Chairperson’s Corner
Dr. Stephen Lewis, Professor & Department Chair

As I complete my 34th year of teaching and my 32nd year at MTSU, it’s amazing to consider the changes that have taken place in business education during that time span. When I arrived at MTSU in fall 1977, the department offered classes in typewriting, shorthand, and business machines, among other things. We taught students how to use mimeograph machines and spirit duplicators. Remember those? Our first microcomputers didn’t come along until several years later. We’ve held on to one typewriter for office use; but typewriting, shorthand, and business machines have disappeared from our curriculum.

Today a large portion of our courses are offered in a hybrid or online format. In fact, beginning in summer 2009, students will be able to earn their Master of Business Education (MBE) degree by taking hybrid and online courses. By the summer of 2011 all of the courses needed to complete the MBE will be offered during summer terms in those formats. Of course, we will continue to offer the courses in the traditional manner as well. Please contact us at the BCEN website, if you want more information about this MBE program alternative or any of our degree programs.

Our undergraduate Bachelor of Business Administration in Office Management program will soon be available in a distance learning format also. All required office management courses in our department are already available in this format, and the two or three general studies and core business courses currently unavailable in this format will soon be developed.

Times change and we have to adapt to the changes. Younger faculty members have eagerly accepted changes that came about naturally with our progression into a highly technological world. Older faculty members have been dragged into this era kicking, screaming, and clawing. Nevertheless, we all look forward to what the future holds for business education and business educators.

Please drop by the department (BAS N429) for a visit when you are in Murfreesboro.
Celebrating Entrepreneurship

The BCEN Department, Wright Travel Chair in Entrepreneurship, and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at MTSU celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week 2008 and National Entrepreneurship Week 2009 by hosting a series of presentations featuring local, statewide, national, and international entrepreneurs. Both events were open to the MTSU community as well as the public.

Global Entrepreneurship Week is global in scope and is celebrated in November by millions of young people and entrepreneurs around the world. The goal is to encourage innovation, imagination, and creativity as colleges and universities worldwide participate in activities and events designed to promote entrepreneurship and to encourage students to turn their ideas into reality. During this week, BCEN faculty (Ms. Dorothy Warren and Ms. Kay Blasingame-Boike) and MTSU Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization members served as consultants to the Teen Business Conference (An Income of Her Own) for select Rutherford County high school girls. The event was held at the Stones River Country Club.


A complete list of the speakers and events for Global and National Entrepreneurship Week can be found at www.mtsu.edu/~entre.

(Entrepreneurship Week Committee: Dr. Patrick Geho, Chair; Ms. Kay Blasingame-Boike; Dr. Marsha O. Smith; Ms. Dorothy Warren; and Dr. Rachel Wilson)

Executive-in-Residence

Rebecca Ramsey served as an Executive-in-Residence online during fall 2008 for BCEN 4660/5660 Organizational Communication taught by Dr. Sherry Roberts. Ms. Ramsey works with The Tauri Group, a consulting firm that does analytical work in the defense, homeland security and space arenas. She has worked with the Google Lunar X PRIZE and the Northrop Grumman Lunar Lander Challenge providing media and public outreach for the competition. She also served as a policy analyst for NASA’s Space Operations Mission Directorate where she worked to communicate the NASA vision and mission with the public sector.

As Executive-in-Residence, Ms. Ramsey provided students with help through online discussions on job-related topics such as workplace communication and conflict resolution. As students worked in groups to plan meeting space for their company, Ms. Ramsey shared her experiences regarding various types of meetings and technology used such as video conferencing. She also served as a resource for students as they worked on Code of Ethics and Crisis Plan writing projects.

This was the first attempt at having an Executive-in-Residence for a BCEN online class. According to Dr. Roberts, “It worked out well and was a valuable experience for the students. This will become a part of the Organizational Communication class as it goes to an online format in fall 2009.”

BCEN Community Events

The BCEN Publicity Committee held the first annual Student and Teacher Appreciation Reception (STAR) for FBLA in February. Refreshments were provided and goodie bags were distributed to over 200 FBLA students and teachers from area high schools.

Ms. Dorothy Warren and Ms. Kay Blasingame-Boike spoke to about 800 area high school students during the DECA Regional Competitions in
February. BCEN faculty also served as judges and welcomed students to our campus during the event.

BCEN faculty members (Dr. Wayne Rollins, Ms. Dorothy Warren, and Dr. Rachel Wilson) visited several local high schools including Riverdale, LaVergne, and Siegel to promote the BCEN programs offered in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business to local juniors and seniors.

Faculty Focus

The BCEN faculty has been busy teaching, researching, and serving their community this academic year. Below are some of the accomplishments of select faculty members.

