Author McCullough to lecture

by Lisa L. Rollins

Eminent historian and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough will speak on “Qualities of Leadership” beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, in MTSU’s Tucker Theatre. Heralded as a “master of the art of narrative history,” McCullough’s MTSU visit is a rare and welcomed event, organizers confirm.

Bonuses, raises awaiting final OK from TBR

by Gina E. Fann

On the heels of a 2 percent salary increase for MTSU employees for 2006-07, “good budget management” should give workers a one-time bonus of $500 on their Oct. 31 paychecks.

MTSU is using available funds to once again provide the bonuses to all full-time employees on the university’s payroll as of June 30, 2005. “Due to good budget management at your university, I have requested that the Tennessee Board of Regents consider this plan,” university President Sidney A. McPhee said.

The plan, which still awaits final approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents at its Sept. 28-29 meeting, provides the flat bonus of $500 per full- or part-time employee or 1 percent of the employee’s salary, whichever is greater.

Participants in the university’s post-retirement service programs also will receive the bonus.

This university-funded bonus will be in addition to a state-funded $350 one-time bonus for higher education employees with three or more years of service as of Oct. 1, 2006. A percentage of the state bonus also will be paid to permanent part-time employees proportional to their assignments.

“Providing bonuses to our faculty, staff and administration is simply one way of showing our gratitude for the dedicated service they provide for our students and to the university community as a whole,” McPhee said.

“We’ll continue to work with the Legislature to ensure that our good

Fall phonathon under way

The Office of Development’s annual fall giving phonathon began Sept. 18, said coordinator Lucie P. Murphy.

Students will call alumni “to inform them of the latest developments from MTSU and their respective colleges and ask them to make a gift to the university,” Murphy said. The schedule includes calls through Sept. 28 to alumni in the College of Education and Behavioral Science; Oct. 1-20 calls to Basic and Applied Sciences; Mass Communications; and Oct. 22-26.  

Students interested in working during the spring 2007 phonathon may call 615-898-2728.
Collage earns gold medalist certificate

by Amanda Hawkins

Collage: a Journal of Creative Expression, the student literary and arts magazine sponsored by MTSU’s Honors College, has received the Gold Medalist Certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for its fall 2005 and spring 2006 issues. Magazines submitted to the CSPA competition last spring were scored based on organization, content and design. Each submission was then split into subcategories and given a point value. Overall, Collage scored 925 points out of 1,000, earning a Gold Medalist rating. In the design category, the magazine captured an All-Columbian Honor by receiving 345 points out of 350. Panels of experts in journalism and journalism education judged all submissions to the CSPA. One judge said the arts in Collage was “visually interesting, skilfully done and shows a good variety of medium.”

College Editor-in-Chief Travisty Vasquez-Terry and adviser Marsha Powers said they’re very pleased with the awards and that they’re seeking ways to improve up-coming issues of the magazine. “We’ve implemented a new grading scale for Collage submissions to meet the specifications for a prestigious student journal,” Vasquez-Terry said.

“In regard to the selection process, Collage is not about what we, as a staff, like. It’s about creating an outlet for displaying the best literature and art that MTSU students have to offer in aesthetically appealing fashion, which accentuates the high-quality work we receive.”

Other improvements are also being made, such as expanding staff- and faculty- taught workshops for staff members.

Powers and Vasquez-Terry, along with the rest of the staff, say they’re dedicated to the success of the magazine and look forward to scoring even higher marks from the CSPA on future issues.

The CSPA was organized at Columbia University in New York City in the fall of 1924. The Medalist Certificate was first awarded in February 1925 to help improve student print production.

The judge’s final comment on the Collage critique states, “The magazine looks fantastic. Your staff should be very proud of the work you’ve done here.”

Amanda Hawkins is a senior majoring in journalism.

Pi Kappa Phi moves into new home

by Gina K. Logue

Kissinger

A fter some seven years as an exterior maintenance organization without an official brick-and-mortar home, Pi Kappa Phi has moved to Greek Row but add that they’re seeking for MTSU fraternities and sororities on Rutherford Boulevard.

The national Pi Kappa Phi was founded in 1904 at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C. According to the group’s Web site, it boasts 126 active chapters and 11 associate chapters, more than 200,000 alumni chapters and more than 95,000 initiated brothers.

“They’re consistently No. 1 or No. 2 among all MTSU fraternities in terms of grades,” Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life, says of the new chapter.

McCreary adds that the Pi Kapps meet all qualifications, including support from the national organization and local alumni chapters, chapter from the College of Charleston, more than half of alumni chapters and more than 95,000 initiated brothers.

