by Tom Tozer

Private giving to MTSU in fiscal year 2005-2006 reached a second all-time high of $13 million, which “feels good” to development officials because more came from gifts of $1,000 or less—and that means more individuals are digging a little more deeply into their pockets.

Development Director Kirk Purdom says there are several reasons for the upswing in donations. Seventy-five percent of the incoming gifts over the last five years have come from gifts of $1,000 or less—and that means more college to target fund-raising efforts.

“Development officers are good at what they do,” Purdom said. “It’s a tough job making cold calls. You may call 15 people to get two to respond to you.”

Development officers in the various colleges include Jim Van Winkle, basic and applied sciences; Steven Barnes, mass communication; Russell Clayton, education and behavioral science; Robyn Kilpatrick, liberal arts; and Jim Highland, business.

This past year, the MTSU Foundation has been the beneficiary of several “impact gifts” designated for various programs. The Concrete Industry Management program in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences raised $104,000 for the CIM Building Fund from the CIM Golf Tournament. John and Barbara Ellington contributed $25,000 to the John and Barbara Ellington Aerospace

by Cristol Camacho

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“Our goal was to find out how to effectively present information on a Web page,” Barbara Draude, director of MTSU’s Information Technology Department, said.

Marketing MTSU to the general public was a huge motivation for making much-needed changes to the five-year-old Web site, Draude added.

The new three-column page design is intended to provide easy access to current news and events at MTSU for locals, as well as highlight relevant information such as campus deadlines for students.

For those students who may not welcome change, however, there is good news: Only general information pages will be changing. PipelineMT’s appearance and operation will remain the same.

ITD alone didn’t make all of the changes overnight. Usability research was conducted among several different audience groups, including

Bonuses ready for October checks

by Gina E. Fann

MTSU employees can count on another one-time bonus at month’s end, thanks to approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents.

“I’m pleased to say that the Board accepted our proposal to use available funds to once again provide the bonuses to all regular employees on the university’s payroll as of June 30, 2006,” said Dr. Sidney A. McPhee after the TBR’s Sept. 28-29 meeting at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

“It’s a reflection of the Board’s respect for our employees’ dedication and our university’s good budget management practices that the members approved our plan.

The measure provides a 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 local bonus. This university-funded bonus will be in addition to a state-funded $350 one-time bonus for higher education employees with

Web site revamp integrates public, student access

IN BRIEF

Foundation gifts reach $13M

by Tom Tozer

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MTSU welcome 32 exchange students

from Staff Reports

All 2006 is “monumental” for MTSU’s International Education and Exchange Program—also known as MT Abroad—as it welcomes a record number of exchange students to campus.

Leapfrogging 16 incoming exchange students last year to 32 this semester, nine countries are now represented at MTSU: Austria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand.

During their orientation, the new students received:
- an official greeting from Dr. Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, and an introduction to academic life at MTSU from the dean of the University Honors College, Dr. Philip Mathis;
- a tour of the Campus Recreation Center from director Charles Gregory and a guided excursion to James E. Walker Library by librarian Jianman Wong;
- an exploration and explanation of “Murfreesboro Past and Present” by Dr. Doug Heffington, director of global studies, and team-building on the MTSU Challenge Course with coordinator Scott Pruett;
- a tour of Nashville and the customary Week of Welcome festivities on campus; and
- of course, lunch at Kleer-Vu Luncheonroom for some fine Southern cuisine!

The students are taking courses in a wide range of subjects, including recording industry, engineering, business, English literature, African-American studies, intercultural communications, psychology, mathematics and foreign languages.

Among the 32 exchange students are four graduate teaching assistants working with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. Jerusalem Abbara and Verena Ressert are instructing German 1010, Nouridine Moudadi is teaching French 1010 and Xie Xiaoli is teaching Chinese 1010.

For more information about MT Abroad, contact the International Education and Exchange Program via e-mail at mtabroad@mtsu.edu, call 615-898-5709 or visit its Web site at www.mt.edu/~mtabroad.

Admissions recruiters are on the move

by Randy Weiler

Admissions recruiters and personnel will “travel a predominately college-fair circuit, from September to November, all across the state, at high schools and community colleges.”

