1,400+ to receive degrees at fall commencement

by Lisa L. Rollins

More than 1,400 degree candidates are expect ed to graduate during MTSU’s 96th fall commencement ceremonies, reports Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, MTSU again will feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers starting at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,489 set to graduate, 1,289 are undergraduates and 200 are graduate students, including 187 master’s candidates, 10 education specialist degree candidates and three doctoral 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 Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. Jack Thomas, senior vice provost for academic affairs and chairman of the commencement committee.

Gregg F. Morton, who serves as president of AT&T Tennessee, will be the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. A native of Aiken, S.C., he was appointed to his current post in September after most recently serving as president of AT&T California.

“I think our first priority will be the lower-hanging fruit, the photographs, documents,” Ken Middleton, associate professor at the Walker Library, says. “But I’m hoping as the centennial comes closer that we can include some audio from oral history interviews, for instance, and I’m hoping that some video, some old home movies, will come up from private collections.”

Key categories of special interest to the archivists include the founding of the institution, World War I, women’s suffrage, the Great Depression and the New Deal era, World War II and the G.I. Bill, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and women’s issues, including Title IX, the June Anderson Women’s Center and the Women’s Studies Program.

The Memory Project is an outgrowth of the statewide MTSU’s 96th fall commencement

Library making memories with project

by Gina K. Logue

Officials at the James E. Walker Library at MTSU are embarking on a program to convert the heirlooms of the university’s past into accessible digital images in preparation for the school’s centennial in 2011 and beyond.

The librarians and students who will work on the MTSU Memory Project seek to collect photographs, correspondence, memorabilia and other items from the campus community and the community at large.

“I think our first priority will be the lower-hanging fruit, the photographs, documents,” Ken Middleton, associate professor at the Walker Library, says. “But I’m hoping as the centennial comes closer that we can include some audio from oral history interviews, for instance, and I’m hoping that some video, some old home movies, will come up from private collections.”

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The Memory Project is an outgrowth of the statewide

‘How Sweet It Is!’

by Gina E. Fann

A child in a developing nation and a student in MTSU’s Department of Electronic Media Communication soon will be gazing at a shiny new computer screen and thinking the same thought: “What can I do with this?”

That’s the hope, at least, of the department, as its members await delivery of the sturdy, unique laptop computers they pooled to donate to the One Laptop Per Child program.

The Cambridge, Mass.-based organization, with a goal of eradicating world poverty through education, is running a $400 “Give One Get One” special through Dec. 31 to encourage donors to provide one of its colorful, simple computers to a child in Libya, Uruguay or Rwanda, three nations who are early adopters of the project.

In return, the donor will receive an identical computer to use as he or she wishes. Mass production just got under way, and distribution could begin by Christmas.

“We’ve been talking about it for two years and now it’s finally reality.”

See ‘EMC’ page 2

One Get One" special

EMC lends a hand, hopes to learn

by Gina E. Fann

An administrative management graduate of Clemson University and former chairman of the school’s board of visitors,

One Laptop Per Child

SPRIT OF GENEROSITY—Elementary education majors join Hunter and Linette McFarlin, front row center, Rutherford County Books from Birth area coordinators, and their daughter Esther to celebrate the students’ “How Sweet It Is!” $500 bake-sale fundraising effort for the literacy program. Two dozen students participated; those attending the celebration included, from front row left, Theresa Sander, Tara Lowery and Melissa James; second row, Nicole Cornel, Drew Cotwell, Lana Nichols and Ashley Lanning; third row, Amanda Maxwell, Summer Hoffman, Mallorie Newberry and Erin Kemp; fourth row, Laurie James, Heather Knight and Beth Travis; back row, faculty co-adviser Dr. Beverly Bouwman, Jennifer Butler and Aaron Nuell. Not pictured are co-adviser Lucie Murphy and Dr. Gloria Bonner.

photo by News & Public Affairs


FOR THE RECORD

International student celebrates ‘gift’ of education

by Mary Kamel

I remember my grandmother’s words, and I always tell this story to my friends to remind them that we work hard for ourselves, not for anyone else. Later on, if we complete our college studies, we will be proud of ourselves.

Recently, I had a conversation with another international student at MTSU, Youstina Saad, who is a junior. I asked if she would ever think about dropping out of school, and she replied, “I would never think of this unless I was very stressed (because) of schoolwork. But just dropping out of college? I would never do that, because I have a great opportunity to graduate with a great degree.”

