

THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

December 2009 Vol. 7 / No. 2



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services

Alumni Homecoming Queens and Kings welcome the newly crowned Queen Katie Phillips and King Desmond Yates. They include (from left) Mary Katherine Gilbert Jordan ('97), Jennifer Secrest ('04), Emily Porter ('09), Michael Shirley ('06), Barbara Gibson McClain ('80), Meagan Flippin ('07), Marla Frisby ('95), Katherine Whitt ('01), Steven Disser ('08), Meredith Howell, Desmond Yates, Katie Phillips, Chassen Haynes ('08), Candice Haynes ('05), Steven Helton ('05), Carmen Jones Davis ('00), Carolyn Ball Harrison ('63), Patricia Duncan Green ('68) and Lashaun Turner Coleman ('91).



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services

Thomas Henry Sesler prepares to ride the winning entry of the first Baby Raider Ride Contest in the Homecoming Parade. He is kept company by his father, Mark Sesler ('91), and his cousin, Matthew Farris, son of Will ('91) and Jean Forte ('91) Farris.



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services

Grammy-nominated composer George S. Clinton ('69) leads the Homecoming Parade as this year's grand marshal.

Rockin' good

Homecoming win wraps up fun weekend

By Rhonda Wright rwright@mtsu.edu

Blue Raiders took to the stage during Rockin' Raider Homecoming weekend, Oct. 23-24.

The class of 1959 had its reunion on Friday night. They enjoyed a campus tour and social hour before being inducted into the esteemed Golden Raiders Society during a dinner ceremony at the Tom H. Jackson Building. Adrian Holt ('03) took top honors

at the Student Government Association's annual Blue Raider Chili Cook-Off at Peck Hall Friday night.

The Alumni House was rockin' as alumni and friends filled its front lawn to watch the Homecoming Parade at the fourth annual Mixer on Middle. Publix Super Markets sponsored breakfast and the National Alumni Association provided complimentary homecoming souvenir pho-

(See 'Rockin', Page 4)

Centennial committee takes shape

'Humbled' alumnus Lamb to help lead planning efforts for 51-member group

By Tonjanita L. Johnson tljohnso@mtsu.edu

Although Middle Tennessee State University's 100th year anniversary celebration is still more than a year away, excitement already is brewing, and planning for this historic milestone officially has begun.

In an effort to formally organize the university's planning efforts, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, in collaboration with Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations, has appointed a Centennial Celebration Planning Committee.

MTSU Alumnus Bob Lamb ('69, '77), a well-known Murfreesboro real estate professional, has

agreed to serve as chair of the Centennial Executive Committee and oversee the 51-member Centennial Planning Committee. These groups will be responsible for guiding the development of all events and activities associated with the Centennial.

"I am very humbled to have been asked to serve in a leadership role in the planning of this historic celebration," said Lamb. "While there is a lot of work to be done, our main task right now is mostly organizational. We look forward to receiving input from our alumni and friends throughout



Lamb

the country and around the world as to what they would like to see in a Centennial Celebration."

As a first step in the planning process, an Executive Committee, made up of individuals from the larger Centennial Committee, was established to identify critical issues that the group should address as a whole.

Executive Committee members include Lamb; Jan Hayes ('67, '73); John Hood ('54, '74); Dr. Tonjanita Johnson; Ross Spielman ('55, '66); Hanna Witherspoon ('64); and Andy Womack ('70).

Bales and Kimberly Edgar, executive assistant to the president, will serve as ex officio members of the group.

(See 'Centennial,' Page 5)

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New Student Union to arrive early '12

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU officials held a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 6 for the new \$77.13 million, nearly 200,000 square foot Student Union.

Afterward, President Sidney A. McPhee told two Nashville television stations that "it will be an incredible facility for students and the campus, and it was not funded at taxpayers' expense. It's a facility that's badly needed on campus."

"We're all so excited to mark the ceremonial groundbreaking of this new facility, but clearly students already have seen the actual construction already under way, and they already have been a part of the planning and programming processes," said Dr. Debra Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

"The groundbreaking is a wonderful time, however, for us all to take a minute to recognize the farsightedness and commitment to the future of those students who paved the way by sponsoring the SGA legislation which has made this facility possible," Sells said.



An architect's rendering of the \$77.13 million Student Union building.

The building is being funded through student fees that stemmed from a Student Government Association-led campaign in 2006.

The Student Union "is intended to primarily serve as gathering space for students," Sells said.

"This means progress," said David Gregory, Tennessee Board of Regents vice chancellor for administration and facilities development, who attended MTSU in 1976 and '77. "MTSU has continued to become the premier institution for our state.

Designed by Street Dixon Rick Architecture and Thomas Miller and Partners, the building's 197,180 square feet will accommodate a bookstore, copy center, game room and food court (first floor); a ballroom, parliamentary room, video theater, computer center, conference and meeting rooms and student lounges (second floor); offices for Student Involvement and Leadership, the SGA and Student Unions and Programming (third floor); and other features.

The target date for completion is early 2012, MTSU officials said.

The Student Union will not replace Keathley University Center, which will continue to house Student Affairs-related offices, the MTSU Post Office and others.

Pinnacle Construction Partners of Nashville and national builder Messer Construction were awarded the contract to build the new facility.

