

Breaking laws?
Professor's research creates
sound pulses faster than light
 see page 3

Weather on the Web
Ice, snow closing classes?
Check www.mtsunews.com

'Sound into Print'
Custom poster exhibit
showcases musical art
 see page 5

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 PERMIT NO. 16

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Feb. 26, 2007 • Vol. 15/No. 15

the RECORD

NSF award to aid MTSU's outreach in math, science

from Staff Reports

A \$789,040 National Science Foundation award will help MTSU's efforts to increase fifth- through eighth-grade students' interest in math and science.

"In order to keep high-tech, high-paying jobs in Tennessee communities, we have to make technical fields more attractive to students," said Congressman Bart Gordon. "To do that, we need programs that will make a substantial improvement in K-12 science and math education and keep the United States in position to compete with the rest of the world."



MTSU's Energy, Earth and Civilization Project will work with fifth- through eighth-grade students and teachers from Woodbury Grammar School, Central Middle School, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School and the Smyrna Boys & Girls

See 'Outreach' page 5

Plan ahead: it's time for TSSAA tourney traffic

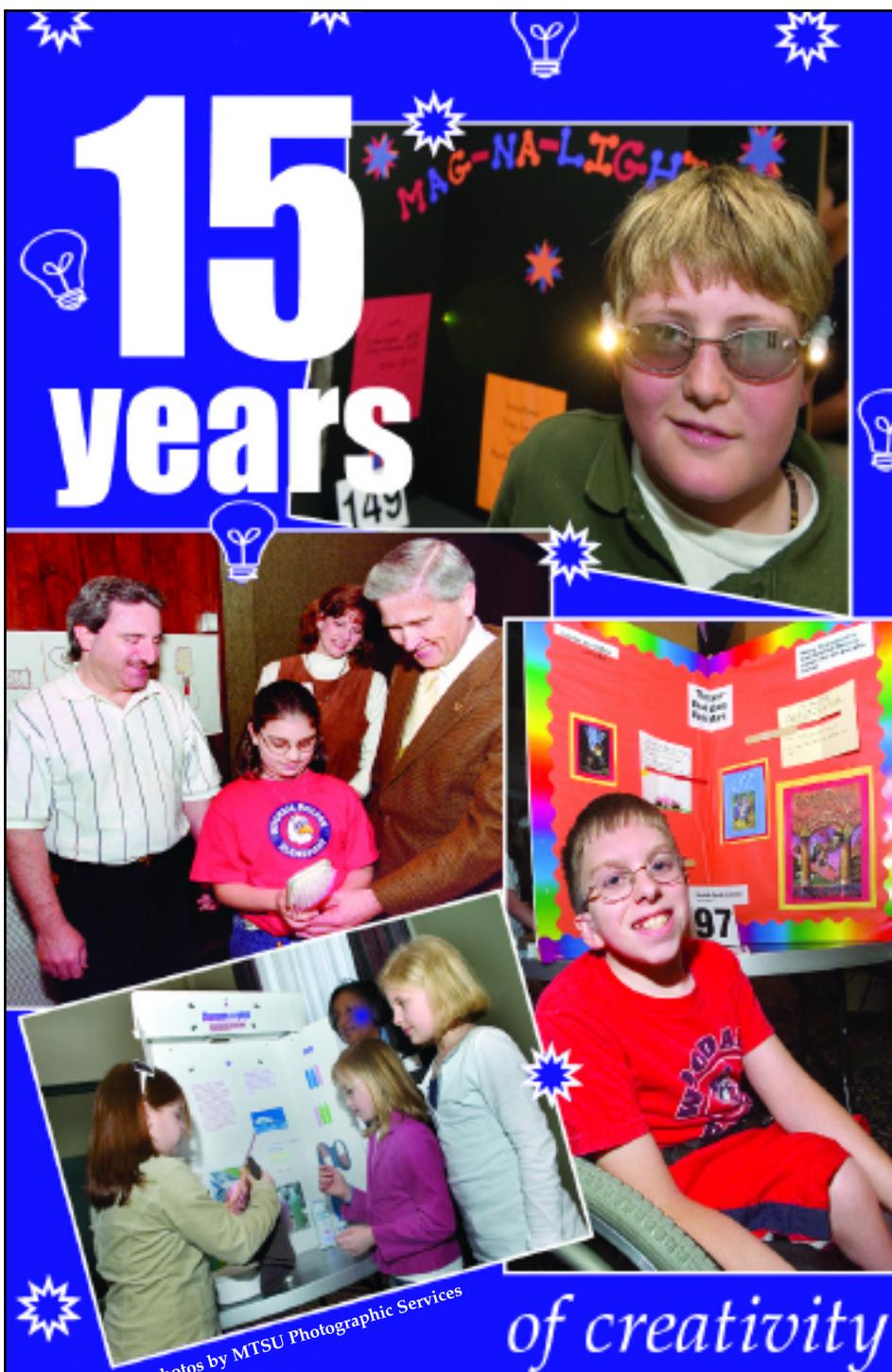
from Staff Reports

The TSSAA girls' and boys' Division I high school basketball tournaments have been scheduled for March 7-10 and March 14-17, respectively, in Murphy Center, and that means

temporary traffic and parking changes around campus for MTSU students, faculty and staff.

The girls' tournament occurs during spring break, which should help reduce congestion, but officials say MTSU motorists still will need to use caution and make room when necessary for tournament guests.

See 'TSSAA' page 6



file photos by MTSU Photographic Services

Invention Convention '07 bubbling over with ideas

by Ashlea Ramey

A mother's legacy will once again lead area children to summon their creative and practical capabilities, and MTSU will be their showcase.

On March 1, MTSU's James Union Building will be the site where hundreds of student-created gadgets and games will be on public display at the aptly named Invention Convention.

