MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

StayCurrent

with the College of Liberal Arts NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY • SPRING • 2009

Dean'sNotes

Recommendations are in from the President's Oversight Steering Committee, followed by the president's "final report," as many of you have seen these at mtsu.edu. As we proceed to work to make the college and University a tighter and stronger academic environment, our students will be our first priority, with programs that meet their needs. While budget discussions continue, the University and the College of Liberal Arts proceed with student and faculty activities as the center of our academic mission. In this wrap-up spring semester newsletter, we will outline successes of our students and faculty. Scholars Day and the Liberal Arts Awards Reception highlighted many of our outstanding students and faculty. Faculty mentors guided their students through research for presentation in Scholars Day this year, with many top awards going to Liberal Arts. On April 21, Liberal Arts awarded over 175 certificates and scholarships to students who have risen above and beyond department and college expectations. As those of you who are faculty, staff, and administrators read this newsletter, give yourselves a pat on the back for your guidance and support of all our students.

Now, on to the news and a new summer session

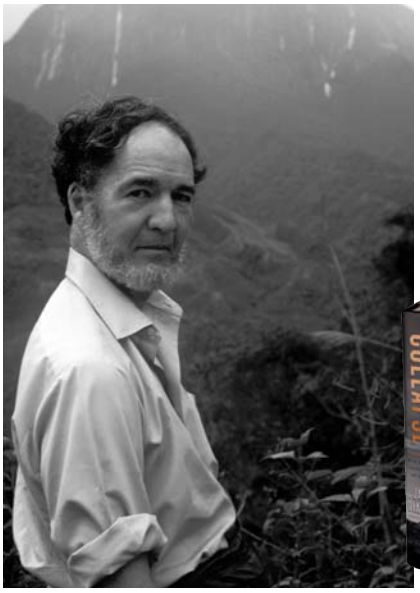
John N. McDaniel, Dean

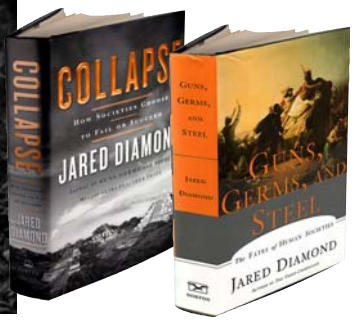
Academic Excellence Award

The MTSU Social Work Department and the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare (TCCW) have received the American Public Human Services Association's Academic Excellence Award. Viola P. Miller, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, nominated the MTSU program, and, after a long and complex nomination review process conducted by an advisory committee, our program was named the winner. This award is given for contributions to human services and service to children, adults, families, and communities throughout the country. The award was presented at the National Spring Conference in Washington, D.C., in April. This is quite an honor—congratulations!

Windham Lecture Series

Pulitzer Prize–winner **Jared Diamond** was the speaker for the 2009 Windham Lecture. Diamond presented "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed," which is also the title of his latest book, a follow-up to *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, the work that earned Diamond the Pulitzer. Diamond is a professor of geography at UCLA. We would like to thank Bill and Doris Windham for their support of the lecture series, the College of Liberal Arts and MTSU.



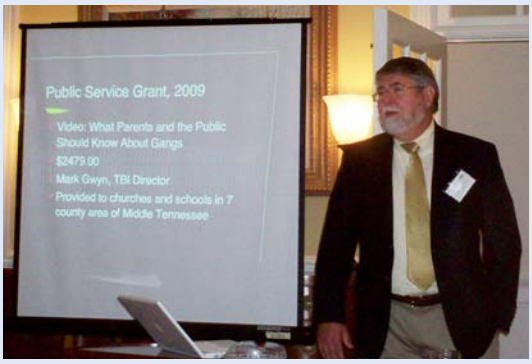


TBR Access and Diversity Grant

The College of Liberal Arts has been awarded a $125,000 TBR grant that will be extended over three years to supplement research-related activities for tenure-track faculty in the college. **Mark Byrnes**, **Hilary Stallings** (Liberal Arts), and **Amy Sayward** (History) wrote a truly superior proposal that, in a nutshell, identified our large cohort of tenure-track faculty in Liberal Arts as a much more diverse group than those comprising the already-tenured group. The money will allow us to support tenure-track faculty so that they will continue on to the tenured ranks.

