Mark your calendars to return to campus for the second Alumni Summer College at Middle Tennessee State University, June 24-26. As an annual event, Alumni Summer College is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of interesting subjects with fellow MT alumni. A curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours has been specifically created with Blue Raiders in mind.

Open to alumni and friends, the college will be a casual, fun-packed three days of learning. While exploring this year’s theme of “How Things Work,” we will be studying the how and why of a variety of MTSU programs. There will be several once-in-a-lifetime moments that you do not want to miss.

Alumni Summer College registration begins at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, at The MTSU Alumni House. After you are welcomed with a campus tour and book-store shopping trip, a backyard picnic at the Alumni House will give everyone time to get to know each other. The first class will be after dinner, as we tour the university’s library. Located off the quad in the heart of the newer part of campus, James E. Walker Library is considered a beacon building, guiding students across campus. We will gain understanding of how libraries work in the electronic age while touring this striking four-story modern structure. After learning how today’s students receive information, we will be transported to the 1700s by candlelight to experience how people printed information in Benjamin Franklin’s day. Housed in the library, the replica 18th-century Benjamin Franklin Printing Press

See ‘Alumni Summer College,’ Page 5

Man of Modest Needs

Taylor’s mission: Help people get past emergencies

For 98 years, MTSU has educated students of all ages in diverse disciplines from aerospace to women’s studies and many more in between. Notable alumni have emerged from the fields of business (1986 Nobel recipient James Buchanan), education (See ‘Taylor,’ Page 4)

Carnegie distinction

Foundation honors MTSU for partnerships, outreach, community engagement

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently selected MTSU for its 2008 Community Engagement Classification, which recognizes universities that demonstrate commitment to curricular engagement and outreach.

See ‘Carnegie,’ Page 2

INSIDE...

Signal Society, Page 2
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Class notes, Page 6
Three top priorities, Page 7
A day in the life, Page 8
Price, Windham join Signal Society
Club’s 10 members have 40-year level of giving

G
len Price and William Windham have
joined a distinguished group of MTSU
alumni and friends.

The MTSU Foundation and the Office of Development recog-
nized Mr. Price and Dr. Windham as donors who have
given to the university for 40 years. They have joined only
eight other members in the 40-
year level of the Signal Society
giving club.

The Signal Society recognizes
faithful annual giving, regardless
of the amount donated, and
beginning at 20 years.

Kippy Todd, assistant direc-
tor in the Office of Development,
commented on the level of com-
mitment by Signal Society mem-
ers, saying, “Now, more than
ever, private support is making
college possible for students. Our
donors have continued to give, often sacrificially, to
support MTSU, and we are most grateful for their
gifts and their friendship to the university.”

“We hope that stimulus funds will allow
us to mitigate tuition increases for a couple of years
and help to offset some of the immediate cuts that
we had previously anticipated, we must remember
that these funds are only temporary,” said McPhee.

“Thanks to the overwhelming support from
the university community for our ‘Positioning the
University for the Future Initiative,’ I am pleased to report that we
have an effective, collaborative and system-
atic means for developing recommenda-
tions to help address our budget concerns.”

— MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee

Positioning
“silver bullet” that will rid the state’s colleges and
universities of their long-term budget woes.

“Our donors have continued to give, often sacrificially, to
support MTSU, and we are most grateful for their
gifts and their friendship to the university.”

THE ALUMNI RECORD

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MTSU Campus Pharmacy opens

The new MTSU Campus Pharmacy opened for busi-
ness Jan. 15 in the newly expanded Health, Wellness
and Recreation Center. In addition to providing full
prescription services, the pharmacy offers a complete
line of over-the-counter pharmaceutical products, vita-
mins, antacids, first-aid items and more (see photo at
left). At right, pharmacy director Tabby Ragland, left, and
certified pharmacy technician Gina Hale take and
prepare customers’ orders. For other current construc-
tion activity on campus, visit mtsunews.com.

CAMPUS UPDATE

MTSU Campus Pharmacy opens

The new MTSU Campus Pharmacy opened for business
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certified pharmacy technician Gina Hale take and
prepare customers’ orders. For other current construc-
tion activity on campus, visit mtsunews.com.

