$1.1M for FirstSTEP is boost for STEM

The National Science Foundation has awarded MTSU $1.1 million to implement a program to improve success rates for students in the science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, disciplines.

Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, said many incoming students arrive with a strong interest in STEM fields but leave for other majors because they are underprepared to pass early mathematics requirements.

The new FirstSTEP program, which Cheatham will coordinate, will launch later this summer with its first group of freshmen. It will place at-risk students in an intensive two-year academic and student-support program, beginning with a summer “bridge” agenda and including mentoring and individualized lesson plans.

FirstSTEP will build on the success of other MTSU programs aimed at improving graduation rates within STEM fields.

“Math presents challenges to many incoming STEM students. It’s the gatekeeper for STEM fields, and a lot of students change majors because they think they can’t pass it,” the dean said. “They need some help to succeed, and this project will make that possible. We have a great group of mathematics faculty leading the project, and we’re excited to get started.”

Congressman Bart Gordon, chair of the House Committee on Science and Technology, has been a leader in supporting STEM education in middle Tennessee and across the nation.

“When I was growing up in Murfreesboro, I knew I would have to compete with students from Nashville and Knoxville for jobs,” Gordon said. “Today, students in Murfreesboro have to take the summer out of summer. It’s the summer might be a time of relaxation for most people, but the staff and volunteers of two of MTSUs newest agencies are working even harder this summer. They are merging the June Anderson Women’s Center and the Off-Campus Student Services Office into the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students.

Provost joining MTSU from Fort Lewis College

Dr. Brad Bartel, president at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., has been named the next provost at Middle Tennessee State University.

Bartel, who has served as president of the public liberal arts college since 2004, is expected to assume his new post at MTSU on July 12.

With more than 15 years of experience in higher education, including more than 25 years of senior-level administrative leadership at four major public universities, Bartel will replace Dr. Kaylene Gebert. Gebert returned to full-time faculty status in fall 2009 as a professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre after serving as executive vice president and provost at MTSU for six years.

“I am extremely fortunate to have the outstanding work started by Kaylene Gebert. Gebert will replace Dr. Kaylene Gebert. Gebert returned to full-time faculty status in fall 2009 as a professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre after serving as executive vice president and provost at MTSU for six years. Dr. L. Diane Miller served as interim provost while the nationwide search for Gebert’s permanent replacement was under way.

“MTSU is extremely fortunate to have the outstanding work started by Kaylene Gebert. Gebert has returned to full-time faculty status in fall 2009 as a professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre after serving as executive vice president and provost at MTSU for six years. Dr. L. Diane Miller served as interim provost while the nationwide search for Gebert’s permanent replacement was under way. “MTSU is extremely fortunate to have the outstanding work started by Kaylene Gebert. Gebert has returned to full-time faculty status in fall 2009 as a professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre after serving as executive vice president and provost at MTSU for six years. Dr. L. Diane Miller served as interim provost while the nationwide search for Gebert’s permanent replacement was under way.

ITD chief brings BGSU, Kent State tech know-how

Middle Tennessee State University President Sidney A. McPhee has announced that Bruce M. Petryshak, who has served as chief information officer for Bowling Green (Ohio) State University since 2001, is the new vice president for information technology and CIO at MTSU.

Petryshak will replace Vice President and CIO Lucinda Lea, who began her career at MTSU in 1973 and served as vice president of the Information Technology Division for eight years. Lea retired April 30.

“Over the course of his professional career, Mr. Petryshak has worked his way through the ranks of information technology,” McPhee said. “He comes to us very highly recommended and has the kind of professional background and experience that will allow us to continue the outstanding work started by Lucinda Lea in providing world-class IT services for our campus.”

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JAWC, OCSS merger on schedule for July 1

by Gina K. Logue

Summer might be a time of relaxation for most people, but the staff and volunteers of two of MTSU’s newest agencies are working even harder this summer. They are merging the June Anderson Women’s Center and the Off-Campus Student Services Office into the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students.
McNair Scholars ‘blast off’ into summer of research

by Randy Weiler
jwalter@mtsu.edu

Twenty-four McNair Scholars received a resounding sendoff from University Honors College Dean John Vile to start their eight weeks of summer research.

Vile spoke during the McNair Scholars Program’s annual Blast Off reception June 1 in the James Union Building’s Hazlewood Dining Room. From “perseverance” to “have fun,” Vile sent them on their journey with five main points in his presentation that offered other wisdom as well.

