Walker Library celebrates a decade

More than 800,000 visits annually to 10-year-old facility

by Gina K. Logue

The James E. Walker Library, named for MTSU’s eighth president, opened in 1999 with nearly 645,000 volumes, 3,500 journals and a budget of $269 per student.

Today, the library has almost a million books and e-books, nearly 20,000 journals and databases and 350 desktop and laptop computers. The budget is $332 per student.

Advances in student-centered services over the last 10 years include increasing the number of computers; having laptops available for checkout; greater technological access to reference librarians, like instant messaging, texting and e-mailing a librarian for research help; and the availability of research coaches throughout the year.

“The completion of this building after so many years of waiting, discussing, designing and constructing gave the university community a much-needed boost toward what the university should and could be in the future,” says Don Craig, library dean. “Its beautiful appearance, its spaciousness and its functionality have been welcoming over 800,000 campus users each year with many more generations to come in the future.”

The first library on campus was housed on the third floor of Kirksey Old Main in 1912. It had 75 donated volumes available for checkout. In 1927, a second library opened with 2,000 volumes, located in Murfree Hall on the site where Peck Hall is today.

In 1958, the Todd Library, designed to handle 150,000 volumes, opened, an addition was built in 1970 allowing the Library to hold 225,000 volumes. Eventually, Todd would contain more than 600,000 volumes.

Students may enter an anniversary celebration drawing for an iPod and other prizes by explaining their favorite thing about the library. Entry cards are available throughout the building, or students can e-mail their answers to favorites@libnet.mtsu.edu. The deadline is Monday, Nov. 30, and the drawing is set for Tuesday, Dec. 1.

For more information about the anniversary, please call 615-889-2917 or go to http://library.mtsu.edu.

Continuing Ed programs receive state awards

MTSU’s College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning has received two awards from the Tennessee Association for Continuing Education.

The college received the TACHE’s Credit Program Award for its Adult Degree Completion Program, noting its value and impact in its Adult Degree Completion Program Award for outstanding and innovative noncredit programming, specifically for a joint special project by the CELD and the Regents Online Continuing Education program to train employees of the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services and the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare.

“This program was an extremely cost-effective method to supply the knowledge and skills required professional-development training to thousands of state employees, contractors and related parties,” said David Foster, director of marketing for the college.

“This effort saved the taxpayers of the state of Tennessee a huge amount of money,” said Don Craig, library dean.

Seivers headed ‘back home’ as new College of Education dean

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Lana C. Seivers, former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, will join MTSU’s ranks in 2010 when she becomes the new dean of the university’s College of Education.

A 1972 alumna of MTSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in speech and hearing therapy and minors in political science and secondary education, Seivers recently was announced as the newest member of the university administrative and academic team by MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. She will assume her new responsibilities Feb. 1.

“Dr. Seivers comes with a level of knowledge and experience in the field of education that is second to none,” McPhee said. “Attracting a professional of her extraordinary background and expertise speaks very highly of the university and our program, faculty and students. Without a doubt, Dr. Seivers will be a tremendous asset to the university and will provide exceptional leadership for our College of Education.”

Most recently, Seivers served as executive director of the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, an entity funded primarily by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and dedicated to early childhood, teacher quality, community engagement and leadership.

She was appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to serve as the state’s education commissioner, a job she held for five years until her February 2008 resignation. At that time, in

IN BRIEF

H1N1 Vaccines Pending

MTSU’s Student Health Services has received some of its requested doses of the H1N1 vaccine but is still awaiting enough to conduct shot clinics on campus, Director Rick Chapman said at press time. For the latest updates, check www.mtsu.edu/healthservices.

To stay healthier during this flu season, clip and save the H1N1 info bookmark on page 7.
Remember wounded warriors on your holiday card list

by Lee Ann Newton
lenet@mtsu.edu

Greetings, everyone! Even though 20,000 Christmas cards for wounded soldiers have been sent since December 2006, the need continues. The hospitals are still full of our wounded warriors, and they continue to arrive daily.

In October 2006, I learned that a friend’s son had lost both of his legs in an IED explosion in Iraq. Through his personal blog over the next two years, I and many others came to realize the extent of such horrific wounds and how they can require multiple surgeries and years of recovery and rehabilitation time. Josh was in the hospital for more than a year and on-site rehab for two more. That is what sparked me to create Operation Christmas Care, Christmas Cards for Wounded Soldiers.

