Officials are pleased with the progress made on renovations at the 80-year-old Homer Pittard Campus School, especially in the crucial areas of safety and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. Along with $2.6 million committed by the Rutherford County Commission, the Christy-Houston Foundation and MTSU each pledged $1 million, which enabled the renovation project to move forward.

The bid was awarded last June, and workers began in earnest on the first three phases of the project about two weeks before teachers returned for the fall semester, said Dr. Stan Baskin, Campus School principal.

Safety considerations were first on the list. “They hit it hard,” Baskin said of the workers. “They took out all the glued-on ceiling tiles because they did not meet fire codes. They removed the remaining tiles in two kindergarten rooms over the Christmas break. The wiring is about 75 percent done, and the sprinkler system is probably about 75 percent done.”

When those projects are completed, the building will have new electrical wiring, and every room in the building will have an automatic sprinkler system. Baskin added that new chullers have been installed, and about half of the blower units connected to the heating/cooling units have been put in place.

“Safety, efficiency and comfort: we have to have those things,” he noted. “Efficiency at Campus School is very important.”

Construction of the ADA ramp and elevator began last August. Baskin said the elevator will be finished by the first of August 2009, “but I’ve heard that they might be able to finish it by late February or March.”

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The ramp on the northwest corner of the building leading to the ground-floor elevator will make it possible for people to access all three floors.

See ‘Campus’ page 5
Campus Rec offers even more fitness, fun in new year

from Staff Reports

news@mtsu.edu

Are you ready for a new year and a new you? If so, MTSU Campus Recreation has a variety of fitness programs that may help you get off to a good start with your fitness program.

For those eager to get back into a fitness routine, Campus Rec has scheduled a limited number of aerobic classes through Friday, Jan. 16. It also will again offer the Faculty and Staff Wellness Program for $150 per person. Participants must sign up by Friday, Jan. 30, to get the full benefit of the program. The wellness program includes beginning and ending fitness assessments, a weekly session with a personal trainer, a fitness punch pass for 30 classes and the opportunity to purchase additional personal-training sessions for only $15 per session.

In addition to the wellness program, Campus Rec offers the Get Fit Stay Fit program, which is a continuing program that you can join at any time. The cost is $30 for students and $50 for faculty, staff and members, and the program includes a fitness assessment, weight-room orientation, cardiovascular-room orientation, an aerobics punch pass for $30 and the opportunity to purchase additional personal-training sessions for only $15 per session.

New this spring is the Beach Body Boot Camp, which will begin Monday, Jan. 26, and continue through March 6. The cost of this intensive workout is $70, and it offers two group workout times with personal trainers—12:30 to 1 p.m. and 4:45-5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. These sessions will be held in the downstairs aerobic room, and you must be registered for the Boot Camp. You will get a beginning and ending fitness assessment to gauge your progress.

The Campus Rec fitness staff is working on several other programs to introduce this year, so you should be able to find one that you like that fits your schedule.

Campus Rec offers even more fitness, fun in new year

K

erwood B. Morris, president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation, will be the honored speaker at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, in the Tennessee Room of MTSU’s James Union Building.

Morris is the great-great-great grandson of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, one of America’s most brilliant orators and the first African-American nominated as a candidate for Vice President, and the great-great-grandson of pioneering educator and Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington. Morris’ maternal grandparents were Dr. Frederick Douglass III and Nettie Hancock Washington Douglass.

Following a career on the concert stage and in theater productions, Morris and a partner founded C&A Marketing in 1990. The firm develops marketing programs for cruise lines and resort hotels; its entertainment division has served such clients as Great West Life Assurance, London Life and the AutoZone chain of auto parts stores.

In addition to his duties at the Douglass Foundation, Morris serves on the boards of directors for Kaleidoscope Arts Factory, a nonprofit performing arts organization for children; the Booker T. Washington Family Committee; and the Africa Global Partnership Inc.

Local heroes, heroines and humanitarians also will be recognized at the brunch, which is co-hosted by the Murfreesboro branch of the NAACP and the organization’s MTSU collegiate chapter.

