One giant leap for MTSU

Landing Black College Dance Exchange is coup for non-HBCU

by Lisa L. Rollins lrollins@mtsu.edu

For the first time, the Black College Dance Exchange will be held at a university that is not an historically black college when the annual festival gets under way April 9-12 at MTSU.

First conducted at the college level in 1982, the BCDE is a coalition of dance companies from historically black colleges and universities with a mission based on education. Membership in the organization is open to dance departments, college/university dance companies, private studios, community groups and dance organizations.

MTSU has participated in the festival since 1989, when Anne Holland Cole of MTSU’s Department of Health and Human Performance became involved with BCDE. An associate professor of HHP at MTSU from 1967 to 2000, she also is a past BCDE board member.

This year’s “Crossroads: Dancing with Legends” event will feature master classes for students as well as a number of dance performances that will be open to the community. The festival will be sponsored by the HHP department and organized by HHP instructor Angela Armstrong, who currently serves on the BCDE board of directors, along with Lee Anne Carmack, chairwoman of the BCDE/MTSU steering committee, and with input from Cole, who’s now an adjunct professor of HHP.

“We fully support Angela Armstrong and the MTSU Performing Arts Company in their hard work to create a successful Black College Dance Exchange festival at MTSU,” said Dr. Dianne Bartley, HHP ORGANIZATION.

Windham Lecture sparkles with Pulitzer winner Diamond

by Lisa L. Rollins lrollins@mtsu.edu

Dr. Jared Diamond, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who has been called one of the great minds of our time, will help MTSU’s Windham Lecture Series celebrate its 18th anniversary by delivering this year’s lecture at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in the State Farm SunTrust Room of the BAS (Room S102).

A reception for Diamond will be held at 5 p.m. that day in the green room of the Aerospace Building.

A reception for Diamond will be held at 6 p.m. that day in the State Farm SunTrust Room of the BAS (Room S102). The lecture and reception are open and free to the public.

Currently a professor of geography at UCLA, Diamond won a Pulitzer Prize for Guns, Germs and Steel, which was not only a popular bestseller but also the top-selling science book on Amazon.com for five years. Collapse, his follow-up book, landed on major best-seller lists as well and is drawing positive reviews.

In Guns, Germs and Steel, Diamond explains the environmental and geographic reasons certain human populations have flourished, and in Collapse, he uses the same factors to explore why ancient societies, including the Viking colonies of Greenland as well as modern ones such as Rwanda, have fallen apart.

Dr. Diamond, who also authored two other best-sellers, Why Is Sex Fun? and The Third Chimpanzee, is the recipient of some of the most prestigious awards in the world. He has been called one of the great minds of our time.
Professor studies Iron Age lifestyle, builds research partnership in cold Scottish loch

by Dr. Tanya M. Peres
tperes@mtsu.edu

I first learned about crannogs in 2000 while working on my doctorate at the University of Florida. Dr. Nick Dixon, professor of underwater archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, gave an engaging lecture about these large circular houses built on timber pilings just offshore in lochs in the Highlands of Scotland.

In 2007, while teaching a study-abroad class in Scotland, I took my students to the Scottish Crannog Centre to see the crannog reconstructed by Dr. Dixon and his archaeological research team in Loch Tay. They had their reconstruction on more than 20 years of excavation of the submerged Oakbank Crannog—a house with rooms dating to the Early Iron Age (ca. 400-595 B.C.) on a cold loch floor that is well-preserved.

