**Plant and Soil Science effort**

**Farmers’ market to open**

by Claire Rogers

MTSU is inviting the community to enjoy the flavors of locally grown produce while supporting agricultural education at the Plant and Soil Science farmers’ market each Friday this summer.

The market will open Friday, May 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Horticulture Center off Blue Raider Drive on the MTSU campus and will remain open weekly into the fall.

Now in its second year, it will offer fresh produce as well as perennials, annuals and houseplants for sale to the community.

The market will begin with cool-season crops like cabbages, broccoli, onions, peas and lettuces; other crops will be added once they are ready for sale. Later crops include peppers, squash, pumpkins, sweet corn, melons and seven varieties of tomatoes.

Proceeds from the market are used to purchase supplies for MTSU’s on-campus greenhouse and to cover expenses of agriculture students’ travel to professional conferences and competitions. All plants and produce are grown from seed to maturation by MTSU students, enrolled in a vegetable gardening class and members of the Plant and Soil Science Club.

“Starting the farmers’ market

Photo submitted

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**Schedule update for ‘Positioning the University for the Future’**

by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

Earlier this spring, I provided the university community with a tentative schedule of significant dates related to our “Positioning the University for the Future” Initiative. The last entry on the schedule indicated that I would submit the final recommendations to the Tennessee Board of Regents on May 1.

This schedule was developed prior to the expectation of receiving stimulus funds and at a time when MTSU and other TBR institutions had been mandated to explore how we would make significant cuts in our budgets by July 1, 2009.

After the approval of the federal stimulus package in February and the March release of Governor Phil Bredesen’s proposed budget to the legislature, TBR Chancellor Charles Manning set Thursday, May 21, as the date when MTSU would be required to submit a three-year budget plan to the board. I have decided to use this extended time period to continue my review of some of the proposed recommendations and to consider the additional feedback that I have been receiving from faculty and academic administrators regarding the proposed changes to the MTSU college structure.

Since we have been asked to submit our plan to the board in a specific format, I do not anticipate developing a separate detailed report regarding the recommendations that are currently under further review. I will, however, address those proposals as part of our report to the board and will provide the appropriate details to the MTSU community upon the completion of that document.

Since economic circumstances still dictate that we must reduce our budget by $19.3 million by fiscal year 2011, I remain committed to the plans we have in place to help position the university for the future. I sincerely appreciate the support and steady flow of feedback that I have received from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community leaders throughout this process. Please know that your continued interest and involvement remain vital.

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

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**‘Great Books’ prison courses offer different views**

by Bonnie Bailey and Erin Bridges

An MTSU professor has returned to prison for a second time.

Dr. Philip Phillips, director of “Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons” and an associate professor of English at MTSU, recently finished teaching his second literature course at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville.

The 10-week program, which is a partnership with the Great Books Foundation, the Tennessee Department of Correction and MTSU, also is conducted at the Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility and the Tennessee Prison for Women by other MTSU volunteers.

Prior to the class, Phillips conducted a workshop to prepare other MTSU English faculty volunteers for the experience. Each class is taught by the Shared Inquiry method, in which teachers ask an open-ended question at the beginning of class to get the discussion started.

“The idea in these classes is that the role of the instructor isn’t to lead so much as pose questions to the class and generate the discussion,” he said.

This year, Phillips chose to use the Seven Deadly Sins Sampler, an anthology of short stories published by the Great Books Foundation. He said the book explores real human situations with which students can identify.

“It’s made me look at things deeper, just from the story lines and situations with which we can identify,” he said.

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

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**IN BRIEF**

SEM OFF TO MUSIC FESTIVAL

MTSU’s Society for Electronic Music will attend the Detroit Electronic Music Festival May 23-25 thanks to a $2,515 award from the university’s Student Activity Committee. The festival, a series of electronic dance-music showcases, is held each Memorial Day weekend in Detroit. The SEM student organization coordinates free seminars, travels to music events and collaborates on creative projects.

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**Choosing health**

Anti-tobacco youth summit targeting teens June 3-5

See page 6

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**Inside this edition:**

CUSTOMS begins 2-month orientation, page 2

Raider Rocket Team wins for design, page 3

Awards show ‘Lego’ for professor, student, page 8

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**Helping the helpers page 10**

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**NEWS PAGE 5**

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To date, 38 insurance professionals have been inducted into the Hall, which is under the auspices of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. This year’s ceremony will be held Tuesday, Aug. 4. The annual induction honors professionals who have made outstanding contributions to Tennessee’s insurance industry.
T he MTSU Raider Rocket Team’s first competitive experience turned into an award-winning effort in the NASA-sponsored University Student Launch Initiative national competition at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Dr. Ahad Nasab, professor of engineering technology, said the team of Michael Urick, Joseph Prince and Kevin Bonds collected the Best Design Award at the USLI event.

