Historic visit strikes sweet note for MTSU music major
by Gina K. Logue
glogue@mtsu.edu

The week of Chinese President Hu Jintao’s official state visit with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., provided a moment of bliss—and a chance to be an unofficial ambassador, of sorts—for MTSU graduate student Yifei Zhong.

The Chinese Ministry of Education invited Yifei, 23, to attend a Jan. 19 reception for Hu on the South Lawn of the White House along with other students and professors from various locations.

The violin-performance major says she doesn’t know why she was selected, but her reaction was sheer delight.

“Wow! That’s a big thing!” Yifei recalls thinking upon receiving the e-mailed invitation. “I’ve got to go, no matter what!”

Inside this edition:
Lectures on Sandburg, Jesus, page 2
New education courses ahead, page 6
Plenty of Faculty/Staff Updates, page 8

Studying 1st-generation families
by Gina K. Logue
glogue@mtsu.edu

I

ntrigued by a documentary in which a young woman was ostracized by her parents for two years for realizing her dream of attending college, Tara Perrin set out to learn how other first-generation college students handle the challenges of their educational lives.

Perrin is a 36-year-old MTSU sociology major and Tallahassee, Fla., native. She’s writing her master’s thesis on first-generation students’ perceptions of changing family relationships as a result of higher education and how those changes affect their college careers.

“For some people, it’s a really smooth transition, and for others, it’s a very, very difficult transition to go to school and to stay in school, because your family can be quite antagonistic toward you,” says Perrin, who adds that she had her parents’ total support as a first-generation college student.

Surveys conducted in 1996 by the National Center for Education Statistics—and bolstered by data from follow-up surveys in 1998 and 2001—found that approximately 40 percent of all university freshmen are the first in their families to attend college.

In performing her qualitative research, Perrin is analyzing her interviews with students and comparing them to existing academic data. While she’s found plenty of quantitative research with grade-point averages and retention and graduation rates, Perrin finds little research is available on the family dynamics of the first-generation student’s experience.

“Without really hearing qualitative stories about their experiences, it’s hard to get the full picture,” Perrin said. “And it’s really important because students come from different family situations and have different expectations. Without really understanding what each student is going through, you can’t really be effective as an advisor.”

See ‘Studying’ page 5
Researchers prep for Feb. 9 ‘Posters at the Capitol’ event

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

Twelve MTSU students will provide seven presentations being showcased Wednesday, Feb. 9, during the sixth annual “Posters at the Capitol” in Nashville.

Along with their mentors, the MTSU student presenters will be joined by research peers from the University of Tennessee campuses at Knoxville, Tech and University of Memphis—and those from Peay, East Tennessee, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and University of Memphis—and those from the University of Tennessee campuses at Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin.

An expected 61 poster presentations are scheduled to begin around 10 a.m. in the Legislative Plaza hallway. MTSU’s contingent will stay until about 3 p.m. The public is welcome to view the posters and talk to the young researchers.

“It should be a great day for the students,” said Dr. Bill Tipton and Andrew Symonds and executive secretary Sheila Bleam.

A listing of MTSU student presenters, their faculty mentors and abstract titles includes:

• Nicholas and Chokuba with faculty mentor Dr. Daniel Erenso, abstract title “Studying Elasticity of Daminozide on Flower Production and Sex Ratios in Hydroponic Greenhouse Cucumbers”;
• Mitchell with Friedli, “Porous Silica Films as a Reliable Medium for Sensing Protein-Antibody Binding Events”;
• Smith with Dr. Ngee S. Chong, “Characterization of Aminobiphenyl Isomers and Their Interactions with Calf Thymus DNA and Nucleoside Bases”;
• Bailey with Dr. Scott Handy, “One Pot Halogenations and Cross-Couplings in Ionic Liquids”;
• Mitchell with Friedli, “Promus Silica Filers as a Reliable Medium for Sensing Protein-Antibody Binding Events”;
• Taylor and Reddy with Dr. Norma Dunlap, “Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Daniel Gouger, Binding Events”;
• Synthesized with Dr. Daniel Gouger, Peptidomimetics with Potential Anti-HIV and Alzheimer’s Activity”;
• Messick with Dr. Nate Phillips, “The Effects of Nocardione on Flower Production and Sex Ratios in Hydroponic Greenhouse Cucumbers”;
• and
• Cooley and Pomeroy with Dr. Mark Abolins, “Movement of Groundwater Along Fold Hinges in Central Rutherford County, Tennessee.”

