MTSU crews focusing on NASA’s ‘transition’

by Gina E. Fann
gfan@mtsu.edu

This is one giant step, in two big leaps, for MTSU: Students from two mass communication classes are shooting a documentary in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the transition and “reinvention” of NASA as the official media crew for Nashville Public Television, WNPT.

The first step involved the Oct. 28 test flight of the new Ares-1X rocket from the Kennedy Space Center. The second will focus on work surrounding one of the final flights of the space shuttle Atlantis, tentatively set for Nov. 16.

“We went down for a launch several years ago, and because we’re always trying to find opportunities to involve our students, we started putting together ways to get students down here, too,” explains recording industry professor Dan Pfeifer.

But when the Columbia explosion grounded shuttle flights for more than two years—just a month before an MTSU crew was scheduled to visit—Pfeifer and Dr. Mary Nichols, electronic media communication professor, had to regroup.

“They started flying the shuttles again in 2005, and we started planning again … scrounging money and getting permissions about a year ago,” Pfeifer says. “Our intention was to go down for another launch … and plan a second trip to shoot B-roll. But we realized that the window of opportunity was so narrow and we could get two (launch) shoots in one semester, so we decided to stay because of the story of the transition of NASA.”

NASA says its “‘Transition’ is the biggest ever in terms of opportunities to travel to countries all over the world for the learning experience of a lifetime.

“My philosophy is to come and learn more information,” Waller says. “You may be surprised to find what’s possible. We’re here to find out what fits you.”

Exchange programs offered by MTSU can send students to Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

In addition, relationships with a number of consortia, including the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, the MTSU Keathley University Center, and the United Nations University, offers a number of options.

Maiden voyage: Third-grader Emily Musselman was on hand to help her dad, David, and others from the MTSU camera crew. David Musselman is an MTSU crew member for Nashville Public Television, WNPT.

MTSU Photographic Services photos by J. Intintoli

Hats off to Campus School!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!—Students at Homer Pittard Campus School toss their hats into the air, above, as they perform in the gymnasium Nov. 6 to celebrate the school’s 80th anniversary. At right, fourth-grader Emily Musselman shows her desk and work to her mom, Kathy Musselman, assistant vice president for human resources at MTSU, during a classroom tour. Students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and guests enjoyed a day of festivities at the school, which serves kindergarten through sixth grades.

MTSU Photographic Services photos by J. Intintoli

Web redesign under way to ‘balance message’

MTSU’s home page on the Web will have a different look this spring, thanks to a redesign project now under way.

“Three years ago was our last redesign, and with Web technology and content constantly evolving, a new design will provide a way for us to balance our message and serve our prospective students, current students, faculty, staff and guests,” said Barbara Draude, assistant vice president for academic and instructional technologies.

Like the virtual tour of MTSU’s campus launched this fall, the Maine-based CampusTours Inc., an interactive media and software company, is working with a university committee on the redesign of www.mtsu.edu.

“There are representatives from each (university) division to give necessary contact information!”

See ‘Web’ page 3

New passport to success: Study Abroad Fair Nov. 17

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

A passport to a world of new and exciting possibilities awaits MTSU students at the annual Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Keathley University Center.

Rhonda Waller, director of Education Abroad and Student Exchange, says this year’s fair will be the biggest ever in terms of opportunities to travel to countries all over the world for the learning experience of a lifetime.

“My philosophy is to come and learn more information,” Waller says. “You may be surprised to find what’s possible. We’re here to find out what fits you.”

Exchange programs offered by MTSU can send students to Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

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See ‘Study’ page 5
Having lived in several parts of our country, I’ve been able to spot many similarities and also many differences in attitudes, beliefs and ways of life among the people of various regions. For instance, the use of “ma’am” and “sir” is prevalent here in the South, while the use of it in the Northeast is not that common. What might be an innocuous curse up North may be near the top of offense here in the South.

One commonality I have found everywhere I go, however, is what I call the “disease of omnipotence.” The majority of people are sure they know all about other people in the world, even when they have spent no time talking to them or reading about them and their culture.

I fell into the trap myself when it came to China. Before I visited this past August, I had a “clear” picture in my mind about life over there. There would be armed soldiers or Communist Party agents all over the streets. Anything that resembled religious buildings would be bulldozed. Bicycles would be the dominant transportation method. And the people would be quiet and serious.

