NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

- **Seigenthaler Federal Judiciary Project**
  This cooperative venture between *The Tennessean* and the John Seigenthaler Chair for Excellence in First Amendment Studies in the School of Journalism is an immersion training of journalism students, having them report daily on the activities of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee and the other federal criminal justice offices in Nashville. The daily activities of the student reporters are directed by Pulitzer winner Wendell Rawls Jr., a professor in the School of Journalism and a 45-year journalism professional; and Dwight Lewis, former editor of *The Tennessean* editorial page and federal beat reporter.

- **Florence Class Trip**
  A dozen Electronic Media Communication students traveled to Florence, Italy this summer with EMC’s Tom Neff to shoot three documentary films about artists working in that city. The resulting films are in post-production. Tom Neff is the Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated founder and former CEO of the Documentary Channel.

- **Capitol Street Party**
  Students from MTSU’s College of Mass Communication worked alongside Capitol executives and technicians to stage the 2012 Capitol Street Party in Nashville, Oct. 17. Colby Graham, the senior radio/television major, who produced MTSU’s efforts at the Capitol Street Party, said his job was to make sure every member of the crew executes well. Electronic Media Communication assistant professor Bob Gordon oversaw the student-led effort featuring the $1.7 million HD mobile production laboratory.
  

- **EMC students produced documentary on the Making of Pa’s Fiddle for PBS distribution**
  College of Mass Communication students filmed the creators and musicians behind the scenes to create the documentary “The Making of Pa’s Fiddle.” The trailer for the PBS documentary “Pa’s Fiddle: America’s Music,” which highlights the music of “Pa” Ingalls, of the “Little House” books was also a student project, and was edited by Clay Tipton, who is also responsible for the graphics in the documentary film.
• **Innovator of the Year for College Students**
  The Center for Innovation in Media received an honorable mention in the Innovator of the Year for College Students category for its own take on collaboration at the national Associated Press Media Editors conference.

• **EMC Productions received 2 Honorable Mentions in the College Sports Media Awards**
  EMC productions, a student production team in the College of Mass Communication, has won two honorable mentions in the “Live Game and Event” category for broadcast coverage of MTSU football and basketball. The College Sports Media Awards recognize the best in class in the college sports production arena. Conducted by the Sports Video Group (SVG) and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, these awards recognize outstanding work in college sports video productions from campuses across the country.

• **MTSU team received Honorable Mention in national animation competition**
  Three teams of five Digital Animation students from the College of Mass Communication participated in the 5th Annual 24 Hour Animation Contest, competing with teams from across the nation. MTSU’s *Green Army Men* team garnered an Honorable Mention spot on the list of winners. The team was comprised of Digital Animation students Edward Lunsford, Cassidy Morgan, David Pettey, Josh Ranchino and Justin Wright.

• **Master’s in Mass Communication student wins research award and graduate fellowship**
  Megan McSwain, one of our Master of Science in Mass Communication students placed 2nd in Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Cultural and Critical Studies Division's research competition for her paper "Warriors and Witches: Cinematic Constructions of Navajos in Windtalkers and Skinwalkers." She received the award at the recently concluded AEJMC national conference in Washington, DC. Her award-winning paper was part of her graduate thesis. Prof. Jane Marcellus, School of Journalism, chaired her thesis committee and Professors Katie Foss, School of Journalism and Clare Bratten, Department of Electronic Media Communication served as thesis committee members.
McSwain was also awarded the prestigious $25,000 University of Illinois Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship. She will start her doctoral program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign this fall.

- **Former Sidelines editor starts graduate journalism program at UC- Berkeley**
  Becca Andrews, former *Sidelines* editor and journalism major was granted admission to the University of California-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. UC Berkeley’s graduate program had more than 350 applicants all over the country. Andrews is one of only a handful of 2013 graduates with no outside journalism experience to be admitted to the program.

