Aerospace unveils ATC simulator lab

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

B because of the darkened room conditions, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro thought President Sidney A. McPhee had moved the weekly President’s Cabinet meeting to a location near Orlando, Fla., instead of across campus.

“It was one of the most impressive things I have seen on a college campus,” Massaro said of the Department of Aerospace’s unique Air Traffic Control Training and Research Facility. “It was easy to see the practical applications of the lab and the value it brings to a student interested in this field.”

“We first walked into the lab, I felt like I was entering something at Disney World, but that feeling soon ended when the students began their demonstration. It was very involved and very technical. We have some incredible students on our campus.”

Fourteen other cabinet colleagues joined Massaro Feb. 14 as some of the first administrators to tour the facility, which is located in Room S113 of the Business and Aerospace Building.

In both classes and laboratory training, students are gaining practical experience in the three-phase air traffic control simulators that resemble ATC facilities in a variety of major airports, including Nashville, Memphis, Oklahoma City and Atlanta.

Upon entering the room, visitors first view the pseudopilot positions. They next go into the tower lab, a seamless 360-degree fiberglass screen that rises to nine feet with a diameter of 29 feet.

Ten high-definition digital projectors “create the most realistic tower simulator available today,” said Gail Zlotky, an associate professor of aerospace and coordinator of MTSU’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative.

“This tower simulator will contain seven operational positions: two local, two ground, flight-data, clearance-delivery and cab-coordinator.”

Computer Science Corporation, which won the contract to provide the tower and radar simulators to MTSU last summer, has delivered a simulated-tower environment for the Memphis and Nashville air traffic systems, Zlotky said.

The third tour stop is the 10-suite Memorial Union Conference Room in the Sam Ingram Building. No appointments are necessary. AFLAC provides both cancer and intensive-care benefits. For more information, contact AFLAC representative Jane Tucker at 931-703-5134 or Tucker.jane1@gmail.com.

MTSU made a splash at the Feb. 13 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. Recording-industry professor John Hill won a “Best Engineered Album, Classical” Grammy for his audio-engineering work on the CD “Daugherty: Metropolis Symphony; Deus Ex Machina,” while alumnus Clarke Schlescher (B.S. ’80) received his “Record of the Year” Grammy as engineer/mixer on Lady Antebellum’s “Need You Now” single.

The same single nabbed MTSU history grad Josh Kear (’96) two more Grammys to add to his collection: “Song of the Year” and “Best Nontraditional path, page 8

Traffic is changing along MTSU Boulevard

Construction’s final phase will be a challenge until it ends this fall

The final and possibly the most challenging phase of construction has begun on MTSU Boulevard, which connects the interior of campus to Rutherford Boulevard.

The work will cause some changes in traffic and parking along the thoroughfare, said Ron Malone, assistant vice president for events and transportation services.

Plans are to maintain one lane of traffic along the construction route, Malone said, but vehicular travel between the Blue Raider Drive/MTSU Boulevard intersection and the Rutherford Boulevard campus entrance/exit will be affected until the project is completed this fall.

Workers have placed new fencing along both sides of the street between the roundabout and the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building. A pathway north of the fencing now allows pedestrian access from the parking lots to campus buildings located within the fenced area.

Malone said all parking along the street, and even some parking in adjacent parking lots, will be affected and will be temporarily relocated. Campus officials are recommending that commuters park in perimeter lots, such as those along Rutherford Boulevard and ride the Raider Xpress shuttle bus into campus. Faculty and staff will find white-decal parking available in the lot south of the Honors Building.

“MTSU will provide periodic updates concerning future road closures, and we appreciate the cooperation from the campus and community as we continue to improve our campus accessibility,” Malone said.

For more information, contact the Office of Events and Transportation at 615-898-5002.
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iving back has always been part of Jim Gaines’ DNA. The 1969 MTSU graduate with a bachelor’s degree in history recently reaffirmed not only his generosity but his unwavering devotion to his alma mater by establishing the Jim Gaines Endowed Chair in American History through his estate.

The gift ultimately will enable MTSU to recruit a renowned historian to the faculty.

