Perseverance.

Actor Davies’ advice: ‘persevere’

Actor and alumnus Lane Davies’ (’72) favorite roles have been as Macbeth or Cervantes on stage and as Mason Capwell for five years in the television soap opera “Santa Barbara.”

However, Davies enjoys “giving back some of what I picked up when I was here,” he said of his 1968-72 days as a student under the tutelage of Dorothy Tucker, Lane Boutwell and Clay Havens. An adjunct faculty member in the Department of Speech and Theatre, Davies, who said that “live theater is my passion — it’s what lights me up the most,” returned to campus for an extended stay this fall to perform live theatre (in the role of Capulet in “Romeo and Juliet”), to present an open forum to discuss his career, and to teach. “I’m enjoying this aspect (teaching) and I’d like to do more,” he said. His advice: “Perseverance.”

MTSU endowment’s ‘remarkable growth’ reflects smart management, increased support

By Tom Tozer
tozer@mtsu.edu

The MTSU endowment ranks right up there with the endowment at Harvard University. Well, in one aspect anyway — overall performance.

While Harvard’s endowment is in the billions ($34.9 billion) and MTSU’s is in the millions ($34.9 million), both funds enjoyed a similar proportional increase during the past fiscal year.

MTSU’s jump from $29.8 million to its current figure is the result of a lot of hard work and smart asset management, and, as Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations, confirms, the increase shows that the MTSU Foundation is in excellent shape.

“The foundation really has had remarkable growth over the last two years,” Bales noted. “For 2005-06, we had asset value appreciation of more than 13 percent. Add to that the gifts we received that year, and the total growth of our endowment put us in the top 25 percent of colleges and universities in the nation.”

Bales added that this accomplishment occurred during a period of fiscal growth for the university overall.

Last year, MTSU enjoyed an asset appreciation of more than 13 percent, one of the top 10 increases in colleges and universities in the nation.

Add to that the gifts the university received that year, and the total growth of MTSU’s endowment for fiscal 2006 put it in the top 25 percent of colleges and universities in the nation.

Bales noted that MTSU’s gains came during a difficult time for many colleges and universities.

The University of Virginia, for example, had a 6.6 percent increase in asset value for fiscal 2006, while the University of Michigan experienced an asset value decrease of more than 18 percent.

Bales said the university’s gains reflect smart management and strong support from alumni.

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Cleaning up the Harpeth

Williamson County alumni met for the second Raiders on the Harpeth River Cleanup. Volunteers included (from left) Paul Wydra, alumni relations assistant director; Alumni Association Board President Devin McClendon (’96); Chuck Bibeau (’98); Roy Newhouse; Russell Henderson (’01) and Marc Rogers (’80).

Submitted photo

Alumni’s Wright enjoys new challenges

By Randy Weiler

New Office of Alumni Relations assistant director Rhonda Wright received a taste of one of her main job tasks, homecoming, when she was mentored this fall by associate director Michelle Stepp.

“I enjoy how homecoming brings students and alumni together,” Wright said. She wanted to jump into the mix and learn how the weekend comes together. “I can’t wait to plan next year’s celebration.”

Wright also will oversee alumni relations’ inaugural Alumni Summer College next June.

“Alumni College will provide an opportunity for alumni to expand their horizons when they return to campus and take classes without quizzes,” she said. “Interesting subjects and a fun field trip are planned to both educate and entertain our alumni.”

Wright, who has lived in Murfreesboro most of her life, came to MTSU from Middle Tennessee Christian School, where she was the director of admissions and public relations for 10 years.

A Lipscomb University alumna, Wright (B.S. ’94) majored in organizational communications.

Although new to the university, Wright feels a sense of familiarity. Her office, which is next door to the newly named Sam H. Ingram Building, is exactly where she studied in Sunday school classes as a member of North Boulevard Church of Christ.

“It is thrilling to be a part of the thriving community that is MTSU. I am honored to serve its alumni and friends,” said Wright, whose mother, brother and aunt hold MTSU degrees.

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Foundation

During a period when there was a significant decrease nationwide in the percentage of alumni who contributed to their alma maters, especially among public universities:

“We went the other way,” Bales said. “We’ve had a slow but steady increase. Even though we leveled off some last year, over the past few years we have seen an increase in alumni participation and an increase in total donors. I believe that’s a sign that people are confident in what’s going on at this university — and it’s worth a personal investment.”

While MTSU alumni giving is up, Bales also attributes the foundation’s impressive report card to knowledgeable people who serve on the board.

“The foundation board and its finance committee, as well as the professional fund manager we utilize, all work together well and try to maximize what this endowment can bring to this university,” he explained. “The other factor is that a couple of years ago the board changed strategically the way it managed the endowment. They looked at ways to stabilize the way we provided funds to the academic units and to balance the need for pay-out with the need to grow the endowment.”

