Hurry, spring!

GREETING THE DAY—A row of daffodils stands at attention outside the McFarland Health Services Building on a Raider-blue late-winter afternoon. The McFarland building will bid its occupants, the university’s Student Health Services operations, goodbye in about 18 months when the new Student Health and Wellness Center opens alongside the renovated Campus Recreation Center on Blue Raider Drive. For more on the $17 million project, including the architect’s design, see page 5.

photo by News and Public Affairs

MTSU welcomes new graduate studies dean

by Tom Tozer

Dr. Michael D. Allen, who has served as associate vice president for research at Texas Tech University since 2000, assumed his new responsibilities March 1 at MTSU as vice provost for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sidney A. McPhee announced.

Allen succeeds Dr. Robert F. Carlton, chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who served as interim vice provost in graduate studies for the past year.

“Our College of Graduate Studies and Office of Research have worked hard over the past few years to secure more dollars to enhance our external research funding, which has allowed us to establish a research enhancement program, create the Center for Advancement of Research and Scholarship and form the Undergraduate Research Center, among other things,” McPhee said.

“Dr. Allen brings a wealth of experience in the area of strategic planning to help us reach even greater heights to fortify our research infrastructure. Additionally, I want graduate education at MTSU to be a destination of choice for the discerning learner who is seeking high-quality and unique educational opportunities unavailable anywhere else in the state. Dr. Allen is coming to MTSU to lead a team of dedicated professionals...”

BY Cristol Camacho

BOLT charges up to electrify MT’s young leaders

by Cristol Camacho

BOLT, a new student leadership organization, recently was unveiled at the annual Blue Raider Leadership Summit. BOLT, which stands for Better Our Leaders for Tomorrow, comprises student leaders who are actively trying to make a difference by providing leadership skills, guidance and resources to students to enable them to reach their full leadership potential.

“This year BOLT was in charge of the planning of the summit as well as leading the activities,” said Jackie Victory, director of student organizations and services. “It went over well because it led than in previous years.”

See ‘BOLT’ page 3

See ‘Dean’ page 2
Blue Raiders’ 2007 football schedule unveiled

Be loud, be proud, be BLUE!

The Blue Raiders’ 2007 football schedule is ready to clip and save! (Home games are in BOLD; Sun Belt Conference games are starred.)

2007 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 @ Florida Atlantic*
Sept. 6 @ Louisville (ESPN2)
Sept. 15 vs LSU
Sept. 20 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 29 FLORIDA INTL.*
Oct. 6 VIRGINIA
Oct. 13 @ Memphis
Oct. 20 ARKANSAS STATE*
Oct. 27 @ North Texas*
Nov. 3 @ Louisiana-Monroe*
Nov. 10 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE*
Nov. 20 @ Troy (ESPN2)*
Dec. 21 New Orleans Bowl (ESPN2)

Dates are subject to change due to television opportunities. Visit www.goblueraiders.com or call 1-888-YES-MTSU for ticket information.

Convocation 2007 speaker no ‘ordinary man’

Hero's autobiography is latest Summer Reading selection for freshmen

The Blue Raiders will return to conference play Sept. 29 when they host Florida International and then will begin October with a huge contest against ACC member Virginia in Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders and Cavaliers will be meeting for the first time in school history.

Convocation 2007 speaker no ‘ordinary man’

M TSU’s 2007 Summer Reading selection is An Ordinary Man by Paul Rusesabagina, who also is scheduled to be the guest speaker during Fall Convocation.

An Ordinary Man is the autobiography of the Rwandan hotel manager who saved 1,268 of his countrymen during the 100-day genocidal madness in 1994 that left nearly 1 million people dead. Rusesabagina turned the luxurious Hotel Milles Collines into a refuge for Tutsis and moderate Hutus while fending off their would-be killers with a combination of diplomacy and deception.

The rest of the world learned more about Rusesabagina in the 2004 film “Hotel Rwanda,” which was nominated for three Academy Awards.

In An Ordinary Man, Rusesabagina tells the story of his childhood, retraces his accidental path to heroism, revisits the 100 days in which he was the only thing standing between his “guests” and a hideous death and recounts his subsequent life as a refugee and activist, working to uphold his vow, “Never again.” A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Civil Rights Museum’s 2005 Freedom Award, he now lives in Brussels, Belgium.

Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 27. University 1010 classes will discuss An Ordinary Man.

Academic Support Center Director Dr. Laurie Withrow also is trying to recruit faculty from other academic departments to use the text. She’s eager to hear suggestions now from professors on the best use for the book in their classes; she can be reached at lwitherow@mtsu.edu or at 615-898-2339.

Rusesabagina is scheduled to address undergraduates Sunday, Aug. 26, at Convocation beginning at 2 p.m. in Murphy Center. He also will sign copies of the book the night before, Saturday, Aug. 25, beginning at 7 at Linebaugh Library, located 105 W. Vine St. in Murfreesboro.

An Ordinary Man may be purchased on campus and at local bookstores. It’s available in hardback and paperback, and online sellers may also have used copies.

Faculty interested in using An Ordinary Man in their classrooms this fall may contact Sumer Patterson at the Academic Support Center (615-898-2339 or spatterson@mtsu.edu) to receive a review copy for evaluation.

Dean

from Staff Reports

to achieve that end.”

At Texas Tech in Lubbock, Allen helped develop strategies for growing sponsored research awards and research programs. He oversaw all research centers and institutes, assisted lobbyists with federal initiatives, prepared requests for state appropriations, participated in graduate program reviews and managed issues with research space.

He assisted in establishing branch engineering campuses in Abilene and Amarillo and also negotiated memoranda of understanding with various governments.

Allen said he already has a good handle on his priorities for MTSU.

“First, I want to get to know the faculty,” he said. “I also want to develop a ‘master plan’ for strengthening the quality and quantity of research and graduate programs. Growing research and graduate programs is an evolutionary process—it doesn’t happen overnight. It is the result of executing a well-thought-out plan with aggressive, focused, yet manageable strategies.”

Dr. Kaylene Gebert, MTSU provost and executive vice president, said she was indeed impressed with Allen’s focus and resolve as he articulated his vision for MTSU’s research and graduate programs.

“We are anxious for Dr. Allen to oil the wheels under our graduate program and keep it moving in the right direction,” Gebert said. “Michael brings experience in forming partnerships and alliances with public and private entities, and in any endeavor where he has played a leadership role, he has generated both heat and light.”

Allen said he looks forward to joining an already impressive team of academics and professional administrators.

“MTSU is in a period of dynamic change, transitioning from a university that has focused primarily on undergraduate education to one that also emphasizes research and graduate education,” he noted. “I look forward to working with President McPhee and Provost Gebert during this period of dynamic change.”

Before going to Texas Tech, Allen served as director of the Lockheed Martin Amarillo Operations Office when the company bid the maintenance and operations contract for the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Site. Before moving to Texas, he was program manager for the Lockheed Martin Assembled Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Program in Richland, Wash.

Allen earned a bachelor of science in nuclear engineering and a master’s of nuclear radiological engineering from Texas A&M University. He received his doctorate in environmental engineering from the University of California at Davis and later did postdoctoral work in engineering management at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Allen is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

“My family and I are thrilled to move to Tennessee and arrive as a master’s of nuclear radiological engineering from Texas A&M University and Murfreesboro community,” Allen said.

A welcome reception for Allen, hosted by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, is scheduled for Monday, March 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the President’s Conference Room, CAB 112.
Traveling exhibit honors emancipation in Tennessee
by Lisa L. Rollins

Free at Last! Emancipation and Reconstruction in Tennessee,” an exhibit created by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, will travel throughout middle Tennessee this spring and summer.

The two-panel exhibit, which is on display through March 30 at the Roy Bailey African-American History Center in Lebanon, emphasizes the significance of emancipation as a result of the Civil War, said Antoinette van Zelm, historian for the Heritage Area.

“Freedom for former slaves was a key outcome of the Civil War, and it was the slaves themselves who made it happen,” van Zelm said. “They took advantage of the presence of the occupying Union army to break down the bonds of slavery.”

In addition to raising awareness about the role of former slaves in bringing about their freedom, the “Free at Last!” exhibit provides an introduction to the joys and challenges shared by African Americans in Tennessee during the aftermath of slavery, van Zelm observed.

