Preparation is key

BELT-TIGHTENING AHEAD—Universitywide efforts, led by President Sidney A. McPhee, are under way to prepare for addition- al state funding cuts that will have a critical impact on MTSU’s operations. During two open forums Nov. 18 and 19, McPhee asked for input from the campus community to help four new strategic work groups, outlined in the Power-Point slide at left, suggest the best methods to face the university’s future. To view the president’s presentation, visit www.mtsu.edu/ strategicgroups.shtml and click on the link at the bottom of the page. E-mail your suggestions for posi- tioning the university for the future to smcphee@mtsu.edu.

PowerPoint courtesy of the President’s Office

by Lisa L. Rollins
rollins@mtsu.edu

S ome 1,600-plus degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 97th fall commencement, reports Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost of enrollment services.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, MTSU again will feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,613 set to graduate during the 97th fall commencement, 1,400 are undergraduates and 213 are graduate students. 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 con- ferred on candidates in the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication, and Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. Diane L. Miller, executive vice provost and chairwoman of the commencement commit- tee.

Darrell S. Freeman Sr., who serves as president and CEO of Zycron Inc., an international information-technology services firm headquartered in Nashville, will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. As leader of Zycron, Freeman founded the firm in 1991 and oversees its daily operations, which include providing IT solutions to a global client base of diverse industries such as health care, trans- portation and logistics, telecommunications, automotive, retail and financial services. During its history, Zycron has become a primary IT provider for numerous Fortune 500 companies.

A two-time graduate of MTSU earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1987 and his Master of Science degree in 1990, Freeman also currently serves as chairman of the Tennessee Board of Regents, 1 p.m. ceremony

Who: 1,613 graduates*
What: Fall 2008 commencement
Where: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Murphy Center, MTSU

Speakers: • Darrell S. Freeman Sr., president and CEO of Zycron Inc.; 9 a.m. ceremony
• Chancellor Charles Manning, Tennessee Board of Regents, 1 p.m. ceremony

Webcast: Go to www.mtsunews.com and click on the “Graduation Info” link on the left side of the page, then click “Graduation live streaming video” and follow the instructions. In addition to the video link, the “Grad info” page also has links to other important graduation news, including photo and DVD purchases. Video will be available about 15 minutes before each ceremony begins; you’ll need Windows Media Player to view it.

*Approximate number as of Nov. 19, 2008.

1,600-plus to receive degrees Dec. 13

by Tom Tozer
fltozer@mtsu.edu

T he impact of experiential learning programs at MTSU for 2007-08—specifically, the dollar value of community work that resulted from hands-on, service-learning projects—amounted to more than $1 million.

There were 2,094 community projects under the EXL umbrella, equaling nearly $137,000 of work.

Throughout that year, there were 218 course sections and 3,126 students enrolled in EXL courses. Sixty-four faculty members partic- ipated in the program, which pro- duced 15 EXL Scholars.

I think many students and faculty are realizing and appreciat- ing the value of applying classroom knowledge to the real-world environment,” said Dr. Jill Austin, who has spearheaded the EXL initiative for the past four years.

Austin, chairperson of the management and marketing department in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, con- vened a committee in 2004 to explore ideas that would fulfill a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requirement to develop a program to enhance student learning. The committee selected experiential learning and present- ed a plan in 2005 to create an Experiential Scholars Program at MTSU.

The EXL Scholars Program requires a student to take 16 to 18 hours of EXL classes, including at least one practical-experience class, such as an internship or study-abroad experience. There is an internal service component, in which a student assumes a leadership role on campus, and an
Students: Critical-thinking skills test is critical for MTSU

by Stacy Williams and Elizabeth McAmis
new@mtsu.edu

A new room full of graduating seniors, there is bound to be nervous tension circulating. However, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building of MTSU, there was a sense of anxiety and frustration as seniors recently took the required General Education Exit Exam.