Carnegie
reach and partnerships. MTSU joins such universities as California
State, Duke, Clemson, Purdue and 107 other insti-
tutions of higher learning across the nation “where
teaching, learning and scholarship engage faculty,
students and community in mutually beneficial
and respectful collaboration.” The designation also
reflects the university’s sharing of its resources
with the community and being involved in part-
nerships that enhance scholarship, research and
economic development.

“Community engagement is central to our
academic core,” said Faye Johnson, assistant to the
executive vice president and provost for special
initiatives, who edited and wrote much of the pro-
posal submitted for consideration.

“This is a very prestigious designation [that]
recognizes work] to implement and sustain an
integrated campuswide commitment to continu-
ous community engagement,” she added.

The report underwent a peer review to meet
stringent criteria before it could qualify for the
classification. MTSU’s American Democracy
Project, coordinated by Dr. Jim Williams, history

Page 2

March 2009

The Alumni Record/mtalumni.com

from Page 1

other universities across the country when more
serious discussions about the failing economy’s
impact on higher education began later in the year.
Since the fall 2008 semester, a 15-member Steering
Committee and four Strategic Work Groups have
been meeting on campus at least once a week to
develop long- and short-term recommendations
that will not only help the university address criti-
cal budget challenges but also stay strategi-

ally focused on the goals of the MTSU
Academic Master Plan. According to McPhee,
the strength of this effort lies in the fact
that the Initiative involves the participa-
tion of a broad range of individuals, including
faculty, staff, adminis-
trators, students and community members.

While the Steering Committee has been respon-
sible for developing and overseeing the overall
organization and processes of the Initiative and
working toward the development of a final report
of recommendations, each work group was
assigned to explore how the university might
deadline. The 119 successful
applicants represented institutions from 34 states
and Puerto Rico. To learn more about the Carnegie
Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching,
please visit carnegiefoundation.org.
Alumni office plans many spring events

Scholarship luncheon, zoo day, Lunch with President join baseball outings

From MTSU Alumni Relations

I t’s travel season, and the Office of Alumni Relations is coming to an area near you. “Our alumni outside of Murfreesboro can’t come back to campus as often as they like, so we try to go see them as often as possible,” said Paul Wydra, assistant director for Alumni Relations. “We want our alums to continue to be involved with our university and to stay connected with other alumni in their area. Our spring event schedule offers a range of activities for our alumni, their families and MTSU friends.”

On March 8, alumni are invited to an all-school alumni reception at the Sun Belt Basketball Championships in Hot Springs, Ark. The reception will be held in the Hot Springs Convention Center Grand Lobby at 10 a.m. Admission is free and open for all alumni. To order Sun Belt Basketball Championship tickets, call 1-615-898-5261.

The Lunch with the President series continues this spring in Brentwood on April 14. President Sidney A. McPhee will update alumni on the latest university news at Brentwood Country Club at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required. There is limited seating available; call for tickets today.

The Rutherford County Alumni Chapter will host its annual scholarship luncheon on April 22 to benefit the Rutherford County Chapter Scholarship. Scholarships of $1,000 will be awarded to incoming Rutherford County freshmen from this fund, and more than $36,000 in scholarships has been awarded in the last two years. April 22 is also Administrative Professionals Day, so plan to join us at Bonefish Grill to salute the hard-working professionals in your office and support a great scholarship program. Tickets are $12. Don’t wait; seating is limited.

The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere will be the site for the third annual MTSU Alumni Zoo Day. More than 800 people have enjoyed great times and created good memories in the last two years. Gates will open at 9 a.m. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for children (ages 3-12), and includes admission and an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m until 1 p.m. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are REQUIRED, so don’t delay. The deadline to reserve tickets is May 8.

This spring, we wanted to give alumni a chance to relax, reconnect and enjoy America’s favorite pastime. “Minor league baseball games and picnics go hand in hand, and this is a great chance for our alumni to get reaquainted and bring their families to a fun outing,” said Wydra. “These are new events for us, and we know Chattanooga and Memphis will be great hosts for our alumni.”

