

THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

June 2008 Vol. 5 / No. 4



Find full homecoming details in the September edition of "The Alumni Record" or visit mtalumni.com.

WAR INSIGHTS

Naval intelligence director Cothron shares experiences

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Alumnus and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Tony L. Cothron ('77) brought his knowledge and wisdom gained through career experiences to share with MTSU students, faculty, staff and alumni during an April 8 visit to campus.

"The purpose of the admiral's visit was to highlight possible career options for history majors and to enhance our military history program," said alumnus Dr. Derek Frisby ('94), assistant professor in the Department of History. "The students and faculty were able to interact on a very personal level with a distinguished MTSU history alum and discuss the importance of



U.S. Navy file photo

Rear Adm. Tony L. Cothron ('77)

(See 'Cothron,' Page 2)

Honors flow during Celebration of Excellence

8 alumni among those recognized by president at annual awards event

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Eight MTSU alumni were among 15 people altogether who were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the fifth annual President's Celebration of Excellence, held April 12 in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

The honors that featured alumni included:

- the National Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Lana Seivers ('72), Sandra Trail ('76) and Gale Prince ('57);
- the Alumni Association's Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient Brady Barnett ('97);
- the Student Government Association's John T. Bragg

Distinguished Service Award honoree John Hood ('54, '74);

- the MTSU Foundation's Career Achievement Award honoree Dr. Robert F. Carlton ('64);
- the Tennessee Board of Regents' Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy Award to Stephen B. "Steve" Smith; and
- the Office of the President's Legacy Award to Elizabeth "Liz" Hay Rhea ('55).

The Legacy Award 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.

Rhea and her husband, the late Dr. Creighton Rhea, have supported

(See 'Honors,' Page 5)



Jack Ross/MTSU Photographic Services

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, right, appears with National Alumni Association 2007-08 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (from left) Lana Seivers ('72), Gale Prince ('57) and Sandra Trail ('72) and 2007-08 Young Alumni Award honoree Brady Barnett ('97).

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ALUMNI MAKING WAVES



Submitted photos

Alumni George Rowles ('99), top right, and Michela "Mikki" Rose ('05) are shown with the Oscar earned by the Rhythm & Hues Studios team for the film "Golden Compass" Feb. 24. Bill Westenhofer is their supervisor.



(c) March 2008 Weider Publications LLC. Courtesy of Flex Magazine

Runnerup finishes in two national bodybuilding championships in 2007 helped Brandon Curry ('06) become a Flex magazine cover story. He recently moved to San Diego. He was second in the NPC USA Championship in July and also in the NPC Nationals Championships in November.



Courtesy of Valleycrest Productions Ltd.

Michael Kearney ('98), 24, of Murfreesboro, sitting across from "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" host Meredith Vieira, earned \$25,000 when he appeared April 25 and 28 on the syndicated game show. He won \$1 million in 2006 as the first winner in an online reality game called "Gold Rush." A former child prodigy, Kearney graduated from MTSU with a master's degree in biochemistry at age 14. He began teaching at Vanderbilt University at age 16. He is listed in the Guinness Book as the world's youngest university graduate at the age of 10. He is trying to earn his doctorate and teaching college chemistry. Kearney's younger sister, Maeghan ('02), also is a former child prodigy.

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MTSU News and Public Affairs photo

Brig. Gen. David Ogg ('78) speaks candidly and answers questions about his U.S. Army career with ROTC cadets from left, Jason Eaves, Nick Gregory, Michael Burrows, Robert Barrett and Joshua Causey during the students' March 27 military science class. Ogg's father, Col. Robert Ogg ('53, '64), and son Stuart, who is a current cadet, make three generations to attend MTSU and be in the ROTC program. Eaves, Gregory and Causey graduated May 3. They were commissioned May 2.

Cothron

history and critical thinking skills in various career fields.

"They also gained some insight into the extremely complex intelligence community and the role intelligence played in the Iraq war and war on terrorism."

Cothron is the director of intelligence for the Chief of Naval Operations and the 62nd director of Naval Intelligence. His lecture was titled "U.S. National Security Policy and Decision-Making: Insights on How and Why Our Nation Is at War."

Cothron commanded the U.S. European Command's Joint Analysis Center at Royal Air Force Molesworth, U.K, from August 2001 to July 2003, transforming the command in response to the global war on terrorism and supporting combat operations against Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also commanded the Navy's national level, operational intelligence and scientific and intelligence analysis center, the Office of Naval Intelligence from September 2004 to January 2006. Upon his promotion to flag rank, Cothron was assigned to the National Security Agency as deputy director of Signals Intelligence for Customer Relationships.

Cothron said U.S. forces' efforts in Iraq have worked, that the area has been stabilized and terrorists' numbers have decreased. He does warn that the threat of terrorist attack will not go away.

He made a reference to a world map showing 19 al-Qaida terrorist attacks in the past six or seven



Christina Runkel/MTSU History Club

Alumni Don Witherspoon ('64), Rear Adm. Tony L. Cothron ('77) and Derek Frisby ('94) visit after Cothron's lecture.

years.

Frisby said Cothron's visit is "just one of several events designed to highlight and bolster our military history program." The MTSU Veterans Memorial will be dedicated this fall to remember all MTSU veterans, especially the more than 60 who have died in the service of their country, he added. Next spring, Frisby will lead a study abroad tour of Guam, Peleliu and Iwo Jima. Also in April 2009, the military history program will serve as host to the Society of Military History annual meeting in Murfreesboro to discuss the topic "Warfare and Culture."

