Three million dollars down, less than $2 million to go, and university alumni and friends can do their part to help finish the job of raising the $5 million for the 3,000-seat Reese Smith Field for baseball.

“The baseball stadium will be a showpiece — a masterpiece — for our campus,” said Alan Farley (B.B.A. ’92), associate athletic director for fund raising and Blue Raider Athletic

Hawkins earns national aviation award

Two years into the academic arena but with 30-plus years experience in aircraft maintenance, MTSU’s Joe Hawkins experienced the “pinnacle” in his profession earlier this year. Hawkins, 51, assistant professor, aerospace, made aviation history in Tennessee as the state’s first National Aviation Technician of the Year for 2006.

The Tennessee Aviation Association’s Aviation Maintenance Conference Steering Committee nominated him for the award.

“To be picked No. 1 is humbling,” Hawkins, an MTSU alumnus (B.A. ’99, M.A. ’03), said. “I’m here to teach. I’m in a comfortable environment (teaching). I’m elated that I won, and I did work hard. But I’ve achieved my goal, and that was to work at MTSU.”

He will receive his award in July at Oshkosh, Wis.

Harrison hits high note, wins Met Opera event

Tennessee native Holli Harrison (B.M. ’99) now calls New York City home. Harrison, who has been juggling auditions, meetings and recitals in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Texas and even Paris in recent weeks, knows that the Big Apple has been good to her.

New York hosted the 52nd Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals, where Harrison showcased a soprano voice called “dark and mezzo-like” by The New York Times. When all was said and sung at the close of the nationwide contest, only five performers became winners—one of whom was Harrison, who also claimed a $15,000 prize.

“So far, (winning) has meant being able to pay for a lot of lessons and coaching and music … (and) one shopping trip,” Harrison said of the perks of her recent success.

— Joshua C. Hall (B.S. ’06) mass communication

Homecoming’s happening Nov. 4

Angel Feagans (B.M. ’00), left, a clerk in the MTSU records office, walks with her nephew, Christopher Feagans Jr., 4, of Murfreesboro, and her mother, Linda Feagans (B.F.A. ’03), an executive aide in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences’ master of science in professional science program, last fall while walking with other Baby Raiders and their families at the Homecoming Parade. Homecoming 2006 activities will surround the Nov. 4 MTSU vs. Florida Atlantic football game. Look for more details in September’s The Alumni Record or mtalumni.com.
Mass Communication adds 4 to ‘Wall of Fame’

3 alumni, ‘Friend of the College’ honored during April 25 event

By Gina E. Fann

T
ree accomplished MTSU alumni and one "Friend of the College" have been added to the growing roster of the College of Mass Communication’s Wall of Fame.

Dean Anantha Babbili announced during an April 25 ceremony that alumni Reza J. Baktar, Glenn Middleworth and Connie Cass O’Connell would be honored with plaques and photos installed on the northwest interior wall of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Also honored was Friend of the College Dr. Virginia Dodge Fielder.

“These are people who believe in us, who trust us, who have faith that we’ll do well because they have done well,” Baktar said of the additions. “They are sincere in helping our students and spreading the word of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication.”

The Wall of Fame began in 2000 as a way to honor successful mass communication graduates and inspire current students to work toward their goals. With the new honorees, the Wall of Fame now has 41 members. Details about the four 2006 additions include:

• Baktar (B.S. ’95), an alumnus of the Department of Electronic Media Communication, began his television career at WTVF News-Channel 5 in Nashville while still an MTSU student. His career path so far has led him to CNN, Fox News, ABC News and back to CNN, where he now works as a senior executive in the news organization’s Washington bureau.

• Middleworth (B.S. ’80), one of the first graduates of the fledgling Department of Recording Industry, started his career in the RCA Records mailroom and moved into music publishing. After stints at the Opryland Music Group and EMI, he joined Famous Music Group and EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined EMI, he joined

• O’Connell (B.S. ’87), an alumnus of the School of Journalism, began her career with The Associated Press part time while still at MTSU. She joined AP’s Nashville bureau full time upon graduation. Since 1993, O’Connell has worked in Washington, D.C., with the largest AP bureau.

• Fielder, the 2006 “Friend of the College,” is a former vice president for research for Knight Ridder Inc. and a charter member of the college’s Board of Visitors. She recently established The Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship to recognize the work of her late father, mother and aunt with a gift now valued at $120,000.

Did you know?

MTSU's unique Concrete Industry program raised $104,000 toward its building program for the second straight year through a golf tournament. Get on board for 2007 by calling 615-904-6399 or 615-996-5903.