It seems to me that many Americans have the opportunity to attend college at any time of their lives, but they take it for granted. If they are not prepared to work hard at their schoolwork, they begin to lose patience and do not even try to succeed, giving up so quickly. I do not understand why they would do this.

College is a time of change for all students, but there are added challenges that international students face during their transition into the U.S. education system. For example, foreigners who cannot speak English fluently will be limited in regard to the education they receive. We also face other cultural challenges beyond language differences, including social differences and academic difficulties.

But in my experience, the college environment in the United States is, for international students, most likely the greatest difficulty—and much more difficult for us than our American counterparts. For me, experiencing the differences in culture is the greatest change to adapt to. Foreign students must adapt to their “new” social norms and customs in an environment where most host nationals know nothing about the foreign students’ home country and culture.

During my time in school, I have found it difficult to make new social contacts and deal with the many cultural differences. It’s not easy to learn the English language by being at home. Although the difficulty many international students face in trying to learn about and follow along with this country’s college system.

Our differences may separate us from one another, but I know it is the international student’s responsibility to become accustomed to whatever culture he or she joins. I, like other international students, must not only work hard and study but also learn a new way of life. It is a life full of opportunities, but it is still new and so different from the lives we knew before coming here.

Undoubtedly, this college experience will change who I am. Going through such a radical experience and changing me unchanged is nearly impossible. I hope that I will leave more educated and enlightened as a student, having both more knowledge and more skills. I hope college will make me a better person. I want to be prepared to enter into a career and to face the obstacles of adult life with confidence. I want to learn not only about science, English, history and math, but also about being a good person from others can admire. I want to be able to stand up and fight for what I know is right while having this opportunity in the United States.

Most of all, I hope that my college experience does not fall short of my expectations and leave me feeling disappointed for having attended. Life is already too short, and I would hate to live the rest of my days feeling like I wasted a gift.

Mary Kamel is a sophomore working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design at MTSU.

It’s a life full of opportunities, but it is still new.

Mary Kamel, sophomore international student

EMC

says Dr. Bob Spires, EMC professor and the instigator of the plan. “It’s a great humanitarian opportunity for the department, plus we’ll be able to analyze and use the laptop we get as part of our ongoing internationalization efforts.

“We’ll get to analyze the latest technology for $200. You can’t beat that.”

The mission of One Laptop Per Child is to empower the children of developing countries to learn by providing one connected laptop to every school-age child.

“A computer designed for Western office environments simply won’t be able to withstand the conditions found in much of Africa, Asia and South America,” said Walter Bender, OLPC president of software and content. “Further, children engaged in learning have a different set of needs from a laptop than an office worker.”

The OLPC’s XO-1 laptop is the size of a textbook and weighs about three pounds. Everything is scaled to fit comfortably from the ergonomically designed handle to the sealed, rubberized, water- and dust-proof keyboard. The XO-1 has its own power supply and can use numerous alternative power sources, including a pull cord, a solar panel or a solar-powered multi-battery charger at the user’s school.

It uses the Linux open-source operating system to run its simple, non-English-speaking users, including a pull cord, a solar panel or a solar-powered multi-battery charger at the user’s school.

Mary Kamel

students get a feel for it and determine its international potential for the university.

“We can assign it to a digital media class, for example, for a semester and say, ‘All right, you discover a new way to use this. And then they will,’” he says. “We also figure that user groups are going to be popping up with brand-new ideas very soon, and we want to be in those groups and see where it’s headed.”

Finding a new use for the OLPC laptop could even lead to the department seeking and receiving a grant to take that new use to the OLPC countries, Spires says.

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm in the department already for this project,” he adds, “and I see that we’re going to have to put it on a rotation basis so everybody gets a chance to work with it. We’ll have some ‘brain-storming sessions’ with both students and faculty where I know we’ll all be saying, ‘What about this? Can we do that with it? How about this?’

“This is a very, very optimistic project for me, and I’m a very skeptical person, so you can see what an impact it can have. Ultimately, we’ll be teaching our students a broader world view, which is our goal.”

For more information about the OLPC project, or to arrange your own donation, visit www.laptop.org.
Want *Record*-setting publicity in 2008? Read this!

by Gina E. Fann

I t's the beginning of the end for 2007, and you're already looking ahead to 2008 and the events and accomplishments you and your department need to see publicized.