Campus, state and Rutherford County officials, alumni, MTSU students and others attended the ceremony, which was held near the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

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Changes improve campus

By Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

While construction moves forward on both the Education and Student Union buildings (see related stories, this page) as the university prepares for them to open in early 2012 if all goes as planned, other less celebrative projects were in progress in an effort to reduce deferred-maintenance costs and improve creature comforts.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing work is in progress in Corlew Hall, and the hope is to have the residence hall back in action for the fall 2010 semester. A new addition to McCallie Cafeteria (in Corlew) will increase capacity by as many as 50 seats. The addition will be where the brick patio currently is on the south side.

Anderson Piping is at work upgrading the heating and cooling infrastructure in Cope Administration Building computer server room.

A review meeting with city officials and engineers took place in early November regarding the proposed widening of Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Bids were received Nov. 19 for the renovation of Tucker Theatre. The project will consist of refurbishing the seats, replacing the carpet and lighting and improving the lobby area and restrooms. It also will entail ADA and stage improvements, mechanical and electrical updates, and code upgrades. Work will begin in January 2010.

(See 'Changes,' Page 7)



An architect's rendering of the front of the College of Education building.

New education building is part of master plan

By Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

If all goes as scheduled, the 993 classroom seats and 87 faculty offices in the new College of Education Building will be teeming with eager students, faculty and staff by spring 2012.

Some will make a beeline for a collaborative classroom or the wet lab, while others will find a comfy seat in the 150-seat auditorium, the seminar room or the observation lab.

As the result of a joint venture between Earl Swensson Associates and Centric Architecture with the support of local legislators in issuing bonds for the project, the new building, with more than 87,300 gross square feet, will provide a dedicated facility for one of the largest colleges at MTSU. Until now, education programs and faculty have been scattered across campus.

"The faculty are very excited," said Dr. Terry Whiteside, interim education dean. "When you work together in the same space, you can commiserate, share ideas and do cross-departmental projects. It creates energy when your peers are working in the same space.

"There has been a sense of disbelief from the old-timers," Whiteside continued. "This isn't going to happen, they would say. When they see it ... this is big-time."

"The new building will help in faculty recruitment and perhaps in attracting students to the teaching profession," noted Dr. Jim Huffman, chair of the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department. "People will see that this is a classy operation, that it enhances the image of teacher education. Teacher education won't be all over campus; it will be in one location. ... It will give us a lot more flexibility. When we have a conference, we won't have to go to the Foundation House or country club."

Everyone, including clerical staff, had a hand in selecting the furniture, Whiteside said. Secretaries helped determine the layout of

(See 'New,' Page 7)

University honors Womack family

By Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

This family moves mountains. Because of the Womack family's tremendous love and support for MTSU for more than 50 years and their considerable financial assistance that ultimately will provide more than a half-million dollars in faculty and scholarship support for the education program, the university has renamed the Department of Educational Leadership in their honor.

The department is now known as the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department.

From the time the doors of Middle Tennessee State Normal School opened in 1911, the Womack family has influenced the look, feel and heart of the campus and provided leadership across the education spectrum in the state of Tennessee.

"We greatly appreciate the Womack family's tremendous commitment to our College of Education," said Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU president. "The Womack name has been synonymous with education in Tennessee, from Dr. Bob's long tenure in our educational leadership department to Andy's service in the state senate as chair of the education committee. Few families have had as deep and lasting a history on our campus. We are deeply indebted to them for their generosity and are proud to recognize their service and commitment with the naming of the educational leadership department in their honor."

"Dr. Bob, his four children and their families have made a commitment to the university both in outright contributions and in their estate planning that will easily be the largest gift to that program," added Joe Bales,

MTSU vice president for Development and University Relations. "This, coupled with the earlier announcement of the construction of our new education building, signifies our commitment to maintaining our College of Education as Tennessee's pre-eminent education program."

Dr. Bob, as he is affectionately called by nearly everyone on campus, is starting his 53rd year of teaching at the university that he says "feels just like home." As a student, he enrolled in 1941 in what was then the State Teachers College.

"My family before me had come here, so I gravitated in this direction," he recalled. "And my wife was coming here, and that was another big factor. Then, of course, I had to take off a few years during World War II."

The Womacks, however, go back to the very beginning. Dr. Bob's older brother was a student when Middle Tennessee State Normal School opened in 1911 and later taught soldiers who were

returning from World War I. Another brother and two sisters followed.

"And then I came along," Dr. Bob said. "I am very proud of this family, and I am very proud of this contribution to the university."

Andy Womack ('70) shares his father's sentiment.

"I take a great deal of pride in the generation before me," he said, referring to his dad, five aunts and uncles. "And what I think is really unique in what we're doing is that the money we are establishing is going to an endowment to enhance the faculty in the education department."

"We feel that oftentimes what is overlooked in the quality of education is that you have to have quality faculty. In order to recruit and retain quality faculty, we felt like an endowment that generated discretionary funds for the leadership in education to enhance the salaries and professional-development opportunities of the faculty was important."

During Andy Womack's tenure as chair of the state Senate Education Committee, the topography of the campus changed considerably.

"I was very proud of the fact that we were able to get the mass communication building as well as the infrastructure that made possible the new business building, the new library and the renovation of the Todd Library. ... When we moved back here in 1957, MTSU was just a small college. Now it has become a major university, not only in Tennessee but in the Southeast and the nation."

MTSU will hold a formal naming ceremony in the future; the renaming of the department has been approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents, Bales said.



Submitted by the Womack family

The Womack family (from left): Lynn Womack ('70, '82), Lara Daniel ('79, '91), Ricky Womack ('82), Cherry Womack ('68), Andy Womack ('70), Bob Womack ('48), David Womack ('99), Cheryl Womack ('98), Dana Womack ('00, '03), Rob Sims ('03) and Marguerite Sims. Not pictured is Sara Womack ('07), daughter of Ricky Womack.