Sponsorships of this event are available at the Ewell Willis Bronze Level ($25-$100), the William Butler Silver Level ($101-$500) and the Jerry Anderson Gold Level ($501 and up). Tickets are $30 for adults and $15 for students under 25 years old.

For more information, contact Dr. Barbara Knox at 615-275-9974 or bknox@mtsu.edu or any NAACP member.

Descendant of Douglass, Washington to speak at MLK brunch Jan. 17

by Gina K. Logue

news@mtsu.edu

Talafeta Chime was the recipient in the fiction category for her entry “Barefoot.” Chime, a sophomore English major with a double minor in photography after graduation.

In the poetry category, Jen Hayes received the Creative Expression Award for entry, “Strawberry Picking.” Hayes, a junior majoring in English and theater, has had two poems previously published by Collage and is vice president of the Young Artists and Writers Society and a frequent performer at the Grind.

Marcus Laxton was the winner in the photography category for his entry “Daybreak.” He previously had a poem published in the spring 2008 issue of Collage. Laxton is a sophomore majoring in photography with a minor in graphic design who enjoys traveling and plans on working in the field of commercial photography after graduation.

Adam Gaskill is the Creative Expression Award recipient in the art category for his entry “Rag and Bone,” which is part of a series of themed bikes focused on past or underdeveloped societies. Gaskill is a studio art major with a concentration in printmaking. He hosted a student art show in his home in October 2008.

The Creative Expression Award began as the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award in poetry and prose and the Lon Nuelle Creative Expression Award in art and photography. Each of the four winners receives a $50 prize.

Previous winners include criminal justice major Grace Langeland for her entry “3 a.m. fiction”; art major Miki Sato for the digital illustration “Self Control”; and mass communication major Justin Keoninh for the photograph “Drake Dreams.”

Susan Hill is a December 2008 journalism graduate of MTSU.

College names latest award winners

by Susan Hill

news@mtsu.edu

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression has named its Creative Expression Award winners for the fall 2008 edition. Awards were given in the categories of art, poetry, prose and photography.

In the poetry category, Jen Hayes received the Creative Expression Award for entry, “Strawberry Picking.” Hayes, a junior majoring in English and theater, has had two poems previously published by Collage and is vice president of the Young Artists and Writers Society and a frequent performer at the Grind.

Marcus Laxton was the winner in the photography category for his entry “Daybreak.” He previously had a poem published in the spring 2008 issue of Collage. Laxton is a sophomore majoring in photography with a minor in graphic design who enjoys traveling and plans on working in the field of commercial photography after graduation.

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Susan Hill is a December 2008 journalism graduate of MTSU.

AMG, Peck Hall computer labs close; 6 labs still available

Beginning this semester, the Alumni Memorial Gym computer lab, located in AMG Room 204, and the University Writer Center computer lab in Peck Hall 326 will be converted to classroom space and will no longer be available for public use.

Six university computer labs are available to all students, faculty and staff with a current MTSU ID.

A list of these labs, including information about their locations and hours, can be viewed anytime at www.mtsu.edu/ttd/students/ complab_ttd.shtml.
by Stacy Williams

S

cots native Kevin Milne got his first tempt-
ing taste of American culture through film, specifically college party movies. “It’s kind of cheesy, but it’s always the kind of films like ‘Animal House’ and ‘Revenge of the Nerds,’ where you see all these parties and you think, ‘Ah, that looks so fun,’” says Milne.

Along with his initial desire to have a good time, studying abroad in America has been more valuable to him than a toga party.

Back at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, Dr. Bob Spires, professor of electronic media communication and a pioneer for exchanges in China, believes that MTSU is making key efforts to promote international education and its value, and he thinks students are eager to learn a foreign language, and they’re eager to have an internship in another country.”

Dr. Bob Spires, who has taught American media courses in Scotland and China and helped broaden the international curriculum in mass communication at MTSU, has been responsible for establishing exchange agreements at Glasgow Caledonian and the University of Northampton, both in Scotland, as well as Hangzhou Normal University, Hunan Normal University and China Agriculture University in Beijing, China.

In addition to sharing his personal experiences, Spires always brings international students to talk to his media classes. He says it’s important for students to get a firsthand experience listening to an international student’s perspective of America.

