MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

StayCurrent

with the College of Liberal Arts NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY • WINTER • 2009

VisitingArtists

Beth Ann Fennelly will be the spring 2009 visiting artist for University Honors 3200. Fennelly's book, *Open House,* won the 2001 Kenyon Review Prize and the Great Lakes College Association (GLCA) New Writers Award. Fennelly is also the author of *Great With Child: Letters to a Young Mother*, *Tender Hooks*, and *A Different Kind of Hunger*, which won the 1997 Texas Review Chapbook Breakthrough Award. Fennelly teaches English at the University of Mississippi.

Wayne White (Art alum) returned to campus for a lecture and design commitment. White, a Chattanooga native and 1979 graduate, spoke about his experience at MTSU and his professional journey. You might know his television work on *Pee Wee's Playhouse*, *Shining Time Station*, and

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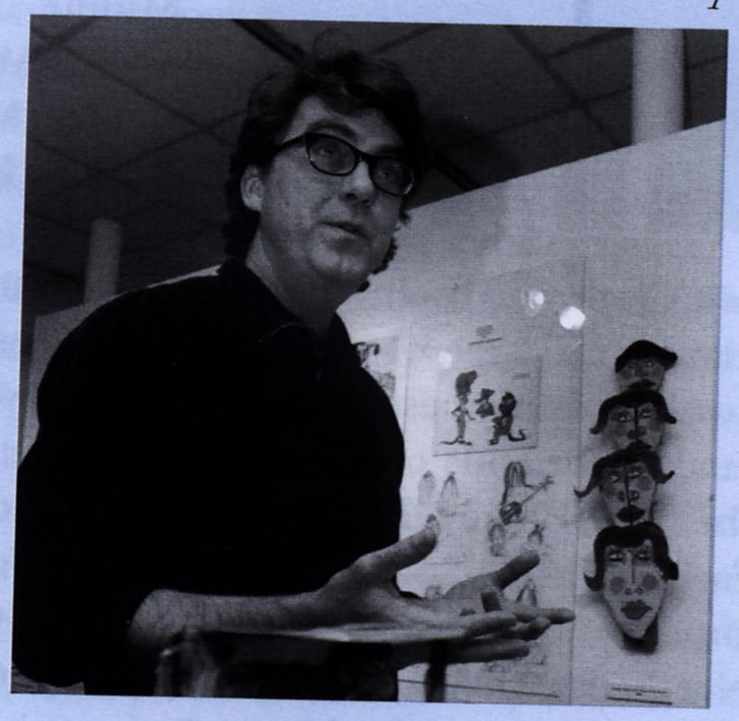
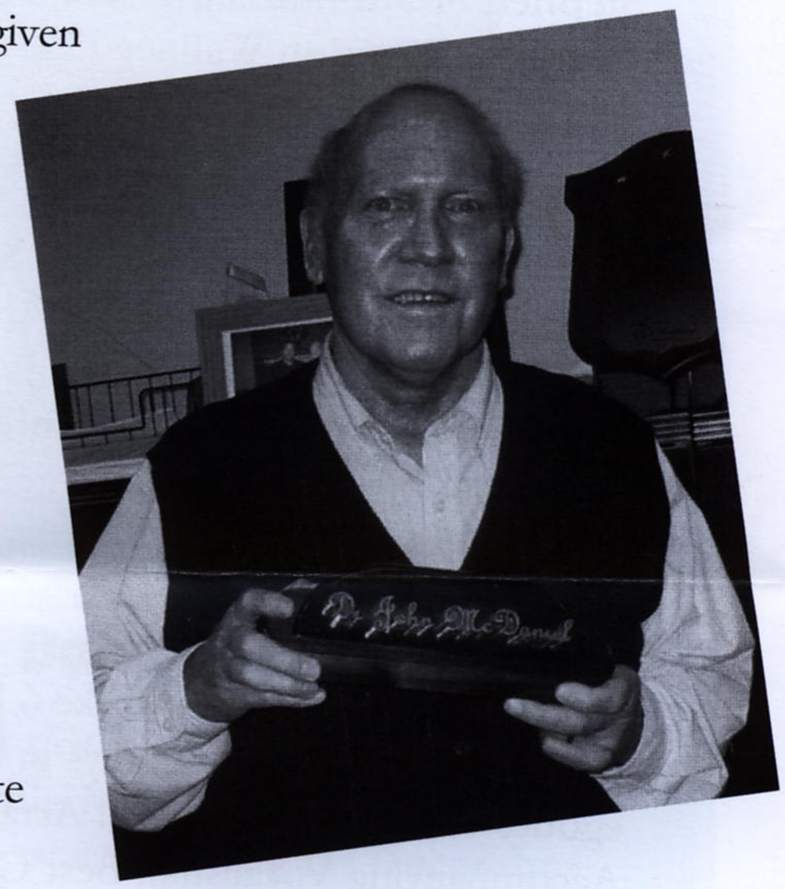


