Kaitlen Howell, who will earn dual Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees from MTSU on May 8, has struggled through many hard times in her life but has risen above and out of them to achieve amazing things.

More than a year ago, the foreign-languages and biology double major was approached by the University Honors College to apply to the Fulbright U.S. Scholars Program on MTSU’s behalf. The Honors College stood by her through the process, guiding and advising on the best way to apply.

Howell now is a Fulbright Scholar. The government-sponsored research program is commissioning a grant for a 10-month stay in Germany beginning in September 2011, where she’ll participate in “hands-on clinical experiments and observations of both the heart and brain to test the effects of a common heart defect and to look for a relationship between the heart condition and a certain type of stroke.”

Her stay in Germany for the Fulbright will be spent studying and researching the relationship between patient fatironin oval and vasospasm—testing to see if certain chemicals released by a heart defect cause a vasospasm and where blood vessels spasm, leading to vasoconstriction and other neurological effects such as strokes.

All of her research will be conducted at the German hospital Paracelsus Klinik in Zwickau, Saxony, under the supervision of Dr. Jan Warnke.

“My role in this research includes a continuous investigation of scientific journals for new relevant publications, organizing and overseeing the project, interviewing patients and functioning as the primary data recorder,” Howell said.

Howell has been interested in neuroscience since she began her undergraduate career. She said she’s interested in giving back to MTSU that their names would be attached to the university’s first Centennial Scholarship.

Centennial Scholarship program. So I talked to my wife, and we decided to go that route.”

“We’re absolutely delighted at the Princes’ generosity,” said Bales, MTSU vice president for development and university relations. “Gale is a Distinguished Alumnus winner, and both Gale and Jonelle have been very active on campus and in the community. It’s a great opportunity for our alumni and friends who want to do something, and it’s a wonderful opportunity for our students. What we envision over the next few years is to establish 100 of these endowed scholarships.”

See ‘Pledge’ page 7

See ‘Response’ page 7

by Tom Tozer
tozzer@mtsu.edu

PRINCE-LY PLEDGE FOR CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

by Elizabeth Warren
news@mtsu.edu

by Andy Heidt
MTSU Photographic Services photo

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

REACHING THE FA VOR—Gale and Jonelle Prince pose for a photo in the Wood-Stegall Center.

MTSU’s finest
4 Employees of the Year saluted for excellence
see page 4

Inside this edition:
Lea reflects on 3 decades of tech, page 2
Student e-mail moves to Microsoft, page 6
1st taste of politics for candidate, page 8
Adventures abroad, page 3

a biweekly publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community
Computing through the years—the MTSU perspective

by Lucinda T. Lea
lea@mtsu.edu

Change has been a constant for computing and computer services at Middle Tennessee State University, a response to the rapid change computer applications have seen. The role of computing in education and the need for computer literacy has remained constant is a dedication to service, a commitment to excellence and a home in the basement of Cope. It could be said that COBOL was purchased with the help of a $75,000 National Science Foundation grant, and the mid-1960s, a machine that used FORTRAN and IBM card tab equipment. In 1959-60 with IBM card tab equipment. At the end of the decade, course access fee, the Web was born and, by the end of the decade, course registration via telephone was a nonevent.

The new millennium arrived, and with the hard work of the computing staff, was a non-event. Implementation of the campus wireless network began in 2001. In 2002, the Information Technology Division was formed, and Internet connectivity was obtained to enable the MTSU research effort. Midway through the decade, a major conversion to the Banner Enterprise Resource Planning Suite was completed, and the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technology Center was established.

As students have become more technologically savvy, Web 2.0 technologies are in continuous demand, and the number of online and Web-enhanced courses continues to grow. Privacy and security awareness is of the utmost importance. Auxiliary software systems have proliferated to provide functionality to many areas of the university. Emergency communication systems have been established, and virtualization techniques are being used to consolidate servers and systems.

As the second decade of the 21st century begins, MTSU has a student population of more than 25,000, and the MTSU leadership continues to recognize the increasingly critical role that information technology must play in providing an effective student-centered living and learning university. The complex, integrated multifaceted computing environment required today is a far cry from the two or three computers used to satisfy campus needs a half-century ago.

