The purpose of the Martin Lectureship is to bring renowned artists, politicians, humanitarians, scientists, entrepreneurs, entertainers, military leaders, corporate executives, and leaders of other types to the Honors College and to the environs of Murfreesboro. According to interim dean Phil Mathis, the new lectureship will complement rather than compete with the long-standing and highly successful Honors Lecture Series by MTSU faculty members. He noted that Martin’s generosity will afford MTSU Honors students and others the opportunity to see, hear, and interact with some of the more current big bios who can share your news with other students and alumni. Pictures are also welcome.

From The Bell Tower

During the past few months, I have had the extraordinary privilege of serving the University Honors College in an administrative role. Among the many rewards of such service is the opportunity to reflect upon the mission and ultimate direction of the college as an academic unit within a fast-changing university. The Honors College strives to reach educational goals of the most exalted type. Its mission is nothing less than to provide undergraduate education of unqualified quality to a small but diverse student population having unqualified passion for learning and a commitment to the virtues espoused by the college: character, commitment, creativity, curiosity, discipline, faith, honor, and integrity. In fulfilling its mission, the college partners with individuals and groups, inside and outside the university, to advance the institutional goal of academic quality, creates a student-centered learning environment, and serves as a source of institutional pride by holding the lamp of learning high.

HONORS alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Spring 2005

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Honors Alternative University Honors College MTSU P.O. Box 267 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Kimberly A. Myers Biology Major B.S., Spring 1999 Summa Cum Laude Since leaving MTSU, Myers has been pursuing a Ph.D. in virology at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Max Nibert. Her work involves the study of viral entry into host cells. She is on track to complete her degree within the next year and a half. Following its completion, she plans to take a more nontraditional career path, most likely pursuing a career in science policy and/or science law. Her goal is to use her training as a scientist in areas of public interest and/or public policy.

Debra Hollingsworth Honors Mass Communication Major B.S., Spring 1980 Cum Laude What started out as a career focused on advertising and public relations for such firms as Rotary International, Aladdin Industries, Geomarc Company, and KERA-FM radio branched out into another direction in 1987. Since that time, Hopkins has been deeply involved in education, especially in teaching, curriculum development, and teacher training related to English as a second language. With the recent explosion of immigrants who are just beginning to learn English, teachers around the country are hungry for training on how to support these students and how to accelerate their acquisition of language and literacy skills. Hopkins considers her work to be a sort of “mission” and is proud of the contributions she has been able to make through her work as a teacher trainer and curriculum developer. In a way, she says, it has been a perfect blend of education and mass comm., since communication is one of the most important elements of what she does. It has also allowed her to use the language skills she picked up at MTSU and beyond.

Ranin immediately noticed the tremendous visible transformations the Honors College has undergone in the few years since he graduated as Dr. Mathis gave him a tour of the new building. One could sense Ranin measuring his own personal growth alongside the growth of his alma mater.

You’re song, a wished-for song.

Go through the ear to the center where sky is, where wind, where silent knowing.

Put seeds and cover them.

Blades will sprout where you do your work.

—Rumi (trans. by Coleman Barks)
You are invited to attend the annual
Wednesday, April 20, 2005 • 3:00 p.m. • Under the tent

HONORS FACULTY MEMBER
PAULA B. THOMAS

Paula B. Thomas, professor and interim chair of Accounting, received the 2004 Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). She received the award at the AICPA governing council’s spring meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Scott Vorys, institute chairman, was the presenter. According to the citation issued in her honor, “Throughout her career, students have consistently rated her overall performance as among the top of her department rankings. Paula’s approach to innovative classroom teaching focuses on remaining current in both pedagogical and technical issues.”

Dr. Thomas serves as advisory board distinguished professor of accounting. She has received the Tennessee Society of CPAs Outstanding Educator Award and the award for Outstanding Performance in the Accounting Profession from the MTSU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national accounting fraternity. She has served on many AICPA committees including the governing council, the academic and career development executive committee, and the work/life and women’s initiatives executive committee. She is currently a member of the AICPA board of examiners. She has also been a member of numerous American Accounting Association committees. She is licensed as a CPA in Tennessee. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (www.aicpa.org), the national professional association of CPAs, has more than 340,000 members in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets professional ethics standards for the profession and accounting standards for U.S. private companies. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination.

We would like to share your faculty accomplishments with our Honors students and alumni; please keep us posted!