CALENDAR

Campus-related events

December

3 MTSU Percussion Ensemble*

3-5 Fall Dance Concert
by MTSU Dance Theatre**

6-7 *Messiah**

8 MTSU Symphonic Band*

9 MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble*

10 MTSU Accounting CPE Day***

11-12 MPAC Show****

19 Fall Commencement (story, Page 5)

January, 2010

25 Lynn Rice-See faculty Piano Recital*

28-30 *Ladybug* by MTSU
student Josh Ginsburg**

February

1 Stones River Chamber Players*

4-6 Wind Band Conference*

4 Tennessee Valley Winds Concert*

5 MTSU Wind Ensemble concert*

6 Honor Bands Concert*

11 MTSU Jazz Artist Series,
Steve Davis, Trombonist*

12-13 MTSU Opera performance*

15 MTSU Jazz Ensemble II*

18 MTSU Jazz Ensemble I*

25 MTSU Women's Chorale*

28 MTSU Symphony Orchestra*

For more information, go to:

*www.mtsumusic.com

**www.mtsu.edu/theatre

***www.mtsu.edu/accounting

****www.mtperformingarts.com

Note: All dates, times subject to change.



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J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee wave to the crowd lining Middle Tennessee Boulevard to watch the annual Homecoming Parade.



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services

Young Alumni Achievement Honoree Lauren Gillespie Agee ('01), and Distinguished Alumni Tom Vance ('76), David Mitchell ('73), and George Frost ('56) are welcomed on the field by National Alumni Association Board President Jim Stubblefield ('83), President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee during the Homecoming Game.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Class of 1959 Golden Raiders Curtis and Peggy Orr Mason show fellow Golden Raider Faye Brandon ('49) their complimentary homecoming photo from the National Alumni Association at Mixer on Middle.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Alumni and friends Beth Carney, Mary Johnson, Jill McDaniel ('04), Stephanie Holt ('93), and Kandal Intintoli ('97), at the Rockin' Raider Homecoming Parade.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Young alumni enjoy reuniting at the Alumni House during Mixer on Middle. From left, they are Kim Concialdi ('07), MacKenzie Emerson ('08), Tiffanie Winkler ('09), Rebecca Wilson ('08), Sarah Brown, Kristi Gannon ('05) and Beth Beasley ('06).

Rockin'

tos. Partygoers were treated to MTSU agriculture-produced and processed chocolate milk, arguably the best chocolate milk in the land.

Grammy-nominated composer George S. Clinton ('69) led the parade as Grand Marshal. Distinguished Alumni George Frost ('56) and David Mitchell ('73) and Young Alumni Achievement honoree Lauren Gillespie Agee ('01) represented alumni in the parade. Voice of the Blue Raiders Chip Walters ('85) and Aaron Solomon ('94), co-host of WSMV's *Channel 4 News Today*, announced this year's parade at Mixer on Middle.

The Office of Alumni Relations held its first-ever Baby Raider Ride Contest Saturday morning. Eighteen entries including strollers, wagons and



bikes were transformed into spirited floats for the parade. "Lightning and T.H.," ridden by Thomas Henry Sesler, son of Mark ('91) and Beth Sesler won first place. Elizabeth Riley Sims, daughter of Rob ('03) and Marguerite Sims was awarded second place. Kaitlyn and Wes Hardy, children of Edd ('03) and Lisa ('02) Hardy, rode third-place entry "Rockin' ABCs" with Jackson and Haiden Faulk, children of Erik and Becca ('02) Faulk.

After the parade, Walnut Grove was a popular



Lightning fires up the crowd at the Rockin' Raider Homecoming. The Blue Raiders rolled to a convincing 62-24 victory against Western Kentucky.

J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

tailgating place. Several groups hosted reunions before the game. Representatives from the university's colleges shared the latest information during lunch with alumni at the Alumni Tailgate Tent. A big crowd cheered at Raider Walk as the Band of Blue welcomed the football team on its way to Floyd Stadium for the big game against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

Alumni Homecoming Queens and Kings joined the newly crowned 2009 Homecoming Queen Katie Phillips and King Desmond Yates on the field during the halftime ceremony.

The Blue Raiders did not disappoint the crowd, beating WKU 62-24. The victory was a great way to wrap up the fun-filled weekend.

International alumni profile

(Second in a series)

Name: Takeshi Niizeki

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

International location: Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo

Additional information: Graduated from Fukushima University in Japan in 2004 and entered the master's program in economics at MTSU in September 2004. Graduated from MTSU in December 2005.



Niizeki

About his experience: "Thanks to Dr. (Kiyoshi) Kawahito (professor emeritus in economics and finance, and a faculty member from 1971 until 2007), I was awarded a graduate assistantship by the Department of Economics and Finance for one-and-a-half years. After receiving a master's degree in economics, I decided to go back to Japan and entered Hitotsubashi University in 2007. I passed the qualifying exam for the Ph.D. program in economics in 2009, and I am a first-year Ph.D. student at Hitotsubashi University. I am working on the business cycle theory, especially its application to Japan's long depression in the 1990s."

Centennial ————— from Page 1

Additionally, four working sub-committees have also been established to address planning needs in specific areas such as marketing (chaired by Womack), Web site development and communications (chaired by Johnson) history and timeline (chaired by Dr. Jim Williams), and theme and scheduling (chaired by Dr. Derek Frisby, '94).

