

HONORS

Edition

2010

FALL



HONOR | COMMITMENT | INTEGRITY | DISCIPLINE | FAITH | CURIOSITY | CHARACTER | CREATIVITY

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Shannon Murphy: USA Today All-USA College Academic Honorable Mention Team, Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship, MTSU Provost's Award.

Merranda Holmes: Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award, Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship.

Jasmine Gray: USA Today All-USA College Academic First Team, Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship, MTSU President's Award.

Kaitlen Howell: Fulbright Scholarship, Germany, MTSU Robert LaLance Award.

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From the Dean's Desk

The spring of 2010 has been an exciting time for the Honors College, and this issue of *Honors Edition* is our opportunity to share some of the highlights with you. I will concentrate on awards that our students have won, because next to the reputation we have among our own students for challenging classes, I can think of nothing more important to helping our program attract a variety of additional quality students than getting regional and national recognition for our current students.

In June, *USA TODAY* honored **Jaz Gray** and **Shannon Murphy** by naming them to its All-American All-Academic Teams. Jaz, who is now attending graduate school at Syracuse University, was one of twenty students in the nation who made the first team, and her picture and an accompanying article were featured in the June 9 issue of the newspaper. She received a \$2,500 award. Shannon Murphy, who is attending medical school at East Tennessee State University, was named to the Honorable Mention team. This marks the first time that MTSU has had more than one person to be so recognized.

Both the *Tennessean* and the *Daily News Journal* published front-page stories about **Kaitlin Howell's** Fulbright Award for medical research in Germany. In addition to Kaitlin, **Eric Little**, an Honors graduate who is working on a master's degree in public history at MTSU, got a Fulbright Award to teach in Portugal. As with the *USA Today* recognitions, this is the first year MTSU captured more than one Fulbright, but given Laura Clippard's efforts as head of our Undergraduate Fellowship Office (UFO), it will surely not be the last. These awards pay tribute not only to our students but also to the effectiveness of our programs in identifying and aiding those who are eligible for such awards.

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MEET THE FRESHMEN

Buchanan Scholars

This fall, 20 freshmen join the elite Buchanan Fellows, recipients of the most prestigious academic scholarship offered by MTSU. Collectively, the students, who represent three states and eleven cities in Tennessee, have an average ACT score of 32.8 and an average high school GPA of 3.918.

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner. The newest Buchanan Scholars, and some of their accomplishments to date, are listed below.



Emilie Ann Aslinger is from Kingston, Tennessee, where she graduated from Roane County High School. Emilie was 2009–10 tennis team captain and band sergeant, played flute in the 2007 and 2008 All-State East Honors Band, and was selected to attend the 2008 Tennessee Governor's School for International Studies. She has also assisted with the Knoxville Children's Hospital Christmas benefit. Emilie is majoring in history.

Joe Scott Ballard, a mathematics major, graduated from Spring Hill High School in Columbia, Tennessee.

A member of the Beta Club for four years, Joe received the Male Distinguished Scholar Award for three consecutive years and was selected to the Mid-State Band of Tennessee for three years. He received numerous academic awards from the mathematics, science, and English departments.



Patrick Daniels is a graduate of Bearden Senior High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he was a member of the French Honors Club and completed five years of French studies. He competed in a Scholars Bowl PBS quarterfinals tournament. In 2009, he formed



a band and organized a concert for 80-plus people. His community service includes helping widowed neighbors, delivering food, raising funds for a children's hospital, and being involved in projects with his church youth group and the Key Club. Patrick is a recording industry major.



John Michael Griner is from Kingston, Tennessee, and attended Roane County High School. He was selected Most Talented and was elected vice president of the Beta Club. His community service included a mission trip to Fulton, Missouri; a mission trip to a Lakota Indian reservation in South Dakota; and service week with his church youth group. John is majoring in science with a concentration in pre-pharmacy.

Ashlin Powell Harris graduated from Morristown-Hamblen High School West in Morristown, Tennessee, where he was a National Merit Semifinalist. He was a member of the Morristown-West Science Club, which engages in conservation projects. Ashlin is a mathematics major.



Lorel Joy Holsinger is a graduate of Summertown High School in Summertown, Tennessee, where she was a National Merit Commended Student for 2008–09. She was selected as a Student of the Month during her junior year and was a Regional Essay Contest winner and first-place winner in regional and state competitions for Health Occupations Students of America.



Meredith Lynn Holt is a graduate of Collinwood High School in Collinwood, Tennessee, where she was voted Most Studious. She achieved the highest possible score on the Statewide Writing Assessment, was a Girls State Representative, and received the Governor's Volunteer Star of the Year from Wayne County.



The science/pre-med major also volunteered many hours at the Wayne County Assisted Living facility and the Wayne County Welcome Center.

Greta Louise Jochmann attended Oak Ridge High School in Knoxville, Tennessee. She was head captain of her soccer team in her junior and senior years. In 2009, she was nominated

Academic All-American in soccer and received Soccer NSCAA All-South All-American honors. She was All-State in 2006, 2008, and 2009 and was regional and district MVP in 2009. The science/pre-med

major was a camp counselor at Webb School of Knoxville during the summer of 2006 and worked at Oak Ridge High School's

Kiddie Soccer Camp as a counselor during the summers of 2008 and 2009.

Cory Matthew Long graduated from Centennial High School in Franklin, Tennessee, where he received an honors diploma. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity from 2000 to 2005 and served food to the homeless with the Salvation Army from 2003 to 2008. Cory is a biology major.

Tyler Brooke Loucky is a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She was a National Merit Semifinalist and was selected for the All-State Choir in 10th grade and All-State Band in 11th grade. She was chosen for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts and the American Legion Auxiliary Volunteer Girl's State in



11th grade. She was the founder and president of the Siegel High School Green Club; served through St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a vocal and cello soloist, Royal School of Church Music Chorister Training Day Housemaster, and Vacation Bible School volunteer; and assisted with Educational Run-Out tours to area middle schools with the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra. Brooke is an environmental science and technology major.

Cedar Nathaniel Mittig attended Franklin High School in Franklin, Tennessee, where he was an AP Scholar with Honors and was chosen Most Unique. He helped build homes in Juarez, Mexico; helped with Hurricane Katrina relief in Biloxi, Mississippi; and volunteered as a senior counselor at Kids to the Country in 2009. He will major in chemistry.

Robert Daniel Murphy graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In 2008, he was a top scorer on the National Latin Exam, receiving a summa cum laude certificate. He also competed in the Science Olympiad at the state level, placing fourth, and attended the Governor's School for International

Studies. He has served the community by volunteering at the Discovery Center and for Habitat for Humanity. He plans to major in physics.

Tyler Patrick Phillips, a graduate of Farragut High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, was a member of the French Honor Society and treasurer of the French Club. He received the Farragut Pride Award his sophomore year and Farragut's Best Award his junior year. Regal Entertainment Group named him employee of the month for April 2009. The recording industry major was a member of the Environmental Club at Farragut and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and Second Harvest Food Bank.





Courtney Anne Rodman is from Jackson, Missouri, and graduated from Jackson Senior High School, where she received the Cross Country Top GPA Award in 2006, was a member of the All-District Band in 2007, and attended the 2008 Missouri

Scholars Academy. She also participated in the foreign language fair at Southeast Missouri State University, placing third in advanced prose reading in Spanish. Her community service includes several week-long home repair projects for the elderly and low-income families through the Group Work Camps Foundation in Ruidoso, New Mexico, in 2006; in Racine, Wisconsin, in 2007; and in Port Arthur, Texas, in 2009.

Amanda Patrice Scott

attended Brentwood High School in Brentwood, Tennessee. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society). She received the Freshman Social Studies Award and Outstanding Spanish II Student of the Year. She is completing work for her Girl Scout Gold Award and volunteered at Girl Scout day camp and at her church day camp. She is an aerospace major.



Lauren Janelle Smith is a graduate of Waynesboro High School in Waynesboro, Tennessee. She was a Hugh O'Brien Leadership Delegate in 2008 and a Tennessee

Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Summit delegate in 2009. She was senior class president, yearbook editor, and Beta Club vice president and photographer. Lauren participated in numerous community service projects through the Beta Club, Rotary Interact, and her church youth group. Lauren is a psychology major.

Joshua Timothy Stein is from Dover, Delaware, where he attended Dover High School. He was an Advanced Placement Scholar



with Distinction, vice president of the National Honor Society, an award winner for placement in the top 10 of his freshman class, and was selected for Delaware Boy's State in 2009. His community service included projects to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2007; participation in Mission to Dover service projects in his hometown in 2008; community service in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 2009; playing guitar for his church worship team; and serving as a volunteer sound technician.

Zach Bevins Stevens graduated from Blackman High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he was Outstanding Student in Medical Therapeutics his sophomore year. He received a cum laude certificate for the National Latin Exam in his junior year and attended the Governor's School for Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage. His community service includes coaching for a free soccer league in Smyrna, assisting with Vacation Bible School at his church, and volunteering at Cedars of Lebanon Disc Golf Course. Zach is a biology major.



Katelyn Meredith Stringer is a graduate of Smyrna High School in Smyrna, Tennessee. She was a National Merit Commended Student, a North American Irish Dancing Championships qualifier, and winner of her high school's World History Award, Geometry Award, and Spanish III Award. She tutored students in mathematics during her junior and senior years.



Victoria Elizabeth Worrell, a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Excalibur Academic Excellence Club. She was an alternate to the Governor's School of Humanities, Governor's School of International Studies, and the Youth Leadership Rutherford program. She assisted with the children's areas at the Murfreesboro Jazz Festival for three years and helped organize and operate the Murfreesboro Kids' City Project for two years. She is majoring in physics. ●



Merranda Holmes, who, like Kaitlin and Shannon, is a biology major, is the most recent in a long line of MTSU Honors students (including my own daughter, if I may, as a proud father, say so) who won a \$5,000 fellowship from the Phi Kappa Phi honor society for graduate study at the institution of her choice; she will be attending medical school at ETSU. She and Shannon Murphy represented the University in Nashville, in Washington, D.C., and in San Diego with presentations of their research on a process of detecting anthrax spores.

As you will see from accompanying articles, every student who graduated with one of the University's top awards this year had a connection to the Honors College. **Jaz Gray**, an Honors graduate in journalism and editor of *Collage*, received the President's Award. **Shannon Murphy**, an Honors graduate in biology, won the Provost's Award. **Kaitlin Howell**, a student who worked with the Honors Undergraduate Fellowship Office to get a Fulbright to study in Germany, won the Robert LaLance Award, and **Amy Ronner**, an Honors student majoring in English, got the Community Service Award.

And what about our graduates? After meticulously tracing the plans of each of this year's 22 graduates, we find that 19 are already enrolled in graduate or professional schools and that the other three are waiting for a year before applying for such study. Destinations range from Maryland to New York to Ohio to Washington.

Many are leaving the college with extra laurels. This April, the MTSU Leader's Circle completed the process of becoming a chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), a long-established honor society that recognizes scholarship and leadership, in a ceremony attended by **President Sidney A. McPhee**, who became a charter member of the circle. **Tony Pritchard**, a junior biology major, received support from the national office to attend this year's ODK convention in Houston. **Shannon Murphy** and **Merranda Holmes** also both received Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarships of \$1,000 each.

This summer, the college hosted an Institute for Leadership Excellence for numerous student groups and a great new class of Honors freshmen. As fall begins, we are inaugurating our fourth class of Buchanan Fellows and welcoming new members to our Board of Visitors. This fall, we are also working on our first issue of *Scientia et Humanitas*, an online journal of articles in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

Whether you are a current student or faculty member, an alumnus, or simply a friend, we are pleased to share this issue of *Honors Edition* with you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

— **John R. Vile, Dean** ●

Phi Kappa Phi Initiates Students, Recognizes Faculty

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated eight Honors students and recognized four Honors faculty members at its initiation ceremony April 6 in James Union Building.

Student initiates included three aerospace majors, **Robert Bridgers**, **Eric Guyes**, and **Nicholas Oliver**; a mass communication major, **Annie Furr**; history major **Amy Goldstein**; **Daniel Gouger**, a biochemistry major; psychology major **Jennifer Johnson**; and **Jessica Rylee Patrick**, a management and political science major.

Four Honors faculty members were recognized as Influential Faculty by the student initiates: **Dr. Cathy Crooks** (Psychology), **Dr. David Foote** (Management and Marketing), **Dr. Eric Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy), and **Dr. David Rowe** (History).

Dr. John R. Vile, Honors dean, is the Phi Kappa Phi fellowship coordinator and treasurer. **Ms. Kathy Davis**, Honors College executive aide, is Phi Kappa Phi chapter coordinator, and **Dr. Wandi Ding** (Mathematical Sciences) is president-elect of the MTSU Phi Kappa Phi chapter and a member of the Honors faculty.

The primary objective of Phi Kappa Phi is to recognize and encourage superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. To be eligible for membership, seniors and graduate students must rank in the top 10 percent of their respective colleges, and juniors must rank in the top 7.5 percent. ○

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

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Visiting Artist Inspires Student Writer

by Sarah Gallagher



Heather Raffo

I was extremely eager to participate in the Visiting Artist's Seminar this semester, but nothing could have prepared me for the amazing week spent creating, collaborating, and re-creating. I was inspired beyond anything I could have imagined. I arrived on Monday afternoon with my tape recorder, notebook, and Heather Raffo's *Nine Parts of Desire* in hand. I left Friday afternoon with a fresh enthusiasm for life and a newfound interest in playwriting. We had the good fortune of being taught by a professional playwright and actress from New York City. Heather Raffo showed us how to construct a short play out of our own experience and interactions. Each day, we spent ten to fifteen minutes journaling before coming together as a group to do some more writing and brainstorming. When we were finished, Heather would engage us in a group activity or assign us individual topics to journal about either from our perspective or in the voice of an immigrant character.

The ultimate goal of the class was to perform a collaborative piece that highlighted cultures around the world. We modeled our research and writing process after Heather's experience with *Nine Parts of Desire*. Before our first class, we each conducted an interview with an immigrant to the United States. Our shared interactions with these individuals served as the basis for our writing and eventual performance.

On the first day of class, Heather arranged a group activity designed to get class members acquainted with each other. I drew a slip of paper with the words "your biggest dream." For five minutes, I talked about my desire to travel, my ambition to live in South Africa and write about the conditions of the poor in a predominantly rich country, and my passion for oppressed people who do not have a voice in society. That night, I listened to the recorded version of my response and transcribed every word, including every stammer and stutter.

After another day of writing, I took the "golden nuggets"

from my first response, my in-class journal entries, and the transcription of my recorded immigrant interview, and strung them together as one monologue. With the help of peer critique and Heather's expert advice, I was able to edit out portions of my monologue that did not seem to fit. My classmates also constructed their monologues in this way.

On Thursday afternoon, we each chose a mantra for our piece and went home, still feeling like we needed to tie up loose ends. On Friday morning, I still did not feel entirely at ease with my performance piece. After a few e-mail exchanges with Heather, I made some revisions about which I was confident, and by that afternoon, I was ready to show our audience what we had experienced during the week.

I cannot even begin to explain how incredible it felt to stand on that stage with peers I had come to depend on. Our nine mantras seemed to flow together perfectly. As we each told a story both reflective of the immigrant and of us as individuals, we conveyed a greater story of hardship, hope, and perseverance.

The week was one of self-discovery and reinvention. We grew as writers and learned about ourselves. We embraced the stories of those we interviewed and attached our own stories and experiences to theirs, creating an unforgettable account of the human condition.

This experience was invaluable not only to my academic career but also to me as a creative being. Personally, I was so rejuvenated by this experience and my encounter with so many creative minds that I decided to switch my major to English so I could continue to interact with writers on a daily basis. The impact of that week in February has lasted far beyond a week or even a month. If you are open to a week of great fun and exploration or a possibly life-altering experience, I strongly suggest you do not miss next year's Visiting Artist Seminar. It could redefine your life journey. ●



Fulbright finalists for 2009–10 are, from left, Kaitlen Howell, Eric Little, and Kim Vasut.

2009–2010: RECORD YEAR FOR Fulbright Scholarships

during the 2009–2010 academic year, a record number of MTSU students applied for Fulbright Scholarships. Of the four students and one alumna who applied, three were national finalists, and two received the Fulbright award.

Kaitlen Howell, who graduated summa cum laude in May 2010 with a double major in biology and foreign languages (German), was a Fulbright winner who will study in Germany. **Eric Little**, who graduated summa cum laude in May 2008 with a B.A. in foreign languages (Spanish), was a Fulbright winner for study in Portugal. Eric, an Honors graduate with distinction, is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching (Spanish) at MTSU.

Anthropology major **Kim Vasut** was a finalist for study at the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. She graduated magna cum laude in May 2010.

The Fulbright program is not strictly a study abroad experience but rather an opportunity for MTSU students or alumni to help make the world a better place. Fulbright advisor Laura Clippard said, “The Fulbright program brings out the idealism in our MTSU students and

alumni. I have met students who want to end poverty in third-world countries, work as peace negotiators in the Middle East, inspire our youth by teaching, and [reduce] loss of life by solving medical problems.”

