Results available now from more thorough faculty-evaluation tool

by Gina K. Logue

A t the end of each semester’s classes, MTSU students rate their professors’ performances by filling out questionnaires. In its continuing efforts to provide the highest quality service to students, the university replaced the traditional questions in fall 2008 with a teaching evaluation instrument created at the University of California at Berkeley, one that allows students to provide more meaningful feedback to help educators improve their teaching.

Results for fall 2008 are available now to all faculty for internal use, says Barbara Draude, assistant vice president for academic and instructional technologies and co-director of the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center. Students will assess their instructors for spring 2009 at the end of the semester.

Anecdotally, students and professors have agreed for years that the previous evaluation instrument did not give students the opportunity to provide more nuanced perspectives on their classroom experiences.

“It was a neutral instrument that didn’t upset anyone, but it didn’t do much good,” says Dr. Vic Montemayor, physics professor and former chair of the Pedagogy Task Force. “It was contentless. There was nothing there to help instructors improve their teaching.”

After some two years of debate through that task force, response to the Berkeley instrument was overwhelming. One hundred percent of faculty volunteers, 100 percent of deans and chairs and 76 percent of students found the Berkeley instrument superior in a pilot study conducted prior to fall 2008.

See ‘Results’ page 5

Unlikely barista’s book is summer ‘09 selection

by Gina K. Logue

S ummer readers can get a boost from MTSU’s Summer Reading 2009 title, How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else by Michael Gates Gill, as they prepare for the fall 2009 semester.

The Summer Reading Program, created in 2002, aims to provide a unifying experience for entering freshmen, give them a chance to read and interact with acclaimed authors and affirm the importance of reading as the basis for an early writing and interacting with acclaimed authors and affirm the importance of reading as the basis for an early writing and fulfilling life.

Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 29, and all University 1010 classes will discuss the selection.

Faculty members are being asked to incorporate the book into their classes when possible.

“As you prepare and/or revise your syllabi for the fall semester, please keep the MTSU Summer Reading Program in mind,” said Dr. Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center at MTSU.

“MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee listens to a question from Aasha Kabra, a junior pre-med/chemistry major, during a town-hall meeting at the Keathley University Center Theater focusing on leadership in uncertain times. The forum, sponsored by MTSU’s Office of Leadership and Service as part of Leadership Week 2009, offered students, faculty and staff another opportunity to ask questions and air concerns about funding, educational quality and opportunities for change. For more information on positioning the university for the future, including proposals from strategic work groups, please visit www.mtsu.edu/strategic.”

photo by Andy Heidt

SEEKING ANSWERS—MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee listens to a question from Aasha Kabra, a junior pre-med/chemistry major, during a town-hall meeting at the Keathley University Center Theater focusing on leadership in uncertain times. The forum, sponsored by MTSU’s Office of Leadership and Service as part of Leadership Week 2009, offered students, faculty and staff another opportunity to ask questions and air concerns about funding, educational quality and opportunities for change. For more information on positioning the university for the future, including proposals from strategic work groups, please visit www.mtsu.edu/strategic.

Town-hall talk

### Town-hall talk

**Unlikely barista’s book is summer ‘09 selection**

**Inside this edition:**

- Construction team builds on win, page 3
- Chemist provides lectures, expertise, page 7
- Campus growth still moving forward, page 6

**Web site waives fee to help with housing crunch**

*To help students, faculty and staff dealing with high prices and tight budgets, the MTSU Off-Campus Housing Web site has waived its $25 fee for posting notices of apartments to be sublet.*

The Web site (www.mtsuoffcampus.com) was created in November 2007 by the Office of Off-Campus Student Services in cooperation with Off-Campus Partners, a Virginia-based company providing services to nearly 30 universities.

“It is a Web site that allows students, faculty and staff to search the properties that are subscribed on that Web site by the type of housing they want and the location of the housing,” says Dr. Carol Ann Baily.

See ‘Web’ page 5

**Unlikely barista’s book is summer ‘09 selection**

by Gina K. Logue

Gill

“Students come to us in the fall expecting to discuss the Summer Reading Selection in classes and use it as the basis of assignments. How Starbucks Saved My Life would be a perfect starting point for discussions on a wide range of topics and is especially recommended for use in communications, education, psychology, sociology, business and English courses,” Witherow continued.

