Professor, students jazz up mural

by Lisa L. Rollins

T he bygone era known as the Jazz Age will soon find new life as art in downtown Murfreesboro with the inspired aid of Erin Anfinson, assistant professor of art at MTSU, who will return to The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County to complete a new mural depicting this historic time. Beginning July 1 and continuing through mid-August, Anfinson—along with MTSU students Emily May-Ragland and Sarah Sullivan—will avidly work each afternoon to create a Jazz Age-inspired mural, more than 6 feet tall and nearly 20 feet long, which depicts “Dappers and Dapper Dams on a night out in Murfreesboro.”

A member of MTSU’s art faculty since 2006, Anfinson “has designed a mural that reflects the Jazz Age’s energy and art deco aesthetics,” said Melissa Zimmerman, heritage programming specialist for the Center for Historic Preservation.

New system gives security a hand

by Gina E. Fann

O rgetting your MTSU ID card when you visit the Campus Recreation Center will be less of a crisis this fall—as long as you still have your right hand with you. In updating the university’s identification system, officials realized that the new BlueID system would move to a modern engineering technology program.

In the near future, Boles said, he hopes it’s just a formality to change the name of the building that houses the program from Voorties Industrial Studies Complex to Voorties Engineering Technology Complex.

Here is the progression of the program’s name through the years:

• 1912—Department of Industrial Arts (or Manual Arts);
• 1958—Department of Industrial Arts (or Manual Arts);
• 1961—Department of Basic and Applied Sciences.

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Baum takes lead as new chair of econ and finance

by Joshua Graham

Dr. Charles Baum, associate professor of economics and finance, is the new chairperson of that department, replacing Dr. John Lee, who retired after serving 16 years in that position.

Baum says he plans to build on the “excellent job” by his predecessor, preserving the collegial and positive atmosphere that Lee maintained throughout his tenure. “Hopefully, we will stay a very unified department, which is something you shouldn’t take for granted,” Baum says.

The new chairman adds that he believes his background as director of graduate programs in economics for four years will provide him with a comprehensive understanding of the graduate curriculum, which courses need to be taught, in what order and which faculty members are interested and available in teaching them.

There are areas, however, where Baum says he wants to build and expand to ensure that the department remains responsive to the needs of both students and faculty.

Initially, Baum says, he wants to turn his attention to “revising our undergraduate curriculum so it’s a little more sequential, linked together and more organized. We need more students in our undergraduate program in economics.”

The new chair also would like to add new courses to the curriculum, such as law and economics class, environmental economics and sports economics.

“Environmental economics will become more and more important,” he says, “and there are lots of data on pro athletes and sports statistics, which can make for a great case study in labor economics to examine and compare wages with productivity, team revenues, and so on.”

He also wants to revamp the department’s Web page (http://business.web.mtsu.edu/departments/econ.htm) and reactivate the undergraduate economics club to attract and involve more students and to bring in speakers from on- and off-campus.

“We want to build on what we do in the economics program itself and that there are good jobs in the field,” Baum says.

“We need to market our program.”

Academic calendar revised for 2009-10

Changes have been made to MTSU’s Academic Calendar for 2009-10 to accommodate the Tennessee Board of Regents Common Calendar revisions, Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert announced.

Faculty, staff and students should refer to www.mtsu.edu/calendar_academic.shtml, rather than the university’s printed undergraduate catalog, for the most up-to-date information, Gebert said.

The changes are as follows:

Spring 2009
• Classes officially begin on Thursday, Jan. 15, instead of Monday, Jan. 12;
• Spring Break is March 9-14 instead of March 2-7;
• the University Holiday is Friday, March 13, instead of March 6;
• the last day of classes is Wednesday, April 29, instead of April 22;
• Study Day is Thursday, April 30, instead of April 23;
• final exams are May 1-7 instead of April 24-30;
• Commencement is Saturday, May 9, instead of May 2, and
• the deadline for final grades is May 11, instead of May 4.

Fall 2009
• Classes officially begin on Saturday, Aug. 29, instead of Monday, Aug. 31.