For more details, e-mail Frisby (dfrisby@mtsu.edu) or call 615-525-8762.

from Page 1

Summer Reading adventure for new freshmen

‘Three Cups of Tea’ author will speak at Aug. 24 University Convocation

By Gina Fann gfann@mtsu.edu

What can one person accomplish? MTSU’s 2008 Summer Reading Program selection, “Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time,” by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, has the answer.

The memoir, touted by NBC’s Tom Brokaw as “thrilling” and “one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time,” details Mortenson’s quest to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Mortenson

Mortenson, the co-founder (with Dr. Jean Hoerni) and executive director of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute and Pennies for Peace, has dedicated his life to promote community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

His quest began in 1993, when to honor his late sister’s memory, Mortenson climbed Pakistan’s K2, the world’s second highest mountain, in the Karakoram Range. While recovering in a local village called Korphe, the Montana resident met a group of children sitting in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand and made a promise to help them build a school.

Dr. Laurie Witherow, MTSU’s Academic Support Center director and coordinator of the Summer Reading Program, is encouraging faculty to incorporate this latest text into their fall 2008 syllabi.

“‘Three Cups of Tea’ would be a perfect start-

ing point for discussions on a wide range of topics and is especially recommended for use in communications, education, geography, psychology, sociology, political science and history courses,” Witherow said. “Students come to us in the fall expecting to discuss the Summer Reading selection in classes

from a variety of perspectives and use it as the basis of assignments.

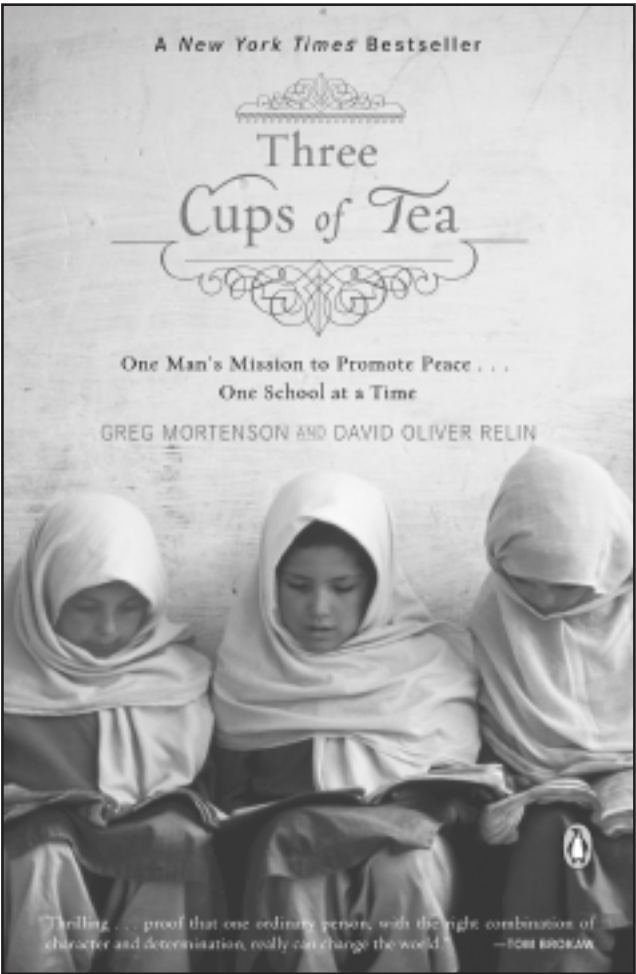
“All new students are required to read the book before their arrival on campus in the fall, so ‘Three Cups of Tea’ may be perfect as the basis for an early writing or other assignment. This program’s success depends on the involvement of faculty who make use of the Summer Reading selection in fall classes, so let us know if you’d like to use the book in your classes this fall. We want our freshmen to recognize that one person can make a difference; they can make a difference.”

Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 25, and all University 1010 classes once again will discuss the selection.

Witherow is eager to hear suggestions now from professors on the best use for the book in their classes; she can be reached at lwithero@mtsu.edu or at 615-898-2339. Mortenson also is scheduled to address attendees Sunday, Aug. 24, at the annual University Convocation beginning at 2 p.m. in Murphy Center.

“Three Cups of Tea” may be purchased on campus and at local bookstores. It’s available in hardback and paperback, and online sellers also may have used copies.

Faculty interested in using “Three Cups of Tea” in their classrooms this fall may contact Sumer Patterson at the Academic Support Center (615-898-2339 or spatters@mtsu.edu) to receive a review copy for evaluation.



CALENDAR

Alumni events

For complete details about upcoming alumni events, go to mtalumni.com.

June

25-27 Alumni Summer College

Come back to college for two fun-filled days of learning without quizzes.
For more information, go to www.mtalumni.com.

July

19 MTSU Alumni Day at Nashville Shores

For more information, go to www.mtalumni.com.

August

23 Pigskin Pregame

For more information, go to www.mtalumni.com.

Campus events

June

20 Legends Golf Tournament

For more information, call 615-898-5632.

August

9 Commencement 10 a.m., Murphy Center

24 University Convocation

For more information, call 615-898-2454.

27 Faculty and Guest Recital — Todd Waldecker, clarinet; Keith McClelland, bassoon; Fay Adams, piano

For more info, go to mtsu.edu/music/calendar.html.