Public Service Grants

Hugh Berryman (director of FIRE, pictured below) and **Jackie Eller** (interim chair, Sociology and Anthropology) have received an MTSU public service grant for their proposal "What Parents and the Public Should Know About Gangs."



Nancy Rupprecht (History) has received a public service grant for her proposal to bring the children of Holocaust survivors (sometimes called "second-generation" survivors) to campus for the upcoming Holocaust Studies Conference in November.

Roy Hazelwood: William Bass Legends in Forensic Science Spring Speaker

The Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) celebrated its third year with Roy Hazelwood's lecture for the William Bass Legends in Forensic Science Series. Attendees packed the State Farm Lecture Hall and heard a fascinating presentation from Hazelwood, a world-class "profiler" of sexual deviants. Hazelwood's humor mixed nicely with his expert knowledge of a potentially gruesome but altogether engaging topic. He had the audience enthralled, and the question-and-answer session after the talk (not a lecture in the usual sense of the word) showed that FIRE scored another hit for the Legends series.

Dance Program Hosts American College Dance Festival Association

In March, **Kim Neal Nofsinger** chaired the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) Southeast Conference, which brought over 600 students and sponsors to campus. "Exploring Diversity through Dance" offered classes for students and faculty and special performances by faculty, students, and professionals. Along with Nofsinger, **Marsha Barsky** and **Nancy Ammerman** contributed to the conference. A special thank-you goes to **Kaleena DeVar** for her organizational skills in planning the conference. ACDFA officials recognized the great work done by these individuals by deciding that MTSU will host the 2010 conference.

Philosophy Lyceums Attract Renowned Speakers

April was a busy month for the **Philosophy Department**, which held two spring lyceia. Lisa Heldke of Gustavus Adolphus College presented "Food Security: Three Conceptions of Access," and John Lachs of Vanderbilt University delivered "Education in a Time of Crisis." All of our philosophers are to be commended for their work in bringing top scholars to campus to speak to our students.

Frank Essex
Practitioners Roundtable

Frank Essex (Political Science, retired) hosted the Practitioners Roundtable in March, with his former students speaking and answering questions from Political Science students about careers in law. Those participating were Mark Rogers, Reba Brown, Ben McFarlin, Lucy Haynes, Mike Bottoms, and Gerald Melton, all of whom have held important positions in the Tennessee courts.

2009 Legislative Interns
Luncheon at the Capitol with Dr. McPhee, April 30

Front Row (left to right):
Kayla Hockett, Amber Hazel, Roger Layne, Steven Altum, Jimmy Richardson, Priscilla Kinney, Will Lockhart, Scott Kyle, Marcy Videau

Back Row (left to right):
Dr. John Vile, Dr. Mark Byrnes, Christian Anderson, Sen. Bill Ketron, Brett Martin, Rep. Curt Cobb, Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, Former Rep. John Hood, Lauren Day, Dr. Frank Essex, Sen. Jim Tracy, Josh Fitzpatrick, Rep. Kent Coleman, Shanece McClendon

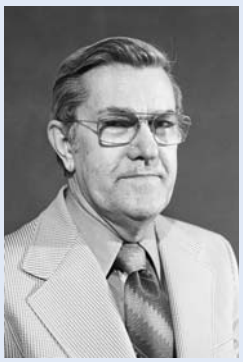
Baseball in
Literature and Culture

Warren Tormey (English) coordinated the Baseball in Literature and Culture conference at MTSU in March, with **Ron Kates** (English) and **Crosby Hunt** (Speech and Theatre) assisting. Special guests were Jim "Mudcat" Grant, former major league ballplayer and author of *The Black Aces*, and Harriet Hamilton, Alabama A&M University professor and author of the upcoming book *Daddy's Scrapbook: A Negro Leaguer's Story*.