The exhibit—which made its debut Feb. 14 at the 26th Annual Conference on African-American History and Culture at Tennessee State University—will travel throughout the state over the next few years.

“The Reconstruction years were crucial to the development of African-American communities throughout Tennessee,” van Zelm said of the exhibit’s historical inspiration. “Former slaves founded scores of schools and churches … (and the exhibit) highlights some of the emancipation communities that are wonderfully preserved in our state.”

Mary Harris, president of the Wilson County Black History Committee, said “Free at Last!” opened Feb. 15 at the Bailey Center in Lebanon.

“We’re pleased to have the exhibit during Black History Month and into March,” Harris said. “It will enhance the presentations that we have at the museum … (and) I hope it will create more interest in preserving history.”

Following its stopover in Lebanon, the exhibit will be displayed April 2-May 18 at the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna; at the Granville Museum in Granville beginning May 23 through June 15; at the McLemore House Museum in Franklin June 16-Aug. 10; and at the Oaklands Historic House Museum in Murfreesboro beginning Aug. 13 through Sept. 21.

The Heritage Area has provided the exhibit to these museums free of charge, reported manager Laura Holder. The Heritage Area receives funding from the National Park Service and is administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

“Our goal is to tell the whole story of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Tennessee,” she said. “These venues are terrific places to tell the emancipation story.”

In addition to those exhibit stops, “Free At Last!” will be on display March 31 at the Legacy of Stones River Symposium in Murfreesboro and at the Civil War Preservation Trust Summer Teacher Institute in Chattanooga July 22.

For more information about the “Free at Last!” exhibit, please contact Holder at 615-898-2947 or via e-mail at lholder@mtsu.edu.

CELEBRATE AND REFLECT—Tom Murdie of the African-American Heritage Society eyes the “Free At Last!” exhibit, which will travel through middle Tennessee this year

photo submitted

BOLT

from page 1

“Electrify the Leader Within” was the slogan for this year’s Blue Raider Leadership Summit, BOLT’s first initiative as an organization.

“The summit had more participants this year than ever,” said BOLT member Jessica Reeves. “There were 114 at the summit and 40 on the waiting list the day we left!”

BOLT also is planning to implement the first “Leadership Week” in fall 2007.

“We wanted to find a way to get students interested in leadership development, said Victory, “and what better way than to use students themselves.”

BOLT is currently looking for 10 new members to begin fall semester.

“Right now most of us are upperclassmen getting close to graduation, and we want to make sure that BOLT has the leaders that it needs to continue to be an effective organization,” said Reeves.

Applications can be picked up in the Student Organization office in KUC 326. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 16.

BOLT also will be participating in the Collegiate Leadership Summit March 16 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

The organization’s Web site is in progress and is slated to be completed by the end of the semester.

“One is it is up and running, questions can be e-mailed to bolt@mtsu.edu,” said Victory. “Until then, just stop by the office.”

CHP greets new research prof
by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Stacey Graham is the newest addition to the staff of the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

A native of Murfreesboro, Graham earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and both her master’s and doctoral degrees in history from the University of California at Los Angeles.

She will serve as a research professor for the MTSU-based center.

“Dr. Graham is a very significant addition to the Center for Historic Preservation,” CHP Director Carroll Van West observed. “She brings outstanding academic credentials, having conducted research in some of the best libraries in Europe as a Fulbright Scholar and having completed her doctorate at UCLA.

“More importantly for us,” he added, “she has a passion for being a historian ‘out of the classroom,’ conducting field research and carrying out field projects with our students and bringing new insights gathered from her international research to the commonplaces, like rural cemeteries, of Tennessee’s historic landscape.”

Graham said she sought the position with CHP “because I deeply admire the work that they accomplish. Not only are the individual projects interesting from a historical standpoint, but they are practical, applicable and valuable for all members of our community—not just academics or graduate scholars.”

Although Graham may boast research experience and familiarity with historic periods that span from ancient Rome to Reconstruction in the Civil War, she said she will begin her tenure with the CHP with a focused area of study.

“The amount of projects the center handles is quite impressive, and right now I’m focusing on only a few of them, including some Civil War sites and antebellum cemeteries,” Graham explained. “My short-term goal is to continue researching projects like these in Tennessee, while my long-term goal is to place such local preservation efforts into a larger, international context.”

