Windham Lecture Series

Dr. Edward J. Larson gave a lively lecture called “The Creation/Evolution Controversy: From Scopes to Intelligent Design.” Dr. Larson has done extensive research on the history of this topic with special emphasis on the Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee. If you would like to read more on this topic, check out Dr. Larson’s books: Evolution and the Pulitzer Prize–winning Summer for the Gods.

Thanks to Bill and Doris Windham for sponsoring the lecture, the fifteenth in the series, which began in 1990.

Liberal Arts Alumni: Greetings!

Spring at MTSU always takes on a life of its own, and this spring has been no exception. Lectures, award programs, conferences and other outstanding events took place, and I am here to say that Liberal Arts was one of the leaders of the pack in all areas. The Windham Lecture Committee brought us an excellent speaker with a timely topic this year, and the Strickland Committee selected another engaging lecturer who brought us back to our roots in the South. At the Liberal Arts Awards Reception we recognized more than fifty outstanding students along with four faculty members who were recognized for their outstanding service as advisors. Liberal Arts lost a friend and colleague while gaining new staff members in the dean’s office. Also, during the spring we learned that MTSU Rocks and Liberal Arts rolls out the red carpet. Now, on with the news!

Strickland Lecture

Dr. Vernon Burton was on campus for two weeks speaking with faculty and students about the American South. Not only did Dr. Burton honor us with his presence but his wife and writing partner, Georgianne B. Burton, joined him. The Burtons edited The Free Flag of Cuba, and The Last Novel of Lucy Holcombe Pickens. Dr. Burton’s monograph In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgefield, South Carolina (nominated for a Pulitzer prize) is well known to historians and scholars interested in American culture.

Lucy Strickland honored us all with her presence at the lecture with many of her friends. Thank you, Lucy, for your support of the lecture, Liberal Arts, and Middle Tennessee State University.
Liberal Arts Awards Reception

April 20 was a big day for Liberal Arts honor students. Awards were given for high GPAs, outstanding work in a field of study, and meritorious service. This year’s theme, “Rolling Out the Red Carpet,” was just what we did in acknowledging these very deserving students. And we never overlook the dedicated service of our faculty in advising students. Outstanding Advisor Awards went to Amy Staples (History), Noel Lorson (Art), Janet McCormick (Speech and Theatre), and Dewayne Pigg (Music).

Baseball in Literature and Culture

Ron Kates (English), Warren Tormey (English) and Crosby Hunt (soon to be Speech and Theatre) chaired the first annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at MTSU. The conference has had its home in Terra Haute, Indiana, at Indiana State University, but with the support of Liberal Arts, English, the Peck Foundation, and the Distinguished Lecturers Fund, we are prepared to bring it permanently to our campus.

Bill “Spaceman” Lee, former professional baseball player, was the featured speaker and Don Johnson, ETSU, served as keynote speaker. The conference brought baseball fans from the community, faculty, retired faculty and students together for Lee’s rather unorthodox talk that covered everything from players’ salaries to ex-wives and alimony. Lee was a player rep during his tenure in the major leagues, and he had some excellent insights into the politics of baseball. Make plans to attend next spring.

Tennessee Council of Arts and Sciences Deans

John McDaniel and Tom Cheatham hosted the spring TCAS meeting at the Foundation Reception House in April. The TCAS, which includes deans from both the TBR and UT systems, comes together twice a year to discuss items that affect not only individual universities but the TBR and UT systems as a whole. Some of the agenda items this year are listed below.

- Incentives for Improving Retention and Graduation Rates
- Program Reviews and New TBR Program Review
- New SACS Criteria and the Changing Campus Culture
- University Assistance To Faculty for Visa/Residency Application
- SACS Credentialing in Light of Burgeoning Enrollments
- Summer School and Rising Tuition: Impacts
- New Money for Salaries: Can We Continue to Compete?
- Faculty Evaluation: Rewards, Incentives, Penalties
- The Role of Performance in a Non-Merit Age
- Workloads for Tenure-Track and Temporary Faculty

The MTSU Theatre Alumni Chapter hosted a reunion Saturday, February 25, with a tour of campus, an Alumni Acting Splash (teaming former students in short scenes), and lunch at Demos’. The MTSU Dance Theatre performed Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival, a production by Crosby Hunt. Following the performance was a reception at the Tom H. Jackson Alumni Building. Fifty-two alumni enjoyed the festivities and pictures of alums supplied by the Gore Center.
Faculty News

Tanya Tewell (Art) and Ashley Waldvogel (Savannah College of Art and Design) had their work exhibited at Sewanee in the University Art Gallery. Mapping the Mind was the title of the exhibit of paintings and mixed-media prints. Tewell keeps journals of her dreams and the dreams of others and explores the lit-up moments of these dreamscapes then transforms them into a network of images, objects, and symbols which she calls the “illusive ephemera of our nighttime journeys.” Tewell’s latest exhibit features Slow Dance, a painting exploring her journal of dreams. The exhibit will be showing April 15 to May 27 at the Brad Cooper Gallery in Tampa, Florida.

