HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Alumni Summer College III will be music to participants’ ears

By Rhonda Wright King rwright@mtsu.edu

W e all recognize songs as part of the fabric of our lives. But did you ever think about what is involved in the life of a song? Find out June 23–25 at the third annual Alumni Summer College, at Middle Tennessee State University as we study “A Song’s Life.” Alumni Summer College is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of interesting subjects with a curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours specifically created with MTSU alumni in mind. Alumni Summer College is sure to be a highlight of your year as you return to campus for three days of education and entertainment, Blue Raider camaraderie, music, good food and an exciting field trip. Open to alumni and friends, the program will provide several once-in-a-lifetime moments that you do not want to miss. You will follow the life of a song through its development from poetry on paper to a part of our history, and MTSU faculty and alumni will share information about the recording industry. Professional songwriters will teach you how they start with a melody or some words scribbled on a napkin and develop a song. Find out how songwriting by inspiration and craft differ. Learn whether it is possible to sit down and write a No. 1 hit. To reach the masses, a song must be recorded. You will see how far the technology involved in recording and producing songs has advanced over time. From wax cylinders to digital recordings, the Center for Popular Music houses thousands of songs. Established in 1985 as one of just 16 Centers of Excellence at universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the (See ‘Summer College,’ Page 5)

Raiders rule

MVP Dasher dashes S. Miss hopes; MTSU finishes 10-3 with bowl victory

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Blue Raider football players, fans, alumni and university friends have waited years to experience what happened Dec. 20 in New Orleans. Powered by quarterback and game most valuable player Dwight Dasher, MTSU rallied from a 14-0 deficit to defeat Southern Mississippi 42-32 in the nationally televised R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl in the Louisiana Superdome. It was the first victory in the Football Bowl Subdivision era for the Blue Raiders, who capped a 10-win season with seven straight wins. They finished 33rd in the ESPN/USA Today coaches’ poll and 37th in The Associated Press poll. “This was one of the most thrilling times of my lifetime,” alumnus Bud Morris (’68, ’75) of Murfreesboro said. “I’ve been going to football games since the late 1940s, when my dad used to carry me on his shoulders. It was an (See ‘Raiders,’ Page 8)

Alumna Seivers takes the reins in education

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

East Tennessee native Lana Seivers has made an exciting — and emotional — return home to MTSU, her alma mater, after being appointed dean of the College of Education. “Humbling and exhilarating” is how Seivers described her return. “I came here for (Volunteer) Girls’ State,” she said. “I started at MTSU when I was 17. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I did not look at my life going, career-wise, where it has gone.” Seivers (72) said she has “been privileged to serve as teacher and principal (Oak Ridge), director of schools (Clinton (See ‘Seivers,’ Page 2)
University unveils home page

By Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

In a late January message to the MTSU community, Lucinda Lea (’74), vice president for the Division of Information Technology and chief information officer, said, “More than just a cosmetic change to the home page, this process has involved reviewing the message, branding, content and navigation of the mtsu.edu domain. In conjunction with efforts to move existing campus Web sites into the official content management system, the new design has resulted in a unified presentation that provides a revitalized look for MTSU, along with improved Web site navigation and searching ability.”

Lea added that ITD’s Web applications team converted more than 300 sites and over 5,000 pages to the new look since the new design was approved in December. Maine-based Campus Tours Inc., an interactive media and software company that created the virtual tour unveiled in August, again worked with the Web site committee on the redesign of the MTSU home page.

New look — by design

Seivers

City and Tennessee Commissioner of Education. There have been other stops along the way, most recently as executive director of the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, but she always has searched for the best ways for teachers to impart knowledge to students.

Arriving for her interview last fall, Seivers said driver Pat Thomas of the president’s office “drove up next to Rutledge Hall. I looked over and thought, ‘There’s my dorm room.’ Then I interviewed where I used to eat on the meal plan. It was emotional, but in a good way ... like I had stepped back in time.”