“One thing that I would say to every MTSU graduate and to those who will be graduating is to look back at your experience—you probably had one or more people who helped you,” Gaines says. “If you loved MTSU! I like I do, think about giving back. I want MTSU to be even greater after I’m gone. Whether you want to give regularly during your lifetime or give something in your will, there is something each of us can do to give back.”

A former six-year board member of the MTSU Foundation, Gaines understands the importance of private giving.

“The alumni from MTSU are going to have to reach into their pockets and start donating more money,” he says. “I have been told that the amount of state support has decreased over the years. With greater financial support, we’ll be able to hire the best professors and build new facilities.”

“Jim exemplifies what we wish all our alumni would aspire to … someone who stays involved, engaged and committed to the institution and really only wants what’s best for us,” adds Joe Bales, MTSU vice president for development and university relations.

“When I first met Jim in the fall of 1969, I immediately knew we were going to be great friends,” said Dean Hayes, MTSU head track coach, during a testimonial for Gaines at his June 28, 2011, retirement ceremony.

We tutor the kids for the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), and we have some kids who come close to acing it,” he points out. “Our best success story is a kid from a gang in San Diego with a GPA of something like 0.0006. Three years later, when he graduated from high school, he had a full academic ride to Dartmouth College.”

In 2000, Gaines was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Following several chemotherapy treatments and a bone-marrow transplant in 2001, he was out of commission for a year and a half. Because he had no one to run his brokerage agency, he sold it, but rather than retire, he looked around for another enterprise.

“I almost bought a vitamin company, but I didn’t know anything about that business,” Gaines says with a laugh. His original insurance agency, Insurance Designers of San Diego, which he formed in the mid-1980s, sold in October 2001, right before he had his bone-marrow transplant.

In 2003, he formed his second company, Jim Gaines Insurance and Financial Services.

“There have been 17 or 18 scholarships so far, and it’s really rewarding because the recipients will send me letters,” he says. “It doesn’t matter what their economic status is. I am convinced that in our world without … I am convinced in our world without the alumni from MTSU are going to have to reach into their pockets and start donating more money.”

The purpose of the scholarship was to help students with financial need, and the criteria for winning the scholarship was for MTSU to recruit a renowned historian to the faculty.

Jim Gaines, alumnus and scholarship donor

**If you love (MTSU) like I do, consider giving back. I want MTSU to be even greater after I’m gone.**

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**School of Journalism receives $40,000 McCormick grant for media conference on Islam**

The MTSU School of Journalism has received a $40,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation to host a conference to help reporters across the country cover issues involving Islam in their communities.

The conference, “Covering Islam in the Bible Belt,” will bring journalists together with experts and academics to help them better explain the controversial and complicated issues that can arise during community conversations on the topic.

Tentatively scheduled to take place in Nashville in August, the two-day conference will include a variety of session topics, including facts, statistics and misconceptions about Islam; First Amendment issues vs. threats of terrorism; and the quality of media coverage of Islamic issues in the South, such as the Murfreesboro mosque.

The Chicago-based McCormick Foundation funds up to eight such conferences, called Specialized Reporting Institutes, each year, to provide journalists with subject-specific training. The Poynter Institute administers the program.

The conference proposal was written and submitted by Philip Loubere, assistant professor of visual communication, and Dr. Deborah Gump, the College of Mass Communication’s Professional in Residence, who also directs the John Sengenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. They were assisted by Dr. Sanjay Asthana, associate professor of visual communication, and Dr. Dwight Brooks, director of the School of Journalism.

**This is only a test.**

Wednesday, March 9, 11:15 a.m.

(Mandatory test. No action is required by building occupants during monthly tests.)

Be prepared in a real emergency.

Find your nearest shelter at bit.ly/MTSASafePlaces.
Genre-bending Fleck set for Windham Lecture March 15

Documentary on banjo pilgrimage to Africa will be screened Feb. 28

G rammy-winning, genre-bending musician Béla Fleck will play MTSU’s Windham Lecture Series in Liberal Arts into its sec-ond decade when the renowned banjoist serves as guest speaker on Tuesday, March 15, in Tucker Theatre.