Thankfully, I was given the opportunity to go to China and be taught, once again, that I am not omnipotent and will never truly know anything about people and places if I don’t make an effort to learn about them.

My lesson started in Beijing. We were walking down the street to go to a high-end shopping district (e.g., Pierre Cardin, Gucci, etc.). I looked up at a national and global activities connect young people through local, economic challenges as anticipated by the state.”

McPhee said. “The feedback and guidance provided by this group, which will meet periodically, will be particularly important as we continue to implement the recommendations associated with our ‘Positioning the University for the Future’ Initiative and as we work to address future economic challenges as anticipated by the state.”

The council’s first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. in Cantrell Hall in the Tom Jackson Building. Council members include Kim Edgar, assistant to the president; Heidi Zimmerman, Tennessee Board of Regents associate general counsel; Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president; Deborah Belcher, Faculty Senate chair and the following division, college and/or departmental representatives:

• Audit and Consulting Service: Brenda Burkhart and Diane Snodgrass;
• Community Engagement and Support: Gloria Bonner and John Hood;
• Institutional Equity and Compliance: Forrestine Williams and Barbara Patton;
• Business and Finance: John Cothern, Mike Cower, Katelynn Mussett, David Gray, Patti Miller, Buddy Peaster and Ron Malone;
• Development and University Relations: Joe Baledy, Jonjanis Johnson, Tom Tozer and Nick Perlick;
• Athletics: Chris Massaro, Diane Turnham and Mark Owens;
• Student Affairs and Enrollment Services: Deb Sels, Sarah Sudak and Sherian Huddleston;
• Graduate Studies: Mike Allen and Peter Cunningham;
• Provost’s Office: Diane Miller, Bill Badley, Rick Moffett, Watson Harris, Becky Cole and Faye Johnson;
• Information Technology: Lucinda Lea, Tom Wallace and Barbara Draud;
• Business: Jim Burton, Jeffrey Hamm, Steve Lewis, Stanley Gambill, Charles Baum and Jill Austin;
• Education and Behavioral Science: Terry Whiteside, Deborah Newman, Jim Huffman, Connie Jones, Scott Colclough, Delmair Walker and Dennis Pappas;
• Liberal Arts: John McDaniel, Jean Nagy, Tom Strawman, Joan McRae, Ronald Zawislak, Amy Sayward, George Riordan, Ron Bombardini, Stephen Morris, Rebecca Smith, Jackie Eller and Rebecca Fischer;
• Mass Communication: Roy Moore, Dwight Brooks, Dennis Oneal and Chris Haseula;
• Honors College: John Vile;
• Continuing Education and Distance Learning: Mike Boyle;
• Academic Enrichment: Marva Lucas; and
• Walker Library: Don Craig;

For more information, please call 615-898-2902.

FOR THE RECORD

China gently changes student’s preconceived notions

by Drew Dunlop

news@mtsu.edu

MTSU hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week Nov. 16-20

MTSU is joining entrepreneurship educators worldwide-the week of Nov. 16-20 to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week, an event to connect young people through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators.

The university’s Department of Business Communication, Entrepreneurship and Wright Travel Chair in Entrepreneurship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business is working in conjunction with the Department of Recording Industry in the College of Mass Communication to conduct the event. Included in a week of outstanding speakers are:

• Steve Moore, senior vice presi- dent AEG Live/Moore Entertainment and president of the Country Music Association, will provide a keynote address on Monday, Nov. 16, for the Department of Recording Industry; and
• David Bullock, social media expert and co-author of Barack 2.0: Barack Obama’s Social Media Lessons for Business, and Rich Miles, founder and managing member of CAPSTONE Business Advisors LLC, who’ll team up for keynote speeches for the big finale event in the College of Business on Friday, Nov. 20.

The week’s events will be held in the Business and Aerospace Building and the Bragg Mass Communication Building, and all events are open to the public.

For a complete agenda of the week’s events, please visit the MTSU entrepreneurship Web site at https://mtsu.edu/entre and click on the colorful “Global Entrepreneurship Week” icon.

For more information, please call 615-898-2902.

Drew Dunlop is a senior communication studies major and a McNair Scholar. He will return to China next summer for a year of intensive Chinese language training at Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou. Video from his summer 2009 trip will be part of a story in an upcoming edition of the monthly video magazine “Middle Tennessee Record.”

