New Faculty

New Tenure Track Appointments
Bonnie Rushlow—Art
Erin Atkinson—Art
Patricia Gaitely—English
James Comas—English
Michael Rice—Foreign Languages and Literatures
Melissa Lobegier—Geosciences
Jeremy Rich—History
Sean Foley—History
Rebecca Smith—Social Work
Tommy Macon—Speech and Theatre
Anne Willingham—Speech and Theatre

New Temporary Appointments
John Donovan—Art
Thomas Sturgill—Art
Marsha Morrison—Art
Patricia Tempeny—Art
Charmaine Lowe—English
Tracy Miller—English
David Pruett—Music
Michael Jorgensen—Music
Spencer Lambright—Music
Marcin Biala—Music
James Phillip Oliver—Philosophy
Patrick Chinnery—Political Science
Jean Taylor—Sociology and Anthropology
Hugh Berryman—Sociology and Anthropology
Patricia Parker—Sociology and Anthropology
Will Leggett—Sociology and Anthropology
Gary Hamilton—Speech and Theatre

Dean’s Notes

It is a pleasure to welcome the Liberal Arts faculty and staff to what promises to be a fun-filled (or at least student-filled) new academic year. Our first fall newsletter aims to introduce new faculty members, announce new chair appointments, and highlight new programs and events for the year, along with other late-breaking news of general interest.

You may also be interested to know that the College of Liberal Arts received the 2005 MTSU President’s Award for the highest level of external funding ($10 million in external grants and contracts) in recognition of our “continued hard work and exceptional contribution to research, creative projects, and public service.” While it is commonly thought that external funding predominates in the sciences, our own accomplishments put the lie to that generalization. And in subsequent months our external funding has risen to $17 million dollars, thanks not only to the multimillion-dollar Department of Children’s Services Grant (Social Work) but also to numerous other substantial state and federal grants. Only one handsome plaque—but many departments and individuals to thank. And now, on to the newest of news in the CLA.

John N. McDaniel, Dean

Career Achievement

Ron Aday (Sociology and Anthropology) is the 2006 recipient of the Career Achievement Award. As noted in the MTSU Foundation Awards program, Ron received the award “for his excellence in teaching, innovative curriculum development, research, and service in the field of aging studies and the impact that his work has had on the profession and public policy.” Congratulations, Ron—your department, college, and university are proud of you and wish you continued successes.
Appointments

Associate Dean Appointment
After a national search, Mark Byrnes (Political Science) has been selected as the associate dean of Liberal Arts. Mark will be responsible for curriculum and program development, extracurricular programs, and community/public service outreach and will serve during the dean’s absence. Peck Hall 247 will be his home until Todd Hall is ready for the dean and his staff to relocate (before year’s end, we hope). Mark’s phone number is 898-2351 and his e-mail is mbyrnes@mtsu.edu.

Nagy Named Art Chair
After serving as interim chair for two years, Jean Nagy has been named chair of the Art Department. Congratulations, Jean. Continue the good work!

New Chair for Social Work
Rebecca Smith (Ph.D., University of Texas, Arlington School of Social Work) will begin her tenure as chair of the Social Work Department this fall. Smith comes to MTSU by way of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where she was chair of professional studies, social work, and criminal justice. Welcome to middle Tennessee, Dr. Smith—we look forward to a long and productive association.

New Interim Chair for Speech and Theatre
Rebecca Fischer will serve as interim Speech and Theatre chair this academic year while a national search for a permanent chair takes place. Fischer, with her years of experience, will serve the department well. Thank you for your support of the department and its faculty.

Author David McCullough to Visit
David McCullough, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Truman*, *1776*, and *John Adams*, will lecture at MTSU Tuesday, October 24, in Tucker Theatre at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the History Department and the College of Liberal Arts. McCullough’s lecture, “Leadership and the History You Don’t Know,” is presented with the support of the Distinguished Lectures Fund. The event is free and open to the public.

Gore Scholar to Speak This Fall
Anthony J. Badger, Paul Mellon Professor of American History and Master of Clare College at Cambridge University, is scheduled to deliver an address on Albert Gore Sr. and the creation of the interstate highway system at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9, in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building.

An expert on post–World War II Southern political history and author of three books on the New Deal–era South, Badger was selected by the University’s Albert Gore Sr. Research Center to write a biography of the late U.S. senator.

College of Liberal Arts Goals for 2006–2007
The three central goals of the University’s Academic Master Plan are academic quality, student-centered learning, and partnerships. Below are our college’s goals for 2006–2007.

- Provide sufficient staff to cover enrollments, especially in General Education courses
- Expand participation in service learning and experiential learning programs
- Expand and strengthen departmental, college, and community partnerships
- Participate in the undergraduate research/scholarship/creative activity initiative
- Support development of selected new graduate programs
- Continue participation in the Cultural Diversity Initiative
- Continue support of international opportunities for faculty and students
- Acquire sufficient office space to house college faculty
Faculty News

A Web site by Seth Johnson (Art) for Tennessee Survivors and Liberators (a project of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission) was one of nine chosen for the annual UCDA (University and College Design Association) National Juried Design Competition. The winner will be announced at the UCDA National Conference in Austin, Texas.

Cindy Rehm (Art) has been awarded a Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Grant—the media award is for $5,000.

Tom Thayer (Art) had work exhibited in Lecce, Italy, at an invitational show at the Primo Piano Art Gallery. Tom's handmade animation and music was part of the show. Tom will also have some of his animation screened in Victoria, British Columbia, at the ninth annual Antimatter Film Festival, September 22–30. This is “primo” news—va benissimo cosi! You can see some of the still images at http://tomthayer.net/Animation_Stills.html.