We will log a lot of miles,” she said. “We’ll know how many miles by December. This is the first time we’ve had people out on the road as much. All they’re doing is visiting high schools and traveling.”

As for the schedule of fairs—upcoming ones include the Smoky Mountain Regional Fair at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville Thursday, Oct. 12 (6-8 p.m. CT) and Memphis area-wide at University of Memphis from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24—“there is a rhyme and a reason,” Palmer said. “There is a state-coordinated calendar so that all colleges and universities can attend at the same time.”

Palmer added that she’s “very grateful to have the recruiting positions filled. It allows us to better plan these events. It makes this fall much more manageable. It has changed a lot of the way our office functions and operates.”

The veteran admissions leader said she considers the entire staff university recruiters.

“Our five district directors are responsible for Rutherford County because Rutherford County needs lots of attention,” Palmer said of the various high schools in Murfreesboro, Smyrna, La Vergne and Eagleville.

MTSU admissions, academic and marketing personnel will conduct separate student and guidance counselor receptions in Memphis (Oct. 17-18), Jackson (Oct. 18), Nashville (Oct. 30), Chattanooga (Nov. 14) and Knoxville (Nov. 15).

“These are not substitute for a campus visit,” added Christopher Fleming, associate admissions director. “If the students or parents can’t come (to campus), it’s designed to take a piece of MTSU to them.”
from Staff Reports

Hitmaker Aron making tracks back to MTSU

TSU’s Audio Engineering Society and Urban Music Society will host the return to campus of renowned music producer/engineer Dave Aron Oct. 20-22 with a series of informational sessions featuring plenty of advice and hands-on experience for recording industry students.

Aron, whose career kicked off at Memphis’ Sun Studio as an assistant engineer for U2’s 1988 “Rattle and Hum,” has worked with musicians ranging from Prince to Jane’s Addiction to Sean Combs to Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead.

His long affiliation with Death Row Records led to his work on award-winning albums with Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg. Aron works as a live sound engineer with Snoop's touring band and also operates a production company and project studio in Hollywood.

Aron, who has made his fifth visit to MTSU, is scheduled for a discussion of his education, career and recording experiences, followed by an open Q&A session, on Friday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. in the State Farm Room of the university’s Business and Aerospace Building.

A tracking session will follow at noon on Saturday, Oct. 21, in Studio B of the Bragg Mass Communication Building, capped off by a mixing session at noon on Sunday, Oct. 22, in Studio C in the James Union Building on campus.

During the tracking and mixing sessions, Aron is set to produce a track from an MTSU student chosen from demos submitted earlier this semester. Students will be the songwriters, performers, audio engineers and production assistants for the sessions.

“Dave brings meaningful real-world experience to the table and always finds ways to include as many students as possible during the lecture, sessions and social events,” said Dan Pfeifer, the recording industry professor who’s helped to arrange Aron’s visits.

“He’s wealth of knowledge, uncompromised skill and desire to see the students succeed makes for a learning experience that cannot be duplicated otherwise!” said Aron, who’s making his fifth visit to MTSU.

While the Oct. 20 lecture is free and open to the public, the studio size will limit student participation in the tracking and mixing sessions to 50 to 75 students each, Pfeifer noted.

The MTSU Distinguished Lecture Series, College of Communication and Information and Department of Recording Industry are supporting the event. For more information, call 615-898-9344 or e-mail dpfeifer@mtsu.edu.

Psychological Services Center sees success

by Brittany Skeleton

MTSU’s Psychological Services Center has met its goals for creating awareness of its services for young people and educating parents about behavioral problems and met them through referrals to the Psychological Services Center by local physicians and school counselors.

The PSC also provided a four-week program on child behavior for parents in the community.

The PSC is part of the professional counseling graduate program, which provides students with field experience in an academic setting.

The Department of Psychology provides faculty members who supervise students’ counseling sessions with clients.

“We are proud of what we’re doing here,” says Dr. Christopher Quarto, who oversees the student counseling sessions.

“We treated clients as though we were licensed professionals ... and the clients themselves took the experience seriously,” adds Stacey Landa, a former student counselor.

The primary goal of the PSC is to help children and adolescents resolve behavioral, emotional and/or interpersonal problems. Children are referred to the center by pediatricians and school counselors in Rutherford County.

