Summer grad marks history by degrees

by Tom Tozer
jtozer@mtsu.edu

H e’ll walk across the stage at summer commencement to receive his diploma with a degree in history—not because he actually majored in that field but because he’s lived nearly 82 years of it.

William Boyd, a native of Marietta, Ga., and a longtime resident of Tullahoma, Tenn., will graduate from MTSU on Saturday, Aug. 14, with a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies. He will hang that on his wall along-side the associate’s degree that he earned in 1978 from Motlow State Community College.

“I am very, very happy,” Boyd said. “My granddaughters asked me, ‘Granddaddy, why don’t you go back to school? You don’t lack that much.’ That’s what got me started.”

With some prodding from his family, including his wife, Effie Watkins Boyd, who earned her bachelor’s in business administration from MTSU in 1987, Boyd enrolled in MTSU in January 2009, about 30 hours shy of earning his bachelor’s degree. He took most of his courses online from their winter home in Florida.

“I had to work on it harder than when I was younger,” Boyd noted. “I don’t have the memory capacity. I’m still thankful that I have the memory that I do have. It took a lot of reading and research. But I don’t wear glasses; I can see.

“Online is a good way to learn if you have time to go to the library and other places. You have to do a lot of research because you can’t raise your hand. But you can e-mail your instructor—and my instructors have been very good.”

The Boyds met in Georgia, when William literally bumped into Effie at a recreation center and nearly knocked her down. “I think she was coming out of her house in Florida. I’m still thankful that I have the memory of that world.”

Boyd was discharged from military service in 1953 after serving in California aboard a U.S. destroyer for two years and as an electronics techni-cal worker in the Naval Reserve. He also served for a time in the Army National Guard.

After retiring early in 1984 from Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Boyd worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Monteagle, Tenn. Today, he’s a substitute teacher in the Tullahoma City School District.

(Asked if he enjoys the work, he replied, “Sometimes,” without missing a beat.) He also professes to be a “very good” billiards player.

“Never give up” is his advice to today’s college students. “Stick with it. Even if you get an F, stick with it, because you’ll get something out of it. … But you need support from your family. That’s very important.”

See ‘Summer’ page 5
Take the Next Step to ease students’ college transition

by Becca Seul
rscsl@mtsu.edu

A new part of the MTSU community, many of you may regularly hear about programs aimed at helping disadvantaged and underserved students. However, there is a group of potential students often overlooked. That’s why the Academic Support Center has created the Next Step Program. It was designed almost two years ago to help ease the transition to college for students coming out of the foster-care system to MTSU.

As academic advisers, we knew there were many unique challenges that these students often face, from obtaining financial aid to needing year-round housing and everything in between. We trained staff members across campus in numerous offices to help with their transition. Collectively, liaisons in Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, Academic Advising and Student Support Services work together to help this population of students not only get to MTSU, but M. S. Ceed it, too.

Since its inception, Next Step has evolved into something bigger. The program now includes participants from many different backgrounds and scenarios, including former foster-care youth, homeless and at-risk-of-homelessness youth, along with students entering college as independent minors.

In my view, the most beneficial part of the Next Step Program is that we have a group of mentors involved every step of the way. These mentors are current MTSU students from similar backgrounds who have now become successful students and graduates. These volunteers return to help our program semester after semester, offering peer support and encouragement to our newest students. These mentors know the challenges associated with their independent status and have “been there and done that,” so they’re eager to work with Next Step’s newest students to help make achieving college success a little easier on them.

Our program, nonetheless, faces a big challenge: We need the help of the MTSU community. Many of the youths we interact with from foster care, homelessness and independent status aren’t— and weren’t—aware that attending college was a viable option for them, not to mention that most or all of it could be paid for via outside means. Through our partnerships with the Department of Children’s Services and the Tennessee Youth Advisory Council, however, we have been able to identity numerous youths in need of our program and its services, with many more still coming in weekly.

We fear there are still those being missed. My plea to you, the MTSU community, is this: If you know students coming to MTSU—or even currently enrolled students who may benefit from this program, please let me know or pass along my contact information.