All new students are required to read the book prior to their arrival on campus in the fall, so How Starbucks Saved My Life may be perfect as the basis for an early writing or other assignment. The students will be expecting to discuss their summer reading book from a variety of perspectives.

Faculty who want to use the book in their classrooms may contact Witherow at 615-898-2339 or lwithero@mtsu.edu for a review copy.

Faculty and staff also are being encouraged to read the book and to join students at the University Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. in Murphy Center, where Gill will serve as the keynote speaker for the opening of the 2009-10 academic year.
The next 30 years is to decrease our dependence on coal-generated electricity. Consequently, one of the greatest challenges Tennesseans and TVA face over the next 30 years is to decrease our dependence on coal-generated electricity. The only way both coal-fired power plants are going to disappear anytime soon, and do not have to be closed, is to find a viable energy and energy efficient technologies. Failing to do so may only lead to more “Nightmares Before Christmas.”

Dr. Warner Cribb is a professor of geology in MTSU’s Department of Geosciences. Jennifer Pickering is a senior majoring in geology at MTSU. Cribb and Pickering, along with a Nashville chemistry teacher, a Rutherford County high-school student and a Kingston farmer, are investigating the dangers of coal ash and water pollution. The Kingston disaster is just another chapter in the legacy of so-called “clean” coal. The reality is there is nothing “clean” about coal. From mining to coal burning, it is all dirty business. We have all heard about the contribution of coal burning to global warming, and we are just beginning to understand the potential dangers of coal ash. Yet according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, coal supplies 23 percent of all energy in the United States and 63 percent of Tennessee’s electricity generation. Coal is our country’s most abundant, available and cheapest form of energy and energy efficient technologies. Failing to do so may only lead to more “Nightmares Before Christmas.”

Clearly, coal, with all its environmental problems, is here to stay. The Kingston disaster is just another chapter in the legacy of so-called “clean” coal. The reality is there is nothing “clean” about coal. From mining to coal burning, it is all dirty business. We have all heard about the contribution of coal burning to global warming, and we are just beginning to understand the potential dangers of coal ash. Yet according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, coal supplies 23 percent of all energy in the United States and 63 percent of Tennessee’s electricity generation. Coal is our country’s most abundant, available and cheapest form of energy and energy efficient technologies. Failing to do so may only lead to more “Nightmares Before Christmas.”
March 2 is deadline for Scholars Week online abstracts

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national anniversary.
The event was started to create a passion for learning science in kindergarten through 12th-grade students and change the way the students perceive science.

“Our kids see us as the edge of science,” director Dr. Pat Patterson says. The Olympiad was founded by Dr. Gerard Putz of Macomb County Intermediate School in Michigan in 1982 and patterned on an event that took place in Delaware. It was expanded to a national event in 1985, and this year marks its 25th

Expanding knowledge, one kid at a time

by Drew Dunlop
ncws@mtsu.edu

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MTSU will host its 15th Science Olympiad on Saturday, Feb. 28, continuing a tradition of “trying to expand kids’ knowledge of science,” director Dr. Pat Patterson says. The Olympiad was founded by Dr. Gerard Putz of Macomb County Intermediate School in Michigan in 1982 and patterned on an event that took place in Delaware. It was expanded to a national event in 1985, and this year marks its 25th

Construction team builds on national competition win

by Randy Weiler
rweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU’s Construction Management Technology Team continues to build a national name for itself among four-year colleges and universities. In a field of 36 teams, MTSU earned second place in the National Association of Home Builders student competition Jan. 19-21 in Las Vegas. The team has been first (2007), second (09) or third (’08) in each of the past three years. In the past 11 years, MTSU has placed in the top 10 eight times and cracked the top five for the past five years.

“We’ve been blessed,” said Dr. David Hatfield, construction management programs director and professor in the Department of Engineering Technology. “We work at it and it seems to pay off.”

MTSU, with about 165 students in the construction management program, competes against schools with 600 to 700 students in their program, Hatfield said.

The 2009 team included seniors David Taylor (team leader and director of construction operations), Brandon Butler (sales director) and Adam Bailey (marketing director) and juniors Shane Alexander (finance manager), Chris Jenson (area construction manager) and Austin Tenpenny (land acquisitions director).

The MTSU students spent two months in preparation for the competition, said Taylor, who added that he, Alexander and Tenpenny were part of a site visit to San Antonio, Texas, in early November.

