Getting warmed up for ’10

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

Following an awesome autumn, a new semester, spring 2010, dawns at MTSU.

On the heels of 1,633 degree candidates graduating Dec. 19, the MT Blue Raiders capping off a 10-win season by capturing the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Dec. 20 and countless classroom successes, the returning, transfer and online students and faculty will be back on campus Thursday, Jan. 14, in anticipation of academic achievement this spring.

“Although we will be faced with many of the same budgetary challenges that we encountered in 2009, exciting things are on the horizon for MTSU in 2010,” said President Sidney A. McPhee. “We are making significant progress in the implementation of the recommendations associated with our ‘Positioning the University for the Future Initiative’; our campus construction projects are progressing nicely; and we are making significant strides in our preparations for our academic year.”

See ‘Spring’ page 7

TeachersNow funding secured

by Gina K. Logue
glogue@mtsu.edu

Two members of Tennessee’s congressional delegation have secured federal funding for MTSU to strengthen its teacher-training program and support an after-school program for at-risk youth.

MTSU’s TeachersNow program received $570,000 to establish a new baccalaureate degree in education. The degree will require middle-school teachers to develop an in-depth understanding of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The program also will provide continuing education for existing middle school teachers in the STEM disciplines. Congressman Bart Gordon worked with U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander to secure funds for the program.

“In order to keep good-paying jobs in the United States, our country must compete at a higher level with better skills and higher

See ‘Funding’ page 5

Positive change

PBSI teams make difference in Midstate classrooms

see page 3

Welcome back!

New student union is next big step in master plan

by Tom Tozer
htozer@mtsu.edu

It might save paper to note what amenities won’t be housed in MTSU’s new $77 million, 197,000-square-foot, one-stop, full-service Student Union.

Brandon McNary, MTSU’s Student Government Association president, noted during the Nov. 6 student-union groundbreaking ceremony that the good things we do often succeed us—that legacy is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

“I am reminded of the fee increase that the student body voted in favor of in 2006 to fund the Student Union,” he noted. “This building is a testament to your willingness to continue to make MTSU the best university in the state. … Without [that] support, we would clearly not be here where we are today.”

The first floor of the building will house a 640-seat dining facility and another casual dining area that will accommodate 102 people, all supported by a fully equipped kitchen. There will be a game room, bookstore, ATM area and retail

See ‘Union’ page 5

Inside this edition:

Former TBR counsel joins staff, page 2
Gore Center seeking veterans, page 6
More study-abroad students, page 8

ASCE making a difference for staff

by Tom Tozer
tozer@mtsu.edu

They’re up front helping students wend their way through the university bureaucracy to add and drop classes and try to stay on track toward degree goals.

They’re behind the scenes inserting all manner of data into the veins and arteries of MTSU’s computer network.

They make it possible for administrators who couldn’t operate the fax machine or the photocopier without a diagram look as though they know what they’re doing.

They are the secretaries and clerks who toil in academic and nonacademic units to keep MTSU’s day-to-day essential functions functioning. In 1976, they banded together to represent their collective interests under the name Clerical Caucus.

Today, as the Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees, or ASCE, these professionals strive

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HUD awards $300K to help MTSU fight kids’ lead poisoning

by Randy Weiler
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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and MTSU announced the Tennessee Alliance for Lead-safe Kids, or TALK, last fall to increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning hazards, effects and prevention in nearly every Tennessee county.

On Dec. 4, William Dirl, the Nashville HUD field office director, presented MTSU officials with a check for $300,000 for grant funds during a reception held in the university’s James Union Building Dining Room C.

Those attending the presentation included, from left, Dr. Kathy Mathis, Wasimuddin Qureshi, Dr. Saeed Foroudastan and Faye Johnson.

FUNDING OUTREACH—William “Bill” Dirl, second from right, Nashville field office director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, presents MTSU with a check for $300,000 for lead-outreach activities. MTSU officials include, from left, Dr. Kathy Mathis, Wasimuddin Qureshi, Dr. Saeed Foroudastan and Faye Johnson.