Dean John N. McDaniel, Harriet Hamilton, and Warren Tormey

Harriet Hamilton and Jim "Mudcat" Grant

Passings



Ramon DeShazo

Retired from the English Department, Ramon DeShazo passed away on April 20, 2009. He taught at MTSU from July, 1957 until May, 1976 as an associate professor. DeShazo received a B.S. in 1936 from Memphis State and an M.A. from George Peabody College.

Ernest Hooper

Retired History Department professor **Ernest Hooper** passed away January 30. Hooper came to MTSU in September 1960 and retired in September 1985. An award bearing his name is given each year at the Liberal Arts Awards reception to a History student of high standing. Hooper was diligent in giving to the MTSU Foundation. He made contributions each year since the foundation was established to honor students and colleagues with memorial gifts.

Newell S. Moore

We express our sincerest sympathy to the family of **Newell Moore** (retired History professor). Moore passed away January 19. He is survived by his wife, Sue, daughters Susan (Mark) and Margaret (Mike), and grandchildren Andrew, Taylor, Allie, and Matthew. Moore taught at MTSU from 1955 to 1995. He was a graduate of George Peabody College in Nashville and taught briefly at Cumberland University and Arkansas A&M College.

Anne Twining Sloan

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of a dear friend and colleague, **Anne Sloan** on April 4. Sloan returned to Murfreesboro, to teach in the Political Science Department in 1993. She had been away since getting her undergraduate degree at MTSU to pursue a master's (Louisiana State University) and doctorate (Ohio State). She was the unofficial historian of MTSU, relating stories of her years attending Campus School, Central High School, and MTSU. Since her father, Gene Sloan, became public relations director in 1946, she almost "grew up" on campus. She was a clarinet player with the Band of Blue as an undergraduate and a member of the Women's Choral Society as a faculty member in the Political Science Department. Sloan was later named associate dean of Liberal Arts and, last year, assistant to the vice president and provost. Anne Sloan was the consummate team player. If she was needed, she was there. We will miss her sense of humor and gentle smile. Our thoughts go out to Anne's husband, Steve Saunders, and her daughter, Sam.

Former Faculty Members "Revisited"

An art exhibition this February, "Revisited", featured work by Art Department retirees **Ollie Fancher**, **Jim Gibson**, **David LeDoux**, and **Klaus Kallenberger**. A reception prior to the opening honored these artists, with many former students returning to see their former professors and their work.

David LeDoux, Klaus Kallenberger, and Jim Gibson

Winter Music Education Conference

The 25th anniversary of the MTSU Winter Music Education Conference took place in January, with clinician Audrey Berger Cardany from the University of Rhode Island. This year's conference focused on early childhood music education, and over 105 participants from 35 school systems attended. We thank **Nancy Boone-Allsbrook** for her continued good work with this conference.

Center for Historic Preservation

Congratulations to the staff of the Center for Historic Preservation, who received an Exemplary Leader Award from the Chair Leadership Council at its recent national meeting in Nashville. This award recognizes a team of leaders in post-secondary institutions worldwide which has modeled best practices to advance academic and administrative leadership development.

Faculty News

On March 25, a trio of guest scholars at the Tennessee Williams Festival in New Orleans presented "Tennessee Williams and the Hollywood Production Code." The presentation featured R. Barton Palmer, Annette J. Saddik, and our own **Robert Bray** (English).

Aleka Blackwell, **Mohammed Albakry**, **Tim Wilt**, **Rhonda McDaniel**, **Susan Hopkirk** (English); **Will Langston** (Psychology); and **Rebecca Fischer** (Speech and Theatre) organized the Third Annual Linguistics Olympiad for middle school teachers and students.

