MTSU to aid New Orleans university

by Gina K. Logue

MTSU has entered into an agreement to assist Southern University of New Orleans as the Louisiana school struggles to recover from Hurricane Katrina 18 months after the storm pounded the Gulf Coast.

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and SUNO Chancellor Dr. Victor Ukpolo signed the memorandum of understanding Feb. 6. It will allow the institutions to collaborate in online instruction, faculty development programs, joint research, cultural and artistic programs and cross-registration in selected academic disciplines.

Ukpolo said SUNO’s enrollment has dwindled from a pre-Katrina figure of 3,647 to its current 2,345, and its facility has shrunk from 160 to 91.

“This program here will allow them to get some semblance of normalcy,” Ukpolo said.

Faculty and students are functioning in trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“On my campus, we have people living and working in trailers 24/7,” Ukpolo said. “Just imagine the psychological impact that would have on any human being.”

According to SUNO literature, the university cafeteria is a total loss. The library’s electronic and physical card catalogs, along with many books and periodicals, were ruined. The maintenance building sustained $1.3 million in damage, and floodwaters reached 11 feet high in the College of Education building.

See ‘New Orleans’ page 5
I n a continuing effort to support information and research needs of MTSU students and faculty, the Walker Library revamped its Web site with a new one (library.mtsu.edu).

Based on the principles of consistent design, clear access, easy maintenance and compatibility with university standards, the redesign was carried out by the library Web project team over the last year and released in January. The project involved reviewing and evaluating design elements and content of the old site, conducting user surveys and focus groups with campuses and external peers, assessing university Web sites for effective models of Web design and drafting a new graphic format and information architecture that would unfold the principles established at the outset of the project.

Four main headings on the site provide access to Walker Library resources, services and reference information:

• “Research Gateway” leads to tools such as catalog, articles, research tools and library databases;

• “Library Services” provides access to resources such as circulation, reference, faculty representatives and liaisons, special collections and inter-library loan;

• “Library Information” covers information about the library, its hours, contacts and ways to support library programs, resources and services; and

• “Library Help” offers a list of common questions, some search tools and ways to get in touch with experts who can help you with your search for information. There is even a tutorial on the Dewey classification system and definitions for library terms.

Although the Voyager system was not affected by the redesign, there is now a new search box on the front page that allows immediate searching of Voyager.

The search box’s Journal Locator is "the leading presenter of Japanese music," says Pimentel, counselors Laura Clippard and Susan Johnson and secretary Sherry House. SSS provides tutoring, academic workshops and cultural events to increase students’ college successes and experiences, Pimentel says.

“We have a computer lab and a welcoming and supportive environment that our students like,” she says. “In addition to the students, we want to be a resource for faculty teaching our students. The reason we’re here is for retention and graduation. Our faculty has been very supportive. MTSU gives us a lot of support.”

Pimentel said the TRiO program is “100 percent federally funded.” SSS receives $235,689 every year, making it have an almost $1 million grant every four years. Two students in the program were 2006 USA Regents Scholarship recipients, giving MTSU a rare distinction because many others were from schools like Stanford, she added. Pimentel added that Pel-eligible freshmen and sophomores have scholarships for. For 2006-07, SSS awarded more than $20,000 in grant scholarships.

To learn more, visit during the open house, check out the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/support/ or call 615-898-5443.
Dmitrii Vladimirovich Mukomel, lead researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Mukomel will discuss the ethnic aspects of migration in Russia and President Vladimir Putin’s policies in the area of civil liberties. The presentation is free and open to the public.

A scholar who has conducted extensive research on migration and refugees, including “the brain drain” of intellectuals in the post-Soviet era, Mukomel is the director of the Center for Ethnopolitical Studies and American Democracy Project since it acquired an international dimension this semester. The coordinators are history professor Dr. Jim Williams, who will handle domestic activities, and political science professor Dr. Andrei Korobkov, who will deal with international activities.