Dr. Tracey Ring, MTSU professor of elementary and special education, said she began the program

in 1993 after finding homespun inspiration.

"My mother did this when she taught fifth grade at a private school," Ring said. "After she retired, I decided to do it on a bigger scale."

Now, 15 years later, the Invention Convention draws nearly 300 participants from schools across middle Tennessee. Ring said that the conference is open to students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades from public and private schools, as well as local home schools.

See 'Invention' page 7

IN BRIEF

MTSU RESEARCHERS WORKING TO PREVENT DISEASE IN AFRICA

MTSU's Department of Health and Human Performance is collaborating with the World Health Organization and the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention to help build capacity for health-care awareness in Ghana, West Africa. This initiative involves acculturating and implementing the Global School-Based Student Health Survey. Dr. Andrew Owusu of the Department of Health and Human Performance is the project coordinator. A final country report is expected in fall 2007. For more information, contact Owusu at aowusu@mtsu.edu.

TENNESSEE AUTHOR SLATED FOR FREE PUBLIC READING MARCH 1

Fiction writer William Gay will deliver a free public reading at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the James Union Building's Hazlewood Dining Room. A native of Hohenwald, Tenn., and past winner of the William Peden Award and the James Michener Memorial Prize, the author of three novels and one short-story collection will be available for a book signing immediately following the reading. For more information, call 615-904-8155 or e-mail rtmackin@mtsu.edu.

JUMP IN YOUR JAMMIES, BUT BUY SOME FOR NEEDY KIDS, TOO!

Kids of all ages, especially if they're battling an illness or living in a shelter, need a little comfort. That's why Jaz's Jammies Annual Pajama Drive will be collecting new pajamas for children through Feb. 28 at the entrance of The Grill in the Keathley University Center. This year's goal for MTSU's contribution is more than 1,000 pairs of PJs! All pajamas will be donated to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and Room at the Inn shelter. For more information, call 615-898-5812 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~sga.

IDEAS ON BEAUTIFYING CAMPUS? SEND 'EM IN, WATCH 'EM GROW!

The MTSU Student Government Association and the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service are working together to coordinate the annual Campus Beautification Day, and they need your input! The tentative date for the project is Saturday, March 31, and organizers welcome your thoughts and suggestions at mnf2b@mtsu.edu.

MIDDLE
 TENNESSEE
 STATE UNIVERSITY

www.mtsunews.com



READY FOR WORK—Colleen Roden, a graduate student in biology, demonstrates a scanning electron microscope using a heart-tissue sample as faculty and guests look on during the grand opening of the MTSU Interdisciplinary Microanalysis and Imaging Center (MIMIC) Feb. 2 in the Forrest Hall Annex behind the Keathley University Center. Watching with interest are, left to right, Dr. Saeed Foroudastan, associate dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Dr. Bill Robertson, physics and astronomy; Ken Sergeant, engineering technology & industrial studies; and Dr. Ahad Nasab, ETIS.

MIMIC is the first university-supported core facility for state-of-the-art research instrumentation. It builds on biology professor emeritus Marion Wells' work throughout his career as a microbiologist specializing in electron microscopy techniques, according to administrative director Dr. Andrienne Friedli. The nearly \$1 million funding used for equipment came from the MTSU Office of Research. The renovation of the space was funded by the offices of President Sidney A. McPhee and Provost Kaylene Gebert, as well as the MTSU Foundation Special Projects Committee (which awarded its entire 2005-06 budget to the project), matching funds from a National Science Foundation grant, Dean Tom Cheatham of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, ETIS, geosciences and the College of Liberal Arts.

photo by J. Intintoli

'Sheriffs' Murder Cases' is 1st novel in series

Ex-prof's readers find Cumberland Mountain high

by Gina K. Logue

Dr. Jack Justin Turner, professor emeritus of political science, will discuss his novel, *The Sheriffs' Murder Cases*, at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in Room 103 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Turner, who specialized in international relations at MTSU, will read selected portions of his book, published by Chestnut Hill, which is the first volume of what he calls the "Cumberland Mountain Trilogy." Volumes II and III are slated to be released in July 2007 and January 2008, respectively.

A native of Maytown, Ky., Turner, drew from his roots to tell the story of Jake Herald, high sheriff or chief deputy of Chinoe County from 1920-1945. Herald earns a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University and pursues a medical degree at the University of Louisville, only to leave to fight in World War I with a year remaining in his studies.

When Herald returns home, he finds the area dominated by coal companies and the overall environment much rougher than he remembers. He thrusts himself into law enforcement to find out who killed one of his friends. It's the first of several murders Herald will try to solve.

"I think of Jake Herald as a kind of a mixture,

and it's a strange mixture, of Hamlet, maybe, and Dirty Harry," Turner says, referring to William Shakespeare's tragic prince and Clint Eastwood's vigilante movie detective.

"He likes to think about things and work them out, but once he gets started, he's capable of taking extreme action, if necessary."

Known as "Justin" as an author and "Jack" to his friends, Turner says he made a concerted effort to avoid stereotypes of mountain people as ignorant and uneducated. For example, the novel is free of any sort of dialect.

"I talked to so many people in getting material for this book [that] I got to where I could speak the way they could again," Turner says. "I just wrote the way they actually talked."

Turner says another overly simplistic image promoted by some authors is the concept of the evil coal-company executives who try to cheat the poor dumb mountaineers out of their land.

"Around where I grew up, that didn't happen very often because the mountaineers were as shrewd as they were," Turner says. "People still owned their mineral rights and still sold them off when they felt like it."



Turner

Also, there are numerous footnotes in the back of the book to introduce the uninitiated to the meanings of terms such as "Blind Tiger" and "ambeer."

"A lot of people will read the footnotes first, and they seem to enjoy that a great deal," Turner says.