Spring 2010
• Classes officially begin on Thursday, Jan. 14, instead of Monday, Jan. 11;
• Spring Break is March 8-14 instead of March 1-6;
• the University Holiday is Friday, March 12, instead of March 5;
• the last day of classes is Wednesday, April 28, instead of April 21;
• Study Day is Thursday, April 29, instead of April 22;
• final exams are April 30-May 6 instead of April 24-29;
• Commencement is Saturday, May 8, instead of May 1; and
• the deadline for final grades is May 10, instead of May 3.

Stay safe on campus

Employee Safety Handbook Pocket Guide

The OLS will recognize its first group of volunteers with the award in spring 2009. MTSU students, faculty and staff are encouraged to visit the OLS Web site at www.mtsu.edu/lead andserve for more information.

Leadership office joins presidential effort to recognize volunteer service

from Staff Reports

The Office of Leadership and Service at MTSU has teamed with the White House to become a certifying organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Award, a national program recognizing Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the award was created by President George W. Bush to recognize individuals, families and groups who meet requirements for volunteer service, measured by the number of service hours performed over 12 months.

The Office of Leadership and Service is one of thousands of certifying organizations for the award. Those organizations are responsible for verifying service hours, nominating potential recipients and delivering the awards.

“We are extremely proud to recognize our most outstanding volunteers with the President’s Volunteer Service Award,” said OLS Director Jackie Victory. “Our volunteers are role models in our community, donating their time, energy and talent to bring us closer together as neighbors and a nation. The award is our way of thanking these volunteers and inspiring everyone in our community to make volunteering a central part of their lives.”

“Even if you’ve never volunteered before, the President’s Volunteer Service Award is within your reach,” added Heather Spell Arrington, OLS assistant director.

“There are so many ways to contribute, and every volunteer hour makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others. We encourage everyone to get involved and to bring along your family, friends and neighbors. Together, we can strengthen MTSU, Murfreesboro, Tennessee and America—one hour at a time.”

The OLS will recognize its first group of volunteers with the award in spring 2009. MTSU students, faculty and staff are encouraged to visit the OLS Web site at www.mtsu.edu/lead andserve for more information.

Keep one in your pocket—The new MTSU Employee Safety Handbook Pocket Guide, above, is available for university faculty, staff and administration. The fler, which provides brief chapter summaries of the university’s complete safety handbook (available on CD from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety Services), addresses topics from chemical and fire safety to ladders and scaffolds to traffic and transportation and notes the employees to which each applies. For more information on employee safety or to get a copy of the complete handbook on CD, call Terry Logan at 615-889-5784 or e-mail him at tlogan@mtsu.edu.
Rutherford farm honored as home to generations

by Lisa L. Rollins

The Butler Farm in Rutherford County has been designated as a Tennessee Century Farm, reported Caneta S. Hankins, director of the Century Farms Program at the Center for Historic Preservation.

Located east of MTSU on the Old Woodbury Highway, this farm is one of the few in the state that was founded by emancipated slaves. Hankins said that although the exact founding date is unknown, census records indicate that Josiah Butler owned the property by 1880.

The farm’s history began with its founder’s marriage to Martha Lillard, with whom he had seven children. On this initial 26 acres, the Butler family raised corn, cotton and vegetables. In 1889, Josiah purchased more acreage that eventually would be used as the family cemetery.

Josiah and Martha Butler’s oldest son, Perry, was the next generation to own the farm. Perry married Alice Henderson, and they had 10 children. According to the farm’s history, Alice was the daughter of Isaac and Lavinia Henderson, two former slaves of Rutherford County Judge Logan Henderson, owner of the historic property known as “Farmington” on the Manchester Pike. During their ownership of the Butler farm, Perry and Alice founded a school and a church on the property. The family raised vegetables, cotton, horses, cattle, chickens and goats.

The third owner of the farm was Perry and Alice’s son, Oscar Alfonzo Butler. Oscar and wife Annie Bell Spain Butler had four children: Elizabeth, Oscar Perry Sr., Alice and James. In addition to raising a family, his son reports that Oscar Alfonzo was also a seller of moonshine. During this generation’s ownership, Woodbury Road was constructed, and as a result of the highway, two rock quarries were formed on the land.

The current owner of the farm is James Butler Sr. James married Dolores Williams of Murfreesboro, and the couple had eight children. In addition to managing the farm, James is a veteran of World War II and has been an active member in the community by serving as a Mason, a Shriner, a board member of the St. Clair Senior Center and a volunteer at the Room in the Inn shelter.