Spires says he regrets not initiating global exchange for MTSU sooner. Globalization has affected students for years, and it will continue to affect the overall communication in a big way: “Now, with the fast-paced nature of technology in the media field, he notes, it has been difficult to come to grips with how media as a profession is changing.

For new graduates with a mass communication degree, Spires points out that the scope of the working environment will be much smaller than it has ever been. In a sense, it is becoming more important for media students to understand cultural differences. “They will be working with someone from another country . . . or they’ll be working across the Internet,” Spires says. “They will be, in some way, interconnected.”

He emphasizes the importance of interconnectedness. Whether or not MTSU students communicate and work with their peers all over the globe, it is possible. The opportunities that materialize from these global connections are infinite, and they are the cause of global progress.

One factor that attracts international students to MTSU, especially in the College of Mass Communication, is the accessibility of advanced technology. Universities around the globe may have Photoshop on the campus computers, but few house an animation lab or full TV studio.

Kevin Milne has taken advantage of the media equipment at his fingertips. He has spent a lot of time editing film with the Instructional Technology Support Center, and exposure to the editing process of TV programs has fueled a new passion for him. “I’ve actually asked back home to try and get an additional module put into my last three semesters so I can actually learn the programs,” Milne says. “I want to actually learn the system, because once you learn the system, you can generally use them all.”

Spires and many other faculty members across campus are making efforts to include international insight into their curriculum to the benefit of incoming and outgoing exchange students. Spires can be reached at 615-898-2217 or wpspires@mtu.edu. For more information about studying abroad or international exchange programs, contact MT Abroad at 615-898-5179 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad.

Stacy Williams is a December 2008 journalism and global studies graduate of MTSU.

MT Abroad welcomes new director

by Stacy Williams and Gina K. Logue

A

ccording to MTSU’s Office of International Education, 260 students took advantage of study abroad opportunities in the 2006-07 academic year, the last year for which complete statistics are available.

Dr. Bob Spires, professor of electronic media communication and a pioneer for exchanges in China and Scotland, believes that MTSU is making key efforts to promote international education.

“MTSU sends more people abroad than any other school in Tennessee,” Sprires says. Fortified with a new director and several new scholarship initiatives, the MT Abroad office is striving to make the study abroad experience accessible and affordable for all students.

Rhonda Waller, MT Abroad’s new director, says she is very impressed with the vibrancy of the MTSU student body and how they’ve impressed her in her office and across campus.

“I believe in international education and its value, and I think students really do see that (value),” Waller says. “I think they see it as an investment in their future. These students are eager to learn a foreign language, and they’re eager to have an internship in another country.”

As former assistant director of the study-abroad program at University of Missouri and a participan in Japan Exchange Teaching, Waller is an experienced adviser and traveler. One of her main goals with MT Abroad is to reach out to under-represented groups and help them share in the study abroad experience. For example, she says that men, education majors and first-generation college students are all underrepresented in study-abroad programs.

Waller says she also hopes to dispel myths about studying abroad, noting that opportunities offered at MTSU do not discriminate based on the size of one’s wallet. As of 2007, each MTSU student’s tuition helps to improve international education.

Additionally, an internationalization fee of $10, which raised approximately $460,000 in 2008, is used to set up two financial assistance programs—a bridge loan and a travel account. A bridge loan, effective since January 2008, acts as an interest-free loan to financial aid students. They can “borrow against that account to cover tuition and college faculty,” Spires says.

Dr. Anne Sloan, special assistant to the provost for international education, considers the loan a necessary tool to build recognition and student fit of incoming and outgoing exchange students.

The program will take at least five years to be completely self-suffi cient due to the slow amount of funds initially available. The bridge loan allows students who are less likely to have the resources to study abroad to enjoy these opportunities. Sloan considers the loan a necessary tool to build recognition and student involvement with MT Abroad.

The travel grant is designed for students who have been invited or wish to attend an international conference, workshop or seminar or conduct university-approved research abroad. The funds will be distributed similarly to a faculty-led excursion abroad, where travel, lodging and meal expenses are covered, says Sloan. Individuals may fill out travel grant applications through the MT Abroad office.

