Dr. Aaron Todd’s ‘indomitable will’ inspires, teaches

from Staff Reports

D r. Aaron W. Todd, 69, emeritus professor of chemistry and one of MTSU’s most determined and dedicated sports fans, passed away April 5 after a valiant fight against brain cancer.

A winner of the MTSU Foundation’s Outstanding Teacher Award, he was the founder of and adviser for MTSU’s chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the national agriculture honor society, and the college’s chapter of the Sigma Xi scientific honor society. He was the university’s first chemistry department chairman and advisor for MTSU’s chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the national agriculture honor society, and the college’s chapter of the Sigma Xi scientific honor society.

Dr. Todd was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer on Christmas Day 2006, but passed away April 5 after a valiant fight against brain cancer. He beat that prediction by more than two years, gaining renown as a survivor of his “Operation: Full House” quest to live. He was a real estate broker and partner in a real estate company.

Meanwhile, he was a mainstay of Middle Tennessee State University basketball, attending games in spite of his affliction because of his indomitable will. He was the founder of and adviser for MTSU’s chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the national agriculture honor society, and the college’s chapter of the Sigma Xi scientific honor society.

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The MTSU Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies will hold an open house from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in the Tom H. Jackson Building (old Alumni Center). Poster presentations by ETIS faculty members and student projects will be on display, and the Lead Elimination Action Program and Concrete Industry Management Program will have booths. Other booths will be added as the open house draws closer. For more information, call 615-898-2776.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST—Rebecca B. Jones, seated, friend of education and worship of former Murfreesboro mayor and philanthropist Jennings A. Jones, poses with students of her husband’s namesake College of Business at the recent MTSU Executives in Residence day on campus. From left are Jessica McCord, Courtney Holliday, Casey Smith, Mrs. Jones, Daniel Wood, Kim Morrow, Jo Gilley and Roy Adcock.

photo by Andy Heidt

Business sense

IN BRIEF

LUNCH AT OUTBACK APRIL 25 BENEFITS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Lunch at Outback Steakhouse, with all proceeds benefiting the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship at MTSU, will be held Wednesday, April 25, at Outback Steakhouse, 1968 Old Fort Parkway in Murfreesboro. Three seating times—11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.—will be available for participants. In addition to the event with Administrative Professionals Day, the event has become an annual fundraiser for the Rutherford County Alumni Chapter. The entry fee is $15 per person, which includes a meal of Caesar salad, steak or chicken, mashed potatoes and bread. To make reservations, call 615-898-2922 or visit www.mtsualumni.com.

ETIS PLANS OPEN HOUSE APRIL 26 IN TOM H. JACKSON BUILDING

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SEE SPOT RUN! RUN, SPOT ... HEY, SPOT, COME BACK HERE!

Join the race to support Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity in an event unlike any other in middle Tennessee! Sure to be an event to remember, participants are encouraged to run with their dogs at the upcoming See Spot Run 5K set for Saturday, May 12, at 8 a.m. on the MTSU campus. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at Puck Hall. The entry fee is $15 before May 1 and $20 until race day. For more information, please contact 615-898-5812.

PORTION OF FAULKINBERRY TO CLOSE SATURDAY, APRIL 28

A section of Faulkinberry Drive will be closed between Normal Way and Blue Raider Drive on Saturday, April 28. The work should begin at 8 a.m. and finish by 2 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the Office of Construction Administration at 615-898-2867.

Spring commencement
Nearly 2,000 grads to celebrate 2 ceremonies

by Lisa L. Rollins

Nearly 2,000 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 95th spring commencement ceremonies, reports Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services.

On Saturday, May 5, MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers starting at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,998 set to graduate, 1,726 are undergraduates and 268 are graduate students, including 229 master’s candidates, 32 education specialist (Ed.S.) degree candidates and seven Ph.D. candidates.

Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business and College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony.

That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. Jack Thomas, senior vice provost for academic affairs and chairman of the commencement committee.

I t. Gov. Ron Ramsey, R-Murfreesboro, who represents Tennessee’s Second Senate District, will be the guest speaker for the 10 a.m. ceremony.

Ramsey, whose district encompasses Johnson and Sullivan counties in East Tennessee, was elected to the senate in 1996 after serving two terms in the state’s House of Representatives. During his time as a state representative, Ramsey was elected District 1’s supervisor in Sullivan County.

