

THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

6/01/2006 Vol. 3 / No. 4

BUILDING IT SO THEY WILL COME

Nearly \$2 million left to raise for new Smith Field

By Randy Weiler

Three million dollars down, less than \$2 million to go, and university alumni and friends can do their part to help finish the job of raising the \$5 million for the 3,000-

seat Reese Smith Field for baseball.

"The baseball stadium will be a showpiece — a masterpiece — for our campus," said Alan Farley (B.B.A. '92), associate athletic director for fund raising and Blue Raider Athletic

(Please see 'Field' Page 8)



Image by CDFL Ltd.

The new 3,000-seat ballpark will feature about 1,200 chairback seats. The architectural firms designing the structure say the new Reese Smith Field "will offer the traditional appeal of a classic ballpark while featuring professional-quality fan amenities."

NOTEWORTHY



Photo by Jack Ross

Joe Hawkins (B.A. '99, M.A. '03), who began college at MTSU at age 39, calls the national award "humbling."

Hawkins earns national aviation award

Two years into the academic arena but with 30-plus years experience in aircraft maintenance, MTSU's Joe Hawkins experienced the "pinnacle" in his profession earlier this year. Hawkins, 51, assistant professor, aerospace, made aviation history in Tennessee as the state's first National Aviation Technician of the Year for 2006. The Tennessee Aviation Association's Aviation Maintenance Conference Steering Committee nominated him for the award.

"To be picked No. 1 is humbling," Hawkins, an MTSU alumnus (B.A. '99, M.A. '03), said. "I'm here to teach. I'm in a comfortable environment (teaching). I'm elated that I won, and I did work hard. But I've achieved my goal, and that was to work at MTSU."

He will receive his award in July at Oshkosh, Wis.

Harrison hits high note, wins Met Opera event

Tennessee native Holli Harrison (B.M. '99) now calls New York City home. Harrison, who has been juggling auditions, meetings and recitals in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Texas and even Paris in recent weeks, knows that the Big Apple has been good to her.

New York hosted the 52nd Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals, where Harrison showcased a soprano voice called "dark and mezzo-like" by *The New York Times*. When all was said and sung at the close of the nationwide contest, only five performers became winners —one of whom was Harrison, who also claimed a \$15,000 prize.

"So far, (winning) has meant being able to pay for a lot of lessons and coaching and music ... (and) one shopping trip," Harrison said of the perks of her recent success.

— Joshua C. Hall (B.S. '06) mass communication



Harrison



Photo by J. Intintoli

Homecoming's happening Nov. 4

Angel Feagans (B.M. '00), left, a clerk in the MTSU records office, walks with her nephew, Christopher Feagans Jr., 4, of Murfreesboro, and her mother, Linda Feagans (B.F.A. '03), an executive aide in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences' master of science in professional science program, last fall while walking with other Baby Raiders and their families at the Homecoming Parade. Homecoming 2006 activities will surround the Nov. 4 MTSU vs. Florida Atlantic football game. Look for more details in September's *The Alumni Record* or mtalumni.com.

MTALUMNI.COM

Mass Communication adds 4 to ‘Wall of Fame’

3 alumni, ‘Friend of the College’ honored during April 25 event

By Gina E. Fann

Three accomplished MTSU alumni and one “Friend of the College” have been added to the growing roster of the College of Mass Communication’s Wall of Fame.

Dean Anantha Babbili announced during an April 25 ceremony that alumni Reza J. Baktar, Glenn Middleworth and Connie Cass O’Connell would be honored with plaques and photos installed on the northwest interior wall of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Also honored was Friend of the College Dr. Virginia Dodge Fielder.

“These are people who believe in us, who trust us, who have faith that we’ll do well because they have done well,” Babbili said of the additions. “They are sincere in helping our students and

spreading the word of MTSU’s College of Mass Communication.”

The Wall of Fame began in 2000 as a way to honor successful mass communication graduates and inspire current students to work toward their goals. With the new honorees, the Wall of Fame now has 41 members. Details about the four 2006 additions include:



Baktar

student. His career path so far has led him to CNN, Fox News, ABC News and back to CNN, where he now works as a senior director in the news organization’s Washington bureau.

• Middleworth (B.S. ‘80), one of the first graduates of the then-fledgling Department of Recording Industry, started his



Middleworth

career in the RCA Records mailroom and moved into music publishing. After stints at the Opryland Music Group and EMI, he joined Famous Music Group. He is vice president of creative for its Nashville division.



O’Connell

the College,” is a former vice president for research for Knight Ridder Inc. and a charter member of the college’s Board of Visitors. She recently established The Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship to recognize the work of her late father, mother and aunt with a gift now valued at \$120,000.

• O’Connell (B.S. ‘87), an alumna of the School of Journalism, began her career with The Associated Press part time while still at MTSU. She joined AP’s Nashville bureau full time upon graduation. Since 1993, O’Connell has worked in Washington, D.C., at the world’s largest AP bureau.

• Fielder, the 2006 “Friend of



Fielder

Did you know?

MTSU’s unique Concrete Industry program raised \$104,000 toward its building program for the second straight year through a golf tournament. Get on board for 2007 by calling 615-904-8599 or 615-898-5003.