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UR049-0506

‘Living memorial’ donations sought

By Gina Logue

Follow the Memorial Day weekend of appreciation for America’s fallen veterans, momentum continues to swell for the creation of a “living memorial” on campus to MTSU faculty, staff and students who gave the last full measure of devotion for their country.

Now that MTSU backing has been secured, the implementation phase is under way. A committee is working diligently to engage the university and the Middle Tennessee community in the project while adding to a database of students and alumni who have been killed or reported missing in U.S. military service from 1911 to the present.

1st Lt. Ken Ballard (B.S. ’02), who was killed in Iraq in 2004, is a major inspiration for the concept. Dr. Andrei Korobkov, an associate professor of political science, taught Ballard in three classes.

“A son of a single mother, he went to the Army after school, served in Bosnia and Macedonia, decided to continue his education and came to MTSU,” said Korobkov, who added that Ballard was an international relations major and military science minor. “He was commissioned and quickly went to Iraq, where he was in the most dangerous area of the Sunni Triangle.”

Luka Burke (B.S. ’10) saw firsthand the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans as a member of the production crew for MTV News. Here he props a foot on a totaled vehicle, “While shooting B-roll of the city, it was nothing for us to find a baby picture or ID laying in the streets,” he said. “Who knows how many miles it floated to its resting place?” The MTV crew documented what it was like for three consolidated school bands to come together for the Mardi Gras parade in February.

O’Connell

Published by America

Tina Potter (B.S. ’96) serves as marketing/PR coordinator for the International Bluegrass Music Association. She oversees event, publicity and development sponsor relationships and markets World of Bluegrass from Sept. 25 until Oct. 1 in Nashville.

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Summer Reading selection to ‘excite . . . engage’ freshmen

By Carrie Hargett

MTSU’s 2006 Summer Reading selection is “Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World” by Greg Critser, who is scheduled to be the guest speaker during the Aug. 27 Convocation.

Fat Land explores obesity in America not only as a health issue but also in terms of business and psychology. The book also ties in with MTSU’s Obesity Project, which started this year.

“The Summer Reading committee looks for a book each year that will excite the freshmen, that will engage them in an academic pursuit, that will allow them to examine an issue from many perspectives and make up their own minds,” said Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center.

Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 28. All University 1010 classes will discuss Fat Land.

Witherow also is trying to recruit faculty from other academic departments to use the text. She’s suggested that the book would be a perfect starting point for discussions on a wide range of topics and is especially recommended for use in education, child development, nutrition, economics, journalism, wellness, psychology, sociology and social work courses.

“I want everyone on campus to read the book so that when the freshmen come we can show them that we’ve been anticipating their arrival and want to welcome them to an engaged academic community,” Witherow said.

Critser will speak at Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 2 p.m. He will attend the President’s Picnic immediately following Convocation. On Monday, Aug. 28, Critser will speak to Dr. Bob Pondillo’s Understanding Mass Media class.

Critser, a writer specializing in nutrition, health and medical issues, is regularly published in USA Today and in the Sunday opinion section of the Los Angeles Times. His essays and features have also appeared as cover stories in Harper’s Magazine, Worth, Washington Monthly and the Washington Post Magazine. His writing on obesity earned a James Beard nomination for best feature writing in 1999. Fat Land is his first book, he’s also the author of Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies and National Geographic Traveler: California.

Fat Land may be purchased on campus and at local bookstores. It’s available in hardback and paperback, and online sellers may have used copies. Faculty interested in using Fat Land in their classrooms this fall should contact Summer Patterson at the Academic Support Center (615-898-2339 or spatter@mtsu.edu) to receive a review copy for evaluation.

Members of the MTSU Pep Band play lively tunes for freshmen attending Convocation in Murphy Center. Author Greg Critser (“Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World”) will be the featured speaker at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, during Fall Convocation 2006.
Alumni achievers saluted
6 receive President’s Celebration of Excellence recognition March 25

6 alumni shared the spotlight with MTSU students and faculty during the third annual President’s Celebration of Excellence March 25 in the James Union Building’s Tennessee Room.

Dr. Bob Womack (B.S. ’48), professor of educational leadership and faculty member since 1957, was presented with the President’s Legacy Award. Womack has been part of the MTSU landscape for more than 60 years, first as a student and then as a faculty member. His teaching methods and examples have influenced thousands of former students.

Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Rhea (B.S. ’55), a longtime supporter of the university, was presented the Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy, a Tennessee Board of Regents award. Rhea and her late husband, Creighton, both physicians, supported the university as financial donors and leaders in the MTSU Foundation, Blue Raider Athletic Association and National Alumni Association. She was named as both a Distinguished Alumna and recipient of the 1998 Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2005-06 Distinguished Alumni also were recognized. They included Don Ash (B.S. ’77) of Murfreesboro, Nancy Youree Duggin (B.S. ’74, M.Ed. ’76, Ed.S. ’91 and ’96, and C4 ’04) and John Hill (B.S. ’57) of River Falls, Wis. Ash has been Circuit Court judge, Part III, for the 16th Judicial District since 1994. He served as a La Vergne city judge and practiced law in Murfreesboro.

Duggin has been manager of instruction and outstanding volunteer efforts in raising money for the institution.

Hill is professor emeritus in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he has been a faculty member or department chair since 1963. He has authored chemistry and children’s books.

Stephanie Bellis-Warner (B.S. ’97) of Arrington was the Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient. The former MTSU dispatcher for public safety is the first female member of the Rutherford County Sheriff’s Department’s Felony Arrest Search Team. She served as an officer and hostage negotiator for the Brentwood Police Department, where her heroic actions during a bank robbery are used in an instructional training video for police academies around the United States. She works in the fraud prevention unit of Regions Bank in Nashville.

PIGSKIN PREGAME
Smiths will be hosts for Aug. 25 event

Mark your calendars! Pigskin Pregame will be held on Friday, Aug. 25.

Because of the huge success of last year’s event, the Rutherford County Alumni Chapter has decided to hold it once again at the home of Tommy and Judy Smith, former dean of women at MTSU.

Be looking for more details, including event time, at mtalumni.com.
Theatre alumni reminisce

Trish Clark (B.A. ’80), left, of Murfreesboro listens while Ruth Cordell (B.S. ’77) of Manchester points out the familiar face of a former classmate during a theatre alumni reunion. Clark and Cordell were among more than 60 former theatre students and faculty who gathered at a February reception.

Alumna covers Invention Convention

Alumna Allison Hatcher (B.S. ’00), right, an anchor and video journalist for Nashville’s WKRN-Channel 2, interviews Ben Hickson, 10, a fourth-grade student at Byers Dowdy Elementary School in Lebanon about “The Miracle (Lunch) Box” he entered in the 14th annual Invention Convention earlier this year. His lunch box is designed to carry both hot and cold items simultaneously in different compartments. More than 300 children participated; Hatcher also served as emcee.

Visit our new home

The newly renovated properties at 2259 and 2263 Middle Tennessee Blvd. serve as the new home for the Office of Alumni Relations. Feel free to stop and visit.

Making a difference beautifying campus

Alumnus Bruce Jordan (B.S. ’68) places a piece of sod next to the Blue Horseshoe as part of Campus Beautification Day in April.

Rachel Edington (B.S. ’06), right, a student at the time, and others raked brush at the home of her grandparents, Martha (B.S. ’58) and retired professor Dr. Richard McCord (B.S. ’53), during a second day of community beautification.

Terry Brown Williams (B.S. ’83), Murfreesboro, has accepted a position as an instructional advisor to MTSU’s Chi Omega Fraternity chapter.

Dr. Barbara Piazza Young (M.A.T. ’93, Ed.D. ’10), Atlanta, recently was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Georgia Art Education Association.

Jennifer Stone Burt (B.A. ’91), Tullahoma, has worked at Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma for 12 years in the information technology department.

Charles Carnahan (B.S. ’88, M.B.A. ’01, Ed.D. ’04), San Antonio, was recently appointed as director of the Office of Student Life at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Dr. Dorothy Valez Chicag (B.S. ’72, M.H.A. ’98), Fort Worth, recently was appointed as associate dean for the College of Education at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Robert Barry Blair (M.B.E. ’87), Brentwood, has accepted an offer to be the principal for the new Tullahoma Middle School.

Brentwood, recently was named chair-elect of the Public Relations Society of America Counselors Academy.

Dr. Robert Wayne Blair (M.B.E. ’87), Murfreesboro, was elected president of the Southern Business Education Association at its annual meeting, where he also received the 2005 Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award.

Brentwood,连忙 was accepted into the Master’s in History program at the University of Tennessee, where she serves as an assistant professor.

Marsha Osgathorp Smith (B.S. ’72, M.A. ’86), Murfreesboro, completed a workshop on "Teaching Teens in Relationship to the Tennessee Blueprint for Learning," at the 32nd annual Southeastern Association of Teacher Educators Conference.

Lisa Herring Mayo (B.S. ’92), Black Mountain, N.C., recently released her third book, "Old Ninety Six," a history and guide about a Revolutionary War site in South Carolina.

