

THE **B**uchanan
FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

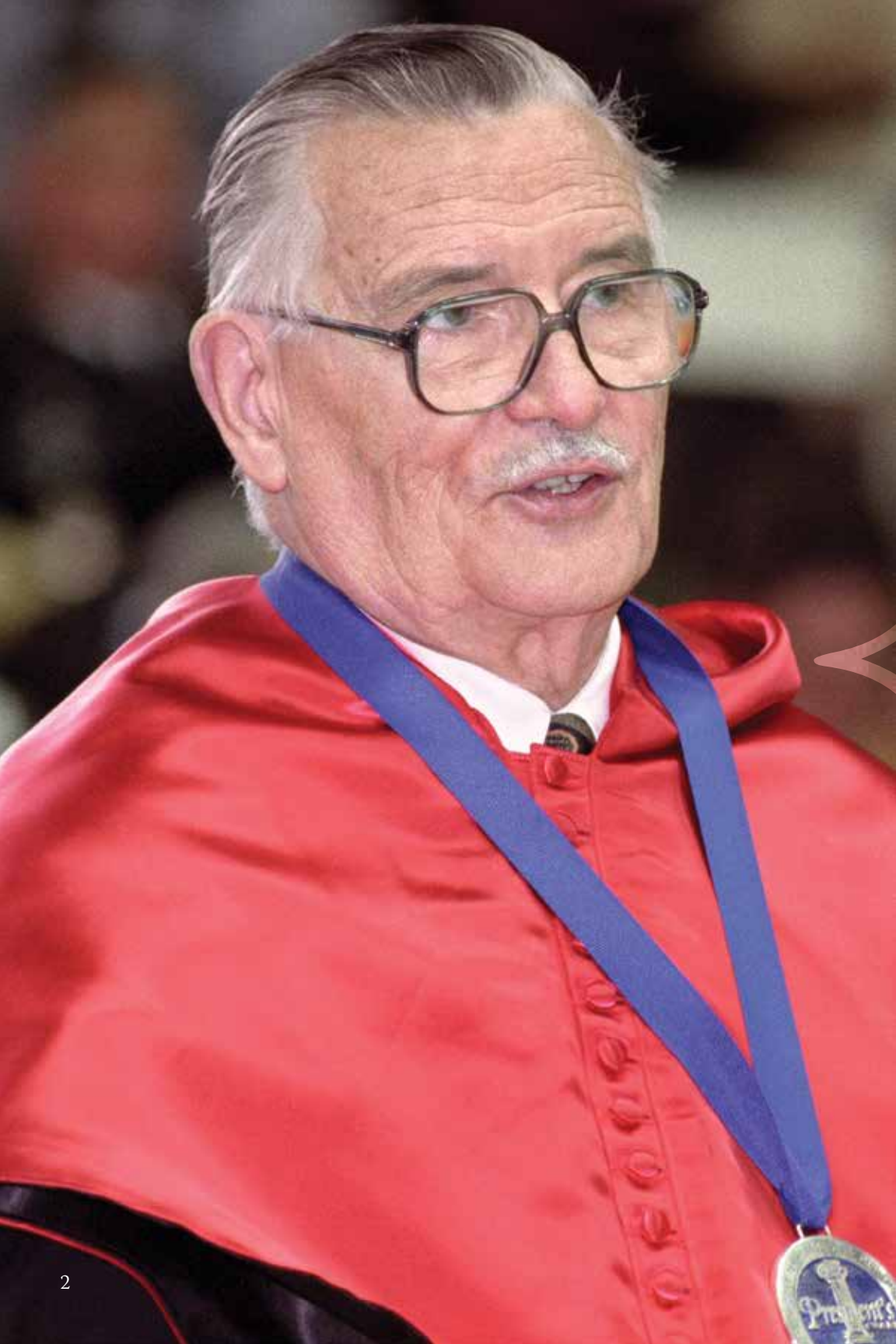


*I*t has taken a farm boy raised near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to remind us that politicians are politicians and people are people no matter in what institutional structure they find their employment. It has taken a scholar skeptical of the traditional ivory tower academy to call into question the ability and judgment of any enlightened class.