Turner earned his bachelor's degree from Berea College in 1959 and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1969. He was a full-time faculty member at MTSU from 1965 to 2000.

Turner's campus appearance is sponsored by the Dr. Virginia Peck Trust and the Departments of English and Political Science.

The trust is named for the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and a former member of the MTSU Department of English. Her bequest to the university upon her death has been used to provide cash prizes for writing awards, fund an annual workshop on composition theory and practice, and facilitate visits by scholars, creative writers and other artists.

A book signing will follow Turner's talk. For more information, contact Connie Huddleston, events coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts, at 615-494-7628, or chudd@mtsu.edu. To learn more about *The Sheriffs' Murder Cases*, go to www.chestnuthillpublishing.com.

Faster than the speed of sound?

by John C. Lynch

Dr. Bill Robertson doesn't let a little thing like the speed of light limit him. Last summer, researching with two MTSU undergraduates, a high-school teacher and two high-school students, Robertson achieved results that at first seem to fly in the face of one of the most fundamental laws of physics.

Using a Rube Goldberg assemblage of regular PVC pipe, a speaker and assorted instruments, the group managed to produce a pulse of sound that exceeded the speed of light.

A paper describing his research, "Sound beyond the speed of light: Measurement of negative group velocity in an acoustic loop filter," appeared in the January 2007 issue of *Applied Physics Letters*.

The MTSU students involved in the project were physics major Jason Pappafotis and math major Patrick Flannigan. Teacher Jan Cathey and student Brandon Cathey came from Siegel High School; Colin Klaus from Blackman High was the other high school student. Their research was part of STEPmt, a program designed to increase discovery-based learning and undergraduate research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

After the initial article was published, Robertson's research was highlighted in several additional scientific publications. It also generated heated discussions on the web. Some bloggers, Robertson said, referred to him in angry and unflattering terms.

"People said, 'This just can't be right,'" he recalled, taking the criticism in stride. "This doesn't mean you can call yourself on the phone last Wednesday. It doesn't violate causality or special relativity. No energy or information travels faster than the speed of light."

Robertson explained that there are "two ways of measuring wave velocity: group velocity and phase velocity. What we were looking at was group velocity."

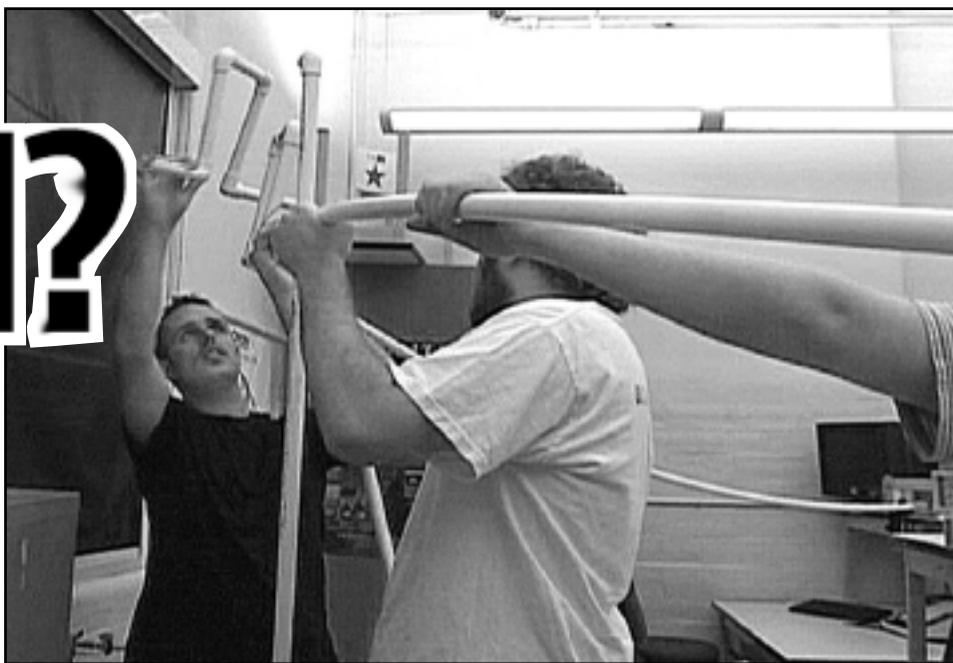
There's no easy way to completely explain the phenomenon he has been investigating. As Robertson told his student researchers last summer, "You don't figure this out on day one. It takes a few weeks to understand what's going on."

This was not the first time his research has produced intriguing results. In 2002, Robertson, with the help of senior physics and astronomy major Jeremy Munday, used an oscilloscope and other basic laboratory equipment to send an electronic signal at least four times faster than the speed of light. Later that year, a report of the experiment was published in the Sept. 9 issue of *Applied Physics Letters*.

His work is more than an abstract investigation of an odd phenomenon; Robertson's results have important engineering applications. He cited the example of a computer chip that might send eight separate signals through circuits of different lengths. Applying methods used in his experiments, it's possible to "manipulate the speed of signals that travel varying paths so they arrive at the same time."

The concepts may be hard to understand, but Robertson's approach to teaching and research is something everyone, especially students, can appreciate. He enjoys learning and discovery and passes those qualities to his students.

One of the things he requires of his students in addition to the traditional tests and quizzes is a special semester project. Many students choose to build a



PREPARATION IS KEY—Brandon Cathey of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, left, joins MTSU physics major Jason Pappafotis to set up PVC pipe to help conduct sound.

photo by Seth Alder

musical instrument and test its acoustics. When projects are presented in December, they reveal a cacophonous assortment of flutes, kazoos, trumpets, xylophones, stringed instruments, electrical tone generators and didgeridoos.

A few years ago, one of his students made a didgeridoo for his final project. Fascinated by the acoustics of the droning instrument from the Australian outback, Robertson created a Web page discussing the special acoustics of the instrument. His site drew attention from people all over the world and he has since become somewhat of an expert on the didgeridoo.

