

# THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

3/01/2006 Vol. 3 / No. 3

## FAREWELL

### Illnesses claim Walker, Wolfe

By Tom Tozer and Lisa Rollins

In the same week, MTSU saw the passing of two academic stalwarts: former President James E. Walker and Dr. Charles K. Wolfe, professor emeritus and internationally known music historian.

Walker, MTSU president from 1991 to 2000, died Feb. 5



Photo courtesy SIU

Walker



Wolfe

after a prolonged struggle with prostate cancer. Walker, 64, left MTSU to become president of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, officially stepping down from that post in December due to deteriorating health. During his MTSU tenure, he oversaw a building program that amounted to more than \$300 million in capital projects. They included Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Business and Aerospace Building, Greek Row, Telecommunications Building, Scarlett Commons, an expanded Floyd Stadium, Steve Smith Baseball Complex, Student Recreation Center and the Tennessee Miller Coliseum. The James E. Walker University Library that he constructed bears his name.

Under his guidance, enrollment grew to 19,000 students, and MTSU became the fastest-growing university in the state. In the fall of 1999, MTSU became the largest undergraduate university in the Tennessee Board of Regents system.

Walker is survived by his wife, Gwen, and their daughters, Jamell and Jabrina.

Presently, no campus memo-

(Please see 'MTSU' Page 6)



Photo by MTSU News & Public Affairs

### Aiming for the stars

A waning gibbous moon in the western morning sky is "captured" in the ice-tipped pointer atop MTSU's new Naked Eye Observatory column depicting the planet Pluto. The observatory, which will be dedicated this semester, is located between Cope Administration Building and Wiser-Patten Science Hall. David Coleman (who attended MTSU in 1980) of Artisans Marble & Granite in Murfreesboro did the granite work.

## ENERGIZING FOOTBALL

### Stockstill era gets under way

By Randy Weiler

Since Dec. 12, when Ohio native and longtime Florida resident, Rick Stockstill was named MTSU's 14th head football coach, he has been one busy man.

Stockstill assembled his coaching staff, then hit the recruiting trail to land 14 high school prospects on National Signing Day Feb. 1. He has overseen the Blue Raiders' offseason conditioning workouts, he has made personal appearances and speaking engagements, and fulfilled local, regional and national media requests. He didn't flinch when Director of Athletics Chris Massaro added the University of Oklahoma to the 2006 schedule as the Sept. 23 opponent in Norman, Okla. He even took his first disciplinary measure.



Stockstill

Stockstill and his staff — offensive coordi-

(Please see 'Coach' Page 8)

## NOTEWORTHY

### McIntosh's real moment is 'Reel Moment'

Alumna Kristy McIntosh experienced a Glamour magazine "Reel Moment" when her actual real moment in life was turned into a short film, "Little Black Dress," starring Rosario Dawson, that was shown in theaters in select cities last fall.

In a rush to buy a new dress for a formal dinner at her conservative company more than 12 years ago, the 5-foot-9 McIntosh (B.S. '88) bought a "very short little black dress," she said. This led to a series of humorous



Photo submitted

McIntosh

events that included McIntosh asking a woman on an elevator if the dress was too short, fearing that the company CEO would fire her if he saw the dress. The woman, Juli Mosley, wife of CEO Ralph Mosley, told McIntosh she looked striking in the dress and introduced her to the CEO. McIntosh, director of product and brochure development for Great American Opportunities Inc., submitted the story idea for the contest. Visit [glamour.com](http://glamour.com) or [verizon.com](http://verizon.com) to see the movie.

### Mitchell directs state's Homeland Security

When Gov. Phil Bredesen needed to fill the vacancy for the state's Office of Homeland Security director, he tabbed 26-year Federal Bureau of Investigation veteran and MTSU alumnus David B. Mitchell for the role.



State of Tennessee photo

Mitchell

"As governor, one of the most important duties I have is keeping our state and its people safe from harm, and I am proud to share this mission with David Mitchell," Bredesen said when making the announcement in October. "I know his experience and talent will prove vital as we work to achieve the highest levels of emergency preparedness and coordination in Tennessee."

Mitchell (B.S. '73), a Memphis native now living in Williamson County with his wife Rosie, said,

"The people of Tennessee are really the eyes and ears of law and safety enforcement, and our security efforts depend on the participation of everyone. Tennessee's Homeland Security will lead this effort by maximizing disaster training and preparedness and by facilitating greater information sharing and coordination among government agencies, businesses and citizens."

MTALUMNI.COM

## Alumni making waves



Photo by Oxygen Network

Playing the role of Drew in a library scene in the Oxygen Network's "Campus Ladies," Derek Carter (B.S. '04), above center, joins fellow actors Christen Sussin (Barri), left, and Amir Talai (Abdul) during taping of the show in Hollywood, Calif.

Brandon Dempsey, right, (B.S. '02) of Murfreesboro, is a sound monitor engineer for the popular band, Kings of Leon, and oversees the sound that the band hears on stage during performances. The band recently finished the 2006 Big Day Out Festival tour, which allowed him to travel to Australia and New Zealand. Dempsey works with alumnus Brent Rawlings (B.S. '93), who serves as the band's front-of-house engineer.



### ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

Ginger Corley Freeman, Director  
Michelle Stepp, Associate Director  
Valerie Avent, Assistant Dir., Multicultural Affairs  
Katy Francisco Riddle, Assistant Director  
Patience Long, Assistant Director  
Allison Payne, Assistant Director  
Martha Jordan, Administrative Assistant  
Sherry Young, Office Assistant

### MTSU Office of Alumni Relations

MTSU Box 104

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

1-800-533-MTSU (6878)

615-898-2922 Fax: 615-898-5746

mtalumni.com

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Sidney A. McPhee, President

Joe Bales, VP, Development and Univ. Relations  
Doug Williams, Director, Office of Marketing  
Tom Tozer, Director, News and Public Affairs  
Randy Weiler, Editor ([jweiler@mtsu.edu](mailto:jweiler@mtsu.edu))

Contributors: Gina Fann, Gina Logue,  
John Lynch, Lisa Rollins, Paula Morton and  
MTSU Office of Alumni Relations staff/students

Consultants: Suma Clark and Bill Fisher,  
MTSU Publications and Graphics  
Special assistance: Tom Brannan and Betsy Williams,  
MTSU Advancement Services

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UR034-0206

# Student awards laud Wilkerson

By Katy Francisco Riddle

Student and alumni award recipients will be recognized at 7 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the African-American Awards Ceremony in the Tom H. Jackson Building (Alumni Center).

The student scholarship awards are held in honor of the late Al Wilkerson (B.S. '73, M.A. '79, Ed.S. '92), an MTSU alumnus and former faculty member who helped establish the Office of Multicultural Affairs on campus and the first MTSU African-American alumni organization.

This is the first year the event will honor both student and alumni award winners at the same ceremony.