ALUMNI CORNER
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MARK A. HALL
Honors Thesis: These Are Facts that the Heart Can Feel: The Absurd and its Consequences in the Work of Albert Carkus
B.A., Spring 1977
Mark A. Hall is the Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest University School of Law and School of Medicine and is an associate at the Babcock School of Management. He received his B.A. from Middle Tennessee State University in 1977 and his J.D., with highest honors, at the University of Chicago in 1981. Before joining the faculty at Wake Forest in 1993, he taught at Arizona State University. He has also completed a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Finance Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University and has more recently been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hall specializes in health care law and public policy with a focus on economic, regulatory, and corporate issues. His present research interests include doctor/patient trust, managed care regulation, health care rationing, genetics, and insurance market reform. He is the author or editor of ten books on health care law and policy, including the four-volume series Health Care Corporate Law (Aspen), Making Medical Spending Decisions (Oxford University Press), and Health Care Law and Ethics (5th ed., Aspen).

SHARON CATOR
Honors Thesis: Effect of Master Classroom Technology on Retention of Course Material by Students at MTSU
B.S., Summer 2003
Sharon Cator joined the staff of the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center in August 2004 as a planner in the Planning Division. Sharon has a master’s degree in community and economic development with an emphasis in rural planning and development. In her current job, Cator prepares ordnances and comprehensive plans and assists with grant writing, transportation issues, and local service delivery strategies.

Those of you who know her will understand her description of her job: “I get to terrorize nine counties in southeast Georgia. How cool is that?” We wish her well in her new career!

VIRGINIA L. VILE
Political Science (pre-law) and Foreign Language Major
B.A., Spring 2002
Summa Cum Laude
Virginia Vile is in her third and final year at the Marshall-Wythe Law School at the College of William and Mary. Her father, John Vile (Political Science), is particularly proud of her accomplishments to date. Last year she placed first among her second-year law school peers in the Bushrod T. Washington Moot Court Tournament at William and Mary (she had placed second in the previous year’s competition). She also became the first student fellow of the Twenty-first Century Courtroom at William and Mary after participating with a group of attorneys in an all-day televised moot court, mock mediation program. She is the president of the William and Mary Trial Court team and coaches the William and Mary undergraduate teams. She is heading up a group of students who are working on a case for an attorney in Williamsburg, Virginia, and worked during the 2004 summer for the New York Law Department. She plans to marry Keith Wesołowski, a graduate of Yale and William and Mary Law this spring. After graduation, she hopes to get a full-time job in New York City.

RANIN KAZEMY-BAHNAMIRY
Honors Thesis: The Sun Making Rubies, the Sea Pearls: A Study of Love Imagery in the Mathnawi
B.A., Spring 2002
On September 22, 2004, Honors College graduate Ranin Kazemy-Bahnamy returned to campus to address students in the UH 4600 interdisciplinary seminar “Contemporary Middle East Culture” taught by Allen Hibbard and Ron Messier. The central topic of discussion for the class that day was Islamic mysticism, particularly Sufism. Kazemy-Bahnamy, currently in The Ohio State University’s graduate program in Middle East Studies, spoke to the class about the great medieval Persian mystic poet Jalal al-din Rumi. Under the direction of Messier and Hibbard, Kazemy-Bahnamy wrote his Honors thesis on the use of imagery in Rumi’s extraordinarily challenging long work the Mathnawi.

In a session open to all Honors students, Kazemy-Bahnamy spoke about the process of writing his thesis and the value it has had in his current work. Though he has not carried on
Originally from Jamestown, Tennessee, I was born on August 20, 1983. My parents are Jim and Denise and my brother is Michael. At Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, I was president of the Rotary Interact Club and vice president of Student Council and was voted Homecoming Attendant and Prom Queen. After graduating fifth in my class, I received various awards including Miss YAI, the Kim Upchurch MTSU scholarship, the Wilma Rinkley Citizenship Award, the Marines Most Distinguished Athlete Award, and the Noteworthy Singing Award.

My hobbies include basketball, swimming, biking, singing, and dancing. Until recently, I was a head lifeguard at MTSU's pool and was president of the high school octet. In high school, I discovered I enjoyed singing; I now am in the University Chorus. Also, I enjoy dancing and became even more interested in it after taking a hip hop class in high school.

