

# THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

December 2010 Vol. 8 / No. 2

## Alumni Survey charts future course

### Association seeks your input, ideas as next 100 years get under way

From the Office of Alumni Relations [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com)

Since 1911, MTSU has helped change the lives of more than 100,000 people through the conferring of undergraduate and graduate degrees. As we approach our 100th birthday, it is a time for reflection on our growth and progress, but, more importantly, it offers a chance to look at the lives we've touched along the way and explore ways that we can continue to serve you during the next 100 years.

To better understand your needs and opinions, the Alumni Office will be conducting a comprehensive survey of our alumni during January 2011. With nearly 100,000 living alumni, your voice can

have an impact on the course and scope of future alumni programming. This is your time to have critical input on shaping the services and events offered by the MTSU Alumni Association.

As an alumnus, your participation in this survey is crucial. The survey will be used as the main tool to gauge the interests of our alumni in the activities and programs we offer as well as reflect on the university as a whole. You will be asked about a variety of topics, ranging from our alumni events and programming and preferred or desired services to your opinions and perception of the university as a whole. The survey typically takes around 15 minutes to complete, and while we apologize in advance for its length, we promise the

results will serve as a catalyst for future programming and be the springboard for better utilization of our resources.

The Alumni Survey will be distributed via e-mail only. We encourage you to take a moment to ensure your records with us include an updated e-mail address, which will enable you to participate in the survey and secure your opportunity to share your thoughts with us. You may add, change or confirm your e-mail address by joining the Alumni Online Community at [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com). We thank you in advance for your participation in this survey. The feedback from alumni like you will help direct our path into the future!

## The perfect homecoming

### Great weather, crowds, victory spell success for autumn activities

By Rhonda Wright King [rwking@mtsu.edu](mailto:rwking@mtsu.edu)

Homecoming 2010 weekend's beautiful weather brought huge crowds to campus to celebrate Oct. 22-23.

The Golden Raiders Society welcomed its newest members from the Class of 1960 on Friday.

Actor Lane Davies ('72) wrapped filming just in time to catch the red-eye from Los Angeles to lead the Homecoming Parade as grand marshal on Saturday morning.

Hundreds of alumni and university friends watched the parade from The Alumni House at the fifth annual Mixer on Middle, where Chip Walters ('85), the "Voice of the Blue Raiders"

(See 'Homecoming,' Page 4)



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Parade Grand Marshal Lane Davies ('72) tosses candy to the crowd along Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

## University set to unveil Centennial website

By Randy Weiler [jweiler@mtsu.edu](mailto:jweiler@mtsu.edu)

Things will be swirling as the new year begins when it comes to the university's 2011 Centennial Celebration happenings.

Around Jan. 1, MTSU alumni and friends will be able to go online and view the new Centennial

website at [www.mtsu.edu/centennial](http://www.mtsu.edu/centennial).

"We're all working to get the website up and running Jan. 1," said Doug Williams, executive director of marketing and communications. "We're looking forward to it going live."

Alumni, university friends and others interested in MTSU's Centennial will be able to find

special events – the Sept. 9 blue-tie gala kickoff dinner at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro will be the first – along with history, photographs and other features on the site.

(See 'Centennial,' Page 2)

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## Networking with MTSU alumni

MTSU alumni recently gathered for several networking events, making important business contacts and meeting other alums from their area. Future networking events are being planned; be sure to check [mtalumni.com](http://mtalumni.com) for upcoming activities. From left, Blake Woodlee ('10), Jonathan Taylor ('07) and Jonathon Clayton ('09) meet at a Murfreesboro networking event at Bobby McKee's restaurant.

### LOOK FOR ALUMNI SURVEY IN JANUARY!

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## THE ALUMNI RECORD

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# Our newest college

## Behavioral and Health Sciences forms as part of McPhee's Repositioning University for the Future

By Gina K. Logue [gklogue@mtsu.edu](mailto:gklogue@mtsu.edu)

The educational disciplines that focus on service to society are now under one umbrella at MTSU. As part of President Sidney A. McPhee's Repositioning the University for the Future Initiative, the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences has been created and is taking its first steps toward the future.

With the departments of criminal justice, health and human performance, human sciences and psychology leaving the College of Education, the new college also welcomed the Department of Social Work from the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Nursing from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. In addition, communication disorders moved from the Department of Speech and Theatre to the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Joining the academic departments are the Centers for Health and Human Services, Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness and the Center for Physical Activity and Health for Youth, as well as the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare; the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic; and the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services.

"We really see ourselves as a research-powerful operation for getting grants and other opportunities because of cross-collaboration between disciplines," says Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside, dean of the college.

Whiteside views the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, in particular, as a grant-management operation that will serve other departments, help with paperwork and identify additional grants.

Dr. Rick Short, associate dean, says the former College of Education and Behavioral Science understandably gravitated overwhelmingly toward teacher education. The reorganization not only provides education with its own point of

focus, but it enables the other disciplines that share a common thread to become part of the same fabric.