This spring, MT Abroad is sending 70 students out of the country, and a bigger turnout is expected for the summer term. Application deadlines are Sunday, Feb. 15, for summer programs and Monday, March 9, for fall semester programs.

For more information, contact MT Abroad at 615-898-5179 or www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad.

Stacy Williams is a December 2008 journalism and global studies graduate of MTSU.

Technology, cultural knowledge heightened

study-abroad experience for participants
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.

Jan. 12
Monday, Jan. 12
Faculty Piano Recital:
Dr. Lynn Rice-See
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Jan. 15
Thursday, Jan. 15
Spring semester classes begin

Women’s Studies Research Lectures: Dr. Susan Hopkirk,
“A Century of Anne: Green Gables and the Development of Canadian Literary Tradition”
3 p.m., JUB 100
For information, contact: 615-898-5282.

Jan. 16
Friday, Jan. 16
MTSU Dance Theatre Benefit:
“Holiday Patterns”
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
Admission: $10
For information, contact: 615-494-7904.

Jan. 18
Sunday, Jan. 18
“MTSU On the Record—Number 44”

Jan. 19
On the Sunday before the inauguration, Dr. Robb McDaniel (political science) talks about President-elect Barack Obama’s handling of the transition period and the prospects for the new administration.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Jan. 19
Monday, Jan. 19
Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
university closed

Jan. 20
Tuesday, Jan. 20
Inauguration Day

Jan. 21
Wednesday, Jan. 21
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Arkansas State
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 22
Thursday, Jan. 22
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Arkansas State
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 25
Sunday, Jan. 25
“MTSU On the Record—Express Yourself”
Editor-in-Chief Hannah Green and Marsha Powers, University Honors College coordinator, discuss the latest edition of Collage, the student literary magazine.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Faculty, staff honored for work with distance learning

by Brian Estes
news@mtsu.edu

Students who have taken online classes can likely attest to their flexibility and convenience, allowing them to fit coursework into their everyday schedules. The College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning recently recognized five MTSU faculty and staff members for making that convenience possible by their work in distance-learning education.

Dr. Duane Graddy, professor of economics and finance, Dr. Sandra Poirier, associate professor of human sciences, and Pamela Taylor, associate professor of nursing, all won Faculty Awards.

Chris Haseleu, chair of the recording industry department, won the Chair Award, and Scott Hurt, assistant director of MTSU’s Admissions Office, received the Staff Award.

“It’s a rewarding experience to see how you can integrate material into technology and achieve classroom results online,” Graddy said.

Haseleu said that one of his department’s major contributions to distance learning is offering five courses online, three more are in development. “We want to try to offer all required core classes online,” Haseleu said.

“It allows adult students to further their education without having to be in a confined classroom,” Taylor said, adding that one of the most rewarding experiences she has had with distance learning is offering classes to students who otherwise might not be able to take them.

“There are a lot of students who wouldn’t ask questions in a traditional class, but they do in an online class,” Poirier noted. “They feel empowered.”

Hurt’s work in admissions has attracted students who have expressed an interest in MTSU’s online offerings. “I’m usually the first point of contact for these students,” he said.

Brian Estes is a senior majoring in journalism.
Campus

of the building. “We’ve never really had a child who could not navigate the stairs adequately,” Baskin said, “but we have had several instances over the years when parents and grandparents could not get to the third floor for a classroom program. Sometimes they just would have to miss the program. Access to all three floors of the building is very important.”

Rutherford County Schools Director Harry Gill said the system is “excited about the progress being made with the Campus School renovations and the partnership we have developed with MTSU during the project. Many wonderful teachers in Rutherford County have benefited from the mentoring program at Campus (School), and the school is a valued part of our school district.”

MTSU Campus

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This is a reprint of recent e-mail communications from Dr. McPhee to the university community.

continue to solicit your feedback and support for our efforts to identify the best ways to reduce our budget, reallocate existing funds and to generate new or additional revenue.

