MTSU students and alumni are preparing for “A Rockin’ Raider Homecoming” week starting Monday, Oct. 19, and culminating with a full day of activities Saturday, Oct. 24.

Going with the “Rockin’ Raider” theme, alumni and student groups plan to crank up the volume on events that will build on traditions and make new memories. Among the scheduled activities are:

- T-Shirt Swap, trading another school’s shirt for the official 2009 homecoming shirt;
- the African American Alumni Council’s Comedy Show;
- the National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show;
- Chuck Taylor Blue Raider Golf Scramble;
- MTSU Centennial History Preview;
- Golden Raiders Society Class of 1959 reunion events;
- Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off;
- the Fourth Annual Mixer on Middle Homecoming Parade-Watching Party at the Alumni House and much more.

It all leads to the 2:30 p.m. MTSU vs. Western Kentucky football game in Floyd Stadium. The Alumni House is a great vantage point for the parade, and all are invited to the Mixer on Middle Parade-Watching Party where alumni Chip Walters, the voice of the Blue Raiders, and Aaron Solomon, co-host of WSMV’s “Channel 4 News Today,” will serve as parade announcers. A complimentary breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. while the food lasts.

As part of Saturday’s parade, which starts at 10 a.m., Alumni Relations also is hosting a complimentary breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. for alumni and friends in the Alumni Tent near the Alumni House.

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MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education recently allocated $550,000 from the Justice Department to develop six forensic science courses at MTSU and provide 12 in-service training workshops for Tennessee sheriff’s and police departments, in addition to funding the development of online training workshops.

The Justice Department grant will serve to broaden the impact of forensic science on both the MTSU campus and within Tennessee’s forensic community,” explained Dr. Hugh Berryman, director of FIRE and a forensic anthropologist and research professor of anthropology at MTSU.

“Tennessee law enforcement, while exploring distance learning as a more economic and logistically advantageous alternative.”

Dr. Bob, his four children and their families have made a commitment to the university both in their estate planning that will easily be the largest gift to that program,” added Dr. Sidney A. Mchreee, MTSU president. "We greatly appreciate the Womack family’s tremendous commitment to our College of Education," said Dr. Sidney A. Mchreee, MTSU president.

"The Womack family has been synonymous with education in Tennessee, from Dr. Bob’s long tenure in our education leadership department to Andy’s service in the state Senate as chair of the education committee. Few families have had as deep and lasting a history on our campus. We are deeply indebted to them for their generosity and are proud to recognize their service and commitment with the naming of the educational leadership department in their honor.”

"We will develop undergraduate and graduate programs in forensic science and provide traditional in-service training for Tennessee law enforcement, while exploring distance learning as a more economic and logistically advantageous alternative.”

“MTSU can help keep citizens safer from lead poisoning and train more law-enforcement personnel thanks to new federal grants totaling $850,000 to expand lead-hazard outreach and forensic science training.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Justice recently allocated the funds, said Congressman Bart Gordon.

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“We will develop undergraduate and graduate programs in forensic science and provide traditional in-service training for Tennessee law enforcement, while exploring distance learning as a more economic and logistically advantageous alternative.”

“At a time when many sheriff’s and police departments can’t afford to offer specialized training to officers, this grant will provide quality training to Tennessee law enforcement and educate more students to become forensic scientists and technicians,” Gordon added.

The $300,000 grant from
T he year 1929 lives for most of us as a reminder of the first time the U.S. stock market plummeted, taking businesses and lives with it. But before the bust, when the boom still had the promise of eternity, first-through-eighth-graders, their parents, and their teachers and assorted dignitaries, including Gov. Henry Horton, gathered in Murfreesboro to dedicate a magnificent example of classical architecture across the city. Parents named the Training School.

The facility came complete with library, gymnasium/auditorium, music and art rooms, 10 classrooms and a price tag of $140,000. The imposing building featured breathtaking friezes, palladium windows and huge columns.

