



H O N O R S alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Spring 2006
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Bell Tower

*Salubra pango;
Funera plango;
Solemnia clango.*

(Inscription on an old bell)

The bell tower is the distinguishing feature of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building and the landmark by which students are able to orient themselves both temporally and spatially. It is more than the inspiration for this semiannual column. It is a statement about academic tradition, and its melodic sounds are welcomed by students and visitors alike.

At MTSU or on any campus, a bell tower is something special. Bells have a long history of having been used to signal important events. They are used to mark the passage of time, as symbols of patriotism, in association with rejoicing, in conjunction with mourning, and as a signal of warning. During war, the bells of a conquered country are often among

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INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE OFFERS FIRST COURSE

The newly established MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence will offer its first course (UNIV 4010/UH 4010) this summer during Session I (May 15–June 2). This unique course will provide an intensive learning experience in leadership excellence that will encompass the study of leadership theory and practice with an emphasis on application and experiential learning. Students will have extensive exposure to accomplished leaders from the community, and the completion of a student project will include a personal action plan for leadership growth. Students will hear lectures and engage in active learning experiences during the day, and evening sessions will include dinner for students, a dinner speaker, and an interactive period for students and speakers. On the final Friday, students will present their projects to institute participants, faculty, and invited guests, and the course will conclude with a formal dinner and special speaker. **Students will pay only one-half of the tuition cost of the course. All of the remaining tuition, books, materials, and meal costs will be paid by the institute.**

The course will be open to both Honors and non-Honors students with junior or senior standing and a cumulative GPA of 3.0. In addition, students must submit a letter of recommendation from an MTSU faculty member or administrator. Students from all colleges and departments are encouraged to apply. The course will be cross-listed as a senior-level course in both University Studies and University Honors, and students will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students who complete the course successfully will receive three credit hours that may count as upper-division Honors credit if desired.

The MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence is funded by H. Lee Martin, who with his brother Paul Martin Jr. provided much of the funding for the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College Lectureship, and the Paul W. Martin Jr. Honors College Scholarships. It is Dr. Martin's wish to maintain a program in leadership that will prepare students for leadership positions in the community and beyond.

Students interested in the class should contact David Foote, ext. 2022, Box X062, dfoote@mtsu.edu; Earl Thomas, ext. 2340, Box 432, rethomas@mtsu.edu; or Jill Hague, ext. 8123, Box 267, ahague@mtsu.edu. 📞

Bell cont. from front page

the first sounds to be silenced. Although bell ringing is most often associated with the establishment of time and place, it is also often used as a way of announcing a beginning or an end. In the rituals of the Roman Catholic Church, bells have frequently been used to promote images and thoughts of paradise or even to represent the voice of God. Because of the historic ties between church and state, bells have long been associated with education and academics, both in the East as well as in the West. More than anything, the bell represents the institution of education in America. The flaming torch, the lighted lamp, and the apple all vie for attention, but as a symbol of the education enterprise, the bell is unsurpassed!

The bell tower of the Martin Honors Building houses four specially tuned, cast bronze bells that are equipped with electronically operated clappers. Striking the various bells sequentially, and in a particular order, produces a pleasant melody. Apparently the Chinese were the first to strike multiple bells in this manner to produce what we now call chimes. Today, hundreds, if not thousands, of MTSU students enjoy the musical chimes of the Martin Bell Tower.

The bells of the Martin Bell Tower were supplied by the Van Bergen Company of Charleston, S.C., a venerable firm that has supplied bells to Davidson College in North Carolina, the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, the University of California at Berkeley, Middlebury College in Vermont, and many other academic institutions.

One of the great features of the bells at MTSU is that they can be operated by means of a hand-held remote control device, much like the

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HONORS FACULTY MEMBER CLAUDIA BARNETT

Claudia Barnett says that if she weren't a professor, she might be an astronaut, a talk-show host, or a chef. Then she reconsiders as she realizes her fear of heights could be a problem with space travel; she's self-conscious about seeing herself on television; and last week she burned a cheesecake. All things considered, professor seems like the right choice. Besides, she loves it.

Barnett has taught English at MTSU since 1994, the year she received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. She teaches Honors sections of English 1010 and 1020, as well as an Honors English 2020 course called *Women Who Kill*. "It's a drama class," she says. "It's all plays in which women are murderers. Or suicides. Or maybe just the catalysts for death. It depends on your definition. But they're not just victims; they take action—not that they're always good role models. We start with *Medea* and *Lady Macbeth*, and of course they're the stereotypes—they created the stereotypes. But then we get to the twentieth century and the plays are by women, which adds an interesting twist."

Five years ago, Barnett developed the Visiting Artists Seminar (UH 3200), a one-week, one-credit class for upper-division Honors students. "It gives the students the chance to work intensively with a professional artist," she says. "It's an invaluable experience. And it's

an introductory class, so anyone can sign up and learn anything, in a week, from an expert in the field." The faculty so far has includ-



ed performance artist Deb Margolin, poet David Kirby, and book artists Peter and Donna Thomas. Playwright Carson Kreitzer taught the seminar in February.

Barnett, who also teaches playwriting, has written several plays. Her one-act *Devoted*, which was performed at

MTSU's Women and Power Conference in 1997, is soon to be published in an anthology from *New Issues*. Recently, she has begun writing full-length plays. *Feather* won the Brick Playhouse Award for new plays in 2004 and was given a staged reading in Philadelphia. Since then, she has written a historical drama, set in 1642–43, called *Another Manhattan*. "I enjoyed the research," she says. "I had no idea there was so much information available about the individual people who lived back then. It was fascinating."

Barnett's published writing, which earned her MTSU's Distinguished Research Award in 2003, includes 13 scholarly articles on women playwrights, "none of whom you've ever heard of," she says. "No one has. I mean, very few people. My students have. My students are authorities. You should read their essays on Phyllis Nagy." She smiles. "I like breaking new ground." 📣

THE BUCHANAN FELLOWS ARE COMING!

Honors College to Offer New Fellowship Program

The University Honors College expects to admit the first class of Buchanan Fellows in the fall of 2007. The new fellows will consist of a special group of honors students selected for participation in a six-course cohort curriculum to be known as the Buchanan Seminars. Plans call for twenty fellows to be chosen annually from a pool of applicants who show high academic promise and who meet the GPA/ACT criteria for guaranteed admission. Over time, the number of Buchanan Fellows is expected to grow to as many as eighty. Once admitted, each class of Buchanan Fellows will follow a prescribed honors curriculum to be taken during the first two years of study. The curriculum will emphasize both the connections and interrelatedness of individual disciplines as well as the philosophical principles that underlie them. Buchanan Seminars will consist of two courses in the social sciences (6 semester hours), two in the humanities (6 semester hours), and two in the natural sciences (8 semester hours).

Buchanan Fellows will be supported by an attractive financial aid package. Benefits will surpass both the President's and Chancellor's Scholarships and include payment of all tuition and fees (including out-of-state fees for up to five students in each class), a \$1,000 per year textbook allowance, and selective access to funds for study abroad. Fellowships will be renewable for up to four years, provided that the student remains in good academic standing and makes

acceptable progress toward graduation with University Honors. Funds will come primarily from university resources but with significant support from Dr. James Buchanan ('41). Dr. Buchanan recently added to his earlier gifts to the Buchanan Scholarship program with a gift of \$10,000 to the Buchanan Fellowship Program.

