Treadmill study helps participants’ mobility

one step at a time

by Tom Tozer
tozer@mtsu.edu

I

t is a common assumption that it takes years to realize any measurable benefits from scientific research. It’s a marvel, therefore, to see an almost immediate payoff: a dramatic upturn in a person’s quality of life.

Following a plane crash, Jim Harris didn’t walk for two years. Today, with effort, he is walking. After a terrible fall, Bob Moody could only be on his feet for a couple of minutes. Now he’s taking 20-minute walks. As the result of a horrible automobile accident, Janette Rodgers was told she’d never walk again and was nearly taken off life support. Now she’s walking and improving her speed.

These recoveries and subsequent improvements have been possible, in no small part, because Sandra Stevens, a physical therapist, put these people through their paces on an underwater treadmill inside a fiberglass tank that holds 270 gallons of water—all part of her doctoral research at MTSU. Her research subjects all have suffered severe spinal-cord trauma.

Previously, graduate students in MTSU’s exercise science program utilized the underwater treadmill to help children with cerebral palsy increase their muscle strength and improve mobility. The results were encouraging.

“When it’s relatively new technology,” said Dr. Don Morgan, health and human performance professor, who first brought the treadmill to MTSU several years ago, “it’s been used by athletic teams and for older folks with arthritis. But it had never been used with children with CP.”

Morgan and his students began their initial work with the underwater treadmill thanks to funding from the National Institutes of Health.

“After watching the kids with cerebral palsy, I thought there were a lot of other populations that could benefit from this kind of therapy,” Stevens said.

Stevens worked with Rodgers, Harris, Moody and others for eight weeks during the fall semester, meeting with each two or three times a week.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

WORKING OUT—Health and Human Performance graduate student Sandra Stevens, left, works with client Jim Harris on the underwater treadmill in the basement of the Alumni Memorial Gym as HHP grad student Saori Ishikawa watches. Stevens is studying the effect of exercise on the treadmill on the mobility of adults with spinal-cord injuries.

Nonprofit Organization Permits No. 169

Check it out! Groundhog Day Luncheon is chance to meet, greet, eat see page 6

Inside this edition:

New group’s focus is women’s studies, page 3
Home page readying for Feb. 1 relaunch, page 6
Professor earns Grammy nomination, page 8

President’s update outlines ideas for university’s future

by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
smcphee@mtsu.edu

Welcome back to campus as we begin the 2010 spring semester. This communication is being sent as an update on the progress of our Positioning the University for the Future Initiative.

In 2009, I had the opportunity to provide numerous updates to many of our constituency groups, both on-and off-campus, and I have been extremely pleased with the quality of feedback that I have received so far.

Due to the length and complexity of many of the recommendation reports that have been submitted to date, it is not practical for me to discuss the details of each report within this communication. I am providing, however, a brief update on key issues as well as direct links to more detailed reports that you can review at your convenience.

As we work toward the implementation of each of the outlined recommendations, I want to assure you that the process of positioning MTSU for the future remains a very important one for our university. As I indicated in a memo to faculty members last semester, the fiscal challenges that we continue to face in Tennessee, and throughout higher education, demand that we move forward with the process that we started more than a year ago.

While the majority of the recommendations presented in May 2009 were approved as a means of helping the university cut costs, others were accepted as a strategic investment in our future. With these thoughts in mind, I would like to update you on the status of a few critical matters that have garnered the most interest over the past few months.

See ‘Treadmill’ page 5
See ‘Update’ page 7

IN BRIEF

Monday, Feb. 8. Forms are available at www.mtsu.edu/provost/career_award.shtml and should be sent to The Career Achievement Award, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Attention: Faye Johnson, 111 CAB, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132.

NOMINATE HIGH ACHIEVERS

The university is seeking nominations for the 2009-10 MTSU Career Achievement Award.

Deadline for nominations is
FOR THE RECORD
Witnessing shuttle launch certainly a ‘WOW! moment’

by Eric D. Jackson
news@mtsu.edu

F or most of my life, I’ve been interested in science fiction and space travel. As a youngster in school, I can remember my teacher interrupting class to watch a launch from the Kennedy Space Center. In later years, I would watch the launches at home on television. Although I was fairly young, I knew exactly where I was when Apollo 11 landed on the moon—at home on the edge of my seat in the family room. Fast-forward to November 2009, and I find myself at the place of space exploration, NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. In later years, I would watch the statistics and pictures of a launch from the Kennedy Space Center. When I was in high school, I made a structure lift off into outer space. The next day we certainly had a busy schedule, and the MTSU production crew was starting to feel the buzz and excitement at Kennedy Space Center because it was now launch day. One of the highlights of this day was the walk over to the main road to watch the Atlantis crew drive by in the “astrovan” on their way to the launch pad. We all cheered and waved to the astronauts as they headed to board the shuttle.

