MTSU goes greener

by Claire Rogers

MTSU’s Students for Environmental Action will sponsor an Earth Day celebration on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23. The festival will be held on the knoll in front of the Keathley University Center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day in an effort to bring the campus and community together in support of a common goal.

Earth Day events will kick off with a climate-commitment signing by MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee shortly after noon April 22.

“The overall purpose of the Senior Gift Program is to raise funds for the Foundation Scholarship, Gift Program is to raise funds for the Senior Gift Program, graduating seniors will be recognized by President (Sidney A.) McPhee shortly after noon April 22. “The goal of the Campus Climate Commitment is to ensure MTSU’s continued success in the fight against global warming and other environmental issues,” said Carl Caum, an officer for SEA. “It also guarantees the university will do everything reasonable to combat the problem by building more energy efficient buildings and purchasing more clean energy over time, with the goal to become carbon-neutral.”

Activities on Tuesday will include an earth-friendly art show featuring artwork made of recycled materials, food from local vegetarian and vegan restaurants, live music from local bands and organic shopping made available by Origins Skincare and ThinkHappyStuff.com. A “Green Dining” survey will be conducted on the Knoll to measure how many students are vegetarian/vegan, what they are looking for from campus dining and how concerned they are about how waste is handled.

A petition in support of the new Tennessee Bottle Bill will be available for students to sign. This bill would attach a redemption amount to almost all recyclable bottles, as well as call for reusable glass bottles.

See ‘Earth’ page 5

Bonner will guide new community support office

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Gloria Bonner, current dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, has been chosen to lead the Office of Community Engagement and Support, a newly created administrative office initiated to support MTSU’s overall mission to address the ever-growing needs of both the university and the surrounding community.

Bonner’s new OCES appointment as an assistant to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and member of his presidential cabinet will become effective May 1. The university will begin a national search later this year to fill the deanship role that Bonner has held for a decade.

In announcing the creation of the OCES, McPhee said its impetus sprang from “a compelling need for a new office whose mission and focus center on engaging the community with the overall goals and objectives of the university as it pursues mutually beneficial opportunities and undertakes new challenges.”

As the fastest growing university in the state, MTSU—for the past decade—has experienced an enrollment growth of 26 percent and has been the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee since 2003. MTSU also has experienced significant growth in academic and support programs, including gaining the Carnegie Foundation designation as a major comprehensive doctoral degree-granting institution.

Throughout this period of unprecedented growth in both students and programming, however, MTSU’s administrative and organizational growth has remained minimal.

See ‘Bonner’ page 5

Dyslexia grant aids expansion

by Casey Brown

One of MTSU’s most distinctive programs is about to expand its services yet again. The Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia recently received a community enhancement grant from the state. The $5,000 grant will be used to hire a certified speech language pathologist to evaluate every child tested by the center for possible language disorders.

See ‘Dyslexia’ page 5

Mixing up a win

by Randy Weiler

Entering the spring semester, efforts to reach the $10,000 goal for the Senior Gift Program stood just $2,000 shy of achieving the mark, said Meredith Edington, coordinator of annual giving for the MTSU Office of Development.

“Our goal is to get $10,000 so we can endow it and every year give up to a $1,000 scholarship,” Edington said. The program began in 2005.

Related graduation info, page 6
Collage brings home silver again!

by Brett McIntosh

Collage: A journal of Creative Expression, MTSU’s student literary and arts publication, was awarded its second Silver Crown Award in two years at the annual College Media Convention. The award ceremony, held March 16 in the Westside Ballroom of the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, honors outstanding college publications nationwide. Together, the fall 2006 and spring 2007 issues of Collage received one of 31 awards out of 1,355 submissions.

Only 13 publications were awarded the highest honor, the Gold Crown, and 18 collegiate publications received the Silver Crown Award. The CSPA recognizes the fall 2006 and spring 2007 issues of Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression as the Silver Crown Award,” said Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the University Honors College. “It is a labor of love, and to be counted among the nation’s finest literary and arts magazines is truly an honor.”

While Collage is a publication of the Honors College, its content represents the student body as a whole, and all MTSU students are encouraged to submit their creative works to the biannual publication.

