



## Put down the keys

Field-sobriety checkpoints  
return to campus July 20

see page 5

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Building bridges, page 6

a publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

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# the RECORD

## Saddle up to HELP the children

from Staff Reports

**Y**ee-haw! More than 300 cowpokes will be dusting off their finest

Western duds to “Saddle Up for Project HELP” at the 2007 fundraiser, set for Thursday, July 26, at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum, 304-B W. Thompson Lane.

The fun gets under way at 6:30 p.m. with event registration. A barbecue dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by live music and dancing. Silent auction bidding will close at 8:15 p.m., and auction check-



out will be at 8:30 p.m.

Last year’s fundraiser collected \$25,792, said Project HELP Director Susan Waldrop, who added that she’s confident that community support for this year’s benefit will be just as strong.

“Although my tenure at Project Help has been brief, the gratifying experiences have been extensive,” Waldrop said. “From those experiences I have repeatedly observed the unique connection of Project HELP

with the Rutherford County community. MTSU has provided an excellent forum for children and families to be united with the kinds of services and support that make a difference in their lives.

“With the additional contributions, we hope to continue to provide preventions, as well as interventions, for families who have children with disabilities or delays. The other outcome of this

See ‘HELP’ page 5

## TBR increases tuition by 6% at all facilities

from Staff Reports

**T**he Tennessee Board of Regents voted unanimously June 29 to raise in- and out-of-state tuition by 6 percent at all TBR institutions.

This will increase the annual in-state tuition at the University of Memphis by \$264 from \$4,388 to \$4,652 and at the five regional universities, including MTSU, by \$230 from \$3,828 to \$4,058.

At the community colleges, tuition will go up by \$134, from \$2,230 to \$2,364. And at technology centers, tuition will increase by \$111, from \$1,857 to \$1,968.

All figures are for a full year and for a full-time student.

Mandatory fee increases were also approved as follows, with figures shown for a full year: MTSU, \$282; Austin Peay, \$171; East Tennessee State, \$20; Tennessee State, \$92; Tennessee Tech, \$160; University of Memphis, \$282.

At the community colleges, the TBR approved fee increases ranging from \$10 to \$30. The Tennessee Technology Centers requested no changes in fees.

Total annual cost of attendance including tuition and mandatory fees, both old and new, are as follows for a full-time student: MTSU, \$5,278; APSU, \$5,238; ETSU, \$4,887; TSU, \$4,856; TTU, \$4,980; U of M, \$5,802. At the community colleges, the average annual cost of attendance is \$2,628. And at the technology centers, the annual cost of attendance is \$2,168.

“As always, the board was faced with a difficult task,” said TBR Chancellor Charles Manning. “We had the best appropriations year since 1992, but even so, this tuition increase helps us enormously in being able to expand our enrollment and educate more Tennesseans.”

The TBR system of 45 institutions serves more than 180,000 students in 90 Tennessee counties.

## ‘Willing to practice an important response’

# Tornado drill: What did we learn?

by Tom Tozer

**T**he tornado drill on Friday, June 26, was, by most accounts, a success. Most reports indicated that people followed directions, took it seriously and went to the prescribed “safe place” in their building. There were a few glitches, and they will be addressed.

First, a big thank-you to the building runners for the great job they did in carrying out their responsibilities. There were no additional dollars in their June paycheck for serving in this role. But their job is a noble one and, in the event of an actual tornado, could indeed save lives. We could not conduct this tornado-alert plan without them.

“The tornado drill helped show us all what we need to adjust and what works,” said Chief Buddy Peaster of MTSU’s Department of Public Safety. “The success of our first tornado drill has to be credited to the campus community. Anyone can talk about the importance of safety, but individuals on campus showed they were willing to practice an important response to a potentially deadly incident that we all hope never happens.”

A few post-drill reports, however, indicated that not everyone took it seriously. Some folks, knowing that “it’s

just a drill,” stayed put. Others went to their “safe area” and returned to their offices after just 10 minutes instead of the recommended minimum of 20 minutes. There also were a few people who weren’t sure what to do or where to go.

It’s imperative that everyone visit MTSU’s tornado Web site, [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u), then click on “Tornado Information” and read through the list of “safe places” in

every building on campus. You will find a wealth of information. If you found yourself not knowing what you should do during the June 26 drill, you will know after scanning the “safe places” list and finding your building.

When a tornado warning is sounded, go calmly to that area in your building. If you can help someone with a disability, please do so.

Some “safe areas” should be labeled “safest areas,” because some buildings on campus do not have

interior walls or areas away from windows. The “safe places” list includes what is deemed to be the safest area in each building.

The Web site also includes a list of the building runners. Find out who those people are in the building

See ‘Tornado’ page 5



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

[www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com)

### IN BRIEF

#### WITHDRAWAL OFFICE MOVES

The University Withdrawal Office has moved from the Keathley University Center! It’s now located in Room 205-D of the Cope Administration

Building. The phone number remains the same: 615-898-2808.

#### TEE OFF FOR SCHOLARS

Join the inaugural Byron M. Motley Hero Golf Tournament Saturday, July 21, at Indian Hills Golf Course in Murfreesboro.

Proceeds benefit a new endowed scholarship in the College of Education and Behavioral Science. For more information, contact 1-800-800-7150, pin 9178, or visit [www.jpjfoundation.com](http://www.jpjfoundation.com).