Most remarkable, however, are my three and one half years at MTSU. With a major in Biology and a concentration in Biotechnology and Genetics, I began research with Dr. Rebecca Seipel in the spring of 2003 in order to fulfill an H-Option in Human Genetics. Through my H-Option, I found my interest for research and asked Dr. Seipel to assist me in a future honors thesis. From that point on, I continued work on an experiment titled "Cloning and Characterization of Leukothrene A4 Hydroxilase." Unsure of whether working in a lab was my aspiration, I obtained an internship at Vanderbilt University’s Medical Center (VUMC) in the spring of 2004 with the help of Dr. Seipel. There I worked with genetic counselors for VUMC’s program in human genetics. My job was to help with the recruitment of individuals for Vanderbilt’s genetic studies in epilepsy, muscular degeneration, autism, and Alzheimer’s disease. I also drafted a letter to be sent out to those involved in a Parkinson’s disease study. After my internship, however, I knew that my heart remained in laboratory research. So I continued the UTA experiment working with Dr. Seipel on the genetics portion and with her husband, Dr. Michael Thompson, on the biochemistry part. I even received a scholarship in the summer of 2004 to continue work on the project.

Now, my aspirations include pursuing a six-hour honors thesis in biochemistry this spring under the direction of Dr. Seipel. I plan on presenting a poster titled "Cloning and Characterization of Leukothrene A4 Hydroxilase." I also plan on presenting a paper at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus. After my work here at MTSU, I plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

Campus School Newspaper

Those participating students planning to attend MTSU had an opportunity to interact with current Honors students and faculty members and learn strategies that will help them build successful college careers.

Honors Service Learning Projects Cont.

Honors Service from page 8

Student Volunteer Meets Bush

Because of her volunteer work, Honors student Andrea Dawn Martin earned the opportunity to meet President George W. Bush last year. According to an article in the Daily News Journal, Martin has worked for three years with Mercy Ministries, a nonprofit agency for young women who have problems with addiction, abuse, or unplanned pregnancies. Because her efforts fit the goals of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, Martin was invited to meet Bush at the Nashville airport on August 31 when the president arrived for a campaign event.

Martin, a science major in the pre-medical curriculum, is one of more than 300 persons recognized by the president for volunteer service of at least two years or 4,000 hours.

Honors Alternative Credits

Health and Wellness

Several students created health/wellness minicourses that they implemented with Campus School first and sixth graders and a group of home-schooled children. These students went into classrooms and taught the younger children such wellness elements as the importance of a balanced diet, how to properly wash their hands, why exercise is important, and how to live a healthy life.

Generation to Generation

An FPI group worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County to create a program much like FPI but geared to trying to improve communication between teens and their parents. Kids and parents attended sessions where they played games, completed assignments, and exchanged stories. All of these elements worked toward the larger goal of each generation getting to understand the other a little bit better.

Keep the Night Train Rolling

Student Volunteer Meets Bush

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Ron Kates (English) with Amy Toensing

**Noted Photojournalist**

**Visits Honors**

One of the many highlights of the Fall 2004 semester was the visit of award-winning photojournalist Amy Toensing on September 23. Toensing has been on assignment for national and international publications such as National Geographic, the New York Times, Newsweek, Fortune, and the Boston Globe. After three years covering capital Hill for the New York Times, Toensing embarked on a freelance photojournalist career that has included such assignments as covering Reverend Jesse Jackson’s campaign for economic stability throughout Appalachia and Mississippi.

Toensing refers to her pictures as a series of “intimate essays reflecting the lives of ordinary people.” Her coverage of Monongah Island, a winter allocating community twelve miles off the Main coast (National Geographic, July 2003), won second place in the International Pictures of the Year competition, portrait division. In 1998, Toensing won an award of excellence from the Photographer of the Year competition for a story depicting Puerto Rico’s intertwined diversity and heritage. Toensing approaches her assignments with an interdisciplinary eye and consequently produces work that appeals to a wide audience.

The event was funded by the support of the University Honors College, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Mass Communication, the Electronic Media Department, and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund.

**The Honors H-Option**

The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors, upper-division class. In order to submit an H-Option, students must have completed at least nine hours of lower-division Honors coursework. Honors College students may use the H-Option for a total of nine credit hours. Proposals for Fall 2005 must be submitted to the Honors College office by April 1, 2005.

**Honors Newsletter Accomplishments**

Ron Kates, associate professor of English, recently became advisor of the Interdisciplinary Writing Minor. He has developed a new brochure and has updated the list of courses that students can take for credit in the minor. If you teach a course (or know of a course) you think would make a good addition to the Interdisciplinary Writing Minor, please contact Dr. Kates. Briefly, any course within the minor should be writing intensive, that is, it should emphasize writing beyond the requirements for a typical course. Since students can take no more than twelve of the eighteen required hours in a single department, there is a need to identify appropriate courses in areas other than the Department of English and the School of Journalism. Dr. Kates would be happy to answer any questions, comments, or concerns about the minor. Call him at 2595 or e-mail him at rkates@mtsu.edu.