To read more about Robertson's latest research, visit www.livescience.com/technology/070112_ftl_sound.html. An article on his 2002 research on electrical pulses appeared in the September 30, 2002, edition of *The Record*. It's available at www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/Record/Rec_v11/rec1106/rec1106.html#Speed. His Web page on the didgeridoo is at <http://physics.mtsu.edu/~wmr/didj.html>. On that page, one can listen to Robertson play the instrument and view its acoustic spectrum.



MAKING SOME NOISE—Blackman High School student Colin Klaus prepares to run the computer program that will create a sound pulse moving faster than light in the photo above, while at left, he and Dr. Bill Robertson, center, and MTSU math major Patrick Flannigan await the results of their efforts. Using an assemblage of regular PVC pipe, a speaker and assorted instruments, Robertson and a group of high-school and MTSU students achieved results that at first seem to fly in the face of one of the most fundamental laws of physics—they managed to produce a pulse of sound that exceeded the speed of light.

photos by Seth Alder

Correction

The grade-point average required for nontraditional students to qualify for a Hope Lottery Scholarship is 2.75. An article on page 7 of the Feb. 12 edition of *The Record* ("Spring semester registration shows slight gain") provided an incorrect minimum GPA.

Calendar

Feb. 26-March 11

TV Schedule

"Middle Tennessee Record"
Cable Channel 9
Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+
Saturdays—1 p.m.

Every Monday night

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

Every Wednesday

Gender Circles
Weekly conversations on diversity,
emphasizing gender issues
1-3 p.m., JUB 206 (JAWC)
For information, contact:
615-898-2193.

Monday, Feb. 26
Honors Lecture Series
Dr. Mark Byrnes, "Crime in Film"
3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact:
615-898-2152.

**Vladimir Mukomel, "Ethnic
Migration in the U.S. & Russia"**
cosponsored by the American
Democracy Project, GLOBAL and
Americans for an Informed
Democracy
6 p.m., BAS State Farm Room
For information, contact:
615-898-2945 or 898-2633.

Feb. 27

Tuesday, Feb. 27
Hindi New Year
Ramayana begins.

MTSU Women's Choral
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

March 1

Thursday, March 1
**African American History Month:
"The African Presence in Latin
America"**
Noon-1:30 p.m., KUC Theater
For information, contact:
615-904-8232.

**Book Reading: Dr. Jack Turner,
"The Sheriffs' Murder Cases"**
2:30 p.m., HONR 103
For information, contact:
615-494-7628.

**Free Public Reading:
Author William Gay**
4:30 p.m., Hazlewood Dining Room
For information, contact:
615-904-8155.

**PRISM Concert:
MTSU Wind Ensemble & Friends**
Donations benefiting SUNO
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Friday, March 2
First Friday Star Party
"What Color Are the Stars?"
6:30-8:30 p.m., WPS Room 102
For information, contact:
615-898-5946.

March 4

Sunday, March 4
Purim
(Jewish celebration of survival)

March 5

March 5-10
Spring Break — no classes.

March 6

Tuesday, March 6
**JAWC Career/Professional
Development Brown Bag:**
Dr. Janet McCormick, "Why Didn't
You Hear What I Know I Said?"
Noon-1 p.m., BAS SunTrust Room
For information, contact:
615-898-2193.

Well-earned honor



UNSUNG HEROES—Longtime local leaders in community service received a small measure of their due Feb. 6 during MTSU's annual Unity Luncheon, when they were recognized and honored for their ministries in health care, transportation, education, athletics, senior citizens and children's services, just to name a few of their specialties. Posing for a group photo before the luncheon, which featured a keynote address from Dr. Gilman W. Whiting, director of undergraduate studies and senior lecturer in the African American and Diaspora Studies Program at Vanderbilt University are, seated, Susie Mae Simmons and Barbara Murray Alexander, both of Murfreesboro; standing, Marilyn G. Massengale of Shelbyville and Lillie W. McCrary and Kathryn McCroskey, also of Murfreesboro.

photo by J. Intintoli

Through Feb. 28

"Landscapes of Mexico"
photo exhibit by Héctor Pedro
Montes de Oca
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday,
noon-4 p.m. Saturday
Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
For information, contact:
615-898-2085.

Feb. 26

Feb. 26-March 1
Film: "Stranger Than Fiction"
7 and 9:30 p.m., KUC Theater
Admission: \$2 per person
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~events/films.html.

Feb. 28

Wednesday, Feb. 28
Héctor Pedro Montes de Oca
Lecture and slide presentation
7:30 p.m., BAS State Farm Room
Reception follows in Baldwin
Photo Gallery, LRC
For information, contact:
615-898-2085.

**U.S. Media Ethics Summit:
Screening of "Secrecy"
by Robb Moss and Peter Galison**
7:30 p.m., LRC 221; Q&A 9-9:30
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~masscomm/ethics/ethics_index.html
or contact: 615-898-5385.

Thursday, March 1
**U.S. Media Ethics Summit:
Adam Clayton Powell III,
"Technology and the Future of
Media Ethics"**
7:30 p.m., LRC 221
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~masscomm/ethics/ethics_index.html
or contact: 615-898-5385.

March 2

Friday, March 2
**U.S. Media Ethics Summit:
Public Forum on Media Ethics**
10:30 a.m., BAS State Farm Room
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~masscomm/ethics/ethics_index.html
or contact: 615-898-5385.

March 9

Friday, March 9
University holiday
All offices closed

March 10

March 10-11
MT Softball vs. Troy
March 10: 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
March 11: Noon
Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2103.

