Welcome, Confucius Institute!

by Dr. Tonjanita L. Johnson
tjohnson@mtsu.edu

After a highly competitive selection process, MTSU has joined the ranks of a distinguished group of American institutions of higher learning approved to host a Confucius Institute on its campus.

In recognition of this achievement, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee hosted a ceremonial signing of the Confucius Institute agreement with representatives from its Chinese partner institution, Hangzhou Normal University in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, on Dec. 1 in Room 106 of MTSU’s Peck Hall.

“We are honored to have been selected to host this prestigious institute on our campus,” McPhee said. “MTSU has a strong commitment to international education, and we have been particularly enriched by our See ‘Welcome’ page 5

5-year, $1.925M grant will train math, science teachers

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU, home of one of the state’s premier teacher education programs, has received a five-year, $1.925 million grant to help launch MTeach, university officials announced.

MTeach, which will begin Jan. 1, is a replica of the nationally known UTeach program created at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997, said Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

“UTeach fundamentally changes the way high-school math and science teachers are trained,” Cheatham said. “UTeach recruits strong math and science majors with a chance to try out teaching for free through two one-credit freshman courses that help the college student prepare and deliver an active-learning lesson for elementary students and middle-school students. UTeach supports deep content knowledge and early and often engagement of future teachers in K-12 classrooms.”

Dr. Amy Phelps, professor in the chemistry department, and Dr. Linda Gilbert, associate professor in education leadership, will co-direct the MTeach program. MTeach is a partnership between the colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education and Behavioral Science.

“We in the College of Education and Behavioral Science have enjoyed the collaboration with our colleagues in math and the sciences in preparation for this grant and look forward to continuing the work to prepare the best possible math and science teachers for Tennessee,” said Dr. Phil Waldrop, associate dean for his college and a professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education.

“Tennessee, like most areas of the country, has a critical shortage in math and science teachers.”

See ‘Grant’ page 5
A n estimated 1,633 degree candidates will graduate during MTSU’s upcoming 98th fall commencement ceremonies, says Dr. Sherer Huddleston, associate vice provost of enrollment services.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and speakers starting at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,633 set to graduate, 1,398 are undergraduates and 235 are graduate students, including 218 master’s candidates, 12 education-specialist degree recipients and five doctoral candidates. Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. College of Business and the College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony. That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication, and Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost.

Mike Williams, a former state representative and MTSU alumnus, will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony.

Williams is a professional bassoonist, and a daughter Emma, 12. He serves as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony.

Williams currently is the Tennessee director for the American Petroleum Institute, handling public relations for the industry. While Williams received a Bachelor of Science degree in economics in 1981, he was president of the Associated Student Body (now known as the Student Government Association), a cheerleader for three years, a member of the gymnastics club and a charter member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Following his graduation from MTSU, Williams—after working in politics for several years, including with the Tennessee Democratic Party and on individual legislative and congressional campaigns—entered the business world, where he managed a telecommunications equipment company before starting his own business.

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Actress/playwright is spring Visiting Artist

by Dr. Claudia Barnett
clarenth@mtsu.edu

H eather Raffo, actress and playwright, will spend a week in residence at MTSU this spring to present a staged reading of selections from her award-winning play “9 Parts of Desire” and to teach the Visiting Artist’s Seminar, University Honors 3320.

The staged reading will take place Tuesday, Dec. 22, from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m. at Tucker Theatre as part of both the University Honors Program and Theatre Appreciation 1033. The event is free and open to the public.

The five-day Visiting Artist’s Seminar will meet Feb. 22-26 or March 15-19 from 3 to 5:40 p.m. daily. Students may register for this class through PipelineMT.

A one-woman show told by nine Iraqi women, “9 Parts of Desire” is Raffo’s first work as a playwright. Through it, she has found a unique voice bridging Iraqi and American culture. Her father is original- ly from Iraq and her mother is American. She grew up in Lansing, Mich., and was shaped tremendously by the events of the first Gulf War during her time as a student at the University of Michigan.