Drew Dunlop
Employee Giving makes a Big Blue Difference

by Dr. Gloria Bonner
gbonner@mtsu.edu

Dr. Gloria Bonner is chair of the MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign and director of the Office of Community Engagement and Support.

Dear Friends,

We are excited that the 2009 Employee Charitable Campaign is going to put a heavy emphasis on recruiting first-time participants, in addition to retaining those individuals committed to giving year after year. The campaign committee is hopeful that more MTSU employees will contribute, no matter how large or small, to meet the growing needs within the community. After all, we are a university family known for showing compassion for others.

The theme for the 2009 Employee Charitable Campaign is “I’m One Who Really Makes a Difference.” So again, we would like to invite you all to take the BIG BLUE CHALLENGE with us. Just imagine what an organization this size could accomplish if every employee challenged their colleagues to donate their “Snack break” money for a week, a month or a year? That’s why your leadership will be instrumental to the success of the project this year.

Certainly, our goal is ambitious, but our community needs are also greater considering the tough economic challenges we have faced recently. Now, more than ever, we are focused on the growing commitment to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. It will take all of us working together to inspire giving to a community of deserving citizens who are in need. This year’s campaign gives us another opportunity to demonstrate that BIG BLUE SPIRIT on behalf of family, friends, and neighbors.

Given the recent economic climate, the support from MTSU employees will make a BIG BLUE DIFFERENCE in the lives of others who would otherwise have to do without. Each community service provider you help reach today can make a big difference in our community tomorrow. All we need are a few more willing contributors and participants than last year in order to reach a few more neighbors in need.

We are looking forward to a great campaign on our campus this year. Please join us in the “I’m One Who Really Makes a Difference” this year and also invite your colleagues to join you in taking the BIG BLUE CHALLENGE together. Go to www.mtsu.edu/givemts and make your difference today.

Please follow the process outlined below:

• Review the Giving Campaign brochure (www.mtsu.edu/givemts/pdfs/campaignbooklet09.pdf) and determine your listed charity or charities to which you wish to contribute.

• Get the code number of your selected charity or charities. For example, the United Way of Rutherford County code is C65-009; the Boy Scouts of America, Middle Tennessee Council, is listed under United Way of Rutherford County and its code is C65-002.

• Complete the 2009 Campaign Pledge Form (www.mtsu.edu/givemts/pdfs/pledgeform09.pdf). Please use your M number on the form instead of your social security number.

• Return the pledge form to your team captain (list available at www.mtsu.edu/givemts/volunteers_giving_attmbnk_captain).

Team captains should turn in all pledge forms to Laurie Glenn in Room 114 of the Cope Administration Building no later than Friday, Nov. 20. Thank you for your generosity and your participation.

Dr. Gloria Bonner is chair of the MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign and Director of the Office of Community Engagement and Support.

President’s Commission funding new curricula on women

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women at MTSU is offering three grants of $1,800 each to faculty members who want to integrate the experiences and perspectives of women into the curriculum.

The grants are intended for use in the summer of 2010 to revise a course, revise a general curriculum or create a new course, to study-abroad program, create a new course, reconceptualize a current minor or create a new minor.

Applicants must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members in general, and curriculum vitae.

Using the Sloan Work and Family Network Research Network to access current issues in work-family scholarship in conjunction with sociological texts, Webber says her goal will be to motivate students to make connections between knowledge and its application to their lives, particularly as women. Webber’s course, which will be taught in spring 2010, will be open to all students who have completed Sociology 1101 and 1102.

Another 2009 grant winner, Dr. Meredith Huey Dye, assistant professor of sociology, developed a spring 2010 special topics course, “Women in Prison.”

“Although the course will focus primarily on the experiences of women as inmates and as workers, it will also cover the collateral consequences of imprisonment for women in general, i.e., the effect of incarceration on women as daughters, mothers and spouses/significant others,” Dye says.

She says the bulk of the course will examine special issues of women in prison, including drug use and treatment, physical and mental health, mothering and aging, as well as education, vocation and reentry. A tour of the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville is one important feature of the course.

The third 2009 grant recipient, Dr. Tricia Farwell, assistant professor of journalism, created a Journalism 4800 course, “Advertising and Social Media.”

Farwell says the undergraduate course, which is being taught this semester, began as a look at how advertisers incorporate social media into campaigns after an employer’s request that students know how to use social media strategically.

She revised the course to explore how women and marginalized groups are using the Internet to communicate with advertisers and how social media are used to build gendered communities.