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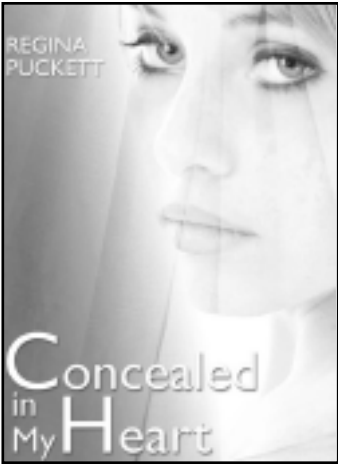
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Alumni making waves



Photo provided by MTV News

Luke Burke (B.S. ‘03) saw firsthand the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans as a member of the production crew for MTV News. Here he props a foot on a totaled vehicle. “While shooting B-roll of the city, it was nothing for us to find a baby picture or ID laying in the street,” he said. “Who knows how many miles it floated to its resting place?” The MTV crew documented what it was like for three consolidated school bands to come together for the Mardi Gras parade in February.



PublishAmerica

Mother, grandmother and new author Regina Puckett (B.S. ‘87) wrote a fictional tale of love, “Concealed in My Heart,” published by PublishAmerica.

Tina Potter (B.S. ‘96) serves as marketing/PR coordinator for the International Bluegrass Music Association. She provides industry research, develops sponsor relationships and markets World of Bluegrass from Sept. 25 until Oct. 1 in Nashville.



‘Living memorial’ donations sought

By Gina Logue

Following the Memorial Day weekend of appreciation for America’s fallen veterans, momentum continues to swell for the creation of a “living memorial” on campus to MTSU faculty, staff and students who gave the last full measure of devotion for their country.

Now that MTSU backing has been secured, the implementation phase is under way. A committee is working diligently to engage the university and the Middle Tennessee community in the project while adding to a database of students and alumni who have been killed or reported missing in U.S. military service from 1911 to the present.

1st Lt. Ken Ballard (B.S. ‘02), who was killed in Iraq in 2004, is a major inspiration for the concept. Dr. Andrei Korobkov, an associate professor of political science, taught Ballard in three classes.

“A son of a single mother, he went to the Army after school, served in Bosnia and Macedonia, decided to continue his education and came to MTSU,” said Korobkov, who added that Ballard was an international relations major and military science minor. “He was commissioned and quickly went to Iraq, where he was in the most dangerous area of the Sunni Triangle.”

Dr. Derek Frisby (B.A. ‘94), an assistant professor of history, MTSU alumnus and former Marine sergeant who served in Operation Desert Storm, says the memorial will provide “a place for learning, discussion, reflection, commemoration and inspiration.”

The committee has amassed the names of more than 50 members of the MTSU community whose legacies will be honored in the memorial.

The MTSU Foundation’s Special Projects Board has granted \$5,000 in start-up money to the committee, which seeks donations to a special fund established to help pay for design and construction.

“We need much more money to create a project honoring our veterans,” Korobkov says. “I would like to encourage those who support our project to show their support both through donations of any size and offers of participation.”

Tax-deductible contributions may be made by mail to MTSU Veterans Memorial Fund, c/o MTSU Foundation, P.O. Box 109, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132. Online donations may be made at mtsu.edu/~devofc/giving.html. Information for automatic bank drafts is available on the Web site. To donate by phone with Visa or MasterCard, call 615-898-2502 or 1-877-444-6878.

‘Fat Land’ author visits Aug. 27-28

Summer Reading selection to ‘excite . . . engage’ freshmen

By Carrie Hargett

MTSU’s 2006 Summer Reading selection is “Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World” by Greg Critser, who is scheduled to be the guest speaker during the Aug. 27 Convocation. *Fat Land* explores obesity in America not only as a health issue but also in terms of business and psychology. The book also ties in with MTSU’s Obesity Project, which started this year.

“The Summer Reading committee looks for a book each year that will excite the freshmen, that will engage them in an academic pursuit, that will allow them to examine an issue from many perspectives and make up their own minds,” said Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center.

Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 28. All University 1010

classes will discuss *Fat Land*. Witherow also is trying to recruit faculty from other academic departments to use the text. She’s suggested that the book would be a perfect starting point for discussions on a wide range of topics and is especially recommended for use in education, child development, nutrition, economics, journalism, wellness, psychology, sociology and social work courses.

“I want everyone on campus to read the book so that when the freshmen come we can show them that we’ve been anticipating their arrival and want to welcome them to an engaged academic community,” Witherow said.

Critser will speak at Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 2 p.m. He will attend the President’s Picnic immedi-

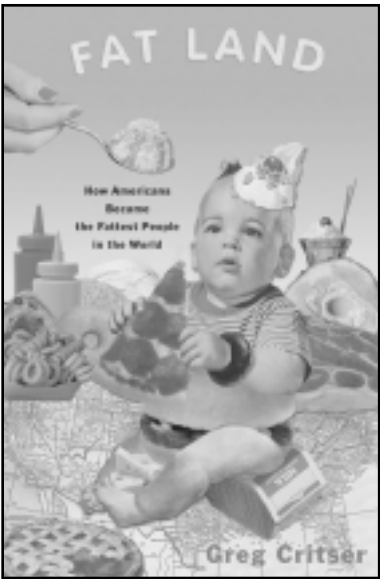


Critser

ately following Convocation. On Monday, Aug. 28, Critser will speak to Dr. Bob Pondillo’s Understanding Mass Media class.

Critser, a writer specializing in nutrition, health and medical issues, is regularly published in *USA Today* and in the Sunday opinion section of the *Los Angeles Times*. His essays and features have also appeared as cover stories in *Harper’s Magazine*, *Worth*, *Washington Monthly* and the *Washington Post Magazine*. His writing on obesity earned a James Beard nomination for best feature writing in 1999. *Fat Land* is his first book; he’s also the author of

Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies and *National Geographic Traveler: California*.



Courtesy Houghton Mifflin Co.

Fat Land may be purchased on campus and at local bookstores. It’s available in hardback and paperback, and online sellers may have used copies. Faculty interested in using *Fat Land* in their classrooms this fall should contact Summer Patterson at the Academic Support Center (615-898-2339 or spatters@mtsu.edu) to receive a review copy for evaluation.

