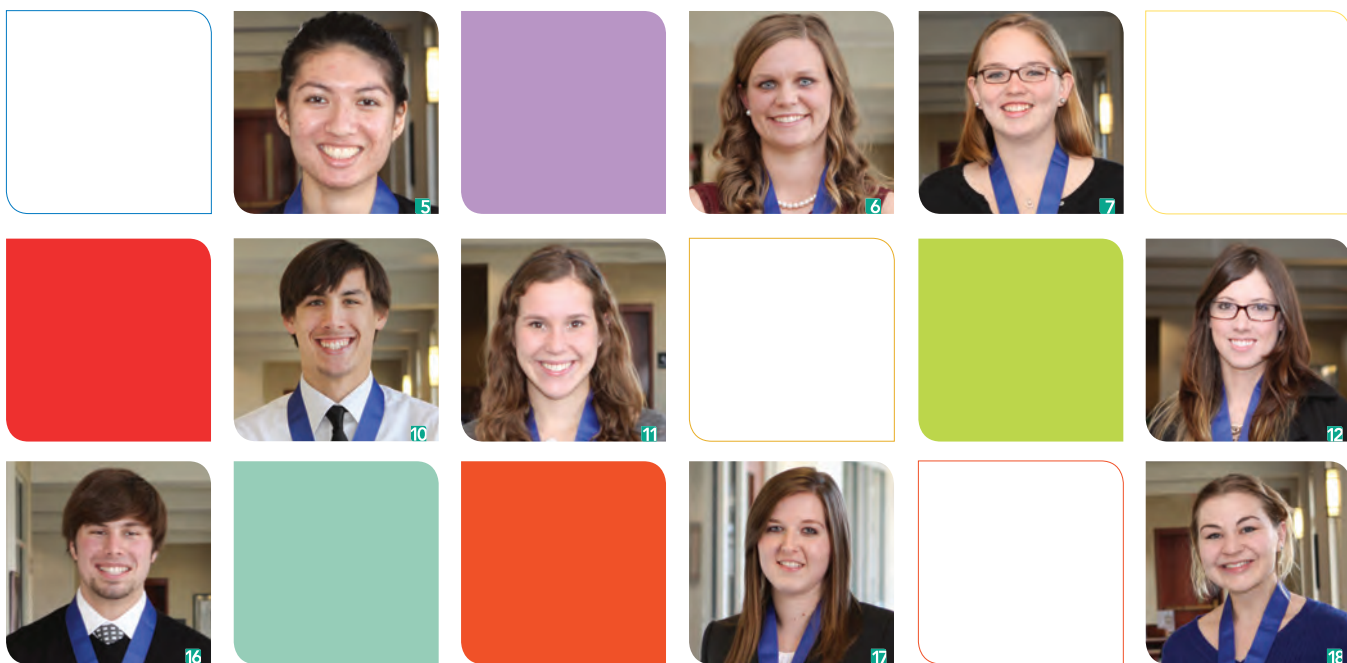
Prospective Buchanan Fellows must apply for undergraduate admission by Dec. 1 of the year before full enrollment. They must have a high school GPA of 3.5 or



higher and a minimum composite score of 29 on the ACT. They must also provide an official transcript and write an essay of 500 words or less.

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

Fall 2012 Theses Defended



Jacob Basham¹ *Chemistry*

"Approach to the Synthesis of Belactosin A"

Ben Conrad² *Psychology*

"Electrophysiological Correlates of Morpho-Syntactic Processing in Spoken English"

Kelsey Crews³ *Organizational Communication*

"Human Sex Trafficking: A Thematic Analysis of Three American National Newspapers"

Andrew Dolfie⁴ *Science (Pre-Med)*

"Logical Lingua: An Inquiry into Language via Logic"

Linda Duong⁵ *Biology*

"Lipid Composition of *Symbiodinium* sp. Isolated from the Anemone *Aiptasia* sp."

Lucy Estes⁶ *Speech and Theatre (Communication Disorders)*

"Narration in Typical Young and Elderly Adults: A Microlinguistic and Macrolinguistic Analysis"

Emma Fredrick⁷ *Psychology*

"Slut Talk and the Sexual Double Standard"

Ellen Goertzen⁸ *Animal Science (Pre-Vet)*

"Impact of Treatments of Intestinal Parasite Load in Equines from Middle Tennessee"

Mary Hayden⁹ *Biology*

"The Study of Selenium Bioaccumulation in Tetragnathidae Spiders that Prey upon Aquatic Insect Communities Affected by Coal Fly Ash"

Nick Knoll¹⁰ *Aerospace*

"The Effects of 'Man-Made Earth' on Earth's Albedo and on Atmospheric Warming"

Emily Kubis¹¹ *Mass Communication (Journalism)*

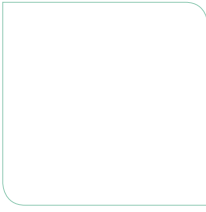
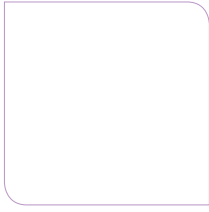
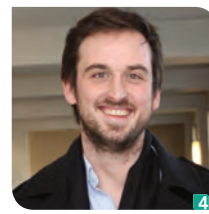
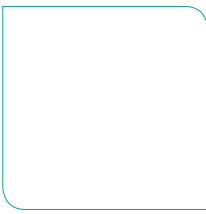
"A Comparison of the Communication Tools Used in Egyptian Revolutions, Pre- and Post-Social Media"

Rayne Leonard¹² *Biochemistry*

"Dionysus in 20th-Century Film"

Samantha Mallory¹³ *English*

"A Study of Toni Morrison and the Black Female"



Lena Manning¹⁴ *Chemistry*

"Transition State Analysis of Uridine Phosphorylase"

Laura Morgan¹⁵ *Biology and Mathematics*

"How Does Knowledge about Sexually Transmitted Diseases Vary?"

Patrick Morrison¹⁶ *International Relations*

"Building Bridges and Tolerance through Public Relations: Representations of the Children's International Summer Villages Program"

Lauren Nolin¹⁷ *Marketing*

"Higher Education and the Use of Facebook: Do Students Aim to Keep Their Academic and Social Lives Separate?"

Rachel Nutt¹⁸ *Mass Communication (Journalism) and Foreign Languages (Spanish)*

"An Exploration of and Critical Addition to Bilingual Children's Literature in the United States"

Jake Verhoeff¹⁹ *Social Work*

"PTSD and Stigma: Is PTSD Stigmatization Different within Military and Civilian Communities?"

Tyler Whitaker²⁰ *Anthropology*

"An Alternative Approach to the Creation of Auxiliary Languages Informed by Creole Research Methodologies"

Alina Wolf²¹ *English*

"The *Twilight* Saga: An Archetypal Approach" 

I AM *true*
BLUE™

Don't Think

By Preston MacDougall

Excerpts from the welcoming address to the 2016 class of Buchanan Fellows

“Don't think” doesn't seem like an appropriate title for the welcoming address to the incoming class of Buchanan scholars, especially when many of their parents, moral supporters, current Honors faculty, and most likely a few future Honors thesis advisors are also in the audience. But that's just a teasing fragment of my message, which is: Don't think that as an undergraduate student you cannot change the world.

My first example of an undergraduate student who sought to change the world is Charles Martin Hall. In 1881, Hall was enthralled by the sample of aluminum metal that was being passed around the classroom by his professor, Frank Jewitt. . . . In 1881, pure aluminum was more valuable than pure silver, and only 25 years prior to that, it was more valuable than pure gold.

As it was being carefully examined by the class, Jewitt said, “If anyone should invent a process by which aluminum could be made on a commercial scale, not only would he be a benefactor to the world but [he] would also be able to lay up for himself a great fortune.” Hall began his search for just such a chemical process immediately, first in the chemistry labs at Oberlin and then in his family's woodshed, with his sister's help, after graduation. His first patent was submitted when he was only 23 years old, and the Aluminum Company of America, now called Alcoa, was built on this discovery. He died a very wealthy man.

In 1911 Hall was awarded the Perkin Medal by the American Section of the London-based Society of Chemical Industry.

So who is William Perkin? As you might have guessed, he too sought to change the world when he was an undergraduate chemistry major, in his case at the Royal College of Chemistry in London. . . . He, too, had an inspiring professor, August von Hofmann, who assured his young student . . . that with synthetic organic chemistry, rare and expensive lifesaving drugs could be synthesized from cheap starting materials. The medicinal target that was assigned to the young Perkin was quinine, the first effective treatment for malaria. . . . The gold mine at hand was the coal tar that was a waste product of municipal gaslighting in London.

In 1856, while the professor was visiting his native Germany for Easter, Perkin continued his attempts to synthesize quinine from aniline, one of the many compounds that can be isolated from coal tar. . . . Perkin found that one of his products stained a lab cloth with a brilliant purple color. He named the new compound mauveine and suspected that it could be produced in large quantities for the dye industry. He was right . . . Perkin had developed a process for the production of mauveine before the summer was over. He applied for a patent on the process when he was only 18 years old! . . . Perkin rapidly became one of the wealthiest and

youngest self-made men in the United Kingdom.

So, to what world-changing endeavors might some of you, the class of 2016 Buchanan scholars, dedicate your creative talents as undergraduates? No matter what major or majors you end up choosing, it is certain that the possibilities are bounded only by your imagination.


Whether you're a prospective chemist, poet, or both, like my good friend and Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann, don't think that you cannot change the world with ideas that have absolutely no relation to anything that I have said in this welcome address. After all, there is gold in them thar' seas, both literally *and* figuratively. So, as this class of Buchanan scholars sets sail, I wish you all bon voyage during your undergraduate education. I hope you all have fun fishing, and discover the thrill of catching a big one! 

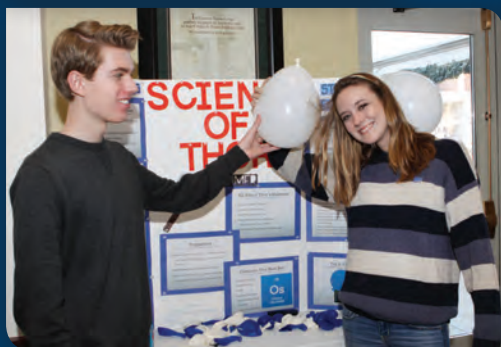


photo by J Intintoli



Clockwise from top left:
Wesley Alexander and Katherine Stubblefield test a solar-powered model car for their study of the science of Iron Man.

Sierra Shipley and Ben Wright consider the possibility of using slime as a protective coating for Captain America's shield.



Sierra Shipley focused on the science of Captain America's shield.

Douglass Smith, Curtis Barker, and Ben Nguyen considered the effects of gamma radiation in their study of the science of the Hulk.

Austin Black and Haley Hannum studied the science of Thor, including static electricity.



Students in Judith Iriarte-Gross's fall Honors Contemporary Issues in Science class completed projects relating to the science of *The Avengers*.

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Alumnus Williams Joins OΔK Fall Initiates

by Randy Weiler

NewsChannel5 investigative reporter Phil Williams ('85) was the special alumnus inductee at the Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) fall initiation ceremony Friday, Nov. 30, in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building amphitheater.

In all, 16 student initiates, two OΔK Circle Squires, and three MTSU faculty/administrators joined Williams, a graduate of the Honors program.

"We had a good number of initiates," said Dean John Vile. "It truly was a wonderful evening."

Vile said it was rewarding that Williams, an award-winning television journalist, returned to his alma mater to be a part of the ceremony.

New OΔK faculty initiates included Debra Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services; Deana Raffo, assistant professor of management; and Charlene True, associate professor of educational leadership. (Raffo was ill and unable to attend.)

New OΔK student members are juniors Jared Adams, Jonathan Herlan, Nathan Phelps, Michael Ripley, and Ashley Sweeton; seniors Chelsea Fleet, Tyler King, Rachel Lee, Jake Verhoeff, and Tyler Whitaker; and graduate students Marques Fulford, Natasha Gerstenschlager, Kayla McNabb, Sarah Gray-Panesi, Jonathan Murray, and Victoria Warenik.

The OΔK Circle at MTSU was chartered in April 2010 with 50 members, including President Sidney A. McPhee, then-Congressman Bart Gordon, then-MTSU Foundation President Murray Martin, and Roy Martin, brother of Paul W. Martin Sr.

A national leadership honor society, OΔK was founded 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. It was the first college honor society of national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage general campus citizenship.

The MTSU Circle accepts applications from juniors, seniors, and graduate students who maintain a 3.5 GPA and who are involved in leadership and service roles on campus and in the community. The society recognizes leadership in five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and the mass media; and creative and performing arts. **H**



The Columbia, Tenn., native was honored with a place on the College of Mass Communication Wall of Fame in 2003. At MTSU, he completed his thesis, "Dissent in a Free Society," during Ron Messier's tenure as Honors director. Dr. Messier was Williams's thesis advisor.

Williams is the winner of two George Foster Peabody Awards, the George Polk Award for TV Reporting, a National Headliner Award, and a 2012 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award for excellence in local reporting. He has earned three DuPont awards.

Sophomores Davis Thompson and Kevana West were introduced as Circle Squires, a program that allows promising sophomores to be involved with the local circle while they await full membership as juniors.

Michael Giles Jr., an OΔK Foundation trustee and a marketing manager for Nashville-based Pedigree and Cesar pet food brands, shared the history of OΔK and issued a challenge to new initiates. Giles earned his bachelor's degree from Samford University in Birmingham and his M.B.A. from the University of Alabama.



photos by Andy Heidt

Active at the National Level

Last summer, national leadership honor society Omicron Delta Kappa gave two MTSU students opportunities for leadership, service, and learning.

OΔK Circle president Leland Waite and Matthew Hibdon, former president and current vice president, attended the 2012 OΔK National Leadership Summit and Convention at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte in July. Matthew was chosen to serve on the society's National Advisory Council, and Leland officially began his term as MTSU circle president.


The two participated in leadership training sessions, a networking dinner, and a showcase event, where they exhibited an MTSU OΔK display board that ranked in the top three of twenty displays from other schools. They also presented a strategic workshop session at the convention: "Ready, Set, Lead: Effective Strategies for a Clay Grant Application." During their interactive session, they shared information about the MTSU circle's spring 2012 True Blue Leadership Day and gave helpful hints for applying for Clay Grants, which are leadership development initiative grants that provide financial support to OΔK circles that want to establish specific programs to enhance leadership development on their campuses and in their communities.

Matthew, a graduate student, will serve on the society's advisory council until 2014. The council

advises the OΔK board of directors, and its membership is determined based on recommendations from national headquarters staff. Matthew is a charter member of MTSU's circle and was actively involved in the process of getting an OΔK charter at the University.

Both Leland and Matthew were involved in preparations for an OΔK regional drive-in conference that MTSU hosted in February 2013. The conference brought circles from the region together to prepare for the society's centennial and next convention in 2014.

MTSU's circle has received national recognition in the form of five OΔK Foundation Scholarships and a Clay Leadership Development Grant. It also sent a member to an OΔK signature program, Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow.

Students interested in applying for membership in OΔK circle may call Georgia Dennis at (615) 898-5645 or visit www.mtsu.edu/odk. 



Members Visit Veterans



OΔK members (L–R) Tyler Whitaker, Jake Verhoeff, and Leland Waite chat with veteran Ronald Keen.



Veterans and OΔK members sharing stories are (from left) David Weill; Roy Stacey, a veteran and maintenance worker at the home; Gus DuPuis; Jake Verhoeff; Matthew Hibdon; Tyler Whitaker; and Leland Waite, circle president.



