MTSU has chosen longtime professor and community leader Dr. Mark Byrnes as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts after a national search. Byrnes, a Murfreesboro native who also is a product of the Murfreesboro and Rutherford County school systems, has served as acting and interim dean following the illness and May 2010 death of Dr. John N. McDaniel. McDaniel was MTSU’s dean of liberal arts for 26 years. “Dr. Byrnes has served with distinction at MTSU as a faculty member, associate dean and interim dean,” said University Provost Dr. Brad Bartel. “The entire University community respects him and looks forward to his upcoming leadership of the College of Liberal Arts.”

Byrnes, a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and Tennessee politics, has taught political science at MTSU since 1991 and was associate dean of liberal arts from 2006 to 2009.

He is a graduate of MTSU who earned his master’s and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt University and was also the recipient of one of the MTSU Foundation’s 2010 Public Service Awards, which were presented at the Fall Faculty Meeting last August.

Byrnes has coordinated MTSU’s Legislative Internship Program since 1993, selecting and supervising 12 to 16 students to work with the Tennessee General Assembly spring.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Byrnes,” said MTSU President Sidney A. McDaniel. “I have known him for many years, and he will bring a wealth of experience, energy and leadership to the College of Liberal Arts.”

“Liberal Arts is a large and important part of the University, teaching students the fundamentals of citizenship and preparing them for a lifetime of learning,” McDaniel said. “We are pleased that Dr. Byrnes will serve in this important role.”

“Liberal Arts is a large and important part of the University, teaching students the fundamentals of citizenship and preparing them for a lifetime of learning,” McDaniel said. “We are pleased that Dr. Byrnes will serve in this important role.”

“Dr. Byrnes has served with distinction at MTSU as a faculty member, associate dean and interim dean,” said University Provost Dr. Brad Bartel. “The entire University community respects him and looks forward to his upcoming leadership of the College of Liberal Arts.”

Byrnes, a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and Tennessee politics, has taught political science at MTSU since 1991 and was associate dean of liberal arts from 2006 to 2009.

He is a graduate of MTSU who earned his master’s and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt University and was also the recipient of one of the MTSU Foundation’s 2010 Public Service Awards, which were presented at the Fall Faculty Meeting last August.

Byrnes has coordinated MTSU’s Legislative Internship Program since 1993, selecting and supervising 12 to 16 students to work with the Tennessee General Assembly spring.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Byrnes,” said MTSU President Sidney A. McDaniel. “I have known him for many years, and he will bring a wealth of experience, energy and leadership to the College of Liberal Arts.”

“Liberal Arts is a large and important part of the University, teaching students the fundamentals of citizenship and preparing them for a lifetime of learning,” McDaniel said. “We are pleased that Dr. Byrnes will serve in this important role.”

MTSU started as a ‘normal school’

by Sydney Warneke
new@mtsum.edu

hat is a “normal school”? As we move further into 2011, the entire University community will be celebrating MTSU’s 100th birthday. Despite the current “university” status of the school, however, MTSU was not always a four-year institution. It actually began as something known as a “normal school,” more commonly known as a teaching school.

The idea of the normal school is believed to have been derived from the French, who had the first school used to educate and train teachers in Paris. Most of those would go on to teach in the elementary or primary grades.

The late Dr. Homer Pittard, long-time education professor and Rutherford County historian, documented how Middle Tennessee Normal School was conceived and inaugurated in his book, The First Fifty Years: Middle Tennessee State College 1911-1961.


Byrnes is new dean of College of Liberal Arts

Senior ‘just never looked back’

Graduation marks another life goal attained by Liu

by Laura Beth Jackson
news@mtsum.edu

C ollege graduation represents the end of a long journey for every student, but for Mimi Liu, it is the finish line of a marathon.

“I am a woman with a goal,” Liu says. “I wrote down what I wanted to do. By the age of 40, I wanted to run a marathon or graduate college, whichever came first.”

This spring, she will accomplish both. She plans to run the Country Music Marathon on April 30 and then, on May 7, receive her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from MTSU.

Liu also will be the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. Her mother, Pong, never learned to read or write but made it possible for her daughter to get an education.