Dean Phil Mathis, who proposed the new program, emphasized the important roles played by vice president Bob Glenn, financial aid director David Hutton, and provost Kaylene Gebert in convincing President Sidney A. McPhee to provide the resources necessary to make the Buchanan Fellows Program a reality. Approval was granted by Nobel Laureate Dr. James Buchanan in late December (2005) to associate the Buchanan name with the new fellowship program and curriculum. Mathis went on to indicate that the ability to associate the name of an alumnus and Nobel Laureate (economics, 1986), such as Buchanan, will provide instant credibility to the new program and thereby enhance the Honors College's attractiveness to bright, highly motivated students. He emphasized that the new program will augment the Honors College's less structured traditional curriculum and that it would in no way compete with it. Finally, he acknowledged the support of the Honors Council, the Honors Faculty, department chairs, and particularly the work of interim associate dean Jill Hague in putting together key elements of Buchanan Seminars. 📌

Bell cont. from page 2

remote controls used in the automobile industry. During the 2005 fall semester, a new practice was begun in which a special peal of the bells is initiated following the successful defense of each thesis or creative project in Honors. The thesis defense room is situated immediately under the neoclassical bell tower, and the sounding of the special peal is a simple but meaningful act. The student's major advisor simply pushes the "peal" button on the remote control and what follows is an ear-pleasing five-minute long peal of the bells. The peal of the bells announces in a celebratory way that an important end has been reached. The new custom was inaugurated on November 8, 2005, at the thesis defense of Brandon Armstrong. Honors students, advisors, and passing students alike have welcomed the new practice, and we hope that it will become a revered tradition of the Honors College.

—Philip M. Mathis, Dean 📌



Spring 2006 Honors Lecture Series

Paradigm Shifts: Ideas that Changed the World



Jan. 23
"Paradigm Shifts:
A Very Short History"
Ron Bombardi, Philosophy

Jan. 30
"The DNA Revolution"
Matthew Elrod-Erickson, Biology

Feb. 6
"Did America Discover
Democracy?"
Robb McDaniel, Political Science

Feb. 13
"Copernicus and the
Principle of Mediocrity"
Eric Klumpe, Physics and Astronomy

Feb. 20
"From Suffrage to Sex Positivism:
The Shifting Waves of the U.S.
Women's Movement"
Elyce Helford, English, director of
Women's Studies

Feb. 27
"The Sleep of Reason Produces
Monsters' and Other Scary Ideas:
Some Reflections on the
Enlightenment"
Alfred Lutz, English

March 13
"The Triumph of
Darwinian Thinking"
Stephen Howard, Biology

NCAA'S BRAND SEEKS ADVOCACY, REFORM

By Mark Logan, Sidelines Staff Writer

National Collegiate Athletic Association President Myles Brand visited MTSU on October 10, 2005, as guest speaker at the Honors College Martin Lectureship and to participate in a panel discussion on collegiate athletics and to deliver a lecture on the NCAA's new mission.



After assuming presidency of the NCAA in January 2003, Brand said that his mission would be one of both "advocacy and reform": advocating the value of college sports on the one hand while working to strengthen the academic achievements of student athletes on the other.

Over 80 people attended the afternoon panel discussion, and over one hundred attended the evening lecture, according to Philip Mathis, dean of the Honors College, who attended both events. Senator Lamar Alexander, State Senator Jim Tracy, and State Representative John Hood also attended the lecture.

In his 45-minute lecture, Brand reiterated his dual mission. He emphasized the merit of college sports and its legitimate place in academics and outlined his plan of action for underachieving schools.

The NCAA is in the process of preparing a program to develop incentives that will reward academic improvement. "The goal, of course, is not to sanction," Brand said. "The goal is to change behavior so that student athletes have every opportunity to succeed."

Another goal, Brand said, is to promote fairness so that students have an opportunity for success based on the merit of their performance. "[Athletics] is not only about running, throwing, catching, and jumping. It is also about fairness and respect for others."

At the conclusion of the lecture, Brand took questions from the audience. 📣



From left, Associate Athletic Director Diane Turnham, Athletic Director Chris Massaro, NCAA President Myles Brand, MTSU President Sidney McPhee, and Men's Head Basketball Coach Kermit Davis.

THE MTSU AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The seventh annual MTSU American Indian Cultural Festival was held March 3–5, 2006, in the Tennessee Livestock Center. The event is a collaboration by the Native American Student Association, the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society, the MTSU Anthropology Program, Student Programming, and the University Honors College. (Honors College staff member Georgia Dennis presented a poster at the most recent MTSU Scholars Day.) In just a few years, the festival has grown to become the largest Native American festival of its kind in the southeast.

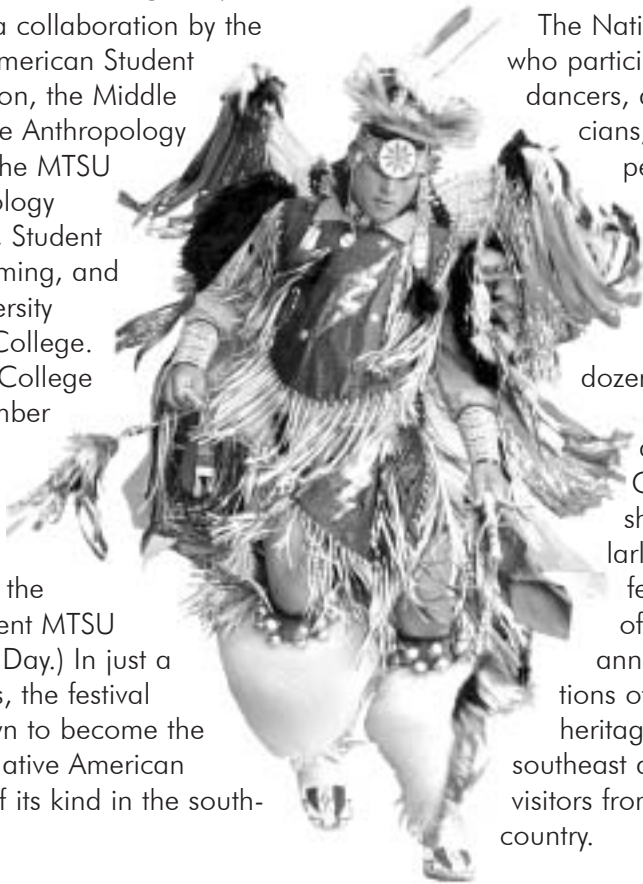
The festival has been repeatedly acknowledged as “One of the Top Twenty Events in the Southeast” by the Southeast Tourism Society. Similar events in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia compete each year for this recognition.

The festival is family-oriented, kid-friendly, educational, and entertaining, attracting thousands of visitors

every year. It is an “All Nations” festival dedicated to American Indians and the celebration of their culture and heritage.

The Native Americans who participate as dancers, artists, musicians, and craftspeople come from all over the country. We commonly have two dozen states represented, and Canadians show up regularly, too! The festival is one of the largest annual celebrations of culture and heritage in the southeast and attracts visitors from across the country.

The MTSU festival offers a venue for closer interaction and an opportunity for partnerships between diverse cultural communities; educational field trip opportunities for surrounding school districts; public service and volunteer work opportunities for staff, faculty, and students; a broader social context for cooperation between the Native American and academic communities; and an additional and colorful source for positive media coverage for the University. 📌



Lecture Series cont. from page 4

March 20
“Freud’s Seduction Theory: How Lusty Old Men Changed the History of Psychoanalysis”
 Richard Bauer, Psychology

March 27
“Marx, Class, and Revolution”
 Michael Principe, Philosophy

April 3
“The Measure of the Postmodern”
 Jack Purcell, Philosophy

April 10
“The New Physics: Some Strangeness in the Proportion”
 Vic Montemayor, Physics and Astronomy

April 17
Thesis presentations

April 24
Thesis presentations 📌

McCash Publishes Again

Dr. June McCash, founding director of the Honors Program, was the subject of a recent front-page feature in the *Daily News Journal* regarding her publications on the history of Jekyll Island, Georgia. McCash has authored or coauthored three books on Jekyll Island, the most recent being *Jekyll Island’s Early Years: From Prehistory through Reconstruction* (University of Georgia Press, 2005). The self-proclaimed “scholarly schizophrenic” has also published extensively in the field of French literature and on medieval women. She is presently working on still another book, *The Life of Saint Audrey*, a work about a 13th-century saint. Dr. McCash lives in Murfreesboro and teaches in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures on a postretirement basis. She enjoys occasional trips to the Georgia coast. 📌

National Merit Finalists Fall 2004

Casey B. Brown, sophomore,
Mass Communication, concentra-
tion in Journalism, Lebanon, Tenn.

