**Thanks!**

**Honor veterans during Nov. 25 slate of events**

by Randy Weiler

Local and regional military veterans will be recognized Saturday, Nov. 25, at the 25th annual MTSU Salute to Veterans during the 2:30 p.m. football game against Troy University.

About 250 to 300 veterans and their families will attend, said Maj. Chuck Giles, assistant professor of military science.

Activities will start with an 11 a.m. picnic outside Forrest Hall, Giles said, adding that veterans and their families can eat inside Forrest Hall if there is inclement weather.

Giles said all service groups—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard—will have activities and recruiters in Walnut Grove with other campus and student organizations during pregame tailgate events.

“About 2 p.m., we’ll march to Floyd Stadium,” Giles said.

Four Army ROTC cadets who served in Iraq—Spcs. Matt Wallace and James Lax and Sgts. Ken McDevitt and Paul Wise—will be honored.

See ‘Thanks!’ page 5

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**New software lets vendors bid online**

by Tom Tozer

MTSU Procurement Services has acquired a new online software package, SciQuest E-Procurement Market Place, that allows vendors to access a Web site and register their contact information and services.

That will put them into an active database of suppliers and provide MTSU with a broader range of choices and an easier way to make purchases.

See ‘Bid’ page 6

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**Journalism seminar set**

**‘Covering the Front Lines’**

MTSU’s Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies will host a one-day event focusing on war journalism on Monday, Nov. 20, that will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam and Time magazine senior correspondent Michael Weisskopf.

“Covering the Front Lines: The Evolution of War Journalism and Lasting Effects of War Coverage on Journalists” is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Keathley University Center Theater.

“We are very excited to hear from nationally recognized journalists and experts about the state of war journalism, as well as how dedicated reporters and photographers have

See ‘War’ page 5

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**Positive behavior Audio-Visual Services wins acclaim for DCS training video**

See page 2

**Social Insecurity?**

MTSU study says problems no easy fix as nation ages

See page 3

**Cleaning up**

Biology professor teams up with firm to kill staph germs

See page 8

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**IN BRIEF**

**‘MY NAME IS WALLACE’ GETS FAVORITE NO. 1 IN HOLLYWOOD**

“My Name is Wallace,” a short film written and co-directed by Dr. Bob Pondillo, professor of electronic media communication, has been accepted as a third-quarter finalist at the Golden Shorts Fest 2006 in Hollywood, Calif., out of 108 submissions. The movie will be shown at the Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles during the festival March 8-11, 2007. “My Name is Wallace,” a poignant comedy about a man afflicted with Asperger’s syndrome and his search for love, has been entered in 117 film festivals worldwide, including Sundance and Tribeca. To see a one-minute trailer for the film, visit www.youtube.com and search for “Pondillo.”

**ICE DOWN SOME PREDS TICKETS, EARN COLD SCHOLARSHIP CASH**

MTSU Night with the Nashville Predators is back! Special ticket prices are being offered to the MTSU community for two upcoming Predators games: Saturday, Dec. 2, against the Chicago Blackhawks and Thursday, Dec. 14, against the Ottawa Senators. Both games begin at 7 p.m. at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. Ticket prices will be discounted up to $6 for MTSU faculty, staff and students, and the Predators will donate $4 from each ticket sold to the Sports Marketing Scholarship in the Department of Management and Marketing. To order tickets or get more information, call Dan Schaefer, Nashville Predators group sales account executive, at 615-770-2115 and mention the MTSU Night promotion to receive the discount ticket pricing.

**HOLIDAY TO-DO LIST: BUY GIFTS, EARN COLD SCHOLARSHIP CASH**

Make sure your winter campus events are included in the final edition of The Record for the Fall 2006 semester, publishing Monday, Dec. 4. Events occurring between Dec. 4 and Jan. 16, 2007, when the university’s Spring 2007 semester begins, should be e-mailed by Wednesday, Nov. 22, to gfann@mtsu.edu. To see publication dates and when to submit your information for The Record in 2007, visit www.mtsunews.com and click on “The Record” at the top of the page, then click “Deadlines & Submissions.”
Audio-Visual Services earns Telly Award

by Cristol Camacho

The Department of Audio-Visual Services in MTSU’s Instructional Technology Support Center recently received a 2006 Bronze Telly Award for producing “Fostering Positive Behavior,” a three-DVD training video for the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services in collaboration with the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare.