When Liu was 11, Pong escaped Laos with her daughter and two older children. They had discovered that Liu’s father, who had been missing for three years, had been killed in a Communist prison camp.

“That was when my mother had had enough,” Liu recalls. “She said, ‘Okay, we’re going.’ She wanted to make a better life for us.”

With other refugees, Liu and her family crossed the Mekong River on a rowboat in the middle of the night. Upon arriving in Thailand, they surrendered to police, who took them to refugee camps.

For those interested in learning more about MTSU, please visit www.mtsunews.com.
It’s the don’t-miss event of the century!

It’s an event 100 years in the making, a can’t-miss, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—the MTSU Blue Tie Centennial Gala! The 100-year “Traditions of Excellence” event will be held Friday, Sept. 9.

A 6 p.m. reception will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. dinner and dancing at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center.

“The Blue Tie Gala will be an exquisite event worthy of honoring such a monumental occasion as 100 years of excellence in education,” said Lowell Bogle, director of the Albert Gore Research Center’s Middle Tennessee Oral History Project.

“I had a special regard for Middle Tennessee Normal; I loved it as my school, my alma mater. I remember that we were politically minded, but we educated citizens,” Bogle said.

Dr. Pittard’s book, published in 1961 by Courier Publishing, features a dinner with “dual entrées, an extra-special dessert and other desserts, a check payable to MTSU with a Blue Tie Gala form to MTSU Alumni Relations, Box 104, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132.

For more information, email Stepp at mbstepp@mtsu.edu.

MTSU CENTENNIAL 1911-2011

It’s the don’t-miss event of the century!

It’s an event 100 years in the making, a can’t-miss, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—the MTSU Blue Tie Centennial Gala! The 100-year “Traditions of Excellence” event will be held Friday, Sept. 9.

A 6 p.m. reception will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. dinner and dancing at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center.

“The Blue Tie Gala will be an exquisite event worthy of honoring such a monumental occasion as 100 years of excellence in education,” said Lowell Bogle, director of the Albert Gore Research Center’s Middle Tennessee Oral History Project.

“I had a special regard for Middle Tennessee Normal; I loved it as my school, my alma mater. I remember that we were politically minded, but we educated citizens,” Bogle said.

Dr. Pittard’s book, published in 1961 by Courier Publishing, features a dinner with “dual entrées, an extra-special dessert and other desserts, a check payable to MTSU with a Blue Tie Gala form to MTSU Alumni Relations, Box 104, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132.

For more information, email Stepp at mbstepp@mtsu.edu.
T 10 McNair Scholars make presentations on international trip

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

en McNair Scholars experienced a rare and special opportuni-
ty during their recent spring break, when they visited three
cities in India.

While being tourists and exploring archaeological and historical
sites such as the Taj Mahal, the McNair students also “continued our
Ambassador Program in presenting research internationally” at SRM
University in Chennai, said Monique Richard, a McNair staff mem-
ber.

The students—sociology major Felicia Brown, history major Lindsay Gates, history major Jonathan Gilliam, aerospace major
Amber Gray, economics major Matt Hampton, biochemistry major
Michael Harris, history major Petra Morkel, mathematics major
Paige Stubbs, social-work major Laurence Tumpag and sociology
major Kamryn Warren—presented their 2010 summer research to
students in an SRMU aerospace class.

Richard said the research presentations included aerospace,
Hispanic health, economics, social sciences, history and dance.
“We were building a rapport for continuing a relationship
between MTSU and SRM,” she added. “We have one student,
Lindsay Gates, who is considering continuing her education at SRM
and living in India as well.”

Richard said the students found the trip “eye-opening in regard
to culture, living conditions and population,” adding that more than
8 million people live in metropolitan Chennai, the capital of the
Tamil Nadu state on India’s southeast coast. “It was a good overall
experience. The Indians are very endearing, accommodating and
friendly.”

McNair Program Assistant Director Steve Saunders led the trip.
“We couldn’t have done all this without significant support
from the MTSU community,” Saunders said. “I especially would
like to thank the Division of Academic Affairs, the Office of International
Education, Study Abroad, the Undergraduate Research Experience and
Creative Activity Initiative and the Student Government Association for their
financial help. Our director, Dr. Diane Miller, was instrumental in enlisting
them as partners.”