Bryan P. Cook, junior, English
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Anthony D. Harrell, sophomore,
Mass Communication,
concentration in Electronic Media
Communication,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Nathaniel D. Johnson,
sophomore, undecided,
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Grant Martin, junior, Political
Science, Nashville, Tenn.

Gregory B. Newberry, junior,
Recording Industry, Lilburn, Ga.

National Achievement Finalist Fall 2005

Divon R. Crutchfield, junior,
Finance, Lebanon, Tenn. 📌

Honors Alternative Credits

Phil Mathis
dean

Angela Hague
interim associate dean

Karen Demonbreum
newsletter editor

MTSU Publications and Graphics
copy editing, design, and production

MTSU Printing Services

MTSU Photographic Services

COLLAGE: A JOURNAL OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Under the guidance of Honors staff member Marsha Powers, the *Collage* staff entered a poster at the annual Scholars Day event on October 31, 2005. The University Honors *Collage* endeavors to encourage and recognize scholarship and creativity and to provide learning opportunities for its students. One of the chief ways that the Honors College seeks to fulfill these goals is through *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. *Collage*, a biannual literary and arts magazine, showcases creative talents and provides a learning laboratory for MTSU students. The student editorial staff, which is responsible for selecting and editing submissions and designing the journal, includes an editor-in-chief, a designer, an online editor, a literature arts editor, an assistant literature arts editor, a visual arts editor, an assistant visual arts editor, and a small support staff. Any MTSU student not on the *Collage* staff is

invited to submit up to three items for consideration. Types of works accepted include photography, art, digital art, poetry, songs, fiction, and nonfiction.

Although the student-produced *Collage* has been published since 1968, the journal came under the sponsorship of the Honors College in 2004, and its first edition under the Honors auspices was published in spring 2005. The magazine has received a face-lift with respect to design, content, and overall effect. The magazine's goal is to publish the very best of the student work submitted each semester without regard for authorship or theme. Student interest in the publication has increased: over 200 submissions were received for the spring 2005 issue. The online version of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* can be viewed at www.mtsu.edu/~collage. 📌

2005–2006 National Dean's List

Brett Aplin, sophomore
Ashley Ball, sophomore
Taylor Barnes, sophomore
Shannon Beels, junior
Sarah Bryant, sophomore
Lauren Bullock, junior
Emily Carroll, senior
Sara Carter, junior
John Cheesebrew II, senior
Katherine Crytzer, senior
Clay Francis, sophomore
Natalie George, junior
Cody Goolsby, sophomore
Hannah Green, sophomore
Jaclyn Gross, sophomore
Zachary Hall, sophomore
Anthony Harrell, sophomore
Thomas Hefty, sophomore
Matthew Hogan, junior

Clinton Holman, sophomore
Megan Imboden, sophomore
Eric Little, sophomore
Megan Lunsford, sophomore
Sara McWilliams, junior
Brittney Mebane, sophomore
Rachel Parham, sophomore
Jessalynn Price, sophomore
James Pruitt, sophomore
Emily Radke, junior
Brandon Reedy, sophomore
Heath Robertson, sophomore
Amanda Ryan, junior
Katrina Stanifer, sophomore
Jodie Stowell, senior
Anna Townsend, sophomore
Katherine Vaughn, sophomore
Jessica Wallace, senior 📌

A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLAGE ADVISORY BOARD

In fall 2005, the Honors College sponsored the second issue of *Collage*, the University's journal of creative expression. Response to the fall issue has been overwhelmingly positive from faculty and students alike. The *Collage* Advisory Board would like to congratulate the students who contributed such high-quality material and the staff members who edited and produced such an impressive volume. By any measure, it was one of the very best issues of *Collage* ever published, and it set a standard of excellence for the issues to follow. In fact, the spring 2006 student editorial staff is already hard at work on the next issue, dedicated to making it every bit as good as the last.

Although *Collage* is a publication sponsored by the Honors College,

the Advisory Board and the current *Collage* staff wish to point out that the publication is open to all students at the University: all students are invited to contribute original art, photographs, fiction, and poetry. In addition, service on the editorial staff is open to all students who wish to gain the valuable experience such work can provide. Interested students should watch for announcements regarding deadlines for submission of materials and for applying for the numerous editorial and production positions available each semester. Students may contact Marsha Powers, *Collage* advisor, at mpowers@mtsu.edu if they have questions about serving on the editorial staff. 📌

BROWN COW MIXER

This fall, the annual Honors Student and Faculty Mixer had a different flavor—the flavor of Mayfield ice cream.

Wednesday, September 28, was a moo-mentous occasion as the Honors College welcomed an honored guest, Maggie, “Mayfield’s magnificent milking machine.” Maggie, a thirteen-foot-tall mobile cow, spent the day beside the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building advertising the annual mixer. The event, which was held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Wood-Felder lobby, was an opportunity for Honors students, faculty, and

staff to meet and mingle while enjoying Brown Cow floats and assorted ice cream treats.

Georgia Dennis, Honors College event coordinator, invited Honors students and faculty to the mixer via Brown Cow plastic cups bearing Maggie’s image. Dennis said of the event, “Maggie was an instant celebrity, and everyone loved her ice cream!” According to Dennis, Maggie has promised an encore appearance next fall. 📌



GRE Test Preparation and Scholarship

Honors students planning to attend graduate school may be eligible for a scholarship for the Princeton Review's Online GRE Test Preparation Course. The University Honors College now offers a limited number of scholarships for the review, each covering 90 percent of the course cost. The online course, which is valued at \$499, includes 20–30 hours of interactive, self-paced online lessons, four full-length practice tests, online drills, a complete review of all GRE subjects, instructor e-mail support, and a complete set of print materials including workbooks.

The GRE Online Course, which takes between 40 and 60 hours to complete and usually lasts three to seven weeks, is appropriate for students who enjoy learning at their own pace and need a flexible preparation schedule. It is also recommended that students have at least one month to prepare using the course.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have completed all lower-division Honors requirements and at least six upper-division hours, must be on track to graduate with University Honors, and must have definite plans to attend graduate school. Applications for the Princeton Review Online GRE Course are available in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building's Martinelli Library Postgraduate Information Center, in the Student Commons, in Room 225, and in the administrative office, Room 205. 📌

Raider Learning Community

The Raider Learning Community (RLC) offers students an opportunity to experience classes at MTSU in a whole new way. The RLC program helps create a small-college atmosphere within the large university environment. RLC students belong to small groups of 25 at most, and they enroll as groups in lower-division (usually General Education) courses. RLC participants find the program gives them a built-in group of friends and academic colleagues, providing a real enhancement to studying and the entire college experience.

During the fall 2006 semester, the Honors College will participate in the Raider Learning Community project. ENGL 2020-H01 (#06723), taught by Dr. Carl Ostrowski, and HIST 2010-H01 (#02966), taught by Dr. David Rowe, will be paired together. Both courses must be taken simultaneously, and classes will be limited to 20 students.

For more information, please contact the Honors College academic advisor, Ms. Michelle Arnold, at marnold@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5464. 📞



Contact our academic advisor, Ms. Michelle Arnold, to find out how you can graduate from the University Honors College. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. Your future depends on it! 📞

THE HISTORY OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT MSTU, 1973–2004

by June McCash

The Honors Program at Middle Tennessee State University was founded by President M. G. Scarlett, following a three-year committee study chaired by Dr. William Holland of the Department of English. Dr. Scarlett appointed as the program's founding director Dr. June Hall McCash (then Martin), professor of French. Dr. McCash began in the spring semester of 1973 to make plans for the program that would open its doors to students in the fall semester of the following academic year, 1973–74.