Photo submitted

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Former Regents counsel is new MTSU legal eagle

by Tom Tozer
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Heidi Zimmerman, who has served as interim university counsel and assistant to the president at MTSU for the past two months, will become permanent legal counsel for the university beginning Monday, Jan. 18, said Dr. Sidney A. McPhee.

Zimmerman, who has worked in the Tennessee Board of Regents’ central office since 1989, replaces James Floyd, who recently left MTSU after working here for six years.

“MTSU is fortunate to have someone of Heidi Zimmerman’s experience, especially with the TBR, to serve as its chief legal counsel,” McPhee said. “She has done an excellent job in serving the university on a part-time basis, and we are cresting to officially welcome her as a new member of the President’s Cabinet and as part of the MTSU family.”

Zimmerman said she is excited about bringing her 20 years of experience at the TBR to a campus setting.

“I am looking forward to becoming part of this dynamic ... community.”

Heidi Zimmerman, newly appointed university counsel for MTSU

Zimmerman served as TBR’s associate general counsel since 2004 and as assistant general counsel for 15 years before that. In that capacity, she provided legal advice and support to TBR officials and administrators and helped shape board guidelines and policies.

She dealt with higher-education issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Her experience at the federal level included representing client institutions before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Civil Rights and the Department of Labor. In addition, she assisted the Office of the Attorney General with gathering information and preparing witnesses for testimony.

“Heidi Zimmerman has done stellar work as an integral part of the TBR’s legal team for over 20 years,” noted Christine Modisher, general counsel for the TBR. “She will be sorely missed, but I know she will be a great asset at MTSU.”

“There is great energy here at MTSU,” Zimmerman added. “I am looking forward to becoming part of this dynamic university community.”

Zimmerman graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Kentucky University, majoring in government and English. She received her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

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“It was an opportunity for me to network, meet other secretaries at the university and put faces with names,” Stricklin says. “I still think there’s a tremendous value in networking and knowing who to call in another department, establishing a professional relationship beyond e-mails.”

With 16 years as an ASCE member under her belt, Kathy Kano, the group’s treasurer and a past president, agrees.

“I have benefited from it by the ability to know people on campus,” says Kano, an information research technician for the Division of Student Affairs. “That helps in learning what to do.” It also helps in learning how to improve one’s income and resume. Employees can earn Certified Professional Secretary status by passing an exam that assesses the full range of their skills. They are then eligible for a nine percent pay raise.

“With state pay grades, there are not merit-based raises, and we’re not receiving cost-of-living raises,” Stricklin notes.

“Today, most of the secretarial job announcements say ‘degree preferred’ or ‘CPS preferred,’” Kano adds. “What’s going to happen to all the women who don’t have that?”

However, it costs $300 to take the test, which is offered only twice a year. Furthermore, there are three books of study materials for each of three different exams, and those books cost nearly $100 each. Many secretaries can’t shell out that kind of money.

Enter ASCE with a CPS scholarship funded by annual pecan sales and a set of CPS books available for checkout by members. The group also has sets of study books at the James E. Walker Library and June Anderson Women’s Center.

In addition, ASCE’s pecan sales help fund the Bonnie McHenry Scholarship, for which all MTSU clerical employees and their dependents are welcome to apply. Stricklin says sales for 2009 totaled more than $1,000.

The annual dues are an inflation-busting bargain. In 1976, the dues were $2 per member. Today, they’re only $5 per member.

To learn more about ASCE, contact Stricklin at 615-898-2523 or kstrick@mtsu.edu, or visit the organization’s Web site at www.mtsu.edu/asce.

Apply for ASCE scholarships by Feb. 1 deadline

ASCE is offering two scholarships per year, based on funding, to help members with the cost of taking the Certified Professional Secretary exam. The amount funded during the spring and fall semesters will be the cost of the exam, and the processing fee will be the responsibility of the member. A scholarship applicant must be an ASCE member for at least one year.