“When you are a student, you can’t wait to get out (graduate). At this stage of my life, you think, ‘that was the greatest time of my life.’ You don’t realize the impact this university will have on you for the rest of your life.”

Seivers, a Clinton native (and, yes, younger brother Larry was the two-time All-American wide receiver at the University of Tennessee), said she forged a lot of relationships as a student. “I’m lucky to have maintained a lot of those friendships,” she said, adding, “We still get together often. MTSU is still an important part of my life personally. It’s just fun to be back.”

Seivers said fellow alumni, friends and others in the community, embraced her wanting to become dean, asking who they could call or write letters to on her behalf. “I look forward to renewing those acquaintances and interactions with people I haven’t talked to in years,” she said.

The new dean understands the rich tradition of the program, which has produced a large percentage of the state’s teachers.

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With technology and resources, we can truly transform the way we teach. We have an obligation to use that building to impact instruction at both the PreK-12 and university levels. It still comes down to the belief that the key influence on the quality of a student’s education is the quality of the teacher.”

Without being asked, Seivers brought up the fundraising aspects that will be necessary as the college reaches and passes the MTSU centennial.

“We need to raise money for the college,” she said, adding that she knows she will have many discussions with Development Office Director Nick Perlick and Lucie Murphy, College of Education development director, about methods to achieve their goals.

“I think we can tap into contributors who can look back at their own school or their favorite teacher and say, ‘This teacher made a difference,’” and start a scholarship or make a donation in the school’s or teacher’s name. While I would love $25,000 donations, a $25 donation means a lot.

“I’m aware there’s a lot of room for fundraising growth in our college. Based on my athletic background, I’m competitive. I don’t want to be at the bottom of anything. Especially if those efforts directly impact the quality of the teachers we send into public schools.”

Seivers, a 2007-08 Distinguished Alumni, earned a bachelor’s in speech and hearing therapy and a master’s in psychology at MTSU (Knoxville). She earned her doctorate at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She has a son, Matthew, who lives in East Tennessee.

Seivers replaces Dr. Gloria Bonner (’72, ’74), who became assistant to the president in the Office of Community Engagement and Support in April 2008. Dr. Terry Whiteside, a psychology professor and the college’s current dean, will continue to serve as interim dean.

UR058-0210
**ALUMNI MAKING WAVES**

From MTSU Alumni Relations

Spring 2010 kicks off with fun family activities and great group discounts for alumni and friends.

“This year, we wanted to offer our alumni a chance to bring their families to MTSU events and have a great experience and fun time, all at a great price,” said Paul Wydra, Alumni Relations assistant director. “We have a wide variety of activities, and we encourage everyone to wear blue, show their MTSU spirit and reconnect with other alumni and friends.”

The Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament will host an all-school Alumni Champagne Reception Sunday, March 7, in Hot Springs, Ark.

“This event is always a great time and well-attended by alumni and fans from all of the Sun Belt Conference schools” Wydra said. “This reception is just another opportunity for our alumni and friends to show their Blue Raider spirit during an exciting tournament weekend.”

Say thank you to administrative professionals who keep your office running by bringing them to the Rutherford County Scholarship luncheon on April 21 at Bonefish Grill.

“Each year, the proceeds of the luncheon go toward the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship. Twenty scholarships were awarded this past academic year,” Wydra said. “We always hold this luncheon on Administrative Professionals Day because we think it’s a great opportunity for our alumni and friends to show their appreciation to the staff in their offices and support an important scholarship.”

A limited number of seats are available so please make your reservations early! RSVP by April 14.

MTSU Alumni and Friends Day at the Nashville Adventure Science Center is May 1.

“Our alumni love to bring their families to MTSU events,” Wydra said. “With our reduced ticket prices, the Nashville Adventure Science Center provides a great afternoon of family fun at reasonable costs.”

RSVP by April 23.

On Saturday, June 12, Nashville Shores will host MTSU Alumni and Friends Day.