This trip proved to be both educational for the students and the start of my research collaboration with Dr. Dixon and the Scottish Crannog Centre. Since 1980, Dr. Dixon and a team of archaeologists with the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology have conducted underwater investigations of Oakbank Crannog (one of 18 known sites for this loch), located in Loch Tay near Kenmore. Oakbank and other submerged sites at Loch Tay are situated so the past inhabitants would have had ready access to the best arable land in the area. The cold loch waters and peat silt of the loch floor are responsible for the unprecedented preservation of organic remains at this site. The preserved organic remains, including plants, seeds, nuts, animal bones and droppings, and insects, number in the cubic tons and provide valuable information about past lifeways and the paleoenvironment of Loch Tay. The preservation of organic remains has resulted in a catalogue of wooden artifacts ranging from bowls and plates to a butter dish with butter still adhered to the surface. The remains are focused on animals and ancient diets—and, fortunately for me, little analysis had been completed on the animal remains excavated from Oakbank. A research partnership was born.

Funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at MTSU and a summer Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant, and hosted by the Scottish Crannog Centre to see the crannog reconstructed by Dr. Dixon and his research team of archaeologists with the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, I returned to Scotland in July and August 2008 to conduct the analysis of the animal remains from Oakbank Crannog. The working hypothesis has been that the generations of the family that lived at Oakbank were wealthy farmers, growing domesticated crops along the lakeshore, collecting wild fruits and berries from the nearby forests and hills and raising domestic livestock such as cows, pigs, sheep and goats. It is thought that these farmers did not need to hunt the local wildlife nor catch fish from the loch, because the agricultural productivity of the land was so great. Part of my research was to test this hypothesis: Which animals were eaten by the people that lived at Oakbank—domestic and wild, or only domestic? Another part of my research was to develop a sampling strategy for future excavations at Oakbank and other crannog sites to insure the full range of animals used at the site were being recovered.

After analyzing the animal remains that were excavated over the past 20 years from Oakbank, I was able to show that these farmers were indeed raising domesticated animals including pig, cow, sheep and goat. I was also able to show that they were hunting roe deer, the smaller European cousin to our white-tailed deer. Roe deer inhabit the Scottish Highlands in abundance and would have made a good food resource alternative to the domesticated animals, as those also would have been used for resources such as milk and wool.

I also began searching for evidence of fishing at Oakbank during 2008 and will return in 2010 to finish this part of the project. I am currently seeking funding to continue this project and will be able to fund a student or two to assist me in finishing it. My collaboration with archaeologists in Scotland will not end with this project; I am in discussions with another archaeologist from the University of Edinburgh to collaborate on a field project in Scotland—which will include archaeology students from MTSU as well as the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Tanya M. Peres is an assistant professor of anthropology at MTSU.

Essex roundtable

LEGAL EAGLES—Dr. Frank Essex, standing, professor emeritus of political science, poses with his former students. From left are 16th Circuit Judge J. Mark Rogers, attorney Reba Brown Carter and 16th Circuit Judge Ben McFarlin, all of Murfreesboro. Luci Honey Haynes of Nashville, chief deputy attorney general for the State of Tennessee, 22nd District Attorney General Mike Bottoms of LaVernecurb; and 16th District Public Defender Gerald Melton of Murfreesboro. The March 3 roundtable in the Honors College Amphitheatre was open to MTSU students pursuing careers in law and featured discussions about careers and changes in Tennessee’s judicial system.

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2nd of seniors’ art exhibits slated April 13-17 in Todd Gallery

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

The Department of Art at MTSU will serve as host for “Caution: Wet Floor,” the second of seniors’ art exhibits. “Caution: Wet Floor” will include works by participating artists Natalie Harrison, Emily May-Ragland, Erin Piper, Randy Purcell and Jonathan Wallraven.

Eric Snyder, gallery curator, said Harrison’s works “create images of abstracted streets that capture specific moments in time” and May-Ragland “use(s) warm, saturated colors to evoke sensuality in her images of mating couples.”

The pieces by Piper “explore intimate relationships and nostalgia through the use of her body,” Purcell uses “painting and sculpture to explore memories of real-life experiences, mixed with irrational visions of his thinking,” Snyder continued. Wallraven’s work “challenge traditional interactions between artist, art and community.”

The show and reception are free and open to the public. The Todd Gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or directions, contact Snyder at 615-896-5653.

