Earth Day plans heating up

by Ashlea Ramey

Spring has arrived, and this month’s festivities at MTSU are working to celebrate the surrounding earth. The university’s first-ever Earth Day festival April 16-21.

Organizers, who’d already made big plans for the event, recently learned that MTSU also will be the April 17 stop on the nationwide Stop Global Warming College Tour featuring Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow and global-warming activist Laurie David.

GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER SHERYL CROW

Crow administrator, with a college professor in ETIS and software professional Dr. Ron McBride, presented McBride, who is the youngest competitor at the event. He also was the youngest student to study the behavior of those who dispense horror.

GUITAR STUDENT STRUMS WAY TO EVENT’S $2K CASH PRIZE

MTSU junior guitar performance major Silvio Ciulei won the $2,000 second prize March 24 in the Texas International Guitar Competition in Dallas. The competition, which is recognized as one of the top events in North America, netted Ciulei the largest cash prize ever won by an MTSU guitar student in a competition. He also was the youngest competitor at the event.

IN BRIEF

GET YOUR PEDALS ROLLING, HEAD OUT ON THE PARKWAY

Take an unforgettable road trip along the scenic 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway by bicycle May 5-12 with Campus Recreation. A trip meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center, the deadline to register is that same day at 5 p.m. The parkway commemorates an ancient trail that connected southern portions of the Mississippi River to salt licks in today’s central Tennessee.

The cycling journey costs $75 each for students and $85 for faculty, staff and guests. For more information, call Charlie Gregory at 615-898-2104.

SPREAD A LITTLE ART AROUND WITH WORKS FROM BENEFIT

MTSU’s Student Art Alliance will conduct a benefit art sale Thursday, April 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the second-floor lobby of Todd Hall. The sale will include works by art students and faculty and most will be priced between $5 and $40 each. For more information, contact alliance adviser Cindy Rehm at 615-904-8386.

GUITAR STUDENT STRUMS WAY TO EVENT’S $2K CASH PRIZE

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JOIN THE CELEBRATION APRIL 13 HONORING EXCELLENCE AT MTSU

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee and the MTSU Alumni Association are extending a public invitation to the fourth annual President’s Celebration of Excellence at 6 p.m. Friday, April 13, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. This event honors students, alumni, faculty and friends of the university for their outstanding accomplishments and service to MTSU. Cost is $20 per person; dress is business attire. Please RSVP by Friday, April 6. For more information, call 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) or visit www.mtsu.edu/alumni.
April showers can bring mold as well as May flowers

by Terry Logan

Tennesseeans live in an area where various kinds of mold prosper. The common perception is that all mold is harmful, which isn’t necessarily true. So what is the skinny on mold?

Mold is a form of fungi that commonly grows in dark, damp places where it can thrive unconstrained for years. Molds release microscopic spores into the air, some of which have no effect on humans, while others are associated with allergic reactions, eye and respiratory irritation, and infection. About 10 percent of the population is allergic to mold. Many of these people will be affected by outdoor as well as indoor exposures to mold. Mold is not regulated, but there are guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency concerning mold and indoor air quality.

The term “toxic mold” is misleading. While respiratory mold infection is possible, it is rare. Occurrence is limited almost exclusively to people who are immune-compromised, such as transplant patients, chemotherapy recipients and AIDS patients. Some molds can produce mycotoxins. Some mycotoxins are useful as antibiotics, but others are potentially harmful, especially if eaten. However, there is little evidence that breathing mycotoxins in mold-contaminated buildings represents a health hazard.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine states, “Current scientific evidence does not support the proposition that human health has been adversely affected by inhaled mycotoxins in the home, school or office environment.” A number of other factors contribute to decreased indoor air quality, such as other organisms, chemicals or gases.

Concerning allergies, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine states, “While indoor molds are well-recognized allergens, outdoor molds are more generally important.”

For people with asthma, a common health strategy is to avoid exposure by minimizing the amount of dust in their environment. Humidity control is also very important.

According to a study published in the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, outdoor mold counts for major U.S. cities regularly exceed 10,000 spores per cubic meter of air during much of the year.