Gary Wurtzberg, professor of Chemistry submitted two posters for Scholar’s Day 2004. They were: (1) Talking to Our Colleagues: Coordinating Course Content among Three Divisions of Chemistry and (2) NO-R and Computational Studies of the Weakly Coordinating Chloroacetate, Trichloroacetate, and Triphosphate Anions. Coauthors from the Department of Chemistry were Tiber Kornatskaya and James Howard.

Will Branley, professor of English, wrote the afterword for an anniversary edition of Lillian Smith’s Novels in the Time. The Time was published by the University Press of Mississippi to mark the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. He was also invited to speak about Smith and her book at the Brown v. Board of Education Faculty Symposium hosted by the Tennessee Board of Regents at Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville in October. He was also invited to discuss the book at the Southeastern Festival of Books in Memphis in 2004. For more information about the book, visit www.middleenglish.org/MiddleEnglish/Branley-Smith.html.

Laura Dubek, assistant professor of English, published “White Family Values in Ann Petry’s Country Place” in MELIS (29.2 Summer 2004), 55-76, the journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. In addition to this accomplishment, students in her UH 4600 interdisciplinary seminar (Life Stories: African American Literature and Culture) produced a collection of personal essays that were bound and placed in the Martinelli Memorial Library in the Honors College.

Dr. Dubek was very proud of her students’ work in this brand new Honors seminar.

John Vile, professor and chair of the Political Science Department, had a most productive past year. Roman & Littlefield published his Summaries of Leading Cases of the Constitution (coauthored with J. F. Meneghini) this past March. It was the fourteenth edition and the fiftieth anniversary of this long-established classic and is the first edition on which he worked. He also participated in a scholar’s conference sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in California in January organized the panels for a faculty leadership conference in Alexandria in June, and addressed a high school faculty seminar on the U.S. Constitution in Chattanooga in July. M. E. Sharpe is publishing a three-volume set titled Civil Liberties in America that Vile coedited with David Schultz of Hamline University in the fall. A followup to the three-volumes Civil Rights in America, this latest work contains entries from about 150 scholars from throughout the country. Vile has recently submitted the text of another work, The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America’s Founding (two vols.) to ABC-CLIO for publication on or before July 4, 2005. It is the first such work of its kind and will contain more than 500,000 words.

Prosson MacDougall, associate professor of Chemistry, was among the invited speakers at a symposium titled “3-D Visualization Technology for Teaching Chemistry.” The event was part of the 228th national meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Philadelphia August 22-26. Other symposium speakers represented universities from CalTech to Carnegie-Mellon as well as universities from the Netherlands and Germany. The title of MacDougall’s presentation was “Conquer Without Dividing: Volume Rendering of Intact Molecular Charge Densities Effectively Illustrates Key Concepts in Bonding and Reactivity.” MacDougall was the principal author and presenter, and Christopher E. Henet, NASA Ames Research Center, was a collaborator and coauthor. Also during the meeting, MacDougall accepted a CherryLuminary Award for Outstanding Public Relations in the small or medium local section category (MacDougall is public relations chair for the society’s Nashville section.)

One of our newest Honors faculty members, Virginia Donnell of the Speech and Theatre Department, had a paper titled “Gender and Multimedia Communication Used for Collaboration” published in the National Social Science Association’s Perspectives Journal, vol. 26, No. 1, 2005.
Front Porch Institute: What is the Front Porch Institute (FPI)? The answer: a semester-long program created by students enrolled in the Honors College.

Throughout collaborations are established with area high school seniors. MTSU students taking an Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar titled "The Hometown Project,” under the tutelage of Ron Kates, created the Front Porch Institute as an opportunity for high school seniors from across the midstate to participate in a series of gatherings to discuss pertinent topics, exchange ideas, and learn to interact in a community of new peers. During these meetings, FPI organizers lead discussions, introduced community-building activities, and generally helped to improve interaction between the group members. Part of sitting on a front porch and engaging in a conversation involves not just talking and listening but also absorbing and applying information. Indeed, while each of the meetings had an activity geared toward helping the participating students learn about different cultures, attitudes, or people, the meetings also had a self-awareness or self-reflective component. Hometown students can three separate groups during the semester.

Honors Scholarships: Honors scholarships are available to students who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses. Applications are available in the Honors College Office (HONR 205), or on our Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~honors/Scholarships.htm.