Wayne White on a previous campus visit

AppreciationfortheDean

John McDaniel was presented with a carved wooden nameplate by Bob Cabay and his carpentry class at West Tennessee State Penitentiary, Henning, given in appreciation for McDaniel's support of the Great Books Project in Tennessee prisons.



Dean'sNotes

We all know these days that the winds of change have been blowing our way for some time now, in large part because of the shrinking state budget and the multiple rescissions and reversions of a troubled economy. I am reminded of Robert Gallagher's pithy observation that "change is inevitable—except from a vending machine." That's a sentiment with which some of us in the budget process can identify, with subtraction and division being the only changes on the near horizon. On the other hand, we are making a concerted effort to use "change" to our advantage where we can: increasing efficiency, evaluating programs where contraction or consolidations make sense, and identifying—even celebrating—core academic principles that must be preserved even when times are tough. This is an all-college undertaking, with chair and senior faculty leadership being absolutely essential, of course. Our intent is to emerge even stronger when the recessionary climate changes to better "weather." Now that is one change that would be most welcome indeed! But even with the present turbulence in the atmosphere, the faculty and students in the CLA have accomplished a great deal, as the items in our current newsletter attest. Read on to catch up on happenings in the college.

John N. McDaniel, Dean

Faculty/StaffNews

Tenured 2008

Craig Carter (Sociology and Anthropology) and **Cedric Dent** (Music)

Promoted 2008

Elvira Casal (English), **Oscar Diaz** (Foreign Languages and Literatures), **Crosby Hunt** (Speech and Theatre), **Newtona Johnson** (English), **Vicky MacLean** and **Angela Mertig** (Sociology and Anthropology), **Susan Myers-Shirk** (History), **Melinda Richards** (Speech and Theatre), **Christoph Rosenmuller** and **Amy Sayward** (History), **Stephen Smith** (Music), **Tanya Tewell** (Art), and **Brandon Wallace** (Sociology and Anthropology).

Tenured and Promoted 2008

Mohammed Albakry (English), **Sisavanh Houghton** and **Seth Johnson** (Art), **Yang Soo Kim** (Speech and Theatre), **Jennifer Marchant** and **Rhonda McDaniel** (English), **Kim Neal Nofsinger** (Speech and Theatre), and **Debrah Sickler-Voigt** (Art).

Cedric Dent (Music) and Take 6 have been nominated for three Grammys in the categories of Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s), Best Gospel Performance, and Best Jazz Instrumental Solo.

Tanya Peres (Sociology and Anthropology) received a grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to work in Scotland last summer. The work was in conjunction with faculty at the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology.

David Pruett (Music) has received and signed a book contract with the University Press of Mississippi for *MuzikMafia: From the Nashville Scene to the Popular Mainstream*, a monograph based on his dissertation research at Florida State University.

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2008 Tenure and Promotion Reception

Sitting: *Amy Sayward (History), Newtona Johnson (English), Rhonda McDaniel (English), Debrah Sickler-Voigt (Art), Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton (Art), Melinda Richards (Speech and Theatre)* Standing: *Cedric Dent (Music), Mohammed Albakry (English), Christoph Rosenmuller (History), Kim Neal Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre), Brandon Wallace (Sociology and Anthropology), Seth Johnson (Art), Oscar Diaz (Foreign Languages & Literatures), Yang Soo Kim (Speech and Theatre), Mark Byrnes, (Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts)*

A Swinging, Successful Evening

The **Evening of Swing** returned in 2008 with the support of the Friends of Music. This year, the School of Music raised over $5,000 for student-supported projects. **Jamey Simmons** (Music) and many of our very talented music students provided the music for the evening, and there was dancing until late into the night. Over 240 attended this year's event, which was sponsored by the **President's Office, Don and Hannah Witherspoon, Middle Tennessee Medical Center, Murray Martin, Kem Hinton, George Riordan, Karen Clark**, and **Steinway Piano. Aramark** provided a wonderful dinner, and wine was provided by **Stones River Beverages**. We wish to thank these sponsors, University and community members, and the **Friends of Music Committee: Liz Rhea, Shirley LaRoche, Jane Blakey, Robbie Hooper, Linda Palmer, Brenda McFarlin, Margie Spangler, Bobbie and John Duke, Ernestine Thomas, Martha Curl, Veronica Milnar, George Riordan, Claudette Northcutt, Deana Little, Robyn Kilpatrick**, and **Connie Huddleston**. Mark your calendars for next year's event: October 30, 2009.

