



The
Buchanan
Buchanan
Fellowship

The highest award given to an entering honors student

Middle Tennessee State University



*"If Jim Buchanan can be selected for
a Nobel Prize, anyone can."*

*In a sense I do embody something of the
American myth of social mobility."*

James M. Buchanan Buchanan

James M. Buchanan, a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, has often noted that the life of scholarly endeavor and accomplishment he has led was not even imaginable to him as a child growing up in rural Rutherford County. His motivation to begin pursuit of a higher education was simply that to do so was “better than plowing.” Although he is the grandson of a Tennessee governor, he and his family experienced the same financial hardships common to many in middle Tennessee during the 1930s. Buchanan attended country schools and lived at home on his family’s farm while attending MTSTC. He paid for his undergraduate education by doing farm work. A student who eventually graduated with majors in English, social sciences, and mathematics, he has written that the reason he entered the field in which he became famous—economics—was that MTSTC political science professor C. C. Sims helped arrange a fellowship for him to attend graduate school. Otherwise, he has speculated, he would have become a high school teacher or taken a job in a bank. **Instead, an early life of thrift and arduous work evolved into a prestigious career distinguished by those same simple qualities.**

Buchanan’s penchant for staying out of the limelight combined with his radically different ideas about the intersections of economics, politics, and public policy have earned him something of an iconoclastic reputation among his peers. Yet, that modesty and that willingness to challenge majority views—combined with more hard work and long hours—led to the **Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986.**

Buchanan’s leadership in developing the public choice theory of economics is now universally recognized. A central idea of that theory challenges the supposition that politicians act to serve the interests of the public rather than their own and that economic policy should come from a small group of “wise and enlightened men.”





In *Better than Plowing and Other Personal Essays*, Buchanan wrote, “If Jim Buchanan can be selected for a Nobel Prize, anyone can,” a sentiment he repeated in 1988 when he visited MTSU. In the book he continued, “In a sense I do embody something of the American myth of social mobility. For how many farm boys from middle Tennessee, educated in tiny, poor, and rural public schools, and at a struggling state-financed teachers college, have received Nobel Prizes? . . . **The simple fact that my selection offered hope and encouragement to so many . . . has been, when all is said and done, the most gratifying aspect of the whole experience of ‘Nobelity.’**”

In an essay written on the occasion of James Buchanan’s 80th birthday, Edwin J. Feulner, president of the Heritage Foundation, observed, “It has taken a farm boy raised near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to remind us that politicians are politicians and people are people no matter in what institutional structure they find their employment. It has taken a scholar skeptical of the traditional ivory tower academy to call into question the ability and judgment of any enlightened class. It has taken an individual of the caliber and determination of James Buchanan to establish and follow rules for economic analysis that are leading to a reconstitution of the Founding Fathers’ vision of the public policy process in America.”

James M. Buchanan has taught at the University of Tennessee, Florida State University, the University of Virginia, the University of California—Los Angeles, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and, beginning in 1983, at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He now serves as advisory general director of the James Buchanan Center for Political Economy at George Mason, a center for the interdisciplinary study of politics, law, and economics.