FOR THE RECORD

Professor studies Iron Age lifestyle, builds research partnership in cold Scottish loch

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chairwoman. “We look forward to the opportunities this event and all its creative energy will bring to our university and greater community.”

Armstrong said the festival is expected to attract 300 to 500 students from MTSU and throughout the BCDE’s membership institutions.

The opportunity to serve as the 2009 host site for the national dance education event is “a dream come true” for Armstrong, an MTSU graduate, as well as many others.

“As a student who went through the Black College Dance Exchange, I used to think how wonderful this conference was compared to others,” she said.

“There is such an enhanced degree of one-on-one involvement with the dance experts, and the energy and camaraderie that you get from this event is unparalleled.”

“When I finally became a director, I had that same vision—to bring this conference to MTSU. ... It always has such a positive, reinforcing energy.”

In addition to educational, hands-on dance workshops and master classes, the BCDE will feature a public concert by the prestigious Dallas Black Dance Theatre II and Alvin Ailey II, a dance company universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country’s best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today’s most outstanding emerging choreographers.

Ailey II’s artistic director, Sylvia Waters, will be honored during the BCDE event for her many contributions to dance. The late Alvin Ailey personally appointed former Aliey member Waters as artistic director in 1974. Under her direction, Ailey II has become one of the most popular dance companies in the country, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs.

Schedule details for the BCDE will be available at the event’s Web site, www.mtsu.edu/BCDE. For information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Armstrong at ararmstro@mtsu.edu.

Learn ‘How Things Work’ at MTSU at second Alumni Summer College

by Rhonda Wright
rwright@mtsu.edu

MTSU’s second Alumni Summer College will welcome participants to campus Wednesday through Friday, June 24-26. As an annual event, Alumni Summer College is an opportunity to expand participants’ knowledge of interesting subjects with fellow Blue Raiders.

A curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours has been tailored for these members of the university community. Open to MTSU alumni and friends, the college will be a fun-packed three days of learning. While exploring this year’s theme of “How Things Work,” we will be studying a variety of MTSU programs.

The college begins with a tour of campus and a backyard picnic at the Alumni House. During the program, ASC students will:

• be treated to a candlelight printing on the Franklin press at the Walker Library;
• be introduced to MTSU’s new online community;
• have an extensive aero-space session and lunch at the airport;
• learn about alternative fuels and vehicles; and
• tour the milk-processing plant on campus and enjoy a milk and ice-cream tasting.

The class will travel to Lynchburg, Tenn., for its field trip, where members will eat at Miss Bobo’s Boarding House Restaurant, tour the Jack Daniel’s Distillery and taste its family of brands, mill around the town square, go to barbecue school and feast on dinner at Barbecue Hill.

The tuition for Alumni Summer College is $195 per person, and the registration deadline is Wednesday, May 20. Space is limited. Tuition includes all classes, seven meals and transportation from the Alumni House each day. A detailed schedule and registration information are posted on www.mtalumni.com.

Contact me at rwright@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2922 with any questions.

Rhonda Wright is assistant director of Alumni Relations.

Correction

A story on page 3 of the March 23 print editions of The Record, “Trailblazing speakers bringing unique views to campus: ‘Smart design’ guru Oakley to lecture April 1,” misspelled designer David Oakley’s name.

New CoachStockstill.com site gives fans more access to football news

from MT Athletic Communications

goblueraiders.com

Blue Raider fans now have unprecedented access to the Middle Tennessee football program with the launch of Coach Rick Stockstill’s new Web site. CoachStockstill.com is a part of GoBlueRaiders.com, the official Web site of Middle Tennessee athletics, but will provide more of an inside look to Blue Raider football.

“We wanted something to supplement GoBlueRaiders.com with more interactivity. We would like to be on the cutting edge to give fans a total immersion into the Blue Raider program that only the newest technology can provide,” Stockstill said. “Some schools have sites just for recruiting, but we wanted to provide a venue that every Blue Raider fan and the general public can enjoy.”