MTSU seniors have been required to take the GE Exam since the 1970s. The university uses the nationally recognized California Critical Thinking Skills Test format to assess students’ ability to apply logic to a variety of questions. This means that the test sets aside the student’s major and instead examines reasoning skills. Many students with whom we spoke were curious as to how such a standardized test could measure the value of their education. And because many of us are uninformed of our scores’ impact on MTSU, we don’t exactly take the test seriously. Some even consider it a waste of time.

Fay Parham, executive director of MTSU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Research, which administers the exam, says the university has a vested interest in developing students’ critical-thinking skills.

“...if students don’t try their best to finish the exam or answer the questions to the best of their ability, can the results truly evaluate how an MTSU education has affected their critical-thinking skills?” Parham says.

Now, the test itself may be a good representation of one’s logical thought process. But if students don’t try their best to finish the exam or answer the questions to the best of their ability, can the results truly evaluate how an MTSU education has affected their critical-thinking skills?

The IEPR Office says that general-education exit exams are required by the state of Tennessee to help colleges and universities determine the effectiveness of general-education courses and make changes where needed. Good test results also provide proof to the general public that the university is achieving its goals.

And graduating seniors are aware that a compilation of the scores can affect the value of the MTSU degree. If GE Exam scores are good, MTSU also receives additional state funding.

Results of this exam are translated into a point system called the Performance Funding Program. The GE Exam is worth up to 15 points out of a total 100 points in the program. Last year, each point earned was worth an equivalent of almost $68,000 in MTSU funding. According to the Executive Summary of the General Education Exam Report for 2007-08, MTSU students scored extremely well: “In summary, the 17.7 average total score exceeded the 16.8 national average. MTSU will receive the maximum 15 points for this Performance Funding standard for the first time since 2000-2001.”

The GE Exam results of 2006-07 MTSU graduates generated more than $1 million in state funding for future students. Although the final 2007-08 funding totals won’t be finalized until spring 2009, it appears that the latest dollar amount “will likely increase,” according to the report summary.

Wow.

If students were made aware of how much of an impact their scores can have on MTSU, we believe that they would try harder on the exam. Other than being a graduation requirement, there seems to be little incentive for students to think during the test. And whether or not one completes the exam, he/she is required to stay in the room for the full hour’s duration of it; our fellow test-takers finished quickly and occupied the remaining exam time with sleep, books or newspapers.

If we had known that the GE Exam was worth that much money to MTSU, we definitely would have taken the test more seriously.

Although the GE Exam information is publicly accessible on the Web, students are not made aware of where to look. E-mails that inform graduating seniors of the exam dates also should include a link to the financial impact of the exam on the IEPR Office Web site, www.mtsu.edu/~iepr. Many students are not even aware of the existence of the IEPR Office or its site, but the staff members are more than willing to help students learn more about how their performance enhances the quality of education at MTSU.

The university hopes students will take the GE Exam seriously. Parham says, especially in the wake of ongoing budget cuts.

“It takes a lot of money to run this university,” the executive director adds. Our advice to prospective graduates: Do your best on the GE Exam. Current students have benefited from previous test scores and, most likely, future students will benefit from the results of the graduating class of 2008.

For more information about the GE Exam, contact IEPR at 615-494-8803 or visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~iepr.

Stacy Williams and Elizabeth McAmis, seniors scheduled to graduate Saturday, Dec. 13, have participated in practicums this semester in the Office of News and Public Affairs. Williams is a journalism and global studies double major with a minor in Spanish, and McAmis is an advertising/public relations major with minors in film studies and business administration.

By Claire Rogers

A n MTSU student won the top award at the Russ Berrie Institute National Sales Challenge Nov. 8 at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J.

Chad Hill, a senior marketing major set to graduate Dec. 13, accepted a $10,000 scholarship as the contest’s first place winner. Hill, a sales and marketing major, was named team captain, and Ashley Harris, a junior agribusiness major, was named team vice-president.

The challenge aims to improve communication and sales skills of students by asking them to focus on customer service and personal presence under stressful circumstances.

The contest also serves as a great way for students to network with valuable industry contacts. Sponsors of the challenge, like Valpak and AT&T, often look at contestants for entry-level positions.