Miller guides the McNair program, which focuses on undergraduate
research to encourage college students to earn doctoral degrees.

Saunders added that he wanted to thank Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate
professor of foreign languages and literatures, who “helped make the connec-
tion to SRM University in the first place.”

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, named
in honor of the late Challenger space-shuttle astronaut, assists first-generation
and racially underrepresented undergraduate students to prepare for and suc-
cceed in graduate school. For more information about the McNair program,
visit the office in Room 103 of the Midgett Building, email Richard at
mcnair@mtsu.edu or contact Saunders at 615-904-8462 or Saunders@mtsu.edu.

Alumnus, now at CNN, says internships are jobs key

by Sydney Warneke
ncwa@mtsu.edu

J effery Reid, executive producer for CNN’s doc-
umentary unit and an MTSU alumnus, planned
to be on campus Friday, April 22, for the
College of Mass Communication’s annual
awards ceremony.

Added to the college’s Wall of Fame in 2010,
Reid says he was both honored and humbled by
the recognition.

“To be recognized by my alma mater is just
very rewarding for me,” he says. “I don’t consider
myself to have been one of the best students while I
was there, but I managed to learn on the job and was
able to get to the position I’m in now.

“I really do owe it all to MTSU, and I am so
honored that they have recognized my achieve-
ments.”

Beginning as a criminal-justice major when he
first arrived from Whitwell, Tenn., Reid eventually
found his place in the field of broadcast journalism.
He always had an interest in radio, he says,
and as he began to take classes in that field, he
became more involved in the campus public-radio
station, WMOT-89.5 FM. Though his major
would finally focus on television, Reid says he knew
immediately that he was hooked and wanted to
pursue the world of broadcast.

While he says he’s unable to point out the most
influential aspect of his MTSU career, Reid has
nothing but praise for the institution and its pro-
gram.

“I can’t say any one person influenced me, but
I was very impressed with the equipment, as well as
the professionalism of the professors. They
seemed to be very knowledgeable,” he says.

In fact, compared to a local TV station in
Chattanooga, Tenn, where he worked for his first
internship, Reid says, MTSU had better equipment.

“I was very impressed with the overall journal-
ism program and still am,” he says of his alma
mater. “It’s only gotten better since I was there.”

Thirty years after he studied and worked on
international trip to India, Reid spends his time
making presentations and gaining more
noteworthy experience.

Married with two children, Reid regularly offers some advice to students
looking to make a mark on the world.

“School isn’t all work and no play,” he advises,
“but it should be a lot of work and making contacts
in the field along the way.”
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 airmires or www.youtube.com/user/MTSUOutoftheBlue for a complete show archive.

### Radio Schedule

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

### Sports @ Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>MTSU Softball vs. Southeast Missouri, 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>MTSU Baseball vs. Belmont, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6-8</td>
<td>MTSU Baseball vs. Florida International (6, 4 p.m. and noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For information, visit <a href="http://www.goblue">www.goblue</a> RAIDERS.com.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### April 25

- **Monday, April 25**
  - MTSU Flute Choir
    - 6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - Piano Studio Recital: Lynn Rice-See
    - 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2493.

### April 26

- **April 26-May 5**
  - Bachelor of Fine Arts Candidates’ Exhibition:
    - Graphic Design 2
    - 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Todd Gallery
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/art or contact: 615-898-5653.

### April 27

- **Wednesday, April 27**
  - Last Day of Classes

### April 28

- **Thursday, April 28**
  - Study Day
  - No classes; offices open.
  - Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day
    - 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., State Farm Lecture Hall (Room BAS S102), Business and Aerospace Building
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/accounting or contact: 615-898-5306.

### April 29

- **April 29-May 5**
  - Final Exams

### April 30

- **Saturday, April 30**
  - Spring Preview Day
  - 9 a.m., campuswide
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn or contact: 615-898-2111.