The purpose of the Fulbright is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. The grants are designed to give U.S. students the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year.

As outlined by the late Senator J. William Fulbright, the purpose of the program is threefold:

1. To promote mutual understanding through a commitment to the free flow of ideas and people across national boundaries.
2. To expand, through this understanding, the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy, and perception.
3. Through cooperation in constructive activities among people of different nations, to create true and lasting world peace.

Eligibility requirements include

- U.S. citizenship,
- a GPA of 3.3 or above,
- language proficiency sufficient to communicate with the people of the host country,
- a bachelor's degree or the equivalent before the beginning date of the grant, and
- an outline of a course of study or a research project in the major field that may be completed in one country during one academic year abroad.

Preference is given to candidates who have not had a previous opportunity (except military duty or study abroad) for extended study or residence abroad. For some countries, preference is given to graduate students conducting research. There are teaching Fulbrights available as well.

Full grants provide round-trip transportation, a language or orientation course, tuition, books, health and accident insurance, and maintenance for one academic year in one country. Travel grants provide transportation to one of a limited group of other countries.

Students who are interested in the Fulbright program should

- [review the Fulbright Web site with particular attention to all the sections in the Program Overview;](#)
- [determine the country of interest and make sure the Fulbright Award is available for that country;](#)
- [read the Country Summary section for important information regarding language requirements, affiliation requirements, and special considerations.](#)

After reviewing the Fulbright Web site and the requirements for the country of interest, students should call Laura Clippard at (615) 898-5464 or e-mail Lclippar@mtsu.edu. ●



Martin Lecture Series Welcomes Ragsdale

On March 23, the University Honors College and the Martin Lectureship welcomed Knox County mayor Mike Ragsdale, who presented "Reforming Education in a Time of Austerity," in which he detailed some of the initiatives he has taken to improve education in Knox County.

Ragsdale, a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, has served as Knox County mayor since August 2002 and has pursued four priorities: education, veterans, more efficient government, and seniors. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, a master's in education from Auburn University, and a doctorate in education from UT.

Before becoming mayor, Ragsdale served two terms as Knox County Commissioner while working as a vice president and partner at Barber & McMurry architecture firm. Previously, he was director of admissions and records, and later dean of administrative affairs at Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

The March lecture was held in the Honors College Amphitheater in the Martin Honors Building. Special guests included Dr. H. Lee Martin, Mr. Roy Martin, Dr. Lana Seivers, and Dr. Diane Miller. ●

HONORS STUDENTS NAMED TO *Who's Who*

S Seven Honors students were named to *Who's Who Among American College Students* in January: Mary Crouse, Jasmine Gray, Nathaniel Greene, Merranda Holmes, Shannon Murphy, Austin Purvis, and Brian Walsh. Mary and Nathaniel are seniors; Brian graduated in December 2009; Jasmine, Merranda, Shannon, and Austin graduated in May 2010.

Mary Crouse, a biology major with a concentration in physiology, has four minors: psychology, Spanish, chemistry, and leadership studies.

Nathaniel Greene is double majoring in economics and political science and minoring in business administration. He received a Chancellor's Scholarship, was selected to participate in the Institute for Leadership Excellence in May 2009, and received a political science internship with the Tennessee Board of Regents for spring 2010.

Nathaniel is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, served as president of the MTSU Leaders Circle, and is president of Omicron Delta Kappa. He participates in Mock Trial and has been on the Dean's List since 2006. He was captain of an intramural indoor soccer team and a flag football team. He is completing an Honors thesis, "What Is Government's Role?: An Analysis of Current Conservatives' Proposed Responses to Financial Crisis."

Jasmine Gray majored in mass communication with a concentration in journalism and minors in sociology and entrepreneurship. A Chip Quinn Diversity in Journalism Program scholar and a Ronald E. McNair Program scholar, Jasmine has written for the *Tennessean* and the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, where she served an internship. Her research, "Contrasting Color: Juxtaposing Black Identity and Media Portrayal in Ghana, England, and America," was published in *McNair Review*. She worked as a staff writer for *Sidelines* and served in several *Collage* staff positions, including editor in chief in fall 2009 and spring 2010.

Jasmine held membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Honors Student Association, Raiders for Christ, the Student Government Association, MTSU Leaders Circle, the Mass Communication Student Council, and Omicron Delta Kappa. She placed third from the College of Mass Communication during Scholars' Week 2009. She was a CUSTOMS volunteer, attended Blue Raider Summit, and founded Jaz's Jammies, an annual pajama drive for hospitalized children. She won MTSU's Community Service Award and the Harold Love Community Service Award from the state of Tennessee in 2009.

Merranda Holmes, a biology major with a concentration in physiology and a chemistry minor, received numerous scholarships including the Gentry W. Moffitt Endowed, Drs. Elizabeth and Creighton Rhea Pre-Medicine, Albert L. and Ethel Carver Smith Memorial Pre-Medicine, Paul W. Martin Sr., Clay M. Chandler Most Outstanding Freshman in Biology, and Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior in Biology. She received the Outstanding Junior Honors Student in 2008 and 2009 Senior Honors Student, awarded to the top five percent of students in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Merranda had the first-place research poster in the Health and Medical Sciences category at the Tennessee Academy of Science in November 2008, represented MTSU at the Posters at the Capitol research poster exhibition in February 2008, and had the second-place research poster in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences category at MTSU Scholars Week 2009. She was a member of the Leaders Circle Quiz Bowl Team which won first place in 2009 and was a speaker at the 2009 University Honors College Board of Visitors meeting. She was one of three finalists for the MTSU Presidential Award in 2009 and was nominated for the Provost Award. She was a nominated participant in the 2009

Institute of Leadership Excellence and was selected for the Stones River and Middle Tennessee Medical Center Summer Mentoring program.

While attending MTSU, Merranda participated in numerous clubs and organizations including Gamma Beta Phi, the MTSU Band of Blue, the Honors Studies Association, the Student National Medical Association, Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, the MTSU Leaders Circle, Omicron Delta Kappa, Women in Science and Engineering, Tri Beta Biological Society, the Tennessee Academy of Science, Pre-Scripts, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, Concert Band, and MTSU Student Ambassadors.

Merranda served on several campus committees and frequently participated in community service opportunities. She began conducting research in 2008 that included bioweapon detection research for the Department of Homeland Security, and she was accepted to several medical schools.

Shannon Murphy majored in biology with a concentration in physiology and a minor in chemistry. She received an MTSU Academic Service Scholarship; an Honors College Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship; and Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Biology Student Awards and Scholarships. She held membership in Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Beta Phi, Tri Beta, the MTSU Leaders Circle, and Omicron Delta Kappa. She was also a member of the Honors Student Association, Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Pre-Scripts. She served as SNMA fundraising coordinator and Leaders Circle secretary.

Shannon made presentations at the Tennessee Academy of Science competition in 2008 and 2009, winning second place both years. She also made presentations at Posters at the Capitol and Scholars Week in 2009 and at the UAB Summer Interns Poster Session in 2008. She received an honorable mention from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship program. She tutored students in general biology, genetics, and microbiology and was a volunteer at a local dance studio. In addition, she was selected for two internships: the UAB Summer in Biomedical Science Research program in 2008 and the Middle

Tennessee Medical Center Summer Mentoring program in 2009.

Austin Purvis majored in political science with a pre-law concentration and a minor in business administration. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Gamma Beta Phi, the MTSU Leaders Circle, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Austin was a member of Mock Trial, serving as treasurer in 2008–2009 and as president for 2009–2010. He participated on the top competition team for three years and captained the team for two years. He won four individual Outstanding Attorney Awards at intercollegiate tournaments and made a national championship tournament appearance.

He was on the Dean's List of Distinguished Students six out of seven semesters and participated in the Institute for Leadership Excellence in May 2009. He defended his Honors thesis, "Adolescent or Adult? The Rehnquist Court on Juvenile Capital Punishment," in April.

Brian Walsh majored in mass communication with a concentration in electronic media communication and a minor in leadership studies. He received an MTSU Presidential Scholarship and an Electronic Media Communication Scholarship. He made the National Dean's List from 2006 to 2009, was an EXL Scholar from 2007 to 2009, and was named an Outstanding Student in Leadership Studies.

Brian was very involved in campus leadership, participating in the Blue Raider Leadership Summit, Leadership 101, B.O.L.T., I'm One, and Lightning Leadership Camp. He also served as a Student Orientation Assistant in 2008; started the Truth Seekers, a new student organization, in 2009; volunteered for the SGA's Big Event in 2009; and was a member of the Homecoming Committee for 2006–2007.

Brian worked with Northfield Church of Christ in 2008–2009 teaching Bible classes, leading personal studies, visiting shut-ins, leading singing and prayers, and preaching on a regular basis. ●



Study Abroad Experience Valuable Inside and Outside of Classroom

by Michelle Ebel | *Ebel is a senior accounting major and a Buchanan Fellow.*

This June, I was fortunate enough to go on a five-week study abroad trip to Bregenz, Austria. While I had been out of the country before, I knew none of the people going on the trip and very little about Austria, so I did not know what to expect from this study abroad experience.

We left on a Wednesday afternoon and embarked on a nine-hour plane ride from Atlanta to Zurich. Orienting myself to a new city in an entirely different country was quite the experience. Honestly, those first few days were a blur. I was introduced to my host family and was taught the ins and outs of the city such as the public transportation system and the quickest walking path to the university where my classes were held Monday through Thursday.

I am an accounting major, and I took two business classes while there. Dr. Troy Festervand, graduate advisor in MTSU's Jennings A. Jones College of Business and professor in the Department of Management and Marketing, taught both the International Business and the Marketing classes. I have been a student of Dr. Festervand's before, but I cannot tell you how much I learned from these courses—both inside the classroom and out. There is nothing like taking an international business class while in a foreign country. We are taught in class that other countries conduct business differently than the U.S., but there we can walk out of the classroom and see firsthand—at the restaurant or grocery store around the corner—how those differences really look. It is a hands-on learning experience unlike any other.

While what I learned within the classroom was extremely valuable, it was what I learned during my weekend travels that was perhaps even more important. We each had Eurail passes which allowed us travel to almost any European country on our three-day weekends; but coming from America, none of us

had experience traveling by train. That first weekend the program director took us as a group to the nearby town of Feldkirch using the train to orient us to the system. With all the traveling we did on the following weekends, it did not take long to get comfortable using the trains!

My first big trip out of Bregenz was to Munich, Germany. While I was not quite sure what to expect out of the city or the hostel at which we were going to stay, that first weekend was unforgettable. We found more than enough to see (including Dachau, a WWII concentration camp), and the hostel well surpassed my expectations. The second weekend I ended up in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, and the third weekend three of my new friends and I went to Paris! We saved Rome and Venice for the last weekend because we had an extra day to travel before heading back to the U.S., and those cities were a little farther away.

While I came into the experience knowing no one, it did not take long to make friends. And while I went into the trip not knowing what to expect, I came out feeling like a traveling pro. I cannot express just how much I have taken away from this study abroad experience. I learned much about business, about other cultures, and about myself. I learned that I am capable of traveling over 2,000 miles from home, learning about new cultures and practices, and having a great time! ●



Michelle Ebel inside the Coliseum in Rome, Italy

Vaughan Presents at Honors Conference

Daniel Vaughan, a spring graduate who majored in political science, presented portions of his thesis "First Amendment Religious Freedom: An Examination of the Opinions and Writings of Michael W. McConnell" at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Conference held at the University of Memphis February 12–13.

Vaughan wrote his thesis under the direction of Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the Honors College. He defended it in fall 2009. The focus of the work is a former judge of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who has recently taken a job as head of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center. McConnell, a Louisville native, is known as an articulate defender of First Amendment religious freedoms who attempts to link modern decisions relative to the First Amendment to the intentions of the U.S. Founding Fathers.

Vaughan was on a panel with Sarah Dike of Lee University, who discussed historical portrayals of early American history through film, and Holly Lanham, of Austin Peay State University, who analyzed Shakespeare's portrayal of women in his plays. ●



Murphy and Holmes Receive Mathis Research Scholarship

Shannon Murphy and **Merranda Holmes** became the first two recipients of the Phil and Marilyn Mathis Research Scholarship, which provided partial support for them to attend the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in San Diego, where they presented a paper based on research they connected with their Honors theses. Dean Vile feels that these students, both of whom recently graduated and will be attending medical school at East Tennessee State University, have been "poster children" for the Honors College. "Both exemplify the scholar/leaders that the college attempts to foster," he said. He added that the Mathis family contributed \$10,000 to the scholarship, which has been matched by other donors. "This is a great example of friends of the Honors College who have identified a need and who have done their best to meet [it]." ●

HONORS STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD

Summer 2010

Katie Bogle (Political Science), South Africa

Callie Durham (Journalism), Spain

Michelle Ebel (Accounting), Austria (Bregenz)

Adam Emerson (Psychology and International Relations), Russia

Michael Gibelyou (Foreign Languages), France

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry), Chile

Emil Hirsch (Journalism), Costa Rica

Jennifer Isenberg (Foreign Languages), France

Emily Johnson (Anthropology and Foreign Languages), Brazil

Kevin McDaniel (Anthropology), Scotland

Aaron Shew (Plant and Soil Science and International Relations), India

Kaitlin Styer (Entrepreneurship), France

Fall 2010

Patrick Belton (Finance), New Zealand

Joshua Spurlock (International Relations), Japan

Lyndsay Tarus (Global Studies), Spain

Rachel Gass (Global Studies), China

Stuart Wright (International Relations), China ●



Your 20s Are for You: A Summer in Chile

by Daniel Gouger | *Gouger is a senior biochemistry and foreign languages major.*

“Your 20s are for you” is what I say to myself as often as possible, especially when I remember that I’m a pre-medical Honors student double-majoring in foreign languages (Spanish) and biochemistry with two minors who also works and is involved actively in, we’ll say, a few student organizations. I’m one who strives to be ambitious with my goals, piling on the stress like I would chocolate on ice cream, savoring every opportunity presented to me, and hoping that I help people along the way. However, I tend to resist spontaneity and anything that doesn’t necessarily fit into my plan, so when I decided to put off shadowing doctors and MCAT preparations to study abroad in Chile for a little less than three months during summer, I was slightly more than nervous—but your 20s are for you.

Thus, this summer I decided to embrace this whim for once and travel to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, Chile, about an hour and a half north of Santiago, where the words “strikingly beautiful” and “charming” fail to capture what I have seen here. With the majestic snowcapped Andes on one side of me and a light fog rolling in off the Pacific on the other, these sister cities have been a perfect fit. Indeed, it has been a place to immerse myself in a new culture that’s completely foreign, in a language of which I used to only know smidgens, and with a host family and host brothers I have grown to love dearly and who, I am absolutely certain, will continue to be part of my life forever.

When I arrived, and for the first part of the summer, I took two fantastic classes at the university: one in advanced Spanish grammar and another in advanced

Spanish conversation and Chilean culture. We studied all sorts of aspects of the Spanish language and the richness of the poetry and literature found here, as well as the enigmatic, conflicted history of the country, which makes for a beautiful story. However, after I finished my classes I began to volunteer in a public health clinic to observe the Chilean medical system, which has a free or tiered public option. (To be sure, this is how I convinced myself that studying abroad in Chile would be worthwhile.) I passed entire days with compassionate doctors of various specialties, visiting patients and learning new vocabulary, and I learned some basic skills in patient examination that I might not have been able to obtain for a while had I remained home for the summer.

In my free time, I went for afternoon seaside strolls with the bright sunshine glistening from the bay or took a café or vino with one of my Chilean friends just off the plaza near my house, I realize that one learns much more than he or she may realize when studying abroad. Priorities and goals aren’t always carved from cold, permanent marble; they can be shaped and sculpted to include all of what is important, which for me means a stronger embrace of qualities such as warmth and affection toward those for whom I care deeply and a taste of relaxation and a cultural boundary overcome that will undoubtedly make me a better physician one day. So, go for clay instead of marble and be pliable. Take an adventure abroad—the hardest step is onto the plane, but when you step off, who knows what you might discover. ●

Meet Four Transfer Students

Four of MTSU's newest Honors students, **Christopher Kingsley** of Murfreesboro, **Karen Yates** of Mt. Juliet, **Autumn Ford** of Smyrna, and **November Ford** of Smyrna, are transferring from area community colleges.

Christopher Kingsley joins the Honors College as an upper-division student majoring in English and writing. He has an avid interest in books, magazines, and creative writing and hopes to enter the magazine publishing business. His other interests include photography, music, marketing, travel, student government, volunteerism, exercise, and culinary arts.

Chris was a graduate of Motlow State Community College, where he held a senate seat in the Student Government Association. A volunteer at the Alvin C. York Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Chris spent many hours assisting with the rebuilding of homes in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

This summer, Chris participated in the Student Temporary Employment Program at the U.S. General Services Administration and studied English literature in Great Britain.

Karen Yates, a nontraditional student from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, is a summa cum laude Honors graduate of Volunteer State Community College, where she was named to *Who's Who Among College and University Students*.

At Vol State, Karen received an honors scholarship, a diversity grant, an administrative grant, and a study abroad scholarship (Spain). A member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, she received the Presidential Recognition for Excellence in Leadership.

