Good neighbors
MTSU is destination for new friends near and far
see page 2

Inside this edition:
Student Support Services grant, page 3
Pre-retirement seminar set, page 5
TESTA offers training courses, page 7

Happy holidays!
Check in at www.mtsunews.com!

Transportation is planning for more

by Leslie Lynn
news@mtsu.edu

The No. 1 complaint from gradu- ing seniors is parking, according to Ron Malone, assistant vice president of events and transportation services. And entering freshmen, current sophomores and juniors, grad students, faculty, staff and just visitors can relate to the sentiment.

MTSU has been working for decades to address the problem, and since 2000, a three-phase Parking and Transportation Plan has been put into effect to improve the flow of traffic on campus and create more parking.

The university’s master plan is to create a pedestrian-friendly, traffic-free environment in the core of the campus, traditionally the area sur- rounding the Keathley University Center. Other universities, such as the University of Tennessee-Knoxville or the University of

Kentucky, are more pedestrian- focused and have fewer parking places than MTSU, so students there already are conditioned to expect to walk more on campus.

“The fact that MTSU has a large commuter population explains our wanting to park on campus,” Malone said.

Noticeable changes already accomplished are the roundabout at the Rutherford Boulevard entrance, the addi- tion of bus-only lanes and a parking lot off Rutherford Boulevard.

“The September 2009 construc- tion of the roundabout was part of Phase 2 of the Parking and Transportation Plan, which began 10 years ago,” Malone said. “Phase 3 construction will begin in the spring of 2011.”

One of the changes will be a new entrance to campus from Greenland Drive. Motorists will turn into the current driver-training lot and enter campus by way of a roundabout onto Blue Raider Drive. Malone said this new access route will be completed by Aug. 1, 2011.

MTSU Boulevard heading west into campus will be remodeled into a right-turn-only lane in front of the Business and Aerospace Building onto Founders Lane, which leads to Blue Raider Drive. This work, Malone said, will move traffic away from the core of campus. 

Alumni Drive already has a des- ignated bus-only lane, which is intended to prevent Raider Xpress shuttles getting caught up in campus traffic. More bus-only lanes will be

See ‘Traffic’ page 5

Volleyball team takes SBC crowns

from MT Athletic Communications
www.goblueraiders.com

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team brought home Sun Belt Conference regular-season and tournament championships and earned their fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament before falling to Louisville Dec. 3.

The loss was the team’s first since Oct. 15, ending the season with a 29-6 record. The effort makes them only the second MT volleyball team to accom- plish dual Sun Belt wins, and their record is the third best in school history.

“I think we had a good game plan, but we just couldn’t execute it today,” head coach Matt Peck said of the 3-0 match (22-25, 21-25, 17-25) at Holloway Gymnasium on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

“Stacy (Oladinni) had an outstanding match. We needed to make more plays tonight, and we couldn’t.”

Oladinni led the Blue Raiders with a season-high 13 kills on the night and hit at a .478 clip. Maria Szivos was second with seven kills, and Izabela Kozon tallied six.

Morgan Peterson and Angela Peyton split time at setter, recording 18 and 13 assists, respectively.

Kozon anchored the defense with 10 digs, and Szivos was second with eight. Brynne Henderson was third with seven.

As a team, MT was outhit by the Cardinals .293 to .158 and out- blocked 11.0 to 3.0.

Middle Tennessee dropped the first set 22-25, marking the first time that the Blue Raiders have lost an opening set since a trip to North Texas on Oct. 29.

Louisville raced out to an early 6-1 advan- tage, forcing a timeout, and Middle Tennessee responded with seven of the next eight points, culminat- ing with a Kozon ace to grab a slim 8-7 edge.

See ‘Volleyball’ page 6

IN BRIEF

NEW SHOW “OUT OF THE BLUE”
MTSU has launched “Out of the Blue,” a new monthly televi- sion program that is a joint effort of the Office of News and Public Affairs, the Department of Audio/Visual Services and the College of Mass Communication. It replaces “MT Record,” the long- running TV-magazine program. Please see page 4 for airtimes and dates, or watch it online via www.mtsunews.com.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
www.mtsunews.com
LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER—MTSU has been the destination of choice for local, national and international neighbors this fall as guests arrived bearing gifts, sharing knowledge and admiring the university’s opportunities for students. At left, Harvard-MIT stem-cell researcher Ali Khademhosseini of Boston explains “Microengineered Hydrogels for Stem Cell Bioengineering and Tissue Regeneration” to an audience of more than 100 students, faculty and administrators during a Nov. 19 seminar for the Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. Program. In the inset photo, Khademhosseini, left, visits with MTSU Vice Provost Mike Allen, who also serves as dean of the College of Graduate Studies, after the talk.