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# UT's Gill to direct agribusiness and agriscience

by Randy Weiler

Longtime agriculture expert Dr. Warren Gill has been named director of MTSU's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, College of Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Tom Cheatham said.

Gill, 56, who has been a professor in the Department of Animal Science with the University of Tennessee since 1992, begins his duties Aug. 1.

"Dr. Gill is well known across the state and beyond, and we are excited to have him joining us to lead our agribusiness and agriscience programs," Cheatham said. "His experience and commitment to scholarship will contribute to continuing improvements in our fine agriculture programs."

Dr. Rhonda Hoffman, who has served as interim director, will return to her duties as an associate professor in the horse science department.

A native of Fayetteville and graduate of the University of Tennessee (B.S. '73, M.S. '75) and University of Kentucky (Ph.D. '81), Gill said he is "excited about coming to work at MTSU. This is a tremendous opportunity. I have worked with many people from MTSU through the years. The respect I have for them has grown more and more."

Gill said he has a deep respect for not only the

faculty but many of the department's programs as well.

"Of course, our No. 1 priority is our students," Gill said. "But we want to continue to develop our first-rate horse program. ... It is our shining star.

Dr. (Dave) Whitaker and his staff have done a tremendous job."

Other highly regarded faculty include Drs. Tony Johnston (food science), Warren Anderson (plant and soil science), Jessica Carter (beef cattle and swine), Kevin Downs (poultry science) and Cliff Ricketts (alternative fuels), and Anne Brzezicki (horsemanship and equitation), among others.

Saying that he'd like to wait until it's official before formally making an announcement, Gill said he's "excited about a new faculty hire" in the horticulture area.

Once he comes on board, Gill, a Murfreesboro resident for 22 years, said he would like to "establish a modern, state-of-the-art dairy unit at the Guy James Farm," replacing the existing one on Manson Pike.

"That's a high priority," he said, adding that a "dairy-processing relationship with Hatcher Family Dairies in Williamson County" will bring a milk-

bottling opportunity to the university.

"We also will maintain important existing relationships, such as we have with Randolph Associates in Birmingham, Alabama," he said.

If additional acres can be purchased, Gill also would like to see additional consolidation of the Farm Laboratory activities in that location.

"Current Farm Laboratories Director Tim Redd has done an excellent job for many years," Gill said. "I would like to allow Tim to lead this program to the next level."

Gill's vita indicates that he was raised on a livestock farm, complete with cattle, sheep, hogs and horses, near Petersburg, Tenn. As a youth, he showed cattle and horses and was active in all parts of the home farm. He, his brother Alan, and a sister, Gloria Meadows, bought a cattle herd and are actively involved in raising feeder calves and horses on the family farm belonging to their parents, William and Carolyn Gill.

He has completed eight years of service on the American Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinary Technician Advisory Committee.

Gill and his wife, Melissa, have a son, William, 25, and a daughter, Greer, 19.



Gill

## MT softball, men's golf leadership in transition

### Podlesny leaves after best-ever season

from MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee softball coach Leigh Podlesny announced her resignation June 29 after three seasons leading the Blue Raider program. Podlesny is leaving the program to pursue other interests, mainly raising her eight-month-old daughter, Soren Elle Iverson.

Podlesny had her most successful campaign in 2007, leading Middle Tennessee to a 30-30 overall mark and a 14-9 record in Sun Belt play. The Blue Raiders posted their best SBC mark since joining the league seven years ago, won a series against perennial national power Louisiana-Lafayette and finished just one win shy of the conference tournament championship game.



Podlesny

"After spending the last month at home with my daughter, I felt like I had a decision to make. I can be a good coach and a good mother, but I really want to be a great mother," Podlesny said.

"I have a wonderful job, but it requires all of my time and energy, and that takes away from my family. I love our team and this program, and I think the table is set to be very successful for someone who can dedicate the time and take it to the next level."

Junior Ashley Cline and sophomore Martha Davis both garnered Second Team All-Sun Belt accolades this season, and freshman hurler Lindsay Vander Lugt posted 21 victories and two saves in 273.2 innings of work. Seven of the team's top 10 hitters are set to return next season, including Whitney Darlington, who led the squad in four offensive cate-

gories (eight home runs, 38 RBIs, 94 total bases, .577 slugging percentage) and finished second in four others (.337 batting average, 54 hits, 12 doubles, 19 stolen bases).

"We appreciate the efforts of Leigh Podlesny and her staff and what they have been able to accomplish over the last three years at Middle Tennessee," Director of Athletics Chris Massaro said. "The program has made good progress under her leadership, and we thank her for all of the hard work she has put in. Our softball program is heading in the right direction, and much of that credit can be given to Leigh."

Podlesny compiled a 57-115 mark in three seasons at the helm of the program but made significant progress over the last two years. The Blue Raiders improved by 11 games in the win column in 2006 and 2007, going from eight victories in her first season to 19 in 2006 and 30 this year. This year's club had just three seniors and included four freshmen, three of whom (Vander Lugt, Corrie Abel and Caitlin McLure) saw significant playing time.

Her Middle Tennessee teams also excelled academically, with three *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District honorees. The Blue Raiders also were recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for academic excellence in 2006, ranking 23rd nationally with a 3.30 team grade-point average. The squad also has been honored by the Sun Belt Conference for its academic performance the last three seasons.