Raffo first performed “9 Parts of Desire” in 2003 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It later moved to Bush Theatre in London’s Off-West End, where critics hailed it as one of the five best plays in London in 2003. Its New York premiere was in the fall of 2004 at Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, where the show ran for nine sold-out months, had five extensions and was critics’ pick (New York Times, Time Out and Village Voice) for 24 weeks in a row.

Raffo is the recipient of a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and the Marian Seldes-Garon Kanin Fellowship. She received a 2005 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show as well as Helen Hayes, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League nominations for outstanding performance.

Since 2005, “9 Parts of Desire” has been produced across the United States, including the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles; Berkeley Repertory Theatre; Seattle Repertory Theatre; Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; the Guthrie in Minneapolis; Actors Theater of Louisville, Ky.; Wilma Theater in Philadelphia; Geva Theatre in Rochester, N.Y.; the Alliance in Atlanta; The Lyric in Boston; and Next Theatre in Chicago. It is being translated for international productions in Brazil, Greece, Sweden, Turkey and France. Publications are by Northwestern University Press and Dramatists Play Service as well as a number of anthologies.

The Visiting Artist’s Seminar, an interdisciplinary honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered seven times so far and has included topics as diverse as poetry, writing and performance. Artists frequently visit campus to speak to students, but the Visiting Artist’s Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts for five days and requires intensive student participation.

The Visiting Artist’s Seminar enhances culture and creativity on campus and engages students’ lives in an unusual way. It is taught at an introductory level so students from any field of study can participate. The seminar is limited to 15 students. The only prerequisites are upper division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

For the spring 2010 seminar, Raffo has drawn on her experience writing and performing “9 Parts of Desire” to develop a course called "Writing Identity." "Essentially, what I felt was unique about the process of creating ‘9 Parts of Desire’ was how I wrote using the tools I had come to have as an actress,” she explained. “Also, the poetic rhythm and structure I employed was heavily based on what I felt was an Iraqi vernacular rhythm as it translated into English. So I have tried to incorporate some ideas on how to use or teach these tools in a writing process that would have as the end result a monologue or poem that could be performed or read, depending on the student's intention.

“I am very much interested in immigrant culture, and I think much of the joy of writing ‘9 Parts’ was because I was able to immersse myself in a cultural community so different from the Michigan one I grew up in. I think it might be of interest for the stu- dents to have to do something similar. Along the community of voices we pull together for the pro- duction would itself be a community of immigrant voices from your region—perhaps even (with some work) wor- thy of being united as a play telling the immigrant stories at MTSU.”

The Visiting Artist’s Seminar is a five-day writing-intensive course exploring cultural identity from the first-person singular perspective. The aim of the class will be to create a performance monologue, poem or other first-person fiction based on immigrant identity.

Students will be asked to choose an individual, either real or fictional, with a specific cultural identity and set of given circumstances they wish to explore.

Dr. Claudia Barnett is the program coordinator for the Visiting Artist’s Seminar in the University Honors College. She can be reached at clarenth@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2877.

The seminar is limited to 15 students. The event is free and open to the public.

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Dec. 14

Annual Faculty Gift Wrap sponsored by Alpha Delta Pi
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Keathley University Center second-floor lounge
Free; no appointment or supplies necessary
For information, e-mail adpirvp@gmail.com.

Dec. 18

National Science Foundation Day at MTSU
workshop for researchers and potential NSF grantees
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Business and Aerospace Building
Registration fee: $20 per person
For information, visit www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=115793&org=NSF.

Dec. 19

Fall 2009 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, see story on page 2 or click on the "Graduation Info" link at www.mtsunews.com.

Dec. 20

MT Women’s Basketball vs. Western Kentucky
2 p.m., Murphy Center
R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl: Blue Raider Football vs. Southern Mississippi
7:30 p.m., Superdome
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Dec. 22

MT Men’s Basketball vs. Howard University
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Dec. 25

Winter holidays
University closed

Dec. 28

MT Women’s Basketball vs. Kentucky
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 1, 2010

Friday, Jan. 1, 2010
New Year’s Day

Jan. 2

Saturday, Jan. 2
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 3

Sunday, Jan. 3
MT Women’s Basketball vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
2 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 4

Monday, Jan. 4
University offices reopen.