On Jan. 9, 2007, Ramsey was elected speaker of the senate by an 18-15 margin, receiving the votes of all state GOP senators and one Democratic senator. He is the first GOP senate speaker in 140 years and the first from Sullivan County in more than 100 years.

A graduate of Sullivan Central High School and a 1976 graduate of East Tennessee State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology, Ramsey resides in Blountville with his wife, Sandy, and their three daughters, Tiffany, Sheena and Madison.

When he is not in Nashville, Ramsey is a real estate broker and auctioneer with his own company, Ron Ramsey and Associates, in Blountville. Among other activities, he is a past president of the Blountville Business Association.

See ‘Spring’ page 5

Related article, page 5
MTSU to shine again at city’s annual JazzFest from Staff Reports

MTSU’s jazz musicians will once again shine at Murfreesboro’s annual Main Street JazzFest as students and professors take the stage on the city’s public square Saturday, May 5. After an evening of “Future Jazz Greats” performances by county high-school jazz bands May 4, the students of the MTSU Jazz Ensemble I will tune up at noon May 5 for an hour-long midday set at the festival’s main stage.

Perception professor Lalo Davila is set to perform at 2 p.m., followed by jazz faculty members Don Aliquo (tenor saxophone), Shawn Purcell (guitar) and Jamey Simmons (trumpet) and The A.P.S. as their new formation. A.P.S. II also includes MTSU faculty David Lowucky (trombone), Pat Coil (piano), Jim Ferguson (bass) and Tom Giampietto (drums) and grad student Mike Jerner (baritone saxophone). Their set is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. on the main stage.

At 6 p.m. on the event’s Kruger stage, the students of the MTSU Jazz Ensemble II are scheduled to perform. JazzFest headliner Louis Hayes and his Cannonball Band, featuring trumpeter Jeremy Pelt and saxophonist Vincent Herring, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on the main stage.

Sets by other local bands also are on tap during the festival; for a complete schedule of events, visit www.mainstreetjazzfest.com and click on the “performances” link.

JazzFest is celebrating its 11th anniversary this year. Presented by MTSU’s McLean School of Music, it’s a project of Main Street: Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Inc., a nonprofit organization that assists in the promotion, historic preservation and economic development of the downtown area.

For more information, visit www.mainstreetjazzfest.com.

Leadership Middle Tennessee wants you

Leadership Middle Tennessee is accepting applications until Tuesday, May 15, for its upcoming Class of 2008, which begins this September.

The program, which brings together community leaders from a 10-county area in an atmosphere of networking, collaboration and strategic thinking, consists of 10 sessions and ends with graduation on May 21, 2008.

To obtain an application packet, contact Susan Turner Taylor, executive director, at 615-904-8207 or taylor@mtsu.edu.

LMT’s mission is to develop leaders who can contribute to long-term solutions that sustain and balance the quality of life and economic growth “for our collective unique communities.”

For information about the administrative and operational support location of LMT, founded in 1997, is housed in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.
$10K scholarship will help achieve goals: honoroe

by Randy Weiler

Warren County High School senior Crystal Clayton says the “key to my success is using my bad experiences as stepping stones for the future. … Nothing will stop my pursuit of happiness, which is making a positive change in the hearts of children.”

Clayton’s “stepping stones” and “pursuit of happiness” got a lift April 10 when the McMinnville resident received the $10,000 Ray Danner Scholarship during the ninth annual Neill-Sandler Strive for Excellence Banquet at MTSU’s Tennessee Miller Coliseum Miller Room.

Clayton said her goal is to become a clinical licensed counselor with an emphasis on children. She demonstrated her desire to help children through volunteer efforts with programs like the Kids of the Community project, Structured Athletics for Challenged Children and Bobby Ray Elementary Star.

The young woman has been a part of many school, community and church activities and already enjoyed a taste of the university by being a two-year member of the MTSU Educational Talent Search group. Jessica Berry of DeKalb County High School in Smithville was honored with the $7,500 Elizabeth and Sidney A. McPhee Scholarship. Since the start of her freshman year of high school, Berry has endured her parents’ divorce, her mother’s three-year struggle with breast cancer that ended two weeks after Mother’s Day 2006, living alone, working and paying bills and rebuilding a relationship with her father.

“I am going to succeed at all of my goals, no matter what I have to do to accomplish them,” she wrote in her application essay. “I love and miss my mom terribly, but I know she wants me to succeed, also.”