Those interested in applying for this scholarship may submit an application (available at www.mtsu.edu/asce) by Monday, Feb. 1, to Annette Merriman, CPS, ASCE Scholarship Chair, MTSU, ITD - CAB 002, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132. Please enclose a copy of the confirmation letter from IAAP for registration for the CPS exam with the application.

STAYING POSITIVE—Members of MTSU’s Positive Behavior Support Initiative team pose with students and staff members at Elzie D. Patton Elementary School in Mt. Juliet, where the team aided students and teachers in fall 2009. From left are teachers Wendy Hardin and Megan Hamilton, school counselor Katie Hendricks, Principal Ladd Hassell, PBSI project director Dr. Zaf Khan, teachers Erin Killevrew and Kathy Hill and Assistant Principal Brian Hutto.

by Megan McSwain
news@mtsu.edu

D r. Zaf Khan’s Positive Behavior Support Initiative grant team consists of graduate students and MTSU elementary and special education professors Jim Calder, Craig Rice and Karee Orellana and MTSU psychology professor Monica Wallace. The team, supported by Dr. Connie Jones, chair of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, provides free in-service training and consultation to teachers in Midstate county schools.

Khan said the grant, which is in its fourth year, consists of research-based positive behavioral strategies for students. He said it is a preventive measure to help decrease behavioral problems and increase academic achievement.

“Why wait for students to fail?” Khan said. “Why don’t we do something on the front end and prevent failure, instead of react when they fail?”

James Hoggard, a graduate student coach who has been working with the grant project since February 2009, said positive behavior support, or PBS, has three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary. Each level addresses variations in behavior issues and educational needs.

Hoggard said PBS encourages students to make self-improvements by implementing a uniform, schoolwide set of rules in a positive way. Jornna Watson is a graduate student who has been working with the grant for three years. She said the preventive strategies reduce the amount of time teachers spend disciplining students and gives more time for teaching.

Khan said teachers need to tailor their strategies to address a child’s learning needs, instead of applying what he calls a “one-size-fits-all approach.”

He said it is also important to separate the behavior from the child in order to better treat the behavior without making generalizations about the child being “bad.” In addition to addressing the negative aspects of a child’s behavior, Khan said it is imperative to address the positives.

“We need to recognize our children more,” Khan said. “We just get so focused on curriculum. We forget to recognize and praise our students for their efforts and outstanding work.”

There will be a free Positive Behavior Support Initiative and Inclusion conference on Thursday, April 29, in MTSU’s James Union Building. Dr. Harry K. Wong, former classroom teacher, president of Clarity-Link, author and speaker on classroom management, will be the featured speaker. Registration for the conference begins Saturday, Jan. 16.

For more information about the Positive Behavior Support Initiative grant project and its work, visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/pbsi.

Megan McSwain received her bachelor’s degree in journalism from MTSU in December. She was a practicum student in the Office of News and Public Affairs during fall 2009 and is now a graduate student at MTSU.

PBSI: Making a positive change in Midstate classrooms

by Megan McSwain
news@mtsu.edu

PBSI—Kym Stricklin, center, president of MTSU’s Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees and an executive aide in the Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience, looks over historical papers of the ASCE being donated to the Albert Gore Research Center with ASCE Vice President Shirley Luscinski (secretary, Student-Athlete Enhancement Center) and Gore Center archivist Matthew Brown. The ASCE is gearing up for a new membership drive.

photo submitted

KEEPING TRACK—Kym Stricklin, center, president of MTSU’s Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees and an executive aide in the Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience, says she joined because she wanted to reach out to establish real human contact beyond the digital communication that has revolutionized their project is providing.

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Please note:

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

TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record” Cable Channel 9:
Monday-Sunday, 7 a.m., 5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+:
Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable-outlet airtimes or www.youtube.com/mtsunews for a complete show archive.

Radio Schedule

“MTSU On the Record” 8 a.m. Sundays, WMOT 89.5-FM

Jan. 13

Wednesday, Jan. 13
Tornado Siren Test Date
(no action needed)
11:15 a.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida International
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 14

Thursday, Jan. 14
Spring 2010 classes begin.

MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida International
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Jan. 15

Friday, Jan. 15
Deadline to submit Voluntary Buyout Program applications
For information, visit http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/index.html or contact: 615-898-2929.

Jan. 16

Saturday, Jan. 16
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
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7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 18

Jan. 18-21
4-H State Hog Show
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tlc.

Jan. 19

Monday, Jan. 18
Martin Luther King Holiday
No classes; university closed.

MT Men's Basketball vs. Western Kentucky
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 20

Jan. 20-21
Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build Information Sessions
4-5 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/service/habit.htm or contact: 615-898-5812.

Jan. 22

Jan. 22-24
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 23

Wednesday, Jan. 20
Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build Information Sessions
4-5 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/service/habit.htm or contact: 615-898-5812.

Jan. 24

Thursday, Jan. 21
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 25

Friday, Jan. 22
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 26

Saturday, Jan. 23
Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build Information Sessions
4-5 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/service/habit.htm or contact: 615-898-5812.

Jan. 27

Sunday, Jan. 24
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 28

Monday, Jan. 25
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 29

Tuesday, Jan. 26
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 30

Wednesday, Jan. 27
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 31

Thursday, Jan. 28
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 32

Friday, Jan. 29
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 33

Saturday, Jan. 30
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 34

Sunday, Jan. 31
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 35

Monday, Feb. 1
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 36

Tuesday, Feb. 2
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 37

Wednesday, Feb. 3
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 38

Thursday, Feb. 4
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 39

Friday, Feb. 5
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 40

Saturday, Feb. 6
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 41

Sunday, Feb. 7
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 42

Monday, Feb. 8
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 43

Tuesday, Feb. 9
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 44

Wednesday, Feb. 10
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 45

Thursday, Feb. 11
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 46

Friday, Feb. 12
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 47

Saturday, Feb. 13
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 48

Sunday, Feb. 14
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 49

Monday, Feb. 15
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 50

Tuesday, Feb. 16
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 51

Wednesday, Feb. 17
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 52

Thursday, Feb. 18
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 53

Friday, Feb. 19
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 54

Saturday, Feb. 20
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 55

Sunday, Feb. 21
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 56

Monday, Feb. 22
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 57

Tuesday, Feb. 23
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 58

Wednesday, Feb. 24
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 59

Thursday, Feb. 25
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 60

Friday, Feb. 26
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 61

Saturday, Feb. 27
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 62

Sunday, Feb. 28
MT Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
2 p.m., Murphy Center
MT Men's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 63

Monday, Mar. 1
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 64

Tuesday, Mar. 2
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 65

Wednesday, Mar. 3
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 66

Thursday, Mar. 4
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 67

Friday, Mar. 5
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.

Jan. 68

Saturday, Mar. 6
Eastern Barrel Futurity Association Barrel Racing
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~tmc.
outlets as well as a copy center, lounges and e-mail check stations. The second floor will serve as a conference and meeting hub for large and small groups and will feature two large, two medium and three small meeting rooms. There also will be seminar rooms, a 95-seat video theater and an 84-seat parliametary room with a built-in voting system. A formal dining area with kitchen support will support an 840-seat ballroom with a green room and two dressing rooms. Lounges, an e-mail check station and a collaborative computer center will enhance both in-person and e-communication.

Student activities and governance will comprise much of the third-floor space with offices and meeting spaces planned to support Student Involvement and Leadership, Student Programming, SGA and other student-oriented organizations. Lounge areas will offer collaborative technology.

Patti Miller, assistant vice president for campus planning at MTSU, said that both the exterior and interior of the building have been designed to create a seamless food and fellowship area for students. For example, an outside courtyard in the new union spills into an interior food court.

“The building is oriented on the east-west pedestrian access, and the food court will be there right on the pedestrian corridor,” Miller noted. “It’s what I call single-loaded,” with all the functions—the circulation and gathering and meeting areas—focused on the west side of the building. The site of the union was selected as part of our master planning process, which calls for a parking garage directly east of the union with a bridge connecting the two buildings.

