**MTSU - COMMUNTY AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**2012-2013 Strategic Partnerships, Public Service, Outreach**

**June 3, 2013**

***Selected New and Updated Partnerships, Service, Outreach***

**College of Basic and Applied Sciences**

**AEROSPACE**

**Faculty:** Dr. Mark Blanks

**Partnership:** Robotics Research

**Partner:** U.S. Army; U.S. Marine Corps

**Description:** A historic educational partnership announced between MTSU, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps will explore how to add low-cost hardware and software to existing small robots to use Raven aircraft as an eye-in-the-sky relay. The new pact will study ways robots on the ground can be used in concert with unmanned vehicles in the air.The partnership also allows the Army and Marines to help develop courses and materials for MTSU and involve faculty and students in defense-laboratory research projects.

**AGRISBUSINESS and AGRISCIENCE**

**Faculty:** Dr. Warren Gill

**Partnership:** Montgomery County Cattle and TVA

**Partner:** Vanderbilt University; University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

**Description:** Many of the cows in Montgomery County are unable to get pregnant and it has to do with the emissions from a nearby Tennessee Valley Authority plant.A group of [students](http://www.kpho.com/story/22123923/montgomery-co-cattle-infertile-due-to-tva-plant-emissions) and agriculture experts made the bizarre discovery and say it presents a huge problem for farmers and consumers. The cows are suffering from bad health and [spontaneous](http://www.kpho.com/story/22123923/montgomery-co-cattle-infertile-due-to-tva-plant-emissions) abortion. At times, as many as forty percent of the cows are infertile.Some of Clarksville-Montgomery County's brightest students have been collecting data for researchers at Vanderbilt University, Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. It has been quite a project that has yielded answers as to what is happening and why. The TVA plant in nearby Cumberland City emits sulfur, which carries into neighboring Montgomery County and lands on the grass for the cows to eat. The animals then start developing critical deficiencies in copper, selenium and zinc, and soon the cows are sick, infertile and dying.In the meantime, consumers can expect the costs from the impact on beef and dairy production to be passed along at the grocery store.

**Faculty:** Dr. Tony Johnston

**Partnership:** Veterans Flights

**Partner:** Tennessee State Veterans Home; Tennessee State Veterans Affairs

**Description:** Three veterans enjoyed a flight to remember when MTSU partnered with the Tennessee State Veterans Home to fulfill their wish to return to the skies.The MTSU aerospace professor and pilot met the residents at the Murfreesboro Airport for the flights on the MTSU Aerospace’s single-engine 1953 DeHavilland Beaver.State Veterans Affairs Commissioner and some of her staff also attended to show support for veterans, who were accompanied by medical personnel from the State Veterans Home as a precaution.Will Tuttle, 82, served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as a paratrooper in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Tuttle also wrote the program for Combat Controller Training. Leticia Fort, 72, served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. Fort served with air emergency evacuation teams to provide medical care for troops wounded on the battlefield. Lynn Holliday, 70, served more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy in the legal administrative offices. Holliday also served during Vietnam. He studied to be a pilot but could not afford to get his license. It had always been his dream to fly.

**Faculty: Dr. Nate Phillips**

**Partnership:** Alternative Forms of Payment

**Partner:** University of Tennessee/Tennessee State University Extension; Rutherford County Farmer’s Market; U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmer’s Market Promotion Program

**Description:**  MTSU’s role in a collaboration aimed at helping low-income residents and fixed-income senior citizens to eat healthier has proven to be an instant success.Farmers and consumers say the newly implemented EBT, debit- and credit-card payment method is a hit at the Rutherford County Farmers’ Market. MTSU’s community partnership with the UT/TSU Extension-operated Rutherford County Farmers’ Market celebrated the kickoff to the “Grow Healthy Rutherford Initiative” at the Lane Agri-Park Community Center in Murfreesboro. Through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers’ Market Promotion Program grant, MTSU has helped implement a system that lets farmers’ market customers make EBT, credit and debit payments to obtain tokens to make their purchases. This partnership will provide low-income individuals with the opportunity to buy healthy food at the farmers’ market.The University is helping with the EBT process as well as with promotional efforts for the University of Tennessee/Tennessee State University Extension-operated county market, located at the Lane Agri-Park Community Center. More than 17,000 residents live in an area in central Murfreesboro known as a “food desert,” with low or limited access to full-sized grocery stores. A “food desert” can limit residents’ intake of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and other items in a healthy diet.