Recipients of one-time $5,000 Neill-Sandler Scholars at MTSU grants included Kyle Chompooming of Franklin County High School; India Clark of Lebanon High; Chris Ithemann of Tullahoma High; Lauren Grooms of Smyrna High; Chad Howse of Cannon County High; Melissa McClenney of Shelbyville Central High; Brittany Nelson of Independence High; and Toshia Strutenburg of Coffee County Central High.

Each of the students’ compelling stories were shared in comments by Murfreesboro businessman Mike Sandler of the Neill-Sandler Foundation and in a video presentation by John Lynch and graduate student Seth Alder from the Office of News and Public Affairs. Scholarships are provided through the Neill-Sandler Foundation and The Danner Company, a Nashville-based business led by chairman Ray Danner. When the newest group arrives on campus this fall, it will mean 95 recipients have benefited since 1999, said Kippy Todd, assistant director for annual giving and donor relations in the Office of Development.

The efforts of Sandler, Danner, businessman Gary Neill of Knoxville and others have helped maintain the scholarship program. Neill, Sandler and Randy Morton of the Neill-Sandler Foundation initiated the program in 1999. An annual Danner Invitational Golf Tournament, held in early October at Hermitage Golf Course in Nashville, helps fund the scholarships. Call 615-604-7171 for tournament inquiries.

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

SUNO from page 2

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DEMONSTRATING EXCELLENCE—Zhijie Qi, left, a grad student in economics, explains his project, “Value of Higher Education in Tennessee,” to sophomores Gloria Fvorou and Elizabeth Russell during the Scholars Week universitywide faculty and student poster exhibit held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Research, scholarship and creative project winners for the 2007 Scholars Week included undergrads Erin Meaker, sociology and anthropology; Doug Hayes, geosciences; Sara McCarty, history; Terri Proctor, psychology; Maria Davison, psychology; Larry Williams and Joy Pollard, psychology; Travis Denton, physics; Justin Head, biology; Nate Brady, physics; Matthew Bullington, economics and finance; Jeffrey Blackman, computer information systems; Tabitha Taylor and Jessica Gaul, management and marketing; Silvia Cisles, Benjamin James Golden, Darren Foster, Tony Hartman and Taylor Leonard, recording industry and music; and Denise Lee, electronic media communication; graduate students Hillary Robson, English; Jessica Lendon, sociology and anthropology; Sarah Hildenbrand, English; Sandy Stevens, health and human performance; Joseph Barker and Stephen Schmidt, psychology; Tiago Barreira, Jennifer Bettle and Matthew Rens, HEP; Thomas Wilson, chemistry; Stanton Belford, biology; Chad Lloyd, engineering technology and industrial studies; Pamela Morris, economics and finance; Alan Seals, economics and finance; Zhijie Qi, economics and finance; and Terry Tilton, Matt Vance, Max Wolke and David Joyce, computer information systems.

photo by J. Intintoli

WMOT now broadcasting in HD

WMOT Jazz 89 is now broadcasting in HD radio! MTSU’s all-jazz National Public Radio member station has joined other leading stations throughout middle Tennessee and across the country by broadcasting its signal both in “regular” analog format and digital.

For those who listen to WMOT and own an HD radio receiver, the station can be heard in digital mode without normal radio interference, providing clear, crisp, clean digital-quality sound.

“HDRadio is the marketing name for the iBoc (In Band On Channel) system of combining existing FM transmitters with another (digital) transmitter on the same antenna and frequency,” said WMOT Chief Engineer Gary Brown.

2007 also marks the 25th year that WMOT has broadcast an all-jazz format—an unusual feat in the cradle of country music.

WMOT’s spring on-air fundraiser will run May 1 through May 3. Listeners can support Jazz 89 financially any time by pledging at 615-898-2800 or online at www.wmot.org. Payroll deduction is available for MTSU faculty, staff and administration.

The station’s need for private funding is more critical than ever, station personnel said, due to a 50 percent reduction in federal funding for fiscal year 2006-2007 and probable additional cuts in 2007-2008.