Early summer dates are being planned for Chattanooga Lookouts and Memphis Redbirds games. Picnics will be included. “We will announce all of the dates and details on our alumni Web site, so be sure to check back soon,” Wydra said.

MTSU alumni, friends and families are invited to all events on this exciting list of activities.

For more detailed information and to make reservations, go to mtalumni.com or call the MTSU Alumni Relations office at 1-800-533-6878. We can’t wait to see you there!

Bailey Mosley
MTSU senior

March

2-20 Invitational Exhibition: The Work of Charles Gick**
3 Women Composers Revealed***
6 Physics and Astronomy First Friday Star Party* 15 Music from Japan***
20 MTSU Wind Ensemble***
21-25 MTSU Guitar Festival***
27 MTSU Opera Scenes***
28 Clavierfest, Piano Competition***
30 Studio BFA Exhibition**

April

1-3 Studio BFA Exhibition**
1-5 "Urinetown"****
2 MTSU Choral Concert***
2 Physics and Astronomy First Friday Star Party*
4 MTSU Jazz Artist Series***
5 See Spot Run*****
6 Stones River Chamber Players***
8 MTSU Percussion Ensemble****
13-17 Studio 2 BFA Exhibition**
16-18 Spring Dance Concert****
17 Leopoldo Erice Faculty Piano Recital***
21 MTSU Women’s Chorale***
27 Smith, DeBoer and Osterfield Faculty Recital***
27-30 Graphic Design BFA Exhibition**
28 MTSU Symphonic Band Concert***
29 MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble***

May

1 Physics and Astronomy First Friday Star Party*
9 MTSU Spring Commencement in Murphy Center, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ceremonies

* For more information, go to www.mtsu.edu/physics/index.shtml
** For more information, go to http://frank.mtsu.edu/~art/barngallery/index.html
*** For more information, go to http://frank.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html
**** For more information, go to www.mtsu.edu/thatre/currentseason.shtml
***** For more information, go to http://www.active.com

MTSU Spring Commencement in Murphy Center, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ceremonies

March 2009

The Alumni Record/mtalumni.com
Taylor

(1988 National Teacher of the Year Terry Weeks, '72 and '74), and political science (the late former U.S. Sen. Albert Gore Sr., '32).

Alumni such as Hollywood composer George S. Clinton ('69), U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon ('71), and recently retired National Football League quarter-back Kelly Holcomb ('94), among others, have reached the national and international stage in their fields.

Then there is alumnus Dr. Keith Taylor ('89), who was full-speed-ahead as an MTSU Department of English faculty member before totally switching gears. Taylor used to teach Chaucer and other medieval and British literature courses. Now he travels across the United States and Canada on a mission to assist individuals in emergency situations through the Modest Needs Foundation he conceived and founded.

With a staff of 25 and with offices in New York and San Francisco, Taylor orchestrates his life’s work that might provide an automobile catalytic converter for one person, a special Graco Sweet Peace Newborn Soothing Center for the mother of a baby born prematurely - or the No. 1 Mock Needs Foundation he conceived and founded. Taylor from Page 1

In March 2002, Taylor began setting aside $350 a month to help people who might need new tires, groceries, a utility bill paid or money to pay the rent or house payment. He created a Web site to help find more people in need. His site was linked

directly to hospitals, utility companies, landlords, banks, etc., rather than to the applicants, ensuring the money is spent properly.

There are other amazing and touching stories. A Kentucky family had a son who needed spe-
cial glasses because of a deformed cornea. The glasses cost $550. Their application to Modest

needs asked for only $50, with the mother explain-
ing that she would get a second job.