“We were the only engineering-technology team,” Nasab said. “The team’s rocket slightly missed the target altitude but managed to safely recover the rocket and the scientific payload. The scientific payload consisted of a Geiger counter that measured the levels of radiation in the atmosphere throughout the flight and digitally recorded it for recovery and further analysis.”

Other teams in the April 18 USLI competition included Vanderbilt, Georgia Tech, Arizona State, Embry- Riddle Aeronautical, Florida Institute of Technology, University of Alabama-Huntsville, Iowa State, Mississippi State, Tuskegee, Alabama A&M, Auburn, Utah State and the University of North Dakota.

By Gina K. Logue

by Lisa L. Rollins

The Record  May 18, 2009 page 3

From BCS to baseball, new sports journal spreads information

by Gina K. Logue

Gina K. Logue

glogue@mtsu.edu

A thletic conferences affiliated with the Bowl Championship Series commit significantly more major-recruiting violations than non-BCS conferences.

That’s one finding of an article in the inaugural issue of the Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision released by MTSU’s Sport Management Program.

The BCS article, written by Texas A&M professors Robert S. Clark and Paul J. Battista, includes the averages of all major violations and secondary violations in Division I collegiate football programs from 1970 to 2007 with specific focus on major infractions from 1987 through 2007, when the current Division I structure was instituted.

The journal also features articles on social problems in Major League Baseball, the effectiveness of product endorsements by athletes, perceptions of basketball coaches at NAIA Division II Christian schools, marketing college baseball programs with limited resources and the World Baseball Classic’s potential as a promotional tool for Major League Baseball.

“This issue will be a landmark event in turning the attention of the sport-management academy toward recognizing the practitioner population of the sport industry, and we believe that its revolutionary approach to scholarship will continue to attract cutting-edge research that can make a difference in sport institutions everywhere,” says Dr. Colby Jubenville, co-founder and publisher of JSAS and director of the Sport Management Program.

So that nonacademic sport practitioners can use the journal more easily, a white paper accompanies and summarizes each scholarly article for quick reading.

“We know sport managers are busy people, but they face a critical need for information, just like managers in any industry,” says JSAS Editor Benjamin D. Goss.

“While papers are widely used in today’s managerial world to help digest large quantities of information, so we decided to import that concept into the sport-management academy.”

Other highlights of the inaugural issue are an excerpt from Hara Estroff Marano’s A Nation of Wimps, a book that describes how some parents undermine their children’s success and short-circuit the youngsters’ brain development by incorrectly defining success and an excerpt on NCAA Division II programs from College Athletics Clips, a publication of executives summaries of news and issues in college sports.

“We have entered a new era of scholarly publication, not only in the field of sport management, but in academia as a whole, and we invite other journals to consider the new model we have contrived and draw inspiration from it to benefit future research efforts,” Jubenville says.

MTSU publishes the Journal of Sport Administration & Supervision in partnership with the University of Michigan Library and its Scholarly Publishing Office and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition.

To view the debut issue, go to www.jsasonline.org. For more information, contact Jubenville at jubenville@mtsu.edu or Goss at drbengoss@hotmail.com.

From BCS to baseball, new sports journal spreads information

by Gina K. Logue

Gina K. Logue

glogue@mtsu.edu

M TSU’s history department and public history program will serve as hosts for this year’s Distinguished Public Historian, Dr. Spencer Crew, who will lead a year’s Distinguished Public Historian, 2008, he accepted a public history faculty position at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. In 2001, Crew left the Smithsonian to undertake the role of executive director/CEO of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. In January 2008, he accepted a public history faculty position at George Mason University, where he continues his work with museums and historic sites throughout the nation.

For more information, contact Connie Huddleston at 615-468-7262.

Note the historian lead to May 29 panel

by Lisa L. Rollins

Lollinois@mtsu.edu

M nnesota Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning has approved MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee’s recommendation to appoint Dr. Diane Miller as interim provost, effective May 11.

