RESEARCH for ANSWERS
Veteran Jake Verhoeff studies stress disorders among returning soldiers
Honors students Kaitlin Beck and Jered Chua also aim to cure societal issues

The Honors Learning Community
at Mitchell-Neilson schools
RESEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE
Three Honors College students make the most of their undergraduate research opportunities by focusing on root causes of societal issues.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY
A shift in learning methodology creates a deeper, more meaningful classroom experience in the Honors College.

BY THE BOOK
Dr. Philip Edward Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, displays scholarly expertise spanning poets to prisons.

EPIC AFFAIRS
Honors College founding director Dr. June Hall McCash navigates love and tragedy in her two newest books.
The University Honors College inaugurated a new class of Buchanan Fellows Friday, September 30, in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Following instrumental selections by fiddler Kelsey Wells, a 2009 Buchanan scholar, University Provost Brad Bartel joined Dean John R. Vile in welcoming the 20 new Buchanan Fellows, their parents and friends, members of the Honors faculty, and members of the Honors College Board of Visitors. Junior Buchanan influenced and shaped the Honors College. Six of the new signees are from Murfreesboro; Jin Kim and William Wright from Siegel High School; Tandra Martin from Oakland High School; Rhi Brown from Blackman High School; Carly Davis from Riverdale High School; and Nick Myhre of Gateway Christian School. Jacob Lea is from Univeinville, Tennessee, and attended Riverdale High School. Justin Hudson is from Columbia, Tennessee, and attended Hampshire Unit School.

From the Dean’s Desk

A Community of Excellence!

Why, students often ask, should they take Honors classes? Will they improve their grade point averages? Guarantee riches or fame? Get them into graduate or professional school? Assure placement in a study-abroad program?

My first response is to suggest that eligible students are free to “date” us without “marrying” us. That is, students may take an introductory course or two without committing themselves to completing the full 31 hours that are required for an Honors designation on their degrees.

More generally, though there are few guarantees, there are many advantages. With the exception of our lecture series, we cap lower-division Honors classes at 20 and upper-division classes at 15. Enrollment in two Honors classes a semester, if proper paperwork is followed, will guarantee early registration at a time when some classes are in short supply.

Students find the Honors building to be one of the coolest places on campus to hang out. Membership privileges include access to free newspapers, coffee, and an awesome fireplace. Honors students can join the staff of an award-winning literary magazine or a journal of student research.

Honors students are part of an elite group of these writers highly valued by graduate and professional schools. They have direct access to an undergraduate fellowship office with an advisor who has successfully helped students win membership on the USA Today All-Academic Team, obtain Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships, win fellowships from Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa, and apply for other prestigious awards.

There are, of course, Buchanan Fellowships for the top 20 incoming Honors students each year as well as other scholarships that are exclusively reserved for Honors students. The University also allocates extra money to help Honors students who want to study abroad.

I know few students who regret taking Honors classes. By contrast, many come to me in their last semester or last year expressing regret that they did not join the program.

Thomas Jefferson, who articulated a belief in the equality of human rights, also spoke of the need for an “aristocracy of talent and virtue.” We seek to form such an aristocracy of talent and service. Like the University Jefferson founded, we seek to form our own “academic village” within the larger state university of which we are so proud.


2011 Buchanan Fellows Inaugurated

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest academic award given to an entering student at Middle Tennessee State University. It is named in honor of MTSU’s Nobel Prize-winning alumnus, James M. Buchanan. The scholarship is limited to 20 students per year and is open to incoming freshmen with a minimum GPA of 3.5 and a minimum composite ACT score of 29 (SAT 1,280). A separate application and essay are required.

Othet Tennessee high school graduates inaugurated were Emily Smith of Morrisstown-Hamblen High School in Morristown; Nicholas Walker of Ravenwood High School in Nolensville; Elizabeth Chitwood from Estill Springs, a graduate of Franklin County High School; Nicole Wolowicz of Greenbrier High School in Springfield; Michelle Katz of Ooltewah High School in Ooltewah; Thomas Knies, from Winchester, a graduate of Franklin County High School; Garrett Ewers of Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport; Reid Wiggins from Troy, a graduate of Obion County Central High School; and Allison Daniels from Bearden High School in Knoxville.

New Buchanan Fellows from outof-state are Zachary Dresch of Powell Valley High School in Big Stone Gap, Virginia; Cassandra South, a graduate of Piqua High School in Greenville, Ohio; and Layne Sanders, a Discovery Home School graduate from Horse Shoe, North Carolina.
The Omicron Delta Kappa Circle (ODK) of MTSU initiated 12 new members in a 7 p.m. ceremony Friday, December 2, in the amphitheater of Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. These were members of the MTSU administration and nine were students. The new members are Brad Bartel, Roy Moore, Philip Phillips, Jordan Dodson, Kathryn Holden, Jordan Holloway, Megan Loftis, Bailey Piercfield, Alissa Ruggle, Ruben Tavakalov, Leland Wait, and Kelsey Wells.

Jared Adams was introduced as the circle’s newest squire. Dr. Bartel serves as University Provost; Dr. Moore is dean of the College of Mass Communication; and Dr. Phillips is interim associate dean of the TrMassey College. Jordan Dodson is a junior professional chemistry major; Kathryn Holden is a junior psychology major; Jordan Holloway is a junior accounting major; Megan Loftis is a junior double majoring in international relations and global studies; Bailey Piercfield is a junior economics major; Alissa Ruggle is a junior double majoring in Spanish and science (pre-med); Ruben Tavakalov is a senior majoring in biology and chemistry; Leland Wait is a junior aerospace major; and Kelsey Wells is a senior mass communication major with a concentration in visual communication.

Jared Adams, the circle’s new squire, is a sophomore economics and political science major. As a squire, he can be involved with ODK although he won’t be eligible for full voting membership until he is a junior. ODK member Jim Williams, director of the Albert Gore Research Center, welcomed members, guests, and new initiates on behalf of the Honors College and Omicron Delta Kappa. After a challenge to lead and serve delivered by Kaylene Gebert, speech and theatre, Circle officers Matthew Hibdon, president, and Jennifer Johnson, vice president, renewed their oaths of office. Dr. Williams then read the history of ODK and presented the faculty initiates. Johnson introduced the student initiates. Phillips, Hibdon, and circle advisor Georgia Dennis made closing remarks, and Dennis presented certificates of appreciation to the two officers for their outstanding service. Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. ODK was the first college honor society of national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship.

The ODK Circle of MTSU accepts applications from juniors, seniors, and graduate students who maintain a 3.5 GPA and who are involved in leadership and service roles on campus and in the community. The society recognizes leadership in five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus/community service; social/religious activities; and campus government. Leadership Honor Society, was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. ODK was the first college honor society of national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship.

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The Omicron Delta Kappa Circle of MTSU completed their fall service project on Saturday, December 3, the 97th anniversary of Omicron Delta Kappa’s founding. ODK members visited the Tennessee State Veterans Home to deliver Christmas cards to the residents. Our Circle collected over 500 personalized card inserts from students, instructors, and other persons from MTSU and Murfreesboro. These inserts were placed into holiday cards and were hand-delivered to the veterans. The Tennessee State Veterans Home has over 130 residents with very diverse service records.

As we visited with each of the veterans, they shared some intriguing stories. We were fortunate enough to spend time with the home’s oldest resident. James Jones, 98, has lived in Rutherford County all his life and shared many stories about growing up here. Born in Smyrna, he moved to Murfreesboro with his family when there were fewer than 15,000 people living in the city. During World War II, Jones served in the U.S. Army. His father, Richmond Jones, actively served on the home front as Rutherford County sheriff from 1942 to 1946. James Jones lived in a house on East Main Street for over sixty years before moving to the Tennessee State Veterans Home.

Another highlight of the visit was talking to the home’s highest-ranked resident, Major Robert Evans. He and his wife, Rita, welcomed us into their shared room and told us their stories. Major Evans served in the Pacific theater in World War II and continued his service after the war. Mrs. Evans served as an Army recruiter and worked under a former Tennessee governor. The couple had nine family members serving our country at the peak of World War II. Their combined service time totaled more than 180 years! Members of our ODK Circle were honored to spend time with the residents, and the veterans seemed overjoyed to receive the cards and candy we brought. This was our second year to deliver cards to veterans and to let them know they are not forgotten. The service project had a lasting impact on both the veterans and ODK members.

If you would like to get involved with or help support the ODK Circle at MTSU, please contact Georgia Dennis at mtsuodk@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5645. The Circle is now accepting new membership applications. Qualified students will have at least a 3.5 GPA and leadership experience in one or more areas on campus or elsewhere. For more information and the application form, go to www.mtsu.edu/~mtsudoik.

Jennifer Johnson, Leland Wait, and Matthew Hibdon visited with Major Robert Evans and Rita Evans, both veterans of World War II. Insert: A wedding photo of Major Robert Evans and Rita Evans.

Members Make Holiday Visit to Veterans Home

by Matthew Hibdon | Matthew Hibdon, a senior history major, is president of the MTSU Omicron Delta Kappa Circle.

Jennifer Johnson, Leland Wait, and Matthew Hibdon visit with Major Robert Evans and Rita Evans, both veterans of World War II.

ODK members at the fall initiation included (l–r) Megan Loftis, Kelsey Wells, Jared Adams (squire), Bailey Piercfield, Leland Wait, Jordan Dodson, Ruben Tavakalov, Jordan Holloway, Matthew Hibdon, Brad Bartel, Philip Phillips, Jennifer Johnson, Kaylene Gebert, Georgia Dennis, and Roy Moore.

ODK signs the ODK membership book following his initiation.
In the weeks and months leading up to the beginning of my yearlong study abroad to Caen, France, the excitement that I felt built more and more each day. Before this year, I had lived my entire life in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with my only international trip being a week in Canada at the age of four. However, no amount of preparation could have fully equipped me for this trip, and my first days in France seemed surreal: taking a shuttle from Charles De Gaulle Airport to the center of Paris, meeting the family friends I would stay with for the night, being whisked around Paris by the chattiest French woman in Paris, taking a train to Caen the next morning, and finally collapsing in my dorm room bed. It had been a nonstop whirlwind of activity for nearly forty-eight hours, but my life in France would soon become better.