In addition to being persistent and having fun, Vile urged them to “keep your mentors informed,” to “set deadlines” and to “think beyond this project.”

While the students will have a 37.5-hour commitment, Vile urged them to spend even more time on their research. “I would go beyond (that 37.5 hours),” he said. “What you put in this summer should go with you 30 or 40 years into the future.”

Vile shared that he and his wife, Linda, who is an elementary-school teacher, both carry work home because they have a passion for their careers.

As for having fun in this research and beyond, Vile said, “Figure out something you want to do, and whatever your field, enjoy it.”

Vile said there are certain basic skills they will need, such as thinking, researching, writing, speaking, communicating with others and getting along with others. “Commitment, hard work, patience, persistence and integrity are virtues that complement those skills,” he added.

“You’re not just writing a research paper. You’re establishing a relationship. Your mentor might be the one who writes a letter for you to go to graduate or law school.”

McNair Interim Director Steve Saunders welcomed the scholars, shared the recent program successes and introduced Vile’s Academic Coordinator Dr. Charles Apigian, a professor in computer information systems, had the participants introduce themselves and discussed scholar/mentor responsibilities.
TSU’s Center for Environmental Education, along with several other state agencies, has helped to create and develop a new brochure to educate Tennesseans about watersheds and their impact on communities.

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, director for the center, recently announced the effort to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee; Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost; Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; and Dr. George Murphy, chair of the biology department.

The brochures will be distributed across the state at 14 welcome centers and 19 rest areas, Smith-Walters said, as well as through the Tennessee Stormwater Association network and to schools, at public events and more.

In March 2008, Tennessee launched a program to increase public awareness of the state’s 55 watersheds and their importance to water quality, recreation and the environment, she said.

Working with the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Department of Transportation erected 187 watershed-awareness signs at key entry points along Tennessee’s highways.

The simple green-and-white logo identifying the approaching watershed and a friendly exhortation to “Help keep it clean” encourages countless Tennessee residents and citizens to be aware of their local watershed and do their part to protect it every day, Smith-Walters added.

The state agencies, along with the MTSU Center for Environmental Education, developed the brochure, called “A Guide to Traveling Tennessee’s Watersheds,” as a companion to these signs found statewide, she said.

The guide provides maps and a brief description of each of Tennessee’s distinctive watershed basins, including the Upper Tennessee, Cumberland, Lower Tennessee and Mississippi river basins.

Members of the Stones River Watershed will celebrate Boat Day in Murfreesboro and Smyrna on Saturday, June 26, said Cynthia Allen of the CEE. Organizers are enlisting volunteers to bring boats to the Manson Pike trailhead of the Murfreesboro Greenway and to the Stewart Creek Recreation Area in Smyrna.

For details about the brochure, please visit http://tn.gov/environment/watersheds/guide/. For more information about the center, call 615-904-8575.

MTSU’s Center for Environmental Ed
teams with state agencies
to create watershed guide

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

MTSU’s student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management recently won two national awards for excellence.

Dr. Patrick McCarthy, faculty adviser for MTSU’s SHRM chapter, said its membership of 35 students received a Superior Merit Award for 2009-10. The criteria for this award require an extensive variety of quality professional programs and activities.

“Remarkably, our MTSU chapter has earned a national merit award in seven of the past nine years, in addition to several individual student awards, including two national Graduate Student of the Year awards over the past decade,” said McCarthy, an associate professor of psychology.

MTSU’s SHRM chapter also was named among the organization’s National Top 10 Outstanding Student Chapters for 2010.

“That’s an impressive achievement by our students, particularly the graduate students from MTSU’s industrial/organizational psychology program who led these efforts as the chapter officers,” McCarthy said.

Founded in 1948, SHRM is the world’s largest association devoted to human resource management and represents more than 250,000 members in 140-plus countries. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. SHRM currently has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China and India.

For more information about MTSU’s SHRM chapter, contact McCarthy, director of the university’s Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness, at 615-898-2126 or at pmccarth@mtsu.edu.