At center left, Mike Vaughn, president of CFM China and director of government services for Smyrna-based Corporate Flight Management, joins Geng Xue Song, vice president of operations for China Flying Dragon Aviation, at a NexSim air traffic control simulation console during the National Conference on General Aviation Trends in China Dec. 1. Attendees toured the MTSU Aerospace Department’s NASA Focus Lab in the Business and Aerospace building during the two-day event, which featured seminars on airspace management, regional airline development and other topics.

And below, State Farm Insurance officials visited MTSU Nov. 30 to present a check for $22,000 to the MTSU Foundation, another generous gift from the “good neighbor” company to the university. Shown before the presentation are, from left, Jeff Shay, State Farm vice president of operations; Nick Perlick, MTSU director of development; Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations; and Leslie Eatherly, public-affairs assistant at State Farm. State Farm’s donation will be used to support four outstanding MTSU programs: the annual Invention Convention, the Science Olympiad Regional Tournament, the State Farm Insurance Scholarship for Excellence in Actuarial Science and the State Farm Award for Professional Promise for Jones College of Business faculty members.

center photo by J. Intintoli, MTSU Photographic Services; other photos by News and Public Affairs
Student Support Services lands 5-year federal grant

For many people enrolled at MTSU, the stress of life as a student can be both confusing and overwhelming. MTSU’s Student Support Services does its best to curb the uneasiness and help many students find their way to graduation.

SSS recently received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education of $255,505 for 2010-11 and continuing through 2015—a total amount of almost $1.3 million. Seventy percent of the programs applying for the grant received one, based on a combination of written proposals and prior experience. But MTSU still soared above the competition, scoring 112 out of 115 possible points.

SSS Director Crickett Pimentel said that gaining support from the federal government will strengthen the program’s reach and impact. “Once students are in our program, they stay in our program until they graduate, so we get to know our students really well over five or six years during their time at MTSU,” Pimentel said. “We stress academics but also emphasize financial education and literacy, student accountability and healthy balances in school and life.”

With a focus on academic success and graduation, Student Support Services counselors such as Susan Johnson and Erin Conny help coordinate and offer tutoring and other assistance to make sure students maintain their grades and retain their scholarships. Through financial-aid education, literacy programs and workshops, the program strives to keep students in class and out of debt. Pimentel said the DOE grant will help continue the program in place and bring new opportunities.

For more information about Student Support Services, visit its website at www.mtsu.edu/sssupport.

by Sydney Hester
news@mtsu.edu

Housing program focuses on 1st-generation college life

This fall, the Generation Next: Living Learning Community program offered nearby 50 first-generation students from area counties help in a new and potentially intimidating environment.

Generation Next is one of 10 living-learning community programs offered by Housing and Residential Life. It is supported by a $118,000 grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents, as well as MTSU matching funds, to be dispersed over a three-year period.

Dr. Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center, is the coordinator of the newly launched project, which aims to help students make the transition into university life both academically and socially. “We’ve built a program that we know will support students so they can be a success,” Witherow said. “I enjoy knowing that it can completely change the way a student experiences MTSU.”

Erin Rehberg, an adjunct instructor of dance in the Department of Speech and Theatre, serves as an on-site faculty adviser and University Studies instructor for the students. She said a common concern for many students is “the transition from bigger-fish, small-pond high school to a much larger setting.”

The relationship between the adviser and students is essential to the program’s “community” focus. Rehberg lives in Jim Cummings Hall, allowing her to be present at all hours of the day to offer support to students. The mentoring services provided by an on-site volunteer tutoring center also help Generation Next students become more engaged in campus life.

Generation Next offers its own intramural sports program and hosted a Thanksgiving dinner. There have been discussions of partnering with a local elementary school to do volunteer work. The program’s budget includes funds for a variety of additional programs.

“You can give someone all of the necessary materials, but unless he or she is willing to receive it and use it, it’s not going to be effective,” Witherow said, adding that she tells students that the key to success in the program, and at college, is involvement.

by S. Binetou Soumaré
news@mtsu.edu

PROJECT CUBA FAQ

Q: May my spouse/child accompany me?
A: Our academic license covers only students. Faculty do not need a license to conduct research. If your spouse is a professor and intends to conduct research, he or she may join us. If your spouse is in some other profession, he or she may also fall under the general license provided he or she intends to conduct research for publication (in a law bulletin or medical journal, for example). Unfortunately dependent children are not covered under any of the academic licenses at the present time.

