

# College of Mass Communication

## Alumni Newsletter Fall 2009



Welcome to the first monthly electronic newsletter for alumni and friends of the College of Mass Communication. This publication represents the first of many steps we are taking to connect with you as the college celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2011. I hope you find this newsletter interesting, informative and inviting because we need your participation. Please take the time to **e-mail us** with your comments, ideas and, most of all, your news. We want to know what's going on in your life and career that you wish to share with fellow alumni, colleagues and friends of the college. In return for your contributions to the newsletter, we promise to keep you informed about the college. We will offer you a close-up view of who we are, where we are headed and how we plan to get there. We appreciate all your support.

Happy Holidays!  
Roy L. Moore, Dean

### The Seigenthaler Chair

sponsored several college professors' participation in an intensive multi-media workshop to prepare them for teaching journalism to students in the changing media landscape. Three professors will attend an advanced workshop in January funded by the Chair.

The Seigenthaler Chair was a co-sponsor of documentary filmmaker **Jesse Epstein's** October 12th visit to MTSU. She showed three films and discussed body image, photography and the media.

Professor **Beverly Keel** participated in the November 18th Justice and Journalism event, which included journalists and federal judges. The event was sponsored by the First Amendment Center and held at the Newseum in Washington D.C.



The Seigenthaler Chair's big fall event was a two-day Constitution Day celebration:

#### Wednesday, September 16:

- 10:20 a.m. – **Free Speech on University Campuses: The State of Play**  
Lecture by Bruce Barry, Vanderbilt University Professor and author of "Speechless: The Erosion of Free Expression in the American Workplace" (KUC Theater)

- 11:30 a.m. – **State of the First Amendment**

Gene Policinski, Vice President/Executive Director of the First Amendment Center, presented results from First Amendment Center's annual survey of American attitudes and opinions on First Amendment issues. (KUC Theater)

- 2:20 p.m. – **Freedom Sings**

Freedom Sings is a critically acclaimed multimedia experience featuring an all-star cast of musicians performing music that has been banned, censored or sounded a call for social change. (Tucker Theater)

#### Thursday, September 17

- 9:40 a.m. – **The Internet and the First Amendment**

John Seigenthaler moderated a panel featuring Robert Cox, president of the Media Bloggers Association, Associated Press' Sri Kasi and Nashville attorney Lew Conner. It also featured model Liskula Cohen and her attorney, Steve Wagner. She was defamed online and successfully sued Google to reveal the name of the anonymous blogger. (KUC Theater)

- 11:20 a.m. – **Panel on the First Amendment Freedoms**

A panel explored the state of the First Amendment's five freedoms and what they mean in today's society. Panelists included John Seigenthaler, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Elaine Jones, former president and director/counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. (KUC Theater)

- 1 p.m. – **Torture, Democracy and the American Press** (co-sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Committee)  
Lecture delivered by Mark Danner, who has written about foreign affairs and American politics for more than two decades, covering Latin America, Haiti, the Balkans and the Middle East among other stories. He was for many years a staff writer at The New Yorker and contributes frequently to The New York Review of Books and The New York Times Magazine. He teaches at the University of California and at Bard College (LRC 221)

- 2:40 p.m. – **Civil Liberties: Surveillance and Terrorism**

Professor Roger Newman delivered a lecture and led a discussion on the civil liberties aspects of the War on Terror and technology's impact on the First Amendment. Newman is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and author of the book "Hugo Black," which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He co-authored "Banned Films: Movies, Censors and the First Amendment," and edited "The Constitution and Its Amendments," which is a four-volume encyclopedia, and the "Yale Biographical Dictionary of American Law." He is currently writing a book on President Clinton's Supreme Court appointments. (KUC Theater)



**Dick Williams**, director of MTSU Records, brought an impressive array of record industry professionals to campus during the semester including:

**Doug Kahan** - Musician and hit songwriter.

**John Jaszcz** - Five-time Grammy winning produce and engineer.

**Grant Green** - MTSU Alumnus and Assistant Engineer to John Jaszcz

**Jim Davenport** - Former head of promotion and professor at George State.

**Wendy Moten** - International recording artist.

**Tyler Bryant** - Concert with new recording artist, guitar player extraordinaire.

**Tim Kaiser** - TV producer of Seinfeld, Will and Grace and Rock Prophecies.

**Luis Resto** - Academy award winning songwriter and producer.

**Greg Markel** - Internet marketing and search engine specialist.

**Elizaveta Khripounova** - International linguistic recording artist.

**Tracy Gershon** - Head of Artist Acquisition for Warner/Chappell Music.

**Rupert Perry** - Former CEO of the IFPI and head of EMI Music worldwide.



Professor **John Hill** engineered an album of works by Ravel for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra that has been nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award for Best Classical Album. **Click here** to see the official nomination.