Faculty/Staff News ...

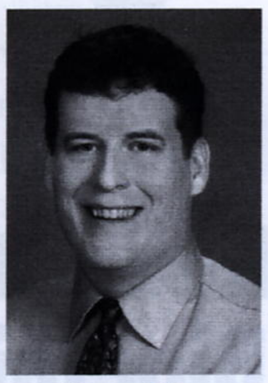
Andrei Korobkov (Political Science) has a new book out: *The U.S. Migration Experience: The Lessons for Russia.* He also wrote *Moscow: Academia and Moscow Center for Human Rights* and a chapter titled "Post-Soviet Migration: New Trends at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century," in the book *Migration, Homeland, and Belonging in Eurasia*, edited by Cynthia J. Buckley and Blair A. Ruble with Erin Trouth Hofmann.

Leo Erice (Music) performed Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto in October at the National Symphony Hall in Madrid, Spain, with the Orquesta Santa Cecilia. What an honor for one of our best!

The School of Music welcomes **Val Angrosini** January 15 as its new piano technician. Angrosini holds a degree from Murray State University and served as an apprentice with two master craftsmen before receiving formal training in piano technology. Welcome, Val!

Lori Kissinger (Speech and Theatre) received the Mayor's Professional Award from the Nashville Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. The award recognizes a person who strongly advocates for and displays keen sensitivity to issues related to disability and whose efforts "impact positively and significantly upon the service system and community." Congratulations, Lori!

The Inexplicable Dumb Show is a podcast produced by our own **Tee Quillen** and **John Mauldin** (Speech and Theatre). Quillen and Mauldin were recently interviewed for *Loop*, a bimonthly newsletter featuring national playwrights.

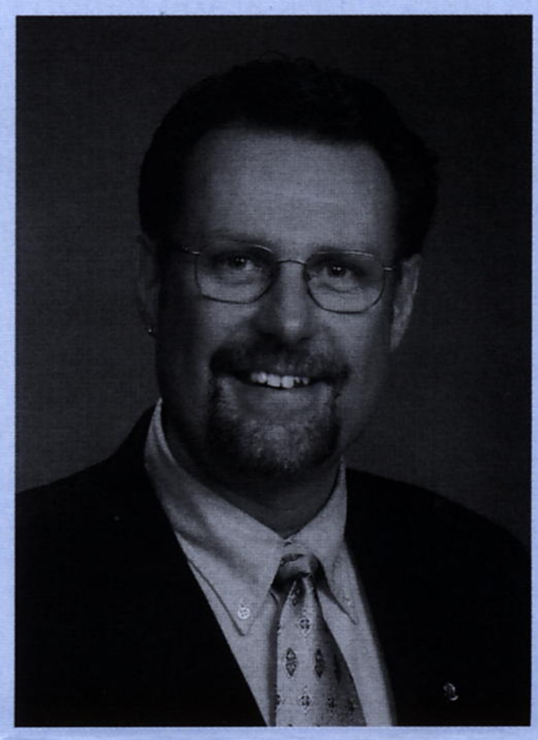


Mauldin

William Levine (English) has been invited to participate in the Liberty Fund Socratic Seminar "Restoring the Lost Constitution: The Presumption of Liberty," in Indianapolis this March. This three-day event will tap Levine's scholarly interest in 18th-century political ideologies and the ways they intersect with the republic of letters and aesthetic theories of the British 18th century.

Carroll Van West (Historic Preservation) has published "Sacred Spaces of Faith, Community, and Resistance: Rural African American Churches in Jim Crow Tennessee" in Angel David Nieves and Leslie M. Alexander's *We Shall Independent Be: African American Place Making and the Struggle to Claim Space in the United States* by the University Press of Colorado.

The Encyclopedia of the First Amendment, a two-volume set about all five freedoms in the First Amendment to the Constitution (religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition), was edited by **John Vile** (Honors dean), **David Hudson** (Political Science adjunct), and David Schultz (Hamline University). Other Liberal Arts contributors are **Brandi Bozarth** (Political Science/Mock Trial coach/alum); **Mark Byrnes** (Liberal Arts associate dean); **Clyde Willis** (Political Science chair); **David Carlton**, **Sekou Franklin**, **Robb McDaniel**, **Karen Petersen**, and **Steve Robertson** (all Political Science faculty); and **Virginia Vile** and **Patrick Chinnery** (alums).