“The major idea is to encourage students’ civic engagement because we don’t want them to study life only in textbooks, but to prepare through experiential learning, through contact with real people,” Korobkov says. “We’ll be dealing with issues of human rights violations ... and not only somewhere else, but also in the United States and specifically here in Tennessee.”

The ADP Web site describes the program as “an initiative of 219 AACSU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) campuses that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of AACSU.”

Co-sponsoring Mukomel’s appearance are two student organizations, GLOBAL (Get Lost Outside Boundaries and Limitations) and AID (Americans for an Informed Democracy). Americans for Informed Democracy, according to its Web site, is “an international organization,” says Candi Nunley, GLOBAL president. “We try to bring students together to raise awareness about global issues and general knowledge of different countries and cultures.”

For more information, contact Korobkov at 615-898-2945 or korobkov@mtsu.edu; Nunley at global@mtsu.edu; or AID President Angie Feeney at amf3g@mtsu.edu.

**Director: ‘So much excitement’ generated by every facet of MT sports**

**BRAA hopes to grow from athletic success**

by Randy Weiler

Building on the success of the Blue Raiders’ Motor City Bowl appearance, the nationally ranked Lady Raiders basketball team and other strong individuals and teams, the Blue Raider Athletic Association has kicked off its renewal phase for current members, BRAA Director Alan Farley said.

“Right now, there's so much excitement,” Farley said. “We went to the bowl game, the women are ranked 19th nationally, our volleyball team won the Sun Belt Conference tournament and the track teams always are successful.

“It’s a gift, but it’s an investment. We’re seeing student-athletes graduate, but they’re also winning championships in their respective sports.”

Farley said he is encouraging existing members to “renew and participate in the 110 percent club, giving 10 percent more than they did last year.”

Wayne Groce (B.S. '87, M.B.A. '75), a Murfreesboro resident and underwriting team manager at State Farm Insurance Companies, is serving as membership chairman, Farley said.

“We have friends and family that support Science Olympiad,” Patterson said. “We need to show it's for all kids.”

Patterson said about 400 middle and high school students will be competing, adding that 14 middle schools (Division B) and 13 high schools (Division C) will have teams entered.

“We want all kids exposed to Science Olympiad,” she said. “We need to show it’s for all kids.”

Patterson said she was excited to learn that Nashville’s Hume-Fogg and Martin Luther King High School students would be sending high-school teams.

“They are two Tennessee high schools in the top 50 in the country,” she said. “I'm excited that we will have that type of competition. Hume-Fogg not only signed up, but they signed up to win.”

Patterson said four high-school teams and two middle schools will advance to the state competition Saturday, March 31, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The National Science Olympiad will be held May 18-19 in Wichita, Kan.

Sponsors in 2007 include State Farm Insurance Companies ($3,600 donation), ARAMARK, Krispy Kreme doughnuts and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

**Emergency info sessions set this month**

If you’re a building emergency representative involved in MT’s new tornado-alert planning, you’ll need to attend one of five special informational sessions scheduled this month in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Each session will last about one hour and will contain the same information, so you'll only need to attend one. Choose the time most convenient for you and mark your calendar.

**Monday, Feb. 12, 2-3:30 p.m.**
• Library and forms for requesting library resources and services, such as requesting interlibrary loan, placing items on reserve, applying for a faculty study, recommending new books or asking to see a book that is in the library.
• This project involved the work of many library faculty and staff members. It takes advantage of the advice of campus staff and students and utilizes a variety of Web technologies to aid navigation.
• So give the new Web site a try and let us know what you think. The success of this virtual library is best measured by how effectively you can find information, locate resources and research subjects. Your opinion counts!
• And for those of you who might panic initially, a link to our previous site is still available in the lower right-hand corner of the new site to aid your transition.
• We look forward to hearing your suggestions and comments. Please use the Contact Us link at the bottom of any page to provide suggestions or comments.