Jim Williams (History) received the $7,500 Robert Ultey Research Grant given by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association. The grant will fund his research for and writing of the first draft of an application to the Federal Highway Administration to designate the Harry S. Truman National Scenic Byway in Jackson County, Missouri, linking the Truman home in Independence with the Truman farm home in Grandview.

Pippa Holloway (History) has been selected as one of two MTSU faculty members to attend the week-long Internationalizing the Curriculum Academy at Malaspina University-College on Vancouver Island. The academy focuses on faculty and institutional processes for internationalizing graduate courses.

Rebecca Conard (History) is one of two guest editors of the latest volume of The Public Historian: A Journal of Public History.

Bren Martin (History) and his graduate class were recently the recipients of a commendation from the Tennessee Association of Museums for their excellent exhibit in Smith County called “Turning Point: The Modernization of Smith County, 1880–1930.”

Amy Staples (History) has been selected to attend the 2006 Bryn Mawr Women in Higher Education LEERS Summer Institute. President McPhee nominated Staples to attend the institute, which offers intensive training in education administration.

Tom Nolan (Geosciences) led a team that discovered the location of WWI hero Alvin York’s famous exploits in battle. Several artifacts were uncovered including shell casings and a mess kit.

Spring 2006 Honors Lecture Series


Live in Studio C

If you haven’t tuned in to WPLN (90.3) lately, give it a try. Jamey Simmons (Music) and Sean Purcell (graduate music student) recently performed in a live studio concert with some of their new arrangements. Performers also included Music faculty members Jamey Simmons on trumpet, David Loucky on tenor and bass trombone, and Don Aliquo on sax; Nashville-area performers Robbie Shankl on alto sax, Todd Parks on bass, and Kelli Cox on piano; and Chris West (Music alumnus) on baritone sax. Stay tuned for more from the McLean School of Music.

Faculty News cont. on page 4
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Lorie LaFave was first runner-up in the 10-minute play regional competition for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

William C. Fancher (marketing major) is the national winner of the distinguished O'Neill Critic’s Institute, an initiative of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. William was the Region IV KC ACTF winner and represented the region at the national festival, held at the Kennedy Center. This award allows Fancher to attend the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center during its national playwriting conference in July of 2006, where he will work with leading professional newspaper and magazine critics from across the United States.

If you attended Take Me Out, you would know him as Mason Marzac (passionate new baseball fan).

Carol Stein, owner/director of Cumberland Gallery, was honored by the Art Department at a dinner on March 25. Over the past 26 years, she has been a primary factor in creating a lively and viable market for the visual arts in Nashville and the midstate region. Guests included prominent collectors from the Nashville area, artists, MTSU staff, and Art Department faculty.

Faculty News cont. from page 3

Claudia Barnett (English) participated in the Visiting Artist’s Seminar during February. Carson Kreitzer, a playwright from Austin, Texas, taught the class with fourteen students enrolled. The topic was place and the title of the class was Road Trip. Jarrod Werndli, one of Janet Higgins’s (Art) students, created a broadside of one of Kreitzer’s monologues in honor of the event.

Congratulations to Ron Aday (Sociology and Anthropology) for being named permanent chair of the department.

We bid a fond farewell to our academic advisor, Annette Coorts. Annette came to us from Tennessee Tech five years ago to take over advising responsibilities for the college. She organized the office and created a presentation to be shown at CUSTOMS. Annette developed a great rapport with our students, and she traveled across the state to talk to advisors and to help recruit new students. We will miss you, Annette, but we wish you well.

Liberal Arts Student News

On March 14, the Nashville Advertising Federation (local chapter of the American Advertising Federation) held its annual award ceremony for the winners of the 2006 student ADDY awards. The awards are presented annually to the best student designers in the region. There were 425 entries in 11 categories, and MTSU Art students won nine gold and nine silver awards. Only 35 pieces were submitted by our students so the medal ratios are astounding! Winners and their works are listed below.

