Partnership helps launch new Education Center

Students seeking higher education now have more options closer to home with the opening of the Middle Tennessee Education Center, a new higher-education facility in Shelbyville. MTEC, created by a partnership between MTSU and Motlow State Community College, will house classrooms as well as administrative and advising offices for both institutions to offer assistance and education for their students. The center is located in Shelbyville’s former Medical Arts Building at 841 Union St.

“MTSU is excited about the opening of the Middle Tennessee Education Center, which will help address the educational needs of the citizens in this region,” said MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. “The establishment of this Center is consistent with the mission of the university to make education more accessible, and we are proud to partner with Motlow State Community College in this very important endeavor.

“Additionally, we are grateful to Bedford County Mayor Eugene Ray and Bedford County officials for their foresight and help in making this possible. The programs and services provided through the Center will be a tremendous asset to the community.”

“The timing of this innovative opportunity comes at a paradoxical crossroad,” said Dr. MaryLou Apple, president of the Lynchburg, Tenn.-headquartered Motlow. “When we say we are expanding opportunities in this economic climate, people often ask why. The truth is that this partnership is tremendously cost-effective for our students. Area residents seeking additional education, nontraditional students and those still in high school will all have greater education-al options.

“County high-school students will have increased opportunities for
inside this edition:
1st McAlar alumna earns doctorate, page 3
$2.7M grant aids biology education, page 5
MTSU/UTSI academic pact taking flight, page 6

Way to go! Employees of the Year honored at April 22 event see page 4

Summertime at the rec
The employee summer family membership for $50 is back at Campus Recreation through Aug. 31. The rate won’t be prorated, so the sooner you join, the sooner you’ll enjoy all the benefits and activities offered by Campus Rec membership. “Family” includes spouse and dependent children up to age 21. For more information, call 615-898-2104, or stop by the main office. See you in the Rec!

What makes a leader? MTSU chiefs weigh in

LEAD BY EXAMPLE—Head football coach Rick Stockstill, above left center, is flanked by Blue Raider football players Alan Gendreau, Danny Carmichael, Jeremy Kellem and Phillip Tanner. Lt. Col. Mike Walsh, above right center, is joined by Army ROTC cadets Max Underwood, Evelyn Gutierrez, David Dang and Samuel Lopez. Both the coach and the commander are challenged every day to show leadership to their students and staff as well as instill leadership qualities in the people who follow them.

by Drew Dunlop
news@mtsu.edu

What makes a leader? MTSU chiefs weigh in

Walking on the MTSU campus will take you past students who are striving to become strong leaders, whether in student government or in one of the more than 225 student organizations on campus. More than 2,200 new MTSU graduates will go out into the world May 9, hoping to take leadership roles for which their university training has prepared them. Fifty current students are seeking formal training by minoring in leadership studies in the Department of Speech and Theatre, and more than 50 students contact the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership each day looking for opportunities to both lead and serve the university community.

Many seeking leadership roles have always felt the desire to lead. One who did is MTSU Football Head Coach Rick Stockstill, who says he began his leadership journey very early in life.

“At an early age, I played positions that required you to be a good leader. In first grade, I became a quarterback for a football team. In second grade, I was a catcher and a pitcher for a baseball team. And in third grade, I became first guard for a basketball team,” Stockstill explains.

For others, taking the reins comes later in life. Lt. Col. Mike Walsh, departing commander of the military science program at MTSU, says he didn’t think about becoming a leader until he was a junior in college.

“I wasn’t as interested in leadership as I was
Tough economy, internships add value to students, employers

by Katy Francisco Riddle
kridor@mtsu.edu

In a tough economy and an even tougher job market, MTSU Career Development Center Director Bill Fletcher was happy to discover a bright spot when comparing the office’s spring 2009 employer-recruiting numbers to a year ago.

In pulling together the data, Fletcher was not taken aback to find the number of degree entry-level positions posted by employers had dropped 54 percent from the previous spring. He was, however, pleased to see that the number of internship opportunities posted by employers was up 47 percent from a year ago.

“Internships are a cost-effective way for employers to maintain their company’s recruiting pipeline,” Fletcher said. “In uncertain times, employers can use interns to supplement their workload while keeping an eye on things to come.”

Internships are also valuable from a student perspective. Because the number of full-time degree positions is on the decline, the experience a student brings to the table, combined with an ability to network, is becoming increasingly important. According to Fletcher, internships are an indication of real-life experience and offer transferable skills that students can take with them to full-time positions.

“Whether we’re in a good economy or a not-so-good economy, my advice has always been to rely on an active job search, rather than a passive one,” Fletcher said. “With an active approach, you’re in control of your search and choose where you go and who you go after in terms of employment. In a passive approach, you’re leaving these decisions to the employer and relying on job postings to come your way. In any kind of economic downturn, an active and networking approach to the job search is absolutely critical.”

