For the fourth time in seven years since joining the Sun Belt Conference, Middle Tennessee’s athletic department has won the Vic Bubas Cup, given each year to the university that comes in first in the Sun Belt’s all-sports standings.

The Blue Raiders, who scored a conference record 141 total points, received their fourth trophy May 22 during the league meetings in Destin, Fla.

Middle Tennessee won or shared six conference championships during the 2006-07 campaign to secure its first all-sports title since 2005. The Blue Raiders also won the prestigious title in 2001, which was their first year in the SBC, and again in 2004 and 2005. Middle Tennessee is only the fourth school in Sun Belt history to win the award four times.

“This honor speaks highly to the student-athletes, coaches, administration and support staff within our athletics department,” said Chris Massaro, director of athletics.

“Winning the award for the fourth time in seven years as a Sun Belt member speaks volumes regarding the total athletic department at Middle Tennessee. Everyone in our athletic department, the university and community should take great pride in this, because this was a total team effort and that’s the great thing about an All-Sports Championship.”

Middle Tennessee defeated Western Kentucky for the award, about an All-Sports Championship.

The Blue Raiders’ All-Sports champi-

onship was bolstered by regular sea-

son titles in football, volleyball and women’s basketball, and conference post-season championships in vol-

leyball, men’s outdoor track and women’s basketball. Four Middle Tennessee coaches also earned Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year honors—Rick Stockstill (football), Rick Insell (women’s basketball), Johnny Moore (men’s golf) and Dean
The devastation of Hurricane Katrina has greatly impacted Southern University at New Orleans. Classes and activities are held in trailers, and many students reside in trailer homes provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Many people often ask if the rebuilding project is occurring discouragingly, but when I reply, I reply with pride and dignity, emphasizing the passion that I have for my university—my home.

As the struggle continues, it seems as if the rebuilding process of our university is taking forever. Driving around the city recognizing that other colleges and universities are almost back to normal, and then driving past SUNO to see that our campus is still in need of help, is discouraging. Some one would ask me what I want to see happen with the university. I would say that I want to see steady progress and actions that are being taken to reconstruct and improve our South Campus. I want to return home, just like everyone does. Many of those who have not walked in our shoes or sat in our classroom seats cannot empathize with the pain we suffer.

I am a firm believer of putting students first, because I know that without students there is no university. Now is the time for many students to let their voices be heard, advocating strongly for what they believe or want to see happen. It is time for change and change starts now, but it has to start with someone, particularly student leaders who are able to articulate and demand the needs of the university. As I make future predictions, I include SUNO. As a 2007 graduate, I want to be a part of the rebuilding process. I want to listen to the concerns of the students and implement plans in addition to many long-term goals. I want to advocate for the materials and resources that will account for a better university. I will continue to empower students, stressing repeat- erships in addition to many long-term

The old chill water line on the south side of the Bragg Mass Comm building is nearly finished, and a new line will be run to Saunders Fine Arts.

The reroofing of Judd, Gracy Hall and Smith Halls started in May, as well as the replacement of the lower roofing over the Keathley University Center cafeteria.

Site work has begun on the 800-square-foot observatory. Phase one is the building, due for completion in September; phase two is the dome, to be completed in January.

Work in Peck Hall includes relocating the dean’s suite to Todd Hall. The new Bragg Mass Comm Building is under construction. The construction project includes an 18-by-18 main building and a smaller storage building.

The baseball stadium improvements project is under way. Projects in design include Lyon Hall, KUC and Campus School renovations, installation of underground electrical on the west side of campus; the new Science Building and Student Union, several building elevator upgrades, fire alarm upgrades in Peck, Saunders and KUC, a new educational building in the area of the current intramural fields, the widening of Middle Tennessee Boulevard and general ADA adaptations.
University departments gain state PR accolades

from Staff Reports

Two MTSU departments and a university executive have been recognized by the Tennessee College Public Relations Association for their creative efforts in publicizing and serving MTSU.