Get noticed in The Record!
Submit your Campus Calendar items and other news tips to gfinn@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, for the Jan. 11, 2010, edition of The Record or 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, for the Jan. 25 Record.

Weird weather? Watch the Web this winter

When inclement weather arises, MTSU closing information will be available online, via MTSU’s Rave Alert emergency notification system and on area radio and TV stations. Class cancellations will apply to all classes, credit and noncredit. All MTSU offices will be open unless the message specifically says all offices will be closed. Overnight closing decisions will be announced by 6 a.m. the next day.

Learn more anytime at www.mtsunews.com by clicking the "Inclement Weather Information" link, following @MTSUalert on Twitter or visiting www.mtsu.edu/alert4u. To register for the Rave Alert system, visit www.getrave.com/login/mtsu and log in with your MTSU e-mail account information.

At MTSU, we take fire alarms seriously. Respond as if your life depended on it.

DO THE DRILL!

www.mtsu.edu/alert4u

Remember: If you pull a fire alarm, call 911 or 615-898-2424 to report your location, too.
McPhees plan holiday reception for faculty, staff

TSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee are going greener this year with an online invitation for their holiday reception for university faculty, staff and administrators.

University employees may visit www.mtsu.edu/holiday.html to view the colorful animated invitation for the holiday reception hosted by the McPhees on Monday, Dec. 14.

“We look forward to this opportunity to visit with each of you in our home,” Dr. McPhee said in extending the invitation.

The reception is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m., but departments are encouraged to choose a visiting time based on names to make the event flow more smoothly for everyone.

Departments beginning with the letters A to E may choose to attend between noon and 1 p.m. Letters F to P can visit between 1 and 2 p.m., and departments beginning with the letters Q to Z may choose to stop by between 2 and 3 p.m.

Employees are asked to bring canned goods to share locally with community neighbors who are less fortunate.

Forensic science will be newest undergrad major

by Lisa L. Rollins

The Record Dec. 14, 2009 page 5

Begining in spring 2010, MTSU will boast a new program of study with the official unveiling of the university’s newest undergraduate offering, the Bachelor of Science degree in forensic science.

The 120-hour program is the result of an academic collaboration by participating faculty in biology, chemistry and criminal justice administration, all of whom have teamed to build a strong interdisciplinary curriculum modeled in accordance with accreditation standards.

Dr. George Murphy, chairman of MTSU’s biology department, said his department has agreed to handle the paperwork for the program, which assignment of academic participation by faculty from each of the three departments will be involved in all aspects of the program.

“Just as forensic scientists are partners with law enforcement and the criminal justice system, all of the programs in forensic science at MTSU is a partnership that provides an education for students to work as forensic scientists in the ‘real world,’” said Dr. Deborah Newman, CJA chairwoman.

“The biology and chemistry departments provide the extensive background needed in science, laboratory processes, technological procedures and analysis of evidence, while the criminal justice department provides the basic principles of crime-scene investigation, judicial processes and presentation of evidence in court.”

Murphy said MTSU’s newest degree offering arose from student demand and a desire to help fill the need for properly trained, degreed professionals in the forensic science field.

“We are strictly focusing on the lab-analysis aspect (of forensic science),” Murphy said, noting that it will include the DNA portions of the lab and other Tennessee Bureau of Investigation-related crime-lab disciplines, such as drug chemistry, latent prints examination, firearms identification, serology/ DNA, toxicology and the like.

He added that MTSU’s forensic-science degree, which has been in the making for two years, would be the lone such program offered in Tennessee. The nearest similar programs currently operate at Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Mississippi.

No minor will be required, Murphy said, since the degree is highly interdisciplinary. Its core curriculum includes 23 semester hours in biology, 25 credit hours in chemistry, nine hours in CJA and eight hours of forensic seminar/internship credit.