More than a $1 million a year is now pumped into academic units in earnings from the endowment, which appear in the form of scholarships, faculty awards and student-support programs.

Bales says the way MTSU manages its endowment and directs its fundraising programs mirrors the practices of the best colleges and universities in the nation.

“Commit more donors, we have placed development officers in all of the colleges in order to create a better link between our alumni and friends and their particular areas of interest,” Bales said. “When people donate, they can see exactly how their gift affects the university, my first question is, ‘What are you interested in?’ When people can see their money doing something that is important to them, they feel better about it.”

Bales emphasizes that gifts both large and small fuel the vitality of private support.

“While we welcome and certainly appreciate large gifts, we know that small gifts can meld together and accomplish just as much as a major gift,” he said. “We have a member of our staff who utilizes students to call annual donors because we want those donors to have personal contact from the university. We want people to understand that dollars make a difference. If we can make people feel proud of their gift, then we have done our job.”

MTSU vs. Memphis Basketball Game Saturday, December 15, 2007 Sommet Center Downtown Nashville Game time: 6:00 p.m.

For tickets call: 1-888-YES-MTSU
We are now accepting nominations for the 
2008 – 2009 
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

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

- visit www.mtalumni.com for a downloadable version
- Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878 to have one mailed or faxed to you.

Nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 2008. Nominations are valid for three years.

Any nominations postmarked after April 1 will be carried over into the following year's applications.

Honoring a president emeritus, Dr. Sam H. Ingram

Dr. Sam H. Ingram, second from right, stands in front of the building that now bears his name in tribute to his years of service to MTSU as its 10th president (1979-90). Joining him for the Aug. 25 dedication ceremony at 2269 Middle Tennessee Blvd. are, from left, David Cullum ('55), past president of the MTSU Foundation, the National Alumni Association and BRAA, Pati Miller, assistant vice president for campus planning, said Keathley University Center, the National Alumni Association and BRAA, current President Sidney A. McPhee and Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning.

Changing face of MTSU campus

Whether it’s the $100 million-plus science building that may come by MTSU’s centennial year of 2011, the new Reese Smith Field for baseball or new Student Union, the complexion of campus always appears in a state of change. The $17 million expansion to MTSU’s Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center is moving forward swiftly, campus officials say. The old Reese Smith Field has been demolished. The new baseball park is expected to be finished next spring.

The university is in a 10-year renovation of dormitories. Students moved into renovated Womack Lane Apartments before the fall semester began. Work has begun on other apartments, with renovation expected to be finished by early 2008.

The silver dome for the new observatory was placed Oct. 27 ahead of schedule, and the entire project should be ready to use in March. The observatory is located between Wiser-Patten Science Building and Smith Hall, and next to the Uranidrome.

The new science (for biology and chemistry) and education buildings and new Student Union are in the design stages. Eventually, physics and astronomy and geosciences will gain additional space in Davis Science Building and Wiser-Patten, a campus official said.

The Student Union and educational buildings are expected to be built in the intramural field area next to the University Honors College. The Student Union will include an indoor and outdoor food court, expanded student organization area, student activities, retail (Phillips Bookstore). Patti Miller, assistant vice president for campus planning, said Keathley University Center will receive “some modifications” and that Rutledge Hall will be renovated and have an addition to connect it with James Union Building to bring admissions, records, financial aid, bursar, scheduling and other offices to a central location.

Campus events

December

1st MTSU Symphony Orchestra
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

2nd-3rd “Messiah”
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

4th MTSU Symphonic Band
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

5th MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

6th “Twas the Brass Before Christmas” (MTSU Brass)
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

14th National Alumni Association Commencement Reception
For more information, go to mtaalumni.com.

15th MTSU Fall Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m. /Murphy Center/For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

15th MTSU vs. Memphis Team Sendoff
For more information, go to mtaalumni.com.

January

19th-20th “Freed Voices” presented by MTSU Dance Theatre
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~theatre.

25th-26th MTSU Opera, “The Magic Flute”
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

February

1st MTSU Wind Ensemble
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

1st Physics and Astronomy First Friday Star Party
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~physics/observatory.htm.

7th MTSU Jazz Artist Series
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

15th-16th “Baby” presented by MTSU Dance Theatre
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~theatre.

17th MTSU Concert Chorale/ Middle Tennessee Choral Society
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

18th MTSU Jazz Ensembles
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

20th-23rd “Baby” presented by MTSU Dance Theatre
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~theatre.

21st MTSU Symphonic Band/Chamber Winds
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

23rd MTSU Symphony Orchestra
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

25th MTSU Wind Ensemble
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

28th MTSU Women’s Chorale
For more information, go to mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html.