At the TCPRA’s spring meeting held May 17-18 at Vanderbilt University, members of Publications and Graphics and News and Public Affairs earned a total of five awards in the annual statewide competition between universities and community colleges.

The Record, NPA’s biweekly newspaper for the university community, and “Middle Tennessee See Record,” the NPA-produced monthly video magazine, received silver 2007 TCPRA Communications Awards in the Printed Newsletter and Electronic Newsletter categories, respectively.

Gina Fann of NPA is editor of The Record with the assistance of the entire NPA office, and John Lynch and graduate student Seth Alder create “Middle Tennessee Record.”

“This kind of recognition is a big hurray for all of us because producing great work requires the support and expertise of one another,” said NPA Director Tom Tozer. “We work on about a ‘team effort,’ it’s the high standards and professionalism of each player that elevate the team, the division and the university. We owe our successes to the excellence that we expect of ourselves and our colleagues. Lisa, Gina, John and Seth, as well as the other NPA officers, love what they do, and it shows.”

The Academic Master Plan 2004—On Target—President’s Biennial Report for 2004-06, a joint effort from P&G and received the silver 2007 TCPRA Communications Award in the Reports category.

P&G’s Martha Millups designed the President’s Biennial Report.

“The Report is a complex piece and involved a number of people, including Jack Ross and others in Photographic Services, Faye Johnson in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Alan Thomas in the Business Office, Kim Edgar and Dr. Sidney McPhee in the President’s Office and Mitzi Brandon and myself in Publications and Graphics,” said P&G Director Suma Clark. “It is gratifying to receive recognition for the extensive work that is important and attractive piece.”

MT Writing Project zooms into 3rd year, 3 counties

by Lisa L. Rollins

Thanks to generous matching grants totaling $90,000, MTSU soon will embark upon its third annual Middle Tennessee Writing Project, an on-campus writing institute for select teachers to be delivered through college students.

The grants also will fund three Young Writer’s Camp sessions, all of which are two-week intensive writing camps held Mondays through Thursdays for 25 students from Rutherford, Cannon and Wilson counties.

Although MTSU has previously been the site of MTWP-sponsored Youth Writer’s Camps, this year there will be three separate camps—an 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. June 11-21 session for fourth through 12th grades in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building; an 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. June 4-14 camp for grades five through eight; and a 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. June 14-18 camp for fourth- to eighth-grade writers at Woodbury Grammar School in Cannon County.

Author Michael Shoulders, who penned Vi is for Volunteer, a book about Tennessee, will be the guest author at all three youth camps.

“Once the summer institute is complete, these 18 participants will join the almost 40 other teachers who have gone through the institute to become teacher consultants,” she continued. “Their job then is to conduct in-service, present at conferences or anything else that would provide professional development for other teachers in the area of writing.”

MTSU is the second Tennessee college to offer such a writing project and is one of 185 sites of the The National Writing Project, a federally funded program launched in 1974.

“This is a very good thing for MTSU,” said Solley, who—along with Dr. Trixie Smith, assistant professor of English—wrote the initial grant request that made MTWP possible.

Twenty-five students already are registered to attend the MTSU writing camp, which costs $200 per student. Both the Woodbury- and Lebanon-based writing camps will cost $100 per student.

Past MTWP teacher-participant Marcy Pfueger of Eagleville School will serve as coordinator for all three writing camps, Solley said.

“In 2005, Marcy Pfueger, one of the participants from the first summer institute, attended a national conference and began hearing and learning about writers’ camps as a way to involve kids in effective writing as well as provide professional development for teachers,” Solley said. “She came to the directors and co-directors of the MTWP with a plan. (And) after last summer’s institute, more teacher participants wanted to be involved in the youth writers’ camp, so Marcy became the director, overseeing three camps for this summer.”