“They’re consistently No. 1 or No. 2 among all MTSU fraternities in terms of grades,” Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life, says of the new chapter.

McCreary says of the new chapter.

He adds that the Pi Kapps have signed a one-year lease with an option to renew for a second year. While no extensive modifications will be made to the exterior of the house immediately, banners are being provided to cover stonework.

The Pi Kapps have spent the last several weeks painting and overseeing minor repairs to the house such as replacing locks and some minor plumbing.

James David, the local chapter’s treasurer, says he’s excited about the move.

“It just means, hopefully, that we’ll be able to grow, and we’ll have a central meeting place where we can have a David, a junior from Franklin, says.

House Manager Jimmy Miller, a sophomore from Phoenix, Ariz., also is looking forward to the Greek Row experience.

“It just will be a lot fun to live with the brothers and establish relationships with other fraternity, Miller says.

The national service association with which the Pi Kapps are affiliated is Pi Kappa Phi, a group whose purpose is to raise awareness of people with disabilities and to help improve their quality of life. Each spring, the fraternity teams with a sorority to conduct an “empathy dinner” during which able-bodied students must eat blindfolded with one arm behind the back or with a similar impediment.

Another Pi Kappa Phi service project is Push America’s annual “Ride Across America.” The annual cycling excursion raises money for people with disabilities. The cycling team stayed with the local Pi Kapps during their stopover in Murfreesboro last year.

Alumnus addresses preservation needs

by Lisa L. Rollins

MTSU alumnus David Brown, executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was the featured host and speaker for a Sept. 12 town hall meeting in Murfreesboro that focused historic preservation.

A graduate of the MTSU historic preservation program and a former Murfreesboro resident, Brown met with local officials, business owners, concerned citizens and members of the community to discuss how to move forward with new preservation needs.

“He grew up in the East Main historic district,” West said of Brown’s devotion to preserving history, including the local landscape. “He brings a love of Murfreesboro and its history, but a healthy dose of realism and experience to the issue of balancing the past with the present.”

CHP representatives report that Brown—who appears local preservation processes to historic preservation, including the successful Main Street program in downtown Murfreesboro— “is very concerned about recent demolitions of National Register-listed properties in the county, including the Jenkins House.”

The CHP, Main Street Murfreesboro and the Tennessee Preservation Trust supported Brown’s visit.
Geier suit dismissal means ‘door open to all’

from Staff Reports

T he civil-rights lawsuit addressing equality and diversity in Tennessee’s higher education system has concluded after nearly four decades by creating and funding expanded program offerings and educational opportunities and recognizing scholarship statewide.

Parties in the case known as the Geier lawsuit—including the State of Tennessee, the federal government and Tennessee’s higher education agencies—have agreed to ask a federal judge to dismiss the suit, Gov. Phil Bredesen announced Sept. 11.

“The proud to announce that Tennessee has met the challenge set by the Geier lawsuit to build a unitary public higher education system that truly offers equal access to all citizens,” Bredesen said. “Now, we’ll ask a judge to recognize something that we’ve long felt in our hearts: In Tennessee, the door really is open to all.”

The 1968 lawsuit was filed by Rita Sanders Geier, a former law student at Vanderbilt University and instructor at Tennessee State University.

The federal court ruled that Tennessee had a dual system of higher education separately serving black and white students, leading to $77 million worth of court-mandated changes to increase equality and diversity in colleges and universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee systems.

In 1984, the courts developed a plan for equal funding and access, and in 2001, the parties developed the Geier Consent Decree, which prescribed a five-year plan to integrate the state’s colleges and universities as well as increase overall enrollment. The decree was intended as a final stepping stone to rectifying the problems noted in the lawsuit.

MTSU has benefited from the Geier requirements by developing programs ranging from the Summer Discovery Institute for minority teenagers interested in speech and theatre and aerospace to sponsoring predoctoral fellowships and visiting professorships for outstanding scholars.

In addition, MTSU has one of the largest enrollments of minority students of any Tennessee school. The university has 4,160 minority students enrolled in fall 2006, slightly more than 18 percent of the total enrollment of 22,863. The number, which includes those of Asian, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaskan descent as well as African-American, has more than quadrupled since the Geier ruling.

“Put together a team a year ago, and we’ve been planning for our post-Geier future,” MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee said. “With Geier going away, there will be issues we haven’t had to deal with. Our focus has been on minority students who are African-Americans. We’ll be doing that, but now we’ll also be looking at how we’ll be dealing with other minorities.”

Bredesen reaffirmed his commitment to supporting diversity programs that had their genesis in Geier, as well as other initiatives to promote college enrollment and graduation among nontraditional students.