Even during a 2008 photo shoot, then- MTSU English pro-
tessor Keith Taylor ('89) was taking on modest needs one at a time. First, he asked the

woman who receive help, "How to help is with 10-, 20-, 30-, 40- and 50-dollar

courses. Now he travels across the United States

turn loose of the foundation, which is supported by "grants that pay our operating costs." For

instance, the Herb Alpert Foundation "has given over $1 million over a period of time." Because of the foundation’s growth, he has not been able to maintain a connection with the univer-

sity. "I receive letters from former (MTSU) students now located in New York," he says. "We chat. They asked me to help with some part of their career or (they) personally want to help Modest Needs." As for MTSU participation, Taylor says he does not know how many alumni, faculty, staff, admin-

istrators and students might be Modest Needs donors.

The only way for me to know is if I person-

ally know (a donor) or they come online with an MTSU e-mail address," he says. "A couple of my colleagues in the English department have been donors since the early days. I would like to see a lot more (with MTSU ties) participate. The univer-
sity has very involved and caring faculty and very involved and caring alumni. That alone could change the face of giving in the U.S."

Taylor says it’s simple for the MTSU communi-
ty to become involved.

"We run on small contributions from large num-
bers of people," he says, adding that potential donors can go to the Modest Needs Web site, cre-
ate a contribution and view the actual contributors. "How to help is with 10-, 20-, 30-, 40- and 50-dollar donations. It’s not hard for 20 people to each give $50. It might be difficult for one person to give $1,000. If you do $50 — and 10 more people do $50 — that’s $1,000. Working together, we can change the lives and people in short-term crisis." For more information, visit modestneeds.com.

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Modest Needs applications quickly grew to 300

or 1,700 grants this year (2008) impacted a lot of people. We plan to revise the Web site. We want to stabilize the organization. We’ve had a period of tremendous growth. We have a significant number of staff. We have offices on two coasts. “Moving to 2010, we’re looking at additional offices where we can be physically located: the Southeast, Midwest, Canada has been begging us (to come) for four years. We want to continue to expand services.” At 41, Taylor says he does not plan to retire or turn loose of the foundation, which is supported by “grants that pay our operating costs.” For instance, the Herb Alpert Foundation “has given over $1 million over a period of time.”

Taylor says he “stays in touch with several of his former fellow MTSU faculty members.” Because of the foundation’s growth, he has not been able to maintain a connection with the university. "I receive letters from former alumni, faculty, staff, admin-

istrators and students might be Modest Needs donors. The only way for me to know is if I person-

ally know (a donor) or they come online with an MTSU e-mail address," he says. "A couple of my colleagues in the English department have been donors since the early days. I would like to see a lot more (with MTSU ties) participate. The univer-

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Pess was constructed from original drawings by members of the MTSU Facility Services team. On Thursday, we will travel to the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport for flight school with the world-class instructors of the MTSU Department of Aerospace. Recognized as one of the top programs of its kind in the world, the aeronautical department teaches every aspect of the flight industry. Find out how a plane works in the sky and on the ground.

Introduction to Flight, Technology in Training, and Airliner Technology in Small Aircraft are classes that will use flight simulators and static displays of glass-cockpit aircraft to provide an understanding of what it takes to earn a degree from the program. We also will tour the Aircraft Maintenance Laboratory and the university’s Boeing 727. We will enjoy lunch in an airplane hangar at the airport.

We’ve heard a lot about the need for alternative fuels and vehicles lately. Learn how their effects are being studied at MTSU. Having worked with alternative fuels for 30 years, Dr. Cliff Ricketts, professor in the Department of Agronomy and Agrisience, will give the group an overview of ethanol production, demonstrate an ethanol Corvette, discuss methanol production and explain the process of how to prepare used cooking oil to run in a biodiesel vehicle. Ricketts then will take us through the process of how to run engines on hydrogen from water, using the sun as the power source. We also will see the hydrogen race vehicle which set and held the world record on the Bonneville Salt Flats for 15 years. The class will conclude with a demonstration of the solar/electric flex-fuel Toyota Prius and the MTSU-manufactured vehicle which runs on sun and water as its only power sources, funded in part by the MTSU Green Energy Fee paid by students.