The Next Step mentors and I are excited about the possibilities this program holds and the far-reaching effects we could have on these students, but we can’t help if we don’t know who needs our help. It is our mission to reach every student who can benefit from our program and services. Needless to say, the transition to college can be challenging for all students. With many other life hurdles and obstacles to overcome, this particular student population could use some extra support. That’s what we’re here for and why we work so hard to make this Next Step a success.

If you have any questions about the program or know of students or potential students who could use our assistance, please feel free to send them my way. To learn more about the program, please visit www.mtsu.edu/nextstep.

Beca Seul, M.S., is a Certified Family Life Educator, program coordinator for MTSU’s Next Step Program and an adviser with the Academic Support Center. She may be reached via e-mail at rscsl@mtsu.edu or by calling 615-898-2339.

If you’d like to contribute a column “For the Record,” please e-mail sfarr@mtsu.edu. Your contribution should be 300 to 600 words long, and we’ll need a current photograph to accompany it. Thanks!
RIM majors’ creativity equals cash from audio manufacturer

by Gina E. Fann
gfann@mtsu.edu

Three MTSU recording-industry students are getting some financial support for their creative visions as the latest recipients of the prestigious API Visionary Scholarship.

Taylor Bray, a junior from Columbia, S.C., and senior Jay Yaskin of Las Vegas received $2,000 each, while Nashvillian Ben Poff, who’s working toward his Master of Fine Arts degree in recording arts and technology, received $1,000 from Jessup, Md.-based Automated Processes Inc.

API is a leading analog audio-products manufacturer whose 48-channel API Vision stereo/surround sound console was installed in Studio A in the Bragg Communication Building in 2009.

The studio is designed to accommodate the needs of audio recording for traditional music production, as well as video and film, and includes a studio, control room, isolation booth, mastering/observatory lab and machine room.

Some API equipment is in RIM’s Studio B, and students also are able to check out an API module for mobile use.

The Visionary Scholarship, open only to students at universities using API equipment, is “designed to foster creativity and excellence for the pro audio industry’s next generation of sound engineers,” the company said.

“My whole goal is to be making money at this before I get out of school, so this is one more opportunity to get my name out there,” Yaskin, who lives in Franklin, Tenn., and is preparing to graduate in 2011, said with a laugh.

“I had just finished an analog project with my roommates the previous semester that included horns, electric violins, two vocalists and an analog synthesizer to make bizarre sounds. The scholarship application said to show how to bridge the gap between analog and digital, so we grabbed it and overnight-ed it.”

The other three scholarships went to students at the University of Michigan, State University of New York at Purchase and New York University’s Clive Davis School of Recording at the Tisch School of the Arts. Each of the six winners submitted an essay and optional recorded material for review by API.

“The people at API said they could tell that our faculty were proactive in encouraging our students to apply,” said Professor Dan Pfeifer, who teaches courses in audio engineering and technology, studio production and studio administration and coordinates the undergraduate and graduate audio internships for the RIM department.

“This was the first time we were eligible to apply. It’s really very unusual for a manufacturer to do something like this. The altruism on their part is awesome.”

Gordon Smart, managing director of API, told the student winners in a congratulatory e-mail that “while all of the entries reflected a high degree of talent, creativity and professionalism, your work (both essay and production materials) was recognized as superior and noteworthy.”

Pfeifer, who recently returned from a seminar in Maine where he trained users on an API console, said he and fellow RIM Professor Bill Crabtree have freelanced for API and written user manuals for the company, too.

“The university wants us to have partnerships and this is the kind of thing that provides both a literal payoff for students, with scholarships, and a payoff with access to world-class equipment,” he said. “It’s pretty amazing for our students to get recognition from the industry like this.”

Yaskin and his peers won’t be waiting long for more industry acclaim. He’s been working with a songwriting team this summer, mixing and mastering tracks on demos, and recently learned that Disney bought one of the songs. The song that won him an API Visionary Scholarship, “City at Night,” will be available on iTunes soon, performed by “A Silent Circus.”

He didn’t even know about MTSU before,” he said. “I was visiting some friends in Nashville and saw how hard-core the RIM program was, and that was it.”