An Honors Council was appointed with representatives from each of the four undergraduate schools: Dr. Barbara Haskew (Business), Dr. James Huhta (Liberal Arts), Dr. Robert Prytula (Education), and Dr. Alvin E. Woods (Basic and Applied Sciences), as well as two at-large faculty members, Dr. William Windham and Dr. William Holland, and two honors students, David Dodd and Laura Smith. The academic vice president, Dr. Howard Kirksey, also served as an ad hoc member of the council.

The council held its first meeting on January 22, 1973. Its initial task was to draft and approve a set of Honors guidelines, which would set requirements and goals for the program. These guidelines established the program's admission requirements at a minimum of a 25 composite score on the ACT or a 3.0 grade point average.

The program was designed to provide to Honors students the personal attention, small classes, and academic challenges characteristic of an excellent small liberal arts college, but with the greater scope and resources of a larger university. The council sought to offer Honors courses both in general studies and in major programs. It also provided for a series of upper-division interdisciplinary seminars that encouraged students, as they became more narrowly specialized in their major fields, to maintain a broader perspective on their individual roles within a larger spectrum of societal issues.

History cont. on page 18

ADMISSION STANDARDS RAISED

The Tennessee Board of Regents granted approval of the Honors College's request to raise admission standards effective with the beginning of Summer Session I in May 2006. The new standards for entering freshman are an ACT composite score of at least 25 and a high school GPA of at least 3.50. Transfer students or enrolled MTSU students may qualify for admission if their most recent semester's work reflects a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better while enrolled in a course

load of at least 12 semester hours. Dean Mathis noted that the new standards had been endorsed by the Honors Council in May 2005 and that MTSU standards still remain relatively low by senior college honors standards. He went on to say, however, that the mean ACT composite score of Honors College students entering as freshmen is 29—about the same as the average for the Vanderbilt student body or a typical student at the University of the South. 📞

HONORS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCHOLARS DAY

Undergraduate Scholars Day was held on Monday, October 31, 2005. The Honors College was greatly represented, with some of our very best students (and faculty) participating. Below are some of the research projects that were presented.

Multispot Array Sensing Based on Surface Electromagnetic Wave Resonance

Vivak Master collaborated with Travis Denton, Clint Holman, John Cline, and Drs. William Robertson, Stephen Wright, and Andrienne Friedli.

Melanoma Patients' Perceptions and Attitudes toward Genetic Testing

Kimberly Cubit collaborated with Lois J. Loescher, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Arizona.

Microarray Detection and Differentiation of Antigen-Antibody Binding

Katherine Onks, along with Dr. Stephen Wright, her advisor and mentor, attended Scholars Day. Katie's presentation was based on her Honors thesis, "Evaluate Antigen-Antibody Binding through

Microarrays with a Confocal Laser Scanner." A poster presented that day was selected for presentation to state legislators in Nashville during the spring 2006 semester. Only six MTSU students were chosen, so this is indeed a great accomplishment! In addition, Katie presented other (nonthesis-related) research she has been involved in at the Tennessee Academy of Science during its annual meeting in November. She took first-place honors in student competition in the Health and Medical Sciences/Cell and Molecular Biology/Microbiology sections. See page 17 for Katie's photo at her thesis defense.

Rise to Expansion: How the New Deal Changed Small Southern Cities

Jason Eaves collaborated with Dr. Kristine McCusker.

Modification of SiO₂ Surfaces with Amine-Terminated Organosiloxanes for Biosensor Applications

Jacob Acton and former Honors student Adam Farmer collaborated with Gale McPherson, Charles Campbell, John Cline, and Dr. Andrienne Friedli. 📌

Student Advisory Council Meets

Newly appointed members of the Dean's Student Advisory Committee for the Honors College met on December 2, 2005. Members, and their majors, include Katherine Onks (biology), Jessi Torres (journalism), Erin Weber (English), Courtney Ledford (psychology), and Carolyn Crawford (English). Among the items discussed at the December meeting were (1) possible appointment of student ambassadors for the Honors College, (2) new services now available to Honors students through the Undergraduate Fellowships Office and the Postgraduate Information Center, (3) event programming, and (4) possible new Honors College traditions.

The group readily embraced the new tradition of tolling the bells following each successful thesis defense, and a subcommittee, headed by Jessi Torres, agreed to work on a possible creed for the college and to consider how best to use the antique, leather-bound book to be known as the Honors College Book of Town and Gown. Considerable time was spent on ideas regarding the sorts of events Honors students might find attractive. Possibilities mentioned included holding a card playing tournament (Texas Hold 'Em?), parties, mystery games, and games such as Capture the Flag. In general, the group felt that events at which students are participants as well as spectators should be included in a balanced program of events.

Regarding student services, the group strongly endorsed the idea that Honors students should be rewarded by having special privileges. At the top of the list was the suggestion that Honors students should be among those having priority for early registration.

Discussions will continue on these topics and possibly new ones when the council meets again this spring. 📌



Honors faculty member and Honors Council chair David Foote (Management and Marketing), a.k.a. Junius Henri Browne, is seen here in full costume during a recent Civil War reenactment. He is part of the Kentucky U.S. Regiment Company B Infantry reenactment group. The actual Mr. Browne worked as a special correspondent for the *New York Tribune* to cover the war. Dr. Foote says, "It's a great hobby, a wonderful hobby, and very educational." 📌

FALL 2006 HONORS COLLEGE DEADLINES

Independent Research or Creative Projects Proposals (to be completed in Spring 2007)

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
for Committee Review
October 2, 2006

FINAL PROPOSAL FOR
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
for Honors Council Approval
November 6, 2006

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

FINAL COPY FOR
THESIS DEFENSE
One copy due in Honors
Office to be graded by
committee.
November 1, 2006

THESIS DEFENSE
BEFORE COMMITTEE
Date to be announced.

PUBLIC DEFENSE BEFORE
HONORS LECTURE SERIES
**November 27 and
December 4, 2006**

FINAL PROJECTS DUE
All post-defense corrections
must be made.
Two copies due on cotton
paper for library binding.
December 6, 2006

H-Options
H-OPTION PROPOSALS FOR
SPRING 2007 COURSES
October 23, 2006

All materials are due in the Honors
College Office, Paul W. Martin Sr.
Honors Building, Suite 205, by 4:00 p.m.
on the deadline date. 📌

U H 3500-001 REVISITING AND RE-VISIONING THE HOMETOWN MW 12:40 to 2:05 (#06278)

MTSU Honors students will have a unique, interdisciplinary opportunity to gain diverse perspectives on their individual hometowns. In this course, students will compile writing portfolios that encompass the history, the people, the traditions, and the future of their respective hometowns.

Students will engage in a project-based relationship with their peers, instructor, and community while writing five papers. Each writing assignment, from journal entries to the finished essays themselves, will have an impact on the whole, finished product. Project participants will create and maintain contacts in the communities surrounding MTSU, as well as their respective hometowns. These community partnerships with schools, senior centers, and other socially important groups or entities will allow project members to create and refine the history-making and re-visioning processes as they learn while teaching others. The course's project-based nature demands that each student synthesize what he or she has learned in other classes to create a suitable and effective approach to the topic. This course should particularly interest those who plan to complete an Honors thesis. Interested students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Ron Kates at (615) 898-2595 or rkates@mtsu.edu or drop by his office, Peck Hall 342, before enrolling in the class. He has materials related to the class and will discuss assignments and expectations in more detail with prospective students. This course is open to students who have completed their English general studies requirement and may count as three hours of upper-division English credit, group E, and also toward a writing minor.