What is the Front Porch Institute (FPI)? The answer: a semester-long program created by students enrolled in the Honors College.
Fall 2005

Deadlines to Remember

Independent Research or Creative Projects Proposals (to be completed in Spring 2006)

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL
One copy due in Honors Office by December 1, 2005

FINAl PROPOSAL
One copy due in Honors Office by February 1, 2006

Independent Research or Creative Projects (to be completed in Fall 2005)

THESIS DEFENSE
Be forecENNtEE CommittEE
Date to be announced.

PUBLIC DEFENSE
Be FORE HONORS LECTURE SERIES
December 5, 2005

FINAL PROJECTS DUE
All post-defense corrections must be made.
Submit two copies on cotton paper.

December 7, 2005

U H 4600-001

LEGENDS OF KING ARTHUR
MW 2:40 TO 2:50 P.M.

Legends of King Arthur will examine the Arthurian legends from their origins in sixth-century Celtic-Roman Britain to the late Middle Ages. The primary focus of the course will be Arthurian literature composed from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries in Latin, Welsh, French, and Middle English (although the text also contains selections translated from German, Old Norse, Italian, Spanish, and Provencal). We will begin with exploring the historical and mythical origins of the characters of King Arthur and Merlin, the two most dominant characters in the legends. The second major unit will examine the two great love stories connected with legends: the romances concerning Tristan and Iseult and, of course, Lancelot and Guinevere. This unit will be followed by a study of the tales about Sir Gawain, the most popular of the English knights. We will conclude with a discussion of the tragedy of King Arthur (that is, Mordred's rebellion and Arthur's death). The course covers a variety of medieval literary forms: the Latin prose chronicle, the poetic epic and alliterative heroic saga, the romance (in both prose and verse), the Breton lays, lyrics and songs, and finally the English prose chronic. This course has been approved for English major and minor credit and fulfills area A or D for the English major requirement. For more information, contact Dr. William Connelly at (615) 898-2573 or e-mail wconnel@mtsu.edu.

U H 3500-001

MYTHOLOGY AND FILM
MW 2:40 TO 5:40 P.M.

Mythology and Film explores the relationship between mythological narratives and symbols and the film genre, focusing on how film transforms mythic patterns into cinematic art. Students will begin by reading Joseph Campbell's The Hero with a Thousand Faces to understand Campbell's influential theory of the "monomyth" and will then study Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Two films will be analyzed that represent very different uses of mythic narrative: Troy (2004) attempts a historical adaptation of the Iliad, while O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000) uses a modern setting and the plot of the Odyssey for parodic and comic purposes. The rest of the unit will look at the relationship among the national, irrational, and creative dimensions of the human psyche. The myths surrounding Apollo and Dionysius will be studied as students read Euripides' The Bacchae and Thomas Mann's Der Zauberberg. The 1971 film adaptation of Mann's novel, the irrational aspects of the mythic paradigm of the "trip to the underworld" and the role of shamanism will be examined as students read selections from Mircea Eliade's Myth of the "Trip to the Underworld" and Peter Weir's The Last Wave (1977). Mythology and Film will be taught by Angela Hague. As an interdisciplinary seminar, the course fulfills the Honors College requirement for interdisciplinary or upper-division Honors coursework. This course also counts as credit toward the English major and minor; fulfills Area H for the English major; and counts as credit toward the Classical Studies and Film Studies minors. Students interested in taking the course should contact Dr. Hague at ahague@mtsu.edu.

U H 3600

HONORS CLASS SCHEDULE

Students with 3.0 GPAs may enroll in any Honors course as long as they meet the prerequisite(s) and the class has space available.

Priority Registration Begins April 2005

Honors Upper-Division Courses, Fall 2005

Check current catalog for prerequisite information.

ACTG 3000 Survey of Accounting for General Business
Acct 3000 Syllabus: minor emphasis, financial statement analysis and managerial uses of accounting given major emphasis.

BLAW 3400 Legal Environment of Business
Legal rights and potential liabilities of business persons. Presentation of the dynamic nature of law in responding to the changing social, ethical, political, regulatory, and international environment.

BMC/OUR 4210 Mass Communication and Society
Theories of the process of mass communication, how media affects society the evolution within a social and cultural context, ethical and social dimensions.

BMC/OUR 4790 International Communication
The gathering of world news and the systems and philosophies associated with supranational communication. Satellite television, international political communications, advertising, and national development with regard to press systems.

MGMT 3610 Principles of Management
Concepts of the management functions of planning, organizing, and controlling with an emphasis on behavioral science concepts as applied to managing people in organizations.