Want to make sure your information reaches the MTSU community? Send it to *The Record* at least three weeks before the event to ensure the good news gets across and off campus.

Other *Record* event submission suggestions:

- If your event will have special speakers or is co-sponsored by a particular organization, we can always use head-and-shoulders photographs of those speakers or other central participants, especially if they (or you) are quoted somewhere in the event's publicity. Organizational logos also are welcome.
- Photographs not made by MTSU Photographic Services must be a minimum 2" by 3" and in sharp focus; we prefer color photos but maximum 2875. (We can't run a column with less resolution to ensure clarity.
- Logos and graphics are digital, they also must be at least 2" by 3" and a minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch to meet our printer's standards. (Event photos you submit should have the same minimum resolution, 300 ppi, and be at least 4" by 6".) Logos and graphics should be at least 2" by 3" and have a 300-ppi minimum digital resolution to ensure clarity.
- We welcome "For *The Record*" columns on the topic of your special event to help readers get an insider's view on the subject. Such columns should be a maximum of 500 words and will include your official university head-and-shoulders photo, so if you haven't been photographed by Photo Services in the last five years, make an appointment for a fresh one soon by calling 615-888-2875. We can't run a column without a recent photo. And believe us, some of the ones we have on file are dated.
- If possible, please submit your information, articles or columns to us in electronic format a minimum of three weeks before the event.

The earlier we receive your news, the earlier we can publicize it—and the more likely we are to give it good "play" in *The Record*.

A decade of getting AHeAD with

by Tom Tozer

This fall marked the 10th anniversary of the Aging Health and Development course at MTSU, created and nurtured by Dr. Cate Stogner, associate professor of human sciences, who also believes that it is the longest-running service-learning course on campus.

Still going strong as ever, CDFS-4391, better known as AHeAD, exemplifies the staying power and true value of the experiential learning concept.

"It's the only fully integrated service-learning course," Stogner explains, "which means it's not just a project here and there. After the first three weeks of orientation, it becomes the course, and students are with the senior citizens two hours every week.

Over the years, Stogner says she has seen her students undergo real epiphanies from their experiences, especially when an "aha" moment links something they learned in class with something they actually feel or see happen. She also notes that she has seen those students get a lot of fun, too. Sue (O'Brien, longtime director of the St. Clair Senior Center) always says you can tell when AHeAD is there, because you can hear a lot of laughter and chatter."

"This is what feeds my professional soul," Stogner adds. "It's important for other faculty to know that you don't have to jump in—you can start by doing some kind of experiential learning in degrees. But you have to abridge a certain amount of control. You have to make sure it's the students' work."

Stephanie Dunn started the program when she was an undergraduate student of Stogner’s and says she was scared to death of working with senior citizens. She is now teaching the class, and the child development and family studies major says it changed her life. In fact, her transformation was the subject of her master’s thesis.

"It's great to take ownership of what you've learned in the classroom and apply it to real life," Dunn notes. "I was expected to think so far outside the box that I noticed a huge change in myself! I didn't think it was possible. It has changed how I relate to other people."

Dunn also serves as a mentor to Becca Seul, a graduate student who is also a site director at the senior center. "I find myself having so much more respect for elderly people now," Seul says. "Experiential learning teaches you so much about yourself. You have to learn to roll with the punches."

Word of mouth keeps creating a waiting line for AHeAD, Stogner said. There are 20 students in the program every semester and approximately 30 senior citizens.

"This is what feeds my professional soul," Stogner adds. "It's important for other faculty to know that you don't have to jump in—you can start by doing some kind of experiential learning in degrees. But you have to abridge a certain amount of control. You have to make sure it's the students' program, not yours."
TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record”
Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable outlet airtimes.

“MEXICO/ITALY: One Perspective/Two Countries”
Photo exhibit by Harvey Stein
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

Meeting Dates
Dec. 3
Monday, Dec. 3
Faculty Senate Meeting
4:30 p.m., JUB 100
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Dec. 6
Thursday, Dec. 6
MTSU Brass: “Twas the Brass Before Christmas”
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2949.

Dec. 7
Dec. 7-13
Final exams.

Dec. 10
Saturday, Dec. 10
MTSU Performing Arts Company: “Unity”
7 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, contact: 615-898-5857.