Behavioral and Health Sciences' mission statement reads, in part, that it "coalesces around a student-centered approach to provide reality-based, direct learning experiences that serve graduates as well as future professionals. These experiences also prepare students to enter competitive graduate programs in their respective areas of interest and disciplines."

Whiteside says he takes an egalitarian approach to administration, and that means the process of fashioning this new college must be inclusive.

"I didn't come in here to dictate anything to anybody," Whiteside says. "So the mission statement is a collaboration of all of us. The strategic plan is a collaboration of all of us."

"The next process for the strategic planning committee ... will be setting up goals and identifying opportunities and then setting a timeline for that," adds Short. "Typically, strategic planning is on a five-year horizon. So we'll at least have a sense of where we'll be in five years or where we'll want to be in five years."

What does all this mean for students and alumni? As a practical matter, teaching and learning will continue as usual. Graduates who wish to make donations may do so for their particular departments or for the university as a whole. Whiteside says e-mail explaining all the particulars will be sent in the near future.

Lucie Burchfield is the college's point person for the Office of Development. To contact her, call 615-898-5032 or send an e-mail to [lpburch@mtsu.edu](mailto:lpburch@mtsu.edu).



Whiteside

## Centennial

## from Page 2

A historical timeline will allow viewers to chronicle the university through the years by decades (starting with 1911, 1921, 1931, etc.) in words and photographs.

"It's pretty detailed," said Dr. Jim Williams, chairman of the Timeline and History Subcommittee. "As time goes on, it gets even more detailed. There's text for each decade."

Jim Williams, who also serves as director of the Albert Gore Research Center in the Todd Building, said it's important for people to note the Centennial Timeline rationale "of what we did and didn't include." He added that he and the committee "hope departments across campus have a historical sketch or timeline on their own (web) pages, and we'll link it to ours."

Another popular feature will be the scrapbook or memory section, where photographs through the years will be spotlighted.

"Even if alumni or friends of MTSU live far away, this will be a way to communicate with classmates from the university by posting your comments on that," Doug Williams said. "It will be a place to put photos. You can e-mail them in and we'll post them."

"The scrapbook will have a feature where people can share their memories or photographs," Jim Williams added. "Hopefully, we'll archive those photos so it's something that's more permanent."

There will be an audio/visual section where memories will be posted on the Centennial website, Doug Williams

added.

A countdown clock also will be a part of the site. The clock will count down the days, hours and minutes until the blue-tie gala.

MTSU opened Sept. 11, 1911.



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**[www.mtsu.edu/centennial](http://www.mtsu.edu/centennial) will be the website alumni and  
friends can visit starting on or soon after Jan. 1, 2011.**



# Alexander provides gifts for students

By Tom Tozer [ttozer@mtsu.edu](mailto:ttozer@mtsu.edu)

The ball started rolling when an MTSU Phonathon student called Mary Neal Alexander ('41) for a pledge. She committed \$100 and mailed in \$1,000. Later, she raised her contribution to \$10,000, then established an endowed scholarship of \$30,000. Now Alexander is taking it to a higher level.

Could it be that she still feels a strong connection to the Middle Tennessee State Teachers College from the late 1930s because of its commitment, even then, to students?

"The teachers who were there when I was there ... they had our best interests at heart. I don't think it was a matter of just grinding us out like a sausage mill," said the home-demonstration and home-economics major. "They cared about us."

Alexander lived in what's now the Percy Priest Lake area and was home-schooled as a child. After high school, her mother sent her to what was then David Lipscomb College, at that time a two-year school.

"My mother was determined that I get an education," Alexander said. "I had an eye problem, and the doctor told me not to go back to school for a year. After that time, I came to Murfreesboro. All the dorm rooms were taken.

"Someone told me about a new teacher coming in and said that I could stay in her house. ... It turned out she was the head of the home-economics department. I said no way was I going to stay with her, because that's what I was majoring in!

"My mother asked me if I wanted to live at home or stay with the new teacher," Alexander continued. "That settled that. Ms. (Carrie) Hodges and I became the best of friends, until her death many years later."

The State Teachers College didn't offer courses in home management, Alexander's primary area of interest. "But I really got that training living with her," Alexander recalled of her mentor.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Mary Neal Alexander's gifts will continue to provide scholarships for MTSU students for years to come. Her pledges began when an MTSU Phonathon student called.

Later, the department was renamed Family and Consumer Science. "Sounds more fancy," Alexander quipped.

After graduation from college, Alexander was one of three women recruited by the UT Extension Service. She spent the next 31 years helping people in rural areas get electricity and learn how to use electric stoves, refrigerators and freezers. She helped farmers install and operate electric milk coolers and, later, she stuffed cotton mattresses.

A scholarship made possible by Alexander's generosity will be available to "the underdog," as she puts it, and not just to students with a high GPA.

Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations, said her gift is "yet another example of the goodwill that MTSU has tried to preserve with our alumni and friends."