CREATIVITY HONORED—Collage adviser Marsha Powers, left, joins fall 2006 Collage editor Travesty Vasquez-Terry, right, in accepting a Silver Crown Award from C. Bruce Watterson, chair of the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers’ Association’s Judging Standards and Practices. The CSPA recognized the fall 2006 and spring 2007 issues of Collage with a second Silver Crown Award in two years.

Brett McIntosh is a senior journalism major with a concentration in newspaper/magazine. He also is prose editor for the spring 2008 Collage.

U.S.-Sino workshop adding up to success

by Dr. L. Diane Miller

Middle Tennessee State University and Northwest Normal University in the People’s Republic of China, will co-host a workshop on mathematics and science education on MTSU’s campus the week of June 22-27. Participation is by invitation only and will include 125 scholars, 50 confirmed from 20 universities in China and 75 confirmed from 40 universities in the United States.

Four plenary lectures and 48 topic session papers will be given by both U.S. and P.R.C. scholars. Participants will be divided into research working groups, or RWGs, whose objective is to identify common priorities that promote collaborative research. The most important unit of the workshop will be the RWGs, which will be developing professional relationships that will sustain a collaborative research agenda over a period of time.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for researchers from the United States and China to meet, discuss and identify common priorities that promote collaborative research. The most important unit of the workshop will be the RWGs, which will be developing professional relationships that will sustain a collaborative research agenda over a period of time. A primary interest of the Office of International Science & Engineering at the National Science Foundation is the process through which the RWGs are formed and organized to conduct collaborative research that will benefit mathematics and science education in both countries.

The June event is being funded by the National Science Foundation, Texas Instruments and MTSU’s Office of the President, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Science and Education, and the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center with other sponsors pending.

Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim vice provost for academic affairs, serves as director of the McNair Scholars Program and MTSU’s undergraduate research and has been a member of MTSU’s mathematical sciences faculty since 1993.

Fundraiser luncheon set at Outback Steakhouse

Teaching Elementary Mathematics and Science, and strategies for reaching underserved populations. The workshop to NWWNU President Wang Limin during McPhee’s visit to NWWNU in 2006. I am serving as MTSU’s co-chair of the workshop’s organizing committee, and Vice President Deng Hualing is serving as NWWNU’s co-chair. The partnership between MTSU and NWWNU dates back to 2003, when I and Mr. Deng participated in a Sino-American Leadership Training program sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the China Education Association for International Exchanges.

The June event is being funded by the National Science Foundation, Texas Instruments and MTSU’s Office of the President, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education, and the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center with other sponsors pending.

Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim vice provost for academic affairs, serves as director of the McNair Scholars Program and MTSU’s undergraduate research and has been a member of MTSU’s mathematical sciences faculty since 1993.
by Lisa L. Rollins

The Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame will induct seven new members during its annual induction ceremony and banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, in the Tennessee Ballroom of the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

The black-tie affair will mark the 14th year that the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame has honored educators who have exemplified excellence in teaching in Tennessee. To date, 71 educators have been inducted into the hall of fame, which is co-sponsored each year by MTSU and overseen by a board of governors, whose members are made up of representatives from all major educational organizations within the state.

“Although MTSU is the sponsor of the activities associated with the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, the effort truly is a statewide endeavor,” said Dr. Donna Bonner, dean of MTSU’s College of Education and Behavioral Science and coordinator of the April 26 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:

• Selmer resident Martha McCullar Glover, who served 17 of her 35 years as a professional educator in the classroom and 18 in professional assignment. Called “an education visionary” who “impacted a school, a school system and thousands of students in countless ... positive ways,” she joined the McNairy County School System as a classroom teacher in 1963 and served in that capacity until becoming an assistant principal for McNairy Central High School in 1980. She served as principal of the school from 1992 to 1998. Then, from 1999 to 2005, she was employed by Lambuth University as a planning coordinator for its freshman seminar program before serving as an adjunct professor in teacher preparation for the Martin McNairy Center.