There is no specific number that defines safe or unsafe mold exposure. Some airborne mold guidelines have been proposed, but none of these has been adopted by regulatory agencies. Mold concentrations outdoors vary greatly with respect to time, species, location, and weather conditions.

In 1972, they began to protest their second-class treatment by calling for the revision of antiquated “co-ed” codes, a process that was taking place at universities throughout the country. In response, President Melvin Starritt appointed his Student Advisory Committee to study all campus rules governing student life. They were charged with bringing those rules up to date with the changing times and equalizing the treatment of men and women.

Although Title IX was passed in 1972, it was not until July 1975 that regulations were implemented to end sex discrimination in education. Over time, Title IX brought about effective changes in gender discrimination at MTSU. Pat Jones became the first MTSU women’s athletic director in 1975, and she immediately set out to improve women’s athletics. She even encouraged men to try out for the traditionally female-dominated sports of tennis and volleyball as protected under Title IX. Women’s intramural sports programs also flourished in favor of competitive collegiate teams. The Murphy Center, completed in 1972, was modified between 1973 and 1974 to add women’s locker rooms.

Title IX also allowed women to demand pay equity at the university level. A 1977 survey conducted by the university illustrates a sharp average increase in women faculty’s salaries from that of the previous school year.

Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women, created in 1975, was happy with the promising results but still reported “discriminatory practices against women in hiring, salary, rank and awarding of tenure.”

As MTSU moves further into the 21st century, women students are excelling both in academics and athletics, as evidenced in part by the women’s basketball team’s recent success. The June Anderson Women’s Center and the Women’s Studies Program collaborate to promote the interests of women through such programs as “Take Back the Night,” the Closetline Project, the Women’s Leadership Conference, scholarship fundraising and the curriculum. Unfair rules and regulations no longer impede women students.

If any MTSU alumni, men or women, would like to share personal experiences about the enactment of Title IX legislation on campus, please contact the Gore Center at 615-988-2632. The Gore Center conducts oral history interviews as part of an ongoing effort to document the university’s history in anticipation of the upcoming centennial in 2011. We also would like to find copies of the “co-ed codes” to add to our university archival collections. Your participation is greatly appreciated!
Tutu, the third daughter of Anglican Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Desmond Tutu and his wife, Nomalizo, speaks on South African issues to audiences at universities, schools and churches across the United States.

Since 2003, Tutu has worked as the associate director of the Office of International Relations and Programs at Tennessee State University. From 1999-2002, Tutu served as program coordinator for the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University.

Her experience also includes a stint as program officer and co-convenor of the Gender-Based Violence and Education Program at the University of Cape Town from 1997-98. In addition, Tutu has taught courses on development, gender and education at the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut and Brevard University.

Tutu holds bachelor’s degrees in economics and French from Berea College and a master’s degree in international economic development from the University of Kentucky.

Her keynote talks include citations from the California General Assembly, the Boston City Council, the Kentucky branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Outstanding Youth Women of America and an honorary doctorate from the Universal Orthodox College of Ogun State in Nigeria.

Tutu’s speech is sponsored by MTSU’s National Women’s History Month Committee, the Black History Month Committee, the June Anderson Women’s Center and the Distinguished Lecture Fund. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the June Anderson Women’s Center at 615-898-2193 or jaco@mtsu.edu.

Mold from page 2

and amount. Exposure to airborne mold outdoors, where levels often exceed thousands of spores per cubic meter, is considered safe for the general public.

So what about MTSU? To date, all of the indoor air-quality testing on campus has indicated that airborne mold levels indoors are about 30 percent of the mold levels outdoors, while research that the building’s air filtration systems are functioning as designed. For people with allergies to mold, there may be no practical level of exposure, either indoors or outdoor, that would be more comfortable.

Evacuation of a space or building in response to mold should be rare. There is no established level of airborne mold that is accepted as unsafe for the general population. We must accept the fact that mold exposure is inevitable in the world in which we live. We are exposed to many of the same mold species indoors as well as outdoors. Ultimately, the decision to vacate a space should rest with the individual occupant and be based on the individual’s sensitivity and the advice of a medical doctor.