“When the video was complete, we knew it was good work, but we weren’t sure which places were still accepting submissions,” said Dr. Connie Schmidt, director of ITSC and co-producer of the video, “so we did some Internet searching and found the Telly Awards.”

For more than a quarter century, the Telly statuette has been a symbol of creative excellence. Telly statuettes honor outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions; past winners include the Children’s Miracle Network, Court TV, Cox Communications, E! Networks, Harpo Studios, J. Walter Thompson, Spike TV, Targetcom and Universal Studios Hollywood.

The 2006 Telly Awards competition received a record-breaking 12,000-plus entries from ad agencies, production companies, TV stations, cable companies and corporations throughout the world. “DCS asked us to produce a video as a part of their training program for caseworkers,” David Smith, TCCW video production manager, said. “They needed training videos that could be facilitated by a trainer or used alone for viewing by caseworkers or resource parents.”

Each of the three instructional modules contained in the “Fostering Positive Behavior” DVDs are designed to challenge caseworkers to think about the strategies they use in helping families resolve child behavior problems.

“Focusing on family strengths and empowering families is the mantra of the videos,” Smith said. “The videos deal with tough but important issues.”

In all three modules, case managers learn key behavioral concepts, relevant DCS policies and effective case management strategies. The video emphasizes providing services that is family-centered, culturally responsive and strengths-based.

“The videos have been very well received,” Smith said, “and evaluations done at the end of the training sessions help us measure the effectiveness of the videos.”

Audio-Visual Services has already begun production of a second major training video for DCS, “Pathways to Permanence,” which is slated for completion this year.

The moderator for the DVD series is Lynn Yates, a former MTSU student and spokesperson for “HealthBreak,” a regular feature on WSMV-TV in Nashville.

MTSU speech and theatre faculty members who have principal roles in the video are Drs. Jette Halladay and Crosby Hunt and assistant professor Jacqueline Holmes.

Schmidt and Smith co-authored the original script for the video in consultation with MTSU’s Dr. Stacey Borasky, TCCW executive director; Tricia Hennessey and Donna Johnson, DCS administrators; and Dr. Chris Bellonci, a psychologist at Walker School in Needham, Mass. Frank Forgette, director of audio-visual-services, along with Pat Jackson, assistant director of programing, and Jeffery Nokes, assistant director of engineering, provided support for the project.

25+ years of dedication

A SHOW OF APPRECIATION—Fifth Brigade ROTC commander Col. Kenneth Knapp, left, poses with Nancy Garner, center, executive aide in the Department of Military Science, and department chair Lt. Col. Mike Walsh in celebration of Garner’s 25-plus years of service to MTSU. Bishop, who oversees college ROTC programs in Tennessee and North and South Carolina, presented Garner with the Commandant’s Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army. “I’ve gotten to do a lot of things I wouldn’t have been able to do if I was in another office or campus,” Garner said during the ceremony. “I’ve traveled to other army posts, gotten to fly on a C-130, visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier... I’ve met a lot of students and been a part of their lives. It’s been a learning experience.”

Speakers inspire undergrad researchers

by Randy Weiler

Professor, speaker, author and inventor Dr. Calvin Mackie and Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning returned to Murfreesboro Nov. 17 for the fourth annual Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Undergraduate Research Conference.

“About 200 students and faculty from six institutions attended the conference,” said Dr. Barbara Knox, former TLSAMP director who recently left MTSU to take a position at Vanderbilt University.

Students and faculty from Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt, the Universities of Tennessee and Memphis, LeMoyne-Owen College and MTSU attended the two-day conference at the Holiday Inn on Old Fort Parkway.