DEMONSTRATING EXCELLENCE—Zhijie Qi, left, a grad student in economics, explains his project, “Value of Higher Education in Tennessee,” to sophomores Gloria Fvorou and Elizabeth Russell during the Scholars Week universitywide faculty and student poster exhibit held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Research, scholarship and creative project winners for the 2007 Scholars Week included undergrads Erin Meaker, sociology and anthropology; Doug Hayes, geosciences; Sara McCarty, history; Terri Proctor, psychology; Maria Davison, psychology; Larry Williams and Joy Pollard, psychology; Travis Denton, physics; Justin Head, biology; Nate Brady, physics; Matthew Bullington, economics and finance; Jeffrey Blackman, computer information systems; Tabitha Taylor and Jessica Gaul, management and marketing; Silvia Cisles, Benjamin James Golden, Darren Foster, Tony Hartman and Taylor Leonard, recording industry and music; and Denise Lee, electronic media communication; graduate students Hillary Robson, English; Jessica Lendon, sociology and anthropology; Sarah Hildenbrand, English; Sandy Stevens, health and human performance; Joseph Barker and Stephen Schmidt, psychology; Tiago Barreira, Jennifer Bettle and Matthew Rens, HEP; Thomas Wilson, chemistry; Stanton Belford, biology; Chad Lloyd, engineering technology and industrial studies; Pamela Morris, economics and finance; Alan Seals, economics and finance; Zhijie Qi, economics and finance; and Terry Tilton, Matt Vance, Max Wolke and David Joyce, computer information systems.

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April 23

Monday, April 23
Retirement Roast for Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito
5 p.m., Tom Jackson Building
For information, contact: 615-898-5179.

“Black, White…”
Keynote speakers: Bruno Marcelutti and Brian Sparks
7 p.m., Tucker Theatre
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2870.

April 24

Tuesday, April 24
“My Name is Wallace” screening,
Nashville Film Festival
9 p.m., Regal Green Hills 16 Theater
Admission: $9; adult, $7 student
For information, visit www.nashvillefilmfestival.org.

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

April 25

Wednesday, April 25
Last day of Spring 2007 classes

Administrative Professionals Day Reception
9-10:30 a.m., JUB Tennessee Room
For information, contact: 615-898-5344.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
sponsored by the Student Government Association
10 a.m.-4 p.m., KUC 322
For information, contact: 615-898-2464.

Lunch at Outback Steakhouse
proceeds benefit the Rutherford County Alumni Chapter Scholarship
11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. seating times
Cost: $10 per person
For information and reservations, visit www.mtalumni.com
or contact: 615-898-2922.

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

April 26

April 26-27
School of Agribusiness & Agriscience Annual Plant Sale—Final Two Days
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Horticulture Center
For information, contact: 615-898-2430.

Thursday, April 26
Study Day
No classes; university offices open

“Planning for the Future” Seminar from Human Resource Services
8-11 a.m., KUC Theater
For more information, contact: 615-898-2929.

Ebyon Achievement Awards
6:30 p.m., JUB Tennessee Room
For ticket information, contact: 615-898-2987.

April 27

April 27-May 3
Final Examinations

April 28

April 28-29
MT Softball vs. Florida Atlantic
April 28, 1 and 3 p.m.; April 29, noon
Blue Raider Softball Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2103.

April 29

April 29
“MTSU On the Record—Islam and the West”
Guest: Dr. John Esposito
8 a.m.-1 p.m., WPS Room 102
For information, contact: 615-898-5946.

May 1

Tuesday, May 1
JAWC Career/Professional Development Brown Bag:
Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, “You Are What You Eat, Are You?”
Noon-1 p.m., BAS SunTrust Room
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

May 4

May 4-6
MT Baseball vs. Florida Atlantic
May 4, 6 p.m.; May 5, 4 p.m.; May 6, 1 p.m.; Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2103.

May 5

May 5-7
11th Annual Main Street JazzFest
Murfreesboro Public Square
For information, see story, page 2, or visit www.mainstreetjazzfest.com.

Friday, May 4
Spring 2007 AROTC Commissioning Ceremony
11 a.m., KUC Theater
For information, contact: 615-898-2470.

Spring 2007 Nursing Pinning Ceremony
3 p.m.; JUB Tennessee Room
For information, contact: 615-898-5621.

May 6

Saturday, May 5
Spring 2007 Commencement
10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm
or contact: 615-898-2919.

Sunday, May 6
“MTSU On the Record—Hoop Dreams”
Guest: David Hudson
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com
or free subscription at iTunes.

Get it in The Record!
Calendar Items Welcomed
Submit your campus event calendar items (at least three weeks in advance of the event) to gfann@mtsu.edu
or via fax to 615-898-5714.
Students, families, university invited to May 4 reception

by Molly Cochran

When the families of graduating seniors arrive in town for commencement the first weekend in May, they’re also invited to a new commencement reception.