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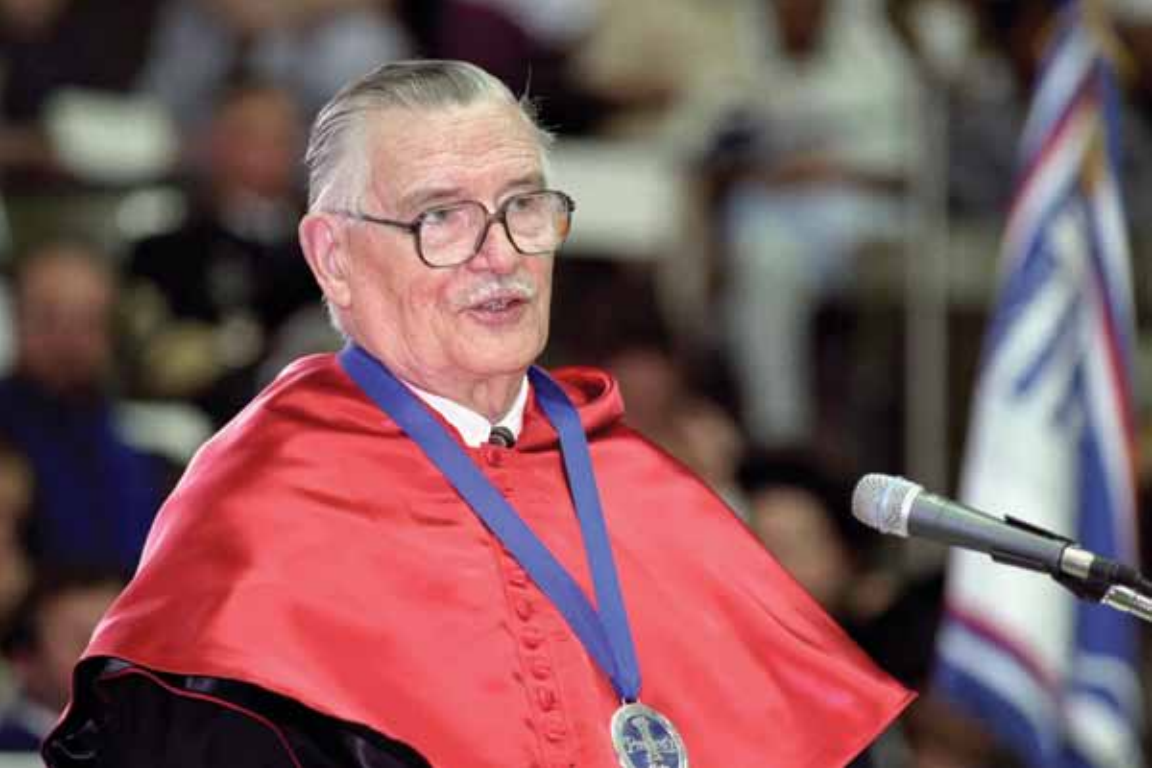
'Nobelity.'"

The Buchanan Fellowship

James M. Buchanan's dedication to learning and commitment to his fellow citizens have made him a model of the ideals embraced by the University Honors College at MTSU. **In 2006, President Sidney A. McPhee established a fellowship program in the University Honors College intended to attract superior scholars from across the country.** The college was honored to receive permission from James Buchanan to use his name, and thus recipients of this prestigious award are known as Buchanan Fellows.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest award given to students entering the Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University. The first classes of Buchanan Fellows have already achieved a lofty standard of excellence. Competition for the fellowship has been rigorous: only 20 applicants each year are selected as Buchanan Fellows. Acceptable candidates must have strong records of scholarship; show ample evidence of special talents, leadership skills, and community-mindedness; and possess the virtues championed by the Honors College—honor, commitment, integrity, discipline, faith, curiosity, character, and creativity.

Though the competition for these fellowships is sharp, the rewards awaiting successful candidates are considerable. The foremost benefit is a superior classical education that will be an excellent foundation for graduate or professional school. Buchanan Fellows have opportunities for study abroad, support and promotion for prestigious national and international graduate fellowships (such as Fulbright and Rhodes), access to special lectures and events, and support for preparation and admission to graduate or professional schools. **The Buchanan Fellowship provides full payment for 16 hours of tuition and all maintenance fees each semester for up to eight semesters (summer not included) plus a book allowance of \$1,000 per year. (Material fees and special course fees are not included.)** The Buchanan Fellowship is automatically renewed for up to four years provided the student meets the academic benchmarks and special responsibilities associated with the award.



Application

In order to compete for a Buchanan Fellowship, an applicant must apply for undergraduate admission to Middle Tennessee State University (www.mtsu.edu/admissn) and concurrently complete the application form for admission to the Buchanan Fellowship (www.mtsu.edu/honors/buchanan.shtml). Applicants must have a high school GPA of at least 3.5 and a composite score of at least 29 on the ACT (SAT equivalent = 1280). An official, complete high school transcript must be provided, accompanied by an essay (500 words or less, see application). **These requirements are the minimum necessary for consideration. Successful applicants will almost certainly exceed these qualifications. The completed Buchanan Fellowship application and supporting documents are due in the Honors College by December 1 of the year prior to full enrollment.**

Responsibilities

By accepting the Buchanan Fellowship, students assume several responsibilities. **Buchanan Fellows will uphold the ideals espoused in the Honors Creed. Buchanan Fellows will serve up to eight hours each semester as student ambassadors in the Honors**



"for his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making"