MKT 3820 Principles of Marketing
Survey of the functions, processes, and institutions involved in the distribution of consumer and industrial goods and services. Decision making in marketing management introduced.

P S 4230 Classical Political Theory
Western political theory from the ancient Greeks through the medieval Christians. Includes Sophocles, Aristophanes, Plato, Aristotle, stoicism, skepticism, Lucretius, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas More.

PSY 4600 Psychosexual Adjustment
Psychological, cultural, and biological facets of the human sexual experience. Attitudes and behaviors, variances, and dysfunctions, implications and strategies for treatment.

PSY 4650 Health Psychology
Psychological factors and principles involved in the study of correlates of health and illness, disease prevention, therapeutic interventions, and rehabilitative strategies.

U H 3000

Honors Lecture Series
Sports: Mythology, Ego, and Economics

U H 3600

Mythology and Film (See page 6 for details.)

U H 4600

Legends of King Arthur (See page 6 for details.)

Fall 2005

Five Honors Theses
Successfully Defended During Fall 2004

Ada Igbul (B.S. 2004F)
“The Incidence of Borrelia Species among Ticks in Middle Tennessee”

Brandon Schernayder (B.S. 2005SS)
“Rereshiping Digital Audio: DSD Encoding as a Viable Alternative to PCM”

Kay Malone (B.S. 2004F)
The Light Child (screenplay creative project)

Lynee Napatalong (B.S. 2005SS)
“Locational Determinants of House Price in Davidson County”

Andrey Kovel (B.S. 2005SS)
“Influence of Brand Advertising in Ukrainian Society”

Journalism Professor Ed Kirnbrull with Andrey Kovel, November 2004

Plan Ahead for Graduation

Set Yourself Apart... with a degree from the University Honors College. Know where you’re going and how to get there. Make an appointment today with Honors Academic Advisor Michelle Gadson. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464.
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MW 2:00 TO 2:50 P.M.

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Honors R and R

Below are just a few of the planned events for the spring semester. All presentations are free and open to everyone and take place almost every Wednesday beginning at 4:00 p.m. Come to as many events as you can!

Lakote Spiritual Philosophy
by Oglala Pipe Carrier J. J. Kent

Therapeutic and Healing Touch
by Bonnie Johnson

Delmar Holland and the Blue Creek Ramblers
featuring Rebekah Weber (dad Randy is so proud!)

Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Power of Women in Hollywood
by Virginia Donnell

Honors Council 2004–2005

Tony Whiteside, Psychology chair
David Foote, Management and Marketing, chair-elect
Larry Burris, Journalism, student representative
Paula Thomas, Accounting, chair-elect

What is the Front Porch Institute (FPI)? The answer: a semester-long program created by students enrolled in the Honors College program. Since Americans have gone (and stayed) inside to watch 500 channels of cable television, play video games, write e-mails, and generally well off from their neighbors, their ability to communicate has begun to decline. We particularly see this among teenagers, who would rather instant messages than sit down and talk. As the MTSU students who organized the project well know, it is remarkably easy to spend one’s college career in a dorm room, library or apartment in pursuit of “knowledge.” When this knowledge can be found in everyday interaction with peers, teachers, and other members of the university and civic communities.

Improving communication skills is the goal of the Front Porch Institute program. Honors students are working on interdisciplinary seminars titled “The Hometown Project,” under the tutelage of Ron Kates, created the Front Porch Institute as an opportunity for high school seniors from across the midstate to participate in a series of gatherings to discuss pertinent topics, exchange ideas, and learn to interact in a community of new peers. During these meetings, FPI organizers led discussions, introduced community-building activities, and generally helped to improve interaction between the group members. Part of sitting on a front porch and engaging in a conversation involves not just talking and listening but also absorbing and applying information. Indeed, while each of the meetings had an activity geared toward helping the participating students learn about different cultures, attitudes, or people, the meetings also had a self-awareness or self-reflective component.

During the Fall 2004 semester, an ad hoc committee was formed for the purpose of developing a written set of guiding principles that would facilitate the transfer of the MTSU student literary magazine, Collage, to the auspices of the Honors College. After much hard work by committee members, the first issue of Collage as an Honors publication is anticipated this semester. Committee members were the following:

Martha Hison
Gaylord Brewer
Virginia Donnell
Teresa Pickering
Sara Clark
Amy Foster

Honor Scholarships

Honors scholarships are available to students who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses. Applications are available in the Honors College Office (HONR 205), or on our Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~honors/.