Tentured or tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply for the 2010 PCSW grants. Each proposal should include a completed grant application form; a brief description of the project; a statement of goals and objectives; a timeline for completion and implementation of the project; a tentative bibliography, including materials on the theories and methods of curriculum integration; and curriculum vitae.

Applicants who wish to revise courses or minors should also state how the proposed changes would change as a result of the revisions. Priority will be given to courses that can be implemented within two years and those that are developed or revised for the undergraduate curriculum.

The deadline for submission of grant applications is Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. Applicants should send seven proposals (the original and six copies) to Dr. Samantha Cantrell, Office of Research Services, P.O. Box 124. Selected members of the PCSW’s Academic Issues Subcommittee will make the final decisions.

To submit an application, go to www.mtsu.edu/pcsw/grants.shtml. For more information, contact Cantrell at 615-494-8751 or scantrell@mtsu.edu.

“The Record Nov. 16, 2009 page 3
Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

“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.

**Nov. 16**

Monday, Nov. 16
Deadline for Spring 2010 Distinguished Lecture Fund applications
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/nsfp or contact: 615-898-2454.

Fall Honors Lecture Series: Dr. Ellen Garrison, “Military Training on Campus” 3-3:55 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact: 615-898-2152.

**Nov. 19**

Nov. 19-21
MTSU Theatre and Dance: “An Evening of Short Plays: ‘Shards of Glass’ and ‘Portrait of a Mother and Son’” 7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~theatre or contact: 615-494-8810.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Free Legal Clinic sponsored by the June Anderson Women’s Center 6:30-8 p.m., Room 206, James Union Building
Appointments required
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

MTSU Jazz Ensemble 7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com.

**Nov. 20**

Friday, Nov. 20
MTSU Wind Ensemble 7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Sunday, Nov. 22
MTSU String Studio Recital 7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Nov. 21**

Saturday, Nov. 21
MT Football vs. Arkansas State (Hometown Heroes) 3:30 p.m., Floyd Stadium
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Nov. 22**

Sunday, Nov. 22
“MTSU On the Record—How to Cook Everything” Mark Bittman talks about his book and his work for The New York Times, all of which are dedicated to cooking. 7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

**Nov. 23**

Monday, Nov. 23
Faculty Recital: Maya Stone, bassoon 6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Nov. 24**

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Guest Recital: Eva Amsler, flute 6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
MTSU Guitar Ensembles 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

**Nov. 25**

Wednesday, Nov. 25
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Tennessee 7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

**Nov. 26-27**

Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving holidays
No classes; university closed.
Crews

The media crews for the Ares test and Atlantis launch are a combination of Nichol’s EMC, 8490 undergrad course, Advanced Production Seminar, and Pfeifer’s Master’s in Recording Arts and Technologies 6340 course, Directed Production. Ten students from the EMC and MRAT classes are making each trip to Florida. “This truly is an amazing experience that we all have the opportunity to be a part of,” the teams wrote on their blog. “We are not only taping one of the first launches of the new Ares 1-X rocket, that is destined to replace the old weathered shuttles, but [we] will also be taping one of the last seven scheduled shuttle launches for NASA.”

Post-launch, they noted: “Good thing for test updates, because we have been left speechless.”

The classes have talked with several “above the line” advisers for their projects, including former astronauts and NASA scientists like Rick Chappell and Dr. Rhea Seddon. While they’re on-site, they’re working with NASA public affairs officers during media briefings, press conferences, etc., to obtain access for interviews.

“We’re casting as broad a net as we can,” Pfeifer says. “It’s really been amazing how many people are coming out to help us and make referrals. . . We’re getting some very compelling stories of the people of NASA and the excitement of their involvement. If they have the slightest part in getting a shuttle or a rocket up, they’re proud of it.”

“I was surprised the students would come up with something like it,” says Nichol. “The whole point of it is what’s NASA done for me lately?, and their approach is going to show how NASA done for me lately?”, and their approach is going to show how NASA

To follow the MTSU NASA crew’s adventures, read their blog at http://mtnasawwa.blogspot.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mtnu. nasaacmem. There’s even a documentary video about the documentary at the Facebook page.

Study

Cooperative Center for Study Abroad and the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, provide students with numerous other options.

“The fair is a great first step, but the next step is to come in for advising,” Waller says. “Don’t wait until the last minute!”