### Turnbow takes helm as head coach

from MT Media Relations

The national search for Middle Tennessee's next head men's golf coach ended in its backyard.

Director of Athletics Chris Massaro has named Middle Tennessee alum Whit Turnbow as the sixth head men's golf coach in program's history, electing to promote from within and elevate Turnbow from assistant to head coach.

"Whit has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and proven to be a great recruiter, as evidenced by the current group of Blue Raider golfers that he was responsible for recruiting and signing," Massaro said.

"We had a dynamic pool of candidates for this position, and he (Turnbow) was part of what we believed was a very strong mix. I was quite pleased, and I believe Blue Raider fans are going to be pleased with the manner in which Whit leads this program.

"He has had the opportunity to play for and coach with a great mentor in (former Middle Tennessee coach) Johnny Moore," Massaro added. "Coach Moore allowed Whit to handle more and more of the day-to-day responsibilities of running a program through the years which has helped prepare him for this job."

Turnbow graduated from Middle Tennessee in 2000 after a four-year playing career that culminated with the Blue Raiders playing in the NCAA National Championships for the first time as a Division

I member. He was part of two Ohio Valley Conference championships during his playing career.

A native of Shelbyville, Turnbow spent the previous five seasons serving as assistant golf coach at Middle Tennessee.

"When I received the call and was offered the job, I have to say it was one of the best calls of my life," Turnbow said. "It's quite an honor to be selected to lead a program with such a great tradition. I appreciate the confidence Chris Massaro and the selection committee have shown in me, and I look forward to giving as many years as I can as long as I can. There is no place I would rather be than here. This is definitely a dream job for me.

"When you are an alumnus and you put blood, sweat, and tears into a place, it is home.

I've put 10 years of my heart and soul into this place, and I told the committee there was no one they could interview that would have more passion and love for this university, city, and county, than I do, so yes, this is very special."

Turnbow said Moore was directly responsible for much of his development as a coach, as well as his preparation to lead a program.

"I've learned so much from Coach Moore and I respect him greatly," Turnbow said. "I've had a great coach and a great teacher, and he's an even better friend. ... He prepared me for this day by allowing me so many responsibilities on a daily basis."



Turnbow

# Creating dreams for the new generation

by Rometrius North

Lynnette Cole, Miss USA 2000, flies from Minnesota every year to attend a Murfreesboro children's talent show. The attraction: Generation for Creation, a nonprofit organization that allows any Rutherford County child from age 7 to 17 to cultivate their artistic gifts.

The organization, founded in 2001, is currently directed by Monica Johnson. Johnson, who holds a degree in psychology from MTSU and minored in speech and theatre, said she created the organization to give back to the community. In the program, students learn about acting, performing, singing, dancing, community-building and self-esteem.

Cole, a Columbia, Tenn., native, has become great friends with Johnson over the past several years and agreed to emcee her annual talent show. The former Miss USA, now an actress and business owner, indeed has a busy schedule, but she said she always finds time to give back to the children.

"This is a great program," said Cole, describing Generation for Creation, or GFC, as "one of Murfreesboro's hidden secrets."

"There are so many broken homes these days, and having GFC helps (some of its participants) fill voids in their lives," Cole continued. "It is their creative outlet; it encourages them to be highly creative in their particular art ... and not

always in front of the television and video games."

Each year the children perform in several small plays and showcases, but the biggest show—and the biggest fundraiser—for the organization is the annual Children's Benefit Talent Show. This year's event will be held Saturday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. at MTSU's Tucker Theatre.

"It's a great opportunity for young people to show off their talents," said Alli Scott, a former contestant in the talent show who is now an MTSU junior studying vocal performance and speech and theatre.

"Being in the talent show was just another way to overcome my fear of performing and to show [the audience] what I had been working on and what I wanted to be."

In her zeal to create an artistic release for herself, help others and pay homage to her late mother's love for children, Johnson said she created the arts group to help talented children reach their artistic dreams with encouragement and positive motivation.

Johnson said she first "started teaching drama to special-needs children, then I decided that I wanted to give back to all the children, no matter their ability ... (and) so I started Generation For Creation."

During her study at MTSU, Johnson said she was especially inspired by Dr. Jette Halladay, professor of speech and theatre, who always encouraged Johnson to cultivate her own artistic talents and love for the arts.

Halladay, who specializes in children's theater, said Johnson's volunteer work with children and the arts via GFC is a great contribution to the community, as well as a genuine labor of love.

"Monica is tireless, (and) her optimism is contagious," Halladay observed. "Everywhere I go in Murfreesboro, I see her handiwork, improving lives, creating opportunities where none existed before and generally spreading a deep sense of joy with life."

"She is not discouraged by the skepticism of others or their disorganization and pessimism. She just plows through and does what everyone told her would be impossible to do. She is a woman with a great deal of integrity and enthusiasm."

The work Johnson accomplishes via GFC is even more important for today's young people, Scott noted, because of the ever-increasing funding cuts that arts-related curricula have received within public

school systems locally and nationwide.

"The arts are slowly drifting away from school programs," Scott said, "and I think (GFC) emphasizes how important (the arts) are to the kids."

In addition to offering drama and art classes two Saturdays each month, GFC players present performances, history plays and holiday concerts several times per year on local theatrical stages. The organization's annual talent event showcases children in the categories of art, dance,

drama and music. Modeling also has been added for 2007.