The MTSU Career Development Center has added programming to help students conduct an active job search. There are currently 6,872 students and alumni registered with the office in various stages of the career-exploration and job-search process. These students and alumni took multiple opportunities through March and April to learn job-searching techniques through programs such as “Job Searching 101,” which covered the basics of finding a job, and “The Seven Secrets to the Hidden Job Market” by national speaker and author Don Ashby.

Employers wanting to remain competitive in the market by posting their internship positions and requesting potential candidates’ resumes may obtain more information at the Center’s Web site at http://career.web.mtsu.edu/employers.htm.

Katy Francisco Riddle serves as career development center coordinator for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and interim coordinator of Greek Affairs.

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Moonbuggy teams take top safety prize in meet

MTSU’s Moonbuggy Teams continued their winning ways at the 16th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race April 3-4 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., bringing home a first-place safety award for their efforts.

The Great Moonbuggy Race is inspired by the original Lunar Rover engineers at the NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, whose creation journeyed across the moon during the last three Apollo missions in the early 1970s. The vehicles entering the race are human-powered and based on the original Lunar Roving Vehicle design: a compact, lightweight, flexible and durable “all-terrain vehicle” that can be transported to the moon and also carry astronauts on the lunar surface.

“Students participating within the Moonbuggy project face similar challenges to those experienced by the original design team,” said faculty adviser Dr. Saeed Foroudastan. “They develop skills in mathematics, science and engineering through the hands-on application of classroom curricula.”

Thirty-nine teams from universities and colleges across the United States as well as international universities, including teams from Puerto Rico, India, Germany and Canada, competed in this year’s event. MTSU entered two vehicles in the race, and Foroudastan said competition was intense as students assembled their vehicles from the carrying box.

“The time required for each team to assemble their Moonbuggy is added to the team’s race time,” he added. “The MTSU Moonbuggy teams’ assembling times were excellent. The 2009 race course was challenging enough to defeat 27 of the 39 college teams. The MTSU Moonbuggy Teams were among the 12 teams able to successfully finish the course.”

MTSU won the NASA Safety Systems Award by simulating the original Lunar Rover’s need for safety and efficiency. The vehicles were created from lightweight carbon fiber, making them fit for actual moon exploration, and their parts were hand-constructed on campus.

“When on the moon, it isn’t the speed which is most important,” Foroudastan explained, “it is the ability to transport the astronauts safely while efficiently performing the other necessary lunar tasks. This year’s competition was a tremendous learning experience, and we are very proud of the teams’ outstanding efforts and impressive designs.”


SAFETY FIRST—MTSU Moonbuggy Team members Seyha Chhim and Julissa French, above, lean into a curve on the course of the 16th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, Ala. Below left are the Moonbuggy Teams, with adviser Dr. Saeed Foroudastan kneeling in the center of the photo. Surrounding Foroudastan are from left, Chhim and French, Matt Reynolds, Johnny Guirdy, Michael Paris, Juan Gomez, Paul Martin III, Patricia Jones, Michael Krause, Kyle Mooneyham, Sherry Harner, Michael McGoldrick and Katie Sampuda.