The team conducted extensive market research, made themselves familiar with the intricacies of the local area, and wrote a 10-inch by 16-inch proposal book, The Villas of Silverado Hills, more than 100 pages long, that formed 80 percent of their score. The book was sent to competition judges in early January. The final 20 percent of their score came in a 15-minute presentation by the team members, followed by a question-and-answer session with the judges.

“It was quite an undertaking,” Taylor said. “All of us on the team never had been on a (construction-management) team before.”

Team members spent 14- and 15-hour days working together in the final weeks of the project, said Taylor.

Brigham Young University earned first-place honors. California Polytechnic State University-SLO placed third.

“Our construction-management students continue to shine in the eyes of our national construction industry,” said Dr. Walter Boles, chair of engineering technology.

The second-place performance is the result of student teamwork, industry advisers and faculty. Our students, faculty and industry advisers all deserve recognition for successfully competing with other programs across the nation, finishing in the top 10 year after year.”

The construction-management program is affiliated with the Rutherford County Home Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Tennessee and the National Home Builders Student Association.

For more information about the program, call 615-898-2781 or visit its Web site at http://jits.web.mtsu.edu/Construction.

Up to 100 full-time faculty can attend IT conference free

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Up to 100 full-time MTSU faculty members can receive free registration to the 14th annual Instructional Technology Conference March 29-31, ITTD officials said. This year’s theme is “Developing a Participatory Learning Culture.”

Featured symposium speakers at the conference, which will be conducted on campus and at the DoubleTree Hotel in Murfreesboro, include Dr. Michael Wesch, assistant professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University; Sarah “Intellagirl” Robbins, director of emerging technologies with Kelley Executive Partners at Indiana University; and Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities.

To register, visit www.mtsu.edu/~itconf/mitsipa; there is a $50 fee for a preconference workshop. Contact Robin Jones with questions at 615-898-2214 or rjones@mtsu.edu.

March 2 is deadline for Scholars Week online abstracts

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Faculty and students are preparing for Scholars Week 2009, which will be held March 30 through April 3, event organizers said.

Monday, March 2, is the deadline to submit online abstracts for poster and multimedia presentations to http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu/~1202/Scholars_Week/ScholarsForm1-28-09.asp.

Planned activities include talks, readings, performances, posters and multimedia performances as well as invited speakers and a luncheon.

Scholars Week’s events will feature department/college activities in discipline-specific venues for presentation of graduate, undergraduate and faculty scholarship.

The celebration will end in a universitywide showcase of posters, multimedia and performance on Friday, April 3.

For more information, visit the Scholars Week Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~research/scholarsweek.html.
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.

“Idiom Savant: Photographs by Jim Stone”

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 6-9:45 p.m. Sunday

Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC

For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

Monday, Feb. 23

News and Public Affairs “Get Noticed” Publicity Seminar

2-3 p.m., Cantrell Hall

No reservations required

For information, contact: 615-898-2919.

Spring Honors Lecture Series:

Dr. David Carleton, “No, Gifted Kids Will Not be Okay: Politics and Advocacy in Tennessee”

3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106

For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.shtml or contact: 615-898-2152.

Black History Month: Saul Williams, “Poetry and Liberation”

7 p.m., Murphy Center

For information, contact: rkershaw@mtsu.edu.

Monday, Feb. 23

MTSU Jazz Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall

For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Feb. 24

Tuesday, Feb. 24

News and Public Affairs “Get Noticed” Publicity Seminar

10-11 a.m., Cantrell Hall

For information, contact: 615-898-2919.

Black History Month: Jeff Johnson, “The Quest for Black Citizenship”

7 p.m., Murphy Center

For information, contact: franklin@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 25

Wednesday, Feb. 25

News and Public Affairs “Get Noticed” Publicity Seminar

10-11 a.m., Cantrell Hall

For information, contact: 615-898-2919.

Black History Month: Quiz Bowl

7 p.m., BAS State Farm Room

sponsored by MTSU NAACP

For information, contact: cas4@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 26

Thursday, Feb. 26

Invention Convention

9 a.m.-noon, JUB Tenn. Room

For information, contact: tring@mtsu.edu.