The alternate poster presenters are mentored by Erenso on “Efficacy of Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Patients”.

The alternate poster presenters are mentored by Erenso on “Efficacy of Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Patients”.

The lecture is planned for 5:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the BAS. Ehrman will sign copies of his books immediately following his lecture.

Ehrman, the author of more than 20 books, including three New York Times bestsellers (Jesus Interrupted, God’s Problem and Misquoting Jesus), is the James A. Gray Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a leading authority on the New Testament and the history of early Christianity. His work has been featured in Time, The New Yorker, The Washington Post and other print media, and he has appeared on NBC’s “Dateline,” “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” CNN and other media outlets.

The Ehrman lecture is part of the annual Applied Philosophy Lyceum in conjunction with MTSU’s Distinguished Lecture Committee.

For more information on the Feb. 8 Sandburg lecture, contact Dr. William Yelverton at 615-496-2004 or 615-498-5623.

18 Ehrman lecture, contact Connie Akers.

Remember, faculty: Special-projects funding deadline is Feb. 11

MTSU faculty, take note: The deadline for proposals for 2011 Special Projects Grants is Friday, Feb. 11.

Each year the MTSU Foundation grants up to $20,000 to fund a special project pursued by a full-time faculty member. The grant is considered seed money for a project that will garner visibility and acclaim for the university.

The Special Projects Committee reviews all submissions and selects the winning project and may split the award, depending upon the projects submitted.

For details on special-project grant funding applications, please visit www.mtsu.edu/development/special_projects.shtml.

This is only a test.

MTSU tests its emergency siren monthly. The next test date is Tuesday, Feb. 8, 12:20 p.m.

(No action is required by building runners during monthly tests.)

Be prepared in a real emergency. Find your nearest shelter at bit.ly/MTSafePlaces.
Celebration Launches Black History Month

Camps, community unite for Feb. 3 luncheon

The Department of Art at MTSU has issued a national call for artists to submit 8-by-10-inch works on paper by Friday, March 11, for inclusion in a one-night exhibition titled “80 Square,” a new scholarship-benefit exhibition and sale.

All work submitted will be included in the “80 Square” exhibit and sale on Saturday, March 19, and proceeds from all sales will benefit the MTSU Department of Art Scholarship program.

Join MT alumni, friends to watch the Predators

Celebrate MTSU Alumni and Friends Night with the Nashville Predators on Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville!

The Predators will face the Phoenix Coyotes beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $30 per person, which includes the game ticket and cost of a special pregame reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the DGD Room of the arena’s lower concourse. The gathering will include food, and nonalcoholic drinks and a cash bar will be available. All reservations and prepayments must be made by Friday, Feb. 4. To reserve your seat, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-533-6878 or e-mail alumni@mtsu.edu.

February 2011

Tuesday, February 1
Campus Sing
KUC Theater, noon
Sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma and the International and Diversity Affairs Center
Contact: Wendie Window at 615-898-2591 or bwunder@mtsu.edu

Tuesday, February 8
QUEEday: Omegas in the Military Display
KUC 2nd floor, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Omegas Phi Phi

Tuesday, February 15
QUEEday: Omegas in Space Display
KUC 2nd floor, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

John Pizas Faculty Recognition Award
Tom H. Jackson Building, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Contact: Brenda Patler at bpatler@mtsu.edu

February 17
Evolution of Black Music
Tom Jackson Building, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the African-American Student Organization
Contact: Michelle McAniel at mcaniel@mtsu.edu

Thursday, February 22
Brown Bag Lecture with Dr. L. Richard Miller II
Faculty Senate Room, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Provost Office and the History and Black History Month Committee
Contact: Dr. John Dionesio at john.dionesio@mtsu.edu

QUEEday: Omegas in the Laboratory Display
KUC 2nd floor, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 23
Black History Mobile Museum
KUC Theater, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the History and Black History Month Committee
Contact: Wendie Window at 615-898-2591 or bwunder@mtsu.edu

Tuesday, March 22
Black Girls Rock!
Tom Jackson Building, 6:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Student Activities Board
Contact: Michelle McAniel at mcaniel@mtsu.edu