While all of this was going on, there was a gathering for the launch of about 100 Twitter space fans who won invitations from NASA after signing up online for the first launch “tweet-up.” NASA put up a white circus-like tent at the press site of Kennedy Space Center especially for the Twitter crowd.

Around the T-minus five-minute mark, everyone was in place. There were satellite trucks covering the entire property, and the MTSU production crew had specific locations to get the best camera shots. When the countdown came, I saw the massive structure lift off. The sound it made was pulsating; I stood in awe and amazement. The ground trembled, and I felt the spectacular roar of the lift-off in my body. It was nothing like being at home years ago, watching a launch on television in my family room.

After the shuttle reached a certain altitude, we saw the booster rockets, which provide the main thrust to lift the shuttle off the pad, separate from the craft. To say the least, I was left speechless! We concluded our trip the next day with a tour of the Vehicle Assembly Building, where the massive shuttle structures are put together and which is considered one of the tallest buildings in the world by volume. We also toured the Kennedy Space Center Visitor’s Complex.

A trip to Titusville, Fla., to visit the Kennedy Space Center and experience an actual launch will forever be a lifetime memory—and we have it on video.

Eric D. Jackson, a graduate student in mass communication, works in the Office of News and Public Affairs and is a producer for the monthly video magazine, “MTSU Record.” Jackson is editing footage shot by MTSU grad student Eric D. Jackson for a quick photo while shooting a documentary near the space-shuttle launch site at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

photo submitted

ON THE SCENE—MTSU grad student Eric D. Jackson pauses for a quick photo while shooting a documentary near the space-shuttle launch site at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Eric D. Jackson

Solar webcasts reaching K-12 schools across state

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

Cedar Glades: Rocking Out with Endemic Plants” will be one of seven live Spring 2010 Programs for K-12 Students presented by the MTSU Satellite and Webcasting Center. The Tuesday, March 2, Cedar Glades program will be led by Dr. Kim Cleary Sadler from the MTSU Center for Cedar Glades Studies and Department of Biology and by Marrie Lassater of Homer Pittard Campus School. All of the one-hour student programs will air at 9 a.m. each Tuesday.

Other live student programs will include “Why Would You Want to Be an Engineer?”, Feb. 2; “WISE Women in Engineering,” Feb. 25; “Everything Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece” March 16; “A Hole in a Box Can Turn the World Upside Down! The Art and Science of Pinhole Photography” on March 23; “The Battle of Stones River” March 30; and “Discovering Primary Sources at the Tennessee State Library and Archives: A Student’s Guide” on April 6.

The prerecorded student programs will include “The Rain Forest” on Jan. 26; “Sanctuary: A Captive Elephant’s Only Acceptable Alternative” on Feb. 9; and “Fueling the Future Update: Building Engines that Run on Sun and Water” on Feb. 16.

No student program will air March 9 because of MTSU’s spring break. Eleven one-hour Professional Development Programs for Teachers will air live at 3:30 p.m. each Thursday.


No teacher program will air March 11 because of MTSU’s spring break.

In Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, the programs air on ERC8MT (MTSU Channel 9). School and center sites from Dyerburg and Memphis in West Tennessee to Knoxville and Church Hill in East Tennessee will carry the broadcasts.

page 2 The Record Jan. 25, 2010
A junior sociology major from Leiper’s Fork hadn’t been able to put a name to, touched on women’s history, let alone their high-school classes barely mention oppression of women, even though she sensed about society’s perception of them.

President Courtney Shelton says the fledgling group will focus on academics, not just activism. Panel discussions and intellectual roundtable will be among the members’ activities, along with fundraising and other charitable endeavors as well as collaborations with other student groups.

The WSSO officers say that women’s studies classes have validated what they sensed about society’s oppression of women, even though their high-school classes barely touched on women’s history, let alone their history as feminists.