Operation Christmas Care is staffed and supported by your truly every Christmas season.

While most everyone has heard of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Brooks Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is not so well-known. However, with hundreds of amputees from IED explosions in the hospital and rehab facility there, the need for ongoing support is critical to their recovery.

Unfortunately, our soldiers’ support system sometimes dwindles after the life-threatening danger has passed, but the painful daily grind of recovery continues. E-mails are nice, and they’re appreciated, but colorful cards or letters with a heartfelt message of support and encouragement can beam from the walls of their hospital rooms until they leave.

I’ve placed a drop box in the hallway on the first floor of the Fairview Building for your cards for Operation Christmas Care. If you would like to create a drop box for your area, let me know, and I will send you the Operation Christmas Care logo to put on the box. You also can send your cards via campus mail to me at Box 82. If you prefer to send a “Season’s Greetings” card or one that simply says, “Thinking of you,” that would be great, too.

Continuing — from page 1

amount of money by leveraging the assets and capabilities of several state agencies and provided time-sensitive training to the DCS staff. This methodology can be of benefit to many state agencies, organizations, associations or companies that have employees with training needs in multiple locations.

To win the awards, each program had to be less than five years old; reflect originality in approach, content and delivery; be marketed toward new audiences or in innovative formats; and be easily replicated at other institutions.

“I feel extremely honored that our college was the recipient of these awards,” said Dr. Mike Boyle, dean of the College for Continuing Education and Distance Learning. “This demonstrates that our ongoing effort to develop creative solutions to current issues is effective and is being recognized by our peers. As we expand our efforts, we anticipate finding more innovative solutions to the education issues confronting Tennessee.”

For more information about the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, visit its Web site anytime at mtsu.edu/learn or call 615-896-2177.

You also can follow the college on Twitter (www.twitter.com/MTSU anytime) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MTSUanytime).

Correction

A cutline on page 5 in the Nov. 17 print edition of The Record provided an incorrect date. The photo accompanying the “New passport to success: Study Abroad Fair Nov. 17” article was taken in June 2009.

Delta delegation

Dr. McPhee has set high expectations that we become a national leader in teacher education, and I am very eager to work with him and MTSU’s excellent College of Education faculty and staff.

“The rich history of MTSU’s teacher-preparation program, the number and quality of teachers we currently graduate and the national focus on teacher-education programs create a perfect environment to make the president’s vision a reality,” she added. “It is wonderful to be back ‘home’ and to be a part of educating future teachers.”

The recipient of numerous awards, including her 2008 induction into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, Seivers graduated from high school in Clinton, Tenn., before earning her undergraduate degree from MTSU. She received a Master of Science degree in educational administration/supervision in 1984 and a doctorate in educational leadership in 2003, both from the University of Tennessee.

Seivers’ appointment follows an extensive nationwide search to replace former education dean Dr. Gloria Bonner, who moved into MTSU’s new Office of Community Engagement and Support in April 2008. Longtime psychology professor Dr. Terry Whiteside has served as interim dean for the college and has guided efforts to design and outfit the new College of Education building, which is under construction with a target opening date of spring 2012.

If you wish to send your own package of cards from co-workers, friends and family, please reference “Operation Christmas Care” in your return address and send them in care of Judith Markelz, director, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Poteless Guest House, Second Floor, 3625 George Beach Road, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.

If you wish to contribute more than a card, here is a brief list of items that are always appreciated and needed. Many of our wounded warriors no longer have the ability to hold a book, and many have been left blind, so electronic books, DVDs and CDs help them pass the hours. Other items that help them in their everyday rehabilitation are:

• athletic shoes (men’s sizes nine to 13);
• small electronic games;
• men’s winter jackets (any size);
• fleece blankets;
• athletic shoes (men’s sizes nine to 13); and
• small electronic games.

It is important that any item you send is new or in excellent condition.

To ensure timely delivery, I will be sending the last batch of cards on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Thank you for remembering our wounded warriors this holiday season.

Lee Ann Newton is the executive aide for the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center at MTSU. She can be reached at 615-904-8573.
Stanford chemist Zare plans lectures

by Randy Weiler
rweiler@mtsu.edu

renowned laser chemistry researcher Richard N. “Dick” Zare of Stanford University will be an MTSU Distinguished Lecture Series speaker in early December, Department of Chemistry officials said.

Zare, who is the Margarette Blake Wilbur Professor of Natural Science and department chair at Stanford, will present a community lecture, “How to Be Successful,” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, in the Business and Aerospace Building’s State Farm Lecture Hall.