Update

scenarios, each of the Tennessee Board of Regents institutions was asked to submit a proposed summary by Dec. 22 explaining how the institution might make the necessary cuts. Although we have submitted this very general and preliminary proposal as requested, we remain committed to the strategic planning process that we currently have in place, which involves giving the entire campus community an opportunity to provide input and receiving recommendations from our four strategic work groups. Our final plan to the board, which is to be submitted later this spring, will rely significantly on the recommendations made by our work groups along with the appropriate consultation with various other constituent groups on campus.

I am very pleased with the progress that is being made by the Steering Committee and the Strategic Work Groups that are associated with our “Positioning the University for the Future” initiative. Each of these groups met before we left for the holiday break and has returned to work to begin the process of formulating the appropriate recommendations as determined by the role of each. (A listing of the chairs and committee members of each group has been posted to the initiative Web site at www.mtsu.edu/strategic.) This remains an ongoing process, and I continue to solicit your feedback and support for our efforts to identify the best ways to reduce our budget, reallocate existing funds and to generate new or additional revenue.

Updates on the activities of our strategic work groups are forthcoming. Please continue to watch the initiative Web site and your e-mail for additional updates as they become available. You may also continue to use the electronic suggestion form to provide the appropriate committees with your recommendations and concerns.

As I reminded you before, the decisions that have to be made are not going to be easy and will not be received positively by every member of this family, but please know that you can count on my commitment to not compromise the academic quality or integrity of this institution. MTSU belongs to each of us and its continued success depends significantly on your commitment to its principles and its mission. With that said, please accept my continued gratitude for your support and positive attitude as we face these challenging times together.

This is a reprint of recent e-mail communications from Dr. McPhee to the university community.

Clean house for AUAU Book Sale

T hose books, CDs, DVDs, tapes and records that you sorted over winter break to give away can be donated to the American Association of University Women Murfreesboro chapter for its annual book sale. Donations are being accepted now for the AUAU’s annual sale to benefit the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship for MTSU Students, which will be held March 30-31 in the Keathley University Center in front of Phillips Bookstore.

On-campus donations may be dropped off at the James E. Walker Library, and sidewalk pickups can be arranged there, too. Contact Ann Funkser at 615-896-2538 or afunkser@mtsu.edu.

Busy

Sells, who replaced Dr. Bob Glenn (now president at Athens State University in Alabama) in August, said priority items for the spring will include “working to communicate effectively with students about upcoming changes in tuition and fee structures” and “to offer regular updates on President Sidney A. McPhee’s strategic workgroups working on the “Positioning the University for the Future” project.”

“We will, of course, be a strong focus on recruitment and enrollment issues, including moving to a direct-lending program for financial aid,” Sells said. “We also expect to continue to focus on important student initiatives, including opening the new pharmacy at Student Health (Services), which will also be open to faculty and staff; making continued progress on the Student Union project; and supporting a healthy spring fraternities program.”

Along with initiatives, the spring semester will feature distinguished lectures and the Spring Honors Lecture Series, “Searching for Athena: An Exploration of Honors and Gifted Education” (full schedule at www.mtsu.edu/honors/spring_lecture_series/) as well as the annual Blue Raider Athletic Association (BRAA) Fall and Spring Banquets.

For example, a full schedule of Black History Month events is available by visiting www.mtsu.edu/aahm or calling the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs at 615-898-5812.

The 37th annual Groundhog Day Luncheon for the MT baseball program is planned on Monday, Feb. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Murphy Center Monte Hall Arena floor. Tickets will be $20 each. For reservations, call the MTSU Athletics Ticket Office at 615-898-2103 or 1-888-YESS-MTSU, or the Blue Raider Athletic Association office at 615-898-2210.

For the Jazz Artist Series, pianist and composer Donald Brown will appear Thursday, Feb. 12, to headline a busy February for the School of Music. Call 615-898-2403 or visit the School of Music Web site at www.mtsu.edu/osa for more details and other music events.

MTSU’s Office of Financial Aid once again will participate in College Goal Sunday, which will be held from 2 until 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, in the Business and Aerospace Building’s State Farm Lecture Hall. MTSU personnel will assist prospective students and answer questions. For more information, call 615-904-8414 or visit http://financialaid.web.mtsu.edu.