**BIOLOGY**

**Faculty:** Dr. Brian Miller

**Partnership:** Nashville Zoo – Breed Eastern Hellbenders

**Partner:** Nashville Zoo; Action Nissan – Nashville; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Lee University

**Description:**  The Nashville Zoo’s effort to breed Eastern hellbenders in captivity garnered a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency grant. Tennessee used about $100,000, divided among three entities, for collaborative efforts to increase the Eastern hellbenders’ numbers. The three recipients were Middle Tennessee State University; Dr. Michael Freake, a biology professor at Lee University, in Clarksville; and the Nashville Zoo. Dr. Brian Miller, an MTSU biology professor, repeated surveys done 20 years ago to compare today’s wild hellbender population with that of the 1990s. The Zoo’s role was the actual breeding. To that end, the state grant helped the zoo pay for its share of work surveying wild hellbenders, plus disease testing, tissue sampling and cryopreserving (freezing) hellbender sperm to build a database of hellbender genes.

**Faculty:** Dr. Andy Brower

**Partnership:** Construct Pleistocene History of Amazon Basin

**Partner:** National Science Foundation; American Museum of Natural History; New York Botanical Garden; Field Museum of Chicago; National History Museum of Los Angeles County

**Description:** Dr. Brower and several Brazilian scientists will collaborate with the partner agencies to construct a Pleistocene history of the Amazon Basin. They will look at genetic patterns of variation in a variety of model organisms including birds, monkeys, trees, and then butterflies. They will attempt to do some next-generation sequencing, which is something. Researchers like Brower are playing beat the clock, because thousands of species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction each year. There are too many people, the climate is changing, and it’s an ecological catastrophe for most other living things in the world right now. And as countries like China and Brazil become more economically advanced, it speeds up the destruction of natural resources—they get whittled down to little national parks and places like that. To promote the collaborative mission, Brower has added his expertise to the Tree of Life Project, a web-based “family tree” charting genetic interconnections among all living things. Scientists and nature enthusiasts around the world have contributed to 10,000 web pages, each devoted to a different group of plant or animal, from tyrannosaurs to fungi. (Thanks to Brower, it includes more than 40 varieties of Heliconius butterfly alone.) It is an ambitious undertaking, a blueprint of the evolution of life on earth.

**ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

**Faculty:** Dr. Charles Perry

**Partnership:** Hybrid Powertrain Development

**Partner:** Orchid International

**Description:** Dr. Perry continues driving toward success in the development of the [plug-in hybrid retrofit kit](http://mtsunews.com/wheel-hub-retrofit-update/)  for any car.  Perry and this year’s five-member team saw gas mileage increase anywhere from 50 to 100 percent on a 1994 Honda station wagon retrofitted with laboratory prototype plug-in hybrid capability. The Honda wagon research vehicle has been fitted with electric motors at each rear wheel and a large lithium-ion battery that’s mounted in the rear of the vehicle. Brent Brubaker, a May 2012 graduate explains to goal, “The wheel-hub motor is an answer to a problem. It’s innovative technology. You can take and bolt it on a car”. Dr. Chong Chen advised in the motor’s design and directed Wattage’s modeling work; Dr. Richard Redditt oversaw the mechanical build of the earliest prototype of the wheel-hub motor; and Dr. Ron McBride was a consultant and oversaw student involvement in the machine shop. The nine students have all graduated with bachelor’s or master’s degrees.

**College of Behavioral and Health Sciences**

**NURSING**

**Faculty:** Ginny Bogle

**Public Service:** Nutrition Event

**Partner:** Murfreesboro City Schools – Mitchell Neilson Elementary

**Description:** Nutrition Education Seminar Event: Thirty minute sessions were presented covering the following topics: Healthy Eating - when every dollar counts; Eating for Optimal Health; Organic, Natural and Local Foods: what does all that mean; Reading Food Labels; Healthy Eating in Restaurants; Smart Shopping, and more. Individual Nutrition Coaching Sessions: Students worked individually to coach an assigned client through a nutrition-related behavior change of the client’s choosing.