MTSU sent 254 participants, including 232 undergraduates, abroad in the 2008-09 academic year. Sixty-seven percent of them went to Western Europe. Twenty percent went to Latin America, and nine percent went to Asia.

In the same year, MTSU hosted 46 exchange students from 15 countries ranging from Antilles to Thailand. Seven of those students came from France, the destination for MTSU’s general education courses at the Institut Universitaire de Technologie in Cherbourg.

The school hosts MTSU undergraduates each June for summer classes augmented by historical trips to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont St. Michel and the D-Day beaches of Normandy.

“Although we offer French, we’re not primarily a foreign-language program,” says Dr. Steven Livingstone, professor of political science and coordinator of the Cherbourg excursions.

Accommodations are at a former French emperor’s naval hospital that has been converted into a cinema school. Each student will have his or her own room with a bath and kitchenette.

“I’m sure the students like the field trips the most because there are spectacular places they’ve never been,” Livingstone says. “I just like daily life in France: the pace, the food, strolling around. France is still a country of small, independent shops. The shops you see in Cherbourg you’re not going to see anyplace else.”

“I loved being able to get out of my comfort zone and experience different cultures,” Leah Rehert, a senior marketing major from Union City, says of her Cherbourg trip.

Students seeking to study abroad for summer 2010, fall 2010 or the full 2010-11 academic year can apply for generous scholarships. The deadline is Jan. 28, 2010. For more information, contact Livingston at 615-898-2720 or slivingston@mtsu.edu or Waller at 615-898-5179 or mtsroad@mtsu.edu.

College restructuring plan deadline extended for more review

by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

This is a campuswide update regarding our current discussions on the academic college restructuring recommendation in the “Positioning the University for the Future” Initiative report.

Over the past few months, there has been considerable discussion and debate about how MTSU’s colleges should be structured and the overall significance of this process to the future success and viability of the university. The open and honest dialogue associated with the proposed restructuring has been extremely valuable and has led me to determine, after consultation with the Faculty Senate leadership and others, that more time is needed to allow the academic leadership and faculty to address critical issues and explore other possible models that might prove effective in our final decision-making.

With this in mind, I am extending the deadline for the provost to submit a recommendation for my consideration from Dec. 1, 2009, until April 1, 2010.

It is very important that we continue discussions on efforts that will strengthen the academic program offerings at our university consistent with the Academic Master Plan. The fiscal challenges that we continue to face in Tennessee, along with the changing demands and expectations of institutions of higher learning across the country, dictate that doing nothing is not an option as we seek ways to move the university forward. Although the majority of the recommendations in the “Positioning the University for the Future” report were approved to help the university cut costs, many others were proposed as an investment in our future. While we do expect some minimal cost savings to result from the new college structure, the greater focus in following through with this recommendation is in taking the necessary steps to reposition the university to more effectively take advantage of, and benefit from, unique opportunities on the horizon for our institution. While we are currently in a tough financial period, we anticipate that better times will emerge.

As president of MTSU, I have the responsibility of providing visionary leadership that will further the mission of the university and maintain the kind of dynamic academic environment that supports the goals and objectives of our long-term academic master plan. I firmly expect that the investment of time and resources that we have and will put into realizing some of our college structure will help us in generating additional revenue to compensate for cuts in state support while also giving us the competitive advantage over other institutions when it comes to having academic programs that are organized based on current best practices and the anticipated needs of students and faculty.

Please know that, at this point, no particular proposed structure has been decided on or placed as a priority above any other as it relates to our college restructuring. Dr. Diane Miller, interim provost, recently disseminated a revised proposal reflecting feedback from faculty members and discussions that are ongoing. This is only a proposal at this point in our deliberations. As discussions continue, I want this effort to remain an inclusive and collaborative process that will result in our being able to tap into the full potential of our resources. Dr. Miller will continue to provide additional information about the various procedures and processes that will inform the development of the final proposal that will be considered. Additionally, we are working on a more comprehensive update that will give the entire university community a sense of where we are with the remaining recommendations in the master plan and the most frequently asked questions that we are receiving about the overall “Positioning the University for the Future” Initiative.

As always, thank you for your continued support and input. I look forward to interacting with the Provost’s Office, the Faculty Senate and other faculty colleagues as we work through this very important change process together.
Dec. 1 is the deadline for 2010-11 academic scholarships

Guaranteed academic scholarships and awards include the Chancellor, Presidential, Academic Service, Valedictorian and Salutatorian, and Provost Scholarships. Students who apply for admission by the deadline automatically will be considered for these awards, said Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships.