In addition to her research role with the CHP, Graham—who served as a national intern with the CHP in 2003 and as a teaching assistant for UCLA’s history department—said she also hopes to teach courses in MTSU’s history department in 2008.

CHP Director Carroll Van West met Graham on campus.

photo submitted

Get ready for Spring Preview Days

Students and parents or guardians interested in attending one of MTSU’s Spring Preview Days are being directed to the Office of Admissions’ new registration system, Book-it-Now, said J. Christopher Fleming, associate director of admissions.

Prospective students can now schedule a visit at www.mtsu.edu/admissions/previewdays or by clicking on the “Schedule Campus Tours” hotlink. For more information, call 615-898-5670.
Calendar
March 12-25

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: lindyfend@gmail.com

March 14

March 14-15 Alumni Relations Grad Fair For May 2007 graduates 11 a.m.-5 p.m., KUC 314 For information, visit www.mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2922.

March 14-17 TSSAA Boys’ Division I Tournament Murphy Center For information, visit www.tssaa.org.

Wednesday, March 14 MTSU Softball vs. Jacksonville State 2 and 4 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

Miss Universal Pageant hosted by Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority 7 p.m., JUB Ballroom Admission: $3 for MTSU students with ID, $5 for non-students For information, contact: cc2lr@mtsu.edu.

March 16

March 16-18 MT Baseball vs. Louisiana-Lafayette March 16: 6 p.m.; March 17: 4 p.m.; March 18: 1 p.m. Reese Smith Field For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

March 16-21 MTSU Guitar Festival 8 p.m. concerts daily, Hinton Music Hall For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~ltanditc.

Friday, March 16 Ideas & Issues: “Bollywood” Dr. Anantha Babbili, lecture/movie 7 p.m., KUC Theater For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~events/lectures.html.

March 18

Sunday, March 18 “MTSU On The Record—Underserved Caregivers” Guest: Dr. James Taylor 7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com or free subscription at iTunes.

March 19

Monday, March 19 American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees 10 a.m.-3 p.m., third floor KUC For information, contact: 615-330-5941.

Student Nurses Association general meeting 11 a.m.-noon, CKNB Room 121 For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~sna or contact: 615-898-2437.

Honors Lecture Series Dr. Hugh Berryman, “Talking to the Dead: A Forensic Anthropologist’s Perspective” 3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106 For information, contact: 615-898-2152.

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

March 20

Tuesday, March 20 MTSU Softball vs. SEMO 2 and 4 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

Wednesday, March 21 MTSU Dames Club meeting Guest speaker: Stephanie Brackman, Leadership Rutherford 3-4:30 p.m., Foundation House For information, contact: 615-898-5396.

MT Softball vs. Bradley University 3 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

March 22

Thursday, March 22 Employee Assistance Program Supervisor Training Session 9-11 a.m., KUC Theater EAP Awareness Seminar 1-2 p.m., KUC Theater For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

Free Legal Clinic 7-9 p.m., JUB 206 (JAWC) Appointments required For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

March 23

Friday, March 23 Guest Artist Flute Recital: David Northington 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall No admission charge For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp Benefit 8 p.m., KUC Theater Admission: $2 per person For information, visit www.sgrrc.org or contact 615-849-8140.

March 24-25

March 24 MTSU Softball vs. South Alabama March 24: 1 p.m., 3 p.m. March 25: Noon Blue Raider Softball Field For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

March 24

Saturday, March 24 Women’s Tennis vs. Indiana State 11 a.m., Bouldin Tennis Center For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.
somewhere, someone who is sick or injured is waiting for someone to donate blood. Dangerously low blood-supply inventories have created a situation where, without more emergency donations, normal local usage will leave the American Red Cross out of blood in less than 24 hours. That’s why the MTSU chapter of the Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the third floor of the Keathley University Center.

University officials broke ground Feb. 23 at the Campus Recreation Center on Blue Raider Drive for the expansion, which will add 22,000 square feet of workout and meeting space to the Rec Center’s footprint and create a brand-new, 17,000-square-foot Student Health and Wellness Center at the west side of the existing facility.