Terry Logan is environmental coordinator/inspector for the MTSU Office of Environmental Health and Safety. He can be reached via e-mail at tlogan@mtsu.edu.

Survivor — from page 1

genocide, a topic about which he is uniquely qualified on both a professional and a personal level. Dr. Tanay is a professor of psychiatry at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Tanay has served as an expert witness in cases involving Jack Ruby, Ted Bundy, Sam Sheppard and Robert Garwood.

While sitting in a jail cell with Ruby in 1964, Ruby once told Tanay that he was “crazier than I am,” because the latter never once thought of committing suicide during those years in Poland when he and his family pretended they were Christians.

“Suicide is surrender,” Tanay told Ruby, adding that he wanted to survive.

A few years later, the U.S. Government sent Tanay to Vietnam during the war to participate in a court-martial and to evaluate Marines at Danang who were accused of atrocities. In addition, and according to his biographical profile, Tanay has “come to a deep and unique understanding of the belief system behind 9/11.”

Tanay graduated from the University of Munich Medical School, completed his internship and residency in Illinois and did postgraduate work at the University of Michigan.

The author of Passport to Life: AutoBiographical Reflections on the Holocaust, Tanay is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, that body’s highest honor. He also has received the highest award granted by the American Academy for Psychiatry and the Law.

He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and past president of the Michigan Psychiatric Society. Also, he was Resident Scholar at the Department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton College of New Jersey.

Now retired from private prac- tice, Tanay continues to write and lecture throughout the United States.

“Fifteen years ago, almost no one knew what a forensic psychiatrist filled in our justice sys- tem,” said Rappaport.

“However, since the ‘Law and Order’ and ‘CSI’ programs began to appear on television in all over this country, we all have an inklung of how important and vital a role psy- chiatrists such as Dr. Tanay play in it.”

Tanay’s visit is being co-spon- sored by the MTSU departments of history, political science, English, sociology and anthropology, art, philosophy, psychology, women’s studies and the Global Studies Program.

For more information, call 615- 898-2645.
TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record”
Cable Channel 9
Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+
Saturdays—1 p.m.
Visit www.mtsu.edu/~prof/MTR.html for airtimes on 12 other cable outlets.

Every Monday

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 lindyfriend@gmail.com.

Every Wednesday

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

Through April 19

“Kenda North: Urban Pools”
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday
Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
For information, contact 615-898-2085.

April 9

MTSU Student Film Festival
KUC Theater
Free and open to the public
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~events/studentfilm.html.

Monday, April 9
Honors Lecture Series
Josh Alexander, “Crime and Punishment in 1940s Murfreesboro”
3-3:35 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.

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

April 10

Tuesday, April 10
Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center’s First Tuesday Series
“Evidence-Based Learning: Part III.” Sheilia Otto (academic enhancement) 3-4 p.m., Peck Hall 106
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~ltic or contact: 615-494-7671.

April 11

Wednesday, April 11
MT Softball vs. Southern Illinois
4 and 6 p.m., Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

April 12

Thursday, April 12
Student Art Alliance Benefit Sale
includes works by art students and faculty, most priced $5 to $40
11 a.m.-6 p.m., Todd second-floor lobby
For information, contact: 615-904-8386.

MTSU Community Health Fair
9 a.m.-3 p.m., KUC 314
For information, contact: 615-898-2987.

April 13

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

April 14

Tuesday, April 14
National Women’s History Month: Tara Guina, “Who Will Referee the Global Game—Culture, Gender, Law and Ethics” 1-2:30 p.m., HONR 106
For information, contact: 615-898-5910.

April 15

Sunday, April 15
Holocaust Remembrance Day
88.3 WMTS-FM Record Convention vinyl, CDs, DVDs, sheet music, music memorabilia and door prizes all proceeds benefit MTSU’s student-run radio station
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Holiday Inn Murfreesboro (I-24 @ Old Fort Pkwy)
Admission charge: $3 per person
For information, contact 615-898-2636 or e-mail program@wmts.org.

April 16

April 16-19
Sexual Assault Awareness Month: “Clothesline Project”
11 a.m.-2 p.m., KUC Knoll
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

Monday, April 16
Income Tax Day
Student Nurses Association meeting
11 a.m.-noon, CKNB Room 121
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~sna or contact: 615-898-2437.