# Kennon bequest aids MTSU

By Tom Tozer [ttozer@mtsu.edu](mailto:ttozer@mtsu.edu)

A \$3.6 million bequest left by Emmett Kennon ('38), who passed away in October 2009 at the age of 94, will benefit the university in the form of student scholarships and enhancements to MTSU athletics.

"Of the total \$3.6 million, about \$3 million was earmarked for scholarships, and \$600,000 was given to the athletic department to use at their discretion to meet program needs," said Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations. "Since we have actually received part of this settlement of the Kennon estate, we have already made plans on how we would utilize the funds. We're looking forward to fulfilling the vision that Mr. Kennon had for the university."

Of the \$3 million for student scholarships, \$1 million will be put in the new Centennial Scholars program, which will ultimately support 10 students throughout their college career. The program is designed to attract some of the best students in the region, Bales said.

The remaining \$2 million will go into a general scholarship endowment that will be unrestricted and allow the financial-aid office to support the needs of many students each year. Unrestricted money can be awarded to help students across campus regardless of their field of study.

Chris Massaro, director of athletics, said about half of the \$600,000 earmarked for athletics will go toward expanding and improving the facilities. Another portion of the athletic gift will be used to maintain and support the Emmett and Rose Kennon Sports Hall of Fame.

## International alumni profile

(Sixth in a series)

**Name:** Samantha Emerson  
**U.S. hometown:** Liberty, Tenn.

**International locations:** Costa Rica and Chile  
**Additional information:** May 2010 MTSU and University Honors College graduate who studied psychology. Graduated with distinction (3.9 GPA) and summa cum laude. Her honors thesis was "Learning New Rhythms: The Relationship Between Music Aptitude and Second Language Proficiency." ... She is pursuing master's and Ph.D. degrees in cognitive psychology at Georgia State University.



Emerson

**About her experience:** Spending time in Costa Rica "actually changed my life. We had some interesting opportunities to explore. Each day, we were exposed to something new: volcanoes, crocodiles and monkeys, a butterfly habitat, beautiful waterfalls, riding on the back of a water buffalo, visiting an organic pineapple farm and going to several local schools. This is barely scraping the surface of my experience there. ... The next summer, I spent six weeks in Chile. I'm currently trying to get things in order to do part of my research for my master's thesis in Spain this coming summer. ... I love spreading the word about the study-abroad program. Go by the Study Abroad office in Peck Hall and do it."

## CALENDAR

### Campus events

#### December

- Dec. 1 A Clarinet Christmas\*
- Dec. 1 Twas the Brass before Christmas\*
- Dec. 2 Jazz Nutcracker\*
- Dec. 2-4 Fall Dance Concert\*\*
- Dec. 3 MTSU Guitar Ensembles\*
- Dec. 3 First Friday Star Party – "Long Wavelength Astronomy" by Chuck Higgins\*\*\*
- Dec. 5 MTSU Symphony Orchestra\*
- Dec. 5-6 Handel's "Messiah"\*
- Dec. 7 MTSU Symphonic Band/Brass Ensemble/Chamber Winds\*
- Dec. 8 MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble\*
- Dec. 18 MTSU Fall Commencement, Murphy Center; ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.\*\*\*\*

#### January 2011

- Jan. 21 Angela Deboer faculty horn recital
- Jan. 23 H. Stephen Smith, tenor; Joseph Walker, piano; faculty recital – Schubert's Winterreise\*

#### February

- Feb. 4 MTSU Wind Ensemble\*
- Feb. 10 MTSU Concert Chorale\*
- Feb. 15 MTSU Jazz Ensemble II\*
- Feb. 17 MTSU Jazz Ensemble I\*
- Feb. 20 "La Boheme" – MTSU Concert Chorale and Middle Tennessee Choral Society\*
- Feb. 21 Arunesh Nadgir faculty piano recital\*
- Feb. 23-26 "Medea" by Euripides
- Feb. 27 MTSU Symphony Orchestra\*
- Feb. 28 MTSU Women's Chorale\*

For more information, go to:

\*[www.mtsu.music.com](http://www.mtsu.music.com)

\*\* [www.mtsu.edu/theatre](http://www.mtsu.edu/theatre)

\*\*\* [www.mtsu.edu/physics/physics\\_calendar.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/physics/physics_calendar.shtml)

\*\*\*\* [www.mtsu.edu/news/gradlist/grad\\_info.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/news/gradlist/grad_info.shtml)

**Note:** All dates, times, locations are subject to change.





Golden Raider Bettye Barron Allen ('60, '73), right, visits with family friend Melanie Fuller and her children, Katherine Mae, 1, and Virginia Anne, 3, during homecoming pregame festivities.



Thomas Henry Sesler, son of Mark ('92) and Beth Sesler, engineered the Blue City Express to a first place finish in the Baby Raider Ride Contest.