Other academic scholarships at MTSU include the Buchanan Fellowship, National Merit, National Achievement, DREAM (Diverse Representation and Educational Access at MTSU) and the new International Baccalaureate Diploma scholarships.

Students may visit the MTSU Web site at www.mtsu.edu/scholarships for information about requirements, application procedures and deadlines for these awards, McCarty added.

Current students can apply online by Dec. 1 for Enrichment and Vision scholarships, said Julie Hughes, financial aid scholarship assistant. They can visit www.mtsu.edu/scholarships to learn more about requirements and application procedures.

Transfer applicants must submit official college transcripts. The scholarship deadline for transfer applicants is Feb. 1, 2010, and more details are available at the scholarship Web site.

Most MTSU Foundation and DREAM scholarships have a Feb. 15 deadline, Hughes said.

High-school students interested in applying for an Army ROTC national scholarship must apply through www.armyrotc.com, call 615-898-2470 or e-mail Maj. Trey Brannom at lbrannom@mtsu.edu. This scholarship has a Nov. 16 deadline.

The School of Music awards scholarships on a competitive basis to music and nonmusic majors. These will be awarded in 2010 after auditions are held on Friday, Jan. 29, Friday, Feb. 19, and Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Wright Music Building. Students can register for auditions by visiting www.mtsumusic.com online. Students and their parents or guardians must complete the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, to receive federal and other forms of financial aid starting Jan. 1, Hutton said.

For more information, call 615-898-2830 or visit the financial aid Web site at www.mtsu.edu/financialaid.
J O U R N A L I S T S

photojournalist. It took her a year to save for a more professional camera. The media attention Skochilo received gave her opportunities to become a contributing writer for various publications. One of her reports caught the eye of the Associated Press, and she was asked to work as a freelance photographer, taking pictures of protests and presidential meetings in Kyrgyzstan. Skochilo said she enjoys taking pictures more than writing because sometimes a photograph can better express what she feels than words can. In the future, she said, she would like to go back to Kyrgyzstan to help promote free speech and share more stories through photographs. “I would like to tell people not about politics; politics are so annoying,” she said. “I would like to highlight social issues in my country, to help some people. It could bring people together. When we think about other people it brings us together. We get closer, and we will be a real nation.”


Faculty

Dr. Wandi Ding (mathematical sciences) and her STEM summer research students, Evan Lancaster (high-school teacher) and Raymond Hendon (senior math major), present a poster, “Discrete Time Optimal Control Applied to Pest Control Problems,” at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis Undergraduate Research Conference in Knoxville Oct. 23-24.


Dr. Zachariah Sinkala (mathematical sciences) presented “Stability of Traveling Waves in Nonlinear Hyperbolic Equations” at the 26th Annual Southeastern-Atlantic Regional Conference on Differential Equations held Oct. 16-17 at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Drs. Vince Smith and Sherry J. Roberts (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented “Making the Transition from On-Ground (F2F) to Online Using Desire2Learn (D2L)” at the Southern Business Education Association 2009 Conference in Huntsville, Ala., on Oct. 23.

Promotions

Karen Case (TMSTEC) has taken the post of assistant director with the Society of College and University Information Professionals (SCUIP) to its headquarters in Vanderbilt University’s Library on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 3 p.m. in the Tucker Theatre lobby box office.

Fall Dance Concert set nightly at 7:30 Dec. 3-5 in Tucker

MTSU Dance Theatre will present its annual Fall Dance Concert Dec. 3-5 at 7:30 nightly in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building’s Tucker Theatre.

Dr. Cindi Smith-Watlers (biology, Center for Environmental Education) and MTSU doctoral candidate Karen Hargrove conducted a workshop, “Teaching Sustainably” at the Tennessee Association of Community Education Association’s annual conference in Nashville. Their workshop featured the internationally recognized “Facing the Future” curriculum on sustainability. Attendees received the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade curriculum guide.

Submit your Faculty/Staff Update items (including promotions and new hires) and other news tips to gfnews@mtsu.edu by

Tuesday, Nov. 17, for the Nov. 30 edition of The Record or by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, for the Dec. 14 Record.