Don’t get left in the dark...
Memorial Garden

SAYING THANKS—Students in Dr. Tony Johnston’s agricultural engineering class, shown below and at right, work to update and expand the garden area at the Tennessee Veterans’ Home on Compton Road in north Murfreesboro as part of a project combining civic engagement and practical application of their new knowledge. Clients, staff and visitors at the health care facility for military veterans and their spouses use the area for relaxation, breaks, small group meetings and the like. The project is featured in the June edition of “Middle Tennessee Record,” MTSU’s monthly video magazine. In other segments of the June TV program, viewers can learn about faculty efforts to exchange knowledge and teaching skills in “Faculty Learning Communities” as well as student research and data-collection projects and, of course, the latest installment of “True Blue TV” with Steven Mizell of the Admissions Office. Watch “Middle Tennessee Record” daily at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Murfreesboro’s Cable Channel 9 and at 1:30 p.m. Sundays on NewsChannel 5+. For more information, visit the News and Public Affairs website, www.mtsunews.com, to find a listing of channels and airtimes on cable systems across the Midstate. There’s also an archive of shows on YouTube via the link at www.mtsunews.com.

By News and Public Affairs
MT brings home SBC All-Sports Trophy for 6th year

from MT Athletic Communications
www.goblueraiders.com

For the sixth time in 10 years since joining the Sun Belt Conference, Middle Tennessee’s Athletic Department has won the Vic Bubas Cup as the top overall sports program in the league. The award is given each year to the university that comes in first in the Sun Belt’s all-sports standings.

The Blue Raiders, who scored a conference record 148.0 total points out of a possible 197, received their sixth trophy May 25 during the league meetings in Destin, Fla. Middle Tennessee easily won this year’s prestigious trophy by a margin of 24.5 points over second-place Western Kentucky. North Texas was third.

Middle Tennessee won or shared five conference championships during the 2009-10 calendar year to secure its second straight all-sports title and third over the last four years. The Blue Raiders also won the prestigious title in 2001, which was their first year in the SBC, and again in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Middle Tennessee is now the third school in Sun Belt history to win the award six times. No school has won the award more since the Blue Raiders joined the league in 2000-01.

"This trophy is a goal of ours at the start of every school year, and it’s really a culmination of the hard work of the student athletes and their drive to compete for championships,” said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. “And, of course, we all know what a wonderful coaching staff that we have at Middle Tennessee. With all of the great programs in the Sun Belt Conference, this is indeed an honor to be recognized as the best overall.

“Everyone in our athletic department, the university and community should take great pride in this, because this was a total team effort, and that’s the great thing about an All-Sports Championship.”

The Blue Raiders’ All-Sports Championship was bolstered by regular season titles in men’s and women’s basketball and conference post-season championships in men’s cross country, volleyball and women’s basketball.

Additionally, two Middle Tennessee coaches earned Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year honors: head Football Coach Rick Stockstill and Dean Hayes, men’s cross country coach.

The Blue Raiders aided their cause by beginning the year with a record 47 points thanks to men’s and women’s cross country, soccer, volleyball and football. Middle Tennessee saw gains in seven sports from the previous season with football making the most substantial jump by 5.0 points followed closely by men’s basketball with a 3.5-point increase.

Demonstrating tremendous balance, Middle Tennessee earned seven points or more in 14 of the 17 sports it sponsors and 10 or more points in 10 sports. Points are awarded based on the number of schools sponsoring the sport. Institutions not sponsoring a sport do not receive points in that sport. Institutions tying for positions split the combined points of their positions.

Middle Tennessee is the only football-playing member to win the Bubas Cup since football became a league-sponsored sport in 2001. The Blue Raiders do not field teams in men’s and women’s swimming and diving.

Middle Tennessee sponsors men’s cross country, women’s cross country, women’s soccer, volleyball, football, men’s indoor track and field, women’s indoor track and field, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, men’s golf, women’s golf, men’s tennis, women’s tennis, softball, men’s outdoor track and field, women’s outdoor track and field, and baseball.

Hazard grant meeting is June 16

MTSU applied for and received a Hazard-Mitigation Grant from Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, which will provide funds for surveying buildings, identifying potential hazards and developing strategies to counter identified hazards.

The MTSU Hazard-Mitigation Plan will allow the university to apply for grants from both TEMAs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for projects to implement the plan.

An essential component in the planning process is community involvement, so members of the MTSU campus and surrounding community are being invited to a public information session Wednesday, June 16, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106.

The MTSU Hazard-Mitigation Committee will be present and includes representatives from the university’s Environmental Health and Safety Committee; Murfreesboro’s fire, electric, and water and sewer departments; Rutherford County Emergency Management; Hastings Architecture; and MTSU Campus Planning.

