

# Critser's 'Fat Land' is Summer Reading choice

by Carrie Hargett

MTSU's 2006 Summer Reading selection is *Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World* by Greg Critser, who also is scheduled to be the guest speaker during Fall Convocation.

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

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

Incoming freshmen will be expected to have read the book before

fall classes start on Aug. 28. All University 1010 classes will discuss *Fat Land*.

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

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

Critser will speak at Convocation



Critser



Courtesy Houghton Mifflin Co.

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

Media class.

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

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

## Windham Lecture: Creation vs. evolution

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Edward J. Larson will visit MTSU to present an open lecture beginning at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, as this year's guest speaker for the William and Westy Windham Lecture in Liberal Arts.

"The Creation/Evolution Controversy: From Scopes to Intelligent Design" is the title of Larson's talk, which will take place in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Larson, who holds the Herman E. Talmadge Chair of Law and is the Richard B. Russell Professor of American History at the University of Georgia, is the author of six books and more than 100 published articles and writes mostly about issues of law, science and medicine from a historical perspective.

His first book, *Trial and Error: The American Controversy Over Creation and Evolution* (1985, expanded editions 1989 and 2002), chronicles the legal battles over teaching evolution in American public schools. For his 1997 book, *Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion*, Larson became the first sitting law professor to receive the Pulitzer Prize in history.

Dr. John Vile, chairman of the political science department, said *Summer for the Gods* is "probably the single best book on the Scopes Monkey Trial that took place in Dayton, Tenn."

"The Windham Lecture Series has had a number of successful speakers, but with recent disputes over the

teaching of evolution and intelligent design, it is difficult to think of a much more engaging or relevant topic," Vile remarked.

The 1925 State v. John Scopes trial, commonly referred to as "The Monkey Trial," centered on then-24-year-old John Scopes, a biology teacher and part-time football coach, who was tried by a jury in Dayton for illegally teaching the theory of evolution.



Larson

"If Larson can speak as clearly as he writes—and I have been told that he can—the audience is in for a real treat," Vile observed.

Immediately following his lecture, Larson will be available to sign copies of his books. A representative from Phillips Bookstore will be on hand in the JUB with copies of three of Larson's books for sale.

The Windham Lecture Series is sponsored annually by the College of Liberal Arts, with the assistance of MTSU's political science, social work, geosciences, and sociology and anthropology departments. It was established in 1990 through the MTSU Foundation to honor Dr. William Windham, who was a member of the MTSU history department's faculty from 1955 to 1989 and served as the department chairman during the last 11 years, and Westy Windham (1927-1991), who earned a master's degree in sociology at MTSU and founded the Great American Singalong.

For more information, please call the College of Liberal Arts at 615-898-2534.

## Randolph earns 1st Arnhart Scholars nursing award

by Randy Weiler

Murfreesboro native Hannah Elisabeth Randolph, who was accepted into the upper division nursing program last fall, has become the first recipient of the James R. Arnhart Scholars award, School of Nursing director Lynn Parsons said.

"Her goal is to specialize in pediatric or neonatal nursing and to later pursue missionary work," Parsons said.

Randolph, who graduated from Blackman High School, was valedictorian of her class with a grade point average of 4.0 and scored a 28 on the American College Test, Parsons said.

"Hannah was very involved in athletics in high school," Parsons said, mentioning basketball, volleyball, softball and track and field. "She was



Randolph

nominated for numerous athletic awards and voted Most Outstanding Scholar-Athlete."

Randolph also was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and senior class treasurer, and her MTSU GPA is 3.55.

Several years ago, Murfreesboro-based Christy-Houston Foundation donated \$150,000 to the School of Nursing to honor Arnhart, who was hospital administrator at Rutherford Hospital from March 1, 1953, until Sept. 4, 1986, the same year the hospital's name changed to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

The Christy-Houston Foundation has a history of supporting MTSU's nursing program. It contributed \$3.1 million in 1992 to help build Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building and another \$2 million last fall toward the 24,000 square foot addition currently being constructed.

## Psychology conference scheduled April 22

by Lisa L. Rollins

The sometimes-controversial ideas surrounding pseudoscience in the world of mental health will be a centerpiece of the 2006 Middle Tennessee Psychological Association conference, scheduled for 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in MTSU's Business and Aerospace Building.

Dr. Scott Lilienfeld, a member of Emory University's psychology faculty since 1994 and the current editor of the *Scientific*

*Review of Mental Health Practice*, will deliver the daylong event's keynote address: "Distinguishing Science from Pseudoscience in Mental Health Practice: Challenges, Problems and Remedies."

Dr. William Langston, associate professor of psychology at MTSU, said Lilienfeld's ideas, in addition to holding wide appeal, likely will "generate some controversy" as well.

"(Lilienfeld) claims that most of what therapists do either isn't sup-



Lilienfeld

ported by research evidence or actually flies in the face of the evidence that we have," Langston explained. So, according to Lilienfeld's views, "if psychology as a discipline is going to help people, the people in psychology ought to be providing treatments that have some evidence of effective-

ness," Langston added. Lilienfeld's address is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

Admission to the conference, which is sponsored by MTSU's psychology department, is \$5 per person. Advance registration is recommended.

For more information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/MTPAHome.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/MTPAHome.html) or call the psychology department at 615-898-2706.