photos submitted
M ore than 2,260 degree can-
didates are expected to
graduate in dual cere-
monies during MTSU’s 97th spring
commencement on Saturday, May 9.
Candidates from the College of
Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones
College of Business, and College of
Education and Behavioral Science
will receive their degrees in the 9
a.m. ceremony, which will feature an
address from G. Edmund “Ed”
Clark, president and chief executive
officer of FedEx Trade Networks Inc.
That afternoon at 1, degrees will be
conferred on candidates in the
College of Basic and Applied
Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass
Communication, and Continuing
Education and Distance Learning
after a commencement address from
Brig. Gen. Terry M. “Max” Haston,
assistant adjutant general of the
Tennessee National Guard.
Of the 2,261 set to graduate, 1,886 are undergraduates and 375 are
graduate students, said Sherian
Huddleston, associate vice provost
for enrollment services. The gradu-
ate students include 15 Ph.D.
candidates and one candidate for a
Doctor of Arts degree—the largest
degree of any doctoral candidate in
the single commencement at
MTSU.
Huddleston noted that
Morning ceremony speaker Clark is
responsible for the leadership and strategic
direction of the Memphis-based
FedEx Trade Networks, one of North
America’s largest-volume customs
entry filers and a leading provider of
FedEx’s comprehensive export and
import services and value-added logis-
tics.
Clark, a native of Shelbyville,
has been with FedEx for 26 years
and has headed FedEx Trade
Networks since its formation in
2000. Before assuming his position
at FedEx Trade Networks, Clark
held a wide variety of management
positions in finance and operations
at FedEx Express, both in the
United States and in Asia.
Clark, who holds a Bachelor of
Science degree in civil engineering
from Vanderbilt University and a
master of business administration
degree in finance from the
University of Houston, has three
children, and he and his wife reside
in Germantown, Tenn. Their eldest
son, Edmond, is a 2005 graduate
from MTSU with a bachelor’s
degree in aerospace with a profes-
sional pilot concentration.
Afternoon speaker Haston was
appointed to his current role of
assistant adjutant general in the
United States Army in 2005. Haston
was commissioned as an officer in
the U.S. Army in 1979 from MTSU.
After completing the Armor Officer
Basic Course at Fort Knox, Ky., he
was assigned to the XM-1 project and
subsequently to 3/278th Armored
Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort
Hood, Texas, as a tank platoon
leader.
Subsequent postings took him to
leadership positions in the 3-67
Armor, 2nd Armored Division until
he left active duty in 1983. He quick-
ly joined the Tennessee Army
National Guard’s Company M
3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment
as commander in Rockwood, Tenn.,
and again moved up in the ranks to
serve as chief of staff for operations
and J-3, Joint Forces Headquarters,
Tennessee. In May 2005, Haston
mobilized and deployed as the Chief
of Reserve Components, Multi-
National Corps Iraq (XVIII Airborne
Corps) and, after his return from the
Middle East, he has served as the J-3,
JFHQ TN. Among his many com-
mandations and awards are the Bronze
Star, the Legion of Merit medal and the
Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal.
Spring degree candidates who
have ordered their academic regalia
(caps, gowns, hoods, etc.) should
pick up the items at Phillips
Bookstore in the Keathley University
Center Monday through Thursday,
May 4-7, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and Friday, May 8, from 7:30 a.m.
to 4 p.m. Graduating seniors who are
members of the armed services or
who are receiving commissions may
wear military uniforms at com-
encement in lieu of the academic
cap and gown.
Diplomas will be mailed Friday,
May 22, to the address listed on stu-
dents’ Intent to Graduate forms. The
diplomas also may be picked up in
person on Friday, May 15, or
Monday through Wednesday, May
18-20, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in
Room 115 of the Cope Administra-
tion Building.
Students who participate in com-
encement will be required to stay for
the entire ceremony. The entire cer-
emony should last about two hours.
For more information, please
visit the Records Office Web site at
www.mtsu.edu/records/grad.htm or
call 615-898-2600.

HONORS ALUM IS 1ST MCNAIR PH.D.

by Marsha Powers
mpowers@mtsu.edu

=athan P. Mills, a May 2002
graduate of the University
Honors College, has become
the first MTSU McNair Scholar
to complete a doctoral degree.
He successfully defended his dis-
sertation last fall and received his doc-
torate in counseling psychology from
Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.
The East Nashville native is com-
mending to his residency at the
Carmel, Calif., and spending hours toward
licensure as a psychologist.
Being the first MTSU McNair
Scholar to earn a doctorate feels
awesome,” Mills said. “I do believe
I could have made it this far with
the help of Linda Brown, Cindy
Howell and all the other wonderful
people in the MTSU office.”
Mills said the McNair Program
also gave him “amazing opportuni-
ties” and that he is pleased to give
back to the program by teaching and
mentoring.
Mills listed Dr. Gloria Hamilton,
psychology; Dr. Terry Whitehead,
interim dean for the College of
Education and Behavioral Science
and longtime psychology faculty member;
and Dr. Michael Williamson,
Honors College dean, along with
Brown and Howell of the McNair pro-
gram, as some of the most influen-
tial people in his academic life.
He added that he is indebted to
them for the opportunities and the
tremendous amount of support they
provided him while he was at MTSU and
in successive years.
The McNair Program was won-
terful in giving me opportunities
do undergraduate research and build a
competitive vita for applying to gradu-
ate school.
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Mills

Provost to return to classroom

TSU Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert will return to full-time faculty status this fall as a professor in the
Department of Speech and Theatre. She will continue in her cur-
rent role of provost until May 9.
“I wish to extend my personal thanks to Dr. Gebert for the dedicated
service and campuswide leadership that she has provided to MTSU as
her chief academic officer for the past six years,” said Dr. Sidney A. MccPhee,
MTSU president. “She has played a valuable role in the achievement of
many of the university’s academic accomplishments during her tenure as
executive vice president and provost. As someone who began her higher
education career as a teacher more than 30 years ago, Dr. Gebert will
continue to bring a wealth of experience to our university, and we feel
extremely fortunate that she will continue to serve the needs of our students as a fac-
ulty member.
Plans for a campuswide reception in Gebert’s honor
are currently under way. A national search for her
replacement will be conducted in the fall, and an
announcement to name an interim provost is forthcom-
ing.