The MTSU National Alumni Association will host its first commencement reception Friday, May 4, from 4 to 6 p.m., honoring the May 2007 graduating class.

Graduating seniors and their families are invited to the MTSU Alumni House to be welcomed as new members of the alumni association. Students also will have the opportunity to introduce their families to their favorite professors, advisers and staff members before the May 5 commencement ceremonies.

“This is a way for the university community to come together and congratulate these students on their accomplishments,” said Ginger Freeman (B.B.A. ’89, M.Ed. ’92), director of alumni relations. “It also gives us the opportunity to show the graduates that they will always be a part of MTSU and have a home at the Alumni House.”

The new MTSU Alumni House at 2259 Middle Tennessee Blvd. has been open for just over a year, so the reception will give prospective graduates and their families the opportunity to tour the house and take pictures on the grounds.

“For many students, this is their first interaction with the alumni association, and we want them to become familiar with us so that they will feel welcome to participate in future alumni activities,” said Marla Frisby (B.S. ’95), chair of the young alumni committee.

All university faculty and staff members are invited and encouraged to attend this initial celebration.

“We hope everyone will join us as we congratulate these students and wish them well. We know students have a bond with the faculty and staff members that they work with on campus, and they want to share these connections with their families,” said Freeman.

No RSVP is required to attend the commencement reception, which also will include refreshments.

For more information, please call 615-898-2922.

Molly Cochran is assistant director of alumni relations.

The Record April 23, 2007 page 5
Homeland Security grant will provide thermal imager for campus safety use

by Staff Reports

The Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program provides smaller communities and rural areas with technology, equipment and training that helps them train their first responder capabilities,” Gordon said. “These grants will enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies and first responders in Rutherford County.”

Teachers Hall of Fame adds 7 educators

by Lisa L. Rollins

The Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, with help from returning master of ceremonies Rep. John Hood, will induct seven new members during its annual induction ceremony and banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, in the Presidential Ballroom of the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

The black-tie affair will mark the 13th year that the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame has honored those educators who have exemplified excellence in teaching in Tennessee to date, more than 60 educators have been inducted into the hall of fame, which is co-sponsored each year by Middle Tennessee State University and overseen by a board of governors, whose members represent all major educational organizations within the state.

“The effort truly is a statewide endeavor,” said Dr. Gloria Bonner, dean of MTSU’s College of Education and Behavioral Science and coordinator of the ceremony.

“The hall of fame is a wonderful way for Tennesseans to honor those who have made exemplary contributions to the education profession and the lives of young people,” she added.

This year’s inductees are:

• Murfreesboro resident Nancy Y. Duggin, who served 24 of her 31 years as a professional educator in the classroom and seven in professional assignment. An MTSU alumna four times over, Duggin received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education, an M.Ed. in early childhood education and two education specialist degrees—one in curriculum and instruction and one in administration and supervision. Now retired after most recently serving as an education consultant, Duggin taught for Murfreesboro City Schools for many years.

• Memphis resident Mary Gatewood, who spent all 44 years of her professional career in the classroom before retiring from Double JJ Rare Breed School in the Memphis City Schools district in May 2006.

Gatewood began her teaching career at age 20 in Catholic schools, where she taught third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. Next she taught kindergarten at the Ambridge Methodist School, which is no longer in existence, before joining the Memphis school system in 1977 for the next 29 years.

• Jackie Gilbert Dungus of Blountville, whom devoted 33 years to middle-school education before retiring from Colonial Heights Middle School in the Sullivan County School system. Serving as both an English educator and coach, Dungus—in her letters of nomination for the hall of fame—is cited for her commitment to both academic and athletic excellence and for providing exceptional teaching and guidance.

• Memphis resident Blanche Deadacker, a 39-year teaching veteran who retired from Germantown High School in the Shelby County Schools district, and devoted all her classroom years to teaching subjects such as government, economics, history and AP classes. Deadacker founded her school’s AP program and wrote many, many grants, and continues to serve as the director of the Governor’s School for International Studies.

• Mary Ann Adley Casey of McMinnville devoted all of her 45 years in education to students in the classroom before retiring in 1987 from West Elementary and the Warren County school system for 33 years in education from MTSU and credits toward a master’s degree from Tennessee Technological University. Before teaching in Warren County’s William Biles, Old City Grammar and West Elementary schools, she first taught in Ripley, Miss., beginning in 1942.