"We are fortunate to have so many African-American alumni who have become successful after their time at MTSU," said Valerie Avent,



Wilkerson

assistant director of alumni/multicultural affairs. "These alumni have the opportunity to serve as mentors for current students who are traveling the same road, and this event is the perfect platform to recognize worthy students and alumni, offer interaction and fellowship and honor a magnificent man such as Mr. Wilkerson."

The reception will feature a keynote speech from alumnus Darrell Freeman (B.S. '87, M.S. '90), president and chief executive officer of Zycron Computer Services, Inc. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) or visiting [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com).

## Celebrating MTSU Excellence March 25

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and the MTSU Alumni Association personally invite you to the President's Celebration of Excellence on Saturday, March 25, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

This dinner event, held each spring, honors students and alumni for their outstanding accomplishments and service to the university.

Among those honored will be 2005-06 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Don Ash (B.S. '77), John Hill (B.S. '57), Nancy Duggin (B.S. '74, M.Ed. '77, Ed.S. '91, Ed.S. '94, C4 '04) and the Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient, Stephanie Bellis Warner (B.S. '97).

We encourage you to come show your appreciation for these outstanding members of the MTSU family.

**What:** President's Celebration of Excellence

**When:** Saturday, March 25

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** James Union Building, Tennessee Room

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Dress:** Business attire

**RSVP requested by March 20.** For more information and reservations, call 1-800-533-MTSU or visit [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com).

## EXL means EXL-ence at MTSU

Fellow alumni, if you visited campus in the last year, you've undoubtedly noticed "EXL at Middle Tennessee State University—Make it Happen!" slogans on large and small signs, in several campus publications, and on the Web site. As an alumna (B.S. '70, M.Ed. '71, Ed.S. '75)



Singer

and former employee, I noticed them, too, and I was curious to learn more. After some research, I discovered that "EXL" is a brand for "experiential learning."

As an educator, I immediately understood that phrase. EXL means "hands-on" learning or applying the knowledge that is imparted in the classroom. The Southern Association of Colleges

and one external activity. At the end of the program, students will earn EXL scholar designation on their transcripts and will wear special EXL cords at commencement to signify their achievement.

Did you know, according to current research, that college students who are engaged in their coursework in and out of the classroom are four times more likely to remain in school and graduate? Retention is an important issue at MTSU and elsewhere.

Although MTSU always has emphasized a student-centered environment within a rigorous curriculum, some examples of EXL opportunities are (from the EXL Web site):

- Study Abroad, which offers study opportunities through well-organized and well-supervised, intellectually challenging educational experiences;
- Co-op Education, in which students gain real-

world experience, integrating classroom pedagogy with supervised work assignments at actual job sites;

- Service Learning, which offers opportunities for students to work

with a nonprofit organization or perform another kind of community service;

- American Democracy Project, which seeks to promote civic engagement;
- Leadership Development, designed to enhance personal growth, leadership skills and community involvement;
- McNair Scholars Program, created to prepare promising students for graduate studies and to increase diversity; and
- Center for Undergraduate Research, the only one of its kind in the state.

Businesses or individuals wishing to be involved in EXL should contact Dr. Jill Austin, EXL steering committee chair, at 615-898-2438 or visit [mtsu.edu/experience](http://mtsu.edu/experience).

Dr. Lorraine Campbell Singer taught for 12 years at MTSU's Homer Pittard Campus School, a teacher training center. She also taught in the elementary education and educational leadership departments at MTSU. She retired from the Tennessee Department of Education in 1997 and served as president of the MTSU Alumni Association in 2002-03. She is married to Dr. David Singer, MTSU professor emeritus and Distinguished Alumnus.

and Schools reaccreditation committee at MTSU expresses it this way: "Experiential education takes the student beyond the traditional classroom and challenges him or her with hands-on application that promotes meaningful and lifelong learning. While such education, which develops the whole student, may take place in almost any environment, the learning-by-doing aspect of EXL meets the student in the subject, work or service in which he or she is actively involved."

Why do alumni need to know about EXL? Because your alma mater has a plan to enhance learning by developing and implementing an EXL program as part of the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan for reaffirmation in 2006. Under the direction of Dr. Jill Austin, department chair, management and marketing, planning is under way, and the pilot project already has been implemented this spring. Full implementation will begin this fall.

The Experiential Scholars Program is an exciting aspect of this project. Students will be formally admitted to this program. Courses that meet EXL criteria will be so designated, and students will enroll for 16-18 hours of EXL classes with at least one practicum class



# CALENDAR

## Alumni events include gatherings, Kats game, reunion, chapter functions

### March

#### 2 Nashville Young Alumni Gathering

5:30-7 p.m./Dan McGuiness Irish Pub, 1538 Demonbreun St./Free appetizers/615-898-2923

#### 17 Davidson County Alumni Chapter Night with the Kats

5:30 p.m. dinner, 6 p.m. game/\$20 per person, free for ages 2 and under/All alumni and friends welcome/RSVP at [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) or call 1-800-533-MTSU (6878)

### April

#### 6 Cool Springs Young Alumni Gathering

5:30-7 p.m./Please check [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) for location and details

#### 22 Computer Science Alumni Reunion

7 p.m./Tom H. Jackson Building (Alumni Center)/Cost TBA/615-898-2922

#### 26 Rutherford County Alumni Chapter Lunch at Outback Fund-raiser

Three seatings available: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m./Tickets \$10/1-800-533-MTSU (6878)

### May

#### 4 Murfreesboro Young Alumni Gathering

5:30-7 p.m./Please check [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) for location and details

#### 5 African-American Awards Ceremony

7 p.m./Tom H. Jackson Building (Alumni Center)/\$10/1-800-533-MTSU (6878)

#### 13 See Spot Run 5K Run/Walk

6:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. race start/Peck Hall/\$15 entry fee/1-800-533-MTSU (6878)

#### 13 Williamson County Alumni Chapter Community Service Project

8:30 -11:30 a.m./Harpeth River Watershed Association cleanup effort, followed by lunch/Please check [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) or call 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) for details

#### 20 MTSU Nursing Alumni Spring Celebration of Professional Growth

8 a.m. CEU Program, "End of Life Issues"/Noon luncheon/Location and cost TBA/615-898-2437

## Campus events include McLean School of Music, Indian festival, TSSAA

### March

#### 1 MTSU Brass Ensemble Concert

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 2 MTSU Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Concert

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton

Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 2-7 Sun Belt Conference

##### Basketball Tournament

Game times TBA/Murphy Center/Admission charged/1-888-YES-MTSU (937-6878)

#### 3 First Friday Star Party

"The MTSU Uranidrome: Naked-Eye Astronomy in the 'Boro"

6:30 p.m./Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102/Free/615-494-8639 or 615-898-2130