For more information, contact Gerald Caudill at 615-896-2754.

Get state vehicles tested on July 7

MTSU will conduct its annual on-site Emissions Testing Day on Wednesday, July 7, for state-owned vehicles. Departments may bring state vehicles to the Auto Shop beginning at 8 a.m. that day until all vehicles are tested.

The Auto Shop will be sending out emissions coupons to departments with state vehicles in the coming weeks.

If your department’s vehicle is experiencing problems, such as exhaust issues or muffler noises, or if the vehicle needs a tune-up, contact Sherry York at 615-898-2415 to arrange for the vehicle to be scheduled for service.

M T S U C a m p u s P h a r m a c y
615-494-8888
www.mtsu.edu/pharmacy

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MTSU’s aerospace department is one of 33 ITT team members involved in the Federal Aviation Administration’s Next Generation Air Transportation System to modernize the U.S. national airspace system.

Specifically, MTSU aerospace will provide support in air traffic management systems, human-factor research, technology assessment and large-scale demonstrations.

ITT, Boeing and General Dynamics announced their receipt of FAA System Engineering 2020 contracts worth up to $4.4 billion on May 26. The contract for ITT, a White Plains, N.Y.-based high-technology engineering and manufacturing company, is $1.4 billion-plus.

“The two most influential people were Dr. Foote and Dr. Thomas,” said Hackworth, a senior from Mt. Juliet, who is a horse science major and entrepreneurship minor. “They put Dr. Foote and Lee Reed. In the photo at left, students team up for research in the computer lab. From left are Paige Gober, Adam Emerson, Foote and Lee Reed.

Julianna Hackworth, Kipp Lawton and Troy Berry are three of 30 students who were part of the recent Institute of Leadership Excellence 2010. The students, among the best at MTSU, heard some wisdom, insight, challenges and success stories from alumni Murray Martin, president of the MTSU Foundation; Kem Hinton, founding partner and design principal at Tuck-Hinton Architects; Louis Upkins, a marketing and branding entrepreneur; Murfreesboro internist Dr. Utpal Patel; Micheal Burt, former teacher and coach and now CEO of Maximum Consulting, a multicultural marketing firm specializing for the Hispanic community and consumer.

From May 17 to 21, they also heard from on-campus experts like Dr. Deana Rado from MTSU Leadership Studies; Dr. William Resspress, Human Resource Services training manager; and Dr. John Vile, dean of the University Honors College, which hosted the Paul W. Martin Sr. Distinguished Program in the building that bears Martin’s name.

Additionally, they had group brainstorming and discussions with case studies, various exercises and critiques of the speakers’ points and were challenged by the ropes course at MTSU’s Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

Hackworth and Lawton were most impressed by the two leaders: director Dr. David Foote, associate professor of management and marketing, and Dr. Earl Thomas, professor of management and marketing.

“The two most influential people were Dr. Foote and Dr. Thomas,” said Hackworth, a senior from Mt. Juliet, who is a horse science major and entrepreneurship minor. “They put the whole program together. They’ve taken the initiative to be interested in students—their careers and personal lives—and see the possibilities.”

“Dr. Foote and Dr. Thomas make the institute what it is, the dynamics between the two,” added Lawton, a rising senior from Germantown and a radio/TV major. “It doesn’t feel like a class. It feels like a great life experience.”

Berry, a junior from Murfreesboro who is an electronic media communications major, said he’ll most remember “the guest speakers, the quality of people they (Foote and Thomas) brought in. This is something you would not get in a regular class.”

Berry observed the “different leadership styles and paths to success” by the speakers. “There are a lot of different ways to do what you want to do in life,” he said.

Get noticed in MTSU’s official university publication! Check out (and bookmark!) The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml.
Middle Tennessee Head Coach Rick Insell has announced the addition of Alex Fuller to his staff as an assistant coach for the 2010-11 women’s basketball campaign.

“What a great asset to our program,” Insell said. “We have a variety of different young ladies at our post positions, which is exactly where Alex spent her career playing. She brings a unique attitude and work ethic to the team. I am very pleased to bring her on board and have her help continue the tradition we have set forth.”