Alumna Carrie Hargett (B.S. ‘06) graduated May 6 with a degree from the College of Mass Communication.

CALENDAR

Alumni events

June

1 Nashville Young Alumni Gathering
Details at mtalumni.com

July

6 Murfreesboro Young Alumni Gathering
Details at mtalumni.com

August

3 Nashville Young Alumni Gathering
Details at mtalumni.com
25 Pigskin Pregame
Time TBA/Home of Tommy and Judy Smith (710 E. Main St., Murfreesboro)/615-898-2922 or mtalumni.com

Campus events

June

3-4 4-H District Horse Show
9 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/615-832-6550

9-11 NBHA TN State Championship
8 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/mtsu.edu/~tmc

16-17 United Mountain Horse Show
Times TBA/Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/mtsu.edu/~tmc

23-25 Tennessee Dressage Horse Show
8 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/mtsu.edu/~tmc



File photo by Jack Ross

Members of the MTSU Pep Band play lively tunes for freshmen attending Convocation in Murphy Center. Author Greg Critser (“Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World”) will be the featured speaker at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, during Fall Convocation 2006.

July

4 University closed for holiday

9-11 Clinton Anderson Horsemanship Clinic
9 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Admission charged/mtsu.edu/~tmc

13-16 U.S. Team Roping Championships
8:30 a.m./Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Free/mtsu.edu/~tmc

30-Aug. 5 WHOA Pleasure and Colt Walking Horse International

Times TBA/Tennessee Miller Coliseum/Admission charged/mtsu.edu/~tmc

August

19 Fenton Payne and Fred 5K Run/walk
7:30 a.m./MTSU/Mark Hardison, 615-848-9063

27 MTSU Convocation (see above)

28 Fall 2006 classes begin

29-30 Meet Murfreesboro (busi-

ness showcase targeting more than 23,000 students and faculty combined)
10 a.m.-2 p.m./Keathley University Center courtyard/615-898-2454

All times Central.
All events are subject to change.
For calendar updates, visit mtalumni.com or call 1-800-533-6878.
For MT athletics schedules, visit goblueraiders.com.
For Tennessee Miller Coliseum events, visit mtsu.edu/~tmc or call 615-494-8961.
For Tennessee Livestock Center events, visit tennesseelivestockcenter.com or call 615-898-5575.
Submit calendar items to alummi@mtsu.edu, or write c/o Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 104, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.
Deadline for Sept. 1 issue: Aug. 1.

Alumni achievers saluted

6 receive President's Celebration of Excellence recognition March 25



Photos by Jack Ross

2005-06 Distinguished Alumni Don Ash (B.S. '77), left, Nancy Duggin (B.S. '74, M.Ed. '76, Ed.S. '91 and '96, and C4 '04) and John Hill (B.S. '57) are joined by Stephanie Bellis-Warner (B.S. '97), the Young Alumni honoree during the President's Celebration of Excellence awards.



President Sidney A. McPhee presents Dr. Liz Rhea (B.S. '55) with the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy during the Celebration of Excellence. It recognizes generous giving of resources for a TBR institution and outstanding volunteer efforts in raising money for the institution.



Dr. Bob Womack (B.S. '48) receives the President's Legacy Award from Dr. Sidney A. McPhee. It is given to an individual whose accomplishments have made a significant impact on the history of MTSU and whose actions have served as an inspiration to others.

By Randy Weiler

Six alumni shared the spotlight with MTSU students and faculty during the third annual President's Celebration of Excellence March 25 in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

Dr. Bob Womack (B.S. '48), professor of educational leadership and faculty member since 1957, was presented with the President's Legacy Award.

Womack has been part of the MTSU landscape for more than 60 years, first as a student and then as a faculty member. His teaching methods and examples have influenced thousands of former students.

Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Rhea (B.S. '55), a longtime supporter of the university, was presented the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy, a Tennessee Board of Regents award.

Rhea and her late husband, Creighton, both physicians, supported the university as financial donors and leaders in the MTSU Foundation, Blue Raider Athletic Association and National Alumni Association. She was named as both a Distinguished Alumna and recipient of the 1998 Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2005-06 Distinguished Alumni also were recognized. They included Don Ash (B.S. '77) of Murfreesboro, Nancy Youree Duggin (B.S. '74, M.Ed. '76, Ed.S. '91 and '96, and C4 '04) of Murfreesboro, and John Hill (B.S. '57) of River Falls, Wis.

Ash has been Circuit Court judge, Part III, for the 16th Judicial District since 1994. He served as a La Vergne city judge and practiced law in Murfreesboro.

Duggin has been manager of instruction and professional development with the Tennessee Education Association since 2001. A weekly newspaper columnist, she was the first Tennessee teacher to earn certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Hill is professor emeritus in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he has been a faculty member or department chair since 1963. He has authored chemistry and children's books.

Stephanie Bellis-Warner (B.S. '97) of Arrington was the Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient.

The former MTSU dispatcher for public safety was the first female member of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department's Felony Arrest Search Team. She served as an officer and hostage negotiator for the Brentwood Police Department, where her heroic actions during a bank robbery are used in an instructional training video for police academies around the United States. She works in the fraud prevention unit of Regions Bank in Nashville.

Pigskin Pregame

Smiths will be hosts for Aug. 25 event

Mark your calendars! Pigskin Pregame will be held on Friday, Aug. 25.

Because of the huge success of last year's event, the Rutherford County Alumni Chapter has decided to hold it once again at the home of Tommy and Judy Smith, former dean of women at MTSU.

Be looking for more details, including event time, at mtalumni.com.