U H 3500-002 THE HOLOCAUST AND AFTER: PROTESTING PREJUDICE AND PREVENTING GENOCIDE W 2:40 to 5:40 p.m. (#06289)

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

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

After a thorough study of the Holocaust, we will explore reactions of survivors, historians, scientists, politicians, writers, and artists as well as everyday citizens after World War II, and we will consider whether there are still lessons of the Holocaust for us to learn.

This course is open to students with a 3.0 GPA and junior-level standing.

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

U H 4600-001
LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM
T 2:40 TO 5:40 (CALL #06290)

STUDENTS AWARDED
GRANT FOR DR. THOMAS'
RESEARCH PROJECT

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

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

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

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

Four undergraduate students, Ashley Dudenbostal (Psychology), Jonathan Gower (Music), Wesley Jackson (Foreign Languages and Literatures), and Claire Marshall (Sociology and Anthropology) were each awarded URSCA grant money for the '06 spring semester to participate in a research project directed by Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Honors College resident faculty member. Dr. Thomas is researching the implementation of two non-traditional language acquisition methodologies at the college level called TPR (Total Physical Response) and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). In February, Dr. Thomas gave a demonstration of TPR at the College of Liberal Arts Showcase, sponsored and funded by the MTSU Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technology Center. She also coordinated the fifth regional three-day workshop for ESL (English as a Second Language) and FL (Foreign Language) teachers, which took place February 9–11 in the Tennessee Room in the James Union Building. 📍



MacDougall Invited to Speak at Duke University



Honors Faculty member Preston MacDougall was invited to Duke University to present a seminar on December 2, 2005. The

title of his presentation was “New Tools for Molecular Visualization with Potential Applications in Drug Design and Molecular Electronics.” Although Greek to most of us, below is his abstract:

We present two new tools for molecular visualization. These tools are complementary to one another in that they both explore topological properties of electron density distributions. However, one operates in position-space, while the other does so in momentum-space. We also present applications to molecules that highlight the potential utility of these tools to drug design and molecular electronics. EvolVis (an abbreviation of electronic volume visualizer) enables the user to interactively explore a molecule’s electronic charge density for topological features that are associated with a range of reactive sites. This tool is an extension of the now widely used “Bader analysis.” In an analogous manner, the electron dynamics of prototypes of molecular wires and diodes are probed without reliance on independent particle models. Topological transitions due to external electric fields are graphically monitored in momentum-space. 📌

HONORS STUDENT ADAM SHULMAN



Honors student Adam Shulman discusses his future plans with Michelle Arnold, Honors College academic advisor.

Honors student Adam Shulman recently made a big decision—the decision to change majors his senior year. After two and a half years of enjoying the study of mathematics, Shulman took a course in theoretical physics at the urging of Dr. Vic Montemayor (Physics and Astronomy). The course, he said, deepened his understanding of math and rekindled his curiosity for the sciences. This, along with other courses in physics and the influence of his mentor, has inspired Adam to delve into medical physics and the rewarding careers in that field. Shulman said he “found physics courses much harder, more interesting, more beneficial, and more challenging.”

Shulman, who was born in Nashville and has spent most of his life in middle Tennessee, is the son of Diane Floyd of Bell Buckle and Bill Shulman, MTSU Criminal Justice Administration associate professor. A dean’s list student with a 4.0 GPA, Adam was one of twelve students nationwide to receive a ten-week undergraduate fellowship to experience hands-on medical physics at Vanderbilt University. The fellowship, which was awarded by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, gave him the opportunity to work alongside medical physicists and radiation oncologists at Vanderbilt’s cancer research center to determine the best method of radiation treatment for each patient’s cancer based on his or her anatomy.

Shulman, who has been nominated for the prestigious Barry M.

Goldwater Scholarship, has previously been awarded the Honors College Freshman Scholarship, the Calculus-Based Physics Award, and the Theoretical Physics and Modern Physics Award. He plans to graduate with University Honors in the fall of 2006 and has tentatively titled his thesis “A Comparative Analysis of Radiation Dose Distribution in a Homogeneous Water Phantom as Described by the Electron Monte Carlo Algorithm and the Experimental Data Obtained Directly from the Linear Accelerator.” After graduation, Shulman plans to get a master’s degree and work as a clinical medical physicist. He said that he enjoys the hands-on nature of the work and the opportunity to help people.

Shulman has high praise for MTSU’s Physics and Astronomy department. He said, “I would put the physics program at MTSU up against any in the country,” adding that graduate school is easier for our (physics) graduates than for students coming from other schools. Dr. Montemayor recently told *The Record* that two other department alumni have earned similar awards in recent years. He also noted that MTSU currently has five graduates in the top physics programs in the country. 📌

HONORS STUDENT MCFALL CASTLEMAN

When McFall Castleman was first applying to college, she was planning on attending seminary in some metropolis. At the last minute, she decided to major in psychology here at MTSU, surprising a host of family and friends. "The way I see it, the change from metropolis to Murfreesboro is far more of a changeover than religion to psychology. The root of 'psychology' is *psyche*, which is Greek for 'soul,'" Castleman says. "It shouldn't be surprising that psychology and religion are often intertwined, though the way this intertwinement is manifested can definitely be surprising. Working as a research assistant in the Psychology Department, I have encountered a lot of people with religiously charged complexes. These complexes have ranged from delusional to debonair."

Debonair?? "Oh, yes," laughs Castleman. "I was Dr. Kramer's research assistant. In psychosexual adjustment research you find a lot of particularly suave individuals who think they're gods—sex gods. Dealing with them was always . . . a unique and interesting experience."

Working as a research assistant is just one of the ways Castleman has encountered the unique and interesting here at MTSU. She is a member of Psi Chi, MTSU Hillel, and the Honors Studies Association (of which she is vice president). Also, she made her Tucker Theatre debut in *The Vagina Monologues* last Valentine's Day. "I definitely want to audition again next year,"

she gushes. But will she have enough time? "I will *make* time." Even if her plans of an encore performance fall through, Castleman is going to have a demanding spring semester. "Two words," she pronounces breathlessly, "Honors thesis." And those two words are as much elaboration as she's willing to give. "It's a *surprise*," Castleman insists.

She is considerably more detailed when addressing her Honors Independent Study project. "The project is a survey of epilepsy integrated with personal experience," she says. "It is entitled '*Seizing New Opportunities: My God, What a Horrible Pun for an Epileptic to Make!*' Much of my time as a psychology major has been spent learning how to effectively delve into other people's problems. Through this project, I hope to effectively delve into some of my own problems. I admit I am still coming to terms with my diagnosis, even though it's been years since I first started having seizures."

"Writing this promises to serve as a solid foundation for establishing peace of mind," Castleman says. "No true peace has ever been established upon unresolved fragments. Muhammad once said of epilepsy, 'This is a common affliction of prophets, of whom I wish to be counted as one.' I, too, wish to become a prophet of sorts." Delighting in wordplay, Castleman continues, "Indeed, I want to *profit*, to benefit from *seizing*. Seizing the day; seizing new opportunities; seizing . . . the infinite." 📌

Special Summer Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar

U H 4600-001
Economics and Culture

MTWR 3:30 to 5:50 p.m.
Call Number 02571

This course is of an interdisciplinary seminar format. It is experimental in that it will not be taught with a traditional economics textbook. Instead, texts reflective of the evolving American cultural experience (and its global context) will be the devices through which economic thinking is taught. All the texts will be nontechnical and readable to students who have not had economics prerequisites.

The general objective is to enrich and expand critical thinking skills by relating economics to art and sciences in a manner that does not rely on prior technical knowledge about economics. The basic idea is that critical thinking transcends disciplines, and Honors students in particular have the ability to rely on this development of intellect to penetrate new dimensions of thinking. In this context, the specific objective is to add economic reasoning as a dimension of critical thinking when contemplating the cultural experience within which one lives. Specific examples include economics as reflected in literature and drama, advances in technology, changing demographics, globalization, and the commercialization of almost every aspect of American life.