Dr. Robert B. Blair recently published in the Georgia Business Education Association Journal and submitted an article in the NBEA Yearbook 2010. He presented at several conferences including TBEA, SBEA, and NBEA. Honors for this academic year include the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians Alpha Brown Individual Achievement Award. He has also been awarded several grants in excess of $85,000.

Dr. Patrick Geho served as co-chair of the Strategic Work Group, External Resources Committee and served as chair of the Global Entrepreneurship Week Committee. He presented at the National Association of Small Business Development Centers Annual Conference and the TBEA Conference. Dr. Geho recently published an article in the Georgia Business Education Association Journal.

Dr. K. Virginia Hemby served as National President of Delta Pi Epsilon (DPE) and was an ex officio member of the Policies Commission (PCBEE). She recently completed her editorial responsibilities for the Business Education Digest in June 2008 and fulfilled her Certified Online Instructor certification requirements in July 2008. Dr. Hemby also presented at the DPE conference in Chicago.

Dr. Ronda G. Henderson recently published in the Business Education Forum and the Georgia Business Education Journal. She also presented two papers at the DPE National Conference in Chicago and presented at the TBEA conference in Nashville. Dr. Henderson is currently the publications editor for TBEA and is chair of the Instructional Evaluation and Development Committee.

Dr. Linda G. McGrew recently served on the Master of Science Professional Science Program (MSPS) Committee, the MSPS Advisory Board, and the NBEA Publications Committee. She also co-authored (with Dr. Vincent Smith) an article in the NABTE Review.

Dr. Sherry J. Roberts was recently elected President-Elect of the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) and served as the keynote speaker for the Tennessee Business Education Association (TBEA) Conference in Nashville. She presented at several conferences such as TBEA, SBEA, and DPE. Dr. Roberts also co-authored (with Dr. Balachandran) an article in the Business Education Forum.

Dr. M. Wayne Rollins recently returned to the BCEN Department full-time after beginning his tenure at MTSU in 1976 as an instructor in the department. Dr. Rollins became the Cooperative Education Director in 1988 and served until 2008. This veteran business educator was recently interviewed for an article in the Communication Concepts newsletter and is serving on numerous departmental, college, and university committees.

Dr. Marsha O. Smith served on the Entrepreneurship Week Committee and recently published in the Georgia Business Education Association Journal. She also presented at the
Dr. Vincent W. Smith is serving on the TBEA Executive Board as treasurer and is the co-sponsor of the Gamma Eta Chapter of Delta Pi Epsilon (DPE). Dr. Smith is also serving on the DPE National Membership Committee. He recently co-authored (with Dr. McGrew) a NABTE Review article and served as a session coordinator at the SBEA conference in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Raholanda White presented a seven hour Dreamweaver workshop for the Tennessee State Department of Education in June 2008. She is also working to fulfill her requirements to become a Certified Online Instructor.

Dr. Rachel Wilson was awarded a Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity Grant in the amount of $37,428 for 2009-2010 by the Tennessee Board of Regents’ Office of Access and Diversity. These funds will assist in recruiting entrepreneurship faculty to our department.

BCEN Faculty

Martha E. Balachandran, Ed.D., professor
Robert B. Blair, Ph.D., associate professor
Kay Blasingame-Boike, M.B.A., instructor
Dwight Bullard, Ed.D., professor
Patrick Geho, J.D., associate professor
K. Virginia Hemby, Ph.D., professor
Ronda G. Henderson, Ph.D., assistant professor
Stephen D. Lewis, Ph.D., professor
Linda G. McGrew, Ed.D., professor
Mario Owens, Ph.D., instructor
Sherry Roberts, Ph.D., assistant professor
Wayne Rollins, Ed.D., associate professor
Marsha O. Smith, Ed.D., professor
Vincent W. Smith, Ed.D., professor
Dorothy Warren, M.B.E., instructor
Raholanda White, Ph.D., professor
Rachel Wilson, Ph.D., assistant professor

Welcome to the BCEN Department! You recently successfully defended your dissertation. How did your experience being a dissertation fellow in the BCEN Department impact your success?

I am truly grateful for the dissertation fellowship which has allowed me to view higher education from a different perspective. The fellowship afforded me the opportunity to focus on my dissertation writing. The one-class teaching load allowed me to make significant progress and eventually complete my dissertation.

Describe your experience teaching at MTSU.

I’ve had a blast teaching Business Communication. Prior to returning to higher education I worked in the defense industry so I have an advantage in that I am able to go beyond the textbook and provide real-world examples and personal experiences for my students. Furthermore, with this opportunity, I am able to experience full-time teaching without the pressures of a tenure-track appointment and for that I am grateful.

What has been your biggest challenge?

In the beginning I had difficulty balancing my dissertation writing with teaching. It wasn’t until the spring 2009 semester that I learned to create balance and decided researching would not overshadow teaching and vice versa.