“I felt like a mask had been pulled off, and I became aware of issues that I could feel but really hadn’t been able to put a name to,” says Vice President Kamryn Warren, a junior sociology major from Leiper’s Fork.

Shelton, a junior social work minor, cites the Women in Leadership class she took as being especially enlightening.

“That helped a lot to see the whole sphere of women who have power, the obstacles they have to overcome to get in positions of power and how they operate,” Shelton says.

Treasurer Lisa L. Walker, a junior sociology major from Dyersburg, says she decided to come to MTSU specifically because it has a women’s studies program. She says she could not wait to arrive here after reading feminist books in her senior year of high school.

“You finally are around people that feel the same way, that say things that you can relate to, things that I didn’t hear people say in my hometown,” Walker says.

Dr. Newtona “Tina” Johnson, English professor and director of the Women’s Studies Program, sees great value in the peer-to-peer mentoring the WSSO can provide to students of all geographical areas, educational pursuits and world views.

“It is a way to have students light that spark in other students,” Johnson says. “When you have other students pass on this information in this atmosphere of collaboration and partnership, then it’s easier for students to be drawn into the field.”

For more information about the WSSO, contact the Women’s Studies Program at 615-898-2910, or send an e-mail to Shelton at ces3e@mtsu.edu, Walker at lb238@mtsu.edu, or Warren at ldw3e@mtsu.edu.

**Posters showcase research**

Even MTSU student researchers will be among more than 50 from six Tennessee Board of Regents and two of the three University of Tennessee system universities participating in the fifth annual Posters at the Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 3, in Nashville. The MTSU students, their presentations and faculty mentors include:

- Shannon Murphy, “A Label-Free Method for Detection and Characterization of Bacillus spp. Endospores,” with mentor Dr. Stephen Wright (biology);
- Luke Bolin, “Effects of Oxygenteh Additives in Reducing Air Toxics from the Exhaust Emissions of Generators Fueled by Diesel and Gasoline,” with Dr. Sing Chong (chemistry);
- Rachel Dunn, “Transformation of Tobacco Plants Using Synthetically Replicated Antigenic Regions of Shigella Flexneri 2a2457T,” with Dr. Bruce Caboom (biology);
- Bart Morris, “Organosilicate Films Coupled to Puoremic Band Gap Multilayer Materials for Gas Sensing,” with Dr. Andrienne Friedli (chemistry);
- Keaton Holley, “Effects of Refrigeration on Elasticity of Human Erythrocytes Under Shear Stress in Human Blood Serum,” with Dr. Daniel Erenso (physics and astronomy); and

“It’s open to all disciplines across each campus,” said Cheatham, who was the state’s vice chancellor for academic and student affairs. “We encourage students to represent their work to the entire state.”

At least 51 students are expected to transport their research projects and posters to the capitol. The students will represent TBR schools East Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, Austin Peay, Tennessee State, MTSU and the University of Memphis, along with students from UT-Knoxville and UT-Chattanooga.

“This is probably the biggest change,” Cheatham said. “This had been a Board of Regents event in the past. We’re happy that UT-Knoxville and UT-Chattanooga will participate with us.”

Cheatham said students’ posters will be placed in the Legislative Plaza hallway, and “they will share their research with anyone who stops by.” He added that those who want to meet their state representatives or senators are welcome to do so. Later, a group photo will be taken with Gov. Phil Bredesen.

“I think the students really enjoy it, being at the Capitol, around where the (political) activities are . . . the important business that’s taking place. The students are invigorated by the experience.”

David Gregory, TBR vice chancellor for administration and facility development, and Paula Short, TBR vice chancellor for academic affairs, usually attend the event. The public is welcome to view the posters and talk to the researchers.

**Student organization can ‘light a spark’ for women’s studies**

**Bowled over**

WOO-HOO!—Head Coach Rick Stockstill is doused with sports drink by Blue Raider seniors Brandon Perry, left, and Chris McClover, right, and their teammates after defeating the Southern Miss Golden Eagles 42-32 during the R-L Carriers New Orleans Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome Dec. 20. The game, which was MTSU’s first Division I bowl win, closed a season that saw the Blue Raiders become the first Sun Belt Conference team to win 10 games. The 10-3 overall season also marked MTSU’s first Division I bowl win, closed a season that saw the Blue Raiders become the first Sun Belt Conference team to win 10 games.

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Jan. 29

Friday, Jan. 29
MTSU School of Music
Audition Day No. 1
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2493.