Dec. 15
Saturday, Dec. 15
Fall 2007 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com.

Dec. 16
Sunday, Dec. 16
“MTSU On the Record—We Are His Poets”
Guest: Dr. John Vile
7 a.m., Wмот 89.5-FM

Dec. 18
Tuesday, Dec. 18
MTSU Brass: “Twas the Brass Before Christmas”
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2949.

Dec. 19
Wednesday, Dec. 19
MTSU Performing Arts Company: “Unity”
7 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, contact: 615-898-5857.

Dec. 23
Sunday, Dec. 23
“MTSU On the Record—The Supreme Court Made Simpler”
Guest: David Hudson
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Dec. 24
Monday, Dec. 24
“MTSU On the Record—We Are His Poets”
Guest: Dr. John Vile
7 a.m., Wмот 89.5-FM

Dec. 29
Saturday, Dec. 29
Men’s Basketball vs. Austin Peay
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 2
Wednesday, Jan. 2
University offices reopen.

Jan. 5
Saturday, Jan. 5
Men’s Basketball vs. Denver
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 6
Sunday, Jan. 6
Women’s Basketball vs. Denver
2 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 9
Wednesday, Jan. 9
Tornado Siren Test Date
11:15 a.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

Jan. 10
Thursday, Jan. 10
MTSU Brass: “Twas the Brass Before Christmas”
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2949.

Dec. 5
Wednesday, Dec. 5
Last day of classes.

MTSU Brass: “Twas the Brass Before Christmas”
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2949.

Dec. 13
Thursday, Dec. 13
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-5756.

Dec. 14
Friday, Dec. 14
Commencement Reception
for December graduating class
4-6 p.m., Alumni House
For information, visit www.mtalumni.com.

Dec. 28
Friday, Dec. 28
Women’s Basketball vs. LSU
Volunteer Voices Project, a consortial endeavor supported by a $1.8 million grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. With $5,000 from the MTSU Foundation, project managers will pay a graduate assistant to be a liaison to the campus for soliciting materials.

“We are devoting a small percent-age of each of four librarians’ time to the project … and we will also be diverting a little bit of student-worker fungible to have some additional stu-dent help,” says Mayo Taylor, library team leader for access services.

The point person on all things cyberspace will be Fagdéba Bakoyéma, whose experience setting up digital libraries in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and work as a digital imaging specialist with the Indiana University Digital Library Program will serve the project well.

“I will be working with every- body, helping make decisions on what to select, especially the technical aspect of it, which is determining to select, especially the technical body, helping make decisions on what will serve the project well.

“With we’re going to have a little bit of student-worker fungible on campus to help digitize,” Bakoyéma says. Using ContentDM software, Bakoyéma will establish a Web site that will be accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. A searchable database geared toward keywords will put users in touch with images of the artifacts they seek.

Taylor notes that ContentDM allows copyright status to be set item-by-item, and that each contributor of material will be able to specify the wording for a statement about repro-ductions.

“Most of what we get from the university is going to be copyright-free because it’s public property,” Taylor says. “So there is no problem with displaying a low-resolution image, but campus departments will be able to decide about access to high-resolution copies.”

The Albert Gore Sr. Research Center, the university’s major reposi-tory of historical information and art-facts, will be a substantial part of the Memory Project.

“Dr. [Lisa] Pruitt (Gore Center director) has been very cooperative, and we do know that they have a lot of material over there,” Taylor says. “Exactly what we’ll be able to bring over and get digitized, we’re not sure.

“However, the archivists are not content to look in every nook and cranny of the campus itself. If it’s in an attic, a piano bench or a living room bookshelf, the librarians want to make a digital image of it and pre-serve it for all time.

ATTENTION!—Digitizing photos like this 1940s-era snapshot of the Eleventh College Training Detachment, shown here on what’s now Walnut Grove, will be part of the Walker Library’s new “Memory Project.” MTSU’s history includes offering Army, Navy, and Marine reserve classes under contract with the federal government during World War II. From the first of 1943 until the last CTD class left in July 1944, women resided three to a room in Rutledge Hall, leaving Lyon Hall, shown in the background, for the military. Large crowds enjoyed watching the cadets’ Sunday dress parades and drills.