Murphy said he anticipates many of MTSU’s forensic-science graduates will find employment with crime labs such as the TBI operation, which currently employs more than 100 science graduates will find employment with crime labs such as the TBI operation, which currently employs more than 100 scientists.

As part of its outlined services, the CIMTSU will:

• develop Chinese language and cultural classes;
• provide Chinese language teaching resources;
• train teachers to teach Chinese as a foreign language;
• offer a Chinese Proficiency Test and certification of Chinese language teachers;
• provide China-related library resources;
• conduct research about contemporary China; and
• provide services and consultation to Middle Tennessee and the state on matters related to Chinese culture and language.

Founded in 2004, the Confucius Institute is a nonprofit organization established to strengthen educational cooperation between China and other countries. The programs supported by the institute are designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese language and culture, deepen friendly relations between China and other nations and promote the development of multicultural and global harmony.

According to the organization’s Web site, as of October 2009, 282 Confucius Institutes and 241 Confucius Classrooms have been established in 87 countries and regions around the world. Only 80 of the Confucius Institutes established worldwide are hosted by institutions in the United States.

MTSU is making plans to host the temporary opening of its institute in spring 2010.
The Blue Raiders are going bowling for the second time in four years. Middle Tennessee has received an official invitation to represent the Sun Belt Conference as an at-large team in the ninth annual R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl on Sunday, Dec. 20. It will mark the second bowl game of the Football Bowl Subdivision (F-A) era for Middle Tennessee and the sixth bowl game in school history. The game against Conference USA representative Southern Mississippi will be played at the Louisiana Superdome, home of the NFL’s undefeated New Orleans Saints, at 7:30 p.m. before a nationwide television audience on ESPN. It will mark the first meeting between the schools.

“We are thrilled to extend our season in New Orleans and appreciate the invitation by the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl,” said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. “It is a great bowl for our players and fans, and we can’t wait to get there. We are proud to be one of just two schools in the state of Tennessee going to a bowl game, and we will represent the state well.

“It has also been a pleasure working with Troy, the New Orleans Bowl, the GMAC Bowl and the Sun Belt Conference in moving our league forward. Troy is able to match up against a conference champion in the GMAC Bowl, which allowed us the opportunity to go to New Orleans, and the Sun Belt has now put two teams in postseason play for the third time in four years.”

Under Coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders put together one of the top seasons in school history in 2009 by going 9-3 overall and 7-1 in the Sun Belt Conference. The nine wins are the most regular season victories since 1992, and the seven league wins are the most ever by the Blue Raiders as a member of the Sun Belt. Middle Tennessee enters the New Orleans Bowl riding a six-game winning streak, which ranks as the sixth longest in the country.

“One of our goals entering the season was to play in a bowl game, and I am extremely proud of our team and coaching staff for accomplishing this,” Stockstill said. “It has been a great year, and to win nine games with our schedule is a testament to our players. This team is very deserving of a 13th game.”

“We are very excited about this bowl game and the location of New Orleans. We expect our fans and families to take full advantage and attend the game.”

The Blue Raiders will be facing a Southern Miss team that finished 7-5 and was one win from facing Houston in the Conference USA Championship game. The Golden Eagles also have some familiar faces in the coaching staff as Head Coach Larry Fedora, assistants Blake Anderson and Todd Bradford and Director of Football Operations Gary Camp all are former Middle Tennessee staff members.

“We are playing an excellent opponent in Southern Miss, who had an excellent chance to be C-USA champs,” Stockstill said. “They are very well coached in all three phases of the game and have some very impressive wins this season. I have not watched them on tape, but they have a great tradition, and we will have to play our best to compete with them.”

Fans may purchase tickets through the Middle Tennessee ticket office by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU or logging on to www.GoBlueRaiders.com. Tickets for the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl are $40 and include an official “Blueout” T-shirt. The commemorative shirt will be a collector’s item, and fans are encouraged to wear it at the game.