Lucinda Lea has been MTSU’s vice president for information technology and chief information officer since 2002. She began her career with the university in 1973 as the faculty liaison for academic computer support and will retire at the end of this academic year. Lea and her fellow retirees are listed below, along with a list of university employees who have accepted the Voluntary Buyout Package effective June 30. If you’re retiring or taking the buyout and would like to share your most positive experience at MTSU in a “For the Record” column, please send them in 400 words or less, plus a brief bio and a photo to gfarrell@mtsu.edu.

Recognizing decades of dedication to university

Latest list of 2009-10 retirees

• Bettye A. Adams, elementary and special education;
• Edward Applegate, journalism;
• Heather P. Arnold, Parking Services;
• Larry Wayne Benison, Energy Services;
• Judith M. Bonicamp, chemistry;
• Janet C. Camp, Center for Dyslexia;
• Linda L. Chydlar, Facilities Services;
• Russell T. Church, speech and theatre;
• Mary Jean Clark, Phillips Bookstore;
• Darrell R. Collins, Public Safety;
• Fred P. Colvin, history;
• Jon D. Conley, Ticket Office;
• Patrick C. Conley, foreign languages;
• James M. Cook, physics and astronomy;
• J. Donald Craig, Walker Library;
• Donald E. Croxen, aerospace;
• Sarah Daniel, Business Office;
• Carol Michel Detmer, human sciences;
• Richard C. Detmer, computer science;
• Houston M. Dabbin, Custodial Services;
• Brenda M. Dressler, Facilities Services;
• David L. Eason, journalism;
• John M. Egle, WMOT-FM Radio;
• Janet R. Estis, Division of Development and University Relations;
• Linda Gail Feagans, College of Basic and Applied Sciences;
• Sam W. Gaither, Construction and Renovation;
• Sarah Elizabeth Garner, Business Office;
• Ellen Barnett Gardner, Business Office;
• William Larry Gentry, English;
• Rachel Goodwin, Post Office;
• Diane S. Graver, elementary and special education;
• Mary Ann T. Guagram, June Anderson Women’s Center;
• Judith A. Hankins, computer science;
• Betty S. Harper, accounting;
• Emma Fay Hayes, Business Office;
• Rufus Willis Hunter, Energy Services;
• James C. Howard, chemistry;
• Robert B. Jones III, history;
• Roger D. Kerr, athletics;
• Sally B. Kimbrell, Health Services;
• Kathleen B. Kulp, Business and Economic Research Center;
• Lucinda T. Lea, Information Technology Division;
• Joanne M. Littlepage, psychology;
• Lorraine Mosely Lucken, College of Education and Behavioral Science;
• Jerry Lee Maeve, computer information systems;
• Bettye M. Mable, Housing Administration;
• Momolu W. Massaquoi, Walker Library;
• Joyce B. Maynard, aero-space;
• Linda G. McGrew, Business Communication and Entrepreneurship;
• Joanne B. Minnick, Walker Library;
• H. Ronald Moser, management and marketing;
• Sandra E. Norton, College of Education;
• Paul J. O’Farrell, geosciences;
• John David Robertson, Tennessee Livestock Center Custodial Services;
• Brenda G. Robinson, Procurement Services;
• Robert L. Rucker, social work;
• Diane J. Sawyer, Center for Dyslexia;
• Carelyne A. Shaw, speech and theatre;
• Clarence G. Smith, Post Office;
• Anthony S. Smith Jr., Printing Services;
• Rebecca Sue Snow, Forensic Institute for Research and Education;
• Gary E. Stafford, Custodial Services;
• Jo Anne Tausch, Walker Library;
• Beverly J. Taylor, Walker Library;
• Shirley A. Travis, Disabled Student Services;
• Nancy A. Weatherly, Parking Services;
• Bob J. Womack (1924-2010), educational technology;
• Joe H. Alexander, Building Services;
• Nancy B. Allbrook, School of Music;
• Base Marie Augustine, Tennessee Small Business Development Center;
• Haskell B. Barrett, Murphy Center Custodial Services;
• Donald L. Bogle, Building Services;
• Matthew A. Brown, Gen Research Center;
• Sharon R. Burger, Records Office;
• Donald A. Campbell, mathematical sciences;
• Mary J. Campbell, nursing;
• Amanda M. Castellote, College of Graduate Studies;
• Anne L. Chandler, Greenhouse Services;
• Marcus I. Chandler, Grounds Services;
• Jennifer R. Clemans-Stanley, Evening Extended School Program;
• Howard R. Cook, Building Services;
• Jane M. Davis, Walker Library;
• Linda Davis, College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning;
• Peggy J. Dasiczynski, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs;
• Larry E. Farmer, accounting;
• Deborah porch, Public Safety;
• Gayle P. Hayes, Housing Facilities;
• neutral H. Huddleston, Enrollment Services;
• Joseph W. Hugh, Procurement Services;
• Mary T. Hugh, Human Resource Services;
• David L. Hutton, Financial Aid;
• Bettye L. Jones, Jones College of Business;
• Karl L. Janetday, Alumni Relations;
• Michael A. Johnsen, Counseling Services;
• Helen S. Kassovas, Publications and Graphics;
• George E. Kerrick, English;
• Jeri M. Lamb, Safeslite;
• Paul D. Lee, physics and astronomy;
• Michelle L. Lloyd, Enrollment Services;
• Sharilyn A. Luczynski, Student Athlete Enhancement Center;
• John C. Lynch, News and Public Affairs;
• Adele D. Roberts, Administrative Services;
• Kenneth R. Rushlow, elementary and special education;
• Judith M. Sanders, Admissions;
• Kimberly S. Sanford, Recreation Center;
• B. Jean Smith, Office of Planning and Budgeting;
• Lura A. Sparks, Facilities Services Administration;
• Gina M. Stanley, Advancement Services;
• Horace N. Stogner, Academic Support Center;
• Tommy G. Summers, Energy Services;
• Robert D. Taylor, Energy Services;
• Susan G. Thornton, Student Life;
• Delmar Walker, human sciences;
• Deloris L. Watters, Marketing Services;
• Paul F. Wells, Center for Popular Music;
• finestine W. Williams, Institutional Equity and Compliance;
• Patricia W. Williams, Counseling Services;
• James H. Wilson, Receiving and Moving Services;
• Tech Wulmoh, International Programs and Services;
• Gary P. Wulfsberg, chemistry.