Bob Hunt (History) has been awarded the 2008 Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize from the University of Alabama Press for the manuscript "most deserving in Alabama or Southern history or culture" for his book *The Good Men Who Won the War.*

Susan Myers-Shirk (History) has a new book, *Helping the Good Shepherd: Pastoral Counselors in a Psychotherapeutic Culture, 1925–1975*, published as part of the Medicine, Science, and Religion in Historical Context series from the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Adonijah Bakari (History) was recently honored with the John Pleas Faculty Recognition Award.

Sean Foley (History) was recently flown to the Middle East by the CASAR Center at the American University in Beirut to deliver a lecture on Thomas Jefferson, Islam, and Euro-American history. You may view the lecture on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQwz869R-N8.

Poet Bryan Thao Worra

Yuan-Ling Chao (History) was instrumental in bringing Laotian American author and poet Bryan Thao Worra to campus for a poetry reading in February. Worra read from his poetry, which is influenced by his love for his native country, a place he left as a very young boy. Worra's writing covers topics from the ancient kingdom of Lane Xang to the CIA's secret wartime activities in Laos during the Vietnam War era. A resident of Minnesota, Worra has produced work that has appeared in more than 80 international journals, publications, and exhibits. He recently made history as the first Laotian-American to receive an NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry.

Retirees in Liberal Arts

Recent retirees from the college are **Carole M. Carroll** and **Peter Heller** (Sociology and Anthropology), **Kay R. Garrard** (Speech and Theatre), **Larry Glover Mapp** (English), **Betty P. Rowland** (Gore Research Center), **James E. Taylor** (Social Work), and **Evelyn D. Jared** (Tennessee Center for Child Welfare). Congratulations and best wishes to each of you!

Outstanding Teacher Nominees, 2008-09

Derek Frisby (History); **Martha Hixon**, **Susan Hopkirk**, and **Theodore Sherman** (English); **Karen Petersen** (Political Science); and **Richard Pace** (Sociology and Anthropology) were nominated for Outstanding Teacher honors for 2008–2009.

Student News

There is good news for **Communication Disorders** students–sixteen will begin master's degree programs in speech-languages pathology, and one will enter a clinical audiology doctoral degree program. Some of the schools they plan to attend are the University of Memphis, the University of Mississippi, the University of South Florida, the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, Tennessee State University, and Western Kentucky University. Congratulations to all these students as they continue their education.

MTSU School of Music undergraduate student **Gabriel Miller** recently received some great news. His paper proposal on Middle Eastern popular music has been accepted for presentation at the Society for Ethnomusicology midwestern chapter in Minneapolis.

The **Second Annual Tennessee-Area Japanese Speech Contest** was held at Vanderbilt University on Saturday, April 4. There were 51 participants from nine universities in Tennessee and Kentucky this year. Seven MTSU students participated in the junior and intermediate levels and two won prizes. **Seth Graves** won first prize at the junior level and **Jacquelene Thompson** won third prize at the intermediate level. MTSU will host next year's contest, and **Priya Ananth** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) will serve as chair.

MTSU Theatre students ran away with the awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Region IV Festival in Greensboro, North Carolina. **Josh Ginsburg** and **David L. Shelton** won in the playwriting category for their full-length play *Ladybugs* and also in the short play competition for *Shards of Glass*, both of which will be performed at the 2010 festival. **David Bennett** was also short play competition winner for *Portrait of a Mother and Son*, which will be performed at the 2010 festival, and **Jesse Cannaday** was a winner in the ten-minute play competition for *Swinging on Stars*.

Congratulations are also in order for **Ian Hunt** for his show *Rhythm in You*. Hunt's show opened at the Arts Center of Cannon County in late January. Hunt is the son of **Crosby Hunt** (Speech and Theatre) and **Deborah Anderson** (Speech and Theatre). **Ryan Darrow's** "'A Great Surge of Purpose': Gay Persons with AIDS and Alternative Therapies" has been awarded the 2009 Joan Nestle Undergraduate Prize from the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History. The prize is awarded for an outstanding paper on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, and/or queer history completed in English by an undergraduate student during the previous two years.