This course may count as three hours of upper-division economics credit. For more information, contact Dr. Richard Hannah at (615) 898-2228 or rlhannah@mtsu.edu. 📌



ROBERT B. BLAIR NAMED SBEA COLLEGIATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Robert B. Blair, associate professor of Business Education, Marketing Education, and Office Management in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, is the recipient of the 2005 Southern Business Education Association Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award. In addition to his responsibilities as associate professor, he also serves as director of the Center for Economic Education.

"As an enthusiastic leader and teacher, this talented and remarkable individual is ensuring that the future of business education is a vital part of school life in our country," said Janice Harder, chair of the SBEA Leadership Awards Administrative Committee. SBEA presented the award to Blair on October 29 during its annual convention in Franklin, Tennessee.

Dr. Blair received his Ph.D. in vocational education from Louisiana State University, his master's in business education from MTSU, and his B.S. in business education and business administration from Oral Roberts University. He has 18 years of teaching experience and has received 13 awards for teaching and service during his career.

Dr. Blair is a National Board Certified Teacher, a Certified Administrative Professional, and a Microsoft Office Specialist. He is also a candidate for the Certified Online Instructor credential.

He is serving as president of the SBEA for 2006. Dr. Blair is past president of the Tennessee Business Education Association, the Gamma Eta chapter of Delta Pi Epsilon, and the Murfreesboro chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. He served two terms as Tennessee Association for Career and Technical Education vice president. He is an active member of several other professional associations including the Association for Business Communication, the

Blair cont. on page 19

HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Linda Badley (English) is general editor (with R. Barton Palmer) of the Traditions in World Cinema series at Edinburgh University Press and coeditor of its flagship volume (2006, copublished with Rutgers University Press). She has completed five articles scheduled for publication this year in edited collections (on the Dogma movement, the Werner Herzog/Klaus Kinski collaboration, witches in popular culture, horror cinema and the video revolution, and zombie comedies). She is now at work on two books:

American Commercial-Independent Cinema (with R. Barton Palmer at Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming 2007), and *Lars von Trier*, projected for December 2006 as a volume in Illinois University Press's Contemporary Film Directors series. For the latter project, she received academic year and summer salary grants and a travel grant to conduct interviews and research in Copenhagen.

Thomas R. Berg, associate professor, Department of Electronic Media Communication, has been elected vice president of Academic Relations for the Broadcast Education Association (BEA), a nationally recognized professional association of professors, industry professionals, and graduate students. Dr. Berg's one-year term begins in April 2006.

At a recent College of Business faculty meeting, **Dan Braswell** (Accounting) was chosen as the 2005–2006 Bridgestone/Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professor.

William Canak (Sociology and Anthropology) delivered the keynote

address, "Economic and Political Challenges to Public Sector Collective Bargaining," at the 2005 Tennessee Education Association's annual Bargaining Conference on November 19 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Franklin.

Dr. Canak gave an address on December 15 to 200 CEOs, CFOs, and COOs of various HCA facilities at the company's corporate offices in Nashville. His topic was "Dispute Resolution Systems and Peer Review Panels."

He also recently presented a paper at the January 2006 annual meeting of the Labor and Employment Relations Association in Boston. Coauthored with Professor Daniel Cornfield (Vanderbilt), the paper is titled "Social Capital, Immigrant Communities, and Local Labor Unions in Nashville, Tennessee."

Kevin Donovan (English) will present a paper at a seminar on King Lear at the 2006 convention of the Shakespeare Association of America in April.

Interim Associate Dean **Jill Hague** published "'A Faithful Anatomy of Our Times': Reassessing Shirley Jackson," in the fall 2005 issue of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*. She also gave an invited lecture called "The Abduction Narrative and Postwar American Culture" at the University of Nottingham's School of American and Canadian Studies in May.

Allen Hibbard (English) recently participated in the Voices of Tangier conference in Tangier, Morocco. The event brought together writers and critics from Wales, France,

HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Morocco, Egypt, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, and the U.S. Hibbard has written a good deal on Paul and Jane Bowles, William Burroughs, and Alfred Chester, American writers who lived and wrote in Tangier.

Jwa Kim, (Psychology) presented the paper (coauthored with Y. Y. Kim) "Communication Patterns and Psychological Health in the Process of Cross-Cultural Adaptation: A Study of American and Korean Expatriate Workers" to the International and Intercultural Communication Division at the annual conference of the National Communication Association in Boston in 2005. He presented "The Necessity of Intercultural Training Programs in the Health Care Setting" to the Corporate and Organizational Communication Interest Group at the 2005 conference of the Tennessee Communication Association. Also in 2005, Kim presented "Communication Competence and Psychological Health: A Study of Cross-Cultural Adaptation among American Expatriate Workers in South Korea" at the Second International Conference on Cultural Diversity in Murfreesboro. In 2006, Kim will serve on the Awards Nominating Committee of the National Communication Association (NCA) and as a paper reviewer for the NCA.

David Lavery (English) was invited to lecture at a symposium at the University of Heidelberg in Germany in December 2005. His lecture was titled "Out of the Box: The (Dead) Body of Television and the Return of the Repressed in *Buffy*

the Vampire Slayer and *Six Feet Under*." The symposium's theme was "Dead Bodies: Presentation and Representation." During the spring 2006 semester, he will have the following four books published:

Unlocking the Meaning of "Lost": An Unauthorized Guide, coauthored with Lynnette Porter. Forthcoming from Sourcebooks, 2006

"Seinfeld," Master of Its Domain: Revisiting Television's Greatest Sitcom, with Sara Lewis Dunne. Forthcoming from Continuum, 2006.

Reading "Deadwood": Realizing the Western. Forthcoming in the Reading Contemporary Television Series, I. B. Tauris, 2006.

Reading "The Sopranos": Hit TV from HBO. Forthcoming in the Reading Contemporary Television Series, I. B. Tauris, 2006.

Felicia Miyakawa (School of Music) published a review of *Making Beats: The Art of Sample-Based Hip-Hop*, by Joseph G. Schloss, in the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Vol. 17, Issue 3 (fall 2005): 361–65. She also presented "God Hop: Mass Mediating Black Muslim Theology," an invited paper, at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (Rochester, November 2005) and "Five Percenter Rap," an invited talk at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs (October 2005). Miyakawa was also invited to present "'We Can Rock Dancehalls and Carnegie Hall': Legitimizing the Turntable through 'Skratch' Notation" at the

winter meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast and Caribbean chapters, in Boone, N.C., on February 18, 2006.

Lynn Nelson (History) presented a paper titled "Taming the Wild Young Men: The End of Imperial Memory on the Tennessee Frontier," at the Contesting Public Memories conference at Syracuse University in October.

Nuria Novella won the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award last year, and Shelley Thomas won the year before that. Two in a row for Foreign Languages and Literatures Honors instructors!

Philip Edward Phillips (English) presented "Victorian Translations of King Alfred's *Boethius*" at the Medieval and Early Modern English Studies Association of Korea International Conference at Seoul National University on October 8, 2005.

John Vile (Political Science) published a two-volume work titled *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding* during the fall semester. This is the first A-to-Z treatment of the convention and has been favorably reviewed. Also during fall 2005, Vile gave three presentations (in costume) as James Madison, focusing on his work as "father" of the U.S. Constitution. 📌

THESES DEFENDED FALL 2005



Brandon M. Armstrong

"Translation and Introduction to Heinrich Ullrich's *MusikFarbenSpiel*"
Drs. Sonja Hedgepeth and Tom Strawman, English, major advisors

(Brandon Armstrong (center) with advisors Tom Strawman and Sonja Hedgepeth. Back row, Dean Philip Mathis and Honors Council member Richard Hansen.)