Children audition to perform in the benefit show, Johnson said, and all selected performers receive a certificate of participation. The top three winners in each category receive trophies. A volunteer panel of judges with arts experience and backgrounds determines the event's overall prize winners.

Johnson said that each year, after they perform in the talent show, children tell her that this was the best thing they have ever done, and it was so much fun. After aging out of the program, she said, many students go on to college or into the workforce, but some come back to volunteer.

Johnson and private donors provide the primary funding for Generation for Creation. The organization also is partially funded by corporate sponsors Wal-Mart, Customers Care, Pinnacle Bank and the City of Murfreesboro.

Tickets to the Children's Benefit Talent Show are \$10 each, with discounts available for groups. For more information, please call GFC at 615-890-7116. For more information on the organization, visit [www.gfckids.org](http://www.gfckids.org).



Halladay



Johnson

## 8th McNair Symposium slated

from Staff Reports

Fifteen McNair Scholars will make presentations Tuesday, July 31, during the eighth annual research symposium, program coordinator Steve Saunders said.

The symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tom H. Jackson Building.

This summer's McNair researchers will have both poster and oral presentations, which usually are a PowerPoint presentation, Saunders said.

The McNair scholars include Dean Andrews, political science; Jessica Beard, geology; Eterial Burrell, Sade Dunn and Leonela Carriedo, biology; Anjelica Crawford, Danielle Ross and Jeremy Minton, psychology; Sarafina Croft, electronic media journalism and Spanish; Sierra Douglas,

recreation; Logan Grant, political science; Dione Johnson, voice performance; Ryne Joyner, computer information systems; Stephanie Mills, music performance (violin); and Drew Moncks, accounting.



The McNair Scholars office has invited President Sidney A. McPhee, all of the deans from the various colleges and the researchers' mentors, Saunders said, adding that other administrators, friends and family members of the McNair Scholars may

be in attendance.

University faculty and administrators will judge the posters. First- and second-place awards will be presented to the first- and second-year scholars.

Research papers presented this year will be published in 2008 in the *McNair Research Review*.

## Memphis fellowships honor former MTSU president Smith

from Staff Reports

Former MTSU president Dr. R. Eugene Smith has been honored with the establishment of a program of endowed professorships at the Herff College of Engineering at the University of Memphis.

The Smith Professorships will help the Herff College attract and retain outstanding faculty members and help UM reach its goal of becoming one of the nation's great metropolitan research institutions, officials said. The program was announced by the board of trustees of the Herbert Herff Trust, a private endowment that helps support Memphis' engineering college and law school.

The program will fund professorships annually in the various specialties of engineering offered by the col-

lege. The professorships will be awarded for three years, with renewal based on performance review. Recipients will be eligible to receive stipends of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year.

A native of the Walter Hill community in Rutherford County, Smith joined the Memphis State University administration in 1963. By 1968 he was business manager, and in 1971 he was named vice president of business and finance, a position he held until his retirement from the university in 2000. He



Smith

was named interim president at MTSU in August 2000 and led the university until MTSU's current president, Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, took the reins in August 2001.

# Campus Calendar

## July 16-29

### TV Schedule

**"Middle Tennessee Record"**  
Cable Channel 9:  
Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.  
Visit [www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/MTR.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/MTR.html) for airtimes on 12 other cable outlets.

### Through Sept. 14

**Order August 2007 Commencement DVDs**  
\$10 each, plus \$6.95 shipping, handling and Tenn. sales tax  
For information, visit [www.phillipsbookstore.com](http://www.phillipsbookstore.com) or contact: 615-898-2700.

### July 16

**July 16-20 Tennessee Career & Technical Education Conference:**  
"Building Academic and Technical Skills of Students Through CTE"  
For information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~cte/](http://www.mtsu.edu/~cte/) or contact: 615-898-2031.

**MTSU "Scoring and Goalkeeping" Soccer Camp**  
for athletes ages 10 to 18  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-5316.

**July 16-21 Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp**  
For information, visit [www.sgrrc.org](http://www.sgrrc.org) or contact: 615-849-4140.

### July 19

**July 19-20 CUSTOMS Orientation**  
Liberal Arts, Education and Behavioral Science, Business and undeclared majors  
For information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~customs](http://www.mtsu.edu/~customs) or contact: 615-898-5533.

### July 20

**July 20-21 Blue Raider Volleyball General and Elite Hitters/Setters Camps**  
General camp for girls grades seven through 12; Elite camp for girls grades nine through 12  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-2230.

### July 21

**Saturday, July 21 Byron M. Motley Hero Golf Tournament**  
1 p.m., Indian Hills Golf Course  
Fee: \$100 per player or \$380 per foursome (includes meal and greens fees)  
All proceeds benefit the Motley Endowed Scholarship Fund  
For information, visit [www.jpjfoundation.com](http://www.jpjfoundation.com) or contact: 1-800-800-7150, pin 9178.

### July 22

**July 22-24 Blue Raider Volleyball Team Camp II**  
for girls' varsity, junior-varsity and junior-high teams  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-2230.

**July 22-26 Girls' Team Soccer Camp**  
for athletes ages 10 to 18  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-5316.

**Sunday, July 22 "MTSU On the Record—Felon Disenfranchisement"**  
Guest: Dr. Pippa Holloway  
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM  
Podcast available at [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com) or free subscription at iTunes.