**HEALTH and HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

**Faculty:** Dr. Rudy Dunlap

**Partnership:** Design and Management of Leisure Internship

**Partner:** Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department

**Description:** Graduate students in the Design & Management of Leisure and Sport Facilities class created a structured internship program for the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department. This process entailed multiple consultations with MPRD leadership and staff, regarding organizational needs related to interns. Students used a project planning methodology and included design considerations related to operations, human resources, facilities maintenance, budgeting/finance, marketing, and public administration.

**HUMAN SCIENCES**

**Faculty:** Dr. Sandra Poirier

**Public Service:** Patterson Community Center Right Choices Teen Program

**Partner:** Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation

**Description:** Pre-service family and consumer sciences teachers planned and delivered structured one hour lessons to two groups of teens during the fall and spring semesters. Lessons covered such topics as healthy snacks, Black History month, Earth Day, bullying, and interpersonal communications. Objectives included: assisting teens in building personal strengths; assisting teens in developing social competences; assisting teens in managing emotions; assisting teens in improving peer relations; assisting teens in strengthening family relations; assisting teens in encouraging healthy living; engaging teens in a structured educational activity where learning is a fun activity; and assisting teens in learning more about attending MTSU after high school.

**Faculty:** Dr. Stephanie Bush

**Public Service:** Aging Health and Development

**Partners:** Stones River Manor Assisted Living and Community Care of Rutherford County

**Description:** Aging Health and Development is an intergenerational service-learning course, consisting of structured, planned activities which involve meaningful interaction between students and older adults. The course is intended to offer students an understanding of the aging process particularly in relation to aspects of health and wellness. Students are involved in lectures, one on one working with senior citizens, the development of health plans, workshop development, and the team approach. They are being mentored and trained by Partner staff.

**Faculty:** Dr. Beth Emery

**Public Service:** Universities Fighting World Hunger

**Partners:** Murfreesboro City, Wilson County, Short Mountain Elementary, and Woodland Elementary in Cannon County

**Description:** MTSU, through this class, is one of over 300 universities world-wide involved in UFWH. The students enrolled in this class gathered and analyzed information about domestic and world hunger and explored ways in which to actively address this issue. Students gave presentations to raise hunger awareness among community organizations and developed and implemented fundraisers as part of the fight against hunger in Middle Tennessee. Our students raised $750 that will be donated to area schools for their respective Back Pack Programs and the MTSU Food Pantry. These school programs provide backpacks of nutritious food for children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekends. Our students’ provided the resources to provide 180 children with food for the weekend as well as contribution of $150 to the MTSU Student Food Pantry.

**College of Business**

**BERC (BUSINESS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER)**

**Faculty:** Dr. Murat Arik

**Partnership:** 2013 Non-Profit Impact Study

**Partner:** Center for Nonprofit Management – Nashville, TN

**Description:** The Business and Economic Research Center (BERC) produced the first assessment of the nonprofit sector’s contribution to the economy of the Nashville Metropolitan Statistical Area. The study included independent research as well as a survey of local nonprofits.The study asked these questions:what is the scope and size of the Nashville MSA’s nonprofit sector***;*** what does it contribute to our local economy***;*** How has the sector managed the economic downturn***;*** and how does it compare with sectors in our peer cities.**Conclusion:**The nonprofit sector in Nashville, including its volunteerism component, is strong, diverse, and vibrant. It is a major contributor to the economic output (business revenue) of the MSA and plays a vital role in the area’s strong economic picture.

**COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Faculty:** Dr. Jeff Clark

**Partnership:** Southern Girls Rock and Roll Camp

**Partner:** Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities (YEAH)

**Description:**  A former Middle Tennessee State University student founded SGRRC in 2003. Almost 10 years later, the camp is going strong each summer and has spawned multiple teen music programs in the Nashville area. SGRRC is a week long day camp for girls aged 10 to 17. Each day includes instrument instruction, workshops, panels, guest performances, and band practice. Campers form their own bands and perform in a showcase at the end of the week. Girls arrive on Monday morning having never picked up a guitar and by Saturday night, they've mastered a three-chord Ramones song. Camp counselors help campers to hone instrument skills and introduce them to a myriad of new bands that they hadn't heard before. SGRRC's goal is simple: to empower young women both on and off the stage. Though it has progressed in recent years, the music industry is still very male dominated. At the end of the week, the entire camp comes together for the showcase.