—*Edwin J. Feulner*

*James M. Buchanan
1986 Nobel Laureate*





James M. Buchanan, a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, often noted that the life of scholarly endeavor and accomplishment he had led was not even imaginable to him as a child growing up in rural Rutherford County. His motivation to begin pursuit of a higher education was simply that to do so was “better than plowing.” Although he was the grandson of a Tennessee governor, he and his family experienced the same financial hardships common to many in middle Tennessee during the 1930s. Buchanan attended country schools and lived at home on his family’s farm while attending MTSTC. He paid for his undergraduate education by doing farm work. A student who eventually graduated with majors in English, social sciences, and mathematics, he wrote that the reason he entered the field in which he became famous—economics—was that MTSTC Political Science professor C. C. Sims helped arrange a fellowship for him to attend graduate school. Otherwise, he speculated, he would have become a high school teacher or taken a job in a bank. **Instead, an early life of thrift and arduous work evolved into a prestigious career distinguished by those same simple qualities.**

“If Jim Buchanan can be selected for a Nobel Prize, anyone can. In a sense I do embody something of the American myth of social mobility.”

—James M. Buchanan

Buchanan’s penchant for staying out of the limelight combined with his radically different ideas about the intersections of economics, politics, and public policy earned him something of an iconoclastic reputation among his peers. Yet, that modesty and that willingness to challenge majority views—combined with more hard work and long hours—led to the **Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986. Buchanan’s leadership in developing the public choice theory of economics is now universally recognized.** A central idea of that theory challenges the supposition that politicians act to serve the interests of the public rather than their own and that economic policy should come from a small group of “wise and enlightened men.”



In *Better than Plowing and Other Personal Essays*, Buchanan wrote, “If Jim Buchanan can be selected for a Nobel Prize, anyone can,” a sentiment he repeated in 1988 when he visited MTSU. In the book he continued, “In a sense I do embody something of the American myth of social mobility. For how many farm boys from middle Tennessee, educated in tiny, poor, and rural public schools, and at a struggling state-financed teachers college, have received Nobel Prizes? . . . **The simple fact that my selection offered hope and encouragement to so many . . . has been, when all is said and done, the most gratifying aspect of the whole experience of ‘Nobility.’**”

“

for his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision-making

—*Nobel Foundation*”

”

In an essay written on the occasion of James Buchanan's 80th birthday, Edwin J. Feulner, president of the Heritage Foundation, observed, "It has taken a farm boy raised near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to remind us that politicians are politicians and people are people no matter in what institutional structure they find their employment. It has taken a scholar skeptical of the traditional ivory tower academy to call into question the ability and judgment of any enlightened class. It has taken an individual of the caliber and determination of James Buchanan to establish and follow rules for economic analysis that are leading to a reconstitution of the Founding Fathers' vision of the public policy process in America."

James M. Buchanan taught at the University of Tennessee, Florida State University, the University of Virginia, the University of California–Los Angeles, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and, beginning in 1983, at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He served as advisory general director of the James Buchanan Center for Political Economy at George Mason, a center for the interdisciplinary study of politics, law, and economics.



THE Buchanan FELLOWSHIP



James M. Buchanan's dedication to learning and commitment to his fellow citizens have made him a model of the ideals embraced by the University Honors College at MTSU. In 2006, President Sidney A. McPhee established a fellowship program in the University Honors College intended to attract superior scholars from across the country. The college was honored to receive permission from James Buchanan to use his name, and thus recipients of this prestigious award are known as Buchanan Fellows.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest award given to students entering the Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University. Earlier classes of Buchanan Fellows have already achieved a lofty standard of excellence. Competition for the fellowship has been rigorous: Only 20 applicants each year are selected as Buchanan Fellows. Acceptable candidates must have strong records of scholarship; show ample evidence of special

talents, leadership skills, and community-mindedness; and possess the virtues championed by the Honors College—honor, commitment, integrity, discipline, faith, curiosity, character, and creativity.