Stephen Marc-Douglas Halsey (B.S. ’86), Murfreesboro, completed the Officer Candidate School of the Tennessee Army National Guard and received a second lieutenant commission with the 1/181 HIMARS Field Artillery in Chattanooga. A graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, held at Fort Sill, Okla., in 2005, he also completed the full-time for the Department of Information Management, Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard, and the Nashville Area National Guard.

Edward Sale (M.A. ’98), Summerville, S.C., recently was awarded a report written on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. His report documented the Saluda Dam Entrance, a historic property built in the 1930s and 1940s, and was selected as one of 10 publications to receive a 2005 Notable State Document Award.

James C. Summers III (B.A. ’90), White Plains, Md., has accepted a position as an admistrative assistant to the White House Communications Agency.

William B. Thompson (B.S. ’91), Murfreesboro, returned home safely from his 2005-06 active duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received several awards during his tour of duty including the Bronze Star Medal (OPF III), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon.

Working full-time with the National Guard as training officer for the 473rd based in Columbus, he anticipates a promotion to lieutenant status.

Jim Vesper (M.B.A. ’91), Maryville, has accepted a position with US LEC, a premier telecommunications partner for business that delivers quality voice, data and Internet services.

Wright Winfrey (B.S. ’95), Chattanooga, graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 2000 and works with the Hamilton County District Attorney’s Office prosecuting major felonies. She is the lead prosecutor for all child abuse crimes in the division.

Monica L. Wright (B.S. ’95), Murfreesboro, published "Justice Was Arthur Wearing?" Discrepancies in Dress Descriptions in Twelfth Century Romances," in "Philological Quarterly." Wright's article "De fil d’or et de soie: Descriptions in Twelfth Century Romances" will be included in the forthcoming book "Le Style de France’s Gaëtan." Her "Use of Textiles" will be in the Proceedings of the Eleventh Congress of the International Medieval Literature Society.

James C. Summers (B.A. ’90), Black Mountain, N.C., recently was appointed as research and port lecturer.

Sarah Berry (B.S. ’03), Dayton, Ohio, serves as an operational support specialist for Executive Jet Management in Cincinnati.

She won the 2005 annual competition for "Most Likely to Succeed" in the "KU Chronicle" as part of the show's "KU Chronicle."
Alumni presence

MTSU National Alumni Association president-elect Bob Lamb (B.S. ’69, M.S. ’77), right, was among a number of alumni and friends of the university who participated in the annual Jennifer N. Jones College of Business Executives in Residence held earlier this spring. Joining Lamb for the Spirit of America Award presentation was student escort Angie Farmer, a senior management major from La Vergne. Other alumni included Don Ash (B.S. ’77), Tom Boyd (B.S. ’73), Jim Holland (B.S. ’72), Richard Key (B.S. ’62), Scott McCormick (B.B.A. ’80), Bill Mooningham (B.S. ’68), Charlie Myatt (B.S. ’69), G. Ron Nichols (B.S. ’70), Aaron Solomon (B.S. ’94), Holly Thompson Lynch (B.S. ’94) and Courtney Yates (B.B.A. ’93).

Very successful year’ paves way to a fresh start in 2006-07

I t’s hard to believe that it has been a year already, and my term as the president of your Alumni Association Board of Directors has come to an end. As I take this opportunity to look back on a very successful year, I hope you join me in looking toward the future of your Alumni Association and all it has to offer.

Our alumni base continues to grow, and with it so do the programs and services offered by the Office of Alumni Relations. From the Blue Raider Fan Caravan and reunions for alumni of a specific major or interest to Young Alumni Gatherings, the alumni office works to stay in touch and provide offerings we hope are of interest to you. As always, the staff and students welcome your input so please contact them if you have an idea for a new event, service or program.

The alumni office has moved into a new location that will allow staff members to better serve you. The office occupies two buildings located at 2529 and 2263 Middle Tennessee Blvd. If you are in the area, please feel free to stop by and update your contact information, page through old yearbooks or simply visit and reminisce about some of your favorite college memories.

This fall, we will welcome a new era of Blue Raider football under the direction of head coach Rick Stockstill and the talented members of his coaching staff. I hope you can join me in cheering on your Blue Raiders for what is sure to be an exciting season.

To kick off the football season, we will again offer the Pigskeg Pregame Party on Friday, Aug. 25, at the Murphy Center home of our gracious hosts, Tommy (B.S. ’99) and Judy (B.S. ’60, M.S.W. ’62) Smith. Please make plans to attend this event that offers food, fun, and, best of all, great company.