Recruiting Coordinator Justin Watts sees the site as a great aid on the recruiting trail.

“The site will help recruits visualize all the great things we tell them about Middle Tennessee football, and they get to see what being a Blue Raider is all about before even visiting campus,” Watts said.

The newly designed site will provide fans with an interactive look at the Blue Raider football program. Fans will get an inside glimpse into every facet of the program, including coach and player bios, academics, program history and football facilities. The site will continue to grow and new interactive videos and stories will debut throughout the spring.

“Since interaction is one focal point of the new Web launch, Coach Stockstill’s site will serve as a gateway for several forms of communication that will provide the public with up-to-the-minute information and details of the program never seen before,” said Andy Vaughn, the program’s assistant director of football operations.

Stockstill will get in on the action with Twitter posts that he will update from his Blackberry. The coach also will have a presence on Facebook to share even more information and contact with fans. The Facebook site allows fans to upload pictures and videos of their own favorite Blue Raider moments while keeping up with the program.

The Blue Raider football program also will publish a blog, “The Blue Raider Stock Report,” which will provide daily updates and media content to the public, including practice reports, interviews and guest blogs by the coaching staff.
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.
Visit www.mtsune.ws for other cable outlet airtimes.

Through April 16

Photo Exhibit: “Al Sol: Photos by Stella Johnson” 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.

April 6

Monday, April 6
National Women’s History Month: “An Evening with Marjane Satrapi” 7 p.m., State Farm Room, Business and Aerospace Building (BAS N102)
For information, contact: 615-494-8809.

Stones River Chamber Players 7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 7

Tuesday, April 7

NHWM: Health and Safety Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Keathley University Center Knoll
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

LT&ITC’s First Tuesday Information Literacy Series: Jason Vance, “Copy and Paste Plagiarism: Promoting the Ethical Use of Information Among Undergraduate Students” 11:40 a.m.-1 p.m., Peck Hall 106

April 8

Wednesday, April 8


MTSU Percussion Ensemble 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 9

Thursday, April 9

Health and Education Fair sponsored by the School of Nursing and Student Nurses Association 10 a.m.-2 p.m., KUC
For information, contact: 615-898-5729.

Red Cross Blood Drive and Bone-Marrow Typing 10 a.m.-3 p.m., KUC 322
For information, contact: 615-898-5729.

College of Basic and Applied Sciences Awards Day 3 p.m., Tennessee Room, JUB
For more information, contact: 615-898-2613.

MTSU Guitar Ensembles 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 12

Sunday, April 12

“MTSU On the Record—Summer Language Institute” Dr. Shelley Thomas of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures hosts the seventh annual event introducing a revolutionary method of learning foreign languages for teachers, law enforcement personnel and others.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available anytime at www.mtsune.ws.

April 13

Monday, April 13

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

April 14

Tuesday, April 14

Tornado-Siren Testing 12:20 p.m., campuswide (No action is required by building runners)
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

April 16

Thursday, April 16

Grace Moore Vocal Competition 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Saturday, April 18

Admissions Office Spring Preview Day 10 a.m., Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center
For information, contact: 615-898-5670.

April 17

Friday, April 17

MTSU On the Record—The Rural Landscape” Dr. Doug Heffington, who teaches a class on rural geography, talks about what his students have learned.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available anytime at www.mtsune.ws.

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Induction Ceremony 2-4 p.m., Room N109, Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building
For more information, contact: 615-898-2437.

MTSU Symphony Orchestra 4 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.
has received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (known as the “genius grant”), the Conservation Medal of the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Carr Medal and Japan’s International Cosmos Prize. In 1999, then-President Bill Clinton bestowed the country’s highest civilian award in science, The National Medal of Science, for Diamond’s landmark research and the Diamond’s landmark research and the National Medal of the Zoological Society of Japan’s International Cosmos Prize.

The MacArthur “genius grant”), the Conservation medal, the Windham Medal of the Zoological Society of Japan’s International Cosmos Prize.