Though the competition for these fellowships is sharp, the rewards awaiting successful candidates are considerable. The foremost benefit is a superior classical education that will be an excellent foundation for graduate or professional school. Buchanan Fellows have opportunities for study abroad, support and promotion for prestigious national and international graduate fellowships (such as Fulbright and Rhodes), access to special lectures and events, and support for preparation and admission to graduate or professional schools. The Buchanan Fellowship provides

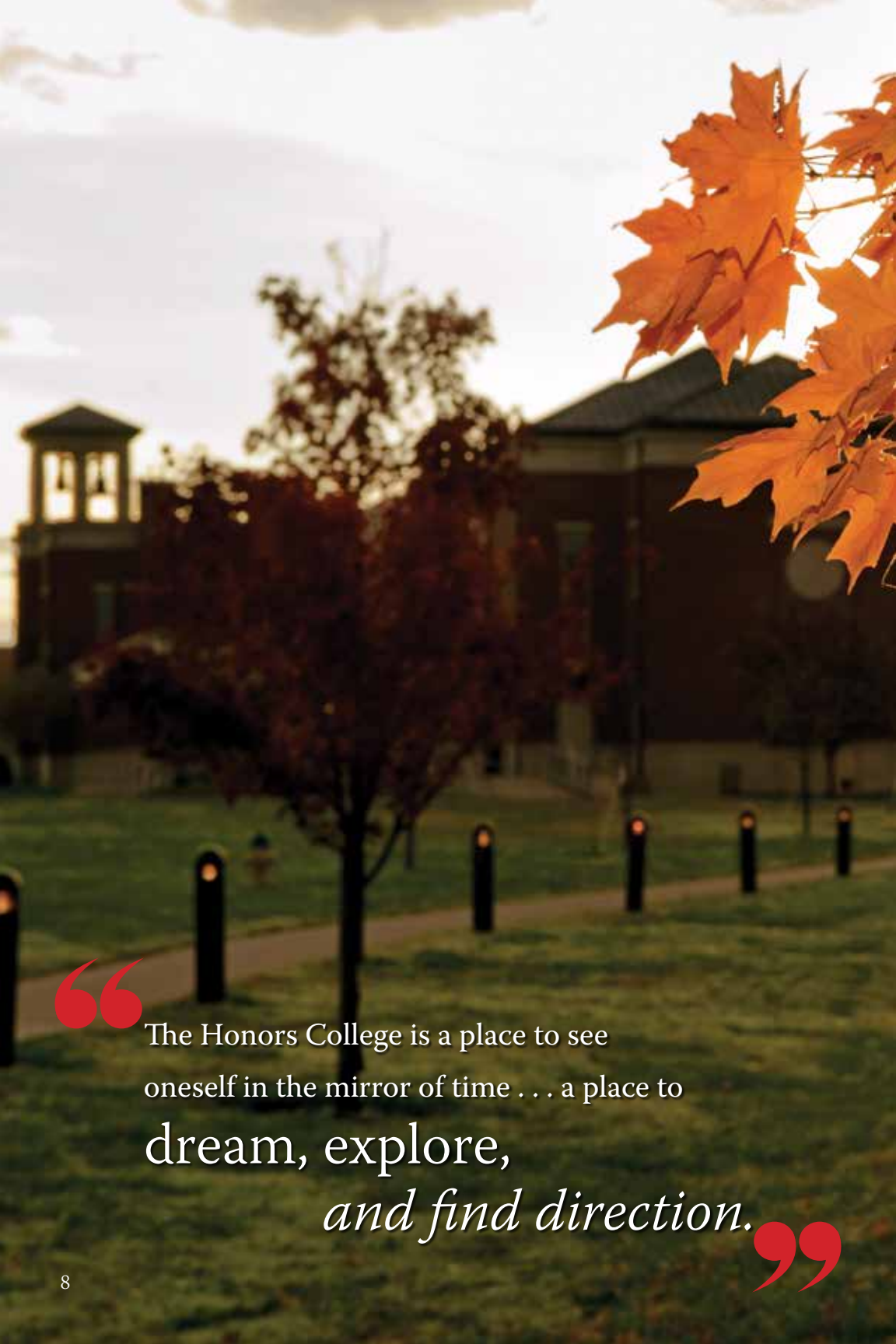
n
IP



Incoming 2018 Buchanan Fellows, (front, l–r) Grace Millican, Emily McTyre, Dara Zwemer, Catheryn Bolick, Jessika Benson, Miquellie Bonner, Alyssa Chaney, Elizabeth Clippard, Zoë Henley, Olivia Peters, and Jessikah Riley; back, John R. Vile, Joshua Smith, Reuben Savage, John Tudor, Micah Edigar, Liam McBane, Jared Frazier, Mark Blackmon, Robert Humphrey, Jake Duke, Turner Hamilton, and Philip E. Phillips

full payment for 16 hours of tuition and program services fees each semester for up to eight semesters (summer not included), \$2,500 for activities such as study abroad and conference presentations, and a book allowance of \$1,000 per year. (Material fees and special course fees are not included.) The Buchanan Fellowship is automatically renewed for up to four years provided the student meets the academic benchmarks and special responsibilities associated with the award.