“Because of the Béla Fleck,” which will mark the Windham Lectures’ 20th year, will begin at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the general public.

MTSU will whet audiences’ appetites for Fleck’s lecture on Monday, Feb. 28, when the Student Programming Films Committee offers a free public showing of the documentary on Fleck’s pilgrimage to Africa to learn about the banjo’s origins, “Throw Down Your Heart,” which will screen at 4 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Fleck just received his 14th Grammy Award, the “Best Contemporary World Music Album” for “Throw Down Your Heart, Africa Sessions Part 2: Unreleased Tracks.”

Fleck began his career on the guitar, but he was struck by the bluegrass sounds of Flatt & Scruggs, particularly Earl Scruggs’ banjo style, while watch-ing “The Beverly Hillbillies” on TV. He began playing a banjo his grandfather bought him when he was 15 and, taught by artists as varied as Erik Darling, Marc Horowitz and Tony Trischka, Fleck was soon playing in bands and made his first solo album, “Crossing the Tracks,” at age 19. His second album, “Natural Bridge,” teamed him with David Grisman, Mark O’Connor, Ricky Skaggs, Darol Anger, Mike Marshall and other great players.

In 1981, Fleck was invited to join New Grass Revival, reuniting with an old pal, mandolinist Sam Bush, and adding Pat Flynn on guitar and John Cowan on bass to chart new territory with their blend of bluegrass, rock and country. During Fleck’s nine years with NGR, he continued to record solo albums for Rounder Records and collaborated with Bush, O’Connor, Jerry Douglas and Edgar Meyer in an acoustic supergroup, Strength in Numbers.

Toward the end of the New Grass years, Fleck met keyboardist and harmonica player Howard Levy and connected with bassist Victor Wooten and his brother, percussionist Roy “FutureMan” Wooten. That one-shot appearance on the PBS “Lonesome Pine Specials” became the first performance of Béla Fleck and the Flecktones, whose “blu-bop” jazz-bluegrass synthesis has led to best-selling CDs, multiple Grammy nominations and international tours. Levy left the Flecktones after three albums and was replaced by saxophonist Jeff Coffman. The group will be touring again this year with Levy as Béla Fleck and the Original Flecktones; Coffin will join the tour later, and the Flecktones plan a stop at Bonnaroo 2011 in Manchester, Tenn., on Friday, June 10, as well.

In the midst of tour preparations and countless side projects, Fleck also is working on his first standalone banjo concerto, commissioned by the Nashville Symphony, which is set for a September premiere.

Fleck’s most recent Grammy came as a result of his 2005 excursion to Mali, The Gambia, Tanzania and Uganda to study the African origins of the banjo. He has been nominated in more different categories than anyone in Grammy history—bluegrass, classical, contemporary Christian, country, gospel, jazz, pop and spoken-word.

MTSU’s Windham Lecture Series in Liberal Arts was established by William and Westy Windham through the MTSU Foundation. Dr. William Windham was a member of the MTSU fac-ulty from 1955 to 1989 and served as chairman of the Department of History the last 11 years. The late Westy Windham (1927-91) earned a master’s degree in sociology at MTSU and was the founder of the Great American Singalong. For more information, please contact the College of Liberal Arts at 615-494-7628.

Open house planned March 3

Students with disabilities can get better workout in Rec Center’s new Adaptive Recreation Room

Students with disabilities can get better workout in Rec Center’s new Adaptive Recreation Room

Nearly 10 students are already making use of the new Adaptive Recreation Room, the latest addi-tion to MTSU’s Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

The room features three primary pieces of equip-ment—MOTOmed, Easy Stand Glider and Easy Stand—that will give students with disabilities more access to the Rec Center’s facilities.

To show off the room, Campus Rec, Disabled Student Services and Student Affairs are planning an open house. It will be held Thursday, March 3, starting at 2 p.m.

“We’re excited about this,” said Wes Becker, a senior computer-science major from Mt. Juliet who uses a wheelchair. “There’s not a lot of equipment like this—hand cycle and cardio—that we can use.”