For more information about the MTWP, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtwp. For youth camp registration information, please contact Pfueger via e-mail at pfuegerm@rcs.k12.tn.us or by calling 615-274-6320.
Moving day

WE-HAUL—Benefits staff employees pause halfway through filling and stacking 160-plus boxes of personnel files for their move from the Cope Administration Building into the newly christened Sam H. Ingram Building at the corner of Middle Tennessee Boulevard and East Lytle Street. Clockwise from left are Cindy Camp, Lisa Batey, Wendy Brown, Karen Milstead, student worker Carolyn Collins and Becky Young. (Not pictured is Kim Taylor.) Benefits staff are joining the rest of their Human Resource Services colleagues—the Employment Office, Payroll Office and the assistant vice president of human resources—in the Ingram Building. Other offices relocated to the Ingram Building, named for MTSU’s sixth president (1979-1989), include the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the Office of Compliance and the College of Graduate Studies.

photo by News and Public Affairs

June 4-7
Rick Stockstill Football Camp
for first- to eighth-grade boys
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2926.

June 4-10
MTSU Beef Camp
for fourth- to 12th-graders
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact:
615-898-2223.

Monday, June 4
Summer Sessions II, III begin

June 5

June 5-6
CUSTOMS Orientation
Liberal Arts, Education and Behavioral Science, Business and undeclared majors
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~customs
or contact: 615-898-5533.

Tuesday, June 5
Blue Raider Athletic Association Appreciation Dinner
6 p.m., Alumni Memorial Gym
For information, contact:
615-898-2210.

June 6

June 6-20
Blue Raider Strength and Conditioning Speed School
for athletes ages 12 to 18
6 p.m. Wednesdays
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-904-8196.

June 8

June 8-9
CUSTOMS Orientation
Basic & Applied Science, Mass Comm and undeclared majors
7:30 a.m., campuswide
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~customs
or contact: 615-898-5533.

June 8-10
Tennessee Nat'l. Barrel Race Assocation State Championships
9 a.m. daily, Miller Coliseum
For information, visit

June 8-11
Rick Insell “Li’l Raider”
Women’s Basketball Camp
for girls age 5 to eighth grade
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-5356.

June 8-15
Blue Raider Youth Tennis Camp I
for athletes ages 5 to 18
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2957.

June 8-17
“MTSU On the Record—Making the Grade?”
Guest: Alifie Kohn
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at
www.mtsunews.com
or free subscription at iTunes.

June 10

June 10-12
Blue Raider Baseball Pitcher/Catcher Camp (Session I)
for boys ages 13 to 12th grade
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2961.

June 10-12
Blue Raider Baseball Pitcher/Catcher Camp (Session II)
for athletes ages 13 to 12th grade
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2961.

June 10-15
Greater Nashville Blue Raider Golf Scramble
11 a.m. check-in, 11:30 lunch,
1 p.m. shotgun start
Temple Hills Golf Course, Franklin
For information, visit

June 10-July 13
Governor’s School for the Arts
Campuswide
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~gschool
or contact: 615-898-2223.

Sunday, June 10
“First Touch” Soccer Camp
for athletes ages 5 to 10
For information, visit
www.mtsusoccercamps.com
or contact: 615-898-5316.

Monday, June 11
Greater Nashville Blue Raider Golf Scramble
11 a.m. check-in, 11:30 lunch,
1 p.m. shotgun start
Temple Hills Golf Course, Franklin
For information, visit

June 11-13
Rick Insell “Li’l Raider”
Women’s Basketball Camp
for girls age 5 to eighth grade
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-5356.

June 11-15
Blue Raider Youth Tennis Camp I
for athletes ages 5 to 18
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2957.

June 11-17
Rick Insell Women’s Basketball Team Camp I
for high-school girls’ teams
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-5356.

Sunday, June 17
“MTSU On the Record—Sanity and Safety”
Guest: Kenneth Sanney
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at
www.mtsunews.com
or free subscription at iTunes.

June 12-13
CUSTOMS Orientation
Liberal Arts, Education and Behavioral Science, Business and undeclared majors
7:30 a.m., campuswide
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~customs
or contact: 615-898-5533.

June 12-14
Blue Raider Baseball Hitting Camp (Session II)
for boys ages 13 to 12th grade
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-2961.