### July 24

**July 24-25 CUSTOMS Orientation**  
Colleges of Basic & Applied Science, Mass Comm and undeclared majors  
7:30 a.m., campuswide  
For information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~customs](http://www.mtsu.edu/~customs) or contact: 615-898-5533.

### July 26

**July 26-28 Rick Insell Women's Basketball Team Camp II**  
for high-school teams  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-5356.

**Thursday, July 26 "Saddle Up for Project HELP"**  
fundraising dinner/dance/silent auction  
6:30 p.m., Miller Coliseum, 304-B W. Thompson Lane  
Tickets: \$50 each (includes meal and two drinks)  
For information, contact: 615-898-2458.

### July 29

**Sunday, July 29 "MTSU On the Record—Leaving on A High Note"**  
Guest: John L. High  
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM  
Podcast available at [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com) or free subscription at iTunes.

### Tell us about it!

**Calendar Items Welcomed**  
Submit your campus events (at least three weeks in advance if possible, please) to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu).

### OK, what's next?



**CUSTOM INFORMATION**—Janeé Proffitt, left, a sophomore marketing major transferring from Tennessee Tech, looks over her CUSTOMS information packet as Dr. Virginia Donnell, interim director of Transfer Student Services, and Lorrie Hall, a senior family and consumer sciences education major, await her questions in the Business and Aerospace Building July 6. Transferring undergrads attended a one-day CUSTOMS session to aid their transition to the university. Two-day CUSTOMS sessions are scheduled July 19-20 for new Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education and Behavioral Science, and College of Liberal Arts majors; July 24-25 for College of Basic and Applied Sciences and College of Mass Communication majors; and one final session open to all majors July 30-31. Undeclared majors can attend any session. For more information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~customs](http://www.mtsu.edu/~customs).

photo by News and Public Affairs

## Tornado — from page 1

where you spend the most time, thank them for their service and look to them for leadership.

Building runners in each building know where people should head during a tornado warning. Everyone—faculty, staff and students—should allow them to be in charge during that period of time.

If building runners interrupt your class or ask you to remain indoors and follow the others, it is because they want everyone in their building to remain safe and unharmed. If they make these requests during a test drill, please understand that thinking “it’s just a drill” and ignoring them is a surefire recipe for disaster. Football players and pianists practice to get better. Why should we do less with our health and welfare?

And now it’s time to go shopping. If your department can afford a weather-alert radio, that may be the best way to receive a warning alert and also an all-clear. (We will be sending the building runners information about weather-alert radios.)

If you don’t have flashlights in your office, buy one or two and take them with you to the “safe area.” If you don’t have a TV or radio in your area, consider adding one to your office or classroom. The more communication devices you have in your work area, the better.

If you know a tornado warning has been issued but have not heard the campus siren, or the designated building runner has not yet knocked on your door, stay calm, deputize yourself as a building runner and ... do the drill!

# Your safety questions—and answers

*Editor’s note: The following is an excerpt from a document addressing safety questions and answers in the wake of the June 26 tornado drill.*

**A**s you can imagine, we received several comments and questions following the June 26 tornado drill.

First, we would like to express our gratitude to all the building runners for the job that you performed. Even though we ran into a few glitches, more went right than went wrong. For the most part, it was a success, and we have you to thank for that!

Secondly, all of us need to be reminded that this was indeed a drill—a test of the plan. We knew there

would be some problems, some of which we anticipated and some we didn’t. Public Safety Chief Buddy

Peaster, Safety Officer/Fire Marshal Terry Logan and News and Public Affairs Director Tom Tozer met to discuss your questions and concerns. The following is an attempt to address some of those concerns; and we will respond individually to a few of you who had problems specific to your building.

Third, you folks, the building runners, are partners in this process. We welcome your ideas as to how we might make this plan work even better.

**Q: What should we do about shuttle drivers, ground crews and others who are working outside?**

A: In a real tornado warning, we hope that employees who work outside will realize the potential for severe weather and not remain outside. If they are outside and hear the siren, they should stop what they’re doing and head inside the nearest building. They may have to ask others inside where the “safe place” is.

But please be reminded—faculty, staff and students—that a list of “safe places” in every building is on the Web site and accessible to everyone at — [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u). Please remember, too, that in actual severe weather, a “Preparation Alert” would be sent out a day or so in advance of possible tornado activity. This would alert everyone to be watchful and err on the side of caution on the day that a tornado warning might be issued.

In addition, we are suggesting that shuttle drivers and others visit [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u) and become familiar with the “safe places” list. That way, no matter where a driver is, he or she will be able to determine the closest building, locate the “safe area” in that

building and direct passengers (or work crews) to that location. This requires people to do some homework and become familiar with the Web site material.



**If a tornado warning has been issued, take shelter in the building where you’re currently located.**

**But don’t wait until then to find out the safe places on campus. Visit [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u) today!**

**Q: What should we do about visitors coming into our building during a drill who may not know what is going on?**

A: There’s no easy answer to this question, because it will be different in every building depending on the time of day. Everyone in a building needs to take responsibility for one another—colleague, boss, visitor, student, etc. Everyone—not just the building runners—should call out to those who are in the hallways or coming through the doors that there is a tornado warning and to “follow us!” to the safe area in the building. There is no reason to be shy during a tornado warning. Inform everyone in your building—especially those who may not know what’s going on—that they need to join the others and head to shelter in that building. (Don’t forget to open the restroom doors and holler.)