Some of the Beginner’s Youth Orchestra’s young minds will visit campus and participate in the Instrument Convention on Thursday, Feb. 26, and the Science Olympiad on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The Admissions Office’s Spring Preview Day, which are open to prospective students and their families to tour the University, are set for Saturday, March 21, and Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10 a.m. each day at the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

National Women’s History Month activities through March can be found by visiting www.mtsu.edu/womensstu or calling the Office of Women’s Studies at 615-898-5910.

Scholars Week activities will be March 30 through April 3. For more information, call 615-898-2071.

The Record Jan. 12, 2009 page 5

Spring 2009 dates to remember

• Jan. 15—Classes begin
• Jan. 19—Martin Luther King holiday (no classes)
• March 9-14—Spring break
• March 13—University closed
• April 29—Last day of class
• April 30—Student study day (no classes)
• May 1-7—Final exams
• May 9—Commencement (9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ceremonies in Murphy Center)

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The President’s Commission on the Status of Women is accepting applications from MTSU faculty for three grants of $1,800 each to be awarded in sum- mer 2009 for inquiry into women’s issues into the curriculum. The grants are for use by tenured or tenure-track professors for the revision of a course, revision of a general education course for the Study Abroad program, creation of a new course, reconceptualization of a current minor or creation of a new minor.

A proposal for a Curriculum Integration Grant should include a completed grant application form; a brief description of the project; a statement of goals and objectives; a timeline for completion and implementation of the project; a tentative bibliography, including materials on the theories and methods of curriculum integration; a curriculum vitae. The 2008 grants were awarded to Dr. Felicia Miyakawa, assistant professor of music; Dr. Bill Levine, associate professor of English; and Dr. Kari Neely, assistant professor of foreign languages. Miyakawa used her funding to create “Women in Music,” a course that features only women composers in the Western tradition, but also women performers, women patrons and women as objects and symbols in the marketing and consumption of music, the syllabus reads. Levine’s course, “Women Writers of the Restoration and British Eighteenth Century,” focuses on “selected Restoration and 18th century women writers’ lives and works and participation in the ongoing struggle for inclusion and legitimacy within a male-dominat- ed public sphere,” according to the syllabus. Neely’s course, “Women of the Middle East: Representations and Perceptions,” takes a look at “images of Middle Eastern women and their reception in the Middle East and the West,” states the syllabus. “Through an exploration of notable women such as Cleopatra, Mary (mother of Jesus), and the Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum, we address how political and social issues have been and are played out upon women.”

The Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the PSCW will review the proposals. The deadline for faculty to submit grant applications is Friday, Jan. 30. Details are available at iw.mtsu.edu/pscw/grants.htm. For more information, contact Dr. Samantha Cantrell in the Office of Research Services at 615-494-8751 or scantrell@mtsu.edu.

Apply by Jan. 30 for grant to infuse curriculum with women’s issues

**Transfer Student Services still growing**

New director, new office location aim to ease transition

by Stacy Williams

New semester, new director, and a new office location are aims for Transfer Student Services, which has seen a number of changes in its programming in recent months.

Dr. Kari Neely, assistant professor of music, resigned her position last year to pursue her doctorate. In her stead is Dr. Tom Tozer, who serves as director for the Office of Community and Staff Development: Alumna Nancy R. Allen, who served as administrative assistant to the Dean of Students, is now accepting applications for the position of assistant director of Transfer Student Services. Many offices and programs, including those of the Academic Affairs and Office of Research Services, are using BlueInfo software to communicate more efficiently with each other.

“With BlueInfo, we can form a air and exchange progress notes with TSS. This fall, 33 stu- dents participated in the pro- gram,” said Blackwell. “We still have a lot to do, but it’s been very successful.”

In addition to MAP, Undergraduate Transfer Services is accepting applications for the Study Abroad program. The majority of students come from “feeder schools,” mainly Motlow State Community College, Columbia State, Nashville State and Volunteer State. Students from all over the country are attracted to the aerospace, recording industry and concrete management programs, Blackwell says.

In preparation, Blackwell is enhancing the office technology to benefit students and administration. Students tend to consult the Internet first, she notes, so providing concise information online is crucial.