She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society, and was a fundraiser and publicity chairperson. She received a Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship at MTSU and intends to major in mass communication [public relations].

Autumn Ford of Smyrna is a summa cum laude graduate of Motlow State Community College. She graduated with an associate of arts in English and intends to major in English at MTSU.

Autumn attended Motlow on an honors scholarship and made Motlow history by completing 27 hours of honors credits. She was awarded Most Outstanding Honors Student for 2009–10 and received the Language Award. She was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

November Ford of Smyrna is also a summa cum laude graduate of Motlow State Community College (not related to Autumn Ford).

November took 21 hours of honors courses and earned an honors diploma. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and won the President's Award. She holds an A.S. in English and plans to major in English at MTSU. ●

SPRING 2010

Interdisciplinary Seminar

UH 4600

Gothic Culture • Dr. Linda Badley

TR 2:40 to 4:05 | HONR 117 | CRN: 10190

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

Spinning off such literary texts as *Carmilla* (1872), *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886), *Books of Blood* (1984–87), and *American Psycho* (1990), we will study Gothic themes in key documents in psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology, queer theory, and feminism. A secondary emphasis will be the role of the Gothic in the development of cinema, the horror film, and film theory in general. We will screen up to five films and a number of clips.

This course is open to students who have fulfilled their general studies requirements. Three credit hours may be applied toward an English major or minor.

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

STUDENT Research

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ABOVE: **Joe Boachie**, right, gets research assistance from his thesis advisor, Dr. Beng Ooi. The chemistry major's thesis is "Evaluation of Fuels with Biomass Derived Additives via Spectroscopy."



Sarah Visocky, left, and thesis advisor Dr. Ida Fadzillah Leggett display typical foods purchased and consumed by immigrants in her thesis, "We Are What We Eat: A Cross-Cultural Examination of the Nutritional Habits of Immigrants to Middle Tennessee." The thesis is partly based on data collected through Leggett's project, "Assessing Tennessee's Immigrant Communities' Conceptions and Actual Usage of Nutritional Sources and Physical Activity." Leggett and Dr. William Leggett (Sociology and Anthropology) are principal investigators of the interdisciplinary project, and Dr. Tom Brinthaup (Psychology) and Dr. Janet Colson (Human Sciences) are coprincipal investigators.

RIGHT: **Evan Swift** and thesis advisor Dr. Rebecca Seipelt research alternate gene expression of a gene related to longevity. Evan's thesis is "Periodic Analysis of Alternative Splicing Patterns of the sod-3 gene in *Caenorhabditis*."



LEFT: **Samantha Emerson**, right, is assisted in her thesis research by psychology professor Dr. Cyrille Magne. Sam's thesis is "The Relationship between Music Aptitude and Second Language Learning Proficiency." The project looks at the correlation between learning a second language and music aptitude by analyzing brain-wave patterns.



Political Science major **Lee Whitwell** was the first student to sign up for the Honors Thesis Certificate program.

Thesis Certificate Is a Great Option for Transfer Students

Starting this spring, there will be a new option available to students who wish to participate in the University Honors College.

Those who lack the requisite 20 lower-division Honors hours can earn a thesis certificate by receiving prior approval from the Honors College and completing the upper-division hours (including the Honors thesis). Students will not graduate from the Honors College, but completing a thesis can help make them more competitive for graduate school.

To qualify to complete the thesis certificate, students must have at least three semesters left before graduation and have a 3.5 college GPA and must take an Honors-approved class on research/statistics in their major area before starting the thesis proposal class (UH 4900).

For more information, students should schedule a meeting with Honors advisor **Laura Clippard**, who can be contacted at (615) 898-5464 or Lclippard@mtsu.edu. ●

The 2011 Visiting Artist's Seminar:

Creative Nonfiction Filmmaking with Jesse Epstein

by Claudia Barnett | *Barnett is a member of the Honors faculty, an English professor, and coordinator of the Visiting Artist's Seminar.*

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"Girls, if you're watching this documentary about beauty, go to the gym, man; keep yourself in tone because, man, I don't like stretch marks." At the start of Jesse Epstein's film *Wet Dreams and False Images*, a Brooklyn barber with a wall full of girly photos defines his standards of beauty. Pointing to his favorite pin-up, he proclaims, "Look how smooth this is. It's just perfect. Totally natural." In the next scene, a digital retoucher examines that same photo, indicating how and where it has been edited. Next, the barber and his friends watch that retoucher on their television. Emotions run high as the barber examines his photo once more and scowls at the professional's supposed expertise: "He don't know nothing."

In the 11 minutes of *Wet Dreams and False Images*, Epstein escorts her viewers into an intensely masculine world while making a subtly feminist statement. Her light touch complements her profound subject matter, poignantly pairing humor with provocation. She unravels a controversy simply by letting her speakers keep talking, watching them back themselves into dead ends, like one self-aware retoucher who admits, "In that the central point of retouching is to enforce an unrealizable standard of beauty, I suspect of myself some kind of covert, obscured misogyny because I'm really screwing with people's sense of identity and self worth by doing this."

This winter, award-winning filmmaker Jesse Epstein will visit MTSU as artist-in-residence during the week of February 14, 2011, to show her three short films, *Wet Dreams and False Images*, *The Guarantee*, and *34x25x36*, and to deliver a public lecture: "Who Makes the Perfect Body?" (Time and place to be announced.) In addition, Epstein will share her talents, insights, and expertise with 15 Honors students when she teaches this year's Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200): Creative Nonfiction Filmmaking. Students may register through Pipeline starting November 8.

Jesse Erica Epstein is an award-winning filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York. She received an

M.A. in Documentary Film from NYU and is also a media educator and teacher. *Wet Dreams and False Images* received a Short Subject Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival; *The Guarantee* received Best Short Film at the Newport International Film Festival; and her recent film, *34x25x36*, had a national PBS broadcast on *POV* this past summer.

She is currently working with a grant from Chicken & Egg Pictures to combine the short films into a feature and a grant from the Fledgling Fund to produce audience engagement, a Web site, and a video game related to the project. *Filmmaker* magazine named Epstein one of 25 filmmakers to watch. She was an instructor for the Sundance Reel Stories Youth Documentary Program for three years. For a fascinating look at the artist, see Epstein's video op-ed, "Sex, Lies and Photoshop," *New York Times* online, Mar. 9, 2009 (nyt.com).

The Visiting Artist's Seminar, an interdisciplinary Honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered since 2002 and has included such diverse topics as poetry writing, papermaking, and performance art. While



Award-winning filmmaker Jesse Epstein

CONTINUED
on page 16

artists frequently visit campus to speak to students, the Visiting Artist's Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts an entire week and requires intensive student participation.

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

In the one-week intensive seminar, "Creative Nonfiction Filmmaking," students will work in groups of three or four to produce a three- to five-minute film. They will learn theory, production, and editing and explore creative multidisciplinary approaches to visual storytelling. Students will walk away with short-form finished films.

This course will provide an understanding of how to produce a documentary film. It will present the ethics of documentary filmmaking and creative approaches to storytelling. Nonfiction films can be animated,

poetic, personal, and straightforward. This course will provide a framework for students to explore both technical and creative aspects of filmmaking.

The class will use rooms 148 and 155 of Bragg Mass Communications Building. These facilities are equipped with all hardware and software required for video editing. Students will have user accounts and access to online materials and tutorials so they can begin to familiarize themselves with the equipment and software before the class officially meets.

If you have a scheduling conflict with another class, please contact Kathy Davis in the Honors College for help at kdavis@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2152.

Jesse Epstein's visit is made possible by the generosity of the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, the Department of Electronic Media Communication, and the Department of English. For more information, contact Claudia Barnett, professor of English and coordinator of the Visiting Artist's Seminar, at cbarnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. ●



Miguel Hurtado

Scholars Week Winners Include Several Honors Students

Four Honors students who presented research Friday, March 26, at Scholars Week received awards for their efforts.

Senior English major **Joseph Quarles** received first place for the College of Liberal Arts. His research was titled "Snow, Love, and Apples," and his faculty mentor was Dr. Martha Hixon.

May graduate **Samantha Emerson**, a psychology major, won first place in the undergraduate division for the College of Education. Her research with faculty mentor Dr. Cyrille Magne was "The Relationship between Music Aptitude and Second Language Learning Proficiency."

Logan Key (biology) and **Jasmine Gray** (mass communication), also May graduates, won third place for

the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the College of Mass Communication, respectively. Logan presented "The Effect of Cyclodextrin on Activation of Acid Sphingomyelinase." Her faculty mentor was Dr. Jerry Reagan. Jasmine's research was "Contrasting Color: Juxtaposing Black Identity and Media Portrayal in America, Ghana, and England." Her faculty mentor was Dr. Jennifer Woodward.

Other Honors students participating in Scholars Week were **Adam Emerson** (psychology), **Sam Mitchell** (chemistry), **Miguel Hurtado** (chemistry), **Joe Boachie** (chemistry), **Megan Childers** (psychology), **Evan Swift** (biology), **Jason Gerald** (economics and finance), **Nicole Porter** (biology), **Sara Gideon** (history), and Honors graduate **Brittney Oliver**, a graduate student studying psychology. ●

MTSU Mock Trial Team Wins Tournament

An MTSU team won the 5th Annual Ramblin' Wreck Mock Trial Tournament at Georgia Tech on January 24 after eight ballots in four rounds and two days of competition against some of the best teams in the nation. Led by seniors **Austin Purvis**, political science major from Memphis, and **Daniel Vaughan**, senior political science major from Mt. Juliet, the team compiled a 6-to-2 record that included wins against teams that placed second, third, and fifth in the tournament. In addition, Purvis was named one of the tournament's top attorneys.

MTSU split its first round against Miami University of Ohio, which placed third; won both ballots against Georgia State University (which went 3-4-1); handed the only two losses to the University of South Carolina, which placed fifth; and split with Duke University's A team, which placed second. Other teams included Vanderbilt University, Rhodes College, Emory, Bellarmine University, Furman University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Southern Methodist University, the College of Charleston, Kennesaw State University, the University of Central Florida, the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, Spelman College, and the University of Minnesota-Morris.

In addition to Purvis and Vaughan, **David Haggard**, junior English major from Greenbrier, Tennessee, played an attorney for MTSU. **Nathan Brown**, a freshman from Murfreesboro double-majoring in physics and mass communication (advertising); **Rachel Harmon**, a junior from Spencer, Tennessee, majoring

in international relations; and

Jacob Strait, a senior from Nashville, Tennessee, majoring in political science, all played witness roles. **Samantha Farish**, freshman political science major from Goodlettsville, and **Heather Haggard**, criminal justice major from Greenbrier, served as timekeepers.

Dr. John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College, and Brandi Snow, a Murfreesboro attorney and MTSU mock trial alumna, coach the teams. Dr. Vile accompanied the team to Atlanta and observed that the tournament is one of the most prestigious invitationals in the nation. He noted that this is the first time an MTSU team has won the Ramblin' Wreck.

The 2009-2010 case was a hypothetical criminal case involving allegations that movie producer Jackie Owens, a member of Trifecta Entertainment in Midlands, was responsible for murdering a partner, Jacob Bennett. Each team argued two rounds on behalf of the prosecution and two on behalf of the defense and was judged by two attorneys in each trial.

Purvis, Vaughan, and Brown are all students in the Honors College. The team went on to the Opening Rounds Championship Tournament at Furman University (after qualifying out of Regionals at Samford University) and narrowly missed qualifying for the National Championship Tournament in Memphis. ●



Upward Bound Team

Upward Bound members team up to complete a project in the Honors amphitheater. Twenty-five Upward Bound Program participants from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., visited the Honors College this spring under the leadership of Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross.



Student News

Kaitlin Beck (Economics and Foreign Languages [French]) acted in Murfreesboro Little Theater's production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* during the summer.

Katie Bogle (Political Science) interned with Congressman Bart Gordon in Washington, D.C., this summer.

Adam Emerson (Psychology and International Relations) presented a poster at the Association for Psychological Science Convention held in Boston in May. "Cognition and Cuisine: Evidence for a Sensory Confirmation Bias in Taste Perception." The other authors were Rebecca Thompson, Tyler Hubbard, and John Pennington.

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry) spent six weeks attending classes and six weeks at an internship in a public health clinic in Chile this summer.

Grace Johnson (Political Science) was accepted into the Washington Center Program in Washington, D.C., where she took a class and interned over the summer.

Samuel Mitchell (Chemistry) spent the summer doing chemistry research, volunteering at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, and shadowing physicians in Nashville and Murfreesboro. He also performed and competed with Music City Drum and Bugle Corps on weekends.

Lauren Nolin (Marketing) received the J. D. and Marge Vance Marketing Scholarship.

Taffy O'Neal (English) had nine poems selected for publication in *Time and Tide*, an anthology being compiled by Dr. Phil Mathis, professor emeritus and former dean of the Honors College.

Tony Pritchard (Biology) was selected to receive an Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Convention Delegate Scholarship and traveled to the ODK national convention in Houston, Texas, in June.

Joseph Quarles (English) was selected as a corecipient of the 2010-11 Homer Pittard Creative Writing Award. He received an award certificate at the College of Liberal Arts Reception April 21. The award comes with a \$500 scholarship.

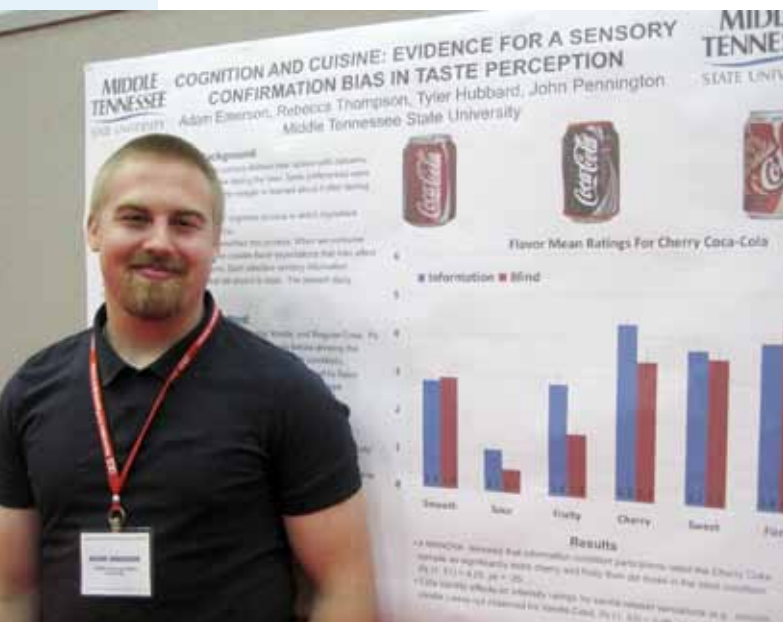
Lauren Rigsby (Biology and Physics) won the Biology Department's Ralph E. Sharp Outstanding Sophomore Award.

Alissa Ruggle (Biochemistry) shadowed three doctors in her hometown during the summer and worked at a free clinic. She also spent the summer training for track and cross-country by entering several 10K road races.

Dima Sbenaty was accepted into the TIPS Enrichment Program for Dentistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and attended the seven-week program this summer from June 1 to July 16.

Aaron Shew (Plant and Soil Science and International Relations) took a month-long conflict resolution course in Cyprus and Turkey during the early summer and then traveled to India to study the Urdu language. He received a Critical Language Scholarship through the U.S. State Department for his summer studies.

Kelsey Wells (undeclared) earned a third-place award in the old-time fiddlers category at the Great Southern Fiddlers Convention, March 20 in Chattanooga. A 2009 Buchanan Fellow, Kelsey also received a youth scholarship for full tuition and housing for the Swannanoa Gathering (an old-time music convention) at Warren Wilson College this summer. ●



Adam Emerson and the research poster he presented at the Association for Psychological Science (APS) convention.

Summer Internship Is a Tremendous Asset

by Katie Bogle | *Katie is a junior political science major.*

This summer I interned for Congressman Bart Gordon in Washington, D.C., for six weeks. As an intern, I answered telephone calls; sorted e-mails, paper mail, and faxes; and assisted the Congressman's staff in a variety of areas. I answered constituents' questions and took them on tours of the Capitol when they visited Washington.

As a rising junior and a political science major at MTSU, I decided to intern on Capitol Hill to further my knowledge of the legislative process, and my internship resulted in just that. Being able to witness the ins and outs of everyday life in Congress was a tremendous asset to my education. Interning on Capitol Hill taught me to be observant and concise and to juggle multiple tasks while completing them on time.

I had the pleasure of being the only intern in the office for the summer session. Being the lone full-time intern was both a blessing and a curse. On one hand, I was able to interact on a much more personal level with the Congressman and his staff, and I had more responsibilities than a typical intern on the Hill. However, this varies because each congressional office handles its interns and administrative needs differently. On the other hand, most days I hit the ground running as soon as I walked in the door, and on some occasions I chose to skip my lunch break so I could get caught up, or ahead of, my work. This could be stressful, but usually I left the office with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.



Katie Bogle, right, watches the National Parade in Washington, D.C., July 4. Amy Littleton and Amy Baral, acquaintances she made while interning in Washington, accompany her.