AP reporter, Tennessee governor view tornado damage

It’s doubtful alumna Kristin Hall (’05), right, had this kind of experience as editor in chief for “Sidelines,” the MTSU student newspaper. The Associated Press reporter has flown twice with Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, this time surveying the damage from tornadoes that struck the state in February. It was the second time Hall had been chosen as the only reporter to accompany the governor on such a trip.



Frederick Breedon/freelance photographer



Submitted photo

Former MTSU student Supoj Khanonwech, left, and Vickie Riggan (’98) visit near Sunflower Trilingual School in Thailand. Khanonwech serves as principal while Riggan is teaching English as a second language for one year. He is a scoutmaster, hence the uniform.

MTSU, Thai connection

Nashville’s Vickie Riggan (’98) traveled to Thailand to teach English as a second language for a year at Sunflower Trilingual School.

“Since I traveled over 9,000 miles to get here, the last person I expected to meet was a fellow alum from MTSU, and certainly not one at the same school,” she said.

“One day, the principal (Supoj Khanonwech) came to my classroom and told me that he knew about Murfreesboro,” Riggan added. “Then he smiled and told me that he studied math in graduate school 30 years ago. ... He’s a heck of a nice guy to work for. Finally, he smiled when I said (the name) Boots Donnelly (’65, ’67, and former MTSU coach and athletic director). Guess he enjoyed American-style football while he was here.”

Riggan said she is trying to make the most of her time, traveling around Thailand on days off (“So much history to see,” she said) and has made Thai friends who are trying to teach her the language. (“Boy, do I have a greater understanding of what my ESL students were going through in my classroom.”

ZOO-RIFIC TIME OF FUN

Families have a blast at alumni events in Memphis, Knoxville, Nashville, Atlanta

From staff reports

When planning events, the MTSU Office of Alumni Relations realizes that family is first for our alumni, and what's a better way to spend time with your family than at the zoo?

Therefore, we decided to host our Paint the Zoo BLUE Tour in four cities throughout March, April and May. We wanted to not only give alumni a great day for their families, but also a chance to meet fellow alumni in their area.

Paint the Zoo BLUE began in Knoxville. Guests braved the cold and on-again-off-again rain to enjoy a great day. At lunch, alumni and their guests were greeted by an exotic bird that they were allowed to pet and observe much closer than usual.

The tour stop in Memphis included a terrific buffet picnic lunch. Alumni and guests saw many exotic animals.

"Memphis certainly has lived up to it's billing as one of the best zoos in the country," said MTSU alumni assistant director Paul Wydra. "Our guests have seen all kinds of animals from monkeys to pandas, all the while being able to introduce their families to their former classmates. Not only are our alums reconnecting, but their families are making connections."

"The kids, and adults alike, seemed to really enjoy everything that Zoo Atlanta offered," Wydra added. "MTSU had not hosted an event in Atlanta for quite some time, so it was good to get back. Our alums are very excited



Muffin Dixon ('95) and niece Judy Dixon stop at Memphis Zoo registration desk.



Jim Dunlap ('57) and wife Claydene prepare for a day at Zoo Atlanta.



Submitted photos

Sandy Linville ('71) and family prepare to battle the rain before enjoying a fun-filled day at Zoo Atlanta.

because they are getting a chance to take part in a family activity with former classmates that they may or may not have seen in some time."

All good things must come to an end and the Zoo Tour was no different. On May 17, the tour ended in Nashville. "After our great turnout last year, we were excited to see a lot of new and returning faces," Wydra said. "Alumni had a chance to reminisce about MTSU memories while enjoying a fantastic summer picnic buffet. Once again, the Nashville Zoo was painted BLUE."

The Alumni Relations Office loves to take our "show" on the road, so be prepared for game-watching events and other family events headed to your area



Mike ('93) and wife Tracy ('94) Buck enjoy the Knoxville Zoo with future Blue Raiders Mattie and Preston Buck.

in the next year. Thank you to all our alumni and guests who helped paint the zoo BLUE, and we look forward to seeing you the next time we are in your area.



Italian history lesson

(Far left) Alumni join Liz and President Sidney A. McPhee, center, at a historic site in Rome in April. View mtalumni.com or call 800-533-6878 to learn about future alumni travel opportunities.

(Below) Alumni Ken Gerdes ('66) and Peggy Jackson Gerdes ('64) walk in the plaza area near the Vatican on the spring 2008 alumni travel tour of Italy.



Submitted photos

Alumnus Dr. Bob Adams ('78), left, vice chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, presented the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy to Stephen B. "Steve" Smith. Sharing the occasion are Liz McPhee and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee.



Jack Ross/MTSU
Photographic Services



MTSU First Lady Liz McPhee, left, and President's Legacy Award honoree Elizabeth "Liz" Hay Rhea ('55) hold the commemorative vase, which was presented by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee.

Honors

from Page 1

many MTSU projects. They were among the first donors to enter into a significant estate plan with MTSU. They donated some \$100,000 to establish and endow two Leadership/Performance Scholarships. She continues to support athletics, the School of Music and Alumni Relations' initiatives. A 1998 Distinguished Alumna, Rhea promotes her alma mater through leadership positions in the MTSU Foundation, Blue Raider Athletic Association and National Alumni Association. She remains active in raising funds for the MTSU Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship fund through the annual Pigskin Pre-Game.

The Chancellor's Citation for Excellence in Philanthropy recognizes generous giving of resources for a TBR institution and outstanding volunteer efforts in raising money for the institution.