Tuesday, March 22
Angela Davis
JULB Tennessee, 5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the National Women’s March Committee, the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Junio Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, the Black History Month Committee, the American Democracy Project, Women’s and Gender Studies, and Women in Action
Contact: Neil Caruth at 615-898-5589 or nrcaruth@mtsu.edu

Art department makes national call for exhibit

The Department of Art at MTSU has issued a national call for artists to submit 8-by-10-inch works on paper by Friday, March 11, for inclusion in the MTSU Department of Art Scholarship program. All work submitted will be included in the “80 Square” exhibit and sale on Saturday, March 19, and proceeds from all sales will benefit the MTSU Department of Art Scholarship program.

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The Record Jan. 31, 2011 page 3
Please note:

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

**Radio Schedule**

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

**Sports @ Home**

Feb. 2: Women’s Basketball
vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Feb. 3: Mardi Gras Night—
Men’s Basketball vs.
Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Feb. 5: Track and Cross
Country Middle Tennessee Invitational; “Coaches vs. Cancer” South Alabama Basketball Doubleheader—
Men, 3 p.m.; Women, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 6: Women’s Tennis
vs. UT-Martin, 1 p.m.
Feb. 12: Track and Cross
Country MT Valentine Invitational, 11 a.m.; “Learning Circle Honor Roll Day” FIU Basketball Doubleheader—
Men, 4:30 p.m.; Women, 7 p.m.
Feb. 13: MTSU Softball
vs. Murray State, 1 p.m.
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

**TV Schedule**

“MTSU Out of the Blue”
Cable Channel 9: Monday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+: (Comcast 250): Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable-outlet airtimes or www.youtube.com/mtsunews for a complete show archive.

**Events**

**Jan. 31**

Monday, Jan. 31
Spring Honors Lecture Series: Dr. Brad Bartel, “The Mother-Goddess Figurine Problem of the European Paleolithic”
3 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact: 615-898-2152.

Stones River Chamber Players,
“Happy Anniversary 2011!”
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2493.

**Feb. 1**

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Black History Month:
Dr. Carter G. Woodson Display
11 a.m.-1 p.m., KUC second floor
For information, contact: 615-898-2831.

Black History Month:
Dr. Keith Craig Musical Medley
5-6 p.m., Wright Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2831.

**Feb. 2**

Wednesday, Feb. 2
38th Annual Groundhog Day Luncheon for MTSU Baseball
11:30 a.m., Tennessee Room, James Union Building
Tickets: $20 per person
For information, contact: 615-898-2103.

**Feb. 3**

Thursday, Feb. 3
Black History Month:
Annual Unity Luncheon
Keynote speaker: Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings
11 a.m., Tennessee Room, JUB
Admission: $20 adults, $10 students
For information, contact: 615-898-2591.

**Feb. 4**

Friday, Feb. 4
First Friday Star Party:
Guest Speaker Santos Lopez,
“Debunking Apocalypse 2012”
6:30 p.m. lecture, Room 102, Wiser-Patten Science Building; followed by telescope viewing at the MTSU Observatory
For information, contact: 615-898-5946 or 898-2483.

MTSU Wind Ensemble
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

**Feb. 5**

Wednesday, Feb. 5
MTSU Wind Ensemble Practice
7 a.m., Rehearsal Room, JUB
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

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MTSU Wind Ensemble Practice
7 a.m., Rehearsal Room, JUB
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**Feb. 6**

Saturday, Feb. 6
Black History Month:
MTSU Wind Ensemble Practice
8 a.m., JUB
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**Feb. 7**

Monday, Feb. 7
Spring Honors Lecture Series:
Dr. Saeed Foroudastan
“Experimental Vehicles: Innovation and Creativity in Engineering”
3 p.m., HONR 106
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors.

**Feb. 11**

Friday, Feb. 11
Deadline for 2011 Special Project Grant Applications
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/development/special_projects.shtml.

**Feb. 12**

Saturday, Feb. 12
Faculty Quartet: Joseph Walker, piano; Jessica Dunnivant, flute; Amanda King, soprano; Tanya Lawson, clarinet
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

**Feb. 13**

Sunday, Feb. 13
Library Art Exhibit: Bronze, Vacation, 2011
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

**Feb. 14**

Monday, Feb. 14
Spring Honors Lecture Series: Dr. Michael Jorgensen
“Visions of America: Music of the South”
3 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact: 615-898-2152.