Q: Do I have to travel with the group?
A: Not necessarily, but keep in mind that this is a package trip and it can’t be unbundled. In other words, if you opt out of a paid-for meal or excursion, you still pay the full amount.

Keep in mind that you will still have ample free time in Havana to explore the sights and meet Cubans on your own. This is a great opportunity to sit back and soak up Cuba while someone else takes care of the details!

Q: What is the group demographic like?
A: Past trips have included mostly mature, energetic students and well-traveled faculty. Our groups are friendly, cohesive, and diverse.

SIGN UP NOW!
Dr. Ric Morris
Boutwell Dramatic Arts #310
(615) 898-2284 | rmorris@mtsu.edu

TRIP COST:
Deposit due Jan 18: $500
1st installment due Feb 18: $600
Balance due Mar 18: $1600

COST INCLUSIONS:
* Roundtrip airfare Nashville–Havana
* Tourist visa
* Secure guest house lodging, double occupancy (single occupancy extra)
* Most meals
* English speaking guides
* Admission fees and other fees
* Most ground transportation
* Weekend trip/lodging
* Comprehensive health insurance (required)

The Record Dec. 13, 2010 page 3
Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

“MTSU Out of the Blue”
Cable Channel 9: Monday-Sunday, 7 a.m., 5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+ (Comcast 250): Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable-outlet airtimes or www.youtube.com/mtsunews for a complete show archive.

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

Submit Campus Calendar items and other news to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, for the first 2011 edition of The Record, Jan. 17. Deadline for submitting items for the Jan. 31 edition of The Record is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Thanks for another great year!

Sports @ Home
Dec. 21: Men’s Basketball vs. Vanderbilt, 8 p.m.
Dec. 29: Men’s Basketball vs. TSU, 8 p.m.
Jan. 5: Women’s Basketball vs. North Texas, 7 p.m.
Jan. 6: Men’s Basketball vs. North Texas, 7 p.m.
Jan. 12: Women’s Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic, 7 p.m.
Jan. 13: Men’s Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic, 7 p.m.
For information, visit www.goblue raiders.com.

Dec. 14
Tuesday, Dec. 14
Tornado Siren Test Date
(no action needed)
12:20 p.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

Dec. 16
Thursday, Dec. 16
Annual Holiday Reception for MTSU Employees
1-4 p.m., President’s Home; please bring a canned food item for the needy.
For information, e-mail kedgar@mtsu.edu or contact: 615-898-5825.

Thursday, Dec. 16
Military Science Fall 2010 Commissioning Ceremony
1 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater
For information, contact: 615-898-2470.

Dec. 18
Dec. 18-19
“The Nutcracker,” performed by Dance Theatre of Tennessee
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday; Tucker Theatre
Admission: $25 for adults, $15 for seniors and students; group rates available
For information, visit www.dancetheatretn.org or contact: 615-391-5500.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Fall 2010 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo or contact: 615-898-2919.

Dec. 24-Jan. 2
Dec. 24-Jan. 2
Winter Holidays
University closed.

Get noticed in The Record!

Tornado Siren Test Date
(no action needed)
12:20 p.m., campuswide
For information, contact: 615-898-2424.

Thursday, Jan. 13
Spring 2011 Classes Begin
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-2922.

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

Jan. 3
Monday, Jan. 3, 2011
University Offices Reopen

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

Jan. 13
Thursday, Jan. 13
Spring 2011 Classes Begin
Retired Faculty/Staff Coffee
9:30 a.m., Foundation House
For information, contact: 615-898-2922.

Submit Campus Calendar items and other news to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, for the first 2011 edition of The Record, Jan. 17. Deadline for submitting items for the Jan. 31 edition of The Record is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Thanks for another great year!

DO THE DRILL!
Remember: If you pull a fire alarm, call 911 or 615-898-2424 to report your location, too.

IT DOES.
www.mtsu.edu/alert4u
McNally is a graduate of Oak Ridge High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Memphis State University. He attended the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy and held the position of hospital pharmacist from 1978 to 2010 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge.

McNally has served in both the Senate (95th-106th general assemblies) and House (91st—94th) of the Tennessee Legislature. He has chaired the Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the Education Committee and also assumed leadership roles on the Council on Pensions and Insurance, the Education Oversight Committee, the TennCare Oversight Committee and the Governor’s Methamphetamine Task Force.

The afternoon ceremony will celebrate graduates from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and the University College.