Gebert

Before joining the MTSU family in March 2003,
Gebert served as provost and vice president of academic
affairs at the University of North Alabama. Gebert received her undergrad-
uate degree from Hanover College with a double major in English and
speech-drama. She received a master’s degree from Cornell University and
a doctorate in historical and contemporary communication from Indiana
University.
Gebert taught high school in Fort Wayne, Ind., before teaching at
Indiana and Louisiana State University. In the 1990s, she held administra-
tive positions at the Tennessee Board of Regents and at the state system of
higher education in Pennsylvania.
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.mtsunews.com for other cable outlet airtimes.

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

May 5
Tuesday, May 5
Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra
7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

May 7
Thursday, May 7
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-5756.

May 8
May 8-10
MT Track: Sun Belt Outdoor Track Championships
Dean A. Hayes Stadium
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

Friday, May 8
MT Baseball vs. Mississippi Valley State
Friday 6 p.m., Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

EXEMPLARY WORK—Ben Jones, center, chair of the MTSU Employee Recognition Committee, joins winners of the 2008-09 Employee of the Year Awards during the April 22 celebration in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Displaying their awards are, from left, Secretarial/Clerical Employee of the Year Donna Reed, Business Office; Administrative Employee of the Year Lisa Batey, Human Resource Services; All-Classified Employee of the Year Charles Fitch, Distribution Services; and Technical/Service Employee of the Year Keith Jenkins, Construction/Renovation Services. The winners, who received engraved crystal awards and monetary gifts for their commitment to MTSU’s success, were chosen from nominations made during the 2008-09 academic year. The committee regularly salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. To nominate a co-worker for the quarterly award program, download a nomination form at http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/recog.html and submit it to Human Resource Services in Room 204 of the Ingram Building. photo by J. Intintoli

Dedication Ceremony for the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium
6:30 p.m., Greenland Drive parking lot by stadium; reception following at Kennon Sports Hall of Fame
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

May 9
Saturday, May 9
Spring Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Murphy Center
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com or see page 3.

May 10
Sunday, May 10
Mother’s Day

May 11
Monday, May 11
Summer Full Term, May Term classes begin

May 12
Tuesday, May 12
MT Baseball vs. Tennessee
6 p.m., Reese Smith Jr. Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

May 13
Wednesday, May 13
Tornado-Siren Testing
11:15 a.m., campuswide
(No action required by building runners; no texts or e-mails.)
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

May 14
May 14-16
MT Baseball vs. Western Ky.
Thursday 6 p.m., Friday 6 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2103.

Friday, May 15
MTSU On the Record—Tajdid
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

May 16
Saturday, May 16
Armed Forces Day
MTSU Alumni Day
at the Nashville Zoo
Open to alumni, family and friends
For information, visit www.mtalumni.com or contact: 615-898-2922.
**$2.7M grant will aid biology education**

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

**A $2.7 million grant will aid biology education**

Foundation TRIAD GK-12 partnership to improve biology education, officials announced during an April 23 ceremony. “It’s the Tyrone Jackson Building’s Centennial Hall.” Congresswoman and MTSU alumna Bart Gordon announced the NSF grant in a national Science.

“Jobs of the future will necessi-
tate strong educational foundation
in the sciences,” said Gordon, who
was untying commitments in Washing-
ton, D.C. “GK-12 is a NSF program
that places graduate students in K-12 classrooms. MTSU and Tennessee
State University grad students will
work with students in Rutherford
County Schools and Metro Nashville
Public Schools. Biology professor Dr. Tony
Farone shared the overview of the
MTSU-TRIAD GK-12 project. ‘The
project will be very effective and sustainable,’
Farone said. “Our team is looking
forward to working together to train
full-time STEM (science, technology,
engineering and mathematics) scien-
tists who will find communicating
science to the general public and
K-12 outreach a natural part of their
careers.”

MTSU President Sidney A.
McPhee said the project’s research
will “engage in solutions and set
us move forward as a society and
advance the mission of the universi-
ty.” He added that external grants have grown beyond $40 million
while he has served as president.
Dr. Todd Gary, director of TSU’s
Center of Excellence in Information
Systems, said the project team
includes both universities; nonuni-
versity partners BioTN of Franklin,
the Business Education Partnership
Committee of the Williamson County
Chamber of Commerce and Hendersonville’s Pope John Paul II
High School; the two public school
districts; and graduate faculty men-
tors from TSU and MTSU.
Dr. Maria Thompson, interim
vice president of TSU’s Division of
Research and Sponsored Programs,
said the “grant project . . . provides
working capital for graduate stu-
dents to both instruct and inspire
high-school students of Davidson
and Rutherford counties.”