Your one-year appointment is almost over and you are officially Dr. Owens! What will you take from this experience as you move on to the next stage of your career?

This experience has definitely been enlightening. I have a new found respect for college professors, especially those teaching 4-5 classes per semester in addition to serving on committees and conducting scholarly research.
CEO

The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization had a successful trip to Chicago, IL for the annual Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization National Meeting held in October of 2008. More than 1600 students attended the conference from universities and colleges nationwide. Allyson Gilbert, CEO President; Andrew Webb, CEO Vice-President; and Joshua James, CEO Treasurer/Secretary attended the conference to network and learn more about entrepreneurship from the chapter sessions and keynote speakers. The CEO Officers were able to attend many informative sessions about topics such as importing and exporting, forming high-tech companies, and developing their local CEO chapters. Keynote speakers at the conference included Doris Christopher, the founder of The Pampered Chef among others. To read more about events and speakers, visit the National CEO website.

Phi Beta Lambda

The Middle Tennessee State University chapter of Phi Beta Lambda sponsored a community service project in November 2008. Phi Beta Lambda members collected food to assist needy families in the Rutherford county community. The donations collected were used to create Thanksgiving food boxes for families in need. The project was a huge success! The chapter was able to identify and deliver food boxes (including turkeys) to six local families!

BCEN Degree Programs

Business Education: The Business Education major leads to a Bachelor of Science. Students who complete this degree are licensed to teach business and business technology subjects in Grades 7-12.

Business Education Non-Teaching or Business Education Training and Development: These two options lead to a Bachelor of Science degree with a minor in Business Administration.

Entrepreneurship: The Entrepreneurship major, which leads to a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, is designed for students interested in starting and running their own business.

Office Management: The Office Management major leads to a Bachelor of Business Administration and is designed for students interested in managing the administrative support functions of a business.

BCEN Minors: Business Communication, Entrepreneurship, Marketing Education, Office Management
Nancy Dowell Gilley graduated from MTSU in 1969 with a BS in Business Education. She was the second student in the state to attain the Masters of Business Education in 1974. She attained MOS certification in 2007. Nancy was a charter member of the Gamma Eta Chapter of Delta Pi Epsilon, where she served as secretary and historian. Her other professional memberships have included NEA, TEA, SCEA, NBEA, SBEA, TBEA, TACTE, and ACTE. She began her professional career as an administrative secretary to the director of Nashville State Technical Institute. However, her true interest was in teaching. Mrs. Gilley began her teaching career in 1970 at White House High School. She has had a very successful career at White House High School for the past 38 years. She has served as a member of numerous local committees, as yearbook advisor and as department chair. She has been involved in various Sumner County Board and State Board of Education committees. She has served as an evaluator for many SACS evaluating teams across the state. She was honored at the Tennessee CTE Conference as the TACTE Tennessee Outstanding Business Educator of the Year in 2001.

One of her true interests has been as an advisor for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). She has advised thousands of students who have garnered hundreds of awards on the regional, state and national levels. She also was chosen as the Tennessee FBLA Adviser of the Year in 2001, and represented the State of Tennessee at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Long Beach, California. For the past ten years, she has served as a Professional Liaison for the State Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America. In this capacity, she has helped plan and coordinate regional and state leadership conferences and advisor workshops. Nancy also worked with FBLA state officers, preparing their scripts and choreography for the regional and state conferences. “Watching students learn and grow in their presentation skills has been a very rewarding experience. The experience they gained will serve them well for the rest of their lives,” she said.

Nancy Dowell Gilley is a third generation teacher, having followed in the footsteps of her father, Paul E. Dowell, Sr., who was an accounting professor at MTSU and her mother, Daisie Dalton Dowell, who was a student at MTSU in the 1930s. She has many ties to MTSU. Her late husband, James Gilley, (class of 1969) was an accountant and office manager. Her son, Andy Gilley (2001) is also a teacher in Hendersonville. Both her brothers, Dr. Paul Dowell, Jr. (1965 and 1968) and Dr. David Dowell (1973) are also educators. MTSU is very dear to her. “The business education department at MTSU is second to none, and the teachers I had were truly outstanding. Drs. Dalton Drennan, Ivy Chance and Dwight Bullard each imparted their unique style of professionalism to every student. I am thankful to them, and to my father, for the example they set for me,” she stated, “and I am especially proud that my former student, Dr. Robert Barry Blair, has joined their ranks.”

Her advice to future business teachers: “Technology has, and will, continue to change. If you have a thorough knowledge of your subject matter and a genuine love of your students, everything else will just fall into place.” After nearly 40 years of service, Ms. Gilley is retiring from White House High School at the end of this academic year.