Other committee members include: Cindy Adams ('81, '99), Dr. Gloria Bonner ('72, '74, '77), Dr. Chontel Bridgeman ('93, '95, '96), Dr. Ralph Bundage, Suma Clark ('70, '77), Linda Cooper ('64, '71), David Cullum ('55), Ed DeBoer ('87), Ginger Freeman ('89, '92), Marla Frisby ('95), George Gardner ('57), Allison Hatcher ('00), Lynette Ingram, Dean Hayes, Tommy Haynes ('74), Dr. Barbara Hodges ('78, '82), Robert Holman ('78, '83), Faye Johnson ('65, '69), Murray Martin ('75), Dr. June McCash, Dr. John McDaniel, Kathy Musselman, Charlie Myatt ('69), Mary Esther Reed ('92, '94, '96), Dr. Liz Rhea ('55), Dr. Cliff Ricketts, Ronald Roberts ('84, '91), Mary Scales ('67), Caroline Scarlett, Dr. Dan Scott ('50), Margaret Scott ('66, '84), Meredith Crockett ('04), Judy Smith ('60), Ken Strickland ('89), Susan Taylor ('83), Diane Turnham, Ron Washington ('81), Doug Williams ('74), Dr. Forrestine Williams, Vincent Windrow ('91, '94) and Karla Winfrey ('82).

The full Centennial Planning Committee is expected to meet again in mid-December to discuss the latest developments related to the theme of the celebration as well as key scheduling and event issues. Marketing and communications strategies as well as Web site development also will be addressed.

While the planning efforts of most of the subcommittees are still in development, the History and Timeline Subcommittee has put out a call for MTSU artifacts and memorabilia. Anyone who is interested in donating or loaning unique items that reflect the history of the university can contact Jim Williams at 615-898-2633 for more information.

Additional updates related to Centennial Celebration planning will be provided in future issues of *The Alumni Record* and on the Centennial Web site once it becomes available.

'... We look forward to receiving input from our alumni and from throughout the country and around the world as to what they would like to see in a Centennial Celebration.'

— Bob Lamb ('69, '77),
Centennial Executive Committee chairman

Did you know?

- Mike McDonald ('79) was the first African-American president of the Associated Student Body (serving 1978-79).
- MTSU's second (and unofficial) mascot was "Ole Blue," a cartoon blue tick hound.

Source: *MTSU Miscellany: Trivia and Facts About Middle Tennessee State University, 1911-2001.*

Williams, Leifeld address grads

Alumnus and former state Rep. Mike Williams and former *Tennessean* publisher Ellen Leifeld will address graduates at the Saturday, Dec. 19, commencement ceremonies in Murphy Center, MTSU officials said.

Williams ('82), executive director of the Tennessee Petroleum Council and a former MTSU Associated Student Body president, will speak at the 9 a.m. commencement.

Degree candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees

in the morning ceremony.

That afternoon at 1, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication, and Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

Leifeld, who announced her retirement Nov. 23, will be the afternoon speaker. She became the newspaper's second female publisher in September 2005.

For more information about commencement, visit the Records Office Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm or call 615-898-2600.



MTSU Alumni Relations photo

Alumni turn out for 'Wicked' in Nashville

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, left, and wife Liz welcome 2005 alumni Paige and Jared Stiefel to the alumni reception held at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville before the performance of the musical "Wicked."



We are now accepting nominations for the
2010 - 2011

Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards

The Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association annually seeks and accepts nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards. The selection is made from candidates who have distinguished themselves by attaining a high level of service to their profession, their community and/or Middle Tennessee State University.

Nominations are sought in the following categories:

- Distinguished Alumni - Professional Achievement
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the Community
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the University
- Young Alumni Achievement Award

To view nomination and selection criteria as well as obtain a nomination form:

- visit www.mtalumni.com for a downloadable version
- call the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878

Nominations must be postmarked by April 2, 2010.
Nominations are valid for three years.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Judith Kahn Churchwell ('68), Americus, Ga., published her book, "Tales From the Hotel: Memories of Judy Kahn Churchwell."

Dr. Ronald Coleman ('65, '69), Hendersonville, Tenn., retired as dean of Allied Health at Volunteer State Community College and is teaching at the college and serving as a consultant on the college's Perkins grant CTE activities.

Jim Gaines ('69), La Jolla, Calif., is serving his fourth year on the Board of Patient Services at the John Moores Cancer Center.

Alice C. Hudson ('69), New York, N.Y., recently retired after 39 years as chief of the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal map division of the New York Public Library.

Priscilla Hunt ('66), Perry, Fla., retired from 32 years of teaching family and consumer sciences in the state of Florida in 2003.

1970s

Dr. Walter C. Chitwood Jr. ('78), Murfreesboro, was the recipient of the Sig Gruenwald Humanitarian Service Award at the annual meeting of Tennessee Academy of General Dentistry.

Sharon Hamrick ('79), Signal Mtn., Tenn., has been awarded the Certified Fraud Examiner credential by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. She is a forensic accountant at Joseph Decosimo and Company PLLC.

Joyce A. McCullough ('76, '85), Manchester, Tenn., was named Coffee County Central High School Teacher of the Year 2008-09.

Dr. Milton Smith ('73), Sylacauga, Ala., received his doctor of ministry degree from Gardner-Webb University. He is a leadership development coach for Make Way Partners.