Hill currently is interviewing for a job in sales with a few companies represented at the RBI National Sales Challenge. Hill said that he would do after graduation,” said Hill, 22. “Now I’m not sure who I will be working for, but I know I’ll have a job.”

MTSU’s sales team travels to different sales competitions across the country each year.

“Joining the sales team gives you a chance to test your real-life skills,” Hill said. “It’s a great opportunity for any student interested in sales, regardless of their major.”

The Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales is part of William Paterson University’s business college. William Paterson University has hosted the annual RBI National Sales Challenge since the institute was founded in 2002.

FOR THE RECORD

Seniors: Critical-thinking skills test is critical for MTSU

by Stacy Williams and Elizabeth McAmis
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Fay Parham, executive director of MTSU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Research, which administers the exam, says the university has a vested interest in developing students’ critical-thinking skills.

“The provost wanted the campus to give greater attention to developing students’ critical-thinking skills, and the CCTST provided this focus,” Parham says.

Now, the test itself may be a good representation of one’s logical thought process. But if students don’t try their best to finish the exam or answer the questions to the best of their ability, can the results truly evaluate how an MTSU education has affected their critical-thinking skills?

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Office of Institutional Research site nabs regional honors

The MTSU Office of Institutional Research received a regional award for Best Institutional Research Web site on Oct. 21 at an annual conference for the Southern Association for Institutional Research. The award was presented to Dr. Coralicia Wills, director of institutional research at MTSU, during the SAIR conference’s awards breakfast. The department’s Web site was selected by a panel of peer judges based on criteria such as functionality, data quality and ease of use.

The Office of Institutional Research serves as the central administrative unit for providing data about the university. It plays a pivotal role in the planning, evaluation, accreditation and decision-making efforts of MTSU. In addition, the office provides data to external regulatory agencies such as federal, state and regional governments, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, college guidebook publishers and other external readers.

This information is used both inside and outside the university to measure program effectiveness, guide strategic planning, provide public relations and help recruit prospective students.

“We keep information on the Internet provides more efficiency to our day-to-day work,” said Dr. Wills. “We have begun to track the purpose of data requested of our office and the impact that its use has on the university.”

The Office of Institutional Research recently gathered data for an MTSU satellite campus proposal. The department now places all of its data online in simple-to-read spreadsheets, making it much easier for interested parties to access the information they need about the university. The Office of Institutional Research sometimes receives more than 60 online requests for information each month. By keeping quality, updated information on its Web site, the department can distribute data faster and more efficiently.

This is the first time MTSU’s Office of Institutional Research has received an award in the best Web site category, although the department has won both regional and state awards in the past. Previous state awards are Best Fact Book in both 2000 and 2001; regional awards brought home by the department include Best Electronic Fact Book (2004), Best Fact Book (2000) and the SAIR Award of Merit for Outstanding Fact Book (1998), among others. MTSU’s institutional research office is a member of SAIR, a regional affiliate of the Association for Institutional Research. Wills, who also serves on the AIR Board of Directors’ membership committee and evaluation committee, works alongside MTSU institutional research staff members Imam Anerin, Janie Peterson and Patricia Mayes.

WHAT'S THE WORD

Hip-hop, art converge in open-mic (and open-air) performances

by Brian Estes
news@mtsu.edu

If you’ve been paying attention, you might have seen their fliers posted around campus. Or maybe you have seen a large congregation in the courtyard outside the James E. Walker Library, blasting loud rap music and deep throbbing bass lines.

It’s all part of an attempt by Brooklyn native and MTSU student Dean Andrews to bring a taste of the New York hip-hop/art scene to the Middle Tennessee campus.


Every Tuesday and Thursday night, Word Up! has been hosting rap battles, poetry recitation, and displays of music, art and dance. It’s part of a movement that Andrews, a senior political science major, says is targeted at taking back public spaces for artistic expression.

The organization put on outdoor performances for the bulk of the fall semester, but weather conditions have forced the shows to move to indoor house parties. The group’s Facebook page says that it will reserve on-campus rooms for events after it’s been officially registered with the university for more than a month, a date that fell on Nov. 24. Until those on-campus dates are finalized, Word Up! will be hosting house parties.