Free Legal Clinic

sponsored by the June Anderson Women’s Center

7-9 p.m., JUB 206

Open to all MTSU personnel; appointments required

For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

Friday, Feb. 27

Black History Month: Stefanie Batten Bland, “Excavation Self: Choreography Workshops on Cultural and Racial Identity”

3-5 p.m., Fairview 140

For information, contact: nofsinge@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 28

Saturday, Feb. 28

Regional Science Olympiad

For information, contact: 615-898-5085.

March 1

Sunday, March 1

“MTSU On the Record—English Language School”

Jeff Hutcheson, district director of English Language Schools, and MTSU ELS

Director Donna Myers talk about the need to help people improve their English skills and prepare for university studies.

7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM


March 2

Monday, March 2


3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106

For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.shtml or contact: 615-898-2152.

Faculty Senate Meeting

4:30 p.m., JUB 100

For information, contact: 615-898-2582.

March 5

Thursday, March 5

MTSU Women’s Chorale

7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall

For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

March 6

Friday, March 6

First Friday Star Party: Dr. Chuck Higgins, “Weird Galaxies”

6:30 p.m., Wiser-Patten Science Hall 102

For information, contact: 615-898-5946.

March 8

Sunday, March 8

“MTSU On the Record—The Writer’s Loft”

J. Terry Price, director of MTSU’s creative writing program, talks about the art and the craft of nurturing budding authors.

7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM


Get noticed in The Record!

Submit Campus Calendar items for publication in the March 9 edition of The Record to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Deadline for publication in the March 23 Record is 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Please don’t forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why, plus contact information—with your submission!
As it turned out, the Berkeley instrument already was in use by the MTSU faculty-mentoring program, but Montemayor says that had no impact on the final decision. However, the mentoring program administrators say they are delighted with the questionnaire.

The former student-evaluation sheet would gauge students’ reactions to statements such as “course requirements are clear,” “the class begins at scheduled times” and “instructor presents material clearly” with ratings of “almost always,” “usually,” “rarely,” “never” or “not applicable.”

The more thorough questionnaire that students filled out in the fall posed 30 descriptions such as “has a genuine interest in students,” “lectures easy to outline or case discussion well organized,” “gives assignments and exams that are reasonable in length and difficulty,” “discusses recent developments in the field,” “invites criticism of one’s ideas” and “motivates me to do my best work.” Students were asked to agree or disagree with those descriptions of their professors on a scale of one (disagree) to five (agree).

Montemayor says MTSU made no modifications to the Berkeley instrument.

“This instrument has years of research behind it at Berkeley,” he says. “If you change anything, you invalidate the research.”

“Information Technologies was asked to develop a system where faculty could access this information securely online and archive those results for future use,” Draude says.

All data will become available at the same time. While students will continue to fill out paper Scantron ballots designed for computer tabulation, faculty and administrators will be able to view results online.

Priceless contributions

CELEBRATING SERVICE—MTSU’s Black History Month observance features recognition of those whose service and dedication set an example for every member of the university community. The month launched with recognition of the 2009 Unity Luncheon Honorees Feb. 3, shown in the photo above left. Holding their awards are, seated from left, Katie F. Wilson and Annie M. Cox, and standing, from left, William Washington, James Thomas, James E. McAdams and Carl Wade. Washington was custodian for the Cope Administration Building from its opening in 1964 until his retirement in 1994. In the photo above right, Dr. Adonijah Bakari, center, history professor and director of African-American studies, accepts the 2009 John Pleas Faculty Award from Professor Emeritus Dr. John Pleas, right, and MTSU President Dr. Sidney A. McPhee during a Feb. 10 ceremony. The John Pleas Faculty Award has been presented since 1996 to a minority faculty member who makes significant contributions to the university and community. Photos may be uploaded, and deans on how to access the system and how the results can be interpret-

Web

director of MTSU Off-Campus Student Services, Baily says property managers pay fees to post information such as location, price and type of apartments, condominiums and houses for rent and for sale. Various styles of living quarters and living arrangements are available.

“What we would like to do is expand the number of properties on the Web site in both directions—the number of low-cost student apart-

ments that might be available that have not previously joined the service as well as the higher-end apartments that would be available for our faculty and staff,” Baily says.

In addition, Baily says, she would like to invite owners of duplexes or people who rent apart-

tments over their homes to advertise on the Web site. She says it is a very
effective way to target the campus community.