Cathy A. Crabtree

Creative Project—"The History of Quilting"
Dr. Kristine McCusker, History, major advisor

(Kristine McCusker, project advisor(left), proudly stands with Cathy Crabtree after she received her Honors medallion.)



Emily B. Carroll

"Accepting the Consequences: How Perceived Rape Motivation Affects Victim Blame"

Dr. William Langston, Psychology, major advisor

(From left, Terry Whiteside, Honors Council representative; William Langston, project advisor; Emily Carroll; and Interim Associate Dean Jill Hague.)

SCIENCE INVOLVES INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING: A SENCER PROJECT

by Kirsten L. Boatwright

On a damp, gray morning last fall, Honors students in two of MTSU's PSCI 1030 classes, Introduction to Physical Science, were hoping to escape the classroom and get a little wet. These students aren't enamored by rain. Rather, as they sat listening to Dr. Martha Weller's conventional but, no doubt, exciting physics lecture, a cart loaded with cups, cards, candy, and water was being rolled into a University 1010 classroom where Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, who specializes in chemistry, was the guest lecturer. This scene would be considered mundane by most observers, but our Honors students had a lot riding on that cart, literally.

That Drs. Gross and Weller lecture throughout their classes is conventional, but students learn in the first week that science involves innovative teaching and learning. Although these professors are each assigned an Honors class, they share the teaching duties. Dr. Weller introduces students to physics, and Dr. Gross familiarizes them with chemistry, often in the same week. This past summer, the professors

invited writing fellows into their classes. The fellows, who attended each lecture, assisted students with writing assignments and a six-week collaborative, cooperative, experiential project intended to determine if people could differentiate between bottled water and tap water.

Honors students took responsibility for the entire project, collaborating on everything from funding and scheduling to data collection and supervision. Drs. Gross and Weller brought students from both classes together for a one-time meeting and, with assistance from writing fellows, schedules were made, responsibilities were assigned, collection sheets were designed, and e-mail addresses were exchanged. While some students designed fliers, others wrote funding proposals—one of which was submitted to the Honors College and readily approved by Dean Mathis. Testing schedules were made, facilities reserved, fliers designed and posted, supplies purchased, and, while a dozen Honors students were in the very classes in which much of their work had taken place, one

Science cont. on page 17



Karen Case, left, College of Basic and Applied Sciences advisor, joins water taste researchers.

HONORS FACULTY INVOLVED IN SENCER PROJECT

Last summer, five MTSU faculty members participated in a five-day, residential summer institute at Santa Clara University in San Jose, Calif., sponsored by the National Science Foundation Initiative for Science Education for New Civic Engagement and Responsibilities (SENCER).

The faculty included team leader Martha Weller (Physics and Astronomy), Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry), Diane Miller (Mathematical Sciences), Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology), and Trixie Smith (English).

Dr. Weller said, "The purpose of the institute is to foster the development of science courses in which science learning is promoted through issues that have significance for the well-being of the local or global community."

Approximately five years ago, Drs. Weller and Iriarte-Gross realized that students with nonscience majors taking Science 1000-level Honors courses were not benefiting from the traditional topics being taught. So in

Science cont. from page 16

writing fellow and four students from another of Dr. Gross's classes were about to conduct the first Water Taste Test.

As soon as their classes ended, the Honors students took positions at sites across campus and got their hands wet supervising almost forty students they had never met, administering taste tests and passing out thank-you gifts and plenty of bright smiles. Their press release drew the attention of both university

the fall of 2002, they organized Physical Science 1030H sections around a theme of energy and environment. After blending two textbooks, creating a custom lab manual, and making conference presentations, the positive feedback started pouring in and this course became very popular. "Students may not be interested in chemistry or physics, but they are interested in the environment and their own well-being," Dr. Weller said. The course also caught the eye of non-MTSU faculty involved with SENCER who "saw our work and asked us to organize a team and apply to attend their summer institute," Dr. Weller said. After applying, they were awarded a grant to attend the summer institute. Out of this institute came a renewed commitment to SENCER, including development of a new course called Energy, Earth, and Civilization. By the end of the spring 2006 semester, it is hoped that the course will be approved internally for General Education by the Curriculum Committee, ideally followed by TBR approval during the fall semester, which would allow the course to be offered to students by spring 2007.

and local newspapers, which provided coverage of testing events with photos, stories, or both.

During the final weeks of the semester, the budding scientists cataloged their results and passed them on to Dr. Gross's other students. They learned that tap water was preferred over any of their bottled water samples. They cooperated and collaborated with their professors, their writing fellows, and each other. Most important, they **experienced** learning. 📌

Theses cont. from page 16



Katherine R. Onks

"Evaluation of Fluorescence Based Antigen-Antibody Binding through Microarray Confocal Laser Scanning"
Dr. Stephen Wright, Biology, major advisor



Sarah E. Hayes

"Identification of Sterol Biosynthetic Genes in the Red Tide Alga *Karenia Brevis* by Degenerate Polymerase Chain Reaction"
Dr. Matt Elrod-Erickson, Biology, major advisor



Jodie L. Stowell

"Effects of Fitness and Rider Skill on Heart Rate and Skin Temperature during Exercise in Horses"
Dr. Rhonda Hoffman, Agribusiness and Agriscience, major advisor (left)



Kanishka Roshan-Rawaan

"Islamic Fundamentalism: Revival or Frustration"
Drs. Ron Messier, and Allen Hibbard, English, major advisors 📌

Alumni Updates

Kristal Taylor, Spring 2003

Thesis: The Detection of Kar2p Retention in the Endoplasmic Reticulum of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* through Fusion to the Green Fluorescent Protein

I am currently a third-year medical student at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, and I am loving almost every minute of it! (Every student could do without all the studying!) I will graduate in 2007 and will be applying for either a surgery residency to be a surgical oncologist or an OB/GYN residency in order to be a gynecologic oncologist. I am so excited to be at this point in my life! After the grueling first two years of medical school, I now work in the clinics alongside physicians helping to make decisions for patients under our team's care and learning valuable lessons that will shape me into a physician myself. Speaking of the first two years, I feel that MTSU helped prepare me for what I encountered, along with my steadfast determination to achieve my goals. The first year of medical school was basically a recap of the whole four years of my pre-med curriculum, so there weren't too many surprises. (Except for the extent of time I spent studying compared to college!) Also, the research experience I gained from doing my thesis under Dr. Elrod-Erickson of the Biology Department helped me immensely with many of the concepts of cell biology and biotechnology that I might not have gained by only reading about them in a book. Not only did these concepts come easier to me than they did to some of my fellow medical students, but writing a thesis under his guidance helped me to understand how to gather information and apply myself as a student in a postbaccalaureate world. These

Alumni cont. on page 19

THE HISTORY OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT MSTU, 1973–2004

History cont. from page 8

The director's most difficult initial task was to "sell" the program to department chairs, many of whom were reluctant to commit faculty members to teach smaller classes with fewer students, when staffing was already tight. She met with faculty members and their chairs in all four schools to discuss the program, outline its goals, answer questions, and seek to allay concerns that the program was "elitist." Department chairs were encouraged to appoint their best faculty members to teach in the program, and, in some cases, the Honors Council or director requested specific professors. The next task was to recruit the best and brightest students at the University into the program, to show them the benefits of the smaller classes and the excellent faculty. Overall, the program proved to be a major success. Waiting lists formed for popular general studies courses, in which enrollment was limited to 20 students, as well as for the interdisciplinary seminars, which were capped at 15 students. These early years, no doubt the most difficult for the program, were a time of challenge, particularly given the budget constraints of the 1970s. Nonetheless, the program flourished.

During its first seven years, under the leadership of Dr. McCash, the Honors Program's fundamental structure was established, including departmental Honors courses as well as University Honors classes, which involved junior and senior interdisciplinary seminars, the Honors thesis, and the University Honors Lecture Series. During McCash's tenure, the program offices moved from their first location in what



is today the Tom H. Jackson Building (Alumni Center) to the third floor of Keathley University Center and then to the first floor of Peck Hall.