WSMV meteorologist Nancy Van Camp ('95) joins Voice of the Blue Raiders Chip Walters ('85) to announce the 2010 Homecoming Parade at Mixer on Middle.



Blue Raiders' fans know how to barbeque during tailgating in Walnut Grove.



Alumni get their gear for the game at the Alumni Relations tent during tailgating in Walnut Grove.



Officers from the class of 1960 meet at the Golden Raiders Reunion. Sue Steagall Jones, left, was senior class treasurer, Bill "Bullet" Boyers was senior class president and Sandra Cowart Stott was senior class secretary.

# Homecoming from Page 1

in football-game radio broadcasts, and WSMV meteorologist Nancy Van Camp ('95) announced this year's parade. Kroger sponsored breakfast, and the National Alumni Association provided homecoming souvenir photos.

Blue Raider Bookstore sponsored the second Baby Raider Ride Contest, where "Thomas' Blue City Express," with Thomas Henry Sesler, son of Mark ('92) and Beth Sesler, aboard, earned first place. Jackson and Haiden Faulk, children of Erik and Becca ('02) Faulk, along with Kaitlyn and Weston Hardy, children of Edd ('03) and Lisa ('02) Hardy, rode a big MT football helmet to second place. Macey Hannah, daughter of Matt ('01) and Mandy Hannah, and James Adcock, son of Jayme and Amy ('03) Adcock, guided the "True Blue Taxi" to a third-place showing.

Alumni Homecoming Queens and Kings joined the newly crowned 2010 Homecoming Queen Ashley Brooks and King Brandon T. Batts on the field during halftime of the game, where the Blue Raiders earned a 38-10 victory against the Warhawks of University of Louisiana-Monroe.



Newly crowned Homecoming King Brandon T. Batts, left, and Queen Ashley Brooks, right, celebrate with MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Elizabeth McPhee during the game.

Homecoming photos by Andy Heidt and J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services





Jack Ross/MTSU Photographic Services



## MTSU serves as host for TBR's fall meeting

MTSU rolled out the "blue" carpet Sept. 23-24 for the Tennessee Board of Regents' fall meeting. TBR business was held in Hinton Hall of the Wright Music Building. Lunch was served Sept. 23 in the Tom H. Jackson Building's Cantrell Hall, and attendees enjoyed dinner in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room. President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Elizabeth "Liz" McPhee also entertained the visitors from across the state at their home. TBR retiring Chancellor Charles Manning and his wife, Dr. Sherry Manning, above, react after he was given a patchwork quilt with symbols of the TBR universities and community colleges across the state. Unveiling the quilt are Student Regents Sean Ochsenbein, left,

of Tennessee Tech University and Casey Lyn McCullum of MTSU. At top right, McPhee, left, alumna and MTSU College of Education Dean Lana Seivers ('72) and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen discuss higher education at the President's home. And at right, the president jokes with Maxine Smith, a former TBR board member, and Regent Jonas Kisber. One of the MTSU-related highlights came Sept. 24 when the Master of Science in Professional Science program received the TBR Academic Excellence Award for 2010. Program Director Saeed Foroudastan, associate dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, accepted the award along with McPhee.



Don Wright Designs

## 'Pigskin' party raises nearly \$10K

(Clockwise from top left) Lindsey Stewart, Kelly Hopkins ('98), Ashlie McLaury ('96) and Wendy Duncan ('97, '01) enjoy a beautiful evening at the annual Pigskin Pre-Game party. The event was attended by more than 400 people and raised almost \$10,000 to benefit the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship Fund, which annually provides scholarships to incoming freshman students from Rutherford County.



We are now accepting nominations for the  
2011 - 2012

### *Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards*

The Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association annually seeks and accepts nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards. The selection is made from candidates who have distinguished themselves by attaining a high level of service to their profession, their community and/or Middle Tennessee State University.

Nominations are sought in the following categories:

- Distinguished Alumni - Professional Achievement
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the Community
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the University
- Young Alumni Achievement Award

To view nomination and selection criteria as well as obtain a nomination form,

- visit [www.mtalumni.com](http://www.mtalumni.com) for a downloadable version, or
- call the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878

Nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 2011.  
Nominations are valid for three years.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1950s

**Dwight Ogle** ('52), Rowlett, Texas, has retired from AstraZenica Pharmaceuticals after 22 years of service.

## 1960s

**Jim Free** ('69, '72), Washington, D.C., received the Country Music Association's Chairman's Award for his work in Washington on behalf of the CMA Board of Directors.

**Kenneth Bill "Chief" Robertson** ('67, '76), Cleveland, Tenn., has retired after 42 years of coaching and continues duties as an administrator at Bradley County High School.

**Kathryn Stewart** ('69), Winchester, Tenn., has retired from the Franklin County School System. She taught home economics and English and served as food service supervisor.

## 1970s

**H. Joe Cathey Sr.** ('71), Nashville, Tenn., was elected to the Board of Directors for the Buchanan Log House Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

**John Pitts** ('78), Muscle Shoals, Ala., recently won the Louisiana/Mississippi AP Managing Editors: Best Headline Award and the Mississippi Press Association: Best Sports Column and Best Headline awards.