My Great-grandfather's Legacy

by Christopher Merchant | *Christopher is a senior mass communication major with a concentration in journalism and minors in writing and English.*

Like most people I know, I never met my great-grandfather. He died March 27, 1983, six years before I was born. Despite the gap in time between his death and my birth, I have had an image of this man in my mind since I was very young. My

grandmother and, to a lesser extent, my father, have told me stories about Ernest Blomquist for nearly as long as I can recall. When I was a young child, he seemed to me like a family friend or a far-off relative who did not get to visit very often but was still someone I knew. He spoiled my grandmother, an only child. He charmed his wife and took her dancing. He had a weekly guys' night with other men from the Chicago Swedish Club.

He also went to war. The more stories my grandmother told me about Ernest, the more his identity as a soldier became indelibly linked to his character in my mind. Perhaps it was because my grandmother was still attempting to overcome the fear and sadness of missing her father for month after month during World War II, or perhaps it was because my young mind was confused by the contradiction of such a nice man going overseas to kill strangers. Perhaps it was both. Whatever the case, over time my concept of my great-grandfather became that of a soldier more than anything else.

He wasn't remembered that way all the time, though. My father described him as a happy guy with a good sense of humor, an old-fashioned fellow who enjoyed a small cocktail while he worked a crossword puzzle in the evening. Once again, he seemed like a man I could have known, maybe even a man I did know. But the memories of the man as a soldier were not easily forgotten. I recently started asking my grandmother, now 76, questions about her father, and again her pleasant memories had a habit of being overcome by the story of her time without him while he was overseas and how he had changed upon his return.

Not to say that my grandmother is moribund or fixated on negative memories about her father. To be honest,

she seems to idolize the man, almost to the point of reverence. In some ways he must have really seemed a mythical figure: the man who died and came back to life.

As the family story goes, this is just about exactly what happened to my great-grandfather. Unfortunately we don't know much of the official details about his service in the Army, such as what unit he served in or where exactly he served; all such documents were lost when the building where they were kept burned. What we do know, though, is that all in my great-grandfather's unit were killed save him, and despite his survival, the Army told his wife that the whole unit had been lost.

Apparently, his unit had been in pursuit of fleeing German soldiers toward the end of the European campaign. He had been marching for so long that he had run through his socks. His feet began to bleed so much that the blood ran over the tops of his boots. His commanding officer told him to wait under a tree for the Red Cross while the rest of the unit continued their mission. Somewhere farther down the road, all the men he had traveled with were killed. Though my great-grandfather was eventually taken to a hospital in England, his family and friends back home all thought him dead.

Hearing this story made me curious about this man's dichotomy: How could a person who had seen so much devastation ever return home and behave normally? How could he be a father who spoiled his daughter and took his wife dancing? How could his grandson remember him as a quiet man who liked to work crossword puzzles? How could someone be remembered for those things and at the same time have created a legacy within his family as a soldier on the front lines the second time that the world went mad?

I saw a chance to answer these questions when I heard about a University-sponsored trip led by Derek Frisby, an associate professor of history at MTSU. The trip was to progress through much of the western front of WWII and focus on many pivotal battles. With the help of a generous grant from the University Honors College, I was able to see the arenas that my great-grandfather wrote home about.

I probably should have known that what I was going to see wouldn't make sudden sense of the myth my great-



grandfather had left behind. If anything, it was only more confusing, at least initially. The sights were unpleasant: the thirty-foot-deep craters caused by Allied bombs that cracked bunkers and broke bodies on Pointe du Hoc, France, and the dense forests flanking the highways in Belgium, where the Battle of the Bulge claimed so many lives in bloody ambushes. Also

unpleasant was the smell in the crematorium in the concentration camp at Dachau, Germany. These things literally became the stuff of nightmares for my great-grandfather.

However, these places eventually became the very force that helped me to start answering some of the questions I had about him. While the scars of a war

fought more than half a century ago still remain, they have become tempered over time. Grass grows over foxholes and the gouges of artillery strikes. Those who were children when their homes and families were sundered by foreign enemies have rebuilt houses, businesses, and communities. Mass graves are now museums that memorialize the bravery of young men who had forgotten peace.

All these places and people still bear the scars of the fighting that defined them, but they are not gone. They have been altered, but not erased.

In a way, my great-grandfather went through the same transformation. He came back changed, but he tried to rebuild his life. He took his wife on dates. He played with his daughter. He reconnected with his friends in Chicago. He came back home after his family was told he was dead. He left behind the legacy of a man who was both defined by war and who lived a peaceful life. And while he came home with wounds in body and in heart, the scars faded and were replaced by the kindness and compassion of the man I have come to know though we never met. [H](#)

Left page:

Ernest Blomquist, Christopher Merchant's great-grandfather

This page clockwise from top:

Christopher Merchant visiting the Belgian Ardennes, where the Battle of the Bulge was fought

Ernest Blomquist with his twin grandsons, Tom and John Merchant, and Christopher Merchant's dad, Glenn

Ernest Blomquist with his daughter, Arlene

Hitler's retreat at Eagle's Nest, Obersalzberg, Germany, photographed by Ernest Blomquist

Color photos by Christopher Nortcutt

Background: Modern photo overlooking Hitler's retreat at Eagle's Nest, Obersalzberg, Germany





photo by J. Intintoli

Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Addresses Teacher Shortage

by L. Diane Miller

The U.S. economy is in a time of major transition as the country moves from an agriculture- and manufacturing-based economy to one more firmly based on knowledge and continuous innovation. The jobs of the future will require greater ability to invent, improve, and adapt and to see beyond present problems to future opportunities. This requires a scientifically-educated and trained populace.


At this critical juncture, the U.S. faces a current and future shortage of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals. This shortage is due in no small part to a critical shortage of qualified high school mathematics and physics teachers. High school mathematics and physics are prerequisites for nearly all STEM careers. The shortage of mathematics and physics teachers is leaving too many students unprepared for college study in STEM disciplines.

MTSU is helping provide a solution to this problem. The goal is to increase the number of qualified secondary mathematics and physics teachers by providing scholarships to math and physics majors who will complete teacher preparation requirements and enter the high school classroom. A grant from the National Science Foundation was awarded to MTSU in 2009 and will run through 2014. It funds the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers. The program provides funds to institutions of higher education to support scholarships, stipends, and academic programs for undergraduate STEM majors who commit to teaching in high-need K-12 school districts.

The MTSU program addresses the acute shortage of mathematics and physics teachers in Tennessee's high schools. The new program of study immerses preservice students in field experiences and inquiry-based learning opportunities that reflect research-proven best practices. Students are mentored and nurtured by exemplary middle and high school teachers and university professors in ways that instill professional identity, pride, and responsibility.

An unusual feature of the MTSU program is the potential for dual certification in physics and mathematics. Students awarded a Noyce Scholarship receive up to \$15,000 per year for their two final years of study, and they commit to teaching for two years in a high-need school district for each year of support.

MTSU's scholarship recipients and their areas of certification include the following: Hilary Ball, physics/math; Brian Crow, physics/math; Cole Garrett, physics/math; Joshua Hardison, math; Matthew Manes, math; Alex Murphy, math; Caitlin Rainey, physics; William Russell, physics/math; Corey Stockburger, physics/math; John Sumitra, physics/math; Trinity White, math; Paul Turner, physics/math; and Jason Veal, physics/math.

In addition to preparing to become exemplary secondary mathematics and physics teachers, many of these students serve as good citizen role models through volunteer work. One such scholarship recipient who is an excellent example of this is Honors student Alex Murphy, who, along with his wife, Cathleen, spent three and a half weeks last summer volunteering in Haitian orphanages. The story of their experience follows. 



On June 29, 2012, after eight days of wedded bliss in the Dominican Republic, Alex and I joined five of our friends in a rented van bound for Haiti. We spent three and a half weeks visiting orphanages, villages, and churches, making new friends and reuniting with old ones. Pastor Benite hospitably received us at his guesthouse; Ron and Vanessa, our primary contacts, graciously hosted us in their home; and Pastor Silar, Pastor Tim and Pastor

Small Things with Great Love

Student



Story and photos by Cathleen Curtis Murphy | Cathleen is a mass communication major with a concentration in photography. She is married to Alex Murphy, a mathematics major with a math education concentration.

Emmanuel warmly welcomed us into their orphanages. Each of these families has responded to a need in their community, and through that response many vulnerable children are now receiving good care.

Pastor Benite attended college in the United States and returned to Haiti to help his people. He was in a class in Port-au-Prince when the January 2010 earthquake hit. The building began to tremble, and people bolted for the door. He was buried alive beneath the rubble of his classroom. He says, "I thought of my wife, of my daughters. I thought 'I will not die! I will live!'" He clawed his way out from under the

crumbled building. We did some minor construction on Pastor Benite's school in coastal Arcahaie. He has a heart to instill dignity in his students through education and plans to open an orphanage in the future.

After the earthquake, desperate families left their children with Pastor Tim in Port-au-Prince, hoping he could care for them. After things stabilized, most of the children were reunited with their families, but not all. Pastor Tim's orphanage cares for forty or so grade-school-age boys and girls. Ron, who works for World Orphans, connected Pastor Tim's congregation with their church-to-church program. A western

church sponsors a church in another nation through World Orphans to fund orphan care and provide for vulnerable children.

Pastor Tim greeted us with a broad smile and said, "Welcome. These are my kids. I love them." Indeed, he loves them fully. Pastor Silar and his wife care for sixty children in their home. Some are orphans or partial orphans brought by relatives or neighbors. Others were abandoned and then rescued. All of them have a home now with the Silar family. For three days we made friends with the children and made bracelets together. Some of the boys

continued on page 19

Phi Kappa Phi Recognizes Students, Faculty

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated 11 Honors students into its MTSU chapter Thursday, November 1, and recognized 14 current members of the Honors faculty as Influential Faculty designated by the student initiates.

Junior Honors students initiated were **Emilie Aslinger**, a history and global studies major; **Cory M. Bosworth**, a foreign languages major; international relations major **Lorel Holsinger**; **Tyler Phillips**, a recording industry major; physics major **Katelyn Stringer**; and entrepreneurship major **Juan C. Zelaya**. Junior initiates must rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class.

Senior Honors students initiated were **Chelsea L. Fleet**, a speech and theatre major; animal science major **Ellen Goertzen**; international relations major **Patrick K. Morrison**; **Kelsey E. Rogers**, an art education

and English major; and anthropology major **Wesley A. Vanosdall**. Seniors must rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Honors faculty members recognized as Influential Faculty were **Linda Badley** (English), **Larry Burris** (Journalism), **Laura Clippard** (Honors), **David Foote** (Management and Marketing), **Katie Foss** (Journalism), **Nancy Goldberg** (Foreign Languages and Literatures), **Mike Hammock** (Economics and Finance), **Shannon Hodge** (Sociology and Anthropology), **Eric Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy), **Jane Marcellus** (Journalism), **Robb McDaniel** (Political Science), **Karen Petersen** (Political Science), **Gina Pisut** (Human Sciences), and **John R. Vile** (Political Science).

Philip Phillips, chapter secretary, presented a brief history of Phi Kappa Phi. Gina Logue, chapter president, welcomed students,

guests, and faculty and led the induction ceremony. Karen Case, a chapter board member, introduced influential faculty; John R. Vile addressed new initiates; and Lucy Langworthy, a chapter board member, closed the program.

The honor society initiated a total of 62 students and recognized 43 influential faculty members during the fall initiation ceremony in the Tennessee Room of James Union Building.

Honors dean John R. Vile is chapter fellowship coordinator; Philip Phillips, Honors interim associate dean, is chapter secretary; Honors executive aide Kathy Davis is chapter coordinator; and Honors student Kaela Armbrister is student vice president.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. **H**

Austin Gober, a prospective student attending a True Blue Experience preview day in October, with an Honors poster of his sister, 2012 graduate Paige Gober. Paige, a Buchanan Fellow and speech and theatre major, led a collaborative experiment to create a new play, *Lady Parts*, which chronicled young women's struggles with identity and self-esteem.



Paige Gober

B.A. 2012, Speech and Theatre

At the beginning of my undergraduate career at MTSU, I felt torn between my passion for the arts and my hunger for scholarship. Luckily, I was initiated into the Buchanan Fellows Class of 2012, which instilled the desire to pursue a broad-spectrum liberal arts education. Participation in MTSU Theatre guided me to develop professional skills and encouraged my creativity. For my Honors thesis, I led a collaborative experiment in devising a new play, *Lady Parts*, which chronicled young women's struggles with identity and self-esteem. The company of 11 women wrote and performed a collection of over 70 original monologues and scenes. My future plans? Graduate school, maybe a Fulbright in France, and going for gold—Oscar gold.

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE



Great Love

continued from page 17

played soccer, and some of them played an enthusiastic dominos game with Ron and Pastor Silar. The older girls braided my Caucasian locks into tidy cornrows while the younger ones sat on my lap. We hope our first trip to Pastor Silar's won't be our last. His family is doing a beautiful thing in Port-au-Prince.

As the van maneuvered through the village of Williamson's rutted dirt roads, I felt anticipation building. Was that the turn? It looks different from last year. Do you remember? Pastor Benite leaned out the window and asked a man if he knew Pastor Emmanuel. They conferred in Creole. He turned the van around.

When we arrived, our knocking was hardly necessary. Madame pastor opened the gate and jumped, letting out a joyful shriek. Pastor Emmanuel's eyes widened and he laughed loud in disbelief. Our friends were not expecting us. Suddenly there were kids everywhere and everyone

was hugging everyone else. We sat in the shade together and made up for lost time with laps filled with children and hearts full of happiness. We spent as many days as we could at Pastor Emmanuel's. Often, Jean-Philippe or David came to translate. We helped with chores, loved on kids, and spent time with our friends. Though these were not great things, as Mother Teresa said, "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

I have many sweet memories from this trip. Staying with Ron and Vanessa was a huge blessing. One day I felt a bit worn down, so I rested at the house instead of going out with the team. I perched in the doorway of the sunny yellow kitchen with a notebook and wrote down recipes while Vanessa and her mother-in-law cooked. Vanessa patiently dictated in English, and I scribbled down the recipes for bannann pezze, pikliz, and Haitian

chicken. She and Ron's mom carried on together in Creole like a couple of happy finches. I loved being tucked away in that small corner of their world.

One of Alex's favorite memories is of a Sunday afternoon at Pastor Benite's. He and Jean-Philippe, the children's pastor, orchestrated a dramatic reading of 1 Samuel 17 for the neighborhood kids. Alex cast two of the younger boys as David and Goliath and the ringleader of the older ones as King Saul, involving both age groups. Up went little Goliath onto Alex's shoulders, and the team entertained their peers with the tale of a little guy who overcame some big adversity. Alex enjoyed seeing the two groups of boys cooperate to be a part of the same story.

I read somewhere that we are the sum of our experiences. If that is the case, we hope Haiti is encoded in our DNA. [H](#)

Collage Creativity Reaps Rewards



Andrea D. Green



Anthony Maroon



Gabrielle Thompson




Samuel Johnson

Four students won Creative Expression Awards for work published in the fall 2012 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*.

Andrea D. Green, a senior English major with a literary studies concentration, won an award for her poem "Foundations y Cimientos." **Anthony Maroon**, a senior English major, won for his short story, "A Boyle Burial." **Gabrielle Thompson**, a graduate student studying international relations, won for her photograph *Submerged*. **Samuel Johnson**, a senior art major, won for his painting *Desperate Measures*.

Each semester, the *Collage* staff uses a blind grading process to select approximately 50 pieces for publication from about 300 submissions. Then, the *Collage* faculty advisory board awards \$50 prizes for outstanding works in four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography.

Prose and poetry winners receive the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award, named in honor of English professor Dr. Hixon, a longtime supporter of *Collage* and the Honors College. Art and photography winners receive the Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award, named in memory of Dr. Nuell, a much-respected art professor. 