He’ll also present a student lecture, “These tips … lead to happy outcomes, whether or not a problem gets solved.”

Dr. Richard N. Zare, Stanford chemist, on his Distinguished Lecture topic

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The Record Nov. 30, 2009 page 3

TECTA offers new support for childcare education

Tennessee lawmakers have sought a new scholarship program to help Tennesseans in overcoming the current economic condition caused by the transition to a career in child care, organizers say. This is the first initiative to allow TECTA to provide tuition support for students who are a member of the public and private two- and four-year institutions and is designed to remove the financial constraints for adults entering and returning to school.

The scholarship program is open to permanent residents of Tennessee who meet the requirements for admission.

“In keeping with the illustrious history of TECTA, we are extending our services to assist Tennesseans in overcoming the current economic condition with the provision for funding tuition and mentoring in the field of early childhood education to individuals that have been affected,” says Katari Coleman, TECTA statewide program director.

An applicant may qualify if he/she:

• has lost a job due to a plant or company closing or layoff caused by corporate economic hardship or competition;
• is underemployed (working but not in the desired capacity in terms of compensation, hours or level of skill and experience);
• lives in a county affected by the current national economic crises; and/or
• is currently working directly or indirectly in the field of early childhood education.

Applicants may contact the TECTA site in their region. At MTSU, the TECTA site phone number is 615-904-8318, or applicants may contact Site Director Debbie Simpson at dsimpson@mtsu.edu.

The TECTA program, managed by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University, is sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

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Concert promotion class slates Dec. 2 show

A dvanced Concert Promotion, a hands-on recording industry class in MTSU’s College of Mass Communication, will turn its final class project into a concert as it presents AutoVaughn at the Tennessee Room in the James Union Building on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 9 p.m.

AutoVaughn, winners of the 2009 Fender Road Worn competition, will follow opening acts Modoc and Thief, who’ll take the stage beginning at 8 p.m.

The Murfreesboro Pulse, a regional entertainment publication, has partnered with the class to present the show. Other sponsors include 615 Music, MTSU Student Programming and Omega Delta Psi professional music industry fraternity.

Tickets are $6 for students and $8 general admission and can be purchased at www.bonpuls.com/autovaughn as well as in front of the Keathley University Center on campus through Dec. 2.

“Our students obtained sponsors, negotiated the performance agreement, designed the tickets and ticket distribution system and marketed the event,” said Dr. Rich Barnett, instructor of the class. “The production coordinator is a member of the class and will recruit members of Omega Delta Psi to serve as techs for sound, lights and staging.”

AutoVaughn is a four-piece Nashville indie-rock band that’s been receiving national attention in the past year and is touring in support of its upcoming studio release, “Rise.”

“The Cycles,” the band’s previous EP, was recorded and mixed by Brian Virtue, best known for his work with Jane’s Addiction, Audioslave and Deftones. Griff Morris, Amazon MP3’s senior business developer, dubbed AutoVaughn “the best band at SxSW 2008.”

For more information on AutoVaughn, including photos, contact information and MP3s, visit www.autovaughn.com.

Contact Barnett at rnbarnet@mtsu.edu for group discounts on orders of four or more tickets.

TEAMWORK—Members of the Blue Raider football team and MTSU’s Army ROTC battalion pose for a photo with a patient at the Alvin C. York Veterans Medical Center, during a Nov. 12 visit to the Murfreesboro facility. The MTSU crew, which also included members of the Blue Raider cheer-leading squad, spent about two hours at the hospital to talk with veterans. Standing are, from left, Phillip Tanner, Maj. Trey Brannon, Jenn Hill, Disabled American Veterans hospital service coordinator at the York Center; Capt. Aaron Billingsley; and Michael Cannon.

photo submitted

VA visit

VA veteran service coordinator Jerry Hill, Disabled American Veterans, stands with veterans as they pose for a photo with a patient at the Alvin C. York Veterans Medical Center.

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Please note:
Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

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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 Dec. 9
Photo Exhibit: “Memory Loss/Lost Library: Photographs by Stan Stembicki”
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 6-9:45 p.m. Sunday
Baldwin Photo Gallery
For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

Nov. 30
Monday, Nov. 30
Voluntary Buyout Program
application period begins
For information, visit http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/index.html or contact: 615-898-2929.