The Training School was justifiably proud of its new home. Previous students had found their way to several destinations, including the basement of Kirksey Old Main and other buildings across the city. Parents gathered each October to get their children’s names on the admission list as early as possible, sometimes within hours of birth.

At one time students could enroll in first through 10th grades. By the late 1960s, Campus School was piloting one of the first public kindergartens in the state. When the growth of the county led to the opening of two new high schools, Campus School, like many county schools, gave up its seventh- and eighth-grade programs. Class size limits eventually created the current configuration of 310 students in two classrooms each in kindergarten through sixth grades.

The desire of parents to enroll their children in Homer Pittard Campus School—named in 1985 after educator Homer Pittard—is just as intense as it was years ago. The waiting list for kindergarten admission fills enormous three-ring binders, even though a child must now be 4 years old to be eligible to apply. Its mission, however, has not strayed from providing excellence in education to its enrolled pupils and its myriad pre-service teachers. Virtually all MTSU students majoring in elementary education pass through its doors, either to attend a class or to participate in a practicum or other laboratory experience.

Recently, when the integrity of the 80-year-old building became a source of spirited discussion at the county and university levels, the community was quick to voice support for both the school’s program and its edifice. As a result, all but the last phase of renovations are complete. These improvements include adding an elevated sprinkler system, modern fire alarm and infra-structure work (such as wiring, electrical, plumbing and HVAC), stair code upgrades and meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The building is freshly painted, cleaned and ready for its next milestone.

Many thanks to The Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU; Dr. Kathy Clark, president, Friends of Campus School; and Dr. Chontel Bridgeman, principal, Homer Pittard Campus School, for the information used above.

Mary Catherine Sevier is president of Sage Leadership Partners Inc. She has taught language arts and worked with gifted students. She served as an independent contractor for the Tennessee Department of Education, providing training to teachers on best practices related to improving student performance. She earned her law degree from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree in education from Belmont University focusing on gifted and talented education.

Funds for the Distinguished Lecture Fund, sponsored by preservationist and humanitarian Gordon McCusker, are used to bring leading experts from around the world to speak at MTSU. Many of these experts have authored books that have become classics in their field, such as McCusker’s, “The Evolution of Public Opinion: The Emergence of an American National Public in Old Age or on a Battle-Field,” published in 1970. McCusker is the 2009-2010 MTSU Distinguished Lecturer.

For more information about this year’s special speaker, please visit www.gordonmccusker.com or contact MTSU’s Distinguished Lecture Committee at 615-898-2644 or mccusker@mtsu.edu.

For more information about the Distinguished Lecture Fund, please contact Gina Poff, director of New Student and Family Programs, at 615-898-2454 or gpooff@mtsu.edu.
by Claire Rogers
news@mtsu.edu

This fall, MTSU’s Speech and Theatre Department is providing more than 200 students with a new, dynamic way to learn theatre appreciation.

This new section of the Theatre Appreciation 1030 course combines online coursework with classroom performances and discussions by guest speakers to demonstrate the real-world application of basic theatre principles.

“Rather than talking in only general terms about the creative process, we’ll have someone who was actually involved discussing it, much like a case study,” said Professor Jeff Gibson.

Gibson and Dr. M. Crosby Hunt, who teach the section together, believe this teaching method will offer more opportunities for students to become engaged with the material as well as providing a more flexible class schedule. The class, worth three credit hours, meets once a week for 90 minutes rather than the traditional twice-weekly schedule.

“I feel like it’s more of a hands-on experience,” said Darrie Jones, a freshman nursing major. “The performances are very interesting and kept me focused during class.”

Topics such as dramatic theory and theater history are covered through online content, allowing students to explore the large variety of multimedia available on the Web. Students will learn about the creative process of theater—from playwriting to set design—through in-class interaction with guest performers and presenters.

“I like the way this class is taught because it uses actual performances to teach students, which helps me because I’m a visual learner,” said Ivana Taylor-Robinson, a freshman animal science major. “All you have to do is watch and listen, and you’ll understand the topics being taught.”

Students recently watched Bill Bowers perform excerpts from “Under a Montana Moon,” a mime show. Bowers then discussed the history of mime with students and answered their questions about his experiences.