June 14-16
Kermit Davis Men’s Basketball Team Camp I
for high-school boys’ teams
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com
or contact: 615-898-5228.
Listen up! Building fire drills can save your life

from Staff Reports

I f you’ve cried out, “Aaargh! What is that racket and why is it interrupting my class?” and then ignored the fire alarm screaming down the hallway, MTSU has a new fire safety program for you.

The university is launching a new campuswide safety awareness campaign, “Do the Drill,” to make students, faculty and staff more mindful of fire drills and fire safety.

“I’m proud to be part of this safety awareness program on campus,” said Tom Tozer, director of the Office of News and Public Affairs and one of the campaign’s organizers.

“So often it seems that it takes a tragedy for people to realize the importance of planning and preparation. We should respond as though each drill is the real thing. If all of us take fire alarms seriously and evacuate our buildings in a calm and orderly fashion, we should never have to be a jolting headline.”

Organizers say that making the campus community aware of the importance of fire drills will help ensure familiarity with exit routes and help people respond promptly and safely if an actual fire occurs.

Drills also familiarize building occupants with the sound of the fire alarm, serve as training opportunities for emergency response units and provide important tests of alarm systems and fire-reporting procedures.

“They save lives, pure and simple,” Tozer said. “A fire drill is a brief interruption in your life. We had one just the other day in the Cope (Administration) Building, which turned out to be a false alarm, but an interruption is always better brief than permanent.”

The safety campaign, which is being promoted via colorful signs around campus and on the university’s Web site at www.mtsu.edu/alert4u, offers common-sense reminders and tips for the campus community—remain calm, move quickly, don’t go back inside the building, prepare for your escape ahead of time.

“Planning can be the difference between good outcomes and very bad ones in the event of an emergency,” university President Sidney A. McPhee said. “That’s why MTSU safety plans include periodic fire drills in all campus buildings. Knowing what to do and where to go in case of fire can save your life, and the best way to learn what to do is through practice.”

Specially effective

Hayes (men’s outdoor track and field).

The Blue Raiders also aided their cause with a significant upgrade in men’s golf, where they gained 10 points from the previous season. Middle Tennessee also gained five points in baseball, women’s tennis and volleyball, while earning four more points in women’s basketball from 2006. The football team added 3.5 points, and softball and women’s indoor track provided three more points.

Another impressive number for the Blue Raiders in 2006-07 was their record on the road in conference play.

In football, men’s basketball and baseball (totals include results of entire weekend series) the Blue Raiders went an impressive 28-4.

Football was 6-0, men’s basketball 7-4, women’s basketball 10-0 and baseball 5-0. Demonstrating tremendous balance, Middle Tennessee earned six points or more in 16 of the 17 sports it sponsors.

Points are awarded based on the number of schools sponsoring the sport. Institutions not sponsoring a sport do not receive points in that sport, and institutions tying for positions split the combined points of their positions.

Middle Tennessee is the only football-playing member to win the Bubas Cup since football became a league-sponsored sport in 2001. The Blue Raiders do not field teams in men’s and women’s swimming and diving.

We miss him tremendously.”

Criteria for the scholarship require the recipient to be a minority student from a Murfreesboro high school with a significant GPA and a letter of acceptance from MTSU.

The tournament, set to begin with registration at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. at Indian Hills Golf Course in Murfreesboro, will carry a fee of $100 per player or $380 per foursome. The cost includes greens fees, cart, range balls, a sleeve of golf balls and dinner.

The Blue Raiders went an impressive 28-4 in 2001. The Blue Raiders did not field teams in men’s and women’s swimming and diving.