Author’s ‘Outcasts United’ is MTSU’s Summer Reading Program Selection

Creating a community from a group of strangers is the focus of author Warren St. John’s Outcasts United, and it’s also the goal of MTSU’s annual University Convocation, where St. John is scheduled to speak on Sunday, Aug. 29.

The author’s 2 p.m. address at Murphy Center will help mark the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year at MTSU, when Convocation welcomes new students into the MTSU learning community.

Faculty march in their regalia to dramatic compositions performed by the MTSU Band of Blue, and the traditions and rituals of the university are explained to the newest members of the MTSU family.

For incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 28, and all University 1010 classes will discuss the selection.

Faculty members also are being encouraged to incorporate the book into their fall lesson plans.

Outcasts United may be purchased on campus and at local bookstores. It’s available in hardback and paperback, and online sellers also may have used copies.


The University Convocation is free and open to the public. First-year students are expected to attend; their families and members of the MTSU and Murfreesboro communities are welcome to attend.

Call 615-898-2454 for more information, or visit www.mtsunews.com.

The Record Aug. 9, 2010 page 3
Pigskin Pre-Game kicks off 2010 season Aug. 28

from Staff Reports

MTSU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the GRITS Collaborative Project 2010 Forum on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from noon until 3 p.m. in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room.

Lee Rennick, executive director of business education partnership with the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, will provide the keynote address, “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants.”

Guest speaker Donna M. Inch, appointed chairwoman and CEO of Ford Land in January, will discuss the importance of attracting and retaining women in the engineering and science pipeline.

That morning, Inch will speak at the Southern Automotive Women’s Forum in Nashville.

Inch, who joined Ford in 1978 as an industrial-relations analyst, has global responsibility for real estate, construction and facility services for Ford Motor Company.

Other presentations by GRITS Collaborative members will include “Networking for All” by Dr. Kaylene Gebert, a professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre and the former MTSU executive vice president and provost;

“Hands-on STEM for Your Classroom or EYH (Expanding Your Horizons)” by Mary Thomas, senior general contractor for Schneider Electric and member of the GRITS Collaborative Project Camps Board;

“GRITS Program Directory and Mini-Grants” by Mary Moore, principal technologist for Eastman Chemical Co. in Kingsport and a member of the GRITS Collaborative Project Leadership Team; and

“Getting WISE about WISTEM” by Dr. Kathy Mathis, a professor of engineering technology at MTSU.

The cost to attend is $10. Students may attend free.

The GRITS Collaborative Project, which stands for Girls Raised in Tennessee Science, brings together organizations and individuals who are committed to informing and motivating girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to encourage collaboration and improve interprogram communication.

For more information, contact Dr. Judy Iriarte-Gross, MTSU chemistry professor and director of the WISTEM Center, at 615-904-8253 or jiriarte@mtsu.edu.
Almost 900 students set to graduate Saturday, Aug. 14

A

Almost 900 students set to graduate during the 99th annual summer commencement ceremony, MTSU officials announced.

The single-ceremony graduation will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, in Murphy Center with Deborah Belcher, professor in the Department of Interior Design, as the commencement address. The event will be broadcast live on the Web at http://bit.ly/bAJpD5.

Who: 892 graduates* (657 undergraduates, 235 graduate students)
What: Summer commencement ceremony
When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14
Where: Murphy Center, MTSU
Speaker: Professor Deborah Belcher, Department of Human Sciences and 2009-10 MTSU Faculty Senate President


*Approximate number as of July 15, 2010.

Society of Interior Designers and the Institute of Classical Architecture. She received the ASID 1995 Education Award from the Tennessee Chapter and a Tennessee Chapter Presidential Citation in 2003, 2008 and 2009, and earlier this year, she received a national IDEC Service Award and served as the 2008-10 IDEC South Region’s chairwoman.

Graduation information—including how to watch the ceremony via streaming video the day of commencement, maps and driving directions to Murphy Center, cap-and-gown information and how to order a DVD of the summer ceremony—is available online at http://bit.ly/bAJpD5.