1980s

Kelly Dodson ('88, '95), Ashland City, Tenn., was honored as a Tennessee Education Association Distinguished Classroom Teacher May 1, 2009.

Bobbi McMasters ('88), Pulaski, Tenn., is supervisor of curriculum and instruction for the Giles County School System.

Thomas Norris Jr. ('82), Nashville, Tenn., recently co-authored a book, *A Tennessee General Sessions Handbook 2009*.

Sandra Small ('81), Glen Allen, Va., is teaching exceptional education in Henrico County.

1990s

Joseph Balzer ('91), Sevierville, Tenn., is a pilot for American Airlines and has written the book, *Flying Drunk: The Story of a Northwest Airlines Flight, Three Drunk Pilots, and One Man's Fight for Redemption*.

Ken Davies ('93), Gautier, Miss., won the \$1,000 first prize in the 2009 Eastern Trombone Workshop Composition Competition.

Shannon Barnes Lankford ('93), Primm Springs, Tenn., is the EMT clinical coordinator for the EMS Education Department at Volunteer State Community College.

Leola McClure ('95, '98), Oceanside, Calif., is a faculty member in the Communication Studies Department at MiraCosta College.

Matthew Redd ('98), Brentwood, Tenn., is the director of commencement for Vanderbilt University.

Christopher Wilkins ('98), Nashville, Tenn., is director of graphic design for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

2000s

Alison Bogue ('04), Memphis, Tenn., is a seventh-grade teacher for Shelby County Schools.

Capt. Anthony DeFurio ('04), Yuma, Ariz., is an AV-8 Harrier pilot from Marine Attack Squadron 513 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, currently deployed in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Japan.

Chris Felker ('07), Smyrna, Tenn., is an accountant for HCA Physician Services.

Wesley Fort ('09), Nashville, Tenn., is a staff accountant on the audit team in the Nashville office of Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC.

Jay Grugett ('00, '01), Spring Hill, Tenn., is senior manager for the audit and enterpride risk services practice of Deloitte and Touche LLP.

Casie Wilkins ('01), Nashville, Tenn., is the program adviser for the public relations management program in the Office of Adult Learning at Belmont University.

Baby Raiders

Jacob Bryan Anderson, born May 24, 2009, to **Lauren Flanders** ('07) and Bryan Anderson of Antioch, Tenn.

Lyllian Grace Bogue, born July 29, 2009, to **Alison** ('04) and **Tim Bogue** of Memphis, Tenn.

Tanner Noah Brackin, born May 4, 2009, to **Amy** ('04, '05) and **Bobby Brackin** ('03) of Knoxville, Tenn.

Sarah Cate Butler, born June 29, 2009, to **Kelley** ('06) and **Chad Butler** ('01) of Murfreesboro.

Carter Ray Coble, born Feb. 28, 2009, to **Ashley Rae** ('07) and **Nick Coble** ('03) of Murfreesboro.

Elizabeth "Ellie" Callaway Donald, born Jan. 6, 2009, to **Jaime** ('01) and **Ryan Donald** ('09) of Murfreesboro.

Geneva Parkes Gaston, born March 24, 2009, to **Lara** ('99, '02) and **Bryan Gaston** ('01) of Edmond, Okla.

Ashleigh Corinne Reeves, born March 19, 2009, to **Kim** ('99) and **Jonathan Reeves** ('97) of Memphis, Tenn.

Caleb Austin Shaver, born July 16, 2009, to **Brittany Sewell** ('06) and **Austin Shaver** of Lenoir City, Tenn.

Reagan Ruth Turner, born July 28, 2009, to **Kimberly Stipp** ('93) and **Blake Turner** of Marietta, Ga.

Maloree Taylor Walthaw, born July 16, 2009, to **Aimee** ('03) and **Cedric Walthaw** ('00) of Greensboro, N.C.

Cruz Christian Wilkins, born July 8, 2009, to **Casie** ('01) and **Christopher Wilkins** ('98) of Nashville, Tenn.

In Memoriam

MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.

1930s

Samuel Tilford Hollandsworth ('35), Russellville, Ky., passed away May 29, 2008

1940s

Burns Phillips Jr. ('48), Murfreesboro, passed away Sept. 10, 2009.

1950s

Brig. Gen. Edward N. Fletcher ('55), Marietta, Ga., passed away May 3, 2009.

1960s

William Eisele ('61), Fairview Heights, Ill., passed away Oct. 6, 2008.

1970s

Patricia Lodholz ('78), Florissant, Mo., passed away Aug. 27, 2009.

Jerry Lowery ('71), Murfreesboro, passed away Aug. 17, 2009.

1980s

Maria Craigie ('83), Houma, La., passed away July 1, 2009.

1990s

James Bell Jr. ('99), Columbia, Tenn., passed away July 5, 2009.

Christopher Price ('95), Lebanon, Tenn., passed away Aug. 6, 2009.

Distinguished alum Kennon dies

Emmett Noel Kennon ('38) of Nashville, Tenn., a 2002 MTSU Distinguished Alumnus and for whom, with his wife, Rose, the MTSU Sports Hall of Fame is named, died Oct. 16. He was 94.