Another event to mark on your calendar is Homecoming 2006, which will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4. If it’s been a month since you’ve been on campus or more like a few years, we welcome you home to your alma mater for the fun-filled festivities that Homecoming has to offer.

As you can tell, there is a lot to look forward to, and I’m confident that the Alumni Association will continue to succeed under the leadership of your incoming alumni board president, Bob Lamb (B.S. ’69, M.S. ’77). The enthusiasm and zeal for the university will make him a tremendous asset to alumni, and I have no doubt that his impact as president will be far-reaching.

It has been my honor to serve you throughout the past year. As my term ends, I would like to remind you that you can make an impact that no amount of advertising can do. I challenge you to connect with your university and get involved, and I’m confident that you’re up to this challenge.

Be Loud. Be Proud. Be Blue.

MTSU National Alumni Association President Sandra Trail graduated from MTSU in 1972 with a B.S. degree in accounting. She presently is a Murfreesboro resident, husband, Larry Trail (B.S. ’75). Both are very involved in community and professional activities.

MTSU Alumni Association

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Return of ‘The Graduate’ brings high hopes

MT Lady Raider basketball star Chrissy Givens graduated magna cum laude May 6 with a B.S. degree from the College of Education and Behavioral Science. However, with another year of NCAA eligibility, Givens will return to try to lead Coach Rick Insell’s team to a fourth straight Sun Belt Conference championship and fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament berth. Givens, an “ESPN Magazine” Academic All-American with a 3.87 GPA, was Sun Belt Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, tournament most valuable player and Tennessee Sportswriters’ All-State. MT will open the 2006-07 season against NCAA national champion Maryland Nov. 17 in Murphey Center.

Field

Association executive director.

And as for MTSU’s “Batter Up . . . Stepping Up to the Plate for Middle Tennessee Baseball” capital campaign that began in February, Farley sends this message to alumni and friends: “Our baseball program consistently has been to the NCAA Tournament on a regular basis. It’s a piece of our history. It’s a way to invest back in our university.

Then there are the hundreds of baseball alumni that Farley knows will be interested in pitching in to do their part. Coach Steve “Pete” Peterson (M.Ed. ’96) and former coach and athletic director John Stanford (B.S. ’62, M.A. ’84) are taking swings to recruit their former players.

“Coach Stanford and Coach Pete are reaching out to their former players to step up to the plate one more time for Blue Raider baseball,” Farley said. “Pretty much every decade has been represented.”

Farley said efforts have been made to attract ex-players who played together in four-year increments (such as 1978-81 and 1985-88). Farley added that “no gift is too small and no gift too large,” emphasizing former player Steve Smith’s challenge to “give till it hurts, and then give a little bit more.”

The new park’s construction will begin in the spring of 2007 and is expected to be finished by the start of the 2008 season. Farley, Peterson and Director of Athletics Chris Massaro believe the facility will enable the university to host NCAA Regional Tournament games. That’s in addition to being a site for Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Spring Fling (state tournament) games.

“When we host an NCAA Regional that’s carried live on national TV, as we can say, ‘That’s where I went to college,’” Farley said.

Added Peterson, “We will have the premier baseball facility in the Sun Belt Conference and the region, which not only will enable us to recruit at a higher level, but also have an opportunity to bid on and host a Sun Belt Conference Tournament, NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals.”

Architectural firms Cooke Douglass Farr Architects of Nashville and Moody Nolan of Nashville have been jointly hired to design the park that will double the current stadium’s seating capacity. Farley said David A. Lemons of CF&I and Brian Tibbs of Moody Nolan said the new park “will offer the traditional appeal of a classic ballpark while featuring professional-quality fan amenities” and “raise the bar for Sun Belt Conference baseball facilities.”

The city of Murfreesboro will contribute $1.5 million toward the project, in part because the TSSAA shifted Spring Fling to the city. For more information, contact Farley (farley@mtsu.edu) by calling 615-898-2210.

Blue Raiders 2006 football schedule

Chuck Taylor golf set June 6

The Chuck Taylor Golf Tournament will be held starting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, at Indian Hills Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the MTSU baseball program. Call Tommy Wheeler at 615-890-3333 or 615-898-4408 for more information.

Sports camps

Rick Stockstill Combines Camps — 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, and Thursday, June 8; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, June 10, for rising 9-12 graders; Floyd Stadium, $20.

2006 Middle Tennessee Women’s Basketball Camps — Team Camp I, June 2-6; Team Camp II, June 18-21; Lil’ Raider Camp, June 12-14; Individual Camp, June 28-July 2; fees vary, 615-898-5536.

MT Media Relations