Disabled Student Services Director John Harris, Campus Rec Director Charlie Gregory and others began discussions on the topic after a student, Jennifer Austin of Cowan, Tenn., told them how recreational equipment is a part of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna.

“It’s something that’s been on my mind a year or two,” Harris said, adding that his office “strongly sup-ports this program.”

Harris and Gregory agreed on the project and received the administration’s support. The room opened Jan. 13, the first day of spring-semester classes.

Caleb Paschall, a former employee of Disabled Student Services, came on board to “develop the program, recruit volunteers and assist students with the equip-ment,” said Jenny Crouch, Campus Rec’s marketing and adaptive recreation/exercise coordinator.

The MOTOmed promotes pedaling and using the arms and legs, Paschall said. The Easy Stand Glider helps in blood circulation, using the participant’s arm and leg muscles and relieving pressure sores from sitting and reclining. The Easy Stand also “relieves pressure sores and is great for bone density,” he added.

Gregory said the three pieces of equipment, which were purchased in December, cost more than $17,000.

Crouch added that the Rec Center is trying to “encourage people with any disability to come and be physically more active.”

“I’m really proud the University stepped up and is doing this,” Harris said. “Therapy actually is good for them. … It will allow them to navigate this big campus better.”

photo by News and Media Relations
Please note:
Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

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/user/MTSU OutoftheBlue for a complete show archive.

Radio Schedule

“MTSU On the Record”
8 a.m. Sundays, WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcasts available anytime at www.mtsuneos.com

Sports @ Home

March 1: MTSU Baseball vs. Lipscomb, 3 p.m.
March 5: Women’s Tennis vs. Louisiana, 11 a.m.
March 8: Women’s Tennis vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 11 a.m.
March 11: Men’s Tennis vs. Ball State, 1:30 p.m.
March 12: Women’s Tennis vs. University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 10 a.m.
For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com.

Feb. 28

Monday, Feb. 28
Spring Honors Lecture Series: Dr. Ron Messier, “Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths”—A Dialogue Between Christians and Muslims”
3 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors or contact: 615-898-2152.
Free Documentary Screening: “Throw Down Your Heart”
4 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/events.

Monday, Feb. 28
MTSU Women’s Chorale
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

March 1

Tuesday, March 1
Black History Month: Dr. John Pleas Faculty Award Presentation
Honoree: Dr. Raphael Bundage
4-6 p.m., Foundation House
For information, e-mail blpatton@mtsu.edu.
MTSU Flute Studio Recital
5 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

March 2

Wednesday, March 2
World Percussion Recital
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

March 3

Thursday, March 3
MTSU Symphonic Band/Brass Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

March 7

March 7-13
Spring Break
No classes; campus offices open through March 10.

March 9

Wednesday, March 9
Tornado Siren Test Date
(no action needed)
11:15 a.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

March 10

Thursday, March 10
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-2922.

March 11

Friday, March 11
University Holiday
University closed.

Another great team player

GREAT WORK!—Betty Weigant, second from right, secretary for Construction and Renovation Services at MTSU, displays her plaque as the most recent Quarterly Secretarial/Clerical Award winner. Celebrating with Weigant are, from left, Michelle Blackwell, chair of MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee; Terri Carlton, CRS senior project manager; and Betty Smithson, ERC member. For more information about nominating a co-worker for exemplary job performance, go to www.mtsu.edu/hr/relations/recog.shtml.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by J. Intintoli
Nominate a colleague now for Outstanding Teacher Awards

Here’s still time to nominate an MTSU faculty member for the 2010-11 Outstanding Teacher Award—the deadline for submissions is Monday, March 7. The MTSU Foundation has funded the Outstanding Teacher Awards for the past 45 years, presenting five awards annually with an accompanying prize of $3,000 each. Alumni, faculty and students make nominations each year. President Sidney A. McPhee how to operate a terminal on Feb. 14 while members of the President’s Cabinet tour the new $3.4 million air traffic control simulator lab in the Business and Aerospace Building. Administrators inspecting other equipment are, from left, Kim Edgar, McPhee’s executive assistant; Dr. Wayne Dornan, aerospace chair; Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations; John Cothern, senior vice president; and Dr. Pat Geho, director of MTSU’s Small Business Development Center.