April 17

Tuesday, April 17
Martin Chair of Insurance Invitational Golf Tournament
10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Champions Run Golf Course, Rockvale
For information, contact: 615-898-2671.

April 18

Wednesday, April 18
MTSU Dames Club luncheon
Guest speaker: Lola Stanton, Lola’s Creations
11 a.m.-1 p.m., JUB Hazlewood Dining Room
Cost: $9 per person; reservations should be made by April 9
For information, contact: 615-898-5396.

University Honors College Spring Awards Reception
2 p.m., JUB 106
For information, contact: 615-898-2152.

MT Baseball vs. Vanderbilt
6 p.m., Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

April 19

Middle East Center Lecture Series:
Dr. John Esposito,
“Islam and the West”
7 p.m., BAS State Farm Lecture Hall
For information, contact: 615-494-8009 or 615-494-7906.

MTSU Flute Choir
5 p.m., WMB Hinton Music Hall
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 20

Friday, April 20
Black Alumni Achievement Awards/ Al Wilkerson Scholarship Reception
Keynote speaker: Vincent Windrow
7 p.m., JUB Tennessee Room
Admission: $10 per person
For information, contact: 615-898-2718.

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

April 22

Sunday, April 22
“MTSU On The Record—MIMIC”
Guests: Drs. Andrei Friedli and Marion Wells
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5 FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com or free subscription at iTunes.

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

To view the complete Calendar, visit www.mtsune ws.com. For a print copy, call 615-898-2103.
Bill aims to boost studying abroad
by Tom Tozer

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee is praising the introduction of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007 legislation to establish a national study-abroad fellowship program.

The bill (H.R. 1469), introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee respectively, would create a national fellowship program, increasing the number of students studying abroad to 1 million per year. The program would be administered by an independent entity and would provide key support for necessary modifications at institutions of higher education to allow all college students the opportunity to study abroad.

“MTSU is an avid proponent of international study, and our Office of International Education is actively engaged in promoting opportunities for students to experience other cultures,” McPhee said. “With our world becoming a global community, it is vital that our graduates today be able to contribute to an international economy, enhance diplomacy among nations and compete for jobs in the global marketplace. The passage of this bill will put MTSU students on a path to overcome barriers and move toward their global goals, whether that be about one another, so our level of acceptance and respect of one another rise and enrich us.”

Dr. Anne Sloan, MTSU special assistant to the provost for international education, pointed out that research in Minnesota and Georgia systems demonstrates that students who have participated in study abroad have a higher percentage graduation rate over the non-study-abroad student population.

“Study abroad is extremely valuable to MTSU students,” Sloan said. “It broadens them as individuals, increases their understanding of themselves and their place in the world and increases their self-confidence. Given the global economic environment, many businesses consider study abroad or international internships or experiential learning a plus for prospective employees since they have experience in adapting to a different culture.

“For students who are contemplating graduate school, study abroad and international internships are viewed positively by many programs and help set the applicant apart from others who are applying for admission and financial aid,” she continued. “From my own perspective as an MTSU study-abroad participant in the 1960s, the experience increased my self-reliance and gave me a sense that I was much more capable of accomplishing goals. It also provided a basic approach to cross-cultural sensitivity that allowed me to more effectively teach students about other countries and helped prepare me for the position I now hold.”

Jennifer Campbell, director of MT Abroad, said MTSU leads the Tennessee Board of Regents with more than 250 students studying in more than 40 different countries around the world.

“MTSU students can study Spanish in Spain, anthropology in Brazil, recording industry in London and business in Japan, just to name a few,” Campbell said. “One thing I continue to hear from students is their inability to afford the study-abroad program. MTSU has worked hard to inform students of scholarship opportunities and financial aid, but this type of study-abroad fellowship program can only bring more students’ access to these vital international programs.”

H.R. 1469 is named after the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, who was a strong proponent of international education. His efforts led to the creation of the bipartisan Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program. “For the American workforce to be competitive in the global marketplace, our students need experience in and knowledge about the world outside the United States,” said Durbin, D-Ill., and Norm Coleman, R-Minn., who introduced the bill.