“

The Honors College is a place to see
oneself in the mirror of time . . . a place to

dream, explore,
and find direction.

”

The Honors program at Middle

Tennessee State University began in the 1973–74 academic year. Its purpose was—and continues to be—to provide superior students the opportunity to experience the personal guidance, small classes, and intellectual challenges often found at small liberal arts colleges, combined with the greater resources and more varied disciplines of a larger university. In 1998, the program became the University Honors College, the first such college at any Tennessee public university.

Departmental Honors courses can be found in more than 25 academic departments and schools at MTSU and are taught by a select group of distinguished scholars and researchers who constitute the Honors Faculty. Courses in University Honors include junior and senior interdisciplinary seminars, independent research, study abroad and thesis tutorials, a service learning practicum, and the University Honors Lecture Series. The Honors Contract program allows students to request Honors credit for non-Honors courses.

The Honors College also sponsors special speaker programs and cultural and entertainment events. The Institute of Leadership Excellence combines an examination of leadership theories and active participation in projects intended to develop personal leadership.

Activities outside the classroom are crucial to the Honors experience. Honors students have the opportunity to participate in the alliances of students, faculty, and staff who encourage each other to pursue academic excellence and who foster a sense of community among all involved with the Honors College. Other organizations open to Honors students are the Dean's Student Advisory Council, the Honors Council, and the Honors Ambassadors. The MTSU student arts and literary magazine, *Collage*, a biannual publication that showcases the creativity of student artists, writers, photographers, and poets, and *Scientia et Humanitas*, a journal of student research, are produced under the auspices of the Honors College.

Honors students have the opportunity to live on campus in the Honors Living and Learning Center in Lyon Complex, where students from all disciplines can share ideas in an atmosphere conducive to academic achievements.

The complex has a study area and tutoring room, a lounge with a large-screen TV, a computer lab, an academic advising office, an Honors classroom, and laundry and kitchen facilities.

The Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building enhances the sense of neighborhood and community encouraged by the Honors College. It provides a place for classes, seminars, lectures, and social events and houses an Honors library, conference rooms, study areas, and faculty offices. There is also a student commons with a fireplace and adjacent snack room. Students are provided with free newspapers and coffee daily, and the building is near other major classroom buildings.



How to apply

In order to compete for a Buchanan Fellowship, an applicant must apply for undergraduate admission to Middle Tennessee State University (mtsu.edu) and concurrently complete the application form for admission to the Buchanan Fellowship (mtsu.edu/honors/buchanan.php).

Applicants must have a high school GPA of at least 3.5 and a composite score of at least 30 on the ACT (SAT equivalent = 1390 out of 1600). An official, complete high school transcript must be provided, accompanied by an essay (500

words or fewer; see application). These requirements are the minimum necessary for consideration. Successful applicants will almost certainly exceed these qualifications. The completed Buchanan Fellowship application and supporting documents are due in the Honors College by Dec. 1 of the year prior to full enrollment. Students applying for the Buchanan Fellowship and the Medical School Early Acceptance Program (MSEAP) through the College of Basic and Applied Sciences may accept either option, if offered, but not both.



Responsibilities

By accepting the Buchanan Fellowship, students assume several responsibilities. Buchanan Fellows will uphold the ideals espoused in the Honors Creed and complete a research or creative thesis. Buchanan Fellows will participate fully in the Buchanan Seminars—a specially designed cohort curriculum in which the students will take six general studies classes together. Most important, Buchanan Fellows will progress toward graduation according to the following benchmarks:

- completion of the 19-hour Buchanan Seminars requirement (lower-division courses) by the end of the sophomore year (13 hours to be completed during the freshman year and 6 hours during the sophomore year)
- completion of all other requirements for graduation with University Honors (or Distinction in University Honors), by the end of the senior year
- maintenance of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) at all times

Buchanan Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of the Honors College?