Dale McGilliard

It is with great sadness that we write to say Dale McGilliard (Speech and Theatre) passed away on December 28, 2008. Dale taught theatre for 18 years and served as director of Governor's School for the Arts for the last six years. He came to us from Dyersburg State; prior to that, he taught at Arkansas State University. He served as interim chair of Speech and Theatre at MTSU during Spring 2002. If you attended plays at Tucker Theatre in the last 18 years, you were sure to have seen many directed by Dale McGilliard. He loved the theatre and was dedicated to his students. He taught a variety of acting classes, supervised study-abroad classes, and performed administrative duties. He truly loved his work. We pass along our condolences to Dale's family.

AlumniNews

It is always good to hear from our alums and to find out what they are doing. The latest to make contact is **Lee Sandstead** (Philosophy). Sandstead is hosting *Art Attack* on the Travel Channel cable network.
The series takes a look at the nation's top museums. Sandstead says they have a fast, passionate time going through the museums discussing five must-see pieces at each stop. Check the Travel Channel for viewing times or visit sandstead.com.

Faculty Research and Creativity Committee

Twelve faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts have received FRCAC grants for the 2009 academic year.

Debrah Sickler-Voigt
Art Department

Justyna Kostkowska, Mohammed Albakry, Julie Myatt, Angela Hague
English Department

Mark Abolins
Geosciences Department

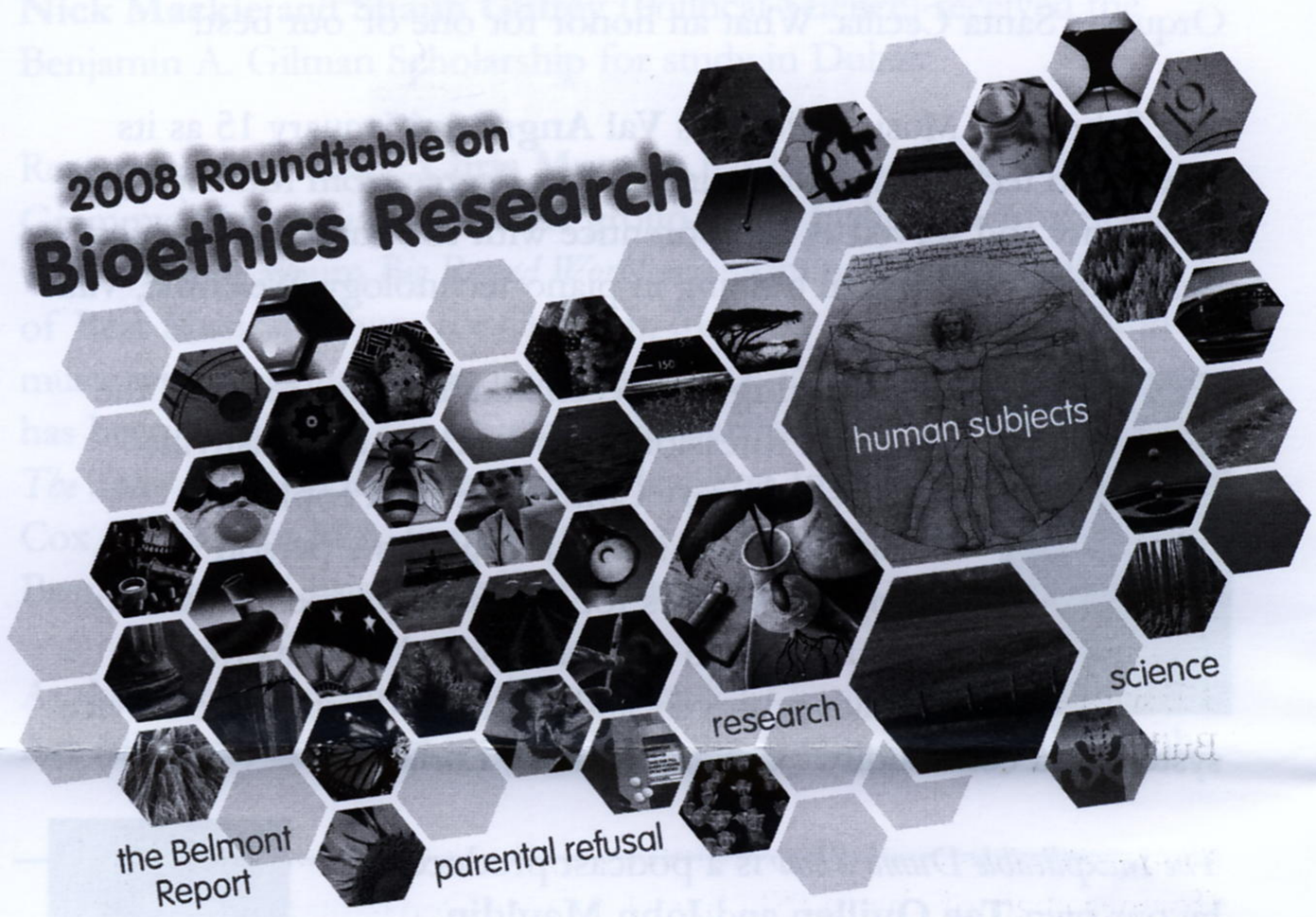
Sean Foley, Lorne McWatters, Christoph Rosenmuller
History Department