“In some ways, this journey is ended; we are concluding this lawsuit, and people are no longer barred from attending colleges and universities because of the color of their skin,” Bredesen said.

“But in other ways, this journey stretches far out before us and won’t be complete until we remove every kind of barrier that stands in the way of anyone’s dream to earn a college education.”

In 2004, MTSU won the Tennessee Board of Regents’ “Spirit of Geier” Award for its efforts to enhance minority opportunities in higher education, including coordinating and serving as host for the biannual International Conference on Cultural Diversity.

A world in black and white

by Randy Weiler

G olfers are preparing for the 15th annual Danner Invitational Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at Nashville’s Hermitage Golf Course.

Sponsored by The Neill-Sandler Foundation to benefit the Neill-Sandler Scholars at MTSU, up to 120 golfers will compete in the event.

Ray Danner of The Danner Company, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, tournament chairman Tony Rose, and Gary Neill and Mike Sandler of the Neill-Sandler Foundation are extending an invitation to golfers and participants who “can provide opportunities to deserving individuals who might not attend college otherwise” and can “help make a difference in a life.”

The tournament schedule starts at 11:30 a.m. with registration and practice. Lunch is at noon, followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start and beverages and awards after the tournament.

The golf scrambles entry fee will include registration, practice, a buffet provided by Crockett’s Restaurant, cart rental, greens fee, player’s gift pack, refreshments on the course, door prizes, drinks and awards.

There will be two flights and prizes for the top three teams in each flight.

Tournament prizes will be given for closest to the pin and longest drive. There will be prizes for holes-in-one at all four par-3 holes.

Entry and sponsor fees include a $95 donation toward prizes, $350 per person or $1,295 team entry and hole sponsorship (paid by Sept. 30) and $450 hole sponsorship.

Entry forms can be obtained by calling Amanda Bell at 615-604-7171. Completed forms and checks can be mailed c/o The Neill-Sandler Foundation, P.O. Box 2799, 2505 S. Church St., Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37133-2799.


Seventy-five students have been awarded Neill-Sandler scholarships since 1999. Each spring at the annual Neill-Sandler Scholarship Banquet, up to 10 scholarships are awarded to students from Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Franklin, Rutherford, Warren, Williamson and Wilson counties and Tullahoma City Schools.

For more information, call Bell at 615-604-7171 orDevelopment and University Relations at 615-898-2085.
Calendar
Sept. 25-Oct. 8

TV Schedule
“Middle Tennessee Record”
Cable Channel 9
Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+
Saturday—1:30 p.m.

Every Monday night
MTSU Guys & Dolls
Swing Dance Club
Free dance lessons 6-7 p.m.,
open dancing 7-9 p.m.
Murphy Center Dance Studio A
For information, e-mail:
lindyfiend@gmail.com.

Through Oct. 6
Art Department Alumni Exhibition
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Todd Gallery
For information, contact:
615-898-2505.

Sept. 25
Monday, Sept. 25
Honors Lecture Series
Dr. Anantha Babbili, “New Media and Natural Disasters:
Freedom and Responsibility”
3:30 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact:
615-898-7611.

Faculty Flute Recital:
Deanna Hahn-Little
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Sept. 26
Tuesday, Sept. 26
Association of Faculty &
Administrative Women
Fall Membership Luncheon
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., JUB
Hazlewood Dining Room
Cost: $15 per person
For reservations, e-mail:
ktodd@mtsu.edu.

Sept. 28
Thursday, Sept. 28
Linguistics Club of MTSU
Guest Lecture
“American Slang: The Lingu
Franca of the Electronic Age,”
Dr. Connie Eble of UNC
Noon, Jackson Building
For information, contact:
linguis@mtsu.edu.

Sept. 29
Sept. 29-30
MTSU Comedy “Hay Fever”
by Noel Coward
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
Admission: $8
For information, contact:
615-494-8810.

Saturday, Sept. 30
Blue Raider Football
at University of North Texas
6:05 p.m., Denton, Texas
For information, visit:
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2493.

Oct. 1
Sunday, Oct. 1
“MTSU On the Record—
Estelle Condra”
Guest: Estelle Condra
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

Oct. 2
Monday, Oct. 2
Honors Lecture Series
Dr. Cheryl Ellis,
“Natural Disasters: A Public Health Perspective”
3:30 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact:
615-898-7611.

Yom Kippur
begins at sundown

Oct. 3
Tuesday, Oct. 3
JAWC Career/Professional Development Brown Bag
Noon-1 p.m., BAS SunTrust Room
For information, contact:
615-898-2193.