Smith, who played baseball for former Coach John Stanford in the mid-1970s, has been instrumental in helping secure the needed funds (\$5 million) to begin construction on a baseball stadium that will be completed soon. MTSU dedicated the Stephen B. Smith Clubhouse and Indoor Training Facility in '98. Altogether, he and the Stephen Smith Charitable Foundation have donated more than \$410,000 to MTSU.

The Career Achievement Award is given to a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated profound, sustained and high-quality contributions in the areas of teaching, innovation, publication and research/creative activity as well as service to the university, community and the profession.

Carlton, professor of physics and astronomy and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, is a distinguished scholar in nuclear physics and an advocate for the role of research as a foundation to learning as well as its contribution to knowledge in the discipline. His career has helped shape both his chosen discipline and the role of research across the curriculum at MTSU at the undergraduate and graduate levels. As a result of his efforts, the experiences of students campuswide have been enriched through scholarship and hands-on,

research-based learning.

Carlton earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics and physics from MTSU and then achieved his master's and Ph.D. in physics at the University of Georgia. A prolific writer, he has published many articles in international peer-reviewed journals throughout his career and has produced annual Technical Progress Reports for the Department of Energy. The results of his research have been invaluable to others using the nuclear models in their own research. He has held the position of senior scientist for NASA and served as a consultant with Oak Ridge National Laboratories. He has chaired the Department of Physics and Astronomy since its creation in 1995 and will retire June 30.

The John T. Bragg Distinguished Service Award is presented to an MTSU alumnus or nonalumnus for outstanding leadership within the university and the community.

Hood, a six-term state representative who has announced he will retire at the end of the current term, is renowned for leadership roles in his community and beloved alma mater. He has served on the House Education Committee, House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and Higher Education subcommittee. He spent 10 years on the executive administration staff of MTSU; in subsequent years, he has been a volunteer and supporter of the university and is a past president of the National Alumni Association and a 1976 Distinguished Alumnus.

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors alumni for exemplary professional achievement, leadership and/or service to the university and/or community.

The Professional Achievement honoree is Seivers, who served as Tennessee Commissioner of Education from her appointment by Gov. Phil Bredesen in 2003 until stepping down in January. As commissioner, she led the department in many initiatives to help fulfill its mission to provide quality education for every child in Tennessee. Before her appointment, Seivers had served as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Oak Ridge

Schools and Clinton City Schools.

The Service to the University recipient is Trail, an attorney who began private practice of law in Murfreesboro. Her involvement with MTSU began almost simultaneously when she was nominated as a Foundation trustee. With her legal and accounting background (she's a certified public accountant), she revised many Foundation organizational documents and began assisting with negotiation and preparation of contracts and agreements for the Foundation.

Prince earned the Service to the Community honor. He has devoted his life to serving others, first in the military for more than 20 years and then through the Lions Club, which he joined in 1980. He volunteers to screen children's eyes to detect and correct vision problems. He graduated from MTSC as a Distinguished Military graduate and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Prince served in Korea and Vietnam, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1978. His military honors include the Bronze Star and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes a young alumnus for his or her professional achievement, outstanding leadership abilities and/or service to the university and/or community.

Barnett has logged some impressive experience as an independent producer, engineer and author since earning his MTSU degree. He has worked at prominent facilities in Los Angeles such as The Enterprise, Skip Saylor Recording and Pacific Ocean Post. He has engineered multiplatinum and Grammy-winning albums and engineered for artists such as Keith Urban, LeAnn Rimes, George Jones, Reba McEntire, Trace Adkins, Alan Jackson, Faith Hill, Brad Paisley, N'Sync and Stephen Curtis Chapman. He has given back to the Department of Recording Industry by working as an adjunct professor and by helping develop new courses.

(Suma Clark, director of the MTSU Office of Publications and Graphics, contributed to this report with her writing in the event program.)



State Rep. John Hood ('54, '74), left, receives congratulations from MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee after earning the Student Government Association's John Bragg Distinguished Service Award. A 1976 Distinguished Alumnus, Hood will be retiring from the state legislature after serving six terms. He is renowned for leadership roles in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County and for supporting his alma mater.



President Sidney A. McPhee, left, is shown with alumnus Dr. Robert Carlton ('64), who was the recipient of the MTSU Foundation Career Achievement Award, and Don Witherspoon ('64), a Foundation immediate past president.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Dr. Hershel Wall ('57), Memphis, Tenn., is chancellor and vice president for Health Affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

1960s

Peggy Jackson Gerdes ('64) and **Ken Gerdes** ('66), Macon, Ga., returned from the spring 2008 MTSU alumni trip to Italy.

William Hoffman ('68), Goodlettsville, Tenn., is a retired plumbing contractor.

Cheryl Miller ('68), Tullahoma, Tenn., is a loan administrator with American City Bank.

Jim Miller ('67), Tullahoma, Tenn., retired as store manager from Cool Springs Castner-Knott Company and Dillard's department store in Tullahoma.

Stella Cooper Mitchell ('64), Fayetteville, Ga., has written and published her novel, "The Original Big Hair Girls," about her time at MTSU.

1970s

Curtiss W. Beech ('77), Kensington, Md., is a senior contracts manager for Development Alternatives Inc.

Gary Davenport ('72), Elk Grove, Calif., is a minister with Parkway Church of Christ in Sacramento.

Bruce L. Jewell ('73), Asheville, N.C., retired as assistant director of the Southern Research Station for the USDA Forest Service in January 2008.

Brian Oldfield ('71), Elgin, Ill., has been named third on the all-time world top shot put list in the April issue of "Track and Field" magazine.