**Honors College initiatives nears 90 into Phi Kappa Phi**

Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is housed under the Honors College. Among the new ini- tiatives of TSS is the “no transfer” policy, which states that students’ questions will be answered on the spot or specifically directed to the correct administrator. If we have to take their name and number and call them back with the right answer, we take their name and num- ber and call them back with the right answer,” says Blackwell, the former assistant director of the Honors Program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

This kind of direct attention con- firms Blackwell’s dedication to tran- sfer students. She says her work at UT Knoxville has given her insight to assist the MTSU community. MTSU’s appeal is strengthened by support services offered exclusively to trans- fers.

“I definitely can empathize with the transfer students because, being a transfer student myself, I have experienced a lot of the things that they talk about, just from the administrative side,” said Blackwell, adding that she was drawn to MTSU’s student-centered atmosphere.

Current transfer students make up nearly half of the student body at MTSU, according to recent surveys conducted by TSS. If you look at the total popula- tion of all four to five years of stu- dents that are here now, the popula- tion [of transfers] is right around 44 percent,” Blackwell says.

As the enrollment of community colleges increases, so will the number of transfer students. The majority of students come from “feeder schools,” mainly Motlow State Community College, Columbia State, Nashville State and Volunteer State. Students from all over the country are attracted to the aerospace, recording industry and concrete management programs, Blackwell says.

In preparation, Blackwell is enhancing the office technology to benefit students and administration. Students tend to consult the Internet first, she notes, so providing concise information online is crucial.

All transfers begin with an online orientation, which is maintained by New Students and Family Programs, Blackwell says.

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Honors College initiatives nears 90 into Phi Kappa Phi

by Randy Weiler

Nearly 90 MTSU students were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi during Dec. 2 ceremonies in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room.

“These students rank in the top 7.5 per- cent (for juniors) and top 10 percent (seniors and graduate students) of their respective colleges,” said Dr. Lucy Langworthy, presi- dent of the MTSU chapter and adviser in the College of Liberal Arts.

“Ninety percent of our students on our campus has a standard this high. To achieve this, these students have had to have an insatiable desire to learn, a drive for excellence and a will- ingness to sacrifice and work hard. And from these students, we expect more.”

Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the University Honors College, added that these students must serve as “examples of education’s ability to enrich lives, expand wisdom and improve communities.”

Two special honorary initiates were inducted for community and staff endeavors: alumna Nancy R. Allen, who served as Rutherford County mayor from 1994 until 2006, and Tom Tozer, who serves as director for the Office of News and Public Affairs.

The primary objective of the national Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the recognition and encouragement of superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. The society is con- vinced that in recognizing and honoring those persons of good character who have excelled in scholarship, in whatever field, it will stimulate others to strive for excellence. Sixteen faculty members also were recog- nized as influential faculty by the student initi- dates. For a full list of the faculty and student honorees, please read this story online on the NPA We blog site at www.mtsu.edu. Phi Kappa Phi is housed under the Honors College. For information, call 615-898-2152.
State Farm donates $35,535 to support MTSU programs

by Drew Dunlop
news@mtsu.edu

State Farm Insurance Company recently gave MTSU $35,535 to support a professorship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business as well as to fund the MTSU Science Olympiad, the annual Invention Convention and various activities that support the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans.

G. Ron Nichols, vice president of operations for State Farm Insurance Companies, presented the check to MTSU officials.

The largest portion of State Farm’s donation, $25,000, was earmarked for supporting a professorship in the Jones College of Business. Dr. Jim Burton, business dean, said that State Farm has been a generous supporter of the college for many years.

“This grant will help address numerous needs,” Burton said. “Our need now is to recognize and reward excellent professors.”

The dean added that the funds are particularly helpful now because anticipated budget cuts will make raises unlikely for professors this year.

Nichols said that the company’s support for the Science Olympiad and Invention Convention programs stems from a concern about America falling behind other nations in the sciences.

“We need high-school students to get excited about math and science with hands-on activities. These programs at MTSU are stimulating their creativity,” Nichols said.

Dr. Tracey Ring, professor of elementary and special education, and Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, accepted the donations earmarked for the education and science programs.