Rutherford County Legislative Debate
Candidates for state Senate District 16 and state House Districts 34, 48 and 49
7-9 p.m., BAS State Farm Room
For information, contact:
615-898-2351.

Oct. 4
Monday, Oct. 2
Faculty Clarinet Recital:
Todd Waldecker
with Caleb Harris, piano
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Oct. 6
Friday, Oct. 6
Recording Industry alumni reception
3 p.m., Hilton Downtown Nashville
For information, contact:
615-898-2225.

Art Department Alumni Exhibit Closing Reception
4-7 p.m., Todd Gallery Lobby
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2505.

First Friday Star Party
“The Ring Nebula and Future of the Sun”
6:30-8:30 p.m., WPS Room 102
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-5946.

Blue Raider Football
vs. University of Louisville
7 p.m., LP Field in Nashville
For information, visit:
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2103.

Oct. 7
Oct. 7-8
2006 Parelli Natural Horsemanship
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
Admission charged
For information, visit:
www.parelli.com
or contact: 615-494-8961.

Saturday, Oct. 7
Fall Visit Day
10 a.m., Cope first-floor lobby
Open to prospective students
and families
For information, visit:
www.mtsu.edu/~admissn
or contact: 615-898-5670.

Presidential Concert Series:
“Requiem” by Frigyes Hidas
MTSU Wind Ensemble and
Concert Chorale
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Oct. 8
Sunday, Oct. 8
“MTSU On the Record—
Helping Student-Athletes”
Guest: Jim Rost
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com
Mark your calendar. In five years MTSU will celebrate its centennial, and the News and Public Affairs staff has decided it’s not too early to take note of such a milestone.

Starting with the October edition of “Middle Tennessee Record,” the university’s monthly video magazine, a new segment called Centennial Countdown will join the lineup.

“The first segment will have some photos and information about the buildings and events that marked the opening of our institution in 1911,” John Lynch, producer of “Middle Tennessee Record,” said. “Each month we’ll feature some old photos or other items of historical interest.

“We’d like to thank the staff at the Gore Research Center for their enthusiastic support in this project. They have given us access to their collection of interesting pictures and memorabilia.

“Professor of political science. Dr. Bob Pondillo, professor of political science.

“Centennial Countdown. Since we help to preserve the university’s history, we are keenly aware of the great tradition of educational excellence that has been handed down to the present generation of students, faculty and staff. We want to see the university’s history celebrated, but we also want to see that history serve as a foundation for even greater achievements in the future.”

Lynch added, “We don’t limit our sources just to the Gore Center. We encourage alumni and friends to send us any items of historic interest. This could include photos, athletic programs, newspaper clippings, even old videotapes. All original items will be handled with care and returned promptly.

“Middle Tennessee Record” can be seen on Cable Channel 9 daily at 5 p.m. The program is also available to 500,000 homes in 36 counties through NewsChannel 5, which it may be seen on Saturday afternoons at 1:30.

The program also is available via streaming video. To view the program via the Internet, go to www.mtsuonline.com and click on “Middle Tennessee Record.”

“You’ll need to have RealPlayer software installed on your computer to view the streaming video. A link to this free software is posted on the “Middle Tennessee Record” page.

MTSU, through its participation in the American Democracy Project, and the League of Women Voters will sponsor a forum for Rutherford County legislative candidates from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, in the State Farm Room in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Faculty, staff and students as well as the general public will be welcomed. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and all guests must be seated by 6:55. Guests arriving late will be admitted only during breaks between each debate.

“The forum also will be aired live on Comcast Channel 9.

As of this writing, not all candidates have confirmed their attendance. But selected, however, that the four sessions will include:
• State Senate 16th District: Bill Ketron (R), Vince Spinner (D);
• House 43rd District: Mary Esther Bell (D), Donna Rowland (R);
• House 44th District: Joe Carr (R), John Hood (D), and
• House 45th District: Kent Coleman (D), Oscar Gardner (R).

“This forum will provide voters a chance to familiarize themselves with the candidates and the issues in this important election,” said event coordinator Dr. Mark Byrnes, professor of political science.

The audience will not be permitted to display banners or signs or hand out literature or other items of any kind inside the auditorium. In addition, photos, video and recording by guests will not be allowed inside the room. There will be a special location for members of the print and electronic media.

Dr. Bob Pondillo, professor of electronic media communication, will be the moderator.

Author from page 1
Library’s Literary Lion Award.

McCullough’s most recent title, 1776, which entered The New York Times’ bestseller list at No. 1 in June, has been called “brilliant,” “gripping,” “a masterwork,” “lucid” and “a classic.” His previous title, John Adams, has sold more than 2 million copies and remains one of the most widely read and critically acclaimed American biographies of all time.