Miller, who has been employed at MTSU since 1993 and has served as vice provost for academic affairs since July 2008, has more than 30 years of experience in higher education and an extensive background as an administrator and faculty member.

At MTSU, Miller has served as interim vice provost for academic affairs, director of the McNair Scholars Program, Interim associate dean of the College of Basic Education and director of the Undergraduate Education Coalition.

Miller tapped as interim provost

by Lisa L. Rollins

Lollinois@mtsu.edu

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At MTSU, Miller has served as interim vice provost for academic affairs, director of the McNair Scholars Program, Interim associate dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, director of the Undergraduate Research Center, assistant to the president, a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Faculty Senate president. She holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from the University of Tennessee, a Master of Science in mathematical sciences from Memphis State University, an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction that can be obtained at any accredited university. She holds a master’s degree in mathematics education from the University of Missouri.

McPhee said he will launch a national search during the fall to fill the provost’s job; more details will be provided as they become available.

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May 18

May 18-23
BlueCross Spring Fling
For information, visit www.tssaa.org or contact: 615-889-6740.

May 20

May 20-21
CUSTOMS Orientation
Special scholarship session 7:30 a.m., campuswide
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~customs or contact: 615-898-5533.

May 24

May 24-30
Volunteer Girls State
Campuswide
For information, visit www.volunteergirlssate.org.

Sunday, May 24
"MTSU On the Record—The Pursuit of Happiness"
Philosophy professor Dr. James Oliver explains “The Philosophy of Happiness,” a new class he will be teaching this fall.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

May 25

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day
No classes; university closed.

May 29

Friday, May 29
Summer May Term final exams
last day of May term classes

May 30

Saturday, May 30
Summer May Term final exams (Saturday classes)

May 31

May 31-June 7
Rick Stockstill Elite Football Camp
for ninth- to 12th-grade boys
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2926.

Get noticed in The Record!

Submit Campus Calendar items to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, for publication in the June 1 Record or 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, for the June 15 Record. Don’t forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why, plus contact information for your event! Check the 2009 deadlines at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~proffice/rec_deadlines.htm.

Tornado safety on campus . . . and service in the aftermath

The date for the next tornado-siren test at MTSU is Tuesday, June 9, at 12:20 p.m. No action will be required by building runners or those on campus, and no e-mail or text messages will be sent.

When the MTSU tornado siren sounds in an emergency, it means that a tornado warning has been issued and a tornado has been sighted in the area. Those who are outside should get inside a building as quickly as possible and seek shelter in a restroom, interior hallway or stairwell. It is important to stay away from doors and windows.

Please remember that there is a list of “Safe Places” on the MTSU Web site, www.mtsu.edu; just click on “Alert4u,” then on “Safest Places” under “Tornado.” This information is vital, especially to those people who are outside on campus when a tornado siren sounds, but it’s important for everyone, including those in evening classes. If you have a regular walking route on campus when you arrive or leave, please familiarize yourself with the nearest buildings and know where the safest places are inside.

We will continue to publish information in the coming weeks about tornado safety, the do’s and don’ts, the task of building runners in all facilities, etc. The events of Good Friday 2009 should be evidence enough that all of us should take these warnings seriously.

— Tom Tozer

Where will you be safe?
Don’t wait until you’re on the run.
Find your nearest shelter at www.mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado_shelter.shtml

HELPING HANDS—Agriculture alumna Beth Jones, left, joins Dr. Jessica Carter, agriculture students Laura Rosser and Laura Harrington, Dr. Warren Gill and students Kayla Lannom and Josh Howard to prepare food for tornado-relief workers April 25.

MTSU Agribusiness and Agriscience joins tornado-relief effort

MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience students, faculty and alumni joined the Tennessee Beef Industry Council, the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association, the Tennessee Pork Producers Association and the Tennessee Poultry Association to provide food for tornado-relief workers in Rutherford County.

On April 25, the groups joined crews from Farm Credit, Tennessee Farmer’s Co-op, Purity Dairies, the Rutherford County office of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and others in the ag community to grill about 800 sandwiches for workers, volunteers and residents in the areas most affected by the April 10 tornadoes that swept across the county. Purity provided tea, lemonade and water for the activity as well.