Young alumni gather

Among those taking part in the Young Alumni Gathering at the Dan McGuiness Irish Pub in Nashville March 2 were Susan Wilson (B.S. '02), left, Jennifer Steele (B.S. '02), Jonathan Hetzel (B.S. '03), Greg Atwood (B.S. '00) and Zac Cook (B.S. '04).

Photo by Katy Francisco Riddle



Theatre alumni reminisce

Trish Clark (B.A. '80), left, of Murfreesboro listens while Ruth Cordell (B.S. '77) of Manchester points out the familiar face of a former classmate during a theatre alumni reunion. Clark and Cordell were among more than 60 former theatre students and faculty who gathered at a February reception.



Photo by Ken Robinson



Photo by Ken Robinson

Alumna covers Invention Convention

Alumna Allison Hatcher (B.S. '00), right, an anchor and video journalist for Nashville's WKRN-Channel 2, interviews Ben Hickson, 10, a fourth-grade student at Byers Dowdy Elementary School in Lebanon about "The Miracle (Lunch) Box" he entered in the 14th annual Invention Convention earlier this year. His lunch box is designed to carry both hot and cold items simultaneously in different compartments. More than 300 children participated; Hatcher also served as emcee.



File photo by J. Intintoli

Visit our new home

The newly renovated properties at 2259 and 2263 Middle Tennessee Blvd. serve as the new home for the Office of Alumni Relations. Feel free to stop and visit.



Making a difference beautifying campus

Alumnus Bruce Jordan (B.S. '68) places a piece of sod next to the Blue Horseshoe as part of Campus Beautification Day in April.



Photos by Patience Long

Rachel Edington (B.S. '06), right, a student at the time, and others raked brush at the home of her grandparents, Martha (B.S. '58) and retired professor Dr. Richard McCord (B.S. '53), during a second day of community beautification.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Lucretia Bell Sinclair (B.S. '59), Waynesboro, celebrated her 99th birthday on March 23, 2006.

1970s

Bobby Barton (D.A. '75), Richmond, Ky., was inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society Hall of Fame in January 2006. In 2004, he was inducted into the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame.

James Chandler (B.B.A. '76, M.S. '81), Alexandria, Va., retired from the Army March 1, 2006, after nearly 30 years of service.

Steve Dickert (B.S. '76), Nashville, radio veteran who was in the first Department of Mass Communication class in 1975, returned to Nashville in April to oversee operations at WWTN-FM, WQOK-FM, WNFN-FM, WRQQ-FM and WSM-FM, and sales at WSM-AM. His radio career began at WGNS-AM in Murfreesboro in 1971.

Harvey Fischer (A.A. '76, B.S. '77), Brentwood, was recently appointed director of governmental affairs for the State of Tennessee by Farmers Insurance Group.

Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert (B.S. '72, M.A.T. '79, Ed.S. '91), Murfreesboro, co-conducted a workshop, Using Standards in Tennessee to Assess Teacher Candidates in Relationship to the Tennessee Blueprint for Learning, at the 52nd annual Southeastern Association of Teacher Educators Conference.

Lucinda T. Lea (M.S. '74), Murfreesboro, has been elected to the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors for a four-year term. She is MTSU's vice president for information technology.

Cathey Crowell Sawyer (B.S. '72, M.A. '80), Lewisburg, W.Va., received the Governor's Award for Artistic Excellence for her work at West Virginia Greenbrier Valley Theatre, where she serves as artistic director.

Marsha Osgathorp Smith (B.S. '70, M.B.E. '78), Milton, co-authored "Analysis of Generation Y: Teachers' Perceptions," which was accepted for the 2005 issue of the "Journal of Business and Training Education."

1980s

Robert Barry Blair (M.B.E. '87), Murfreesboro, was elected president of the Southern Business Education Association at its annual meeting, where he also received the 2005 Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award. Blair will represent the southern region on the National Business Education Association Executive Board.

Dr. Dovie Louise Kimmins (M.S. '83), Murfreesboro, co-presented "Shuffle and Roll: Using Simulations to Challenge Probability Misconceptions" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Southern Regional Conference.

Brian Knox (B.S. '87), Sussex, Wis., received a Paragon Award of Excellence in Community Relations from the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. He is director of strategic services for public relations firm Zeppos & Associates.

Vincent Wayne Smith (B.S. '84, M.B.E. '85), Murfreesboro, co-authored "Analysis of Generation Y: Teachers' Perceptions," which was accepted for the 2005 issue of the "Journal of Business and Training Education."

Roy Dean Vaughn (B.S. '82), Brentwood, recently was named chair-elect of the Public Relations Society of America Counselors Academy.

Terryl Brown Williams (B.S. '85), Murfreesboro, has been elected president of the Rutherford County Chi Omega Alumnae Association and serves as the faulty/staff/pledge adviser to MTSU's Chi Omega Fraternity Chapter.

Dr. Barbara Piazza Young (M.A.T. '89, Ed.S. '90), Murfreesboro, co-authored "Designing an Online Course: Eight Strategies from the Pros" for the November/December issue of "Higher Learning." She also co-authored "Curriculum Adaptations for the Online Environment" for the "International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning," October 2005.

1990s

Jennifer Stone Burt (B.B.A. '91), Tullahoma, has worked at Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma for 12 years in the information technology department.

Charles Carnahan (B.S. '93), Snohomish, Wash., has been promoted to regional vice president for United Franchise Group's Pacific Northwest and western Canada territories.

Dr. Dorothy Valcarcel Craig (Ed.S. '95), Murfreesboro, co-authored "Designing an Online Course: Eight Strategies from the Pros" for the November/December issue of "Higher Learning." She also co-authored "Curriculum Adaptations for the Online Environment" for the "International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning," October 2005.