After settling into a routine, I began to take in everything and everyone around me. I think perhaps my favorite part of my trip thus far has been that no matter what I do or where I go, I am out of my comfort zone and forced to adapt and learn. My favorite part of my trip thus far has been that no matter what I do or where I go, I am out of my comfort zone and forced to adapt and learn. With each and every new direction I telegraph, I am better able to respond to Pat-Down and Advanced Security Administration’s Use of Blogging Media: A Case Study of the Transportation Building Relationships through Social Media: A Case Study of the Transportation Security Administration’s Use of Blogging to Respond to Pat-Down and Advanced Imaging Technology: Controversy Evaluation of Bacillus Spore Detection: Fluorescence versus Surface Electromagnetic Wave Shift Integrated Social Stories in Instructional Treatment of Students with Autism. The NFL Super Bowl 2011: A Quantitative Case Study of Product Placement and Television Commercial Advertising. An Examination of Mental Illness Stigma Using the Lost Letter Technique. Revisiting Cassandra: Twentieth Century Perspectives. Linking Linear Enamel Hypoplasia to Cultural Pressures in Late Mississippian Populations. The Effects of Hand Holding on Perceptions of Dental Pain. Schools in the Middle: A Case Study of Similar Schools. “I encourage each and every one of you to do the same.”

Foux du Fafa

by Tyler King | Tyler is a junior Buchanan Fellow with a major in International Relations and minors in Global Studies and French.

I n the weeks and months leading up to the beginning of my yearlong study abroad to Caen, France, the excitement that I felt built more and more each day. Before this year, I had lived my entire life in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with my only international trip being a week in Canada at the age of four. However, no amount of preparation could have fully equipped me for this trip, and my first days in France seemed surreal: taking a shuttle from Charles De Gaulle Airport to the center of Paris, meeting the family friends I would stay with for the night, being whisked around Paris by the chattiest French woman in Paris, taking a train to Caen the next morning, and finally collapsing in my dorm room bed. It had been a nonstop whirlwind of activity for nearly forty-eight hours, but my life in France would soon become better.

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After setting into a routine, I began to take in everything and everyone around me. I think perhaps my favorite part of my trip thus far has been that no matter what I do or where I go, I am out of my comfort zone and forced to adapt and learn. Solution de la perspective, solution de nouveaux amis... les étudiants français vont être mes nouveaux professeurs... j’apprends plus quand je leur parle que quand je suis en classe. They have helped me better understand the world far more than they know, and it gives me a small sense of pride to know that I have done the same for them. When June arrives, I’m sure I will be ready to return to my family and friends, but for now I will continue to live life to the fullest and take advantage of all the opportunities provided by this trip. I encourage each and every one of you to do the same.
Study Abroad Program Promotes Respect
by Adam Emerson | Adam is a senior Buchanan Fellow with majors in Psychology and International Relations and a minor in Russian Studies.

“European” is a four-letter word to many Americans. We use words like “welfare state” and “socialist” pejoratively and link these ideas to the financial woes in that region of the world, all as a way of bolstering our own sense of superiority. At the same time, Europeans offer inverse critiques of American society. Ask almost any European citizen what they think of our healthcare system or banking regulations, and you’re sure to receive an earful. So who, if anyone, has the right plan for beating the global recession? I attended the European Institute for European Policy’s summer school in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, in order to find out.

This program, whose intent was to stimulate discussion of the European Union’s policies, consisted of a series of workshops, lectures, and activities among a group of 54 students from 28 countries on 5 continents. Needless to say, there was little consensus among such a diverse group. After debating the merits of socialized healthcare, parliamentary systems, and bailouts of those corporations and govern- ments that “too big to fail,” the factions of students had reached an ideological stalemate. Despite our inability to agree, we all had one thing in common by the end of the program: mutual respect.

By the time I was sixteen and a junior in high school, I was so exasperated by the incessant cycle of secondary education that I decided to graduate early and begin my pursuit of a college degree. Now, at eighteen and on the brink of my senior year, I can reminisce and say it was the best decision I have ever made, however, challenge and reward are partners in change, and my experience was no exception. Starting college at sixteen presented me with unusual obstacles but compensated me with immense knowledge and incentives to better myself as a scholar and as an individual.

Making the choice to start college early was the easy part, but the major decisions and meticulous details that accompanied that choice proved to be the first obstacles. After being accepted to MTSU, I was given the “special case” runaround from advisor to advisor until I thankfully found Ms. Laura Clippard. As the advisor for the Honors College, she was familiar with cases like mine and offered help with my schedule, AP credits, and scholarships.

When I attended a CUSTOMS session for freshmen that summer, I was given not only a tour of the campus and its facilities but also a chance to meet extracurricular club representatives and peers with similar interests. I quickly discovered that college is so much more than the wild party stories we’re all fed in high school.

It wasn’t long before I settled into college life and began to face the same challenges as everyone else: finding the delicate balance between being a scholar and maintaining a social life, living away from home for the first time, and the dreaded college student budget. I was forced to surmount even more hindrances because of my age. For example, the first time I got sick and tried to go to a public walk-in clinic I was denied care because of my age. For example, the first time I got sick and tried to go to a public walk-in clinic I was denied help because of my youth. Fortunately, I discovered MTSU’s campus clinic, which offers free consultations and discounted prescriptions for MTSU students of any age.

It was also nearly impossible to find anyone in Murfreesboro who would hire a sixteen-year-old and work around my class schedule. I was introduced to Linda Watson of the Blue Raider Athletic Association, and she hired me as a student worker in the office, where I worked for the next two years of college.

Looking back, I cannot imagine choosing anywhere but MTSU. Moving away from my home, my family, and my friends was a scary choice at sixteen, and the challenges that came with that decision are difficult to fully convey. MTSU and the Honors College embraced me as a young scholar and provided me with opportunities to excel both in and out of the classroom.

The Young and the Restless
by Jade Kastl | Jade Kastl is a junior majoring in biochemistry.

I was born with two very rare and very serious conditions: chronic overachieving and unrelenting boredom. And because these conditions are self-diagnosed, I was probably born a hypochondriac as well. These characteristics allowed me to move through life excep- tionally quickly but with a level of indifference that stemmed from a lack of genuine challenge.

After debating the merits of socialized healthcare, parliamentary systems, and bailouts of those corporations and govern- ments that “too big to fail,” the factions of students had reached an ideological stalemate. Despite our inability to agree, we all had one thing in common by the end of the program: mutual respect. Despite our inability to agree, we all had one thing in common by the end of the program: mutual respect. Despite our inability to agree, we all had one thing in common by the end of the program: mutual respect. Despite our inability to agree, we all had one thing in common by the end of the program: mutual respect.

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Honors Students Initiated by Phi Kappa Phi

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated ten students who have taken three or more Honors classes into its MTSU chapter Tuesday, November 8, and recognized five current members of the Honors faculty as Influential Faculty designated by the student initiatees. Initiated were Jacob H. Basham (Mathematics), Jered Reyes (Industrial/Organizational Psychology), Benjamin Conrad (Psychology), Jordan G. Dodson (Chemistry), Matthew L. Dodson (Computer Science), Jonathan E. Driver (Psychology), Lucy Estes (Speech and Theatre), Emil J. Hirsch (Mass Communications), Michael Ripley (Criminal Justice Administration), and Ruben Tavakalov (Biology and Chemistry). Philip Phillips was the faculty initiate. Influential Faculty recognized were Ron Bombardi (Philosophy), Norma Dunlap (Chemistry), Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), Ryan Otter (Biology), and Jan Zijlstra (Mathematical Sciences). Phi Kappa Phi initiated a total of 81 students and recognized 12 influential faculty members during the fall initiation ceremony in the Tennessee Room of James Union Building. Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines.

Collage Announces Creative Expression Award Winners

Four MTSU students and one graduate won the fall 2011 Collage Creative Expression Awards: Abigail Stroupe, Nova Ford, and Shalynn Ford-Womack won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. Brian Hutsebout and Nhu Duong won Lon Nueil Creative Expression Awards for best visual submissions. Abigail Stroupe, a senior English major with a concentration in writing, won a Hixon Award for her poem “Thieving.” Nova Ford, a senior transfer English major from Smyrna, and Shalynn Ford-Womack, an alumna, won for their story “One Afternoon in the House of Numb.” Brian Hutsebout, a senior transfer student from Nashville, won a Nuell Award for his sculpture Weighting.

Nhu Duong, a Mass Communication student with a concentration in graphic design, won a Nuell Award for her black-and-white photograph Untitled.

Each semester the Collage staff participates in a blind-grading process to select approximately 50 pieces for publication from around 300 submissions. The Collage Faculty Advisory Board presents Creative Expression Awards for outstanding submissions in four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography.

Collage Wins Coveted Gold Crown Award

In March, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) named Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression one of only seven college print magazines to receive a 2012 Gold Crown Award. This is the highest award CSPA gives for collegiate and scholastic publications. This is the first Gold Crown Award Collage has won since coming under the sponsorship of the Honors College in 2004, and, as far as we know, it is the first Gold Crown Award Collage has ever won, said Marsha Powers, advisor. “This award further confirms the commitment of the Collage staff and the high quality of visual and literary arts that our students produce.”

The 2012 Gold Crown Award is for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 issues of Collage. Calvin Orman, a psychology major, was editor-in-chief of the issues, and Emily Collins, a mass communication major, was the designer. Calvin, a 2011 Honors graduate, is seeking a master’s degree in psychology at MTSU.

Collage won CSPA Silver Crown Awards in 2007, 2008, and 2011. The journal also received CSPA Gold Medalist Certificates for each of the last six years.

This year, 1,351 print magazines, newspapers, and yearbooks and 182 digital publications of current CSPA members were eligible to enter the Crown Awards competition. Judging for printed publications took place at Columbia University December 17–19, 2011. Publications were judged on writing and editing, design, content, concept, photography, art, and graphics.

Two digital magazines, eight digital news publications, seven college magazines, seven newspapers, and seven yearbooks received Gold Crown Awards. Thirty other college publications received the second-highest CSPA award, the Silver Crown. Gold Crowns have been presented annually since 1983; Silver Crowns have been awarded since 1984. The awards convocation took place at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, New York City, on Sunday, March 18. The CSPA, which has been owned by Columbia University since 1925 and operated as a program associated with the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, is an international student press association uniting student journalists and faculty advisors at schools and colleges through educational conferences, idea exchanges, and award programs.
Matthew Hibdon, a graduate of Warren County High School who is on track to earn his undergraduate degree this spring, produced an exhibition called “McMinnville in the Civil War: Life Under Occupation as Observed by L. Virginia French” that he unveiled at a reception attended by 40–60 people at Magness Library in downtown McMinnville December 31, 2011. In a program that featured comments by city historians and performances of music from the Civil War period, Hibdon spoke about his research on French, which resulted in the construction of five large panels of photographs, maps, and texts designed to convey the central aspects of his research to the public.

After the speeches and reception, a group walked to the grave of Captain D. C. Spurlock and left roses. Spurlock was a friend of French’s who was killed at the Battle of Stones River on December 31, 1862. His grave became a symbol for the disappointment many white southerners felt by the end of the war. At first, French, a poet, novelist, diarist, and journalist, had favored reconciliation rather than war but had rallied behind other townspeople because of the mistreatment they faced under Yankee occupation, before concluding that the entire war had been a mistake.

Hibdon’s display, which was previously exhibited at the elementary school he attended, may also eventually be presented at MTSU.