Mackie and Manning made keynote remarks centered on the conference theme, “Increasing Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics,” Knox said.

Mackie recently participated in Spike Lee’s documentary, “When the Levees Broke,” that stemmed from the catastrophe in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Manning generally speaks to his audiences without prepared remarks, said TBR spokeswoman Mary Morgan. It’s much more challenging to keep your audience engaged when you’re face to face with them. It helps to have the best in April 2000.

A former higher education executive in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Colorado, Manning has overseen the launch of the Regents Online Degree Program.

Mackie, a Tulane University faculty member, spoke at an earlier McNair Scholars Program function, telling the 150-plus attendees to “dream big dreams. Go back to your dorm and tell yourself, ‘No man or woman is going to stop me from achieving what I want.’”

TLSAMP students presented posters Nov. 16.
moving in and out of focus,” Anfinson said. “My hope is that this experience will lead them into thinking about the authenticity of the veiled and abstracted imagery.”

Anfinson’s artistic ideas of abstraction and camouflage are deeply rooted in the process she employs when preparing to paint a new work of art. Anfinson said she usually begins a new body of art by surfing through Internet images, clip art and her own personal digital photos. She said she starts each painting by making a black-and-white digital copy of the images in Photoshop, a computer program used for editing graphics.

“I once have a composition that I’m happy with, I compress the collaged imagery through a series of filters in Photoshop to bring a sense of continuity to all of the various collaged elements,” Anfinson explained. “These compressed images are then projected and drawn on to the canvas or surface I’m working on, and then I begin painting and filling in the appropriate colors and values from the color scheme I’ve chosen.”

Anfinson said her interest in abstraction and camouflaging comes from her perception of both the natural world and its innate occurrences. “My own perception of the natural world, and events that happen in the natural world, often seems somewhat misinformed, abstracted and ambiguous due to the nature of how I experience these experiences and images tucked away in my memories of home.”

It was, in fact, Anfinson’s passion for art that led her to a teaching job at MTSU, she said, where she has taught in the art department since 2003. Currently, Anfinson teaches in the foundations division, which offers classes such as 2-D Design, 3-D Design, Drawing I and Drawing II.

“A lot of learning takes place in these initial experiences, and I often find myself challenging my own approaches to my art work through these experiences,” said Anfinson, who especially enjoys working with students taking their first art classes. “Students can make huge leaps during this time, which is always exciting to be a part of.”

For more information about Anfinson’s artwork, including various exhibits, please visit her Web site at www.erinanfinson.com.

Brittany Witt is a sophomore majoring in mass communication.

Study says reforming Social Security no easy fix

by Tom Tozer

Raising the normal retirement age, or NRA, to maintain the solvency of Social Security seems like a good idea. However, younger job seekers then would have fewer opportunities from which to choose if their elders had to keep working longer to collect their SSI benefits.

That’s just one observation in a study conducted earlier this year by Drs. William Ford, Weatherford Chair of Finance, and Franklin Michello, associate professor of economics and finance, in the Jones College of Business.

“The Unemployment Effects of Proposed Changes in Social Security’s ‘Normal Retirement Age’” was subsequently published in the prestigious Business Economics.

Ford and Michello contend that the desire to reform Social Security and reduce unemployment can be conflicting objectives.

“So some of the proposals for reforming SS involve either raising taxes or cutting benefits,” Ford noted. “Before World War II, 17 workers paid into SSI for every retiree. Today, it’s down to three to one. Three means that for every one of workers relative to a growing number of retirees will have to pay more taxes. And the problem with cutting benefits is that if you do that you also raise the NRA, many older workers who are just plain worn out will wind up on welfare, which will offset some hoped-for improvements in the system’s financial viability. “We think raising the retirement age is something that should not happen,” Ford added. “The longer you extend the retirement age, the higher the risk that older folks may not be able to keep working and may even get fired. Then they’ll be counted as unemployed instead of retired.”

Ford and Michello suggest that if the economy were persistently robust and the risk of inflation high, it might then make sense to encourage older workers to work longer to relieve labor market pressures.