Terry Price ('79), Springfield, Tenn., is a program director for The Writer's Loft, MTSU's low-residency creative writing certificate program.

Jeanette ('73, '74) and **Larry A. Underwood** ('71), Ooltewah, Tenn., are retired and traveling extensively.

1980s

Ali Al-Saleh ('87), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, presides over the Saudi Aramco Employee Association.

Janice Bane ('86), Hendersonville, Tenn., is the general manager of MCS America, the USA division of Music Copyright Solutions, based in London.

Teddy Bane ('86, '90), Hendersonville, Tenn., is an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Russell Burns ('82), St. Louis, Mo., is the president of Clayco Inc.

Cynthia Cline ('84), Houston, Texas, has been appointed as defense co-counsel for Prosper Mugiraneza, former civil service minister of Rwanda, who is charged with genocide.

Maj. David Hudgens ('88), Murfreesboro, is the uniformed division commander for the Murfreesboro Police force.

Brian Knox ('87), Sussex, Wis., is vice president of Zeppos & Associates, one of the top 150 independent public relations firms in the nation.

Cindy M. Morgan ('83), Chester, Va., is a senior advertising and new media manager for Hamilton Beach.

Ken Peden ('87), Odessa, Texas, is a pilot.

Alison A. Pockat ('80), Cary, N.C., is a landscape architect for Alison A. Pockat ASLA.

Richard Ramko ('89), Natick, Mass., is a partner in Ernst & Young LLP.

Ronald Roberts ('84, '91), Murfreesboro, has been named president of DVL Public Relations and Advertising in Nashville, Tenn.

Col. Carolyn R. Sharpe ('82), Woodbridge, Va., is the deputy director of business management for the gulf region division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

Dr. Sonya G. Smith ('86, '88, '90), LaVista, Neb., is the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs/chief student affairs officer and associate professor for the college of public health for the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Ronald Swartz ('86), Commerce, Texas, is a registered nurse working in a cardiac unit.

David H. Whitworth ('82, '90), Philadelphia, Pa., is the director of in-flight services for U.S. Airways in Philadelphia.

Maureen Writesman ('87), Eagleville, Tenn., is the owner of Wilderness Foxes.

1990s

Frank W. Bennett ('99), Jacksonville, Fla., has written a book, "The Breathing Organization, A Blueprint for Business Success in the 21st Century."

Mary Benton ('97), Pelham, Tenn., is the scholarship administrator for the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.

Hoyt Paul Canady III ('98), Washington, D.C., is the deputy for youth ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

CPT Philip E. Crabtree ('97), Killeen, Texas, is deployed to Iraq for the third time, and currently serves as the chief of the Baghdad Media Engagement Team for the Multi-National Division.

Tim Doyle ('94), Cordova, Tenn., is a producer for Channel 3 in Memphis, Tenn.

David Ellis ('99), San Jose, Calif., is a first officer for MAG/United Express flying the CRJ 200/700/900.

Gary Estep ('95), Colorado Springs, Colo., is the assistant chief engineer for the Ground Based Midcourse Defense Communication Network.

Preston Foreman ('93), New Milford, Conn., is the national sales trainer for Point of Care at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Bosko Grubic ('99), Marina Del Rey, Calif., is an in-house executive producer for AIG/aigdirect.com.

Cynthia Jolley ('90), Tullahoma, Tenn., is the choir director for Coffee County Schools.

Dennis Jones ('92), Coalmont, Tenn., is director of Sewanee EMS at the University of the South and a paramedic for Grundy EMS.

SFC Becki Louden ('99), Woodbury, Tenn., is serving in Iraq at Camp Victory with the 2145th Garrison Support Unit. She is the executive assistant for the commander in the human resources division.

Cheryl H. McTyre ('94), Nashville, Tenn., is an A&R administration director for Warner Music Group.

Christina Frazer Mitchell ('95), Nashville, Tenn., is director of creative for Wrensong/Reynsong Music.

Jennifer Pasalakis ('98), Nolensville, Tenn., is a consultant with Thirty-One gifts.

William T. Pettus ('99), Lawrenceburg, Tenn., is a developer for TPG Capital LP.

Richard Ridley ('90), Charleston, S.C., is the author of three published youth-science fiction novels.

Capt. Gregory T. Roman ('92), Riverside, Mo., serves in the military intelligence division of the Missouri Army National Guard.

Holly A. Rosner ('98), Buyck, Minn., is an account manager for Purina Mills Company.

Carol C. Schroer ('96, '00), Murfreesboro, is a teacher at Erma Siegel Elementary.

Tony Sheppard ('91), Jeffersonville, Ind., has published her first training manual, "Group Psychotherapy with Children."

Carol D. Sissom ('90), Indianapolis, Ind., is co-owner of Medical Consulting From A-Z.

Ron Spears ('97), Decatur, Ga., is a geographic information systems specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau in Atlanta, Ga.

Toni R. Trice ('95), Henderson, Tenn., is a clinical systems analyst for West Tennessee Healthcare.

2000s

Henry Edward Bedford IV ('01), Los Angeles, Calif., is an office assistant for United Artists, where he is focusing on script coverage.

Ingrid Bellamy ('04), Senoia, Ga., is an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration.

CPT Brian Blake ('00), Nashville, Tenn., is the company commander of Bravo Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Megan Frazier ('01), Nashville, Tenn., recently passed the Tennessee Bar Exam and was sworn into practice by the Tennessee Supreme Court in November 2007.

Brittany Frey ('05), Nashville, Tenn., is owner of Plato's Closet in Murfreesboro.