EWWWWW, COOOL!—Lori Gann-Smith, in apron, assistant professor of speech and theatre, applies gruesome theatrical makeup to Anna Fitzgerald, program director of the Youth Culture and Arts Center, as Special Effects Makeup Workshop attendees Rachel Barnes of Shelbyville Central High School, home-schooled Ben Arnold of Murfreesboro and Alex Morgan of Brentwood Academy watch. Gann-Smith taught youngsters how to cast and mold body parts and how to create “bruises” and other injuries for the most realistic possible look. Proceeds from the workshop benefited the YCAC, a program of Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities, or YEAH. For more information about YCAC events, visit www.youthculturecenter.org. For more on the workshop fun, watch the June edition of “Middle Tennessee Record” on your local cable station (see times and stations, page 4) or online at www.mtsunews.com.

photo by News & Public Affairs

Trophy from page 1

The Record June 4, 2007 page 5
Professor turns caregiving into outreach project

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. James E. Taylor never set out to become an expert in family caregiving, but life has provided him with the experiences and motivation to do just that.

An assistant professor of social work at MTSU since 1998, Taylor is on a 12-month sabbatical from full-time teaching to help create what he hopes will become a network of family caregiving resource points within the membership of Nashville’s 14 African Methodist Episcopal Churches.

Taylor, who found himself in the role of caregiver for his mother 12 years ago, said that when most find themselves in such a role, it’s easy to become overwhelmed and not know where to turn for support.

“Family caregiving is a job we volunteer for and what we do in order to take care of our loved ones,” Taylor said. “I didn’t know that’s what I was called, but I just did it.”

The “family caregiver” term, he explained, refers to anyone who provides assistance to someone who is ill, incapacitated or disabled and needs such care to maintain an optimal level of independence. Because families provide the majority of care, they are called “family caregivers,” Taylor said.

Moreover, caregivers may be “informal” care providers, meaning they are not hired and are non-professionals, or “formal” care providers, meaning professionals.

Informal caregivers usually are not trained and may be a friend or relative of the person needing care, Taylor said. Formal caregivers are trained to provide care and often have no family ties to the person receiving the care they provide in private homes, hospices, medical centers or nursing homes.

An only child, Taylor said that when he first began overseeing his mother’s care—including locating and arranging needed services for her in spite of their multi-state distance—he didn’t realize that a family caregiver is precisely what he had become.

It was this firsthand experience, though, that ultimately opened a new career for Taylor, who previously worked and lived in Maryland, where he served as a program manager for the U.S. Department of Education until his retirement.

Once out of the full-time workforce, it didn’t take long for Taylor to turn his love of learning back on and to retire,” he said, so he turned his long background in research grant management and social welfare policy organization into a full-time teaching role within MTSU’s Department of Social Work.

“When I came here and started hanging around some of the other professors, and when they found out what I was doing in regard to family caregiving … I ended up parlaying that into a family caregiving class for social workers,” said Taylor, “I am excited about this; I can hardly wait!” Taylor said. “I am going full-speed ahead … and working in the coming year to organize an advisory group, but I need support to help me do clerical work, work with churches and set up workshops.

“I would like to capture the essence of what’s going to take place in this model as I create how-to manuals on family caregiving to distribute to the communities. … I think what we are providing is a public service and that is how I am pursuing this, but I always welcome help and support.

For more information about Taylor’s current project, please contact him via e-mail at jetaylor@mtsu.edu or by calling 615-429-5049.

There’s not an industry in the world that comes close.

Dr. James E. Taylor on the contributions of family caregivers

The project’s emphasis on the black community came about, Taylor said, because “historically, African-Americans face greater health problems, and when they are blessed to have a long life, they may not have the financial resources to pay for needed health care.

“Instead of living in a nursing home or an assisted-living residence, they often rely on family members or loved one to care for them in their homes. … Often these caregivers are not well-informed about available resources and how to locate services to help their ill family members.”

Although his non-instructional assignment began only this year, already Taylor has contacted and received a positive response from social agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging and Disability, the Alzheimer’s Association, the Tennessee Department of Health, the local Arthritis Foundation, Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, Tennessee Respite Coalition and the Tennessee Centers for Independent Living.

“Usually when we think about family caregiving, we think about old people, but there are many other situations where family caregiving is at work,” Taylor noted. “We have children who are born with spina bifida and lots of other things, and when you have to go through life with that kind of experience, family caregiving is involved.”