They pointed out that a cyclically adjusted retirement age during periods of low unemployment might be a time for people to work longer. If there were a severe, cyclical labor shortage, one might then encourage workers to stay on the job. However, that has not been the case in recent years.

Additionally, the trend toward early retirement has already begun to reverse itself, they contend. Life expectancy continues to increase, so people have to plan for additional years of retirement. The so-called “Baby Boomers” aren’t saving enough to afford even normal retirement.

And while there’s an estimated $350 billion annual surplus right now in the SS budgets, the agency claims its trust fund is in debt because of a huge, long-term, unfunded liability that will surface as the “Boomers” retire.

The amount of payroll taxes coming in continues to grow slowly, but the amount going out to retirees is accelerating,” Ford pointed out, adding that around the year 2015, those two lines will cross.

“At that point, Social Security will have to dip into its Trust Fund, which contains nothing but government debt obligations. This means when they hand it to the Treasury, the Treasury either has to raise taxes or incur an even larger national debt,” he explained.

Right now, the SS payroll tax rate is 12.6 percent, with the employer and employee each paying half. Ford and Michello project that rate will reach 13 or 14 percent in just a few years.

The professors also believe that more research needs to be done before a decision is made to raise the NRA. In periods when there is already substantial unemployment, raising the NRA would only add to unemployment without making any positive impact on the SS system’s bleak financial outlook. Furthermore, they point out, unemployed people do not make FICA payments, which would only put a greater burden on the system.

Finally, public opinion polls also have consistently indicated that people do not favor raising the NRA, and it would be difficult to implement in today’s political environment. Out of political necessity, therefore, policy makers will be pressed to look for alternative solutions, the authors contend, such as partially privatizing the system, changing the current age-62 early-retirement option or reducing the annual inflation increments paid to retirees.
Monday, Nov. 20
“Covering the Front Lines: The Evolution of War Journalism and Lasting Effects of War Coverage on Journalists”
Sponsored by the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., KUC Theater
See full schedule, page 5; for information, contact: 615-898-5150 or e-mail jpaul@mtsu.edu.

Honors Lecture Series
Dr. Will Brantley, “Celluloid Disaster in the 1970s”
3-3:50 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact: 615-898-7611.

Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Holidays
No classes; university closed

Nov. 24
Friday, Nov. 24
Women’s Basketball vs. Chattanooga
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

Nov. 25
Saturday, Nov. 25
Varsity Club Pregame Reception
12:30 p.m., Kenyon Hall of Fame
open to Varsity Club members and their families
For information, contact: 615-898-5632.

Nov. 26
Sunday, Nov. 26
“MTSU On the Record—Albert Gore Sr.”
Guest: Dr. Tony Badger
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Nov. 27
Monday, Nov. 27
Men’s Basketball vs. Belmont
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

“An Evening of Schumann”
with faculty H. Stephen Smith, tenor, and Caleb Harris, piano
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Nov. 30
Nov. 30-Dec. 1
MTSU Dance Theatre
Fall Dance Concert
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
Admission: $8 per person
For information, contact: 615-494-8810.

Thursday, Nov. 30
Men’s Basketball vs. Indiana State
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

MTSU Women’s Chorale
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Dec. 1
Friday, Dec. 1
First Friday Star Party
“The Sun-Earth Connection”
6:30-8:30 p.m., WPS Room 102
For information, contact: 615-898-5946.

MTSU Flute Studio
1 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

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

Saturday, Dec. 2
CUSTOMS—Spring 2007
All day, campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-5533.

Dec. 3
Sunday, Dec. 3
“MTSU On the Record—‘My Name is Wallace’”
Guests: Dr. Bob Pondillo, David Lawrence
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Handel’s “Messiah”
with MTSU combined choruses
3 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

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

Nov. 20
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.