#### 6-11 Spring Break

#### 8-11 TSSAA Girls State Basketball Tournament

Times TBA/Murphy Center/Admission/615-889-6740 or [tssaa.org](http://tssaa.org)

#### 10 University Closed

#### 10-12 Pro Trainers Racking Horse Show

Time TBA/Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Admission TBA/615-898-8961

#### 15-18 TSSAA Boys State Basketball tourney

Times TBA/Murphy Center/Admission/615-889-6740 or [tssaa.org](http://tssaa.org)

#### 16 MTSU Flute Studio Recital

8 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 17 MTSU Trumpet Studio Recital

6 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 17-19 Tennessee Horse Council

##### Volunteer Horse Fair

9 a.m. daily/Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Admission charged/615-898-8961

#### 18 Clavierfest

All day, final concert at 7 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 23 MTSU Chamber Winds/

##### Brass Ensemble Concert

8 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 25 President's Celebration of Excellence

6 p.m./James Union Building, Tennessee Room/\$15/615-898-2922

#### 31-April 2 International Barrel Racing Association Barrel Race

9 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/615-898-8961



Photo by Jim Nichols

Keith Anderson will be one of the scheduled performers for the seventh annual American Indian Festival starting at 9 a.m. March 4 and 10 a.m. March 5 at the Tennessee Livestock Center. For ticket information, call 615-898-5645.

### April

#### 2 MTSU Tuba/Euphonium Recital

7 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 6-7 MTSU Opera "Dialogue of the Carmelites"

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/\$10/615-898-2493

#### 7 First Friday Star Party

"What About the Dark Matter?"

6:30 p.m./Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102/Free/615-494-8639 or 615-898-2130

#### 8 MTSU Jazz Festival

All day/Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 8 MTSU Jazz Artist Series with

##### Alto Saxophonist Phil Woods

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/\$12/615-898-2493

#### 11 MTSU Guitar Ensemble Recital

8 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 12 MTSU Percussion Ensemble

8 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 13 MTSU Wind Ensemble

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 17 Guest Pianist Dr. Eugene Barban

8 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton

Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 19 University Honors College Awards

3 p.m./Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building Amphitheatre (Room 106)/Free/615-898-2152

#### 20 Stones River Chamber Players

7:30 p.m./Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493

#### 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 Various McLean

##### School of Music events

Times vary/Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall/Free/615-898-2493 or [mtsu.edu/~music](http://mtsu.edu/~music)

#### 28-30 National Barrel Racing

##### Association Barrel Race

9 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/615-898-8961

### May

#### 5 First Friday Star Party

"How Do Telescopes Work?"

6:30 p.m./Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102/Free/615-494-8639 or 615-898-2130

#### 6 MTSU Spring Commencement

Two ceremonies in Murphy Center: 9 a.m. for Colleges of Graduate Studies, Business and Education and Behavioral Science/2 p.m. for Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and Continuing Education and Distance Learning/615-898-2919

#### 22-27 TSSAA Spring Fling

Times TBA/MTSU sites include track and field, tennis, baseball (Division I, Class AAA)/Admission/615-889-6740 or [tssaa.org](http://tssaa.org)

All times Central.

All events are subject to change.

For calendar updates, visit [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) or call 1-800-533-6878.

For Tennessee Miller Coliseum events, visit [mtsu.edu/~tmc](http://mtsu.edu/~tmc) or call 615-494-8961.

For Tennessee Livestock Center events, visit [tennesseelivestockcenter.com](http://tennesseelivestockcenter.com) or call 615-898-5575.

For the June issue of *The Alumni Record*, submit calendar items to [alumni@mtsu.edu](mailto:alumni@mtsu.edu), or write c/o Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 104, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Fax: 615-898-5746. Deadline: May 1.



Photo by Jack Ross

## McLean School of Music rehearsal hall named in honor of alumnus Smith

MTSU faculty, students, staff and alumni honored a longtime figure in the McLean School of Music by dedicating the Joseph T. Smith Rehearsal Hall in the Wright Music Building on Feb. 3. Smith (B.S. '51, M.A. '57) was an MTSU faculty member from 1957 to 1993 and in 1975 was appointed director of bands when Horace Beasley resigned from the position of concert band director. Smith had many contributions and received numerous awards that included the Distinguished Alumnus. President Sidney A. McPhee, left, presented Smith with a plaque during the MTSU Wind Ensemble's performance at the 2006 Tennessee Wind Band Conference. At right is Dr. George T. Riordan, director, McLean School of Music. More coverage of the event will appear in the next "Middle Tennessee State University Magazine."

## See Spot Run set for May 13

From staff reports

Organizers are planning a campus event that will allow alumni, friends and students to run or walk beside their four-legged friends on Saturday, May 13.

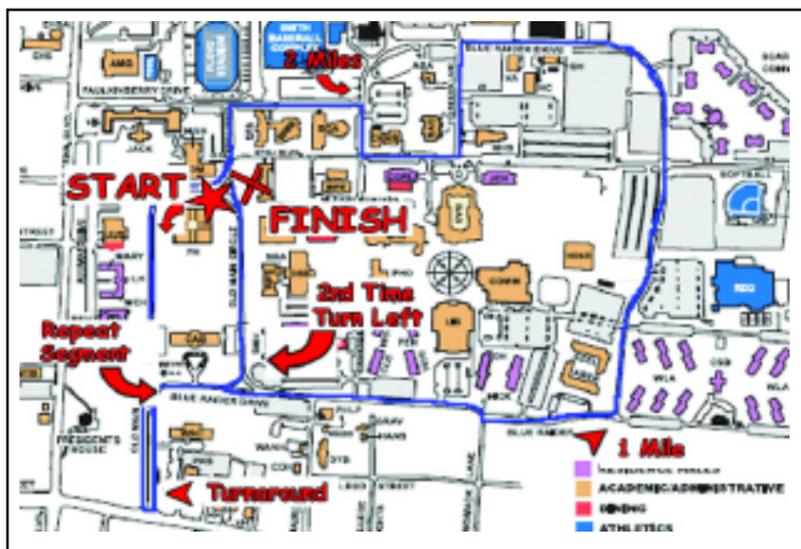
See Spot Run, a 5K for runners, walkers and their dogs, will be held on a certified 5K course throughout campus, one of only two such campus races held throughout the year.

All money raised will go toward the university's goal of building a house for Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity.

"We're thrilled to participate with the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service to plan such a unique event for our community," said Katy Francisco Riddle, assistant director of alumni relations. "We hope this turns into an annual event in which alumni and students can have fun and at the same time, come together for a great cause."

The entry fee is \$15 and awards will be given to the top age group finishers. All participants will receive a t-shirt and a doggie bag.

Alumni interested in participating, volunteering or sponsoring the event may contact the alumni relations office at 1-800-533-MTSU. Online registration is also available at



## New uniform drive begins

By Allison Payne

Plans are under way to update the MTSU Band of Blue uniforms in hopes of having the entire band outfitted in time for the 2007 football season.