• Loudon resident John Sizemore Napier, who has thus far spent 34 years of his 35-year career in the classroom as a history and social-studies teacher, school historian and part-time coach. Napier began his teaching career in 1971 at North Middle School and served in that capacity until becoming an assistant principal for McNairy Central High School in 1980. She served as principal of the school from 1992 to 1998. Then, from 1999 to 2005, she was employed by Lambuth University as a planning coordinator for its freshman seminar program before serving as an adjunct professor in teacher preparation for the Martin McNairy Center.

• Hilda Hale of Manchester, who devoted all of her 29 years to teaching primarily Spanish and sometimes English for Coffee County Central High School. Hale joined the school’s faculty after receiving a master’s degree in English from MTSU. According to her nomination materials, Hale’s teaching effectiveness was evident from the start. Her supporters noted that Hale’s first teaching assignment was “in an old overcrowded high school in an auditorium balcony ... (with) none of the modern technology present in today’s classrooms.”

• Chattanooga resident Bertha Collins, a 39-year teaching veteran who devoted 33 years of her 39-year career to classroom teaching and another six to professional assignment, has been applauded for a commitment and dedication to students that found them leaving her classroom “with (a) feeling of self-worth and academic accomplishment that is so important in life.”

• Clarksville-Montgomery County School District. He began his career in education in 1974. From 1975 to 1979, he taught history at Montgomery Central High School and served as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. He joined the faculty of Northeast High School in 1980 and continued to teach history and coach at the school until accepting a job as principal of Northwest High School from 1990 to 1992. He returned to coaching and teaching history at Northeast High School in ’92, where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

• Teddy Brown Haley of Clarksville served all 39 years of his education career in the classroom in service to students as both a coach and teacher in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School District. He began his career in an elementary-physical-education teacher at Moore County Elementary before taking an assignment in 1969 at Northwest High School as an assistant football coach. In 1970, he added history-teaching duties to his responsibilities at Northwest and served in that capacity until 1974. From 1975 to 1979, he taught history at Montgomery Central High School and served as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. He joined the faculty of Northeast High School in 1980 and continued to teach history and coach the school until accepting a job as principal of Northwest High School from 1990 to 1992. He returned to coaching and teaching history at Northeast High School in ‘92, where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

• Edith Pennington, a resident of Nashville and the former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, who has thus far dedicated 31 years to education, including 13 years in the classroom. A native of Clinton, Tenn., Seivers earned a bachelor’s degree in education from MTSU as well as a master’s degree in administration and supervision. She has served as a correlate in education from the University of Tennessee. Prior to her 2003 appointment by Gov. Phil Bredesen as education commissioner, Seivers was director of Clinton City Schools and served as chairwoman of the East Tennessee Superintendents’ Study Council, treasurer of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and chairwoman of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Elementary and Middle School Committee.

“Lauded as the “ultimate champion for students” who “has given selflessly of her time and considerable energy to improve educational opportunities for Tennessee youth,” Seivers is credited with consistently maintaining her focus on the classroom.

The Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame was created with the support of the late Dr. James E. Walker, former MTSU president and a one-time public school teacher; Dr. Robert Eaker, former dean of MTSU’s College of Education and Behavioral and a current education professor; former Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter; Dr. Charles Smith, the state’s former commissioner of education; the late Dr. Otis L. Floyd Jr., one-time chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents; and Dr. Cavit Chesher of the Tennessee Education Association.

Since its 1994 inception, the hall of fame’s spring ceremony has annually welcomed about 500 educators, legislators and other dignitaries from across the state, all of whom gather to honor inductees for their remarkable public service and role modeling through teaching.

“This is an exciting opportunity for all of us to honor a group of very special Tennesseans, while at the same time enhancing the status of the teaching profession,” Bonner said.

Advance tickets to the banquet and induction ceremony are $50 each and available by calling the College of Education and Behavioral Science office at 615-888-2874.
TV Schedule
“Middle Tennessee Record”
Cable Channel 9:
Monday-Sunday—7 a.m., 5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+:
Sundays—1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable outlet airtimes.

Through April 30
WMOT-Jazz89 Annual Fundraising Campaign
For information, visit www.wmot.org; listen to 89.5 FM or contact: 615-898-2619.