Nov. 20-25
Thanksgiving Holidays
No classes; university closed

Making it official

NEW TOP COP—Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, left, officially swears in the new chief of MTSU’s Department of Public Safety and Security, Carl “Buddy” Peaster, a 24-year law enforcement veteran who joined the university April 3. Peaster came to MTSU from Georgia Southern University, where he handled investigations, training, crime prevention and community relations.

photo by J. Intintoli
The Military and the Media, a history of U.S. press and military relations.

Dr. Michael Sweeney, the School of Journalism at MTSU.

Amy Schlesing, a Tennessee writer who reported from Afghanistan and Iraq. He teaches in the School of Journalism at MTSU.

Dr. Anthony Feinstein, professor of psychiatry and author of Psychological Hazards of Covering War: A Report on Journalists. Along with Esper and Wilson, it will feature:

• Leon Alligood, a Tennessean reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, who spent one year in Baghdad with the National Guard’s 39th Infantry Brigade, becoming the longest-tenured embedded reporter since Ernie Pyle in World War II. Last fall, she rolled into New Orleans with the first military convoy to enter the city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After taking a leave of absence to finish a book about life with America’s Infantry and the evolving role of the National Guard, she returned to Iraq with Little Rock Air Force Base’s 463rd Airlift Group in January. And in September she went back to Iraq with the 463rd, returning home this month.

At 7 p.m. Time’s Weisskopf will give the keynote address. He recently was featured on the magazine’s cover with the release of his book, Blood Brothers: Among the Soldiers of Ward 57, which recounts his experiences beginning in 2003, when he threw a live Iraqi hand grenade from a U.S. Army Humvee, saving the lives of the other passengers but costing him his right hand. For his Iraq stories, he won the National Headliners Award and The Daniel Pearl Award for courage and integrity in journalism.

Weisskopf will speak about his harrowing journey of recovery and the bond he formed with other patients at the Walter Reed Medical Center. He joined Time in 1997 after 20 years with The Washington Post and now covers national politics and investigations, as well as the war, from Washington.

A reception will follow Weisskopf’s talk, and he, Feinstein and Sweeney will be available to sign books. For more information, call 615-898-5150 or email jpaul@mtsu.edu.

Thanks!

honorary captains for the coin toss, Giles said. At halftime, MTSU’s Band of Blue will play military theme songs while the veterans walk across Horace Jones Field. The Blue Raider Corps of Cadets will escort them.

D. Ed Moody of Franklin will receive the Joe T. Nunley Memorial Award. It will be presented by Joe Nunley Jr., whose father was a former MTSU alumnus. Past recipients include Dr. Roger Washington Bobb (2005), a neuropsychiatrist, professor of psychiatry and author of Psychological Hazards of Covering War: A Report on Journalists.
Renowned choreographers in residence at MTSU

from Staff Reports

The faculty of MTSU’s dance program is serving as host for two internationally known choreographers—Gabriel Masson and Zelma Badu-Younge—who will provide master classes and deliver lectures and stage repertory for the MTSU Dance Theatre during their November residencies. “All master classes and lectures by Masson and Badu-Younge are open for public attendance and participation,” said Kim Neal Nofsinger, director of MTSU’s dance program. Masson was in residence Nov. 9-13 and choreographed a new work for MTSU dance faculty members Nofsinger and Marsha Tardy, who will premiere in the piece during the “Fall Dance Concert” Nov. 30-Dec. 2. With a varied career as a performer, choreographer and teacher that spans 20 years, Masson has toured the world in the companies of Hannah Kahn, Rosalind Newman, Lucinda Childs and Doug Varone. Since 1989, he has choreographed more than 25 pieces for repertory and university dance companies and was artistic director of his own company, Gabriel Masson Dance, for which he created a critically acclaimed group of dances, “Human Series, Part I-V.” Additionally, Nofsinger said Masson has also choreographed and performed with differently abled dancer Hamel Bloom: “Almost Together” and “Family: Portrait.” With an international reputation as a teacher, Masson has taught and performed at festivals worldwide, including the American Dance Festival, the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland and the San Biennal in Brazil. After receiving a master of fine arts degree from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Masson served on its faculty from 1990 to 1995 and from 1997 to 2001. He also served as guest artist at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Guest artist Badu-Younge was to be in residence at MTSU Nov. 15-21. During her residency, she was to deliver a free lecture, “Ewe Culture as Expressed in Ghana, West Africa: From the Village to the Stage to the West,” at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 17 in the Honors College Amphitheatre. In addition, she will stage a new dance for members of MTSU Dance Theatre to be performed during the spring semester. Badu-Younge, who visited MTSU in 2004, holds a B.F.A. in contemporary dance and choreography from Concordia University, an M.F.A. in dance ethnology from York University and a Ph.D. in integrated studies in education from the Gill University. Her most recent activities include teaching and performing in Taipei at the Taiwan University of the Arts and in Seoul, South Korea, with Azaguno, a newly formed African drumming and dance company that she founded and directed with Dr. Pascal’Youne. For additional information on either artists’ residency, please contact Nofsinger via e-mail at nofsinger@mtsu.edu.