Jan. 30

Saturday, Jan. 30
MTSU Flute Festival
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2493.

MT Women's Basketball vs. North Texas
2 p.m., Murphy Center

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

Feb. 1

Monday, Feb. 1
Red Cross Blood Drive
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tennessee Room, James Union Building
For information, contact: 615-898-2900.

noon-1 p.m., Room 475, Walker Library
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc or e-mail ltanditc@mtsu.edu.

Spring Honors Lecture Series—Dr. Karen Petersen, “Problem Solved? The Political Implications of Palestinian Statehood”
3-3:55 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact: 615-898-2152.

Stones River Chamber Players
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2493.

Feb. 2

Tuesday, Feb. 2
Groundhog Day Luncheon
benefiting MT Baseball
11:30 a.m., Hale Arena floor, Murphy Center
Tickets: $20 per person
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

LT&IT Workshop: “Developing Your Course as an EXL”
led by Drs. Jill Austin and Deana Raffo
11:40 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 100, JUB
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/ltanditc or e-mail ltanditc@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 3

Wednesday, Feb. 3
Black History Month: Unity Luncheon
11 a.m., Tennessee Room, JUB
Tickets: $20 adult, $10 student
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~aahm or contact: 615-898-2718.

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

Feb. 4

Feb. 4-6
Wind Band Conference
8 p.m. Thursday: Tennessee Valley Winds Concert
8 p.m. Friday: MTSU Wind Ensemble Concert
1 p.m. Saturday: Honor Bands Concert
All events in Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-2493.

Feb. 5

Thursday, Feb. 4
MT Men’s Basketball vs. Troy
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Feb. 6

Saturday, Feb. 6
MT Track: Middle Tennessee Invitational
Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

MT Women’s Tennis vs. UT-Martin
1:30 p.m., Nashboro Village Indoors
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

MT Women’s Basketball vs. South Alabama
2 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Get noticed in The Record!
Submit your Campus Calendar items and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, for the Feb. 8, 2010, edition of The Record or 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, for the Feb. 22 Record. Make sure your news gets noticed in plenty of time: bookmark The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~pr officrec_deadlines.htm.
**Harris: ‘Always push a little harder’**

by Megan McSwain
news@mtsu.edu

Walking underwater has physically and mentally affected partial paraplegic Jim Harris, a participant in MTSU’s doctoral student Sandra Stevens’ underwater-treadmill therapy program. 

In July 2005, Harris, 57, was injured in a plane crash and suffered a spinal burst that severed pieces of his spinal cord. He has some movement in his legs, but his doctors said he would never walk again. The underwater treadmill has helped him defy those doctors. 

“Even though the medical professionals at the time said, ‘You’re never going to get up and walk again,’ every time I get up, I’m reminded, ‘Ha ha, proved you wrong,’” Harris said.

Harris heard about the underwater therapy program when Stevens gave a presentation at Vanderbilt-Skillworth Rehabilitation Center, where Harris attends a monthly spinal-cord injury peer-support group. 

Harris said he tried walking only a few times before starting the program in October 2009. Walking was a challenge at first, he said, but now he’s more comfortable walking in the tank that contains the underwater treadmill.

“At the beginning, I’d get my feet cross-up frequently, and I don’t do that anymore,” Harris said. “So there’s been an increase in stability and control. In the tank, you don’t have the fear of falling over and breaking a hip, or doing something that you’d be in a hospital for a long period of time.”

Jerry Harris, Jim’s wife, said she thinks his increase in mobility helps his mental state, too, and he likes coming to the therapy sessions for more than just exercise.

“He enjoys interacting with other people, talking,” Gerry said. “He’s a big talker. That’s an incentive to come—to be around people.”

Harris said his ultimate goal is to be able to fly planes again. A year after his plane crash, he flew with another pilot, and he said it felt good to be back up in the air.

One of his more immediate goals is to be able to feel more comfortable walking with help, and the underwater-treadmill therapy has helped, Stevens said. She thinks it’s possible for Harris to eventually be able to walk again unassisted, but there is no certainty as to when.

Harris said the physical exercise he gets from walking on the underwater treadmill has helped make him less fearful about doing other tasks.

“You feel good. You feel comfortable. You feel like you can handle whatever it is you’ve got to deal with. As long as you just have something that you’re reaching for, you always push a little harder.”