The fall 2012 *Collage* magazine staff included (front, L-R) Katie Parker, Jefferson Rodriguez, Courtney Hunter, (second row) Biven Alexander, Whitney Flatt, Caitlin Noonan, (third row) Cassondra Fischer, Davion Baxter, Erin Potter, Annise Blanchard, (fourth row) Tatiana Silvas, Abigail Stroupe, (fifth row) Della Wheeler, Sheila Smotherman, Brianna Diffenderfer, Davis Thompson, and Stephanie Walsh. Members not pictured: Cody Everett, Kelsi Carter, Katie Uselton, Haley Farrell, Kaela Armbrister, and Emily West.

Members of the fall 2012 *Collage* staff (back, L-R) Della Wheeler, Whitney Flatt, Davis Thompson, and Davion Baxter with students from Franklin Road Academy at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop November 19 at Lipscomb University. The staff members led a session called "Enhancing the Literary Magazine."

Graduate student Taffy O'Neal, left, and *Collage* and *Sidelines* staff member Emily West presented "Storytelling: Fiction and Nonfiction" at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop November 19 at Lipscomb University.

Honors Worthy {student achievement}

Fall 2013 Interdisciplinary Seminars

Living the American Dream

UH 4600-001 • T 2:40–5:40

PH 221 • Dr. David Rowe • CRN 87162

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

The fact is, the American Dream means different things to different people, and it has meant different things over time. The American Dream, in other words, has a history, and like all history its meaning becomes clear only when we examine how it affects (and effects, or produces changes in) our own lives, here and now, and the lives of the people around us. In this course, we will examine all of this. What are the terms—political, economic, social, cultural—Americans have used to define the dream; how have they expressed it in word, sound, picture, and artifact? How have Americans used the dream, and how do they use it today? What is it about the dream

that inspires us, pulls us forward, defines us as a special people?

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

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

The Holocaust and After: Protest, Prejudice and Preventing Genocide

UH 3500-001 • W, 2:40–5:40

HONR 117 • Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth
CRN 85805

What about human rights and the dignity of each human being? Collectively, we may be quick to agree that these are important values to uphold, yet it seems that we continue to live in a world where human life is often devalued and individuals can do nothing to make things better. Instead of being frightened by the enormity of injustice in the world, we can, perhaps, move closer to finding better ways to coexist through study and discussion of prejudice and intolerance.

In this seminar, we will study the history of the Holocaust, tracing the rise of Nazism, and we will consider the institutionalization of genocide. What does the fact of the Holocaust tell us about humanity? Does knowledge about the Holocaust cause us to despair, or can we learn from this horrific event in order to protest intolerance and prevent genocide today? This seminar is intended to empower the students and the professor through the study of texts, films, writing, and discussion.

After a thorough study of the Holocaust, we will explore the postwar reactions of survivors, historians, scientists, politicians, writers, and artists as well as everyday citizens. We will ask ourselves if there are still lessons of the Holocaust for us to learn today.

This course is open to students with a 3.25 GPA and junior-level standing.

For more information, please contact Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth at Sonja.Hedgepeth@mtsu.edu.

Mock Trial Team Starts Season with Awards

Two MTSU Mock Trial teams started the 2012–2013 year by winning awards at the Third Annual Arch Invitational Tournament at Washington University in St. Louis in October.

A team led by Heather Haggard, a senior criminal justice administration major from Greenbrier, and Margaret Noah, a senior psychology major from Nashville, posted a 5–3 win loss record to win sixth place among 30 teams. Other team members were Davis Thompson, a sophomore political science major from Alamo, Tenn.;



Members of the fall Dean's Advisory Council included (front, L-R) Chelsea Fleet, Constance Grieves, Yusra Mohammed, (back) Dean John R. Vile, Davis Thompson, Jake Verhoeff, Honors advisor Laura Clippard, and Interim Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips.



Members of the 2012–2013 *Scientia et Humanitas* staff include (L-R) Jessica Hanson, Sarah Gray-Panesi, Clint Bryan, Jonathan Bradley, Kayla McNabb, and Jacquelyn Hayek. Staff members not pictured: Jake Verhoeff, Christian Brown, Khristeena Lute, Marcelle Albert, and Helen Albert. *Scientia et Humanitas* is publishing its third volume of student research this spring.



Members of the Honors Student Association (HSA) with the Honors lions are (back, L-R) Caleb Hough, Alex Gibson, Christian Flack, Ryan Tippens, Gavin Holter, Davis Thompson, and Sam Farish, and (front) Laura Morgan.

Curtis Campbell, a junior economics major from Murfreesboro; Michael Priano, a sophomore political science major from Columbia; Ryan Tippens, a freshman recording industry major from Marietta, Ga.; and Carey Buchanan, a junior sociology major from Franklin.

The team took both ballots against the University of North Alabama in the first round; split ballots with Cornell College (Iowa) in the second round; took both ballots against another North Alabama team in the third round; and lost ballots in the final round to Washington University, which won the tournament with an 8–0 record. Other teams placing higher in the tournament were from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Iowa.

Haggard also won an Outstanding Attorney award, and Ryan Tippens won an Outstanding Witness award.

A second team headed by Samantha Farish, a senior political science and psychology major from Cookeville, came away with a 4–4 record competing against teams from the University of Texas–Austin, the University of Illinois, Cornell College, and the University of Iowa. Team members included Zac Barker, a junior political science major from Woodbury; Brooke Borcharding, a junior political science major from Watertown; Thomas Palombo, a senior political science major from Pittsburgh, Penn.; Frankie Hathore, a freshman political science and psychology major from Ichula, Miss.; Trevor Smith, a freshman computer science major from McKenzie; and Caleb Hough, a freshman biology major from Murfreesboro. Farish also won an Outstanding Attorney award.

Mock Trial team coaches are John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College; attorneys Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth; and Clay Davis, of the University College.

Vile notes that an MTSU team placed third in one of two equal divisions at the National Championship Tournament last year and that this early record in a tournament bodes well for the year ahead.

This year's case is a hypothetical civil case involving a suit against the alleged negligence of the Neptune Diving Company for an accident in which one of its customers was lost at sea. [H](#)



The Honors College adds
another path—and another
guide—for student success

photo by J Intintoli

Good

Many of Tennessee's best and brightest freshmen begin their academic careers at MTSU's Honors College. A new program in the college is designed to attract Honors students who take a less traditional, but increasingly popular, route to campus.

Beginning with the 2013–14 academic year, 15 transfer students will be chosen to participate in the innovative Honors Transfer Fellowship program. The new fellowship is modeled after the popular Buchanan Fellowship, through which 20 incoming freshmen are selected each year to receive scholarships.

Participants in the Honors Transfer Fellowship will each receive \$3,500 per semester for four semesters of work. It is the highest MTSU academic scholarship for students transferring from other schools.

The students will also have the support of one of MTSU's most popular and effective professors, Martha Hixon, who

has been chosen to teach a research class designed to help the new transfers find solid footing at MTSU. Hixon received a Teacher of the Year award a year ago after

It's important to
encourage
the next
generation of
students.

being nominated by her students.

The path transfer students take often leads them to MTSU through a smaller four-year school or a community college. Recognizing the challenges of arriving at a campus with a population larger than some communities, the Honors College is requiring that transfer fellowship students participate in Hixon's class.

"Some of the transfer students come from two-year colleges. That's an increasingly popular choice for students. It's cheaper, and they can earn more credits for their money. But they then need to transition to a larger institution," Hixon says. "MTSU is bigger than some of their hometowns. It's very scary to come to a big school. It's scary to come from a school where the entire student body had 500 students."

The Honors College received support for the new fellowship from several University entities, including Student Affairs and the Provost's Office as well as directly from President Sidney A. McPhee. Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, and associate professor Rebecca King designed the fellowship class.

Attracting Honors transfer students and helping them succeed has academic and financial benefits for the University, says John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College.



Fellowships

by Bill Lewis

“Transfer students often bring unique life experiences. They help keep us honest because they have a point of comparison. The beauty of students who have already completed two years of work elsewhere is that we already know whether or not they are prepared for college work,” Vile says. “Under the new state funding formula, MTSU will get almost as much revenue from graduating a transfer student as from graduating someone who has been here all four years.”

The fellowship class is an important part of the transfer students’ introduction to MTSU, and Vile says that Hixon, who has “a reputation as a great teacher,” was the logical choice to lead it.

Hixon, who once taught at a community college in Arizona, believes her hands-on style should help transfer students adjust to the rigors of pursuing a four-year degree.

“I’m serious about that. It’s important to encourage the next generation of students,” she says.

Because MTSU encourages its Honors students to pursue advanced degrees, it’s likely that transfer students who begin their academic careers at a small community college will one day represent MTSU at major universities.

“Our Honors students go on to powerful universities,” Hixon says.

Indeed, transfer students have a proven track record of excellence at MTSU. Katie Bogle, who transferred from Harding University, earned the President’s Award for service to MTSU. Jacob Verhoeff, who earned college credits in the military before coming to MTSU, won the Robert LaLance Award for overcoming adversity. Joseph Quarles, a gifted writer who transferred from Motlow State Community College, received the LaLance Award a year ago. Constance Grieves, who studied at Nashville State Community College, was a member of MTSU’s award-winning Mock Trial team.

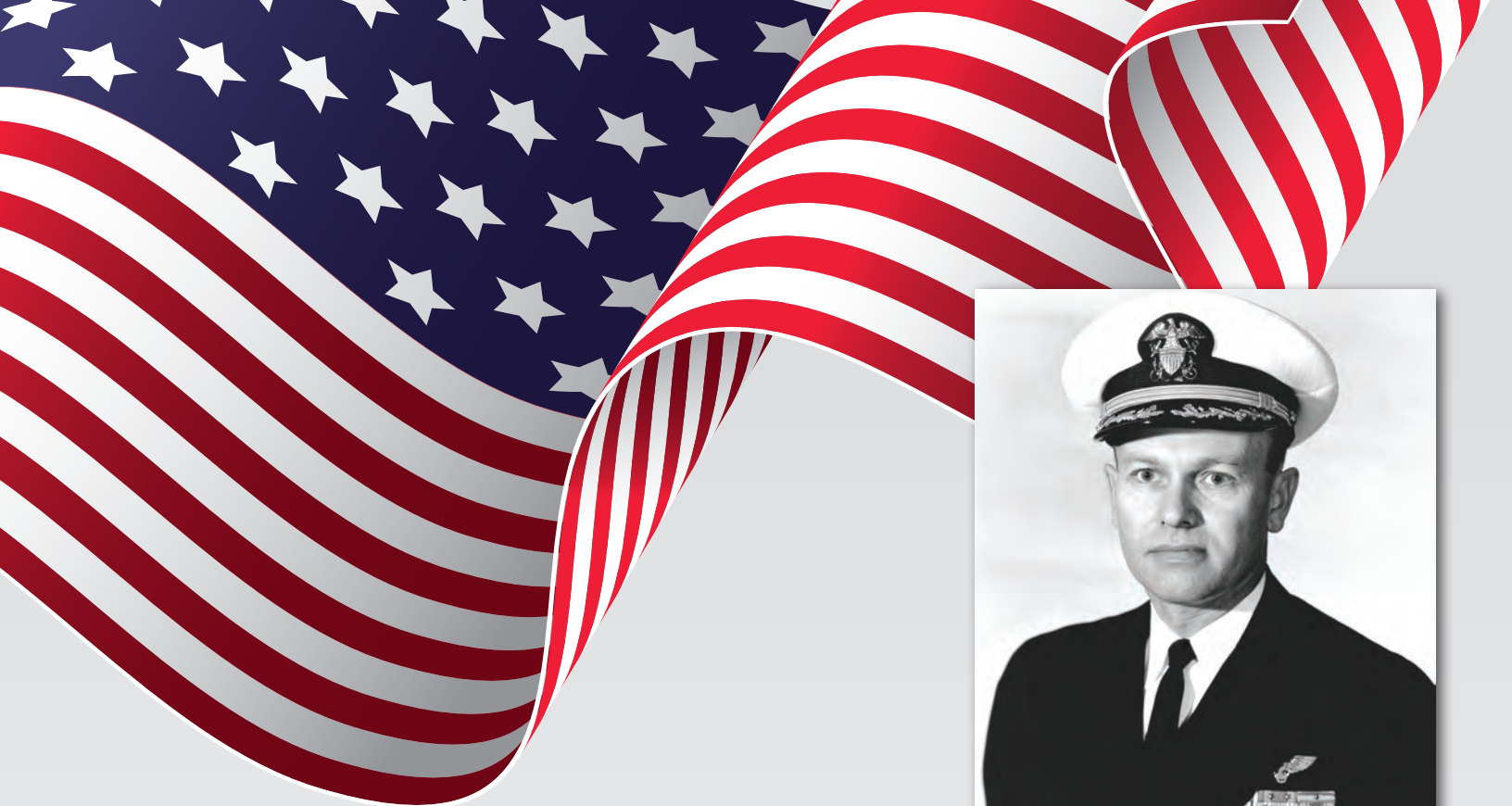
Hixon, who teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in children’s literature, children’s film, and folk and fairy tales in the English department, is supremely qualified to help the transfer fellows take their first steps.

“Children’s literature is the first literature we read. Coming back to it, we can see how what we read as children [can affect] what you think of the world around you as an adult,” she says.

The Honors Fellows will find Hixon’s class to be a lively place. She says she favors the Socratic method of teaching, asking questions and stimulating discussion rather than simply standing in front of the room and lecturing.

“MTSU’s emphasis is on quality teaching. My students are my responsibility,” she says.

A graduate of University of Louisiana–Lafayette with a Ph.D. in English, Hixon arrived at MTSU in 1999. She joined the Honors faculty in 2000 and the graduate faculty that same year. [H](#)



In Memoriam: **Capt. James D. Ingram**

Captain James D. Ingram (United States Navy, retired) passed away December 9, 2012 at the age of 91. Survivors include daughters Allison (J. P. Montgomery) and April (Jon Young).

Ingram was a friend and benefactor to the Honors College, contributing to the Ingram-Montgomery Honors College Thesis/Research Scholarship. His son-in-law, Dr. J. P. Montgomery, was appointed third director of the Honors Program in 1990, became the first dean of the Honors College in 1998, and retired in 2004 shortly after the completion of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Ingram's daughter Allison is a graduate of MTSU (B.S. 1983, M.A. 1985).

Ingram received a B.A. in psychology from Stanford University in 1962. He took graduate courses in management at Vanderbilt University before earning an M.S. in educational administration at the University of Tennessee. He also completed all coursework for a doctorate in educational administration at UT.

Born in Pulaski, Tennessee, Ingram served in World War II and the Korean War, flying on carriers including the *USS Lunga Point*, *USS Boxer*, *USS Ticonderoga*, *USS Constellation*, and *USS Intrepid*. He served our country as a naval aviator and career officer for 30 years, including responsibilities as a jet squadron commander and an aircraft carrier executive officer and on staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He taught at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, in the early 1960s and led the Naval ROTC at Vanderbilt University from 1967 to 1972. Following military retirement, he worked for the Tennessee Medical Association as director of continuing medical education until 1986.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, December 12, at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on McCrory Lane in Nashville.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, said that the college will always be grateful to Mr. Ingram and his family for their contributions to honors education. [H](#)

New Advisor a Perfect Fit

After moving to middle Tennessee four years ago, April Goers has finally found what she was seeking, “a part-time position . . . at a respected higher education institution that also fits my passion for advising students to reach their fullest potential.” April, who became part-time advisor for the Honors College in late September, assists Laura Clippard in the recruitment, orientation, and advising of Honors students.