“We’ve probably made close to $2,000 on that,” Quarto says.

The center also recently received an $8,700 award from MTSU’s Faculty Research and Creative Projects Committee, a university committee nominated by the Office of Research and appointed by President Sidney A. McPhee.

Approximately $5,000 of that award was used to purchase new furniture for the center, which is located in Peck Hall Room 224.

Counseling sessions are available to children between the ages of 8 and 18. Appointments can be scheduled on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. September through May. A fee of $5 is charged for counseling sessions. (The PSC does not provide services to MTSU students.)

For more information about the program, call 615-898-3513 or visit its website at www.mtsu.edu/psc.

ETIS grant will help eliminate lead hazards in more homes

A second U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant—this one totaling nearly $2 million—will help MTSU continue its work to eliminate lead poisoning statewide, officials said.

Dr. Kathy Mathis, project director and associate professor of engineering, technology and industrial studies, said the initial award from 2002 helped the Tennessee Lead Elimination Action Program rid 105 households of lead-poisoning hazards. That funding ended in June.

The goal for the new three-year $1.99 million grant is to eliminate lead poisoning in 156 more households statewide through TLEAP.

“We are working with contractors, consultants, renovators and supervisors, training them in lead-safe work practices and remediation of potentially hazardous sites,” said Dr. Carol Baraiko, the state lead-abatement coordinator.

“One of our success stories was a young professional family in Nashville who had a child with lead poisoning because the wife was pregnant when she was scraping the windows of their historic home. The girl was under 15 months old, and the lead levels shot up. She was not poisoned further, and her blood (lead) levels dropped. So the damage was not permanent.”

Like the latest award, the 2002 federal grant totaling $1.87 million came from HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control.

Another contribution of $1.16 million from a group of public and private organizations brought total initial funding for the abatement program to more than $3 million.


“Children have the greatest risk for developmental and behavioral problems, and potentially mental retardation, stemming from lead poisoning.”

“I commend MTSU for the work they have done with federal, state and local agencies, helping HUD in reaching their goal of eliminating lead poisoning in housing by 2010. This grant is an investment in the current safety and future health and well-being of Tennessee’s children.”

Mathis is working with colleagues Dr. Carol Baraiko, the state weatherization program and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to implement the program.

TLEAP also serves as a training program for MTSU students on lead-abatement practices, including training on Occupational Safety and Health Administration measures.

Make It Happen!

Experiential Learning @ MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

www.mtsu.edu/experience

The Record Oct. 9, 2006 page 3
Calendar

Oct. 9-22

TV Schedule

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

Every Monday night

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

Through Oct. 12

WMOT-JAZZ89
Annual Giving Campaign
For information, visit
www.wmot.org
or contact: 615-898-2800.

Through Oct. 19

“A Certain Alchemy”
photo exhibit by Keith Carter
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-
Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday
Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2085.

Oct. 9

Monday, Oct. 9
Columbus Day
banks, federal offices closed;
university open

Honors Lecture Series
Dr. Gloria Hamilton, “Immediate and Delayed
Psychological Responses to Natural Disasters”
3-3:50 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact:
615-898-7611.

Faculty Senate meeting
4:30 p.m., JUB 100
For information, contact:
615-898-2582.

Distinguished Guest Lecture:
Dr. Craig Wrisberg
“The Merits of Qualitative and
Quantitative Research”
6-7:30 p.m., Murphy Center 103
For information, e-mail:
manshel@mtsu.edu.

Oct. 10

Tuesday, Oct. 10
Employee Benefits Fair
9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., JUB Tenn. Room
For information, contact:
615-898-2929.

Presidential Concert Series:
Alma Maria Labra-Makk,
piano
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Oct. 12

Thursday, Oct. 12
Retired Faculty & Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact:
615-898-5756.