Rebecca A. George ('03), Murfreesboro, is the catering director for Stones River Country Club.

Casey Guimbellot ('06), Nashville, Tenn., is a relocation specialist for First Tennessee.

Dr. Gwendolyn N. Hale ('05), Savannah, Ga., is an assistant professor and coordinator of the writing center for Savannah State University.

Rhonda G. Haygood ('06), Summertown, Tenn., is a special education teacher for Lewis County Elementary School.

Erica N. Haynes ('05), Nashville, Tenn., is an account executive for Clear Channel Radio.

Jerome Hruska ('01), Manassas, Va., is the public-address announcer for the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team.

Shawna L. Hurt ('04), Fort Worth, Texas, is a senior accountant for Dean Foods.

Kimberly Kelch ('05), Murfreesboro, is an acute care nurse practitioner.

Leigh Danielle Kiblinger ('01), Murfreesboro, is a reunion class coordinator for Vanderbilt University.

Lance Lamb ('06), Rockvale, Tenn., is a loan officer for Wilson Bank and Trust.

Melanie L. Luckey ('01), Humboldt, Tenn., is an assistant controller for First South Bank.

Jackson Martin ('04), Johnson City, Tenn., teaches art at Eastern College in Johnson City.

Susan Messer ('02), Summertown, Tenn., is a regional nurse consultant for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, south central region.

Jesse Newsom ('05), Jacksonville, N.C., is the executive director of the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission.

Timothy R. Nunes ('06), Atlanta, Ga., is a pilot for Atlantic Southeast Airlines.

James A. Redferin ('04, '05), Leavenworth, Kan., is a human resource specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Michelle Schafer ('00), Alexandria, Va., recently earned a master's degree from George Washington University and is a manager for the American Diabetes

Association.

Emanuel Kenneth Siegfried ('04), Cordova, Tenn., is the assistant athletic director at the University of Memphis.

Michael Smith ('06), Eads, Tenn., is a district manager for H&R Block in Memphis, Tenn.

Karisse Spray ('04), Smyrna, Tenn., is a human resources generalist for Community Health Systems PPSI.

David E. Stafford ('00), Gallatin, Tenn., earned a doctorate from Tennessee State University in educational administration and was appointed principal of Westmoreland Elementary School in Sumner County, Tenn.

Travisty Vasquez-Terry ('07), Antioch, Tenn., is the Web developer for Meharry Medical College.

Michelle Willard ('02, '07), Nashville, Tenn., has been awarded the Grand Award in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District III communications contest.

Baby Raiders

Blessing Ohunsi Aimuan II, born Aug. 29, 2007, to **Malia** ('04) and **Blessing O. Aimuan** ('03) of Cane Ridge, Tenn.

Paul Jude Asmer Jr., born Feb. 13, 2008, to **Jill** ('97) and **Paul Asmer** of Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Ruby Jane Cook, born Dec. 26, 2007, to **Lauren** and **John Cook** ('01) of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

Coby Russell Crowell Jr., born Jan. 29, 2008, to **Rebecca** and **Coby Crowell** ('95) of Unionville, Tenn.

Bonny Jean Caudill, born Aug. 12, 2006, to **Bonny** and **William Caudill** ('07) of Smyrna, Tenn.

Michaela Grace Fortuna, born Jan. 26, 2008, to **Kristin** ('96) and **Michael Fortuna** of Clermont, Fla.

Logan Fritts, born Aug. 10, 2007, to **Michele** ('07) and **Jason Fritts** of Murfreesboro.

Adam Grey Hellinger, born Oct. 20, 2007, to **Jackie Clark** ('99) and **Matthew Hellinger** of Birmingham, Ala.

Savanna Mae Holcombe, born April 3, 2007, to **Keri** ('03) and **Brian Holcombe** of Spring Hill, Tenn.

Josiah Kevin Johnson, born Feb. 18, 2008, to **Latasha** ('97) and **Kevin Johnson** ('95, '96) of Smyrna, Tenn.

Brady Nathaniel Johnson, born March 20, 2008, to **Jessica L. Johnson** ('06) of Ankeny, Iowa.

Samantha Lynn Johnson, born April 10, 2007, to **Shelly** ('01, '03, '06) and **Steven W. Johnson** of Nashville, Tenn.

Clinton Jacob "CJ" Kersey, born Dec. 20, 2007, to **Jennifer** ('00, '03) and **Clay Kersey** ('98) of Smyrna, Tenn.

Brodie Nathaniel McTyre, born Oct. 10, 2007, to **Cheryl** ('94) and **Shawn McTyre** of Nashville, Tenn.

Brodie Dalen Melzoni, born Dec. 12, 2007, to **Kimberly** ('00) and **Johnnie Melzoni Jr.** ('01) of Old Hickory, Tenn.

Isabella Kate Nichols, born Jan. 24, 2008, to **Amber** and **Nathan Nichols** ('02) of Clinton, Miss.

(See 'Baby,' Page 7)

To our newest 4,200 members since '07 ...

Congrats; you've joined a connected, active alumni group; touch base with us

Dear recent graduates (I'm talking to you if you have graduated since this time last year):

Congratulations on your graduation during the past year and all of the hard work it took to get there. You now can brag that you are part of a group that is more than 92,000 strong and spread out among every state (even as far away as Alaska).

You have joined a group of people that represent just about every geographic, demographic and cultural background you can imagine.