• Mount Pleasant resident Hissie Southall Taylor, who retired after 39 years before her retirement from Maury County Schools. A past president of the Maury County Retired Teachers Association and a volunteer for her county’s United Way, as well as a caregiver for the elderly, Taylor graduated with honors from Tennessee A&I University in Nashville, where she was in the Elementary Education Club as well as numerous honor societies and Alpha Delta Omega chapter. She is a lifetime member of the National Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association.

• Diamon McQuary, a 30-year veteran of the classroom until her 2002 retirement from Wilson County’s Southside Elementary School, is a 1971 graduate of MTSU with a B.S. in elementary education. During the course of her teaching career, she taught physical education at Middle Tennessee Christian School in Murfreesboro while working toward her undergraduate degree and was soon hired to coach the first girls basketball team at MTSUs. She went on to teach second, third and fifth grades at Southside, as well as coach four basketball teams for two age levels for the Southside YMCA. She taught junior-high-level English and reading as well as math and science, including coaching Science Olympiads for several years. She also became the school’s first computer teacher and attended Tennessee Space Week Teachers’ Workshops.

Advance tickets to the banquet and induction ceremony are $40 each and can be ordered by calling 615-898-2874.

Retirement roast set April 23

Kawahito concluding MTSU career with pride

by Gina K. Logue

MTSU’s busiest one-man cultural and educational exchange society will have a somewhat smaller “to do” list as of June 2. Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and finance and director of the Japan-U.S. Program, which has led to greater understanding among people in a region where Bridgestone/Firestone, Nissan and Toshiba are major economic players, remains uncertain.

Kawahito is personally responsible for bringing Music from Japan, an exclusive annual tour of the finest practitioners of traditional Japanese music, to MTSU year after year. He also hosted an annual Firestone, Nissan and Toshiba are major eco-

ment roast at 5 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Tom Jackson Building.

The future of the Japan-U.S. Program, which has led to greater understanding among people in a region where Bridgestone/Firestone, Nissan and Toshiba are major economic players, remains uncertain.

Not the least of Kawahito’s many contributions to the campus community is the establishment of partnerships with Ateno de Manila University in the Philippines, Fukushima University, Saitama University, Nagoya Yakum University and Kansai Gaidai University in Japan; Vajira University in South Korea; and Bangkok University in Thailand.

Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, on MTSU’s Japan field study program

The use of Kawahito’s extensive network of personal contacts has not only made study-abroad trips to Asia thrilling and enlightening experiences for students, but it has made those trips less expen-

sive than if they had been arranged through a con-

tortium. The itineraries were arranged by Kawahito himself, benefiting more than 130 students, and he admits it is the accomplishment of which he is most proud.

“This is not the best in Middle Tennessee,” Kawahito says. “This is not the best in Tennessee. This is not the best in the nation. I believe this is the best in the world. If someone can show me any better 15-day field study program in Japan, I’ll come over there and study that.

Now it is time for Kawahito to travel for his own pleasure and relaxation.

“I would like to travel to a few different parts of the world, but at my own pace, not at a very busy and fast-moving pace,” Kawahito says. “I would like an up-down year after year. He also would like to write a history of MTSU’s interaction with the Japanese community over the last 25 years and perhaps organize special groups of MTSU alumni in Japan and Thailand.

In 2004, Kawahito was presented the “Gaimu Daqjin Sho,” or the Foreign Minister’s Commendation in Commemoration of 150th Anniversary of U.S.-Japan Friendship, by Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kawahito earned his bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma City University and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland.

‘This is not the best in the nation. I believe this is the best in the world.’

Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, on MTSU’s Japan field study program

by Gina K. Logue

MTSU’s busiest one-man cultural and educational exchange society will have a somewhat smaller “to do” list as of June 2. Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and finance and director of the Japan-U.S. Program, will be feted at a retire-

ment roast at 5 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Tom Jackson Building.

The future of the Japan-U.S. Program, which has led to greater understanding among people in a region where Bridgestone/Firestone, Nissan and Toshiba are major eco-


Math scholar to present research to Congress

by Tom Tozer

Dr. Xiaoya Zha, professor of mathematics at MTSU, says senior Brent Stephens is the best student he’s ever had in his 10 years at the university.

That goes a long way in explaining why Stephens is one of just 60 undergraduates nationwide whose research abstract will be presented Wednesday, April 25, to members of Congress at the annual Posters-on-the-Hill in Washington, D.C.