Dr. DeB Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services, credited her predecessor, Dr. Bob Glenn, for having the vision to create a new student union on campus, referring to it as “a new family room” for MTSU.

Sells also acknowledged SGA Senator Spencer Wood for presenting the formal resolution for a student union in the fall of 2006 and Jay Cash, then president of the SGA, for providing the leadership that passed the resolution. “Let’s remember that we are also thanking countless other unnamed students who campaigned, who debated and who ultimately made the tough decision to invest in something bigger than themselves,” Sells reminded her listeners at the groundbreaking.

McNary saluted the administration—President Sidney A. McPhee and Dr. Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and SGA adviser, as well as Glenn and Sells—for their hard work and support. And he challenged everyone to “leave MTSU better than what it was when you got here.”

Miller pointed out another aspect of the Student Union project: the lighting analysis that officials are conducting to determine how to achieve the most effective exterior illumination while using the least energy. In addition, designers have developed ways to use landscaping to make the loading-dock side of the building aesthetically pleasing and still utilitarian.

“The space between the Education Building and the Student Union has been designed as a student gathering space with lots of grass, raised sitting walls and berms—ideal for movie-watching, Frisbee and other activities,” Miller said.

Street Dixon Rick Architecture and Thomas Miller and Partners designed the new Student Union. Contractors are Messer Construction and Pinnacle Construction as joint-venture partners.

The Student Union should reach substantial construction completion in summer 2012, and the final move-in and occupancy will take place by the end of that year if all goes as planned, Miller said.
The fall 2009 edition of Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression, published by the MTSU Honors College, was made available to the campus in December. Volume 10 of the publication includes art, poetry, photography and prose.

“The Collage publication reflects the hope our students and alumni have that their creativity and hard work will, at least, make others question preconceived ideas and, at most, change mindsets and behaviors in some positive way,” Jasmine “Jaz” Gray wrote in her “Letter from the Editor.”

“This semester’s magazine also reflects changes in how Collage is created,” she said. “A revamped Web site and a new online submission system have made it much easier for students and alumni to submit their work. Those interested no longer have to rearrange their schedules in order to submit; they can simply go to www.mtsu.edu/~collage.

“With over 300 submissions this semester, hopes for this year’s fall edition have been realized, and these technological changes have allowed Collage to reach more students than ever.” Collage accepts submissions year-round, and a completed submission form must accompany each submission. Submission guidelines may be found on the Web site.

Collage accepts submissions year-round, and a completed submission form must accompany each submission. Submission guidelines may be found on the Web site. Submissions may be turned in at the Collage office, Room 224 in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or by mail. Submissions also will be accepted via e-mail. You must be an MTSU student or alumni to submit items to Collage.

For more information, call 615-898-5789.

Gore Center seeks veterans’ history participants for new interviews

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

The Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU, as an official partner in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, has an ongoing need of referrals for possible interview participation.

The focus of the Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/vets) is to gather firsthand accounts of U.S. veterans and civilians who supported them—such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors and medical volunteers—in World War I (1914-20), World War II (1939-46), the Korean War (1950-55), Vietnam War (1961-75), Persian Gulf War (1990-95) and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present).

“To date, we have interviewed more than 400 veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam,” said Dr. Jim Williams, center director. “We also interview civilians who supported the wars in defense-related jobs and other activities.”

Williams said it is important to note that the project’s participating veterans “need not have been in combat to be considered for an interview, nor must they have been stationed in Korea or Vietnam, for instance, or any particular theater of operations.” Instead, “they need only to have served in the Armed Forces during the conflicts listed.”

Those who know of potential interview subjects are asked to submit the individual’s name, phone number and mailing address to Betty Rowland at browland@mtsu.edu. Rowland will follow up with any leads she receives.

Those with general questions about the project may direct them to the Gore Center’s staff by calling 615-898-2633 or by e-mailing Williams at jwillia@mtsu.edu.