Hibdon has been president of MTSU’s circle of Omicron Delta Kappa and has helped judge National History Day competitions. After earning his degree in history with a minor in leadership studies, he plans to begin work on a master’s at MTSU in education and administration for higher education.

Dean John Vile, who attended the reception and gravesite visit, said that Matthew is one of a number of students whose Honors theses have resulted in exhibitions of value to the local community and in novels and plays. “All our theses have a written dimension,” he said, “but we encourage our students to share their work not only in the form of scholarly articles but also through displays and exhibits that will increase understanding of scholarship in public settings.”

Hibdon Historical Exhibit Unveiled in McMinnville

A team from MTSU was crowned champion of the Mid-South Mock Trial Invitational Tournament held at MTSU November 11–12. The tournament, held annually at MTSU for the last 20 years, is among the largest and most prestigious in the nation. This year’s tournament featured 48 teams from 11 states, representing 24 colleges and universities. The tournament was divided into two divisions of 24 teams each. Teams competed in four rounds (two on the prosecution and two on the defense), with ballots from two judges.

In one division, a team from the University of Central Florida took first place with an 8–0 record. The University of Central Florida (7–1), Vanderbilt University (7–1), the University of Georgia (6–2), and Southern Methodist University (5½–2½) took second, third, fourth, and fifth place, respectively.

A team headed by MTSU senior Rachel Harmon (who is from Atlanta) took first place in the other division with an 8–0 record, beating the University of Georgia (7–1), the University of Central Florida (6½–2½), the University of Georgia (6–2), and Rhodes College (6–2).

Because the team MTSU faced had stronger win/loss records, Harmon’s team also won the tournament’s traveling gavel. Samantha Farish, on another MTSU team, won a top-ten attorney award.

In addition to Harmon, the winning team included Zach Barker and Constance Grieves, who also played attorney roles, and Chris Hardman, James Johnson, Curtis Stroud, and Chaneleka Pullens, who played the roles of witnesses. The team faced Keene School State University in the first round, the University of Georgia in the second round, the University of Alabama–Birmingham in the third round, and the University of Tennessee–Knoxville in the fourth.

Dean John R. Vie and local attorney Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth coach the teams. MTSU mock trial alumni and members of the local bar helped with judging. For the first time in its history, the tournament offered continuing legal education credit for Tennessee attorneys who were interested.

Dr. Vie said MTSU’s 8–0 win/loss record was especially impressive because the team handed UT and Alabama their only losses of the tournament.

Teams competed in other invitational tournaments in December and January and in regional and national competitions February through April.

MTSU Mock Trial Team Wins Multi-state Scrimmage

An MTSU mock trial team placed first among 14 teams from five states participating in an end-of-year scrimmage at Rhodes College in Memphis December 3–4. A team captained by Zach Barker of Woodbury and Heather Haggard of Greenbrier captured eight of eight ballots in four rounds of competition. They defeated teams from Rhodes, Millsaps College, Washington University, and Mississippi College for the only perfect record at the event.

In addition to Barker and Haggard, Constance Grieves of Nashville played the role of an attorney on the team. Witness parts were played by Thomas Polombo of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Curtis Campbell of Murfreesboro, Alexa Serguia of Ashland City, and Jessica Seitz of McMinnville.

MTSU students won several individual awards. Constance Grieves won second-place for best attorney closing arguments, and Thomas Polombo received the top award for best fact witness. The team was also runner-up for the Southern Hospitality Award, in a vote by other teams.

Rachel Harmon, of Atlanta, who was on a second MTSU team, received the People’s Choice Attorney Award, which was also decided by student voting. Brooke Borcherding, from Watertown, was runner-up for the best fact witness award.

Dean Vie and attorneys Shiva Bozarth and Brandi Snow coached the MTSU teams.
Honors Student Association Fall Activities

Jenna Mayfield, Layne Sanders, Chad Slaven, Daniel Gouger, Adam Emerson, Amy Cook, Garrett Ewers, and Justin Caleb Hudson.

Aline Pellizzaro, Scott Surles, and Laura Clippard

Anna Yacovone and Allie Schmidt

Emily Brown, Miles Matko, and Laura Clippard

Cody Malone, Chad Slaven, and Haley Pimental

Jade Figgins, Keith Saporsky, Lora Smith, Katherine Ott, and Scott Jones

Jake Verhoef

Lorel Holsinger and Emilie Aslinger

Philip Phillips and Tom Strawman

Cari Jennings, Preston MacDougall, and Blair Harrison

Rudy Saliba, Megan Baldwin, and Laura Clippard

Honors Fall Open House SEPTEMBER 9

HSA members (L–R), Lindsey Alley, Rachel Wiley, Raymond Dunn Jr., Mary Catherine Robinson, and Garrett Ewers

Left: Raymond Dunn Jr.

Center: Mary Catherine Robinson

Right: Emily Smith and Garrett Ewers
Honors Worthy (student achievement)

Fall 2012 Interdisciplinary Seminars
Revisiting and Re-visioning the Hometown
UH 3500-001 • MW 12:40–2:05
HONR 116 • CRN#: 87385

In this seminar, Honors students will have a remarkable interdisciplinary opportunity to gain diverse perspectives on their individual hometowns. In this writing-intensive course, students will compile a multimedia portfolio that offers a platform for reflecting on how these places have affected both personal development and future goals.

Students will engage in a project-based relationship with their peers, instructor, and community while creating a portfolio containing creative, nonfiction, historical, and reflective written pieces, as well as projects involving visual and multimedia forms of communication. Each assignment will have an impact on the finished product, including a major project each student will undertake after consultation with the instructor. Again, this facet of the class is not optional.

This course should particularly interest those who plan to complete an Honors thesis. Students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Ron Kates at (615) 896-2595 or Ron.Kates@mtsu.edu or visit his office, Peck Hall 342, before enrolling. He has materials related to the class and will discuss assignments and expectations in more detail with prospective students. The course is open to students who have completed their English general studies requirement, and it may count as three hours of upper-division English credit.

Folktales and Literature
UH 3500-002 • MW 2:20 – 3:45
CRN#: 87386

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

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

This course is open to students who have completed their English general education requirement, and it may count as three hours of upper-division English credit. For more information, contact Dr. Martha Hixon at Martha.Hixon@mtsu.edu.

Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

Twenty-one students have completed 20 or more Honors hours and have recently received Lower-Division Certificates of Achievement from the Honors College, according to Honors College administrative assistant Karen Dembreum. The students represent a wide variety of majors.

From the College of Liberal Arts, eight students reached the 20-hour milestone: sophomore English majors Hannah K. Boyd, Cody B. Guthrie, Eboni N. Phillips, and Peter C. Jones and junior Emily E. Randall, junior history major Emille A. Aslinger, senior foreign languages major, Rachel B. Nutt; and junior geography major Aaron A. Morrison.

Four students from the College of Mass Communication earned certificates: sophomore recording industry majors Jayme N. Jones and Tyler P. Phillips and junior mass communication majors Christopher G. Merchant and Amy P. Stickel.

Two students from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Nicole L. Braunwalder, a sophomore psychology major, and Lauren J. Smith, a social work major, reached the milestone.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, Juan C. Zelaya, a sophomore entrepreneurship major received a lower-division certificate. Six students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences completed 20 or more Honors hours: sophomore physics major Katelyn M. Stringer, junior chemistry major Jordan G. Dodson; junior Cameron L. Crawford, a biology major; Rachael B. Gillaspie, a sophomore mathematics major; and sophomore animal science majors Felice A. Murden and Kristina M. Patt.

Honors College Maintains Journal List

A database of undergraduate research and creative journals is maintained by the University Honors College as a service to our academic community. All journals included on the list will consider appropriately submitted materials from MTSU students for publication.

The link for the journal list is www.mtsu.edu/honors/journals.html. Most of the journals do not accept simultaneous submissions. Students should not submit an article to one journal while another is considering it unless both journals specifically give permission.

The journal database is updated frequently to verify links and remove journals that are not currently active. It is the largest, most current and accessible journal listing on the web. Types of journals listed include those dealing with anthropology and social science; business and economics; creative and original work; ethics, law, leadership, and politics; history; literary criticism and research, mathematics; medicine and health; philosophy; psychology; research (any discipline); and science and engineering. There are also a number of journals that address more specialized areas of study.

Amber Ryder presented “Linking Linear Enamel Hypoplasia to Cultural Pressures in Late Mississippian Populations” and copresented “An Evaluation of the Cigarette Butt Litter on the Way to Old Main Circle and Kirksey Old Main from Peck Hall, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee” with Tara Clark at the 2011 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium November 1 at the James Union Building.

Also at the event, Anna Yacovone presented “Interfaith Dialogues: A Method to Promote Peace in Southern Thailand.” Anna received first place for her paper.
Research shows that before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military’s suicide rates were lower than those of the general public. In 2009, however, the Department of Defense reported more than 300 suicides among active-duty and reserve troops from all branches—almost double the number from 2001.

In fact, so pronounced is the problem today that the Tennessee National Guard, under the direction of MTSU graduate Major General Max Haston, recently developed (in concert with the Jason Foundation) a “suicide” app for smartphones targeted at soldiers returning from combat theaters around the globe. Among other features, the app makes a licensed counselor reachable by phone around the clock. Hawaiian-born Jake Verhoeff has at least some idea of the struggles those returning soldiers face. A veteran of the Iraq war, Verhoeff himself struggled for a time with postcombat issues. He found healing at the VA hospital in Nashville. He says, “The idea is that we have a problem with stigmatization of PTSD that causes members of military to not seek treatment, or worse yet to commit suicide at a rate that may be higher than first responders like firefighters and police officers. So the question is, ‘Why is that?’ Maybe if we can find the differences we can find what reduces stigmatization and use that among the different groups.”

Explanations for disparity in treatment could range from policies followed by military medical personnel to maintain unit cohesion to military culture itself. “There are so many different possible answers to this question,” Verhoeff says. “It’s an incredibly long process to discovery. It’s not a simple answer.”

Verhoeff plans to use his undergraduate thesis as a springboard to conduct clinical work in graduate school trying to close any gaps in PTSD stigmatization. “I want to be part of an incredible group to bring these people back and integrate them into society,” he says. “We’ve seen it with every war. After World War II, there was a huge problem within our country in trying to bring about transition back to civilian life. The VA itself came out of that. Now we need to learn from that and say, ‘Let us veterans who understand some of what these soldiers have gone through be a part of that transition.’”

As soldiers return home in big numbers, Verhoeff’s research has the potential to have a lasting impact—not only on returning soldiers but also on the greater society.
According to the Tennessee Literacy Coalition, 14 percent of the adult population in the U.S. does not read well enough to fill out a job application or to understand a newspaper story written at the eighth-grade level. Closer to home, in Tennessee, First Lady Crissy Haslam has made raising child literacy rates one of her top priorities. In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education, Haslam hopes to see at least 60 percent of Tennessee schoolchildren reading proficiently by third grade. The current proficiency level is 42 percent.