In 2001, he received the Tyler Prize for Environmental Breakthrough Discoveries in Evolutionary Biology. Dr. William Windham was a member of the MTSU faculty from 1955 to 1989 and served as chairman of the Department of History the last 11 years. The late Westy Windham earned a master’s degree in sociology at MTSU and was the founder of Great American Singalong. The inaugural Windham Lecture in 1990 featured Drs. Dan T. Carter of Emory University and Dewey W. Grantham of Vanderbilt University, who spoke on “The South and the Second Reconstruction.” Since then, the Windham Lectures have addressed topics spanning from American music to presidential rhetoric to gambling to U.S. foreign policy.

The Windham series is sponsored annually by the College of Liberal Arts with assistance from the department within the college. For more information, please contact the College of Liberal Arts at MTSU at 615-494-7628.

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Middletown, Tenn. – The National Alliance of Catholic School Students (NACSS) held its annual Convention in October of last year. Attendees included students from across the United States, representing over 500 schools.

One of the highlights of the convention was the presentation of the NACSS President’s Award, given to a student who exemplifies the ideals of the organization. This year’s recipient was Sarah Beth Lee, a senior at MTSU.

Lee has been involved in several NACSS activities, including serving as a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Council and participating in the NACSS National Leadership Conference. She has also volunteered at local elementary schools while assisting in the Read to Succeed program, and has been recognized as a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

In addition to her involvement in NACSS, Lee is an academic achiever. She maintains a 3.9 GPA while playing collegiate softball, and was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference team in both 2009 and 2010. She is also a member of the Rose and Emmett Kennon Hall of Fame, which recognizes Middle Tennessee’s Athletics Department.

Lee says her greatest accomplishment is receiving the Raider Award for athletes with a 4.0 GPA and being a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Council. She credits her success to a combination of hard work and support from her coaches and teammates.

“I love being a student athlete at MTSU,” Lee said. “It’s something I’m really passionate about and I think it’s important to balance both sports and academics.”

Lee plans to attend graduate school in public history and eventually work for the state or National Park Service as a preservationist for an historical site. She says her greatest accomplishment is reaching the finals of the Southern Intercollegiate Tournament.

For more information about the National Alliance of Catholic School Students, visit www.nacss.org.
Graphic novelist views Iran through prism of women’s rights

by Gina K. Logue
getologue@mtsu.edu

I ranian author Marjane Satrapi, whose novel *Persepolis* recently was made into a movie, is slated to speak at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 6, in the State Farm Room of MTSU’s Business and Aerospace Building (Room S102). The free public event will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution.

One of the best-known Iranian women artists in the West, Satrapi uses visual and narrative elements to tell stories that illuminate children’s perspectives, women’s rights, political oppression and daily life in Iran in the 1970s and 1980s. The wearing of the veil, coming of age, political oppression, conflicts between East and West, and migration are among the many issues Satrapi addresses in her work.

Several instructors at MTSU have incorporated *Persepolis* into their courses this spring. A blurb from the dust jacket of *Persepolis* describes the novel this way: “In powerful black-and-white comic-strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to 14, that years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.”

Satrapi’s presentation is sponsored by MTSU’s Middle East Center with support from the Distinguished Lecturer Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the National Women’s History Month Committee, the College of Liberal Arts and the University Honors College. A book signing and reception will follow Satrapi’s lecture.

For more information, contact Dr. Allen Hibbard, director of the Middle East Center, at 615-494-8809 or ahibbard@mtsu.edu.

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**Faculty from page 8**

Randal Lee Clark; and three brothers, Drs. James Eldred Wiser, C. Wymer Wiser and Winfred L. Wiser, Mrs. G. Frazier, a member of East Main Street Church of Christ, is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Anne Clark of Covington, Ga., and Peggy Lee Frazier of Murfreesboro; a brother, Verlon Wiser, and a sister, Eunice Driver, both of Shelbyville; grandchildren Crystal Pulliam of Covington, Ga., and Matthew Lee Brown of Fall Creek Falls; and great-grandchildren Autumn Pulliam, Reagan E. Brown and Joshua L. Brown.