*For more questions and answers, visit [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com).*

## HELP — from page 1

process is that we are able to offer families with toddlers who are typically developing a really fine preschool.”

Founded in 1983, the nonprofit Project HELP provides early intervention and family support services to high-risk children, children with disabilities and children with developmental delays up to age 3.

Project HELP, which just began its 11th year in its North Baird Lane facility, currently serves 24 special-needs children and 12 typical children in three classrooms. There are about 45 children who qualify for the program but are on a waiting list because of a lack of space.

The center’s staff, which includes more than 280 student volunteers each semester, works with parents through family support programs, which include workshops, one-to-one interactions and informal training seminars that focus on specific instructional techniques.

Grants from the Tennessee Department of Education through Early Intervention Services and the United Way of Rutherford County and Cannon Counties partially fund Project HELP’s work. The Charity Circle of Rutherford County also is a major contributor to Project HELP, providing the center with much-needed equipment, toys and consumable items.

Although the center’s staff members are grateful for the ongoing support, they admit they need additional money to help meet the organization’s child-centered mission. Fundraisers like the July 26 “Saddle Up!” event target those goals.

Waldrop said that funds raised by the event will be used to expand the existing program via morning classes offered at an additional MTSU site, as well as to supplement the monies needed for daily operations.

Items up for bid at the silent auction include a \$200 travel voucher from Southwest Airlines; a cosmetic laser facial package valued at \$1,350 from Rejuvenate Cosmetic Laser Center; tickets to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Dollywood, Tennessee Aquarium, Ryman Auditorium, Nashville Zoo and Nashville Shores; and MUCH more.

Individual tickets are \$50 each; table sponsorships range from the Master of Ceremony level (10 tickets and more for \$2,500) to the Tennessee Walking Horse level (eight tickets and more for \$1,000) to the Clydesdale level (six tickets and more for \$500) to the Arabian level (four tickets and more, \$250).

Tickets, which include a meal and two drinks each, are available by calling the center at 615-898-2458. The evening’s dress code is casual.

For more information about Project HELP, please visit its Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~projhelp/](http://www.mtsu.edu/~projhelp/).

## Sobriety checkpoints return

from Staff Reports

**M**TSU’s Department of Public Safety will set up field-sobriety checkpoints on and around campus on Friday, July 20, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Conducted on a quarterly basis throughout 2006-07, this will be the third field-sobriety checkpoint campaign at MTSU. The previous two were in December 2006 and March of this year.

MTSU police are joining local and state law-enforcement agencies, at the urging of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Governor’s Highway Safety Office, to help make Tennessee streets and highways safer for everyone. The goal is to reduce alcohol- and drug-related fatalities to 35 percent in 2006-07 from a baseline of 41 percent in 2000.

A grant awarded to MTSU’s public safety department, financed with funds administered through the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the governor’s safety office, assisted in providing the necessary personnel and time to make this effort possible.

“Our goal is to reduce the number

of impaired drivers by being proactive,” said Roy Brewer, MTSU’s associate chief of public safety.

According to a 2004 report from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, a Web-based encyclopedia, Tennessee ranks 11th for overall alcohol-related fatalities on the highway. Additionally, with MTSU’s enrollment

increasing 2 to 3 percent each year during the last several years, public safety records indicate a steady rise in the number of alcohol-related incidents and arrests on campus.

“We have been fortunate that with the uni-

versity’s growth, we have not had a fatality crash on campus as of yet,” Brewer added. “We are aware of numerous fatality crashes off-campus involving MTSU students. If being more visible on campus can save just one life, our efforts will be worth it.”

It takes more than enforcement to protect the community from drunk drivers, Brewer acknowledged.

“We also have many education programs that we present to interested groups on campus, such as ‘Drunk Goggles,’” he continued.

For more information, visit the <http://police.mtsu.edu> or contact the Public Safety office at 615-898-2424.



photo illustration by News and Public Affairs

# Middle-schoolers 'build a bridge' to college learning

by Randy Weiler

Fifteen students from Chattanooga's Dalewood Middle School gained a glimpse into college and university life during the four-day "Building a Bridge to College" visit to MTSU June 19-22.

Led by Dalewood faculty members Buddy Sullivan and Danni Morris, the students, all of whom will be high-school freshmen this fall, took part in math- and science-related activities, toured three Nashville-area college campuses, visited the Tennessee State Museum, enjoyed dinner at Nashville's Hard Rock Café and attended a Nashville Sounds baseball game.

"The class activities have been great," said Quiana Roberson, who will be a ninth-grader at Brainerd High School this fall and said she wants to be an attorney some day. "The teachers are cool. They're good teachers."

Roberson, who said she is an A student with three sisters and two brothers, said she most enjoyed "living on my own for four days. I liked the road trips, going back and forth to Nashville."

Incoming Brainerd freshman Terrance Sturdivant said what he found "exciting" about the trip was that he "got to live in a dorm like a college student. I really enjoyed it."

Sturdivant said he also enjoyed the egg-drop class session.

"You build a house for an egg and you drop it to see if it (the egg) would break," he said, adding that he would like to be a music producer or an automobile engineer one day.

This marks the ninth year Sullivan and Morris have brought students to MTSU. They said more than 150 students have participated in Building a Bridge to College.