A little more Help

REASON TO CELEBRATE—Graduate student/peer mentor Caty Chapman, left, joins graduate writing assistant Matt Rush and Writing Center Assistant Coordinators Stacia Watkins and Rachel Strickland to look over one of the books donated by the University Writing Center to the Dede Rucker Memorial Library as part of the “Books for Babies” program during the Project HELP Open House festivities on Dec. 17. The event welcomed parents, guests, community members and university staff, faculty and students to celebrate another year of work with Project Help, the early-intervention program and preschool that offers free services to very young children with developmental delays or disabilities.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt
Submit info for ‘2010-11 Blue Raider Planner and Handbook’ by Jan. 25

Time again to plan for the next academic year’s events on campus! Gina Poff, director of new student and family programs, is collecting events to be included in the 2010-11 Blue Raider Planner and Handbook.

"Our turnaround time will be very quick when we return in January, because we will have to send the events schedule to the publisher in order to get the Blue Raider Planner and Handbook in time for CUSTOMS," Poff said. "I would like all ... information sent to our office by Monday, Jan. 25.

"Remember, this is a great way to advertise your events to the campus community! All freshmen get the Blue Raider Planner and Handbook at CUSTOMS, and the bookstore also sells them."

To submit an event for the Handbook, please provide the name, date, time and location of the event and a contact person.

Poff said information may be e-mailed to her at gpooff@mtsu.edu or to Ilene Hale at ihale@mtsu.edu. Questions may be directed to either Poff or Hale at 615-898-2494 or 2454, respectively.

Get noticed in The Record!

Submit your Faculty/Staff Profile, Campus Calendar contributions and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu or call 615-898-2802 at any time. Don’t forget to include the specific—who, what, where, when and why! Submissions of Faculty Events/Calendar updates, College/Department/Group events, or news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu or call 615-898-2802 at any time. Don’t forget to include the specific—who, what, where, when and why!
Students’ efforts lead to Gilman study-abroad stipends

**Prestigious scholarship means work in Japan for broadcast major, Mexico for concrete-industry major**

by Gina K. Logue

Two MTSU students are recipients of the 2010 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, one of the most prestigious study-abroad stipends in the nation. Murfreesboro’s Brock Downing, a junior concrete industry management major, and Whitney Rhodes, a junior radio/television major from Whiteville, will use their opportunities in very different ways.

Rhodes, whose minors are art and Japanese, will attend Saitama University in Japan for the spring 2010 semester. She says she has always been interested in the nation’s fashion, culture and history, but she did not want to learn about them from a distance.

“I don’t want to be a tourist and marvel, taking pictures of everything and asking questions in English,” Rhodes writes in an e-mail interview. “In order to be a better—somebody in another country, I would like to know the language first.”

Rhodes’ major and her other minor also lend themselves to the study-abroad experience. She says she hopes to use the popularity of American film in Japan to expand her vision as a documentarian.

“Being able to convey your ideas to other people will greatly influence how well your production goes if you are a producer,” Rhodes writes.

“Tóo Downing’s, on the other hand, are all about ‘something tangible’—or, to put it another way, “concrete.” A 27-year-old nontraditional student, Downing’s major is also nontraditional for a study-abroad scholarship winner. His scholarship resulted from a special pilot award cycle for majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, field disciplines.

“These trips have always been geared toward people who were in the foreign language department or international affairs or something like that,” Downing says. “But there’s definitely a need. We have to deal with foreign companies a lot, and there are a lot of opportunities out there.”

With a mandatory business minor and a second minor in Spanish, Downing will study during summer 2010 at the Centro KIES in Morelia, located in central Mexico.

The new class is designed to serve as the instructional facility and administrative center for all programs in Mexico offered through the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to promoting international education.

Downing points out that the number of Hispanics in the construction business and the United States’ efforts at becoming less dependent on foreign concrete create a demand for personnel who can bridge cultural divides.

“Tóo that is with new ideas and the ability to communicate with a variety of people, from the people laying the concrete to the guy who owns the company,” Downing says.

The Gilman Scholarship Program seeks to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go,” says Rhonda Waller Education Abroad director at MTSU. “Specifically, the Gilman Program offers scholarships for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad.”