Summer

After graduation, Boyd said he plans to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees. He said his first task, however, will be to teach Sumer Patterson, his MTSU academic advisor, how to swim. He promised her that if he graduated, he would pay her back with swimming lessons.

“When Mr. Boyd came to see me for advising the second time, he said he didn’t think he was going to make it to his goal,” Patterson said. “I struck a deal with him. If he graduates, I will let him teach me how to swim. We shook hands on it.”

“Everybody here has been so good to me,” the veteran student said, fighting back tears. “They went out of their way. I think a lot of these people here.”

from page 1

and I’ve been able to learn from the other people,” said Pedro Reyes, 17, a senior at Riverdale High School.

Parkersaid Carnegie Mellon University’s free Alice animation software program made it a fun but challenging week.

“It’s a great camp. I never knew how to do anything,” Shaun Cassidy, 14, a ninth-grader at Siegel High School, said of the animation camp.

“I had never written a program; now I know at least seven,” said Kyran Jones, 15, a Blackman High School sophomore. “This has been wonderful. I’ve always been interested in computer programming, but I didn’t know how. This has shown me how.”

Alicia Meadors, a Siegel High junior, created an intricate maze in her Alice program. “This has been an amazing experience,” she said. “I have a friend who knows how to do programming. I’ve always wanted to learn.”

The camps were part of a $600,000 three-year Partnership for Innovation grant from the National Science Foundation that Li, Dong and College of Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Tom Cheatham secured to attract more students into computing fields. The camps use real-world programming project teams of students and faculty in the summer to aid retention.

Computer Science Camps draw teens to campus

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

W

ith temperatures in the upper 90s the week of July 12-16, nearly 50 Rutherford and Bedford county high-school students had a way-too-cool method to beat the heat—attending the first Computer Science Camps at MTSU.

From robotics to animation to multimedia, the teenagers blossomed under the guidance of faculty members Brenda Parker and Drs. Cen Li and Zhijian Dong and their student assistants.

“Tens of ways the way they’ve worked, and I think it’s because they just enjoy it,” Parker said of her Alice 3-D programming group. Li and Dong said they felt the same way about their robotics and multimedia groups.

Katherine Warren, 14, a rising ninth-grader at Central Magnet School and a multimedia camp participant, is the daughter of professional photographer David Warren.

“I’ve seen him do this kind of stuff all my life,” she said. “I didn’t know what I was going to be doing… We had to write codes. We had to learn them, and we got to see how people make them work.”

Reid Brown, 15, a sophomore at The Webb School in Bell Buckle and a Murfreesboro resident, also participated in multimedia camp.

“All we did was pictures. We only had a week,” he said. “I had been wanting to do something like this for a long time. It was a fun experience, a real challenge. I learned a lot.”

“The purpose of (multimedia) camp is not to teach them coding but to show them how wonderful pictures can be created by simple but powerful programs, which we hope can trigger their interests in computer science,” Dong said. “The students also learned some basic image-processing skills such as mirroring pictures, flipping pictures, changing the color of a picture, copy pictures and chroma keying.”

Li’s robotics camp was an all-boy group.

“Robotics is what I’m here for… I’ve been able to dive right into it, and I’ve been able to learn from the other people,” said Pedro Reyes, 17, a senior at Riverdale High School.

Parkersaid Carnegie Mellon University’s free Alice animation software program made it a fun but challenging week.

“It’s a great camp. I never knew how to do anything,” Shaun Cassidy, 14, a ninth-grader at Siegel High School, said of the animation camp.

“I had never written a program; now I know at least seven,” said Kyran Jones, 15, a Blackman High School sophomore. “This has been wonderful. I’ve always been interested in computer programming, but I didn’t know how. This has shown me how.”

Alicia Meadors, a Siegel High junior, created an intricate maze in her Alice program. “This has been an amazing experience,” she said. “I have a friend who knows how to do programming. I’ve always wanted to learn.”

The camps were part of a $600,000 three-year Partnership for Innovation grant from the National Science Foundation that Li, Dong and College of Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Tom Cheatham secured to attract more students into computing fields. The camps use real-world programming project teams of students and faculty in the summer to aid retention.
With the $2.7 million National Science Foundation TRIAD GK-12 program, the focus is on research, specifically on bringing research to the classroom to encourage more young students in science, technology, engineering and math.