BioTN co-founder Dr. Leslie
Lynch said the grant’s attractiveness
stemmed from the “incorporation of
the industry component into the
training program.”

**Partnership — from page 1**

many more dual- and joint-enrollment
classes during the late-afternoon and
evening time slots, saving gas, time
and travel to other campuses.” Apple
added.

“MTSU and Motlow both have
long histories of working to meet the
educational needs for students from
this region,” said Ray, the county’s
district executive. “Many of the students who take certificate programs or associate-degrees programs from
Motlow wish to continue their educa-
tion at MTSU. The inauguration of the
Middle Tennessee Education Center will enhance this effort and
will be a great benefit to the citizens of Bedford and the surrounding
counties.”

The educational partnership took
root more than two years ago when
talks began between MTSU, MSCC,
the Tennessee Technology Center at
Sheffield, Bedford County govern-
ment and school leaders, and key leg-
islators. Officials solicited opinions
online from potential students and
asked local businesses for input,
quickly earning what Dr. Mike Boyle,
dean of MTSU’s College of Education and Distance Learning,
called a “grass-roots groundswell of support” and interest in services.

“Remind people through action why we exist—to help
students.”

“Leadership — in their own words” and check
out “Coach Stock’s Guide for
leaders” online for more information.

**Leader**

being in the military when I joined ROTC,” Walsh says. “I was planning on becoming a captain and then leav-
ing the Army in four years.”

But in his third year in the ROTC program, he dis-
covered his leadership desire—and potential—by chance.
“I was asked to take an executive-officer position in a
ROTC club,” the commander recalls. “Because a cou-
ples of knock-knocks said I could, I decided to give it a try.”

The result: Walsh has now served in the Army for
22 years and will become a full colonel in August.
Dr. Deana Raffo, coordinator of the leadership
studies minor in the Department of Speech and
Communication, officials announced during an
April 23 celebration in the Tom H.
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**Raffo**

**McPhee**

**Learn more @ mtsunews.com**

Read “Leadership — in
their own words” and check
out “Coach Stock’s Guide for
leaders” online for more information.

One of the most successful leadership attributes is
honesty, the men agree—and not only when trying to
inspire people to follow. “If you tell them followers” need
honest feedback on a leader’s expectations, especially if
those expectations aren’t being met.

“Honesty! The only way!” Stockstill says. “Every
player/coach knows what I expect, and when they
don’t do it, I bring them in my office and talk to them
about their problem. I tell them what their punishment
will be and my expectations. I tell them what my next
course of action will be if it happens again.”

Developing followers and their talents also is a pri-
ority for a leader. Stockstill says he’s learned a very cru-
cial lesson: “Don’t send ducks to ‘eagle school.’ Find
what each person is good at and put them where
they can’t fly like an eagle … eagles can’t swim like ducks.”

A leader’s response to a crisis or emergency is also critical to success, the
MTSU leaders agree. They all rec-
This, too, is a critical leadership
skill that is critical to success.

A leader’s response to a crisis or emergency is also
important for a leader. Stockstill says he’s learned a very
crucial lesson: “Don’t send ducks
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MTSU/UTSI academic pact taking flight, with TBR’s OK

from Staff Reports news@mtsu.edu

Officials from MTSU and the University of Tennessee Space Institute met April 28 at MTSU to share their vision for a proposed academic partnership in the area of flight-test engineering.

They made a joint announcement in the Business and Aerospace Building’s first-floor east lobby.

Final approval for the partnership must come from the Tennessee Board of Regents, officials said.

Under the partnership, MTSU students would be able to earn a degree in aerospace engineering at UTSI. In their last semester, they will take classes at the UTSI campus near Tullahoma. These classes will go toward their undergraduate degree while at the same time count as pre-requisite classes for the Master of Science degree at UTSI.

“This is a very unique partnership,” said Dr. Wayne Dornan, aerospace engineering and systems, at MTSU. “We are extremely pleased about this partnership and look forward to exploring other avenues of cooperation.”

Since fall 2005, academic officials at both universities began the partnering process to develop an associate degree program. In the last several years, faculty and administrators from both schools have worked to make it a reality.

Flight test engineering supports the development, certification and modification of civilian and military aircraft and systems, Dornan said, adding that there is only one other degree program of this type in the western world.