“One of the property managers reported that she did not have any vacan-
cies in August,” notes Baily. “She usually had to scramble to fill her apartments. She had to turn peo-
ple away this August, and she attrib-
uted it to the Web site.”

Managers who want to advertise properties on www.mtsuoffcampus.com need only register with a user name and password of their choice, list the number of units they have available and select the kind of subscription they prefer. The Web site has a feature that can calculate the cost based on the number of units they have to offer. Photos may be uploaded, and managers can target either faculty and staff or students.

To make it easier for users to cut transportation costs, the Web site also features Carpool Central, a message board for people seeking rides to and from school; Ride Board, for rides wherever they want to go out of town; and a Roommate Matching message board.

“There’s even a space to sell or trade furniture—things that you would need for your apartment,” Baily says.

To find out more about the Off-Campus Housing Web site, contact the Office of Off-Campus Student Services at 615-898-5989 or send an e-mail to cos@mtsu.edu.
Help out Habitat and come ‘See Spot Run’ April 5 on campus

The blitz-build home will become a way students can give back to the campus fundraisers designed to generate money for the upcoming blitz build. Necessary to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity “blitz build” on campus during Homecoming. It’s one in a series of campus fundraisers designed to generate money for the upcoming blitz build. The blitz-build home will become a way students can give back to the Murfreesboro community.

Organizers have been working for months in preparation for the event, which features a certified 5K course through the MTSU campus that is both flat and fast. Local businesses and organizations have helped by providing financial support and volunteers.

“We’ve solicited a number of sponsors, worked to promote the event on and off campus and helped to recruit a number of participants and volunteers for the event,” said Amanda Samuels, coordinator of judicial affairs and adviser of See Spot Run.

“See Spot Run is a race unlike any other for the campus and the community. We encourage everyone to come out to enjoy a great event and support an even greater cause.”

Participants can register by visiting www.active.com or by calling 615-898-5812. On-site registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. the day of the event.

Minority Fellows at MTSU help enrich academic quality

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

What do the following have in common: “Family Violence Under a Multicultural Perspective in Colombia,” “The Role of Hydrogen Peroxide in the Cell Cycle: Regulation of Endothelial Cell Proliferation” and “A Predictive Model to Identify High School Dropouts in a Rural Mississippi School District”?

They’re the dissertation topics of Esperanza Camargo, Ogbeleya Onumah, and Mario Antonio Owens, respectively, recipients of MTSU’s Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowships.

MTSU actively recruits minority graduate students across the nation who are pursuing fields of study in which minorities are typically underrepresented. Camargo, who is from Colombia, most recently attended the University of Nebraska. Onumah attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville and Oberlin College in Ohio. Owens has degrees from Grambling State University and the University of Arkansas.

The three scholars are not only working toward their doctorates but also serve as full-time faculty at MTSU, receiving salaries of $30,000 each plus medical insurance.

Camargo is on the faculty in the criminal justice administration department, Onumah in the chemistry department and Owens in the business communication and entrepreneurship department.

As if research and teaching were not enough to keep them fully occupied, Camargo, Ogbeleya and Owens will serve on a panel and speak to McNair Program scholars on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 4:30 to 5:50 p.m. in Room 123 of Kirksey Old Main.

McNair Scholars, named after NASA astronaut Ronald E. McNair, who perished in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion, are undergraduate students at MTSU who are preparing for graduate study. They are either first-generation college students who need financial assistance or underrepresented minority students.

“We’re delighted to have them talk to our undergraduate students,” said Steve Saunders, assistant director of the McNair Program. “McNair students can hear firsthand what it takes to succeed in graduate school, what the challenges are and how to deal with those challenges. Given the workload the Minority Fellows at MTSU have, they are surely experts on good time management, one of the most important skills required of graduate students.”

All three fellows/instructors began their work at MTSU in August 2008, and all three plan to defend their dissertations this coming May. Saunders noted.

DTC adds ‘Middle Tennessee Record’ to program lineup

MTSU’s monthly TV program, “Middle Tennessee Record,” has been added to the program lineup for myDTC3, the local television channel available to DeKalb Telephone Cooperative TV customers in the Alexandria, Goodisonville, Smithville and Woodbury areas.

“MTSU has long been an important contributor to the education of many of our customers’ families,” said Nick Nokes, marketing administrator for DTC. “We’re excited to provide a local outlet for this program.”