June is National Dairy Month, and we are going to celebrate with ice cream! Discover what makes your favorite brand your favorite brand. We’ll dive into the world of flavorings and ingredients to identify preferred individual tastes. Did you know all of the milk consumed in university dining facilities is produced by the MTSU herd and processed by students? Experience what MTSU-manufactured foods are passed to the left. Listed on the menu at Miss Mary Bobo’s Boarding House Restaurant for lunch. Sit at a large family table alongside a gracious hostess, who will encourage conversation, share a bit of local lore and ensure that dishes are passed to the left. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Miss Mary Bobo’s celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008. Jack Daniel’s Distillery was licensed in 1866, making it the oldest distillery registered in the United States and a National Historic Site. While touring the grounds, we’ll see where generations of proud, quality-minded folks have crafted the world-famous, charcoal-mellowed Tennessee sipping whiskey. Learn how their products are manufactured and hear some interesting stories along the way.

Get Milk? We’ll see how judges choose the best of the best before dinner on the MTSU-manufactured vehicle which runs on sun and water as its only power sources, funded in part by the MTSU Green Energy Fee paid by students.

Although all Jack Daniel’s Tennessee Whiskeys share a family resemblance, they have their own individual tastes. We’ll have an educational tasting to learn about each brand and be encouraged to discern their differences by the way they were processed, look, smell and taste. It’s OK if you don’t want to taste; just sit beside someone who does.

Lynchburg is the county seat of Moore County, the smallest county in Tennessee. Even though it’s home to the distillery, it’s a dry county and has been ever since Prohibition. While the distillery may be the main attraction there, you won’t want to miss the chance to browse through the Lynchburg Hardware and General Store as well as a variety of other unique shops located around the town’s square.

Opened in the spring of 2004, Barbecue Hill is tailor-made for good southern cooking and old-fashioned fun. The open-air pavilion offers a spectacular view of Jack Daniel’s Hollow and the town of Lynchburg. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon with your classmates throwing horseshoes, tossing bungs, sipping lemonade, and rocking on the edge of the hollow.

Have you ever thought that your love of barbecue should qualify you to be a judge? Judging contests is a lot harder than one might think. Find out what it takes to be a judge at the Jack Daniel’s annual Invitational Barbecue. For 20 years, this contest has attracted barbecue masters from all around the world. We’ll see how judges choose the best of the best before dinner on Barbecue Hill.

By the end of the program, attendees will have earned the honor and distinction of Alumni Summer College graduates and will enjoy the accomplishment at a graduation ceremony.

Tuition for Alumni Summer College is $195 per person, and the registration deadline is May 20. Space is limited. Tuition includes classes, seven meals, transportation from the Alumni House each day, and transportation to and from Lynchburg. A detailed schedule and registration information are posted at www.mtalumni.edu. Special rates are available at area hotels.