J. Donald Craig is dean of the Walker Library.

from page 2

**Science Olympiad once again draws support from faculty, students**

by Randy Weiler

A combined 80 MTSU faculty and students will assist with the annual Regional Science Olympiad Saturday, Feb. 24, at a campus area of sites, event director Dr. Pat Patterson said.

About 40 high school teams and 30 to 40 students will either coordinate the combined 46 events or help in other ways, said Patterson, who added that most will come from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

“The Regional Science Olympiad will be bigger than ever,” Patterson said. “The MTSU support is greater. We’re tapping into some new folks, plus we have some of our regular coordinators. Faculty from nine of the 10 departments in College of Basic and Applied Sciences are helping, and that’s wonderful. It’s one of the biggest colleges on campus.”

WKRN Channel 2 meteorologists Jeff Ray and Justin Bruce, UT-Martin faculty members Dr. Eric S. Etkin and Lily Lilinghong, Tennessee Valley Authority employees Bo Baxter and Pat Cox and Bruce Ross of Murfreesboro’s Wichita State Police Department will be non-MSU coordinators of events.

“We have friends and family that support Science Olympiad,” Patterson said. “Some are teachers at middle or high schools that are not competing, but they are volunteering and hopefully will compete next year.”

Patterson said about 400 middle and high school students will be competing, adding that 14 middle schools (Division B) and 13 high schools (Division C) will have teams entered.

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February 9th to 15th

**MTSU Brass Ensemble**
March 3 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**MTSU Opera: Mozart on Stage**
7:30 nightly, Hinton Music Hall
Admission: $6 per person
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**MTSU Jazz Ensembles**
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

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

**Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Conference in African American History Month**
Feb. 22-24
Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's Studies
James Union Building
For information, visit: womensstu.web.mtsu.edu/NWHM.htm or contact: 615-898-5910.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Mississippi State**
1 p.m., Racquet Club of M’boro
For information, visit: www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Women’s Tennis**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Women’s Tennis vs. University of Kentucky**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Women’s Tennis vs. Cumberland College**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Women’s Tennis vs. Austin Peay**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Women’s Tennis vs. Tennessee**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Tennessee**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Vanderbilt**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Kennesaw State**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. University of Tennessee-Martin**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Eastern Tennessee State**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Austin Peay**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Blanton College**
3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**MTSU Men’s Tennis vs. Lee University**
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New Orleans

McPhee, who has toured the SUNO campus, said, “This is not a one-time event. How can we understand and promote better media practices in the United States? Is TV too violent? Is election coverage too biased? Are newspapers and TV too explicit? And is what media tell us true?”

Patterson said a primary focus will be promoting attendance for the Feb. 24 Senior Day basketball games. The nationally ranked Lady Raiders will welcome Sun Belt Conference opponent Florida Atlantic at 2 p.m. in Murphy Center, while the Blue Raiders will meet the Owls’ men’s team at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center.

A silent auction sponsored by the MTSU Parents Association, with all proceeds going to a book scholarship that will be awarded to a student next fall, will begin with registration at 9 a.m. Feb. 24 and continue into the 10 a.m. brunch and 5 p.m. dinner with Lightning.

Patterson said another weekend feature would be a CANstruction food drive. Students and their families will be encouraged to bring cans of food when they register. Event organizers will construct a pyramid of cans as high as a basketball goal, which will be donated to a local food bank.

MTSU students can attend Family Weekend events free with ID; cost for family members is $30 per package. The Feb. 23-24 baseball games and the “Ramona Quimby” performances will require additional admission fees. Family Weekend T-shirts will be available for $10 each.

For more information, including a list of sponsor hotels and weekend schedule, call 615-898-2454 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~nsfp.

Family Weekend

From Report Staff

F 20 years ago, ethics leaders in media and higher education at a national confer-
ence asked: How can we understand and promote better media practices in the United States? Is TV too violent? Is election coverage too biased? Are newspapers and TV too explicit? And is what media tell us true?

Those leaders will gather Feb. 27-March 2 to once again discuss Americans’ greatest concerns about media ethics and recommend change to government officials.