Currently, about 200,000 U.S. undergraduate students study abroad each year.

“One million students studying abroad per year will transform our country, in a positive and powerful way,” said Peter McPherson, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and former chair of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program.

“Every year, a similar bill in the Senate received overwhelming bipartisan support and had 46 co-sponsors before the session ended. Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Norm Coleman, R-Minn., will reintroduce a Senate bill in the coming weeks.”

ETSIS

Gifts in January

McBride said the university research price of about $7.8 million contained nearly $15 million per user seat, and the grant proposal included 520 seats. Through the grant, he said, “MTSU got it for $14.42 per seat or station. That’s quite a savings.”

“It’s a more user-friendly than some of the other CAD (computer-aided drafting) programs,” McBride said of the software. “It’s a good product. It has a lot of applications—mechanical, electrical and others.”

His students, some of whom are using it in the workplace, like SolidWorks as well.

“I like it because of all the other integrated programs that go with it,” said senior J.T. Tapp, a former Mt. Juliet resident now living in Murfreesboro.

Tapp said the integrated programs include finite-element analysis and flow analysis, “a feature that has not been available.” He added that parts that are available from SolidWorks can be downloaded, “It saves a lot of time.” Tapp said the Hermansa SAE team will use the software to prepare their car this spring.

“It has been really helpful,” graduate student Brett Varncsickle said of SolidWorks. “It’s the most powerful software I’ve used at school. I used it in the workplace for about a year and a half.”

Varncsickle said the finite-element analysis that’s built into the program “determines the stress (on the part). It lets you know if you need to make the part stronger (or) lighter and when it will break.”

McBride, an MTSU faculty member since 1986, submitted the software grant through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. He said universities like Vanderbilt, Tennessee State and UT-Knoxville and Chattanooga are SolidWorks users. Eastman Chemical Co. in Kingsport, Oak Ridge National Laboratory are industrial users.

McBride said a new version of the software would be available to renew for $7,500 in June.

“Definitely, I hope they extend it,” Varncsickle said, when asked whether he and other students would like to see it renewed. “It’s a huge asset to the university.”
by Lisa L. Rollins

r. William M. Bass, an internationally recognized expert in the field of forensic anthropology who has gained prominence through his research facility, the UT “Body Farm,” delivered a guest lecture March 27 in the State Farm Lecture Hall of MTSU’s Business and Aerospace Building.

Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the visit by Bass marked the formal kickoff for the Forensic Institute for Research and Education, which is led by Dr. Hugh Berryman, and served as the inaugural talk in the university’s newly established William M. Bass Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship.

A professor of sociology and anthropology, Berryman is the director of FIRE, which was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents during fall 2006.

In addition to serving as the debut speaker for the lectureship named in his honor, Bass will serve as a member of FIRE’s external board of advisers, a panel that also includes:

• Richard L. Lambert and My Harrison, FBI agents in charge of Tennessee;
• Tennessee State Medical Examiner Bruce Levy;
• MTSU alumnus Mark Gwyn, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation;
• longtime state anthropologist Nick Fielder, now with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency;
• odontologist Michael Tabor;
• Mike Bottoms, 22nd Judicial District attorney general; and
• Harry Sommers, a special agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency who oversees Tennessee and northern Georgia.

Aside from its external board, the institute also has a 14-member internal board of directors composed of MTSU faculty and administrators.

“We are honored to have William Bass not only be our inaugural speaker, but also serve as a member of our external board for the institute,” Berryman said of the renowned doctor’s involvement in the MTSU-led forensics emphasis.

According to its mission, the institute, using an interdisciplinary approach, will focus on training and continuing education for law enforcement and forensic specialists, bringing a forensic focus to campus education, as well as working to obtain external funding for research.

By using such an approach and incorporating experts from MTSU’s biology, chemistry and anthropology programs, among others, Berryman said his goal is for FIRE to form cooperatives directed toward a number of different initiatives in forensic science, homeland security, education, child abuse, and gangs and hate crimes, among others.