Teb Batey, Rutherford County trustee and a Milton community cattle farmer, worked with the Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency to arrange for county trucks to help with the food distribution.
was kind of a no-brainer,” said Amy Dyer, a senior plant and soil science/Spanish major. Dyer was enrolled in the vegetable gardening course in 2008, when the idea for the market arose. She is also a founding member of the revived Plant and Soil Science Club, which was inactive for several years until 2008.

“We had all this produce grown over the semester, and the market allows us to offer something to the community everyone can enjoy,” Dyer said. “You know where the food came from and where your money is going.”

Students in the program learn about drip irrigation, soil properties, fertilization techniques and the importance of plant spacing, all through hands-on involvement.

“We grow our own transplants in the greenhouse on campus and then transfer them to a quarter-acre plot on the Guy James Farm,” said Dr. Nate Phillips, professor of horticulture, who began the market last year. The Guy James Farm also provides a location for some produce, like melons and sweet corn, to be grown near the river bottom.

One benefit of being a “locavore,” or eating locally grown produce, is increased confidence in the products you buy. While the risk of salmonella and E. coli outbreaks made headlines last year, MTSU’s market was able to offer locally grown products that were guaranteed safe.

The 435-acre farm on Guy James Road, located off Halls Hill Pike, was purchased by MTSU from Rutherford County two years ago. Long-term plans for the farm include moving MTSU’s dairy facility there and consolidating other agricultural facilities into one central location. The farm recently added a large-scale composting system, which will be used to fertilize crops grown there.

“The Guy James Farm is important because it gives you hands-on experience, which is really the best you can get in the program. It lets us try out the techniques we learn about in class and see what works best in the real world,” Dyer said.

This year, students also will harvest a plot of organic produce for the market after many consumers expressed an interest last year. Students rely heavily on sustainability while growing all plants for the market, and use of chemicals on the rest of the produce is very minimal.

“Our desire is to make the Guy James Farm a model for sustainable agriculture,” Phillips said. “We are using the property to grow crops for biofuel research, study organic farming and provide a hands-on learning facility for our agribusiness and agriscience students.”

The professor added that the MTSU farmers’ market hopes to expand in the future to include other local vendors, music and entertainment to create a complete market experience for the community.
Golfers raise nearly $37K for insurance scholarships

PTayer participation, sponsor-ships, a silent auction and other methods helped raise between $36,000 and $37,000 for the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Golf Tournament.

The 25th annual tournament, which raises scholarship funds for the Martin Chair of Insurance, was held April 21 at Champions Run Golf Course in the Rockvale community. The Best-of-the-Best tournament will be played on Wednesday through Friday, June 3-5, and a rapid identification method. The students will participate in several activities on campus to fur-ther their knowledge of college life and health, take a tour of the MTSU campuses and have a Lock-down at the MTSU Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center. “We also visit Capitol Hill,” Edwards said. “Some of the students have never been out of their county and have never been to Nashville, so it Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services. The scholarship program honors Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was designed to foster and encourage outstanding stu-dents to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship Program is the pre-mer undergraduate award of its type in these fields, Clippard said. The Goldwater scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,097 mathema-tics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide, Clippard said. Murphy is majoring in biol-ogy and plans to pursue both a medical degree and an academic doctorate after graduating from MTSU. Her goal is to practice medicine and con-duct biomedical research in infec-tious diseases. She hopes to study some of the diseases that plague third-world countries and help develop cost-effective treatments.

Murphy conducted research at the University of Alabama in the Biomedical Science Research Program on malaria, which causes more than one million deaths in the region of sub-Saharan Africa.

Murphy, the daughter of biol-ogy department chair Dr. George Murphy, also is completing her research with biology professor Dr. Stephen Wright on bioterrorism agents as part of her honors thesis on anthrax and developing a rapid identification method.

Murphy is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Campagna Beta Phi Society and recently joined the MTSU Leaders Circle, which is applying to become Omicron Delta Kappa in fall 2009.

Murphy and Barnes were nominated for the Goldwater by the college’s Undergraduate Fellowship Office. Sophomores and juniors majoring in mathemat-ics, natural sciences or engineering should contact Clipird at 615- 898-5464 or fellows@mtsu.edu for eligibility requirements, or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/ Goldwater nod

F or the second year in row, an MTSU Honors College student has received recog-nition from the MTSU Goldwater Scholarship Program. Shannon Murphy was recog-nized as a Goldwater Honorable Mention for 2009, said Laura Clipird, Honors College academic-ic adviser.