"These uniforms are in desperate need of retirement," said Craig Cornish, associate director of bands at MTSU. "We're hoping the new uniforms will reflect the band's tradition of excellence while incorporating our unique style of big, loud and funky."

Originally intended for eight years of use, the current uniforms have been circulated through the Band of Blue for 12 years. Cornish hopes the new uniforms will allow the band to continue its aggressive growth by outfitting the entire band. The percussion and tuba sections have been wearing royal blue wind suits in lieu of official uniforms for the past few years.

"Band members comprise the largest and most visible student organization at MTSU," said Cornish. "I think it is important for these students to look their best when representing MTSU on our home field and across the country."

The remaining cost to order the newly designed uniforms is about \$200,000. For donations more than \$1,000, labels will be placed in the new uniforms recognizing donors or paying tribute to loved ones. Interested individuals should contact Robyn Kilpatrick at 615-898-5223 or [rkilpatr@mtsu.edu](mailto:rkilpatr@mtsu.edu).



## Mass comm alums capture Regional Emmy Awards

By Gina Fann

College of Mass Communication alumni made their mark on the 20th annual Midsouth Regional Emmy Awards Jan. 28, netting eight top awards from 29 nominations.

Receiving the Nashville/Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' esteemed Rising Star Award, which honors an industry professional who shows extraordinary promise, was MTSU alumnus Nicholas E. "Nic" Dugger (B.S. '00), an electronic media communication graduate and former instructor at the university.

Dugger, who has worked in TV since he was 12 years old, is the founder of Franklin-based Tennessee Digital Video ([tndv.com](http://tndv.com)). He completed the construction of his own all-digital mobile television production truck, which provided part of the TV production for the 2005 presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., and Gov. Phil Bredesen's 2005 State of the State address.

Alumnus Jim DeMarco (B.S. '83) of Nashville Public Television took top honors in two categories for his work on the acclaimed PBS documentary "The Carter Family: Will the Circle Be Unbroken." He also was nominated in the Camera/Non-News

category for the same project.

MTSU alumni winners of regional Emmy awards in their respective categories include:

- Documentary/Historical — "The Carter Family," Kathy Conkwright, Mary Makley, Jim DeMarco (B.S. '83), Beth Curley, Nashville Public Television.
- Editor/Short Form — "Adam J. Mills Composite," Adam Mills (B.S. '03), WZTV.
- Engineering — "Tsunami," Mike Rose, Mark Martin (B.S. '80), Kevin Mason, WTVF.
- Investigative Reporting — "Capitol Hill Corruption," Phil Williams (B.S. '85), Bryan Staples, WTVF.
- Lighting Director — "The Carter Family," Jim DeMarco, Nashville Public Television.
- Newscast/Daytime — "Operation Tennessee Waltz: Political Corruption," Holly Thompson-Lynch (B.S. '94), Molly Day, Dennis Ferrier, WSMV.
- News Special Event — "Surviving Severe Weather," Nancy Van Camp (B.S. '95), Jason Wilson, Lisa Spencer, Cam Cornelius (B.S. '00), WSMV.

Van Camp also was nominated in the News Special Event category for her work on "Tennessee Tornadoes" and in the Magazine and Writer/News categories for a feature on Red Boiling Springs.

Cornelius had nominations in five other categories for his work at WSMV: Spot Story, News Series/Hard News, Investigative Reporting, Camera/News and Editor/News.

Dugger also was nominated in the Entertainment, Engineering and Special Event/Live categories, and Williams received a second nomination in the Investigative Reporting category for "High Dollar Highways" and one in the Documentary/Topical category. Thompson-Lynch received a second nomination in the Newscast/Daytime category. Mills also was nominated in the Editor/Non-News and Camera/Short Form categories.

Considered the largest program in mass communication in the nation, the MTSU College of Mass Communication offers undergraduate degrees in mass communication and recording industry, and concentrations ranging from journalism to digital media and media management to recording industry management.

The college's Department of Electronic Media Communication, with more than 775 majors enrolled, teaches digital media communication, television and radio production, electronic media journalism and management, digital animation, digital imaging and photography.

# Award-winning short film

## Electronic media prof Pondillo, alumni collaborate for unique movie

By Gina Logue

A young woman runs her fingertips across the edge of a mantel decorated with framed photographs of people from the distant and not-so-distant past. Images of married couples and families come into view as the tones from a solitary piano enhance her reverie. Abruptly, real life intervenes.

"PEG!"

"Yeah?"

"My muffin is stuck!"

So begins "Would You Cry If I Died?," a black-and-white short film written, produced and co-directed by Dr. Bob Pondillo, electronic media communication. It's entered in 43 film festivals and counting (placing third in the Best Short category at the 2006 Southern Fried Flicks Film Festival in Augusta, Ga., recently), and several MTSU alumni thought enough of Pondillo to donate their considerable talents to the project.

For Pondillo, a veteran broadcasting professional, this venture is at once a brave new world and a return to his roots. Encouraged by his boss, Dr. Robert Spires, to find an outlet for his creativity, Pondillo invested \$600 of his own money in the movie after rewriting a broad sketch penned for an Emmy-winning television show he produced titled "The Cleveland Comedy Company." But somewhere between the Reagan administration and the war in Iraq, the story took a U-turn toward poignant intimacy.

"I don't know why I find myself attracted to stories about time, beginnings, endings, love, death, all that stuff — death in particular," Pondillo says. "That's the 800-pound gorilla in the room, you know, in everyone's life, actually, and it's the most mysterious and the most frightening."

Cara Francis (B.S. '04) and Tarkan Dospil (B.S. '04), two of Pondillo's former students, are the only actors in the 10-minute film. They play Peggy and Denny, a young married couple with their whole lives before them, engaged in a discussion about funerals and the people left behind.

Dospil, 26, a Yorktown, Va., native now acting in Chicago, initially worried about the relative absence of movement in the movie. But he came to see the script as a chance to bring the literal, non-introspective Denny to life within the parameters of a very focused work.

"Bob was more concerned with having the psychology and themes of the film portrayed than providing eye candy," Dospil says. "This was really interesting, because I think that the more effective you are within constraints, the stronger an artist or communicator you are. It also allowed Cara and I to be more idiosyncratic with our character choices."

For the 23-year-old Francis, now acting in New York, the challenge was to make

Peggy neurotic enough to convey her angst about how Denny would react to her death yet lovably quirky enough not to turn the audience against her.

"I'm kind of half-crazy, so that helps," Francis says. "I'm always being other people in my day-to-day interactions."

Fraternal twins Matthew (B.S. '02) and Scott Pessoni (B.S. '02), the brain trust of Gemini Production Group in Nashville, tackled the production challenge of following Peggy and Denny's conversation from room to room.

They chose to shoot in black and white to keep the emotion tied completely to the subjects. And they bucked convention in the lighting by using shadows to their advantage.