For athletic events, visit goblueraiders.com.
For Tennessee Miller Coliseum events, visit mtsu.edu/~tms/schedule.htm.
Pigskin Pregame hosts Terry and Lisa Haynes ('80), left, visit with head football Coach Rick Stockstill and his wife, Sara, and event committee member Liz Rhea ('55).

MTSU alumni enjoyed music, food and fun at the annual Pigskin Pregame. Attendees included (front row, from left) Julie Plummer ('01), Melissa Roberts ('99) and Gini Tallent, and (back row, from left) Kevin Lewis ('01), Brent Campbell ('02), Phillip Bowen ('99) and Dusty Brown ('01).

From staff reports

On Saturday, Aug. 25, more than 400 people came together to support the Rutherford County Scholarship Fund during the annual Pigskin Pregame.

Thanks to the tremendous support of local sponsors, community members and alumni, the event raised more than $9,000 for incoming freshman student scholarships. It was truly a great night. Generous homeowners and Pigskin hosts Terry and Lisa Haynes provided each guest with an evening of great music and fun, while Carrabba’s Italian Grill fed the masses an Italian feast.

“We could not have asked for a better evening,” said alumni relations assistant director Paul Wydra.

Pigskin Pregame is held each August to raise scholarships for incoming MTSU freshmen who are from Rutherford County. Every year, the event is planned and spearheaded by a local alumni committee.

“Like many events, this one could not have happened without such a strong volunteer committee. The Pigskin Pregame Committee made this event happen,” said Wydra.

“They found sponsorships, sold tickets, helped finalize all of the details, and even helped set-up and clean-up. The committee played a huge role.”

If you are interested in serving on the Pigskin Pregame committee for 2008 or want to donate to the Rutherford County Scholarship Fund, please contact Paul Wydra at 615-904-8199 or at pwydra@mtsu.edu.

MTSU alumni had the opportunity to taste 12 different varieties of wine from Arrington Vineyards. Facing forward from left are Lisa and Jason Osborn ('05), April Keyser ('99) and Beth Bragg Jennings ('98).

Young alumni recently gathered at Arrington Vineyards for a wine tasting and social networking event. Pictured near the fireplace are (front row, from left) Samantha Wooden, Wes Wooden ('94), Josh Burlison ('04), and (back row from left) Rachel Mowl ('07), Debbie Hope ('02), and Lisa Osborn and Jason Osborn ('05).
‘A Red, White And Blue Raider Salute’

The class of ’57 was recognized during a Golden Raiders celebration Nov. 9 at the Kennon Hall of Fame. Among those pictured is Dr. Eugene Smith, center, former interim MTSU president. Others in the foreground include George Gardner, Ann Smith, Wayne Monks and David Singer.

Second-generation alumna Mary Mason McCauley (’85), center, chats with her alumni parents, Peggy and Curtis Mason (both ’59), during the Mixer on Middle at the Alumni House.

Veterans and current military personnel were lauded before and during the game — and at halftime — with the annual Salute to Armed Services tribute. About 600 vets and military personnel attended the events.

Thousands lined the Homecoming Parade route to watch 63 entries add excitement to the festive, fall day.

Homecoming

service revealing the plans for the new Veterans Memorial close to the Tom Jackson Building (formerly the Alumni Center).

A crowd of 500 MTSU fans gathered at the Alumni House to secure their spots at the Mixer on Middle Parade-Watching Party, where they enjoyed a complimentary breakfast and reminiscing with friends.

Dr. Bob Womack (‘40) led the parade as grand marshal in military style aboard a Humvee, and alumni parents and grandparents followed, proudly showing off their Baby Raiders.

Distinguished Alumnus Gale Prince (’57), as well as former homecoming queens and cheerleaders also represented alumni in the parade. Former MTSU sports information director Jim Freeman (’69, ’73) and fellow alum Chip Walters (’85) provided a Rose Parade-style commentary for the guests.

Alumni and friends participated in tailgating events including visiting with their colleges in Tent City and cheering on the team at the Raider Walk. Veterans and their families were treated to lunch and complimentary football tickets in appreciation of their service and sacrifice.

Other weekend highlights included the Al Wilkerson Scholarship Dance, the tailgate contest and, of course, the football game against Louisiana-Lafayette, where a video coin toss from Iraq kicked off the contest. (MTSU fell to the Ragin’ Cajuns, 34-24.)

A fun-filled Blue Raider day was had by all. We hope to see you next year.

Visit mtalumni.com for upcoming events and year-round services for MTSU alumni and friends.
W e need your input to continue blazing new trails.

It is hard to imagine actually getting younger in age every single year. For your National Alumni Association, it’s happening. Of course, the Alumni Association, originally started in 1914, is indeed aging in the traditional sense. However, our con-

ditions, you are getting younger at each and every grad-

uation. As MTSU graduates more and more each year, the average age of our entire alumni base is decreasing.