Contact Rhonda Wright, Alumni Relations assistant director, at rwright@mtsu.edu or 1-800-533-6878 with any questions.
Jean Garrison (’85), Nashville, Tenn., is a staff accountant for W. D. Schock Company Inc.
Roderick Hewett (’86), Macomb, Ill., is vice president of product development and management for Laureate Higher Education Group in Baltimore, Md.
John E. Lentz (’83), Corinth, Texas, is the music director at FirstCom Music.
Nedra Morris-Bailey (’83), Murfreesboro, is a claim representative for State Farm Insurance.
Col. David L. Musgrave (’89), Richmond, Ky., has assumed the U.S. Army command of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Plant at Blue Grass Army Depot.
David W. Pierce (’82, ’80), Murfreesboro, has published his new book, What the Heart Knows.
Gregory Robertson (’87), Murfreesboro, is a supervisor and realtor.
Martin North-Al-White (’88), Antioch, Tenn., is a production leader for Calvin White.
Rod Williams (’85), S lamps, Wash., is executive vice president and chief underwriting officer of Liberty Mutual Surety in Seattle.
Lisa Butler (’93), Nashville, Tenn., is a production artist for Ghis, Shrewford and Weidler.
Tricia Craig (’96), Goodlettsville, Tenn., is assistant principal of Byrnes Elementary School in Cedar Hill, Tenn.
Nathan Downing (’95), North Bethesda, Md., is senior editor for TEAM Bethesda, Md., is senior editor for TEAM Bethesda.
William Christopher Dixon (’99), Chattanooga, Tenn., is an attorney with the office of John House.
Daniel Lyn Graves II (’91), Murfreesboro, has joined the law firm of Price and Tedwell.
David Griffith (’94), West Chester, Ohio, is training pilots for the new Iraq Air Force to Kom, Iraq.
Jaime Groce (’97), Collvilleville, Tenn., is the chief planner for the town of Collvilleville.
Amy Harrison (’99), Smyrna, Ga., is a senior commercial underwriter for Zurich Small Business.
Clint Jennings (’98), Buffalo Valley, Tenn., is assistant vice president for internal audit at Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville, Tenn.
Joshua Larsen (’99), Apple Valley, Minn., is a reference attorney for Thomson Reuters.
Sergeant First Class Becki M. Louder (’99), Woodbury, Tenn., has been awarded the U.S. Army’s Bronze Star for exceptional meritorious service.
Chris Marsh (’93), Lewisburg, Tenn., is director of information technology and telecommunications for Cosmolab Inc.
Anissa Mirtes (’91), Calhoun, Ga., is a teacher with Gordon County Schools.
Tejas Patel (’99), Aurora, Ill., is vice president and technology manager for Bank of America.
Terri Ray (’94), Pegram, Tenn., is the mayor of Pegram.
Lee Sandstedt (’96), Newcomerstown, Ohio, hosts Art Attack with Lee Sandstedt on the Travel Channel.
Lt. Bill Sharp (’93), Woodbury, Tenn., is a detective for the Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office in the Juvenile Case Unit.
Brad Shepard (’97), Murfreesboro, is a co-founder of Innovar Partners, an operational improvement firm.
Tracy Sisson (’94), Beech Grove, Tenn., is a registered nurse for the Cannon County Board of Education.
Caresa Young (’95, ’97), Murfreesboro, received her Ph.D. in educational policy and management from Vanderbilt University and serves as director of the reading clinic at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.
Jennifer Bailey (’88), Murfreesboro, is a construction sales specialist for Waste Management.
Christi Bogle (’03), Woodbury, Tenn., is a spa consultant and relaxation coach for Spa Escapes by Christi.
Daniel Bond (’03), Chicago, Ill., joined the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis as a litigation associate.
Jennifer Carter (’02), Dallas, Texas, is a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines.
Zac Cook (’04), Nashville, Tenn., recently completed his M.B.A. at Belmont University.
Zella Cross (’01), Murfreesboro, is a compensation analyst for MTASU.
Richard Denney (’94), Murfreesboro, is a legal administrative specialist with the Department of Veteran Affairs.
Marcia Reese Dickerson (’03, ’04), La Vergne, Tenn., is the manager of educational publications for Iovisto in Nattle, Tenn.
Kelsey Doss (’01), Nashville, Tenn., is a payroll compliance analyst for SMB Holdings.
Bobby Duke (’03, ’07), Murfreesboro, has earned the Edward F. Miller Foundation National Educator Award.
Rachel Edginton (’09), Knoxville, Tenn., is a hall director for the University of Tennessee Housing Office.
Melody Foy (’06), Knoxville, Tenn., is a professional school counselor.
Fernando Greene (’03), Murfreesboro, is a graphic designer for Wax Family Printing.
Chassen Haynes (’08), Murfreesboro, is the director of government affairs and small business for the Muftilhood Foundation Chamber of Commerce.
Benjamin S. Henson (’15), Tuscaloosa, Ala., is a producer and director for the University of Alabama Center for Public Television and Radio.
Misty Herndon (’15), Waverly, Tenn., is a paralegal at the law office of Anthony L. Sanders.
Michael Hicks (’08), Universal City, Texas, is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Randolph Air Force Base.
Rebecca Jones (’03), Nashville, Tenn., is a guest services manager for Simon Property Group.
Marissa Miller (’07, ’08), Geneva, N.Y., is an area coordinator for residential education at Hobart and William Smith College.
Brinette Morai (’05), Lexington, S.C., is the South Carolina regional manager for Hutchison Enterprises Inc.
Deidre Ortia (’08), Winchester, Tenn., is a news reporter for the Intra-Chronic.
Shea Parfait (’04), Care Grove, Tenn., recently launched Parfait Creative Media in Nashville, Tenn.
John Patrick (’73, ’78), Fairlawn, Va., is an audio/video systems engineer for Avitecture Inc.
Dawn Penza-Amstutz (’80, ’81), Pine, Mont., is a veterinary technician for Century Animal Clinic.
Matthew Reed (’07, ’08), Nashville, Tenn, is an auditor with Ernst & Young in Nashville, Tenn.
Avery Riordon (’70), Austin, Texas, is a ticket agent and shipping manager for All Access Today.
Marianna Rucker (’90), Franklin, Tenn., is a Web marketing copywriter and editor for The Lampo Group.
Ryann Schneider (’18), Murfreesboro, has joined Bass, Berry & Sims in their intellectual property and technology and corporate and securities practices office.
Jeffery Skaggs (’10), Nashville, Tenn., works in the creative department of Kebbi Music.
David Smith (’01), Smyrna, Tenn., is an attorney with Miller & Martin PLLC.
Evelyn Stewart (’05), Wartrace, Tenn., is emergency director for Harton Regional Medical Center.
Seth Stouder (’80), Brentwood, Tenn., is an on air D.J. for 102.9 the Buzz.
Netsanet Abraha Tegon (’02), Nashville, Tenn., is the program coordinator of Youth, and, Outreach Services at Catholic Charities of Tennessee Inc.
Caryn A. Terry (’02), Richmond Hill, Ga., graduated from Shipensburg University with an M.S. in organizational development and leadership.
Emily Wright (’07), Murfreesboro, is a sales representative for Kay Cameron’s Educational Sales.