“Our goal as graduate students is to implement research into the classroom,” said Alison Carey, 24, an Aug. 14 degree candidate who will spend the next academic year as a Graduate STEM Fellow with Nichol Vaden’s honors ecology class at Oakland High School.

“Primarily, my role will be mentoring student research projects and to bring more resources to the classroom,” Carey said, adding that it would include “all kinds of research—physical research to my knowledge working in research.”

Carey’s main area of biological study is as a herpetologist, particularly fence lizards; she also has studied behavioral physiology. She said her undergraduate research mentor has been Dr. Matt Klukowski, an associate professor of biology.

Carey and four other MTSU grad students and five from Tennessee State University will spend a minimum of 10 hours a week in high-school classrooms with Rutherford County and Metro Nashville Public Schools students.

“Some of the time we’ll be in observation,” Carey said. “Some will be leading lectures and labs.”

“It’s important for students to know what’s out there in the science field,” Vaden said, adding that their industry partner will be Bio Quant of Nashville. Russian-born Sergiy “Surge” Ustynov, 25, the lone TRIAD returnee from 2009-10, will team with Dr. Jamie Hearnes’ advanced-placement biology and honors biology classes at Blackman High.

“I really want to focus on research mentoring through lessons to students,” Ustynov said. “In the lab, research mentoring being effective is the goal.”

Murfreesboro-based BioVentures will be their industry partner.

Jerrod Shipman, 24, who will work with Blackman faculty member Tory Woodyard in a standard biology class and another for special-education students, said he “specifically will work on improving my ability to communicate science to a nonscientific audience so it’s not condescending or way over their heads.”

“He communicates very well,” Woodyard said of Shipman, who specializes in herpetology, like Carey, as well as hibernation ecology of water snakes. “He has passion for what he does.”

Their industry partner will be Path Group of Nashville.

The 10 grad students spent two weeks in a workshop setting primarily at MTSU. Dr. Kim Sadler, an associate professor of biology and part of the Center for Environmental Education staff, and master science teacher Jennifer Dye, the science-department chair at John Paul II High School in Hendersonville, led the workshops.

“From the previous year of the TRIAD program, our STEM graduate students have inspired a transformation in their high-school learning environment, stimulating an interest and enthusiasm for science among students and their teachers,” said Dr. Tony Farone, MTSU biology professor and the project’s lead investigator.

In addition to Carey, Ustynov and Shipman, the 2010-11 GK-12 graduate fellows, their partner teachers and assigned high schools are:

- Abraham Abraha of TSU with Dr. Kawonia Mull at Antioch;
- Carl Darris of TSU with Dina Starks at Hillwood;
- Vanessa Hobbs of MTSU with Jessica Potts at Siegel;
- Diana Kiser of TSU with Nae/Shara Neal at McGavock;
- Syrita Murray of TSU with Amy Pawlak of Hillwood;
- Tiffany Saul of MTSU with Christina Nichols at Siegel; and
- James Tyus of TSU/ with Adam Taylor of Overton.
MTTeach begins with ‘risk-free’ opportunity

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

A

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) has released volumes 1 and 2 (A-M) of the Encyclopedia of Constitutional Law. The volumes were under the supervision of Dr. Debra R. Wilson, a visiting international scholar, working with the University of Botswana on a mixed-methodology research investigation on stress in nurses and their perception of nurs-

ing. She also is working on research with the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa on both the stress of caregivers for those caring for HIV patients and the efficacy of hypnosis vs. acupuncture for labor and delivery patients. Wilson was a visiting professor at the University of Botswana and did lectures on self-care for nurses in May. Wilson also is working with the Botswana and Midwifery in Botswana to gath-

er data on the image of nursing in Botswana and on an intervention project to improve the image of nurs-

ing. She also is working with the nurse’s association of Botswana, which is equivalent to the Tennessee Nurses Association, to establish a mentor program between the two associations.