High Gloss” Senior Design Show
Opening reception: Monday, April 21
Monday-Friday, Todd Gallery
Exhibit hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Opening reception: Monday, April 21
Show “High Gloss” Senior Design Recognition and Wall of Fame Ceremony
3 p.m., Bragg MC courtyard
For information, contact: 615-898-5171.

Through May 1
“High Gloss” Senior Design Show
Opening reception: Monday, April 21
Monday-Friday, Todd Gallery
Exhibit hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Opening reception: Monday, April 21
Show “High Gloss” Senior Design Recognition and Wall of Fame Ceremony
3 p.m., Bragg MC courtyard
For information, contact: 615-898-5171.

April 21
Monday, April 21
MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 22
April 22-23
MTU Baseball vs. Memphis
April 22: 6 p.m.; April 23: 3 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Wednesday, April 23
Last day of classes; Administrative Professionals’ Day.
Lunch at Outback Steakhouse benefiting the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship Fund and honoring administrative professionals
11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Cost: $10 (includes salad, meat, potatoes and bread)
For information, visit www.mtalumni.com or contact: 615-898-2922.

Mass Communication Student Recognition and Wall of Fame Ceremony
3 p.m., Bragg MC courtyard
For information, contact: 615-898-5171.

Recognizing excellence
Great Work!—Betty Rowland, center, secretary for the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center, accepts the latest quarterly Secretarial/Clerical Award from Ben Jones, left, Business Office manager and chairman of MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee, and Gore Center Director Dr. Lisa Pruitt. MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. For information on nominating an administrative, secretarial/clerical, classified or technical/service co-worker for the quarterly award program, go to http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/er/recog.html, download an employee recognition form and submit it to Human Resources Services via campus mail, Box 35.

April 23
April 24
Thursday, April 24
Free Legal Clinic
7-9 p.m., JUB 206
Appointments required
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

April 25
April 25-27
MTU Baseball vs. Alabama
April 26: 6 p.m.; April 26: 4 p.m.; April 27: 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

April 25-May 1
Final exams

April 26
Saturday, April 26
African American Awards Ceremony

April 27
Friday, April 27
MTU Softball vs. Eastern Ky.
6-9 p.m., WPS Room 102

April 28
Monday, April 28
Our Friends, Our Selves Book club
Our Friends, Our Selves Book club featured book: The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
3:30-4:30 p.m., JUB 206
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

April 29
Tuesday, April 29
University Scheduling Policy Workshop
10 a.m., KUC Theater
For information, contact: 615-898-5143.

May 2
May 2-3
MTU Baseball vs. Eastern Ky.
May 2: 6 p.m.; May 3: 1 p.m.
Blue Raider Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

May 2-4
MTU Baseball vs. Troy
May 2: 6 p.m.; May 3: 4 p.m.;
May 4: 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

May 3
Saturday, May 3
Spring 2008 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Athletic Center
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com or contact: 615-898-2919.

April 29
Tuesday, April 29
University Scheduling Policy Workshop
10 a.m., KUC Theater
For information, contact: 615-898-5143.

May 2
May 2-3
MTU Softball vs. Western Ky.
May 2: 3; 5 p.m.; May 3: 1 p.m.
Blue Raider Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

May 2-4
MTU Baseball vs. Troy
May 2: 6 p.m.; May 3: 4 p.m.;
May 4: 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

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Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.
Dyslexia

Stuart Bernstein said he believes the addition will greatly improve the center’s ability to assist affected children. “Language disorders and learning disabilities, which include dyslexia, are typically diagnosed separately,” Bernstein said. “Because these services are separate, and the Dyslexia Center doesn’t have a certified speech language pathologist on staff, we have no way of knowing the extent to which children with dyslexia may also have mild language disorders that limit their ability to learn to read.” With new resources in hand, the center hopes to more accurately pinpoint the challenges faced by its students. The funding will be used to help us expand existing programs, as well as to better understand the nature of the deficits faced by these children,” Bernstein said.

The grant is being drawn from the 2007 state budget surplus, which allocated additional funds for public safety, cultural activities and community development.