“The donation ($4,000) for the Science Olympiad program will allow us to fund several teams of high-school and middle-school students to compete to the Olympiad in the spring,” Cheatham said. “We bring in teams from as far away as Chattanooga to participate.”

Ring, organizer of the Invention Convention, which is sponsored every year by State Farm, added that the gift of $3,335 will have a similar impact on children on who participate in the program.

“We bring in fourth- through sixth-graders for the convention,” Ring said. “We take the students through all the stages of an invention. They must come up with the invention, write and explain the invention, and all the math and the parts of the invention must be identified.”

Invention Convention participants create either a new game or something to make life easier. More than 300 students come each year to exhibit their inventions.

Nichols also noted State Farm’s ongoing support of the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans program. MTSU officials said that State Farm, with its most recent contribution of $3,200, has been instrumental in keeping the program running.

Get weather-related delays, cancellations and closings first!

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for the last two years, people around campus have been seeing less of Lisa Batey, Human Resource Services benefits director. Folks also have been seeing less of Batey’s HRS colleagues Karen Milstead and Wendy Brown. It’s not that these busy, industrious women have been missing work. Collectively, they have lost 220 pounds.

The trio and about a dozen other MTSU colleagues began their quest through an at-work Weight Watchers program.

Batey took it several steps further: She began to walk, run, swim and bike the headlines off. She registered for the MTSU Faculty and Staff Wellness Program. And she’s lost 100 pounds.

“What made my mind up to do something about this was that I would be out of breath walking to my mailbox 50 or 60 feet or walking up steps at a Titans game,” she said. “I thought I’d not be able to see my daughter, Meagan, graduate from vet school at the University of Tennessee. I thought I’d not be alive to see my steps at a Titans game,” she said. “I was trying to increase my endurance, not my speed, at that point. Eventually, I got to where I could run for 10 minutes without stopping.”

When the weather improved and temperatures rose, she headed to the Stones River Greenway. Her Miniature Schnauzer, Roxie, and Great Dane, Brutus, “loved it,” she said. Batey wanted to prepare for Spot run, held on campus, with Spike, her Jack Russell Terrier. She would be her first competition.

She then decided to try what she calls sprint triathlons: a 200- to 250-yard swim, a five- to 10-mile bike ride and a one- to three-mile run. That May, she competed in the Jewish Center Triathlon, which is for beginners.

“My goal was just to do it and survive it,” she said. “I liked it. I ended up doing three triathlons and one 5K in ’07.”

Last April, Batey entered the Music City Half Marathon. Later, she took part in the Middle Half along with HRS colleagues Gaye Barker and Tammie Dye. In 2009, she hopes to enter more triathlons.

“I can run three to five miles comfortably,” she said. “Anything above that is a struggle. But my favorite thing to do is take my dogs to the Greenway. “My philosophy is to eat less and move more. Plus, I’ll steal from the Weight Watchers slogan: ‘Thin feels better than food tastes.’”

Anyone interested in forming an at-work Weight Watchers program can contact Milstead at 615-988-2929 or kmilstea@mtsu.edu.

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) has been nominated, along with his fellow members of Take 6, for 2008 Grammy awards. Dent is nominated in the Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist category as the arranger of “Grace” from the CD “The Standard.” Take 6’s work on “Shall We Gather at the River” from the same CD is nominated for Best Gospel Performance, and guest soloist Till Brönner was nominated for a Best Jazz Instrumental Solo Grammy for Take 6’s “Seven Steps to Heaven.”

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneur- ship) recertified as a Certified Administrative Professional in November.

Dr. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) spoke to the Exchange Club of Murfreesboro

Dr. Richard Bauer (psychology) will present two papers at the Southeastern Psychological Association convention Feb. 18 and 19 in New Orleans.

Dr. Watson Harris (provost’s office) presented “Including Faculty in Emergency Planning” at the Society of College and University Planning Southern Regional Annual Meeting Nov. 7 in New Orleans.

Dr. Ronda G. Henderson (business communication and entrepreneur- ship) presented two papers, “Assuring E-Learning Quality” (with Dr. Betty F. Chapman of North Carolina A&T State University) and “Using Clickers to Facilitate Active Learning.”

Page 8 The Record Jan. 12, 2009