“MTSU typically offers 30 to 40 sections of THEA 1030 each semester, and being able to present the variety of experiences for students in all of those sections has simply not been possible, logistically or economically,” Gibson said.

“We hope that having some larger sections like this one will enable us to focus our resources in a more effective way so as to provide these engaging opportunities.”

About 225 students are currently enrolled in this section of Theatre Appreciation, a course taken by many students to fulfill a general education humanities and fine arts requirement. A class in this format also will be offered in the spring on Tuesdays at 9:40 a.m. in Tucker Theatre and can accommodate about 240 students.

“[I would recommend this section to other students because the performances make classes fun and easy to succeed at making a good grade],” said sophomore Tyler Clifton, a marketing major.

“Sections like this one allow us to maximize use of limited classroom facilities as well as prepare for potential budget cuts by enhancing the delivery of the class with fewer staffing requirements,” Gibson said.

Gibson specializes in arts management and the technical side of theater, while Hunt is an accomplished artist who teaches a variety of courses from storytelling to script analysis. Together they provide students with well-rounded instruction on a wide range of areas.

Plans to continue offering the larger section during the 2010-11 year are in place, but the professors also are awaiting a successful evaluation of this semester’s class.

Student is hard-working queen of quarter-horse world

by Claire Rogers
news@mtsu.edu

MTSU sophomore Korry Bailey easily could be called queen of the world—the world of hard-working quarter horses, that is. The interdisciplinary studies major from Livingston, Tenn., won first place in the working cow horse division at the American Quarter Horse Association Youth World Championships in Oklahoma City in August.

Bailey rode her horse Sparking Champ to the winners’ circle after a tough round of qualifying and preliminary runs. This was Bailey’s fourth year competing in the Youth World Championships and her last year of eligibility for youth competitions.

“I knew my horse and I were both capable of the world title. I had to stay focused. I could not let my nerves and everything from the previous years affect me,” Bailey said. “I studied what had hurt me in my other finals and made sure that was not going to be a factor this year.”

Bailey has been an active member of the MTSU Equestrian Team since arriving on campus. Since becoming involved with the team, she has successfully represented the university at many competitions, including the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championships last spring, which was hosted by MTSU at Tennessee Miller Coliseum.

“My experience with the equestrian program at MTSU has been wonderful,” said Bailey. “I rode close to (every) if not every day preparing for the world show. The equestrian team was where I did a lot of my riding. If I had not been involved, it would have been hard for me to have a horse to ride and keep in shape.”

Bailey is no stranger to showing at horse competitions; she began riding at age 2 and was competing by 3. Her 16 years of riding experience and familiarity with family-owned Sparking Champ helped prepare her for success in a difficult division.

“Working cow horse is the most dangerous sport I have competed in,” she said. “My horse works off how the cow moves and should almost be a step ahead of it. If I am not ready to move quickly with my horse, I would fall off—and have.”

After placing second in preliminary runs, Bailey and Sparking Champ were able to put their nerves behind them and claim the championship trophy, marking higher scores in cow work than any other competitor.

Bailey is planning to take a few years off from individual AQHA competitions to focus on her academic work and involvement with the MTSU equestrian team. She hopes to represent MTSU in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championships this spring in the reining and horsemanship divisions.

WAY TO WORK—MTSU sophomore Korry Bailey and her horse Sparking Champ circle their cow in the working cow horse finals of the 2009 Ford AQHA Youth World Championships in Oklahoma City. The pair’s preliminary performance received the second highest combined rein and cow-work scores in the competition, and they burst forward to beat their own time and win in the finals.

photo courtesy of American Quarter Horse Association
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 or www.youtube.com/mtsunews for a complete show archive.

**Through Oct. 22**

Photo Exhibit: “Relics: Photographs by Brad Temkin” 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 6-9:45 p.m. Sunday Baldwin Photo Gallery, Learning Resources Center For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

Art Exhibit: “The Steve Prince/Boris Zakic Exhibit” 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Todd Gallery For information, contact: 615-898-5653.