Today, James Butler Sr. still works the land that produces goats, vegetables, Black Angus cattle and hay. A barn, the family cemetery and a farmhouse still stand on the property.

“The Butler Farm is the 27th Rutherford County farm to be certified,” Hankins noted.

The Century Farm Program recognizes the contributions of Tennessee residents who have continuously owned and kept in production, family land for at least 100 years. Since 1984, the CHP at MTSU has been a leader in the important work of documenting Tennessee’s agricultural heritage and history through the Tennessee Century Farm Program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture began the Tennessee Century Farm Program in 1976 as part of the nation’s bicentennial. Today, the TDA provides a metal outdoor sign denoting either 100, 150 or 200 years of “continuous agricultural production” to Century Farm families.

To be considered for eligibility, a farm must be owned by the same family for at least 100 years, produce $1,000 in revenue annually and have at least 10 acres of the original farm, and one owner must be a resident of Tennessee.

“The Century Farmers represent all the farm families of Tennessee,” Hankins said, “and their contributions to the economy, and to the social, cultural and agrarian vitality of the state, both past and present, is immeasurable. Each farm is a Tennessee treasure.”

For more information about the Century Farms Program, please visit its Web site at http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres.

World Time! — Several goats gaze curiously from a pen near the barn on the Butler family’s Century Farm in Rutherford County. The family’s peaceful cemetery, shown above right, was created from acreage purchased by patriarch Josiah Butler in 1889. The Butlers have owned the farm since at least 1880.

Photos courtesy of the Center for Historic Preservation

Development’s Purdom takes Kentucky Wesleyan VP post

by Randy Weiler

It is not the allure of family—or barbecue—that’s taking Office of Development Director Kirk Purdom back to his hometown of Owensboro, Ky.

It’s the opportunity to be vice president of advancement at Kentucky Wesleyan College, a small private liberal-arts school where his father, Roy, was a physics professor, dean of the college and interim president before retiring and leaving Owensboro to take an administrative position at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

“They have a new president (Dr. Cheryl King) and four new cabinet members,” Purdom said of Kentucky Wesleyan, a United Methodist-affiliated institution with an enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students. One of those new cabinet members is Purdom.

“It’s a new time there. There’s a lot of excitement. It’s a time to give back. I not only want to help the college but to be involved in the community and helping it grow, also. Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations, led the division in a June 13 farewell reception for Purdom, his wife, Keilly, and their couple’s daughters Kie, 11, Kate, 8, and Kara Beth, 7.

“Kirk and I have gone back almost 10 years,” said Bales, who worked with Purdom at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and the past five years at MTSU.

“It is a pleasure to get the chance to work with him. Kirk has been an important part of that—the way he conducts himself. He’s the consummate professional.”

Purdom said that while Owensboro “is home to me,” he has “loved” Murfreesboro, and MTSU. “It has been great. I would like to thank Joe for the opportunity to be here and be a part of the success and growth we’ve had.”

That growth comes in the form of filling five development officer positions to raise awareness and stimulate donor giving from five colleges within the university and seeing alumni donors’ numbers increase from about 2,000 to 4,500 in five years’ time, Purdom said.

“The staff in place right now is probably the best staff we’ve had in the five years that I’ve worked here,” Purdom said. “When I came, it was a pretty bare staff. We had one fundraiser—the director. Now we have six people on the road raising money.

“Whoever Joe hires should be able to come in and fine-tune the program, launch new programs, keep the program growing and increase the donor pool.”
Please note:

Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record” Cable Channel 9: Monday-Sunday—7 a.m., 5 p.m. NewsChannel 5+: Sundays—1:30 p.m.

July 2

Wednesday, July 2
Summer Session II final exams for M-Th classes

July 3

Thursday, July 3
Summer Session II final exams for M-F classes

July 4

Friday, July 4
Independence Day holiday; university closed

July 6

Sunday, July 6
“MTSU On the Record—New Honors Dean” Guest: Dr. John Vile, new dean of the University Honors College after 19 years as chair of MTSU’s Department of Political Science 7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com.

July 7

July 7-11
Tennessee Junior Livestock Exposition—Beef Events Tennessee Livestock Center For information, contact: 865-974-7294.