**Stanley Wright** ('79), Henderson, Nev., has retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after 30 years of federal government service.

## 1980s

**Tracy Bumpus** ('88), Maryville, Tenn., is marketing coordinator for Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon Inc. of Knoxville, Tenn.

**David M. Jackson** ('87), Franklin, Tenn., is first vice president for Merrill Lynch/Bank of America and was recognized in *Barron's* as one of the "Top 1000 Financial Advisers for 2009."

## 1990s

**Amanda Hope Ellis-Ashburn** ('93), Whitwell, Tenn., received her fifth consecutive Outstanding Specialist Award from the Jobs for America's Graduates National Training Seminar.

**Carol Cox** ('93, '96), Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., is program manager for the Centerstone Foster Parent Program in southeast Tennessee.

**Angela Layton** ('99), Joelton, Tenn., was named the meeting planner of the year by Meeting Professionals International Tennessee Chapter.

**Veronica Edwards Milnar** ('90, '91, '93), Murfreesboro, is president-elect of the Tennessee Music Teachers Association.

**Jennifer Pasalakis** ('98), Nolensville, Tenn., recently was honored by Thirty-One Gifts in Columbus, Ohio with three of the top five categories for the 2009-10 sales year, top in sales, top in consistency and top in team sales.

**Sue Patrick** ('91), Woodbury, Tenn., is first vice president of the Woodbury Lions Club for 2010.

## 2000s

**Dr. Arlene F. Chisley-Wade** ('04), Lawrenceville, Ga., earned a doctorate degree in computer science from Colorado Technical University.

**John Elder** ('00), Maryville, Tenn., is an attorney with Paine, Tarwater and Bickers LLP and received the Pro Bono Partner Award from Legal Aid of East Tennessee.

**Wendy Johnson Fawcett** ('04), Chicago, Ill., received her Juris Doctor degree from the John Marshall Law School.

**John Festervand** ('04), Oxford, Miss., is a major gifts officer for the University of Mississippi Meek School of Journalism and News Media.

**Scott Griswold** ('03, '06), Knoxville, Tenn., is an attorney with Paine, Tarwater and Bickers LLP and received the Pro Bono Advocate Award from Legal Aid of East Tennessee.

**Meagan Frazier Grosvenor** ('01), Burns, Tenn., is president of the 2010-11 Board of Directors for the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.

**Sandie Johnson** ('07), Murfreesboro, has been promoted to senior staff at Deloitte & Touche LLP.

**Moulton P. LeBlanc** ('06), Franklin, Tenn., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

**Eric Little** ('08), Murfreesboro, has been chosen by the Fulbright Scholarship Committee to represent the United States as a teacher in Portugal.

**Joshua McKenzie** ('08), Chicago, Ill., is the assistant director of orientation and parent programs at Northwestern University.

**Megan Parker Peters** ('05), Murfreesboro, is an educational consultant and psychologist for Vanderbilt University's Programs for Talented Youth.

**Joe Parlow** ('99, '02), Murfreesboro, is an electrical project manager for Harlan Electric.

**Amanda McRight Relyea** ('08), Nolensville, Tenn., is the credentialing program manager for the International City/County Management Association in Washington, D.C.

**Jeremy Rush** ('02), Hendersonville, Tenn., is media-relations manager for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

**Ryan Sanders** ('03), Reston, Va., is director of pastoral ministries at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va.

**Amy Schisler** ('09), Lawrenceburg, Tenn., is a legal assistant to the general counsel of the Tennessee Military Department.

**Ryan Spahn** ('01), Joppa, Md., has joined the Baltimore, Md.-based creative agency Mission Media.

**Emily Shrum** ('04), Antioch, Tenn., has been promoted to manager at Deloitte & Touche LLP.

**Mandie Thacker** ('06), Knoxville, Tenn., is the director of the Center for Servant Leadership at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Tenn.

## Baby Raiders

**Bruce Christian Batson**, born May 17, 2010, to Brian and **Christina Sears Batson** ('01) of Ball Ground, Ga.

**Zadie Rose Bridges**, born Feb. 18, 2010 to Ben and **Candace Parker Bridges** ('01) of Bethpage, Tenn.

**Dizzy Allen Brown**, born Aug. 2, 2010, to Andy and **Tanya Brown** ('04) of Decherd, Tenn.

**Paisley Violet Darrell**, born March 15, 2010, to **Michael** ('92, '03) and **Jenny Johnson Darrell** ('91) of Nashville, Tenn.