In all of these areas, FIRE will initiate and cultivate partnering with industry, forensic laboratories, and local, state and federal law enforcement agencies,” he said.

Additionally, Berryman said, a 10-member volunteer student team, the Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery Team, will be “a service arm of FIRE … (and) is experienced in processing forensic scenes involving skeletal remains.”

Under Berryman’s direction, the team of undergraduate and graduate students assists law enforcement in skeletal crime scene location, documentation and recovery. To date, the team has helped process at least two crime scenes in Rutherford and Robertson counties and received requests from law enforcement to take part in other investigations.

Volunteering their weekend time and weekday evenings, the student team members “do a great job and I’m really proud of them,” noted Berryman, who continues to do skeletal identifications for the state.

“This is great experience for the students and they are, in a sense, like ambassadors for MTSU … They let people know we have talent here,” Berryman said.

William M. Bass Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship will be held once each spring and fall semester and feature prominent experts from within the forensics field. Each lecture will be open to the public and free of charge. This year’s speaker, Bass—along with his co-author Jon Jefferson—has written the best-selling “Death’s Acre: Inside the Body Farm” and also has become a successful fiction writer. His Body Farm has been featured in fiction and nonfiction books as well as on television programs such as “The Dead Zone” and “CSI: Miami.”

荣耀ed as National Professor of the Year in 1985-86 by The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Bass received his bachelor’s degree at the University of Virginia, his master’s degree from the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

The spring concert also will feature a unique group of individuals whose lives intertwine on the street.

Nofsinger said Badu-Younge is a specialist in West African dance who incorporates traditional movement in a contemporary framework.

The spring concert also will feature “Ash Wind” by Chung-Fu Chang, a native of Taiwan.

“Those dances range from traditional to contemporary artistic viewpoints and incorporate the 40 members of MTSU Dance Theatre,” Nofsinger said of the company, whose members represent a variety of majors from across campus. Students selected for this ensemble are required to enroll in technique classes, attend Saturday-morning classes and rehearse a minimum of three hours per week for each piece they are dancing.

“The dedication of these students is evident within the quality of the concert that will be presented,” the director observed.

Tickets for the Spring Dance Concert may be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance. Ticket prices range from $4 to $8. MTSU students will be admitted free with a valid I.D.

For more information, please call 615-494-8810 or visit the department’s Web site at www.mtsu.edu/theatre.
MT mock trial team soars to national competition

by Cristol Camacho

N ot argument about it—MTSU’s mock trial team is making its point on a national level. Although more than 400 teams across the United States compete annually in mock trial competitions, MTSU has been to nationals almost every year since the team was founded in 1989. This April 13-15 will mark their 17th national tournament trip.

The MTSU team qualified for this year’s National Championship Tournament directly from the region tournament at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., where the team failed to advance last year. The team emerged second overall and secured one of two bids to the National Championship Tournament to be held at Seton University in St. Petersburg, Fla.

“It’s the first time that the event will be held outside of Des Moines, Iowa, which will now host the national tournament every other year. The coaches and team said they welcome the new location and look forward to chartering the MTSU airplane to travel to and from the tournament.”

Mock trial can become very time-consuming for students and coaches with team practices and traveling for invitational, regional and national tournaments. This year, former MTSU “mockers” Patrick Chinnyere, an MTSU political science instructor, and Brandi Snow Bozarth, a Nashville attorney, have helped coach the team.

The team failed to advance last year. Although more than 400 teams from across the country competed this year, the MTSU team qualified for this year’s National Championship Tournament directly from the region tournament at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., where the team failed to advance last year.

June Lee, J.R. Lind, Cory Hudson, Jamie Bowers Kidd, Natalya Vaughn, Daniel Vaughn and Alex Jason Walker. Not pictured are Natalie Schneider and Matt Caddis.

“Joined mock trial to gain experience in the legal field and to learn about our legal system,” said Lee. “In the immortal future, I want to graduate and go to law school. After that, I will practice law and perhaps, down the road, go into teaching.”