Graduation information—including maps and driving directions to Murphy Center, instructions on watching the ceremonies via streaming video on commencement day, cap-and-gown information and how to order a DVD of the ceremonies—is available online, www.mtsu.edu/news by clicking on the “Graduation Info” link or by visiting http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo.

Traffic

added across campus by fall 2011 to help ensure a faster pick-up and delivery route for the Raider Xpress system, and a gate will be added beside Kirksey Old Main to allow only buses and a gate will be added beside the Boulevard lot and catch the bus. Once all bus-only lanes and gates have been installed, he added, the shuttles should be able to travel an entire route in approximately six minutes, reducing students’ wait times.

The planned parking garage should be in full use by fall 2011, he added, and it will serve more than just transportation. It will provide access to all bus-only lanes and gates have been installed, he added, the shuttles should be able to travel an entire route in approximately six minutes, reducing students’ wait times.

The planned parking garage should be in full use by fall 2011, he added, and it will serve more than just parking needs. It will provide access to a one-stop shop for admissions, financial aid, the bursar’s office, campus tours and other services for students.

“My goal for our campus over the next five years is to eliminate the worry of finding a place to park, and the solution is to take advantage of our bus system that is improving each year,” Malone said.

Make reservations now for free pre-retirement seminar

The Rutherford County Retired Teachers Association is sponsoring a free Pre-Retirement Seminar for educators on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. at North Boulevard Church of Christ, 1112 N. Rutherford Blvd.

Participants must make reservations before Friday, Jan. 14, to ensure that they receive needed seminar materials in time to attend the event. Reservations may be made by sending an e-mail to Sarag49@aol.com; organizers ask that participants leave a name, school and telephone number for any necessary pre-seminar contact.

Ron Pendergrass, associate executive director of the Tennessee Retired Teachers Association, will return to the 2011 event to present information on retirement options. Any educator who will retire under the state retirement plan, regardless of membership in the Tennessee Education Association, will learn information beneficial in making decisions about retirement at the seminar, organizers said.

Seminar participants should enter the church on the building’s north side via the side door marked “Fellowship Kitchen.” Organizers will serve light refreshments between 3:30 and 4 p.m., and the seminar will begin promptly at 4 p.m.

For more information about the free seminar, contact Sara Ann Gannon at Sarag49@aol.com.
**Men’s tennis announces 2011 spring schedule**

**Blue Raiders head for bowl game**

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders are going to their third bowl game in five years and making back-to-back trips for the first time in the FBS era.

Middle Tennessee received the official invitation on Dec. 5 to represent the Sun Belt Conference in the 12th annual GoDaddy.com Bowl on Jan. 6.

The game against Mid-American Championship Ohio will be played at Ladd-Peeples Stadium in Mobile, Ala., at 7 p.m. Central before a nationwide television audience on ESPN. This is the first meeting between the schools and will be MTSU’s fourth televised game this season.

“We are thrilled to extend our season in Mobile and appreciate the invitation by the GoDaddy.com Bowl,” said Director of Athletics Chris Masaros. “It is a great bowl for our players and fans, and we can’t wait to get there.”

Fans can purchase tickets by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU or logging on to www.GoBlucos.com. Tickets are $45 and include an official “Blueout” T-Shirt.

**2011 baseball season includes home games with Vandy, UT, WKU**

Middle Tennessee head women’s tennis coach Melissa Schaub has announced the hiring of Mariana Muraca as an assistant coach for the 2010-11 season.

“I am very excited about bringing someone with Mariana’s background on board,” Schaub said. “She was a tremendous player in college, has a strong work ethic and will help elevate our program to new heights.”

Muraca, a native of Brazil, has spent the majority of the last seven years in Iowa, first as a student-athlete at Northern Iowa and then as a volunteer coach at Iowa State. She played at Northern Iowa from 2003 to 2007 and was named a three-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athlete. She also received Scholar Athlete recognition twice from the Missouri Valley Conference. She ranks third in Panhellenic history with a .698 career singles winning percentage after posting a 65-28 ledger. Her .788 winning percentage in 2004-05 ranks sixth in school history after a 26-7 record. The 65 triumphs rank seventh in UNI history, while the 26 victories as a sophomore place her in a tie for seventh on the all-time list.

“I am excited about this opportunity,” said Muraca. “Everyone on the team and staff are great to work with. I cannot wait for spring to get here and see great things happening.”

Muraca served as a student volunteer in 2007-08 while finishing her bachelor’s degrees at UNI in exercise science and sport psychology with a minor in coaching. She then completed her master’s degree in sport psychology in 2010. She was a graduate assistant for the Panthers’ women’s team from 2008 to 2010, while attending graduate school.