It is hard to believe that the largest single seg-

ment (about 33 percent) of our nearly 90,000 alumni from MTSU in 1965 or younger. Within five years, that percent will increase to nearly 50 percent. Needless to say, while we are charging

ahead toward the university’s 100th anniversary, as alumni, we are as youthful as ever.

In this lies our challenge. Your Alumni Association is dedicated to not only preserving the wonderful traditions of the past — such as Golden Raiders, our travel program and regular events — but also becoming a trailblazer in new programming suited to each and every segment of our alumni pop-

ulation.

The alumni staff and board of directors have been testing new events and programs at every turn.

We want to hear your ideas! Whether you are 26 or 106, your input matters. If you have an idea or want to help, e-mail us at alumni@mtsu.edu.

Did you miss the alumni wine tasting event at Arrington Vineyards in October? Heard about the Zoo Tour in the spring? Don’t forget about men’s basketball coming to the Sommet Center in Nashville against Memphis. Check out mtalumni.com for details and to catch up on what is coming next.

Finally, while it is cold outside and you are searching for something fun to do, come to a basket-

ball game. Go to Tucker Theater and see a play or hear a performance at the MTSU School of Music. Call or e-mail an old friend from college. I challenge each of you to do just one thing to connect with your University. Don’t forget, you can always check in at mtalumni.com.

Go Blue!

Devon McLendon is a 1996 graduate living in Brentwood with his wife, Laura, and children, Campbell and Maggie. He is the owner of McLendon Group Marketing.

Getting younger every day

By Gina Fann

gfann@mtsu.edu

SA

tudents attending MTSU today may only vaguely remember the name of a building from a sign outside a beautiful

building. The foundation that retired Chancellor Whitney A. Stegall helped to lay for those students and for MTSU, however, leaves a much larger footprint than a brick-and-mortar facility.

Mr. Stegall, 91, a 1937

alumnus of what was then Middle Tennessee State College for Women, for the first time in 1963, joined with his wife, Laura, and children, Campbell and Maggie. He is the owner of McLendon Group Marketing.

Memorial in Memoriam — From Page 6

1960s

George Henson (’61), Winchester, Tenn., died March 11, 2007.

1970s

Arthur Arrington (’74), Cleveland, Tenn., died Oct. 16, 2006.

Brendan Dwy (’70), Lafayette, Ga., died July 26, 2006.

1990s

Dr. Donald Damron (’90), Grayson, Ky., died June 24, 2007.

2000s


Did You Know?

Dr. James M. Buchanan (’40) won the Nobel Prize in 1966 for his work in the Economic Sciences (Public Choice Theory and Governmental Economics).
Memphis Mix and Mingle at Pat O’Brien’s

Alumni Bill Reaney (*’83, ’94), center, and Jack (*’64) and Katherine Lewis enjoy the evening at the Memphis Mix and Mingle Oct. 12. The event was held at Pat O’Brien’s on Beale Street.

MTSU’s cheerleaders run the Blue Raider flags across the football field after MTSU’s 21-7 victory against the University of Toledo.

MTSU won its straight year, earning the 2007 distinction for the second year in a row as the National Intercollegiate Mediation Champions after their performance in an Oct. 27 tournament at the John Marshall School of Law in Chicago.

MTSU defeated a field of 32 teams including second-place Boston University, third-place University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and fourth-place University of Toledo.

Sarah Farthing of Jefferson City, Tenn., and Ryan Richards of Sweetwater, Tenn., were awarded All-American honors as mediation team members. Teammates selected Farthing to represent MTSU in the championship round because she had the highest individual mediation scores of the group in regular competition.

MTSU’s Dairy Products Evaluation Team is national champion for the second straight year, earning the 2007 distinction Oct. 13-16 in Las Vegas. The team won first-place awards in the milk and all products categories, second places in butter and yogurt and third for ice cream and products categories, second places in butter and yogurt and third for ice cream.

Alumni Relations Assistant Director Rhonda Wright assists MTSU alumnus Eddie Wright (*’77) with registration at the Memphis Mix and Mingle Oct. 12 at Pat O’Brien’s on Beale Street.

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, left, and Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross emergency shelter board of directors chair Mike Picklesimer, sign an agreement between the university and the American Red Cross making MTSU Campus Recreation Center a new American Red Cross emergency shelter that can accommodate 160 cots.

MTSU’s mediation team members are celebrating their new status as 2007 National Intercollegiate Mediation Champions after their performance in an Oct. 27 tournament at the John Marshall School of Law in Chicago.

MTSU’s Dairy Products Evaluation Team is national champion for the second straight year, earning the 2007 distinction Oct. 13-16 in Las Vegas. The team won first-place awards in the milk and all products categories, second places in butter and yogurt and third for ice cream and cottage cheese, plus individual awards.

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