"We try to plant the seed (for college)," Sullivan said. "We want to get them excited and show them it is doable."

"We've got a good group of students," Morris added. "It's a new experience and growing-up time for them."



**PRECISION WORK**—Joshualyn Woods and Jalisa Jones, students at Chattanooga's Dalewood Middle School, team up to build a "house" for an egg that will be dropped from a second-story window. The project, one of several conducted during the Building a Bridge to College program at MTSU in June, tested the students' engineering, teamwork and problem-solving skills in a camp-like atmosphere.

photo submitted

Other trip attendees included Starlexis Belcher, Chalsea Greene, Robert Kelley, Joshualyn Woods, Derrick Butts, Jalisa Jones, Quintana Nance, April Cross, Danielle Jackson, Autumn Smith, Cameron Walton, Michael Greene and Brishayla Greene.

Participating MTSU faculty included Dr. Sid Sridhara, engineering technology and industrial studies; Angela Golden, information technology; Dr. Daniel Erenso, physics and astronomy; and Laura Clippard, Student Support Services.

# Towe touted as new Murphy Center chief

by Randy Weiler

In his new job at MTSU, Darrell Towe may be one of the busiest people at the university.

The job title says "director of the Murphy Center athletic complex," but his duties also will include overseeing Floyd Stadium, Alumni Memorial Gym, baseball's Reese Smith Field, the Blue Raider Softball Field, the new track and field and soccer complex and the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame building.

Towe, a Western Kentucky University alumnus, knew what he was getting into when he interviewed for the job.

"I was expecting to have to juggle multiple projects, and that's certainly the case," the former Tennessee Miller Coliseum manager said. "We may have as many as three or

four activities going on at the same time on a given day."

Ron Malone, assistant vice president for events and transportation, who also is adept at juggling multiple projects, had scheduled a lunch appointment to tell Towe he had been hired for the job, but he had to relay the message by phone when their plans changed.

Towe said his initial reaction was

"one of being very excited, and then becoming very nervous about my ability to provide the leadership this job requires. The staff is very capable and very experienced. Most of them have been here for many years. This keeps the pressure on me to stay on top of my game to provide the leadership they need."

Malone said the hiring committee made an excellent choice.

"We are very excited about Darrell's move to the director's position at the Murphy Center Complex," he said. "We had several strong candidates in the applicant pool, but in the end, Darrell's 17 years of event venue experience, his overall knowledge of university policy gained from his four years at Miller Coliseum and his love of athletics and physical activity made him the clear choice for

me and the committee.

"Darrell's very personable demeanor, combined with his 'Can Do—Customer Service' attitude, will be a great addition to an already great group of Murphy Center Complex staff members. He's going to do a great job."

Towe, an avid hiker, said he believes the 34-year-old Murphy Center "remains a functional facility. It has a rich history and a bright future." He added that he intends "to get the right people in the right place and get organized," although he said he does not anticipate any changes, just "minor tweaking of the system."

Towe began his new duties June 11 and leads a staff of 22 people. He served as director of WKU's Brown Agricultural Exposition Center in Bowling Green from July 1995 until December 2002. He was assistant manager of MTSU's Tennessee Livestock Center from September 1990 until June 1995.

John Jewell was the previous Murphy Center director; interim director Rita Whitaker will remain as assistant manager.

In addition to hiking, Towe said he enjoys fishing for bass and trout and spending time on Tennessee and Kentucky lakes with his wife, Melissa, who works as a counselor with the WKU Upward Bound program.



Towe



**OFF TO THE CENTER**—Charles M. "Bubber" Murphy Jr. Athletic Center, built in 1973 and named for MTSU alumnus (B.S. '38), head football coach (1947-1968) and athletic director (1969-1981), is a landmark on Middle Tennessee Boulevard. Former Miller Coliseum chief Darrell Towe is the newest director of the Murphy Center Complex.

file photo by J. Intintoli

# MT golfer makes fine showing in U.S. Women's Open

from Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee golfer Taryn Durham made her mark on the 2007 U.S. Women's Open in Southern Pines, N.C., whipping through the first and much of the second rounds of play before bumping into some bogeys and finally finishing her trip with a 19-over par score.

That was enough to get her bumped from the tournament, but she was still thinking positively, writing in her U.S. Women's Open diary in the *Daily News Journal* that "it's been fun, but I don't expect this to be the only time I play in this tournament."

"Getting here is such an accom-

plishment, and I've realized that. I definitely feel I belong out here with these great players," she wrote in the *DNJ* diary.

Durham, a rising senior at MTSU, shot rounds of 73 and 75 in sectional qualifying in Glen Ellyn, Ill., June 11. That made her one of only 21 players to earn a spot in the 156-player field for the U.S. Women's Open, which was played June 28-July 1 at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club.

The three-time All-Sun Belt MT golfer was two-over through nine holes when play was halted during

the first round of the U.S. Open June 28, and she had to complete that round early the next morning before starting her second round at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club.

She was 10-over through 12 holes of the second round and 16-over for the tournament when weather once again halted play June 29.

Durham was one-over through the first five holes of the front nine Friday morning and stood three-over with four holes remaining to complete the first round. However, Durham bogeyed three of the last four holes and played the front nine at four-over. She finished the first round at six-over.

"I was moving along pretty well on the front and was still right there, but I missed some putts down the

stretch and that hurt," Durham said.