**Oct. 20**

Tuesday, Oct. 20
Voluntary Buyout Program information session
9-11 a.m., Room 100, Ingram Building
For information, visit http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/index.html or contact: 615-898-2929.

**Oct. 21**

Wednesday, Oct. 21
The City Musick
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.thecitymusick.com or www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Oct. 22**

Oct. 22-24
Ninth International MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com and click the “2009 Holocaust Studies Conference” button.

MTSU Theatre and Dance: “Dear Finder” 7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/mttheatre or contact: 615-494-8810.

**Oct. 23**

Oct. 23-25
Extreme Mustang Makeover Challenge
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit http://extrememustangmakeover.com.

**Oct. 24**

Saturday, Oct. 24
Tennessee Simmental Showcase Sale
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact: 931-215-0316.

Southern Source Boer Goat Sale
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact: 334-399-6957.

**Oct. 25**

Sunday, Oct. 25
MT Soccer vs. Denver
1 p.m., Hayes Soccer Stadium
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Sunday, Oct. 25
MTSU Symphony Orchestra
4 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsusymphony.org or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Oct. 26**

Monday, Oct. 26
Red Cross Blood Drive
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Room 322, Keathley University Center
For information, visit www.givelife.org.

MTSU Theatre and Dance: “Die schöne Müllerin” with H. Stephen Smith, tenor, and Joseph Walker, piano
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/mttheatre or contact: 615-494-8810.

MTSU Jazz Combos
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Oct. 27**

Tuesday, Oct. 27
“Disney Keys to Excellence” Leadership Session
open to all staff and students
9 a.m., Tennessee Room, JUB Free, but registration required For information, e-mail ckoepfge@mtsu.edu.

MTSU Jazz Combos
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Oct. 28**

Wednesday, Oct. 28
ShareFair: Faculty Exhibit of Innovative Learning Technologies
 Noon-1 p.m. and 1-3 p.m., Cantrell Hall, Jackson Building
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/flundtc.

**Oct. 29**

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Voluntary Buyout Program information session
2-4 p.m., Ingram 100
For information, visit http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/index.html or contact: 615-898-2929.

**Oct. 30**

Thursday, Oct. 29
Free Legal Clinic sponsored by the June Anderson Women’s Center
6:30-8 p.m., JUB 206 Appointments required For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

MTSU Jazz Combos
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Oct. 31**

Saturday, Oct. 31
Admissions Fall Preview Day
9 a.m.–1 p.m., campuswide
Full; no more places open For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn.

48th Annual “Contest of Champions”
Horace Jones Field
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~coc or e-mail jstembri@mtsu.edu.

MT Volleyball vs. Troy
7 p.m., Alumni Memorial Gym
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

**Nov. 1**

Sunday, Nov. 1
Daylight Savings Time ends
Set clocks back one hour
its first Baby Raider Ride Contest. Children and grandchildren of alumni and others are invited to walk if accompanied by an adult. Strollers, wagons and tricycles can be decorated with Blue Raider spirit. To participate, visit www.mtalumni.com, click on "schedule" and then click on the entry form.

The parade will start on Maney Avenue, proceed to East Main Street and turn onto Middle Tennessee Boulevard. Baby Raider Ride entries will join the parade at the Alumni House to walk the duration of the route.

One of the newest homecoming events will be the Alumni Reunion Tailgate Tent from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Walnut Grove. Representatives from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Continuing Education and Distance Learning, Education and Behavioral Science, University Honors, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and James E. Walker Library will be on hand to share the latest news. Lunch will be available for $6 adult and $4 per child under 12.

Discounted general admission tickets to the MTSU-WKU game can be purchased for $7 each by calling the alumni office at (615) 533-6878. Reserved tickets can be purchased by calling 888-937-6878 or visiting www.goblueraiders.com. For a detailed schedule of the week's festivities, please refer to the homecoming schedule of events at right, visit www.mtalumni.com or call 615-898-2922.

Ronda Wright is Alumni Relations’ assistant director.