Blue Raiders heading to New Orleans for Dec. 20 bowl game

by Tom Tozer
tozer@mtsu.edu

Workers are laying the foundation of MTSU’s new Education Building, and plans are to occupy the facility in late 2011 and open it for general use in spring 2012. The projected completion date for the new Student Union on the east side of campus is early 2012.

While the university community was breaking ground for the Education Building on Oct. 30 and the Student Union on Nov. 6, other less celebrated projects were under way, working toward reducing deferred-maintenance costs and improving creature comforts.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing work is in progress in Corlew Hall, and officials say they hope to have the residence hall back in action for the fall semester.

A new addition to McCallie Cafeteria, located on the first floor of Corlew Hall, will increase capacity by as many as 50 seats. The addition will be located in the current site of the brick patio on the building’s south side.

Anderson Piping is at work upgrading the heating and cooling infrastructure in the Cope Administration Building’s computer server room. A review meeting with city officials and engineers took place in early November on the proposed widening of Middle Tennessee Boulevard. Bids were received Nov. 19 for the renovation of Tucker Theatre. The project, which will begin in January, will consist of refurbingish seats, replacing carpet and lighting and improving the lobby area and restrooms. It also will entail stage improvements, mechanical and electrical updates, code upgrades and improvements to meet disability-access requirements.

Completed projects include the Veterans Memorial Wall just south of the Tom Jackson Building, which was dedicated Nov. 14. Other recent improvements and enhancements include the Forrest Hall parking lot, the Stark Agriculture Building elevator and fire-alarm system, the Walker Library sewer-line replacement, underground electrical work throughout various areas of campus and the remodeling of the food court at the Keathley University Center.

This is only a test.

MTSU tests its tornado siren monthly.

Spring 2010 test dates are:

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, April 13, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12, 11:15 a.m.

No action is required by building runners during monthly tests.

Be prepared in a real emergency.

Find your nearest shelter at
www.mtsu.edu/alert4/tornado_shelter.shtml

1 year’s construction ends, and a new year’s work begins

from MT Athletic Communications
www.GoBlueRaiders.com

The Student Government Association is sponsoring Road Rally to New Orleans: Bowl Edition Dec. 19-21 to watch MTSU battle with the University of Southern Mississippi in the Louisiana Superdome. The cost is $110, which includes round-trip transportation, two-night hotel stay at the InterContinental New Orleans, a game ticket and T-shirt.

MTSU students will be given priority, and there will be a wait list if necessary. To sign up online with priority, and there will be a wait list if necessary. To sign up online, visit www.mtsu.edu/sga, or sign up in person in Room 208 of the Keathley University Center. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, Dec. 15.

1 year’s construction ends, and a new year’s work begins
Grants will fund research at 2 national parks, The Hermitage

by Gina K. Logue

W ith funding from two federal agencies in hand, three MTSU historians have embarked on research for two national parks and a treasured Tennessee landmark.

Dr. Jim Williams, director of the Albert Gore Research Center, will conduct oral-history interviews for Congaree National Park with a grant from the National Park Service.

The Web site for Congaree National Park, located near Hopkins, S.C., is the largest remnant of old-growth flood plain forest remaining on the continent.” Congress designated it a national natural landmark in 1974 and redesignated it as a national park in 2003.

Williams said he would like to interview about 30 people, including those who were involved either with the creation of the park or its transition from a monument to a park. He added that he hopes the study will help establish the Core Center as a regional center for the preservation of oral history.

Dr. Ellen Garrison, associate professor of history, also has a National Park Service grant for a project that will help the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in east Tennessee.

Garrison will focus on improving the condition of the park’s archival materials. Other project goals include reducing the archival materials’ cataloging backlog and, as appropriate, creating finding aids for the materials.

Dr. Jan Leone, professor of history, will examine the growing body of humanities scholarship on the early 19th century for her project, “The Hermitage, Andrew Jackson and America 1801-1861.”

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History program, Leone will design workshops for high-school teachers that will combine classroom and field studies, including archaeology.