This second conference, set for the MTSU campus, will draw experts nationwide to review results from a recent national poll on media ethics and offer solutions from a panel of leading media organizations and a “circle of elders” who will critique and endorse suggestions offered by the conferees. They also will help determine which actions are most pressing, practi-
cal and achievable to set the agenda for the next 20 years.

On Friday, March 2, the public and media will be invited to an open session, where leaders will announce the group’s consensus on the issues and make recommendations for 2007 and beyond. Guests may ask questions at the event, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the State Farm Room of the uni-
versity’s Business and Aerospace Building.

“We’ll then be taking our findings to the White House, Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, colleges and universities and profes-
sional and academic associations,” Cooper said.

“We want to move the agenda to the public sector so we can see it implemented.”

In addition to the March 2 open session, other free public events include:

• Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.—A screening of filmmaker and Harvard University professor Robb Moss’s latest work, “Secrecy,” a collaboration with Peter Galison exploring the world of government secrecy, in Room 221 of the Learning Resource Center. The screening will be followed by a public question-and-answer period from 9 until 9:30 p.m.

• Thursday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.—A lecture by Adam Clayton Powell III, former vice president of technology and programs at The Freedom Forum, a veteran newsmen and a visiting professor at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. Powell also is the author of “Reinventing Local News: Connecting Communities Through New Technologies and Adam By Adam: The Autobiography of Adam Clayton Powell Jr., a memoir of his late father, the powerful New York congressman.

The event is sponsored by the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation and MTSU and hosted by Dr. Arantha S. Babbili, dean of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication; more details may be found at www.mtsu.edu/~masscomm/ethics/ethics_index.html.
Over the next couple of years, drivers and bikers will gradually co-exist more comfortably, thanks to the ongoing construction work on MTSU’s parking/transportation project.

Now that the new entrances off North Rutherford Boulevard are complete and new parking lots are in place on the east side of what used to be a remote country highway, Phase II will commence this summer.

The first part will consist of a two-lane entrance, plus a dedicated bus/bike lane from Rutherford to the three-way stop at Blue Raider Drive near Womack Lane Apartments. This will be followed by a second two-lane roadway and separate bus/bike lane from Rutherford into MTSU Boulevard to the four-way stop.

In late spring of 2008, the third part of Phase II will be the construction of a roundabout at that four-way stop, and the fourth installment of Phase II will be a two-lane, plus bus/bike lane from Womack Apartments to the Cope Administration Building along Blue Raider Drive on the south side of campus.

Also under way this spring:

• This month is the scheduled completion timetable for the Sports Club & Fields project on East Main Street. Workers are installing lights, painting and finishing the metal trim on the storage building. They also will be setting parking light poles and grading the field.

• The renovation of Monohan Hall is about 65 percent finished and will be completed this July. Lyon Hall was bid last month.

• The Middle Tennessee Building/Anne (formerly the Baptist church across Middle Tennessee Boulevard) is slated for a March completion, and move-in should begin in April.

• Phase II of the Track Improvements project, made possible by a partnership with the City of Murfreesboro, consists of a complex that will house a weight room, weight rooms, and a camera deck.

• The re-roofing of Boutwell Dramatic Arts is finished, and the new roof on the Todd Building should be in place by mid-March.

• Work is in progress on six units at Womack Lane Apartments that entails electrical improvements and sprinkler installations. The upgrading of all the units should be done by November of this year.

Elsewhere around campus, the Student Health, Wellness & Recreation Facility project is progressing, with the eventual goal of moving Health Services to the new facility. The work, which will require temporarily closing the front parking lot of the facility and using a different entrance, also includes expanding the weight room and building a second-floor extension to accommodate workout rooms.

The chilling plant addition will, in part, handle the extra demands of the new Health & Wellness facility. The foundation has been laid, the chiller pad has been poured and the chill line valve installed. In about a month, work will begin on replacing old chill water lines throughout the campus.