Funded by the university’s Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Projects Committees, Stephens’ research was to enumerate embeddings of odd graphs on orientable surfaces.

“We are counting the different ways to draw graphs with a particular structure,” Stephens explained. By the end of last summer, he said, he solved the problem and wrote a paper that will submit for publication.

“He is very strong and difficult and deserves to be published in a good math journal,” Zha, Stephens’ faculty mentor, said.

“I am very excited about this opportunity,” Stephens added. “It is an honor to be able to present to Congress, to share our research with the Congress and to represent the results of our research. They are the ones making the decisions to fund or not fund the research programs, so we need to let them know that we are accomplishing something.”

Film festivals rapidly learning ‘Wallace’s’ name

by Gina K. Logue

My Name is Wallace,” an independent movie filmed in Murfreesboro and winner of numerous awards at film festivals worldwide, will be screened at 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Nashville Film Festival.

“Wallace” tells the story of an odd, lonely, socially challenged man who looks for love through a phone-sex advertisement after his mother’s death.

The film was written and directed by Bob Pondillo, an associate professor of electronic media communications.

Many members of the crew are MTSU students or alumni. They include director of photography Matthew Pessoni, cinematographer Scott Pessoni, sound designers Mark Duvall and Dave Wagner and editor Jessica Brynner.

“Wallace” has been entered in more than 270 film festivals and has been accepted by 38 of them.

“It’s most encouraging,” Pondillo says of the positive reception for his work. “I’m delighted people find it interesting and entertaining, I think that may be a little bit of Wallace in all of us.”

David Lawrence, a Los Angeles-based actor and host of “The David Lawrence Show” on XM Satellite Radio, is the executive producer and stars as Wallace. Nashville singer-songwriter Leslie Ellis portrays Tiffany, the phone-sex operator.

Pondillo’s initial independent film, “Would You Cry If I Died?,” captured third place in the Best Short category at the Southern Fried Flicks Film Festival in Augusta, Ga., and second place in the Narrative Faculty Video category at the 2006 Broadcast Educators Association of Media Arts.

To order tickets for the showing of “My Name is Wallace,” go to www.nashvillefilmfestival.org. The festival will take place April 19-26 at the Regal Green Hills Stadium 16 Theater, 3815 Green Hills Village Drive in Nashville.

For more information about the event and to view the trailer, go to www.mynameiswallace.com.

Honors so far for “My Name is Wallace”

• Best Short Comedy, San Fernando Valley International Film Festival, North Hollywood, Calif.
• Best International Short Film, Okanagan Film Festival, British Columbia, Canada.
• Best Short Film, Spokane Film Festival, Spokane, Wash.
• Best Short, Smukgof Film Festival, Muskegon, Mich.
• Silver Medal of Excellence for Use of Music in a Short Film, Park City Film Music Festival, Park City, Utah.
• Best Short Comedy of the Year, Gem City Film Festival, Palatka, Fla.
• Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Short Comedy and Best of Fest, Trail Dance Film Festival, Duncan, Okla.
• Best Short, Short Films of India Film Festival.
• Honorable Mention, Beverly Hills Hi-Def Film Festival, Beverly Hills, Calif.
• Special Selection and Finalist, Very Short Movies Film Festival, Hollywood, Calif.

transfer honor society inducts 100 new members

from Staff Reports

MTSU’s chapter of Tau Sigma, the national transfer student honor society, inducted 100 new members April 10 in ceremonies at the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Undergraduate students from colleges and universities all over the country who transferred into MTSU with at least 24 hours and maintained a 3.5 GPA in their first semester here are invited to join.

MTSU’s chapter also inducts members transferring from and enrolled in programs at various campus locations.

This year, 50 students from other Tennessee Board of Regents community colleges were inducted into the honor society.

Due to the large number of new inductees enrolled in the MTSU 2+2 Program at Columbia State Community College, an induction ceremony also was conducted April 12 at Columbia State.

These students are enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Studies program, which allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree in education toward K-6 certification by completing an associate’s degree at Columbia State and a prescribed series of upper-division MTSU courses offered on the Columbia State campus.

“Our chapter of Tau Sigma is devoted to making the transition to MTSU easier for transfers,” said Stephanie Compton, secretary of the chapter for the 2006-2007 school year. “We are a liaison between the university administration and this growing segment of the student population.”

New officers include Rebekah Cook of Tullahoma, vice-president; Crystal Barton of Cordova, secretary; Stacy Lawrence of Nashville, treasurer; and Caroline Odom of Summerville, S.C., webmaster.