Submissions

Dr. Diana Cheng (mathematics sciences) submitted conference pro-

ceedings for the International Conference on Education, Economy and Society in Paris, France. Her sub-

mission is related to research on middle-school students’ understand-

ing of sleepness.

Workshops

Dr. Dwight Patterson, Pat Patterson and Amy Phelps (chemistry) conducted workshop sessions for CSI: MTSU, a four-day program for high-school students sponsored by the Forensic Institute for Research and Education.

Faculty from page 8

has released volumes 1 and 2 (A-M and N-W) of the third edition of the Encyclopedia of Constitutional Law, Proposed Amendments and Amending Issues, 1789-2010, which Vile also wrote.

Dr. Tammy Melton (chemistry) has completed new editions of two laboratory manuals used in first-year chemistry: Chemistry 101 Laboratory Manual, third edition, T. Melton and L. Scheich, both published by Cengage Learning. Experiments in these manuals are custom-published in two laboratory manuals used across the United States.

Research

Dr. Debra R. Wilson (nursing) has been a visiting international scholar, working with the University of Botswana on a mixed-methodology research investigation on stress in nurses and their perception of nurs-

ing. She also is working on research with the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa on both the stress of caregivers for those caring for HIV patients and the efficacy of hypnosis vs. acupuncture for labor and delivery patients. Wilson was a visiting professor at the University of Botswana and did lectures on self-care for nurses in May. Wilson also is working with the Botswana and Midwifery in Botswana to gather data on the image of nursing in Botswana and on an intervention project to improve the image of nursing. She also is working with the nurse’s association of Botswana, which is equivalent to the Tennessee Nurses Association, to establish a mentor program between the two associations.

Summer enrollment shows 8.31% increase

MTSU’s summer enrollment surpassed 9,300 students, said Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services. The total of 9,318 is an 8.31 percent increase from summer 2009, when the university’s official head count was 8,603.

MTSU officials have made final edits to the data, which have been submitted to the Tennessee Board of Regents. The 2010 summer total for May through August enrollment marks an increase of 715 students from last summer.

Sells said she attributes the increase of students to the availability of the federal Pell Grant during the summer terms and more students taking courses online.

MTSU Enrollment Services and other administration officials anticipate another record enrollment this fall. In 2009, 25,188 students were registered for classes. This total was submitted to the TBR.

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.

Financial Aid welcomes new director

University officials conducted a national search for a new financial-aid director, but the eventual choice lived and worked less than an hour drive from Murfreesboro.

Veteran financial-aid administrator Stephen White joined MTSU July 12 as the new director. White, who lives in Lebanon and spent the past 17 years directing financial aid at Nashville State Community College, replaces David Hutton, who retired June 30.

“Stephen White brings more than 20 years of experience in financial aid, many of those with the Tennessee Board of Regents system,” said Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

“That means he’ll bring the best of both worlds to MTSU: We’ll have the advantage of his experience and familiarity with board and state policies and procedures, but we’ll also have a fresh set of eyes looking at our MTSU operation, helping us to see ways to improve and grow,” Sells added.

White is both a contemporary and admirer of Hutton, an MTSU alumnus who spent 17 years in MTSU’s Office of Financial Aid, including nearly 13 as director.

“David left the office in superb shape,” said White. “I cer-
tainly knew the community college system and the TBR system, and I knew David well.

“To serve as financial-aid director will be a challenge to my own personal growth. On the (exit-interview) form where the question was, ‘Why are you leav-
ing?’, I didn’t say ‘better job opportunity.’ I wrote ‘different job opportunity.’ I was quite happy at Nashville State. I had no motivation to leave. It was forced growth. I was in a comfort zone. I needed to force myself out of the comfort zone.

Knowing the reputation of MTSU and the closeness to home, there were a lot of logical reasons to come. There was the prior repu-
tation of David Hutton and his high standards. Folks in this office are top-notch. We strive to provide excellent service to stu-
dents, and students aren’t lost in the volumes. Every student has a face. Every office provides good customer service.”