Robert Dunkerly (M.A. '98) Lake Wylie, S.C., recently released his third book, "Old Ninety Six," a history and guide about a Revolutionary War site in South Carolina.

Stephen Marc-Douglas Haley (B.S. '98), Murfreesboro, completed the Officer Candidate School of the Tennessee Army National Guard and received a second lieutenant commission with the 1/181 HIMARS Field Artillery in Chattanooga. A graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, held at Fort Sill, Okla., he works full-time for the Department of Information Management, Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard in Nashville.

Scott A. Hamilton (B.S. '94), Fort Bragg, N.C., recently completed the Civil Affairs Qualification Course and is enrolled in the Advanced Regional Analysis Course and Russian Language Course in a joint degree program pursuing an M.B.A. and M.S. in international relations from Webster University.

John Charles Harrison (B.S. '99), Gray, is employed as a corporate pilot for Eastman Chemical Company in Johnson City, Tenn.

Cynthia Jones (M.A. '97), Murfreesboro, teaches science to 40 Bellwood Discovery School students. But through a one-year Fulbright Master Teacher Project research stipend (approximately \$29,000) paid by Japan, she will take her teaching techniques to sister school Kushi Elementary in Hokkaido in northern Japan. Jones will spend six weeks in Kushi "learning and teaching" this summer. She was selected for a three-week Fulbright Memorial Foundation in 1999.

Lisa Herring Mayo (B.S. '91), Woodbury, has been selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in October. Mayo is teaching Earth science, geography and geology at Warren County High School and Motlow State Community College.

Scott Noble McDaniel (B.S. '92, M.S. '95, Ed.S. '00), Murfreesboro, won the 2005 Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology. He

is an assistant professor in MTSU's academic enrichment department.

Dr. Harry Moore (D.A. '95), Decatur, Ala., recently received the Cowan Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English from the Two-Year College English Association-Southeast at its annual meeting. He has taught English at Calhoun Community College in Decatur since 1974 and serves as humanities division chair.

Chasity Caye Nicoll (B.A. '95), Manchester, recently restored a home to serve as an office for her law practice. The renovation project of the 120 year-old home was featured on HGTV's "Generation Renovation."

Joan M. Raines (B.S. '91, M.S. '93, Ed. S., '00), Christiana, co-presented "Shuffle and Roll: Using Simulations to Challenge Probability Misconceptions" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Southern Regional Conference.

Richard Wendell Ridley (B.S. '90), Charleston, S.C., released "The Takers," with BookSurge Publishing.

Matt Rubin (B.Unv.S. '93), Murfreesboro, recently opened Seven Seas Travel in Murfreesboro. He spent the last four years cruising the world employed by Norwegian Cruise Lines as port lecturer.

Edward Salo (M.A. '98), Summerville, S.C., recently was awarded for a report written on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. His report documented the Saluda Dam Entrance, a historic property built in the 1920s and 1930s, and was selected as one of 10 publications to receive a 2005 Notable State Document Award.

James C. Summers III (B.B.A. '90), White Plains, Md., has accepted a position as presidential acquisition manager with the White House Communications Agency.

William B. Thompson (B.S. '91) Murfreesboro, returned home safely from his 2005-06 active duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received several awards during his tour of duty including the Bronze Star Medal (OIF III), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Ribbon, Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon and the Tennessee National Guard War Service Ribbon. Working full-time with the National Guard serving as training officer for the 473rd based in Columbia, he anticipates a promotion to lieutenant status.

Jim Vesper (M.B.A. '91), Maryville, has accepted a position with US LEC, a premier communications partner for business that delivers quality voice, data and Internet services.

Rachel Winfrey (B.S. '95), Chattanooga, graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 2000 and works with the Hamilton County District Attorney's Office prosecuting major felonies. She is the lead prosecutor for all child abuse crimes in the division.

Monica L. Wright (B.A. '93), Murfreesboro, published "What Was Arthur Wearing?: Discrepancies in Dress Descriptions in Twelfth Century Romance" in "Philological Quarterly." Wright's article "De fil d'or et de soie: Making Textiles in Twelfth-Century French Texts" will be in the "Journal of Medieval Clothing and Textiles." Her book chapter "Chemise and Ceinture: Marie de France's Guigemar and the Use of Textiles" will be in the Proceedings of the Eleventh Congress of the International Courtly Literature Society.

2000s

Katrina Lucia Anderson (B.A. '05), Nashville, has been accepted into the master's degree program in creative writing at Belmont University.

Brandon Michael Armstrong (B.A. '05), Knoxville, received the President's Award, the highest award given by MTSU, during the President's Celebration of Excellence 2005. Presented by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, the award recognizes leadership and service, exemplary character and outstanding academic achievement.

Tianca Ashford (B.S. '05), Chattanooga, won a contest for an all-expense paid trip to New York and a cameo appearance on "All My Children" as part of the show's Fan February Contest.

Faran Sanders Douglas (B.S. '00), Bell Buckle, graduated from Nashville School of Law in 2004 and passed the Tennessee Bar in 2005 before opening her own law office in Murfreesboro, specializing in criminal and family law.

Sibyl M. Duncan (B.S. '05), Hendersonville, has been accepted into Howard University Medical School in Washington, D.C.

Ashley Loflin Galloway (B.S. '01), Chapel Hill, N.C., completed her Ph.D. at Emory University and is doing postdoctoral work at the University of North Carolina.

Andrew Gelvin Grimes (B.S. '02), Raleigh, N.C., completed his M.A. in English with a concentration in linguistics at North Carolina State University.

Christopher Hardgrove (B.B.A. '01), Allen, Texas, has accepted a position as a PC developer for American Income Life Insurance Company in Waco, Texas.