Buyout participants departing

(List excludes those who also are retiring.)

• Joe H. Alexander, Building Services;
• Nancy B. Allbrook, School of Music;
• Base Marie Augustine, Tennessee Small Business Development Center;
• Haskell B. Barrett, Murphy Center Custodial Services;
• Donald L. Bogle, Building Services;
• Matthew A. Brown, Gen Research Center;
• Sharon R. Burger, Records Office;
• Donald A. Campbell, mathematical sciences;
• Mary J. Campbell, nursing;
• Amanda M. Castellote, College of Graduate Studies;
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• Tech Wulmoh, International Programs and Services;
• Gary P. Wulfsberg, chemistry.

For the Record
Preparing to ‘serve humanity’ with adventures abroad

by Gina K. Logue
glogue@mtsu.edu

A fter living in Thailand for nine months, in Morocco for four months and in India all last summer, you might think Aaron Shew would want to stay home for a while. You would be wrong.

The MTSU junior from Murfreesboro will depart for Turkey around May 14 for study experiences that will enhance not only his education but also his prestige and his portfolio.

Shew, a double major in plant and soil science and international relations, will join students from other institutions in a conflict-resolution course in Cyprus and Turkey at his own expense.

Through June 9, Shew will question government diplomats on best practices for negotiating solutions to thorny issues between countries.

From there, Shew will head back to Lucknow, India, where he studied in the summer of 2009 under a fully endowed fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Lucknow is a city of about 3 million people in Uttar Pradesh, which Shew explains is one of the most impoverished and illiterate regions of India.

“They were the first people of India to rise up against British colonialism in 1857, and you get this real air in the city that they’re very proud of that,” he notes.

“Shew says his summer 2009 classes were the equivalent of one year of university study. By the time he finishes the next academic year, he will have completed the equivalent of four years’ worth of instruction in Urdu, which he describes as sort of a combination of Arabic and Hindi.

“We had a lot of good discussions because we’re all from very different backgrounds,” he says. “It’s funny because the Indian was a Shiite Muslim, the Pakistani was a Sunni Muslim, and I come from a Southern Baptist background.”

Shew says his summer 2009 classes were the equivalent of one year of university study. By the time he finishes the next academic year, he will have completed the equivalent of four years’ worth of instruction in Urdu, which he describes as sort of a combination of Arabic and Hindi.

“It’s about 20 hours in class every week and another 15 to 25 hours of homework a week,” he says, “so it’s a full-time job.”