In 2008, honors student Taylor Barnes won the Goldwater. Barnes, a May 9 graduate with a double major in physics and chemistry, recently announced that he will attend California Institute of Technology. The scholarship program hon-oring Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was designed to foster and encourage outstanding stu-dents to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship Program is the pre-mer undergraduate award of its type in these fields, Clippard said. The Goldwater scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,097 mathema-tics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide, Clippard said. Murphy is majoring in biol-ogy and plans to pursue both a medical degree and an academic doctorate after graduating from MTSU. Her goal is to practice medicine and con-duct biomedical research in infec-tious diseases. She hopes to study some of the diseases that plague third-world countries and help develop cost-effective treatments.

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Health information, updates now on Web site

MTSU has joined many other universities around the nation in issuing campuswide information on the H1N1 virus. Information has been posted on the Student Health and Wellness Center Web site, including a message from MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. The president’s message to the campus can be found at www.mtsu.edu/healthservices/swineflu.shtml. McPhee assured the campus that officials are moni-toring the situation, and procedures will be followed as outlined in the MTSU Emergency Management Plan related to public-health emergencies and health and safety guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Keeping MTSU, community healthy — just 1 step at a time

Nurses walk for awareness

M TSU nurses are joining their colleagues across Tennessee in “Walking for Health,” a statewide health-awareness movement sponsored by the Tennessee Nurses Foundation and the Tennessee Nurses Association.

Members of the TNA District 15, which includes MTSU, kicked off the effort May 2 with a walk to promote healthy lifestyles at The Avenue shopping center.

“The project resulted from the latest statistics on the overall poor health of Tennesseans,” said Janice Harris, a professor in the School of Nursing and president of District 15. “We, as nurses, are being charged to care for ourselves and set an example for our patients and families.” Harris noted that more than 30 percent of adults in Tennessee are obese. While the reasons are numerous, she said, it’s clear that American society overall is taking in too much food and compounding the problem by becoming less physically active.

Dr. Debra Rose Wilson of MTSU’s nursing school noted that a state-supported program, GetFitTN, has been developed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to “increase awareness of the rising epidemic of obesity, type 2 diabetes and all the associated diseases resulting from poor diet and lack of activity.”

More than 200 students participated in the annual MTSU School of Nursing Health Fair April 9 in the Keathley University Center interacting with vendors from health agencies, clinics and support groups.

Members of the sponsoring Student Nurses’ Association provided various health screenings and educational activities for students and faculty.

The obstetrical nursing students taught visitors self-examinations to prevent breast and testicular cancer. Speech and hearing majors provided screening and health education. The Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center offered health information, and blood-pressure, blood-sugar, depression and sexually transmitted disease screenings also were available.

“The upcoming generation is the first to ever have a shorter life expectancy than their parents due to preventable illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes,” noted Amber Fleming, who helped organize the health fair and graduated May 9 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

“We, as nurses, are being charged to care for our patients and families.” Harris noted that more than 30 percent of adults in Tennessee are obese. While the reasons are numerous, she said, it’s clear that American society overall is taking in too much food and compounding the problem by becoming less physically active.

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“The upcoming generation is the first to ever have a shorter life expectancy than their parents due to preventable illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes,” noted Amber Fleming, who helped organize the health fair and graduated May 9 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

“The health fair is our way, as student nurses, to inform the student population of ways to prevent disease early. We need to change our way of thinking from wanting to be fixed once we’re broken to wanting to do what we can to prevent breakage.”

Students and faculty attended workshops in stress management and guided imagery techniques led by Dr. Debra Rose Wilson and Brittany Gleeson, a graduating nursing student. Various other agencies came on campus to participate, including HIV testing through Street Works, education about skin care from the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, Digital Technology Clinic, sexual health educators, and suicide prevention from the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. A massage therapist provided chair massage and other services.

Melissa Palicka, who also graduated May 9 from the School of Nursing, recruited vendors.

“It was exciting to see the staff and students in attendance so actively involved in health promotion,” Palicka said. “The health fair is a great way for everyone to learn more about health screening and healthy choices. The vendors make information and samples easily accessible in a nonthreatening setting, which may encourage someone to take the next step and... change an unhealthy behavior.”

Graduating nursing student Kyle Crawford agreed.

“I know that we weren’t able to genuinely touch the heart of our community in this health promotion effort,” Crawford said. “By providing this venue of information, I am positive we made many people aware of their immediate health resources.”