“We are turning Nashville Shores BLUE!” Wydra said. “New this year will be a lazy river and a wave pool. Bring the whole family out and have a great time! The gates open at 10 a.m. and alumni and friends will receive a discounted admission ticket and a buffet lunch for $20. RSVP by June 4. We look forward to seeing you this year. Be sure to go to mtalumni.com for more information and more events in 2010 including Nashville Sounds’ and Memphis Redbirds’ baseball games and upcoming events throughout Tennessee. Go Blue!”

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**CALENDAR**

**Campus-related events**

**March**

- March 1: Deanna Little, flute; Winell Little, piano; faculty recital*
- March 1: Holly Hofman, jazz flute, Mike Wolford, piano; guest recital*
- March 1-4: *Through the Collector’s Eye* curated by MTSU professor Christie Nuell**
- March 2: MTSU Symphonic Band and Brass Ensemble*
- March 3: World Percussion Concert*
- March 4: MTSU Wind Ensemble*
- March 5: First Friday Star Party Kepler Telescope: Finding Earth-like Exoplanets with Eric Klumpe***
- March 15: Lisa Schroeder, flute; Michael Nigro, guitar; Noteworthy Duo*
- March 15-25: Memoria Kinetic Sculpture by John Powers**
- March 17: Frederique Saejs, guest violin recital*
- March 18: Duo Elegancia*
- March 18: Christine Poitress, soprano; Joseph Walker, piano; faculty recital*
- March 21: Bach Festival*
- March 21: MTSU Army ROTC Golf Tournament, Old Fort G.C.****
- March 21-25: Tennessee Guitar Festival*
- March 25: Maya Stone, faculty bassoon recital*
- March 29: Stones River Chamber Players*

**April**

- April 1-4: Studio Bachelor of Fine Arts Candidates Exhibition**
- April 7: MTSU Percussion Ensemble*
- April 8: Spring Choral Concert*
- April 9: First Friday Star Party: Hubble Space Telescope’s Great Discoveries with Chuck Higgins***
- April 10: MTSU Jazz Artist Series: Nashville Jazz Orchestra*
- April 14: Brenda Schuman-Post, guest oboe recital*
- April 15: MTSU Wind Ensemble*
- April 16-23: Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #1**
- April 18: H. Stephen Smith, tenor; Lynn Rice-See, piano; faculty voice recital*
- April 20: BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Martin Chair of Insurance Golf Tour., Champions Run G.C. #1
- April 24-25: Spring Dance Concert, MTSU Dance Theatre****
- April 25: MTSU Symphony Concert*
- April 26: MTSU Women’s Chorale*
- April 27: MTSU Symphonic Band*
- April 27-30: Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #2**
- April 28: MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble*

**May**

- May 1-5: Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #2**
- May 7: First Friday Star Party: Galactic Superstructures with Jeff Griffor***
- May 8: Spring, Commencement in Murphy Center

For more information, go to:

* http://frank.mtsu.edu/~music
** http://frank.mtsu.edu/~art
*** dwolke@mtsu.edu
**** savv@mtsu.edu/theatre
***** Bradley Christmas: bc3d@mtsu.edu or 1-800-533-6317

Note: All dates, times subject to change.

mtalumni.com
International alumni profile

(Third in a series)

Name: Jeremy N. Majors
U.S. home town: Nashville, Tenn.
International location: Hirakata City, Japan
Additional information: 2004 MTSU graduate, with a bachelor’s in international relations and minors in global and Asian studies. Also has studied at American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Works as business English instructor. Awarded first-ever study abroad Student of the Year in ’05.

Calls MTSU’s Walker Library “one of my favorite places on earth.”

About his experience: “As far as an international experience goes, study abroad defines you in ways you cannot imagine. ... It did take initiative to learn to do for myself and challenge myself when necessary. ... Living in the Middle East was a great experience ... but it was quite a challenge and sometimes stressful. In Japan, I was treated generously and somewhat first-class; in Egypt, I was at times treated with hostility or indifference. ... In Japan, I’ve developed a stronger work ethic.”