White previously served as director of financial aid at the Jefferson Community College in Louisville, Ky. He is a graduate of Campbellsville University and earned a master’s degree in divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Margie, have three children—Joshua White, Stephanie Smith and Dylan White—and two grand-

children, Hayden, 6, and Samantha Smith, 1.
The Matt Gardner Homestead comprises the frame house, a well house, two later barns and a recently reconstructedouthouse. The property’s rehabilitation is an ongoing effort by the family, their friends and the Elkton Historical Society, which provided lunch for the workers.

“The Gardner house and farm are significant for African-American architecture, agriculture and commerce,” Hankins said. “When restored, the house will be interpreted as a museum of African-American history for the county.”

The center’s staff has worked with Carla Jones, president of the historical society, and the Gardner family since 1995, when the CHP prepared the successful nomination that listed the house on the National Register of Historic Places. Since that time, Hankins added, staff members have provided professional services and matching partnership funds for a website and brochure, as well as building assessments and guidelines for restoration, through the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which is administered by the CHP.

“The long-standing working relationship between the Matt Gardner Homestead, the Center for Historic Preservation and the Heritage Area allows both staff and students to learn about the lifestyle of rural black Americans during that transition period in the first decades after emancipation,” she said.

“The Gardner family has been very determined in their efforts to restore this farm and to tell the story of their family and of other African-Americans who have contributed to every aspect of Giles County history.”

The home’s original owner, the Rev. Gardner and his wife, Henrietta, were leaders in the black community of Giles County following their emancipation. Gardner operated a store and made loans to other blacks so they could purchase their own land. He also financed the first two-room school for blacks in 1920, then led the effort to secure Rosenwald funds to build a four-room school in 1930.

CHP staff attended the Gardner-Coleman family reunion June 19 in Franklin, Tenn., to update the gathering of more than 150 family members from across the country on the restoration and ongoing needs of the property.

The event also featured the book signing of the recent Arcadia publication, African-Americans of Giles County, authored by Jones.

CHP helps historic home

by Lisa L. Rollins

The frame house built in 1896 by a former slave in southern middle Tennessee was the focus of a recent “hands-on history” workshop by staff and students from the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

The 10-person crew spent June 4 at the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum, located in Elkton in Giles County, and moved the house a step closer to its original appearance, CHP Assistant Director Caneta Hankins said.

“Removing wallpaper and modern paneling to expose the original paneling, removing aluminum windows and general cleaning were among the jobs completed,” said Hankins, who arranged the workshop on behalf of the center with help from Mike Gavín, preservation specialist with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

The Matt Gardner Homestead comprises the frame house, a well house, two later barns and a recently reconstructed outhouse. The property’s rehabilitation is an ongoing effort by the family, their friends and the Elkton Historical Society, which provided lunch for the workers.

“The Gardner house and farm are significant for African-American architecture, agriculture and commerce,” Hankins said. “When restored, the house will be interpreted as a museum of African-American history for the county.”

The center’s staff has worked with Carla Jones, president of the historical society, and the Gardner family since 1995, when the CHP prepared the successful nomination that listed the house on the National Register of Historic Places. Since that time, Hankins added, staff members have provided professional services and matching partnership funds for a website and brochure, as well as building assessments and guidelines for restoration, through the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which is administered by the CHP.

“The long-standing working relationship between the Matt Gardner Homestead, the Center for Historic Preservation and the Heritage Area allows both staff and students to learn about the lifestyle of rural black Americans during that transition period in the first decades after emancipation,” she said.

“The Gardner family has been very determined in their efforts to restore this farm and to tell the story of their family and of other African-Americans who have contributed to every aspect of Giles County history.”

The home’s original owner, the Rev. Gardner and his wife, Henrietta, were leaders in the black community of Giles County following their emancipation. Gardner operated a store and made loans to other blacks so they could purchase their own land. He also financed the first two-room school for blacks in 1920, then led the effort to secure Rosenwald funds to build a four-room school in 1930.

CHP staff attended the Gardner-Coleman family reunion June 19 in Franklin, Tenn., to update the gathering of more than 150 family members from across the country on the restoration and ongoing needs of the property.

The event also featured the book signing of the recent Arcadia publication, African-Americans of Giles County, authored by Jones.