Preliminary work began March 4 with the permanent closure of the front paved parking lot and the rerouted entrance on the building’s north side. “We’re expanding to help with the university’s exercise needs but also for student wellness, which is extremely important as we remain a student-centered campus,” said Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, university president. “In addition to the intellectual and academic needs of our students, we’re very serious about attending to the whole wellness of our students.”

“They say ‘If you build it they will come,’ but the kids are already here,” added Dr. Pat Spangler, student health services physician. “An incredible number of students come to Student Health Services every day. We see 150 to 200 students a day, a range from some with something minor to some of whom are very sick. What this will do is help us help our students achieve their academic goals at MTSU.”

The Campus Recreation Center, built in 1995, serves an average of 2,200 visitors per day—students, faculty, staff and their families, plus special-event attendees. It currently houses six basketball/volleyball courts, six racquetball courts, a three-lane indoor track, an aerobic room, a free weight room, selectorized machines and cardiovascular machines, an indoor swimming pool with water slide and diving board, equipment checkout, locker rooms, a rock-climbing wall, a four-foot-deep outdoor swimming pool and slides, a sand volleyball court, a challenge course that also includes an alpine climbing tower, and intramural fields.

The Rec Center expansion, scheduled to open in fall 2008, will include an indoor entrance lobby, additional weight-room space, a sport club/dance room, an expanded cardio area, outdoor-recreation equipment room, group meeting room, health-assessment room, a newly changing room and a new first-floor office suite.

The new Student Health and Wellness Center, which will replace the existing 10,000-square-foot McFarland Health Services Building constructed in 1969, will include:

• additional weight-room space, a sport club/dance room, an expanded cardio area, outdoor-recreation equipment room, group meeting room, health-assessment room, a newly changing room and a new first-floor office suite.

• confidential triage rooms;
• observation and procedure rooms;
• an allergy, immunization and travel clinic to support international Experiential Learning Programs;
• a pharmacy with remote drive-up access;
• X-ray and expanded lab services;
• an expanded Women’s Health Clinic.

• administrative and classified employees, take note: The university is interested in knowing how you feel about your employment experience at MTSU. To obtain your views, Human Resource Services has developed a survey consisting of 17 questions. All answers and comments will be kept anonymous.

“We would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your honest feedback,” said Kathy Musselman, assistant vice president for human resources. “We want to make MTSU an even better place to work, and your input is critical in accomplishing that.”

Musselman said that employees may complete the survey online by:

• logging onto PIPELINE MT;
• clicking on the RaiderNet tab;
• clicking on ‘Personal Information’; and
• clicking on “Answer a Survey,” which is the ninth entry from the top.

Those steps will take participants to the series of 17 questions. Each one can be answered by clicking on the box beside the chosen answer.

Employees who wish to make additional comments may do so in the text box provided. To go to the next question, participants may click on the next question tab. “If you are interrupted, you may click on the ‘Finish Later’ tab and it will save your responses,” Musselman added. “Once the survey is completed, click on the ‘Survey Complete’ tab. This will finalize the survey.”

Employees are asked to respond to the survey by April 15. Musselman added that employees who prefer to fill out the survey on paper may request a printed copy by e-mailing her at kmusseln@mtsu.edu.

LET’S GET STARTED—Officials conduct the ceremonial groundbreaking for MTSU’s Campus Recreation Center expansion and the new Student Health and Wellness Center. From left are project architect Larry Hart of Thomas, Miller & Partners LLC; Jerry Preston, executive director for the Office of Facilities Development, Tennessee Board of Regents; Dr. Bob Glenn, MTSU vice president for student affairs and provost of enrollment services; Dr. Pat Spangler, university physician, MTSU Student Health Services, Charlie Gregory, director, MTSU Campus Recreation, 48th District State Rep. John Hood, D-Murfreesboro; 13th District State Sen. Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro; MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, 16th District State Sen. Jim Tracy, R-SHELBYVILLE, and Rick Chapman, director, MTSU Student Health Services.

photo by AndHeidt

Make your voice heard—respond to staff satisfaction survey

Administrative and classified employees, take note: The university is interested in knowing how you feel about your employment experience at MTSU. To obtain your views, Human Resource Services has developed a survey consisting of 17 questions. All answers and comments will be kept anonymous.