Custom posters showcase musical art

New exhibit focuses on Tennessee niche

by Cristol Camacho

MTSU's art department, along with artist and curator Sasha Barr, will bring the exhibit "Sound in Print: The Art of the Contemporary Music Poster" to the MTSU Todd Gallery March 12-30.

"Sound in Print" will include limited-edition handmade posters created for various music groups. The posters showcase a variety of art and design styles incorporating silkscreen and letterpress techniques.

"There are many 'art' elements involved in these posters," said art professor Seth Johnson. "Silkscreening combines traditional printmaking skills with graphic design problem-solving."

The technique of silkscreen poster printing has become synonymous with the Tennessee area. The posters have a huge niche appeal and have been featured in the book *Art of Modern Rock* and *in Print* magazine.

"I thought it was a great idea," says Barr, 24, of Memphis. "I was excited to be able to curate this exhibit and personally invite artists whose work I respect."

Aesthetic Apparatus, The Heads of State, Yeehaw Industries and Jay Ryan of The Bird Machine will be

submitting pieces for the exhibit, along with many others from around the United States.

Each of the more than 50 participating artists or designers is expected to bring five original music-related posters for the exhibit.

"No one has ever put anything like this together," said Johnson. "Because of MTSU's strong music and recording industry programs and because Tennessee is well known for these posters, we hope to bring a good crowd to campus."

The gallery for viewing Sound in Print will be open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A reception also will be held Friday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Todd Gallery. Barr and several of the artists will be available for questions, and a few donated custom posters will be available for sale.

Portions of the proceeds from the poster sales will go to the MTSU art scholarship fund for art majors. Admission to the exhibit is free on all dates.

For more information on "Sound in Print," contact Seth Johnson at jsjohnso@mtsu.edu.

To check out some samples of Barr's work, visit his Web site, www.thisisthenewyear.com.



graphic courtesy Sasha Barr

Bricks available now to honor MTSU's veterans

by Gina K. Logue

Each and every brick to be laid in the MTSU Veterans Memorial will represent the support of an entire community for the enlightenment and inspiration of future generations, organizers say.

The bricks may be reserved by those who wish to honor a veteran or active-duty service member or merely acknowledge their support for the construction of a permanent on-campus memorial to MTSU faculty, students, staff and administrators who perished while serving their country. The bricks will be integrated into the overall memorial design.

All proceeds will help to pay for the memorial, which will be an outdoor classroom that includes a wall with the names of the military personnel. So far, the committee has gathered the names of at least 55 service members for the wall.

The death of Army 1st Lt. Ken Ballard, an MTSU student who was killed in Iraq in 2004, prompted Dr. Andrei Korobkov, associate professor of political science and Ballard's instructor in three classes, to initiate the memorial concept. Korobkov says he feels strongly that Ballard and other veterans



deserve more acknowledgement and appreciation than a nondescript wall plaque that most of the general public would never see.

The MTSU Foundation's Special Projects Board has granted start-up money in the amount of \$5,000 to the committee, which seeks donations to a special fund established to help pay for design and construction.

"We need much more money to create a project honoring our veterans," Korobkov says.

"Thus, I would like to encourage those who support our project to show their support both through donations of any size and offers of participation."

To purchase a brick with a memorial message, send a tax-deductible check of \$150 payable to MTSU Foundation—Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 109, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132. Credit cards also are accepted. Address any questions about brick purchases or donations to Robyn Kilpatrick at 615-898-5223 or rkilpatr@mtsu.edu.

For more information, visit the MTSU Veterans Memorial Web site at www.mtsu.edu/veterans. A form for filling out an engraved brick message can be accessed by clicking on the link in the lower right-hand corner.

Outreach

from page 1

Club. The project aims to increase student interest in science and math and to help students apply their knowledge of those subjects to the real world.

"The goals of MTSU's project echo a major part of my agenda in the 110th Congress—improving science and math education," Gordon, chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, said. "Science and research can create jobs.... I will make sure to seek out any and every opportunity to ensure that we are poised to compete for bright students, cutting-edge research and good jobs."

MTSU's project will offer after-school hands-on learning experiences to students during the school year and during a two-week summer camp. The project also will offer professional development sessions for teachers, as well as evening parent-child meetings to engage families in science activities that are fun and educational, according to Dr. Linda Gilbert, project director and associate professor of

educational leadership at MTSU.

"This is a real opportunity to look at the results of joining informal science education with the formal content that is taught during the school day. We would like to see participants coming out of the EEC Project considering science or mathematics as career possibilities," Gilbert said.

"The most exciting part of the grant is that students in Rutherford County and Cannon County will be having fun learning new concepts and will see how those concepts are used in the real world."

The MTSU proposal was selected from 148 applications as one of 16 recipients across the country for the Academy for Young Scientists initiative.

"There is sufficient research to support that when middle-school students profess to want to be a scientist when they grow up, they do become scientists in spite of all life's hurdles," said Dr. Kim Cleary Sadler, assistant director for MTSU's Center

for Environmental Education. "It's so exciting to think that through the Academy for Young Scientists, we have an opportunity to provide meaningful out-of-school-time experiences that may nurture the development of a future scientist."

As a proponent of math and science education initiatives, Gordon has introduced legislation in Congress to improve math and science education in the nation's schools. His bill would increase the number of math and science teachers by providing scholarships to science, math and engineering students who commit to becoming science or math teachers at elementary and secondary schools upon completion of their degrees.

"If we want to stay competitive with the rest of the world, we must focus on math and science education," said Gordon.

Have fun, learn as a team on MTSU Challenge Course

from Campus Recreation

Spring is a great time to take advantage of an underutilized facility here at MTSU: the Campus Recreation Challenge Course and Alpine Tower. It's a great way to build cohesion, improve communication and enhance productivity for any group that works or plays together.

No, it doesn't always involve extreme physical effort. In fact, we can come to your department with a program tailored to fit your team's unique goals, characteristics and desired activity level. We have programs that are incredibly fun and can accomplish great things for your group without leaving the office.