‘Historic partnership’

C’EST MAGNIFIQUE—Mtsow State Community College President MaryLou Apple, left, joins MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee to sign an agreement for a pilot study-abroad program planned for summer 2007 with Chérembourg University in Normandy, France. In signing the memorandum of understanding, McPhee said the “historic partnership” between the educational institutions will allow students from Motlow and MTSU to fulfill course requirements in agriculture, biology, art, history, anthropology and international trade/economics, to name a few. MTSU and Motlow have several educational partnerships in place that allow students at the two-year associate’s degree college to attend classes for bachelor’s degree credit at MTSU.

Bid

“Even though the system won’t be up and running until early 2007, the supplier registration and online bidding begins this month,” said Joe Hugh, assistant vice president for purchasing and auxiliary services. “We want to alert all vendors, large and small, local and outside the area, to log in right now so that they can compete in the bidding process. It’s important that they become part of our supplier database.”

The Web site to register is sciquest.knowwave.net/MTSource. Hugh says the site will ask for a password known only to the vendor and then will ask for company-profile information and commodity classifications.

“Registered vendors will receive notifications of available bid opportunities by e-mail,” Hugh notes. “The system will greatly reduce the cost of supplies and distribution while increasing the speed and accuracy of the public bid process. Bidders without electronic access will still be able to participate in the bid process by going to the same Web site and selecting ‘current bid opportunities’ or visiting the procurement office where a copy of any bid will be available.”

This SciQuest E-Procurement Market Place software will become available to campus users in the spring of next year, and the use of the MTSU IP-Card should be compatible with the software, Hugh says.

“For now we want to build our vendor database, and we want to open it up to all merchants in the area,” he emphasizes. “There are no fees to vendors for utilizing the new system. They control their own destiny. If vendors want to be part of the bid process, they can access the site and check to see what we have on bid—and they can bid on it. It gives them control over their company information in the database. If they need to change their address or if they change or add a salesperson, they’ll be able to go in and do that.”

Because the software will open up the bid process to many more vendors, Hugh says it will provide the buyer with better vendors and prices. A buyer also may include all vendors with a “special classification” such as small, minority-owned or female-owned, for any commodity group. This will open the door to more disadvantaged vendors in response to Gov. Phil Bredesen’s Executive Order #14 to “attract, direct and support minority, women and small business by increasing procurement opportunities,” Hugh adds.

Eventually, MTSU personnel will be able to use the SciQuest Market Place to order everything from computers, telephones and new telephone lines to furniture and other items through the system. “It will be one-stop shopping, and the program will even disperse all of the purchase orders to where they need to go,” Hugh notes. For more information, contact Hugh at 615-898-2944.

Nontraditional

and gulp down some vegetable soup. Reverse the order and it’s a plan. Park, amble into the house and begin to work.