Megan McSwain, a December journalism graduate, was a practicum student in Stevens’ research, Rodgers plans to resume her traditional physical-therapy schedule and possibly begin water aerobics at the YMCA.

**Rodgers: ‘If you don’t keep moving...it’ll quit working’**

by Claire Rogers
news@vanderbilt.edu

Annette Rodgers suffered a broken neck and spinal-cord damage after a car accident in May 2009. Rodgers was rushed by helicopter to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, diagnosed with a complete spinal-cord injury and told she would never walk again.

“If I were to listen to what they had told me, I’d still be lying in the hospital bed or in a nursing home,” Rodgers, 52, said. “With spinal-cord injuries, you’re like a child; you have to learn to do everything again. If you don’t keep moving something, it’ll quit working.”

Six months later, Rodgers is able to walk with aid, and her injury continues to show improvement during her participation in Sandra Stevens’ underwater-treadmill study at MTSU. Rodgers learned about Stevens’ research study while at Donnelly Physical Therapy Center.

“One of the ladies there said they were doing research at MTSU and if I was interested, I should check it out. I called, and we came over to talk with Sandy and look at the tank and then we just started,” said Rodgers. “I thought this will help me get better faster.”

Rodgers had done pool training as part of her physical therapy but had not seen results as drastic as those in Stevens’ study.

“I’ve noticed more of an improvement in my walking since I’ve been doing the treadmill underwater than I have anything else,” she said.

Rodgers said walking in the water helped her form better steps. She has had to wear a brace on her left foot since the accident to keep her foot in proper walking position. Despite the hardships she has faced, Rodgers maintains a positive outlook on her future and sees how the exercise has increased her feeling of well-being. After completing her role in Stevens’ research, Rodgers plans to return her traditional physical-therapy schedule and possibly begin water aerobics at the YMCA.
The 37th Groundhog Day Luncheon will take place in the Murphy Center on the Monte Hale Arena floor on the MTSU campus. The luncheon is hosted by the Blue Raider baseball team and the Blue Raider Athletic Association as an opening pitch to the 2010 season.

All tickets for this year’s event are $20 per person, or you can reserve a table for $10 for $250. Reservations may be made for the Groundhog Day Luncheon by calling the Middle Tennessee ticket office at 615-898-2103 or 888-YES-MTSU (888-937-6879) or the BAA office at 615-898-2210.

2010 baseball season tickets are now on sale through the ticket office at Floyd Stadium. Fans can buy a Season Family Bleacher Pass for $60 and/or a Season Single Bleacher Pass for $45. For questions about chairback seating at Reese Smith Field, contact the BAA at 615-898-2210.
the dinner keynote speaker for the Ontario Nurses’ Association on Oct. 5, presenting a discussion on “Self Care and Stress Management for Nurses” in Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada.

Publications


Dr. Jid Lee (English) has published her memoir, To Kill A Tiger (The Overlook Press, New York), which is the story of her childhood in South Korea and five generations of Korean history.

Get noticed in The Record!

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voluntary buy-out program

Since we began this process, our primary concern has been how these cuts would affect our personnel. As indicated in previous updates, the normal process of attrition and the success of the university’s recommended Voluntary Buy-Out Program are still critical factors relating to the pending budget cuts that might affect university employees. The MTSU Office of Human Resource Services accepted applications through Jan. 15 from eligible employees who were interested in signing up for the VBP. It is important to keep in mind that additional reductions in personnel may be required if we do not experience the level of participation in the VBP that would result in our savings goal of $4.7 million. Without a doubt, the loss of personnel, whether through the Voluntary Buy-Out Program, a reduction in force or attrition, will have an impact on many of our administrative operations and academic programs. Each division is working to minimize the amount of negative impact that such losses would have on their departments and the university as a whole.

Divisional recommendations

As I share with you links to the latest status reports from units all across the campus, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so diligently to keep us on time and on task as it relates to the recommendations presented in my May 21, 2009, report. As you will see from each of the updates, a considerable amount of work and thought have gone into helping us to work through the fine details of many of these recommendations. You will also see that there is yet a lot more work to be done.

For your convenience, you may go to www.mtsu.edu стратегий/division_updates.shtml, the Positioning the University for the Future Web site, to find updates to recommendations from each of our five divisions—Academic Affairs, Business and Finance, Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, Development and Alumni Relations, and Information Technology. As you go through the updates, I encourage you to share your feedback with the appropriate divisional leaders so that your ideas and suggestions may be considered as our planning efforts continue.