Headquartered at the University of Chicago, AIBS “is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about India and the promotion of intellectual engagement with India in American colleges and universities,” according to www.indiastudies.org. AIBS allocates approximately 35 AIBS fellowships each year with funding from various agencies.

Shew says he will stay in contact with his family and friends via e-mail and Skype during the long separation. He notes, however, that he’s inclined to live overseas continually after graduate school, whether he ultimately chooses a career in development, intelligence or diplomacy.

“My overall goal, I would say, is to serve humanity, whether I’m advising policy or I’m doing agricultural development or something of the sort,” Shew says. “I’d like to become a utilitarian in the sense that I’d like to achieve the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people.”

For more information about study-abroad opportunities for MTSU students, visit www.mtsu.edu/~midroad.

Youth Writers’ Camp seeks participants

by Drew Dunlop
news@mtsu.edu

In the push to increase math and science skills when texting and IM shortcuts are becoming more common, one group seeks to get back to the important middle “R”—writing—of the storied “Three Rs.”

The Youth Writers’ Camp, sponsored each summer by MTSU’s Department of Elementary and Special Education, is in its fifth year and has improved writing skills for students in the fourth grade all the way up to high-school seniors as part of the Middle Tennessee Writing Project. It also reaches a broad span of needs by serving students who want help getting good writing skills as well as students with a passion for writing.

At the 2010 Youth Writers’ Camp, set for June 7 through 17 at MTSU, author Barry Lane will be at the camp for the first week to share his work and help the students with their writing. A professional songwriter also will join the students as they seek to broaden their writing horizons and receive encouragement to explore various genres.

In addition to exploring their talents, students will work with expert writing teachers on mini-lessons on various writing strategies in such areas as drafts, editing and revisions. Students then are encouraged to try their newly learned strategies throughout their time in camp.

Organizers say that workshop participants also benefit by experiencing life on a university campus and getting a sense of college life. For many students, this can be the experience that shows them that attending college is a real possibility for them.

The Wilson County Youth Writers’ Camp is scheduled for May 31-June 10 in Lebanon, and a separate camp for Rutherford County students is set June 7-17 at Rock Springs Middle School in Smyrna.

The camps are conducted Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily at their respective sites. Cost per camper is $20, which includes a camp T-shirt, a writer’s notebook and resource book, a daily morning snack and a writing anthology of the campers’ work.

For more information, contact Dr. Bobbie Selley at bselley@mtsu.edu or Angela Pope at pope_a@mtl.edc. mtsu.net.

See the Sounds, help marketing scholarships

See the Sounds, help marketing scholarships

Ticket vouchers for the 2010 Nashville Sounds season are available through Thursday, May 6, from students enrolled in the Sports Marketing course in MTSU’s Department of Management and Marketing.

The Sounds are offering undated $2-off ticket vouchers that can be exchanged at the Greer Stadium ticket office for a reserved seat at any 2010 game. Vouchers are $12 each, and the team is donating $3 each voucher sold to the department’s Sports Marketing Scholarship.

To purchase ticket vouchers or for more information, contact Dr. Don Roy at 615-904-8564 or droys@mtsu.edu.

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Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

**TV Schedule**

“Middle Tennessee Record” Cable Channel 9:
Monday-Sunday, 7 a.m., 5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+:
Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable-outlet airtimes or www.youtube.com/mtsunews for a complete show archive.

**Radio Schedule**

“MTSU On the Record”
8 a.m. Sundays, WMOT 89.5-FM

**Campus Calendar**

**May 3**
- **Monday, May 3**
  - New Senators’ Reception/Faculty Senate Meeting
  - 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., Room 100, James Union Building
  - For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate or contact: 615-898-2582.

**May 6**
- Final Exams

**May 8**
- **Saturday, May 8**
  - Spring 2010 Commencement
  - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
  - For information, visit www.mtsunews.com.

- **MT Softball vs. Western Kentucky**
  - 1 p.m., Blue Raider Field
  - For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

**May 11**
- **Tuesday, May 11**
  - Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra
  - 7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
  - For information, visit www.mtsuuid.com or contact: 615-898-2493.