**Kensington Frazier Grosvenor**, born June 22, 2010, to Jerry and **Meagan Frazier Grosvenor** ('01) of Burns, Tenn.

**Benjamin Matthew King**, born June 18, 2010, to **Christopher** ('03) and Rebecca **King** 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.*

**Kirk Edward Albright** ('94), Centerville, Tenn., passed away Dec. 2, 2008.

**Kristen Lynn Bailey** ('06), Memphis, Tenn., passed away June 17, 2010.

**Nora Anniece Barber** ('90), Moss Point, Miss., passed away April 24, 2009.

**James Barnes** ('62), McEwen, Tenn., passed away Oct. 14, 2009.

**Mary Elizabeth White Davenport** ('51), Murfreesboro, passed away Aug. 7, 2010.

**Charles Ernest Francis** ('57, '59), Starke, Fla., passed away Aug. 17, 2010.

**Herbert Jones** ('63), Murfreesboro, passed away July 30, 2010.

**Peter S. LaPaglia** ('66, '72), Murfreesboro, passed away June 10, 2008.

**Edward Oliver** ('45), McMinnville, Tenn., passed away Feb. 10, 2010.

**Milburn T. (Pete) Riggins** ('60), Calico Rock, Ark., passed away June 10, 2009.

**Regina A. Warden** ('70), Sierra Vista, Ariz., passed away Dec. 23, 2009.

## MTSU notes the passing of retirees Morris, Harrison

Alumna and longtime director of public relations Dorothy W. "Dot" Harrison ('72), 75, passed away Sept. 8. She became PR director in September 1976 and remained in that capacity about 20 years before moving to the MTSU Foundation. Harrison received an international award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education for establishing a program for retired faculty members at MTSU and the Otis Floyd Award from the Tennessee College Public Relations Association.

Dr. Larry Wayne Morris, 71, who joined the MTSU psychology department in 1969 and served as department chair from 1983 until his retirement in 2003, passed away Sept. 10. He researched, published and made significant contributions in the fields of anxiety, its components and its effects on performance and the personality theories of extraversion and introversion.

## Oppmann is named associate VP for marketing and communications

Andrew Oppmann is the new associate vice president for the Office of Marketing and Communications at MTSU, replacing Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, university President Sidney A. McPhee announced. Oppmann, former president and publisher of *The Daily News Journal* in Murfreesboro, began his duties Nov. 8.

"We are pleased to have found a strong communicator with national experience — but also close to home — to lead our efforts," McPhee said.

Oppmann's journalism career spans 25 years. He had been with the *DNJ* since 2007 and also served as a vice president with *The Tennessean*. A University of Kentucky graduate and a Hopkinsville, Ky., native, he and his wife, Elise, live in Murfreesboro with daughters Emily 11; Sarah, 9; and Rachel, 5.



Oppmann



# Abundance of achievements

## Alumni president touts MTSU's successes, activities for all graduates

As 2010 quickly comes to a close, I want to take the opportunity to share with you some of the events your alumni association and staff have been privileged to join.

Activities this semester enjoyed by various affinity groups, both young and old and from near and far, included the MT Alumni Legacy Golf Tournament; the Rutherford County Pigskin Pre-Game; MT Nights at the Nashville Sounds, Memphis Redbirds and Chattanooga Lookouts; several Young Alumni Networking events; football pregame events in Memphis and Atlanta; our annual Mixer on Middle; Golden Raiders induction ceremony; Homecoming 2010; and Cooking for Habitat.

These activities continue to grow each year, leading to more excitement and pride around our university. But activities for our alumni are not the only thing to be excited about. Here are few highlights of happenings with your alma mater:

- MTSU is the No. 1 choice of undergraduates in the state of Tennessee, and we continue to attract more of the state's top student scholars;
- on the national level, two MTSU Honors College students received Fulbright Awards, and Jasmine Gray, an MTSU Honors College and McNair Scholars Program student, was named

to the 2010 *USA Today* All-Academic First Team;

- for the fourth year in a row, the *Princeton Review* included MTSU in its rankings of the best colleges and universities in the South. This follows the 2009 *Forbes* listing of MTSU as the best public university in Tennessee and among the top 100 nationally.

- MTSU was selected to serve as home for the internationally recognized Confucius Institute, one of only two in Tennessee;

- MTSU's Department of Aerospace is home to the largest University Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) in the country;

- Since joining the Sun Belt Conference in 2000-01, the MTSU Athletic Department has earned more Vic Bubas Cup All-Sports trophies than any other school in the league;

- the MTSU Recording Industry Program has the largest audio-production and music business program of any school in the nation;

- MTSU has been recognized in the top 15 percent of military-friendly universities in the United States, according to *GI Jobs* magazine;



- MTSU enrolled a record number of students, 26,400, in the fall semester; and
- MTSU prepares to kick off its Centennial Celebration year on Sept. 9, 2011, with a Centennial Gala.

Doesn't this list just give credence to our branding claims of "Tennessee's Best" and "Excitement Lives Here." Every year brings more and more value to our degrees and the experience the current students are receiving. I hope to see you on campus soon to experience the excitement.

On behalf of the National Alumni Association Board, we wish each of you a prosperous and healthy 2011 and invite you to join us as we celebrate our Centennial.

