

College of Mass Communication *Alumni Newsletter*

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Middle Tennessee State University

Views dim on Obama, Washington and economy, new MTSU Poll finds

Tennesseans' views regarding President Barack Obama, the national economy and Washington's progress continue to dim, according to results of the MTSU Poll, the College of Mass Communication's independent nonpartisan and biennial public opinion poll, released Oct. 24.

Of the 640 Tennesseans interviewed, twice as many disapprove as approve of President Obama's job performance. Most of this disapproval rests with Republicans and independents, while most Democrats continue to support the president. With his approval at an all-time low and disapproval at an all-time high, the poll finds Obama's chances for reelection in 2012 are low in Tennessee.

"If the 2012 presidential election were held today, all three presumptive Republican frontrunners would likely defeat President Obama in the state of Tennessee," MTSU Poll Associate Director Jason Reineke said in the poll's fall 2011 report. He added, "Republican leads are slightly greater among likely voters than the general public."

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The College of Mass Communication joins Middle Tennessee State University in celebrating 100 years of excellence.

Join the celebration at <http://mtsu.edu/masscomm>.

Celebrating our rights with 'Freedom Sings'

This story is a reprint from MTSU News and Media Relations.

Renowned musicians celebrated the First Amendment in song on Nov. 2 during a special performance of "Freedom Sings" in MTSU's Tucker Theatre.

Performers included Ashley Cleveland, Dave Coleman, Craig Krampf, Bill Lloyd, Jonell Mosser, Jason White and Joseph Wooten.

They told the story of three centuries of banned or censored music in the United States, including several protest songs from the 1960s still being used today, most notably by the Occupy Wall Street movement.

The free public multimedia performance was sponsored by the Liberty Tree Initiative, the campus-grant program of "1 for All," a national, nonpartisan campaign to raise awareness and understanding about the First Amendment.

The event was sponsored at MTSU by the McCormick Foundation, the First Amendment Center, the Newseum, the American Society of News Editors and the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information and hosted by the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies in MTSU's College of Mass Communication.

Before the performance, visitors were able to view the original music associated with the songs featured in "Freedom Sings" via a Tucker Theatre lobby exhibit of original sound recordings, sheet music, music books, photographs and more from the collections of MTSU's Center for Popular Music.

"Some you'd recognize as being protest songs, but people have been surprised to find out what other songs were banned or censored," said Lucinda Cockrell, the center's assistant director and archivist.

After the show, several "Freedom Sings" performers, including Lloyd and Krampf, joined a panel discussion on the First Amendment's importance to free expression and creativity in music. The discussion, moderated by Dr. Paul Fischer from MTSU's Department of Recording Industry, was in Room 164 of the new College of Education Building. (Watch a brief slideshow from the day's events [here](#).)

"Freedom Sings" began in 1999 with a concert at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville and began touring nationwide in 2000.

"Freedom Sings never fails to inspire me," said Dr. Deborah Gump, who directs the Seigenthaler Chair. "When Freedom Sings came to MTSU in 2009, it was my first year on campus. Once again, I was blown away by how packed Tucker was and how pumped the audience was."

"Freedom Sings" is a national program of the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center. The Nashville-based The First Amendment Center works to preserve and protect First Amendment freedoms through information and education.

The Seigenthaler Chair supports a variety of activities related to free-speech and free-press rights, including welcoming visiting professors of First Amendment studies and lecturers who address issues of freedom of speech and press, along with funding research, seminars and meetings related to free expression.

For more information about "Freedom Sings," including details about the performers, visit www.firstamendmentcenter.org/freedom-sings. For more information about "1 for All," visit www.1forall.us.



The all-star band of "Freedom Sings" harmonizes during their Nov. 2 performance at MTSU's Tucker Theatre. From left are Jonell Mosser, Ashley Cleveland, Jason White and Joseph Wooten. (MTSU Photo by J. Intintoli)

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Tennesseans reported similar outlooks regarding the national economy.

“Concern about the national economy and dissatisfaction with the direction of the country continue to rise,” noted MTSU Poll Director Ken Blake, also in the report.

Most Tennesseans interviewed also expressed concerns over cooperation in Washington. President Obama, they report, has not done enough to foster cooperation between Congressional Republicans

and Democrats; more, however, report that Congressional Republicans have not done enough to cooperate with Obama. This tension extends to job creation: Most Tennesseans do not foresee agreement between the two parties on this topic.

The poll also measured attitudes regarding such issues as Tennessee’s voter ID law, lottery funding for college scholarships, Gov. Bill Haslam’s job performance and Tennessee’s public school system.

For the full report, please visit the official MTSU Poll site at <http://mtsusurveygroup.org>.

Random ‘RIM’inations - Update

In the [Sept./Oct. issue](#) of the *Alumni Newsletter*, Department of Recording Industry Chair Loren Mulraine compiled a list of RI alumni—writers, producers and artists—whose work appeared on the Sept. 24 *Billboard Magazine* country, Christian and gospel music charts. Below are the names of those artists and the titles of their works. The newsletter apologizes for any confusion the original post might have caused to its readers.