With an M.Ed. in higher education administration, study abroad experience, a strong GPA, 12 years of work experience in higher education, and a positive, outgoing personality, April was a perfect fit for the position. Also, she and her husband, Brent, have two boys—Colton (7) and Drake (5)—whose many school and extra-curricular activities make a part-time position perfect for her family.

Clippard describes April as “an energetic and caring person whose main role will be to aid Honors College freshmen during their first year. She will be jack-of-all-trades and

will help the freshmen understand how to succeed at MTSU.”

When asked why she chose to work at the Honors College April said, “The Honors College at MTSU interested



me because, as advisor, I would get to work directly with students, which is what I love. It is also exciting to be a part of the monumental growth of both MTSU and specifically the Honors College. I feel very blessed to be a part of this community of staff and students.” She added, “What I love the most is being a part of the MTSU Honors College, what it stands for, and how they continually strive to achieve their mission.”

April works from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays. She and Laura work together to meet students’ needs in a timely manner. They have open advising hours but also make individual appointments.

April’s bachelor’s in liberal studies and M.Ed. are from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. She served as student services advisor at Hamilton Technical College in Davenport, Iowa, for two and a half years before becoming a TRiO Upward Bound academic advisor at Simpson College in Indianola in 2005. She was promoted to assistant director/counselor of TRiO Student Support Services that same year and in 2007 became director.

The Goers relocated to Tennessee from Iowa because of a job promotion for Brent, who is an investment product wholesaler for Principal Financial Group. April enjoys traveling, attending her sons’ sporting events, volunteering, spending time with family and friends, and being involved in her church. [H](#)

Honors advisor Laura Clippard talks to members of the Chairs’ Council about undergraduate fellowship opportunities at MTSU.



Honors Magazine Shares Top National Award

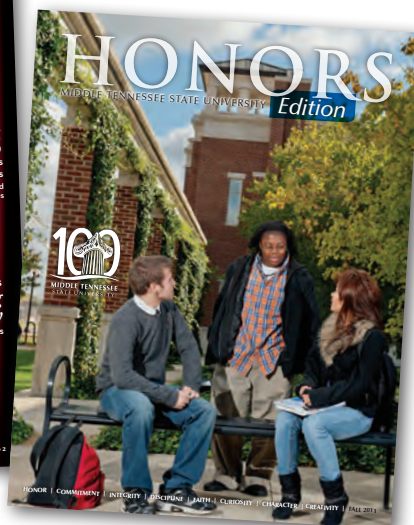
In November, Honors College dean John Vile brought back the National Collegiate Honors Council shared first-place award for this magazine. The publication tied with the University of Houston in the print category for faculty/administrator/student-published magazines.

"We consider the *Honors Magazine* not only to be a way to highlight the Honors College but the entire University," Vile said. "Several times in the past, we have won second-place awards, but this is the first time we have shared the top spot."

The award ceremony was held in Boston at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, and Vile was accompanied by associate dean Philip Phillips.

Vile said the the award was "particularly sweet because it comes during the first year in which our *Collage* [arts and literary magazine] received the nation's top Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association."

Marsha Powers, coordinator of special projects and publications for the Honors College, credits the involvement of University Editor Drew Ruble, ideas and design by Sherry Wiser-George of Creative and Visual Services, the addition of full color to the magazine, and the work of University photographers J. Intintoli and Andy Heidt as the main reasons the magazine has gained greater national recognition.



The fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues were submitted for the contest.

The fall edition had full color on the front and back cover and inside front and back pages, with spot MTSU blue color on the remaining 60 pages. Featuring veteran and nontraditional student Jake Verhoeff on the front cover, the spring issue was the first published under the new name *Honors Magazine* (formerly *Honors Edition*) and all 56 pages were four-color.

Richard Badenhausen, cochair of the National Collegiate Honors Council's publications board and director of the Westminster College Honors Program, notified winning entries by email in October.

"We are very pleased at the quality of newsletters that were submitted and appreciate the effort you all make at producing attractive and informative publications for your programs," Badenhausen said. Twenty entries were in the print category. [H](#)



Honors College staff and resident faculty members gathered in August to bid farewell to Rich Barnet, an Honors resident faculty member since 2004. Barnet's new office is COMM 217. Honors part-time advisor April Goers now occupies his former office space, Honors 228.

Tennessee Artist's Work Shines in Honors Conference Room

Tucked away in the Honors administrative conference room is a one-of-a-kind, award-winning piece of art: a stunning stained-glass window depicting a peacock, which was designed by Tennessee artist Barbara Church Coffelt.

Coffelt, who has been creating stained-glass windows since 1978, was a schoolteacher for 35 years but now spends 10 to 12 hours most days in her shop, Church's Stained Glass, in Estill Springs, where she crafts custom pieces for homes, businesses, and churches.

Karen Demonbreum, Honors executive secretary, fell in love with Coffelt's piece at the Bell Buckle Craft Fair in 2003. She didn't buy it that day, but she says, "When I got home, I couldn't stop thinking about how beautiful it was, so I called Barbara and asked her to hold it for me."

The purchase was made shortly before the opening of the Honors Building, and Demonbreum decided to share its beauty with her coworkers.

The piece took 40 to 50 hours to make. Coffelt said, "I chanced upon the unusual bevel cluster on the inside border at a glass show I attended. I thought it was so unique I just had to buy it, although I had no idea how I would use it at the time." It was a couple of years before she got the idea for the peacock.

The piece won Best of Show at the Webb School Show in Bell Buckle and the Bill Grigsby Memorial Award for Excellence from the Cleveland Creative Arts Guild.

Coffelt calls herself a realistic artist. "I want my work to look as true to nature as possible," she said. "The peacock is a wonderful example because of the brilliant colors."

Coffelt offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes to aspiring glass workers, exhibits her work at art shows and craft fairs, and operates her business with her son, Jayme Church. [H](#)

I want my
work to look
as **true to
nature** as
possible.



Barbara Coffelt's upcoming craft shows:

**Franklin Main Street Festival,
Franklin, Tennessee**
Last weekend in April

**Tennessee Association
of Craft Artists (TACA),
Centennial Park, Nashville**
First weekend in May

Summer Fair, Cincinnati
Second weekend in June

Church's Stained Glass website:
www.churchsstainedglass.com



David Lavery



Guanping Zheng



Jimmie Cain



June
McCash



Jonathan
Thorndike

Diverse Perspectives in "The City"

One's idea of cities often comes from personal experience—places lived, visited, or even discovered through books and the Internet. Some see cities as civilized places where one can find arts, culture, and high-end shopping; others wrinkle their noses at the thought of traffic, crowded sidewalks, pollution, and crime. Students attending the fall 2012 Honors Lecture Series examined cities through multiple lenses and were given glimpses into various cities created for different purposes.

In his introduction to the series, Dr. Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, explained that the theme for the series grew out of his study of Edgar Allan Poe and the different cities in which he lived: Boston, Richmond, Philadelphia, Sullivan's Island (South Carolina), Baltimore, and New York. Phillips said, "The complexities of these relationships between Poe and the cities in which he lived and worked caused me to consider the idea of

'the city' as an interesting way to invite students to think about their own associations with place as well as our collective identity as citizens of a particular city. These considerations led me to think about other possibilities for the topic, including the different types of cities, old and new, from the ancient to the modern world, and the achievements and problems associated with them, as well as the concept of 'the city' itself."

Dr. Phillips invited speakers from many fields and disciplines to provide Honors students with a diverse range of perspectives, including literary, historical, international, archeological, sociological, correctional, and political approaches. Students had an opportunity to learn about cities from around the world, both in the past and the present: ancient Athens, Hue during the Vietnam War, and Kyoto. Cities were explained through the artistic interpretations of Tennessee Williams's New Orleans and the London of Dr. Who. However, the "city" that was the

greatest mystery for many students was Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville.

It is easy to forget about the prisons located across the state. In Tennessee alone, over 20,000 men and women call prison home. Approximately another 5,000 work as prison employees for the Tennessee Department of Correction. Riverbend's warden, Roland Colson, spoke to the Honors students and explained the different ways that a prison can be considered a city. Colson, a quiet-spoken intellectual, doesn't fit popular culture's stereotype of prison wardens. In 1991, he completed his M.B.A. at MTSU, and he has more than thirty years of experience as a financial analyst, information systems consultant, and businessman. However, his knowledge of the job and commitment to public safety were evident as he systematically provided a tour of the Nashville prison through pictures, interesting facts, and stories about the different activities that take place behind the prison walls every day.



Robb McDaniel




Ron Messier



Philip
Phillips

For the prisoners, Riverbend is where they live, go to school, work, worship, and relax. Constance Grieves, a student in the lecture series class, pointed out, "While residency may not be voluntary, Colson described how prisoners contribute to their prison community by conducting maintenance, cooking meals, sewing bedding and clothes, making furniture, and maintaining the grounds."

Wesley Vanosdall explored the idea of prison as city in one of her responses: "The prison in the context of being a city is an intriguing idea...there are undoubtedly deeper nuances in the relationships and culture of the people—inmates and staff—that inhabit the prison. This leads to the question of how prison fits into the larger picture of society as a whole."

Perhaps the answer will surprise those who only think that prison is about punishment. Grieves recalled the dual purpose of the prison as community model: "Colson contended that, because 97 percent of prisoners will be released to their communities at some point, it is imperative for them to learn how to be contributing members in society once they are released. By offering masonry classes, woodshop training, technical skills, and career counseling, the prison grants inmates the opportunity to learn skills that are transferrable when they are released, increasing the odds that they will be able to secure employment and be productive citizens." As offenders transition from prison back into public life, they must adjust to being back in a city without walls. 




CALA Benefits Teachers, Fulbright Scholar

The Honors College hosted the 10th annual summer language institute for the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), founded by Dr. Shelley Thomas. Students attended three different sessions of Spanish, French, and Arabic in the mornings. Teachers from four different states attended the afternoon workshops seeking to learn hands-on teaching methodologies they had experienced in the morning with a new language.

Among the participants were Sunita Watson, president of the Tennessee affiliate of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages); Miranda Runcie, foreign language director of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute; Nona Hall, Rutherford County ESL coordinator; and Adam Emerson, a Fulbright scholar and 2012 Honors graduate.

Emerson said, "As a recipient of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, I'm venturing to Russia to teach the English language and serve as an ambassador of our culture. I've always been confident in my ability to do the latter, and now, thanks to the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition, I feel more qualified to do the former. Over the course of only five days of lessons with Dr. Shelley Thomas, I acquired not only an extensive French vocabulary but also an understanding of the ways in which we acquire language, best practices for ensuring my students' comprehension of important concepts, and effective classroom management techniques."

For more information on CALA, contact Dr. Thomas at shthomas@mtsu.edu. To see a video clip of the language institute, go to www.acceleratedacquisition.com/CALAClip.html. 

Roland
Colson



Robert Bray



9 and Growing...

Kaitlen Howell isn't the only Fulbright recipient with an MTSU pedigree.

Honors College advisor Laura Clippard, who since 2008 has been tasked with identifying and advising high-potential applicants for the Fulbright and other competitive scholarships, says recognition by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* raises MTSU's academic profile internationally.

"A lot of students think that they have to go to a very expensive private university to get a top-quality education, and they don't. MTSU can provide that education and those opportunities. This is a place where you can achieve great things if you are so motivated."

Universities listed are broken into four categories based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Included in the Master's category with MTSU were schools like Villanova, Elon, Gonzaga, and Drake.

MTSU has produced nine Fulbright winners since 2001, eight of them since 2008, and at least two per year since 2010. Of the 1,700 Fulbright winners in 2012, three were Blue Raiders.

While those numbers reflect increased efforts to identify promising candidates and raise awareness about the Fulbright Program, Provost Brad Bartel says they also "validate the caliber of student at MTSU. We have attracted many students who are exceptional and will be leaders in society."

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, agrees: "We were ecstatic when we had two in the same year. We would have been pleased to get one. But to have three successive years now with two or more? That sends a clear signal."

The Faces of Ful

When MTSU was recently named by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright scholars for 2012–13, it joined the ranks of academic powerhouses like Duke, Stanford, and Princeton. Just 108 colleges nationally were recognized.

MTSU was among 17 schools in the Master's Institutions category and the only college or university in Tennessee listed in any of the *Chronicle's* three top-producer categories.

MTSU students have received Fulbright funding to teach or research in a variety of fields—from philosophy to biology to international relations—in countries as diverse as Portugal, Russia, Tanzania, and Laos. While each winner has a remarkable success story, perhaps none is more extraordinary than that of a young woman who enrolled at MTSU having been deprived of the most basic education—and who graduated with a Fulbright grant.

A ROUGH START

The biological parents of Kaitlen Howell (not her birth name) were violent and controlling. They withdrew her from public school after first grade, ostensibly to homeschool her. Anything she learned from that point on was self-taught, usually in secret. Although her parents were college-educated and had many books around the house, they largely restricted her access to them.

"The books were there," she says, "but my parents just collected them the way some people compulsively collect newspapers. There was no value placed on education. I was actually punished if I was caught reading."

She read anyway, voraciously: *Little Women*, *The Swiss Family Robinson*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Twain, Dickens, Verne. Books were her escape from the horrors of everyday life, and they fed her instinct for learning. But Howell's precociousness masked her lack of formal education. "I had a wide vocabulary and presented myself intelligently," she says. "I was also able to think on my feet, which was a requirement for my survival."

lbright

by Allison Gorman

At age 15, she was permanently removed from her parents' home and placed in foster care. "It wasn't until I was put into a school setting at a group home that my lack of education started to become evident," she says. "I felt a lot of personal shame over it. I considered it my responsibility and my fault, and I honestly wasted a lot of the time I was in school. I refused to do the schoolwork; I just sat there and read the dictionary. I had a deep fear of education because I felt I was incompetent."

Then came a turning point: she agreed to work through a booklet on health and take a multiple-choice test at the end. She found that she was fascinated by human physiology, particularly the circulatory system. She also discovered that she tested well. Because she'd had rudimentary clinical experience attending to her younger siblings' medical needs, it occurred to her that she might pursue a job in medicine. She began working toward her GED.

At age 17, she met a childless couple from Murfreesboro, Allen and Melanie Howell, who informally adopted her. When she turned 18, she took their last name and a new first name, Kaitlen. "I became my own person," she said. "I was not my biological parents' child. I was not the object, the slave they created me to be." Encouraged by her adoptive parents, Kaitlen applied to MTSU and was accepted as a science major on the pre-med track—against the advice of her last foster mother, who insisted she belonged at a community college. She secured Pell Grants and worked 30 hours a week to pay her tuition.

continued on page 34

**Kaitlen Howell represents
how far you can come with
perseverance and some
helping hands**

The Faces of Fulbright

Following are other MTSU Fulbright winners through the years.



BRIAN
CHANCE (2001)



BRANDON
ARMSTRONG (2008)



ERIC LITTLE (2010)



PATRICK
PRATT (2011)



KIMBERLY
YARBOROUGH (2011)



ADAM
EMERSON (2012)



DANIEL
GOUGER (2012)



ANNA
YACOVONE (2012)

continued from page 33

She walked into her first science course, chemistry, and heard terms she'd never heard before: "carbon," "atom," "periodic table." She switched to an intro-level class. Still, she failed one test, then another. "I remember the paralysis of knowing I was going to fail my test and there was nothing I could do about it," she says. "I had not studied. I had no idea *how* to study." Panicked, she went to her professor. "She asked me, 'Are you reading the textbook? Are you taking notes? What are you doing with the notes?'"

Howell learned how to study and ended up with a B in chemistry. She says it's the grade she's proudest of. It's also the only non-A on her college transcript.