Projects in various initial stages are the widening of Middle Tennessee Boulevard, an underground electrical upgrading, pre-planning and programming for the new science building and ADA adaptations to Business and Aerospace (hardware), Alumni Memorial Gym (lift) and accessible restrooms in Peck Hall, Davis Science and Kirksey Old Main. Peck Hall is getting a new elevator, and those in Saunders Fine Arts, Boutwell Dramatic Arts and Wiser-Patten will be upgraded. HVAC work in Peck Hall will begin this summer, and life/safety work will begin this summer in Wiser-Patten and James Union.

Currently, officials are going through a needs assessment (programming stage) for the proposed Student Union, which will then enter the design phase. The ITD Building also is in the programming stage. Bids for the Little House renovation were to be received earlier this month. Now in Phase II, the new observatory, which is to be located adjacent to Wiser-Patten, recently was bid.

For more information about the seminar, visit www.mtsunews.com and click on the link to “Successful Events—How NPA Can Help.” To discuss your publicity needs or to schedule a publicity seminar, call 615-898-2919.

photo by J. Intintoli
Spring semester registration shows slight gain
by Randy Weiler

MTSU enrollment services officials submitted 21,296 students enrolled at this semester to the Tennessee Board of Regents Jan. 29.

The 21,296 students is an increase of 345 students—or 1.65 percent—from the spring 2006 census (20,951) submitted to the TBR a year ago, said Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services. The TBR’s 14-day census period ended Jan. 29. Huddleston said she froze the enrollment totals at midnight, then submitted them to TBR by e-mail.

This semester, Huddleston said MTSU is seeing an increase in re-enrolling students (1,109 compared to 1,025 in 2006) and first-time freshmen (205 compared to 167 in ’06), but it’s seeing a decrease in the number of new transfer students (870 compared to 914 in ’06).

“First-time freshmen (generally) have stayed out a semester,” Huddleston said. “Perhaps they worked, or were working to save money for college.”

This month on ‘Middle Tennessee Record’

The February edition of MTSU’s TV program features two outstanding examples of the university at work across the globe: the first is a story of students and faculty working with children in La Cane, Honduras, and the second focuses on street children in The Philippines as documented by Dr. Chuck Frost, social work professor.

Other segments include the ongoing wellness program at MTSU, coordinated by Dr. Mark Anshel and his staff; the Winter Gathering of greyhounds; the upcoming Invention Convention at MTSU, which will mark its 15th anniversary; the new building addition for the School of Nursing, shown at right; and a recording industry student who shares his talent with younger students.

MT Record” will soon be seen in 13 different communities in addition to the greater Nashville area. Find it all online at www.mtsunews.com or on TV at the schedule on page 4 of The Record.

Michael Fleming, assistant professor of recording industry and task force co-chair,

The panel recommends that the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center develop work-shops to show faculty how to improve performance in their weaker categories. These workshops would be ready by the time the first results from the new evaluation instrument are available.

“Many people view the evaluation as a means of policing the teaching that’s taking place in our classrooms, but that was not the view taken by the task force members,” Montemayor says.

As it turns out, the Berkeley instrument already was being used by the MTSU mentoring program. Even so, Montemayor says that had no impact on the panel’s proposals.

The current student evaluation calls for ratings of “almost always,” “usually,” “rarely,” “never” or “not applicable” to statements such as “course requirements are clear,” “the class begins at scheduled times” and “instructor presents material clearly.”

Under the Berkeley version, more than 30 statements are divided into the categories of “Presentation Ability,” “Organization and Clarity,” “Accuracy and Relevance,” “Interaction and Collaboration,” “Instructor’s Style and Attitude,” “Mastery of Subject Matter,” “Readiness of Class” and “Effectiveness and Worth.”

Exams that are reasonable in length and difficulty; “discusses recent developments in the field;” “invites criticism of own ideas;” and “motivates me to do my best work” are examples of the categories.

The first-time freshmen may be eligible to receive Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships, said Bonnie McCarty, MTSU assistant director of scholarships in the financial aid office.