In addition to the benefits, participating students can also sharpen their communication, teamwork, leadership, and listening skills while interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds.

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

Where’s Spiderman?

Karen and Kathy play cards.

The Honors College Wins Its First Halloween Decoration Contest!

We were up against stiff competition, but the efforts of our event coordinator, Georgia Dennis, paid off. For those of you who did not get a chance to see the spooky Halloween embellishments in person, you really missed quite a sight!
Fox and David Rivenbank worked diligently on their Homecoming banner. They didn’t win the contest, but much fun was had by all who participated.

Honors Studies Association members Ty The Honors H-Option
The Honors H-Option
and place in the International Geographic, National series of “intimate essays reflecting the lives of ordinary people.” Her coverage of Monhegan Island, a winter lobstering community twelve miles off the Maine coast (Toensing refers to her pictures as a

The event was funded by the support of the University Honors College, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Mass Communication, the Electronic Media Department, and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund.

Rico’s intertwined diversity and heritage. Toensing approaches her assignments with an interdisciplinary eye and consequently produces work that appeals to a wide audience.

The Honors H-Option
The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors, upper-division class. In order to submit an H-Option, students must have completed at least nine hours of lower-division Honors coursework. Honors College students may use the H-Option for a total of nine credit hours. Proposals for Fall 2005 must be submitted to the Honors College office by April 1, 2005.

Laura Dubek, assistant professor of English, published “White Family Values in Ann Petry’s

The Southeast Tourism Society is a nonprofit organization whose goals and objectives are to develop, market, and promote travel to and within the southeastern states. Since 1985, the society has published its Top 20 Events list. Events must go through an extensive nomination process and are reviewed in detail before being selected for this award.

“This is the sixth festival at MTSU and it’s a wonderful honor to have been selected as one of the top events in the southeast for two years in a row,” said festival coordinator Georgia Dennis. “A number of departments at MTSU work together to bring this three-day event to campus. They include the University Honors College, Student Programming, MTSU Production Services, the Tennessee Livestock Center, the MTSU Anthropology program, the Native American Student Association, and the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society.”

For more information about the festival, please visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/sowcow or call the Honors Event Coordinator’s office at (615) 898-5645.

Honors Studies Association members Ty Fox and David Rivenbank worked diligently on their Homecoming banner. They didn’t win the contest, but much fun was had by all who participated.
Originally from Jamestown, Tennessee, I was born on August 20, 1983. My parents are Jim and Denise and my brother is Michael. At Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, I was president of the Rotary Interact Club and vice president of Student Council and was voted Homecoming Attendant and Prom Queen. After graduating fifth in my class, I received various awards including Miss VAY, the Kim Upchurch MTSU scholarship, the Wilma Rindley Citizenship Award, the Marines Most Distinguished Athlete Award, and the Noteworthy Singing Award.

My hobbies include basketball, swimming, biking, singing, and dancing. Until recently, I was a head lifeguard at MTSU's pool and was president of the Student Union. In high school, I discovered I enjoyed singing; I now am in the University Chorus. Also, I enjoy dancing and became even more interested in it after taking a hip hop class in high school. Most remarkable, however, are my three and one half years at MTSU. With a major in Biology and a concentration in Biotechnology and Genetics, I began research with Dr. Rebecca Seippel in the spring of 2003 in order to fulfill an H-Option in Human Genetics. Through my H-Option, I found my interest for research and asked Dr. Seippel to assist me in a future honors thesis. From that point on, I continued work on an experiment titled "Cloning and Characterization of Leukothriene A4 Hydrolyase." Unsure of whether working in a lab was my aspiration, I obtained an internship at Vanderbilt University's Medical Center (VUMC) in the spring of 2004 with the help of Dr. Seippel. There I worked with genetic counselors for VUMC's program in human genetics. My job was to help with the recruitment of individuals for Vanderbilt's genetic studies in epilepsy, macular degeneration, autism, and Alzheimer's disease. I also drafted a letter to be sent out to those involved in a Parkinson's disease study. After my internship, however, I knew that my heart remained in laboratory research. So I continued the U4A experiment working with Dr. Seippel on the genetics portion and with her husband, Dr. Michael Thompson, on the biochemistry part. I even received a scholarship in the summer of 2004 to continue work on the project.

Now, my aspirations include pursuing a six-hour honors thesis in biochemistry this spring under the direction of Dr. Seippel. I plan on presenting a paper at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus. After my work here at MTSU, I plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry.
You are invited to attend the annual

Wednesday, April 20, 2005 • 3:00 p.m. • Under the tent
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his research on Rumi, Kazemy-Bahnamiry said that the modes of analysis, research methods, and writing skills he developed while writing his thesis have helped him enormously. Above all, he noted, it built confidence in his ability to complete a major project. Kazemy-Bahnamiry is now working on his M.A. thesis and plans to continue with his Ph.D.