Andrews said the inspiration for forming Word Up! came from his experiences growing up in Brooklyn.

“In New York, anywhere you go there are live performers—break dancers on the street, so many performers,” Andrews said. “I always saw new things, and I bring a lot of those influences when I’m doing these shows.”

Andrew Scott is a regular attendee of Word Up! gatherings and was a winner of one of the group’s rap battles. He said that what goes on here is a far cry from what he would expect to see in his hometown of Roanoke, Va.

“You really wouldn’t expect to see all these common people coming together,” Scott said. “I really like the fellowship and instruments.”

The group was started early in the fall semester when Andrews saw Quinn Ray and Ryan Ford playing their instruments outside the Cyber Café. Andrews had been going to Café Coco in Nashville to do poetry recitals, and the three decided to combine their efforts and perform publicly. (Both Ford and Ray later became officers in Word Up!) The group’s first shows took place out-side Cyber, but they soon moved to the MTSU quad between the library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

For more information about the group’s scheduled events, search for “Word Up!” in groups at Facebook.com or visit its MySpace page at www.myspace.com/wordupnashville.

Traffic patterns changing around Cope as Alumni Drive work continues

A lumni Drive between Blue Raider Drive and Friendship Way has reopened, also opening the south lot behind the James E. Walker Library and returning the parking in Ezell Lot by the Honors Building back to students, MTSU’s Office of Parking and Transportation Services has announced.

In order to complete Alumni Drive, the section between Friendship Street and Old Main Circle will be closed effective Monday, Dec. 1. There will be no campus access via Baird Lane after Dec. 1.

During construction, officials said, Old Main Circle from East Main Street toward the Cope Administration Building will be closed just past the entrance to Visitor’s Circle. Drivers will be able to turn into the circle in front of Cope, but they will need to exit to the right. Two-way traffic will be created from the Circle to the cut-through on Old Main Circle. There will be no on-street parking along Alumni Drive to allow two-way traffic.

The parking lot on the east side of Cope will be closed, because there will be no way to access the lot during construction. To access Friendship Street and the Judif/Sims parking lot, a detour will be created through the Clement/Gore parking lot, officials said.

Weird weather? Watch the Web

When inclement weather arises, MTSU closing information will be available online and on area radio and TV stations. Class cancellations will apply to all classes, credit and noncredit. MTSU offices will be open unless the message specifically says all offices will be closed. Overnight closing decisions will be announced by 6 a.m. the next day. Learn more anytime at www.mtsunews.com by clicking the “Inclement Weather Information” link or visiting www.mtsu.edu/alert4u.
**Campus Calendar**

**Dec. 1, 2008-Jan. 11, 2009**

**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.

**Through Dec. 4**

Photo Exhibit: Tom Mallonee, “Evidence of Passing: Vanishing Points Along an American Road”
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 6-9:45 p.m. Sunday Baldwin Photographic Gallery, Learning Resources Center
For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

**Dec. 1**

Monday, Dec. 1
Faculty Senate Meeting
4:30 p.m., JUB 100
For information, contact: 615-898-2582.

Handel’s “Messiah”
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**Dec. 2**

Tuesday, Dec. 2
Noon-1 p.m., Hazelwood Dining Room, James Union Building
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Initiation Ceremony
5 p.m., JUB Tennessee Room
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~php/index.htm or contact: 615-898-2152.

**Dec. 3**

Wednesday, Dec. 3
Commercial Music Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**Dec. 4**

Thursday, Dec. 4
Accompanying Class Studio Recital
3 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

MT Women’s Basketball vs. Louisville
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 5**

Friday, Dec. 5
First Friday Star Party: Dr. Chuck Higgins, “Star Formation in Orion”
6:30-8:30 p.m., Wiser-Patten Science Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-5946.

MTSU Women’s Chorale “Victorian Holiday Feast”
6 p.m., JUB Tennessee Room
Admission: $30 per person (includes meal and entertainment), $17 for MTSU students
Tickets must be purchased in advance; no sales at the door
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com or contact: 615-898-5922.