### May 2

- **Monday, May 2**
  - New Faculty Senators’ Reception and Faculty Senate Meeting
    - 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., JUB 100
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

### May 7

- **Saturday, May 7**
  - Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies
    - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
  - For information, visit http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo or contact: 615-898-2600.

### April 29

- **April 29-May 5**
  - Final Exams

- **Friday, April 29**
  - First Friday Star Party:
    - Special Guest Charlie Warren, “Astronomy Down Under”
    - 6:30 p.m., Room 102, Wiser-Patten Science Building
    - (Please note earlier date.)
    - For information, contact: 615-898-5946 or 898-2483.

### April 30

- **Saturday, April 30**
  - Spring Preview Day
  - 9 a.m., campuswide
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn or contact: 615-898-2111.

### May 2

- **Monday, May 2**
  - New Faculty Senators’ Reception and Faculty Senate Meeting
    - 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., JUB 100
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

### May 7

- **Saturday, May 7**
  - Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies
    - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
  - For information, visit http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo or contact: 615-898-2600.

### Campus Calendar

#### April 25-May 8, 2011

Please note:

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

### Events

- **Wednesday, April 27**
  - Department of Engineering Technology Open House
    - 3-5 p.m., Cantrell Hall, Tom H. Jackson Building
    - For information, email sswape@mtsu.edu.
  - MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble
    - 7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
    - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.
  - Piano Studio Recital: Arun Nadgir
    - 10:30 a.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - String Studio Recital: Andrea Dawson
    - 7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

- **Thursday, April 28**
  - Study Day
  - No classes; offices open.
  - Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day
    - 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., State Farm Lecture Hall (Room BAS S102), Business and Aerospace Building
    - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/accounting or contact: 615-898-5306.
  - Employees of the Year Reception
    - 9-10:30 a.m., Tennessee Room, James Union Building
    - For information, contact: 615-898-5344.
  - Piano Studio Recital: Arun Nadgir
    - 10:30 a.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - String Studio Recital: Andrea Dawson
    - 7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

- **Friday, April 29**
  - First Friday Star Party:
    - Special Guest Charlie Warren, “Astronomy Down Under”
    - 6:30 p.m., Room 102, Wiser-Patten Science Building
    - (Please note earlier date.)
    - For information, contact: 615-898-5946 or 898-2483.

- **Saturday, April 30**
  - Spring Preview Day
  - 9 a.m., campuswide
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn or contact: 615-898-2111.

- **Monday, May 2**
  - New Faculty Senators’ Reception and Faculty Senate Meeting
    - 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., JUB 100
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

- **Saturday, May 7**
  - Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies
    - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
  - For information, visit http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo or contact: 615-898-2600.

### News

- **Monday, April 25**
  - MTSU Flute Choir
    - 6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - Piano Studio Recital: Lynn Rice-See
    - 8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2493.

- **Tuesday, April 26**
  - MTSU Symphonic Band/Brass Ensemble/Chamber Winds
    - 7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-5653.

- **Wednesday, April 27**
  - Last Day of Classes

- **April 29-May 5**
  - Final Exams

- **April 29-May 5**
  - Final Exams

- **Friday, April 29**
  - First Friday Star Party:
    - Special Guest Charlie Warren, “Astronomy Down Under”
    - 6:30 p.m., Room 102, Wiser-Patten Science Building
    - (Please note earlier date.)
    - For information, contact: 615-898-5946 or 898-2483.

- **Saturday, April 30**
  - Spring Preview Day
  - 9 a.m., campuswide
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn or contact: 615-898-2111.

- **Monday, May 2**
  - New Faculty Senators’ Reception and Faculty Senate Meeting
    - 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., JUB 100
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

- **Saturday, May 7**
  - Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies
    - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
  - For information, visit http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo or contact: 615-898-2600.
More than 2,420 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 100th spring commencement ceremonies, according to a report from Cathy Kirchner of the Registrar’s Office.

MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7, in Murphy Center. Of the 2,420 set to graduate during the event, 1,974 are undergraduates and 446 are graduate students, including 365 master’s candidates, 70 education-specialist recipients and nine doctoral candidates. Two graduate students also will be receiving graduate certificates.

Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education and the College of Mass Communication will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony. That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and the University College.

MTSU alumnus Mark Gwyn, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. Gwyn is serving his second term as director. He was appointed to his current position by the governor in 2007 and has been reappointed to serve two additional terms. He is the recipient of MTSU’s Distinguished Alumni Award for professional achievement.

Dr. Hershel “Pat” Wall, special assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee, will speak to the 1 p.m. commencement. Wall retired from the military as a colonel in 1995 after 35 years of service, including the command of the 330th General Hospital, a 1,000-bed facility, and a stint in Germany as a member of the 308th MASH in the Tennessee National Guard for Desert Storm.

During his 51-plus-year career as a physician, Wall has been recognized for his contributions to medical education, clinical skills and many contributions to the community. In September 2008, UT President John D. Petersen led the inaugural dinner of the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society at UTHSC. The society was established to honor distinguished alumni and special friends who have made a commitment to the UT Health Science Center through planned giving.

Graduation committee members emphasized that students who participate in the May 7 commencement events will be required to stay for their entire scheduled ceremony.

The ceremonies should last about two hours each, so graduation candidates planning celebration activities with families and friends should allow the time commitment. For more information about commencement, please visit the Records Office website at www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.shtml. Questions about graduation may be directed to the Records Office at 615-898-2600.
2 more seniors intern at Southwest

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

A new program in MTSU’s College of Education is giving individuals with a bachelor’s degree the opportunity to teach mathematics in fourth through eighth grades and earn a master’s degree at the same time.

University officials are recruiting a cohort of 20 individuals who will move together through five semesters of study and earn a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. The program is slated to begin in fall 2011.

“This is ideal for anyone who wants to change career directions or who loves working with children and would like to become a licensed teacher,” said Dr. Dovie Kimmins, a professor of mathematical sciences at MTSU. “What a fine opportunity for a housewife or youth counselor—someone who enjoys working with children but can’t be with that age group but doesn’t possess the credentials to be in the classroom. This is a path to gaining licensure and a graduate degree.”

“Individuals who have a love for children and an inclination for math should consider this degree,” added Dr. Jeremy Winters, an assistant professor in MTSU’s Department of Elementary and Special Education.

“Several people in the current K-6 program have had previous experience working with children, such as coaching or working in after-school programs, and have decided that a teaching career is for them. I believe the new (grades) 4-8 program will interest individuals of a similar disposition,” Winters is referring to the current Initial Licensure Program Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in grades K-6, which is already successful.

“The mathematics courses have been designed with consideration of what someone needs to know and how they need to know it to effectively teach middle-school mathematics,” Kimmins noted.

Classes will be offered in the evenings, on weekends and online to accommodate working adults. A candidate must have a bachelor’s degree in any field and a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Some graduate assistantships may be available.

Partial financial support for the program is from a Teachers Retirement System of Tennessee grant through the U.S. Department of Education...

Interested individuals need to apply for graduate school and apply for graduate school and

Moreover, applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Dovie Kimmins at 615-898-7979 or jweiler@mtsu.edu.

MTSU Police add toll-free numbers for text messages

T he MTSU Police Department has activated two new toll-free phone numbers that will accept text and picture messages: 855-898-2424 and 855-MTSU911 (855-867-8911).

In an emergency, a person may call 615-898-2424 or 911 from any campus phone. The new toll-free numbers add a text-messaging and multimedia component that expands the service and increases ways to call for help or report an incident, officials said.

“We encourage everyone to use the new numbers for text or picture messages,” said Lt. Jim Fanguy.

“If you want to call MTSU police, use the standard 615-898-2424 number or call 911 from a campus landline phone. Remember, if you call 911 from your cell phone, you’ll reach the Murfreesboro police department, not the MTSU police.”

Fanguy said that with the increasing requirements of the Clery Act, federal mandates require university police departments to be more accessible and to make sure students know how to contact them. Adding the new text-message capability increases that accessibility, he said.

Get noticed in MTSU’s official publication! Check out (and bookmark!) The Record’s 2011 deadline schedule at mt.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml.