Our Friends, Our Selves Bookclub
featured book: The Lovely Bones
3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 206, James Union Building
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

MTSU String Studio Recital (violin/cello)
7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Dec. 1
Tuesday, Dec. 1
Red Cross Blood Drive
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Room 322, Keathley University Center
For information, visit www.givelife.org.

MTSU Percussion Ensemble
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Dec. 2
Wednesday, Dec. 2
“Disney Keys to Excellence” Free Leadership Session
open to all staff and students
9-10:30 a.m., Cantrell Hall, Tom Jackson Building
Advance registration required
For information, e-mail ckoepfge@mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2764.

Dec. 3
Dec. 3-5
MTSU Dance Theatre Fall Dance Concert
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~theatre or contact: 615-494-8810.

Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 4
First Friday Star Party:
Jeff Gritton, “Binary Stars: Strange Star Dances”
6:30-8:30 p.m., Wiser-Patten Science Hall 102
For information, contact: 615-898-2130.

Dec. 5
Saturday, Dec. 5
MTSU Flute Studio Recital
1 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Dec. 6
Thursday, Dec. 3
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-5756.

Dec. 7
Monday, Dec. 7
Faculty Senate Meeting
4:30 p.m., JUB 100
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

Dec. 8
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Tornado Siren Test Date
(test only; no action needed)
12:20 p.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

MTSU Symphonic Band
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Dec. 9
Wednesday, Dec. 9
Last day of classes

Dec. 10
Thursday, Dec. 10
Study Day (no classes)

Dec. 11
Dec. 11-17
Final exams

Celebrating a centennial of education
TASTEFUL TRAINING—MTSU’s Department of Human Sciences puts out the good china for their Centennial Celebration open house with the theme “From the Cradle to the Grave.” Students exhibited their work in child development and family studies; early childhood education; family and consumer sciences; food science; textiles, merchandising and design; and interior design. At center left, Chef Rick Martinez, an adjunct instructor in culinary arts, explains some of the tasty morsels he prepared for students, staff and other guests at the Oct. 28 event in the Ellington Human Sciences Building.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

Nov. 30-Dec. 13
Campus Calendar
The Record Nov. 30, 2009

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MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

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Join children’s book drive

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

The University Writing Center at MTSU has joined forces with Project Help and Murfreesboro City Schools Outreach during the holiday season to encourage children’s literacy.

In its team effort to promote the cause, UWC staff will accept new and gently used children’s books now through Wednesday, Dec. 9, as well as monetary donations, which will go toward the purchase of youth titles.

Meagan McManus, a peer mentor and UWC writing assistant, said that members of the UWC staff will attend Project Help’s fall semester celebration on Thursday, Dec. 17, to share some of the donated books with the lab’s children.

Those interested in donating children’s books may deposit them at the campus-based writing center, located in Room 325 in Peck Hall, during its regular operating hours. The center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information on the children’s holiday book drive, please contact the UWC at 615-904-8237 or e-mail McManus at mcm2r@mtsu.edu.

Make reservations now for Jan. 14 educators’ pre-retirement seminar

The Rutherford County Retired Teachers Association is sponsoring a free Pre-Retirement Seminar for educators on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 3:30 until 6 p.m. at North Boulevard Church of Christ, 1112 N. Rutherford Blvd.

Participants should make reservations before Monday, Jan. 11, to ensure that they receive needed seminar materials. Reservations may be made via e-mail to Sarag49@aol.com; please leave a name, school and telephone number for any necessary pre-seminar contact.

This year’s presenter will be Ron Pendergrass, associate executive director of the Tennessee Retired Teachers Association. Any educator who will retire under the state retirement plan, whether or not he/she is a member of the Tennessee Education Association, will learn information beneficial in making decisions concerning retirement.

Seminar participants should enter the church on the north side via the side door marked “Fellowship Kitchen.” Organizers will serve light refreshments between 3:30 and 4 p.m., and the seminar will begin promptly at 4.

Recognizing excellence

Great work!—Pam Davis, center, executive aide for the Department of Political Science, accepts the latest quarterly Secretarial/Clerical Award from her boss, Dr. Stephen Morris, left, chair of the political science department, and Ben Jones, right, Business Office manager and chairman of MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee. MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. For information on nominating an administrative, secretarial/clerical, classified or technical/service co-worker for the quarterly award program, go to http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/er/recog.html, download an employee recognition form and submit it via campus mail to Human Resource Services at Box 35.