OK, it is almost midnight and I just got started. I have been burning the candle at both ends and the middle since before fall break, and there is no respite until December. I just can’t seem to concentrate; the words don’t come. I go rotate the laundry and muse about what to write. While folding the clothes, I consider tomorrow’s obligations. Work at 8:00 (I know I’ll be late), then my Academic Service scholarship hours at the Adult Services Center at 12:30. I hope I can get that mailing list done tomorrow. I try to get some sleep and set my alarm for 5:30. It goes off. I roll out of bed and start a new day, much the same as the last.

Jacob Potts, winner of the 2006 Nontraditional Student Essay Contest, is a senior majoring in industrial/organizational psychology who will graduate in December.

page 6 The Record Nov. 20, 2006
Germs

Newsome and Tenney soon designed laboratory experiments at MTSU to demonstrate the bactericidal properties of chlorine dioxide using this newer technology.

Tests conducted in fall 2005 by Newsome and his students showed the new chlorine dioxide generation technology could be used to kill all or significantly reduce the bacteria associated with shoulder pads and football helmets. For these studies they worked closely with MTSU football equipment manager Chris Matusek.

Following these encouraging results, a similar procedure was done with the cooperation of Coach Eddie Bassam and the staff at Middle Tennessee Christian School.

“For all these tests, it was shown in dramatic fashion that bacteria were markedly reduced or eliminated from the equipment,” Newsome said.

This past spring, Newsome and two undergraduate students continued the research, applying Staphylococcus aureus, the staph bacterium, directly to football pads. “One surprising observation made,” he said, “was that if staph are applied to football pads with a paintbrush and allowed to sit for several days, the greatest number of staph are found not to be on the mesh surface of the pads but rather on the underside of the mesh covering and within the foam pad itself.”

Using the chlorine dioxide gas treatment approach, his student researchers found that bacteria were killed not only on the surface, but in the mesh layer and even into the foam pad beneath.

“Traditionally the way to treat sports equipment was to wipe it down with a disinfectant,” Newsome observed. “That treats the top surface, but doesn’t get into the pores of the pads. The only way to completely eliminate the bacteria was to tear out the old pads and replace them, something that’s very costly for the average high school. This new technology allows for a simple, safe, on-site intervention for hard-to-clean shared gear.”

Moreover, he added, “We’re looking at a number of other uses for these products. Foodstuffs like spinach or tomatoes could be treated in the field to improve safety without affecting the quality. We’re also evaluating medical device sterilization, portable water treatment, and other researchers are looking at bioterror response to anthrax, SARS and avian flu.”

A decade of ‘ooze, goo and slime’

INVESTIGATING SCIENCE—Biology graduate student Randy Stewart shows two budding scientists how to dissect a small shark during a biology workshop at the 10th annual Expanding Your Horizons science and math conference for girls in fifth through eighth grades. The conference, held Oct. 28 at MTSU, offered hands-on opportunities for more than 300 girls to see science, mathematics, engineering and technology in action and learn about potential career fields from more than 50 MTSU faculty, students and community professionals. The event, which celebrated a decade of encouraging young women to consider math and science careers, was sponsored by MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, the Cumberland Valley Council of Girl Scouts and the American Association of University Women’s Murfreesboro branch.

photos by Zach Sensabaugh
Cleaning up in the fight against germs

Newsome teams with Georgia firm to kill staph bugs

by John C. Lynch

School districts in Middle Tennessee recently have reported several cases of staph infection among students and school workers, and an MTSU biology professor is involved in research that holds the promise of helping to reduce the number of these infections.

Dr. Anthony Newsome and some of his students are investigating the effectiveness of chlorine dioxide gas in killing the germs that live in sports equipment such as shoulder pads and helmets. The research may also point to new ways to combat other pathogens, such as anthrax, SARS and avian flu.

According to Newsome, use of the chemical to kill germs is not new. It has a long history of use as a disinfectant, and it is used worldwide to treat tap water and preserve food. Unfortunately, it is too unstable to ship as a gas and must be produced on-site. Historically, this has required bulky equipment and training of personnel to operate the equipment. What makes his research significant is the new method used to generate chlorine dioxide. Instead of bulky equipment, Newsome is using a system involving a dry chemical powder stored in a container about the size of a salt shaker. When the powder is activated, small amounts of chlorine dioxide gas is released.