Dr. John Vile (Honors College) has seen Encyclopedia of the First Amendment (CQ Press), a two-volume book he co-edited, receive star reviews by Book List and Library journal and be named “highly recommended” by $1,000,000 for a program to promote education and to support community projects.

Get featured in The Record! E-mail your news to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, for publication in the June 1 Record or 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, for the June 15 Record. Don’t forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why; plus contact information—with your Faculty/Staff Update contributions.

The Record May 18, 2009 page 7
A civic-minded MTSU faculty member and an MTSU honors student have received the Harold Love Outstanding Community Involvement Award, which is presented each spring by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Dr. Linda Gilbert, associate professor in the Department of Education Leadership, and rising senior Jasmine Gray, a McNair Scholar, were recognized for their public service and received $1,000 each at a reception April 23 in Nashville.

“These outstanding individuals are very deserving of this award, named for the late state Representative Harold Love, a man of great compassion for those less fortunate in his community,” said MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. “We are extremely proud of Dr. Gilbert and Ms. Gray.”

Dr. Gloria Bonner, director of the MTSU Office for Community Engagement and Support, knows Gilbert well, having served as her dean for several years in the College of Education and Behavioral Science.

“I marvel at Dr. Gilbert’s energy and her dedication to the profession and the community,” Bonner said. “She is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life of others in very unique and innovative ways.”

In 2006, Gray founded Jaz’s Jammies, an organization that has collected more than 2,000 pairs of pajamas for underprivileged children and distributed them through hospitals and agencies in Davidson and Rutherford counties.

“I am so proud of the Boatright family’s efforts and the work that Jaz’s Jammies does in our community,” said TN Gov. Phil Bredesen, a MTSU alumnus.

“Jasmine Gray earned my highest recommendation,” said Dr. Diane Miller, MTSU interim provost and director of the McNair Scholars Program. “Despite the extra demands on her time, she manages to organize two drives a year to collect pajamas that are donated free of charge to the needy. She truly exemplifies the spirit of community service.”

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) was elected vice president of the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians for 2009-10. He also was elected to serve as a TAP delegate to the national convention, appointed as the group’s communications director for 2009-10 and received the 2009 Alpha Brown Individual Achievement Award at the TAP Conference and Annual Meeting in Memphis April 18.

The compilation album “Relaxing Piano Artists for Alzheimer’s Research,” which includes work by two MTSU recording-industry professors, reached No. 1 April 25 on the New Age Chart for iTunes. The songs, “Masterpeace” and “Keys to the Heart,” come from Joseph Akins’ album “Masterpeace,” which he and Michael Fleming recorded in MTSU’s Studio B with the support of a Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant. The iTunes compilation album is a collection of 40 piano solos from 20 different piano artists featured on Whispersing solo piano radio. All proceeds go to the Alzheimer’s Association for research.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at MTSU assists first-generation college students with financial need and underrepresented minority students.

The Harold Love Award honors the late state leader who was instrumental in passing legislation for community-service recognition programs for Tennessee higher-education students, faculty and staff. The annual awards are presented to volunteers in community work, public service, charitable service and leadership roles in community organizations.

Mrs. Sarah Mae Gooch Malone (Student Athlete Enhancement Center), 63, passed away April 18. Mrs. Malone, a veteran educator and member of the storytelling community, began working at MTSU in October 1985 in various positions, including adjunct teaching and temporary hourly, and most recently worked for the Student Athlete Enhancement Center. Mrs. Malone is survived by her husband, Branious Andrew Malone II; a daughter, Seulee Anne Malone (Michael) Jones; sons Branious Andrew Malone II and Da’Yon Elliott Hubbard Joy; grandchildren Devlynne Anne, Mikailia Mae and LeDaMian Rice Jones; sisters Geneva “Geneva” Gooch Luckey and Katie (Darryl) Reper; brothers Joe Sammie (Sharon) and Larry Wayne in Gallatin, Tenn., and Matthew Callis of Huntsville, Ala.; her mother, Lillian Ewing Lening; brother and sister-in-law, Doyle Jr. and Tish Lening; father-in-law, Charles Leslie Callis; brothers and sisters-in-law Edward (Brenda) Callis and Robert (Marilyn) Callis, all of Lebanon; and nieces Kacie and Jessica Lening, Gloria Griffith and Tracey Swearson. Memorials may be made to the Immanuel Baptist Church Mission Fund or to the Boy Scouts of America.