He also runs his own company, L. Clarke Schleicher Engineering in Nashville, as an independent audio recording engineer, Kear, who minored in recording industry management, currently writes for Big Yellow Buffett, Tim McGraw, Martina McBride and Gloriana. His “Need You Now” co-writers, the Lady Antebellum trio, included Hillary Scott, also a former MTSU student.

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Help recognize top students for leadership and service

Applications are being accepted through Tuesday, March 15, for the 2011 Student Recognition Awards. The Division of Student Affairs will honor four undergraduate and four graduate students for their exemplary character, and achievements in scholarship, leadership and service. All members of the MTSU community are being encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and who meet the award criteria. The awards include the President’s Award, the Provost’s Achievement Award, the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award, and the Community Service Award. Descriptions and information about the application and selection process are available online at www.mtsu.edu/mtleader/awards_mtleader.shtml. Nominating a student for one of these awards is easy—e-mail sjtravis@mtsu.edu and include the student’s name, M number, contact information and the award to be considered. Deadline for completed applications is 4:30 p.m. March 15.

The Record Feb. 28, 2011 page 5
The MTSU Films Committee will conduct its 11th Annual MTSU Student Film Festival Monday through Friday, April 4-8, in the Keathley University Center Theater. Deadline for submissions to the festival is Friday, March 25.

The festival will have nightly screenings at 7 p.m. that showcase MTSU’s best up-and-coming student filmmakers. The MTSU Student Film Festival has been running since 2000.

“We are glad to continue the tradition of upholding an event where students can put their academic and extracurricular skills to use and showcase their talent,” said Tyler Adkins, chair of the MTSU Films Committee. “We look forward to the eleventh year of the festival and hope it will be our best yet.”

Submission packets are available now in the Office of Student Unions and Programming, located in Room 308 of the KUC, or online at www.mtsu.edu/events.

The festival will accept entries only from projects in which a current student holds a substantial role. Prizes, which will range from gift cards to a Nashville Film Festival patron-level pass, are being donated by the Nashville Film Festival. The prizes are subject to change; entrants will receive prior notification.

For more information about the film festival, contact Adkins at 615-898-2551 or mtsufilms@yahoo.com or visit www.mtsu.edu/events.

Get noticed in MTSU’s official publication!
Check out (and bookmark!) The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml.
A second shipment of books is on its way to Chittagong University in Bangladesh through the efforts of MTSU’s Yunus Program and Dr. Richard Hannah, professor of economics and finance.

In December, Hannah spent two weeks in Bangladesh talking to students at CU, one of MTSU’s international partners, and making contact with Dr. Muhammad Yunus, former MTSU professor and founder of the Grameen Bank in the capital city of Dhaka.

Yunus and the bank won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for their success with microlending, the awarding of low-interest loans to poverty-stricken entrepreneurs. Yunus was an assistant professor at MTSU from 1969 to 1972.

Hannah says the first shipment, some 400 pounds of books, was collected with help from the Honors Student Association and sent to CU last spring. “Here, after a student is done with a course or faculty members aren’t using the books, they’re of very low value,” he says. “We want to transfer them to an area where they’re valued extremely highly.”

In addition, Hannah met with the executive staff at Grameen to discuss expanding internships at the bank. The first MTSU student to intern with Grameen, Steve Sibley, is in his second year of a doctoral program at Purdue University. Hannah says that future students, like Sibley, have to be willing to live among the poor and experience a quality of life that is probably unlike anything they have ever known.

“These have to be very resilient students who really want to get involved in world poverty studies—and I mean ‘boots on the ground,’” Hannah says.

In the meantime, Hannah will join Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, manager of MTSU’s Yunus Program, professor emeritus of economics and finance and adviser to the president and the provost on Asian affairs, to look for grant money to sustain the internship drive and bring another CU student to Murfreesboro.

The first student, Md. Alauddin Majumber, currently is working on his second master’s degree at MTSU. Majumber is an assistant professor in CU’s Department of Economics, and his graduate assistantship is funded with a grant from the MTSU Foundation and a Bangladeshi government subsidy.