Research being conducted by professors and undergraduate students at MTSU might be of some assistance to that effort. The MTSU research hinges on a reader’s ability to recognize morphemes—the smallest components of a word or unit of meaningful language (think Greek and Latin roots). Under scrutiny is whether or not individuals are better readers if they can better recognize and quickly translate a morpheme. If the answer is yes, then refocusing literacy efforts more on morphemes could potentially improve reading and the teaching of reading for young students and adult learners alike.

Jered Chua is one of the undergraduate researchers involved in the project. Chua is an Industrial/Organizational Psychology major—part of an MTSU program that the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology routinely ranks among the best nationally in various categories. Chua hopes one day to work in a corporate human resources environment helping to improve work culture. But her current research as an Honors College student involves another passion—understanding how arguably allows a reader to more quickly understand the word and read through it, ” she says.

That, in turn, alleviates the potential frustration a student might experience without a strategy to break a word down into more understandable and digestible parts. By contrast, the quicker individuals understand the root, the quicker they identify the meaning of the word, the better they read, and therefore the more they read (without frustration), leading to greater literacy.

Chua’s role in the research is testing a new series of questions that perhaps more accurately quantifies an individual’s knowledge and understanding of morphology. The Morphological Awareness Task (MAT), created by MTSU psychology professor Dr. Stuart Bernstein and his doctoral student Danielle Thompson, has already been shown to mirror Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) science scores—one of the biggest finds to date. Results like that make a strong case for greater emphasis on teaching reading by using morphemes, if only because schools are searching high and low for strategies to raise TCAP scores.

Chua’s hope, and the hope of other undergraduates working on the project, is to help Bernstein get statewide attention for the project, attention that could enable the project to branch out and tackle illiteracy statewide. It’s a lofty goal. But consider the advantages. Such research could potentially undergeen attempts to fix what ails education in the state of Tennessee—illiteracy, low graduation rates, and inadequate teacher training, among others—which, in turn, would no doubt help fix other challenges the state faces, from economic development to out-of-control health care costs.

In the end, going back to the roots (of language at least) could potentially undergund attempts to fix what ails education in the state of Tennessee—illiteracy, low graduation rates, and inadequate teacher training, among others—which, in turn, would no doubt help fix other challenges the state faces, from economic development to out-of-control health care costs. In the end, going back to the roots (of language at least) could potentially undergund attempts to fix what ails education in the state of Tennessee—illiteracy, low graduation rates, and inadequate teacher training, among others—which, in turn, would no doubt help fix other challenges the state faces, from economic development to out-of-control health care costs. It’s a lofty goal. But consider the advantages. Such research could potentially undergeen attempts to fix what ails education in the state of Tennessee—illiteracy, low graduation rates, and inadequate teacher training, among others—which, in turn, would no doubt help fix other challenges the state faces, from economic development to out-of-control health care costs. It’s a lofty goal. But consider the advantages. Such research could
It’s a topic that never fails to spark a heated discussion: what is the proper amount to tip a server? And what are the appropriate determining factors involved in making that decision?

Senior Kaitlin Beck says the reason tipping a food server is such a hot-button issue is that for whatever random reason, we’ve decided as a society that this is one area where we are going to put our fates in the hands of the people to whom we are catering.

“We are relying on human compassion and sympathy and understanding in order to make a living,” Beck says. “If the kitchen undercooks your burger, I didn’t have anything to do with that, and I am so sorry, and I’ll give you free fries, but will you forgive me, will you please give me my living? Some people say ‘yes’ and some people say ‘no’ . . . essentially, we’re making a quantifiable, emotional decision about a fellow human being.”

Put in context of the workplace as a whole, it’s an odd thing to put one’s earnings at the whim of consumers.

“You don’t have auto mechanics saying to you, ‘I hope you were happy with the service,’” Beck says. “So it’s a strange kind of natural experiment—this one sector where we arbitrarily have decided this is different.”

An economics major and also a server at a local restaurant chain, Beck became determined to investigate the phenomenon of tipping and make it the basis for her thesis. What she found is that there are significant gaps in current research. For instance, there are published studies indicating that women are more generous than men but other studies that indicate the opposite.

One hallmark of the existing literature? Much of it is based on research conducted in behavioral lab settings, not actual restaurants. That’s where Beck gets excited about her work. She has been gathering data (receipts) from a large cross-section of servers for a lengthy period of time.

Beck’s research intends to peer more deeply than gender, skin color, or whether or not a patron has food service experience as factors for determining how we tip. Her research looks at overcoming such demographic likenesses or differences to find the connections that truly steer a person’s fateful moment with pen and receipt in hand.

“For instance, I was recently serving an older, black male—which is, demographically speaking, already two strikes against me as a white, female server,” Beck explains. “But I saw his last name, and I remembered that name was the name of a professor at MTSU that taught a course my boyfriend took. So I asked this person if he had a connection to MTSU and, sure enough, the person’s son was the professor, so we suddenly connected.”

With data collected and under review at the time of the writing of this article, Beck said she had some conclusions drawn that she wasn’t quite ready to share.

“I have some private assumptions about the data now, but I need to analyze it further,” she said with a twinkle in her eye.

No doubt when her research is completed, the future law school student will find a way to get her results into the public view, a place where the appetite remains strong for debate on this topic.
The twenty-first century ushered in a shift from individual-focused learning to learning as part of a community. Whereas the twentieth century has been described as the “century of the individual” in educational theory and practice, the twenty-first century trends toward the “era of community.”

Hillary Stallings and Ron Kates, both Honors faculty members, have developed a learning community that is purposeful in integrating classes with what is happening on campus and in the world. Their intent is to carry the themes of civic engagement and civic responsibility into the student learning community; to strengthen critical-thinking skills; and to form a better understanding of self, the world, and one’s role in the world.

The learning community, which combines Honors University Seminar and Honors English 1010, is highly integrated and intentional, according to Dr. Stallings. “Everything about the community has been thought out and analyzed,” she said. This fall, the community classes were back to back on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The classes were held consecutively, and Kates and Stallings could often teach the classes together, stretching them out and making the most of the time. “We want our projects to be deeper and more meaningful,” Stallings said, “and have found we are able to do that with two teachers approaching a topic and extending the class period.”

During the fall 2011 semester, the community classes considered the responsibility implicit in MTSU’s True Blue pledge. The students conducted interviews incorporating the ideas of the 2011 summer reading selection, Listening Is an Act of Love. They read the book A Prayer for the Dying, about a small Wisconsin town gripped by a mysterious, deadly epidemic following the Civil War, and also the movie Contagion, the story of a battle against a modern-day, deadly pandemic. The students also read books with pupils at Mitchell-Nelson Primary School, created postcards, wrote journal articles, listened to special presentations, participated in etiquette sessions, created displays and presentations depicting who they are, and engaged in numerous activities encouraging critical thinking, including reading weekly from the New York Times, blogging about current events, and giving state-of-the-world reports.

Erica Hightower, a business administration major who took the Honors Learning Community classes in the fall, said, “This learning community has helped me transition into my first year of college. The two classes make up the learning community, Honors English 1010 and Honors University Seminar, are closely integrated. The professors, Dr. Kates and Dr. Stallings, have worked hard to make sure the material taught in [each class] relates to the other.”

Hightower added, “Aside from the academics, the class definitely has a sense of community. I am an out-of-state student, and I did not know many people when I came here. However, I have made many friends through this learning community. Drs. Kates and Stallings know our names and personalities well, and they work with us to make it a success for every student.”

Michael Kopcsak, a mass communication major in the fall classes, said, “The learning community classes are the ones I most look forward to attending. Even though I did not know a single person when I first went in, I have made some good friends fairly quickly. As an introvert, I was concerned I would not be able to make friends, but the two-class block has afforded me more time to interact with my classmates and form bonds. This class is perfect for me in the social aspect.”

“As for the workload in English 1010/University 1010, the interaction of the teachers and the related topics enable us to stay focused and not feel overwhelmed,” Kopcsak said. “This class has definitely given me a good feel of what I need to do to succeed academically.”

“I love how close our class has gotten—not just the students but the two professors as well,” Kopcsak said. “I enjoy walking into a college class and having everyone in the class, and also the instructors, greet me. The closeness of the community has promoted open discussions in both classes, and I feel like I could speak without being critically judged by everyone else. I do not have these opportunities or intellectual engagement in my larger lecture class.”
The scholarly work of Dr. Philip Edward Phillips, MTSU professor of English and interim associate dean of the University Honors College, spans producing a book on Milton, coediting a book on medieval philosopher Boethius, and publishing articles and reviews in leading Poe journals. But before the image of an erstwhile academic type made uncom- fortable outside the walls of a library springs to mind, consider this. Phillips also steers a prison-based literary program that is changing lives in middle Tennessee.

When Milton expert Charlie Durham retired from MTSU in 1999, Phillips seized the opportunity to join MTSU—home of the foremost Milton conference in the world. He was later recruited by John Paul Montgomery, then dean of the MTSU Honors College, to join the Honors faculty. In 2008, Phillips received an MTSU Distinguished Research Award. His most recent scholarly splash was the 2012 publication of A Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages, a collection of essays written by top Boethian scholars that Phillips coedited. The book is destined to be the foremost reference work for people conducting serious research on Boethius in the future. (Phillips is also looking forward to a book on medieval philosopher St. Anselm, a collection of essays written by scholars that Phillips wants to coedit. The book is destined to change lives in middle Tennessee. And I’m attracted to people who have a desire for learning."

“’I found in that environment such profound appreciation for people sharing their time and offering up their talents,” he says. “I saw people who had made some bad choices but wanted to improve their lives. And I’m attracted to people who have a desire for learning. In this place, there was a hunger for it.”

Through the nonprofit women’s advocacy group Better Decisions—which supported a book club discussion at the Tennessee Prison for Women—Phillips met with the women there to discuss ways they could improve their lives and the lives of their families. And he taught, of course, Boethius. “Many of the ladies in that class found consolation in that idea that through one’s pursuit of the good, or one’s devotion to God, one can transcend one’s physical surroundings,” he says.

Seven years later, Phillips runs arguably the most successful Great Books in Prison program in America. A partnership between MTSU, the Tennessee Department of Correction, and the Great Books Foundation (a Chicago-based nonprofit), the program gives inmates the opportunity to read and discuss literary and philosophical works from authors and thinkers such as Flannery O’Connor and Walt Whitman with MTSU English faculty volunteers. For the benefit of offering these courses stems from one statistic—an estimated 97% of all incarcerated felons are eventually released, according to the Tennessee Department of Correction. “So the question for me is what sort of people do we want them to be?” he says. “Do we want to lock people up and throw away the key, or do we want to try to provide opportunities for people to enrich their minds, to reflect, to empathize, to work well with each other, to be able to listen to different sides of an argument respectfully, to learn how to make one’s position clear—all of those things that we’re able to achieve in this kind of classroom?”