Kayla Clark, “Holitorius”
Ben Stewart, “Shrubber”
Bryan Kemp, Courtney Edwards, Johnny King, Matt Thompson, “Pets Do It, Too”
Leigh Bernstein, Chad Cooper, Daniel Brown, “Soft, Strong, Longlasting”
Eric Kreutter, “Keith Walker Interactive Web”
Ben Stewart, “The Japanese Home” and “The Atomic Bomb”
Chris Jenke, “The Delicious Pear”
Bill Bynum, “Flying Frog Ale” (Elements of Illustration S12B)

Along with Kayla Clark’s gold, she received another gold for her project for the redesign of U.S. currency honoring the American workforce. The project didn’t fit in any of the contest’s categories so the judges created an award called the Judges’ Award just for her.
Alan Coulter (English) was selected as the 2006 SWCA Tutor Award winner. Coulter was competing with tutors from all over the region.

Guitar student Silviu Ciulei (Music) won first prize in the 29th Annual Beethoven Club Young Arts Guitar Competition in Memphis. MTSU guitar students Erol Ozsever and Kip Minton were awarded second and third prizes respectively. This is the third time MTSU students have swept all of the guitar awards in this annual competition. Congratulation also goes out to Bill Yelverton (Music) for his top-notch instruction.

Lisa Moore's (Speech and Theatre) ORCO 3240 class was asked to come up with a project to present to the administration of MTSU to improve life on campus. Groups presented their ideas—and what ideas they were! Lightning's Limo was presented by Caralyn Ignatz, Devon McDonal, Natalie Wilbanks, Julius DeFour, Marisa Watts, Elise Friedson, and Rebekah Edwards. MT Rocks was presented by Edwin Fitzgerald, Sharon Holland-Maleby, Angela Morgan, Clint Rankhorn, Kelli Smotherman, and Aaron Wiggins. Not only did these students present well but the ideas were imaginative indeed! MT Rocks proposed to move large boulders into the area near KUC Courtyard where students could paint the boulders for school spirit and a display of art. The limo suggestion was to add another ARA food service cart to the Peck Hall area. Thanks for the inventive presentations, and good luck with your ideas! Word is that a former group in Moore's class came up with a proposal for a Music Cafe that was picked up by Student Programming. On Friday nights, the KUC turns into a place for live music—more such are planned for the fall.

Ashley Edington (Anthropology major) received the Seeds of Change Award at the national COOL/Idealist conference at Vanderbilt. Edington received the award for her efforts in creating and nurturing the Café Symposium series at Linebaugh Library, a program she developed as a service learning practicum project in Ron Kates's English class. A great deal of effort, sweat, and determination was put forth to make this program succeed, and we are all happy to share this news.

Katie Crytzer (Political Science) received the Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship ($5,000), a generous stipend to assist her in attending the law school of her choice.

Take Me Out

Tucker Theatre was the setting for Take Me Out, Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning and Pulitzer Prize-nominated play. Deborah Anderson (Speech and Theatre) met the challenge as director, as did Scott Boyd (Speech and Theatre), scene and technical director, to bring the play off without a dropped towel. As you may or may not know, Greenberg requires the actors in certain locker scenes to play by the rules—which means nudity. Anderson and Boyd did a superb job of managing the scenes with style and class. The young actors buffed up and came across as the real thing in a play that depicts a very successful major league baseball player deciding to admit publicly that he is gay. His teammates have no real objections, but consequences follow. The play proved to be very successful here at MTSU, with more than 1,500 people attending. Ian Hunt, son of Crosby Hunt and Deborah Anderson, played the role of Jason Chenier. Congratulations to the Hunt-Anderson family.

Upcoming Fall 2006 Events

David McCullough
October 24, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Tucker Theatre

An Evening of Swing
November 10, 2006, Tennessee Room
Liberal Arts Alumni News

Holli Harrison (Music alumna) walked away from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals Concert with $15,000. To be one of the five top winners is said to be the most visible and important vocal competition achievement in the Western Hemisphere—the music world’s version of winning the Heisman. Harrison is a McLean School of Music graduate who just last spring won the Orpheus Competition (a vocal competition sponsored by MTSU and the Middle Tennessee Choral Society).

Marcus Finnie (Music alumnus) was on campus recently for a drum master class. Finnie is touring with Donna Summer.