*MTSU National Alumni Association President Beth Barber Jones received her B.S. in 1999. She has been a sales rep for Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health since 2004. She and her husband, Andy ('96), live in Columbia, Tenn.*

## MTSU alumni and friends go '9 to 5' at TPAC

Bryan ('10) and Stacey Morgan joined other MTSU alumni and friends for a preshow reception before the production of "9 to 5: The Musical" at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, Tenn., earlier this fall. Make sure your e-mail address is updated with the Office of Alumni Relations for priority information on events like these.

Alumni Relations photo



## Rogers, McNally to speak Dec. 18 at graduation

By Paula Morton [pmorton@mtsu.edu](mailto:pmorton@mtsu.edu)

A projected 1,750 degree candidates will graduate during the 2010 Fall Commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 18, at MTSU, officials announced.

Of this total, 1,466 candidates will receive undergraduate degrees, said Ann S. Reaves, assistant director for graduation in the Records Office, and 284 students will receive graduate degrees. On the graduate level, 213 master's degrees, 12 education-specialist degrees and five Doctor of Philosophy degrees will be awarded. Two of the Ph.D. degrees will be posthumous awards.

The morning ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, in Murphy Center on the MTSU campus, with J. Stanley Rogers ('61), senior partner with the Rogers & Duncan law firm in Manchester, Tenn., delivering the commencement address.

The morning ceremony will honor graduates in the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education and College of Mass Communication.

The afternoon ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. in Murphy Center with State Sen. Randy McNally, R-5th District, addressing the graduates.

The afternoon ceremony celebrates graduates from the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Behavioral and Health Sciences and Liberal Arts, and the University College.



Rogers



McNally

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Ricketts makes historic drive

Dr. Cliff Ricketts, 34-year veteran professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, drove a specially adapted 1994 Toyota Tercel more than 500 miles from Bristol, Va., to West Memphis, Ark., Nov. 1, using no gas. His fuel sources were the sun and hydrogen gleaned from water. Ricketts' next goal: drive coast to coast using only 10 gallons of gas.

### MTSU breaks ground on dairy

University officials held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new dairy facility at the MTSU Farm, located at 3001 Guy James Road, on Nov. 15. The \$2.7 million facility will replace the Stark Dairy on Manson Pike.

### MT is on military-friendly list

MTSU has landed in the top 15 percent of military-friendly schools in the United States, according to a survey by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. Tennessee's largest undergraduate university currently enrolls nearly 1,000 veterans. The university's Military Center, established in 2009, is a major reason for MTSU's high ranking in the publication's Military-Friendly Schools 2011 List.

### ASCAP, MTSU partner

MTSU's Department of Recording Industry and the Nashville office of ASCAP are turning education into careers with a successful songwriting partnership, "Partners in Craft." The program began in 2006 at MTSU and matches students with veteran songwriting and publishing mentors. MTSU and ASCAP celebrated on Sept. 24 as fall-semester mentors met with students in Commercial Songwriting and Advanced Songwriting classes at the ASCAP building in Nashville.

### Phi Kappa Phi earns acclaim

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi recently recognized the campus chapter at MTSU as a Chapter of Excellence. MTSU received the award at the organization's national biennial convention last month in Kansas City, Mo., for its efforts in recognizing and promoting academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engaging the community of scholars in service to others.

"This is really a prestigious honor for MTSU and for its Phi Kappa Phi chapter," said MTSU Honors Dean Dr. John Vile, PKP board member and past president.





Alumni Relations photos



## Alumni follow Blue Raiders to Atlanta

(Above) Blue Raider fans fill Engine 11 for a pregame gathering before the MTSU vs. Georgia Tech college football game Oct. 16. (At right), former MTSU volleyball player LaTresa Cunningham ('02), left, reunites with MTSU Alumni Association Secretary Mary "Beanie" Secrest ('74) at the alumni networking event held Oct. 15 in Atlanta.

# Alumna golfer's 'Big Break'

By Randy Weiler [jweiler@mtsu.edu](mailto:jweiler@mtsu.edu)

While waiting to someday reach the LPGA Tour, former MTSU Lady Raider Taryn Durham cherished a once-in-a-lifetime experience this summer.

Durham ('08) was an invited participant in The Golf Channel's 13th season of "The Big Break" series.

"It was awesome. I had a really great time," Durham said, speaking by phone from her home in Glasgow, Ky. "I met a lot of nice girls who are now my friends."

Durham made the final four, which meant she appeared on eight episodes.

For Durham, the former Lady Raiders' standout and 2006 Sun Belt Conference champion, "Big Break" was a grueling experience. On most days, the players awakened by 4:30 or 5 a.m. after going to bed as late as midnight.



Durham

Being on "Big Break" and making the top four was the highlight to her 2010 season. Durham, 24, made only four of 14 cuts and finished 137th on the LPGA Futures Tour, which is considered "the road to the LPGA."