Phillips’s success is getting noticed. A top official with the Great Books Foundation recently visited MTSU and discussed using Phillips’s template as a model for other universities nationwide interested in participating. But Phillips’s willingness to reach outside the walls of academia to imprint the role of great literature on the broader society is not confined to his prison program.

Recently, in Boston, Mayor Thomas Menino unveiled design proposals of three public art projects named after Edgar Allan Poe. That, in turn, led to an association with Boston College professor Paul Lewis, who initiated the idea of naming a square in Boston after Poe and also convinced the Boston Art Commission to sponsor a work of art commemorating Poe in his home city. Others include Sam Connich, poet laureate of the City of Boston.

How does an MTSU professor end up in a position to help guard the legacy of one of America’s greatest writers in one of America’s greatest cities? Phillips’s research on Poe’s often-controversial relationship with his home city has garnered well-deserved attention among Poe scholars and enthusiasts. Formerly a member of the editorial board of the Edgar Allan Poe Review, Phillips was recently elected to the executive committee of the Poe Studies Association. Phillips’s research on Poe led to his appointment in 2008 to a fellowship from the Athenæum library in Boston. That, in turn, led to an association with Boston College professor Paul Lewis, who initiated the idea of naming a square in Boston after Poe and also convinced the Boston Art Commission to sponsor a work of art commemorating Poe in his home city—a new landmark intended to last hundreds of years.

The end result? Whether teaching and conducting research in medieval and early modern literature, Milton and the epic tradition, Boethius or Edgar Allan Poe, Phillips is right in the middle of it all. Ne Honors College professor’s expertise spans poets to prisons.

The Consolation of Philosophy
The nonfictional story of Isidor and Ida Straus is coming to life as a result of McCash’s newest book, *A Titanic Love Story: Ida and Isidor Straus*, published in spring 2012 by Mercer University Press. The timing is perfect. This spring marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking of *Titanic*.

Years before his fateful voyage, Isidor Straus, businessman and one-time congressman, went into business with the owners of the R. H. Macy store. By 1912, Isidor was turning over responsibility of the store to his sons. He and Ida, 67 and 63 years old at the time, spent several months in Europe on vacation in 1912 and had their return voyage already booked on the *Olympic*, another White Star Line ship. But because of a coal strike, the White Star Line couldn’t fuel both ships, and a return on the *Olympic* would be delayed. Fatefully, Isidor Straus booked their return to the United States on *Titanic*, and the couple, along with Ida’s new maid, Ellen Bird, and Isidor’s valet, John Farthing, boarded the ship and moved into their first-class accommodations.

As *Titanic* was sinking, Ida realized that her husband would not get on the boat while there were women and children still aboard the ship, she returned to the deck. Ida gave her maid her fur coat and her own seat in one of the lifeboats. Like her movie counterpart 100 years later, Ida Straus did stay on the ship with the love of her life; unfortunately, neither survived. They were last seen embracing on the deck. When *Titanic* went down, Ida was one of only four adult women from first class who died.

McCash says Ida and Isidor Straus are much more complete when one examines not just their deaths, but their lives—what they stood for, what they believed in, and what they valued.

"Those values impacted their deaths and why they chose to die together rather than live alone," McCash says. "The more I learned about the Strauses, the more I admired them. Honor and loyalty were values that defined them as human beings."

*The more I learned about the Strauses, the more I admired them. Honor and loyalty were values that defined them as human beings.*
Honors College Hosts

Humanitarian

Dean Vile in Greece!

John R. Vile, professor of political science and dean of the University Honors College, recently participated in a comparative constitutional law workshop in Greece. It was sponsored and paid for by the Centre for European Constitutional Law, established by the Thessalokís and Dimitra Tsatsos Foundation, which is devoted to theoretical and applied scientific research in Greek, European, and comparative public law and public policies. The workshop was held on the island of Aegina, not far from Athens, and featured discussions of key questions related to the history and processes of constitutional change.

Participants discussed how constitutional change worked in their own countries. Most were from the European Union, but the U.S., Canada, and Switzerland were also represented.

Participants were mostly professors of law and/or political science. They included Christian Behrendt, University of Liege, Belgium; Zenophont Contiades, University of Peloponnesia, Greece; Thomas Fleiner, University Fribourg, Switzerland; Kirg Cerkatch, University of Luxembourg; Tanja Groppi, University of Sienna; Allan C. Hutchinson, York University, Canada; Markus Kotsur, University of Leipzig; Helle Krunke, University of Copenhagen; Jonatas Eduardo Mendes Machado, University of Coimbra, Portugal; David Gwynn Morgan, University College Cork, Ireland; Tuomas Ojansen, University of Helsinki; Ioannis Tasopoulos, University of Athens, and Wim J. M. Voermans, University of Leiden, Netherlands.

Several other professors who were unable to attend will be contributing to a volume of essays inspired by the conference.

Formal workshop sessions were augmented by shared meals and informal discussions. There was also a day of sightseeing on the island. The group hopes to meet again in Athens this year to talk about the volume of essays.
Honors Worthy (visitors)

James Leach, chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, was the special guest at an early afternoon meet-and-greet in the Martin Honors Building conference room on September 13 during Constitution Week. Leach, a former 15-term member of Congress from Iowa, also presented “Civility, the Constitution, and the Courts” in Wright Music Building. His Distinguished Lecture was the keynote of MTSU’s Centennial Constitution Week.

Gokhan Bacik, associate professor of political science at Zirve University in Gaziantep, Turkey, presented “Politics of Exclusion: Extremism and Imagining the ‘Other,’” Tuesday, November 1, in the Honors Amphitheater. Dr. Bacik is head of the Middle East Research Center at Zirve and writes weekly columns for Today’s Zaman.

Honors Worthy (faculty achievement)

Medieval Scholar Visits University Honors College

The Honors College was pleased to welcome Timothy Graham (Ph.D., University of Cambridge), director of the Institute of Medieval Studies and professor of history at the University of New Mexico, on September 29, 2011.

Dr. Graham, a world-renowned expert on illuminated medieval manuscripts and coauthor of An Introduction to Manuscript Studies (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2007), gave a classroom lecture to Honors students studying the Arthurian legends and a public lecture in the Honors Amphitheater for students, faculty, staff, and the general public. He also lectured on John Milton’s Anglo-Saxon sources for a gathering of graduate students in English.

Philip Phillips, interim associate dean, arranged for Dr. Graham’s visit, which was generously supported by the English Department’s Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the College of Liberal Arts, and the University Honors College.

Vile Presents “How to Publish Your Work”

Dean John Vile presented “How to Publish Your Work” to McNair Program students in Peck Hall on November 1. He pointed out that in addition to traditional avenues, there are many journals open to undergraduate contributors. At MTSU alone are the McNair Review, Scientia et Humanitas, and College (for fiction). Georgia Dennis, Honors College event coordinator, has posted a list of such journals from other institutions on the Honors website.

Vile said that publication, especially in refereed journals, is a central currency for those engaged in undergraduate and graduate research and that there are strong ties between the Honors College and the McNair Program (which is aimed at minority and first-generation students who plan to pursue Ph.D. degrees). Many students participate in both programs.

Honors Poets at the 2011 Southern Festival of Books

The Honors College was well represented at the 23rd annual Southern Festival of Books at War Memorial Plaza in Nashville October 14–16. More than 200 authors and many vendors in the publishing industry joined thousands of attendees at the festival, which is billed “A Celebration of the Written Word.”

June McCash, D. Michelle Ackerson, Kory Wells, and Philip Mathis, contributors to Time and Tradition: A Poetry Anthology (Twin Oaks Press, 2011), gave a poetry reading from the Honors College-sponsored anthology, which commemorates MTSU’s centennial, and also signed copies of the book. Linda Barnes, professor of English and coordinator of the honors program at Austin Peay State University, introduced them.

The reading drew a near-capacity crowd to the senate chamber of the state Capitol. Among familiar faces in attendance were Jan Leone (History) and Lynette Ingram (English), retired.

Vile, Phillips Represent MTSU at National Honors Conference

Dean John Vile and Interim Associate Dean Philip Phillips attended the 46th annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) in Phoenix in mid-October 2011. It was Phillips’s first trip to an NCHC convention. In addition to attending sessions on administrative practices and program assessment, he served as a judge of undergraduate posters. Vile attended a meeting of the large scholarships committee, of which he is a member.

The NCHC brings together educators and administrators from honors colleges across the nation to discuss shared issues. The 2011 theme was “Stewards of Our Colliding Worlds: Rights, Wrong, and Responsibilities.” The conference also featured a discussion of immigration issues, which are particularly salient in Arizona, which has recently adopted controversial legislation on the subject.

Vile said that while programs differ in size and emphasis, all share the objective of giving quality educational experiences to high-achieving students. He noted that MTSU ranks high among honors programs and colleges in terms of university and alumni support, enrollment, and number of graduates.

continued on page 41
The University Honors College Board of Visitors met Friday, October 28, for its annual meeting. Joining Dean John Vile and Intern Associate Dean Philip Phillips were board chair Don Midgett and Gordon Bell, Elliott Dawson, Phil Mathis, June McCash, Shane Reeves, Eddih Dashelt, Raiko Henderson, Debra Hopkins, Mary Lee Barnes, and Keta Barnes. The group convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Honors amphitheater for a continental breakfast, which was followed by a state-of-the-college address from Vile. Jan Leone and Phil Mathis reported on Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy, an Honors publication. Board members then toured the recently opened College of Education building. After the tour, a panel of seven students spoke to the board about their Honors and Undergraduate Fellowships Office experiences. The students were Jalesa Lowe (Mass Communication), Samantha Farish (Political Science and Psychology), Christen Vann (Education), Constance Nguyen (Political Science), Ruben Tavakolov (Chemistry and Biology), Jake Verhoeff (Social Work), and Jason Davis (International Relations). Following a catered buffet lunch, board members heard a report from Nick Perlick of the Development Office and then reconvened in the amphitheater for the formal business meeting.

Fulbright Winner Learns, Prepares for the Future
by Patrick Pratt | Patrick Pratt is a 2010 graduate with a degree in International Relations. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2011 and is now in Tanzania conducting research.

I spent the fall living in Zanzibar, Tanzania, studying Swahili at the State University of Zanzibar with 25 other Americans who also received the same scholarship I did. the David L. Boren African Languages Initiative Scholarship.

Zanzibar is an island off the coast of Tanzania. I lived in the center of Stone Town, which is an old African/Arab trading port city on the Indian Ocean where Pakistan, Arab, Indian, Chinese, and Portuguese traders have all sailed and traded. The house I lived in was only about 100 years old, fairly young in a town with over 500 years of history. It was fascinating to live in a place that is not quite African, not quite Arab. It is 97 percent Muslim, and even though it’s technically part of Tanzania, it has its own parliament, president, and ministries. In this respect, and many others, Zanzibar is unique.