Leaders Circle trio takes 20th Quiz Bowl crown

from Staff Reports news@mtsu.edu

The three-member MTSU Leaders Circle team bested 10 other four-person teams from across the campus to capture the Scotty Tucker Feather Flight Test Engineering Quiz Bowl March 26 in the McNWherter Learning Resources Center television studio.

Leaders Circle team members Rachel Simes, Merranda Holmes and Gina Logue received $300 for their first place.

In second place and earning $100 was the Sidelines team, which was composed of Michael Stone, Chris Martin, Tiffany Gibson and Alicia Wilson.

Third-place honors and $75 went to the Honors College I team, which included Shannon Murphy, Jarett McCall, Mattie Ragland and Rebekah Horton.

Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma Fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society co-sponsored the Quiz Bowl, which was held for the 20th straight year.

Dr. Ken Hollman is adviser to and Brad Lamb is president of Omega chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma insurance fraternity. Dr. Lucy Langworthy is president of Phi Kappa Phi, the other main Quiz Bowl sponsor.

As in past years, the Quiz Bowl was taped for later replay on MTTV, Channel 10, the student-run TV station at MTSU, Hollman said. He added that the show will be broadcast several times during a one- to two-week period when editing is finished.

Teams paid a $30 entry fee. Hollman said the questions they were asked involved trivia from almost every discipline represented on the MTSU campus.

Off-Campus Student Services recognized

by Gina K. Logue gklogue@mtsu.edu

Colleges and universities at the Association for Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education’s annual conference have bestowed their second-highest ranking on MTSU and designated the university’s director of Off-Campus Student Services as a “National Treasure.”

In ANTSHE’s campus survey of members, associates and friends, MTSU received a two-star rating for the services it provides to nontraditional students, the second-highest rating of the 47 uniquely identified institutions surveyed. Among the services graded are having a student-activity scholarship, and a services office. MTSU also received additional points for services offered above and beyond those graded, including peer-mentoring services, a Web site for off-campus housing and an annual adult-leader conference.

Dr. Carol Ann Baily, director of Off-Campus Student Services at MTSU, was presented with the ANTSHE National Treasure Award. Baily, who was nominated by her peers, won the honor “based on her untiring efforts on behalf of the students on her campus and her continued advocacy through participation and mentoring of national programs for all nontraditional students,” according to an MTSU news release.

Baily is a founding member of ANTSHE and chaired the 2008 national ANTSHE conference at MTSU. She has served as chair of the Advising Adult Learners Commission of the National Academic Advising Association and contributed the chapter on advising adult learners to its publication on advising special populations.

“It was my honor to present Dr. Baily this award,” ANTSHE President Jeffrey Bunnell said at the group’s conference last month at St. Martin’s University in Lacey, Wash. “I have known her for several years now and can think of no one who is more deserving of this honor.”

Baily told the MTSU President Jeremy A. McPhee, Bunnell wrote, “We congratulate Middle Tennessee State University on their achievements and superior ranking in support of nontraditional students and for allowing us the privilege and honor of recognizing an outstanding member of your university community.”

ANTSHE is an international partnership of students, academic professionals, institutions and organizations whose mission is to encourage and coordinate support, education and advocacy for the adult learner.

Livestoc kCenter is site for sheep- shearing school

The 2009 Tennessee Sheep Shearing School will be held Friday and Saturday, May 15–16, at the MTSU Tennessee Livestock Center.

The school is sponsored by the Tennessee Sheep Producers Association, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative and the MTSU School of Agribusiness and AgResearch.

Event organizers said the primary instructor again will be Australian Bill O’Conner, also known as “Bill Shearer.” O’Conner is an international sheep-shearing champion who also coached with the Australian Wool Corporation.

The shearing school is designed for beginning and experienced shearers. Top sheep shearers will teach the most up-to-date shearing methods, and one of the most important school aspects will be information on maintaining sheep-shearing equipment.

Organizers said the shearing school is not designed for young children; in fact, participants should be at the senior 4-H (high-school) level. The school will start at 10 a.m. Friday, May 15, and shearing will begin at 1 p.m. The shearing school will continue at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 16, and will continue until all sheep are sheared. The fee is $100.

For more information, call the livestock center at 615-898-5875.

Ready for ‘Great Results’—Faculty, staff and students celebrate receipt of a $7,000 grant from General Mills Corp. of Murfreesboro to help fund MTSU’s annual Science Olympiad and Expanding Your Horizons events. From left are Jennifer Allen, development director for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Gail Flym of General Mills Corp. Action Council; Dr. Pat Patterson, chemistry professor and Science Olympiad coordinator; Ann Burkhalter of General Mills’ donation committee; Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, chemistry professor and EYH coordinator; and Dr. Tom Chestaun, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

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photo by News and Public Affairs

Fresh donation

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Event organizers said the primary instructor again will be Australian Bill O’Conner, also known as “Bill Shearer.” O’Conner is an international sheep-shearing champion who also coached with the Australian Wool Corporation. He has traveled and shorn in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

Mark Powell of Wilson Farmer’s Co-Op, Jim Neel of the UT Extension Office and Dr. Warren Gill, agribusiness and agriscience director, will assist O’Conner.