Dr. Larry W. Howard (management and marketing), 58, passed away March 12. He had worked at MTSU since August 1999. A native of Zeeland, Mich., and the son of the late Wilmer and Esther Boerman Howard, Dr. Howard is survived by his wife, Ruth Howard; stepdaughters Katelyn and Deanna Thurow of Murfreesboro and Dena Osborne of Colorado Springs, Colo.; sisters Sharon Riley of Loveland, Ohio, and Linda Leach of Hopkins, Mich.; and grandchildren Tara and Spencer Osborne. Memorials may be made to the Arthritis Foundation.

Dr. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) presented a paper, “A Values-Based Approach for Changing Exercise and Dietary Habits: An Action Study,” at Oregon State University March 6 as part of its guest-student panel series. Dr. Warner Cribb (geosciences) and undergraduates Aaron Mayfield and Brad Anderson presented “Hazardous metals in Tennessee Copper Basin stream sediments: sources, concentrations and distributions,” at the 2008 meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Tampa on March 13. Cribb and undergraduates Jennifer Pickering, Jessica Tonish and James Cares also presented “Optimization of X-ray fluorescence spectrometry for environmental analysis of arsenic at low concentrations in sediment and soil materials” at the same meeting. Both also were published in Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, Vol. 41, No. 1.

Dr. Joon Soo Lim (journalism) is scheduled to perform at Binghamton University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Qualitative and Interpretive Research, the Critical Race Theory Speakers Series and the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Cultural Studies.

Dr. William Yelverton (music) performed guitar concerts in February at Wolford College in Spartanburg, S.C.; the University of South Carolina in Columbia; Triangle Guitar Society in Durham, N.C.; Elon University in Elon, N.C.; C. Weaver Academy in Greensboro, N.C.; and at Vanderbllt’s Blair School of Music in Nashville. In March, he directed and performed in the Tennessee Guitar Festival at MTSU, a five-day festival made possible by grants written by Yelverton and received from the Tennessee Arts Commission and the D’Addario Foundation, among others. Yelverton is scheduled to perform at Binghamton, N.Y., in May with pianist John Covelli; in Buffalo, N.Y., at the Rantucci International Festival; and at the Classical Minds Festival in Houston, Texas, in June.

**Presentations**

Dr. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) presented a paper, “A Values-Based Approach for Changing Exercise and Dietary Habits: An Action Study,” at Oregon State University March 6 as part of its guest-student panel series. Dr. Warner Cribb (geosciences) and undergraduates Aaron Mayfield and Brad Anderson presented “Hazardous metals in Tennessee Copper Basin stream sediments: sources, concentrations and distributions,” at the 2008 meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Tampa on March 13. Cribb and undergraduates Jennifer Pickering, Jessica Tonish and James Cares also presented “Optimization of X-ray fluorescence spectrometry for environmental analysis of arsenic at low concentrations in sediment and soil materials” at the same meeting. Both also were published in Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, Vol. 41, No. 1.

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**Publications**

Drs. Mark Anshel, Colby Jubenville (health and human performance) and Toto Sutarso (information technology) have published their article, “Racial and Gender Differences in Sources of Acute Stress and Coping Style Among Competitive Athletes,” in the journal of Social Psychology, Vol. 149, pp. 159-177.

Barbara Draude (academic and instructional technologies) and Drs. Maria Clayton (English) and Tom Brinhaut (psychology) have published an article, “We’re changing again? No way!” A case study of a course management system transition,” in the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 5, pp. 131-137.

A co-authored book review by Drs. Debra Rose Wilson and Cathy Cooper (nursing) has been accepted for publication in the June 2009 Journal of the National Medical Association, 101(6). The review examines the 2006 book *Letters to My Sisters: Plain Truths and Straightforward Advice from a Gynecologist* by Dr. Ngozi Osagwu.