“MTR” Producer John Lynch said that adding DTC brings the number of cable outlets carrying the program to 15. These cable outlets cover 24 counties in the region and serve more than a half-million viewers.

“MTR” also is available on YouTube via www.mtsunews.com.


Free outdoor-play symposium offered Feb. 28 in BAS

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

MTSU is offering a free workshop for parents and educators wanting to enhance their child’s learning in the great outdoors.

Play Symposium II: Physical Activity, the Outdoor Classroom and Recess is the title of the free daylong event, which will be held from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, and will meet in the lobby of MTSU’s Business and Aerospace Building.

Open to the community and specifically of interest to student teachers and home-school and public-school educators, the rain-or-shine event is sponsored by the Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth. Registration may be made in advance or on-site. Those who want lunch provided, at $9.50 per person, must pre-register, but participants are welcome to bring a sack lunch.

This workshop will offer attendees a choice of seven afternoon field-trip options as well as presentations by three professional educators—“The Outdoor Classroom” by Dr. Kathy Burris; “The Importance of Physical Activity and Recess for Children’s Learning” by Dr. Don Belcher and “The Blend of Man-Made and Natural Features in Outdoor Playscapes” by Cheri Lindley, state coordinator for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance.

The outdoor classroom is severely underutilized for a variety of reasons,” explained Burris, a professor of elementary and special education at MTSU, “but probably the greatest one is just a misunderstanding of what it is and how to connect outdoor activities with traditional indoor learning.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable attire, such as tennis shoes and jeans, for the symposium’s afternoon field trip.

This year, the day’s trip options will include an exploration of the indigenous aspects of an area nature trail, creating quality outdoor play areas for preschoolers, pond-centered curriculum and activities, science and play in the outdoor laboratory and outdoor learning via a cedar glade, among other activity options.

For more information, including advance registration, please contact Burris at 615-896-2323.
Dr. Amber Hinkle, quality lead in plastics manufacturing for Bayer’s Material Science business in Baytown, Texas, will be the keynote speaker at MTSU National Women’s History Month Women in Science invited lecturer.

Hinkle will speak from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in Overton-Patterson Science Hall Room 102 and also again during a 2-6 p.m. workshop Friday, Feb. 27, in MonoHan Hall Room 219, event organizers said.

Her Feb. 26 talk will be on “Women in Chemistry: Successful Leaders.” This workshop presentation will discuss how success is defined for many professionals in the scientific field today,” Hinkle said. “It will also show the many faces of successful women in sciences and highlight success stories from past interviewees of the American Chemical Society’s Women Chemists Committee.”

Hinkle’s workshop presentation will be on “Leading Without Authority.” “Leading in a volunteer organization comes with many challenges, not the least of which is having no direct authority over the volunteer members,” she said. “Therefore, leaders need to be able to engage and influence members to get things done, even when they may be putting up barriers or have different viewpoints.”


For more information, contact Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, chemistry professor, at 615-904-8253.
**Construction still moving forward across university**

by Tom Tozer
ittozer@mtsu.edu

Old, damp weather has had little impact on construction projects across the MTSU campus. Some work continued during winter break, while other projects got under way with the new semester. The following is a summary of current construction activity:

- Cummings Hall renovation is in progress, which includes installing new energy-efficient windows, upgrading bathroom fixtures and providing new mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure.
- Work has begun to replace the fire alarm system in Murphy Center.
- An underground electrical project has begun to install underground duct bank and a manhole/vault system for the western loop of campus on the James Union Building side.
- Work has begun on the G-Loop chilled water line, which will run from the south side of the Bragg Mass Communication Building through Walker Library parking lot to Alumni Drive. The dock at Mass Comm will be open.
- Work will begin later this semester to set the concrete slab for the Veterans Memorial on the west side of campus.
- Alumni Drive to Friendship Drive is now open and work will continue as weather permits.

Completed projects include the baseball stadium renovation; satellite chiller plant; Lyon Hall renovation; KOM exterior renovation; Student Health, Recreation and Wellness Center; Monohan and Cummings roof replacements; chiller plant; Lyon Hall renovation; KOM exterior renovation; Student Health, Library parking lot to Alumni Drive. The dock at Mass Comm will be open.