You have joined a group that never has been



McClendon

more connected. You will find more professional, regional and special interest alumni chapters than ever before. There are e-mail newsletters, *The Alumni Record*, updates via Facebook, LinkedIn, Plaxo and MySpace.

I believe you will be happy to find plenty of activities with your fellow alumni. There are (and have been) spring activities for those in the nursing, accounting, and even performing arts industries, among several others. For those who love the water, we will have an MT Day at Nashville Shores in July.

Whatever your interest, take a moment to touch base and let the alumni office know how you want to be involved. Call or e-mail and let us know where you will be and how we can help. Whether it's updating your mailing and e-mail addresses or volunteering to help develop new events wherever

you are, your Alumni Association is here to serve and connect.

Finally, whatever your future plans hold, take a moment and check back in from time to time. We'd always love to hear from you.

Go Blue!



2007-08 MTSU National Alumni Association president
Devin McClendon is a 1996 graduate living in Brentwood with his wife, Laura, and children, Campbell and Maggie. He is an affiliate broker and director of development and marketing with XMi Commercial Real Estate.

Mass Communication recognizes alumni

Stevens, Blakeman, Prater added to Wall of Fame during April 23 ceremony

From staff reports

MTSU's College of Mass Communication added three distinguished alumni to its Wall of Fame during annual awards April 23 in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Joining more than 40 other accomplished graduates on the colleges Wall of Fame for 2008 are

- James Stevens ('03), founder and CEO of James Stevens Design in Nashville;
- Mark Blakeman ('93), vice president of orchestra and building operations and general manager of the Nashville Symphony; and
- Sgt. Maj. Phillip R. Prater ('81), Army Public Affairs.

The event honored those mass communication alumni who have distinguished themselves in the

professional world through their accomplishments as well as juniors, seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their respective areas of study.

During the event, the Office of the Dean also honored a new "Friend of the College" — Debbie Turner, president and general manager of the News Channel 5 Network.

CAMPUS NEWS

New literacy Ph.D. to help rethink, reteach reading

Experienced and successful educators with graduate degrees and a minimum of three years of field experience will be returning to MTSU in the fall because they realize that what they already know about teaching reading isn't enough to transform every child into a skilled reader.

School psychologists, speech-language pathologists, reading teachers, classroom teachers and school administrators at all levels will be among those seeking MTSU's new doctoral degree in literacy studies. This program will address why the National Assessment of Education Progress consistently shows that an average of four out of 10 children fail to read at grade level by fourth grade.

The interdisciplinary doctorate is

based on the idea that narrow expertise in one area does not equip grads to understand the many factors that support successful literacy.

The new program is a first-of-its-kind partnership that has emerged from the Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia at MTSU, a hands-on learning lab that may be the only one of its kind in the nation.

The Dyslexia Center is a unit in the College of Education and Behavioral Science where professionals with different backgrounds work together to improve educational outcomes for children with dyslexia.

To learn more about the new degree, and course requirements, visit mtsu.edu/~literacy/info.html or call 615-898-5642.

— Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

MTSU mourns passing of two faculty members

From staff reports

MTSU witnessed the late winter passings of two longtime faculty members. They were:

- Dr. Leon R. "Lon" Nuell, 68, of Murfreesboro, professor in the



Nuell

Department of Art (faculty member since 1971) and director of Todd Gallery, who died March 12; and

- Dr. David Walker, 69, of Franklin, professor in Speech and Theatre (faculty member since '65), who died March 13.

Nuell's family includes Dr. Christie

Nuell, a fellow MTSU art professor, and sons, Jordan of Minnesota; Isaac, a graduate student in Denver; and Aaron, an MTSU senior majoring in education. A scholarship in Lon Nuell's name has been established in the art department.



Walker

Walker is survived by his wife, Sandra Barnes Walker; son and daughter-in-law David Ellis and Lavinia Walker of Geneva, Switzerland; daughters and sons-in-law Suzy and Derk Frizzell of Houston, Texas, Cindy and Jeff Key of Murfreesboro; and Michelle and Mike Clark of Murfreesboro.

In Memoriam

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

1930s

Ida Payne ('39), Shelbyville, Tenn., died March 6, 2007.

1940s

Dr. Daniel J. MacMillan ('49), Charleston, S.C., died Feb. 9, 2008.

1950s

Charles N. Alley ('58, '62), Mancelona, Mich., died April 3, 2007.

Lois Mitchell Keas ('59, '67), Venice, Fla., died Feb. 1, 2008.

Martha Jane Ketrang ('53), Murfreesboro, died Oct. 3, 2007.

Wayne D. Wilks ('56), North Richland Hills, Texas, died Dec. 16, 2007.

1960s

Miles Frost ('67), White House, Tenn., died Feb. 26, 2008.

Edith Moulton ('63), Rockledge, Fla., died Dec. 11, 2007.

Dr. Joan C. Schmidt ('65), Fort Myers, Fla., died Oct. 16, 2007.

1970s

Walter George Wood ('73), Calhoun, Tenn., died Feb. 22, 2008.

2000s

Jeffrey Davis Limbaugh ('05), Murfreesboro, died Dec. 29, 2007.

Baby

from Page 6

Chelsea Elizabeth Read, born March 26, 2008, to Tracy ('02) and Jack Read of Murfreesboro.

Annabelle K. Redferin, born Jan. 22, 2008, to Jennifer ('04) and James A. Redferin ('04, '05) of Leavenworth, Kan.

Victoria Nicole Russell, born March 24, 2008, to Nicole Lester ('98) and Joe L. Russell II ('89) of Murfreesboro.