Nobel Foundation

College. Buchanan Fellows will participate fully in the Buchanan Seminars—a specially designed cohort curriculum. Most important, Buchanan Fellows will progress toward graduation according to the following benchmarks:

- completion of the 20-hour Buchanan Seminars requirement (lower-division courses) by the end of the sophomore year (fourteen hours to be completed during the freshman year and six hours during the sophomore year)
- completion of a minimum of six semester hours of upper-division Honors credit by the end of the junior year
- completion of all requirements for graduation with University Honors (or Distinction in University Honors), including the Martin Lecture Series (UH 3000), by the end of the senior year
- maintenance of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) at all times





The Buchanan Seminars

With the establishment of the Buchanan Fellowships, the Honors College has designated a separate, required curriculum for Buchanan Fellows: the Buchanan Seminars. By the end of the sophomore year, fellows must successfully complete these seminars, described below.

Exploring the Universe/Observing the Universe

(ASTR 1030/1031)

Subtitled “A Historical and Philosophical Journey through the Universe” for the Buchanan Seminars, this introductory astronomy course examines the planets, stars, star systems, and the overall structure of the universe. Students will also explore the philosophical implications of such study including the reason for paradigm shifts in science, the question of whether or not the scientific method is a valid epistemological tool, the ramifications of an expanding universe, and the possibility of parallel universes.

Observing the Universe (ASTR 1031) is the companion laboratory course to ASTR 1030. It comprises lab exercises, outdoor observation, an introduction to telescopes, and the analysis of starlight.

The courses will be taught by Dr. Eric Klumpe, an astronomer and astronautical engineer with degrees from the California Institute of Technology and Stanford University and a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Texas. He worked for more than a decade at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the Viking mission to Mars, the Voyager mission to the outer planets, the Comet Halley intercept mission, and the Galileo mission to Jupiter.





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Introduction to Philosophy

(PHIL 1030)

Crafted exclusively for the Buchanan Seminars, this introductory humanities course, subtitled “**Learning How to Live,**” examines a broad range of philosophical principles, problems, and projects in historical context; its overall warrant is grounded in the fundamental notion that liberation of the intellect is essential to all human flourishing. In addition to gaining familiarity with the main currents of Western thought, from antiquity to the present day, students who complete this course may come to appreciate that there are in fact two educations: one that, in the words of John Adams, “should teach us how to make a living, and the other how to live.”

The course will be taught by Dr. Ron Bombardi who received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Philosophy from Marquette University. He has been active in honors education at MTSU for over twenty years and is known for his enthusiasm.

Themes in Literature and Culture

(ENGL 2020)

Subtitled “**Greek Origins of Western Culture**” for the Buchanan Seminars, this introductory humanities course explores the core themes, values, and aesthetic and cultural ideas of the ancient Greeks and the emergence of these ideas in modern Western culture. Students read selected works in Greek literature, history, and philosophy and twentieth-century texts that reveal how Greek ideas have been revised and rewritten by modern writers and thinkers. Course material will be taught from a cultural perspective.



The course will be taught by **Dr. Angela Hague**, who received her **Ph.D. in English literature from Florida State University** and did postdoctoral work at the **University of Sussex**. She has been active in both Honors and graduate education at MTSU for twenty years and is a multiple winner of the Honors College Outstanding Faculty Award.

Foreign Literature in Translation

(HUM 2610)

The second-semester Buchanan humanities seminar is **subtitled “Questing Toward the Modern.”** The course introduces many of the central ideas, values, and concepts in art, science, religion, and politics from the Middle Ages through the nineteenth century. Students are presented with a unified, interdisciplinary overview of Western civilization from the medieval Christian vision to the secular scientific outlook at the dawn of self-conscious modernity.

The course will be taught by **Dr. Tom Strawman**, who received his **Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Washington** and who studied at the **University of Tübingen and the University of Freiberg**. He has received both the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award and the Honors College Outstanding Faculty Award. He is chair of the Department of English.

Principles of Economics, Macroeconomics

(ECON 2410)

Subtitled “Bigger than America, Brazen as Politics, Better than Plowing” for the Buchanan Seminars, this general economics course presents traditional macroeconomic theory and topics from a tightly integrated interdisciplinary perspective with an emphasis on the global and political contexts of the subject matter. The seminar will culminate in a student production of one or more public television programs about their learning experiences, views of economics, and how economics is





related to their personal lives and visions of the future.