Places, People Around Campus

**8 undergrads showcase research in ‘Posters at the Capitol’**

by Randy Weiler
juweiler@mtsu.edu

Eight MTSU student researchers were among 40 from six Tennessee Board of Regents universities participating in the annual Posters at the Capitol Feb. 11 in Nashville.

The MTSU students, their presentations and faculty mentors included:
- Charysse Archer, “Feedback Control System for Laser Power Recycling Cavity” with mentor Yun Liu;
- Merranda Holmes, “The Production, Quantification and Fluorescent Detection of Anthrax-Simulation Edosposes” with mentor Stephen Wright;
- Rayna Sayed, “The Forewarning of Suicide” with mentor Gary White;
- Joshua Parker, “Constructing and Testing of a Microphone ARRAY for Acoustic Interferometry” with mentor William Robertson;
- Amy Petty, “Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Prescription Drug Misuse” with mentor Mary Ellen Freathy;
- Corderyl Martin, “Art Music Canon: Finding African-American Art Composers in the Western Music Tradition” with mentor Felicia Miyakawa; and
- Taylor Barnes (two entries), “Computational Analysis of the Through-Bond Interactions of Electronegative Atoms” with mentor Preston MacDougall and “Quantum Dynamics Simulations in MADNESS” with mentor Robert J. Harrison.

The posters were on display in the Legislative Plaza hallway.

**Accreditation**

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business recently achieved national accreditation by the Association of Small Business Development Centers. The TSBCD program is headquartered at MTSU and includes 12 offices across the state associated with other Tennessee Board of Regents institutions.

**Appointments**

Professor Marc Barr (electronic media communication) has been named director for education for ACM/SIGGRAPH, the world’s premier international organization for those who work in all aspects of computer graphics and interactive techniques, for a three-year term.

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) has been reappointed to a full membership in the graduate faculty.

**Certifications**

Maria L. Edlin (Center for Economic Education) and the MTSU Center for Economic Education have been certified to provide training for secondary teachers to receive the employment requirement to teach personal finance. The center is one of only eight Tennessee agencies so certified.

**Exhibitions**

Computer-designed ceramic cups by Professor Marc Barr (electronic media communication) will be included in a nationally juried exhibit at the Starbrick Clay Gallery in Nelsonville, Ohio, in March and April. Barr also has been invited to exhibit at the Cervini Haas Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz., in April in conjunction with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference.

**Passages**

Dr. Ernest W. Hooper (history) passed away Jan. 30. Dr. Hooper taught at MTSU from September 1960 until his retirement in September 1985. A World War II Navy veteran, he will be remembered for his volunteer work. Survivors include a son, James Hooper, and his wife, Brenda, of Chattanooga; a daughter, Mary Hooper, and her husband, Charles Boley, of Huntsville; a sister, Mary Frances Brandon of Smyrna; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews. A Murfreesboro memorial service is planned later this spring. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro, MTSU, Heifer International or your favorite charity.

Dr. Frederick J. Kittrell (economics and finance), 80, passed away Jan. 31. Dr. Kittrell taught at MTSU from September 1971 until his retirement in June 1999 and was a professor emeritus in the department. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Anne Black Kittrell; a daughter, Linda K. Poteet and her husband, Dale, of Pegram, Tenn.; sons Richard L. Kittrell and his wife, Cindy, of Murfreesboro; Douglas W. Kittrell and his wife, Camille, of Roswell, Ga., and Dan Frederick Kittrell of Murfreesboro; grandchildren Laura Lea (Joe), Emily and Brian Kittrell, Katie Seifert (Stephen), Hope Perry (Andrew), Benjamin Poteet (Kristin), Zehariah Poteet (Jessica), Grace Donoho (Jay), Rebekah Poteet, Joshitha Poteet, Caleb Poteet and Peter Poteet; great-grandchildren Jonathan and Adam Lease, Elijah and Ellen Seifert, Abigail, Eileen, Paul, Heidi, Kristina and Simeon Perry, Mason Beth Poteet, Braxton, Jackson, Audrey and Julia Poteet; nieces and nephews and beloved cousin Mary Jo Beadley. Dr. Kittrell was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, a member of North Boulevard Church of Christ and previously taught at David Lipscomb University.

**Faculty/Staff Update**

**The Record**

MTSU’s Office of News and Public Affairs publishes The Record every two weeks and distributes 3,500 copies free to faculty, staff, friends and media outlets.

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