Photo courtesy of the Albert Gore Research Center

For more information, contact Middleton at 615-898-8824 or kmiddle@mtsu.edu or Taylor at 615- 898-5605 or taylorm@mtsu.edu.

Information also is available at http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects.

Celebrate new grads’ alumni status at commencement reception

The MTSU National Alumni Association will host a commencement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, honoring the December 2007 graduating class.

Graduating seniors and their families are invited to the MTSU Alumni House at 2259 Middle Tennessee Blvd. to be welcomed as new members of the alumni association. Students also will have the opportunity to introduce their fami-lies to their favorite professors, advisers and staff members before the next day’s ceremonies.

No RSVP is required to attend the commence-ment reception, which also will include refresh-ments. Business casual attire is recommended.

All faculty, staff and advisers are invited to attend and congratulate the newest graduates.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 1-800-533-6878 or visit online at www.mtalumni.com.
Cadets take general’s wise words to heart

by Randy Weiler

A traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by MT Dining was served after the military science department’s fall awards Nov. 20 in the James Union Building.

For Cadet Battalion Commander Matthew Wallace and the other cadet honorees, guest speaker Brig. Gen. William N. “Bill” Phillips message before the meal was “sage” advice.

“It was very inspirational,” said Wallace, a senior business major from McMinnville. “I felt a lot of his comments really hit home. Everything he talked about would be good topics for the seniors. He was on base with a lot of issues—good inspiration for anything they may encounter in their career.”

Phillips, an MTSU alumnus (B.S. ’76) and commanding general of Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township, N.J., told the cadets they “have a moral and ethical obligation to seek out veterans and thank them for their service.”

His insights, which are useful for leaders in any field, also included: “Learning never stops. … Study hard. A grade-point average above 3.0 shows you’ve studied hard, and the Army will reward you. What you did in school will follow you.

“… NCOS (noncommissioned officers) are the best teachers. I still remember what those guys taught me. … In the Army, you’ll see good things people do and bad things people do. Learn Army values. Know the Warrior Ethos (four principles by which every soldier lives).”

“… Always be professional at what you do, technically and tactfully proficient in your branch. Get out and see your soldiers. Be with your soldiers. Do what soldiers do. … Set the example: how you wear your uniform, be on time and show up with the right attitude. Be positive in all you do.

“… What gets people in trouble is they violate Army values and health issues. … Pick up good habits now. Be physically and mentally fit. … Soldiers expect you to care for them. They will see through false caring. … Know what’s going on in the Army: Keep up with recruiting and retention goals. … Focus on safety and safe practices.

“… Your reputation is important. Credibility is vital. Protect it. Once you lose it, you never get it back. … Don’t accept mediocrity. … Communication probably will be your biggest challenge. … Take time to recognize heroes. I go out of my way to surprise soldiers who have gone out of their way.”

Phillips presented Wallace with the General Officers’ Award, an annual presentation of a saber presented by MTSU ROTC alumni to the cadet battalion commander.

“It was a great honor to receive the award,” Wallace said. “It really shows the support of alumni to give the award every year. … It is a lot of hard work, but you can’t do it alone. It takes good staff and the seniors, not only that, but a good cadre (military science instructors). They do a lot to train and prepare us for our positions.

As a member of the Tennessee National Guard unit from McMinnville, Wallace, 27, served in Iraq from November 2004 to November 2005.

“We did convoy operations, security patrols and helped the Iraqis facilitate out veterans and thank them for their service.”

By the numbers

REWARDING EXCELLENCE—Students in MTSU’s actuarial sciences program join alumnus G. Ron Nichols (B.S. ’70), left, vice president-operations in the Mid-America Zone for State Farm Insurance Companies, and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, right, during a ceremony honoring scholarship winners and alumni of the university’s actuarial sciences program.

Recipients of the State Farm Scholarship of Excellence in ASCI include senior Benvictor Sang, second from left; seniors Jeremy Richardson and Wes Merriman; and junior Dustin “Dusty” Gray. Also honored at the Nov. 19 ceremony were graduate students Rog Heller, Linda Chang, Adam Niblett and Jason Wix, all CASE Grant for MTSU ACSI Program Scholarship recipients; Outstanding ASCI Alumni John Daniel (Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society, 2004), L. Kevin Smith (Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society, 1995), Mandy Lee Bratten (Actuarial Sciences Associate, 2007) and Yongmei Lori Badgett (ASA, 2007), Outstanding ASCI Faculty Member J.C. Hankins; and Outstanding ASCI Graduate Student Kazem Karimi.