Amanda DiPaolo, Sekou Franklin
Political Science Department

Yang Soo Kim
Speech and Theatre Department

Help for Vets

The **Blue Raiders American Veterans Organization (BRAVO)** is a newly formed group intended to accommodate veterans who want to attend MTSU. If any of our veterans would like to be a part of this organization of support, contact **Hilary Stallings** at hstallin@mtsu.edu. **Jimmie Cain** (English) serves as faculty advisor. Thank you to all those serving as mentors or advisors.



Roundtable on Bioethics Research Resources

Robert Rucker (Social Work) chaired the 2008 Roundtable on Bioethics Research November 12 at MTSU. The one-day roundtable featured a presentation on information resources of the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL), an affiliate of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University. Reference librarians Kathleen Schroder and Martina Darragh reviewed the NRCBL's Web site and databases and its Web "event page" on social work ethics developed especially for the roundtable. They also reviewed special bioethics features of the U.S. National Library of Medicine's Pub Med and Book Catalog databases. (The social work ethics event page is now a permanent feature of NRCBL's Web site.)

Rucker says the success of the roundtable was due to the support of members of the faculty, staff, and administration across campus who volunteered their time and talents.

In Memoriam

Lucy Strickland

Longtime supporter of MTSU and renaissance woman of many talents Lucy Strickland passed away December 18, 2009. Lucy was a retired attorney, an avid reader, an enthusiastic ornithologist, and an amateur astronomer. She played the piano and sang with the choir. Her appetite for classical music was inexhaustible and evident in her attendance at all music performances on campus. She kept a busy schedule attending campus events and supporting many local charities. The School of Music will honor Lucy Strickland on Friday, February 13, with a reception and performance at Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building.