“David McCullough is often regarded in academic circles as ‘America’s Historian,’ an unofficial title now embraced by a growing number of bestseller lists, with good reason: he tells the national narrative, our nation’s unique ‘story,’ with uncommon clarity and insight.”

A native of Pittsburgh, McCullough graduated from Yale with a degree in English literature. During the course of his career, he has served as an editor, essayist, and teacher and is a familiar presence on public television, including time as host of “The American Experience” and as a commentator in documentaries such as “The Civil War” and the motion picture “Seabiscuit.”

McCullough’s books include The Johnstown Flood: The Great Tide, The Path Between the Seas, Mornings on Horseback, Brave Companions and Truman. A gifted speaker, McCullough also is one of the few private citizens to address a joint session of Congress.

MTSU’s Distinguished Lecture Fund and the Office of the Provost, as well as the Departments of History and Political Science, the Teaching American History Grant, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Education and Behavioral Science have provided funding for McCullough’s Oct. 24 lecture.

Although the lecture is free and open to the public, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A 15-minute question-and-answer session will be followed by an 8 p.m. book signing in the theater lobby.

For more information regarding McCullough’s lecture, please call Connie Huddleston, events coordinator, at 615-494-7629.

‘MT Record’ starting celebration early

Oct. 3 debate showcases legislative candidates

MTSU, through its participation in the American Democracy Project, and the League of Women Voters will sponsor a forum for Rutherford County legislative candidates from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, in the State Farm Room in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Faculty, staff and students as well as the general public will be welcomed. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and all guests must be seated by 6:55. Guests arriving late will be admitted only during breaks between each debate.

“The forum also will be aired live on Comcast Channel 9.

As of this writing, not all candidates have confirmed their attendance. But selected, however, that the four sessions will include:
• State Senate 16th District: Bill Ketron (R), Vince Spinner (D);
• House 43rd District: Mary Esther Bell (D), Donna Rowland (R);
• House 44th District: Joe Carr (R), John Hood (D), and
• House 45th District: Kent Coleman (D), Oscar Gardner (R).

“This forum will provide voters a chance to familiarize themselves with the candidates and the issues in this important election,” said event coordinator Dr. Mark Byrnes, professor of political science.

The audience will not be permitted to display banners or signs or hand out literature or other items of any kind inside the auditorium. In addition, photos, video and recording by guests will not be allowed inside the room. There will be a special location for members of the print and electronic media.

Dr. Bob Pondillo, professor of electronic media communication, will be the moderator.

Looking forward to fall—Joe Becton, left, a senior organizational communications major, talks with Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, and Crickett Pimentel, director of Student Support Services, at the TRio table during the annual Department Fair in the Keathley University Center.

The event lets students learn more about services offered by MTSU departments and meet the people who provide those services, such as the federally funded TRIO programs (McNair, Talent Search and Student Support Services) that help first-generation, low-income and disabled students enter college and successfully graduate.

The audience will not be permitted to display banners or signs or hand out literature or other items of any kind inside the auditorium. In addition, photos, video and recording by guests will not be allowed inside the room. There will be a special location for members of the print and electronic media.

Dr. Bob Pondillo, professor of electronic media communication, will be the moderator.

fiscal management will translate into good fiscal news for our employees.”

MTSU also is asking the TBR to approve additional salary increases to take effect in January 2007, but since they won’t be across-the-board increases, not all employees will receive one, and the amounts received will be affected by intervening across-the-board increases since January 2005 when the last compensation plan increases were made.

MTSU’s current plan provides faculty salary increases based on a newly expanded peer group and professional and classified employee increases based on the 2005 market data plan approved by the Board in June 2004. In addition to the 2 percent salary increase and bonuses for the 2006-07 fiscal year, state legislators approved 401(k) matches of up to $40 per month and increased the maximum number of eligible years of service from 25 to 30 years for longevity payments. (Longevity payments will remain at $100 per year of service.)

Increased revenues also allowed state legislators to approve the first new operating funds for Tennessee higher education since 1998.

At MTSU, that meant $15 million for preplanning and infrastructure work on the new science building.

The facility will provide a new home for biology and chemistry at a total cost of more than $100 million.

Warm welcome

Photo by News & Public Affairs

Bonus from page 1

The course of his career, he has served as an editor, essayist, and teacher and is a familiar presence on public television, including time as host of “The American Experience” and as a commentator in documentaries such as “The Civil War” and the motion picture “Seabiscuit.”

McCullough’s books include The Johnstown Flood: The Great Tide, The Path Between the Seas, Mornings on Horseback, Brave Companions and Truman. A gifted speaker, McCullough also is one of the few private citizens to address a joint session of Congress.