MTSU Wind Ensemble Practice
7 a.m., Rehearsal Room, JUB
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

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Get noticed in The Record!
Submit Campus Calendar items and other news to gfann@mtsu.edu by Wednesday, Feb. 2, for the Feb. 14 edition of The Record and by Wednesday, Feb. 16, for the Feb. 28 Record. Thanks!

Submit your comments to the Record. Send a brief letter to the Record, P.O. Box 5008, Murfreesboro, TN 37130-5008; call 615-898-5304; e-mail the Record at record@mtsu.edu; or visit www.mtsunews.com.

Suggestions for the Campus Calendar must be submitted to the Record, P.O. Box 5008, Murfreesboro, TN 37130-5008; call 615-898-5304; e-mail the Record at record@mtsu.edu; or visit www.mtsunews.com.

For information, contact:
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Todd Gallery
Works of Art
Exhibition of Small Scale
“12” X 12”: A National Juried
Exhibition of Small Scale Works of Art”
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Todd Gallery
For information, contact: 615-898-5653.

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Yifei says her professors have told her that they’re impressed with her lack of stage fright, and that poise and presence came in handy, even though she did not perform at the reception.

“I was very, very excited at that moment,” Yifei says. “I got the chance to shake hands with both of them.”

Obama impressed Yifei by saying “Ni hao,” or “Hello” in Chinese. Hu asked about Yifei’s hometown, which she told him is Hangzhou.

Yifei attended Hangzhou Normal University, one of MTSU’s educational partners, until her senior year. That’s when she came to MTSU as an exchange student. She has studied here for two years and plans to graduate in May with a master’s degree.

The trip was Yifei’s first time traveling by herself and her first trip to Washington. She’s not so certain where her next journey will take her; she says she’s still trying to decide whether to work for a year or two or pursue a doctorate. Regardless of which career path she chooses, though, Yifei says she’ll take fond memories of the day the leaders of her homeland and her adopted homeland met with her—and each other.

WITNESSING HISTORY—MTSU graduate student Yifei Zhong, above, leaves the White House after a brief ceremony on the South Lawn to welcome Chinese President Hu Jintao Jan. 19 for an official state visit. U.S. President Barack Obama and Hu, at left, listen during the ceremony. The leaders are shown below left in the background of Yifei’s photo of the event, which also welcomed Chinese students from other U.S. universities. Yifei, who transferred from MTSU’s educational partner school Hangzhou Normal University two years ago, is working on her master’s degree at MTSU.

photos courtesy of Yifei Zhong
with the help of a $501 million “Race to the Top” grant from the U.S. Department of Education, disbursed over the next four years, Tennessee schools will be responsible for attaining higher standards in student performance and outcomes.

When the Tullahoma City Schools received $608,000 of those funds, officials decided to use part of the money for professional development and helping teachers earn advanced degrees, all aimed at helping students in the classroom.

School officials contacted Dr. Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education at MTSU, to propose developing coursework allowing Tullahoma teachers to take up to four graduate classes to meet newer state standards and implement best teaching practices. The classes also would count toward license renewal and, ultimately, an advanced degree.

“The Tullahoma City School district recognizes that the quality of teachers and school leaders impacts student academic performance,” Seivers said. “The College of Education at MTSU is pleased to partner with them to enhance the skills of their professional educators.”

The dean added that MTSU received approval from the state to engage in the Race to the Top initiative.

“We look forward to establishing similar collaborations,” Seivers said.

Approximately 100 teachers in the Tullahoma system do not have a master’s or education specialist’s degree, according to partnership coordinator Dr. Joel Hauser, who is a professor in MTSU’s Womack Family Educational Leadership Department.

“About 50 of them said they wanted to participate in professional development,” Hauser said.

It’s a great thing for us to have that many folks come back to MTSU. Many of them are already MTSU graduates.”

The courses that have been and are being developed by MTSU will benefit all 276 licensed employees in the Tullahoma school system, Hauser noted. Some will take classes to renew their licenses. Those earning a graduate degree also will see an increase in their paychecks.