My host family was a very nice Muslim Swahili family. They claim familial ties to one of the old Sultans of Oman. My host mother, Mama Zuleiha Ahmed Mohamed, an older lady who was involved in Zanzibari politics in the 1970s, was imprisoned for three years for allegedly plotting a revolution with 18 other people. When I asked her about this, she laughed and shrugged. I still cannot reconcile this with the fact that this woman cooked my meals—and she is an amazing cook. She has 12 children, but only her youngest daughter, Nuru, lived with us. We also had two nephews (Meru and Ahmed) and a niece (Hadijah) in the house. This is a popular household, and at any given time there were several visitors, mostly family and friends. Neighborhood children also stopped to buy strawberry-flavored popsicles from Nuru’s in-house popsicle factory, which is quite a large-scale operation.

The highlights of my day were watching the sun drop behind mainland Africa. So near the equator, there is so little variation in the time of sunrise and sunset that even though it’s daylight all day, I often felt that it was night. It’s very hot in Zanzibar, but it’s possible to escape the heat, always by going to the beach after class each day just to watch the dhows pass by, with the fishermen carrying their daily catch of fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods. If possible, I tried to arrive in time to watch the sun drop beyond the horizon, disappearing behind mainland Africa. So near the equator, there is so little variation in the time of sunrise and sunset that some Swahili people can tell time by looking at their own shadows. At night, sometimes I walked to

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Finding Common Ground in China
by Taffy O’Neal

Hello from Hangzhou, China! Just a year ago, I never would have pictured myself
saying that—even though I have heard that a classical education is not considered complete
without having studied abroad. Still, it’s hard for me to comprehend that when a
Chinese foreign exchange student at MTSU (and close friend of mine) told me
great opportunity to study Chinese in Hangzhou for a year! What a blessing it has
been! I am delighted to share with you some of what this trip has meant to me.

I am now a foreign student at the Wenyi campus of Hangzhou Normal University (杭州师范大学) as a part of its School of International Education (ISE). There are at least 20 countries represented and over 200 foreign students here, including four from MTSU. The foreign students represent all levels of Chinese language proficiency and most speak at least a little English. Some have studied Chinese in their home countries for many years; some speak several languages, and some, like me, are beginners. Nevertheless, we all study Chinese for three hours, five days a week, and many of us are enrolled in cultural classes as well. (I, for example, am taking kung fu and calligraphy. Interesting combination, right? I should return to the states both dangerous and ornate!)

Being a part of the ISE, learning about other cultures, and finding common ground with someone from a background completely different from everything I know is an incredible experience. The fact that we are all coming together to learn a new language in an environment that is so interesting. Even if we don’t speak each other’s language, we manage to communicate through broken Chinese, gestures, random English, and smiles.

I live on the sixth floor of an international student dormitory. There is no elevator, so I get lots of exercise. My roommate is Latvian, and our accommodations are very nice. We each have our own bedroom (my bed is luxuriously large), and we share a common living room, kitchenette, and bath. There is a washing machine in our room, and we hang our clothes to dry. On the roof of our building is a nice observation deck for viewing the night skyline and watching fireworks. The campus is beautiful, and there is a good cafeteria conveniently available. I especially enjoy eating there with a friend from Korea. School activities that incorporates the international flavor of the university (wide Olympics and a cooking competition) have presented stimulating opportunities for unexpected education and interaction. By the learning about other cultures, and finding common ground with someone from a background completely different from everything I know is an incredible experience.

way, my American apple pie was a huge hit at the “Happy Kitchen” event. It was “scarfed up,” literally, in seconds! The formal educational experience here is far different from that found in the U.S. My class is essentially total immersion; the teachers speak almost exclusively Chinese with occasional English words or phrases to help clarify important points. In fact, only Chinese and English may be spoken in our classroom. We have homework every day that includes reading, writing, reviewing, and pre-viewing. We have been averaging 100 new Chinese words every week—it’s a daunting pace! To put this into perspective, I graduated last May through the Honors program, summa cum laude from Tennessee’s best university, but I was stoked to get a passing grade on my Chinese midterm! One of the deans explained, “We are feeding you information for you to use in your life here,” to which I said, “But you’re feeding us, and we barely have time to chew!” He laughed. Nevertheless, I have come to appreciate Chinese diligence and it has definitely taught me focus and determination in my studies.

For the most part, I love it here. The people are friendly, the food is good, the cost of living is inexpensive, and I’m living comfortably. I have witnessed an unexpected blending of the richly ancient (the Xixi wetlands nature reserve, the relics of Daoist temples near West Lake, the art of papermaking at Fuyang, etc.), the incredibly modern (congenial karaoke bars at KTV and the dazzling cityscape of Shanghai), the universally charming (as in the playful banter of an elderly couple arguing over which bus stop was right for where they were going), and the indubitably strange (ever seen a woman in a dress and heels riding a motorized scooter down the street with a full-face visor and sun-protective sleeves?).

Still, life here has been a huge challenge. I’ve been missing home, especially during the absence of autumn, but Skype is a wonderful thing! I’ve also had my share of culture shock, and frustrations come often. For instance, my average-sized American self is nothing less than giant here in China; I wear a 4XL, and my shoe size is around 42. It’s difficult enough to stand out as a 外国人 (foreigner), but it’s more awkward to be unable to communicate and navigate some of the smallest things, such as finding lemon juice in the nearby supermarket. But this has taught me that the presence of failure accentuates success. My friends and I love to share our minor victories—which are anything but minor to us. We rejoice when we can order food at a restaurant, when we can understand a taxi driver, when we can find a store without having to call a Chinese friend, and when we are able to recognize a word in public that we learned in class.

While we were roaming the streets of the ancient village of Fuyang, one student from New York said, “The more you run away from home, the closer it comes to you.” And, man, is that true! From seeing Native American paraphernalia in markets to eating at KFC; from hearing Mat Kearney’s Nothing Left To Lose (which mentions Nashville) used as ambient music in a store to watching the CMA coverage on CCTV; from meeting random people on the bus who have been to Tennessee to feeding raccoons at the local zoo; from seeing President McKinley’s picture in Hangzhou Normal University’s magazine to meeting a man who was wearing an MTSU tie—there are connections to home everywhere! Though I always wanted to study abroad, I honestly didn’t think I ever would or could. I kept making excuses; then I was given this extraordinary opportunity, and now I wonder how in the world (literally!) I could have even thought about denying myself this incredible experience. The truth is this: I have learned so much about the world around me and about the person inside me, and I haven’t even been here for half of my time yet! Every day brings more than I expected! I am humbled and grateful. If you have ever even thought about thinking about studying abroad, please do it! It’s more than worth it!加油
Honors College Alumnus Wins duPont Award

Honors College graduate Phil Williams (Mass Communication, 1985) leads the investigative news team at Nashville’s WTVF-NewsChannel 5, which recently received a 2012 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award for excellence in local reporting.

Williams, whose major concentration was journalism, minored in history and political science. His thesis, “Dissent in a Free Society,” was completed during Dr. Ron Messier’s tenure as Honors director, and Messier was also his thesis advisor.

The local CBS affiliate was one of 14 duPont winners nationwide announced in December. The award, the station’s third duPont Award in nine years, was for the news team’s investigation of drug interdiction units operating along Tennessee’s interstates. The story exposed police agencies using questionable tactics to confiscate money along the interstate from out-of-state drivers who were thought to possess drug money.

“It hit me that very few people can say that they are a three-time duPont winner,” said Williams, who joined WTVF in 1998. “So I’ve got a real sense that this is special, and I don’t want to take it for granted.”

“The College of Mass Communication at MTSU is very proud of our alumnus Phil Williams and NewsChannel 5 in winning this highly prestigious national award,” said Roy Moore, dean of the college. “Phil illustrates the high quality of our electronic media communication program and its graduates, and this award is the latest in the many accolades our alumni and faculty have received over the years. The duPont prize is, without doubt, one of the top awards in broadcast journalism.”

Dean John Vile of the Honors College said that the strength of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication often attracts high-caliber students, including many from out of state. Vile noted that another Honors and Mass Comm graduate, Holly Thompson, a former member of the Honors College Board of Visitors, is a morning news anchor at Channel 4 in Nashville.

In addition to the duPont Awards, Williams has earned two George Foster Peabody Awards, the George Polk Award for TV Reporting, a National Headliner Award and three IRE Awards (including the IRE Medal) from the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization, which works to improve investigative and watchdog reporting around the world. He is in his fourth year or service on the IRE board. In his days as a print reporter, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Williams, originally from Columbia, Tennessee, was added to the MTSU College of Mass Communication Wall of Fame in 2003. He returns to MTSU on occasion to speak to students and conduct master classes.

Fulbright Winner

Forodhani, the old customs area, to stroll around the different vendors selling seafood, Zanzibar pizzas (banana chocolate), and sugarcane juice. I usually sat next to a British cannon installed in front of the House of Wonders after the shortest war in history, eating a grilled arm of octopus that I bargained down from roughly $3 to $1.25. The only routine thing in Tanzania was my language class schedule. I was in an intermediate-high course with four other students. The majority of other students were studying at the advanced level. I am so impressed with most of them. We all had different educational and professional backgrounds (linguistics, history, political science, English) and were all at different stages in life in general—from an undergraduate sophomore to a former World Bank program officer to a Ph.D. candidate who will defend her dissertation in December. This was the first time abroad for one girl and somewhat of an African homecoming for a man who lived in eastern Congo for 13 years until war began in 1996. We each had very different career aspirations, but we were all bound by a one-year service requirement in the U.S. federal government. Be very afraid of getting it not to apply at all.

I have also been staying busy with graduate school and fellowship applications. I have applied for the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship and the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship. Each of these would cover a substantial portion of expenses for a master’s degree in international affairs, an internship on Capitol Hill, and an internship in a U.S. embassy abroad. Each of these fellowships leads to employment as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. I’m essentially trying to turn graduate school into paid employment with a guarantee of a job at the end.  

Fulbright Scholar Thuraya J. Abdullah, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Bahrain, is conducting research at MTSU this academic year. She met Honors dean John Vile and advisor Laura Clippard and toured the Honors building in December.

Honors Worthy (visitors)  
continued from page 35
Meet Members of the **Board of Visitors**

**Gordon W. Bell**  
Old Fort Academy, Codirector (retired)

Gordon W. Bell, a graduate of MTSU with a B.S. in accounting, worked as an accountant, hospital controller, and financial officer in the medical and automotive industries following graduation. In 1984, he and his wife Sara, (B.S. ‘72, M.Ed. ‘85), opened Old Fort Academy (OFA). Gordon became codirector in 1991. OFA, one of the area’s largest childcare/preschool facilities, is licensed for 300 students and holds the state’s highest rating.