During the day I attended briefings, meetings, hearings, and markups that fit my personal issue interests, which the legislative assistants also attend. My intern coordinator notified me of special events for interns that took place after work and typically provided a free meal and great networking opportunities and sometimes even a meet-and-greet with other members of Congress.

Through my internship I was able to tour the top of the Capitol Dome, enjoy a White House tour, and visit the floor of the House of Representatives. These are very rare experiences and are usually reserved for members of Congress, their families, and their staffs. However, my office made sure that I experienced as much of Washington as possible. My internship in Congressman Gordon's office was nothing short of amazing, and I would highly recommend this type of internship to anyone. ●

thesis workshop

Honors students (left to right) Daniel Gouger, Jasmine Gray, Merranda Holmes, Megan Childers, Shannon Murphy, and Daniel Vaughan in the Honors Conference Room. At a thesis workshop, the students spoke to others interested in beginning an Honors thesis or creative project.





SARAH ACHELPOHL (Nutrition and Food Science)

"Factors that Co-Vary with Implementation of an Exercise Regimen in College Students"

From left, Sarah Achelpohl's thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Ms. Achelpohl; Dr. Gloria Hamilton, advisor; and Dr. Teresa Davis



SAMANTHA EGBERS (English)

"Threaded Together: Creation and Destruction in Modern Retellings of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Snow White*, and *Rumpelstiltskin*"

From left, Samantha Egbers' thesis committee: Dr. Ron Kates; Dr. Martha Hixon, advisor; Ms. Egbers; and Dr. John R. Vile

2010 Spring The



SAMANTHA EMERSON (Psychology)

"Learning New Rhythms: The Relationship between Music Aptitude and Second Language Proficiency"

From left, Samantha Emerson's thesis committee: Dr. Cyrille Magne, advisor; Ms. Emerson; and Dr. Scott Carnicom

"Judicial Review: What if Jeffersonian Constitutional Thought Had Been Impressed Upon the Marshall Court?"

From left, Samantha Ferrell's thesis defense committee: Dr. Preston MacDougall; Dr. Amanda DiPaolo, advisor; Ms. Ferrell; and Dr. John R. Vile



SAMANTHA FERRELL (Political Science)



“Effect of Cholesterol on Lysosomae Enzyme Processing”

From left, Logan Key’s thesis defense committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Dr. Jerry Reagan, advisor; Ms. Key; and Dr. Norma Dunlap

LOGAN KEY [Biology and Chemistry]



SHANE MCCOY [English]

“The Lesbian in the Room: Breaking the Silence of Lesbian Desire in Radclyffe Hall’s *The Well of Loneliness* and Vita Sackville-West’s *All Passion Spent*”

From left, Shane McCoy’s thesis committee: Dr. Alfred Lutz, advisor; Mr. McCoy; Dr. Scott Carnicom; and Dr. Allen Hibbard.

ses Defended



“The Development of a Universal Methodology for Sequencing Snake Mitochondrial Genomes of Subfamily *Crotalinae*”

From left, Tony Pritchard’s thesis committee: Dr. Rebecca Seipelt; Mr. Pritchard; Dr. Bruce Cahoon, advisor; and Dr. Phil Mathis

TONY PRITCHARD [Biology]



“Adolescent or Adult? The Kennedy Court on Juvenile Capital Punishment”

From left, Austin Purvis’s thesis committee: Dr. David Foote; Dr. Amanda DiPaolo, advisor; Mr. Purvis; and Dr. John R. Vile

AUSTIN PURVIS [Political Science]



MCKENNA RHEA [Chemistry]

“Fish Oil Polar Components Have Little to No Antibacterial Properties”

From left, McKenna Rhea’s thesis committee: Dr. Rebecca Seipelt, advisor; Ms. Rhea; Dr. Preston MacDougall; and Dr. Phil Mathis.

“Analysis of Snake Thermal Preference: Thigmothermy Versus Heliothermy and the Influence of Geographic Variation”

From left, Ginny Schlitt’s thesis committee: Dr. Rebecca Seipelt; Ms. Schlitt; Dr. Vince Cobb, advisor; and Dr. Phil Mathis



GINNY SCHLITT [Biology]

“Muslim Women in Southeastern United States: To Veil or Not to Veil”

From left, Waffa Shaban’s thesis committee: Dr. John R. Vile; Ms. Shaban; Dr. Gloria Hamilton, advisor; and Dr. Allen Hibbard



WAFFA SHABAN Psychology and Marketing

“Developmental Alternate Gene Expression of SOD3 in *Caenorhabditis Elegans*”

From left, Evan Swift’s thesis committee: Dr. Scott Carnicom; Dr. Rebecca Seipelt, advisor; Mr. Swift; and Dr. Norma Dunlap



EVAN SWIFT [Biology]

“We Are What We Eat: A Cultural Examination of Immigrant Health and Nutrition in Middle Tennessee”

From left, Sarah Visocky’s thesis committee: Dr. John Vile; Ms. Vicocky; and Dr. Ida Leggett



SARAH VISOCKY [Anthropology]

“Welcoming Islam: The Next Challenge to French Identity”

From left, Christopher Watkins’s thesis committee: Dr. Alfred Lutz; Dr. Nancy Goldberg, advisor; Mr. Watkins; and Dr. John R. Vile



CHRISTOPHER WATKINS [Foreign Languages]

Undergraduate Fellowships Office Seeks High Achievers

The Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO) promotes student interest in a range of undergraduate and graduate scholarship opportunities. Students do not have to be enrolled in the University Honors College to receive information and assistance through the UFO. The UFO will work with students to help them apply for a variety of competitive undergraduate and graduate awards.

The UFO is housed in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building at Middle Tennessee State University. Its purpose is to identify, encourage, and facilitate student applications for special honors and recognition at the national and international levels. The office encourages inquiries from faculty and from competitive candidates for undergraduate student awards. It is especially interested in promoting the following scholarships and fellowships.

Fulbright Fellowships. The Fulbright is designed to promote international understanding through study or teaching abroad for a year. Applicants must expect to have bachelor's degrees by the time they begin their assignments. Foreign language facility and contact with a foreign scholar are often required; some countries are less competitive than others.

Goldwater Scholarships. Available for sophomores and juniors majoring in math, engineering, or the natural sciences, these awards are designed for students who have already participated in undergraduate research and are planning to pursue graduate education in these areas. Goldwater Scholarships are not generally given to students who plan to go to medical school.

Harry S. Truman Scholarships. College juniors may apply for these awards, which are tailored to the student who plans to spend a career in public service. These awards are very competitive.

Morris K. Udall Scholarships. These awards are open to Native American college sophomores and



Fellowship coordinator Laura Clippard, back left, with participants at one of several Undergraduate Fellowships Office workshops she held in the spring to acquaint students with the UFO Office and fellowship opportunities. Students who attended the April 6 workshop were (front) Chad Slaven and Haley Pimental and (back) Katie Bogle.

juniors or to those interested in environmental studies or tribal public policies.

George J. Mitchell Scholarships. The Mitchell Scholarships are open to graduating seniors who are interested in graduate study in Ireland.

Marshall Fellowship Program. The Marshall Fellowship provides two academic years of advanced study in the United Kingdom. The fellowship is given in a wide variety of areas, and forty are awarded each year.

Rhodes Scholarships. A Rhodes Scholarship allows a graduating senior to spend two years at Oxford University. These awards are extremely competitive; no more than one nominee is allowed per institution per year.

The UFO Office will also work with students seeking to obtain scholarships through Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, Omicron Delta Kappa, or other campus honor societies. Scholarship deadlines, qualifications, and competitiveness vary significantly.

The UFO can also provide workshops and materials upon request. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to e-mail Laura Clippard at Lclippard@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-5464 with questions. ●



Nick Mackie, a current fellowship candidate, received a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for summer 2010 to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan.



(Left) Sam Mitchell, Shannon Murphy, Amy Goldstein, and Tony Pritchard represented the Honors College.

(Left) Kaitlin Beck, Troy Berry, Lee Reed, and Erica Cathey represented the Buchanan Fellows.



Honors College Quiz Bowl Teams Take Second, Third Place

Two of three teams sponsored by the University Honors College placed in the 21st annual Scotty Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl April 6 in the Learning Resources Center television station. The four-member Buchanan Scholars and Honors College teams won second- and third-place, respectively, out of a field of twelve.

The second-place Buchanan Scholars team, made up of **Kaitlin Beck, Troy Berry, Lee Reed, and Erica Cathey**, won \$100. The Honors College team—**Sam Mitchell, Shannon Murphy, Amy Goldstein, and Tony Pritchard**—won \$75 for their third-place finish.

A third Honors College sponsored team, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), made up of **Nathaniel Green**, ODK president;

Merranda Holmes, ODK vice president; and honor society member **Evan Swift** did not place.

The four-member *Sidelines* team won first place and \$175. The team included **Dustin Evans, Michael Stone, Rosalind Ruth, and Larry Sterling**.

The Quiz Bowl is cosponsored by the Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma honor society and Phi Kappa Phi, according to Dr. Ken Hollman, Gamma Iota Sigma advisor and holder of the Martin Chair of Insurance.

Questions for the competition include trivia from most disciplines represented at Middle Tennessee State University. ●

Rutherford County Spectrum Program

Helpers: Honors students (from left) Kelsey Wells, Lauren Rigby, and Leland Waite represent the Honors College at a meeting for Rutherford County Spectrum students at Riverdale High School. The students, who are also Buchanan Scholars, assisted Honors advisor Laura Clippard at the February 25 event.



Students: Participants at the Rutherford County Spectrum Parent Night in February are, from left, George Murphy, Biology Department chair; his son Patrick, a senior at Riverdale High School; Bronwyn Mullen, a sophomore at Oakland High School; and Dennis Mullen, biology professor and member of the Honors faculty. Students in the Spectrum program have been identified as intellectually gifted.

Plan Now For Your Future

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



Honors student **Matthew Hibdon**, left, Jan Leone, and Emily Davidson of De Kalb County High School with Davidson's project for the ninth annual Middle Tennessee District History Day Competition February 26 in James Union Building. Matthew, a history major, was an undergraduate assistant for the event.

Blackman High School students Shannon Jones, left, and Alex Moret tour the Martin Honors Building in March with Leadership Rutherford leaders **Laura Beth Jackson**, right, and **Lee Renick**.



Join the Honors College Group on Facebook



The MTSU Honors College group on Facebook is seeking new members. Join the group to view announcements about Honors events, see photos of Honors students and Honors happenings, and get to know Honors students and supporters.

This group is for anyone interested in the Honors College at MTSU.

Honors Students

Honors College Deadlines

FALL 2010

September 10
Honors contracts for fall courses

October 1
Completed thesis proposals

November 1
Completed theses ready for defense

SPRING 2011

January 27
Honors contracts for spring courses

February 18
Completed thesis proposals

March 31
Completed theses ready for defense



Dr. MacDougall's Honors General Chemistry II class chemically analyzes trace amounts of bacteria for genetic fingerprints that identify the microbial species. The class is pictured at state-of-the-art biotechnology research and development labs at BioVentures Inc. in Murfreesboro. The class benefited from a pre-lab tutorial on the scientific and technical challenges of competitively meeting the product-safety needs of the food and cosmetics industries that was presented by BioVentures product manager Steve Simmons, left; vice president of innovative projects Kristie Womble; and company founder, president, and MTSU chemistry alum Elliott Dawson.



ODK Circle officers, (standing) from left, Shannon Murphy, Merranda Holmes, Amanda Alexander, and Nathaniel Greene, are installed.

MTSU Welcomes ODK

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Middle Tennessee State University and the University Honors College officially welcomed Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) to campus Friday, April 30, with a chartering and initiation ceremony in the Tom H. Jackson Building. University deans, faculty, and parents attended the ceremony. Omicron Delta Kappa is a national leadership honor society founded in 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Following a welcome by MTSU president Sidney A. McPhee, ODK national associate executive director Kenneth A. Taylor installed the new circle, and Executive Director Thomas Goodale presented the circle charter to fifty charter members, including Dr. McPhee.

Thirty-three MTSU student leaders were initiated at the 6 p.m. ceremony,

Mr. Roy Martin, right, brother of Paul W. Martin Sr., for whom the Honors building is named, signs the ODK membership book during the initiation ceremony. His nephew, Dr. H. Lee Martin, accompanied him.

including 2010 Presidential Award winner **Jasmine Gray**, Provost Award winner **Shannon Murphy**, 2009 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award winner **Merranda Holmes**, and SGA president **Brandon Batts**. **Nathaniel Greene**, Merranda Holmes, **Amanda Alexander**, and Shannon Murphy were installed as officers.

The society initiated two alumni: **Brandi Snow**, a local attorney who has helped coach mock trial teams, and **Rachel Simes**, winner of the 2009 MTSU President's Award and an original member of the MTSU Leaders Circle, the group from which ODK at MTSU grew.

Three MTSU administrative staff members and four *honoris causa* members were also initiated. The *honoris causa* members were Congressman Bart Gordon, an MTSU alumnus who has served the local district in Congress since 1986; Sidney A. McPhee,





ODK executive director Tom Goodale, center, presents the ODK charter to newly initiated circle members.

MTSU president; Murray Martin, MTSU alumna and president of the MTSU Foundation; and Roy B. Martin, brother of the late Paul W. Martin Sr., for whom the Martin Honors Building was named. Martin's initiation was special because he was born in 1913, a year before ODK was founded.

Eight charter members of the ODK Circle at MTSU are faculty and staff members who became society members at other institutions as undergraduates, graduate students, or faculty. John R. Vile (dean, University Honors College), Steven E. Chappell (director, *Sidelines*), Marsha Powers (coordinator of publications, Honors College), James H. Williams (director, Albert Gore Research Center), Heather Arrington (advisor, Academic Support center), Marc Singer (professor, Management and Marketing), Bob Pondillo (assistant professor, Electronic Media Communication), and the late John McDaniel (dean, College of Liberal Arts) all contributed in varying degrees to the formation of the ODK Circle at MTSU.

Bobby Ann Stanton, ODK director of development and alumni affairs, and ODK fellow Matt Hopper of

Lexington, Kentucky, joined national officers Goodale and Taylor in the evening's celebration. Dr. John Vile gave a speech noting that ODK was one of the nation's premier honor societies and that the establishment of ODK helped fulfill one of President McPhee's dreams for the University. Vile said the chartering and initiation ceremony marked not only a great day for the students and alumni being nominated but also for the University as a whole.

Omicron Delta Kappa recognizes achievement in five areas: (1) scholarship; (2) athletics; (3) campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government; (4) journalism, speech, and the mass media; and (5) creative and performing arts. ODK was the first honor society of national scope to recognize meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship.

Dr. Vile noted that being the home for Omicron Delta Kappa is consistent with the college's recent master plan, which stresses leadership development. ●

ODK executive director Tom Goodale congratulates Ms. Murray Martin, an MTSU alumna and president of the MTSU Foundation, as she is initiated into the MTSU ODK Circle.



MTSU president Sidney A. McPhee is initiated as a charter member of the new ODK Circle at MTSU.



Sam Mitchell and his brother, Benjamin, prior to a drum and bugle corps performance.

Drum and Bugle Corps Brings Joy and Pain

by Sam Mitchell | *Sam is a senior chemistry major in the pre-medical track. He plans to attend medical school following graduation and eventually become a physician. Sam plays baritone in MTSU's Band of Blue and Symphonic Band.*

Since infancy, the desire to perform has been a part of my personality, whether it manifested itself through church choirs

as a preschooler or through wind ensembles as a high schooler. While my desire is not unique to young adults in the 21st century, I have found a rather unusual avenue by which to fulfill it.

Each spring for the last two years, I rid my backpack of the usual suspects, such as calculators, textbooks, and notebook paper I use for my chemistry studies. I replaced them with what might seem to be a smattering of random objects carried by a musician alongside equipment used by athletes. I traveled to local schools that had been temporarily transformed into rehearsal sites for auditions. Once a month, throughout the semester, this is my chance to get reacquainted with the joy and pain that is found in drum corps.

Formally known as “drum and bugle corps,” this is an activity in which a large group of wind and percussion performers from all over the nation (brass, battery, and front ensemble), accompanied by visual performers (color guard), performs a program that consists of music and marching. The program lasts about eleven minutes and is a nonstop run of emotional involvement between the audience and the corps. This is a time during which the performer experiences all of life’s greatest emotions, including fear, hope, love, strength, confidence, fearlessness, courage, and release. This is what performers live for—the chance to share the love of music and emotion with everyone around them.

The group spends a few weeks practicing all day, perfecting the myriad facets of the show. Then, the group goes on the road across the country, performing for judges in

giant arenas. The culmination is the world championships in mid-August. The physical demands of the show can be extensive, and the mental demands are incredible. I know these demands all too well as a charter member of the Music City Drum and Bugle Corps in Nashville. The summer of 2009 was our inaugural season, with a dedicated group numbering a meager 47 (established groups reach 150).

Drum corps has dragged me through so many life lessons. The four-hour rehearsal blocks have taught me mental toughness and physical strength. The physical conditioning has taught me camaraderie with my fellow corps members, as well as responsibility in the face of struggles. The long nights traveling on the bus to new states have taught me to be flexible in the tenderest of situations. Having found my way through a summer’s worth of adventures, I have decided to repeat the process in hope of leading a new group of members toward a place of personal growth and group-mindedness.