Over the years, the program has grown and developed, with each director leaving his or her mark. When Dr. McCash stepped down as Honors director in 1980 to assume the position of chair in the Department of Foreign Languages, Dr. Ronald Messier from the Department of History was appointed to replace her. Under his leadership, the H-option was added to the program, allowing students to develop individual contracts with professors to do special Honors work within non-Honors courses, and the Honors Lecture Series was televised. Dr. Messier served as director until 1990, when



he returned to full-time teaching and research, and Dr. John Paul Montgomery from the Department of English was appointed to replace him. During his tenure, the program added the Honors Student Association and an Honors Living and Learning Center (located in Wood and Felder halls), which opened in 1996. Admissions standards were raised to a 26 composite score on the ACT or grade point average of 3.5. As of January 1, 2000, students were required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a 26 ACT score or a 3.5 GPA and a 22 ACT score. Graduation requirements were also increased from the initial 24 Honors credits to 36, including 18 general studies hours in Honors courses, 8 upper-division Honors hours, 6 hours of interdisciplinary University Honors courses, and a 1-hour thesis tutorial followed by the 3-hour Honors thesis. Despite these

History cont. on page 19

THE HISTORY OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AT MSTU, 1973–2004

CONT.

more stringent requirements, the program has continued to flourish, both in quality and numbers. Students enrolled in the Honors College include several National Merit Finalists, many Presidential Scholars, and a large number of high school valedictorians and salutatorians. They also include a number of gifted musicians and artists as well as published authors. More than a thousand students now participate in the program.

On August 1, 1998, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the transformation of the Honors Program, then in its twenty-fifth year, into the University Honors College, the only one of its kind in a public university in the state of Tennessee. Dr. John Paul Montgomery was named as its first dean. It was Dr. James Walker, then president of MTSU, in concert with the provost and academic vice president, Dr. Barbara Haskew (a member of the University's first Honors Council), who had initiated the move to convert the Honors Program into an Honors College. The concept was endorsed by the committee that developed the Academic Master Plan during 1997–98 and was subsequently approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents.*

On January 12, 2004, the University Honors College opened the doors of the brand-new Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, a 21,000-square-foot facility made possible by a \$2 million donation from MTSU's first graduate with University Honors, Paul W. Martin Jr., and his brother, Lee Martin, with the provision that their donation be matched by other donors. The magnificent new \$4 million building has become the veritable neighborhood and heart of the Honors College, providing a place for Honors classes, seminars, lectures, social events, an Honors library, facul-

ty offices, and a variety of other programs and events.

The success of the Honors program and college over the years can best be gauged by that of its graduates, a large percentage of whom have gone on to do successful work in graduate and professional schools throughout the country and to highly successful careers in such areas as law, medicine, education, science, and business. They have been admitted to graduate schools at Harvard, Oxford (England), Vanderbilt, Yale, and many others, as well as to prestigious law and medical schools. They number among community leaders throughout the southeast and even include several members of the MTSU faculty. Thousands of students have participated at various levels in the Honors program, and, to date, 186 have graduated from the University Honors College (or program), a distinction difficult to achieve. All in all, the Honors Program begun in 1973 has served the University well, helping to attract the brightest and the best of students to MTSU.

All three of the Honors College's first leaders, Dr. June McCash, Dr. Ron Messier, and Dr. John Paul Montgomery retired from MTSU in 2004. Its new dean, Dr. Phil Mathis, appointed by President Sidney McPhee, is a distinguished professor of biology and the first winner of MTSU's Outstanding Career Achievement Award in 2000–2001. Clearly, the Honors College will continue its tradition of excellence under his leadership.

*One of the members of the Academic Master Plan Committee was Dr. June Hall McCash, the first director of the MTSU Honors Program. 📌

Alumni cont. from page 18

were lessons that reached far beyond understanding my major and were lessons that can apply to all students aspiring to go to a graduate/professional school. With him as my mentor, I aspired to increase my wealth of knowledge in order to achieve these goals. And as cliché as it sounds, knowledge is power, and I am witness to that every day in the hospital as I use what I have learned to help many lives around me.

—Kristal Taylor

Former Honors student **Chay Manivong Sengkhoumany** received her undergraduate degree in journalism from MTSU in summer 1998. She is now an immigration attorney for the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Immigrant Legal Clinic in Nashville. In 1980, at the age of three, she and her parents escaped from the communist country of Laos and immigrated to the United States as refugees. She speaks fluent Laotian and is quite familiar with the Laotian community in the Murfreesboro area. She received her law degree from Georgia State University College of Law in 2003. After law school, Chay spent the following year finishing her book on the history of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta. The book is scheduled for release soon. 📌

Blair cont. from page 14

Association for Career and Technical Education, the National Council on Economic Education, the National Association of Economic Educators, and the Global Association of Teachers of Economics.

E. James Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, has written, "Dr. Blair is a devoted teacher, a strong service contributor to the Jones College, and an intellectually active researcher. He is a delight to work with." 📌

CANDIE MOONSHOWER

THE LEGEND OF ZOEY



Mapp, in his infinite wisdom, suggested we make Zoey my thesis.

I wrote the novel in six weeks. Many editors requested it, and the lovely folks at Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House, offered me a contract in April 2004. I vomited with excitement—then accepted their offer! *The Legend of Zoey* debuts in July 2006. My dreams are coming true!

Since *Zoey*, I've written a Vietnam-era young adult novel, and I'm working on a middle-grade series. And I have to credit Dr. Mapp and the MTSU English Department for their constant encouragement of my "nontraditional" academic pursuits! And my husband, Carl Johnson, for supporting me.

HA: With marriage, children, and a growing writing career, what has inspired you to continue your studies?

CM: Stubborn cussedness! I want that master's degree—I've earned it the old-fashioned way! I don't care if I'm 85 when I walk down that aisle in Murphy Center to pick up my diploma, but I'm going to get it!

HA: What do you recommend to a student who wants to become a writer?

CM: Two things: Read avidly. Write copiously. From that, some jewels will shine forth that are workable! I say, "Don't talk about writing. Write." 📢

Candace Moonshower, Summer 1996

Thesis: *The Silent Knowing: Vietnam and the Loss of Our Fathers*

Q & A with Candie Moonshower

In 1996, Candie Moonshower, a 45-year-old mother of three, graduated magna cum laude from MTSU with a B.A. in English and philosophy and Distinction in University Honors. She is pursuing her M.A. in English under the guidance of Dr. Larry Mapp, and she has sold her first children's novel, *The Legend of Zoey*.

HA: You're definitely nontraditional! How long have you been a student? Why MTSU?

CM: I've attended MTSU in four different decades! I began at Vanderbilt, but I got big britches and decided to go my own way. My mother cut me off! I came to MTSU in 1979, but my early career here wasn't all that stellar. I left in 1981 and became a bartender, then I married and had my first child. I reenrolled

in 1993, determined to finish my Philosophy degree, and since I'm a reader and a writer, I decided to pursue an English degree.

Honestly? I chose MTSU originally because it was cheap. And I came back because I didn't have to transfer any credits! But I've stayed with MTSU, decade after decade, because of the awesome professors in the English, Philosophy, and Honors departments.

HA: Tell us about *The Legend of Zoey*.

CM: I've always wanted to write for teenagers. I began a novel in 1979 and sold one in 2004—I joke that I'm a twenty-five-year overnight success!

As an Honors student, I wrote a book about the death of my father in Vietnam—and proved to myself that I could start and finish a book-length project. Originally, I planned to write a Restoration-era historical for my master's thesis, but when the first (and, at that time, only) 40 pages of *The Legend of Zoey*, my Tennessee-based historical, won the SCBWI 2003 Sue Alexander Most Promising New Work Award, Dr.



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