**Dec. 7**

Sunday, Dec. 7
“MTSU On the Record—Students for Autism Awareness”
Students for Autism Awareness president and founder Ed Evans discusses the project.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

MT Men’s Basketball vs. Southern Illinois
4 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 11**

Thursday, Dec. 11
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-2576.

MT Men’s Basketball vs. Troy
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 13**

Saturday, Dec. 13
Fall Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm or contact: 615-898-5756.

**Dec. 14**

Sunday, Dec. 14
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Alabama
4 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 15**

Monday, Dec. 15
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Tennessee-Martin
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 16**

Tuesday, Dec. 16
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Austin Peay
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 20**

Saturday, Dec. 20
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Troy
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Dec. 25-Jan. 1**

University closed for winter holidays.

Jan. 2
Friday, Jan. 2
University offices reopen.

Jan. 7
Wednesday, Jan. 7
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 8
Thursday, Jan. 8
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 10
Saturday, Jan. 10
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Florida International
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 11
Sunday, Jan. 11
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Florida International
Noon, Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Calendar Items Welcomed**
Submit your campus event calendar items (at least three weeks in advance of the event) please to gfann@mtsu.edu.
"How are the economy and gas prices affecting you?"

Jeffrey Lloyd, senior, business administration major

"I work full-time, and the money I’m putting into my 401(k)—as you can tell from everybody—I’m kind of losing out on that. It’s going to make the retirement plan, when… students get older, we’re not going to have any money, so something’s got to change there."

Paul Bernardini, sophomore, public relations major

"I ride my bike to school every day and walk or whatever. Whatever I can do to not use gas, I do it."

Amanda Chittathong, senior, marketing major

"I work as a server at a restaurant, and I’ve noticed that we hardly get any customers lately. It’s been really slow, extremely slow, so I’m making less money: less money for gas, less money for other things."

Allison Schenerlein, freshman, undecided major

"With gas prices being so high, I have to work more hours and save more money. I live an hour away, so I have to drive out here every Tuesday and Thursday. I have to be more careful about spending it (money) on stuff I don’t need."

Adam Price, graduate student, recording arts and technology major

"I’m walking home right now. I don’t drive to campus so much anymore because the price of gas doesn’t make it worth it. I kind of wanted to… get in shape and come to school an alternative way, and when gas hit $4 a gallon, that kind of sealed the deal."

-- Drew Dunlop and Eric Jackson

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**Students changing habits to save money**

G as prices are down from record summer highs, but with MTSU eyeing still more budget cutbacks, increasingly cash-strapped students continue to look for ways to save money and cut transportation costs. MTSU students shared their own ideas about coping with rising costs in the November edition of “Middle Tennessee Record,” MTSU’s monthly video magazine (available anytime at www.mtsuneWS.com), in response to the question:

"How are the economy and gas prices affecting you?"
Clayton receives 2009 award for innovative teaching practice

Maria Clayton is the 2009 recipient of the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology, which is sponsored annually by the MTSU Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable. A native of Sparta, Tenn., Clayton, an associate professor of English, was selected for her innovative excellence in the use of instructional technology and the vast number of publications and presentations on the use of technology for teaching writing and research.

As award recipient, Clayton will attend the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, Fla., where she will participate in ShareFAIR, an annual exhibit featuring outstanding teachers and the innovative learning practices they use with MTSU students.

Other faculty nominated for the award were Professor Randy Livingston (journalism), Drs. Daniel Prather (aerospace) and Martha "Mari" Weller (physics and astronomy) and Amy York (James E. Walker Library). All nominees are highly regarded for their use of innovative strategies in the classroom, according to the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center.

The award ceremony took place during ShareFAIR, an annual exhibit featuring outstanding teachers and the innovative learning practices they use with MTSU students.

For a full list of faculty members who participated in ShareFAIR and a description of their exhibits, visit www.mtsu.edu/standtct.