Jonathan Theiss (Art alumnus) was awarded a gold ADDY for a Web site he designed for Luckie and Company. Theiss works for Luckie as a designer and application developer.

MTSU guitar graduate Matthew Palmer won the $1,000 first prize at the Seventh Annual Columbus State International Guitar Competition in Columbus, Georgia. A strong field of 70 guitarists from the U.S., Europe, South America, Australia, and Russia competed. This is Palmer’s third major prize in less than a year, and he has established himself as one of America’s foremost young guitar virtuosos. He is now a GTA at Appalachian State University where he is finishing a master’s in guitar performance.

Liberal Arts Faculty Retiring in 2005–06

Ben Austin, Sociology and Anthropology

Michael Dunne, English

Burton Bortine, Geosciences

Sara Dunne, English

Carole Carroll, Sociology and Anthropology

Thank you all for your valued service to your departments, the college, and the University.
Memorial Service for Dr. Charles Wolfe

On March 14, the life and work of Charles K. Wolfe were celebrated in a program at the Tom H. Jackson Alumni Center. Many of Professor Wolfe’s friends and acquaintances attended, along with members of his family Mary Dean, Stacy, Cindy, and Mark. Following the welcome by Paul Wells (Center for Popular Music), music was provided by Bruce Nemerov, Sofie Tipton Haislip, Louise Tamberlaine, Floyd Leonard, Mickey Harris, and a member of the Stones River String Band, Rebecca Weier. Comments were made by John McDaniel and Bill Connelly (English), Walter Haden (president, Tennessee Folklore Society), Gloria Christy (Uncle Dave Macon Days Committee rep), and President Sidney McPhee. Professor Wolfe will be missed by his friends, family, and students. Go rest high on that mountain, Charles.

ShareFair Showcase

Previous recipients of the Instructional Technology Development Grant and winners of the Outstanding Use of Instructional Technology Award shared their projects and ideas with colleagues at this year’s fair. From the College of Liberal Arts, Seth Johnson (Art) shared his Interface Design Styles Database project that he developed with assistance from ITD-supported grants and awards.

The College of Liberal Arts Showcase

This spring, with support from the dean of Liberal Arts; the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center; and the Information Technology Division, the first College of Liberal Arts Showcase took place. Under the leadership of Maria Clayton (English), Ron Bombardi (Philosophy), David Carleton (Political Science), and Felicia Miyakawa (McLean School of Music), Liberal Arts hosted a one-day showcase of best classroom practices. Twenty-six faculty members and GTAs presented demonstrations as varied as “Surf and Blog” and “Design Styles Database.” Feedback from the showcase indicated that there is a demand for the showcase to occur again next year.

STAYINTOUCH AND STAYCURRENT!

The dedication of administration, faculty, and staff members is only one reason for the successes summarized in this newsletter. Our alumni are also vital to our continuing progress. We hope you will become more involved in the growth and success of the College of Liberal Arts. Please check the Web address below for more news. If you wish to donate to a specific program, please contact the Development Office at (615) 898-2502. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send an e-mail via our college Web page, http://libarts.web.mtsu.edu/

Rock Museum

The MTSU Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum recently received a collection of world-class specimens from the Hammonds family. Al Ogden (Geosciences), museum director, recently welcomed the museum’s 1,500th visitor. If you haven’t visited the museum, stop by Ezell Hall. The collection really rocks!
SUMMER 2006
CUSTOMS
SCHEDULE

FRESHMAN
May 25–26 Scholarship students
June 6–7 CBAS/MC/Und
June 9–10 Ed/LA/Bus/Und
June 13–14 CBAS/MC/Und
June 20–21 Ed/LA/Bus/Und
June 23–24 CBAS/MC/Und
July
6–7

CUSTOMS!

New Academic Advisors in the College of Liberal Arts

We would like to welcome Judy Albakry and Lucy Langworthy as our two new academic advisors for the College of Liberal Arts.

Ms. Judy Albakry comes to us with a B.A. in liberal studies and an M.Ed. in counseling from Northern Arizona University. Her expertise in advising students and helping them choose and enroll in classes will be an asset to the College of Liberal Arts.

You might remember Dr. Lucy Langworthy from her work in the English Department as an instructor. She brings ten years of experience as a teacher and counselor to her new position. Dr. Langworthy has two master's degrees from Mississippi College and a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in technical communication from Oklahoma State.

We welcome both to the Liberal Arts team. Judy and Lucy are located in Jones Hall 115, ext. 7785.