**May 12**
- **Wednesday, May 12**
  - Tornado Siren Test Date
  - (no action needed)
  - 11:15 a.m., campuswide
  - For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

**May 14**
- **May 14-16**
  - MT Baseball vs. New Orleans
  - 6 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday
  - Reese Smith Jr. Field
  - For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

**Get noticed in The Record!**

Submit your Campus Calendar items and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, for the May 17, 2010, edition of The Record or 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, for the May 31 Record. Make sure your news gets noticed in plenty of time: bookmark The Record’s 2010 deadline schedule at www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml.

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**Employees of the Year**

EXEMPLARY WORK—MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, center, joins winners of the 2009-10 Employee of the Year Awards during the April 21 celebration in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Displaying their awards are, from left, Technical/Service Employee of the Year Jeff Henderson, Energy Services; Secretarial/Clerical Employee of the Year Betty Smithson, Student Affairs, Enrollment and Academic Services; Administrative Employee of the Year Nancy Martin, Research and Sponsored Programs; Ben Jones, chair of the MTSU Employee Recognition Committee, and All-Classified Employee of the Year Deborah Cantrell, Ground Services. The winners, who received engraved crystal awards and monetary gifts for their commitment to MTSU’s success, were chosen from nominations made during the 2009-10 academic year. The committee regularly salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. To nominate an administrative, secretarial/clerical, classified or technical/service co-worker for the award program, go to www.mtsu.edu/hr/hrrelations/recog.shtml.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by J. Intintoli
More than 2,100 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 99th spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 8, according to a report from Sherri Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services.

MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 2,180 set to graduate during the event, 1,804 are undergraduates and 376 are graduate students, including 278 master’s candidates, 88 education-specialist recipients and 10 doctoral candidates.

Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the College of Education will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony. That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Mass Communication, and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. Diane Miller, interim vice president and provost and chairwoman of the commencement committee.

MTSU also will recognize four Distinguished Alumni during the 9 a.m. ceremony. They are:

• Lauren Gillespie Agee (B.S., ’01), winner of the 2009–10 Young Alumni Achievement Award;
• David B. Mitchell (B.S., ’73), winner of the Professional Achievement Award;
• Tom D. Vance (B.B.A., ’76), winner of the Service to the Community Award; and
• George H. Frost (B.S., ’56), winner of the Service to the University Award.

Tennesssee Secretary of State Tre Hargett will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. commencement ceremony. Hargett became the 37th secretary of state in January 2009 after serving as chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. He also served 10 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives as the representative for the 97th District. During his service, his House Republican colleagues twice elected him leader.

As a lawmaker, Hargett’s experience has included service on many legislative committees, and in the House, the Hendersonville, Tenn., residence was a driving force behind legislation for more electronic disclosure of campaign contributions as well as increasing the requirements of public officials’ public statements of interest. He also sponsored and cosponsored numerous legislative items, including Senate Joint Resolution One, which permitted local governments to initiate property-tax relief for senior citizens.

At the 1 p.m. commencement ceremony, James C. “Jim” Free, president and CEO of The Smith-Free Group, will be the featured speaker.

A graduate of MTSU with a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in public administration, Free went on to serve as assistant director of the Admissions Office and later as an assistant to MTSU’s vice president. His long service to the university includes the establishment of a scholarship for students from Maury County and current service on MTSU’s President’s Council as well as active involvement with the MTSU Foundation.

Active in the Democratic Party, Free has served on the House and Senate Democratic Campaign Committees and the Democratic National Committee’s Commission on Delegate Selection and Finance Council. He worked in the presidential campaigns of both Jimmy Carter and Al Gore and also served in the Carter White House as a special assistant to the president.

Miller and the graduation committee members emphasized that students who participate in commencement will be required to stay for the entire ceremony, each of which should last about two hours. Candidates planning celebration activities are advised to be aware of this requirement.

For more information about commencement or receiving a degree in absentia, please visit the Records Office website at www.mtsu.edu/records/grad.shtml. Questions about graduation may be directed to the Records Office at 615-898-2960.

Spring from page 1

The summa cum laude graduate’s future plans include applying to medical school for a dual medical- and doctoral-degree program. She specifically wants to be a surgical physician researcher, so most of her time will be spent on patient care and researching surgical procedures.

“Operating on a patient can improve or even save his or her life, but recording the exact details of the procedure and determining what is most successful will help that one patient and affect the lives of many more to come,” Howell said.

Howell credits many of the Honors College faculty for her success, including Dean John Vile and Laura Clippard, a coordinator for the college. She said that one MTSU professor, however, stands out as one of her most inspirational and helpful mentors. Dr. Gore Ervin, professor of biology, took time to answer her questions, made sure she knew how to correctly perform tasks and ensured that she would understand the material thoroughly.