McCarthy said nontraditional (age 25 and over) students “may” receive the HOPE Lottery scholarship once they attempt 24 hours, have a 2.5 or higher grade point average and “meet initial requirements” that include income and residency.

McCarthy said first-time and nontraditional students should contact Melanie Collins (macollin@mtsu.edu) by e-mail or visit the financial aid office, 218 Cope Administration Building, to learn if they are eligible for lottery scholar- ship.

Upgrading

Corrections: The Feb. 5 Record included an incorrect date for the TBR’s deadline for the spring census. The previous story, on page 7, included the correct information.

Also, it was mentioned in the Feb. 5 Record that the hope lottery scholarship is open to students with any minor. It actually is restricted to students only majoring in the sciences. It’s a small stipulation to the scholarship, but one that is true. See the story for a complete listing of requirements.

For complete information, including graphs and charts, go to physics.mtsu.edu/~vjm/task_force.html.

Photo by J. Intintoli

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

Photo by J. Intintoli

TAKE OUT A NO. 2 PENCIL—The ubiquitous Scantron form is the first step in an educational data-collection and assessment system students currently use to evaluate professors at MTSU. A proposal is being considered to revamped the method to be more specific and useful to professors.

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Upgrading

Michael Fleming, assistant professor of recording industry and task force co-chair, said the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center develop work-shops to show faculty how to improve performance in their weaker categories. These workshops would be ready by the time the first results from the new evaluation instrument are available.

“Many people view the evaluation as a means of policing the teaching that’s taking place in our classrooms, but that was not the view taken by the task force members,” Montemayor says.

As it turns out, the Berkeley instrument already was being used by the MTSU mentoring program. Even so, Montemayor says that had no impact on the panel’s proposals.

The current student evaluation calls for ratings of “almost always,” “usually,” “rarely,” “never” or “not applicable” to statements such as “course requirements are clear,” “the class begins at scheduled times” and “instructor presents material clearly.”

Under the Berkeley version, more than 30 statements are divided into the categories of “Presentation Ability,” “Organization and Clarity,” “Accuracy and Relevance,” “Interaction and Collaboration,” “Instructor’s Style and Attitude,” “Mastery of Subject Matter,” “Readiness of Class” and “Effectiveness and Worth.”

Exams that are reasonable in length and difficulty; “discusses recent developments in the field;” “invites criticism of own ideas;” and “motivates me to do my best work” are examples of the categories.

The first-time freshmen may be eligible to receive Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships, said Bonnie McCarty, MTSU assistant director of scholarships in the financial aid office.

McCarthy said nontraditional (age 25 and over) students “may” receive the HOPE Lottery scholarship once they attempt 24 hours, have a 2.5 or higher grade point average and “meet initial requirements” that include income and residency.

McCarthy said first-time and nontraditional students should contact Melanie Collins (macollin@mtsu.edu) by e-mail or visit the financial aid office, 218 Cope Administration Building, to learn if they are eligible for lottery scholar-ship.
by Randy Weiler

Karen Johnston Neely, an MTSU alumna who was the first woman ROTC cadet commander and current military science instructor, waited about 20 years for this special day.

In January, she was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. The MTSU Department of Military Science, where she teaches core classes including time management, operations, land navigation and physical training, saluted her Jan. 25 during a pinning ceremony in the James Union Building’s Hazlewood Room.

“Getting promoted to lieutenant colonel is a big deal. It doesn’t happen every day. It takes four promotions over 15 to 20 years,” fellow Lt. Col. Mike Walsh, first-year professor of military science, said in his remarks to the overflow crowd that packed the room. “It’s a hard rank to get,” Walsh added. “It’s a tiny recognition of what you’ve done in the past, but more of what the (U.S.) Army sees that you can do in the future. ... The Army sees a lot more potential.”

“This means a lot to me and my family,” Neely said. “I asked my children about staying in. They said, ‘Mom, go for it.’”

Her children, Julie Anne, 15; Daniel, 14; and Jonathan, 10, assisted in the pinning of the promotion pins.