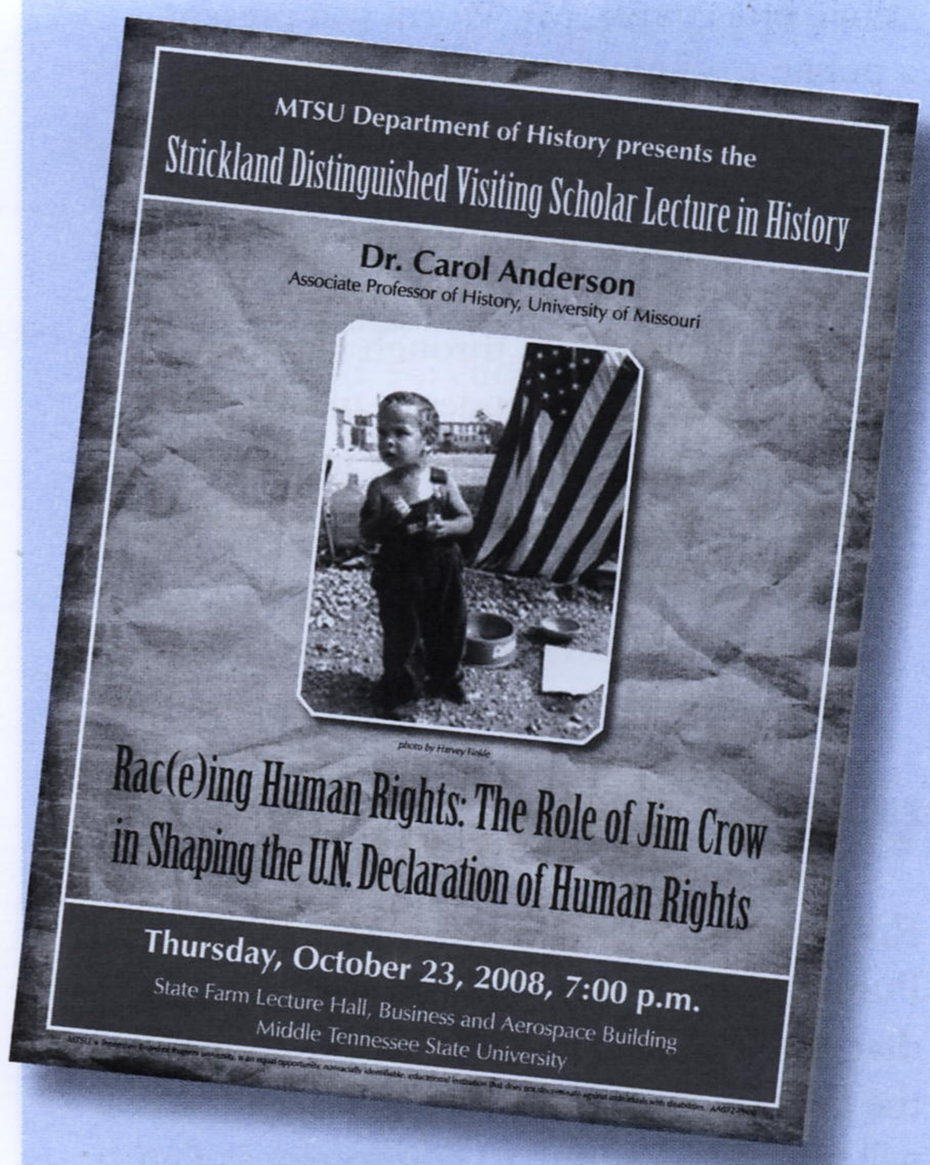
Lucy was predeceased by her husband, Roscoe L. Strickland, Jr. (former chair of the MTSU Social Science Department) and two daughters, Alice M. Strickland and Tracy D. Strickland. She is survived by a daughter, Rachel M. Strickland of San Francisco; a son, Roscoe L. "Rocky" Strickland III of Raleigh, North Carolina; and a granddaughter, Tracy A. Strickland of Raleigh.

2008 Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

The Sociology and Anthropology Department hosted the 17th Annual Social Science Symposium on campus November 18 and 19, 2008. The title of the symposium this year was "Sick in America: Sociocultural Perspectives of Health and Wellness. The symposium had over forty MTSU undergraduates presenting research, along with a thematic panel (The Politics of Healthcare) and a career panel of former students. Michael Moore's film *Sicko* was shown for an audience of over 250 students, with a discussion session following. A special thanks to the committee: Ida Fadzillah (chair), Will Leggett, Brian Hinote, Foster Amey, Shannon Hodge, Karla Barnes, Lynn Hampton, Vickie MacLean, and Jackie Eller, chair of Sociology and Anthropology, for supporting the symposium.

Strickland Scholar Draws Large Audience

Carol Anderson, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri, was the 2008 Strickland Visiting Scholar. Anderson's lecture topic, "Rac(e)ing Human Rights: The Role of Jim Crow in Shaping the UN Declaration of Human Rights," engaged a full house in the State Farm Room. Anderson is the author of *Eyes Off the Prize: The United Nations and the African-American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944–1955* and a new book, *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggles for Colonial Liberation, 1941–1960*. In the new work, Anderson exposes the long-hidden role of the nation's most powerful civil rights organization in the fight for the liberation of African and Asian people.



We are grateful to the Strickland family for their continued support of this lectureship and MTSU as a whole.

NEA Fellowship in Literature Winner

Bryan Thao Worra, one of the most widely published Laotian writers, will be on campus February 2-4. He has just been awarded an NEA Fellowship in Literature and Poetry, the first Laotian-American writer to receive this fellowship. Mr. Worra's work has appeared in many anthologies and journals including *Bamboo Among the Oaks*, *Paj Ntaub Voice*, *Whistling Shade*, *Urban Pioneer*, *Unarmed*, the *Asian Pacific Journal* and the *Journal of the Asian American Renaissance*. He has previously received support from the Loft Literary Center Career Initiative Grant and the Minnesota State Arts Board. He was a 2002 Playwrights' Center Many Voices Fellow and is an active member of the SatJaDham Lao Literary Project, working to promote the work of Laotian and Hmong artists and writers. He will be releasing a new book, *Barrow,* in April, 2009. You can visit his blog at http://thaoworra.blogspot.com/

While on campus, Mr. Worra will present a public reading of his work on Tuesday, February 3, in the State Farm Room at 7:00 p.m. He is very interested in talking with students and demonstrating the essential difference they can make as writers, transforming communities through literature. His visit will benefit students and faculty by introducing them to voices in Asian-American literature—specifically Laotian-American literature.