Hannah says the two weeks he spent in Bangladesh has prompted him to rethink how he teaches from a cultural context, not just an economic context. “If we truly want to internationalize, it requires something more than theorizing,” Hannah says. “You have to go. You have to encourage students to go. You have to bring it back. You have to share.”

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by Gina K. Logue

Hannah travels to Bangladesh to aid university partners

by Gina K. Logue

gklogue@mtsu.edu

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On the podium @ MTSU

SPECIAL GUESTS—MTSU has seen a plethora of special guests in recent weeks. One was civil-rights attorney Fred Gray, shown at left speaking at MTSU’s Wright Music Building Feb. 14 during a special appearance for Black History Month. Gray served as counsel to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks and was also the lead attorney in the lawsuit filed on behalf of the survivors of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. The suit, filed in 1973 against the federal government, was settled out of court for $10 million and helped reform U.S. human-experimentation regulations. Gray was a guest of the MTSU Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center, the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership and MTSU Black History Month.

Another guest lecturer was Stephen Moore, senior economic writer for The Wall Street Journal, shown at right as he chats with MTSU student Mousa Ahqaraz before Moore’s Feb. 10 lecture. A guest of the Wright Travel Chair in Entrepreneurship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business at MTSU, Moore said that he believes the U.S. government is doing everything to suppress economic growth and prosperity. He told the audience, however, that “All of you will see the most amazing future. The changes that will happen over the next five, 10 or 50 years are going to be unthinkable.” Moore’s appearance was sponsored by the College of Business, the Wright Travel Chair and the Young America’s Foundation.

Watch the “On the Podium” link at www.mtsunews.com for MTSU lecture updates.

MTSU Photographic Services photos by Andy Heidt (top) and J. Intintoli (right)

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In an era that rewards homogeneity and punishes critical-thinking skills, Christopher Hamrick not only shatters the mold, he takes piercing aim at it in a rambunctious life held together by one strong thread: the search for truth.

The 32-year-old photography major from Hermitage, Tenn., served a four-year stint in the U.S. military—this time in the U.S. Air Force. Between the military periods, Hamrick got married. After a tumultuous five-year relationship and a painful divorce and custody battle, he remains a devoted dad to his 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old twin boys. The experience left him with an unshakable feeling that men often are shortchanged in custody issues.

“It has been difficult to fight someone you actually care for,” Hamrick says. He admits that it’s also been difficult to handle the breakup of his family while juggling classes, but he finds occasional respite and relief at the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students.

“I guess I just mostly needed a place between classes to rest,” Hamrick says. “There were other people my age who had been through similar experiences, whether military, single parent or whatever.”

The June Anderson Center merged last year with Off-Campus Student Services. Its expanded mission is enabling the center to embrace students like Hamrick and gives them a place where they feel they belong.

“The center is a place where all kinds of students can feel welcome and secure,” says Director Terri Johnson. “Christopher is an amazing nontraditional student, and there are many more who we serve every day.”

Hamrick initially chose engineering technology as his major since he had performed so much electronic-engineering work in both military and civilian life. His experimentation with infrared photography during his custody dispute, however, combined with a wealth of amateur photo experience, led to a change of major—and a change of perspective.

“As I was taking these photographs, I realized how surreal and beautiful they were and very different from what anybody else was doing,” Hamrick says. “I noticed that I had a very good eye at framing the shot and then getting it printed.”

He says he has yet to decide whether photography is to become his latest occupational pursuit or whatever.

The idea for his award-winning photo series that has earned him the Red Dillow Award from the Association of Physical Plant Administrators for his article, “Deferred Capital Renewal as a Spoiler for Campus Programs,” which was published in the January/February 2010 edition of Facilities Manager, the APPA’s magazine. The award is for the best article published in the magazine during the previous year.

The June Anderson Center, 206 N. Baird Lane, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

by Gina K. Logue

LIFE DURING WARTIME—MTSU student Christopher Hamrick is shown in camouflage gear during his stint as a U.S. Marine. He also served in the U.S. Air Force before deciding to come to MTSU.

photos submitted