State Sen. Bill Ketron (R. 76) played an important role in obtaining the grant. After reviewing a number of proposals, Ketron selected the Center for Dyslexia as the recipient of the allocated funds. “We greatly appreciate Senator Ketron’s support of the center and children with dyslexia all over Tennessee,” Bernstein said.

The center, established in 1993 by the Tennessee General Assembly, assists kindergarten through 12th-grade students with dyslexia, as well as their teachers and families, through providing a clear description of each child’s condition, developing educational intervention plans and supporting school staff.

For more information, call 615-494-8880 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~devofc/neill-sandler.htm.
Spring commencement slated May 3

More than 1,900 candidates to receive degrees

by Lisa L. Rollins

More than 1,900 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 96th spring commencement ceremonies, reported Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associates provost of enrollment services.

On Saturday, May 3, MTSU will once more feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers starting at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,973 candidates to graduate, 1,079 are undergraduates and 294 are graduate students, including 240 master’s candidates, 44 education specialist candidates, one Doctor of Arts candidate and nine Doctor of Philosophy candidates.

Huddleston noted that the upcoming commencement marks the largest number of doctoral-level degrees conferred to date during an MTSU graduation event.

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 College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Mass Communication and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. Diane Miller, professor of mathematical sciences and interim chairwoman of the commencement committee.

Pete Fisher, vice president/general manager for the Grand Ole Opry, will be the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication from MTSU with a concentration in recording industry management and was recognized as a distinguished alumnus in 2004.

Named general manager of the Grand Ole Opry in June 1989, Fisher oversees all activities of the world’s longest-running radio show. He also manages the day-to-day operations of the Grand Ole Opry House and Acuff Theatre and produces its weekly Opry shows, in addition to serving as executive producer of “Grand Ole Opry Live” on the CAC cable network and “America’s Grand Ole Opry Weekend,” a two-hour syndicated radio program heard on more than 200 stations via Westwood One.

Fisher’s entertainment industry experience spans from artist management to tour marketing, with a special emphasis placed on service to a variety of music industry organizations. Prior to joining the Grand Ole Opry, he was a partner in Fisher Raines Entertainment, where he managed the careers of Warner-Reprise Records artist Paul Brandt and Sony’s Marcus Hummon, among others. He also spent seven years at WarnerSongs Inc. as director of creative services, where he managed the joint-venture publishing operation between Warner-Reprise Records and Warner/Chappell Music Inc.

Fisher currently serves as president of the Nashville chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and holds membership on the board of directors for the Nashville Songwriters Foundation and the Academy of Country Music.

Ernest G. Burgess, Rutherford County mayor, will be the featured speaker for the 1 p.m. ceremony. A cattle farmer and businessman, Burgess is a lifelong resident of Rutherford County and was elected mayor in 2008.

Burgess earned a Bachelor of Science degree from MTSU and a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee. He retired as senior vice president of operations for the National Healthcare Corporation, or NHC, and is a past chairman of the Republican Party of Rutherford County.

Currently, Burgess devotes his time and service to several boards and committees, including serving as chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center Board of Community Care of Rutherford County Inc. He also serves as a board member for NHC and for National Health Realty.

Burgess’ past community-service record includes tenure as a board member for a number of area organizations, including the Linebaugh Public Library, Discovery Center Murfreeson, Spring Street Murfreeso, Hospice of Murfreeso, the MTSU Foundation and the MTSU Foundation.

For more information about commencement, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm or call 615-898-2600.
ETIS plans open house in Alumni Gym

by Randy Weiler

Y ou can learn more about LEGO Robotics, solar boats, space elevators, a "guitar gizmo" and more during the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies open house.

It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in Alumni Memorial Gym and is open to the campus community and public, said Elizabeth Lamb, an ETIS secretary.

ETIS student projects and faculty inventions also will include friction stir welding, hydrogen fuel cells, granular separation, truck crane strength analysis and miscellaneous senior projects.

Those attending the open house will see student and faculty poster presentations and learn about current research projects, organizers said.