Criminal Justice plans seminar for law enforcement

P rofessor Dennis Powell and the MTSU Department of Criminal Justice are preparing for the department’s third Law Enforcement Training Seminar: It will be held Monday through Thursday, May 23-26, at MTSU.

Open to law-enforcement members only, the seminar will feature a wide range of topics, including:

• “Ethics of Gratuities,” “Dealing with the Mentally Ill,” “Stress Management” and “Gangs of the 21st Century” on the first day;

• “Ethics of Gratuities,” “Internet Crimes Against Children” and “Juvenile Law” on day two;

• “Media Relations,” “Domestic Violence” and “Child Sex Abuse” on the third day of the event; and

• “Legal Updates,” “Crime Scenes” and “Use of Force” on the final day.

Some of the area’s leading law-enforcement and judicial officials will be leading the seminars. For more information, contact Powell at 615-898-2630 or at dpowell@mtsu.edu.
Kelsey Wells will study at Penland School of Crafts outside Asheville, N.C., this summer at the Penland School of Craft education,” Vile said. “Kelsey Wells, one of 20 sophomore Buchanan Scholars at MTSU, has received a work-study scholarship for two weeks this summer at the Penland School of Crafts outside Asheville, N.C., University Honors College Dean John Vile said.

Wells’ class will introduce her to letterpress printing and copper plate etching and will include work on prints, broadsides and books.”

The class will be taught by Bill Hall, a master printer at Pace Prints in New York City, and Amy Pirkle, an instructor at the University of Alabama and the proprietor of Perkolerat Press, Vile added.

Wells was valedictorian of her class at Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. She attended the 2007 session of the Governor’s School for the Arts, which is held each summer at MTSU. Wells’ interests include storytelling, writing and speaking German, and she is an award-winning fiddle player. She has been serving as a work-study student at MTSU and is majoring in graphic design in the College of Media Arts and Sciences.

Wells is the daughter of Mike and Amy Wells of Murfreesboro.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest scholarship award given to entering MTSU freshmen. The program is named in honor of Dr. James Buchanan, MTSU’s Nobel Prize-winning alumnus. The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest scholarship award given to entering MTSU freshmen. The program is named in honor of Dr. James Buchanan, MTSU’s Nobel Prize-winning alumnus.

Three MTSU students celebrate with University leaders after receiving recognition from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. From left are University Honors College Dean John Vile, Goldwater Scholarship recipient Chris Ehemann, Goldwater honorable-mention recipient Lauren Rigsby, Goldwater recipient Evan Craig, Honors Adviser Laura Clipplard and College of Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Tom Cheatham. Ehemann, a senior from Tullahoma, Tenn., is majoring in physics and mathematics and received a one-year Goldwater Scholarship. He plans to earn a doctorate in theoretical astrophysics and research objects like new stars and black holes. Rigsby, a junior Honors College Buchanan Fellow from Rockvale, Tenn., received an honorable mention from the Hanover, N.H.-based Goldwater program. She plans to earn a degree in medical physics and perform research in radiation oncology. And Craig, a sophomore Buchanan Fellow from Arlington, Tenn., and biology major, received a two-year Goldwater Scholarship. He plans to use his award to continue his molecular-biology research and go to graduate school.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt
Grad student’s work helps kids fight obesity

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU graduate student and grandparent Debbie Goddard wants to help others, especially children, with obesity. Her desire led her to create a 12-week pilot program for children in the Murfreesboro City Schools system last year. Her research from the program, contained in the 70-page thesis that passed review last month, is helping her to graduate on May 7 with a master’s degree in human sciences with an emphasis in nutrition. Now, her program soon will be helping students in all 12 city schools.

The Tennessee Obesity Task Force recently announced that 50 percent of Tennessee’s children and 69 percent of adults are overweight. That news supported Goddard’s research, gained from working with 30 students from two city schools beginning in August 2010, with the help of seven MTSU exercise-science and nutrition and food-science majors.

“It was a timely, intervention-style program where the children could learn about good nutrition and choices,” Goddard explained.

“What is so gratifying in all this is the kids bond with them (MTSU students). MTSU students were role models. They get fond of them in a short amount of time.”