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Panel takes on human trafficking
by Gina K. Logue

Citizens who have dedicated themselves to combating human trafficking and the sex-slave trade will participate in a free panel discussion at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in Room 108 of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

Featured speakers will include Amber Beckham, Network of Emergency Trafficking Services coordinator for World Relief; Elena Dering, an independent activist against human trafficking; and Colete Becnel, founder and president of Free for Life Ministries, a Nashville-based nonprofit organization.

The underreported crime of human trafficking is described by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as “a modern form of slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. … After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second-largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing.”

“It’s a pretty difficult problem to identify if people aren’t looking for it,” Beckham says.

The U.S. Department of State estimates that between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States every year, primarily from Asia, Central and South America and eastern Europe. Experts say these victims either wind up in the sex trade in brothels, massage parlors or strip clubs, or in low-paying exploitative jobs in professions with a highly transient and sometimes loosely documented or undocumented workforce, such as construction, agriculture or sweatshops.

Targets of trafficking usually do not file complaints because they frequently are in dire financial straits, speak only the language of their traffickers and are under threat of physical harm or blackmail if they reveal how they are being treated, opponents say.

“Oftentimes, human-trafficking victims will not self-identify up front,” Beckham says. “It takes prodding on the part of first-responders to get to the heart of the issue.”

Beckham says trafficking victims can suffer from depression, anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder and Stockholm Syndrome, a psychological condition in which victims identify with and become sympathetic to the captor.

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, federally funded social service programs can be made available to help victims of trafficking, including health care, education and job training. Some are even eligible for the federal Victims of Trafficking Program.

Also, the law provides for the issuance of so-called “T visas,” which allows trafficking victims to become temporary U.S. residents. Many victims previously were deported as illegal aliens.

The panel discussion is co-sponsored by the American Democracy Project and two student organizations, GLOBAL (Get Lost Outside Boundaries and Limitations) and AID (Americans for an Informed Democracy).

The American Democracy Project Web site describes the program as a “part of AID’s 21st-Century Classroom Project Web site,” which seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of AASCU.

GLOBAL is “an international organization,” says Candi Nunley, the organization’s president. “We try to bring students together to raise awareness about global issues and general knowledge of different countries and cultures.”

American Democracy is “a nonprofit organization that brings the world home to the next generation of leaders through educational seminars, leadership summits, town hall meetings, opinion pieces and global videoconferences,” according to its Web site.

For more information, contact Dr. Andrei Korobkov, associate professor of political science, at 615-898-2945 or korrabko@mtsu.edu; Nunley at global@mtsu.edu; or AID President Angie Feeley at amf@mtsu.edu.

IT conference has ‘engaging’ theme
by Randy Weiler

MTSU faculty are invited to attend the 12th annual Instructional Technology Conference, which will be held April 1-3 at various campus venues, said Robin Jones, a director in IT’s Communication Support Services.

The featured speakers will be George Strawn, chief information officer for the National Science Foundation; Richard Van Eck, associate professor for instructional design and technology at the University of North Dakota; and Ron Bleed, vice chancellor emeritus for the Montana Community Colleges.

“ engages the Learner. The 2007 Instructional Technology Conference will carry on the tradition of (past professionals’ expertise) by showcasing the effective use of technology in creating student-centered learning environments,” she said.

The conference is free to the first 100 full-time faculty who register. Jones said, adding that they also can attend either of the preconference sessions held simultaneously Sunday, April 1, for $50.

Strawn will present “Change: the Constant of Modern Times” at 8:15 a.m. Monday, April 2, in the KUC Theater. Van Eck will share “Digital Gender-Based Learning and the Future of Education: It’s Not Just the Digital Natives Who Are Getting Restless” at 7 p.m. April 2 at the Doubletree Hotel. Bleed will present “Engaging the Learner by Designing New Spaces” at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 3, in KUC Theater.

Jones said a special-interest session, “The Convergence of Space, Time and Technology,” co-presented by Mark Valenti and Brian Patrick, will be held at 1:15 p.m. April 2 in the KUC Theater.

Nationally recognized collegiate professionals also are on the agenda. Colleges and universities represented include Indiana, Indiana State, the University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech, DePaul and Arkansas.