“Dr. Ervin is probably, in my opinion, the best professor I have ever had,” Howell said.

For more information on the Fulbright program, visit www.fulbrightonline.org.

U.S. Fulbright competition opens May 3

The Fulbright U.S. Student Competition for 2011-12 opens Monday, May 3, and MTSU’s Undergraduate Fellowships Office is asking faculty and staff to encourage eligible students to learn more and apply.

The Fulbright’s purpose is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by exchanging people, knowledge and skills. A Fulbright grant gives a U.S. student the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year.

Eligibility requirements include U.S. citizenship, receipt of a bachelor’s degree by August 2011, a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and language proficiency sufficient to communicate with the people of the host country.

Candidates without prior opportunities for extended study or residence abroad will receive preferential consideration. In some countries, preference is given to graduate students conducting research.

Each applicant is usually required to outline a course of study or a research project in his/her major field that may be completed in one country during one academic year abroad.

Students may learn more about the program by contacting the U.S. Fulbright program at 615-898-5464 or by e-mailing U.S. Fulbright Coordinator Laura Clippard in the University Honors College at lclippar@mtsu.edu. For more information, visit www.fulbrightonline.org.
The advantage to this is that Microsoft is able to offer more space to students,” said Wallace, who added that students must activate their accounts by the evening of May 10, by Randy Weiler juweiler@mtsu.edu

Most welcome guests

ODK honor society moving forward with membership

by Elizabeth Warren news@mtsu.edu

The Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society has been approved to form a chapter at MTSU for students who have excelled in academics and leadership on campus.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the MTSU Honors College, said that about 10 years ago, President Sidney A. McPhee indicated that he wanted to bring a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, America’s oldest collegiate honor society, to campus.

Because of PBK’s requirement that 10 percent of membership had to be faculty, and since MTSU had less than half of that required total, the university began looking at different alternatives.

“We began to look for comparable organizations that recognized students across disciplines,” Vile said.

Vile said that the university agreed that ODK, combined with the already established Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi, was comparable to the prestige of PBK.

According to Vile, the university began proceedings to form a chapter a little over a year ago. First, organizers assembled the precursor to ODK, the MTSU Leadership Circle, which evolved from the Honors Student Association. The fledgling group then participated in a multitude of public-service activities.

Representatives from ODK then toured the MTSU campus. The act that carried the greatest weight, Vile said, was the final one—preparing a lengthy charter petition to send to the national headquarters at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky.

The organization’s chartering ceremony was scheduled for Friday, April 30, at 6 p.m. in the Tom Jackson Building on campus.

Vile said that a student must either be a junior or senior in status, and they must have a minimum 3.25 grade point average. Students must also pay $40 national dues and $10 local dues.

The society looks at individuals who have proven themselves in five distinct areas: academics, athletics, campus or community/social/religious/government services, journalism/publications/ speech/mass media, and the creative and performing arts. ODK awards points for student activities and accomplishments in any of these areas.

“We are looking for academic leaders,” Vile said. “We think it is appropriate that students who are gifted and who get scholarships and other support from the state and the university be willing to give back to both.”

Vile said that the university searches for students who meet the requirements, but any students who feel they are qualified for ODK also can let them know of their interest.

The first officers, who were in the Leaders Circle, will now charter the new chapter. Nathaniel F. Green, a senior political-science major, is ODK president; Merranda Holmes, a senior majoring in biology, is vice president; Shannon Murphy, another senior majoring in biology, is secretary; and Amanda Alexander, a senior economics and political-science major, is treasurer.

Murphy said that the organization honors and recognizes students’ achievements during their time at MTSU. “I think ODK is a very unique organization, because besides not only having to have a strong academic record, leadership in extracurricular activities is an essential part to becoming a member,” she added.

Holmes added that another important ODK benefit—one that helped convince her to join—was the ability to network and connect with other leaders on campus who are motivated and want to excel. She’s had positive experiences with other students who, even though they may not share the same major or field of interest, have helped her work toward her goal of becoming a physician.

Holmes also said that students who become members will have the opportunity to be nominat- ed for various scholarships, have resume-building and study-abroad opportunities and even get member discounts for graduate-school preparation courses.