ICA TriNova of Newnan, Ga., produced the chemical system used in the tests. In 2001, Joel Tenney, the company’s executive vice president, and several other individuals with backgrounds in public health and chemical engineering developed technology for a new method of producing small amounts of chlorine dioxide to meet specific needs. Tenney says his company’s system differs from older methods of chlorine dioxide generation in that it’s portable and simple to apply.

Early in the company’s development, ICA TriNova showed that its products could be used effectively to deodorize and decontaminate military clothing and equipment. These products are currently being used by some U.S. troops overseas to deodorize protective body armor. From these uses, the idea emerged that it might also be used to kill bacteria associated with athletic equipment such as football pads.

Tenney recently attended a conference where Newsome and his graduate students presented their studies about the type of microorganisms present in cooling towers. Through that chance meeting, a cooperative relationship developed between Newsome and the company.

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Facade/Staff Update

Dr. Thomas Berg (electronic media communication) was elected president of the Broadcast Education Association during its Board of Directors meeting Oct. 28. Berg’s one-year term as BCA president commences April 18, 2007.

Dean Anantha Babbili (mass communication) presented “Empire and Globalization: Ambivalent Discourses in a Post-Colonial World” as an invited speaker at the James W. Carey Research Symposium held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Oct. 20-26. A dozen of Carey’s former students were invited to share their research current leading to a festschrift for Carey, a major figure in American cultural studies who passed away earlier this year, to be published by the University of Illinois Press.

Dr. Watson Harris (provost’s office) presented twice at the NoName Annual Facilities Conference in Nashville in June. His talks were on the topics of the Honors Advanced Classroom Technologies Lab and the final report on Vision 2020. Additionally, Harris presented at the SCUP Southern Conference in Atlanta this October on the topic of the Honors Advanced Classroom Technologies Lab.

Dr. Jwa K. Kim (psychology) and psychology graduate student Amanda Cotton presented a paper “Psychometric Analysis of Athletic Perfectionism through Polytomous Item Response Theory” at the Mid-South Educational Research Association in Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 8-10.

Dr. Robert J. Lahm (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented “Are We on the Lookout for Plagiarism in Business Plans?” at the Allied Academies’ Fall International Conference in Reno, Nev., Oct. 20. That presentation is also a paper, “Plagiarism and Business Plans: A Growing Challenge for Entrepreneurship Educators,” which has received Allied Academies’ Distinguished Research Award and has been accepted for journal publication by the group as well.

Dr. Joan Raines (academic enrichment) led the “How Much is a Million?” workshop at the 10th Annual Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference at MTSU Oct. 26.

Dr. Stephen Schmidt (psychology) presented an abstract, “Lexical Pop-Out: The Effect of Emotion on Automatic Attention to Words,” at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society Nov. 16-19 in Houston, Texas.

Carol M. Smith (Center for Health and Human Services) presented a poster, “Conducting a statewide maternal and child health needs assessment in seven months: Challenges and lessons learned,” at the American Public Health Association meeting in Boston Nov. 6 as part of the Maternal and Child Health Section, Topics in MCH Epidemiology and Data.


Publications

Dr. Kim Cleary Sadler and Cindi Smith-Walters (biology), Dr. Tracey Ring (elementary education) and Marrie Lasater (Homer Pittard Campus School) have recently published a chapter, “Thinking Outside the Box—No Child Left Inside at Campus School” in a new book, Exemplary Science in Grades Pre-K-4: Standards-Based Success Stories. Sadler also published a feature article for Green Teacher magazine, “Exotic Invasive Species: The Guests That Won’t Go Home” for the late summer/early fall issue. In the same issue, Sadler and Karen Hargrove (Biology, Center for Environmental Education) collaborated on the publication of two activity lessons on exotic species, “A Date With Freddie Krueger” and “Something’s Choking Auntie Elm.”

Earl Hargrove

the Record