MTSU’s Distinguished Lecture Fund and the Office of the Provost, as well as the Departments of History and Political Science, the Teaching American History Grant, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Education and Behavioral Science have provided funding for McCullough’s Oct. 24 lecture.

Although the lecture is free and open to the public, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A 15-minute question-and-answer session will be followed by an 8 p.m. book signing in the theater lobby.

For more information regarding McCullough’s lecture, please call Connie Huddleston, events coordinator, at 615-494-7629.

The The Record Sept. 25, 2006 page 5
Fall enrollment not quite 23K, but still record

by Randy Weiler

MTSU submitted a final head count of a record 22,963 students attending fall 2006 semester classes to the Tennessee Board of Regents, according to Dr. Sherian Hudleston, assistant vice provost, enrollment services.

This represents a 1.4 percent increase in the number of students attending this fall, meaning there are 309 additional students on campus, Hudleston said.

“The fall numbers are still lower than what we would’ve liked. For budget purposes, we’re still growing,” said Dr. Bob Glenn, vice provost for enrollment and academic services and vice president for student affairs. “It’s a little lower than what we would’ve liked for budget purposes, but we were hoping for a 3 percent increase. But on a practical basis, we’re happy to be at 1.4 (percent).”

Late spring and early summer projections indicated MTSU would pass 23,000 students. “Twenty-three thousand is like 22,000, and we did pass 22,000,” Glenn said. “We didn’t pass 23,000 this time, but we’ll pass that milestone by in the near future.”

Glenn added that he, Hudleston and others would “spend the next months to look at the data in a detailed way to see what conclusions can be drawn” on why the projected numbers started slipping in August.

Hudleston said the late registration process was “tightened” because the university has implemented a new software computer process, meaning students had to “get more signatures and more approvals” to register late.

Also, new transfer students did not have to attend CUSTOMS orientation sessions and could register for classes after being advised.

Federal Reserve CEO to keynote conference

by Tom Tozer

William Poole, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Economic Outlook Conference at MTSU, which will be held Friday, Sept. 29, in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room.

Registration at the door will begin at 8:15 a.m. The conference will adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

Event sponsors are the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, Weatherford Chair of Finance and the Business and Economic Research Center.

The conference, which is free of charge, is targeting bankers, business owners and managers, community officials and leaders, business and economics faculty and students, and others interested in the future growth of the midstate region.

Poole, who will speak at 9 a.m. on “Data Dependence,” assumed his current post in 1998. He directs the activities of the bank’s head office in St. Louis as well as its three branches in Little Rock, Louisville and Memphis. He represents the bank on the Federal Open Market Committee and chairs the Conference of Presidents’ Information Technology Oversight Committee.

Prior to his post with the Federal Reserve Bank, Poole was the Herbert H. goldenberger Professor of Economics at Brown University, arriving there in 1974 and twice serving as the economics department chair. Before that, he served on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University from 1963 to 1969 and was inducted into its Society of Scholars in 2005.

At 10:30, Dr. David Penn, BERC director, will provide a midstate/regional economic update. At 11:15, Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jones College, will present Mark Pirtle, local businessman, real estate developer and friend of MTSU, with the Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award.

The annual honor recognizes a business leader who exemplifies the ideals of free enterprise through any combination of entrepreneurship, governmental involvement, participation in civic and charitable affairs, and education.

Among his many accomplishments, Pirtle was named Businessperson of the Year in 1996 and is past president of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and the MTSU Foundation. He is active in the Blue Raider Athletic Association and is a longtime board member of the Boys and Girls Club.

Joining the rostrum for the luncheon address will be perennial favorite Dr. Donald Ratrzczak, Regent’s Professor of Economics Emeritus at Georgia State University and nationally known economic forecaster. Ratrzczak served as director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University for 27 years. In 1994, he received the Blue Chip award for forecasting accuracy during the four previous years. He appears regularly on CNBC and writes a weekly column for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“The Economic Outlook Conference has become an MTSU tradition because it delivers what it promises—substance, expertise, and an opportunity for business and industry professionals to share common concerns,” Burton said.

For more information about the conference, call 615-898-2764.

Defining ‘new propaganda’

Ethics lecture set Oct. 5

from Staff Reports

How do you make sense of the blurry lines between and among news, information, persuasion, entertainment and advertising in most current media?

Dr. Jay Black, Poynter Jamison Chair in Media Ethics, emeritus, at the University of South Florida—St. Petersburg and former director of the Program for Ethics in Education and Community, will offer some guidelines in a special guest lecture Thursday, Oct. 5, at MTSU.