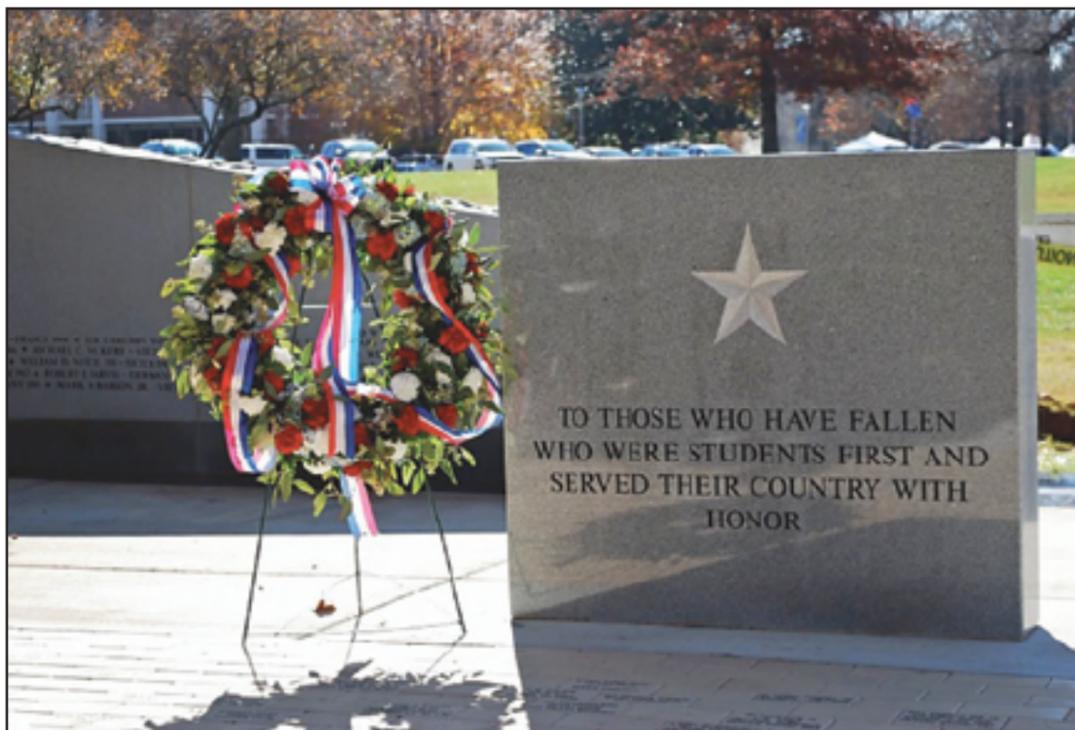
Mr. Kennon lettered in football and baseball and wrote for the school newspaper while attending Middle Tennessee State Teachers College (now MTSU).

He worked for Neuhoff Packing Company, served in World War II with the U.S. Army and founded Kennon Construction in 1949. The company continued in operation until his death.

Survivors include his wife, Rose S. Kennon; a son, James E. Kennon Sr. (Alice); grandson, James E. Kennon Jr.; great-grandsons Drakeford B. Kennon and Noel J. Kennon; brother, James C. Kennon; and nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Honoring 'Those Who Have Fallen'

A floral wreath stands in the plaza near monuments and bricks in tribute to MTSU alumni and others. Ceremonies commemorating the opening of the new MTSU Veterans Memorial were held Nov. 14 outside the Tom H. Jackson Building. Names on the memorial wall are members of the MTSU community who perished in military conflicts.



Submitted photo

Your gifts are investing in the future

If you're like me, you've probably come to dread going to your mailbox. Every day there's more and more junk mail, a few bills and the inevitable request for money from some local cause. At times it seems overwhelming and annoying. But a couple of weeks ago, I received an unexpected piece of mail that really changed my perspective.

The letter I received was from a young lady who is just starting her freshman year at MTSU. She had written to thank me for the Alumni Scholarship she had received. In her letter, she told me a little about herself and about how badly she wanted to be a nurse. She assured me that she was committed to her studies — wanting to keep the best grades to give her the chance to be accepted into the School of Nursing program — and that she would do her best to make our alumni proud.

She ended her letter by telling me that the only way this was possible was because of the financial support she had received from the university and our Alumni Scholarship program. Because of her family situation, without these funds she would not have been able to afford a college education and wouldn't be able to become a nurse. This was truly a dream come true for her.

Reading her letter reminded me that the contributions we each make to the MTSU Foundation do have an impact — often it's an impact we don't get to see, but it's real. Our gift dollars are really an investment in the future — the young men and women who soon will take their place as leaders in our community. But it's not just their future, it's ours. These soon-to-be alumni will be the doctors and nurses who take care of us, the teachers that educate and nurture our children, the businessmen and women who will help drive a prosperous economy. I'm not sure, particularly in the current economic environment, that you could find a more important return on your money than investing in the students and faculty at MTSU.



Stubblefield

Our university is growing — in fact, it's thriving! Recently, *Forbes* magazine named MTSU the 57th best public institution in and the 47th "best buy" in America. Not bad for a school that used to be called "Little Middle" by those outside our MTSU community. But in order for our institution to continue to prosper, it needs, no, it deserves our

support. The gifts each of us make not only help make MTSU a better place but also help students, like the young lady who wrote me, achieve something that may have seemed almost impossible.

For those of you who already support MTSU, my heartfelt thanks! To those who haven't supported our alma mater, this is a personal invitation to invest in the future. Who knows, your gift just might help support the next Nobel Prize winner from MTSU.

MTSU National Alumni Association President Jim Stubblefield received his B.S. in 1983. He has served as an aide to Congressman Bart Gordon for 25 years. He and his wife, Nancy ('88), live in Murfreesboro along with their two daughters, Katherine and Margaret.