"We shot this on video and made it look like it was shot on film," Matthew says. "The reason we used the camera we did and the lighting we did was to make it look as close to film as possible and sustain a quality that would make it look like a major motion picture."

"Everything we did simulated the whole film look, even the way we put it down on DVD," Scott adds. "So it's actually projectable if we ever want to transfer it, bump it up to film. It would be better quality than your regular video."

As the feature on the making of "Would You Cry If I Died?" shows, the movie was shot in less than 24 hours between 7 a.m. and 12:13 a.m. However, the Pessonis are accustomed to tight deadlines. Their "Blue Skies Under Grey" won the Best of Nashville award in the 2004 48-Hour Film Project, an intense competition in which crews have one weekend to write, shoot, edit and post-produce a short film utilizing a prop, a character and a line of dialogue provided by the contest. Most of the staffers of "Blue Skies Under Grey" are MTSU alums.

"MTSU provided us with a time in our life to take risks," Matthew says. "The ability to take a risk during those years and be able to experiment and play ... you don't have that opportunity in the real world, necessarily, to do that."

"They wanted us to succeed as well," Scott says of his professors. "So I think they were extremely helpful and kind of pushed us, saying, 'You guys can do it.'"

Completing the MTSU group that brought the project to fruition is Mark Duvall (B.S. '02), owner and operator of Happen-Stance Productions and the film's sound designer and mixer.

Duvall, who is not an ex-Pondillo student, still credits MTSU with teaching him the theory behind what he does, in addition to the hands-on practical aspects of his job. Today, he's involved in television, film, music and artist development and his own record label.

To learn more about "Would You Cry If I Died?" and the cast and crew, go to [honey-beefillms.com](http://honey-beefillms.com).



Photo by Doug Williams

Tracy Prater, left, assistant director in the Office of Admissions, greets a prospective student during the admissions/alumni function in Knoxville — one of three held so far.

## Partnership

### Statewide trips establish bond with alums, students

By Patience Long

The Alumni Association recently partnered with the Office of Admissions to hold joint alumni and student events in the Memphis and Knoxville areas.

These events featured representatives from each college, as well as university officials, including MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and Dr. Robert Glenn, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

"This is a great opportunity for students to see exactly how MTSU has bettered the lives of our alumni," said Ginger Corley Freeman, director of alumni relations. "It also gives our alumni a chance to hear about all the exciting new changes happening at the university."

In addition to the events, MTSU hosted breakfast and luncheons in each location for guidance counselors from local high schools. Ben Landers (B.S. '77), president of the United Way of Greater Knoxville, and David Jolley (B.S. '82), United States marshal for the Western District of Tennessee, spoke to the counselors about MTSU.

"MTSU has done so many wonderful things for my career and my life," said Landers. "I was happy to tell the counselors how much MTSU has to offer students."

Both offices want to continue with this joint venture in the future, Freeman said.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**John Ronald "Ron" Green** (B.S. '68), Dearborn, Mo., was named president-elect for the Missouri Association of Secondary Principals. He has served as the representative from northwest Missouri on the board of directors for the past four years and has spent the last 14 years as principal at North Platte High School. He was also the recipient of the Legion of Honor award from the Legion of the Four Chaplains and a Medal of Honor from the Luxembourg Friends of U.S. Veterans for his work as a veteran, with veterans and for veterans' affairs.

**Sandra Stott** (B.S. '60), Murfreesboro, retired from MTSU as the facilities coordinator for the James Union Building, after 49 years of service to the university.

## 1970s

**John Gregory Calvert** (B.S. '73) joined the staff of Pavement Technology, Inc., as the Tennessee consultant following his retirement from the City of Oak Ridge in 2003. He is a past president of the American Public Works Association's Tennessee chapter and currently serves as the association's education chair and as the director of the Tennessee Public Works Institute.

**Joseph Euclid Cate** (B.S. '75), Cleveland, serves as city manager in Cleveland, Tenn.

**Dr. Robert C. LaLance Jr.** (D.A. '74), Murfreesboro, was inducted into the West Virginia University School of Physical Education Hall of Fame at a ceremony in October.

**Dr. Robert C. LaLance Jr.** (D.A. '74), Murfreesboro, was inducted into the West Virginia University School of Physical Education Hall of Fame at a ceremony in October.

**Michael E. McDonald** (A.A. '79, B.S. '79), Nashville, has written a book titled "College Life 101: The Disciples' Handbook for the Christian College Student." He serves as president and chief executive officer of SenecaDreams Inc., a publishing and instructional service company.

**James Ross O'Conner** (B.S. '74), Oak Ridge, currently serves as city manager in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

**Dr. Rosemary Wade Owens** (B.S. '72, M.Ed. '74, Ed.S. '79), Murfreesboro, retired as dean of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning at MTSU. She returned on special assignment to MTSU in February.

**Franklin David Ruckman** (M.Ed. '75), Westmoreland, was named Cumberland University's Outstanding Educator of the Year at the school's spring commencement ceremony.

## 1980s

**Lt. Col. Reginald Bernard Beaty** (M.Ed. '89), Fayetteville, Ga., was recently appointed new chief operating officer and executive vice president of Communities In Schools of Georgia.

**Craig Allan Conley** (B.S. '86, M.A. '90), Chapel Hill, N.C., is author of a reference book, "One-Letter Words: A Dictionary," published by Harper-Collins on Nov. 1, 2005.

**Kathleen Denys Lapczynski** (B.S. '89, M.S. '93), Tullahoma, recently resigned her position as associate professor of biology after a 10-year teaching career at Motlow State Community College. She was named to "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" four times and twice won the Faculty Excellence Award during her career in Middle Tennessee.

**Robert Neal Jacobs** (B.S. '82), Fairfax, Va., was honored with NASA's Exceptional Service Medal during a special ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Christy Cheryl Mitchell** (B.S. '89), Tullahoma, is employed by the marketing department of the Jack Daniel Distillery.

**Dr. John William "Jay" Sanders** (B.S. '88, M.B.E. '89, Ed.S. '94), Columbia, recently published "A Comparison of Student Learning in Online vs. On-ground Technology in the Classroom Course" ("International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society," Vol.1, 2005), and "A 32-Year Study of the Equitability of Funding in Tennessee's Four-Year University's Pre-Geier Settlement (1971-1983) vs. Post-Geier Settlement (1984-2003)," co-authored by Dr. Toto Sutarso of MTSU and published in "Tennessee Educational Leadership" spring 2005. He was associate editor for the "International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society," Vol. 1, 2005.

**Dr. Vincent W. Smith** (B.S. '84, M.B.E. '85), Murfreesboro, presented two sessions of "Integrating Speech Recognition into the Business Classroom" for the 2005 Tennessee Career and Technical Education Conference.