Monday, July 7
Summer Session III classes begin

Join the fireworks on Independence Day!

Gather up the lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray and the kids and make plans to enjoy the annual Celebration Under the Stars festivities on Friday, July 4, beginning at 5 p.m. at MTSU’s intramural field.

Family activities will fill the evening until shortly before 8 p.m., when a formal welcome and remarks from officials and sponsors are scheduled to begin.

Patriotic and inspirational music will fill the twilight until 9 p.m., when the annual fireworks display will be launched to a chorus of ooohs and aaahs.

Rutherford Boulevard on the university’s east side will be closed for the duration of the fireworks display, and no parking or entrance to the university will be allowed in that area.

The best entrances and parking will be available north and west of the university off Greenland Drive and Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

For more details about parking, including a map of entrances, read the June 16 edition of The Record at www.mtsunews.com or watch for the special insert in the July 3 edition of The Daily News Journal.

You also may call 615-893-2141, 615-890-5333 or 615-898-2919.

July 9

July 9-10
CUSTOMS Orientation Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Mass Comm and undeclared majors 7:30 a.m., campuswide For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~customs or contact: 615-898-5533.

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

July 10

July 10-13
U.S. Team Roping Championship Eastern Finals Tennessee Miller Coliseum For information, visit www.ustrc.com.

July 13

Sunday, July 13
“MTSU On the Record—COHRE/Rutherford County Project” Guests: Michael Hein of MTSU’s Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness and Alanna Sullivan of Rutherford County government discuss the Leadership Academy for Rutherford County employees

July 9-11
Blue Raider Volleyball All-Skills Camp for fifth- to 12th-grade girls For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2230.

Blue Raider Volleyball Ball Control Camp for fifth- to 12th-grade girls For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2230.

Thursday, July 10
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee 9:30 a.m., Foundation House For information, contact: 615-898-5756.

July 11

July 11-25
Blue Raider Strength and Conditioning Speed School (Session II) for athletes ages 12 to 18 For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-904-8196.

Calendar Items Welcomed

Submit your campus event calendar items (at least three weeks in advance of the event, please) to gfann@mtsu.edu. Thanks!
Art deco design, patterns and color palettes have always struck me as exceptionally lively and fun subject matter, which made conducting research for this project a pleasure,” Anfinson said of the upcoming project’s style, which was a popular international design movement from 1925 until 1939.

“The design for this mural stemmed from photos, art deco designs and illustrations from the 1920s,” she continued. “The Heritage Center folks suggested that the mural reflect a sense of 1920s nightlife or illustrate a ‘speakeasy’ feel. I looked at a lot of paintings and illustrations and decided to work in the final design with several couples dancing and socializing at a bar. The background will be directly from an art deco stained-glass pattern I found.”

The nationally recognized artist said she felt the new mural was a unique opportunity for some of the department’s student talent to further hone their painting skills.

“Both of these women have impressed me as exceptional students in our department, and I’m thrilled to bring their ideas and technical talents to this project,” Anfinson said. “Because the students were so busy with their studies this (past) semester, I did most of the research for the basic design myself. I’ve given them drafts of design ideas throughout the process, and we will inevitably be collaborating on the final details and color choices.”

Anfinson said the students’ involvement in the hands-on process of creating the mural will be “pretty intense” from the project’s start to finish.

“I really wanted this project to be a practical experiential-learning and professional-development opportunity for the students involved,” she explained. “I don’t think either of them have worked on a commissioned painting this large before, and I hope this will be a valuable professional experience they can draw on in the future.

“All in all, they will be completing a bulk of the actual sketching, painting, color mixing, et cetera, as a team. They are both very talented women, and I’m extremely excited about completing this project with them and know they will do an excellent job.”

As for the theme of the history-inspired mural, Zimmerman said, “The choice of art deco style also brings to mind such lost architectural treasures as Murfreesboro’s Princess Theatre, which once sat on the corner of College and Maple streets, lit up with neon lights and showing the best Hollywood had to offer—just a half-block away from the Heritage Center.”

Located at 225 W. College St., the center is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Students are paying for these facilities through their student fees, and they deserve to have security, because we can confirm who’s coming into the Rec Center and coming onto campus. Students are paying for these facilities on our campus, and they deserve to have security,” Gregory says, although some cardholders have expressed concerns about privacy issues.