Sarah Herby (B.S. '03), Dayton, Ohio, serves as an operational support specialist for Executive Jet Management in Cincinnati.

Ranin Kazemy-bahamiry (B.A. '02), New Haven, Conn., soon will complete his master's degree in history at The Ohio State University and has been accepted into the doctoral history program at Yale University.

Brandi Matthews (B.S. '03), Nashville, joined Restaurant Technologies Inc. as the office operations manager for the company's new Nashville depot. RTI specializes in cooking oil management and filtration.

Matthew Palmer (B.M. '03), Fall Branch, won first prize at the seventh annual Columbus State International Guitar Competition in Columbus, Ga., his third major prize in less than a year. He is a graduate teaching assistant at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., where he is pursuing a master's in guitar performance.

Kyle Robert Skillman (B.S. '01), Shawnee, Kan., is an associate for law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, in the firm's Overland Park, Kan., office. He concentrates his practice on representing colleges, universities, athletic conferences and associations, and individuals in NCAA infractions, eligibility and compliance-related matters.

Laurel Stone (B.Unv.S. '00), Tullahoma, recently was appointed as research and referral specialist with South Central Childcare Resource and Referral in Fayetteville. Stone also works as a specialist on the REEL project.

Natalie Michelle Tate (B.B.A. '05), Honolulu, Hawaii, is a retail account executive at the "Honolulu Advertiser."

Dwayna Thompkins (B.S. '05), Los Angeles, Calif., is employed at Bob Gold and Associates as an account coordinator. She is responsible for drafting press materials and news releases, working with and maintaining media lists, pitching stories to media and coordinating and attending special events.

(Please see 'Class Notes' Page 7)

MTALUMNI.COM



Photo by Ken Robinson

Alumni presence

MTSU National Alumni Association president-elect Bob Lamb (B.S. '69, M.S. '77), right, was among a number of alumni and friends of the university who participated in the annual Jennings A. Jones College of Business Executives in Residence held earlier this spring. Joining Lamb for the Spirit of America Award presentation was student escort Angie Farmer, a senior management major from La Vergne. Other alumni included Don Ash (B.S. '77), Tom Boyd (B.S. '73), Jim Holland (B.S. '72), Richard Key (B.S. '62), Scott McCormick (B.B.A. '85), Bill Mooningham (B.S. '68), Charlie Myatt (B.S. '69), G. Ron Nichols (B.S. '70), Aaron Solomon (B.S. '94), Holly Thompson Lynch (B.S. '94) and Courtney Yates (B.B.A. '93).

'Very successful year' paves way to a fresh start in 2006-07

It's hard to believe that it has been a year already, and my term as the president of your Alumni Association Board of Directors has come to an end. As I take this opportunity to look back on a very successful year, I hope you join me in looking toward the future of your Alumni Association and all it has to offer. Our alumni base continues to grow, and with it so do the programs and services offered by the Office of Alumni Relations. From the Blue Raider Blast Caravans and reunions for alumni of a specific major or interest to Young Alumni Gatherings, the alumni office works to stay in touch and provide offerings we hope are of interest to you. As always, the staff members welcome your input so please contact them if you have an idea for a new event, service or program.

The alumni office has moved into a new location that will allow staff members to better serve you. The office occupies two buildings located at 2259 and 2263 Middle Tennessee Blvd. If you are in the area, please feel free to stop by and update your contact information, page through old yearbooks or simply visit and reminisce about some of your favorite college memories.

This fall, we will welcome a new era of Blue Raider football under the direction of head coach Rick Stockstill and the talented members of his coaching staff. I hope you join me in cheering on your Blue Raiders for what is sure to be an exciting season.

To kick off the football season, we will again offer the Pigskin Pregame Party on Friday, Aug. 25, at the Murfreesboro home of our gracious hosts, Tommy (B.S. '59) and Judy (B.S. '60, M.S.W. '62) Smith. Please make

plans to attend this event that offers food, fun and, best of all, great company.

Another event to mark on your calendar is Homecoming 2006, which will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4. If it's been a month since you've been on campus or more like a few years, we welcome you home to your alma mater for the fun-filled festivities that Homecoming has to offer.

As you can tell, there is a lot to look forward to, and I'm confident that the Alumni Association will have continued success under the leadership of your incoming alumni board president, Bob Lamb (B.S. '69, M.S. '77). Bob's enthusiasm and zeal for the university will make him a tremendous asset to alumni, and I have no doubt that his impact as president will be far-reaching.

It has been my honor to serve you throughout the past year. As my term ends, I would like to remind you that you can make an impact that no amount of advertising can do. I challenge you to connect with your university and get involved, and I'm confident that you're up to this challenge.

Be Loud. Be Proud. Be Blue.

MTSU National Alumni Association President Sandra Trail graduated from MTSU in 1972 with a B.S. degree in accounting. She practices law in Murfreesboro with her husband, Larry Trail (B.S. '75). Both are very involved in community and professional activities.

African-American students, alumni honored

By Patience Long

MTSU alumni and students were honored at the first African-American Awards Ceremony held May 5. The event combined the African-American Achievement Awards and Al Wilkerson Student Scholarships. The four alumni recipients included Mark Gwyn (B.S. '85), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation director; Dr. Forrest D. Toms (B.S. '74, M.A. '76), Training Research Development Inc. CEO; Dr. Susan Hill West (B.S. '81), Belmont University associate vice president for presidential affairs; and Luther D. Wright (B.S.