Nominate your ‘unsung heroes’ for 2010 awards

MTSU’s Black History Month Committee is accepting nominations for unsung heroes to be honored at the 2010 Unity Luncheon, which is slated for Feb. 3.

Nominees must be individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their community, are age 60 or older and have lived in the Middle Tennessee area at least 25 years.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Dec. 11.

To nominate an unsung hero in the community, go to www.mtsu.edu/aahm/nominations.shtml and fill in the questionnaire.

For more information, contact Valerie Avent, assistant director of the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, at 615-898-2718 or vavent@mtsu.edu.
Newly tenured, promoted faculty honored at Nov. 17 event

TSU recognized and honored 39 newly tenured and/or promoted faculty members at a Nov. 17 reception in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Newly tenured faculty and their respective colleges are:
- Business—Rajesh Srivastava, management and marketing;
- Education and Behavioral Science—Linda A. Gilbert, educational leadership, and Leslie R. Lee, psychology;
- Liberal Arts—James N. Comas, English; John W. Maynor, political science; Joan McRae, foreign languages and literature; and Christoph Rosenmuller, history;

Newly tenured and promoted faculty are:
- Basic and Applied Sciences—Daniel B. Erenso, physics and astronomy; Joseph C. Hawkins, aerospace; Anhua Lin, mathematical sciences; David C. Stephens, mathematical sciences; Liurt F. Warner, nursing; and Ping Zhang, mathematical sciences;
- Business—Charles O. Kile, accounting; Thuhang T. Tran, management and marketing; and Patricia S. Wall, accounting;
- Education and Behavioral Science—Kyle A. Butler, educational leadership; Minsoo Kang, health and human performance; and Monica A. Wallace, psychology;
- Liberal Arts—Sekou M. Franklin, political science, and Noel D. Lorson, art;
- James E. Walker Library—R. Neil Scott; and
- Mass Communication—Sanjay Asthana, journalism, and Michael S. Fleming, recording industry.

New promotions include:
- Basic and Applied Sciences—Ngae S. Chong, chemistry; Ronald H. Henderson, physics and astronomy; and Eric W. Klumpe, physics and astronomy;
- Business—Robert B. Blair, business communication and entrepreneurship;
- Education and Behavioral Science—Stuart E. Bernstein, psychology, and James C. Tate, psychology;
- Liberal Arts—Martha P. Hixon, English; Philippa Holloway, history; Nuria M. Novella, foreign languages and literature; Carl M. Ostrowski, English; and Philip E. Phillips, English; and

A BIG STRETCH—Midstate high-school students attend a series of pre-service NASA classes at the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center in the Fairview Building. In the photo at right, students peek through 3-D glasses Nov. 10 during the “Earth, Moon and Stars” program on NASA’s future plans. Below, students learn how to visualize and plot the different altitudes for spacecraft orbiting the earth as compared to where weather balloons, jet aircraft and the Hubble Space Telescope travel during the Nov. 17 workshop, “How High is It?” A Nov. 9 workshop, “Swim, Sink or Be Neutrally Buoyant,” taught participants how to help an “astronaut” work in a pool.

Aerospace and AOPA partner; students, donors recognized

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

TSU’s nationally recognized aerospace program honored scholarship recipients and donors and announced a unique partnership with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association during the inaugural Aerospace Scholarship Awards Banquet Nov. 21 in the Tom H. Jackson Building’s Cantrell Hall.

“AOPA is the largest pilots’ association in the world,” said Dr. Wayne Dornan, aerospace department chairman. “We are excited about the partnership. Part of the agreement is that they will provide a free membership to all our students while they are in school.”

Amit Sircar, vice president of marketing of the AOPA’s Air Safety Foundation, presented the first of what will become an annual $7,500 scholarship award to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, who spoke about the aerospace scholarship program and the new partnership with AOPA.

Also attending from AOPA were Bruce Landsberg, executive vice president; Marci D’Alessio, marketing coordinator; Patrick Haller, director of marketing; and Bob Minter, the organization’s southeast regional representative and founder and chairman of the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame.

Certificates were presented to the scholarship recipients who attended, and most sat with the donors of their awards, said event organizer Andrea Georgiou.

“This was a recognition for the students who have received scholarships and an appreciation to the donors for continuing to provide scholarships,” said Georgiou, an assistant professor and flight-dispatch coordinator in the department.

Since 2005, she said, approximately 123 scholarships have been awarded to aerospace students.