Of course, we also have programs that provide more physically challenging activities focused on the Alpine Tower climbing structure and Low Ropes course. It's all teambuilding... you just don't necessarily have to dangle from a rope, fall into the waiting arms of your teammates and co-workers, or reveal your deepest thoughts and fears to the world—unless you want to.

Some folks believe that challenge course activities can be intrusive, invasive or subjective. Others feel they are too physically demanding for large groups of diverse ability levels. We try to keep our programs objective and



positive. Additionally, we try to make them accessible to all ability levels. Just tell us what you want. Teambuilding isn't just climbing or intense team problem-solving. It can be all of that, but it also can also be a nice, relaxing afternoon for your office to get to know each other better.

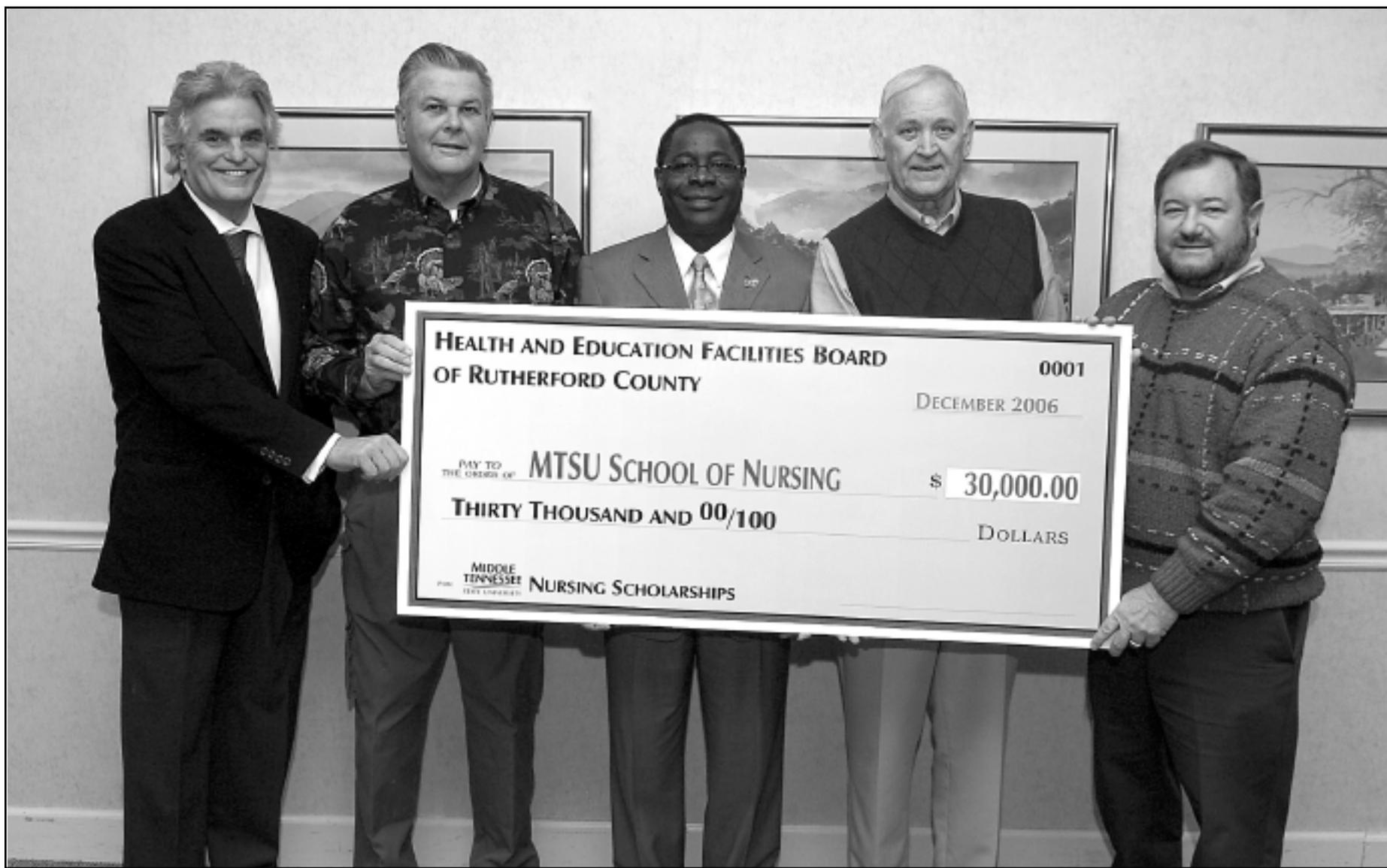
Let us design a program for your team. For more information, please call 615-898-2104 or visit our Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/Outdoor/challenge.html.

'YOU CAN DO IT!'—Participants give a colleague a hand as she climbs the wall during a Challenge Course organized by MTSU's Campus Recreation department.

photo courtesy Campus Recreation



Funds for future caregivers



COUNTY BOARD CREATES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT—With a \$30,000 donation, the Health and Education Facilities Board of Rutherford County has established a permanent fund to provide scholarships for county students to receive financial assistance while pursuing their studies in the MTSU School of Nursing program. Presenting MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee with the check are, from left, board members Johnny Jones, James Baker, Carroll Uselton and David Waldron.

photo by Jack Ross

TSSAA

from page 1

As in the past, tournament team buses will be parked along the east side of Middle Tennessee Boulevard, creating a single lane of traffic heading north on MT Boulevard between East Main Street and Greenland Drive for the duration of both events.

During the tournaments, the Greenland Drive parking lots will be reserved for TSSAA game ticket holders, who will pay \$5 per vehicle to park in those lots.