Funded by Congress and sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Gilman scholarship program provides “grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad,” according to the program’s Web site.

Recipients are selected competitively for these grants, which are used for such expenses as “program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.”

“Tóo also requires that students complete their service projects upon their return home,” Waller adds. “Those service projects help to get the word out about the value of study abroad. So this program keeps paying dividends to our campus even after students receive their awards.”

To find out more about MTSU’s study-abroad opportunities, contact the MTSU Office of Education Abroad and Student Exchange at 615-898-5179 or msuabroad@mtsu.edu. To learn more about the Gilman Scholarships, go to www.usip.org/gilman.

Dr. Lynn Parsons (nursing) has been named 2009 Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning by the MTSU College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

Deb Sullivan (nursing) was selected from a national pool of applicants to be a Health Informatics Technology Scholar through the National League for Nursing.

The following MTSU staffers recently earned Certified Professional Secretary designations: Cindy Dinwiddie (Tennessee Center for Child Welfare), Elizabeth Lamb (engineering technology), Melissa Lowrance (College of Graduate Studies), Melinda Messick (athletics), Sally Rivera (Instructional Technology Support Center) and Lori Yoder (Facilities Services).

One of Professor Marc J. Barr’s (electronic media communication) computer-designed ceramic tea sets has been accepted into the collection of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Art Museum in China.

MTSU faculty and staff members recently reviewed applications and interviewed students for The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government’s flagship educational and cultural exchange program. The Undergraduate Fellowships Office in the University Honors College oversees the student competition at MTSU. Those serving were Michelle Blackwell (Transfer Services), Laura Clipppard (honors), Drs. Scott Camicom (psychology and honors), Allen Hibbard (English), Andrei Korobkov (political science), Preston MacDougall (chemistry), Richard Face (sociology and anthropology), Karen Petersen (political science), Mary Phillips (accounting), Michael Rice (foreign languages), Jan Quarles (television and media communication) and John R. Vile (honors) and MT Abroad’s Rhonda Waller.

MTSU Office of Education Abroad and Student Exchange at 615-898-5179 or msuabroad@mtsu.edu. To learn more about the Gilman Scholarships, go to www.usip.org/gilman.

**Activities**

Dr. Nate Phillips and Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agric- science) and ABAS students have partnered with the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity in establishing a community garden. The project was initiated several months ago with Habitat for Humanity Director Beth Smith, Drs. Gloria Bonner and Rosemary Owens (Office of Community Engagement and Support), ABAS and UT Extension personnel to help community members associated with Habitat for Humanity learn garden- ing skills they can use to grow their own produce.

**Dr. Walter Boles (engineering technology)** is the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Aerospace Division of the American Society of Civil Engineering, one of the highest awards given to an individual who has contributed substantially to the advancement of aerospace science and technology through engineering. The award will be presented March 16 at “Earth & Space 2010,” the ASCE Aerospace Division International Conference in Honolulu.

**Exhibitions**

One of Professor Marc J. Barr’s (electronic media communication) computer-designed ceramic tea sets has been accepted into the collection of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Art Museum in China.

**Events**

Dr. Jessica Carter (agribusiness

and agriscience) served as the associ- ate judge for the national Red Angus show held during the North American International Livestock Exposition Nov. 16 in Louisville, Ky.

**Honors**

MTSU faculty and staff members recently reviewed applications and interviewed students for The Fulbright Program, the U.S. govern- ment’s flagship educational and cul- tural exchange program. The Undergraduate Fellowships Office in the University Honors College over- sees the student competition at MTSU. Those serving were Michelle Blackwell (Transfer Services), Laura Clipppard (honors), Drs. Scott Camicom (psychology and honors), Allen Hibbard (English), Andrei Korobkov (political science), Preston MacDougall (chemistry), Richard Face (sociology and anthropology), Karen Petersen (political science), Mary Phillips (accounting), Michael Rice (foreign languages), Jan Quarles (television and media communication) and John R. Vile (honors) and MT Abroad’s Rhonda Waller.

See ‘Faculty’ page 7