- **Undersea Exploration Team discovers three sunken pirate ships in the Gulf of Mexico**
  Electronic Media Communication Prof. Mary Nichols is with a team of archeologists exploring an early 19th-century shipwreck off the Gulf of Mexico. Prof. Nichols uses the advanced video broadcast system on board the *Nautilus*, the vessel ferrying the research team to the deepest shipwreck investigation in U.S. history, to record and stream live video feeds from the remotely operated vehicle’s cameras to the Web. For more information: [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/07/130719-shipwreck-gulf-mexico-archaeology-ocean-science/](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/07/130719-shipwreck-gulf-mexico-archaeology-ocean-science/)

- **Audio Engineering Society (AES) International Conference: Audio Education**
  The Department of Recording Industry hosted the 50th AES conference on campus, July 25-27. Some 150 college professors, equipment manufacturers and industry professionals from all over the world participated in the conference. Recording Industry Associate Professors Bill Crabtree and Michael Fleming served as conference co-chairs. [http://blog.mixonline.com/briefingroom/2013/07/22/aes-holds-50th-international-conference-with-focus-on-audio-education/](http://blog.mixonline.com/briefingroom/2013/07/22/aes-holds-50th-international-conference-with-focus-on-audio-education/)

- **Scripps Spelling Bee Sponsor**
  MTSU, together with the College of Mass Communication, the School of Journalism and *The Tennessean*, sponsored and hosted the regional Scripps Spelling Bee competition in the New Student Union Building on Wednesday, March 20th. More than 60 students from a 30-county regional area competed while the top finisher, Jonathan Caldwell advanced to the national bee in Washington, D.C. on May 29. Caldwell reached the semifinal round.

- **Recording Industry Professor in Barry Gibb (Bee Gees) Tour**
  Associate Professor John Merchant recently returned from a tour of Australia with Barry Gibb (founding member of the Bee Gees). Professor Merchant was a sound engineer for the tour and will be on a two-week European leg of the tour
this fall.

- **The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill**  
  Electronic Media Communication Professor Bob Pondillo’s short film has won 18 awards from the independent film circuit such as “Outstanding Screenplay in a Short Film,” (Bob Pondillo), “Best Short Film, 2012,” “Best Director, Short Film, 2012,” among others. Numerous students participated in the production.

- **Marc Barr selected as SIGGRAPH 2015 conference chair**  
  Electronic Media Communication Prof. Marc Barr has been selected as the 2015 conference chair for ACM SIGGRAPH’s annual conference. This is one of the world’s great conferences and has been conducted annually for 40 years.  
  [http://www.siggraph.org](http://www.siggraph.org)

**STATE AND LOCAL ITEMS**

- **Electronic Media Communication students fared very well at Tennessee Associated Press Broadcast College Broadcasters Awards**  
  EMC students walked away with 7 awards, including the two most coveted “Best of Show” for television and radio. The College of Mass Communication hosted this year’s Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters College Career Day and 2012 Tennessee AP College Broadcasters Award ceremony, April 27. The top EMC winners are: Shawn Anfinson, Russ Johnson, Michelle Potts, Kelsey Lebechuck and Katie Myers.  

- **Blue Spark Awards**  
  The Department of Electronic Media Communication holds the only state-wide competition for Tennessee high school students studying media arts. There was a live TV broadcast and webstream of the event. The broadcast was fully produced by our students and included a 3-D Projection mapping set done in collaboration with DWP Live, the people who did the same for the 2012 Super Bowl halftime show featuring Madonna.  

- **WMTS student sports radio show Beasley & Burnette finished in the top 2 at IBS Awards**  
  “The Beasley & Burnette Sports Show” on the student-run WMTS radio station placed in the top 2 at the 73rd Intercollegiate Broadcasting System for Best Sports Talk Program. Justin Beasley and Chris Burnette host the show. The 73rd Annual IBS Awards was held in New York City, March 1-3, 2013.
http://emcmtsu.com/beasley-burnette-sports-show-among-finalists-for-ibs-awards/

- **Students produce live TV coverage of 2012 national elections**
  This may be the most complex media production ever undertaken by college students. Not only were regular Electronic Media Communication production classes involved, but also all of our student media -- MT10, WMTS, *Sidelines* and social media as well as the NPR-affiliated WMOT that are housed in the College of Mass Communication’s Center for Innovation in Media.
  http://emcmtsu.com/emc-students-overcome-obstacles-take-center-stage-on-election-night/

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