“We’ve been able to explain that this is simply a hand reader with very minimal information obtained from it for high-volume moderate security purposes,” Alverson explains.

“Students are going to say, ‘Cool. It’s about time you guys moved into the 21st century,’” Gregory adds with a laugh, “and our faculty are coming to like it because they’re intrigued by how it works.”

For more information, please visit the BlueID Office in JUB 306 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or call 615-898-5523.
Outdoor Pursuits is offering a Wilderness First Aid expeditions in the back country, knowing first aid is miles away from emergency assistance.

You’ll need more than luck and a bandage to stay safe when going back to nature

Knowing what to do when an accident occurs is important, but it can be more critical when an accident occurs and you are miles away from emergency assistance. For those who camp, hike, climb or who lead expeditions in the back country, knowing first aid is a must. Campus Recreation’s Middle Tennessee Outdoor Pursuits is offering a Wilderness First Aid course, in conjunction with Wilderness Medicine Institute, on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 2-3.

This 16-hour course is open to anyone who is interested in learning wilderness first aid. The cost is $165 with a nonrefundable deposit of $50 due with registration.

The course will cover patient assessment, spinal cord and head injuries, fractures, dislocations and athletic injuries as well as other medical situations. Attendees who pass the course will receive certification in administering wilderness first aid.

Much of the instruction will take place outside, so attendees must be prepared for the weather. Plenty of water, sunscreen, athletic clothing and sturdy shoes are recommended. Food is not included in the registration. Packed lunches are an option, but some restaurants are within walking distance or close proximity of Campus Recreation.

There are also several lodging options nearby for those who may be attending the workshop from out of town. Camping also may be an option. If camping is a possibility, e-mail Josh Stone at jrsnte@mtsu.edu.

Wilderness Medicine Institute is one of the most respected organizations in teaching WFA curriculum and is part of the National Outdoor Leadership School.

For more information about the WFA course, visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/outdoors or contact Stone at 615-898-2104 or via e-mail.

Ladies’ Football Clinic set July 12

from MT Media Relations

The second annual Rick Stockstill Ladies Football Clinic will take place on Saturday, July 12, at the Murphy Center on campus. The event will get under way at 8 a.m. and will conclude with a tour of the facilities at 2:45 p.m.

“We had a great time with our first clinic last year and we can’t wait for this one,” said Stockstill. “Our goal is to provide a fun learning experience while teaching the game of football.”

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Continuing Ed slates Tennessee Business Tax Seminar for July 16

Every dollar counts in our struggling economy, especially for small businesses. That’s why learning about taxes at a special July 16 MTSU seminar can help business owners make the decisions—and save the dollars—they need to survive and thrive.

The MTSU College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Revenue, is offering a Tennessee Business Tax Seminar on Wednesday, July 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel on Old Fort Parkway in Murfreesboro.

Representatives from the state Department of Revenue and Department of Labor and Workforce Development, along with the state comptroller’s office, have scheduled presentations. Topics will include:

- legislative updates;
- business taxes;
- sales and use taxes;
- labor and workforce development;
- unclaimed property;
- gift and inheritance taxes;
- individual income tax;
- tangible personal tax; and
- sales tax exemptions.

“This seminar is extremely valuable and pertinent to anyone who prepares or pays taxes,” said David C. Foster, director of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

“This in economic environment, when we all have to tighten our belts, we want to make sure we’re paying our legal obligations but no more. One idea from here could save thousands of dollars.”

Cost for the daylong seminar is $155 per person, and MTSU is offering a $10 discount for each online registration. All materials, as well as breakfast, lunch and refreshments, are included in the seminar fee. There’s a $50 cancellation fee, but substitutions are allowed.

The seminar also earns CEU, CPE and CLE credits.

For more information and to register online, visit www.mtsu.edu/~learn.

Visiting preservationist concludes professorship July 4

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Michael Tomlan, historic preservationist and a pioneering scholar on planbook architects of the 19th century, will conclude his visiting professorship at MTSU July 4.

An associate professor of history and director of the graduate program in historic preservation planning program at Cornell University, Tomlan began a monthlong visit to the MTSU campus June 1, where he’s taught a summer seminar for some of the program’s public history doctoral students.