This summer, I served as horn sergeant, a position that demands one be an example of the type of person and player all corps members should be every day. While this leadership role was daunting, it was an honor to watch my friends draw together as we built the cohesiveness that can only stem from doing what will be the most difficult physical and mental thing we will ever do. This summer has been full of experiences that I will never find in the classroom. The odd thing about this experience is that outside of this world (yes, it is a different world) I am a calculating scientist working on his Honors thesis in mesoporous films on silicon substrates. I take full course loads and play my heart out with lifelong friends. This is a world where all are accepted, and we all work together to achieve something greater than ourselves. That’s the kind of world in which I want to live, and that is why drum corps is my summer challenge of choice. ●

MTSU Cadet Travels to Europe

by Brad Hornick | *Brad is a sophomore aerospace major.*

This summer, I headed off to Europe with the United States Military Academy's History Department on its Cold War Staff Ride. Our focus was primarily on the topics directly related to the Cold War with an added emphasis on the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. I, as well as ten other cadets from around the nation, left for five days of initial briefings in customs and courtesies at West Point in New York on May 23 before departing for Berlin May 28. While at West Point, we were given tours of the grounds and taught the rich and prestigious history of the academy.

As a four-year scholarship recipient, I have an obligation to serve for at least six years after I graduate. This means that even though it was summer, the Army expected me to be in top physical and mental shape. It was not be a walk in the park by any means. My day started around 0400 with PT (physical training). Our first briefings covered what the day was about, what we were expected to pay attention to, and what we were expected to get out of each stage of the trip. It was high octane throughout the day until around 2000, when we got personal time to recap and gather ourselves for the next day.

On May 28, we departed from Stewart International Airport for a three-day stint in Berlin. Our focus was on Berlin and its role throughout the Cold War from 1945 to 1991. We then traveled to Vienna, where we focused on the intangible aspects of the Cold War such as power, influence, and identity. We traveled to museums and historical sites to gain a greater grasp of how different life was when every day could very well have been their last. We then traveled to Budapest, Hungary, where we studied how tensions grew until a revolution started. Our main focus was on the consequences, however small, that were major indications of how the rest of the Cold War would play out. Our trip led us to the Czech Republic and then back to Berlin for a day before we headed home.



Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts students (from front left) Shan Jiang of Memphis, Jordan Frazier of Brentwood, Diana Zhou of Memphis and (back, from left) Colton Gibbs of Brentwood, Andrea Markowitz of Seymour, Chisha Nwobilor, and Jasmine Porter of Jackson, visit the Martin Honors Building during a break from classes.



Michael Ripley, center, accompanied by his mother, Annette Ripley, is one of dozens of high ability scholars who attended a reception April 11 at the home of MTSU president Sidney A. McPhee and afterward toured the Martin Honors Building. Shown with the Ripleys are Michelle Arnold, associate director of admissions, and John R. Vile, Honors College dean.

The entire time we were there, we gave lectures and led study groups. No cadre or instructors participated in any of the discussions, except to clarify topics and information. This trip, though it was very intense and involved, was a dream come true. To get to go to Europe is one thing; to get to go free of charge is something special; but to get to go with other cadets to study and immerse ourselves in the language, culture, and history and make friends both there and here at home is truly remarkable. I am very fortunate to have had this opportunity to represent MTSU—and more importantly, America—in Europe. I can only imagine the impact I might have had on others and what their impact has been on me. ●



2009–2010 ANNUAL HONORS COLLEGE Awards

One Honors faculty member and numerous Honors students were recognized with awards and scholarships at the annual Honors College Awards program Wednesday, April 14, in the amphitheater of Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Dr. Jan Hayes presented the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award to Dr. Catherine Crooks (Psychology)

Dr. Jan Hayes presented the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award to Dr. Catherine Crooks (Psychology), four students won Outstanding Student Awards, and sixteen students received scholarships. Kaitlen Howell was recognized for winning a Fulbright Award to study in Germany. The college also recognized twenty spring graduates and several future graduates who have already completed the Honors thesis. ●

Scholarship Recipients

Bart McCash Scholarship
Oliver B. Pierce, *Philosophy*

Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarships
Taffy O'Neal, *English*

Jessica Taylor, *Chemistry*

Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarships
Rebekah M. Horton, *Political Science*

Caitlin R. Orman, *Psychology*

Academic Achievement Scholarships

David G. Antonelli, *Biology*

Sarah E. Gallagher, *English*

Samuel T. Mitchell, *Chemistry*

Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarships

Adam E. Emerson, *Psychology/International Relations*

Erica Paige Gober, *Speech and Theatre*

Amy M. Goldstein, *History*

Daniel H. Gouger, *Biochemistry*

Miguel A. Hurtado, *Chemistry*

Julian C. Kisner, *Political Science*

Jessica A. Taylor, *Chemistry*

Anna M. Yacovone, *Global Studies*

Spring and Summer Honors Graduates

Sarah Jane Achelpohl, *Nutrition and Food Science*

Megan Lorraine Childers, *Biology and Philosophy*

Samantha Taylore Egbers, *English*

Samantha Nichole Emerson, *Psychology*

Alysse Nicole Gillman, *English*

Jasmine Alexandria Gray, *Mass Communication*

Jacob Benjamin Hall, *Biology*

Merranda Dawn Holmes, *Biology*

Logan Alyse Key, *Biology*

Cassandra Marvine Knorr, *Mass Communication*

Shane Addison McCoy, *English*

Shannon Bernice Murphy, *Biology*

Joshua Michael Parker, *Physics*

Austin Keith Purvis, *Political Science*

McKenna Ashli Rhea, *Biochemistry*

Amy Claire Ronner, *English*

Virginia Elise Schlitt, *Biology*

Waffa Sadiq Shaban, *Psychology and Management*

Richard Evan Swift, *Biology*

Daniel Christian Vaughan, *Political Science*

Christopher Vinson Watkins, *Foreign Languages (French) and Global Studies*

Outstanding Student Awards

Freshman • Alexander G. Murphy, *Mathematics*

Sophomore • David G. Antonelli, *Biology*

Junior • Matthew I. Hibdon, *History*

Senior • Megan L. Childers, *Psychology*

Other Theses Completed

Samantha Leigh Farrell, *Political Science*

Anthony James Pritchard, *Biology*

Sarah Jane Achelpohl, *Nutrition and Food Science*

ILE Class Outstanding in 2010

by David Foote | *Foote is director of the Institute of Leadership Excellence, a member of the Honors faculty, and assistant dean for learning improvement for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.*

The Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) had another outstanding class in 2010, thanks to a great many people, not the least of whom are the students themselves! Faculty from 16 departments across the campus, along with seven ILE graduates from the class of 2009, nominated 75 students representing 40 different majors for participation in ILE. In particular, Drs. Sarah Barlow, Karen Petersen, Paula Thomas, Cathy Crooks, and Deana Raffo deserve recognition for consistently supporting their students over the past three years with nominations for ILE. Thirty-nine students representing five colleges and 28 different majors applied to ILE 2010. Of those, 32 were admitted and 30 enrolled.

We have made a practice of visiting the Rec Center's Challenge Course on our first day each year, and the staff there came through again this year, as they always do, with an exceptional program of activities that really helped us get to know each other and form bonds quickly. The activities of the Challenge Course condense a process that can take an entire semester into just a couple of hours. This kind of bonding is critical to the success of ILE because we depend on interaction among students and between students and instructors in a heavily discussion-based learning environment. The Challenge Course crew at the Rec Center is a tremendous asset to MTSU, and we truly appreciate their professionalism and expertise!

As in past years, in addition to the lectures, discussions, and activities conducted by Dr. Earl Thomas and me, we brought in a variety of outside speakers during lunch

and other times to talk about their views on leadership and to help the students learn more about themselves and their own ideas on the subject.

Ms. Murray Martin, president of the MTSU Foundation, shared her leadership experiences in nonprofit organizations. Mr. Kem Hinton, founding partner and design principal at Tuck-Hinton Architects and son of longtime MTSU music professor Dr. Earl Hinton, stressed the importance of being passionate in your work. Dr. Utpal Patel, former president of Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, discussed leadership in medical fields; and Dr. William Respress of MTSU's Human Resources Services, offered a compelling challenge to us all to demonstrate integrity in everything we do.

Ms. Cristina Allen, president and owner of Caliente Consulting, a multicultural marketing firm specializing in the Hispanic community and consumer, returned for a second time after being with us for ILE 2008 to address diversity and the importance of personal relationships. Mr. Micheal Burt, former Riverdale girls' basketball coach and CEO of Maximum Success, was back for a second year to share his expertise as a life coach. Dr. Deana Raffo, a faculty member in the Management and Marketing Department at MTSU with expertise in personalities and leadership, has been with us every year and was back again to help students learn more about their own personalities and how they integrate with leadership. Last, but in no way least, Mr. Louis Upkins, a strong family man and highly successful entrepreneur who has also been with us every year, drew from his expertise in these areas to help students understand how to effectively balance their careers with other aspects of life.

The Honors College facilities are ideal for what we are trying to accomplish: the first-floor amphitheater offers an excellent environment for discussions, and the student lounge, second-floor study area, and other



ILE participants, from left, Trent Brewer, Kyle Wishing, Kristen Sharpe, and Ashley Williams, work together on research in the computer lab.



Murray Martin, president of the MTSU Foundation, spoke on her leadership experiences during an ILE session.

classrooms allow students to meet in small groups and have access to computers in quiet settings to work on assigned projects. The entire

Honors College staff works hard to make sure ILE is successful, and Georgia Dennis gets special recognition for doing such a wonderful job of making sure the facilities, signage, snacks and lunches, and technology are always perfect and ready to go. And for capturing it all with her camera!

ILE isn't just a course — it's an encounter, and it's one you won't find anywhere else on campus. It is an incredible opportunity and privilege for us as instructors to work with and get to know these students, who have been identified by their professors and peers as being some of MTSU's best. They learn a lot about leadership, but they learn a lot about themselves and each other in the process, and that is critical to successful leadership. Perhaps the best way to sum it up is by offering a few quotes from this year's students.

"I discovered my potential for leadership, and for the first time I took advantage."

—sophomore aerospace major

"I no longer look at the world as a terrible place where bad things happen to good people. I look around me and think, 'How can I make a difference in the lives of others?'"

—sophomore biology major

"One other thing that I realized is that this class on leadership could more accurately be summed up as a class on life."

—junior finance major

"It doesn't feel like a class. It feels like a great life experience."

—senior mass communication major

Online Forms Now Available

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

Visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml

The following forms can be e-mailed directly:

- Additional Honors Credit Form
- Advisor's Midterm Report (for thesis advisors)
- Buchanan Fellows Service Contract
- Collage Submission Form
- Exit Survey
- Honors Contract
- HSA Membership Form
- Intent to Graduate
- Priority Registration
- Scholarship Application Form
- Student Midterm Report (for thesis writers)
- Study Abroad Intent Form
- Survey
- Thesis Tutorial (UH 4900)
- Request for Independent Study (UH 4950)
- Thesis Advisement Guide
- Thesis Signature Page
- Thesis Title Page
- UFO Interest Form

Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In January, Karen Demonbreum, Honors College administrative assistant, announced that 26 students have completed 20 or more Honors hours and have received lower-division Certificates of Achievement from the Honors College. The 26 students represent a wide variety of majors.

From the College of Liberal Arts, four students reaching the 20-hour milestone are English majors: sophomore [Jennifer A. Lawson](#), sophomore [Samantha E. Mallory](#), junior [Katherine J. Miller](#), and senior [Amy C. Ronner](#).

Two political science majors, [Austin K. Purvis](#), a senior, and junior [Thomas D. Talmage](#), and two history majors, [Matthew I. Hibdon](#), a junior, and senior [Dylan M. White](#), received lower-division certificates.

[Erica Paige Gober](#), a junior majoring in speech and theatre; [Jonathon E. Gower](#), a senior foreign languages major; sophomore [Kaitlyn E. Huppmann](#), a global studies major; junior philosophy major [Oliver B. Pierce](#); and [Erica V. Simmons](#), a senior music major, also completed 20 or more Honors hours.

Four students from the College of Mass Communication earned certificates: juniors [Troy J. Berry](#) and [Michael G. Boggs](#) and sophomores [Holly C. Cunningham](#) and [Teresa M. Smith](#).

Two psychology majors from the College of Education, [Jennifer L. Johnson](#), a junior, and [Rebecca A. Jensen](#), reached the milestone. Rebecca graduated magna cum laude in December 2009.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, [James M. Hampton](#), a junior economics major, and management major [Jessica R. Patrick](#), also a junior, received certificates.

Five students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences completed 20 or more Honors hours: junior physics major [Erica N. Cathey](#); junior chemistry major [Haley D. Pimental](#); sophomore [Chad M. Slaven](#), a science major; [Justin W. Tiffner](#), a senior computer science major; and sophomore biology major [Lauren E. Whaley](#).

At the end of the spring 2010 semester, 26 additional students received lower-division certificates for completing 20 or more Honors hours.

Eight are from the College of Liberal Arts: two are foreign languages majors, senior [Emily Johnson](#) and junior [Caitlin Steva](#), and two are international relations majors, [Tyler King](#) and [Joseph Plante](#). The other four are junior music major [Adam Gimenez](#), junior speech and theatre major [Heather Hamm](#), junior political science major [Tiffany Sherrill](#), and senior English major [Katelin Bartolomeo](#).

Ten students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences received lower-division certificates this spring: three biology majors, sophomore [John Bailey](#), sophomore [Evan Craig](#), and junior [Rachel Lytle](#); animal science major [Anna Caruso](#), a sophomore; junior [Daniel Gouger](#) and senior [Nishakumari Patel](#), both biochemistry majors; senior [Eric Guyes](#), sophomore [Cody Malone](#), and junior [Leland Waite](#), all aerospace majors; and science major [Chelsea Shrum](#).

Three College of Education students received certificates: senior psychology major [Megan Childers](#), junior psychology major [Chelsea Morrison](#), and senior interdisciplinary studies major [Christen Vann](#).

Three College of Mass Communication majors received certificates: junior [Jalesa Lowe](#), sophomore [Joseph Gibson](#), and senior [Emily Stickel](#). [William Bengel](#), a sophomore majoring in accounting from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and undeclared senior [Michelle Powell](#) also reached the milestone. ●

Additional Ways to Earn Honors Credit

Students should meet with Laura Clippard, Honors advisor, to receive additional information and to complete required forms to receive Honors credit in the following instances:

- A four or five on AP test scores (up to nine hours given)
- An IB subject score one point above MTSU requirements (up to nine hours given)
- A grade of A in Governor's School classes (up to three hours given)
- Honors credit for studying abroad (with approval before the trip; up to nine hours given)



Outgoing *Collage* editor in chief Jaz Gray, center, meets with fall *Collage* editor in chief Caitlin Orman and assistant editor Jennifer Johnson at the end of the spring semester.

Five Win Creative Expression Awards

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression announced five Creative Expression Award winners for the spring 2010 issue of the journal at the annual *Collage* recognition ceremony April 15 in the Martin Honors Building amphitheater.

Four current students and one alumna, **Joseph Quarles**, **Taras Mikhailiuk**, **Johanna Torres**, **James Reeves**, and **Lauren Athalia**, were selected winners by the *Collage* faculty advisory board.

Joseph Quarles and Taras Mikhailiuk won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for their outstanding literary submissions. Joseph, a senior English major with minors in writing and paralegal studies, won for his prose contribution, "Stupid." Taras won for his poem "The Earth and the Evening." He is a senior English major with minors in secondary education and philosophy.

James Reeves, Johanna Torres, and Lauren Athalia received Leon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for their top-ranked visual submissions. James, a senior mass communication major with a concentration in photography, won for his photo "Alley." Johanna was awarded for her studio art submission *Bio-thalassic*

Exaggeration. She is a senior art major with a concentration in studio art. Lauren Athalia, a 2008 graduate with a major in art (graphic design) and a minor in photography, was recognized for her photograph "Teal Tribute to the Sea."

Each semester, five top-scoring submissions receive Creative Expression Awards, one from each of the following categories: art, photography, poetry, prose, and alumni. Literature winners receive the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards, named in honor of English professor Dr. Hixon, a long-time supporter of *Collage* and the Honors College. Visual Arts winners receive the Leon Nuell Creative Expression Award, named in memory of Dr. Nuell, a much-respected art professor at MTSU. Award recipients receive gift cards. ●



Joseph Quarles



Taras Mikhailiuk



Johanna Torres



James Reeves



Lauren Athalia



Members of the spring *Collage* staff take a break from editing for a staff photo. Pictured front, from left, Paige Gober, Jennifer Johnson, Heather Duensing, Caitlin Orman; middle, Eldridge Alexander, Marcus Laxton, Kristina Amsler, Jenna Puckett, Beth Rich; back, Nathan Henris, Mark Randolph, Sheila Smotherman, Merranda Holmes, and Jaz Gray. Not pictured are Claire Gerda, Samantha Mallory, Tom Talmage, and Tamela Harris.