'92), partner of Boulton, Cummings, Connors & Berry PLC. The student awards, which are a one-time \$500 scholarship, went to Julia Brocker (aerospace), Quincy Davis (English), Jermain Haltom (finance) and Chitiquita McCarthur (management). The scholarship honors the late Al Wilkerson, alumnus and former faculty member who helped establish the Office of Multicultural Affairs and MTSU's first African-American organization. To donate to the scholarship fund, call Valerie Avent, assistant director of alumni relations and multicultural affairs, at 615-898-2718.

CLASS NOTES

In memoriam

Editor's note: MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.

1970s

Rowena Beck Ecklund (B.S. '76), Jupiter, Fla., died May 18, 2005.
Debra Lynn Johnston (B.S. '77), Nashville, died Feb. 4, 2006.
Dr. Guinn Fain Hubbard (B.A. '72), Galveston, Texas, died Feb. 15, 2006.

Former student Charles Oscar Fowler III, Mount Pleasant, died Feb. 21, 2006.

Baby Raiders

Isabella Gracen Bugg, born Sept. 20, 2005, to Amy Rhoten (B.S. '97) and Konnor Bugg (B.B.A. '96) of Murfreesboro.
Preston Griffith Byars, born Jan. 23, 2006, to Jennifer Marie Hagedorn (B.S. '96) and Jack Griffith Byars III (B.S. '95) of Adamsville.
Jack Bradley Byrd, born March 9, 2006, to Diane Burkhart (B.S. '94, M.Ed. '97) and Bradley Byrd (B.B.A. '94, M.B.A. '02) of Murfreesboro.
Jayden Eric Douglas, born Nov. 25, 2005, to Faran Sanders (B.S. '00) and Jason Douglas of Bell Buckle.
Cy Brody Dyer, born Dec. 16, 2005, to C. LeAnn Taylor (B.S.N. '00) and Chad M. Dyer (B.S. '00) of Manchester.
Ava Tine Gammons, born March 24, 2006, to Mandy and Sanders Gammons (B.S. '96) of Hendersonville.
Aaron Graham Figueredo, born July 27, 2005, to Jennifer Graham (B.S. '02) and David Figueredo (B.S. '02) of Madison.

from Page 6

Addison Faith Haynes, born Feb. 23, 2005, to Valerie Brooks (B.S. '05) and Todd Haynes of Jackson.
William Matthew Hellinger, born Aug. 25, 2005, to Jackie Clark (B.S. '99) and Matthew Hellinger of Birmingham, Ala.
Austin Clay Keller, born Nov. 19, 2005, to Katrina Tucker (B.B.A. '97) and Von Keller of Murfreesboro.
Evie Grace Kelley, born Jan. 3, 2006, to Ashley Scott (B.S. '04) and Jon Kelley of Murfreesboro.
Lily Katherine Elise Moore, born Oct. 2, 2005, to Jill and Mike Moore (B.S. '92) of Franklin.
Tyler Michael McNett, born Sept. 2, 2005, to Rebecca Romancky (B.S. '03) and Brian McNett of Houghton Lake, Mich.
Erik Tor Omdahl, born Jan. 19, 2006, to Tina and Larry Omdahl (B.S. '01) of Flint, Texas.
Keelie Grace Overbey, born May 4, 2005, to Chantel Starbuck (B.S. '03) and Jason Overbey of Murfreesboro.
Reese Anne and Reagan Marie Parker, born Jan. 25, 2006, to Laurie and Shelby Parker (B.B.A. '97) of Winter Garden, Fla.
Olivia Claire Price, born Jan. 14, 2006, to Alice Jackson (B.S. '97, M.S. '00) and David Mark "Chip" Price (B.S. '99) of Odessa, Fla.
William "Will" Paul Riley III, born on June 1, 2005, to Amy Johnson (B.B.A. '99) and Bill Riley of Antioch.
Rowen Gray Schomburg, born Sept. 29, 2005, to April Tolman (B.S. '05) and Chris Schomburg (B.S. '04) of Casper, Wyo.
Emmaline Jamison Whitt, born Sept. 22, 2005, to Katherine Batey (B.S. '01) and Brandon Whitt (B.S. '02) of Murfreesboro.
Gabriel Alexander Wiley, born Oct. 11, 2005, to Amanda Thompson (B.S. '02) and Bryan Wiley (B.S. '03) of Newark, Del.

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD 2005-06

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

5 math aces head off to graduate schools

MTSU's Department of Mathematical Sciences may produce one student every year or two who advances to graduate-level work, Dr. Michael Chappell, interim chair, said.

Well, 2006 was off the charts for the department. For the first time in history, five of its students are headed for Ph.D. graduate study in and out of state Chappell said.

The math wizards include Zachary "Zach" Denton (B.S. '06), who will start working on his doctorate at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; Korben Rusek (B.S. '06), who will move directly into the doctoral program at Texas A&M University; Nicholas "Nick" Shimokocki (B.S. '05), who will work on his doctorate at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.; Robert Stephens (M.S. '06), who will attend the University of Toledo in Ohio; and Justin Witt (B.S. '04, M.S. '06), who will head to Michigan State University.

— Randy Weiler

Record 2,042 become alumni May 6

A record 2,042 degree candidates graduated during MTSU's 94th spring commencement May 6. This included 1,736 undergraduates, 235 master's degree candidates, 67 educational specialists and four Ph.D. candidates, said Dr. Sherian Huddleston (B.S. '72, M.Ed. '80), associate vice provost for enrollment services.

The Right Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie, prime minister of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, served as guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell addressed the graduates during the 2 p.m. ceremony.

— Lisa Rollins

Nolan-led team finds historic York site

The remaining shroud of mystery surrounding Sgt. Alvin C. York, a Tennessee native credited with capturing an entire company of German soldiers during World War I some 87 years ago, was lifted on March 8, 2006, thanks to the expertise and efforts of a crack research team led by MTSU's Thomas Nolan.