Bell serves on the board of trustees of Oaklands Association and chairs the Building and Grounds Committee. He is a past member of the National Association for the Education of the Young Child, has served as a Baptist deacon, and is a former member of the board of directors of the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. An amateur woodworker, antique enthusiast, and antique preservationist, he and his wife restored their 1860s home. After his retirement in 2005, he and Sara built and continue to operate Hylabrook Antique Mall in Murfreesboro. The Bells have two sons, Paul and David, both of whom attended MTSU.

**Eddith A. Dashiell**  
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Services

Eddith A. Dashiell is assistant dean for Undergraduate Programs and Services in the Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University. A native of Shelbyville, Dashiell was part of the Honors Program when she was an MTSU undergraduate. She earned a B.S. in mass communication (1980) and later an M.A. in history (1982). Her professional career brought her back to MTSU as a news and public affairs producer at WMOT-FM (1980–83) and again as an assistant professor in the Department of Mass Communication (1986–1992). At Ohio University, Dr. Dashiell has held a variety of administrative positions, including director of studies of the journalism program in the Honors Tutorial College (1996–2005). Her other administrative titles include assistant provost for Multicultural Graduate Affairs in the Office of Graduate Studies (2005–2007), associate dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Communication (2002–2004), associate director in the School of Journalism (1996–2001), and director of the Summer High School Journalism Workshop (1993–2008). She was named an OU University Professor, a student-based teaching award, in 1997–98.

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

In 1975, Paul Martin received a B.S. degree from MTSU in finance and political science and became the first graduate of the Honors Program. Martin earned a J.D. from Nashville School of Law before beginning his career as an international banking officer with Commerce Union Bank in Nashville. In 1981, he joined Humana Corporation, where he rose to the position of senior development officer. Since then, he has held key posts with several companies. Since 2001, he has been affiliated with Clarity Resources of Knoxville, a “mentor capitalist” group, where he is director and chief managing member. In 1996, Martin and his brother, H. Lee Martin, were catalysts for the building of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. They provided more than half the money to construct the 21,000-square-foot facility. Martin has a lengthy record of community service and has received many awards and honors, including the Stokley Economics Award and the Wall Street Journal Award, and was a Distinguished Alumnus of MTSU (2002). Martin is a past director of the MTSU Foundation and chair of the Foundation Finance Committee.

**Don Witherspoon**  
Director of Logistics, Pfizer Inc. (retired)  
Community Volunteer

Don Witherspoon has been involved in various volunteer activities since retiring in 2000 and moving to Murfreesboro. Before retiring as director of logistics for Pfizer, he held several logistics positions in six different locations over a career spanning 33 years. In his last assignment, Witherspoon was responsible for the building and startup of a mega-logistics center in Memphis. The center later housed logistics and other corporate headquarters functions for Pfizer.

During his career, Witherspoon was active on the board of directors for the National Transportation League and the National Small Shipment Traffic Conference and was named member of the year of that organization. He served as director of shipping associations in Atlanta, Dallas, and Los Angeles and for the New York Traffic Club.

Witherspoon has worked in community and civic affairs in several areas, including serving on committees and boards in several states, and has been involved at MTSU since his retirement. He is past president of the MTSU Foundation and the Blue Raider Athletic Association. He is a member of the Next Level Club, the Friends of Music, and the Sixth Man Club. He also served on the Academic Master Plan Committee, the Athletic Oversight Committee, and the Veterans Memorial Committee. He is a former co-president of the Rutherford County MTSU Alumni Chapter and ex officio board member of the MTSU National Alumni Association. He now serves on the MTSU Community Advisory Council.

Witherspoon and his wife, Hanna, were named 2010–11 Distinguished Alumni for their service to the University and were recognized during the spring 2011 commencement ceremony. Both 1964 graduates, they have dedicated their retirement to the betterment of MTSU and the local community. Witherspoon holds a B.S. in economics from MTSU and management certificates from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Southern California. After MTSU, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V” for service in Vietnam and was promoted to the rank of captain during his active service.  

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**Eddith A. Dashiell**  
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Services  
Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University

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**David Martin**  
Chief Managing Member, Clarity Resources, Knoxville

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Troy Berry (Mass Communication [Electronic Media Communication]) is serving as 2011–2012 president of the MTSU Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University. He has been a Student Ambassador for three years and served as vice president of the group last year.

Ray Dunn (Anthropology and Mass Communication) was featured in the Daily News Journal in October along with his parents and younger brother, Andy, a cancer survivor.

Ray and his family encouraged blood donations for MTSU’s “Bleed Blue–Beat WKU” campaign before the MTSU/Western Kentucky football game October 8, and Andy was the official “kickoff kid” at the game. Andy has been cancer free for three years thanks in part to donated blood products.

Samantha Farish (Political Science) was one of two students at the Robert E. Sanders Mock Trial Tournament sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University October 29–30 to get a perfect score as an attorney.

Chelsea Fleet (Speech and Theatre) was assistant stage manager for The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, an MTSU Theatre and Dance production performed in October at Tucker Theatre.

Paige Gober (Speech and Theatre) led nine students in writing 150 pages of material, selections of which were used to create an approximately 70-minute performance piece called Lady Parts. The company of artists wrote, acted, designed, and executed the play, which was performed on campus November 4–5. The play covers such topics as body image, sexuality, relationships, family, and personal struggles.

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages) was a coauthor with Norma Dunlap (Chemistry) of “Three-Step Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics,” published in Organic Letters, vol. 13, no. 18, in 2011. Jessica Taylor (Chemistry, 2011) was also a coauthor, and the paper comes in part from their Honors theses.

Joe Quarles (English) was published in the fall 2011 issue of Sanctuary, a regional literary journal published by the Honors Program at the University of Alabama–Birmingham that accepts submissions from any students, faculty, or staff who are part of the Southern Regional Honors Council. Quarles was previously published in Sanctuary in 2009.

Lindsey Purvis (Athletic Training), a freshman, is a defensive specialist on the MTSU women’s volleyball team. In fall 2011, the team was invited to its sixth straight NCAA Tournament and received MTSU’s second at-large bid in school history.
Students interested in graduate school attend an information session led by Dr. Peter Cunningham, associate dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, right, held in the Honors amphitheater in October.

Amber Ryder (Anthropology) presented two papers, “Linking Linear Enamel Hypoplasia to Cultural Pressures in Late Mississippian Populations” and “An Evaluation of the Cigarette Butt Litter on the Walkway to Old Main Circle and Kirksey Old Main from Peck Hall, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee,” at the 2011 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium November 1. The second paper was copresented with Tara Clark. [see page 19]

Chad Slaven (Chemistry) was accepted to two dental schools and plans to attend the University of Tennessee Health Science Center School of Dentistry in Memphis.

Kelsey Wells (Mass Communication) was the musical director for The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, an MTSU Theatre and Dance production performed at Tucker Theatre in October. Kelsey wrote and performed all of the music for the show, playing the fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and an egg slicer!

Anna Yacovone (Global Studies and Organizational Communication) placed first in the student paper competition at the 2011 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium in November. Her winning paper, “Interfaith Dialogues: A Method to Promote Peace in Southern Thailand,” was written while studying in Thailand in spring 2011. [see page 19]

Panelists from Clergy Beyond Borders respond to a comment by Honors student Cari Jennings during a September 19 forum called “From Fear to Faith: Advancing Religious Pluralism in America.” Honors dean John R. Vile presented an introduction to the Constitution and its tenets concerning religious freedom. He also served as moderator.

Chris Ranker (English and Mass Communication) presented at “Catwoman to Katniss,” an interdisciplinary conference examining heroines and villains in science fiction and fantasy on March 16. His paper, “‘Be Me for a Little While’: Manipulation and Ambiguity in Let the Right One In” examines the role of the twelve-year-old vampire in a 2008 Swedish film by Thomas Alfredson. The paper is scheduled to be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in a collection based on the proceedings of the conference.

This semester, the MTSU Film Guild is producing its first feature-length film. The project, called Juicy Mooshu, finished shooting in March and is now in postproduction. The film was written by Ross Wells and directed by Warren Smythe, both seniors studying electronic media production. Chris Ranker, Jessica Henry, and Scott Frost are producing the project, and Henry Reed is the executive producer. All these students currently attend MTSU, and the project has involved over thirty students. The group plans to apply to film festivals and seek outside distribution after postproduction. The film’s website is http://juicymooshu.com.

Ranker’s short film Breather won an Award of Merit from the Best Shorts Competition, a worldwide awards competition for short films. Breather was produced last spring by the MTSU Film Guild in association with Planet Sun Productions, a production company in Nashville.

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Scott Carnicom (Honors) was published in the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council, vol. 12, no. 2. His article, “Honors Education: Innovation or Conservation?” was the first of 11 focused on the topic of the institutional impact of honors. Carnicom is completing an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship with Dr. S. Georgia Nugent, president of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

Kathy Davis (Honors) was elected secretary of MTSU’s Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees in September.

Norma Dunlap (Chemistry) wrote “Three-Step Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics” with several coauthors, including Jessica Taylor and Daniel Gouger. The paper was published in Organic Letters, vol. 13, no. 18, in 2011.

Kaylene Gebert (Speech and Theatre) served as a panelist on corruption and education at the Conference on Corruption in Mexico, Russia, and the United States at Vanderbilt University October 13. Her paper was titled “Corruption in American Education: Changing Rationales for Cheating.” MTSU, Vanderbilt, and the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation sponsored the conference. Sessions were presented at MTSU and at Vanderbilt.

Allen Hibbard (English) received an acknowledgement from the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for his excellent work as MTSU’s Fulbright Scholar Program campus representative. MTSU was named a Fulbright Scholarship “top producer” in 2011 and was highlighted in the October 24 digital edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education. The IIE also acknowledged Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, for her strong contributions to the Fulbright program’s success at MTSU.

Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) represented the Girls Raised in Tennessee Science (GRITS) Collaborative Project and the National Girls Collaborative Project at the White House December 9. The Office of Public Engagement honored those who are “winning the future” by helping recruit girls and retain women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Iriarte-Gross is director of the GRITS program. At the event, agency representatives and White House policy offices participated and hosted small-group discussions between champions and other notable guests from various sectors and communities who are engaging and supporting girls and women in STEM. These groups focused on changing stereotypes of girls in the sciences and technology, on mentoring, and on supporting and retaining women in the STEM workforce. After the small-group meetings, a larger event focused on amplifying best practices learned in each area.

Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures), second from right, with family members (L-R) sister Sandy Thomas DeRousse; brother Kip Thomas; her 92-year-old father, Bill Thomas; and his new, 91-year-old wife, Margaret; and cousin Dave Thomas. Bill and Margaret, who live in a retirement home on James Island, South Carolina, married in December. The NBC news television affiliate in Charleston aired a piece called “Finding Love at 90” about the couple, and the story was picked up by USA Today and the Today Show.