This month on ‘Middle Tennessee Record’:

I n the October edition of the pro-
gram, viewers can learn more
about horses, students who plan
to make a career in the horse indus-
try and the story of a very special
horse that’s buried at MTSU. There’s
also music, theater and the universi-
ty’s centennial celebration plans.
Find it all at www.mtsunews.com or on
TV at the schedule above left.

file photo from Photographic Services

Oct. 14-17

Fall Break
No classes; university offices open
Oct. 16-17

Oct. 15

Sunday, Oct. 15
“MTSU On the Record—
Rosenwald Schools”
Guest: Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

Oct. 16

Monday, Oct. 16
Exotic Musical Paintings:
Tennessee Philharmonic
Symphony Orchestra
featuring Cecil Licad on piano
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
Admission charged
For information, contact:
615-898-1862.

Oct. 17

Tuesday, Oct. 17
“Rally on Maple”
5-7 p.m., Maple Street
between College and Lytle
Admission charged
For information, contact:
615-893-6563.

Oct. 18

Oct. 18-Nov. 2
General Election Early Voting
For information, visit
www.rutherfordcounty.org/
election/.

Oct. 19

Thursday, Oct. 19
Lailatul Qadr
(Islamc Night of Honor
and Dignity)
Free Legal Clinic
7-9 p.m., JUB 206 (JAWC)
Appointments required
For information, contact:
615-898-2193.

Oct. 20

Oct. 20-21
Tennessee Gov’t. Finance
Officers Fall Conference
Cool Springs Marriott, Franklin
For information, visit
www.tngfoa.org

Oct. 21

Saturday, Oct. 21
Diwali
(Hindu Festival of Lights)

Walking for the Children
Charity Walking Horse Show
5 p.m., Miller Coliseum
For tickets and information,
contact: 615-494-8822.

Blue Raider Football
at Louisiana-Monroe
6 p.m., Monroe, La.
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2103.

Oct. 22

Sunday, Oct. 22
“MTSU On the Record—
Trip to Russia”
Guest: Dr. Andrei Korobkov
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

Mixing Session with
Producer/Engineer Dan Aron
Nov, JUB Studio C
Limited to 50-75 students
For information, contact:
615-898-5944.

MTSU Symphony Orchestra
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

MTSU Jazz Combos
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

MTSU Symphonic Band and
Chamber Winds
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

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7 p.m., BAS State Farm Room
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For information, contact:
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contact: 615-494-8822.

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Scholarship in the McLean School of Music organization launched its Motor Vehicle Fund. Donated $20,000 to the CIM SAE Scholarship Fund. And Jeff Lane in the McLean School of Music, and the marching band community. In addition, the field band made a donation added $40,000 to its scholarship fund in the McLean School of Music, and Mrs. Lucy Strickland enriched the Robert E. Strickland Lecture Series in the Department of History by $50,000. In the College of Mass Communication, Virginia Fielder established the Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship Fund with a gift of $100,000, and the Owner Radio Broadcasters created an endowed fund with a contribution of $25,000. Joe Coleman donated $10,000 to the MTSU Foundation to be earmarked for the Department of Electronic Media Communication. Increased student enrollment in university life is another factor in increased giving. Purdom says, and that means that funds are raised and after they graduate. If students had a good experience while they were here and enjoy coming back and visiting, he adds, they're more likely to consider giving back to MTSU. "Because of the university's dramatic growth, the majority of gradu- ates are not yet in their primary giving years," Purdom says, "but if we can help them develop the habit of giving, their modest gifts will day one turn into larger ones."

The Senior Gift program was started two years ago to encourage graduating seniors to give as a class and has already garnered about a 10 percent participation rate, which Purdom calls a huge accomplishment. Faculty increasingly have helped to instill a giving attitude by example. Purdom points out. "One faculty member can leave a student with a good feeling about the school. And we are blessed to have a faculty that really supports this university. Our faculty giving is dousous ... I think it's around 25 percent. I hope it continues to grow." Approximately, 4,000 of MTSU's 70,000 graduates give to the university. "That's nearly 6 percent giving— I'd like to see us reach 10 percent," Purdom adds.

Joe Bales, vice president of development and university relations and executive director of the MTSU Foundation, describes the development efforts at MTSU as more proac- tive than in the past. "We used to be in a reactive mode: 'Here's a project—let's go raise money,'" Bales says. "Now we work with faculty to find out their needs. We research foundations. We try to be more aggressive. We don't want to wait for people to call us. Certainly we don't want to offend people—all they have to say is no. But we want to keep working to build rapport with current and potential donors." When Purdom arrived at MTSU in 2001, the foundation's improvement was around $16 million. Today, it's close to $30 million. Both Bales and Purdom attribute that increase to effective leadership and sound money management by the MTSU Foundation.