Student News

Patrick Pratt (International Relations and Political Science student) has been awarded a 2009–2010 National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Scholarship to study international relations and Swahili at United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya. Boren Scholarships provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad.

Jennifer Pickering and **Caitlin Shannon**, both Geology majors, are working with **Warner Cribb** (Geosciences) to gather information on the TVA coal-ash sludge spill in December 2009 in Kingston, Tennessee. Cribb has secured a National Science Foundation grant to collect water and soil samples from various distances from the Kingston Fossil Plant and six other TVA sites to determine pollution levels.

Many of you will remember MTSU music graduate **Silviu Ciulei**, who is now a graduate student at Florida State. Ciulei has won a spot in the semifinals of the Parkening International Guitar Competition and has received a $500 semifinalist prize. This competition takes place every three years at Pepperdine University, and it offers the largest amount of prize money of any guitar competition in the world—a total of $65,000. The first prize of $30,000 bests even that of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition, and Ciulei is one of fifteen semifinalists. Our best wishes to him as he competes in May, and special congratulations to **William Yelverton** (Music) for his instruction and continued support of Ciulei.

Undergraduate **Leonard Xavier Walker**, a Music major concentrating in Jazz Studies, was chosen to be part of the Disneyland Resorts All-American College Band. Walker was chosen as one of only five saxophonists throughout the United States. The eleven-week program in Los Angeles gives top college musicians in the U.S. an opportunity to learn about the entertainment industry first-hand through performance at a Disney theme park, clinics with world-renowned artists, and experiences in nearby Hollywood. Ron McCurdy, the internationally acclaimed director of jazz studies at USC, will be directing the student-musicians, and industry-pro clinicians such as Wayne Bergeron, Gregg Fidl, Dan Higgins, and Jiggs Whigham will also work with the students. Students will complete projects in composition and arranging, careers in music, or recording and production. Our Jazz Studies program is to be congratulated on this honor.

Scholars Day Award Winners

GRADUATE WINNERS

First—**Kathryn Frazier** (Music), **Jamila McWhirter** (faculty mentor) "Gender and Musical Instrument Choice: A Survey of Beginner Band Directors in Rutherford County"

Second—**Cayce Stephens** (Music), **Jamila McWhirter** (faculty mentor) "Teaching to the Masses: General Music in High School"

Third—**Bethany Hall** (History), **Mike Curtis** (community member), **Derek Frisby** (faculty mentor), "Digital Elevation Model of the Battle of Peleiu"

UNDERGRADUATE WINNERS

First—**Ryan Darrow** (History), **Pippa Holloway** (faculty mentor) "'A Great Surge of Purpose': Gay Persons with Aids and Alternative Therapies"

Second—**Tad Peterson** (English), **Robert Petersen** (faculty mentor) "Meaning and Fragmentation in Tennyson's 'In Memoriam'"

Third (tie)—**Elizabeth Hunt** (Theatre), **Alli Scott** (Theatre), **Matthew Frazier-Smith** (Theatre), **Brenden Johnson** (Theatre), **Buddy Jones** (Theatre), **Jetta Halladay** (faculty mentor) "Exploring English Through Theatre: MTSU Honduras Project"

Third (tie)—**Holly Baker** (Geosciences), **Crystal Miller** (Geosciences), **Clay Harris** (faculty mentor) "Textural Bias in Development of a Middle Ordovician Seismite: Evidence of 455 MA Earthquake Activity"

Third (tie)—**Christopher Young** (Political Science), **Doug Heffington** (faculty mentor) "Democratization and De-Democratization: Why Does It Happen?"

STAYINTOUCH AND STAYCURRENT!

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

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

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA233-0509

Upcoming Events

Fall 2009

August 29
Classes Begin

October 22-24
International Holocaust Studies Conference

October 24
MTSU Homecoming

October 30
School of Music
Evening of Swing

November 10-11
Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

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

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