"I just didn't have a good year," said Durham, who was headed to a practice round of golf – a daily ritual – at her home course, Glasgow Country Club, soon after the interview. "I just didn't putt well."

In November, Durham participated in The Futures Qualifying School near Winter Haven, Fla.

Durham studied communication disorders at MTSU.

As a Lady Raider, Durham captured seven tournaments and was a four-time All-Sun Belt choice. Her golf resume also includes winning the 2005 Kentucky State Amateur Championship. Another career highlight: earning a berth in the 2007 U.S. Women's Open at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C. She missed the cut.

## ALUMNI MAKING WAVES

Dr. Steven M. Corey ('93) recently was named the 27th president of Olivet College in Michigan. Corey was elected by a vote of Olivet's board of trustees.

Corey has served as executive vice president of Prescott (Ariz.) College since 2001.

"Olivet's passion and excitement for the future of the college is strong and clear, and we have a bright future ahead of us," Corey said. "I look forward to joining the community to set a course for 2020 and beyond, where we optimize our ability to help students achieve their personal aspirations and go out into their communities to make a positive difference in the world."

Corey, whose appointment is effective Dec. 13, earned a Master of Arts degree from MTSU. He earned his doctorate from the University of Arizona in 2007 and his Master of Business Administration from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn., in '98. His family includes his wife, Traci, and a daughter, Karli.



Corey

## MT Raiders 2010-11

Dec. 4 at SIU-Edwardsville	7 p.m.
Dec. 7 at Belmont	7:15 p.m.
<b>Dec. 12 Furman (DH) (ESPN3.com)</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Dec. 18 at Evansville	2:05 p.m.
<b>Dec. 21 Vanderbilt (CSS)</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 29 Tennessee State</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 2 at South Alabama* (DH)	4:05 p.m.
<b>Jan. 6 North Texas*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 8 at Louisiana-Lafayette* (DH)	7:05 p.m.
<b>Jan. 13 Florida Atlantic*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 15 at Arkansas State*	7:05 p.m.
<b>Jan. 20 Troy* (ESPN3.com)</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 22 Denver* (Legends Night)</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 27 at Florida Atlantic*	6 p.m.
Jan. 29 at Florida International* (DH)	6 p.m.
<b>Feb. 3 Louisiana-Monroe*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 5 South Alabama* (DH)</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Feb. 10 at Western Kentucky*	7 p.m.
<b>Feb. 12 Fla. International*(DH)(CSS)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Feb. 17 at Troy*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19 at Ark.-Little Rock* (CSS)	3 p.m.
Feb. 22 at Houston Baptist	7:35 p.m.
<b>Feb. 26 Western Kentucky*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>

March 5-8 Sun Belt Conference Tournament at Hot Springs, Ark.  
**Home games in bold**  
 \* — Sun Belt Conference game  
 All times Central; times and dates subject to change.  
 For November results, visit [goblueraiders.com](http://goblueraiders.com).

## Lady Raiders 2010-11

Dec. 1 at Tennessee Tech	8 p.m.
Dec. 3 at Georgia Tech	6 p.m.
Dec. 7 at U. of Central Florida	11 a.m.
<b>Dec. 9 Xavier</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 12 James Madison</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>
Dec. 20 vs. St. Bonaventure#	4 p.m.
Dec. 21 vs. Kansas State#	5 p.m.
Dec. 29 at Kentucky (FSN South)	5 p.m.
Jan. 2 at South Alabama*(DH)	2 p.m.
<b>Jan. 5 North Texas*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 8 at Louisiana-Lafayette* (DH)	2 p.m.
<b>Jan. 12 Florida Atlantic*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Jan. 16 at Arkansas State*(CSS)	Noon
<b>Jan. 19 Troy*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 23 Denver* (CSS)</b>	<b>Noon</b>
Jan. 26 at Florida Atlantic*	6 p.m.
Jan. 29 at Fla. International* (DH)	3:30 p.m.
<b>Feb. 2 Louisiana-Monroe</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 5 South Alabama* (DH)</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Feb. 9 at Western Kentucky*	7:30 p.m.
<b>Feb. 12 Florida International* (DH)</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Feb. 17 at Troy* (DH)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 20 at Ark.-Little Rock* (CSS)	1 p.m.
<b>Feb. 27 Western Kentucky* (CSS)</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>

March 5-8 Sun Belt Conference Tournament at Hot Springs, Ark.  
**Home games in bold**  
 \* — Sun Belt Conference game  
 # — UTSA Holiday Classic in San Antonio, TX  
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### MTSU Alumni and Friends

#### Night with the Nashville Predators

*Enjoy a great evening of fun and excitement as we cheer on the Predators and reconnect with area alumni!*

**When: Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011**  
 Reception at 5:30 p.m., game at 7 p.m.

**Where: Sommet Center**  
 Lower concourse, D-G Room

Cost: \$30, includes reception and game ticket (\$10 reception only)

**Limited seats are available.**  
**CALL TODAY!**  
**1-800-533-6878**

**mtalumni.com**