In Memoriam
MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extends deep sympathy to the families of our alumni who have passed away.
1940s

1950s

1960s
Pauline Wilson Blankenship (’60), Murfreesboro, Tenn., died March 8, 2008.
Ronnie Wilmouth (’64), Indian Wells, Calif., died Dec. 14, 2008.

1970s
Sandra Norvelle Mason Merkins (’72), Norris-City, Ill., died Aug. 4, 2008.

1980s
Integrity, quality, safety remain MTSU’s priorities

You, the alumni of Middle Tennessee State University, still are members of this Family of Blue. As the campus has changed and the student population has grown, promoting the family feeling of the MTSU campus is still very prevalent. These tough economic times have caused families to analyze budgets and look for ways to reduce spending. MTSU executives are involved in these same processes. Like other schools involved in the same budget crises, MTSU has submitted a plan to reduce its base expenses to the Tennessee Board of Regents system, MTSU has remained committed to students in several different ways:

- Did you know that MTSU has an emergency text-messaging service? Students, faculty, and staff are able to receive safety-alert text messages on their cell phones when they register for this service. For this future, enhance our ability to keep the MTSU community informed of critical situations.
- Do you have a freshman entering MTSU? Student Persistence Initiatives are designed as one-on-one advising for freshmen.

The five schools involved in this advising program saw a 1.8% increase in returning students.

- Retaining students through graduation is a campuseswide initiative and has increased during the last few years. Returning freshmen numbers have improved, fewer freshmen have un declared majors, and the initiative of tracking junior and seniors to encourage graduation has also escalated.

- Twenty-one departments earned the Academic Performance Award. The graduating seniors in these departments performed above average in their major field exams.

- Scores for MTSU seniors exceeded the national average on 2007-08 general education exams. These are only a few of the ways MTSU continues the family tradition.

- Like all large families, we miss individuals when their chairs are empty at our events. Make it a point to become a more active MTSU family member.