In spite of this fact many family caregivers may feel isolated, “There are a lot of us,” Taylor said, adding that current estimates put the number of U.S. family caregivers around 50 million.

“The dollar value that we attach to the services that (family caregivers) provide is said to be in the neighborhood of $43 billion,” he said. “Given the amount of that dollar value and the number of us that do it, there’s not an industry in the world that comes close to that.”

With his awareness and expertise on family caregiving firmly in place, Taylor said his current project is a win-win for all involved, thanks to the public service it promises to provide and the partnerships it has begun to create.

Additionally, he said he hopes other university faculty and graduate students interested in contributing to his current effort in some way will contact him about possible collaborations or added partnerships related to the caregiver project.

“I am excited about this; I can hardly wait!” Taylor said. “I am going full-speed ahead … and working in the coming year to organize an advisory group, but I need support to help me do clerical work, work with churches and set up workshops.

For more information about Taylor’s current project, please contact him via e-mail at jetaylor@mtsu.edu or by calling 615-429-5049.
Funding cuts again cancel summer sports program

by Lisa L. Rollins and Samantha Buttery

F or the second consecutive year, the National Youth Sports Program, a monthlong summer camp for at-risk youth, will not be held at MTSU, confirmed National Program Director Gale Wiedow.

In 2005, federal funding for the national program was eliminated, Wiedow said. “These programs are unable to continue without increased institutional and local community support,” he said.

Locally, MTSU’s Department of Health and Human Performance has overseen the grant-funded camp, which combines sports instruction and recreation with educational programs, for about 300 at-risk youth from qualifying low-income families.

However, because no federal money for NYSP was provided in the 2005 fiscal year Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, also known as H.R. 3010, support for the NYSP program at MTSU—as well as 201 other NYSP programs nationwide—will not be available this year, NYSP organizers confirmed.

“Many people’s creative energies went into this project, and it’s rewarding to be recognized on such a distinguished level in a competition that draws entries from and to and from the local community support,” Jackson said.

The winning video, which was entered in the contest’s TV Programs, Segment or Promotional category, was produced by MTSU educators and community leaders on topics such as alcohol/drug abuse and violence prevention, proper nutrition, personal health and disease prevention, career opportunities and job responsibilities, and higher education.”

Wiedow said MTSU is not alone in its inability to attract money to support the program, but some NYSP programs—including Tennessee State University in Nashville, which is currently the state’s only program operating in 2007—have been able to secure alternative funding to conduct programs on their campuses.

“Fifty other programs will run this year,” he said, “but each of them has been) funded locally by grant money as well as the institution itself helping.”

Bartley and Wiedow agreed that if MTSU is to continue sponsoring the summer camp for at-risk youth, the local community must exercise its collective voice to help restore funding for NYSP so it can return in 2008.

Wiedow suggested that residents utilize the Web to contact their local senators at www.senate.gov and their representatives at www.house.gov.

Currently headquartered in Indianapolis, NYSP was created when representatives from the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports launched its concept in the summer of 1968 at two university athletic facilities. In March 1969, the White House announced the federal government would commit $3 million to establish a sports program for economically disadvantaged youth, and NYSP was born.

Today, the NYSP Fund, which operates under the National Youth Sports Corporation moniker, is a nonprofit organization established to administer NYSP projects nationwide. For more information on NYSP, visit www.nyscorp.org/nysp/home.html.

Samantha Buttery is a senior majoring in mass communication.

Watching the wheels go round

‘Iron Furnace Trail’ DVD is a winner

MTSU staffers garner bronze in 2007 Telly Awards

from Staff Reports

T ennessee Iron Furnace Trail,” an informational video in DVD format produced in a collaborative effort between MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation and the university’s Audio/Visual Services, garnered a Bronze Award at the 28th Annual Telly Awards.

According to its Web site (www.tellyawards.com), “The Telly Awards seek to honor the very best local, regional and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions.”