Mary Hoffschwelle (History) wrote The Rosenwald Schools of the American South, just published by the University Press of Florida. Hoffschwelle's interest in the Rosenwald rural school building program grew from research for her dissertation. She will speak about the Rosenwald initiative in November at the National Preservation Conference.


Congratulations to John Lott (History) on being named the first full-time Rutherford County archivist. John graduated from MTSU in 2004 with an M.A. in history and a concentration in public history.

Good news! Lorne McWatters (History) has been awarded a Faculty Research and Creative Project Grant for 2006–2007 for his project titled Identifying, Preserving, and Building Community in Murfreesboro, Tennessee: A Documentary Film on Historic Preservation. In conjunction with this work, Lorne has been instrumental in creating a documentary film lab in the department, a work still in progress.

Kim Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre) performed with his Shelter Repertory Dance Theatre September as part of “An Evening of Dance” at the Martha Rivers Ingram Center for the Performing Arts at Blair School of Music.

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**Liberal Arts Calendar of Events**

(For more information on any event, please contact the events coordinator at 494-7628.)

**Theatre**, *Hay Fever*, September 29–30 and October 4–7

**Music**, Stones River Chamber Players, October 23, 7:30 p.m.

David McCullough, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

**Music**, Contest of Champions, October 28

**Music**, Jazz Artist Series, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

**Homecoming**, Tent City, November 4

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Anthony J. Badger, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

**Music**, An Evening of Swing, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

**Theatre**, *Oklahoma!*, November 10–11 and 15–18

**Opera**, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, November 17–18, 7:30 p.m.

**Dance**, Fall Concert, November 30 and December 1
Middle East Center Established

Allen Hibbard (English) will head a grant-funded project for the Middle East Center. Workshops and a lecture series will be included. An interdisciplinary minor will be an outcome of the project, and plans are in the making for a major.

With a general lack of knowledge about Iraq, Afghanistan, and even Israel and our concern for terrorism, there is a critical need for educational programs to provide complete, reliable information about the Middle East. Efforts have been underway at MTSU for several years to establish such a center to meet the needs of students and the public in this region. This spring, MTSU was awarded a Department of Education Title VI-A Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program Grant to support the development of courses in Arabic and Hebrew, the creation of the new minor in Middle East Studies, faculty development and research related to the Middle East, and outreach programs. Walker Library has allocated $50,000 for the purchase of books to support instruction and research.

New Partnership to Develop Language Training

Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and Stacey Boraskey (Tennessee Child Welfare Training Center) have formed a new partnership to work with 4,000 employees in the state’s Department of Children’s Services in a language training program. The partnership will help bring the Spanish language to employees around the state. Thomas will serve as the official supervisor of language development specialists, creating curriculum and materials that reflect new brain-based methodologies she uses in mentoring future teachers in her graduate class for the M.A.T. program in Foreign Languages and Literatures. The first group was trained in June in a five-day language program. Kasia Urban (a DCS worker and current master’s candidate in psychology) said she has studied several other languages, but the method used in this new class is the most efficient method of studying a foreign language she has ever seen. The method is called Total Physical Response, a system that incorporates immersion techniques and physical action “connectivities” to develop foreign language acquisition in any number of languages.

Career Placement for Liberal Arts

Our college continues to grow, and in order to better prepare our students for their careers, Liberal Arts has been assigned a career placement person, Lucy Billings-Jones, career coordinator. Lucy will be working with Liberal Arts majors in finding jobs after graduation using a variety of approaches: focus groups, departmental sessions, individual sessions, resume and technological search strategies, job availability notifications, and so on. Lucy will free up our faculty and college advisors for concentrating on program and course advice while complementing our overall advising efforts.

Speaking and Writing Center Opens

The new University Speaking and Writing Center, a satellite location of Peck Hall’s University Writing Center, is ready to serve students in Ezell Hall, room 119. In addition to many of the same services provided at the Peck Hall center, the new office will assist students (particularly those enrolled in COMM 2200) with public speaking and delivering oral presentations. The center will also work to increase online tutoring. Members of the Speech and Theatre faculty will help train writing assistants and conduct sessions with students.
**Natural Disasters**

If you are interested in natural disasters, the fall 2006 Honors Lecture Series is the place to be. Five of our Liberal Arts faculty members will be speaking on the topic.

Clay Harris (Geosciences)
Angry Earth: Waiting for the Big One

Jim Henry (Geosciences)
Global Warming: The Facts and the Fiction

Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology)
Catastrophes and Calamities ARE Ancient History: Cultural Change, Collapse, and Transformation in the Face of Natural Disasters

Mark Abolins (Geosciences)
The Threat of Urban Earthquakes in the Southeastern United States

Will Brantley (English)
Celluloid Disaster in the 1970s

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**Chairs, Directors, and Secretaries in Liberal Arts**

Art—Jean Nagy, chair; Brenda Johnson, secretary
English—Tom Strawman, chair; Judy Cox, secretary
Foreign Languages and Literatures—Deborah Mistrong, chair; Ruth Watson, secretary
Geosciences—Ron Zawislak, chair; Karen Dunkley, secretary
History—Jan Leone, chair; Tonna Collins, secretary
Music—George Riordan, director; Claudette Northcutt, secretary
Philosophy—Ron Bombardi, chair; Terri Ferrell, secretary
Political Science—John Vile, chair; Pam Davis, secretary
Social Work—Rebecca Smith, chair; Dian White, secretary
Sociology and Anthropology—Ron Aday, chair; Pansey Carter, secretary
Speech and Theatre—Rebecca Fischer, chair; Kim McGiffin, secretary

**STAY IN TOUCH AND STAY CURRENT!**

The dedication of administration, faculty, and staff members is only one reason for the success 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.mtsu.edu/

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