### 2009 Homecoming schedule of events

#### Week of Oct. 19-24

**T-Shirt Swap at Alumni House**
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**A Comedy Show**
7 p.m., State Farm Room, Business and Aerospace Building; sponsored by the African American Alumni Society; tickets $20 each.
Information: 800-533-6878 or e-mail pwydra@mtsu.edu.

**Chuck Taylor Blue Raider Golf Scramble**
11:30 a.m. lunch/12:30 p.m. shotgun start, Indian Hills Golf Club; hosted by the Blue Raider Athletic Association; $150 per person or $700 per foursome.
Information: 615-898-2210, www.goblueraiders.com or e-mail mewbourn@mtsu.edu.

**MTSU Centennial History Museum Preview**
1-4 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Todd Hall Room 129; produced by the Albert Gore Research Center in commemoration of MTSU’s 100th birthday in 2011.

**Golden Raiders Reunion and Induction Ceremony, Class of 1959**
2 p.m., Tom H. Jackson Building Cantrell Hall; events include registration, campus tour, social hour and dinner.
Information: 800-533-6878.

**Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off**
5:30 p.m., Murphy Center Forest
Information: e-mail jsimpson@mtsu.edu.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show**
7:30 p.m., Murphy Center
Tickets: Greek Life office, 615-898-5812.

**Varsity Club Reception**
10 a.m.; grand marshal: alumnus and Grammy-nominated composer George S. Clinton (’59). Parade begins on Maney Avenue and follows East Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard to Green Drive.

**Baby Raider Ride Contest**
Children and grandchildren of MTSU alumni are invited to walk, accompanied by an adult. Decorate your stroller, wagon or tricycle with Blue Raider spirit! Baby Raiders and their guardians will enter the parade at the Alumni House to walk the rest of the route.
Information: 800-533-6878 or e-mail pwydra@mtsu.edu.

**MTSU Rugby Old Boys Game**
11 a.m., MTSU Sport Club Complex, 2111 E. Main St.
Information: e-mail jdyjohnson@laoil.com.

**MTSU Alumni Homecoming Quees, Kings and Cheerleaders**
Participation is complimentary with purchase of a game ticket.

**Al Wilkerson Scholarship Dance**
5 p.m., The Walnut House, 116 N. Walnut St.; hosted by the African American Alumni Society; open to the public, but reservations are requested. Tickets: $20 per person; light hors d’oeuvres and cash bar provided.
Information: 800-533-6878 or e-mail pwydra@mtsu.edu.

**MTS Homecoming Tour**
10 a.m.; grand marshal: alumnus and Grammy-nominated composer George S. Clinton (’59). Parade begins on Maney Avenue and follows East Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard to Green Drive.

**Baby Raider Ride Contest**
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Information: 800-533-6878.

**Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off**
5:30 p.m., Murphy Center Forest
Information: e-mail jsimpson@mtsu.edu.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show**
7:30 p.m., Murphy Center
Tickets: Greek Life office, 615-898-5812.

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

**Mixer on Middle Parade-Watching Party**
9 a.m., MTSU Alumni House with announcers Chip Walters (’85) and Aaron Solomon (’94); complimentary breakfast while food lasts.

**Annual Homecoming Parade**
10 a.m.; grand marshal: alumnus and Grammy-nominated composer George S. Clinton (’59). Parade begins on Maney Avenue and follows East Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard to Green Drive.

**Baby Raider Ride Contest**
Children and grandchildren of MTSU alumni are invited to walk, accompanied by an adult. Decorate your stroller, wagon or tricycle with Blue Raider spirit! Baby Raiders and their guardians will enter the parade at the Alumni House to walk the rest of the route.
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Information: 800-533-6878 or e-mail pwydra@mtsu.edu.

### FAMILY EVENT—The Womack family poses for a photo during the 2008 Insurance Hall of Fame celebration when Andy Womack was inducted. From left are Lynn Womack, Lara Daniel, Ricky Womack, Cherry Womack, Andy Womack, Bob Womack, David Womack, Cheryl Womack, Dana Womack, Rob Sims and Margareta Sims. Not pictured is Sara Womack, daughter of Ricky Womack.