Upon finishing her graduate coursework, she took a position as the tennis pro at the Ames Racquet Club and was a volunteer coach with the Iowa State Cyclones’ women’s team before coming to Murfreesboro.

The Middle Tennessee women’s tennis team will begin its spring 2011 dual-match slate in late January.

**Get noticed in The Record!**

Submit your news items to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, for the first 2011 edition of The Record, Jan. 17. Deadline for submitting items for the Jan. 31 edition of The Record is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Have a safe and wonderful winter break, and thanks for another great year!
Nontraditional Student Week shows ‘growth’
by S. Binetou Soumaré
news@mtsu.edu

The June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students and the organization Older Wiser Learners co-sponsored Nontraditional Student Week Nov. 1-5 to recognize the students who comprise a growing percentage of MTSU’s student population.

Early in the week, students were invited to pick up free T-shirts with a logo designed by a student committee. The illustration on the front was a circular link of hands symbolizing unity. Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, added to the celebration by presenting a program about nontraditional careers. On Nov. 4, the organizations provided turkey, ham and tea for a potluck-style dinner. Participants were encouraged to bring various side dishes, providing yet another opportunity to integrate both traditional and nontraditional students.

Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Center, acknowledged that there are no specific criteria for a nontraditional student. Status may be determined by age, marital status, parenthood and/or other factors, so a nontraditional student “may be anyone with adult responsibilities beyond college,” Johnson said. “It [Nontraditional Student Week] is a good way to bring recognition to a population students tend to forget about,” Johnson said, “Nontraditional students are real and actively involved on campus.”

Miguel Llanes, an agribusiness major, was a nontraditional student who encourages getting involved. “I encourage all students to find time to mentor someone. … You’ll learn the personal rewards are most gratifying,” Llanes said, “And stay busy. The more on your plate, the better you’ll execute.”

Nontraditional Student Week had the largest turnout its sponsors have seen in years. “I think the events were really wonderful and showed room for potential growth,” Johnson said. “The interaction between new people meeting and interacting with nontraditional students meant that we were reaching out to people.”

Journalism needs practicum opportunities

The MTSU School of Journalism needs your help to offer its students expanded practicum opportunities for spring 2011 and beyond. These students’ areas of study include:
• advertising;
• journalism;
• public relations; and
• visual communications.

Their successful degree completion either requires or recommends an off-campus internship or an campus practicum experience for course credit. Pay is optional.

Due to transportation or other mobility challenges, including lack of schedule time to travel and work elsewhere, some students must pursue this experience on campus. If your department or office is interested in hosting a practicum student for five to 15 hours weekly, please contact Brandt Conner, practicum coordinator and faculty adviser, at 615-898-2806 or bconner@mtsu.edu.

Deadline is Jan. 28 for events in 2011-12 planner

It’s time again to plan for next year’s campus events! Submit your special-event dates to the Office of New Student and Family Programs by Friday Jan. 28, to ensure that they’re included in the 2011-12 Blue Raider Planner and Handbook. Submissions are needed by the end of January to meet publishing deadlines and turn around the planner in time for CUSTOMS events, organizers said.

MTSU freshmen receive a Blue Raider Planner and Handbook when they attend CUSTOMS. Copies also can be purchased at Philips Bookstore.

To save time when submitting events, you may use the NSF’s Office’s online form submission form at www.mtsu.edu/npf/planner_form.shtml.

For more information, contact Gina Poff at gpoff@mtsu.edu or Ilene Hale at lhale@mtsu.edu or 615-888-2454. Please share this information with student organizations so they can submit their events for inclusion in the planner, too.
Events Around Campus

Annual employee reception planned for Dec. 16

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee have issued an open invitation to all university employees for their annual holiday reception on Thursday, Dec. 16.

The reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m., but departments are being encouraged to choose a visiting time to make the event flow more smoothly for everyone.

Departments beginning with the letters A to E may choose to visit between 1 and 2 p.m. Letters F to P can visit between 2 and 3 p.m., and departments beginning with the letters Q to Z may choose to stop by between 3 and 4 p.m.

Employees are asked to bring canned goods to share locally with community neighbors who are less fortunate.

Get noticed in The Record!

Submit Campus Calendar items, Faculty/Staff Updates and other news to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, for the first 2011 edition of The Record, Jan. 17. Deadline for submitting items for the Jan. 31 edition of The Record is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Have a safe and wonderful winter break. Thanks for another great year, and here’s to a spectacular university centennial!