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL

Kaitlen is a perfect example of what can happen when raw talent is noticed and nurtured, says Laura Clippard, who first met Howell as a counselor at Student Support Services. "A number of faculty reached out to work with Kaitlen and encourage her," Clippard says. "Even though Kaitlen does have great innate ability, she needed encouragement to develop self-confidence."

Howell agrees: "At MTSU, I found a lot of avenues that fostered my learning, my curiosity, my personal growth, and even my own healing process from some of the things I had to deal with from my past."

She received free tutoring and guidance from Student Support Services and took 24 hours of remedial coursework to make up for the deficits in her education. But even after the As began piling up, she was astonished when Clippard invited her to become a peer tutor in biology. It was another turning point.

"I absolutely loved it," Howell says. "It was invigorating, helping people understand the material and relating it to their world. I felt confident."

In 2008, Clippard transferred to the Honors College to become its academic advisor and undergraduate fellowships coordinator. Her job is to advise MTSU's applicants to highly competitive scholarship programs like the Fulbright, the U.S. government's flagship international educational program. Until then, the University had produced two Fulbright scholars; Clippard made it her priority to actively recruit other potential winners. She set her sights on Howell.

Howell had read online about the Fulbright Program. "My initial thought was, 'Well, that's above me,'" she recalls. But Clippard urged her to apply, working with her through the months-long application process. In 2010, Howell was one of two Fulbright winners from MTSU.

THE HUMAN TOUCH

After graduating with dual degrees in biology and foreign languages (German), Howell spent the next 18 months in Germany, conducting epidemiological research as a Fulbright Scholar and intern. In March 2012, she returned to the United States, got married, and began applying to medical schools. She has been accepted to Stanford and Harvard medical schools and will visit each campus this Spring. She plans to go into clinical and academic medicine, having learned from her Fulbright experience that she prefers human interaction to pure research.

In fact, the Fulbright Program is as much about human interaction as it is about scholarship. Named for the late U.S. senator J. William Fulbright, it is designed to promote peace and mutual understanding. "Fulbright believed that perspectives aren't changed through governmental policies but through one-on-one interactions," Howell says.

That philosophy is particularly relevant to her experience. "Toward the end of my time with my biological family, I wasn't even sure I wanted to be alive," she says. "At MTSU, my professors treated me with respect, as if I were a human being. Just having them meet my eyes and acknowledge my existence made so much difference in my life. I know that the smallest things truly can impart change."

Even as she prepares for the next step in her education, Howell continues to put the Fulbright philosophy into action as a tutor for MTSU students and local school children. She will also officially represent and promote the program in 2013 as one of 20 Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors on college campuses nationwide.

In a sense, all Fulbright Scholars are ambassadors, Clippard notes. "A lot of people think Fulbright is just study abroad," she says. "It's really not. It's about making the world a better place."

Clearly, Kaitlen Howell sees that as her mission now. And wherever that mission takes her, she will be an ambassador for hope, and for the university that saw and fostered her potential in the first place. [H](#)



By the Numbers

Almost 1,700 American students, artists, and young professionals in more than 100 different fields of study were offered Fulbright grants to study, teach English, and conduct research in over 140 countries beginning this fall. Of the 1,700 Fulbrighters, 19 percent are at the Ph.D. level, 17 percent are at the master's level, and 65 percent are at the bachelor's level. Students receiving awards for this academic year applied through 600 colleges or universities.

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 318,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. In the past 66 years, more than 44,000 students from the United States have benefited from the Fulbright experience. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright is one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships and its flagship international educational exchange program.

Among the thousands of prominent Fulbright alumni is Muhammad Yunus, a former MTSU faculty member who is managing director and founder of Grameen Bank, and the recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. [H](#)

A Triple Play

A look at the great diversity of student research and achievement in the Honors College

by Patsy Weiler

Three young scholars who separately have soared to new heights in aerospace research, studied parasites in horse manure, and written a new language are all part of the Honors College, where creative exploration of learning is nurtured and encouraged.

Eric Guyes, Ellen Goertzen, and Tyler Whitaker wrote theses on their findings as part of Honors College requirements designed, says Dean John R. Vile, to “give our students an edge when they apply to graduate and professional schools.”

“These theses are only three from among many on which our students are working, but they highlight both the depth and diversity of student interests,” he continues. “One of my greatest joys as dean is the opportunity to see cutting-edge research in such a wide variety of disciplines.”



HOW IT WORKS

In your mind's eye, conjure an image of your bedroom. Where is the bed? What color are the curtains? Which posters hang on the walls? You know all of these details and can “see” your bedroom in your mind. Imagine this: while you are away from home, someone moves your bed to the other side of the room. When you enter the room, your brow furrows and you think, “Whoa, who moved my bed?” The rearranged room is different from your mental image, and you notice the change instantly. My thesis software follows the same process by comparing two images pixel-by-pixel. To create the image at right, we first took a photograph of the jet engine by itself (below). I then stepped in front of the engine and was photographed (above). My shirt and the engine are different colors, so when my software compared the two photographs, it created an image that displays objects in both photographs. This is like walking into your bedroom and seeing not only your bed's new location but also where it used to be!



EYE TO THE SKY

Eric Guyes is a young man who has his feet on the ground and his eyes on the sky.

A fifth-year senior, the Virginia native has targeted a future in aeronautics research and maybe teaching. Meanwhile, as an undergraduate, Guyes has been seizing as many learning opportunities as possible, including undertaking two research projects as well as working as a physics professor's research assistant in 2011.

"I have been fascinated with aerospace my entire life," he says.

Guyes wrote his Honors thesis about developing a functioning motion analysis program in MATLAB (Matrix Laboratory), a high-level technical computing language. Future students will utilize sense-and-avoid technology, which is used in unmanned vehicles to automatically maneuver them safely.

"The ultimate goal is to create a program that can be implemented in autonomous air- and ground-based vehicles to prevent them from colliding with obstacles," Guyes says. "This project allows me to simultaneously explore my interests in aerospace and physics."

Guyes, a licensed pilot (who likes to run with his friends and is interested in nutrition and martial arts), enjoyed working with his thesis advisor, physics professor Eric Klumpe, who "was a great motivator." Both share an interest in aerospace, and Klumpe has previous computer programming and modeling experience.

The recipient of a Buchanan Fellowship—the highest academic award offered by MTSU and the University Honors College—Guyes also received a \$2,500 URECA grant. URECA

(Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity), is an interdisciplinary, campus-wide initiative that provides financial support to encourage students to get involved in research and creative projects.

Guyes used his grant to develop a laboratory module designed to give aerospace technology students practical and theoretical understanding of the physics employed in jet engines.

"The entire creative process has been enormously rewarding," says Guyes.

Working closely with assistant professor Nate Callender in the Aerospace Department, Guyes says the "developmental cost of an in-house model will be a fraction of a commercially produced unit's price while satisfactorily educating students about gas turbine theory."

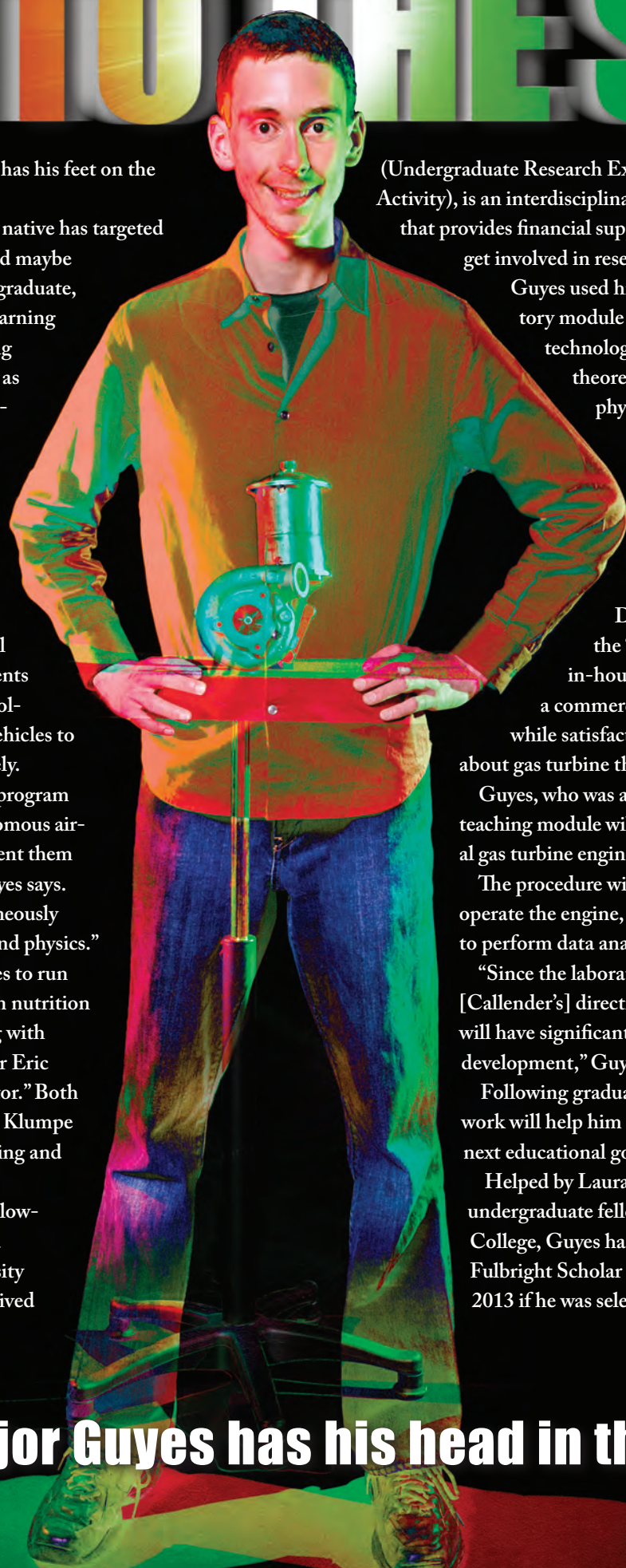
Guyes, who was also a physics tutor, says the teaching module will consist of a small operational gas turbine engine and a laboratory procedure.

The procedure will show students how to operate the engine, how to obtain data, and how to perform data analysis to determine results.


"Since the laboratory module will be under [Callender's] direction once it is completed, he will have significant influence on the project's development," Guyes adds.

Following graduation, Guyes hopes his hard work will help him soar toward achieving his next educational goal.

Helped by Laura Clippard, who coordinates undergraduate fellowships in the Honors College, Guyes has applied for a prestigious Fulbright Scholar award. He will learn in spring 2013 if he was selected for a Fulbright grant. [H](#)



Physics major Guyes has his head in the clouds

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a black t-shirt and light green riding pants, is smiling and looking up at a dark brown horse. She is holding the horse's lead rope. The horse is wearing a black halter with silver buckles. They are in an outdoor setting with a white fence and green trees in the background.

*Collecting manure doesn't
deter horse enthusiast
Goertzen's desire to help area equines*

Not Horsing Around

Horse owners
can use the data
and information
in my project to
**make better
decisions**
for the health of
their animals.

Animal science major and Buchanan Fellow Ellen Goertzen knows her University Honors College research isn't something most people would discuss during dinner. After all, collecting and freezing manure samples and then studying them for equine intestinal parasites is a project few might want to touch. However, Goertzen, who owns, trains, and rides horses for fun and competition, felt right at home in the various barns where she collected her specimens.

"My research focused on horse parasites, the eggs of which can be seen in the manure when examined under a microscope with a special technique called the McMaster technique," Goertzen says. "This technique uses specially marked slides with a slot in which I injected the feces after some processing."

The Slidell, La., native says her main motivation for pursuing this area of research is a desire to contribute to the overall well-being of horses.

"As a horse owner and enthusiast, I have a strong personal interest in any research that leads to improving the health of our horses," she says. "A parasite study was relatively straightforward and required some equipment but nothing too complex or expensive. I could do most of the research on my own, and because I could freeze my samples for later use, I could do it in my own time."

Goertzen gathered at least two samples from 60 horses boarded at six different barns. When frozen, the airtight bags of manure were kept in various Davis Science Building freezers and defrosted under hot water before being tested.

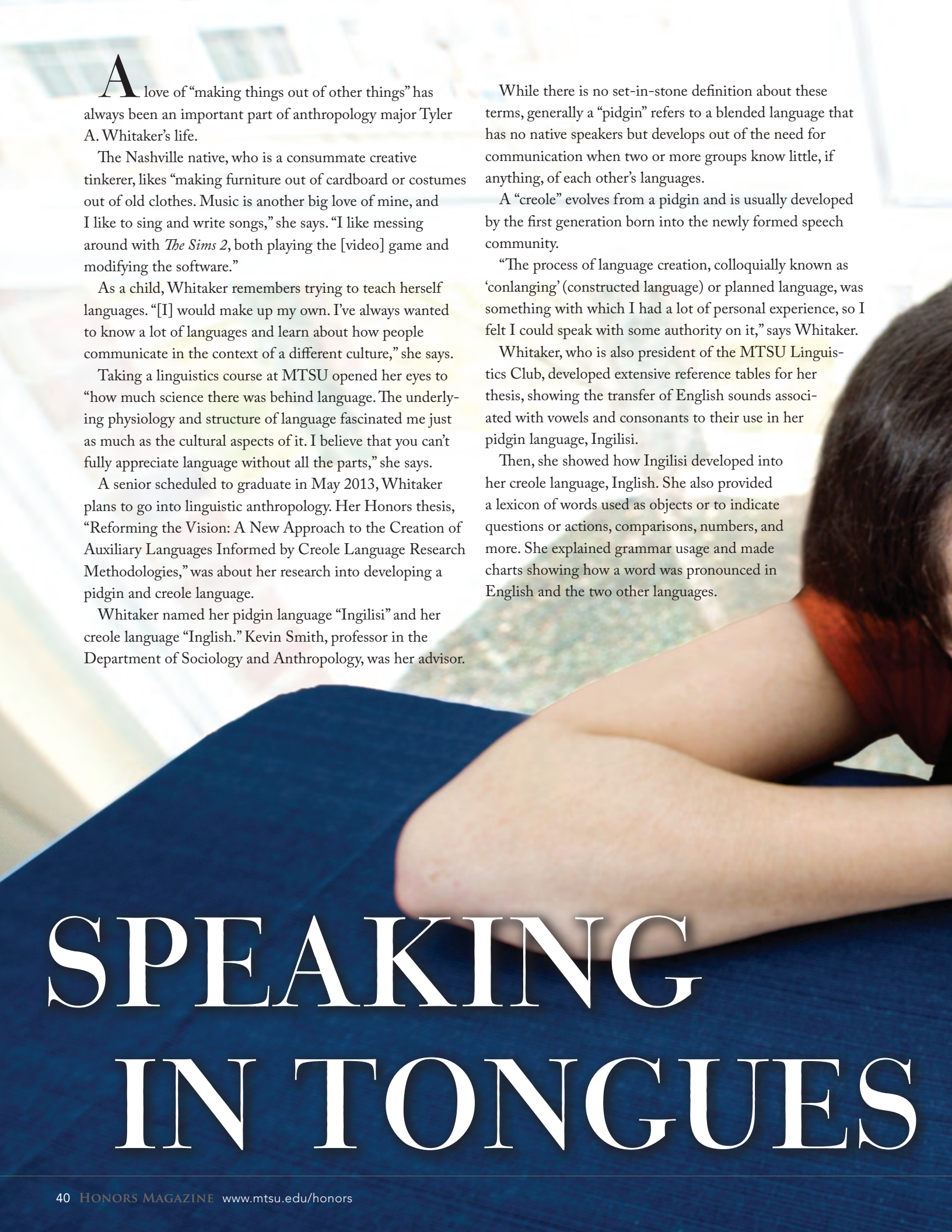
"The project was a survey of horse deworming programs that are currently being used in this area, and then I compared these practices with the actual need [amount and type of parasite eggs found in the feces of the horses]," Goertzen says. "I then designed a program for each barn based on actual results."