Photo courtesy of Ken Robinson Photography
MTSU Theatre will perform "Dear Finder," a show that unearthed many truths about the past and the present, at 7:30 nightly Oct. 22-24 on the stage of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Auditorium’s Tucker Theatre.

Staged with 14 actors performing monologues from the letters and journals of actual Holocaust survivors, show director Jacqueline Springfield said the play “shows a new perspective of the Holocaust, illustrating a connection between their experiences and contemporary incidents of racial genocide.”

The show was written by a group of students at the University of Minnesota and has been performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The MTSU production will be performed in coordination with the Ninth International MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference.

Springfield, assistant professor of speech and theatre, said she intends to “tell this story as honestly and simply as possible, out of respect for the victims whose experiences we will never really understand. I hope audiences leave the theater knowing these events and struggles happened and that they feel challenged to fight the hatred that is still inflicting today’s society.”

Joining Springfield in presenting the show will be Kim Neal Nosingher, director of MTSU Dance Theatre, who has choreographed movement for the play.

“We hope the powerful staging will help create moments to convey the emotional and physical struggles of these people,” he said.

For those who take in the "Dear Finder" performance, Springfield said she hopes it will “bring remembrance to the lives that were lost and raise awareness to the intolerance that spawned such a tragedy.”

“Intolerance is an active thing,” she continued. “We are fighting social structures that were set upon us years before. We can no longer let our prejudices be the totality of how we see each other.”

Advance tickets are available by calling 615-494-8810, visiting the theatre box office weekdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or at the door. Tickets are $10 general admission and $5 for MTSU staff and K-12 students. MTSU students are admitted free with ID.

There will also be two opportunities to see “Ragtime,” the MTSU School of Music’s presentation of the Tony Award-winning musical, and the Blue Raiders’ home game against Florida Atlantic University.

Two events in the “Dear Finder” performances will be sending three teams of engineers to EYH with workshops on STEM education and careers.

"Firstly, we've created a National Gallery of Writing hosted by the NCTE," she said. “This is an online gallery that we’ll have linked from our Web site (www.mtsu.edu/uwc) and it will go live on Oct. 20. Before that day, anyone in the MTSU community will be able to submit a writing of any genre to be made available in the gallery.

“We will also put up a graffiti wall outside the UWC (in Peck Hall 325),” she added. “This will be a space for students to write whatever is on their minds, from rants and shout-outs to blues and signatures. We hope to have it up by the start of the parliamentary for the students to write on throughout the day.”

For more information about the UWC or its National Day on Writing activities, please call 615-494-8930.
Hoofer said. They are committed to their work and speak to other schools about the project. They also give tours of the school’s Children’s Holocaust Memorial and the donated authentic rail car from Germany, which was used to transport people to camps.

Ferrer, who was a Miami Police Department dispatcher, began to ask his captain to recommend him for the police academy. Considered too young at age 19, Ferrer’s persistence eventually paid off, and he became a Miami Police Department dispatcher. There he met officers from the local police department and began pursuing a career in law enforcement.

That example left an impression on the young Ferrer, who firmly believed that if you work hard, anything is possible in the United States,” Ferrer told attendees.

“Once you graduate from high school, you learn that you can have all the drive and perseverance you want, but without that educational base, you’re going to hit a wall eventually,” said Ferrer.

Ferrer’s dedication to his academic career prepared him well for the types of high-profile cases he would try as a circuit judge, and his success with those cases brought him national attention and the offer for his own television show.

Ferrer said television could be the most difficult thing he has done, although he has been very successful in this field as well. The first year “Judge Alex” went on the air, he was hit by a car and had to miss several weeks of court.

After graduating, he attended the University of Miami law school each day and worked nights for the police force. He applied for and became a member of the University of Miami Law Review, which opened the door for more job opportunities as a litigator and circuit court judge.