## 1990s

**Donovan Keith Beasley** (B.B.A. '91, M.B.A. '93) recently accepted a position in Fife, Scotland, and is employed by Bosch Rexroth.

**Elizabeth Scott Dewerth** (B.S. '92), Lompoc, Calif., is employed by Pearson Education/Prentice Hall Publishing as a college math software developer, writing the MathLab and MathML programs.

**Dr. Arthur Drake** (B.S. '93, M.S. '95, Ed.S. '96), Arlington, Texas, earned his doctorate in 1999 and has been appointed assistant principal of Atherton Elementary School in the Arlington Independent School District.

**Dr. Laura E. Gifford** (B.S. '94), Nashville, was recently awarded the doctor of audiology degree by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry School of Audiology. She received her master of science degree at Vanderbilt University after leaving MTSU and is currently in private practice.

**Daniel L. Graves** (B.S.'91), Smyrna, is a captain with Detachment 1, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment stationed at Forward Operating Base Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq, and a graduate of the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md. He is the executive officer and the team leader of Alpha Team. In his fourth year of law school at Nashville School of Law, Graves plans to practice law in the Rutherford County area after graduation.

**Matthew H. Lane** (B.S. '99), Murfreesboro, recently accepted a position with the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District as operation coordinator. The organization is responsible for working with the county's public safety agencies in maintaining their 911 telephone answering equipment, assisting in the training of new dispatchers and providing public education regarding the 911 system.

**Eugene E. Radzik** (B.S. '96), San Leandro, Calif., currently is working on a major rollout of Dolby Digital Cinema technology for Dolby Laboratories.

**Nicole Lester Russell** (B.S. '98), Murfreesboro, has opened her own law office representing clients in a variety of cases including criminal defense, civil litigation, business law, wills and estates and divorce and family law issues.

**Dr. Mark Conley Spraker** (B.S. '98), Dahlonega, Ga., has been named the North Georgia College and State University Alumni Association Distinguished Professor for 2005, where he is an associate professor of physics.

**George Michael Winters** (B.S. '97), Murfreesboro, is a staff sergeant with Detachment 1, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment stationed at Forward Operating Base Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq, and a graduate of the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md. He is the non-commissioned officer in charge of Team Alpha and works in Smyrna for the Army National Guard at the Strength Readiness Support Center.

## 2000s

**Anthony D. Buchanan** (B.U.S. '04), Shelbyville, is a second lieutenant with Detachment 1, 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment stationed at Forward Operating Base Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq, and a graduate of the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md. He is the team leader of the C Team and received his commission in 2004 through the ROTC program at MTSU.

**Lauren K. Herbstritt** (B.S. '03), Columbus, Miss., serves as fund development manager of the Northeast Mississippi Girl Scouts. Herbstritt's duties include raising funds and awareness for Girl Scouts in 19 counties in the region.

**Misty Holt** (B.S. '03), Benbrook, Texas, was named the student development coordinator for the University of North Texas-Health Science Center.

**Malia A. Jackson** (B.S. '04), Antioch, has accepted the position of marketing and career services coordinator at ITT Technical Institute in Nashville.

**Heather Janel Johnson** (B.S. '00), Antioch, was named department manager at Word Distribution. Johnson previously served as credit administrator for the company.

**Terra Leigh Jones** (B.U.S. '04), Wake Forest, N.C., has entered the master's program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Lee Stewart** (B.S. '03), Smyrna, has joined Corporate Flight Management Aircraft Sales as a market analyst. He will focus on tracking industry trends and researching pre-owned aircraft markets for the company's clients. He previously served as a dispatcher in the company's charter department.

**Dustin Lee Rawls** (B.S. '01), Cookeville, is serving as director of orientation and student success at Tennessee Technological University. He previously served as coordinator of Greek life at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.

**Phillip B. Tatum** (B.S.N. '03), Linden, graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis with a master of science in nursing, specializing as a family nurse practitioner.

**Jose Humberto Valdovinos** (B.A. '02) Murfreesboro, serves as a claims representative and Spanish translator for the Social Security Administration.

## In memoriam

**Editor's note: MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.**

### 1930s

**Louise Gower Elliston** (B.S. '36), Covington, died June 27, 2005.

### 1940s

**Robbie Cummings Bratton** (B.S. '47), Columbia, died Sept. 16, 2005.

### 1950s

**Jeanette Moore Johns** (B.S. '59), Clinton, died Nov. 1, 2005.

### 1960s

**Claudius Reed Clements** (B.S. '68), LaFayette, Ga., died Nov. 1, 2005.

**Ronald E. Hamilton** (B.S. '68), Oakland Park, Fla., died July 7, 2005.

**Anne Bentley Pavlovsky** (B.S. '63), San Antonio, Texas, died April 2, 2003.

### 1970s

**Sarah Kay Matthews Bowden** (B.S. '72, M.Ed. '80), Lewisburg, died Aug. 10, 2005.

**Jimmie Joseph Combs** (M.S.T. '72), Noble, Okla., died July 3, 2004.

**Darvin Dell Hendee** (B.S. '75), Littleton, Colo., died Sept. 10, 2005.

### 1980s

**Gary Lillard** (B.S. '81), Benton, died Nov. 10, 2005.

## Baby Raiders

**Elijah Jordan Chapdelaine**, born Aug. 27, 2005, to **Jasmine Cloud** (B.S. '05) and Eric Chapdelaine of Lawrenceville, NJ.

**Mason Phillips** and **Katelyn Suzanne Donahue**, born June 6, 2005, to **Monica Mason** (B.B.A. '98) and **Jason Donahue** (B.S. '97) of Plantation, Fla.

**William Jackson Donald**, born April 26, 2005, to **Jaime Belcher** (B.S. '01) and Ryan Donald of Concord, N.C.

**Catherine Jean "C.J." Henderson**, born May 17, 2005, to **Rene** (B.S. '91) and Michael Henderson of Flower Mound, Texas.

**William Dane Ivie**, born Dec. 19, 2005, to Shannon and **Bill Ivie** (B.S. '91) of Hermitage.

**Nathan Charles Pierce**, born July 29, 2005, to **Jamie Baucum** (B.S. '99) and **Charles Pierce** (B.S. '00) of Murfreesboro.

## MTSU — from Page 1

rial service is planned Anyone wanting Walker can make a donation in his memory to the James E. Walker Library, MTSU, Office of Development and Advancement Services, P.O. Box 109, Wood-Stegall Center, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

A much-sought-after historian and author, Wolfe, a Murfreesboro resident, died Feb. 9 after an extended battle with diabetes. He is survived by his wife, Mary Dean, his daughters, Stacey (B.A. '94, M.A. '03) and Cindy (B.A. '00), son-in-law Mark Beatty and grandchildren Katie and Aiden Charles.