The Honors College provides a small, private college environment while still allowing students to take advantage of the opportunities available at a large university. Freshman- and sophomore-level classes are limited to 20 students, allowing faculty and students to have quality discussion and hands-on learning experiences. The Honors College is home to three publications (*Areté*, *Collage*, and *Scientia et Humanitas*) and two national honor societies (Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi) and offers Honors credit for Governor's School, Advanced Placement, and IB.

Is the Buchanan Fellowship available to only certain majors?

The Buchanan Fellowship and the Honors College welcome all majors.

What are the Buchanan Fellowship classes?

All Buchanan students will receive an Honors minor, which requires 18 hours of lower-division and 11 hours of upper-division Honors classes. These required classes will be taken with other Buchanan recipients:

- Exploring the Universe/Observing the Universe (ASTR 1030/1031)
- Themes in Literature (ENGL 2020)
- Foreign Literature in Translation (HUM 2610)
- Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1030)
- Foundations of Government (PS 1010)
- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2410)

Upper-division Honors classes include the following:

- 3 hours upper-division Honors courses (3000- and 4000-level courses)
- 3-hour Honors interdisciplinary seminar
- 1-hour Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000)
- 1-hour thesis tutorial (UH 4900)
- 3 hours Honors independent research (UH 495)

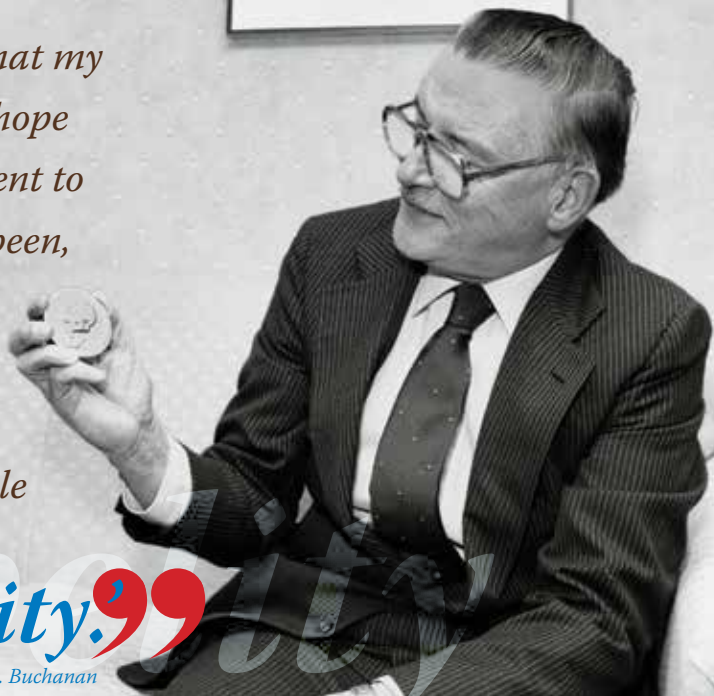
Each class of Buchanan Fellows moves through the Honors College together as a cohort. This includes taking the above classes and having volunteer and service opportunities throughout their time at MTSU.



“The simple fact that my selection offered hope and encouragement to so many . . . has been, when all is said and done, the most gratifying aspect of the whole experience of

‘Nobility.’”

—James M. Buchanan



Does the Buchanan Fellowship pay for housing?

The Buchanan Fellowship does not include housing. Students accepting the fellowship may live where they choose. Students interested in living on campus should note that Lyon Hall is the Honors Living and Learning Community. This is not required but is a great option for Honors students looking to live on campus.

If I apply, by when am I required to accept if chosen?

Chosen applicants will need to accept the Buchanan Fellowship by May 1 of their senior year of high school.

What funds are available for studying abroad?

Buchanan Fellows receive \$2,500 for study abroad as part of their scholarship. The Undergraduate Fellowships Office is also available to assist with earning other scholarships.

Admission and Retention Requirements

A freshman entering the Honors College must have a minimum ACT composite score of 25 (SAT=1200) and at least a 3.5 high school GPA. When students have established University GPAs, they must maintain minimum 3.25 (cumulative) to stay in the college and enroll in Honors courses. Transfer students must also have a cumulative 3.25 GPA to be eligible for Honors courses. Qualifying students may enroll in Honors courses if they meet prerequisites and seats are available.

The Honors staff is eager to assist students. Please stop by the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building; call our office at 615-898-2152; or email us at honors@mtsu.edu to arrange a visit.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY.

I AM *true***BLUE**