**College of Education**

**ELEMENTARY and SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Faculty:** Dr. Tracey Huddleston

**Partnership:** Invention Convention

**Partner:** State Farm Insurance

**Description:** The 2013 Invention Convention marked the event’s 21st year and featured more than 220 one-of-a-kind inventions from 431 young geniuses from across the Mid-state.The young inventors were public- and private-school students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades in Coffee, DeKalb, Franklin, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner and Wilson counties.Each year, the youngsters create an invention fitting one of two categories: “Games” and “Make Our Lives Easier.”

**Faculty:** Elaine Palmore

**Outreach:** Children’s Literature

**Description:** Palmore, the director of MTSU’s Child Development Center is writing children’s literature for the needs of today’s children. Her first book received the endorsement of the Betty Ford Center. The Dragon Who Lives at Our House (Fresh Fables) tells the story of a typical suburban dad who likes to drink beer at barbecues in the company of his faithful companion, Al, a jovial green dragon. Eventually, however, Al grows so big that he can no longer stay in the house. Dad has to go to some place called “treatment,” where he meets other people with dragons of all sizes and colors. After Dad’s recovery, Al never really goes away, but he does shrink down to a manageable size. Only 14 books  about addiction are recommended by the Betty Ford Center, one of the most renowned alcohol- and drug-abuse treatment centers in the world and a pioneer in the field of rehabilitation. Palmore’s second book, Big Changes in the Crow Family, tackles the tricky subject of divorce in a similarly compassionate, kid-friendly way. Mom and Dad Crow, who have three little hatchlings, grow apart as Mom returns to college to better herself, and the Crows develop different sets of friends and different life agendas.

**Faculty:** Dr. Kathleen Burris

**Partnership**: Play Symposium

**Partner:** Association for Childhood Education International; Tennessee Association for the

Education of Young Children

**Description:** The play symposium provided content knowledge, skill implementation, and assessment strategies targeting children’s health and wellness through play and physical activity. Objectives: Promote educators understanding of the importance of children’s play and physical activity; Provide participants with an opportunity to physically engage in meaningful activity; and Provide opportunities for transformative learning. These goals will translate into using of play in daily classroom life; encouraging children to incorporate walking into daily life; and developing an appreciation for play as transformative and aesthetic.

**College of Liberal Arts**

**DEAN’S OFFICE**

**Faculty:** Dr. Hilary Stallings

**Partnership:** Faculty Empowerment – Working with Student Veterans

**Partners:** National Guard and Reserve

**Description:** MTSU held a series of seminars to empower faculty to help student-veterans on campus. President McPhee signed a statement of support for the National Guard and Reserve. The goal is to provide faculty with not only an understanding of the veteran population, but with some real skills and resources they can use in their classrooms.

**FORENSIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (FIRE)**

**Faculty:** Dr. Hugh Berryman

**Partnership:** Cyber-threats Summit

**Partner:** Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security; U.S. Department of Justice- Office of Justice Programs; MTSU Information Technology Division; Enterasys Inc.; Mandiant

**Description:** This event wasof particular interest to government agencies at all levels, as well as the utility, education, health care, transportation and financial services industries — and others — that want to protect their operations from online attack.The event theme was “Building Partnerships and Understanding the Threat.”The summit addressed how a company or agency’s assets and reputation can be threatened by electronically breaching its security, confidentiality, data or other facets of its operations via external or internal unauthorized access.