“This class has provided a very different and complementary perspective on the field of historic preservation given his extensive background in planning,” MTSU student Heather Bailey said of Tomlan’s seminar, “Current Issues in Public History Practice.”

“This has been absolutely essential in helping us, as developing professionals, to network nationally with other public historians.”

Another MTSU history student, Nashville resident Angela J. Smith, observed, “Dr. Tomlan has been completely unselfish in his desire to do whatever he can to help us to develop as professionals.

An historic preservationist expert in building conservation technology, documentation methods for preservation and the history of the preservation movement, Tomlan also presented a free public lecture for the local community, “The Victorian Cottage Architecture: An American Catalog of Designs, 1891” (Dover Publications). He also has a yet-to-be titled book set for publication in March 2009 from John Wiley & Sons Inc.


Tomlan earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Tennessee (1973) and a master’s degree in historic preservation from Columbia University (1976) before becoming one of the first recipients of the doctorate in historic preservation from Cornell in 1983.

His MTSU visit has been sponsored by the Provost’s Office, Department of History, Center for Historic Preservation and Dr. John McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.
New student-led rock band show going strong on MTTV

by Jessica Wheeler

A new student-led television show featuring undiscovered rock bands in the middle Tennessee area has premiered on Middle Tennessee Television, best known as MTTV, on local cable Channel 10.

The show’s name, “Cadency,” comes from the noun cadence, which means rhythm. The show’s creators said each broadcast of the program consists of a 10-minute performance by a local rock band, a seven-minute interview with the featured band and a three-minute slideshow of local band posters in Murfreesboro and Nashville displaying upcoming concerts.

The idea for the show began when Rachel Markin, the show’s producer, met John Rufi, host, in an Introduction to Electronic Media course at MTSU.

Markin said that although Rufi already had a radio show on campus, he was interested in collaborating to create some kind of TV show. Rufi said the pair just kind of came up with the idea and decided to meet and get it started.

“We just rolled with the punch-es,” he said of the show’s creation and startup.

Both juniors majoring in electronic media production at MTSU, Rufi and Markin also share an interest in music, they said, and both thought a local-music show would be “a cool thing” to do.

“We obviously both love music,” said Markin.

Rufi—like Markin—said that music has always been a huge part of his life, and, through his parents, he’s been exposed to many different genres of music.

“Music is one of the most important things in life,” he said, adding that he often gets tired of hearing the same songs over and over again on the radio, and he thinks that other people probably feel the same way. Rufi said he believes it’s important to hear different kinds of music, and through “Cadency,” area viewers are exposed to music they likely haven’t heard before.

Also, Markin observed, both she and Rufi are interested in helping beginning bands heighten their profiles among would-be fans, and that is exactly what “Cadency” does.

“We noticed that so many local musicians are so talented and there’s no outlet for them,” Markin said. Along with performances by bands, music interviews and information about upcoming concerts, Rufi decided he wanted to add a comedy bit to the show.

“Growing up, I always idolized (comedic) talk-show hosts,” the avid late-night TV watcher admitted. He’s a fan of Conan O’Brien in particular, but when it comes to “Cadency” and its comic relief, Rufi—who writes his own stand-up material—said he just wanted to add some “ridiculous, crazy, random, humor” to the broadcast.

Nor surprisingly, the new program’s target audience is primarily college students, and that audience tends to be attracted to this kind of humor, Rufi observed. He said the show’s goals are to incorporate comedy into the music theme of the show and create musically inspired comedy.

Although it’s only in its infant stages, both Markin and Rufi have goals of developing “Cadency” into something great over the next few years. Markin said the show marks the first time for everyone on staff to have the opportunity to be part of producing a real TV program.

During the first semester of its broadcast, “Cadency” has been a real learning experience, noted Markin, readily conceding that she’s already learned many things not to do when it comes to creating a TV show.

Nonetheless, she said, she and the “Cadency” crew are dedicated to helping the program develop to its full potential over the next few years.

Plus, if all goes as planned, Rufi said that he ultimately would like to expand “Cadency” to the Nashville market as well. In the meantime, however, the show’s host and producer encourage people to watch the program, or better yet, become involved by working behind the scenes or performing on the show.