VisitingArtists ...

Riders in the Sky or his videos for Smashing Pumpkins and Peter Gabriel. He stressed that art students should "be the little fish in the big pond—learn, learn, and learn." White will return this spring to complete a sculpture, I'M DREAMING, which he will donate to the Art Department.

StudentNews

Nick Mackie (Political Science) was awarded the William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship for study in Dubai for Spring 2009. The scholarship covers tuition and housing at the American University. He is one of only ten students given the award in a nationwide competition. Mackie is a double major in International Relations and Anthropology with minors in Global Studies and Middle East Studies. He also serves as president of the Society of International Affairs and is an active participant in Model United Nations.

Nick Mackie and **Shaun Guffey** (Political Science) received the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for study in Dubai.

Recent music graduate **Chris Munson** has been nominated for a Grammy. Munson is part of the group Trout Fishing in America, whose recent album *Big Round World* was nominated in the category of Best Musical Album for Children. Munson received his M.A. in music with a specialization in jazz studies in May 2008. **Jeff E. Cox** has been nominated for a Grammy as part of the Earl Klugh album *The Spice of Life* in the category of Best Pop Instrumental Album. Cox received an M.A. in music with a specialization in jazz studies. Best wishes to Chris and Jeff on their Grammy nominations!

At the juried student exhibition of the Art Department's **Student Art Alliance**, first place went to **Danielle Burns** for her lithograph

Students Present Original Research at Southeastern Archaeological Conference

Lacey Fleming and **Teresa Ingalls**, along with **Tanya Peres** (Anthropology faculty), presented "Awls, Beads, and Talons: Non-food Uses of Animals in the Archaic of Middle Tennessee."

Teresa Ingalls, with **Tanya Peres** and industry partners **Mary Trudeau** and **Lawrence, Alexander** presented "Native and Exotic Animals from Mississippian Mortuary Contexts at the David Davis Farm Site, Tennessee."

Heath Bailey and **Spencer Pelton** presented "Methodologies of Phase I Reconnaissance in an Upland Appalachian Setting."

Teresa Ingalls and **Tanya Peres** presented "Mississippian Animal Use and Functional Variation at the Castalian Springs Site, Tennessee."

Erik Porth and **Shannon Hodge** (Anthropology faculty) presented "Evidence of Prehistoric Scalping and Survival from a Cave Site in Southern Kentucky."

Human Waste. First runner-up **Christine Peterson** won for her mixed-media work *Next-Door*. Second runner-up was **Randy Purcell** for *Untitled (Dream #1)*, another mixed-media work. Third runner-up **Natalie Harrison** won for her mixed-media piece *Intersection 2:00 pm*. Congratulations to all the winners.

Those of you who saw *Billy: The Early Years*—a film recounting the early life of Billy Graham—heard an original piece of music composed by MTSU music student **Tracey Phillips**. Phillips also played piano for several cues in the movie, and she accompanied country star Josh Turner with his performance on the movie soundtrack. Phillips has also been selected by the Society for American Music (SAM) to present a lecture/recital on the improvisational elements of piano accompaniment for convention-style singing. Phillips was encouraged by her teacher, **Stephen Shearon** (Music), to submit her proposal, and she will travel to Denver in March to make her presentation. Phillips graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in Music and a concentration in Theory-Composition. She studied composition with **Paul Osterfield**, composition/arranging with **Cedric Dent**, and piano with **Lynn Rice-See**. Congratulations to Tracey and the entire Music faculty for their encouragement and support of our students.