Her findings showed it is more effective to use a rotation of treatments rather than just one product, and that a fairly aggressive deworming program is needed to maintain low to zero levels of parasites.

"Horse owners can use the data and information in my project to make better decisions for the health of their animals," Goertzen says. "Even if individual fecal testing might be impractical, I have at least shown that rotation of products is much more effective than nonrotation, and that a relatively frequent deworming program is necessary for this region."

She says the horse owners, MTSU equine veterinary medicine specialist Johnny Haffner, Rebekah Norman of the UT Extension, and her advisor, biology professor Anthony Newsome, provided a great deal of time and expertise for her project.

Goertzen (who cooks and plays the violin and is an MTSU equestrian team member), says her work "is a good starting place for further study in parasite management research. A good project is a small part of the definite answer, which takes many more repetitions and followup studies." [H](#)



A love of “making things out of other things” has always been an important part of anthropology major Tyler A. Whitaker’s life.

The Nashville native, who is a consummate creative tinkerer, likes “making furniture out of cardboard or costumes out of old clothes. Music is another big love of mine, and I like to sing and write songs,” she says. “I like messing around with *The Sims 2*, both playing the [video] game and modifying the software.”

As a child, Whitaker remembers trying to teach herself languages. “[I] would make up my own. I’ve always wanted to know a lot of languages and learn about how people communicate in the context of a different culture,” she says.

Taking a linguistics course at MTSU opened her eyes to “how much science there was behind language. The underlying physiology and structure of language fascinated me just as much as the cultural aspects of it. I believe that you can’t fully appreciate language without all the parts,” she says.

A senior scheduled to graduate in May 2013, Whitaker plans to go into linguistic anthropology. Her Honors thesis, “Reforming the Vision: A New Approach to the Creation of Auxiliary Languages Informed by Creole Language Research Methodologies,” was about her research into developing a pidgin and creole language.

Whitaker named her pidgin language “Ingilisi” and her creole language “English.” Kevin Smith, professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was her advisor.

While there is no set-in-stone definition about these terms, generally a “pidgin” refers to a blended language that has no native speakers but develops out of the need for communication when two or more groups know little, if anything, of each other’s languages.

A “creole” evolves from a pidgin and is usually developed by the first generation born into the newly formed speech community.

“The process of language creation, colloquially known as ‘conlanging’ (constructed language) or planned language, was something with which I had a lot of personal experience, so I felt I could speak with some authority on it,” says Whitaker.

Whitaker, who is also president of the MTSU Linguistics Club, developed extensive reference tables for her thesis, showing the transfer of English sounds associated with vowels and consonants to their use in her pidgin language, Ingilisi.


Then, she showed how Ingilisi developed into her creole language, English. She also provided a lexicon of words used as objects or to indicate questions or actions, comparisons, numbers, and more. She explained grammar usage and made charts showing how a word was pronounced in English and the two other languages.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

“Although I enjoyed the research aspect of it, the actual language creation was the most fun and engaging part for me,” she says. “Being able to see the language that was once only theoretical gradually become real and usable was very exciting.”

Whitaker says she hopes “the use of the language I created [will help] to facilitate global communication.

The language aims to be easy to pronounce and to learn, so people of practically any linguistic background would be able to use it.” [H](#)



**Anthropology
researcher Whitaker
creates new languages**



If you see Kelsey Wells walking across campus, you'll probably see a fiddle case on her back. But she's not a music major. She's not a recording industry major, either. She's not even a music minor. She's just a musician (and quite an accomplished one) who has a lot of other interests that are sure to take her far after she graduates.

Kelsey Wells is well on her way to becoming a jack-of-all-trades (master of some)

Like many college freshmen, Wells had no idea what she wanted to major in. After taking Eric Klumpe's Honors astronomy class, she considered physics. After taking not one but two German classes with Thomas Heine, she considered majoring in foreign languages. And after taking, on a whim, storytelling with Jette Halladay (which led to her involvement in other theater productions), she even briefly considered a major in speech and theater.

Finally, because she enjoys all types of art, Wells decided on a major in mass comm, concentrating in visual communication, and minors in math and German.

Fiddlin' Around

The Honors College has been very supportive of Wells's varied interests. Officials there celebrated with her when she received a scholarship for summer study of old-time music and dance at the Swannanoa Gathering at Warren Wilson College; and when she was awarded a work-study position the next summer at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, where she studied letterpress and intaglio printing; and last summer, when she worked as a graphic designer and music education intern at the Folk School of Chattanooga. Some of her work from Penland has been published in *Collage*, the Honors College's creative journal. Now, as she works on her thesis project, she is able to combine many of her studies as she explores the influences of African music on traditional fiddling in southern Appalachia.

"That was one reason MTSU's Honors College appealed to me," Wells says. "Being a part of the Buchanan fellowship program has given me the opportunity to gain a well-rounded education."

Her interests in music and storytelling intersect in a tall tale she wrote and performed about the Carter Family, known as the "first family of country music." The story was published in *Don't Forget This Song: Four Writers Celebrate the Carter Family and Other Roots Musicians*, a project headed by Tennessee poet laureate Maggi Vaughn. (Wells has also been a staff writer for *Sidelines*, MTSU's student-run newspaper, and was also awarded the College of Mass Communication's Gene Graham Journalism Award in 2011.)

Kelsey and her mother, Kory, released an album of spoken word and old-time music at the Southern Festival of Books last October. The duo combined Kory's poems and Kelsey's roots music on the CD *Decent Pan of Cornbread*. (Kory, a published poet, has written a novel that was a finalist in the William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition sponsored by the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society. Her nonfiction has been praised by *Ladies' Home Journal*, and her work appears in numerous publications, including the *Christian Science Monitor*.) The duo has been performing together since 2009, when Kory's book of poetry, *Heaven Was the Moon*, was published by March Street Press.

"For my very first reading, which was at Southern Festival, I asked Kelsey to accompany me," Kory says. "Several of the poems in my book refer to music, so the idea came from that commonality, and we thought it was worth a try."

At the end of that first reading, Kory says, a man from the audience—no one she knew—handed her a piece of paper torn from a notebook. A short note said, "CD with poetry and music . . . the family affair . . . good luck." From that day, Kory says, the duo knew their act resonated with audiences. Many of her poems, inspired by the family's southern Appalachian roots and life in the South, are a good match

for Kelsey's old-time style of fiddling, claw-hammer banjo, washboard, and more. The younger Wells accompanies her mom's words with renditions of old-time standards like "Cluck, Old Hen" and "Shady Grove" as well as original tunes.

In addition to appearing at several festivals over the past few years, the mother-daughter duo has also performed at bookstores, libraries, museums, and other venues, including twice on WDVX Knoxville's live radio show, *The Blue Plate Special*.


Kelsey, the 2012 Traditional Fiddling Champion at Uncle Dave Macon Days, has also garnered honors in past years at the Great Southern Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention and in the Grand Master Traditional Fiddler Championship. An alumna of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, she now teaches fiddle and performs frequently in the middle Tennessee area and beyond. She is a member of the band Sweet Fancy Moses.

Kelsey is also the Alice Cobb Fellow for Nashville Folk + Free Skool, where she does design work, teaches workshops, and leads jams and community singings. This summer, she plans to travel to Norway and Denmark through a study-abroad program led by Jette Halladay to teach American folklore and music in elementary schools. Kelsey's sights are set on putting her education and experience to work combining performance and sustainable teaching into a career in music and folk art.

Wells admits that when it came time to go to college, part of her thought that she should move away from her hometown of Murfreesboro.

"But the appeal of the Honors College, the warm atmosphere of the Honors building, and the advantages of being a Buchanan Fellow convinced me to try MTSU," she says.

She also likes being close to Nashville, where she can attend old-time jams, square dances, and important events such as the Grand Master Traditional Fiddler Championship (where she placed third in 2010).

Now that's more than just fiddlin' around! 



Back in the Middle of It All

The new Student Union Building puts the Honors College at the heart of things by Drew Ruble

In just the past few years, \$400 million in new facilities have either opened for use or are under construction at MTSU. For students, staff, and alumni alike, it's exciting to see all the new and exciting developments taking place.

Much of that new construction—including the University's new \$65 million Student Union Building—is occurring on the burgeoning east side of campus, smack dab in the vicinity of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Virtually overnight, the fall 2012 opening of the three-story, 211,000-square-foot Student Union relocated the heart of campus just outside the Honors building's front door.

It's a far cry from when the Honors building was built, remembers Dean John Vile.

"Back then, it seemed like an isolated way station," Vile says. By contrast, Vile says, "now it is in the middle of all the action!"

As prospective students visit MTSU and likely enter the campus from the east side, where the Student Union and the new Student Services Building (under construction) are, students will no doubt become increasingly aware of the Honors College.

"The juxtaposition of the huge new Student Union Building and the intimate Honors College highlights both the size and diversity of programs that the University has to offer," Vile says, "as well as the boutique, Ivy League-feel of the Honors College."

A New Heart of Campus

President Sidney A. McPhee says the new Student Union has created a greater sense of community for MTSU students and a place where they can connect with the campus and with each other.

"It is a gathering place, somewhere to recharge, collaborate, or simply unwind," he says. "It's also an important gathering point for many of our students who live off-campus. Such spaces enrich our campus by strengthening our student-centered learning culture."

Deb Sells, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, expresses similar excitement about the future that the new building represents for MTSU.


"The new union is the hub—the heart—of the MTSU community," Sells says. "It has become a visible representation of the True Blue spirit, as faculty, staff, and students come together to eat, meet, relax, and socialize."

Just the Facts

The length of the building is one-and-a-half football fields, or 150 yards. It contains Phillips Bookstore; a 640-seat food court and 102-seat casual-dining restaurant; an 840-seat ballroom; student government, the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership and other offices; a parliamentary room; a theater; and a collaborative computer center.

Dunkin' Donuts and Popeyes highlight food options at the new union. Other fast-food establishments include the Blue Raider Grill, Tortilla Fresca, Panda Express, Happy Tomato, and the Totally Baked Potato Bar. ARAMARK/MT Dining is managing all food service.

Dean Vile says the nearby presence of such tasty new food options has presented him with a great opportunity for personal development.

"The new Student Union Building has enabled me to strengthen my character by limiting the number of times I go to Popeyes," he says. 

Burriss Receives MTSU Foundation Career Achievement Award

In August 2012, Dr. Larry L. Burriss became the sixth Honors faculty member in the last 12 years to receive the MTSU Foundation Career Achievement Award. A professor of journalism, Burriss teaches American Media and Social Institutions in the Honors College and, occasionally, Honors Media Law.

According to the award ceremony program, "Dr. Burriss is the epitome of the master teacher and is recognized by his students and colleagues alike for his outstanding teaching in journalism. His colleagues are impressed by his passion for his students; his students are inspired and captivated by his knowledge of the subject matter; and both enjoy his quick wit and lively sense of humor. He teaches undergraduate courses in introductory and media law, and at the graduate level he teaches quantitative research methods and media law."

Burriss has been published often in academic and popular publications and is sought after for his commentary in print and broadcast forums. "His commentaries are considered to be lucid, timely, and always factually beyond reproach," according to his award bio.

Dr. Burriss earned a B.A. in broadcast journalism and an M.A. in journalism from Ohio State University, an M.S. in

human relations from the University of Oklahoma, a Ph. D. in communication from Ohio State University, and a J.D. from Concord Law School (Kaplan University).

The Career Achievement Award was created in 2000 and is awarded to full-time faculty members with a minimum of 10 years service to the University at the rank of full professor or 15 years of full-time service. Candidates must be nominated by a minimum of five persons and must have exhibited profound, sustained, and high-quality contributions to the University.

Previous Honors faculty members who have received the award are John R. Vile (Political Science, 2011), Gary P. Wulfsberg (Chemistry, 2010), Robert F. Carlton (Physics and Astronomy, 2007), June Hall McCash (Foreign Languages and Literatures, 2002), and Philip M. Mathis (Biology, 2001). [H](#)



Honors Council members, 2012–2013: (front, L–R) Philip Phillips, Dennis Mullen, Kaylene Gebert (chair), John Vile, (second row) John Pennington, Martha Hixon, Bob Pondillo, Rebecca Seipelt, (third row) Jane Marcellus, (fourth row) Mark Owens, Jordan Dodson, Craig Rice. Not pictured: David Foote, Joey Gray, Laura Morgan, Donald Snead.

Schmidt Named Interim Chair of Psychology

Psychology Department graduate coordinator and former Honors College associate dean Greg Schmidt was named interim chair of the Psychology Department in August.

A long-time associate of the Honors College, Schmidt began teaching Honors Psychology 2210 (Psychology of Social Behavior) in 1990. In 1996, he became the College of Education and Behavioral Science's liaison to the Honors Program. A few years later, he became assistant program director and finally assistant/associate dean.

Schmidt fondly recalls his early Honors duties with then-Honors Program director John Paul Montgomery. "My primary

responsibilities in those days were to assist Dr. Montgomery with CUSTOMS. He had learned over the years that wearing a coat and tie only frightened students, so he developed his famous Jimmy Buffet outfit." Schmidt also assisted Montgomery by going on recruiting trips to east and west Tennessee and eventually handled advising theses from the natural and social sciences.

Honors event coordinator Georgia Dennis, an employee of MTSU for 35 years, recalls that Schmidt was very concerned about the students and was very approachable. "Greg Schmidt was a very active participant in the Honors Program and attended every Honors student activity. He



and Dr. Montgomery were strong believers in experiential, interactive programs, such as the Honors Lyceum, which was a fixture on campus for many years."

Since returning to the Psychology Department full time in 2004, following Dr. Montgomery's retirement, Schmidt has maintained his connection to the Honors College by occasionally serving as a thesis advisor and by presenting Ingram-Montgomery Scholarship winners at the spring awards ceremony. [H](#)



Representatives of the Honors College at Western Kentucky University, who are preparing to build an honors building on their campus, toured the Martin Honors Building in December, learning from Dean John Vile, Interim Associate Dean Philip Phillips, and advisor Laura Clippard.



Writer Michael Knight, whose fiction has appeared in publications such as the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and *Oxford American*, spoke to Ron Kates's Honors English class in October. Knight, the author of two novels, two collections of short fiction, and a collection of novellas, is from Knoxville.



Michelle Blackwell, left, director of admissions and enrollment services, meets representatives of Chattanooga State Community College: Dr. Susan Stocker, honors program director, and Dr. Robert M. Denn, dean of school relations and university articulation. Blackwell and Dean John Vile visited the college in August to discuss its new honors program.



Honors faculty member Kaylene Gebert (back row, right) had a birthday party for her mother Loretta Gebert (front row, right) November 16 and was joined by friends from the Provost's Office (front L-R) Pat Thomas, Lynn Sewak, Becky Cole, Allison McGoffin, (back) Janice Lewis, and Faye Johnson.



Lena Klepikova, a junior majoring in journalism at Moscow State University, stopped by the Honors College August 29 to conduct interviews with Dean John Vile and Dr. Kaylene Gebert, a resident Honors faculty member.

Fifty-eight National Parks in Twelve Years!

by Karen Demonbreum

My husband, Tim, and I have always loved visiting our country's national parks. We both visited a few with our parents as we were growing up, but as children we did not really appreciate them.