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State job puts MTSU senior right in the middle of history

by Bonnie Bailey
news@mtsu.edu

While most students at MTSU are preparing for their careers in classrooms this semester by memorizing facts, writing papers and taking tests, Steven Altum, a senior political science major, is preparing by getting out into the workforce and learning firsthand about his chosen career path.

Altum works amid the hustle and bustle of downtown Nashville at the State Capitol, his classroom for this semester, as an assistant clerk and vote runner for the Tennessee State Legislature.

“During session, I keep track of votes and I’m the speaker’s assistant, because his assistant can’t come on the floor while we’re in session,” Altum said.

He will gain internship credit through MTSU for his work, but the position is actually a full-time job. Altum works 40 to 60 hours a week and is not attending classes this semester.

“I was hired on by the chief clerk and the speaker (of the state House of Representatives) to work as an assistant clerk, and the university, through the political science department, gave me credit,” Altum said. “So they’re calling it an internship, but actually I was hired directly by the state.”

Altum says his job is worth much more than internship credit. It also serves as a valuable learning experience for someone who wishes to have a future in politics.

He was present in January for Rep. Kent Williams’ surprise election as speaker of the state House of Representatives, just one of many historic moments he will most likely witness during his employment with the legislature.

There are currently several bills coming up that may be controversial, Altum said. “I’m expecting some of them to get pretty heated when they come up on the floor,” he noted.

Altum’s employment with the Legislature will end in June when the session is scheduled to end, and he hopes to graduate in December.

“If I graduate in December, hopefully I’ll come back here (to the Legislature) full-time. I don’t know if I’ll do the same job that I do now or not,” Altum said. “I’d like to, it’s nice; but they might move me somewhere else if I come back full-time in January.”

“The experience has been good overall, he said. “I would love to be a representative up here. This is what I want to do. I want to go into public service,” Altum said. “I would love to be a representative up here. This is what I want to do. I want to go into politics.”

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Watches history—MTSU senior Steven Altum, center right, an assistant clerk at the Tennessee Legislature, looks on as Rep. Kent Williams, R-Elizabethton, center, receives congratulations on his election as state House speaker during the opening session of the Tennessee House of Representatives Jan. 13 in Nashville. Altum found himself in the middle of history when Democrats banded together to nominate and support Williams, giving him a one-vote victory over fellow Republican Rep. Jason Mumpower of Bristol.

Photos: MTSU Photographic Services, except where noted.

Winner of the 2009 Special Merit Award for Internal Toddahs and Newsletters, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III.

Dr. Marc J. Barr (electronic media communications) has been accepted into an internationally juried exhibition, “Feats of Clay XXII,” sponsored by the Lincoln Arts and Culture Foundation in Lincoln, Calif., and scheduled for the McBean Terra Cotta Factory in April and May. Barr’s entry was one of only 75 selected for the exhibition from 1,100 entries.

A computer-designed tea set by Dr. Warren Gill (agribusiness and agriculture) delivered a speech on cattle minerals at the Bledsoe County Cattlemen’s Association meeting in Pikeville on March 10.

Dr. John Omachonu (communication) has been selected as a fellow for the 2009-10 class of the ACE Fellows Program. During the next few weeks, Omachonu will be contacting various university campuses to determine a host institution where he will spend the next academic year being mentored by a president, provost or other academic leader. The ACE Fellows Program strengthens institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration.

Dr. Sidney A. and Elizabeth “Liz’’ McPhee and Dr. Linda Gilbert (educational leadership) were honored for their contributions to education March 26 at the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center’s annual Willie McGowan Banquet. Dr. McPhee has been MTSU’s president for eight years, while Mrs. McPhee has taught for 30 years, currently in the Murfreesboro City Schools system. Gilbert was named as the Tennessee Education Association’s distinguished higher-education professional in 2008 and also received the MTSU Foundation’s 2008 Public Service Award for her community work.

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