"I was in position for a pretty good finish there and let it get away. I didn't leave many shots out there in the nine holes I played Thursday, but there were several missed opportunities today (Friday)."

The second round didn't start much better for the Glasgow, Ky., native, who bogeyed three of the first four holes to slip to nine-over.

Durham continued to drive the ball well and hit seven of 10 fairways in the first 12 holes of the second round, but greens in regulation was a different story as she was two-of-12.

Durham is the first Middle Tennessee golfer to play in the U.S. Women's Open and is the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Medalist.



Durham

## Recognizing excellence



**POSTERS PROGRAM HONORED**—MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, left, and Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, accept the Tennessee Board of Regents' Academic Excellence Award for MTSU's work in the Posters in the Capitol program. Presenting the award at the TBR's recent meeting in Jackson are Fran Marcum, center, board vice chair, and board member Howard W. Roddy. TBR Chancellor Charles Manning is shown behind the group. MTSU students honored for their poster presentations include senior English major Collin Davey for "Morphology, Matiere & Marie"; senior anthropology majors Lacey Fleming for "The Role of the Domesticated Dog in Prehistoric Middle Tennessee" and Brandy Dacus for "Lithic Analysis from Castalian Springs Mound Site"; senior psychology major Teri Proctor for "College Adjustment & Retention in First-Semester Traditional Students"; Adam Shulman, a May 2007 physics graduate, for "Stretching of an Equine Red Blood Cell Using Optical Tweezers"; and Richard Sharpe, a genetics and biotechnology graduate student from Antioch, for "Preparatory Steps for *Daucus carota* Transformation with an O-Antigen Gene from *Shigella sonnei* for Possible Vaccine Use."

photo submitted



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**PAINSTAKING WORK**—The July edition of MTSU's video magazine, "Middle Tennessee Record," digs deep into the work of the Forensic Anthropology Search and Research team as they learn how to help solve crimes in a special crime-scene school. In the photo above, Sgt. Raymond Sides of the Memphis Sheriff's Department, left, and MTSU Officer Robert J. Wofford work with MTSU students Jennifer Ledford and Robin Bombardi, members of the Forensic Anthropology Search and Research crew, to oversee the recovery of a crime "victim" as part of their hands-on training. Learn more on "MT Record," which airs at 5 p.m. weekdays on Cable Channel 9; see page 4 for more airdates and times.

photo by Dr. Kevin Smith

## the RECORD

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## Faculty/Staff Update

### Presentations

**Dr. Diane Miller** (mathematical sciences) presented a paper, "What a Review of Literature Says About the Use of Writing to Teach and Learn Mathematics," at the Fourth East Asia Regional Conference on Mathematics Education June 18-22 in Penang, Malaysia.

School of Nursing faculty made presentations at "Nurses at the Forefront: Dealing with the Unexpected," the International Council of Nurses annual conference, held this year in Yokohama, Japan. They included **Karen Ward**, "Useful Strategies in Online Education: Preparing for the Unexpected" and "Surprising Results: Making Sense of Unexpected Findings in Research," and **Shirley Cantrell**, "When You Hear Hoof-Beats Consider the Zebra: Superior Vena Cava Syndrome in Dialysis Patients."

**Drs. Ginger Holmes Rowell**, **Scott McDaniel** and **Lisa Green** and alumna **Megan Hall** (mathematics) represented MTSU at the 2007 U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics May 17-19 at The Ohio State University. They gave a presentation on "Finding Statistics Teaching and Learning Online Resources Using CAUSEweb" and also presented

"MERLOT Personal Collections: Creating Useful Resources for Teaching Statistics" in the Idea Exchange Forum. Rowell and McDaniel presented a second topic in the IEF, "Interact with Inquiry-based Learning Modules for Statistical Concepts." Rowell and Hall led an Introductory Statistics Cluster Group of 20 statistics educators who have made a commitment to work together for two years to develop an electronic handbook of resources and best practices for teaching elementary statistics.

**Dr. Saeed Foroudastan** (College of Basic and Applied Sciences) presented two papers, "Solar Energy: Innovative, Applied Research Projects for the Sustainability of Developing Countries" and "Addressing and Implementing a Safety Plan for Intercollegiate Design Competitions," at the 2007 American Society of Engineering Education Conference in Honolulu. The papers were accepted for presentation and publication through a peer-review process for the ASEE conference proceeding. **Olivia Dees**, master of science in professional science graduate student, was the co-author of the first paper, and **Mickey Anderton**, ETIS graduate student, was the co-author of the second paper.

### Publications

**Dr. Diane Miller** (mathematical sciences) recently published an article, "An historical perspective of the evolution of school mathematics curriculum in the United States of America (1900-2006)," in the *Natural Science Journal of Northwest Normal University*, Vol. 43, No. 2, distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing.

**Maria Smith**, **Marcia Lankster** and **Leigh Ann McInnis** (nursing) published "Antibiotic Use in Interventional Radiology: A Nursing Perspective" in *Radiology Nursing*, June 2007.

### See yourself in The Record!

E-mail your faculty/staff accomplishments to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu) or fax to 615-898-5714, Attention: *The Record*, Faculty/Staff Update.

NOTE: If you submitted an item for the Faculty/Staff Update between June 12 and 27 and haven't seen it published yet, please resubmit it. It may have been lost in a software update snafu. Thanks for your help, and sorry for the inconvenience!