Hot Country Songs Chart

- No. 1: Eric Paslay, “Barefoot Blue Jean Night”
- No. 2: Luke Laird, “Take a Back Road”
- No. 9: Dave Barnes, “God Gave Me You”
- No. 12: Luke Laird, “Baggage Claim”
- No. 26: Luke Laird, “Drink in My Hand”
- No. 43: Luke Laird, “You”

Christian Songs Chart

- No. 15: Brandon Heath, “The Light in Me”

Christian Albums Chart

- No. 27: Lecrae, *Rehab*
- No. 48: Lecrae, *The Overdose*

Christian AC Songs Chart

- No. 10: Brandon Heath, “The Light in Me”

Christian CHR Chart

- No. 12: Brandon Heath, “The Light in Me”

Gospel Albums Chart

- No. 13: Richard Small w/Vision Verity/
JLG, “Trust Me”

Faculty News



Dahan

Ian Rogers, online music mogul and CEO for Topspin Media, presented “Disrupting the System: The Evolution of Web Distribution for Music and Film, a Mass of Niches and the Era of Trusted Brands” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on Nov. 10 in the McWherter Learning Resources Center.

Rogers also provided a free demonstration for Department of Recording Industry students in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. According to RI Professor **Charlie Dahan**, Rogers’ visit was a success.

“We had about 200 people in the LRC for his big lecture and 80 in in COMM 101,” Dahan said. “People were sitting on the stairs and standing in the back for his demonstration.”

Congratulations to Department of Electronic Media Communication Associate Professor **Roger Heinrich**.



Heinrich

Heinrich’s manuscript, “A Small Town Newspaper and a Metropolitan Newspaper Report on a Deadly Virus: An Analysis of the Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918,” was published in the most recent issue of *The Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*.

Paul Allen

Department of Recording Industry Professor **Paul Allen** was interviewed by *The Tennessean* for its Nov. 12 article, “EMI sale to rattle Music Row.” The full article is available [here](#).

Jane Marcellus

Congratulations to School of Journalism Professor **Jane Marcellus** on having her article, “It’s up to the women,” published in the most recent issue of *Feminist Media Studies*. To read more, please click [here](#).

Bill Crabtree

Department of Recording Industry Professor **Bill Crabtree** wrote about the RI Audio program’s involvement and accomplishments at the 131st annual Audio Engineering Society convention, held this fall in New York. For a complete review of the convention, click [here](#).

Interim Associate Dean **Zeny Sarabia-Panol** presented the following this summer and fall:

“Malaysia and the Global Financial Debacle: An Agenda-Setting and Framing Study.” Public Lecture, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman University, Oct. 19, 2011, Perak, Malaysia.

“The Nuts and Bolts of Doing a Quantitative Content Analysis.” Research Workshop, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman University. Oct. 20, 2011, Perak, Malaysia.

“Print Media Reporting of Health and Medicine in Selected ASEAN Countries.” 94th Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Aug. 10-13, 2011, St. Louis, Mo.

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Additional News

Jane Marcellus' student successes



Marcellus

Congratulations to **Carly Myracle** and **E.J. Hirsch**, two students in School of Journalism Professor **Jane Marcellus'** Opinion Writing class, on having their columns recently published in *The Tennessean*.

Myracle's column, "Safety from HPV too vital to cloud with moralizing," discusses the issues parents and their daughters face when deciding on the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine.

For his column, Hirsch pulls from his experiences during three tours of duty—one in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. He discusses how his understanding of Veterans Day has changed since he was a child listening to his father's stories of serving in Vietnam.

Center for Popular Music welcomes Lindsay Million



Million

The College of Mass Communication proudly welcomes **Lindsay Million** as the new cataloguing assistant in the Center for Popular Music.

Million holds an M.S. in library science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania after earning her B.S. in anthropology at Grand Valley State University in her home state of Michigan.

Million has worked at Linebaugh Public Library for the past year, where she was in the reference and cataloging departments. She enjoys reading, listening to music and traveling to faraway places.

After joining the center, Million called herself "lucky" because her position incorporates her love of books and music with her interest in information science and technology. Million said she is excited to be a part of the College of Mass Communication and is looking forward to learning and growing as a member of the MTSU community.

Happy Holidays from Mass Comm!

Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director of Institution Equity and Compliance, 1301 East Main Street, CAB 220, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, 615-898-2185. Additionally, the MTSU Title IX Coordinator, designated to monitor and oversee Title IX complaints, may be contacted as indicated on this webpage: <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix>.

RI Commercial Songwriting major **Johnna Day** is the winner of the Frank Brown Songwriting Festival Songwriting Contest held on the Gulf Coast on Nov. 19. The Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) sponsored the event.

Day competed with several seasoned songwriters. Her pop/rock effort "Ghosts" was chosen as the winning song, while her contemporary Christian track "Unending Love" received praise at the "Song Critique" preceding the contest.

The Tennessean recently wrote about country group Lady Antebellum in its music blog. Vocalist **Hilary Scott** is a former College of Mass Communication student. For the full story, click [here](#).

The Center for Popular Music hosted **Dr. Simon Zagorski-Thomas** on Dec. 6 in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

His lecture, "Playing to an Empty Room: Performance, Recording, and Musicology," examined how the recording process has shaped, and is shaped by, performance.