Former mass comm dean Leaming passes away at age 75

Former mass comm dean Leaming passes away at age 75

from Staff Reports

Dr. Deryl R. Leaming, dean of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication from August 1993 until his retirement in April 2002, passed away Nov. 15 in Charlotte, N.C., after an eight-month battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Memorial services for Dr. Leaming were conducted Nov. 18 at Hartsell Funeral Home, Concord, N.C.

Dr. Leaming, 75, served as director of the journalism department, founding director of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communication and dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., before arriving at MTSU.

During his tenure at MTSU, the College of Mass Communication more than doubled its enrollment and achieved full accreditation in 1999 for the first time in its history. Dr. Leaming, a regional director and national board member of Sigma Delta Chi/Society of Professional Journalists, also was a popular speaker and the author of Academic Leadership: A Practical Guide to Chairing the Department and Managing People: A Guide for Department Chairs and Deans, as well as a memoir of his Kansas childhood, A Once-Told Tale in Three-Part Harmony.

Dr. Leaming is survived by his wife, Lila; three sons; and six grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Jim “Catfish” Hunter Chapter of ALS, 120-101 Penmar Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27603.

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Career Center’s new chief has big plans for campus

by Tom Tozer

S
ome students come to MTSU knowing what they want to do. Others think they know and will change their minds. Many, however, have no idea what they want to accomplish.

With that knowledge, Bill Fletcher, new director of MTSU’s Career and Employment Center, has immersed himself in the job and knows exactly what he wants to do.

“The first college where I worked, the major that drew the largest number of incoming students was the ‘undeclared student major,’” Fletcher recalled, adding that he wants to reach all the MTSU students in that category.

“I’ve been very involved in developing pro-
gramming for that target population. “I’m looking forward to working with the academic advising office for the ‘undeclared’ and the ‘undeclared plus 20.’ They’re the ones who need to fill in those blanks pretty soon.”

Before coming to MTSU, Fletcher, who follows Martha Turner, the center’s director of almost 43 years, four years as associate director and employee relations in Vanderbilt University’s Career Center. His 18 years of experience in career development, student affairs and Greek life encompass leadership training and workshops for Fortune 500 companies, career counseling, managing experien-
tial-learning programs and developing marketing programs with internal and external constituents.

“I’m thrilled to be here,” he said. “It’s exciting. You can tell what’s happening on a campus by the amount of building.”

When he read a copy of MTSU’s academic mas-
ter plan, with its emphasis on student develop-
ment, lifelong learning and fostering partnerships, Fletcher said, “I could really see the center fitting in. I started making notes in the document.”

Advertising what we need to do is to offer a wide variety and base of employers who can offer full-time, career-related employment after graduation across campus departments, because that is where experiential learning comes in. Experiential learning is very important to my philosophy of career services.”

One of Fletcher’s goals is to grow the career center by employing managers aware of curriculum changes or additions, new majors or reconfigurations of departments. “Employers ... expect to be able to go to a career center and effectively network through-
campus and reach the various constituents they need to reach. I want to improve the student expe-
rience and the employer experience when they come into the center.”

Fletcher also wants to expand the use of tech-
ology so students can find help online to create a resume, apply for a job and interview. Acquiring recruiting software also will enable students to sign up for job interviews online, he said.

Getting the word to students about the cen-
ter’s services is paramount, Fletcher said. MTSU already has career coordinators in each college, which he called “cutting-edge.”

“It shows that the faculty and deans support what we’re doing,” he noted. “One announcement by a faculty member with all the print ads you could do in a publication.”

Fletcher also wants to implement a peer-career adviser program for students and increase the cen-
ter’s visibility across campus.

“I also want to talk to employers and tell them why they should hire MTSU students for intern-
ships or postgraduate positions,” he said. “And I want to provide information to the media to let them know who we are.”

The work of the center also must adjust to the needs of today’s employers and the expectations of today’s employees, he noted.

“This is truly a developmental process in help-
ing students realize what they can do—not for the rest of their lives but for that first period after they leave MTSU,” Fletcher said. “That is the launch pad for what they will do the rest of their lives. The days of going into the work force and staying with one employer for 30 years are gone, with the excep-
tion of Martha Turner, whom I have followed and who is a rare gem.”
National election another step toward success for professor

by Bonnie Bailey

Dr. Kathy Virginia Hemby, an associate professor of business communications and entrepreneurship at MTSU and a traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivor, recently was elected national president of Delta Pi Epsilon, a national graduate honors society for business professionals.