After we got married in 1990, we started visiting the national parks, and by July 1999, we had been to 13: Carlsbad Caverns (New Mexico), Crater Lake (Oregon), Glacier (Montana), Grand Canyon (Arizona), Haleakala (Hawaii), Mt. Rainier (Washington), Petrified Forest (Arizona), Rocky Mountain (Colorado), Sequoia (California), Great Smoky Mountains

(Tennessee), Virgin Islands, Volcanoes (Hawaii), and Yosemite (California).

During a February 2000 ski trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, we rode snowmobiles into Yellowstone National Park in a blinding snowstorm. We went into the visitor center to get warm and saw cute little blue passport books in which visitors could collect the unique stamp of each national park. We thought that was a great idea, but it would mean having to revisit the 13 parks we had already seen to get all the stamps.

I challenged Tim by saying he would never take me to all of them.

Well, after twelve and a half years and a lot of money, we completed the challenge. Park employees told us that we were only the fifth couple in the last two years to make it to American Samoa to finish our quest of visiting all 58 national parks. Which one is our favorite? We cannot possibly choose just one; they are all beautiful in their own way, but we do agree on our least favorite parks; Congaree (a.k.a. "the Swamp," in South Carolina—sorry Dr. Jim Williams) and Cuyahoga Valley in Ohio.



Tim and Karen Demonbreum waiting to board a bush plane for Kobuk Valley National Park in Alaska.



A bear in Katmai National Park catches lunch.



Karen kayaks in the Channel Islands National Park, California.



A flying fox (fruit bat) in American Samoa National Park.

Background photo: Kenai Fjords National Park in the Gulf of Alaska.

We have had some extraordinary experiences. We have rafted the middle fork of the Flathead River (with class 4 and 5 rapids) in Glacier National Park in Montana. This is the same river on which *The River Wild*, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon, was shot. We have hiked to Vogelsang High Sierra camp in Yosemite. We have sea kayaked in the Channel Islands National Park in California, exploring many sea caves. We have sea kayaked right up to a tidewater glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska. We have flown in a bush plane from Kotzebue, Alaska, to Kobuk Valley National

Park and landed directly on the sand dunes, which was more than a little scary. We have worn crampons and hiked all day on the Root Glacier in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (the biggest park of the 58).

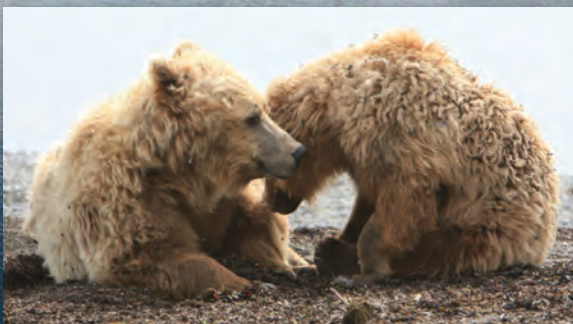
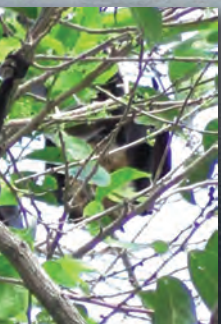
We've ridden mules down the Bright Angel Trail to spend the night at Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon. We've taken a small plane out of Homer, Alaska, and landed right on the beach in Katmai National Park, where we saw grizzly bears with no protective barriers between us and them. Many were a mere 15 feet away grazing or sleeping. We have witnessed a lean, hungry white wolf

catching salmon only to have bears take them away from him. We have seen breathtaking scenery of unimaginable beauty. Never was a more accurate statement ever made than "Pictures just don't do it justice."

This has been an absolutely fantastic journey, and we wouldn't trade our experiences for anything.

The adventure continues...

After Karen and Tim completed visits of all 58 National Parks in August 2012, President Obama signed legislation January 10, 2013 to change Pinnacles National Monument in California to a National Park. [H](#)



Bears awakening from a nap in Katmai National Park, Alaska.



Tim and Karen Demonbreum receive certificates from National Park employees in American Samoa.

Certificate received by Tim and Karen Demonbreum for visiting all 58 national parks.





Tandra Martin



Student presenters

photo by J. Ingham

Students, Faculty Highlight **Annual BOV Meeting**

Presentations by six students and an Honors faculty member were highlights of the annual fall meeting of the Honors College Board of Visitors on October 26, 2012.

Board members heard from five current students who have received support and resources from the Honors College to strive for their goals: Meredith Holt (science/pre-med), Tandra Martin (international relations), Christopher Merchant (mass communication/journalism), Michael Swift (political science), and Kelsey Wells (mass communication/visual communication). MTSU alumna Kaitlen Howell presented her story of overcoming grave adversity and finding uncommon success as a college student and Fulbright Scholar.

Brian M. Ingrassia, assistant professor of history, offered an account of the origins of college football taken from his book, *The Rise of Gridiron University: Higher Education's Uneasy Alliance with Big-Time Football*. The book, published in March 2012 by University Press of Kansas, traces football's "evolution from a gentlemen's pastime to a multimillion dollar enterprise that made athletics a permanent fixture on our nation's campuses."

The 14 board members present also toured the new Student Union Building with student tour guide Jordan Hall and heard reports on the University's comprehensive campaign from Nick Perlick, Development Office director, and the state of the Honors College from Dean John R. Vile. A business meeting concluded the day's agenda. [H](#)

Mark Hall: A Supremely Acclaimed Honors Alum

Mark Hall, a 1977 Honors graduate and now a Wake Forest University School of Law professor, led the preparation of a brief that was signed by more than 100 law professors and filed January 13, 2012, with the United States Supreme Court concerning the most controversial aspect of the health care reform law—the individual mandate, which requires all Americans to buy health insurance. The brief by Hall and other law professors was in support of the provision and the legislation.

The high court heard arguments in March 2012 on the constitutionality of this particular provision and ruled in June that the mandate requiring Americans to buy health care insurance or pay a penalty is not authorized under the Constitution's commerce clause, but it can stay as part of Congress's power under a taxing clause. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg specifically cited Hall's brief in her concurring opinion.

Hall, who is the Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest, is a former member of the Honors College Board of Visitors. He has been a

loyal supporter of the Honors College Bart McCash Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a second-semester junior or senior honoring the memory of Dr. Bart McCash. As an Honors student in 1976, Hall successfully defended his thesis "These Are Facts that the Heart Can Feel: The Absurd and Its Consequences in the Work of Albert Camus."

Hall is one of the nation's leading scholars in the areas of health care law and policy and medical and bioethics and is the author or editor of fifteen books, including *Health Care Law and Ethics* (Aspen). He conducts research in the areas of consumer-driven health care, doctor/patient trust, insurance regulation, and genetics. [H](#)



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Sidney A. McPhee and alumna Raiko Henderson

Dean John R. Vile and Dr. June McCash with *Sidelines* reporter Quint Qualls.

Don Midgett, center right, with family and friends.

Marilyn and Ted Pyles and son, Matthew, of Everett, Washington

Little Raiders Michael, Rebecca, Samuel, and Sarah Henderson

Meet Members of the **Board of Visitors**



Keta J. Barnes

Smyrna Municipal/General Sessions Court Judge

Judge Keta J. Barnes graduated cum laude from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, with a bachelor's degree. She worked in the insurance industry until she enrolled in the University of Tennessee College of Law. Soon after graduating from law school, she married J. Steven Barnes (director of development, Vanderbilt University Medical Center). They live in Smyrna with their daughter.

Before being elected judge of the Smyrna Municipal/General Sessions Court, Barnes was an attorney for the law firm of Bass, Berry & Sims. Before that, she practiced law at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis.

She is committed to public service and volunteers individually and through the Smyrna Rotary Club and the Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She has served as a steering committee member of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law program and as chair of the Nashville Bar Association Minority Job Fair for Law Students.

In 2006, she became Smyrna's first African American elected official and the first African American female judge elected in Rutherford County.

Judge Barnes received the 2012 J. C. Napier Trailblazer Award. In August 2012, the Judicial Nominating Commission named Barnes a finalist for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court seat vacated by Don Ash.

W. Shane Reeves

Partner, Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services

Shane Reeves earned an undergraduate degree from MTSU and a doctorate of pharmacy from the University of Tennessee.

Reeves and his partner, Rick Sain, built the Reeves-Sain Company into a multimillion-dollar enterprise reaching across the state.

In 1998, Reeves-Sain was awarded Tennessee's Student Preceptors of the Year for excellence in student training by the University of Tennessee. Reeves still serves as a volunteer faculty member for the University of Tennessee and as a member of the Tennessee Pharmacists Association.

He is past chair of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, past president of Leadership Rutherford, and past chair of Tennessee's National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) leadership council.

The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce named Shane Reeves and Rick Sain the 2011 Business People of the Year.

Reeves and his wife, Amanda, live in Murfreesboro with their three children: Will, Jack, and Emma-White.





Jim Tracy

Tennessee State Senator
16th Congressional District

Sen. Jim Tracy is a 1978 graduate of University of Tennessee–Martin. He earned his degree in agriculture education.

For the past 21 years, Senator Tracy has owned and operated Jim Tracy Insurance in Shelbyville. In 2004, he opened an additional office in Murfreesboro. Before owning his own business, Tracy was a schoolteacher and coach. From 1996 to 2004, he was a member of the Bedford County Board of Education, serving as vice chair

for five years. He is now senior cochair of Tennessee’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus.

Senator Tracy served as president of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce in 1992 and 1993 and is a founding member of the Bedford County Economic Development and Tourism Committee. He is also past chair of the Tennessee Leadership Council of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). He is a member of the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

Tracy was a TSSAA basketball official for over 20 years and an NCAA basketball official for 10 years.

Senator Tracy was elected in 2004 to serve Rutherford, Bedford, and Moore counties. In 2007, he was appointed chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. He also serves on the Senate Education and State and Local Government committees. He serves on select joint committees including TACIR, Corrections Oversight, Select Committee of Worker’s Compensation, and Intra-Governmental Relations.

Tracy and his wife, Trena, have been married for 31 years and have three sons: Chad, Craig, and Connor. [H](#)



Honors College Board of Visitors members Jeff Whorley, left, and state senator Jim Tracy, right, participated in a panel discussion October 23 called “Attack Ads in American Politics: How Much Is Too Much?” Bill Fletcher, center, John Geer, Kent Syler, and former congressman Bart Gordon also participated.

Study Abroad Experience

Fuels Desire to Live Abroad

by Carolyn Crawford | Carolyn is a 2008 Honors graduate with a degree in English.

Living abroad is something I love, for both the big adventures and the small delights. It was the opportunity to study abroad in my junior year that set my feet firmly on the path toward living abroad. Though I was only able to spend four months in England in 2007, those months gave me a strong desire to see and experience even more.

After graduation, I spent one year in France interning with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) and a second year as a teacher's assistant in a public high school. I am currently teaching classes from kindergarten to sixth grade at an English academy in Korea. I have thoroughly enjoyed each of these jobs, both for the work I have been able to do and the things I learned in the process. However, it is really the people I have met and the places I have been that set these jobs apart from what I would have been able to experience at home.

One of the best things about traveling is the people that one meets along the way. I spent one unforgettable New Year's Eve drinking champagne under the Eiffel Tower and making new friends. While trying to get to Prague for Christmas, I was stranded in the airport for 24 hours. Eight of those hours were spent waiting in line to talk to an airline representative, and most of that time I was talking and laughing with the stranded passengers around me.

I have found that especially when traveling alone, people are often willing to reach out in ways that you might not experience when traveling with others. When I went to Venice, an elderly Italian man kept talking to me over our morning coffees, but he spoke zero English, and my Italian consists of maybe 10 words. At the end though, he paid for my cappuccino and left with a big smile.


I loved spending four weeks couch surfing in France and Germany. I literally slept on the couches of wonderful strangers who invited me into their homes and shared part of their lives with me. One generous host couple in Nice made me fried chicken and sweet potatoes to remind me of home and then arranged with friends to drive me to a perfumery. My host in Montpellier invited me to spend time with his friends and taught me to play Pétanque, a traditional French game.

When I got strep throat in Berlin, accompanied by a temperature of 104, my host not only went to the doctor with me and acted as translator, he also let me stay an extra night on his couch.

My favorite adventure so far has to be hiking on the Great Wall. A friend and I traveled to Beijing over one of our few vacations and decided to spend a day hiking on one of the less-frequented sections of the wall. We took a bus to a town an hour north of Beijing. Then, following some vague hand gestures from a young girl that I solicited for help, we hopped on a second bus and drove another hour into the countryside. We hiked the rest of the day, surrounded by amazing views and absolutely no people. The feeling of walking along something that is so ancient and steeped in history is something I will never forget.

While the opportunity to travel and explore new places provides abundant adventure, it is the small moments that allow me to find real contentment with my life abroad. To be honest, day-to-day life in a foreign country really isn't that different from home. When one is working, buying groceries, and cleaning the house, one country is pretty much the same as the next. However, for those who love being immersed in a different culture, even these mundane tasks can offer moments of delight.

Trying to navigate a ridiculously crowded cheese aisle in France made me smile, especially because I was normally spying on other shoppers to get a better idea of what to buy. Once while touring a nearby town in France, I had to wade through 1,000 protesters to get the train station, and I was grinning the whole time over the differences between French and American politics.

When riding in a packed subway car in Seoul and watching small kids stare at my pale skin and light hair, I get tickled and waved at them. Recently, one of my kindergarten classes was singing and dancing to "Gangnam Style," South Korean rapper Psy's hit song, on the way to class, and that memory carried me through the rest of a pretty grueling day. Really, I think it is these everyday moments—not the big, amazing adventures—that separate living abroad from traveling abroad, and for me, they make living abroad practically irresistible. 



N Seoul Tower



Château d'Amboise



Halloween
in Korea



The Great Wall



Class Notes {students}

Jared Adams (Political Science), a fall initiate into full Omicron Delta Kappa membership, was elected president of the Interfraternity Council in November.

Whitney Flatt (International Relations) is interning in Washington, D.C., for the spring 2013 semester, working in the areas of food security and sustainable development.

Alex Gibson (Mass Communication) was quoted in a September *Tennessean* article, "On the Air: MTSU Students Producing ESPN3 Broadcasts." He produces online national broadcasts of Blue Raider sports for ESPN3.

Mary Hayden (Biology) presented her Honors thesis research at the 33rd Annual Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) conference in Long Beach, Calif., last fall. Her thesis is "The Study of Selenium

Bioaccumulation in Tetragnathidae Spiders that Prey upon Aquatic Insect Communities Affected by Coal Fly Ash." The Honors College provided funding to help Mary attend the conference.

Kelsey Wells (Mass Communication) won first place in the traditional fiddle category at the 35th annual Uncle Dave Macon Days last July at Cannonsburgh Village.

Tyler Whitaker (Anthropology) has been elected president of the MTSU Linguistics Club. She wrote her Honors thesis on linguistics. She is a founding member of the club, which meets weekly, is open to all students, and is seeking new members.

Juan Zelaya (Entrepreneurship) was chosen to serve on the dean search committee for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. [H](#)



Jacob Basham (Mathematics) presented "Nitrocyclopropanation of Amino Acid Derived Enones" at the McNair Scholars 13th Annual Research Symposium in August. He has been accepted at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine (Memphis).

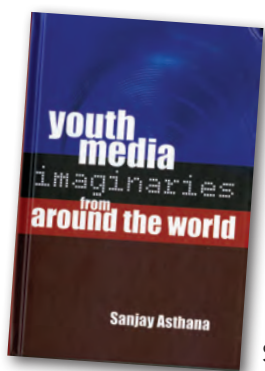


Jake Verhoeff (Social Work) presented "Stigmatization of PTSD: Is Stigmatization Different with Active Duty and Reserve Military Forces?" at the McNair Scholars 13th Annual Research Symposium in August.