A $10,000 grant from the General Mills Foundation, guided by Andrea Mills Cain of the Murfreesboro City Schools, led to Goddard’s partnership with the Rutherford County Health Department’s Merti-Leigh Smith.

The 12-week program was called “BAM! Body and Mind.” It began with Week 1’s “Get Fit Kids” and “BAM! Body and Mind.” It began with Week 1’s “Get Fit Kids” and ended with Week 12’s “Family Night,” an awards ceremony at the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring.

In between were weeks where the children learned about the “MyPyramid” food guide, “Portion Distortion,” sugar content in food and drinks, healthy restaurant eating, exercise, how media influences food choices and how to relieve stress.

Goddard is familiar with those topics not just because of her research but because she also lives with Type 1 diabetes.

“Debbie was a big asset to the BAM program, and she’s a member of the Tennessee Obesity Task Force,” said Dr. Janet Colson, a MTSU human-sciences professor and Goddard’s mentor. “People from the state Department of Health have looked at the BAM program because it’s a wonderful program. It has given dietitians a lot of work and a lot of opportunities.”

“This was fabulous research that is of human interest,” added Professor Deborah Belcher, interim Department of Human Sciences chair.

Most of the data indicated that when children eat more meals at home, they are less likely to be obese. Goddard said the data also revealed, however, that when Hispanic males eat meals at home, they are more prone to obesity.

Colson said a major accomplishment occurred when “two children went from being extremely obese to obese. That’s a 20 percent weight loss at a time when kids are growing, so the program’s working.”

Goddard’s summer and fall 2010 effort led to the MTSU/City Schools/county health collaboration receiving $250,000 in grant funding to expand the program to all city schools this year. Dr. Don Morgan with the MTSU Center for Physical Activity in Health and Youth has helped obtain funding, Colson said.

This semester, Goddard has been a graduate assistant, grading assignments for the online Nutrition for the Young Child course, assisting Colson with two classes and teaching an online nutrition course for Nashville State Community College.

Activities

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee; John Hoed (Development and University Relations); Dr. Roy Moore (College of Mass Communication); Dale and Lucinda Cockrell (Center for Popular Music); Dr. Steve Shearon (music) and his wife, Debora; and Randy Weiler (News and Media Relations) and his wife, Patsy, attended the 2011 Governor’s Arts Awards, hosted by Gov. Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam April 12 in Nashville at Conservation Hall. Eight honorees were recognized in the areas of folk-life heritage, arts leadership and distinguished artist awards.

A question-and-answer session with Dr. Gaylord Brewer (English) on his new book of poems, Gone Over, Graymalkin, was the March 23 headline feature at www.chapter16.org, the daily online publication of Tennessee Humanities.

Dr. Lynn Parsons (nursing) was included in an article, “Salary Survey Shows Experienced Nurses Gaining Ground,” published April 1 at NurseZone.com, an online community with professional- and personal-development information for nurses.

Jeff Farrar (Office of University Counseling) has joined MTSU as assistant university counselor. He formerly worked for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County as a senior litigation attorney.

Doug Williams (marketing and communications) was honored April 13 as the 2011 Project SHARE Volunteer of the Year for his work as a mentor to a young man at Harding, a Nashville facility serving at-risk children and youth and their families. Project SHARE is a school-based mentoring program that works to prevent students from dropping out of high school.

Dr. John Soo Lim’s (journalism) manuscript “Social Media Activism in Response to the Influence of Negative Political Parody Videos on YouTube” has been accepted for publication in Communication Research.

An article by Dr. Jane Marcellus (journalism), “Southern Myanmar and the Nineteenth Amendment: The Participation of Nashville Newspaper Publishers in the Final State’s Ratification,” received second place in the inaugural Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award contest.

Dr. Martha Norkunas (history and director, African-American Oral History Project) has published an article, “Teaching to Listen: Listening Exercises and Self-Reflective Journals,” in the upcoming winter/spring 2011 edition of The Oral History Review.

Dr. Yuan-ting Chao (history) will participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, “An Introduction to Desert Literature and History,” July 18-Aug. 5 at the University of Colorado-Boulder.