With some 19 scholarly books whose subjects varied from the Louvin Brothers to Leadbelly to his credit — not to mention hundreds of journal articles on folklore and pop culture — Wolfe was well-known for his wide-ranging expertise. Among his many accolades and critical recognitions, he was the recipient of the prestigious ASCAP Deems Taylor Award not once but twice, including recently in 2000 for his book "A Good-Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry." Wolfe won the prize the first time for a book he co-authored, "The Life and Legend of Leadbelly."

"Charles was a gentle giant, a prolific scholar and beloved colleague whose presence in the English department and in the university gave new and unique meaning to the term 'professor,'" said Dr. John McDaniel, dean, College of Liberal Arts, talking about Wolfe's prolific productivity, including 19 scholarly books (with others still in the offing) and hundreds of articles on music, folklore, popular culture and music history.

# Spring becomes busy time for alumni, MTSU

Spring is quickly approaching and, with it, a whirlwind of activity is surrounding the Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.

The term "spring cleaning" has taken on a whole new meaning in the alumni relations office. Staff members are cleaning out old files, supplies and materials in anticipation for their big move to new offices. The staff will be split into two buildings located next to each other (2259 and 2263) on Middle Tennessee Boulevard. With a projected moving date of May, the staff has been busy packing belongings and planning events, tasks that are sometimes difficult to do by themselves, let alone simultaneously.

Staff members look forward to hosting you in their new locations, so please

feel free to stop by and check out their new surroundings if you are in the neighborhood after the move. We hope this move is going to enhance our alumni programming by providing a more accessible location, better parking and room to grow.

Other projects taking place on campus include an addition to the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, creation of a parking lot off Rutherford Boulevard that is expected to add 1,100 student parking spots, and construction of the Naked Eye Observatory in Walnut Grove, the



Trail

only one of its kind in the nation.

The Alumni Association is providing new opportunities to get involved with your university this spring. If you're a young alumnus (age 35 or under), please take advantage of a Young Alumni Gathering. Held the first Thursday of every month, these gatherings are a chance for young alumni to connect with each other in a casual atmosphere. Please check [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) for information about these events.

We are also looking forward to partnering with the Blue Raider Athletic Association by offering the Blue Raider Blast Caravan throughout Tennessee. At these events, alumni and community members will meet our new head football coach, Rick Stockstill, and additional athletic coaches and staff.

To get more directly involved, you may want to think about serving on the Alumni Association's board of directors. Alumni who serve on this board provide input and offer insight on alumni events and programming. I have had the pleasure of working with an intelligent, diverse group of people, and I encourage you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity. If this interests you, please contact the alumni relations office.

As always, please connect with your university and let us know if you have ideas of how we can be of service to you. Be Proud. Be Loud. Be Blue.

*MTSU National Alumni Association President Sandra Trail graduated from MTSU in 1972 with a B.S. degree in accounting. She practices law in Murfreesboro with her husband, Larry Trail (B.S. '75). Both are very involved in community and professional activities.*

## Media veteran establishes endowment honoring family

By Gina Fann

An esteemed media veteran is honoring her MTSU-alumni family and encouraging future MTSU alumni by establishing an endowment for Wayne and Trousdale county students with a \$104,000 gift.

Dr. Virginia "Jenny" Dodge Fielder, a former vice president for research for Knight Ridder Inc., and a charter member of MTSU's College of Mass Communication Board of Visitors, established The Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship in

December to recognize the work of her late father, James Harris Fielder (B.S. '34), her mother, Eva Wilburn Fielder (B.S. '42), and her aunt, Virginia Fielder Hobbs (B.S. '37).

All were Tennessee educators. The endowment gift honoring them is a stock transfer valued at \$104,000.

"They were sort of pioneers then, to have college degrees and teach back in the 1930s," said the Wayne County High



Fielder

School alumna of her loved ones. "They'd teach a while and come back to MTSU (to take classes) and then teach again. My mother, for example, taught for 33 years — three generations of students. The legacy of their impact is large and long-lived, and I wanted that impact to be perpetual."

One \$4,500 scholarship will be awarded annually beginning in the 2006-07 academic year to a Wayne County resident attending MTSU with an inter-

est in journalism, mass communication, elementary and/or special education, nursing, music or recording industry. The recipients will be known as the Fielder Scholars, and preference will be given to students with financial need.

If no one from Wayne County is eligible in a given year, then students from

Trousdale County, Eva W. Fielder's home county, will be considered.

Application details for the Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship will be forthcoming at the Foundation/Departmental Scholarships link on the university's financial aid home page: [financialaid.web.mtsu.edu/schinfo.htm](http://financialaid.web.mtsu.edu/schinfo.htm).

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We are now accepting nominations for the

### 2006 - 2007 Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards

The Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association annually seeks and accepts nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards. The selection is made from candidates who have distinguished themselves by obtaining a high level of service to their profession, their community and/or Middle Tennessee State University.

Nominations are sought for the following award categories:

*Distinguished Alumni - Professional Achievement  
Distinguished Alumni - Service to the Community  
Distinguished Alumni - Service to the University  
Young Alumni Achievement Award*

To view nomination and selection criteria as well as obtain a nomination form:

- visit [www.mtalumni.com](http://www.mtalumni.com) for a downloadable version
- call the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878 to have one mailed or faxed to you.

Nominations must be postmarked by April 12, 2006.  
Nominations are valid for one year only.

Any nominations postmarked after April 12 will be entered into the following year's applications.

### NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD 2005-06

#### Officers

President - Sandra Trail ('72)	Murfreesboro
VP/President-elect - Bob Lamb ('69, '77)	Murfreesboro
Exec. Dir. - Ginger Corley Freeman ('89, '92)	Murfreesboro
Secretary - Mary Esther Bell ('92, '94, '96)	Smyrna
Treasurer - Devin McClendon ('96)	Brentwood
Past president - Ben Landers ('77)	Knoxville

#### Board Members

Rodney Bennett ('90, '92, '93)	Athens, Ga.
Michele Butler ('04)	Goodlettsville
Brent Campbell ('02)	Murfreesboro
Marshall Campbell ('00)	Murfreesboro
David A. Cullum ('55)	Nashville
Ryan P. Durham ('98)	Lawrenceburg
Michael Fairbanks ('92)	Atlanta, Ga.
Marla Frisby ('95)	Murfreesboro
Ashley Elizabeth Graham	Washington, D.C.
Donna Hastings ('70, '74)	Murfreesboro
Beth Barber Jones ('99)	Columbia
Jack R. Lewis Jr. ('64)	Danville, Va.
John Marshall ('02, '04)	Murfreesboro
Ernest McKinney ('76)	Nashville
Bud Morris ('68, '75, '81)	Murfreesboro
Kevin S. Proffitt ('85)	Maryville
Liz Rhea ('55)	Murfreesboro
Brandon Robbins ('03)	Livingston
Ronald Q. Roberts ('84, '91)	Murfreesboro
Bob Rochelle ('68)	Lebanon
Mary L. Secrest ('74, '78)	Atlanta, Ga.
Lana C. Seivers ('72)	Nashville
R. Eugene Smith ('57)	Collierville
Jim L. Stubblefield ('83)	Murfreesboro
Janice B. Tant ('76)	Nashville
Ron Vannatta	Shelbyville
Chip Walters ('85)	Murfreesboro
Phyllis H. Washington ('74, '77)	Murfreesboro
Hanna R. Witherspoon ('64)	Murfreesboro
Andy Womack ('70)	Murfreesboro
Bob Womack ('48)	Murfreesboro
Stephanie W. Workman ('92)	Knoxville
Courtney E. Yates ('83)	Murfreesboro