Confucius Institute

MTSU joins elite group; grand opening set April 21

Following a Dec. 1 signing of the Confucius Institute agreement, MTSU awaits the proposed grand opening, set for Wednesday, April 21, as part of week-long festivities. The Confucius Institute is housed in Peck Hall. To learn more about the institute and grand opening, call Yvonne Elliott at 615-494-8696. (Above) MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, second from left, is presented with a Confucius scroll by administrators from Hangzhou Normal University. (Above right) McPhee talks at the signing. (Right) Alumnus and Campus Recreation Director Charlie Gregory (’83, ’86), left, gives the Chinese visitors and McPhee a tour of the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

The Alumni Record/mtsalumni.com
Despite snow and freezing temperatures, workers continue to make progress with several large construction projects. (At right) From the roof of Jim Cummings Hall, an overview of the College of Education Building can be seen. (Below right) A worker pounds away at materials on the site for the new College of Education Building on the east side of campus. (Below left) Fencing and signage mark the construction site for expansion of McCallef Dining Hall, which will see a 50-seat expansion. The 87,300 gross square foot College of Education Building will include 993 classroom seats and 87 faculty offices. It is scheduled for completion by spring 2012. Adjacent to the education building will be a new, nearly 200,000-square-foot, $77.13 million Student Union.
The Alumni Record/mtalumni.com

March 2010

CLASS NOTES

BABY RAIDERS

Gavin Reed Bogle, born Dec. 10, 2009, to Clint and Christi Bogle (’03) of Woodbury, Tenn.


Jadon Isaiah Brinson, born July 7, 2009, to Andrey and Michelle Brinson (’91) of Nashville, Tenn.


Brennan Tyler Gregory, born Nov. 23, 2009, to Josh and Kasey Gregory (’76) of Murfreesboro.


Nicholas J. Hudgins, born Dec. 25, 2009, to Alonzo (’94) and Mealand Ragland Hudgins (’03) of Murfreesboro.

Nicholas Creed Lockmiller, born Dec. 30, 2009, to Jon (’89, ’80) and Lori Lockmiller (’00) of Franklin, Tenn.


In Memoriam

MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.

1940s


1950s


1960s

John Martin Bradley (’60), Cleveland, Tenn., passed away March 23, 2009.

MTSU notes passing of key staff, faculty

T he university has seen the passing of five long-time faculty members and one veteran staff member with a combined 141 years of service. Most of all, these individuals impacted the lives and careers of thousands of students along the way. The five include:

• Dr. Clay Morris Chandler, 82, professor emeritus in the Department of Biology, who taught at MTSU from 1970 until 1992, who passed away Nov. 17.
• Alumnus/Dr. Raymond Oakley Jennings (’47), 90, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, who passed away Sept. 6. He taught at MTSU from 1962 to 1985.
• Dr. Mary Ethel Freda Williams Martin, 83, professor emerita in Educational Leadership and former dean of the graduate school from 1968 until 1994, who passed away Dec. 24.
• Dr. Burns P. Phillips Jr., 86, associate professor in the Departments of Mathematical Sciences and Computer Sciences from 1957 until 1983, who passed away Sept. 10; and
• Dr. William R. Wolfe, 75, professor emeritus in the Department of English, who passed away Jan. 6. He taught at MTSU from 1969 until 1996.
Much has changed since 1911, when we were formed as a small teachers college. Today, MTSU is “Tennessee’s” best comprehensive university, serving the largest undergraduate population in Tennessee. Our growth has not just happened; it has been driven by the quality of programs and the opportunities afforded our students.

As we have grown, we have maintained a commitment to the success of our students, as evidenced by the fact that we have the second highest graduation rate in the state, behind only the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Remedial studies haven’t been taught by MTSU in years; instead, our students are enrolled in programs that not only are challenging but, for many, are among the best in the region and/or nation.