Students, faculty and staff who normally use the Greenland Drive lots are being encouraged to park in the Tennessee Livestock Center and

Rutherford Boulevard lots during the tournaments and use Raider Xpress shuttles to reach the interior of campus.

The Faulkinberry Drive entrance from MT Boulevard will be closed Wednesday through Saturday during the tournaments. Faulkinberry Drive also will be closed at Normal Way.

Students, faculty and staff with current MTSU parking decals—as well as visitors with appropriate permits—will be allowed to park in the Woodfin, Maintenance, Horseshoe, Corral, Jones Field and S-Curve parking lots during the tournaments.

Visitors attending the tournament games will be routed to outer lots on campus, including the Tennessee Livestock Center and Rutherford Boulevard lots.

The Raider Xpress Shuttle service will not run during Spring Break and the girls' tournament but will run its normal schedule during the boys' tournament, with the exception of the Green Route.

Parking and Transportation officials say the Green Route will not use Greenland Drive or access the Greenland Drive parking lot for the duration of the boys' tournament.

Instead, the route will be modified to access lots along Crestland and Ellington, travel down MT Boulevard and enter campus behind the James Union Building. The Green Route will then loop around Old Main Circle to Peck Hall and then travel back out to MT Boulevard from behind the JUB to continue its route.

For more information, please call Parking and Transportation Services at 615-898-2850 or visit its Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~parking.



TIMELY RECOGNITION—Dr. Connie Jones-Wade, left, accepts the 2007 John Pleas Faculty Award from the educator for whom it was named, psychology professor Dr. John Pleas. Jones-Wade has served as chair of the Department of Elementary and Special Education in the College of Education and Behavioral Science at MTSU since 2002; before leading the department as chair, she served it for 14 years as a faculty member. Her professional and community contributions include membership and elected service in Delta Kappa Gamma educational fraternity, civic workshops, chairing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools committees for K-8 public schools and serving as project consultant at the Discovery Center, to name only a few. The Pleas Award is presented annually to a minority faculty member at MTSU who has set a standard of excellence and contributed in significant ways to the university and community.

photo by J. Intintoli

2-year GRITS grant will raise awareness for girls

by Randy Weiler

There's a new item on the externally funded MTSU programs menu: GRITS—Girls Raised in Tennessee Science.

The program, which will cover East, Middle and West Tennessee, received a \$199,908 award from the National Science Foundation last fall. It will run from Jan. 1, 2007, until Dec. 31, 2008, said grant writer Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross and Karen Claud, who will be program director.

Chemistry professor Iriarte-Gross wrote in the project summary that a GRITS "Traveling Roadshow" and companion Web site with supporting materials will traverse the state to show middle school and high school girls, particularly from low economic areas, how they can explore careers in the STEM areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Claud said the first areas they plan to target in 2007 are Hamilton and Shelby counties to reach each of the state's grand divisions.

"We're going statewide," Claud said. "By the end of two years, we want to say we've hit all 95 counties. We have an ambitious goal."

"It's doable," Iriarte-Gross said, "but two years is giving us plenty of time. The National Science

Foundation thought we could do it."

Iriarte-Gross said what she and Claud want to achieve is "more girls considering science and math as viable majors in college."

Added Claud, "We want to work with parents, teachers, guidance counselors and adult role models to show why it's important" to consider science, technology, engineering and math careers.

'We want to say we've hit all 95 counties. We have an ambitious goal.'

*Karen Claud
GRITS program director*



A key aspect will be targeting economically deprived areas, they said.

"We're targeting some areas in Tennessee that are at-risk economically to show there's a way to have a better future for girls in Tennessee," Claud said, adding that she studied Tennessee Environmental Council annual data on 10 indicators—from employment and earnings to the pregnancy rate for teen girls.

"I looked at the indicators and picked ones more relevant for girls and looked at counties and saw how many counties showed up in the top 10, and that gave us an idea of pockets of areas economically at-risk," she said.

A second objective will be to "include a new focus on how science is done, which will highlight women and minority scientists from Tennessee,"

Iriarte-Gross said in the project summary.

A final objective will be to "provide educators and parents in East and West Tennessee with assistance, knowledge and materials on how to encourage middle and high school girls to explore STEM careers by planning and hosting a regional Expanding Your Horizons (in math and science) Conference," Iriarte-Gross said in the summary.

MTSU held its 10th EYH last October.

EYH reaches girls in grades five through eight in Middle Tennessee. Stacey Roberts-Ohr, EYH national coordinator, said she would support GRITS efforts, according to Iriarte-Gross, who added that local sections of the American Chemical Society "have expressed an interest in us."

For more information, call Claud at 615-904-8253.

Invention

from page 1

With time, word of Ring's program has spread beyond middle Tennessee.

"A couple of years ago we got a call from somebody at the Jay Leno show," Ring recalled. "Every year, we videotape what goes on, and they were interested in that."

At the convention, students are divided by grade levels, then Ring subdivides them into project categories. She consistently uses the invention categories of "Games" and "Things to Make Life Easier." By the end of the day, 18 trophies will be awarded, as will participation certificates for every contestant; Ring said she also awards students' projects with an "X-factor."

"We give a 'Judge's Favorite' award to a kid with a really unusual project who didn't get a trophy in his or her category," she explained. "We also give an award for the best presentation."

In addition to developing a presentation, participants must develop

working models of their inventions. Ring said the pressure to develop functioning models pushes children to stretch their creativity and makes their feats more impressive.

"You find that most kids make games, usually ones that help them learn what they're studying in school, and their 'Things to Make Life Easier' [items] usually help them with household chores," she explained. "Also, in recent years, I've seen more involvement with technological inventions."

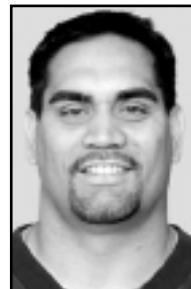
Similar programs exist throughout the United States, but Ring said her program remains unique in several aspects. Rather than bind contestants to an overriding theme, for example, Ring said she prefers to explore another option.