**HISTORY**

**Faculty:** Dr. Derek Frisby

**Partnership:** Public Memory and the Vietnam War Study Abroad Class

**Partner:** Vietnam Veterans

**Description:** As Chuck Hagel, America’s first Vietnam veteran to become secretary of defense takes office, MTSU launches its first study-abroad excursion to Vietnam. “This is a new and exciting opportunity for our students to be able to experience the new Vietnam and examine ways in which Americans and Vietnamese view warfare, especially effects of warfare on Vietnamese society,” said Dr. Derek Frisby, associate professor of history and a Marine veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Stops on the itinerary for Frisby’s history class, “Public Memory and the Vietnam War”, included: Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam; Pleiku, strategic locus of U.S. military supply logistics during the Vietnam War; Quy Nhon, birthplace of an 18th century emperor; Khe Sanh, site of a key battle of the Vietnam War; Hanoi, the capital city where students were treated to a reception with members of the Marine Security Force; and the “Hanoi Hilton”, where former Navy pilot, now U.S. Sen. John McCain and other American prisoners of war were held captive. At this location, Frisby recited the official Tennessee state poem, “Oh, Tennessee, My Tennessee,” written by Adm. William Porter Lawrence, a Vietnam War veteran.

The Vietnam odyssey of MTSU alumnus William “Bud” Morris has come full circle. Morris calls his sojourn with the university's Vietnam study-abroad class “the greatest experience of my life.” Morris served several months at Quang Tri, an experience he describes as “rewarding.”

**Faculty:** Dr. Douglas Heffington

**Partnership:** Global Studies

**Description:** The Japanese city of Fukushima Daiichi continues to recover from a massive March 2011 earthquake and resulting tsunami that engulfed the coastal area. Some 16,000 people lost their lives. In June 2012, ten MTSU students witnessed the aftermath firsthand. During ten days of debris cleanup and personal service, the MTSU delegation—chosen on the basis of grades and essays—served hot meals, entertained children, and learned about disaster-response procedures. Doug Heffington, director of the Global Studies program, led the trip. No MTSU representatives ventured into unsafe areas.

**Faculty:** Dr. Brenden Martin

**Partnership:** John Early Museum Magnet School

**Partner:** Forty-one Museums in Middle Tennessee

**Description:** Nashville’s newest museum embraces some unusual notions: the small, gloved hands of children can handle artifacts with care; kids can serve as knowledgeable and enthusiastic docents; and young minds can envision and create engaging exhibits and assist in the development of a collection policy. With professional recognition from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM), and the Inter-Museum Council of Nashville (ICON), the students and faculty at John Early Museum Magnet Middle School recently celebrated the grand opening of Tennessee’s first officially sanctioned museum within a school. Following the closing of Scarritt-Bennett’s Hartzler Towner Multicultural Museum, museum officials began looking for new homes for its collection of over 10,000 artifacts, including African masks, exotic musical instruments, baskets, traditional Japanese costumes, textiles, pottery, and dolls from around the world.

**Faculty:** Dr. Amy Sayward

**Partnership:** Doors of Hope; Greenhouse Ministries; Journey Home; Rutherford County Work Facility

**Partners:** Doors of Hope

**Description:** Grant-writing for Doors of Hope, a non-profit organization that provides education and basic needs for women being released from incarceration at the Rutherford County Work Facility. Clients opt to participate in the educational component of the program while incarcerated, which focuses on developing a success strategy for the women. After release, Doors of Hope provides opportunities for a set of post-release clothing, a ride home, continuing support, educational funding, transitional housing, counseling, and transportation.

**MUSIC**

**Faculty:** Dr. David Loucky

**Partnership:** Teaching Music

**Partner:** The Salvation Army Murfreesboro

**Description:** The Salvation Army of Murfreesboro-Rutherford County is teaching local children the joy of music and hopes to expand that reach in the future. MTSU is assisting in that effort, with music students teaching participating students. MTSU’s Faculty Quintet shared its talents during the Salvation Army’s second annual Spring Festival. Lt. Monica Seiler said this is the third year the nonprofit’s music program has been conducted during the school year, with about 20 students currently participating at the Salvation Army’s West Main Street location. The Salvation Army has 25 instruments on which to train students, with practices held in conjunction with their teenage leadership class (called corps cadets) and elementary leadership and discipleship class (called junior soldiers). The instruments are all brass (cornet or small trumpet, horns, baritone, euphonium, trombone) and the students have a musical rotation between private instruction, band ensemble rehearsal and music theory.