Rainin immediately noticed the tremendous visible transformations the Honors College has undergone in the few years since he graduated as Dr. Mathis gave him a tour of the new building. O ne could sense Rainin measuring his own personal growth alongside the growth of his alma mater.

You’re song, a wished-for song.

Go through the ear to the center where sky is, where wind, where silent knowing.

Put seeds and cover them.

Blades will sprout where you do your work.

—Rumi (trans. by Coleman Barks)

Kimberly A. Myers

Biology Major
B.S., Spring 1999
Summa Cum Laude

Since leaving MTSU, Myers has been pursuing a Ph.D. in virology at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Max Nibert. Her work involves the study of viral entry into host cells. She is on track to complete her degree within the next year and a half. Following its completion, she plans to take a more nontraditional career path, most likely pursuing a career in science policy and/or science law. Her goal is to use her training as a scientist in areas of public interest and/or public policy.

Debra Hollingsworth

Horns

Mass Communication Major
B.S., Spring 1980
Cum Laude

What started out as a career focused on advertising and public relations for such firms as Rotary International, Aladdin Industries, Geomap Company, and KERA-FM radio branched out into another direction in 1987. Since that time, Hopkins has been deeply involved in education, especially in teaching, curriculum development, and teacher training related to English as a second language. With the recent explosion of immigrants who are just beginning to learn English, teachers around the country are hungry for training on how to support these students and how to accelerate their acquisition of language and literacy skills. Hopkins considers her work to be a sort of “mission” and is proud of the contributions she has been able to make through her work as a teacher trainer and curriculum developer. In a way, she says, it has been a perfect blend of education and mass commun., since communication is one of the most important elements of what she does. It has also allowed her to use the language skills she picked up at MTSU and beyond.

She presently works for Hampton-Brown Company as a national consultant and travels around the country to deliver teacher training, workshops, speeches, and presentations at school districts and conferences.

Attention Honors Alumni!

We want to hear from you! Don’t be modest. We want to spotlight you and your accomplishments. Send us your current bio so we can share your news with other students and alumni. Pictures are also welcome.

From The Bell Tower

During the past few months, I have had the extraordinary privilege of serving the University Honors College in an administrative role. Among the many rewards of such service is the opportunity to reflect upon the mission and ultimate direction of the college as an academic unit within a fast-changing university. The Honors College strives to reach educational goals of the most exalted type. Its mission is nothing less than to provide undergraduate education of unequalled quality to a small but diverse student population having unequalled passion for learning and a commitment to the virtues espoused by the college: character; commitment; creativity; curiosity; discipline; faith; honor; and integrity. In fulfilling its mission, the college partners with individuals and groups, spearheads achievement of the institutional goal of academic quality, creates a student-centered learning environment, and serves as a source of institutional pride by holding the lamp of learning high.

The Honors College is pleased to announce the establishment of a distinguished lecture series to be known as the Paul W. Martin Sr. Lectureship. The new lectureship came about as a result of the acceptance of a proposal developed by the Honors College in conjunction with Joe Bailes (vice president for Development and University Relations) and Kaylene Gebert (provost). Conditions of the agreement call for H. Lee Martin, son of Paul Martin Sr., to fund the lectureship each year for an unspecified number of years and for the University to make smaller contributions, including in-kind contributions. The lectureship provides for two outside speakers per year with most speakers giving two presentations: one in the Honors College and one in another academic college or unit.

The purpose of the Martin Lectureship is to bring renowned artists, politicians, humanitarians, scientists, entrepreneurs, entertainers, military leaders, corporate executives, and leaders of other types to the Honors College and to the environs of Murfreesboro. According to interim dean Phil Mathis, the new lectureship will complement rather than compete with the long-standing and highly successful Honors Lecture Series by MTSU faculty members. He noted that Martin’s generosity will afford MTSU Honors students and others the opportunity to see, hear, and interact with some of the more notable people in America. “It will be a new avenue by which students will be able to escape the blindness of provincialism and reach out to a bigger world,” he said. “The entire University will benefit from this gift, and we are grateful to the entire Martin family.” He also noted that Paul W. Martin Jr. constantly works to support outside speakers per year with most speakers giving two presentations: one in the

MARTIN LECTURESHIP ESTABLISHED

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