Primary source evidence for this project will include a variety of documents from 1801 to 1861, objects in The Hermitage’s collections, books owned by the Jackson family, archaeological remains left behind by enslaved black families, the architecture and the cultural landscape.

The grants secured by Williams and Garrison are yearlong stipends that began in September 2009. Leone’s funding runs from Oct. 1, 2009, to Dec. 31, 2010, and workshops will be held in summer 2010.

Get noticed in MTSU’s official university publication!

Check out (and bookmark!) The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~profice/rec_deadlines.htm.
Experience with son’s disability spurs efforts

by Gina K. Logue

Alum’s mom helps students navigate MTSU campus

People Around Campus

One of the most helpful people working on the MTSU campus just might be one who is not an MTSU employee.

She’s Karen Nelson, an orientation and mobility specialist, or OMS, under contract to Vocational Rehabilitation Services, a section of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. It is her responsibility to teach visually impaired students problem-solving techniques to help them maneuver around campus.

“Getting around campus is one thing; getting around off-campus is quite another,” John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services, says discussions are under way to explore the possibility that Rover, Murfreesboro’s city transport system, could alter its routes to include campus thoroughfares.

That would address one of Nelson’s pet peeves. She says blind students who live off-campus are spending large sums on taxis not only to get to class but to run errands or socialize with friends.

“They would like to be able to utilize public transportation,” Nelson says. “A cab, at minimum, is going to cost them eight dollars one way. That’s a lot of money.”

And once they get to the university, the students will have to adapt to daily, weekly, monthly and sometimes permanent changes in the infrastructure. Street closings, elevator failures and construction issues are all part of the constant “to-do list” of adjustments blind students have to make in addition to focusing on their studies and the requirements for each of their classes.

Karen Nelson, right, an orientation and mobility specialist, offers MTSU freshman Brienda Stokley, center, of Kingston Springs tips on how and when to safely cross Middle Tennessee Boulevard at Bell Street as Aimee Hendley, left, a junior animal-science major from Cross Plains, listens. Photo by News and Public Affairs

See ‘Helping’ page 7

Activities

MTSU’s Commercial Construction Management Program raised more than $5,400 during its inaugural golf tournament Oct. 15. Platinum-level sponsors included Skanska, Hardaway Construction, Turner (agribusiness and agri-science) and three plant and soil science majors worked with Habitat for Electric. The funds will support the CCM board’s main goal of funding a program-director position within the next two years.

Tennessee Foreign Language Tea How of Center for Excellence/Center for Human Services) has received the Eloise Q. Hatmaker Distinguished Service Award from the Rural Health Association of Kentucky for the work with the program “A-B-C-1-2-3 Healthy Kids in Tenn. Enterprise.” The fund will support the CCM board’s main goal of funding a program-director position within the next two years.

Awards

Cindy Chafin (Adams Chair of Excellence/Center for Health and Human Services) has received the Eloise Q. Hatmaker Distinguished Service Award from the Rural Health Association of Kentucky for her work with the program “A-B-C-1-2-3 Healthy Kids in Tennessee” and with the Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, which serves all counties in the state, including 38 rural mid-Tennessee counties with which Chafin is directly involved.

Jason Nabors (foreign languages and literatures) received the 2009 Distinguished Latin Teaching Award from the Tennessee Classical Association at the organization’s meeting Nov. 14 during the annual Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Conference in Franklin, Tenn.

Miscellaneous

Drs. Nate Phillips and Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agri-science) and three plant and soil science majors worked with Habitat for Humanity associates and community leaders to fill the raised bed constructed in October. The 24-by-4-by-1.5-foot high bed was layered with cardboard, leaves, newspaper and stall bedding from the Horse Science Center.

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters (biology and Center for Environmental Education) worked with Mt. Juliet’s West Elementary School science class to help the National Science Teachers Association review children’s science books for pros, cons, kid-friendliness, age-appropriateness and science content.

Passages

Dr. Clay Morris Chandler (biol...