**SPEECH AND THEATRE**

**Faculty:** Lori Kissinger

**Partnership:** The Golden Rule Project

**Partner:** Movement Connection Dance Company; Tennessee Affiliate of VSA, the international organization on arts and disabilities founded by Jean Kennedy Smith

**Description:** MTSU students played a part in an arts performance that will soon be on exhibit across Tennessee and will ultimately travel to Athens, Greece, for an international arts education exchange. Students provided the narration for “The Golden Ratio Project,” at Nashville’s Parthenon, presented by Tennessee students with disabilities. The organizational communication class provided funding for the project and also served as volunteers during the event. During the performance, young people with disabilities used music, dance, poetry and the visual arts to explain the mathematical concept of the Golden Ratio, an irrational number that has ties, either by design or coincidence, that can be found in nature, architecture, the human body and even the universe.

**College of Mass Communications**

**CENTER for POPULAR MUSIC**

**Faculty:** Dr. Dale Cockrell

**Partnership:** Online Guide to Tennessee Music

**Partner:** Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board

**Description:** A research grant from the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board is helping the CPM produce “’My Homeland’: A Research Guide to Songs About Tennessee”. The project will identify and preserve a unique collection of songs about Tennessee held in the Center’s archives and make them accessible online. While many thousands of songs have been written *in* Tennessee over the last century, hundreds and hundreds have also been written *about* Tennessee. Because resources have been scattered, there has never been a systematic effort to gather and organize this powerful music. In the last few years, the Center has acquired two major collections of songs about Tennessee:the John S. Mitchell Collection of Tennessee Music, which contains 1,413 sound recordings, 589 pieces of sheet music, 24 books, one film and 22 posters; and***;*** the Peter S. LaPaglia Collection, which includes 76 select pieces of sheet music.The site will include nation-leading eight state songs, raps, ditties and tunes on Tennessee

**Faculty:** Robert Gordon

**Partnership:** Capitol Street Party

**Partner:** Capitol Records

**Description:** Students from MTSU’s College of Mass Communication assumed key production roles for the 2012 Capitol Street Party in Nashville. As an estimated 14,000 fans on Lower Broadway enjoyed the music of Capitol Records artists Luke Bryan, Jon Pardi and Kelleigh Bannen, 53 students modulated audio, staffed HD cameras, conducted interviews and recorded the concerts for the label. Usually, colleges don’t get to do projects of this magnitude. The free music event, where live performances literally take to the streets, was staged downtown. Gordon assumed the role of assistant director alongside director Zack Eagles, a senior radio/television major from Alvaton, Ky., in MTSU’s 40-foot, $1.7 million HD mobile production laboratory. Students worked alongside Capitol executives and technicians to stage the show, gaining uniquely valuable material for their individual portfolios when it’s over. Students will also post-produce three music videos, each for a specific song. They also will produce a promotional video for the department and a “sizzle reel,” which Capitol will use in social media and other marketing efforts.

**JOURNALISM**

**Faculty:** Dr. Larry Burriss

**Partnership: Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame**

**Partner:** Independent Foundation

**Description:** A Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame has been created and housed in the new Center for Innovation in Media at MTSU’s College of Mass Communication. Murfreesboro May, son of the late state Representative John Bragg, for whom the college building is named, touted the creation of the hall at the time when the media landscape continues to transform rapidly. MTSU is the perfect place for this to be because of the broad-based support of MTSU alumni. The effort is led by a non-profit independent foundation which plans to recognize career excellence in “all facets of media, including newspaper, television, radio, electronic and public relations.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**Faculty:** Becca Seul

**Partnership:** MTSU Student Food Pantry

**Partner:** Greenhouse Ministries; Murfreesboro Housing Authority

**Description:** The student food-pantry idea came to fruition in spring 2012. The Student Government Association passed legislation to create a pantry, but it did not have a physical location. With the UCAC’s facilities, the partnership seemed ideal.Any active, currently enrolled student can come and access the food pantry.However, the focus is on homeless students and students who have just emerged from foster care, especially those who lack the necessary support to make it on their own.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**Staff:** Dr.Rosemary Owens

**Partnership:** Workforce Taskforce

**Partner**: Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; Mind2Marketplace

**Description:**  [The initial meeting of the Taskforce was a facilitated discussion to develop a comprehensive workforce development strategy. The Taskforce conducts regular meetings which conclude with action items.](http://e2.ma/share/outbound/e/zz6vc/vs6rah" \t "_blank)

Participants: local school systems; Motlow College; Rutherford Chamber of Commerce; Tennessee Department of Education; Nashville Career Advancement Center; Manage Solutions Group, LLC; O-Flex Group, Inc.; Tennessee Small Business Development Center; The Davis Groupe; Bridgestone/Firestone; FirstBank; Mind2Marketplace; Pinnacle Financial Partners; Nissan North America; Quality Industries; Murfree & Murfree PLLC; Specialty Manufacturing; Murfreesboro Medical Clinic; Vi-Jon, Inc.