Fall 2010 Honors Lecture Series

CHINA: THE MIDDLE KINGDOM IN THE MODERN WORLD

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All lectures are free and open to the public. Lecture topics are subject to change.
Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.
Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106

August 30

“China: A Decade through the Eyes of an American University President”

Sidney A. McPhee
President, Middle Tennessee State University

September 13

“Women’s Secret Script in Small Villages of Southern China”

Guanping Zheng
Director of the Confucius Institute and Associate Professor of Electronic Media Communication

September 20

“New Confucian Political Theory”

Ronnie Littlejohn
Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Director of Asian Studies, Belmont University

September 27

“Confucianism and the Scientific Tradition in China”

Yuan-ling Chao
Associate Professor of History

October 4

“Distortions and Stereotypes: Media Representatives of the U.S. and China”

Robert Spires
Professor of Electronic Media Communication

October 11

“MTSU and China: Our Past, Present, and Potential”

Diane Miller
Professor of Mathematical Sciences and Director, McNair Program

October 25

“Predicting China’s Foreign Policy”

Michael Roskin
Former Chair, Department of Political Science, Lycoming College

November 1

“Language Policy and Language Use in China”

Jun Da
Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures

November 8

“The Effect of China’s Ascendancy on U.S. Foreign Policy”

Steve Saunders
Assistant Director, McNair Program

November 15

TBA

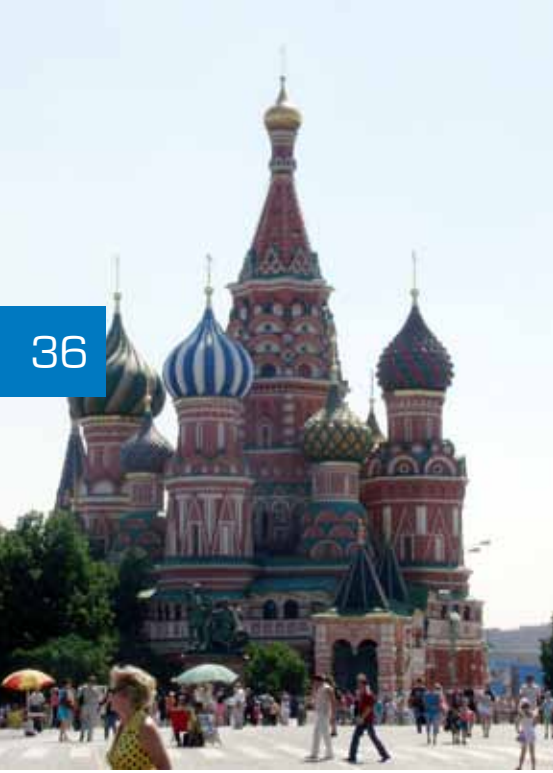
November 22

Study Abroad Student Presentations

November 29 and December 6

Student Thesis Presentations





St. Basil's Cathedral, which sits at the end of Red Square, is a popular tourist destination.

Moscow Burning:

A Stylized Account of My Time in Russia

by Adam Emerson | *Adam is a junior Buchanan Fellow majoring in psychology and international relations with a minor in Russian Studies.*

The smell of smoke hangs heavy over the city, filling our lungs and stabbing our eyes. Oppressive heat radiates from some alien sun, each day carv-

ing a slow 17-hour path across the sky. People scurry from museum to museum, worshiping a false electrical god known to us as A/C. Moscow is burning.

Four-and-a-half weeks earlier, as Dimitry swung a Ford Focus station wagon away from Sniperskaya Street and into the campus of the university, I planned my first day in the city. Being a less-than-creative American teenager, I joined a group of students headed to Red Square. Awkward introductions were made, and first impressions were formed.

As we walked, old babushkas, teeth long gone and faces scarred, held out dill and beets, imploring us to buy. Wild dogs came and went, gnashing teeth or whimpering timidly, as unpredictable as the traffic that passed by us. Clean-shaven men with hair cropped short in the front, yet tangled and wild behind their heads, gave strange stares; women in high-heeled shoes and bug-eyed sunglasses trotted haughtily past in their form-fitting dresses that ended no lower than the upper thigh. Of course, we

expected no courtesy. As foreigners in a foreign land must always do, we grouped together, kept our eyes tethered to our feet, and shuffled along the path.

In time, we reached Red Square. Here, the site of countless military parades, public executions, and political rallies, the landscape is now dominated by rolling stands selling Cheburashka dolls, ushankas, and other knick-knacks found only in the less reputable of souvenir booths. Men dressed as Stalin, Lenin, and Pushkin called out to tourists for photo ops and a few spare rubles. A pair of golden arches in the shape of a capital letter "M" stared out into the Kremlin wall like Sauron's eye, a stern reminder that capitalism is the tsar of this land now. Despite the lack of reverence, the Soviets' influences still remain. I couldn't help but be intimidated by the Kremlin wall, feeling as though Stalin himself were staring down at me from one of the towers. I would return to this place many times during my stay.

As the weeks went on and my conversational skills improved, social interaction with the locals became easier. Moscow and its people were opening up to me. At first, every bite I took out of this apple tasted sweet, but, as would be the case in any metropolitan area, I eventually bit into some worms. A man whose breath reeked of fermented potatoes took heavy, staggering steps toward an old woman. The two exchanged insults, none of which I understood, until the man finally flung his fist into the woman, knocking her back over a railing. Unable to think clearly, I backed away slowly, my mind racing with possibili-



To view more of Adam's photographs of Russia, see the following Facebook albums:

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=66145&id=1312941433&l=31c1702833

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=65686&id=1312941433&l=196b2ad5ee

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=64454&id=1312941433&l=50f9dd7af5

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=64449&id=1312941433&l=28865e1d78

ties. Jail in Siberia for being involved in a fight. An old woman lying beaten and defenseless on a sidewalk. Calling the militia, but being unable to describe what part of town I was in and being unsure of whether the militia would bother to come at all. Unable to help, I walked from the scene, relying on an old man to come to the woman's aid and hoping someone would call the militia.

The Moscow militiaman is an interesting creature. Roughly my age, this man is generally conscripted by being picked up on the street, asked why he has not yet joined the military (which also commands the police force), and forced into service. In other words, the Moscow militia is composed of bored teenagers and twenty-somethings with bullpup AK-74s. These men roam in packs of three to eight, dressed in shabby uniforms of untucked blue shirts and round, flat-topped hats. Generally seen laughing and enjoying themselves, they can have quickly changing moods when they spot a citizen carrying an open alcoholic beverage or catch someone taking pictures of an obscurely marked government building.

For example, two friends of mine were accosted for taking pictures of a rather dated-looking building with a multitude of antennas on the roof. Inside the building, we could clearly hear some sort of party celebrating one of Russia's many holidays. Two young militiamen and an army recruit rushed out with smiles on their faces, clearly enjoying an opportunity to harass some young American tourists. They took my friends into a bureau building (only marked as such by a piece of laminated paper that said "bureau building two"), deleted their pictures, made fun of my friend's facial hair, and chastised them for being such irresponsible tourists. It is still unclear whether these men were looking for a bribe, but they clearly enjoyed the experience, laughing and joking the entire time.

The day I left Moscow peat bog fires raged just outside the city, and smoke clouds cast a dark pall across the landscape. The summer heat reached temperatures previously unknown in this part of the world. Three hundred people died of heat exhaustion or dehydration per week. The seven short hours of Russian night offered little respite.

Despite the rather negative anecdotes above, my experiences in Moscow were overwhelmingly positive. This is a place that has survived revolutions, cruel regimes, economic disaster, and unending sieges. Like the mythical Phoenix, this city has burned numerous times, both literally and figuratively, yet it has always managed to rise stronger and better than before. Moscow is burning. Let it burn. ●



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Honors student Jessica Richter, left, gives President's Day guests a tour of the Martin Honors Building, including the Martinelli Memorial Library.

President's Day Open House a Success

The Honors College held its first annual President's Day Open House Monday, February 15, in the Martin Honors Building. Prospective students and many of their families toured the Honors Building and became acquainted with the staff and numerous Honors students.

Honors academic advisor Laura Clippard said, "We want the Tennessee community to be aware that the Honors College offers an Ivy League [-type] experience for high-ability scholars with the greater resources of a large state school." She added, "Despite the snow and ice, the Honors open house was a huge success, with many parents and students seeing first-hand the opportunities that MTSU and Honors have to offer." ●



Bonnie McCarty, left, assistant director of scholarships at MTSU, listens to financial aid questions from a prospective student, Amanda Scott, right, and other open house guests.

Honors College Welcomes Miller

This summer, the Honors College welcomed Dr. L. Diane Miller to her new office in Honors 230. Miller has returned to her faculty position in the Department of Mathematical Sciences and her role as director of the McNair Program. She will also be involved with the new Ph.D. in Mathematics and Science Education.

Since coming to MTSU in 1999, Dr. Miller has served as a mathematics professor, president of the Faculty Senate, assistant to the president, interim vice provost for academic affairs, director of the McNair Program, director of the Undergraduate Research Center, interim vice provost for academic affairs, and, most recently, as interim executive vice president and provost.

She has served on numerous MTSU committees and task forces including chair of the Faculty Research and Creativity Committee (FRCAC), the Workload Committee, the Classroom and Laboratory Utilization Effectiveness Committee, the Compensation Pay Plan Committee, and the Task Force on Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity.

Dr. Miller has a B.S. in mathematics education from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; an M.S. from Memphis State University in mathematical sciences; an Ed.S. in curriculum and instruction from Arkansas State University; and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Dr. Vile says that Dr. Miller has long been a friend of the Honors College, and she has long promoted student scholarship and success. She will be an important asset in encouraging students who are majoring in math and science education to get Honors degrees. ●

In Memoriam: John N. McDaniel

The Honors College sadly notes the passing of Dr. John N. McDaniel, longtime friend of the Honors College and dean of the College of Liberal Arts, who died on May 3, 2010, after a long bout with cancer and other illnesses. An honors graduate of Hampton-Sydney

College in Virginia, where he played football, McDaniel earned master's and doctoral degrees from Johns Hopkins and Florida State University.

Beginning as an assistant professor of English at MTSU in 1970, he subsequently became chair of the department and dean of the college, which he served for 25 years. A Shakespeare scholar

and author of the first book-length study of the fiction of Philip Roth, McDaniel was known for his erudition, his sense of humor, his fairness, and his good judgment. The English Department has created the John N. McDaniel Teaching Award Fund to support the good work of graduate teaching assistants.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, said that Dr. McDaniel guided the College of Liberal Arts with a steady hand and was a loyal supporter of the Honors College and the academic excellence that it represents. To date, all but one director and dean of the Honors College has come from the College of Liberal Arts. John is survived by his wife, Jean; sons Scott (married to Donnetta) and Craig; granddaughters Alex, Mandy, and Heidi; twin brother Tom; and sisters Sue and Sal. ●





Honors Faculty Profile: Eric W. Klumpe

Eric W. Klumpe has been a part of the MTSU community in the Department of Physics and Astronomy since 1999 and is a member of the Honors faculty. He teaches a Buchanan Seminar, ASTR 1030 Exploring the Universe, which is subtitled “A Historical and Philosophical Journey through the Universe.”

Klumpe says he has only a dim memory of his birthplace—Staten Island, New York—because his family moved from there to Central America when he was very young. After many years in the warm, slow-paced tropics, his family returned to the U.S. to become part of a fashionable and high-paced community in Southern California just in time for him to start high school. Given the radical cultural change, Dr. Klumpe struggled to fit in at his trendy, suburban high school. Unfortunately for him, his GPA did not wait around while he attempted to work out the kinks of his new life.

Following graduation, he was left with no recourse but to enroll in the local community college to take remedial classes. However, inspired by the opportunity to start over that community college offered, he chose his college major simply because his academic advisor told him that physics was probably the hardest major offered at the school.

The community college experience was good for Dr. Klumpe. He had patient teachers, and his confidence improved. Upon graduation, he transferred to Caltech, an academically challenging school to say the least, where he studied physics and engineering. Like many of his undergraduate associates, he went on to graduate school, where he completed three master’s degrees

and a doctorate. Of course, from his point of view, this was all a part of the process that prepared him for his post at MTSU—the one occupation he believes he was born to do and which gives him incredible satisfaction.

“Behind every great man is great woman—who is rolling her eyes” usually explains Dr. Klumpe’s relationship with his wife, Marynelle, when he fancies himself to be some world-famous comedian. However, for the other 99.9 percent of the time he has no bigger fan than his wife. From when he first asked her to marry him to when he decided to give up his job as a spacecraft designer to when he thought it would be a great idea to redesign MTSU’s observatory, she has been right there with him, encouraging and inspiring.

Raising a family with his wife has been a great opportunity for Dr. Klumpe as well. In a sense, he was given the chance to relive some of his more awkward childhood experiences through his three children and guide them toward success. Much to his children’s dismay, he is fond of joking that had he been a contemporary of theirs, the disparity in their perspectives on academics would have not permitted them to be friends.

Dr. Klumpe will be the first to say that he is one of the most fortunate people on the planet. He loves his family, his job, his students, and his colleagues. In return, MTSU has been very good to him and has given him wonderful opportunities to use the full spectrum of his life experiences to influence a number of MTSU’s undergraduates and help prepare them for what lies beyond graduation. ●



Dr. Phil Mathis, left, and Dr. John DuBois, in the new *Scientia et Humanitas* office, Honors 223. *Scientia*, an online journal of student research, recently moved from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences to the Honors College, where the journal was expanded and renamed. Mathis was founding editor and DuBois was faculty advisor of *Scientia*.

Up, Up, and Away

The June 2010 issue of Southwest Airlines' *Spirit* magazine featured an article called "Meet Nashville" that included a sidebar, "College Town," in which MTSU was mentioned along with other area universities. The accompanying photograph was of the walkway from Bragg Mass Communication Building to Martin Honors Building, with the bell tower featured prominently in the background.

Events at Honors



Dr. Kaylene Gebert, one of the newest members of the Honors faculty, her mother Loretta, and Skylar, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, welcome Honors faculty and staff members to an open house at their home February 11.



Honors 218, the Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory, received a \$120K renovation in the spring. The lab now accommodates more students and is outfitted with new Macintosh laptop computers, a Web-conferencing system, and an instructor workstation.



MTSU faculty and staff members assisted with a Rotaract-sponsored ELS picnic last spring in Walnut Grove. Volunteers (from left) are Vincent Windrow, Angie Melton, Caroline Bizot, Jackie Victory, Danny Kelley, Terri Johnson, Angela King, Olivia Barker, and Valerie Avent.



Painters pause while giving much of the Martin Honors Building a fresh coat of paint this summer.

Honors Dean Visits Turkey

by John R. Vile

When I chaired the Department of Political Science, I was consistently able to report in our newsletters that my faculty members had made trips to Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, at a time when my own out-of-state trips were typically confined to visits to my parents in the Shenandoah Valley. As dean of the Honors College, I now frequently encourage our students to travel and study abroad.

This summer, my wife and I were privileged to make our first trip abroad in more than 20 years when we joined a group, largely from Murfreesboro and Nashville, on a trip to Turkey. We began in Istanbul (the old city of Constantinople) and made sightseeing forays into Ephesus, Izmir (Smyrna), Kaiseri, Konya, and the Cappadocia area. We visited two Turkish universities, two high schools, a hospital, and media outlets (where we appeared briefly on a cooking show), many supported by M. Fettulah Gülen, about whom I am writing a paper.

It was amazing to visit a land where history is often measured in millennia rather than in decades and centuries. The mosques and churches of Istanbul were phenomenal. I was especially fascinated by the ruins of Ephesus where the Apostle Paul once preached and by the beautiful rock formations and early churches of Cappadocia, built deep into rocks and filled with beautiful murals of the life of Jesus and his early disciples.

I may have had the most fun visiting a host family and talking with a ninth grade boy, Ihson, and his younger sister, Vildon. Living a world away, he knew more about the Boston Celtics, the Houston Rockets, and *The Simpsons* than I did. I tried to help his sister (who wants one day to become a psychiatrist) hypnotize him to obey her, with little apparent success but with more than enough mirth for us all.

My trip helped confirm the truism that the world is getting smaller, and it reinforced my desire to see that the Honors College both prepares students to

understand and to interact with other cultures and to send more to study abroad. Our trip took place during the Fourth of July holiday, and I was fascinated when a university administrator reported that his university did not like to send its graduate students to the United States because they tended to stay there. It is amazing to think that with its freedoms and opportunities, the U.S. continues to serve as a magnet for the best and brightest students throughout the world. I hope that the Honors College will serve as a similar beacon to lure the best students from throughout the state, region, nation, and (ultimately) even from foreign nations.

On the trip, we met a man who began by selling parsley on the street and ended up making a fortune in the furniture business. Seeking to use his success to help others, he went to an Imam and asked if he should build a road or a mosque to help others and to express his appreciation to God for his blessings. The Imam responded that these were worthy projects, but he recommended that he should found a school, which he did. The businessman reported that the joy and appreciation he had received was like living in paradise.