Fuller, a 2008 student graduate and former player for Insell at Shelbyville Central High School, was a graduate student manager at Kansas last season under Bonnie Henrickson. The Jayhawks finished the season wanting to lead it to the Final Four of state titles in the nation’s top assistant coaches in recruiting and coaching, Davis noted, adding that he will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Blue Raider staff. Moxley served as an assistant coach for the 49ers for seven years (1999-2005) before accepting an assistant coaching position at Maryland.

Rob Moxley joins the Blue Raider men’s basketball coaching staff after one season with the Terrapins as the associate head coach at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. MTSU Head Coach Kermit Davis announced June 4. “We are extremely excited to have Rob join the Middle Tennessee State University basketball program,” Davis said. “Rob has enjoyed tremendous success at the NCAA level. He is an outstanding coach who will be working specifically with our perimeter players and is also one of the most respected recruiters in our business.”

Moxley is regularly listed among the nation’s top assistant coaches in recruiting and coaching, among the nation’s top 100 assistant coaches by HoopScooponline.com. Moxley then returned to Charlotte after a five-year stint as the associate head coach.

“I have always respected Kermit Davis as a person and as a coach,” Moxley said. “Kermit has done a great job of building MTSU into a top-tier Sun Belt program, and I look forward to helping him and his staff take the Blue Raiders to the NCAA Tournament.”

“MTSU also has great leadership under Dr. (Sidney A.) McPhee and (Director of Athletics) Chris Massaro, and my family and I wanted to be a part of the program’s future success.”

In 2008, Moxley was ranked 44th among the nation’s top 100 assistant coaches by HoopScooponline.com.

MTSU tests its emergency siren monthly. The next test date is Wednesday, July 14, 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/alert4u/tornado_shelter.shtml.

Summer enrollment showing solid increase so far

E arly projections for 2010 enrollment totals for MTSU’s six summer terms show a 6.9 percent increase from the same time in 2009, an official in the Office of Enrollment Services said. The June 1 data provided by the Office of Records showed 9,040 students registered for classes, said Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services. This is an increase of 580 students from the same date a year ago when 8,456 were registered, she added.

“The significant increase is at the undergraduate level,” Huddleston said, adding that the increase appears to be due to the extended availability of the Pell Grant.

“This is the first summer that the Pell Grant has been available,” she said. “In the past, students received Pell Grants in the fall and spring (semesters). Those enrolled this past fall—almost 2,000 students—are eligible for a summer Pell award.”

Huddleston said Pell funds are a federal grant awarded to students according to an eligibility index. The money, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid.

She added that for Pell Grants or other financial-aid questions or assistance, students should visit the Financial Aid Office’s website, www.mtsu.edu/financialaid.

Final summer enrollment totals will not be known until after the census is taken at the end of July, she said. Last year, 8,603 students took regular and online classes during the summer terms, Huddleston said.

Following the first fall 2010 CUSTOMS orientation session in late May, Records Office data showed a 5.9 percent increase in expected enrollment for the fall semester. The fall enrollment comparison—16,459 vs. 15,589 in 2009—is a head count increase of 870. The fall enrollment will increase with each CUSTOMS session and as returning students register for classes.

Last fall, MTSU reported a record 25,188 enrolled when its census information was submitted to the Tennessee Board of Regents.
A big ‘Wink’ for one of the greats

from MT Athletic Communications

www.goblueraiders.com

Conference room named for renowned coach

E.W. “Wink” Midgett Conference Room

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
RAN OF HONOR

MADE DEDICATED TO THE ENDURING HISTORIC 
AND MENTAL 
AND MEMORIAL HALLS PROGRESSION 
OF BLUE RACER 
AND FUTURE 
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE 

Success in the Blue Raider golf program included a national championship perhaps his greatest accomplishment, at least in terms of his football coaching career in 1939 when he took the reins of the men’s basketball program. In 1940, he began coaching the other football team, bringing them up to a 4-4 record (which included a 6-0 win over rival Tennessee Tech) after two previous seasons that had netted a total of just three wins. Midgett’s teams posted winning records of 4-3-1 in 1941 and 4-2-1 in 1942, despite losing many players to WWII, and he concluded his football career in 1946 with a 5-3-1 mark. Football was suspended during 1943 through 1945 because of the war. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, at least in terms of long-range success, came in 1939 when he formed and coached the very first Middle Tennessee golf team. Members of that team included Blue Raider Hall of Fame member John Bragg, Jimmy Jackson, E.K. Patty and Gene McIntire.

Midgett’s son Dan, who has since passed away, was a member of that winning 1965 team.