**Staff:** Dr. Mary Evins

**Partnership:** Naturalization Ceremony

**Partner:** U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee

**Description:** MTSU celebrated the 225th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution with 288 new fellow citizens and a global audience that tuned in via the Internet at a special naturalization ceremony inside MTSU Murphy Center. The university celebrates the Constitution’s 1787 signing every year with special events and programs, including live readings of the document and printing portions of it on MTSU’s replica 18th-century Franklin-era printing press at Walker Library. The 2012 celebration was even more special because the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, allowed a rare naturalization ceremony to be held outside Nashville. The ceremony also saw three MTSU students take their oaths as naturalized U.S. citizens.

**PRESIDENT’S OFFICE**

**Staff:** Dr. Gloria Bonner

**Partnership:** Venice Armour

**Partner:** Rutherford CABLE Networking; Nissan Motor Manufacturing; Murfreesboro City Schools – Reeves Rogers Discovery School; Manor at Twin Oaks

**Description:** America’s First African American Female Combat Pilot and MTSU Graduate, gave a mini seminar on subjects in  her recently published book. Venice “Fly Girl” Armour went from beat-cop in Nashville to combat pilot in three years. Within months of earning her wings, she flew over the deserts of Iraq supporting the men and women on the ground. After returning home she realized many people wanted to create breakthroughs in their own lives, they just didn’t know how. From her experiences, she created a 7-step process called the Zero to Breakthrough**™** Success Plan. MTSU staff escorted her to Reeves Rogers Discovery Elementary School where she spoke to about 100 girls AND boys. The seminar was scheduled purposely on September Eleven.

**Staff:** Dr. Sidney McPhee

**Partnership:** Training on Beechcraft King

**Partner:** China Civil Aviation Authority; Flying Dragon General Aviation- China; Corporate Flight Management- Smyrna, TN

**Description:** MTSU’s nationally recognized aerospace program announced the establishment of an agreement, in principle, to help train Chinese pilots on their new Beechcraft King Air 350 Extended Range airplane currently housed in Smyrna, Tennessee. The Beechcraft King Air will be based in Qinghai, in the foothills of the Tibetan Plateau. The airplane will fly with a rear-tail, boom-mounted magnetometer used for geophysical and geochemical exploration in the Tibetan Plateau.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Staff:** Jackie Victory

**Partnership:** The Big Event

**Partner:** United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties

**Description:** The BIG Event is the largest one-day student-run service project, where MTSU students came together to say ‘thank you’ to the residents of Murfreesboro.This event provides funds for United Way’s Days of Action. The Student Government Association is one of two MTSU partners, along with MT Athletics.This is the fifth year for the MTSU Event. This year’s projects included delivering meals to homebound seniors, building a play area for an after-school program, painting for a multiservice ministry and organizing donations for a local mission. Private sector sponsors of “Days of Action” include Nissan, Publix Super Market Charities, Regions Bank and Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

**DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

**Staff:** Doug Williams

**Partnership:** The Nashville Initiative

**Partners:** Oliver Middle School

**Description:** MTSU developed a partnership with Oliver Middle to help the school enhance its students’ educational experience. The project is part of a larger strategic partnership between MTSU and *The Tennessean*. Several activities and events were planned and delivered to serve Oliver Middle School including MTSU faculty lecturers at the school, a technology workshop for teachers, and a civil rights presentation during African-American History Month. Nashville Initiative volunteers also worked with various high schools, the Metro-Nashville Davidson County Chamber of Commerce, the Nashville – Davidson County business community and the Tennessee Press Association. Students from Oliver Middle School in toured the MTSU campus, learning about the expectations, challenges and rewards involved in getting a college education.The five-hour tour included sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students, some of whom have never been on a college campus. Student ambassadors served as tour guides and resources for the middle schoolers.