"Each year, I pick an everyday object of interest and feature it," she said. "We make a poster about it, so people can learn about its background. This year we're focusing on a tape measure."

Ring's office currently is home to

past-featured objects such as sunglasses and Frisbees, both of which are emblazoned with the Invention Convention logo.

In addition to an invention of focus, Ring also tries to bring in keynote speakers she feel children will enjoy. This year's speaker, for example, is renowned Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae, a 13-year veteran of the National Football League and a six-time Pro Bowl honoree. Mawae, a native of Savannah, Ga., and a graduate of Louisiana State University, played for the Seattle Seahawks and the New York Jets before joining the Titans for the 2006 season.



Mawae

This year, in addition to prizes for children, Ring said she will give a special award to teachers who sup-

port the program.

"Some of these teachers are with us every year and provide great support. Without them, we wouldn't draw nearly the entries we do."

Ring said she also plans to honor students who participate all three years of eligibility.

"The goal is to get these kids interested and get them involved around MTSU and college in general," she said.

Judges for the Invention Convention come from MTSU's Department of Elementary Education and from the local State Farm insurance offices, whose staff members help sponsor the event.

Ring said she urges the community to visit and enjoy this year's event. For more information, please contact Ring at 615-898-5500.

Ashlea Ramey is a sophomore majoring in mass communication.

Alumnus trades headphones for headstones

by Jason Brunner
and Lisa L. Rollins

Service to community and archaeological research have driven MTSU graduate Dan Allen, a self-described “late bloomer,” to fancy himself as a Johnny Appleseed of cemetery preservation.

A musician and disc jockey who once helped bring rave and techno music to Nashville in the early 1980s, Allen said he went back to school in his mid-30s, trading in his headphones for headstones and earning a bachelor’s degree in archaeology from MTSU in the early ‘90s.

A staff archaeologist and full-time father of two, Allen is president and owner of Cumberland Research Group.

Although his cemetery preservation work primarily takes place in Tennessee, “I’ll go wherever they’ll have me ... whether they’ve got money or not,” remarked Allen, who jokingly adds, “I’ll work myself into the grave, so to speak.”

Thanks to cities such as Nashville and Murfreesboro, as well as organizations including the Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of Confederate Veterans, Allen has no shortage of work when it comes to his job as a researcher and restorer of cemeteries and headstones.

Caneta Hankins, assistant director of MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation, said the center has called upon Allen’s preservation expertise in the past.



PRESERVING THE PAST—Archaeologist Dan Allen, right, demonstrates for Kyle Bradford how to apply an epoxy as part of a process to clean and repair a vandalized headstone. Allen, who works with MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation on cemetery restoration, recently conducted a free public workshop on tombstone repair and preservation in the Mason Cemetery in La Vergne as part of an Eagle Scout project organized by Bradford.

photo submitted

“Dan Allen is one of the most knowledgeable cemetery restoration consultants and practitioners in the business,” Hankins said. “As a certified archaeologist, his understanding of history, his research skills and his ability to place findings in context are invaluable.”

“When inquiries and requests come to the Center for Historic Preservation that involve or are likely to involve cemetery assessments and restoration, we go to Dan for assistance,” she added.

Allen said he considers himself an archaeologist first and foremost

and enjoys the research involved with his job. He catalogs items found while restoring a cemetery and draws up maps of the cemetery and surrounding areas, in addition to repairing and replacing the headstones.

The self-dubbed “history professional” said he’s not as interested in the history of a specific cemetery as much as preserving that history for the future. But being an archaeologist and cemetery preservationist does have its perks, he added, even if they aren’t necessarily immediate.

“What I’m doing now might not be appreciated by the living as it will

be by people who aren’t here yet,” he observed. “People don’t usually worry about the graves of people they didn’t know of.”

For Allen, however, the rewards are in the research and in a life of service.

“My name will be in the archaeological literature of the state, and that’s all I need,” he said.

Jason Brunner is a senior majoring in mass communication.

the RECORD

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Faculty/Staff Update

Awards

At the Tennessee Board of Regents’ recent 11th annual Distance Learning Conference, **Sonja Burk** (academic outreach and distance learning) and **Drs. Deborah W. Newman** (criminal justice administration), **Gerry Scheffelmaier** (business communications and entrepreneurship) and **Barbara Young** (educational leadership) were honored with individual Innovations Awards for their work with MTSU online courses and the Regents Online Degree Program.

Publications

Dr. Edd Applegate (journalism) authored “What Businesses Need to Know About Internet Advertising,” which appears in the current issue of the *Public Relations Journal* (Volume 51, No. 2, 2006).

Dr. Ginger Holmes Rowell (mathematics) co-authored “Classroom Research: Assessment of Student Understanding of Sampling Distributions of Means and the Central Limit Theorem in Post-Calculus Probability and Statistics Classes,” which was published in the November 2006 issue of the *Journal of Statistics Education* (V14, N3), with M. Leigh Lunsford of Longwood University and Tracy Goodson-Espy of Appalachian State University.

Dr. Yang Soo Kim (speech and theatre) co-authored “Communication Patterns and Psychological Health in the Process of Cross-cultural Adaptation: A Study of American and Korean Expatriate Workers” in the *International and Intercultural Communication Annual*, Vol. 30, with Professor Young Y. Kim of the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Lynn Nelson (history) has published *Pharsalia: An Environmental Biography of a Southern Plantation, 1780-1880*, with The University of Georgia Press.

Drs. Karen Ward and Lynn Parsons (nursing) published “A Look at Generational Diversity—Managing the Differences” in *SCI Nursing Online*, Vol. 23 (4), January 2007.

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