Neely said that once she is deployed, she will go to Iraq, “where I will be supporting a logistics battalion north of Baghdad. My job will be a force modernization officer, and I will be in charge of working to get specialized equipment our troops need to the field. Our unit will monitor all supply (food, clothing, ammunition, etc.) that comes into Iraq. We will be responsible for making sure it gets to the units that need it.”

Her tour is expected to last 14 to 18 months, she said.

Family in attendance included her father, Jerry Johnston; her mother and stepfather, Joan and Ronny Harris; her brother, Steve Johnston, and sister-in-law, Melissa, and their four children: Hillary, Abbey, Bailey and Emily.

MTCS Principal Todd Miller and President Lynn Watson also attended. Neely earned her bachelor’s degree in math and biology at MTSU in 1988 and received her master’s in education in 1997.

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Awards

Stephen Foua (electronic media communication) and senior Forrest Sanders recently received a Gold MarCom Creative Award from the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals for their mini-documentary “The Honduras Project: 12 Days in Cane.”

Lisa L. Rollins (News and Public Affairs) won a Council for Advancement and Support of Education District III Special Merit Award in the Media Relations Project category for her work on the Alvin York battle-site project.

Conferences

Dr. Terrance Quinn (mathematics) was a panel member at the American Mathematical Society/Mathematical Association of America Joint Mathematics Meetings held in New Orleans Jan. 4. He also served as a judge at the MAA meeting.

Presentations

Drs. Stuart E. Bernstein (Center for Dyslexia), James M. Hodgson and Diane J. Sawyer (dyslexic studies), presented the findings of a multi-year study on “Students with Phonological Dyslexia in School-Based Programs: Insights from Tennessee Schools” at the 57th Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Association Nov. 11 in Indianapolis. Dr. M. Tara Joyce and Judith Oliff (Center for Dyslexia) presented a session, “Teacher (But Not Just Teacher) Training: A Team Approach,” Nov. 9 at the same event.

Dr. Stuart E. Bernstein (Center for Dyslexia) presented a session on “Educational Outcomes for Students with Dyslexia in School-based Programs” at the fifth annual Tennessee Education Leadership Conference held at the Nashville Convention Center Oct. 20.

Drs. Tom Brinthaupt (psychology) and Maria Clayton (English) and Barbara Draude (Faculty Instructional Technology Center) presented a poster, “Defining and Overcoming Faculty Barriers to IT Integration,” at the 2007 EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Annual Meeting Jan. 22-24 in Atlanta.

Dr. M. Tara Joyce (Center for Dyslexia) presented a session on “Adults with Dyslexia” at the Proliteracy Worldwide Conference in Atlanta Oct. 6. She also presented “Spelling: Research and Practice” at the Meeting of the Minds Symposium in Sacramento, Calif., Dec. 1.


Dr. Yuri Melnikov (mathematics) presented “To the computing of point-source generated potential in multiply connected regions of irregular shape” at the International Conference on Computational and Experimental Engineering and Science in Miami Jan. 3. He also was a panel member at the conference.

Dr. Diane J. Sawyer (dyslexic studies) presented a session on “Reading Reading Difficulties” at the Reading and Language Arts Conference celebrating the School of Education Centennial at Syracuse University in New York Oct. 6.

Drs. David Chris Stephens and Dennis Walsh (mathematics) presented “Representativity of Cayley Maps” and “Amazing Explorations,” respectively, at the AMS/MAA joint meetings in New Orleans Jan. 4.

School of Nursing faculty Linda Wofford (“Don’t Pressure Me”) and Drs. Maria Smith (“Moms Just Don’t Understand”) and Lynn Parsons (“Becoming a Nurse—Career Choices”) made presentations at the recent Mothers and Daughters Learning Together Conference.

Dr. Xiaoya Zha (mathematics) presented “Spanning Subsets of Toroidal of Klein Bottle Embeddings” at the AMS/SIAM Annual Meeting in New Orleans. He was also an organizer at a special session.