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Informed him that his license application couldn’t be accepted because he was enrolled at MTSU for the following fall, not currently enrolled. The officer told Barnes that he would need to come back in the fall and reapply for a driver’s license when he was attending school.

Barnes went to the next town with the same credentials and got his driver’s license there. He’ll now be advancing to graduate school. On his short list were the University of Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley, the California Institute of Technology and Duke University; he recently accepted an admissions offer from CalTech.

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• music producer and engineer Brady Barnett, owner, Of Sound Mind Productions, and co-instructor of instructional video company Multi-Platinum LLC;
• videographer Nicholas “Nic” Dugger, founder of Tennessee Digital Video; and
• writer and public-relations manager Joel Frey of Travelocity.

The event honors and recognizes mass communication alumni who have distinguished themselves in the professional world through their accomplishments, as well as juniors, seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their respective areas of study.

During the event, the Officers of the Dean annually recognizes a Friend of the College, who has supported the college’s mission through activities that include but are not limited to securing gifts for the college. This year’s Friends of the College are David “Dave” and Mary Elizabeth Thomas of Cookeville.

“This is an opportunity each year to celebrate the contributions of individuals who are integral to the great success of our college, including students, alumni and friends,” said Dr. Roy Moore, dean of the college. “We are very proud of all of them and their contributions.”

Barnett, a 1996 recording industry graduate, has been an independent producer and engineer in Los Angeles and Nashville since 1996. His list of clients includes multi-platinum selling and Grammy award winning musicians such as 3TV Sync, Faith Hill, Keith Urban, Brandy, Ozzy Osbourne, Shaquille O’Neal, Bob Seger, Darius Rucker and Josh Turner. He was the recipient of the 2007 MTSU Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

Dugger, a 2000 electronic media communication graduate, began his television career in his hometown of Jackson, Tenn., in local cable broadcasting and was named manager of MTSU’s student TV station, MTTV, in his freshman year. In October 2004, Dugger founded Tennessee Digital Video with his own all-digital mobile television production truck, which focuses on concert production, DVD shoots and political events. He has received the Midsouth Regional Emmys Rising Star Award as well as a regional Emmy.

Frey, a 1996 journalism graduate, began his PR career at the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau. He’s now senior public relations manager for Travelocity, a leading online travel company, and has managed day-to-day PR needs of the company since 2003. He also writes executive speeches and is a handler of the company’s mascot, the Roaming Gnome. In September 2007, Frey independently published his first book, Two Sides of a Cypress Wall: The True Story of a Reluctant College Graduate.
O
n May 9, more than 2,260 students will be
graduating from MTSU. Each has taken
different and often grueling paths to reach
academically goals, but Taylor Barnes’ journey is one that
stands out.
Barnes began his higher-education studies at
Hines Community College in Raymond, Miss.,
when he was 13, after completing his high-school
education with home-schooling.
In fall 2005, when he was 15, Barnes transferred
to MTSU and decided to earn a double major in
chemistry and physics.
If he’d done no more than that, his achieve-
ments still would be remarkable, but Barnes didn’t stop there.

**Barnes’ accomplishments (so far)**

- USA TODAY’s 2009 All-USA College
  Academic Third Team
- Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award (2009)
- Outstanding Senior in the Department of
  Chemistry (2009)
- Outstanding Honors Student Senior Award (2009)
- Current president, MTSU Chemistry Club
- Department of Defense “National Defense Science
  and Engineering Fellowship”
- MTSU Provost’s Award (2008)
- Paul W. Martin Scholarship (2008)
- James H. Hutchinson Leadership Award (2008)
- Pi Sigma Pi Physics Achievement Award (2008)
- McClary Award (2008)
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (2007)