Campus venues will include the Learning Resources Center, KUC, Telecom Training Center and the Honors Advanced Classroom at McKay Library.

For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.mtsu.edu/itconference or call Jones at 615-898-2214.
from Staff Reports

as the Space Field Lecture Hall—on his book Technomis: The Theory of

March ‘Middle Tennessee Record’ is bustin’ out all over with news

I

n the March edition of “Middle Tennessee Record,” three key figures in Project HELP look back on 10 years in their “new” facility. Among other highlights of the latest show:

• Find out how MTSU is extending a helping hand to Southern University of New Orleans, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

• Is it possible to go faster than the speed of light? Physics professor Bill Robertson has done research that indicates the answer is “yes.”

• Can you enlarge the edge of a sheet of paper to the size of a 30-story building? Well, sort of. Find out about the new electron microscopes at MIMIC, the MTSU Interdisciplinary Microanalysis and Imaging Center.

• Dr. Bob Pondillo’s latest short film, “My Name is Wallace,” is winning awards but, more importantly, it has given students some valuable real-world experience.

• “In the Know Zone” highlights Up ‘til Dawn, the Unity Luncheon, alternative fuels and two fun chemistry events.

Closing music for the March edition of “Middle Tennessee Record” comes from a performance by music professor and Grammy nominee Cedric Dent. The program airs weekly on NewsChannel 5, daily on Murfreesboro cable channel 9 and on 11 other regional cable outlets. For airtimes, check page 4 of this paper or visit www.mtsunews.com, and click on “Middle Tennessee Record.”

photo by Jack Ross

Ethical considerations

‘SERIOUS SOLUTIONS’—Dr. Jay Black, left, editor of the Journal of Mass Media Ethics, makes a point during the final session of the U.S. Media Ethics Summit II held at MTSU Feb. 27-28. Black and colleagues Linda Steiner of the University of Maryland, Dr. Clifford Christians of the University of Illinois, MTSU ethicist-in-residence Dr. Tom Cooper and Mass Communication Dean Dr. Anantha Bablili joined nearly 50 other media practitioners and educators for four days of discussions on ethics in media. Topics included technology, objectivity, credibility, literacy, economic realities and new agendas for ethics research. “We will make sure this stays on the agenda,” Black said in summarizing the discussions. “Those of us who have developed codes of ethics are not real fans of codes as solutions to problems in the field. We can’t delude ourselves that a code hung on a wall creates an ethical morality.”

photo by Jack Ross

Scholars’ Week anticipation growing

by Randy Weiler

Organizers for the Scholars Week 2007 are planning a fascinating week of activities for the April 2-6 event. “We are quite excited about presenting the outstanding undergraduate, graduate and faculty research that’s currently going on around campus,” said Dr. Andrienne Friedli, professor of chemistry, assistant to the vice provost for research and event coordinator, who is part of a 13-member Scholars Week committee.

The best of the best research was selected after going through a review process, she said. Scholars Week will kick off at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 2, in the Walker Library courtyard area with music and a balloon release. President Sidney A. McPhee will make remarks at noon, followed by remarks from Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Kaylene Gebert and Dr. Michael Allen, MTSU’s new vice provost for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

The Jennings A. Jones College of Business poster session will go from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Business and Aerospace Building’s south lobby. From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Dr. Lee Martin will speak in BAS 5012—the State Farm Lecture Hall—on his book Technomis: The Theory of Industrial Evolution. A reception will follow at 3:30.

The College of Basic and Applied Sciences will have its showcase Tuesday, April 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the BAS Quad, weather permitting. The College of Liberal Arts will be featured Wednesday, April 4.

The College of Communication will be featured Thursday, April 5, a day that also will feature: 

• Life’s Major Questions Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hazlewood Dining Room (contact Cyndi Butler at 615-898-8977);

• The College of Graduate Studies Conversation Hour on “Bioterrorism and the Corrosion of Truth in the Age of Enron” with Drs. Thomas May and Thomas Cooper at 2 p.m. in the University Honors College second-floor conference room (contact Dr. Pam Knox at 615-898-5897);

• McNair Scholars dinner and lecture by Dr. Larry Sabato from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the JUB Tennessee Room (contact Dr. Diane Miller at 615-898-5472); and

• College of Liberal Arts Windham Lecture by Rory Kennedy at 5 p.m. in the BAS State Farm Lecture Hall (contact Connie Huddleston at 615-494-7628).