“Wull convert these programs into a cohort program where they will work on a master’s degree once they get through these classes,” he said. “Getting their graduate degree—that’s the objective.”

Tullahoma High School will continue to offer classes in the evenings and on weekends to make it as convenient as possible for teachers, Hauser pointed out.

“This is an on-the-ground program,” he emphasized. “Our faculty and adjunct faculty go there. Once we get the cohort programs going, we may meet at Motlow (State Community College).”

Tullahoma officials said in a statement that the grant’s four-year lifespan requires them to “make sure that the dollars invested in the grant serve our children, our professionals and our community well. … Our expectation is to expand our professional capacity and to meet our needs today and in our future.”

Hauser said he sees this new partnership as a prime example of how a school system can support its teachers, especially new ones, and how a university can reach out to help.

“What we’re teaching them, they can learn over a weekend and put into practice in the next few weeks on the job,” he said. “That’s exciting. It’s just-in-time learning. The kids are the beneficiaries of all of it. The whole purpose is to move Tennessee forward.”

Career Development Center to host 2 events this spring

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

The MTSU Career Development Center will play host to two career events during the spring semester, aiming at connecting students with employers hiring for internships, summer job and full-time entry-level opportunities.

The MTSU Spring Career Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 9, will feature corporate, educational and government employers seeking internship and full-time entry-level candidates. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center.

The fair is sponsored by a consortium of area universities and is held each spring for prospective graduates from each participating university. Employers from business and government provide employment information and accept resumes for candidates.

A side component of this fair is teacher recruitment. Representatives from school districts from counties across the region recruit new teachers. Some are offering on-site interviews.

A free ticket is required for the event and can be obtained by visiting the Career Development Center in Room 328 of the Keathley University Center.

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Internships and Summer Jobs Fair will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Murphy Center. Employers from various industries will be recruiting for both seasonal employment and professional internship opportunities.

“Seventy-three percent of students work 11 or more hours a week, according to the 2010 MTSU Graduating Senior Survey,” said Bill Fletcher, director of the Career Development Center.

“The Internships and Summer Jobs Fair is an excellent way for employers to tap into an eager workforce interested in part-time jobs and internships.”

For additional information, please contact the Career Development Center at 615-899-2500 or visit www.mtsu.edu/career.

Groundhog Day Luncheon set

from MT Athletic Communications
www.goblueraiders.com

The 38th Annual Groundhog Day Luncheon to benefit Blue Raider baseball has been set for Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 11:30 a.m.

The luncheon is hosted by the Blue Raider baseball team and the Blue Raider Athletic Association as an opening pitch to the 2011 season. The event will feature its traditional menu of ham hocks, white beans, tomato salad, green onions, corn bread, chocolate cake and ice cream.

Due to scheduling conflicts with Murphy Center, this year’s Groundhog Luncheon will take place at the James Union Building on the MTSU campus.

Space restrictions will limit the luncheon attendees to the first 500 people who make reservations, organizers said.

All tickets for this year’s event are $20, or attendees can reserve a table for 10 at $250. Make reservations by calling the Middle Tennessee ticket office at 615-898-2103 or 888-927-6878 or the BRAA office at 615-898-2210.

Baseball 2011 season tickets are now on sale through the ticket office at Floyd Stadium.

Ticket prices are $60 for a season family bleacher pass and $45 for a season single bleacher pass.

For questions about chairback seating at Reese Smith Field, contact the BRAA at 615-898-2210.

Blue Raider Leadership Summit schedules February conference

T he Blue Raider Leadership Summit, an educational opportunity for students to learn the principles and techniques of effective leadership and to network with other students, will offer a special overnight conference Feb. 4-5.

During “The Leadership Addiction: A Prescription for Effective Leadership,” students can expect an etiquette dinner, “how not to dress” fashion show and numerous educational sessions with emerging leadership topics. An estimated 100 student leaders are expected to attend the event, which is the only student-led conference on campus.

BRLS is for students who are new to leadership positions or aspiring leaders. BRLS is sponsored by the Office of Leadership and Service and planned by B.O.L.T. or Better Our Leaders for Tomorrow.

The early-bird deadline for students to make arrangements to attend the conference still can sign up through Tuesday, Feb. 1, at a cost of $30 per person. That registration fee includes transportation, lodging and all meals and conference materials.