Gifts from page 1

Edwards to lead Public Health Institute

by Tom Tozer

W hat is Tennessee's health ranking among the lowest in the nation, and what needs to be done to turn that around? How can citizens, educators and legislators throughout the state raise health awareness? And why are there more health-related jobs available in Tennessee than people to fill them? Those are questions for which Dr. Martha Jo Edwards, a University of Tennessee Medical Center to take to the Legislature for authorization; "Before I decided to run, I also wish to instill a giving attitude by example. Purdom said. Edwards will access that expertise from all the academic programs, there was interest in developing a school of public health in Tennessee and the variety of career opportunities for recent and prospective college graduates. She said her work also will entail creating a health index for each county and encouraging county health officials and legislators to have active discussions about their own particular health rankings and how they may be contributing to the overall ranking of 48th in the state—what they are doing right and what they may be doing wrong. "The public health workforce issues are not unique to Tennessee," she said. "Nationally there are shortages. We need new ideas, new energy, new ways to get those new ideas across. "Public health is an individual health issue, and that's what we will do: address issues that affect the state.

Edwards said the new Tennessee Institute of Public Health will hold an inaugural event on October 30, which will be underwritten by Research America. Delivering the keynote address that day will be Dr. Henry Foster, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Meharry Medical College and a former Clinton nominee to the post of Surgeon General of the United States. Research America will focus on advocating for health in Tennessee.

Joe Bales, vice president of development and university relations and executive director of the MTSU Foundation, describes the development efforts at MTSU as more proactive than in the past. "We used to be in a reactive mode: 'Here's a project—let's go raise money,'" Bales says. "Now we work with faculty to find out their needs. We research foundations. We try to be more aggressive. We don't want to wait for people to call us. Certainly we don't want to offend people—all they have to say is no. But we want to keep working to build rapport with current and potential donors." When Purdom arrived at MTSU in 2001, the foundation's improvement was around $16 million. Today, it's close to $30 million. Both Bales and Purdom attribute that increase to effective leadership and sound money management by the MTSU Foundation.

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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Gina K. Logue

The dramatizations of actors who speak for thousands and the testimony of those who can no longer speak for themselves will mark the June Anderson Women’s Center’s observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at MTSU.

In 2004, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation reported 66,619 victims of domestic violence, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

In 2004, 40 percent of all crimes against persons and 50 percent of all simple assaults in Tennessee were crimes of domestic violence.

The “Silent Witness” exhibit will be shown from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 2-6 on the second floor of the Keathley University Center. This powerful and effective display is intended to promote healing for the victims. It features blood-red T-shirts, each emblazoned with the story of a different domestic violence victim.

One T-shirt tells the story of 26-year-old “Dorothy” of Murfreesboro, who was stabbed four times by her boyfriend. The perpetrator, who had been charged before with domestic assault, was convicted of first-degree murder.

To dramatize how dating violence traumatizes young adults, the JAWC and Women 4 Women, a student organization, will present “It’s Love, Isn’t It?” from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, in the KUC Theatre.

The original play, written and produced with Arts Build Communities grants from Allied Arts of Chattanooga and the Tennessee Arts Commission and directed by Dr. Ayne Cantrell, follows the travels of a female college freshman whose boyfriend has jealousy and anger-management issues.

All Domestic Violence Awareness Month events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the JAWC at 615-898-2193 or jawc@mtsu.edu.

Mark calendars for 2nd ‘Evening of Swing’ gala

by Lisa L. Rollins

Members of MTSU’s Friends of Music committee will sponsor the group’s second “Evening of Swing” gala, a dinner/dance event, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at MTSU.

The evening’s entertainment will feature the big band music of the 1930s and ’40s as performed by MTSU’s two jazz ensembles, with MTSU music faculty members Don Aliquo and Jamey Simmons directing.

“The Friends” inaugural gala last year was such a great success, drawing 350 with great big-band music and lots of dancing, that our committee decided that a repeat event was in order,” said George T. Riordan, director of the Robert W. McLean School of Music at MTSU.