The event will conclude Friday, April 6, with a universitywide Poster and Multimedia Exposition and Meet the VP for Research at 1 p.m. in the JUB Tennessee Room. For more information, contact Friedli at 615-898-2071.

photo by Jack Ross

Math, science educators seek collaboration

by Randy Weiler

Event organizers already are planning for the second Mathematics and Science Education Research Conference at MTSU after achieving success in the venture’s first effort. National experts from around the country made presentations to nearly 70 participants statewide during the Feb. 22-23 conference at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum. Dr. Ray Phillips, director of the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center, termed it a “very successful” event. “The biggest thing we’ve done is improve collaboration with neighboring institutions around the state,” he added. “The problems we have in math and science education need the efforts of all of us. We’ll try to do this again in the future.”

Scott Eddins, the Tennessee Department of Education’s grade 7-12 math consultant for teaching and learning/curriculum and instruction, said that “MTSU has taken the initiative to take a pivotal role. Two others, Tennessee Tech and East Tennessee State University, are working to get up to speed to be state leaders.

“This is an exciting opportunity for networking,” Eddins added. “These professionals are the movers and shakers in research-based development for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. I work with many grant committees. They are the ones on the front edge trying to research the culture of teachers. They are fulfilling a role in K-16 education. The research they do helps to bridge that gap. The problem is too big for our institution to take on.”

MTSU presenters included Drs. Michael Rutledge (biology), Ginger Howell (math), Mary Martin (math), Judith Iriarte-Gross (chemistry), Dovie Kimmins (math) and Phillips.

 Weird weather? Watch the Web

When inclement weather arises, MTSU closing information will be available on area radio and TV stations. Learn more anytime at www.mtsunews.com by clicking the “Emergency Weather Information for Students, Faculty and Staff” link.

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WHAT YOU LOOKIN AT?—This month’s “Middle Tennessee Record” visits MIMIC—MTSU’s new Interdisciplinary Microanalysis and Imaging Center—where imagery like this high-resolution magnification of the head of a fly will help with research efforts.

photo submitted
MTSU’s Construction Management Technology team placed first in the nation at the Centerex National Association of Home Builders Student Competition Feb. 7-10 in Orlando, Fla., said Dr. David Hatfield, professor in engineering technology and industrial studies.

MTSU competed against 39 other universities from throughout the United States for the top honor, Hatfield said.

Student team members Clint Evers of Lawrenceburg, Kendall Lee of Jamestown, Matt McKee of Dyersburg, Michael Phillips of Nashville, Devin Frederick of Chattanooga and Stewart Knowles of Lebanon traveled to the competition.

The Construction Management Technology team members spent more than 400 hours each developing a proposal for East Lakes at Fairlakes Condos in Fairfax, Va., Hatfield said.

The 200-plus-page document included market analysis, demographics, scheduling, estimating, infrastructure plans, 14 finish condos, cash flow and a management approach for the project, he said, adding that the students presented it to a panel of six industry judges representing Beazer Homes, Wayne Homes, Richmond American, Centex Homes, Jones Company, and dedication, which are major requirements in the construction program and industry,” said Hatfield, director of the Construction Management Technology Programs.

“Our construction management students have once again earned our respect and pride in their accomplishments,” said ETIS chairman Walter Boles. “Their first-place performance is a great example of teamwork, not only within the student team but with our industry advisers and faculty as well. Our students, faculty and industry advisers all deserve recognition for their ability to successfully compete with any other program in the nation.”

“I could not be more proud to be associated with the members of this team and everyone who helped us,” added Evers, the team leader. “The win was a great reward for a lot of hard work and will help place our program and school in the same class as some of the most recognizable names in the country.”

MTSU’s construction management program is affiliated with the National Home Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Tennessee and the National Home Builders Student Association.

About 120,000-plus homebuilders and home building industry associates from around the world attended the international show.

“The proposed project manual for the Virginia Centex project that the team put together showed teamwork and dedication, which are major requirements in the construction program and industry,” said Hatfield, director of the Construction Management Technology Programs.

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