Professor **Marc Barr** had one of his computer designed ceramic tea sets accepted into the collection of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Art Museum in China.



Professors Mary Nichols and **Dan Pfeiffer** led a group of students on a trip to Florida to film and report on the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis. The group is working for Nashville Public Television to create a documentary on NASA in hopes to spark inspiration, awareness and excitement in our generation about NASA.



On November 1st, **Dr. Joseph Akins** released his third solo recording, *Spirit Touch*, which has been described as emotional, creative, soul-

stirring and beautiful. Joseph's heartfelt piano artistry is featured on 11 fresh tracks: 10 new originals and one modern arrangement of an old classic. Joseph's performance on a grand piano is featured throughout this album. Mostly solo piano, a few tracks include accompaniment from cello, zen drum, bass and keyboard. All tracks were recorded at the Middle Tennessee State University recording studios and engineered by professor Bill Crabtree. A more extensive biography, discography and calendar can be found **here**.

Professor **Marilyn Wood** presented two sessions at the American Orff-Schulwerk Association national conference in November held in Milwaukee, Wisc. More than 150 teachers attended each session.



Marilyn's books, *The Silver Series, Book 1, Choral Arrangements for Children's Voices with Orff Instrument Accompaniments* and *The Gold Series, Book 1, Choral Arrangements for Children's Voices with Orff Instrument Accompaniments* are available nationally through West Music.





**Dr. Loren Mulraine** released the first recording from his new record label, Ten 21 Records, Inc. *Groovin' With The Times*, by Loren Mulraine 7 Kids On The Groove, is a collection of

original songs aimed at teaching children multiplication tables through music. It is available through the label Web site, [www.ten21records.com](http://www.ten21records.com) and will also be available on iTunes, Amazon, CDBaby and other digital stores.

**Lucinda Cockrell**, archivist and coordinator of research collections in the Center for Popular Music, was featured in *The Daily News Journal* for her Victorian Christmas card collection that has been published into the book *A Victorian Christmas, Sentiments and Sounds of a Bygone Era*. Read the full article [here](#).



DNJ photo by Jim Davis

## Alumni Spotlight

### Jeffery Reid



Jeffery Reid, a veteran broadcast journalist with more than 27 years of experience, is an executive producer for CNN Productions. In that role, Reid oversees the editorial content for the network's long-form programming that appears in programs including *CNN Presents* and *CNN: Special Investigations Unit*. He is based in CNN's world headquarters in Atlanta.

Reid's latest project, "Martin Luther King: Words that Changed a Nation," gave viewers a rare look inside the U.S. civil rights movement and used King's own writings to explore his philosophy and theology. Reid's other documentary work for CNN includes programs about the Virginia Tech massacre, the Iraq war and the Oklahoma City bombing, among other topics. Presently, he is working on CNN's ongoing *Black in America* series.

Since joining CNN in 1996, Reid has served in a variety of production roles, including executive producer for *Lou Dobbs' Moneyline* and *Inside Politics*. He's also worked on breaking news, including the

Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and the war in Iraq. Before joining CNN in 1996, Reid served for three years as executive producer at WXIA-TV in Atlanta, where he won five Emmy awards. He began his career at WTVC-TV in Chattanooga, Tenn., and worked for nine years at WISH-TV in Indianapolis.

Reid earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Middle Tennessee State University. He was recently named to the *Ebony Power 150*, one of only 15 individuals named in the media category.

#### Have you made your annual gift to the College of Mass Communication?

Take advantage of charitable giving before December 31st by clicking here and designate your gift to Mass Comm. You can also call Kippy Todd at 615-898-5756 or e-mail [ktodd@mtsu.edu](mailto:ktodd@mtsu.edu) by December 22nd. As your development professional, Kippy welcomes the opportunity to speak with you by phone or in person about your giving goals. Establishing a program fund or scholarship in your name, the name of your business or in honor of someone may be much more affordable than you think. Call her to discuss how you can make an impact on the college and our students.