"I’m excited about getting the chance to be president of Delta Pi Epsilon," Hemby said. "Hopefully, I will be able to recruit new members and create a whole new interest in the organization.

Hemby has been involved in Delta Pi Epsilon since she was invited to join the organization at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1992. She was elected national vice-president of the organization in 2005 and was inaugurated as national president of the organization at its annual conference Nov. 17 in New Orleans.

One of the main reasons she has tried so hard to succeed, Hemby said, is the "invisible disability" she copes with as a result of her traumatic brain injury.

"I feel like (the injury) has been the impetus behind a lot of what I do. I have to prove that I can still do things," Hemby said. "It makes me feel a sense of accomplishment that no matter what happens to me, I’m not going to let it get me down."

Hemby was hurt Dec. 1, 1999, as she crossed the street on her way to work at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was hit by a truck and flung to the pavement, resulting in a fracture to the left side of her skull just above her left ear and a subdural hematoma.

Doctors told her family that she probably would not survive; if she did, they said, she would most likely be like a victim of a massive stroke, either left in a vegetative state or forced to relearn everything she had known.

Hemby apparently didn’t pay attention to the dire predictions. Her first miracle was waking up, and not only was she awake, she was talking, something the doctors had said she might never do again.

"She still had many challenges ahead, however, even after her apparent recovery. She suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, aphasia (forgetting words) and panic attacks, and she lost her ability to smell (anosmia) and taste."

"Crossing the street out there (also) is a major problem for me," Hemby said. "I tell my students at the very beginning of every semester about my injury, and one reason I tell them is because I want them to be careful crossing the street.

"You all step out in front of traffic with cell phones up to your ears, ‘I say. "You don’t even look. I would like to say that you’re going to be fine, but … if you are ever hit and have a head injury, you have no idea what it does to you as a person. It completely changes you."

Hemby said one of the hardest things about living with an invisible disability is that people don’t understand it.

"I look normal," Hemby said. "When you look at me, you don’t see a disabled person. You look at me and say, ‘What’s wrong with her?’ Why would she even say that she has a disability?’"

Hemby advises others who face similar challenges to "never give up."

"Keep putting one foot in front of the other," she said. "Whatever you do, don’t quit."

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneur- ship) received the 2007 Southern Business Education Association Outstanding Leadership Award at the organization’s annual convention Oct. 26 in Little Rock, Ark. Blair will complete his term as past president in December.

Associate Professor Sharon Scholtes Coleman (human sciences) received the 2007 Award for Innov- ative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology from the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable during the annual ShareFair in the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center Oct. 31. Assis- tant Professor Randy Livingston (journalism) also was recognized dur- ing the ceremony as a finalist for the award. Coleman will attend the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, Fla., in April, where she will be recognized in a special ceremony and be considered for the Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence.

Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle (history) has won the 2007 Best Book Award from the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians for The Rosenwald Schools of the American South (University Press of Florida, 2006). Hoffschwelle’s book highlights the partnership that built model schools for black children during the Jim Crow era in the South.

Appointments

Joe Hawkins (aerospace) has been appointed to two national boards of directors: the Aviation Maintenance Technology Society, an international organization with more than 41,000 members, and the Aviation Education Technical Council, founded in 1961 to further the standing of FAA-approved schools with education and industry.

Dr. Robert J. Lahn Jr. (business communication and entrepreneur- ship) has been named chair of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center’s State Web Development Committee, which is working on a complete redesign of the TSBD’s Web site.

Deborah Roberts (business and finance) has been selected as the American Cancer Society Advocacy Volunteer Lead for District 6, design- ating her as the primary volunteer contact for the district. Roberts also attended the 2007 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Leadership Summit and Lobby Day Sept. 23-26 in Washington, D.C.

Awards

Grover Baker (Center for Popular Music) was selected as the first-place winner of the Music Library Associa- tion Best of Chapter Competition for his presentation, “Monkey Biz-ness (Down in Tennessee).” As a result, Baker will deliver the presentation at the MLA 2008 Annual Meeting in Newport, R.I.

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