Professor offers expertise on Islam

Stefan Esposito, an internationally known expert on Islam and the Middle East, is widely interviewed or quoted in the media in sources such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and network news stations, NPR, BBC and media throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

In his provocative, challenging and direct presentations, Esposito explores the nature of Islam’s relationship with the West and the resentment and misunderstanding that have characterized this often-troubled relationship. This lecture, which is supported by the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund, is the third in a series of events sponsored by the new Middle East Center at MTSU this spring. In January, Lilly Rivlin presented her documentary film “Can You Hear Me? Israeli and Palestinian Women Fight for Peace.” In March, Dr. F. Gregory Causey III spoke on “The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences.” For more information about the event, contact 615-494-8809 or 615-494-7906.

MTSU’s mock trial team soars to national competition

by Randy Weiler

T en Middle Tennessee high-school senior who have overcome obstacles and become successful in life will be honored for their tenacity Tuesday, April 10, during the ninth annual Neill-Sandler Strive for Excellence Banquet at MTSU. The non-invitation-only event will start at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Miller Coliseum’s Miller Room.

The students, who have been nominated by their schools and school systems, have persevered through rough times. Despite their situations, they have performed well in the classroom and on their college entrance examinations and exhibited leadership in and out of school. Some have worked to support themselves and family members. Scholarships provided through the Neill-Sandler Foundation and The Danner Company, a Nashville-based business led by Ray Danner, will go to the deserving students who come from the Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Franklin, Rutherford, Warren, Williamson and Wilson county school systems and Tullahoma City Schools.

This year’s honorees include Jessica Berry of DeKalb County High School in Smithville; Kyle Choompooning of Franklin County High School; India Clark of Lebanon High School; Crystal Clayton of Warren County High School; Chris Ehemann of Tullahoma High School; Lauren Grooms of Smyrna High School; Chad Howse of Cannon County High School; Melissa McClenny of Shelbyville Central High School; Brittanie Nelson of Independence High School in Franklin, and Tasha Stoutenburg of Coffee County Central High School.

One scholarship winner will receive the Ray Danner Scholarship, which has a $10,000 total award. Another will receive the Elizabeth and Sidney McFee Scholarship, with a $7,000 total award. Each of the other eight winners will receive a $5,000 scholarship.

Kippy Todd, assistant director for annual giving and donor relations in the Office of Development, said $85 recipients have benefited from the scholarships since 1999.

For more information about the program, visit www.mtsu.edu/~devofc/neill-sandler.htm.

Listen to this—MTSU’s award-winning mock trial team includes, from left, Nick Lee, J.R. Lind, Cory Hudson, Jamie Bowers Kidd, Natalya Vaughn, Daniel Vaughn and Alex Jason Walker. Not pictured are Natalie Schneider and Matt Caddis.

“We want to remember that we are not majoring in mock trial,” said Vile. “It’s the icing on the cake, not the cake itself.”

“All the time and dedication do pay off: about two-thirds of the students who participate in mock trial end up going to law school, according to Vile.”

Help international students get back on financial feet at CAIRS yard sale

from Staff Reports

C ommunity Assistance for International and Refugee Students (CAIRS) is holding a yard sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 28, at the St. Rose of Lima school gymnasium, 404 N. Tennessee Blvd. in Murfreesboro.

Donations of items and home-made goods will be accepted the day before the sale between 3 and 8 p.m. Volunteers also are needed to help with the sale.

Proceeds will benefit CAIRS, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping international students attending MTSU on student visas who are not eligible for any type of federal aid or grants, as well as refugees and other immigrants.

This fund has already assisted MTSU students from India, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Turkey with $100 grants and small loans for emergencies such as car breakdowns, job layoffs, replacing stolen books or bikes, etc.

CAIRS raises anywhere from $500 to $1,000 at these yearly sales.

For more information, contact CAIRS co-adviser Karen Case at kcase@mtsu.edu or 615-427-9411.