Conclusion

Please know that as president of MTSU, I take seriously the charge of providing visionary leadership for this outstanding institution, especially during these very difficult economic times. I remain committed to furthering the mission of the university and maintaining the kind of dynamic academic environment that supports the goals and objectives of our long-term academic master plan. Furthermore, I firmly believe that the investment of time and resources that we have and will put into our efforts to position MTSU for the future will not only help us in addressing the significant budget cuts that we are facing but also provide us with a strategic advantage over our competitors in providing quality programs and services that meet the needs of today’s students.

Despite the difficulty of the task before us, with your active involvement and support, we will continue Middle Tennessee State University’s long-standing tradition of offering our students outstanding academic programs in the kind of nurturing environment that addresses their needs on an individual basis. While it is not likely that we will all agree on every minute detail related to how we implement each of these recommendations, it is my hope that we will strive to share a single focus: making sound decisions that will enhance our university and the quality of education for our students for generations to come.

This is a reprint of recent e-mail communications from Dr. McPhee to the university community.
Recording industry professor’s work garners Grammy nod

by Gina K. Logue

Hill's responsibility was the so-called acquisition phase of the process, positioning more than 30 state-of-the-art microphones in just the right places and funneling the sound into a multitrack recorder. Typically, for a symphonic positioning, the primary pair of mikes is placed behind the conductor, and spot mikes are scattered in various areas of the orchestra.

The technique of creating the mix in real time, as the orchestra is performing, is quite old school in an age when artists don’t even have to be in the same room to record. He was an engineer on one of the nominated CDs.

By whoever is conducting them," Hill says. "But it also takes a solid technical team to put together a recording that’s going to be good.”

“T" he Grammy Awards for classical recordings usually are not included in the pop-oriented television presentation ceremony. Perhaps that’s a good thing, if only to keep Kanye West from popping up onstage and arguing that Beyonce was better than Beethoven.

However, it means you will have to listen closely to the CBS telecast on Sunday night, Jan. 31, for any fleeting mention of the winner for Best Classical Album. MTSU recording industry professor John Hill will be listening closely; he was an engineer on one of the nominated CDs.

Hill worked on “L’Enfant et les sortileges” (“The Child and the Spells”) and “Sheherazade,” both compositions by Maurice Ravel, by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas directing the San Francisco Symphony and James Levine directing the Boston Symphony.

“Of course, the source material is the orchestra, molded by whoever is conducting them,” Hill says. “But it also takes a solid technical team to put together a recording that’s going to be good.”

Hill’s responsibility was the so-called acquisition phase of the process, positioning more than 30 state-of-the-art microphones in just the right places and funneling the sound into a multitrack recorder. Typically, for a symphonic recording, the primary pair of mikes is placed behind the conductor, and spot mikes are scattered in various areas of the orchestra.

The technique of creating the mix in real time, as the orchestra is performing, is quite old school in an age when artists don’t even have to be in the same country, let alone the same studio, to lay down tracks. However, the real-time mix is standard procedure for recording classical music.

Church, which she loved. An alumna of Ohio State University who earned her master’s degree at the University of Memphis and a doctorate in education from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Thomas directed the MTSU family in September 1968 and was a professor in the College of Education for 13 years at MTSU, and dean of the university’s Graduate School before retiring in October 1994. Memorials honoring the former MTSU Teacher of the Year may be made to the American Heart Association or to the Chester R. and Mary E. Martin Graduate Scholarship at MTSU.

Dr. William R. Wolfe (English), 75, passed away Jan. 6. Dr. Wolfe was the son of the late Roland Corrington and Mary Agnes McConnell Wolfe. He was preceded in death by two older brothers, Roland C. Wolfe Jr. of Nashville and John McConnell Wolfe of Chattanooga. Dr. Wolfe attended the University of Kentucky and Father Ryan High School in Nashville. He attended Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He held degrees from Saint Ambrose College, Marquette University and the University of Virginia. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was employed by MTSU from September 1969 until his retirement in July 1996. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider contributing to your favorite charity.


Dr. Debra Rose Wilson (nursing) presented “Stress Management for Nurses: Remembering Self Care,” a juried national presentation, at a conference at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The Oct. 1-4 conference, “Forging the Future through Continuing Education,” was sponsored by the Mayo Clinic in cooperation with the Professional Nurse Educators Group. Wilson also was