The winning video, which was entered in the contest’s TV Programs, Segment or Promotional Pieces—Education category, was produced by Caneta Hankins, assistant director of the CHP; Patrick Jackson, assistant director for programming for A/V Services; and Connie Schmidt, director of MTSU’s Instructional Technology Support Center. The video was directed and edited by Jackson, with additional editing by Ty Whacker, video production assistant.

Hankins and Jackson scripted the video, with consultation from Michael T. Gavin, preservation specialist with the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, and Carroll Van West, CHP director. Frank Forgette, A/V Services director, and Jeffrey Nokes, assistant director of engineering, provided engineering support for the DVD, which is one component of the multi-county Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail project.

According to a release issued by the Telly Awards staff, the 2007 contest attracted a record-breaking pool of more than 13,000 entries.

“This is the second Telly that our department has won, and this time—just like before—it was a thrill and truly a team effort,” Jackson said.

“Many people’s creative energies went into this project, and it’s rewarding to be recognized on such a distinguished level in a competition that draws thousands of quality entries.”

A/V Services won a 2006 Bronze Telly Award for producing “Fostering Positive Behavior,” a three-DVD training video for the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services in collaboration with the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare.

Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards’ mission is to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring, promoting and supporting creativity. Silver and bronze Telly statuettes honor outstanding local, regional and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. Past winners include the Children’s Miracle Network, Court TV, Cox Communications, E! Networks, Harpo Studios, J. Walter Thompson, Spike TV, Targetcom and Universal Studios Hollywood.

DAY AT THE HILL—MTSU history graduate student and state museum curator Jeff Sellers gives a tour of the state Capitol to students attending the Tennessee Intercollegiate Student Legislature Day in Nashville in March. Included in the group from MTSU are Tim Chrysler (facing camera in suit), Mitchell Holcomb (in front of Chrysler with MT shirt), Brittany Cates and Kathi Lillier. Twenty-five MTSU students and Dr. Jim Williams (history) and Patrick Chinnery (political science) attended the event as part of the campus American Democracy Project. Students met with legislators and legislative interns, observed legislative committee meetings, and learned about other aspects of state government in the first year of this event sponsored by TSL.

photo submitted
Students in two sixth-grade classes at the Homer Pittard Campus School recently decided to give back to MTSU by helping perform needed groundskeeping on the university’s campus.

The participating sixth-graders reported for duty to third-grade “Larry” Sizemore, greenhouse manager for grounds services at MTSU, May 21 and 22. A 32-year member of MTSU’s staff, Sizemore is in charge of all university landscaping.

Dr. Tracey Ring, professor of elementary and special education, said she was contacted by Campus School teachers LeAnn Hays and Shields Templeton when they learned that their graduating sixth-grade classes wanted to perform community service for MTSU.

Ring, in turn, said she immediately thought of Sizemore as someone willing to help the 50 children with their self-initiated community project, since he previously worked closely with several teachers at school.

“We (had) the students doing different things on different days, and all went well,” Sizemore said of the community service.

The first class of sixth-graders reported for duty May 21 and spent most of their school day performing tasks that needed to take place so that the second group of children could complete their planned work May 22, Ring said.

“The first helped get a lot of leaves that fell during the recent frost,” Sizemore explained. “So we (worked) on getting the nursery cleaned up in the area the best we could so the next group of kids could plant some native grasses, some switch grasses such as North Wind and Heavy Metal, around the rain garden.”

Hays said that although some of her previous classes also had conducted community service projects, this particular group of students had developed an especially close tie with the university and conceived the on-campus service idea as a way to say “thank you” for all the help MTSU had provided for them during the past several years.

“This is a part of their graduation celebration, to give back to the university,” said Hays, who noted that the children performed the service during their graduation week.

For more information about the K-6 school, which is a public elementary jointly operated by MTSU and the Rutherford County School System as well as the laboratory school for students in the teacher education programs of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, please visit its Web site at www.hpc.rcs.k12.tn.us/index.htm.

Ashley Pinkerton is a senior majoring in mass communication.

*Photo by Andy Heidt*