Esposito, an internationally known expert on Islam and the Middle East, is widely interviewed or quoted in the media in sources such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and network news stations, NPR, BBC and media throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

In his provocative, challenging and direct presentations, Esposito explores the nature of Islam’s relationship with the West and the resentment and misunderstanding that have characterized this often-troubled relationship. This lecture, which is supported by the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund, is the third in a series of events sponsored by the new Middle East Center at MTSU this spring. In January, Lilly Rivlin presented her documentary film “Can You Hear Me? Israeli and Palestinian Women Fight for Peace.” In March, Dr. F. Gregory Causey III spoke on “The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences.” For more information about the event, contact 615-494-8809 or 615-494-7906.

by Randy Weiler

Ten Middle Tennessee high-school senior who have overcome obstacles and become successful in life will be honored for their tenacity Tuesday, April 10, during the ninth annual Neill-Sandler Strive for Excellence Banquet at MTSU. The non-invitation-only event will start at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Miller Coliseum’s Miller Room.

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One scholarship winner will receive the Ray Danner Scholarship, which has a $10,000 total award. Another will receive the Elizabeth and Sidney McFee Scholarship, with a $7,000 total award. Each of the other eight winners will receive a $5,000 scholarship.

Kippy Todd, assistant director for annual giving and donor relations in the Office of Development, said 85 recipients have benefited from the scholarships since 1999.

For more information about the program, visit www.mtsu.edu/~devofc/neill-sandler.htm.

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MTSU Creates Office of Institutional Diversity

by Tom Tozer

The 16th Annual Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day will be held at MTSU Thursday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building. Registration and morning coffee will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The seminar is open to anyone interested in accounting, auditing and taxation. Participants will earn eight hours of Continuing Professional Education credit and have the opportunity to visit with alumni and former professors.

The seminar will be under the umbrella of the Office of the Provost under the umbrella of Dr. Jack Thomas, senior vice provost for academic affairs. Shaw-McEwen will guide efforts to conceptualize, define, assess, nurture and cultivate diversity as an institutional and educational resource and value.

Dr. Sharon Shaw-McEwen, professor of social work, will assume her new role as assistant vice provost for institutional diversity. The Office of the Provost will elevate the impact of the Scholars Academy and the October-November Biennial International Conference on Cultural Diversity, added Shaw-McEwen, who chairs the conference planning committee.

If you would like to join or have input in this effort, please e-mail the Office of Institutional Diversity at clinton@mtsu.edu or call 615-898-5975.

Dr. Sanjay Asthana (journalism) attended the International Conference on Media Education and Information Literacy in the Middle East in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 4-7 at the invitation of the Saudi Ministry of Education. He joined attendees from the European Commission, education ministers from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and several media education researchers and presented a paper, “Media, Children and Young People,” and conducted a workshop, “Teaching About Media.”

Presentations

Dr. Sanjay Asthana (journalism) presented a paper, “The Ethics of New Media” at the Media in Transition 5: Creativity, Ownership and Collaboration in the Digital Age international conference April 27-29 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Dr. Robert B. Blair and Vincent W. Smith (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented “Communication Learning Goal Assessment in an AACSB Accredited College of Business” at the Association for Business Communication-Southeast USA Conference in Nashville March 23.

The pair also provided audio-visual technical support during the conference.

Dr. Albert Ogden (geosciences) made two presentations in March. “Starting the New MTSU Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum” March 21 at the Tennessee Association of Museums’ annual meeting in Murfreesboro and “Origin of Cave Formations” March 15 to the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society’s regular meeting in Murfreesboro.


Dr. Yang Soo Kim (speech and theatre) has had an article, “Communication experiences of Korean expatriates in the U.S.: A study of cross-cultural adaptation,” accepted for an upcoming 2007 issue of Human Communication.

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day April 26

by Claire Rogers

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Dr. Robert B. Blair and Martha Balachandran (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented “Business Etiquette and Image Management” April 4 at the National Business Education Association Conference in New York City.

Dr. Aimee Holt and Mary Ellen Fromuth and Shannon Riggs, a graduate student in school psychology, presented “The Perception of Teacher Sexual Misconduct by Age of Adolescent” at the Southeastern Psychological Association annual convention in New Orleans Feb. 21-24. Holt also joined psychology professors Leaha N. Barrett and Holly E. Walters to present “Membership Needs Assessment for a State School Psychology Association” and “A School-Based Needs Assessment: Teachers’ and Parents’ Perceptions,” respectively, at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention in New York City March 30.

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Facility/Staff Update

Faculty/Staff Update

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