What has been missing from legislative discussion is that the state of Tennessee has not fully funded the current enrollment-based funding formula for more than 10 years, and MTSU receives each year, on average, $1,500 less per student from state funding than the other state universities. The progress we are so justifiably proud of has been made as a result of major infusions of money from the state but rather because of the dedication and commitment of our university to our students and the people of Tennessee.

As alumni, I urge each of you who reside in Tennessee to contact your state senator and state representative to let him know of your interest in making sure MTSU is treated equitably as they make changes to higher education.

Finally, I encourage you to become more involved with our university. If we want to continue to see our alma mater prosper, we each have a personal responsibility to support MTSU. Whether you attend a musical or theatrical production, support our Blue Raider athletes or make a donation to the programs that are most important to you, your investment of time and resources is a critical component of our institution’s future. I urge you to become involved!

Also, this is the time of year when we look for alumni who can help provide formal leadership for our institution. Please know that nominations are being accepted for the MTSU National Alumni Board of Directors as well as for the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Go online to mtalumni.com or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 615-898-2922 for more information.

MTSU National Alumni Association President Jim Stubblefield received his B.S. in 1983. He has served as an aide to Congressman Bart Jones in 25 years. He and his wife, Nancy (87), live in Murfreesboro along with their two daughters, Katherine and Margaret.
Centennial kickoff
gala set for Sept. 9, 2011, at Embassy Suites

By Randy Weiler rweiler@mtsu.edu

With the theme of “Traditions of Excellence” and a 2011 date and site for the kickoff to MTSU’s centennial celebration, the 51-member Centennial Celebration Planning Committee continues its quest to make it a time to remember for all associated with MTSU’s 100th anniversary.

The inaugural event scheduled by the committee will be a kickoff dinner and celebration that will be held Sept. 9, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro, said Joe Bales, vice president for the Division of Development and University Relations, who worked with MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee in appointing the committee.

“We plan to have a blue-tie gala event,” added Bob Lamb, chair of the Centennial Executive Planning Committee. “We look upon this being one of the major events the university has ever sponsored to celebrate 100 years of tradition and excellence.”

Lamb said the committee “is working on developing a first-class program at the gala.”

Alumna Suma Clark (‘70, ’77), former director of MTSU Publications and Graphics and editor of itsu magazine, said it would be “an absolute thrill, and a lot of my friends were with me.”

The bowl experience was something to savor — one that many would love to see become a tradition.

“It was a really great experience. I look forward to many more,” alumna Don Witherspoon (‘64) of Murfreesboro said.

“The excitement and enthusiasm were great,” added Hanna Witherspoon (‘64). As a Blue Raider Athletic Association reward for buying or getting others to buy tickets to the game, the Witherspoons flew with the team to New Orleans.

“The electricity on the plane … the guys (players) were smiling, and coming home was even better,” Hanna Witherspoon said. “Coach (Rick) Stockstill did not stop smiling the whole trip. The coaches’ wives and children … everybody was really into this.”

Marc Rogers ('80), right, and soon-to-be alumna daughter Claire made the New Orleans Bowl experience a father/daughter trip they will long remember.

Academic Progress Rate from 892 to 990 in three years’ time — the biggest jump of any school in the conference.

Director of Athletics Chris Massaro told local media that Stockstill has done “a terrific job … not only record-wise but the academics and all those kind of things. … One can see the progression of our young talent, the progression of our academic work, the graduation and the effect on our student-athletes.”

Thousands of blue- and white-clad fans began gathering several days before the game, taking in the sights, sounds and tastes of New Orleans. “Go Blue!” yells became quite common. A National Alumni Association Bobby Bowl drew an overflow crowd of fans and friends to enjoy a traditional New Orleans meal overlooking Fan Fest. A Battle of the Bands stirred fans’ emotions. (We’re told the Band of Blue won that battle, too.)

“There was a great turnout for the party,” Don Witherspoon said of the Bowl Bash. “Any time on the trip, we were always trying to wear our Middle Tennessee logo. It was something that made us proud to be a part of the MTSU fans and proud to be alumni.”