Enrollment bursts past 25K barrier

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU administrators anticipated enrollment surpassing 24,000 for the fall semester. They never dreamed the combined undergraduate and graduate headcount would break the 25,000 barrier — and then some.

Enrollment Services officials submitted a record 25,188 total to the Tennessee Board of Regents earlier this fall.

In 2008, MTSU's then-record enrollment was 23,872 students. MTSU has 1,316 additional students registered for classes this fall — a 5.5 percent increase — compared to fall '08.

"Certainly, unemployment and the economy are driving many people back into the classroom for retraining and to gain the education needed for a change in employment," said Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

"Our headcount rose by more than 1,300 students," Sells added. "Memphis's headcount increased by a few more than 1,200 students. The remaining four-year schools grew by somewhere between approximately 60 and 800 students. The quality of the academic programs at MTSU, cou-

pled with the personal attention and exceptional student service provided, continue to make MTSU the most frequent choice for new students in Tennessee."

From information collected by the records office for enrollment services, there are 22,299 undergraduate students and 2,889 graduate students registered. These are increases of 1,047 undergrads (4.9 percent increase) and 269 graduate students (10.3 percent increase).

There are 3,596 first-time freshmen (140 more than '08), and 2,137 new transfers (202 more than '08). MTSU has 16,946 returning students, an increase of 764 from a year ago.

Soaring past 24K to 25K "means that MTSU continues to do an exceptional job of focusing primarily on quality academic programs and quality student learning experiences," Sells said. "We are driven by the pursuit of quality in the types of stu-

MTSU enrollment this decade

2009 — 25,188
2008 — 23,872
2007 — 23,246
2006 — 22,863
2005 — 22,554
2004 — 22,322
2003 — 21,744
2002 — 21,163
2001 — 20,073
2000 — 19,121
Source: MTSU Enrollment Services

dents we enroll, the academic programs that we offer and in the kind of experiences students have as a part of this academic community.

"Growth is an outcome of demand to be a part of this high-quality institution. I think that MTSU understands that if we do the right things to create a first-rate learning environment, then reasonable growth will be a natural by product."

Sells said MTSU administrators "continue to see a payoff to our focus on increasing retention and successful graduation of our students." "Our increase in our number of returning students was more than double the number of new transfer and new freshmen students combined.

"The entire university has made a priority of improving the academic advising process and increasing academic support services for students," Sells said. "Again, it's an example of how focusing on the quality of the student experience naturally influences enrollment. As terrific as it is to be the number one choice of so many new students, nothing makes me happier than seeing this evidence of how we are improving the experience and the success of our already-enrolled students."

Changes from Page 2

Completed projects include the Veterans Memorial Wall just south of the Tom H. Jackson Building; the dedication of the wall took place on Nov. 14.

Other improvements and enhancements include the ROTC parking lot, the Stark Ag elevator and fire-alarm system, the Walker Library sewer-line replacement, underground electrical work in various areas of campus and the remodeling of the Grill in KUC.

Campus officials hope that work on Corlew Hall will be completed in time for the fall 2010 semester. An addition to McCallie Dining Hall on the back side of Corlew will add about 50 seats.

Submitted photo



New

their offices, and faculty had input in the design of the building.

"In today's classroom, all the technology is around the room, so faculty are out in the open," said Dr. Watson Harris, director of academic technology planning, adding that the new education building will be wired for learning.

"In the collaborative rooms, the round tables go up to a flat panel. Students bring a laptop to the table; they log in to TeamSpot, and they can communicate by sliding a document with their mouse onto a common screen. TeamSpot is ideal for collaborative research where students can share documents, data, links and other information."

Using ClassSpot, another collaborative software tool, instructors can communicate with students and decide how much of the public screens they want students to access, Harris explained. The instructor can lock out all students and control the three screens, allow students to access one or more screens or turn over the entire display to a single

student. There will be five aptly named "collaborative classrooms" on the first floor of the building.

Whiteside and Huffman agreed that the new facility opens possibilities to promote the Teaching Quality Initiative, especially in the areas of math and science. In 2008-09, MTSU was one of two Tennessee Board of Regents schools that piloted TQI, which redesigns instructional modules to better prepare students for the teaching profession.

The new building also will be the first on campus to be built according to the new sustainability guidelines for capital construction in Tennessee, and it will stand as a model of good sustainable design and construction practices. Capital projects in Tennessee are subscribing to newer standards in the areas of erosion impact, landscape design for native planting and reduced irrigation, storm-water management, exterior lighting, energy efficiency, recyclable materials, indoor air quality and construction innovation.

from Page 2

mtalumni.com

Lasting 'legacy' for future generations

Golfers tee off for scholarships that benefit children of alumni

From MTSU Alumni Relations

Alumni and friends gathered at Indian Hills Golf Course for the second Alumni Legacy Golf Classic.

Formerly the Homecoming Golf Tournament, this four-person scramble now serves as an official fundraising event for the newly established Alumni Legacy Scholarship benefiting children of alumni. The scholarship is awarded to children of alumni only and is a continuing award given only to those returning to MTSU for their sophomore, junior or senior years.

Because of the generosity of

players and sponsors of this year's golf classic, the MTSU Alumni Association is thrilled to be awarding two scholarships for the fall of 2010. Applications are being accepted through Feb. 1, 2010, and the criteria and applications are downloadable from the alumni Web site at mtalumni.com.

The Alumni Association already is preparing for next year's golf classic and welcomes volunteers and sponsors! For more information on how you or your business can get involved in this worthwhile event, please contact Michelle Stepp at 1-800-533-6878 or mbstepp@mtsu.edu.