“Many of the donors said they were extremely pleased with the banquet and pleased to see the faces behind the (scholarship) awards,” Dornan said.

In addition to Georgiou and Dornan, event committee members included adviser Andrew Symonds and Jennifer Allen, the development director for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Aerospace is considered one of the university’s signature programs. There are five major concentrations, more than 750 students and 24 faculty and staff members.

TSU has an active air traffic control/collegiate training initiative program for students.

Reaching for the moon, starts with NASA and MTSU
Bryan Ponath and Michael Chasteen led the MTSU Black Mesa Dev team to a sixth-place showing out of a 23-team field in the recent IBM-sponsored 2009 Association for Computing Machinery Mid-Central USA Programming Contest at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. Ponath and Chasteen combined to solve four problems out of nine during the five-hour contest Oct. 24. “It is the first time for Brian and Michael to participate in the regional programming contest,” said Dr. Zhijiang Dong, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and coach of two entering teams. “They did a very good job. It was a great achievement.”

The MTSU BlueRaiders2 team—Nathan Perry, Sarah Bell and Joseph Henry—solved three problems and finished 17th in the contest. It was their second year to enter; they solved one problem in 2008. “That’s big progress,” Dong said of the BlueRaiders2 team.

Dong said the MTSU Black Mesa Dev team ranks 55th and BlueRaiders2 ranks No. 103 in the entire nine-site region.

Vanderbilt Gold and Tennessee Tech 1 placed first and second, respectively, and have earned the right to compete in the ACM-International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals next April in Harbin, China. Event promoters bill the spring event as the most prestigious programming competition of its kind. Teams of university students use their programming skills and rely on their mental endurance to solve complex, real-world problems within a five-hour deadline.
Showing their blue, learning about green

FUTURE FARMING FUN—MTSU’s School of Agribusines and Agriscience welcomed more than 140 high-school Future Farmers of America members to the Ag RaiderFest before the Blue Raiders’ home football game against Mississippi State. After a morning of mini-semi-nars and tours of the school’s facilities, the visitors enjoyed a meal served by ag students, including Tiffany LaLonde and Meghan Hophner, at left, and joined in the pregame face-painting fun. In the photo above, Gina Locke of Page High School, center, shows off her new Blue Raider makeup job as Kaitlyn Carrington, left, cuts up with Shelby Glenn. Tractor Supply Company co-sponsored the event and provided $1,200 for the students’ guest tickets to the football game.

photos submitted

People Around Campus

Awards

A paper co-authored by graduate student Phil Lee (psychology) and Dr. Jwa Keun Lee (psychology), “Psychometric validation of the Cross-Cultural Religiosity Scale,” won a “Research in Progress” award from the Mid-South Educational Research Association in Baton Rouge, La., Nov. 4-6. The award included a $200 cash prize.

Dr. Jane Marcellus (journalism) received two top awards Oct. 10 from the American Journalism Historians Association during its 2009 meeting in Birmingham for her paper “Dear D: Sophie Treadwell’s 1915 Reporting from the ‘Big War Theatre’”—the David Sloan Award for Outstanding Faculty Paper and the Maurine Beasley Award for Outstanding Paper in Women’s History. Marcellus also presented the paper at the meeting.

Publications


Elections

Randy O’Brien (WMOT) has been elected president of the Tennessee Broadcasters Association.

Presentations

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) lectured at Belmont University Nov. 16 on “Black Religious Quartets and the Development of Gospel Music” for a convocation series, “Funding the Christian Imagination: Regarding the Arts and the Gifts They Bring,” sponsored by Belmont’s School of Religion.

Drs. Marva Lucas and Nancy McCormick (mathematical sciences) presented “Exploring the Significance of Mathematics College Readiness” at the 25th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Association of Developmental Education Oct. 28-30 in Dickson, Tenn. McCormick and Dr. Linda Clark (academic enrichment) presented “Promoting Complex Mental Skills in Mathematics” at the same conference.

Get noticed in The Record!

Submit your Faculty/Staff Update items (including promotions and new hires) and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, for the Dec. 14 edition of The Record. That’s also the last edition for 2009, so if you have events, news, etc., occurring between Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 2010, when The Record resumes publication, submit it by the Dec. 2 deadline to ensure that your news gets noticed! Faculty/Staff Update items and other news for the Jan. 11, 2010, edition of The Record should be submitted by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Be sure you’re reaching your audience in plenty of time: bookmark The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~profice/rec_deadlines.htm.