Nolan, who serves as director of the R. O. Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology at MTSU, led the interdisciplinary team whose members have located the battlefield site near Châtel-Chéhéry, France. That's where the then-30-year-old York became one of the most highly decorated American soldiers of World War I.

— Lisa Rollins



Photo by Patience Long

Having a 'Blast'

William Hayden Evans (B.S. '53, M.A. '65), a freelance writer, retired U.S. Army officer and former banker from Clinton, visits with MT Lady Raider Coach Rick Insell (B.S. '77) during the Blue Raider Blast Caravan Coaches' Welcome/Alumni Reception May 10 in Knoxville. Behind them, MT Raiders Coach Kermit Davis, left, chats with Chad Tracy (B.S. '01), Maryville College men's and women's tennis coach and assistant sports information director.

Return of 'The Graduate' brings high hopes

MT Lady Raider basketball star Chrissy Givens graduated magna cum laude May 6 with a B.S. degree from the College of Education and Behavioral Science. However, with another year of NCAA eligibility, Givens will return to try to lead Coach Rick Insell's team to a fourth straight Sun Belt Conference championship and fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament berth. Givens, an "ESPN Magazine" Academic All-American with a 3.87 GPA, was Sun Belt Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, tournament most valuable player and Tennessee Sportswriters' All-State. MT will open the 2006-07 season against NCAA national champion Maryland Nov. 17 in Murphy Center.



MT Media Relations

Field

Association executive director.

And as for MTSU's "Batter Up . . . Stepping Up to the Plate for Middle Tennessee Baseball" capital campaign that began in February, Farley sends this message to alumni and friends: "Our baseball program consistently has been to the NCAA Tournament on a regular basis. It's a piece of our history. It's a way to invest back in our university."

Then there are the hundreds of baseball alumni that Farley knows will be interested in pitching in to do their part. Coach Steve "Pete" Peterson (M.Ed. '76) and former coach and athletic director John Stanford (B.S. '62, M.A. '64) are taking swings to recruit their former players.

"Coach Stanford and Coach Pete are reaching out to their former players to step up to the plate one more time for Blue Raider baseball," Farley said. "Pretty much every decade has been represented."

Farley said efforts have been made to attract ex-players who played together in four-year increments (such as 1978-81 and 1985-89).

Farley added that "no gift is too small and no gift too large," emphasizing former player Steve Smith's challenge to "give till it hurts, and then give a little bit more."

The new park's construction will begin in the spring of 2007 and is expected to be finished by the start of the 2008 season.

Farley, Peterson and Director of Athletics Chris Massaro believe the facility will enable the university to host NCAA Regional

Tournament games. That's in addition to being a site for Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Spring Fling (state tournament) games.

"When we host an NCAA Regional that's carried live on national TV, as alumni, we can say, 'That's where I went to college,'" Farley said.

Added Peterson, "We will have the premier baseball facility in the Sun Belt Conference and the region, which not only will enable us to recruit at a higher level, but also have an opportunity to bid on and host a Sun Belt Conference Tournament, NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals."

Architectural firms Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Ltd. of Jackson, Miss., and Moody Nolan of Nashville have been jointly hired to design the park that will double the current stadium's seating capacity, Farley said.

David A. Lemons of CDFL and Brian Tibbs of Moody Nolan said the new park "will offer the traditional appeal of a classic ballpark while featuring professional-quality fan amenities" and "raise the bar for Sun Belt Conference baseball facilities."

The city of Murfreesboro will contribute \$1.5 million toward the project, in part because the TSSAA shifted Spring Fling to the city.

For more information, contact Farley (afarley@mtsu.edu) by calling 615-898-2210.



Farley



Chuck Taylor golf set June 6

The Chuck Taylor Golf Tournament will be held starting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, at Indian Hills Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the MTSU baseball program. Call Tommy Wheeler at 615-890-3333 or 615-893-8498 for more information.

Sports camps

Rick Stockstill Combine Camps — 1-5 p.m. Sunday, June 4, and Saturday, June 10, for rising 9-12 graders; Floyd Stadium; \$20; 615-898-2311.

2006 Middle Tennessee Women's Basketball Camps — Team Camp I, June 4-7; Team Camp II, June 18-21; Lil' Raider Camp, June 12-14; Individual Camp, June 29-July 2; fees vary; 615-898-5356.

Middle Tennessee Summer Softball Camp — June 22-24, new Blue Raider Field; \$100; 615-904-8010
Baseball — 615-898-2961.

Blue Raiders 2006 football schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time (Central)
Aug. 31	Florida Int'l*	Murfreesboro	6 p.m./ESPN+
Sept. 9	Maryland	College Park, Md.	5 p.m.
Sept. 14	Tennessee Tech	Murfreesboro	6 p.m.
Sept. 23	Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sept. 30	North Texas*	Denton, Texas	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 6	Louisville	x-Nashville	7 p.m./ESPN2
Oct. 21	Louisiana-Monroe*	Monroe, La.	6 p.m.
Oct. 28	La.-Lafayette*	Lafayette, La.	4 p.m.
Nov. 4	Fla. Atlantic*/HC	Murfreesboro	TBA
Nov. 11	Arkansas State*	Jonesboro, Ark.	2:05 p.m.
Nov. 18	South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	TBA
Nov. 25	Troy*#	Murfreesboro	TBA

Dates and opponents are tentative and subject to change.

Home games in bold.

* — Sun Belt Conference game

HC — Homecoming	Season ticket prices vary
x — The Coliseum	1-888-YES-MTSU or
# — Salute to Veterans/Senior Day	goblueraiders.com

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Blue Raider Athletic Association, 615-898-2210 or goblueraiders.com