I am not sure that donors to the Honors College have quite achieved this state of bliss, but this businessman's words reinforced my belief that education is a high calling and that those who can help others achieve their educational dreams will find a great measure of joy in so doing. ●

John and Linda Vile, right, with their host family in Niğde (Cappadocia) during a recent visit to Turkey. Their hosts were (from left) Ihson, Mustafa, Vildon, and Fatima Sahin. Mustafa is an ophthalmologist.



Undergraduate Fellowships Office Recognizes Assistance: It Takes a Village

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The Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO) would like to recognize MTSU faculty and staff members who directly assisted during 2009–10 with national scholarships and fellowships. The following faculty and staff members provided exceptional support to the UFO.

Dr. Charles Apigian and Ms. Cindy Howell, and Mr. Steve Saunders (McNair Program)

Dr. George Benz, Dr. M. Gore Ervin, Dr. Amy Jetton, Dr. Rebecca Seipelt, and Dr. Stephen Wright (Biology)

Sergeant John Black (Military Science)

Ms. Michelle Blackwell (Transfer Services)

Dr. Ida Fadzillah Leggett, Dr. Shannon Hodge, Dr. Vicky MacLean, Dr. Richard Pace, Dr. Tanya Peres, and Dr. Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology)

Ms. Allison McGoffin and Dr. Tara Prairie (Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost)

Dr. David Carleton, Dr. Andrei Korobkov, and Dr. Karen Petersen (Political Science)

Dr. Thomas Heine, Dr. Theresa McBreen, Dr. Ann McCullough, Dr. Soraya Nogueira, and Dr. Michael Rice (Foreign Languages and Literatures)

Ms. Jacquelynn Gardner, Dr. Allen Hibbard, Dr. Alfred Lutz, and Dr. Robert Petersen (English)

Dr. Doug Heffington (Global Studies)

Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry)

Dr. Hilary Stallings (Liberal Arts)

Dr. Victor Montemayor (Physics)

Dr. Mary Phillips (Accounting)

Dr. Jan Quarles (Mass Communication)

Dr. Lisa Sheehan-Smith (Human Sciences)

Ms. Rhonda Waller (MT Abroad)

Dr. Robert Rucker (Social Work)

Ms. Kathy Kano (Student Affairs)

Ms. Beverly Woodward (Child Development Center)

Dr. Scott Carnicom (Honors College and Psychology)

Ms. Kathy Davis, Ms. Karen Demonbreum, Ms. Georgia Dennis, Dr. Phil Mathis, Ms. Marsha Powers, and Dr. John R. Vile (Honors College)

Faculty and staff interested in learning more about national scholarships and fellowships should contact Laura Clippard at 898-5464 or e-mail Lclippard@mtsu.edu. ●

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

Because it tended to stay out of sight at the top of the Honors aquarium, the solitary Pearl Gourami, which apparently died June 1, probably expired unnoticed by most. Like the dean, the fish often seemed to be gasping for air; perhaps significantly, however, in passing it had sufficient gravitas to sink below the surface rather than rising to the top. Of unimposing proportions (about the size of a silver dollar), members of the species are known for attacking fellow Gourami that are introduced into the tank. Although pre-law majors familiar with Abraham Lincoln's story about the child who killed his parents and then pled for mercy because he was an orphan were ready to defend the Gourami in such circumstances, wiser heads prevailed, and allowed it to be the only representative of its species in the tank.

The Pearl Gourami has since been replaced with a Gold Gourami, which, with any luck, will allay budget issues by laying golden eggs. In addition, the college has added two Quetzal Cichlids, native to southern Mexico and surrounding countries. The juveniles are mostly brown and gray but generally display blue and pink colors as they age. We have also added five Silver Mollys, also from Mexico. The smallest fish in the tank, these white fish also stay near the top of the tank. When they were first introduced into the tank, they were chased by the Blood Parrot Cichlid, but a call to the pet store revealed that the cichlid was intending to show its dominance rather than to prepare for a feast. [Had it been a dog, it would have been displaying more bark than bite.] ●

Honors College Welcomes New Provost



The Honors College is pleased to welcome Dr. Brad Bartel as the University's new provost; he started the job on July 12. Dr. Bartel is an anthropologist who began teaching at San Diego State University where he became associate dean for the Division of Graduate Affairs and the Division of Research Affairs. From San Diego, Dr. Bartel went to the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, where he served as dean of the graduate school and associate provost for research. He served from 2000 to

2004 as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University and from 2004 to 2010 as president of Fort Lewis College in Colorado.

Dean Vile, who served on the search committee for this position, says that Dr. Bartel was one of the most experienced candidates to apply for the position and that he researched the University better than any of the other candidates who were interviewed. Vile noted that as someone with such high-level academic experience at a variety of institutions, Dr. Bartel should bring lots of new ideas to MTSU. Vile added that the Honors College has historically been blessed to have high levels of support from both the MTSU provost and the president's office. ●

Davis Becomes Certified Professional Secretary

Kathy Davis, an administrative aide in the Honors College, has taken a test that gives her a certified professional secretary rating. Davis, whose duties include work with Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, has been working in Honors since 1996. She received a quarterly employee award for exemplary performance in December 2007. Dean Vile said that Davis's performance on the test only confirms what the college already knew about her skills. "The college

has benefited immensely from Ms. Davis's skills, and it is great to see that others have recognized these talents," he said. Davis received assistance from the MTSU Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees (ASCE) to defray the cost of the test. ●



Honors College executive secretary Karen Demonbreum hugs a giant redwood in Sequoia National Park in June 2008. Karen and her husband, Tim, have visited 56 of the 58 U.S. national parks and have plans to visit the others in 2011 and 2012. The two final parks on their list are Kobuk Valley in northwest Alaska and the National Park of American Samoa, where the Visitors Center was destroyed in a September 2009 tsunami.



Faculty and Staff News

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Sanjay Asthana (Journalism) wrote the book chapter “Youth Media Imaginaries in Palestine and Israel” for *International Perspectives on Youth Media: Cultures of Production and Education*, an edited volume presenting transnational research and perspectives on youth media production and distribution projects in and out of school. Asthana’s research, “Tradition, Power, and Dialogue: A Hermeneutic Exploration of Youth Media Imaginaries in Palestine/Israel,” was accepted for the International Conference on Multiculturalism and Global Community in Teheran, Iran, in July 2010. “Youth Media Imaginaries in the Arab World: A Hermeneutic Exploration” was accepted for the Cultural Studies of America Conference at the University of California, Berkeley, March 2010.

Claudia Barnett (English), as a 2009–10 playwright-in-residence at Tennessee Repertory Theatre, wrote the full-length play *No. 731 Degraw Street, Brooklyn, or Emily Dickinson’s Sister*, which was presented as part of the Ingram New Works Festival in May. In the spring, her short plays *If Only in My Dreams* and *Sex Lessons* were given staged readings at the People’s Branch Theatre’s 10x10x2 Festival in Nashville; *Eden* was performed in the Second Short Women’s Play Festival at Independent Actors Theatre in Missouri; and *I Love You Terribly* was workshopped at the Mid-America Theatre Conference and later aired on Shoestring Radio Theatre (based in San Francisco). Barnett also taught a playwriting workshop as part of Western Michigan University’s Prague Summer Program in July.

Marc J. Barr (Electronic Media Communication) recently had some of his computer-designed ceramic pieces shown at Constructed: A Handbuilt Review at MudFire Gallery in Decatur, Georgia; the 10th Annual National Juried Cup Show at Kent State University School of Art in Kent, Ohio; and Da Yu Xiao Hu 4 (Big Fish, Small Pot 4) at the Fourth International Small Teapot Competition at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California. Barr also gave two presentations at

the China National Center for Developing Animation, Cartoon, and Game Industry Annual Fair in Shanghai in July.

Laura Clippard (Honors) was a finalist for the EXL Scholars Program Outstanding Faculty Award.

Paul A. Craig (Aerospace) won two NASA research grants totaling \$1.1 million in 2009–2010. With previous NASA grants, Craig incorporated a scenario-based training method for training professional pilots. That method was recognized in the United States Federal Register as the seminal research leading to a nationwide change in the way pilots are trained and evaluated. With the two most recent grants, Craig will conduct research on how to bring scenario-based training to all aviation disciplines. One outcome of this work would be increased system efficiency (fewer canceled flights; fewer missed connections) by helping pilots, controllers, meteorologists, dispatchers, maintenance technicians, and managers communicate and make better decisions.

Craig also was elected by the Aviation Accreditation Board International’s board of trustees for a second three-year term, and in the spring of 2010 he was nominated for vice president of the organization.

Catherine Crooks (Psychology) received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award for 2009–10.

Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences) has published “Optimal Control of the Growth Coefficient on a Steady State Population Model” with coauthors Suzanne Lenhart, Heather Finotti, Yuan Lou, and Yuquan Ye in *Nonlinear Analysis: Real World Applications*, Volume 11, 688–704, 2010. She was invited to review articles for *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications* in May and for *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences* in June 2010.

Ding attended the University of Tennessee-Oak Ridge National Laboratory-Kentucky Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network Bioinformatics Summit 2010, March 19–21 in Cadiz, Kentucky, and was

invited, along with one of her STEPMT undergraduate students, to attend the third Undergraduate Math Conference in Knoxville to present “Mathematical Modeling and Control of Populations: Application in Biological Pest Control.”

Ding was invited to join the AWM (Association of Women in Mathematics) National Student Chapter committee for 2009–12. She also became a member of WISTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in the spring. In addition, she received an award from the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund for fall 2010, received the SIAM-NSF (Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics and National Science Foundation) Postdoc/Early Career Travel Award in 2010, and received the MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activities (FRCAC) Award, August 2009–May 2010, to conduct research on “Optimal Control Applied to Native-Invasive Population Dynamics via a PDE Model.”

Kaylene Gebert (Speech and Theatre) published the fourth edition of *Allied Health in Tennessee: A Supply and Demand Study* with M. Jo Edwards, Stephen Collier, and Cindy Chafin for Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Health and Human Services in May. She was a member of a three-person panel that selected the outstanding article for Volume 32 of the *Journal of Developmental Education* and was recommended and reappointed by the National Association for Developmental Education for 2011–12.

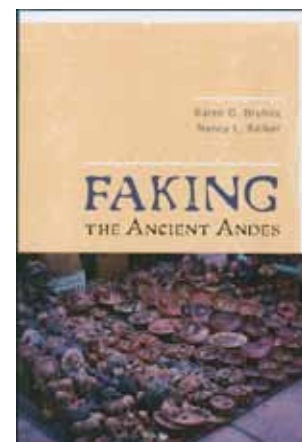
Gebert was a member of the Honors College Freshman Scholarship committee for 2009–10. She was vice chair of the Rutherford County Primary Care and Hope Clinic board of directors, of which she has been a member since 2004. She became a member of the WISTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Center Community Advisory Board in 2009 and was appointed as a board and council member for the O’More College of Design Teaching and Learning Center in January.

Two of Gebert’s students participated in Scholars Week 2010 by submitting Comm 4650 posters. She also entered her own poster, “Learning About Civic Engagement in a General Education Speech Class,” and served as a research/creative work showcase judge. She was also an MTSU Faculty Learning

Community Civic Engagement participant and made a presentation, “Spreading the Word of Engagement through Collaboration: The Civic Engagement Faculty Learning Community at MTSU,” along with six other faculty members at the AASCU American Democracy Project national meeting in June in Providence, Rhode Island.

Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) was selected as the District of Columbia Consolidation for Educational Services 2010 TRIO Achiever. She was recognized at the regional conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in April. (Federal TRIO programs provide student services to assist low-income students, first-generation college students, and disabled persons in the pursuit of education.)

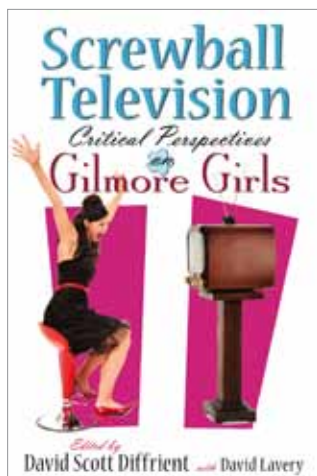
Nancy Kelker (Art) has recently published two books with archaeologist Karen O. Bruhns: *Faking the Ancient Andes* and *Faking Ancient Mesoamerica*. In these books, Bruhns and Kelker examine the phenomenon of rampant fakes and forgeries in the Andean and Mesoamerican art collections of international museums and private individuals. They discuss the most commonly forged classes and styles of artifacts and describe how these objects get made, purchased, “authenticated,” and placed in major museums. They also examine the complicity of forgers, dealers, curators, and collectors in the system. Kelker’s Andean book was the subject of a review by Mariana Mould de Pease in *Lundero*, a Peruvian journal, in June.



David Lavery (English) coedited *Screwball Television: Critical Perspectives on "Gilmore Girls"* with David Scott Diffrient in 2010 and edited *The Essential Cult TV Reader* in 2009. His recent essays and chapters in books include "The Catastrophe of My Personality: Frank O'Hara, Don Draper, and the Poetics of *Mad Men*" in *Reading Mad Men*; "Impossible Girl: Amy Sherman-Palladino and Television Creativity" in *Screwball Television*; "Rob Thomas and Television Creativity" in *Investigating Veronica Mars*; "The Emigration of *Life on Mars*: Sam and Gene Do America" in *Life on Mars to Ashes to Ashes*; "How Cult Television Became Mainstream" and "*Battlestar Galactica*" in *The Essential Cult Television Reader*; and "Serial Killer: *Dexter's* Narrative Strategies" in *Dexter: Investigating Cutting Edge Television*.

Lavery reviewed Nicholas Mirzoeff's *Seinfeld* (British Film Institute, 2007) in *Critical Studies in Television*, 4.2 (2009): 123-25. In 2009, he became series editor of the University Press of Mississippi's *Television Conversations*. He was co-convenor with Rhonda Wilcox of the fourth *Slayage* Conference on the Whedonverses at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, in June 2010. His recent conference papers and presentations include "The Imagination Will Be Televised: Showrunning and the Reanimation of Authorship in

21st-century American Television" at the Television Symposium at Merz Academy in Stuttgart, Germany, in January and "Basic No More: Basic Cable and Television Creativity" for the Popular Culture Association in the South in Wilmington, North Carolina, in October 2009.



Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) is serving as interim chair of the Chemistry Department.

Jane Marcellus (Journalism) has had "Southern Myths and the Nineteenth Amendment: The Participation of Nashville Newspaper Publishers in the Final State's Ratification Debate" accepted for publication in *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*.

Ahad Nasab (Engineering Technology) received a grant for three projects from the NASA-Tennessee Space Grant Consortium. The total amount of the grant was \$13,000. The projects were an advanced sensor system for space propulsion, a redesign of the Tesla turbine, and design and testing of a solid propellant rocket with a scientific payload. He also received an MTSU-FRCAC summer research grant for \$7,700. The project title is "Effect of Carbon, Carbon Monoxide, and Carbon Dioxide on Enrichment of the Martian Soil."

Phil Oliver (Philosophy), who was granted tenure in June, traveled to Chocorua, New Hampshire, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, in August to participate in centennial observances of the death of philosopher William James. Also, his essay on John Updike and Ted Williams was published in the latest volume of *Baseball/Literature/Culture* (edited by MTSU's Ron Kates and Warren Tormey) in February.

Bob Pondillo (Electronic Media Communication) published *America's First Network TV Censor: The Work of NBC's Stockton Helffrich* in April 2010. This summer he wrote, directed, and shot (with the help of more than 30 undergrads, five grad students, and a faculty colleague) a short film, *The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill*.

Pondillo's previous short film, *The New, True Charlie Wu*, (written and directed with the help of 30 undergrads, six grad students, four alumni, and two faculty colleagues), has won numerous awards on the national/inter-



national film festival circuit. As of June 2010, the film's honors include Best Comedy Short, 2010 Smogdance International Film Festival, Pomona, California; Best Comedy Short, 2010 Fifteen Minutes of Fame Film Festival, Palm Bay, Florida; Best Comedy Short, 2010 Kent Film Festival, Kent, Connecticut; Best Comedy Short, 2010 Wildwood Film Festival, Wildwood, Wisconsin; and Best Comedy Short - Remi Gold Award, 2010 WorldFest, Houston, Texas (where only 90 shorts were chosen out of more than 4,400 entries).

The film was also an official selection at the 2010 Trail Dance Film Festival in Duncan, Oklahoma; the 2010 New Hope International Film Festival in New Hope, Pennsylvania; the 2010 Manhattan Film Festival in New York; the 2010 Staten Island International Film Festival; and the 2010 Columbia Gorge International Film Festival in Vancouver, Washington. The film was featured on *The Director's Cut* on Wisconsin Public Television.

Linda Seward (Speech and Theatre) became coordinator for communication in the Department of Speech and Theatre in fall 2009. During the 2009-10 school year, she gave four presentations at MTSU Study Abroad orientations on cultural sensitivity and culture shock and presented "Drugs, Culture Shock, and Journals: Planning an Effective Syllabus for Study Abroad" at the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies in the spring. She received a two-year appointment to the editorial board of the journal *Women and Language* and was recently promoted to full professor.