“The Tennessee Room is a great place for dancing and enjoying the music and the evening,” he added.

“People were very impressed with the authentic and danceable swing provided by our students in the MTSU jazz ensembles … so this is a wonderful forum to introduce the high quality of our musicians to people who haven’t yet enjoyed concerts at the McLean School of Music.”

Riordan said the Friends of Music was designed to encourage community members to take advantage of the 180 concerts presented annually at MTSU and to enable the McLean School to better provide services and opportunities to music students, as well as provide guidance to the school by providing a community perspective.

“We have an active and dynamic leadership committee who are really excited about this event,” he remarked.

MTSU’s Friends of Music organizing committee members include Jane Blakey, Martha Curl, Bobbie and John Duke, Brenda McFarlin, Shirley LalRoche, Liz Rhea, Margie Spangler and Ernestine Thomas, with Robert W. McLean serving as the committee’s honorary chairman. McLean previously donated 54 Steinway pianos to the School of Music, which honors him by carrying his name, Riordan noted.

Representing MTSU on the committee are Riordan, Aliquo, Anne Sloan, Connie Huddleston, Robyn Kilpatrick, Patience Long and Claudette Northcutt.

“Last year we filled all of our tables, and we’re well on track to selling out already for 2006,” Riordan said.

Individual tickets for “Evening of Swing,” which include dinner and a gala evening of music and dancing, are $25 per person ($35 is tax-deductible). Tables seating 10 are available for $450 ($350 is tax-deductible), and patron tables are $1,000 ($600 is tax-deductible).

For more information on the Evening of Swing, including ticket inquiries, please contact Northcutt at 615-898-5924.

Oct. 25 ShareFair showcases teaching, technology

from Staff Reports

The 2006 ShareFair, an opportu-nity for faculty to share their innovative teaching practices with the university community, will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Learning, Teaching & Innovative Technologies Center in Peck Hall Room 106.

The ShareFair is a showcase of innovative best teaching and technology practices led by some of MTSU’s outstanding faculty members, said Bobbie Palmer of the LT&ITC.

Participants use a variety of media, such as posters, brochures, handouts, laptops or informal dialogue, to showcase their teaching ideas. Presenters are available for discussion during the event.

The ShareFair is sponsored by the Information Technology Division and the LT&ITC to promote a collaborative learning and teaching faculty community.

The event will include ITD grant and fellowship recipients, winners of the Outstanding Use of Instructional Technology Award, Outstanding Teacher recipients and finalists for the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable’s Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology, which will be announced at 2 p.m., according to Palmer.

For more information, contact Palmer at bpalmer@mtsu.edu or at 615-494-7671.

CONGRATULATIONS—Mark Pirtle, left, local businessman, real estate developer and friend of MTSU, accepts the Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award from Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jones College of Business, during the 2006 Economic Outlook Conference Sept. 29. The annual honor recognizes a business leader who exemplifies the ideals of free enterprise through any combination of entrepreneurship, government involvement and 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 long-time board member of the Boys and Girls Club.

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MT Baseball sets date for annual fish fry

by Randy Weiler

H ungry for some fine fried fish and hanker ing to help Blue Raider baseball? Head Coach Steve Peterson and his players will host the 23rd Annual Grand Slam Fish Fry Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m., with all proceeds benefiting the baseball program.

The evening will be held in the Tennessee Testosterone Center on Greenland Drive and will feature catfish and Cajun gumbo for adults and hot dogs for kids. Russ & Becky Jeffers Country Band, as well as “Big Hoss” Cartwright,” will be on hand for the evening’s entertainment.

“The Fish Fry is one of our biggest events of the year, an annual event we’ve been hosting since 1984,” Peterson said. “It’s a great way to socialize with everyone and raise money for the baseball program. It’s great food, fun and entertainment, and certainly an event you don’t want to miss.”

Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Children six and younger will be admitted free. Tickets are available at the MTSU Ticket Office, located at Gate 1A of Floyd Stadium. Tickets also are available at Vick’s Lawn & Tractor on Robert Rose Drive or Wheeler’s Market on Lascassas Pike in Murfreesboro and at Crosslin Supply in Smyrna.