#### Ex Officio Members

Sidney A. McPhee	MTSU President
John W. Cothorn	Senior Vice President
William J. Bales	VP, Development and Univ. Relations
Ken H. Summar	MTSU Foundation President
Diane S. Gower	MTSU BRAA President
Rebecca M. Fischer	MTSU Faculty Senate President
Paul B. Fulcher	MTSU SGA President

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Bredesen initiates science building funding

MTSU moved closer toward the realization of a new \$94 million science building with the Feb. 7 announcement by Gov. Phil Bredesen that he included \$15 million for phase one of the building as part of the \$354.6 million capital appropriations for 2006-07.

A new building will replace Wisner-Patton Science Hall and the "newer" Davis Science Building.

The new facility, which likely will not be completed until MTSU's centennial celebration in 2011 or later, would be the new home to the College of Basic and Applied Sciences' biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics and astronomy departments and geosciences from the College of Liberal Arts.

### Thompson visit raises obesity awareness

Tommy Thompson, former Wisconsin governor and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, was the featured speaker for the MTSU Initiative on Obesity breakfast in January.

Thompson came to show his support for six faculty members who have taken a step toward fighting obesity through a study that began in fall 2005 with a group of fourth-graders at two Murfreesboro city schools.

Earl Swensson, chairholder of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, has supported the MTSU initiative.

### Donors toss 1st pitch for \$5M baseball park

Former MTSU baseball players Steve Smith (\$300,000) and Dewon Brazelton (\$250,000), community leader and alumnus Howard Wall (\$100,000) and Coach Steve Peterson (\$10,000) helped launch the capital campaign for a new 3,000-seat, \$5 million MTSU baseball park set to open in 2008. The city of Murfreesboro will contribute about \$1.5 million toward the project, a decision made after the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association moved its annual Spring Fling to Murfreesboro.

### Listen in as MTSU adds podcasts

Each edition of the weekly radio show "MTSU On the Record" now will be available as an mp3 file at [mtnews.com](http://mtnews.com), the Office of News and Public Affairs announced recently.

Hosted by media representative Gina Logue and Tom Tozer, NPA director, the 30-minute program features interviews with newsmakers and campus visitors and has aired for more than five years on WMOT-FM 89.5.

### Manufacturing conference set March 16

The MTSU Manufacturing Excellence Conference will be held March 16 in Murfreesboro. Alumni and manufacturing experts are invited. For details, call 615-898-2462 or contact Dr. Charles Perry, chairholder, Russell Chair of Manufacturing Excellence, at 615-898-5683.

### MTSU visits the Windy City

Led by Dr. Anantha Babbili, dean, College of Mass Communication, MTSU representatives met with alumni recently in Chicago. (Far right) Babbili, left, visits with the father/daughter team of Bob (B.S. '73) and Melanie (B.S. '00) Keiffer. (Right) Saran Dunmore (B.S. '92), Shannon Byers (B.A. '95) and Carol Levy (B.S. '62, M.A. '65) recall their MTSU experiences.



Photos by Steven Barnes



Photo by Ken Robinson

New football coach Rick Stockstill, left, fields questions from sportswriting alumni Adam Sparks (B.S. '02) of the *Daily News Journal* and Mike Organ (B.S. '85) of *The Tennessean*.

### Meet coaches at Blue Raider Blast Caravan

The MTSU Blue Raider Blast Caravan, featuring head coaches Rick Stockstill (football), Kermit Davis (men's basketball) and Rick Insell (women's basketball), will be visiting the following Tennessee communities in April and May: Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

During the day, golfers will enjoy playing 18 holes with the coaching staff and Director of Athletics Chris Massaro, while alumni, friends and supporters can mix and mingle throughout the evening.

Look for details in your mailbox, or log onto [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) for the latest information on the Blue Raider Blast Caravan.

We hope to see you there.

— Patience Long

### Coach from Page 1

nator G.A. Mangus, Larry Kirksey (running backs), Jimmy Ray Stephens (offensive line), Justin Watts (wide receivers), Brent Brock (tight ends), defensive coordinator Manny Diaz, Art Kaufman (linebackers), Les Herrin (defensive line), Antonio Goss (cornerbacks) and director of football operations Danny Lewis — will lead MT into 15 days of spring practice that will begin March 15 and end with the Blue-and-White Spring Game April 8.

Stockstill, 45, who replaced Andy McCollum as coach, will serve as host to an April 7 golf tournament for former MT lettermen at Old Fort Golf Course. For information, call Jim Simpson at 615-898-5632.

Stockstill used a "Put Stock in Middle Tennessee" marketing plan to attract Massaro's attention and ultimately earn the job. He committed to tireless effort by himself, the coaching staff and players.

"Every day I come into that office, I'll do it with great effort, passion and enthusiasm," said Stockstill, who gained a reputation as an outstanding recruiter at South Carolina and Clemson.



### MT will be host to Sun Belt men's and women's tourneys

Teams, fans and media will converge at Murphy Center March 2-7 for the Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference championships in men's and women's basketball. Tourney brackets and the schedule of games will be announced just before the start of the tournament. The respective men's and women's winners will advance to the 65-team NCAA Tournament later in March.

Visit [goblueraiders.com](http://goblueraiders.com) to learn the latest about MT athletics news and spring sports schedules.

### Blue Raiders 2006 football schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time (Central)
Aug. 31	Florida International	Murfreesboro	6 p.m./ESPN+
Sept. 9	Maryland	College Park, Md.	TBA
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>Tennessee Tech</b>	<b>Murfreesboro</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Sept. 23	Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sept. 30	North Texas*	Denton, Texas	TBA
<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>Nashville</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Oct. 21	Louisiana-Monroe*	Monroe, La.	TBA
Oct. 28	La.-Lafayette*	Lafayette, La.	TBA
<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Florida Atlantic*</b>	<b>Murfreesboro</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Nov. 11	Arkansas State*	Jonesboro, Ark.	TBA
Nov. 18	South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	TBA
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Troy*</b>	<b>Murfreesboro</b>	<b>TBA</b>

Dates and opponents are tentative and subject to change.

Home games in bold.

\* — Sun Belt Conference game