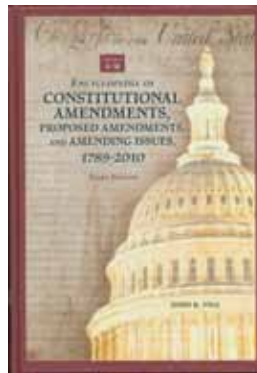
John R. Vile (Honors) received news that the two-volume *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, which he edited with David Hudson and David Schultz for CQ Press and to which he contributed more than 400 entries, has received an Honorable Mention PROSE Award from the American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence in the category of Multivolume Reference/Humanities and



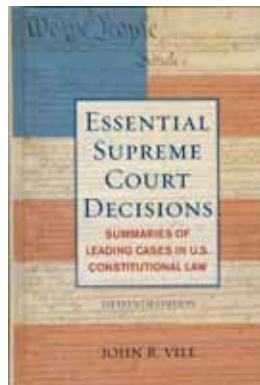
Social Sciences for 2009. The book previously was the 2008 Editors' Choice/Reference pick. It received a starred review in the January 15, 2009, issue of *Library Journal*, which also included it in the Best Reference 2008 list. The volumes were selected by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association (ALA) as one of 10 Outstanding Reference Sources for 2009. The book was also

highly recommended by *Choice* magazine, a publication of the ALA.

Vile has just published the third edition of his *Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789-2001* (ABC-CLIO, 2010), which is appearing for the first time in two volumes. The first edition of this work received a starred review in the November 15, 1996, issue of *Library Journal* and was subsequently included in its list of Best Reference Books of 1996. It was included in *Booklist's* Reference Books of the Year for 1996 and chosen by RUSA as one of the 30 best reference books of 1996. It was listed by the *Law Library Journal* as one of the best legal reference books of 1996 and selected in 1997 as an Honor Book in grades 7-12 social studies by the Society of School Librarians International.



Rowman & Littlefield has just published the 15th edition of Vile's *Essential Supreme Court Decisions*. He has authored the last two editions of this classic work that provides briefs of famous U.S. Supreme Court decisions throughout history.



Jim Williams (History, Albert Gore Research Center) is conducting an oral history project at Congaree National Park with a grant from the National Park Service. Congaree is an International Biosphere Reserve near Columbia, South Carolina, with the largest remnant in the U.S. of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest. Williams' interviews focus on the neighboring residents' relationship with the environment and the African American culture of the area. ●



Spring Graduates Represent MTSU in D.C.

Congressman Bart Gordon meets with MTSU Posters on the Hill delegates Shannon Murphy, left, and Merranda Holmes in his office in Washington, D.C.

Spring Honors College graduates **Merranda Holmes** and **Shannon Murphy** were among 75 students from across the U.S. who were selected to display their research at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., in April. Merranda and Shannon, the only two students from Tennessee, presented “Detection and Differentiation of Bacillus Anthracis-Simulating Endospores: Endospore Production and Analysis Using an Optical Biosensor.”

“There were about 300 entries, and I was a little nervous because they accepted only two from each state,” Shannon said. Merranda added, “We were doing our Honors thesis on the same general topic but were working separately. We brought our work together and had so much information we had trouble getting everything on the poster.”

MTSU professor of biology Dr. Stephen Wright, their mentor, accompanied the two to Washington, where they presented their work to members of Congress and other government officials. The June Undergraduate Research Center newsletter, *URC Scene* quoted Wright as saying, “Our MTSU delegates had the opportunity to thank the legislators for their support for research funding and also reiterate MTSU’s need for science facilities.”

Shannon and Merranda have been generous in their praise for the MTSU Biology Department and Honors

College. Shannon said, “Being part of the Biology Department and Honors College has given me the opportunity to do so many things that I otherwise would not have been able to do. The smaller number of students in Honors courses enabled me to know my professors and fellow students. Being an Honors College student opened a number of unique opportunities, including two internships, recognition by the Barry M. Goldwater and USA TODAY selection committees, and the MTSU Provost’s Award. [It] helped strengthen my application for admittance to medical school.”

Merranda agreed. “Being in the Honors College, with smaller classes, everyone knows the teacher. That’s how I got to know Dr. Wright and do the research.” She added, “The Honors faculty never hesitated go out of their way to help me, whether I had unresolved questions about intricate biological systems, needed funding for research, or sought assistance with medical school and scholarship applications. With such a strong support system and ample outlets for leadership and service, I have grown both academically and socially. As I begin medical school, I am confident that my Honors College experiences have better prepared me to take on this next rigorous step in becoming a physician.”

Posters on the Hill is sponsored annually by the Council of Undergraduate Research, which supports faculty development for high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. ●

Sarah Achelpohl (Nutrition and Food Science, 2010) is attending the University of Memphis where she has been accepted into the master of clinical nutrition and dietetic internship program.

Josh Alexander (Philosophy and History, December 2006), after working at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Tennessee State Ethics Commission, accepted a position as a systems analyst with Community Health Systems (CHS) in Franklin, Tennessee. CHS owns and operates over 120 hospitals and clinics nationwide. Josh spends most his time on the road and in hospitals across the nation, focusing on process analysis, systems training, and best practices.

Lacey Buchanan (Political Science, 2009) began classes at Nashville School of Law in August.

Megan Childers (Psychology, 2010) is attending Vanderbilt University in the women's health/adult nurse practitioner program.

Jasmine Gray (Journalism, 2010) won the MTSU President's Award, the Women of Achievement Heroism Award, and had a scholarship named in her honor—the Jasmine Gray Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship—in spring 2010. She graduated summa cum laude in May. Jasmine received the Turner Broadcasting Diversity Fellowship, which includes tuition, an \$11,000 stipend, and a one-year job with Turner Broadcasting after graduation. She is studying screenwriting and production at Syracuse University in New York. She is seeking an M.A. in television, radio, and film.

Samantha Egbers (English, 2010) plans to work and take a little time off from school before beginning work on a doctorate in English focusing on folklore and pop culture.

Samantha Emerson (Psychology, 2010) is pursuing a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at Georgia State University. She is studying psycholinguistics (the psychology of language).

Eric Freundt (Biology, 2003) is a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University and is studying a virus that causes a disease similar to multiple sclerosis in mice. He also teaches a medical virology course at the UH Berkeley extension. Eric and his wife, Ellie Moss, live in San Francisco, where their first child, a son named Emerson, was born in March.

Jake Hall (Biology, 2010) entered the interdisciplinary graduate program in biological and biomedical sciences at Vanderbilt University this August. The five-year program leads to a Ph.D.

Amber Hampton (Global Studies, 2009) served as a translator and a volunteer in an orphanage and with medical teams in El Salvador. She has returned to the U.S. and plans to attend graduate school.

Merranda Holmes (Biology, 2010) won the 2009 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award. She presented research at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., April 12–13 and at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in San Diego May 23–27. She was accepted at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and is attending ETSU. She graduated summa cum laude from MTSU in May.

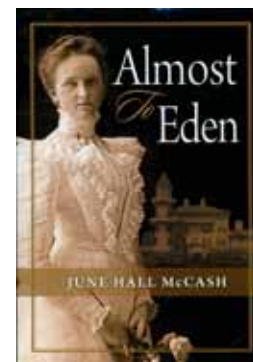
Kaitlen Howell (Biology and German, 2010) won the Robert LaLance Achievement Award and a Fulbright Scholarship in spring 2010. She is spending her scholarship year in Germany studying with a neurologist at West Saxon University of Zwickau. She is part of a research team looking into a possible link between a small, congenital heart defect and increased risk of stroke.

Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) is serving as president of the Student Bar Association of New York School of Law, and in that capacity she recently had the opportunity to have coffee with retired Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was speaking at the school. Justice O'Connor recounted stories of tough cases and shared her current interests.

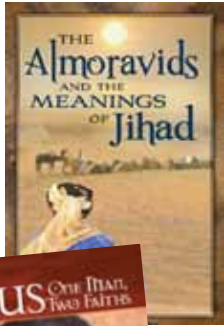
Logan Key (Chemistry and Biology, 2010) is attending Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University.

Cassandra Knorr (Mass Communication, 2010) has been accepted into Vanderbilt University's master of divinity program.

June Hall McCash (professor emerita, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and founding director, Honors Program) recently published her first novel, *Almost to Eden*. She previously published three nonfiction books about Jekyll Island and three books about the Middle Ages. The recipient of research, teaching, and career achievement awards while at MTSU, McCash has also won literary awards and is now a full-time writer.



Shane McCoy (English, 2010) is one of ten students accepted for the University of Washington English graduate program. After successfully completing the requirements for the M.A., he will transition into the doctoral program. The University of Washington graduate program in English was recently ranked in the top 20 in the U.S.



Ronald A. Messier (professor emeritus, History) has written two new books, *The Almoravids and the Meanings of Jihad*, published this summer, and *Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths*, due out in October. The longtime professor of Islamic and Middle East Studies served as the second director of the Honors Program.



Shannon Murphy (Biology, 2010) won the 2010 Provost's Award and was selected to USA Today's 2010 All-USA College Academic Honorable Mention team. She presented research at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., April 12–13 and at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in San Diego May 23–27. She was accepted at East Tennessee State University Quillen

College of Medicine, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and is attending ETSU. She graduated summa cum laude from MTSU in May.

Joshua Parker (Physics and Mathematics, 2010) is attending the University of Maryland at College Park (UMD), where he was admitted with full support and stipend into the physics Ph.D. program. He is studying super cold atoms and solids. *U.S. News and World Report* recently ranked the UMD graduate physics program 14th overall and 7th in Josh's area of specialization.

Megan Parker (Psychology, 2005) received a Ph.D. in school psychology from UT–Knoxville in May 2010.

Austin Purvis (Political Science, 2010) is attending law school at UT–Knoxville.

McKenna Rhea (Biochemistry, 2010) is attending dental school at the University of Alabama–Birmingham.

Amy Ronner (English, 2010) received the MTSU Community Service Award and is attending graduate school at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

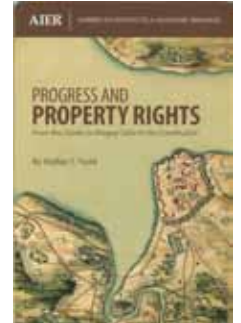
Virginia Schlitt (Biology, 2010) is attending East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, where she is seeking a second degree in nursing.

Waffa Shaban (Marketing and Psychology, 2010) was accepted to the College Program on Islam (CPOI) at Oxford College of Emory University. The program is designed to provide the participant with a social, cultural, and civilizational introduction to Islam.

Rachel Simes (Recording Industry, 2009) completed her first year of law school at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire, and returned to Nashville for the summer as a volunteer at Baker & Kelly, an entertainment law firm.

Evan Swift (Biology, 2010) is working as an EMT in Memphis for a year before entering medical school.

Walker Todd recently published *Progress and Property Rights: From the Greeks to Magna Carta to the Constitution*. Todd is a native of Murfreesboro and is the son of MTSU's Fowler Todd, who served as chair of the Business Department. He was an Honors College guest speaker in March 2009, when he presented "Are Federal Bail-Outs the Answer? AIG, the Banks, and the Auto-Makers." Todd is an attorney, an economic consultant, and American Institute for Economic Research Fellow. He has 20 years of experience at the Federal Reserve banks in Cleveland and New York.



Sheila Umayam (Psychology, 2007, and Science, 2008) has been accepted at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in the family nurse practitioner/midwifery dual-focus program in which only 18–20 students are accepted.

Daniel Vaughan (Political Science, 2010) is attending Regent Law School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is pursuing his J.D. there and plans to involve himself in their Moot Court team and Law Review. He also plans to study abroad in France, Britain, or Israel.

Christopher V. Watkins (English, 2010) is in France, teaching English to children for the 2010–11 school year through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF).

Dani Westerman (Political Science, 2009) was married to Spencer Bryson at the family farm in Dickson, Tennessee, on Saturday, June 12, 2010. The ceremony was officiated by Dave Odom, associate pastor of Third Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. Daniel Vaughan, a 2010 Honors graduate, was one of ushers for the event. Dani, who was on the Mock Trial team at MTSU, enters her second year of law school at UT–Knoxville this fall; Spencer will be teaching at Clinton Elementary School. ●

Honors Alumni Named to USA TODAY Academic Team

On June 9, **Jasmine Gray** was featured in *USA TODAY* as a member of its First Academic Team. In addition, **Shannon Murphy** made the Honorable Mention Team.

The success of the May graduates was not unexpected in light of their numerous accomplishments. Jasmine, a mass communication major who graduated summa cum laude, won the MTSU President's Award, a Women of Achievement Heroism Award, and the Turner Broadcasting Diversity Fellowship to study for an M.A. at Syracuse University in New York.

Jasmine's outstanding leadership and entrepreneurship helped secure her place on the USA TODAY All-USA College Academic First Team. As editor in chief of MTSU's arts and literary magazine, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* in fall 2009 and spring 2010, she managed a staff of 17 students. In 2006, she founded Jaz's Jammies and has since collected over 3,000 pairs of pajamas for sick and homeless children.

Shannon, a biology major, won the MTSU Provost's Award and was selected to present research at Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., and at the American Society for Microbiology in San Diego. She is a past recipient of an Honorable Mention from the Goldwater Scholarship Foundation. A summa cum laude graduate, she is attending East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine.

Both women are Honors College graduates and members of MTSU's recently chartered circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, which recognizes students for scholarship and leadership.

MTSU was one of 17 colleges and universities that placed a student in the top team, one of 43 schools whose students were recognized on one or more



Jaz Gray, right, accepts pajama donations for Jaz's Jammies in the Honors Building in April 2009.

teams, and one of only 13 universities that received multiple recognitions. Other colleges and universities whose students were appointed to the top team included Arizona State, Florida State, Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Iowa State University, Loyola University of Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Denver, University of Iowa, University of Miami, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Tech, West Point, and the University of Wyoming. MTSU was the only college or university in Tennessee to place someone in the top team, and one of only two to have a student named to one of *USA TODAY*'s four teams.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, noted that this is a prestigious accomplishment for the University and the third successive year that it has been recognized by *USA TODAY*. In 2008, Taylor Barnes, an Honors chemistry and physics major now studying at California Institute of Technology, was given an Honorable Mention, and last year he was named to the third team. These awards will reinforce the national recognition that MTSU got last year from *Forbes* magazine. Acknowledging that the students recognized would have been worthy of recognition from any school, Vile credited Laura Clippard (who directs the Honors College Undergraduate Fellowship Office), the McNair Program, and individuals across campus for nominating students and helping guide them through the application process. ●



Amber Hampton visits with a group of orphaned siblings in front of their home in El Salvador during one of her visits.

Starting Backward: A New Perspective on Life in the States

by Amber Hampton | *Amber graduated summa cum laude in December 2009 with a degree in Global Studies and minors in religious studies and Spanish. She graduated from the Honors College with distinction.*

“Turn both your pockets and your hearts inside out and give generously to the poor; then your lives will be clean . . .”
—Luke 11:37 (*The Message Bible*)

When I graduated from MTSU in December, the plan was simple: after working for several months to save money, I would move to El Salvador in August as a full-time missionary.

While I was still in college, I spent my summers in Central America and had fallen in love with El Salvador and its people. I flew there in March to get everything ready for my move. Every trip is a different adventure, and, true to form, this trip did not disappoint. I worked as a translator for a medical team, worked in clinics in the middle of a lava field, worked cleaning up orphanages swarming with rats and roaches, and taught after-school classes to kids in the inner city.

Every day was something new, every experience something to remember. However, there was one memory that I will never forget as long as I live. We were eating dinner at the camp after working all day in a lava field in Nueva Esperanza when one of the missionaries walked by collecting leftovers, half-eaten plates of food. He walked over to the trash and began collecting the food people were throwing away. As I gave him the leftovers of my half-eaten slice of bread, I asked him what he was doing. He looked around, leaned in, and whispered, “Come with us and I’ll show you.” I immediately got up out of my seat and went outside with him.



that can be done. We don’t have to fly overseas to find people who are starving or hurting. If we want to make a difference, we can always start in our own backyard. ●

Amber Hampton gets acquainted with a young boy during a 2007 mission trip to El Salvador.

We climbed the outskirts of the camp and walked along the fence for several minutes. After a few moments of walking in silence, I heard a chorus of voices coming from across the fence. When the woman carrying the flashlight arrived, I saw a crowd of kids and families standing directly across from us. Some of the kids recognized me from summers before, and yelled out my name as I approached. The missionary asked them all to share as he passed over the plates of food that my teams were getting ready to throw in the trash just moments before. The kids grabbed them and frantically began stuffing their faces as quickly as they could. I was amazed. I lived at this camp every summer and was working with the poor every day, yet somehow I had overlooked the very kids that I saw on a daily basis. In that moment, I felt as if my eyes had been opened to a world of which I had been unaware before that night.

Before my trip in March, I wanted to move to El Salvador to help change the world. What I saw changed me instead. I realized that the opportunities we have to change our world are sometimes a lot closer than they seem. The month I spent in El Salvador was the most humbling and transforming month of my life. I learned that we don’t always have to go to another country to make a difference. There is still a lot in our own world

CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The calendar year 2009 saw a record number of donors to the Honors College. Donors over the past year (with women listed first for couples) include the following:

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