Joy Oduor (Biology and Anthropology) presented "Sociocultural Elements of Obesity in American Indian/Native Alaskan Populations" at the McNair Scholars 13th Annual Research Symposium in August.

Class Notes {faculty and staff}



Sanjay Asthana (Journalism) is the author of *Youth Media Imaginaries from Around the World*, published in September 2012. The book demonstrates how young people from around the world use the media for identity and focuses on five youth media initiatives from India, Israel, Palestine, South Africa, and the United States.

Claudia Barnett (English) was honored to receive this year's Distinguished Creative Activity Award from MTSU. In 2011–12, she served as Downstage Left Resident Playwright at Stage Left Theater in Chicago, where her new play, *Witches Vanish*, was included in LeapFest 9. In May, she traveled to Seville, Spain, where her one-act play *He Killed My Bird; or, Now That We're in Heaven* (inspired by her Honors English 2020 class, *Women Who Kill*) had a staged reading at the 4th International Conference of American Drama and Theater. Carnegie Mellon University Press published her book, *I Love You Terribly: Six Plays*, in 2012.

Janis Brickey (Human Sciences) has been promoted and tenured as associate professor. She was nominated for the Dean's Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2012.

Nate Callender (Aerospace) was awarded a TAF Discipline Specific Grant to equip an aerospace technology laboratory. The lab consists of three wind tunnels, a water tunnel, a flight test simulator, two workstations for computer aided design (CAD) and computational fluid dynamics (CFD), several different CFD packages, iPads, dosimeters, foam cutters, and other pieces of equipment. An aerospace Honors student is using an iPad and the simulator to perform research for his thesis. Another student is designing an unmanned aerial system (UAS) with CAD software for use by the UAS Division in the Aerospace Department. Two sections of AERO 1020, Theory of Flight, and the one section of AERO 3440, Fundamentals of Aerodynamics, have benefited from flow visualizations presented using an iPad with a wind tunnel app and visualizations performed with the new flow visualization wind tunnel. A physics student, for

whom Callender is faculty mentor, was awarded an URECA grant to develop a turbojet engine demonstrator to be housed in the new laboratory.

Laura Clippard (Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator) was quoted in a *Daily News Journal* article, "MTSU Matches Needs on Foreign Languages," June 25, 2012. The article focused on MTSU's promotion of the Critical Language Scholarship, which funds intensive language instruction abroad for students.

Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences) was chair and co-organizer of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) Special Session on Control of Biological and Physical Systems, which was held at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Boston in January 2012. She also presented "Optimal Control Applied to Native-Invasive Species Competition via a PDE model" in the same session. The electronic *Journal of Differential Equations* accepted her paper of the same name in November. In addition, Ding reviewed papers for *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics*, *Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering*, *Mathematical Biosciences*, and the *Journal of Biological Dynamics*. Recent workshops she has attended include the Global South Summit in Nashville last November and the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) Nashville Regional Workshop at Vanderbilt University in May.

Laura Dubek (English) has been promoted to professor.

Meredith Dye (Sociology and Anthropology) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2012.

Helen "Joey" Gray (Health and Human Performance) has been promoted and tenured as associate professor.

Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) was featured in the summer 2012 *MTSU Magazine* article "Bonding Them with Science." Iriarte-Gross, director of the GRITS (Girls Raised in Tennessee Science) Collaborative Project, represented Tennessee at a White House Champions of Change event in December 2011.

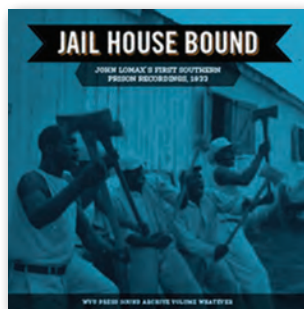
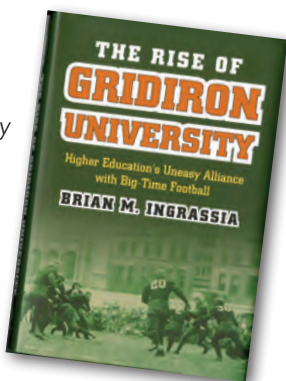
Class Notes {faculty and staff}

Brian P. Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology) is the new coeditor-in-chief of *Sociological Spectrum*, a peer-reviewed social science journal. In addition, he and **Richard Pace** (Sociology and Anthropology) co-authored *Amazon Town TV: An Audience Ethnography in Gurupá, Brazil* set to be available this spring from University of Texas Press. The book employs a mixed-method approach to assess longitudinal effects of television and TV viewing in a community on the Amazon River in the state of Pará. The region has been the focus of nearly six decades of research, beginning with Charles Wagley's *Amazon Town*, and Hinote and Pace explored changes in the community following the introduction of television in 1982. Their study is based on thousands of hours of ethnographic observations, as well as three waves of longitudinal, quantitative data collected in 1986, 1999, and 2009.

Shannon C. Hodge (Sociology and Anthropology) has been promoted and tenured as associate professor.

Martha Hixon (English) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2012.

Brian M. Ingrassia (History), published *The Rise of Gridiron University: Higher Education's Uneasy Alliance with Big-Time Football*, in 2012. The book was quoted in George Will's *Washington Post* column "Pigskin Progressivism" in September 2012.



Mark Jackson (English) compiled, edited, and produced a CD in 2012 called *Jail House Bound: John Lomax's First Southern Prison Recordings, 1933* (West Virginia University Press).

Ron Kates (English) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award in 2012. Also, his Honors English 1010 class and **Hilary Stallings's** Honors University 1010 class were featured in a front-page story in the *Daily*

News Journal in December. For the past three years, Kates and Stallings have taken their students to Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School to work with sixth-grade teacher Gayle Porterfield and her students.

Amy Kaufman (English) presented "Disciplinary Dark Matter" with Laura White at the second biennial meeting of the Babel Working Group in September 2012 in Boston. She was invited lecturer for the L. L. Smith Speaker Series at the University of Wyoming in October. She presented "Medievalism and Fundamentalism in the Twenty-First Century." Kaufman's "'His Princess': An Arthurian Family Drama," was published in *Arthuriana* in 2012. She was also an organizer and participant in a cloud conference roundtable, "Masculinity and Disability in *Game of Thrones*," at the 27th Annual International Conference on Medievalism in October. She was recently appointed director of conferences for the International Society for the Study of Medievalism.

Yang Soo Kim (Speech and Theatre) published "An Island of Koreanness in the Sea of Americanness: An Ethnographic Case Study of Intercultural Communication in Two Tae Kwon Do Schools" in *Human Communication* and "Exploring Communication Competence and Psychological Health: A Study of Cross-Cultural Adaptation among Young Korean Immigrants" in the *Journal of Intercultural Communication*. Kim presented "Ethnic Proximity, Host Communication Competence, and Psychological Health: A Study of Cross-Cultural Adaptation among International Students in the U.S." to the International and Intercultural Communication Division at the annual conference of the National Communication Association in Orlando. Her 2012 awards include a URECA (Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity) grant, a FIRE (Forensic Institute for Research and Education) grant, and a Faculty Development grant.

William S. Levine (English) has been promoted to professor.

Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) and Creon Levit, one of his collaborators at NASA Ames Research Center, published "Probing Electron Dynamics with the Laplacian of the Momentum Density," a chapter in *A Matter of Density: Exploring the Electron Density Concept in the Chemical, Biological, and Materials Sciences*.

Mary Magada-Ward (Philosophy) published the essay “‘Logic Is Rooted in the Social Principle’: The Methodological Virtues of Cosmopolitanism” in *Cosmopolitanism and Place*, edited by Jose Medina, John Stuhr, and Jessica Wahman.

Jane Marcellus (Journalism) attended the National Communication Association conference in Orlando in November to take part in a panel called “Learning from and Teaching with Smart Popular Culture: Feminist Perspectives on Historical Power, Resistance, and Otherness.” Other panelists discussed women’s representation on the show *Mad Men*.

Victor Montemayor (Physics and Astronomy) received the Dean’s Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2012.

Ryan Otter (Biology) and Honors thesis advisee Mary Hayden attended the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Long Beach, Calif., where Hayden presented her thesis research, “The Study of Selenium Bioaccumulation in Tetragnathidae Spiders that Prey upon Aquatic Insect Communities Affected by Coal Fly Ash.”

Mark F. Owens (Economics and Finance) has been tenured and promoted as associate professor.

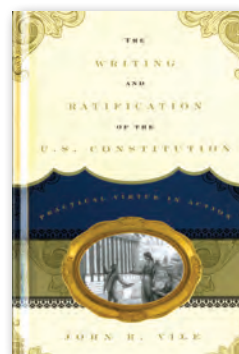
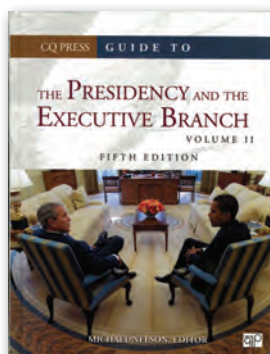
Amy Phelps (Chemistry) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award in 2012.

Philip Phillips (Honors College interim associate dean) participated in the 2012 SACSCOC Summer Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation in Atlanta and the 2012 SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Dallas. He was appointed to the National Collegiate Honors Council’s (NCHC) Assessment and Evaluation Committee and Research Committee. He was a poster judge in the arts and humanities category at the 2012 NCHC Annual Conference in Boston in November. Dr. Phillips recently published an article, “The American Stage,” in *Poe in Context*, edited by Kevin J. Hayes (Cambridge Uni-

versity Press, 2013), and his “Poe’s 1845 Boston Lyceum Appearance Reconsidered” in *Deciphering Poe*, edited by Alexandra Urakova (Lehigh University Press/Roman & Littlefield, 2013) is forthcoming.

Craig J. Rice (Elementary and Special Education) has been tenured as associate professor.

Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was invited by the Confucius Institute to present her work on brain-based teaching at the Southeast Chinese Language Association in September. She was also invited by the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute to help train the institute’s language teachers in January 2013. She is a volunteer mentor of student Raleigh Butler for her senior thesis at Central Magnet School.



John R. Vile (Honors College dean) was published in the October 1, 2012, issue of *The Tennessean*. His opinion section article was headlined “College Is a Sound Investment, and Not Just for the Rich.” He recently published a long chapter called “The Supreme Court and the Presidency” in CQ’s *Guide to the Presidency*. In July, Rowman & Littlefield published his book *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Practical Virtue in Action*.

Louis Lee Woods II (History) published “The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Redlining, and the National Proliferation of Racial and Socioeconomic Lending Discrimination, 1921–1950” in the *Journal of Urban History* (November 2012). [H](#)

Class Notes {alumni and friends}



David Arnold (professor emeritus, Speech and Theatre) wrote a chapter called "The Threat of Secular Education" for *Can Christianity Survive in America?*, published in 2011 by Truth Books.

Mary Lee Barnes (Board of Visitors) is director of Infection Control and Employee Health and staff educator at TrustPoint Hospital in Murfreesboro.

Troy Berry (Mass Communication, 2012) received an award from the Tennessee Association of Press Broadcasters for best sports story in the college division. He wrote and filmed the story about an MTSU golfer; it was included as part of his Honors thesis project. Troy is taking graduate classes in sports management at MTSU and is an assistant volleyball coach for Middle Tennessee Christian School.

Lacey Buchanan (Political Science, 2009) was featured along with her husband Chris and son Christian in the November 14 and November 28 issues of *Sidelines* in "An Adjusted Normal: Finding the New American Dream." Christian was born with a facial disfigurement caused by amniotic band syndrome in the womb. Lacey created a video telling the family's story that went viral on YouTube and GodTube.

Meghan Davis (Speech and Theatre, 2011) is studying theater history, dramaturgy, and criticism at the University of Missouri graduate school. She received a scholarship and a graduate assistant teaching position.

Sarah Gallagher (English and Global Studies, 2012) is working for Youth With a Mission in South Africa.

Alyse Gillman (English, 2010) is attending the University of Alabama School of Law, which provided a scholarship and an all-expenses paid study abroad package that will allow her to study in either Australia or Switzerland next summer and in Tel Aviv or India the following spring. She was also offered a position as an international law research assistant for the dean.

Kasey Brown Gregory

(Sociology, 2006) dropped by the Honors College in the fall to visit "Grammy" (Karen Demonbreum). Kasey has a new baby, daughter Charlene Rose Gregory. Charlene (Charlie) has a big brother, Brennan Tyler, who was born in November 2009. Kasey is married to Josh Gregory, a Rutherford county sheriff's deputy, and she is an account executive for a long-term care pharmacy. She visits customers in nursing homes in middle and west Tennessee.



Eric Little (Foreign Languages, 2008), a former Fulbright Scholar in Portugal, is engaged to Meghan Cathey of Wilmington, North Carolina. The wedding is planned for June 15, 2013, in Durham, North Carolina. Meghan is a third-grade teacher completing an M.A.T. from N.C. State in technology administration. Eric is in his third year at Duke Divinity School in Durham and hopes to be placed as a local licensed pastor in the United Methodist Church in July until he completes divinity school with his M.Div. Following that, the couple plans to return to middle Tennessee, where Eric will pursue ordination in the United Methodist Church in the Tennessee Conference.



Last spring, **Amy Ronner** (English, 2010) graduated from Miami University of Ohio, where she won the Caroline Houtchens Award for best English literature M.A. student. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky, and is taking time off to plan and research before pursuing a Ph.D. Amy's scholarly interests are focused on 19th-century British literature and novel studies. Amy is pictured at left with Dr. Philip Phillips.

Heather Hamm (Communication Disorders, 2012) was accepted into the East Tennessee State University doctor of audiology program for this fall.

Amber Hampton (Global Studies, 2009) was quoted in an August 27 *Daily News Journal* article, "Fighting to Find a Home." The article about resources for Murfreesboro's homeless population included information about Amber's Five Thousand Ministry, which serves breakfast every Sunday morning to the homeless. College students and other volunteers assist with the ministry.

Matthew Hibdon (History, 2012) is pursuing an M.Ed. in administration and supervision with a specialization in higher education at MTSU. He is a graduate assistant in Educational Leadership with cohort programs. Matthew, president of MTSU's Omicron Delta Kappa for two years, was selected for the ODK National Advisory Council.

In November 2012, **Ron Messier** (former director of the MTSU Honors Program and professor emeritus of Middle East History and Historical Archaeology) received an award from the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange at the Centre d' Accueil Mohammed VI in Medinat al Irfan, Morocco. He was one of two Americans to receive an award from the binational commission that administers the Fulbright Program in Morocco. Messier was honored because his work over the last 40 years has exemplified "the spirit of friendship uniting the people" of the United States and Morocco.

Lindsay Gates Paturalski (History, 2012) married in July 2012 and has been accepted into graduate school at Boston College for fall 2013.

Patrick Pratt (International Relations, 2010) has an internship with the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Matthew Schmidt (Chemistry, 2008) graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy (Memphis) in May and is working for CVS.

Aaron Shew (International Relations, Global Studies, 2011) is director of training and research for Agrisoya in Erbil, Iraq. Agrisoya is a company started by the nonprofit organization SALT International. Aaron assists the chief agronomist and conducts seminars, field days, and training sessions with a university, the Ministry of Agriculture, and farmers.

Chad Slaven (Chemistry, 2012) is attending dental school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

Andrew Trivette (Biology, Psychology, 2012) is attending graduate school at MTSU with the goal of earning an M.S. in biology.

Lee Whitwell (Political Science, 2011), a student at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis, has been chosen as a member of the National Moot Court travel team. As an MTSU student, he was a member of the Mock Trial team. [H](#)

2012 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates all the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in 2012.

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a GIVER → → → → → → → → → →

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I am **HONEST** *in word and deed*

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