Patrons wishing to pay by mail can make checks payable to Middle Tennessee Baseball Fish Fry and can send their payment to Coach Steve Peterson, MTSU Box 90, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132.

The Blue Raiders began fall practice Sept. 11 and wrapped up the four-week session with the 2006-07 state budget also included the first new operating fund for higher education since 1998.

Distinguished Lecture Series grant co-sponsored by MTSU’s Center for Environmental Education and the Office of New Student and Family Programs from the Division of Student Affairs.

Team’s fund-raiser set for Oct. 24

Music event set Oct. 10

W orld-renowned pianist Aima Labra-Makk will present the second of four concerts billed as the Presidential Concert Series at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, in the Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

Labra-Makk, who enjoys a career as a solo concert pianist, chamber musician and educator, will perform works by Liszt, Haydn, Takacs and other Viennese composers during her MTSU performance.

She’s a splendiferous pianist,” said Dr. Jerry Perkins, music professor and coordinator of keyboard studies at MTSU. “Her music has loads of technique. She’ll be playing in New York and Washington, D.C., as well as MTSU on this tour,” he added.

Labra-Makk also performs in key cities and venues in Europe such as the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Haydn saal in Eisenstadt, Mirabell Palace in Salzburg and in venues in Asia as well. She has performed in international festivals such as the Vienna International Festival and the Liszt-Beethoven Symphonies for Piano Series in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Considered an authority on the music of Hungarian pianist and pedagogue Jenö Takacs, Labra-Makk has recorded all of his works. The Oct. 10 concert is free and open to the public.

Future concerts for the Presidential Series include the Boston Brass at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 and the Blair String Quartet at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. For more information on this and other events in the McLean School of Music, please call 615-898-2493 or visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Critterman’ wows captive audiences during JUB visit

by Randy Weiler

F or all they knew, more than 500 local children would’ve thought Denny Olson, a biologist/geologist, author, educator and more, was closer to his Montana home than in their midst in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room.

However, Olson’s alter ego, “Critterman,” was there—and entertaining each child, MTSU student and adult present.

Olson, an internationally known award-winning speaker, uses humor and drama in a one-man show to educate both young and old about critters in the wild.

On Sept. 25-26, students from Campus, Reeves-Rogers, Hobgood and Deer Hall schools, plus some homeschooleders, witnessed Olson perform “Unhuggables”—animals we love to hate.

Olson has presented his shows, disguised as Critterman, Woldman, the Griz, Dr. Death, Prof. Avian Guano, Dr. Loomacy, The Lost Voyageur and The Mad Herbalist, about 3,500 times in 49 states to 2 million people at schools, universities, conferences, national and state parks and workshops over roughly 30 years.

Olson said the message he tries to impart is “interconnectedness” with the outside world “to get the person to get up, turn the TV off and go outside and watch or listen.”

“I try to spark an interest through comedy and unpredictability with the audience,” he said. “The whole point is having fun. I want to get them emotionally involved. Otherwise, they don’t remember.”

“He was hilarious and funny, and we learned a lot from him,” said Kenneth Chiche, a Campus School fourth-grader.

For Tijandar Garrett, a fifth-grade Hobgood student, his favorite part was when Critterman coaxed Hobgood teacher Mel Prater into a routine.

“The best part was when Mr. Prater stuck his hand in a bag (held by Critterman) and it came out slimy,” Garrett said. “I thought it was going to be a snake. It turned out to be a water hose.”

Olson also spoke to science, education, theatre and recreation students and faculty during a Sept. 25 late afternoon session, said Cynthia Allen of the Center for Environment and Pedagogy, who administered the JUB visit.

IT’S CRITTERMAN—Awestruck elementary-school students listen in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room as “Critterman,” aka biologist/geologist/educator Denny Olson of Montana, center explains the characteristics, habits and habitats of “unhuggables”—animals that people often fear or dislike.

photo by News & Public Affairs

from Staff Reports

from page 1

McPhee

said. “Obviously, reaching that goal depends on our funding allocations from the state and approval from the Board, so we’re always pleased when we can say that our efforts have been fruitful.”

Human Resource Services will send salary information in late November or early December to each department head to be shared with their staff, the president added.