In 2007, Barnes won a Barry M. Goldwater
Scholarship, considered one of the most impressive
distinctions in the sciences for students. In 2008,
among several other awards, he received MTSU’s
Provost Award, which recognizes students with
outstanding academic accomplishments.
Now Barnes has been named to USA TODAY’s
2009 All-USA College Academic Third Team and
just received a national Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award.
To help inspire future students to choose
careers in science, Barnes accepted the post of presi-
dent of MTSU’s Chemistry Students. He’s conducted
several chemistry demonstrations in schools,
including entertaining elements, such as mixing
chemicals to produce glowing liquids, and educa-
tional elements to explain how the demonstration
produced what it did.
The possibility that he was capable of this level of
academic excellence became apparent to his
mother when Barnes was still a toddler.
“At 18 months of age, he knew his colors and
the alphabet,” Mary Barnes recalls.
“Taylor Barnes noticed it himself when he was eight.
“That was when I started making the transition
from being taught by my mother and essentially
becoming self-taught,” he says. “I started read-
ing a lot … I started studying on my own … I started
gratifying towards things of a higher grade level.”
Mary Barnes had some reservations about his accelerated educational pace when he put him in
college at such a young age.
“I worried that the older and much bigger stu-
dents might bully him, but he was well-treated,”
she says now.
Barnes’ academic adviser at MTSU, Dr. Preston
MacDougall, is pleased that Barnes entered college
so early in life.
“Taylor’s age is an advantage, not a hindrance.
Science thrives on curiosity, which peaks in our
youth,” he says, adding that Barnes’ natural-curios-
ity, coupled with his work ethic, gives him an edge
over many other scientists.
Barnes says his age hasn’t been an issue with
prospects, but it’s apparently been a problem for some
organizations.
“Trying to get into college was difficult,
because it’s hard to find a school that’s willing to accept a student that is that age,” he explains.
He found a welcoming environment at MTSU.
Several members of his family, including his moth-
er and grandmother, are MTSU alumni, and his

![photo by Andy Heidt](image)

**BRIGHT FUTURE—Taylor Barnes will graduate from MTSU May 9 at the age of 18 with a dual major in chemistry and physics. He looked at offers from Berkeley, the University of Chicago and others before deciding on CalTech for his graduate studies.**

**Faculty/Staff Update**

**Appointments**

**Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneur-
ship)** was appointed to the Interna-
tional Society for Business Education
Board of Directors to represent the
southern region of the United States
for 2009-11. Blair also was appointed
entrepreneurship section editor for the
Business Education Forum for
2009-10.

**Awards**

**Dr. Minsoo Kang** (health and
human performance) received an
Outstanding Reviewer Award for
2009 by the journal *Measurement in
Physical Education and Exercise Science*
during the national convention of the
American Alliance for Health,
Physical Education and Dance March
31-April 4 in Tampa, Fla.

**Passages**

**Mr. Grady Lee Cooper Jr.** (Facilities Services), 71, passed away
on April 8. Mr. Cooper was employed by
MTSU as a custodian in Facilities Services from May 1966 until his
retirement in May 2003. He is sur-
died by his devoted cousein Ella Greer and Claytie Cooper Frazier,
both of Murfreesboro; a nephew,
Jon Derrick Cooper of Murfreesboro; his
devoted extended family, Eloise
Buckingham and family of
Shelbyville; and numerous cousins and
other relatives and friends.

**Presentations**

**Dr. Robert B. Blair** (business communication and entrepreneur-
ship) presented “Lead the Way to
Career Success” at the “One Great
Future” Conference, April 3 at Millikin
University in Decatur, Ill.

**Dr. Sherry J. Roberts** (business
communication and entrepreneur-
ship) presented “Teens and Money:
Teaching Personal Finance to the ‘Me’
Generation” at the 2009 NBEA
Convention in Chicago April 8-11.
She also served as the chair of Policy
Statement 844: This We Believe About
Induction and Mentoring of New
Business Teachers, one of several
statements written by the Policy
Commission for Business and
Economic Education.

**Dr. Aimee Hult (psychology) presented**
“Use of Reading CBMs Within
an RTI Framework” at the RISE, or
Reading Instruction Successfully
Enhanced, Conference at Cookeville
High School April 18.

**Christi Underwood** (Center for
Popular Music) presented a work-
shop, “Radically Militant Librarians
Guild: Radically Co-Creating with
Your Patrons,” with Jerianne
Guild: Radically Co-Creating with
Your Patrons,” with Jerianne

**See ‘Next’ page 7**

**Conference, “The Train Just Don’t
Stop Here Anymore! An Interdisci-
plinary Colloquium on the Sound-
scapes of Rural and Small-Town
America,” April 3 at Millikin
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Buckingham and family of
Shelbyville; and numerous cousins and
other relatives and friends.

**Presentations**

**Dr. Robert B. Blair** (business communication and entrepreneur-
ship) presented “The Leader’s Role as
THE ADVOCATE” during the
National Business Education
Association’s Academy for
Leadership Excellence in Chicago on
April 8. Blair also presented three
roundtable sessions on “Free and
Inexpensive Teaching Resources for
Economic Education” at the NBEA
Convention in Chicago on April 10.

**See ‘Faculty’ page 7**