Those interested in participating may contact Markin and Rufi via the program’s MySpace page at www.myspace.com/cadencrockshou.

As for those who’ve yet to tune in, “People who enjoy music will like to watch it,” Markin said. “You don’t have to pay for a ticket or a cover charge to get into a smelly, smoky bar—you just watch it on TV.”

“Our favorite episode is 11 p.m. Thursdays, Tuesdays and Saturdays on MTTV. Each program episode airs for two weeks.”

Jessica Wheeler is a senior majoring in mass communication.

Associate athletics director taking job with NCAA

from MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee Associate Athletics Director Mike Moleta has announced his resignation and has accepted a position with the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Moleta, who has served as Middle Tennessee’s associate athletics director for compliance for six years, will become the associate director for compliance for the NCAA, but I’m more proud that they were interested because of some of the great things we do, and will continue to do, at Middle Tennessee.”

Moleta said the decision was not an easy one after six years at Middle Tennessee and more than 12 years in the college campus setting, including stops at Middle Tennessee, Northern Arizona, and Southern Miss.

“The toughest thing after spending 12 years on campus and working with student-athletes and coaches is not seeing those smiling faces when they are successful in the field, on the court or in the classroom,” Moleta said.

“That always excited me. Trevor Jenkins (a junior on the Blue Raider football team) just came by the office to see me before I left. I remember him coming in as a young kid, and now he’s a young man. There are a number of young people I have experienced that with. The toughest part of making this decision is not working with student-athletes and watching the successes as well as their individual success stories, because when you go in the national office, there’s no one there to work with and see the progress. And it’s more of a corporate environment.”

A native of Biloxi, Miss., Mike and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two children, Kirsten and Chandler.

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Byron McQuain of Jonesborough, Tenn., will represent MTSU’s music department this summer at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

McQuain, a piano performance major, is a rising senior focusing primarily on classical music. His six weeks at the AIMS program will consist of participating in master classes in which he and another piano major, Andrew Haselden, will learn by watching accomplished pianists work with opera singers.

The summer school is designed to train aspiring vocalists, but McQuain is interested in learning how to play in collaboration with singers. McQuain’s piano teacher, Dr. Lynn Rice-See, will travel with them and also instruct in the program.

“...the only thing that’s been a total surprise to me is that I get to travel with my pianist teacher, Dr. Lynn Rice-See,” McQuain said. “She went to this school when she was my age in college.”

Rice-See has been a strong influence on McQuain’s musical education. A former instructor at East Tennessee State University, Rice-See began teaching McQuain piano when he was in high school in Jonesborough.

“I was kind of like a typical piano student in ninth grade. I didn’t practice that much. It wasn’t really that important to me,” McQuain said. “But something clicked, and I thought it was really cool in ninth grade. My dad had some Rachmaninoff CDs, and we would play them like when we went to the grocery store.”

When McQuain decided to practice more and take a serious interest in music, his neighborhood piano teacher suggested he switch instructors to Rice-See.

“Switching was one of the coolest things,” McQuain said. “I love my old teacher, but studying with Dr. Rice-See was the way to go. It was good for me.”

McQuain spent less time on music his freshman year of college when he attended Rhodes College in Memphis on an academic scholarship. He quickly realized how much he missed playing piano.

“I thought it would be cool if I could go somewhere where I could really specialize and practice all the time and really just give this a shot,” McQuain said.

He corresponded with Rice-See about his renewed interest in studying music. She suggested he transfer to MTSU and major in piano performance.

Despite his concentration on performance, he has not left academic pursuits behind. Throughout this spring and summer, McQuain has been assisting another professor on research for an Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activity project.

The research has exposed McQuain to the cultural discourse of music.

“It’s definitely enhanced my education,” McQuain said, although he finds no immediate correlation between his URSCA research and piano performance. Nevertheless, he appreciates the variety that his course of study offers.

“I think that’s probably one of the coolest things about going to a big university ... you can take advantage of these research opportunities,” McQuain said.

Eventually, McQuain aspires to teach at a university. He views the liberal arts program as valuable preparation not just for continuing playing his instrument well, but exploring the long-term possibilities of scholarship.

“I think piano performance is really important to me, but I think eventually whatever I end up doing may be more than just that,” McQuain said. “It’ll be good to have had a well-rounded experience.”