Mock trial wins propel teams to new heights

Booyed by their first-place victory in the Mid-South Invitational Tournament on their home campus, the MTSU mock trial teams challenged the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee.

In addition to Vaughn, team members included Rachel Harmon of Spencer and Austin Purvis of Memphis, who, with Vaughn, played attorneys, and Lani Lester of Memphis, Samantha Ferrell of Lebanon and Lee Whitvill of Pulaski, who played witnesses.

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Other faculty nominated for the award were Professor Randy Livingston (journalism), Drs. Daniel Prather (aerospace) and Martha "Mari" Weller (physics and astronomy) and Amy York (James E. Walker Library). All nominees are highly regarded for their use of innovative strategies in the classroom, according to the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center.

The award ceremony took place during ShareFAIR, an annual exhibit featuring outstanding teachers and the innovative learning practices they use with MTSU students.

For a full list of faculty members who participated in ShareFAIR and a description of their exhibits, visit www.mtsu.edu/standtct.

Mock trial wins propel teams to new heights

Booyed by their first-place victory in the Mid-South Invitational Tournament on their home campus, the MTSU mock trial teams challenged the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee.

In addition to Vaughn, team members included Rachel Harmon of Spencer and Austin Purvis of Memphis, who, with Vaughn, played attorneys, and Lani Lester of Memphis, Samantha Ferrell of Lebanon and Lee Whitvill of Pulaski, who played witnesses.

Clayton receives 2009 award for innovative teaching practice

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At MTSU, we take fire alarms seriously. Respond as if your life depended on it.

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Plan ahead in ’09: Preretirement seminar is Jan. 15

The Rutherford County Retired Teachers Association is sponsoring a free preretirement seminar for all local educators on Thursday, Jan. 15, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at North Boulevard Church of Christ, 1112 N. Rutherford Blvd.

Reservations are required to ensure that participants receive needed materials. Reservations can be made through Monday, Jan. 12, by sending an e-mail with your name, school and telephone number to Sara Gannon at Dianes.798@vad.com or by calling Gannon at 615-890-5050.

This year’s presenter will be Ron Pendergrass, associate executive director of the Tennessee Retired Teachers Association. Any teacher who will retire under the State Retirement Plan, regardless of Tennessee Education Association membership, will learn beneficial information for retirement decision-making.

Seminar participants should enter via the side door marked “Fellowship Kitchen” on the north side of the church, organized by the kitchen committee. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 3:30 p.m. until the seminar begins promptly at 4 p.m.

Entrepreneur Martin offers techonomics class for spring ’09

D r. Lee Martin, chairman of Abunga.com LLC and a managing member of Clarity Resources, a mentor capitalist group specializing in business architecture, is scheduled to teach a class at MTSU in the spring on “Techonomics: Anticipating the Future.”

The class, which is cross-listed as Honors 4600, Business Communication and Entrepreneurship 4200 and Management and Marketing 4990, will meet from 2:20 to 3:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in Room 218 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

The class is especially designed for students who seek leadership roles in their communities, business or service organizations. It will provide students with a framework to analyze trends in their fields of interest by quantifying the effects of technological advancement on their professional endeavors.

The class is also suited for upper-division students with business, leadership or technical backgrounds.

Lee Martin and his brother, Paul W. Martin Jr., also an MTSU alumnus (B.S. ’75), provided $1 million that was matched by the university for the construction of the Honors Building.
Professor Cedric Dent, who is a member of the Grammy arrangements published for Word Entertainment.

Some of her accomplishments include being nominated by the movie, “Phillips says. “It’s a piano piece with a barroom kind of a feel,” Phillips says. “It has a ‘40s-type vibe.”

Phillips is a pianist and music arranger and has been working in the professional music field for the last 30 years. Some of her accomplishments include being nominated by the Gospel Music Association for the Dove Award for Best Praise and Worship Instrumental in 2003. She also has had piano arrangements published for Word Entertainment.

Phillips has been presented private lessons with MTSU music professor Cedric Dent, who is a member of the Grammy Award-winning gospel/jazz group Take 6. She also is a music...