Sponsored by Ethics and Excellence at the College of Mass Communication, Black’s lecture is scheduled from 6 until 7:45 p.m. in Room 104 of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

“The most of what passes for news is laden with what Dr. Black calls the ‘new propaganda’ generated by special interest groups,” said Dr. Thomas Cooper, ethicist-in-residence at MTSU.

He will initially describe and analyze the new and often deceptive media mosaic, making note of relevant semantic and ethical dilemmas, and then outline possible remedies for media consumers and practitioners.

Black, editor of the Journal of Mass Media Ethics since 1984 and author or co-author of 10 books on media and society, media issues and media ethics, has presented several academic and public papers, seminars and workshops and has been an expert witness in two dozen media ethics cases.

“My fundamental ‘argument’ is that propaganda is inevitable, that it is not just what the ‘bad guys’ do, that contemporary society relishes propaganda [and] that media cater to our ‘closed-mindedness’ as willing recipients of propaganda,” Black explained.

“If we’re not careful and sophisticated consumers and producers of media fare, there can be serious repercussions for public opinion, communi-

At 11:15, Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jones College, will present Mark Pirtle, local businessman, real estate developer and friend of MTSU, with the Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award.

The annual honor recognizes a business leader who exemplifies the ideals of free enterprise through any combination of entrepreneurship, governmental involvement, participation in civic and charitable affairs, and education.

Among his many accomplishments, Pirtle was named Businessperson of the Year in 1996 and is past president of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and the MTSU Foundation. He is active in the Blue Raider Athletic Association and is a longtime board member of the Boys and Girls Club.

Joining the rostrum for the luncheon address will be perennial favorite Dr. Donald Ratzczak, Regent’s Professor of Economics Emeritus at Georgia State University and nationally known economic forecaster. Ratzczak served as director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University for 27 years. In 1994, he received the Blue Chip award for forecasting accuracy during the four previous years. He appears regularly on CNBC and writes a weekly column for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“The Economic Outlook Conference has become an MTSU tradition because it delivers what it promises—substance, expertise, and an opportunity for business and industry professionals to share common concerns,” Burton said.

For more information about the conference, call 615-898-2764.

‘If we’re not careful ... there can be serious repercussions.’

Dr. Jay Black

‘Journal of Mass Media Ethics’
The Theatre, dance, opera take CenterStage for season

by Lisa L. Rollins

MTSU Theatre & Dance and MTSU Opera Workshop will join forces to present the 2006-07 CenterStage Series, a variety-filled season of classic selections from the breadth spectrum of theater history … with something in it for everybody,” says MTSU Theatre, Dance & Opera Professor Lisa L. Rollins.

The CenterStage Series will get under way at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 4-7 on the stage of MTSU’s Tucker Theatre with Noel Coward’s “Hay Fever,” a 1924-era comedy of bad manners that visits the Bliss family. As the “Hay Fever” story unfolds, Gibson says, “A peaceful country home becomes a chaotic and hilarious nightmare when each member of the family, unbeknownst to one another, invites a guest home for the weekend.”

The classic musical “Oklahoma!” will lead theatergoers of all ages into the fall season when it’s presented at 7:30 nightly Nov. 10-11 and Nov. 15-18 in Tucker Theatre.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein hit, which is one of the America’s most beloved musicals, will surely be a treat for the whole family,” observes Gibson.

Next door at the E. T. Earl Hinton Music Hall in MTSU’s Wright Music Building, the season’s first opera, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by Benjamin Britten, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17-18.

Britten has set music to Shakespeare’s 1595 comedy in an innovative performance that beautifully crafts the worlds of fantasy and love, Gibson notes. The opera’s stellar cast is comprised of student soloists, the MTSU Dance Theatre and other guest artists.

The CenterStage Series will continue with the MTSU Opera Workshop’s presentation of “Mozart Onstage!” at 7:30 nightly Feb. 24-25 in Tucker Theatre.

Described as an engaging evening of favorite scenes from the composer’s greatest operas, this musical celebration will be performed by vocal students in the McLean School of Music.

“Families who attend this production can follow 8-year-old Ramona through her adventurous third-grade year as she faces some of life’s most difficult obstacles with courage and humor,” Gibson says of the production, which has been dubbed “a treat for the whole family.”

William Wycherley’s “A Country Wife,” complete with love, lust, deception, curious wives and jealous husbands, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. March 30-31 and April 4-7 in Tucker Theatre.

Gibson calls the 1675 Restoration comedy one of the funniest and most vulgar plays of its time.