For more information about the BRLS, visit www.mtsu.edu/leadership. A BRLS application is under the Leadership Conferences page.
Fulbright professor building partnerships in Asia

by Gina K. Logue

Dr. Sean Foley is putting his third Fulbright Fellowship to use in a relatively unexplored but highly relevant area of scholarship as he continues to investigate religious connections between the Arab Gulf States and Southeast Asia.

Foley, an assistant professor of history at MTSU, is working and studying mostly in Malaysia, under the auspices of the International Islamic University Malaysia, with a stipend from the Fulbright Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

His experiences in other countries in the region, however, are yielding future benefits for academia in general and for MTSU specifically.

On Foley’s visit to India last month, the historian built ties with both Muslim and non-Muslim universities on the sub-continent, including Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

“My trip will lay the foundation for future classes on Indian history, Islam generally and Islam in South Asia, including India and Pakistan,” Foley writes via e-mail. “This trip will also cement ties between MTSU and its history department with universities in India to facilitate the work of department scholars who are interested in work on India.”

Building partnerships with institutions of higher learning around the globe and facilitating international exchange and study-abroad opportunities for both faculty and students are high-priority goals at MTSU.

“The travel and research presentations in India will highlight the name ‘Middle Tennessee State University’ throughout the region,” says Dr. Amy Sayward, chair of the MTSU Department of History. “We hope that Sean’s contacts today will lead to a more international graduate-student body in our department and on our campus in the years to come.”

Foley delivered a lecture on the Arab Gulf States at the Indian-Arab Cultural Center at Jamia Milia University in New Delhi on Dec. 20 and on Dec. 21 at the Indian National Seminar, which was held at the Centre for West Asian Studies.

See ‘Fulbright’ page 7

Faculty/Staff Update

Appointments

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (chemistry) has received a special one-year appointment to the Association for Women in Science board of directors. Iriarte-Gross will serve as secretary of the national board after Dr. Susan M. Fitzpatrick moved from secretary into a new role as president-elect.

Awards

Dr. Don Hong (mathematical sciences) received the State Farm Excellence Award in December for his outstanding support of MTSU’s actuarial science program.

Fengqing “Zoe” Zhang’s master’s thesis, supervised by Dr. Don Hong (mathematical sciences) has won the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools’ 2011 award for Innovative Application of Technology in a Master’s Thesis. The award will be presented at a special ceremony during the 40th Annual CSGS Meeting Feb. 24-27 at the Westin Huntsville (Ala.). Zhang earned her Master of Science from MTSU in May 2010 and is currently working toward a doctorate in the Department of Statistics at Northwestern University.

Certifications

Kim Bland (Health Services) is now certified by the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology to perform colposcopy exams, enabling Health Services to offer the service to students who receive an abnormal pap exam.

Lisa Schrader (Health Services) is one of the first health educators to earn the designation of Master Certified Health Education Specialist, effective April 1. The designation is awarded to those with advanced knowledge and skills and a high level of practical field experience in health education.

Events

Dr. Dennis Walsh (mathematical sciences) completed a professional-development program, “Teaching Introductory Statistics Following GAISE and the Common Core,” on Jan. 5 from the Mathematical Association of America/Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics in New Orleans on Jan. 5.

Exhibitions

Professor Marc J. Barr (electronic media communication) is exhibiting some of his computer-designed tea sets and covered cups through Feb. 20 in “Magic Dirt,” a national juried ceramics exhibition at the Baron and Elin Gordon Art Gallery at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Media

Dr. William Ford (Weatherford Chair of Finance) was interviewed by Lawrence Kudlow Jan. 11 on “The Kudlow Report” on CNBC.

Professor Doug Tatum (Wright Chair of Entrepreneurship) was interviewed by Jim Blasingame of The Small Business Advocate on Jan. 3. Tatum also was quoted in “Would You Pay $170,000 for a Consultant?” in the Jan. 12 edition of The New York Times.

Passages

Dr. Anna M. Burford (business education, marketing education and office management), 83, passed away on Jan. 5. Dr. Burford was employed by MTSU from August 1981 until her retirement in July 2000. She was a professor in the Department of Business Education, Marketing Education and Office Management.

Dr. Burford was a native of Glasgow, Ky., and the daughter of the late Ollis and Pearlie Quinn Burford. She also