MTSU is accepting nominations for the 2010 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, which honors Miss Jeannette Moore King, a member of the first Middle Tennessee Normal School faculty, and Miss Martha Hampton, the first female administrator at MTSU.

The award is presented to an individual from the MTSU community who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the status and equality of women on campus.

Per Nordin, associate professor in MTSU’s Department of Social Work, said the award is unique in the entire state of Tennessee and one of only a few in the nation for recognizing achievement by an individual in the social work profession.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, Nov. 30. Please submit your nomination, including a brief letter outlining the nominee’s contributions, to The King- Hampton Award Committee, MTSU P.O. Box 13.

Visit the AFAW Web site, www.mtsu.edu/afaw, for more information, and take a few moments to recognize the contributions of an individual that has made an impact on the lives of the women of MTSU’s campus.

Judging the best

Whaley, all of Murfreesboro; brothers Danny Chambers of Gulf Shores, Ala., and Ron Joe Whaley and Jesse Chambers, both of Murfreesboro; and a sister, Sara Chambers of Murfreesboro. Mr. Chambers was a graduate of Oakland High School and MTSU, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Middle Tennessee State University Foundation.

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) and his vocal group TAKE 6 performed with Amy Grant and the U.S. Air Force Reserve Band at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 24.

Dr. Desiree L. Roberts of Middle Tennessee State University was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society, at the annual Southeastern-Atlantic Regional Conference in Knoxville Oct. 23-24.


Dr. Robert Lehman and junior Patrick Hephner, senior Brittany Allen and Erin Rehberg,” he said. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for MTSU staff and students in kindergarten through 12th grades. MTSU students will receive free admission with a valid MTSU ID. Tickets are available in advance by calling 615-494-8810 or by visiting the Tucker Theatre lobby box office.

For more information, please visit www.mtsu.edu/theatre.

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Tuesday, Nov. 17, for the Nov. 30 edition of The Record or by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, for the Dec. 14 Record.

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Muskie Graduate Fellow is Kyrgyz journalist

by Megan McSwain
news@mtsunews.edu

TSU is welcoming a famous news blogger and Associated Press photographer, Elena Skochilo of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to its graduate program.

Skochilo, 28, is part of the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, which allows members from 12 countries of the former Soviet Union to study in the United States. Skochilo has been studying mass communications at MTSU for three months and is scheduled to stay for two years, said Dr. Clare Bratten, director of graduate studies for the College of Mass Communication.

“I think having international students here helps our programs become more globally oriented, more culturally aware and inclusive,” Bratten said. Skochilo said she enjoys her classes and finds them interesting because she’s learning a lot. She graduated from Kyrgyz State National University with a degree in computer science and said classes there differ from the ones at MTSU.

“A American students are more independent and research a lot of information themselves,” Skochilo said. “In my country, the professor just gives a lecture.”

Skochilo is interested in studying journalism and photography to improve her skills. Everything she knows about the two subjects, she says, she learned on her own and from friends and colleagues.

She started writing news stories through her blog, which she originally created to share personal pictures and stories with her friends. That blog gained fame when she wrote about the 2005 Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan.

She was surprised when her blog posts about the capital’s protests against the president were quoted in the media. At the time, Skochilo had no experience writing news stories; she just wanted people to know what was going on in her country.

“I didn’t want my friends to be fooled by local agencies,” she said. “I just wanted them to know my opinion about this (and) how I saw that event.”

The Tulip Revolution, which ultimately led to the overthrow of the administration, brought many sleepless nights, Skochilo recalled, as people from Russia, Ukraine, Norway, Australia and Canada called her to confirm stories.

“I felt a great, great responsibility for every word I was saying in my blog,” she said. “I was just asking people, ‘Don’t panic. Please don’t panic.’

I was telling people, ‘Everything will be OK. Please don’t believe any gossip.’

“We don’t have any opposition press in my country. We don’t have a variety of opinions. It’s getting worse and worse, and it’s worrying me,” she said.

Skochilo said she wrote about topics the government didn’t and was shocked to see how the media covered the protests.

“They didn’t say anything informative,” she said. “They didn’t tell they arrested some people, and they didn’t tell they beat some people, but I told.”

In addition to providing information from other citizens about the events, she went to the capital to see and photograph the looting and damaged buildings.

She took her first pictures with a point-and-shoot camera, and after a news agency bought a few of her photographs, she thought of becoming a professional photographer.

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