Ex Officio Members

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
Dr. David Durham
Dr. Aubrey Hardison
Dr. Casey Guimbellot
Dr. Kent Ayer

MTSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

President/Year graduated Term Hometown

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Vice President – Jim Stubblesfield (’83) Murfreesboro, TN
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Past President – Devin Mcclendon (’96) Brentwood, TN

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Brandon Robbins (’03)
Ronald Roberts (’84, ’91)
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Kelly G Rollins (’93)
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Murfreesboro, TN
Lipscomb, TN
MTSU, TN
Lipscomb, TN
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A day in the life of ... Jameel Braddock, one busy MTSU student

By Erin Bridges

T
e fully prepare for life after college it’s not enough to attend classes regularly. The road to success is traveled by students involved in campus organizations and with well-rounded resumes who network throughout their four years at MTSU.

For today’s fast-paced students, keeping up with an agenda is the key to making it through college successfully.

“Someone once told me that looking at my agenda gave them a headache,” Jameel Braddock says. “I knew I had to be here, even though UT was my dream.”

The environment and student interaction on campus won him over, and since he arrived in Murfreesboro, he hasn’t stopped giving back to the school. Jameel is president of the Student Ambassador program and executive director for Up ‘til Dawn. On top of all that, he manages to balance an overloaded schedule of 18 hours and a part-time job, and keeps up with friends and family.

How does he do it?

Unlike most students, who begin their day on campus stressing over the endless search for a parking place, Jameel says he is content arriving early and parking in the back.

By 8 a.m. he’s situated at his cubicle in the Student Life Center, ready to take on a full day of classes and meetings. He’ll head off to class after spending his first few hours on campus preparing for the B.O.L.T (Bettering Our Leaders for Tomorrow) leadership conference and Up ‘til Dawn grand finale.

Between classes, Jameel can be found in the KUC working, socializing with friends, and enjoying Asian cuisine from The Grill. The downtime doesn’t last long, though. Afternoon meetings begin shortly following classes.

On a typical day, he’ll leave campus around 6 p.m. with a full night of homework ahead of him. Before bed, Jameel pulls out his planner and plots out the next day. With schedules this busy it’s understandable that students feel “senioritis.”

“Some days I go to school, other days I work. Every day is different,” says Jameel.

When Jameel’s schedule gets overwhelming, he reminds himself that he’s doing something great and acting as a positive role model for other students. His future following graduation in May 2009 holds numerous possibilities. Whether Jameel moves on to law school or continues his work with Up ‘til Dawn as a St. Jude representative, there is likely to never be a dull moment in his life.

Most students’ agendas are similar to Jameel’s, filled from top to bottom beginning early in the morning and ending late in the night. With new lists for each day, students manage overloaded schedules in order to prepare for the professional world that awaits them.

MTSU senior journalism major Erin Bridges of Columbia, S.C., is a practical student working this spring in the Office of News and Public Affairs. She plans to graduate in August.

### CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Funding for teaching**

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, second from left, joins the university’s legislative delegation (that includes alumni) in accepting a $39,744 contribution from the AT&T Foundation to support the MTSU Honors College’s Junior Science and Technology Project. The project focuses on improving science and technology education for fifth- and sixth-grade students at Hobgood Elementary School.

**McPhee appoints Sells VP for student affairs**

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee announced recently the appointment of Debra Sells as vice president for student affairs and provost for enrollment and academic services at MTSU.

Sells replaced Dr. Bob Glenn on an interim basis in August. Glenn left MTSU to become president at Athens (Ala.) State University.

“I am pleased that [Tennessee Board of Regents] Chancellor Charles Manning approved my recommendation to appoint Dr. Sells as our new vice president for Student Affairs,” McPhee said. “She is a highly capable individual who has done a phenomenal job in helping us to transition after the departure of former vice president Bob Glenn. I have been impressed not only by her efficient and positive approach to her role as a university executive, but also by her keen knowledge of enrollment issues and the student affairs area.”

Sells, a native of Benton Harbor, Mich., has been at MTSU since 1996, just after earning her doctorate in education from Arizona State University.

Sells said the university “will be facing interesting times in the next few months. Obviously, we have many challenges.”

**Did you know?**

- Elvis Presley made five Murphy Center concert appearances in the 1970s.
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  Source: MTSU Miscellany, Trivia and Facts about MTSU 1913-2001