The course will be taught by Dr.

Richard Hannah, who received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Utah. Dr. Hannah has taught in China and France and at the graduate and undergraduate levels at MTSU, where he has for ten years hosted the public television show *Inside Academia*. He is the Honors College's resident faculty member from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

Foundations of Government

(PS 1010)

Subtitled “Who Gets What, When, and How” for the Buchanan Seminars, this course introduces students to the fundamentals of government from a comparative perspective and presents the major theories and issues of international politics by focusing on political theory, institutions, and international issues. The course will be taught by Dr. Karen Petersen, who received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Vanderbilt University, where she was a senior lecturer. She teaches courses in international and comparative politics, the political status of women in the world, and United States national security policy. Petersen is an academic fellow with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C. She also directs MTSU's Model United Nations program.



*The Honors College is a place to
see oneself in the mirror of time . . .
a place to dream, explore,
and find direction.*

The University Honors College



The Honors Program at Middle Tennessee State University began in the 1973–74 academic year. Its purpose was—and continues to be—to provide superior students the opportunity to experience the personal guidance, small classes, and intellectual challenges often found at small liberal arts colleges, combined with the greater resources and more varied disciplines of a larger university. In 1998, the program became the University Honors College, the first such college at any Tennessee public university.

Departmental Honors courses can be found in more than 25 academic departments and schools at MTSU and are taught by a select group of distinguished scholars and researchers who constitute the Honors Faculty. Courses in University Honors include junior and senior interdisciplinary seminars, independent research, study abroad and thesis tutorials, a service learning practicum, and the University Honors Lecture Series. The H-Option program allows students to request upper-division Honors credit for non-Honors courses (up to nine credit hours).

The Honors College also sponsors special speaker programs and cultural and entertainment events. The Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Lectureship brings leaders in the arts, politics, science, business, entertainment, and government to campus each year. Another initiative is the Institute of Leadership Excellence, which combines an examination of leadership theories and active participation in projects intended to develop personal leadership.

Activities outside the classroom are crucial to the Honors experience. Honors students have the opportunity to participate in the Honors Studies Association, an alliance of students, faculty, and staff who encourage each other to pursue academic excellence and who foster a sense of community among all involved with the Honors College. The association sponsors social and volunteer opportunities, helps acquaint new students with the college and the University, and makes sure that Honors students have a voice regarding the programs and services of the



Buchanan's emphasis on applying market principles to political choice led to the founding of the subdiscipline of public choice, recognized throughout the world.

college. Other organizations open to Honors students are the Honors College Residential Society, the Dean's Student Advisory Council, and the Honors Council. The MTSU student literary magazine, *Collage*, a biannual publication that showcases the creativity of student artists, writers, photographers, and poets, and *Scientia et Humanitas*, an online journal of student research, are produced under the auspices of the Honors College.

Honors students have the opportunity to live on campus in the Honors Living and Learning Center in Lyon Complex, a place where Honors students from all disciplines can live together and share ideas in an atmosphere conducive to academic achievement. The center boasts a study area and tutoring room, a lounge area with a large-screen TV, a computer lab, an academic advising office, an Honors classroom, and laundry and kitchen facilities in both the men's and women's wings.

The 21,000-square foot Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building enhances the sense of neighborhood and community encouraged by the Honors College. It provides a place for classes, seminars, lectures, and social events, and houses an Honors library, conference rooms, study areas, and faculty offices. The building also features a comfortable student commons with a fireplace and adjacent snack room. Within the building, students are provided with free newspapers and coffee daily, and the building is conveniently located near other major classroom buildings.



Admission and Retention Requirements

A freshman entering the University Honors College must have a minimum ACT composite score of 25 (SAT equivalent 1130 to 1160) and at least a 3.5 high school GPA. When students have established university GPAs, they must maintain at minimum a 3.25 (cumulative) to stay in the college and enroll in Honors courses. Transfer students must also have a cumulative 3.25 GPA to be eligible to enroll in Honors courses. Qualifying students may enroll in Honors courses as they choose as long as they meet prerequisites and seats are available.

The Honors staff is eager to assist students whenever possible. Please feel free to stop by the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building; call our office at (615) 898-2152; or e-mail us at honors@mtsu.edu to arrange a visit.

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Edwin J. Feulner



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