William Charles Siegfried, born September 2007, to Karen and Emanuel Siegfried ('04) of Cordova, Tenn.

Arabella Marie Shepherd, born March 5, 2008, to Allison ('04) and Brant Shepherd ('03) of Knoxville, Tenn.

Anna Clay Shirley, born June 11, 2007, to Mary Francis ('00) and Stephen

Shirley ('01) of Murfreesboro.

Walter Joel Simpson II, born Dec. 28, 2007, to Chesley H. ('98) and Gregory J. Simpson of Alexandria, Va.

Stella Jewell Stites, born Aug. 17, 2007, to Stacy ('93) and Phillip Craig Stites of Fort Smith, Ark.

Connor Nathaniel Thomas, born Dec. 6, 2007, to Chassidy Gray ('05) and Chris Thomas of Bethpage, Tenn.

Emma Grace Walton, born Feb. 12, 2008, to Kara Walton ('01) of Havelock, N.C.

Myles Griffin Weaver, born Dec. 6, 2007, to Amanda ('99, '01) and Yok Weaver of Murfreesboro.

Pigskin Pre-Game fundraiser set Aug. 23



Submitted photo

These seven Pigskin Pre-Game attendees were among more than 500 people who helped raise money for the Rutherford County Scholarship fund.

From staff reports

Pigskin Pre-Game football kickoff and Rutherford County Scholarship fundraiser has become a summer staple.

Last year, more than 500 guests enjoyed the food, friends and memories! This year, we want more people involved to raise more money for a great cause.

The football season kicks off on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at home against Sun Belt conference rival Troy University.

“Pigskin Pre-Game kicks off the year when everyone is excited to get the season started and Blue Raider pride is in full gear,” said Paul Wydra, MTSU Office of Alumni Relations assis-

tant director.

This year’s event will be held at the beautiful new home of MTSU alumni Tim (’72) and Pam (’91) Keach, located in Mirabella subdivision.

This event is a fundraiser for the Rutherford County Chapter Scholarship Fund.

“For the 2008-2009 school year, the fund was able to award \$20,000 in scholarships to incoming freshman from Rutherford County. It is a great cause and the Rutherford County Chapter needs the support of the community to keep this great scholarship growing,” Wydra said.

For more details, please visit the Alumni Relations Web site, mtalumni.com. We look forward to seeing you at Pigskin Pre-Game.

Black alumni awards honorees

(Right) Vincent Windrow (’90, ’91, ’94), left, scholarship recipient Shenika Lawrence and Dr. Bob Glenn, vice president for student affairs, attend the African American Awards Ceremony at the Tom H. Jackson Building.

(Far right) Rickey Field (’80), left, and Pippa Meriwether (’84) received African American Alumni Awards from the Black Alumni Society April 26.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Alumna Bonner will guide new Office of Community Engagement and Support

By Lisa L. Rollins lrollins@mtsu.edu

Alumna Dr. Gloria Bonner (’72, ’74, ’77), former dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, has been chosen to lead the Office of



Bonner

Community Engagement and Support, a newly created administrative office that was initiated to support MTSU’s overall mission as it relates to addressing the ever-growing needs of both MTSU and the surrounding community at large.

Bonner’s new OCES appointment as an assistant to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and member of his presidential cabinet, became effective May 1. MTSU will begin a national search later this year to fill the deanship role that Bonner has held for a decade. McPhee appointed Dr. Harold D. “Terry” Whiteside interim dean for one year.

In announcing the creation of the OCES, McPhee said its impetus sprang from “a compelling need for a new office whose mission and focus centered on engaging the community with the overall goals and objectives of the university as it pursues mutually beneficial opportunities and undertakes new challenges.” To learn more, call 615-494-7900.

2008 MT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
Aug. 28 TROY* (ESPN Regional)
Sept. 6 MARYLAND
Sept. 13 at Kentucky
Sept. 20 at Arkansas State*
Sept. 30 FLORIDA ATLANTIC* (ESPN2; “Black-Out” night)
Oct. 4 Open date
Oct. 11 at Florida International*
Oct. 18 at Louisville
Oct. 25 at Mississippi State
Nov. 1 Open date
Nov. 8 LOUISIANA-MONROE* (HC)
Nov. 15 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 22 NORTH TEXAS*
Dec. 3 at Louisiana-Lafayette* (ESPN Regional)
Dec. 19 New Orleans Bowl (ESPN2)
(HC) — Homecoming
For ticket information, visit goblueraiders.com .
HOME games are in bold

MTSU Alumni Day

NASHVILLE

at

SHORES

Water • Sun • Family Fun

Saturday, July 19

Come join us for a fun filled day at Nashville Shores! MTSU Alumni will enjoy a discounted admission of \$20 per person which includes lunch! Many other park activities to be discounted as well!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

For more information and reservations, call the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878 or visit www.mtalumni.com.

Alumni SUMMER COLLEGE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Exploring Our Heritage

June 25 - 27, 2008

Enjoy two and a half days of fun, fellowship, and interesting classes and tours at our very first Alumni Summer College.

Backyard barbecue picnic *Scavenger Hunt*

MTSU Memory Project

Press Box Lunch *Tennessee Miller Coliseum*

"How Nashville Became Music City" with guest speaker Robert K. Oermann

Raiders at the Ryman Auditorium

Grand Ole Opry Show and Backstage Tour

and much more . . .

For more information, please visit www.mtalumni.com.

Call 1-800-533-6878 to register.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Registration deadline: June 10, 2008