MTSU Alumni Relations photo

Former classmates from the class of 1957 and longtime friends Jim Dunlap, left, Tommy Wilson, Jerry Kemp and Charles Wallace return every year for the Homecoming Golf Tournament, which is now the Alumni Legacy Golf Classic.



MTSU Alumni Relations photo

Pigskin Pre-Game raises nearly \$7K

Tom Clark and Steve Richardson ('76, '78), in the photo at left, enjoy a beautiful night with 400 alumni and friends at Marymont Mansion, host for this year's Pigskin Pre-Game in August. Almost \$7,000 was raised for the Rutherford County Scholarship Fund, which benefits incoming MTSU freshman students from Rutherford County. The fund awarded \$20,000 in scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

New grad cohort program offered

MTSU is offering a new cohort program in Bedford County leading to a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction with an endorsement in reading.

The program will provide licensed classroom teachers in kindergarten through eighth grade with additional specialized skills in literacy.

A cohort is a program of study in

which the participants begin and remain together as a group for the duration of the program.

The program begins Jan. 14, 2010, and will be completed in fall 2011. It is designed to serve the professional educators of Marshall, White, Bedford, Lincoln, Moore, Franklin, Coffee and Rutherford counties.

For more information regarding the cohort program, please contact Dr. Kathleen Burriss at 615-898-2323 or e-mail kburriss@mtsu.edu.

WMOT becomes flagship for athletics

Officials in the Department of Athletics and campus radio station WMOT-Jazz 89 FM signed a one-year agreement for the station to be a flagship for Blue Raider football, men's and women's basketball and baseball.

Under the agreement, WMOT will air all football and men's and women's basketball games; 18 baseball games; and the Rick Stockstill, Kermit Davis and Rick Insell coaches' shows.

College of Mass Communication Dean Roy Moore helped orchestrate the agreement.

Games also can be heard on www.wmot.org.

Lady Raiders 2009-10 basketball schedule

Date	Opponent	Game time (CT)
Dec. 3	at Xavier	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Louisville	6 p.m.
Dec. 13	at South Dakota State	Noon
Dec. 20	Western Kentucky*	2 p.m.
Dec. 28	Kentucky	7 p.m.
Dec. 30	at New Orleans*	7 p.m.
Jan. 3	Louisiana-Lafayette*	2 p.m.
Jan. 6	at Arkansas State*	7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Ark.-Little Rock*	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 13	Fla. International*	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	Florida Atlantic*	2 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Louisiana-Monroe*	7 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Western Kentucky*	2 p.m.
Jan. 27	New Orleans*	7 p.m.
Jan. 30	North Texas*	2 p.m.
Feb. 3	Troy*	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	at South Alabama*	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	Denver*	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Troy*	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	South Alabama	2 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Fla. International	6 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Florida Atlantic	11 a.m.
Mar. 6-9	Sun Belt tourn. Hot Springs, AR	
Mar. 20-23	NCAA Tourn. 1st/2nd Rds. TBA	
Mar. 27-30	NCAA Sweet 16/Elite 8 TBA	
April 4-6	NCAA Final 4, San Antonio, TX	

Home games in bold. Visit goblueraiders.com for November results.

Blue Raiders 2009-10 basketball schedule

Date	Opponent	Game time (CT)
Dec. 2	at Ala.-Birmingham	7 p.m.
Dec. 8	Belmont	7 p.m.
Dec. 11	Tennessee^	6 p.m.
Dec. 13	SIU-Edwardsville	4 p.m.
Dec. 22	Howard University	7 p.m.
Dec. 31	at New Orleans*	4 p.m.
Jan. 2	La.-Lafayette*	7 p.m.
Jan. 4	at Vanderbilt	8 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Arkansas State*	7:05 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Ark.-Little Rock*	7 p.m.
Jan. 14	Fla. International*	7 p.m.
Jan. 16	Florida Atlantic*	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Western Kentucky*	7 p.m.
Jan. 21	at La.-Monroe*	7 p.m.
Jan. 23	at W. Kentucky*	Noon
Jan. 28	New Orleans*	7 p.m.
Jan. 30	North Texas*	7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Troy	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 6	at South Alabama	1 p.m.
Feb. 11	Denver	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Houston Baptist	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Troy*	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Fla. International*	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Florida Atlantic*	6 p.m.
Mar. 6-9	Sun Belt tourn. Hot Springs, AR	

Home games in bold. Visit goblueraiders.com for November results.

MTSU vs. UT Pre-Game Party

Calling all MTSU Blue Raider fans! Wear your blue and join us for a pre-game party to cheer on the Blue Raiders as they take on UT in the men's basketball Sunbelt Classic.

When: Friday, Dec. 11
Pre-game event at 4 p.m.
MTSU vs. UT at 6 p.m.
Vandy vs. WKU, second game

Where: Sommet Center
Lower concourse, room H-1

No charge for the pre-game event, but reservations required. RSVP by Friday, Dec. 4, by calling 1-800-533-6878.

For game tickets go to www.ticketmaster.com

MTSU Alumni and Friends

Night with the Nashville Predators

Enjoy a great evening of fun and excitement as we cheer on the Predators and reconnect with area alumni!

When: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010
Reception at 5:30 p.m., game at 7 p.m.

Where: Sommet Center
Lower concourse, H-1 Room

Cost: \$30, includes reception and game ticket

Limited seats are available.
CALL TODAY!
1-800-533-6878