Students also will be able to work closely with faculty members who participate in ODK either by joining or becoming an adviser to the organization.

Vile, who became a member of ODK when he was an undergraduate student at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, said he is a faculty adviser, along with Honors College staff members Laura Clippard, Georgia Dennis and Marsha Powers. Steven Chappell, MTSU’s Sidelines adviser, has also been a great help, Vile said, as have “many other faculty members [who] were inducted at their home institutions.”

For more information about ODK, contact Clippard at lcclippar@mtsu.edu or at 615-898-5464.

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was preceded in death by his par-
ents, David Emery Sims Womack and Georgia Price Womack; his wife, Elizabeth Clements Womack; and his brothers, Paul and Ben Womack, and sisters, Helen Womack and Sara Womack. He is survived by his sons, Andy (Cheryl) Womack and Ricky Womack; daughters, Lara (Steve) Daniel and Lynn Womack; grandchildren, David (Cheryl) Womack, Jackson Short and Samuel Short; granddaughters, Dana Womack, Marguerite (Rob) Sims, Sara Womack and Meaghan Daniel; and great-grandchildren, Molly Womack, Mason Womack, Riley Sims and Emery Sims. Dr. Dr. Emery Sims Womack was inducted into both the Tennessee Teachers’ Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame and was the author of The Echo of Hoofbeats, Call Forth the Mighty Men, A History of Tennessee and many other books.

Memorial donations may be made to the MTSU Foundation for the Womack Family Endowment.

Presentations

Lance Ikar (Continuing Education and Distance Learning) presented “Launching Lives and Transforming Students through Prior Learning Assessment” at the Association of Continuing Higher Education South Region Conference April 11-13 in Melbourne, Fla.

Dr. Suk Jai Seo (computer science) presented a paper, “Open Neighborhood Locating-Dominating in Trees,” at the 41st Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing March 8-12 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Dr. Jeffrey Walck (biology) recently presented a seminar for the Institute of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at National Taiwan University in Taipei.

Dr. Dennis Walsh (mathematical sciences) gave a talk, “Discovering and Using Simple Uli Models,” at the 98th annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America at Elon (N.C.) University March 26-27.

Publications

An article by Dr. Jane Marcellus (journalism), “Southern Myths and the Nineteenth Amendment: The Participation of Nashville’s Newspaper Publishers in the Final State’s Ratification Debate,” has been accepted for publication in Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly.
Thomas Connor Moss took a hands-on approach to his education by seeking a seat on the Murfreesboro City Council.

“I saw some of the other people running and thought that they were everyday citizens, so why not give it a shot?” the junior political-science major said.

Moss said he decided to run because he wanted to see a change in the Murfreesboro government and he believed the only way for that to happen was for him to get up and take action.

After seeing an article last October in a local newspaper about candidates running for the city council, he decided that he could take on the challenge. They were ordinary people just like him, he said, so he saw no logical reason not to run.

He was able to jump on the city-council ballot by meeting two requirements: Each candidate must be 18 years old and must get 25 signatures from registered voters to turn in a qualifying petition.

The city’s election was held April 20, and Moss garnered around 2.6 percent of the city’s total 6,600-voter turnout, or 450 votes. He came in last in a field of eight but is proud of the accomplishment.

Though less experienced than his fellow candidates, Moss was not intimidated. He embraces it, he said, because everyone has to begin somewhere.

“Naivete works in my favor sometimes,” Moss said.

Moss’ campaign was about responsible growth and manageable government, just as his signs suggested. He offered a progressive approach, which he called a turnaround from the “good ole boy system” that’s and accessible government, just as his signs said.

The first-time candidate said he still wants to see the city stop expanding out into the countryside. He wants Murfreesboro citizens to begin using lots and buildings they already have instead of going out and eating up land in the outer parts of the surrounding area.

“Point you’ve just got to say, ‘These are our boundaries,’” Moss said.

He said he is very adamant about the idea of community. He wants to bring citizens together through ideas like community gardens and meetings. Gardens, for example, tend to make residents feel more connected and offer them an opportunity to get outdoors. He also hopes that the gardens would make people more accountable and aware of their surroundings to help cut down the crime rate.

If the expansion doesn’t stop, Moss explained, he fears that the city won’t be able to provide basic services like water and electricity “efficiently and effectively to areas that are outside our current boundaries.” Eventually, he said, the money won’t be there to supply these necessities.

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