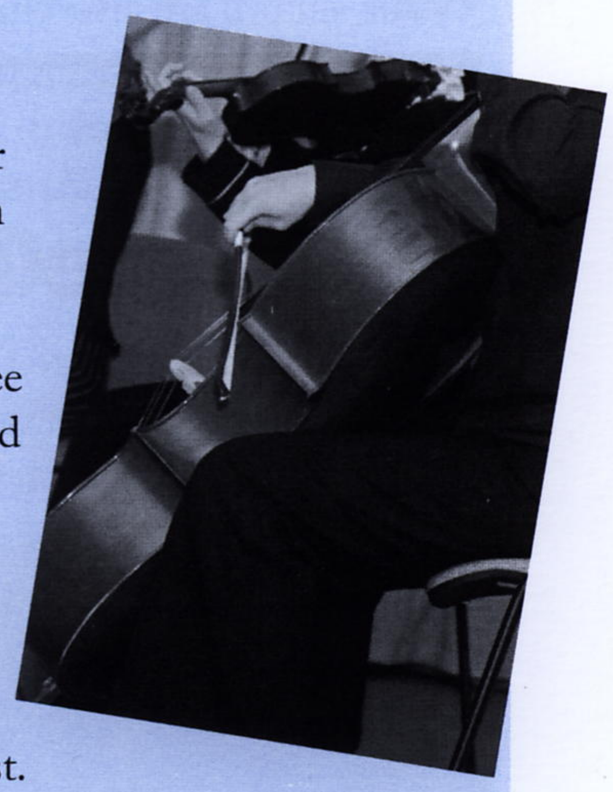
MTSU Mock Trial teams traveled to Duke University November 21–23, where they carried with them a 6–2 record and came away with a fourth-place finish out of a group of twenty-four teams. The team is on a roll since winning top honors at the Mid-South Invitational Tournament held here at MTSU. The team, led by **Daniel Vaughn** (Political Science junior), had a perfect 8–0 record in their division, and **Lani Lester** won an individual witness award. The Mid-South tournament is one of the largest in the nation. Begun in 1989 at Rhodes College, it moved to Bellarmine University then here to MTSU, where it has been held for the last 17 years. Best of luck to the team for the spring semester!

Congratulations to our Sociology students who presented papers at the **Mid-South Sociological Association** in Huntsville, Alabama. **Angela Abbott** (Sociology graduate student) took first place in the Graduate Paper Competition with "The Thin Line: The Relationship between Mental Health and Workforce Participation of Welfare Mothers."

Two awards have been announced by *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, an arts and literary magazine featuring the work of MTSU students and produced under the auspices of the Honors College. The **Martha Hixson Creative Expression Awards** went to **Jen Hayes** for her poem "Strawberry Picking" and **Taffeta Chime O'Neal** for her short story *Barefoot*. The **Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award** winners were **Adam Gaskill** for his sculpture *Rag and Bone* and **Marcus Laxton** for his photograph "Daybreak." The awards are named for Associate Professor Martha Hixon (English) and the late Lon Nuell, who was a longtime member of the Art Department faculty.

StudentNews ...

Cremaine Booker (Music freshman, cellist) had the honor of playing recently in a master class with the world-famous Yo-Yo Ma. Only three students were selected to work with Ma while he was in Nashville. This was quite an honor for Cremaine, and we wish her the very best.



Tony Hartman and **Fred Powell** (Music majors) and **German Baratto** (Music adjunct) have been published through Row-Loff Productions. This is the first time our percussion students have had original steel drum work published by a major publisher. Baratto will soon be releasing "First Adventure," an original percussion ensemble piece. You can find his work at www.rowloff.com/ConcertFolder/ConcertSteel Drums.html.

MTSU's Steel Drum Band, led by **Lalo Davila** (Music), will play with the Nashville Symphony to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

Nancy Rupprecht's (History) Germany Since 1870 class performed *The Measures Taken* by Bertolt Brecht. This reader's theater version of Brecht's Marxist tragedy based on the theme of the individual versus the collective is just one example of innovative teaching methods taking place in the classroom. Students participating were **Justin Cates, Jonathan King, Marcus Walton, Alex Bohan, Alethia McGarvey, Brad Craig, Karisa Brocker, Dillon Hall, Rebecca Johnson, Mason Pointer**, and **Nakanoshimo Tetsuo**.

STAYINTOUCH AND STAYCURRENT!

The dedication of administration, faculty, and staff members is only one reason for the successes summarized in this newsletter. Our alumni are also vital to our continuing progress. We hope more of you will become involved in the growth and success of the College of Liberal Arts. Please check the Web address below for more news.

If you wish to donate to a specific program, please contact the Development Office at (615) 898-2502. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send an e-mail via our college Web page, http://libarts.web.mtsu.edu/

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College of Liberal Arts
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Upcoming Events

Spring 2009

January 16
"Holding Patterns" dance performance
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre

March 3
Frank Essex Practitioners Roundtable
1:00 p.m., Honors 106

April 14
Legends of Forensic Science
7:00 p.m., State Farm Room, BAS

April 16
Windham Lecture Series: Jared Diamond
5:00 p.m., Tucker Theatre, BDA

April 20
Liberal Arts Awards Reception
2:30 p.m., Tennessee Room, JUB

Please check the College of Liberal Arts Web site for more information on these events.