American Literature Association. Previously, Dr. Phillips served on the editorial advisory board of the Edgar Allan Poe Review. He is also a fellow at the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, where he is creating an exhibition on Charles Baudelaire and his translations of Poe using rare books and materials from the collection. Phillips is also a member of the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston. He will be presenting “Baudelaire’s Poe in Europe” at the Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe international conference in Florence in June 2012.

Bob Pondillo (Electronic Media Communication) was promoted to full professor.

Philip Phillips (English, Honors) is coeditor of A Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages, published by Brill in March 2012. The book focuses on Boethius’s extant works: his De Arithmeticca and a fragmentary De Musica, his translations and commentaries on logic, his five theological texts, and, of course, his Consolation of Philosophy. It examines the effects that Boethian thought has exercised on the learning of later generations of scholars—including, to a degree, scholars of the 21st century. The book was also coedited by Noel Harold Kaylor Jr., a professor of English at Troy University. Dr. Phillips was elected to serve on the Poe Studies Association Executive Committee, his term begins this year. His responsibilities include organizing and chairing sessions on Poe at the annual meetings of the American Literature Association. Previously, Dr. Phillips served on the editorial advisory board of the Edgar Allan Poe Review. He is also a fellow at the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, where he is creating an exhibition on Charles Baudelaire and his translations of Poe using rare books and materials from the collection. Phillips is also a member of the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston. He will be presenting “Baudelaire’s Poe in Europe” at the Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe international conference in Florence in June 2012.

Carolyn Crawford (English, 2008) is teaching English for a year at a private school outside Seoul, Korea.

Hannah Green (Art, 2008) was promoted to inventory control specialist by the Apple Store in Knoxville.

Alyse Gillman (English, 2010) is in her second year of teaching English at West Creek High School in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Kim I. Malone (Mass Communication [Radio/TV], 2004) is a writer and designer and C.E.O. of Amoeba Ink Company. Her book Living Single on Minimum Wage is now available for order in most bookstores. Her Cafepress shop, www.cafepress.com/amoeba, is having its first profitable year, and she has changed her full-time child-care business into a small publishing business. She also plans to attend graduate school in the near future.

Paul W. Martin III is a standard verification analyst at Quality Industries in La Vergne. Quality Industries funds the Russell Chair in Manufacturing Excellence at MTSU.

Candace Moonshower (English, 1996) is an instructor in the English Department at MTSU.

Taffy O’Neal (English, 2011) received an award for excellence in her class of international students at the Wenyi campus of Hangzhou Normal University in China, where she is studying this year. She was also honored with an invitation to spend the Chinese Spring Festival with the vice chancellor of the university and his family at their home. [see page 38]

Tony Pritchard (Biology, 2011) has been accepted to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry in Memphis for the fall.

Shannon Randol (Mass Communication [Photography], 2005) earned an M.F.A. in visual arts from Washington University in St. Louis and taught at Arts Institute of Tennessee in Nashville before returning to MTSU in fall 2011 as an assistant professor of photography in the Department of Electronic Media Communication. Six of his black-and-white photos, a series called Faces of Speakers’ Corner, were published in the spring 2005 issue of College. One of the images hangs in the study area of Martin Honors Building.

Aaron Shew (Global Studies and International Relations, 2011) and his wife, Natalie, moved to northern Afghanistan in December 2011 for a three-month assignment with a nongovernmental organization called SALT International. Aaron was interim manager for training employees at a new soybean mill which was funded under a USDA-American Soybean Association grant, and Natalie taught English to women at a local institute. They returned to the states for two months and plan to move to northern Iraq this spring to implement a similar project through a nongovernmental organization called AGRISOYA. Aaron will be director of training and research. He will be responsible for working with farmers, continuing research trials with the Ministry of Agriculture, and collaborating with Salahaddin University to develop curriculum for soybeans. Natalie hopes to teach ESL at a local college or university.

Lee Martin, left, and Roy Martin, brother of the late Paul W. Martin Sr., visited Dean John Vile and Intern Associate Dean Philip Phillips, right, in December.

In Memoriam: Richard D. Gleaves Jr.

Richard Douglas (Dick) Gleaves Jr., husband of Honors Program founding director and current board of visitors member June Hall McCash, passed away at home in Murfreesboro on November 13, 2011. He was 82 years old. Gleaves was born in Nashville and earned a bachelor’s degree from MTSU. He retired as a major in the Air Force Reserve after 20 years of service and worked in the insurance industry and later in real estate. He served as chair and board member for Hospice of Murfreesboro.

Survivors include his wife, June Hall McCash; sister Carolyn Lightfoot of Montgomery, Alabama; children Doug (Sandy) Gleaves of Murfreesboro, Stephanie (Terry) Potesta of Franklin, Andy (Nancy) Gleaves of Clarksville, and Beth (Clay) Smith of Gainesville, Florida; stepsons Michael (Jill) Martin of Kenmore, Washington, and Ben (Leah) Martin of Murfreesboro; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two nieces.

Dick Gleaves (rear) with his wife, former Honors Program director June McCash, and former director Ron Museer.
**Class Notes** (alumni and friends)

**Evan Swift** (Biology, 2010) has been accepted to Christian Brothers University in Memphis and began classes in January to become a physician assistant.

**Jessica Taylor** (Chemistry, 2011) was a coauthor with Norma Dunlap of “Three-Step Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics” in Organic Letters, vol. 13, no. 18, in 2011. Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages) was also a coauthor, and the paper is a result, in part, of their Honors theses.

**Jim Tracy** (Honors College Board of Visitors) is cochairing a bipartisan, bicameral Tennessee STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education caucus, the nation’s first state-level caucus on education issues. Other cochairs are Senator Reginald Tate and representatives David Hawk and Brenda Gilmore.

**In Memoriam: Jack Justin Turner**

MTSU lost a beloved teacher and accomplished author on December 29, 2011, with the passing of Jack Justin Turner, a longtime member of the Department of Political Science before his retirement in 2000. He devoted his last several years to publishing books that he began researching and writing while at MTSU.

Dr. Turner was born and raised in Langley, Kentucky, where he was a star basketball player. He graduated from Berea College and the University of Kentucky before coming in 1965 to MTSU, where he taught international relations for 35 years and was twice recognized by the University desig-
nated him professor emeritus when he retired.

Many students from the international relations program went on to earn doctoral degrees in their fields, including three who later joined the Political Science Department: Mark Byrnes (Honors faculty and dean of the College of Liberal Arts), Anna Sloan (former associate dean of Liberal Arts and study abroad director, now deceased), and Karen Peterson (assistant dean of Liberal Arts and Honors faculty member). Dr. Derek Frisby of the History Department was also one of Turner’s students.

Dr. Turner was especially interested in the history of southeastern Kentucky, and in the last several years he published novels set in the area. These include The Foxes and the Hounds: Big Medicine River Days, The Sheriffs’ Murder Cases, and The Sheriff of Frozen’s Murder Cases, the last of which was just published in 2011. The second volume of The Foxes and the Hounds, called Bluegrass Days; The Sheriff of Hall’s Murder Cases, a novel, and the nonfiction Maytown Magic and Mayhem: Fifty Years of Mountain Basketball have all been scheduled for release by Chestnut Hill Publishing.

On March 1, 2007, the Honors College hosted Turner’s first reading and book signing in the Honors College Student Commons, which was filled to capacity with former students and colleagues. He later appeared at numerous other events in Tennessee and Kentucky to introduce people to his books.

Dr. Turner is survived by his wife, Judy (Gibson) Turner (the two met in high school), and he will long be remem-
bered by thousands of students who took his classes. Dr. Frank Essex, a colleague who also retired from the Political Science Department, was among those who spoke at Turner’s memorial service in Martin, Kentucky.

Dr. John Vile, former chair of the Department of Political Science and a longtime friend, called Turner an exemplary teacher who seemed to exercise a special magic in the classroom. He cared deeply about his students and never lost touch with his deep Kentucky roots. Vile said it was rare to pass Turner’s office without finding him talking to students, who often lined up outside his door to meet with him.

**Jeff Whorley** (Honors College Board of Visitors), president of Student Aid Services, Inc., announced in October that at that time 575 college campuses chose Student Aid Services’ net price calculator to ensure that prospective students and parents get accurate estimates of eligibility for all types of financial aid, net price, and out-of-pocket costs. Whorley said, “Our easy-to-use technology can generate for pro-
spective students and their families very reliable cost estimates for college planning in as little time as it takes to cook a microwave dinner.” Student Aid Services is the nation’s leading provider of college-cost estimation technology.

**Anna Yacovone** (Global Studies and Organizational Communication, 2011) is serving as postgraduate education abroad advisor for the MTSU Education Abroad office.

**Don Midgett** reads a plaque describing the accom-
plishments of Ralph Gwaltney (39, ’54) at Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. Gwaltney and his wife, Elizabeth, were the parents of Carolyn, who became Don’s wife. In 2011, Don and Carolyn established a centennial scholarship for Honors students in honor of the Gwaltneys.
The Honors College deeply appreciates all the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college’s history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in the past year.

Nancy and Jerry L. Allen
Annette and Billy W. Balch
Mary Lee and Terry W. Barnes
Taylor A. Barnes
Charles L. Baum
Philip D. Bowles
James M. Buchanan
Sandee and Philip Cunningham
Eddith A. Dashiel
Kaylene Gebert
Michael Gigandet
Mark A. Hall
Rako and John Henderson
George N. Hester
Donna D. and Michael Hughes
Allison D. Ingram and
John P. Montgomery
Carmella A. and
Michael K. Jochmann
Jennifer J. and Terry Jordan-Henley
Veronica King
Sandra and Thomas Kubis
Rebecca M. and Scott T. Malone
Paul W. Martin Jr.
Daphne and Terry Martin
Gloria D. Khairi-ban and
Mike Martine
June Hall McCash and
Richard Gleaves Jr.
Ronald Mester
Christina and Lloyd Miller
Paulette and Tracey C. Nash
Sharmila J. Patel and
Philip E. Phillips
Kathleen Elaine and
Matthew Royal
Mary Elizabeth Smith,
Sharon L. Stringer
Linda K. and John R. Vile
Edith and Bruce Waite
ProZServe Professional Project
Senerse/Barry Goss
Thompson Rivers University/
Marian Griffin

I am a Valuable Contributor to its
Progress & Success
I am Engaged in the Life of this Community
I am a Recipient & a Giver
I am a listener & a speaker
I am Honest in word and deed
I am committed to reason.
I am a learner
I am now & forever True Blue
I am a Blue Raider.

Middle Tennessee State University

2011 Contributor Honor Roll
Life goes swimmingly in the Honors College.