Honorary MTSU inductees at the April 10 ceremony included Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for student services; Dr. Connie Jones, elementary and special education chair; Dr. Henry Means, elementary and special education and adviser for the 2+2 Program; Chris Haseleu, recording industry chairman; Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations; Dr. John Lee, economics and finance chairman; Marilyn Wood, recording industry; Dr. Bob Wood, recording industry; Dr. James Huffman, educational leadership chairman; Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Women’s Center; and Dr. David Foote, associate professor of management and marketing and director of the Leadership Institute.

For more information about Tau Sigma, contact Dr. Virginia Donnell at 615-898-3728.
Beloved ‘Dr. Bob’ shares tales with class

by Cristol Camacho

H e has been called a “walking history book” by some and a “master storyteller” by others, and rightly so. Dr. Bob Womack, professor of educational leadership at MTSU, captured the imagination of listeners in Dr. Barbara Haskew’s Principles of Macroeconomics class recently as he shared his life experiences and explained changes in consumer behavior throughout the years.

Womack, now 83, has spent most of his life in middle Tennessee. He was born in Flat Creek, a small town between Shelbyville and Lynchburg, where much of the community was based on education, religion and farming. However, you won’t hear the same old “I-walked-five-miles-to-school” stories from him.

As he recalls it, his mother used to can peaches and apples from their orchard to make “moon pies,” which the children traded in school.

“You could swap a ‘moon pie’ for just about anything,” Womack said. “There was no such thing as a hot lunch (or) indoor plumbing, and you didn’t go to the hospital unless you were ready to die!”

On Saturdays, they made trips to Shelbyville so they could stay all day and watch people walk around. He and his sister once made trips to Shelbyville so they could stay all day and watch people walk around. He and his sister once

“One was a nickel and the other was a dime, but my sister and I couldn’t figure out if you got more with a dime hamburger or two nickel hamburgers.”

Womack discussed not only the economics of the time but also the impact of religion and culture in his community. The churches nearby—Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Christ.

“On Sunday mornings, they couldn’t speak to anyone, much, because each thought the other was going to hell,” he said.

However, his mother, whom he described as “a foot-washing Baptist,” always found other denominations’ beliefs interesting and liked to have each of the preachers to Sunday lunch so that she could understand and argue about these differing beliefs.

Education also became very important to him early in life. His older sister, a high school history teacher, had always read poems and stories, which instilled within him a “love and appreciation of literature.”

“I didn’t become a physician like my brother because I never did like the smell of formaldehyde,” said Womack with a laugh.

Womack got his first job teaching English in Shelbyville after graduating from MTSU in 1948. He has since spent 49 years at MTSU as a professor of the same ACS meeting in the Division of Inorganic Chemistry poster session. He repeated his presentation the following day in the “Sci-Mix” poster session, which included the best posters from all poster sessions. Wulfsberg presented another poster, “35Cl Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance (NQR) Studies of Chlorinated Weakly Coordinating Anions,” March 27 at the same ACS meeting in the Division of Inorganic Chemistry poster session.

Drs. John Omachonu and Thomas Berg (electronic media communications) received a 2007 National Association of Broadcasters Research Grant to conduct a study of minority ownership of broadcast facilities in the United States. Their findings will be released in early 2008.

William Black, Mary Ellen Pazzubon and Maya Taylor (Walker Library) presented “Strategies for Redesigning the Website to Reflect Library Transformation” at the Conference of College and Research Libraries conference March 29-April 1 in Baltimore.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (chemistry) gave a poster presentation, “Will Large Lecture Halls ‘Click’ in a New Science Building?”, at the 233rd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Chicago March 25 in the Division of Chemical Education poster session. He repeated his presentation the following day in the “Sci-Mix” poster session, which included the best posters from all poster sessions. Wulfsberg presented another poster, “35Cl Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance (NQR) Studies of Chlorinated Weakly Coordinating Anions,” March 27 at the same ACS meeting in the Division of Inorganic Chemistry poster session.

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Dr. Hong Wulfsberg (mathematics) has published a paper, “Piecewise Linear Prewavelets over Type-2 Triangulations,” in the Journal of Applicable Analysis, Vol. 86 (2007), pages 83-98. His co-author is Jiansheng Cao of East Tennessee State University.

E-mail your accomplishments to gfann@mtsu.edu with “Faculty/Staff Update” in the subject line.