At the end of January 2007, employees receiving an increase will receive a letter stating their new salary effective Jan. 1, 2007. In addition to the 2 percent across-the-board salary increase and bonuses for the 2006-07 fiscal year for higher ed employees, 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.)

The 2006-07 state budget also included the first new operating funds for higher education since 1998.

The 2006-07 state budget also approved the Board in June 2004. The 23rd Annual Grand Slam Fish Fry Tuesday, Oct. 10, in the Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

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Oxford American features Wolfe articles

by Gina E. Fann

Once again, MTSU music scholar Charles Wolfe gets the last word. The Grammy-nominated professor emeritus of English and folklore, who succumbed to diabetes in February 2006, has one of his final scholarly works, “‘Til Blow those Cats into the Cumberland River’: Louis Armstrong, Nashville, and Country Music,” featured in Oxford American magazine’s 2006 Music Issue.

Headlined “Country Music in Black and White” by the O.A. the article traces Jazzman Armstrong’s career-long connections with country music and his role in helping galvanize Nashville into the civil rights sit-ins.

In an online exclusive the O.A. Web site (www.oxfordamerican.org) also features the grainy videotape of Johnny Cash and Louis Armstrong joyously recreating Jimmie Rodgers’ “Blue Yodel No. 9” at the Ryman Auditorium in 1970, that serves as the highlight of the new Music Issue. The eighth annual compendium (complete with CD) of nuggets of Southern music past and present, boasting writers like Chet Flippo and Peter Guralnick and artists like Eartha Kitt and Uncle Dave Macon.

That article demonstrates so many of his strengths: his scholarship, his interest and the breadth of his knowledge,” says Smirnoff with reverence. “The story may be known to some, but Dr. Wolfe brings it out so much more, so richly.”

“It affected people, and that’s part of his legacy. He spread such good news: the more art that’s out there, the more we can share it.”

Alongside Wolfe’s article, MTSU recording industry professor Beverly Keel recounts the final chapter of Rodgers’ original recording of that song in 1930. The renowned trumpeter’s appearance on Cash’s TV show culminated a whirlwind trip to Nashville to tout what would turn out to be his final album, “Louis ‘Country and Western’ Armstrong.”

“Absolutely fascinating,” Wolfe said with a grin while viewing the tape in February 2005 while reading his article at the “Perspectives on Popular Music” lecture series by the Center for Popular Music.

OA Editor and Publisher Marc Smirnoff had the same reaction to Wolfe’s article. That’s why it’s one of the highlights of the new Music Issue, the eighth annual compendium with CD of nuggets of Southern music past and present, boasting writers like Chet Flippo and Peter Guralnick and artists like Eartha Kitt and Uncle Dave Macon.

The magazine is available by subscription, online purchase and at Barnes & Noble and Borders.

“If you believe in the power of writing and of music,” Smirnoff says, “that’s what counts. The fact that all these people in this article have died doesn’t mean that all their work isn’t still alive. Once again, art triumphs.”

Dr. Franco Zengaro (health and human performance) presented two papers at international conferences in September. “Italian Men’s Soccer: Reflections of Society” at the 11th International Congress of the European Committee for Sport History, Sept. 17-20 at the University of Vienna, Austria, and “Explaining and Exploring Understanding in a College Classroom” at the 10th International Conference of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction Special Interest Group on Writing, Sept. 20-22 at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Dr. John DiVincenzo (environmental chemistry) and Albert Ogden (geosciences) and former graduate student Rebecca James recently published “A Water Quality Study in Rutherford County, Tennessee: Student Group Project” in the Journal of Natural Resources & Life Sciences Education (Volume 35, 2006). The project involved several undergraduate students delineating groundwater flow patterns and chemically analyzing water samples over 14 months.

Dr. Amy L.S. Staples (history) has published The Birth of Development: How The World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Health Organization Changed the World, 1945-1965 (Kent State University Press, 2006).

E-mail your faculty/staff accomplishments to gfann@mtsu.edu or to 615-898-5714, Attention: The Record, Faculty/Staff Update. If your department isn’t receiving enough copies of The Record, please e-mail gfann@mtsu.edu with “Record Circulation” in the subject line.