"The presentations at the open house represent the diversity and advanced technology residing in the Department of Engineering Technology," said Dr. Walter Boles, the department chair. "Presentations represent projects that involve faculty research, industry collaborations, national student competitions and entrepreneurial activities. We invite the campus community to come and see our award-winning student vehicles, learn about alternative fuels and interact with students, faculty and industry partners."

For more information, call 615-898-2776.

Where will you be safe?

Don’t wait to find out.

Check the “ Safest Places” link at www.mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado.shtml

Majorette team twirls talent into a national title

from Staff Reports

TSU’s majorette line brought home the 2007 national championship from the Collegiate Baton Twirling Championships of the National Coalition for the Advancement of Baton Twirling at Purdue University earlier this semester.

The MTSU twirlers scored as the top team overall, outpacing 17 other university competitors.

"This is something we can note with pride," said Dr. George Riorand, director of MTSU’s School of Music.

The NCA&T competition was the team’s first. The majorettes, coached by Niki Davis, perform with the MTSU Band of Blue at university athletic events.

The MTSU majorettes also received medals in several group and individual competitions, including Brittany Galyon and Kimberly Senters, first place, collegiate pairs; Senters, second place, collegiate individual line member; Alyse Gilman, second place, collegiate two-baton division, fourth place, one-baton division, and fifth place, three-baton division; and Kyla Holder, fifth place, collegiate freestyle division.

For more details, please visit http://ncabt.com.

Correction

A story on page 3 of the April 7 edition of The Record (“April MTR includes campus history library”) incorrectly referred to the influential community leader and educator as Andrew Lyle Todd. That name should have been Andrew L. Todd.
‘Business Partners’ making community connections

by Brittany Witt

Getting the proverbial foot in the labor-force door can be a challenge for students. The Jennings A. Jones College of Business is trying to open up job opportunities for prospective graduates by solidifying a relationship with different businesses within Murfreesboro and the surrounding area.

With the implementation of the “Business Partners” program, faculty and students in the Department of Management and Marketing hope to become better connected to community businesses and foster a productive and beneficial relationship.

“There is a need for more interaction with the business community,” said Dr. Don Lester, chair of the Business Partners initiative and an associate professor of management and marketing.

“The goal of the program is to create a discussion about curriculum, internships and employment opportunities between the College of Business and the community.”

Although the partnership’s organizers would like to include as many companies as possible, they say they also realize the need to start small and build strong relationships with a select group of businesses.

Thus far, the department has partnered with four major companies: Walgreen’s, Logo, Enterprise and Stinger Medical.

Walgreen’s is a 109-year-old retail chain with locations all across the country. Logo is a small business in Franklin, Tenn., which manufactures and distributes college memorabilia. Enterprise is North America’s largest car rental company, ranking No. 21 on the Forbes Top 500 Private Companies in America. Stinger Medical is a medical technology company that specializes in producing computer on wheels, or COWs, which speed up deliveries.

Walgreen’s Logos, Logo, Enterprise and Stinger Medical.

Walgreen’s is a 109-year-old retail chain with locations all across the country. Logo is a small business in Franklin, Tenn., which manufactures and distributes college memorabilia. Enterprise is North America’s largest car rental company, ranking No. 21 on the Forbes Top 500 Private Companies in America. Stinger Medical is a medical technology company that specializes in producing computer on wheels, or COWs, which speed up the care of hospital patients by making medical records more easily accessible.

Darren Sanders, a representative of Walgreen’s, says he’s excited about the new partnership that is being forged.

“It allows for an exchange of new ideas and allows students to better understand the theory they are learning in class and how they can apply it in a real-world business setting,” he said.

Sanders, along with representatives from Enterprise, Logo and Stinger Medical, said that MTSU is one of the primary sources for new-hire candidates.

According to Mickey Heath of Enterprise, “Three out of four MTSU-sponsored internships with Enterprise turn into full-time positions.”

A NEW BUSINESS PLAN—Dr. John Mullane, left, associate professor of management and marketing, talks with Logo co-owner Rik Talley during a reception for the Jones College’s “Business Partners” program. Logo is one of four companies participating in the program, which aims to discuss and coordinate curriculum needs, internships and employment opportunities between the college and companies.

Photo by Andy Heidt