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‘Paper Clip Project’ brings school acclaim

by Megan McSwain
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When Whitwell Middle School began its after-school Holocaust-studies class in 1998, Principal Linda Hooper, who will speak at the Ninth MTSU International Holocaust Studies Conference on Saturday, Oct. 24, said she had no idea it would evolve into a project that would attract media attention to the school and its students.

“I did not have a clue anybody would care outside of this community,” Hooper said about the Paper Clip Project, for which students collect donated paper clips in honor of Holocaust victims.

Students created the project after a school-improvement council decided Holocaust studies would address the school’s curriculum’s lack of cultural diversity.

“We live in a very isolated area,” Hooper said about Whitwell, Tenn. “We thought our children needed to come to some realization about what hate and intolerance can cause, and we also felt like our children needed to understand diversity of culture, because we do live in a global neighborhood.”

The project was to give students a better understanding of the amount of Jews and non-Jews who were persecuted by the Nazis. Students chose to collect paper clips to represent the Holocaust victims, because a Norwegian Jew, Johan Vaaler, is credited with inventing the paper clip. Hooper said, and Norwegians who protested the Nazi regime wore paper clips on their lapels during World War II.

Hooper asked Sandra Roberts, a language arts teacher, to teach the class, without pay, to students who would not receive school credit. There was not enough time in the school’s schedule to fit it into its regular curriculum, which is why it was first offered after school.

Because new subject matter was being introduced, Hooper said she wanted the community and parents to be aware and involved, and required students to bring a parent to each class.

“When we first started studying the Holocaust, that was a brand new subject to this area,” Hooper said. “People were aware that Jews were persecuted, but they were not aware of the enormity of it. We needed people to understand what we were studying and why.”

The class has since changed to a before-school program. Hooper said now that the community knows about the program and supports it, students no longer need to bring a parent to class, but parents are welcome to attend.

Hooper, who graduated from MTSU with a bachelor’s degree in 1963, said she thinks students should be taught about issues like the Holocaust to understand the consequences of actions.

“Differences are what make this world so great,” Hooper said. “The Paper Clip Project teaches that it’s up to you, No. 1, to make good personal choices. No. 2: What you should be doing, personally, is helping to create a world where love and respect are the rule and not the exception.”

She said she has seen how students who participate in the project have changed. They have become more sensitive to how their actions affect others, photos courtesy of Whitwell Middle School Library

Appointments

Dr. H. Willis Means (elementary and special education) has been appointed to the board of directors for Rutherford LEAP, a program that works toward providing each seventh-grade student in Rutherford County with a laptop computer for daily use in the classroom to help them acquire the technological skills necessary for their successful futures.

Honor

Coach Dean Hayes (athletics) joins his 2009 Hall of Fame special mention from MTSU’s tennis program. He was at his alma mater as part of the five-member 2009 class of the Lake Forest (Ill.) College Athletic Hall of Fame. Hayes has coached MTSU’s track and field program since 1965.

Media

Professor Pierre Vincent (speech and theater) discussed the use of language—rough and otherwise—to express himself in public venues in his talk “Morning Line with Nick Beres” on NewsChannel 5+ Sept. 30.

Presentations

A collaboration between Dr. Warner Cribb’s geosciences students and a high-school student and chemistry teacher led to their Sigma Gamma Epsilon Undergraduate Research Posters presentations at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America Oct. 18-21 in Portland, Ore. The topic was “Geochemical Investigation of Potential Toxic Metal Releases from TVA Coal Ash Surface Impoundments into Nearby River Waters and Sediments” and MTSU senior Miller Wylie made the presentation. Other participating MTSU students were senior Jennifer Pickering and freshman Caitlin Shannon. The team also included Siegel High School senior Matt Jones and Ravenwood High School senior Daniel Cuddy. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation Step grant to the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.


Deb Sullivan and Dr. Lyn Parsons (nursing) presented “How to Make a Difference in Functional Outcomes with Spina Bifida.” at the 2009 Congress on Spinal Cord Medicine and Rehabilitation Sept. 23-26 in Dallas.