“It was certainly risqué at its time, but by today’s standards it’s just flirtatious and full of innuendo,” he explains. “Restoration theater, in general, has its unique physical style of acting and specific body positioning, and the student actors will be learning those techniques for this production.”

The series will conclude with the Spring Dance Concert at 7:30 p.m. April 19-21 in Tucker Theatre, emphasizing faculty and student choreography as well as special guest artists Chung Fu Chang and Zelma Badu-Young.

For more information about tickets or individual shows, call MTSU’s CenterStage Ticket Office at 615-494-8810 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~theatre.
When it rains, it really looks like a wetland

by Gina E. Fann

If students at Murfreesboro's Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School find their studies occasionally interrupted by loud honks, croaks and hisses, they probably won't be surprised.

The giant concrete creations in the secret sculpture garden outside their classrooms look as if they could come to wiggly life just by adding water.

The plan began in the spring of 2006, when Dr. Debrah Sickler-Voigt's art education classes began seeking a community project to accomplish.

A former student who'd worked at Mitchell-Neilson, located about three miles west of MTSU, told them about the school's bus waiting area.

"There, what was intended as a courtyard area had become a drainage ditch where water often stood. We learned that a pond was already there, so we started out lumpy. "

We realized that we could use the opportunity to teach the kids about Middle Tennessee wetlands," Sickler-Voigt said. "We first thought we'd put a pond there, since it was already wet, but we learned that the area floods in heavy rains, so we had to go to Plan B."

A trip to the Discovery Center at Murfreesboro Springs ensued, where the students met and fell in love with the "retired" HPERS center's critters—and former Mitchell Neilson Elementary student Emily Mitchell-Neilson, now a senior biology major at MTSU who had helped Sickler-Voigt with her first wetland project.

"Emily and her classmates wanted to build a school wetland," Sickler-Voigt said. "They came back and immediately wanted to honor her by making a concrete sculpture." The project stretched over a semester, with help from a $2,000 public service grant from MTSU, a $500 Business-Education Partnership grant from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and a university Undergraduate Research Scholarship.

"It was a learning process, but we started out lumpy. " Sickler-Voigt wants to turn this type of project into a regular class to give students a project into a regular class to give them exposure to the field and gain experience. "When it rains, it really looks like a wetland."

Milestones

Grover Baker (librarian, Center for Popular Music) earned a Master of Science degree in information sciences from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in August.

WARTS AND ALL—Students at Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School paint a huge frog in the school's own "wetland," now home to Canada geese, shown at upper left, and other concrete creatures. MTSU art education students joined volunteers from the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center, Discovery Center at Murfreesboro Springs and the St. Clair Street Senior Citizens Center to help.

Across the pond, the 16-legged amphibian now home to a pair of Canada geese has become a focal point for the school, according to Principal Greg Lyles. "It's really brought some aesthetic beauty to the area, and the kids love it," Lyles said. "Even adults comment on how nice it looks. We'd still like to do some other things like putting much around the animals to keep the grass down, but this has truly added a lot to our school."

"It's cute, we loved it and we learned as we went along," she said. "And when it rains, it really looks like a wetland."

"Indeed they have. The sculpture garden/wetlands project has become a focal point for the school, according to Principal Greg Lyles. "It’s really brought some aesthetic beauty to the area, and the kids love it," Lyles said. "Even adults comment on how nice it looks. We’d still like to do some other things like putting much around the animals to keep the grass down, but this has truly added a lot to our school."

"It’s cute, we loved it and we learned as we went along," she said. "And when it rains, it really looks like a wetland."

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) received the Robert W. McLean Distinguished Associate Professorship for 2006-2007 at the Jennings A. Jones College of Business faculty meeting Aug. 25.

Elections

Dr. Don Morgan (health and human performance) was recently elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. The membership of this organization is limited to 150 Fellows who have made significant contributions to the fields of kinesiology and physical education. AAKPE is composed of active, emeritus and international Fellows; to be inducted, a person must be nominated by a current member.

Dr. Jillian M. McWhiter (music) presented her research on “Real Life Keyboard Skills in the Choral Music Education Classroom” as an invited panelist for the Aug. 4-5 Music Teachers National Association’s National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum in Oklahoma City.

She also presented “Beyond Singing Alone and With Others: Getting More from Music with Your Choral Students” July 19-21 for the Missouri Choral Directors Association State Convention in Jefferson City.

Elections

Dr. Thomas S. (vice provost for academic affairs), William Badley (assistant vice provost and director of general education) and Sheila Otto (academic enrichment) presented “Meeting the Needs of First-Year Students Through a Transformed Curriculum,” July 25 at the Nineteenth International Conference for the First-Year Experience in Toronto.

Faculty/Staff Update