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the RECORD

Summer commencement

940 degrees will be conferred at MTSU's Aug. 12 ceremony

by Lisa L. Rollins

A projected 940 degree candidates will graduate during the summer 2006 commencement ceremony, MTSU officials announced. Graduation will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, in Murphy Center on the MTSU campus, with Dr. Rebecca Fischer, interim chairwoman for the Department of Speech and Theatre and the current MTSU representative of the Tennessee Board of Regents' Faculty Subcouncil, delivering the commencement address. Some 688 of the degree candidates will be undergraduates, said Dr. Sherian Huddleston, director of records and assistant vice provost for enrollment services, with 252 students slated to graduate from the College of Graduate Studies. This total includes two graduate certificate recipients, 226 earning their master's degrees, 17 earning their specialist in education degrees and seven earning doctoral degrees. Commencement speaker Fischer, before being appointed interim chairwoman for MTSU's speech and



SPECIAL DAY AWAITS GRADS—Murphy Center will be full of excitement and emotion when summer commencement ceremonies are held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.

file photo by J. Intintoli

theatre department, served as a full-time classroom educator, full professor and audiologist for the university's Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. Before joining MTSU's speech and theatre faculty in 1995, Fischer earned a bachelor's degree in education for

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Arts group recognized for outreach

from Staff Reports

VSA arts Tennessee, a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to empower individuals with disabilities through the arts, recently was awarded the 2006 National Award for Public Awareness and Outreach. The award was presented to the Gallatin-based VSA arts Tennessee on June 9 in Washington, D.C., according to Lori Kissinger, executive director for VSA arts Tennessee and an instructor in MTSU's Department of Speech and Theatre. Soula Anotoniou, president of

See 'Arts' page 6

McNair Scholars present research at symposium

by Randy Weiler

Twenty-one MTSU Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program scholars from a variety of disciplines will make poster and PowerPoint presentations of their research July 31 and Aug. 1. The McNair symposium will be held in the Tom H. Jackson Building and will feature "very professional" presentations, said Steve Saunders, coordinator, McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Scholars will deliver their posters by noon Monday, July 31, and practice their presentations before a trio of judges critique their posters in the afternoon, Saunders said. Their presentations will be made from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1.

"McNair Scholars are typically in the program for two years," Saunders said. "The difference between Year 1 and the next year is usually quite significant. I'm expecting them (second-year scholars) to be very professional. They have presented at (another) symposium and maybe at a conference. In some cases, this may be the third or fourth time (they've presented). They have become quite accomplished presenters. "The second-year scholar is a little more polished. It's gratifying to see the distance they've traveled. They may have written a term paper in a class, but they have not done this kind of research and have to present their research." Saunders said each scholar has a mentor who guides the student in the methods of research. The students receive \$2,600 for their eight weeks of

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IN BRIEF

BE LOUD, BE PROUD, BE WELL-FED; SUBMIT A 'BLUE RAIDER RECIPE'
Crystal Ellis, an intern working in the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center Office, is collecting recipes for athletes in a project for Blue Raider Athletes Skills for Success-Life Skills. Please submit a recipe that is healthy, has few ingredients and is easy to prepare. It's important for our athletes to know the proper way to fuel their bodies, and we want your "Blue Raider Recipe." Send your recipes to Shirley Lusinski at sluscins@mtsu.edu before Thursday, Aug. 31.

STAY STRONG, KEEP STRETCHING; FENTON PAYNE & FRED 5K AUG. 19
Year Three for the Fenton Payne and Fred 5K Run/Walk may be the biggest one yet, organizers say, with more than 800 runners and walkers expected to converge at MTSU on Saturday, Aug. 19. Registration is set for 6 a.m. at Peck Hall, with participants scheduled to take off at 7:30 a.m. The event, named for running pals Dr. Fenton Payne Hardison and Dr. Fred Lovelace of Murfreesboro, costs \$20 for regular registrants and \$15 for middle- and high-school athletes. Participants or donors may call the BRAA office at 615-898-2210 or register online at www.active.com; those interested in volunteering to help during the event may call 615-904-8240.

NEED TO SEE PARKING SERVICES? TAKE SAFE PATH DURING PAVING
Visitors, faculty, staff and students needing to visit the Department of Parking Services during the ongoing paving project are asked to park behind the Criminal Justice Administration Building, Vaughn House, and walk across to the parking services office using the wood chip path. The department will update the campus of any changes as they occur; please direct any questions to 615-898-2850.

GRANT WILL LET CAMPUS POLICE COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCIES
A \$13,922 U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant to buy equipment will enable MTSU Campus Police to communicate freely with other law enforcement and emergency agencies, Chief Buddy Peaster said July 11. U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon announced the grant.



www.mtsunews.com

INROADS interns gain corporate experience

by Jamil Price

INROADS, an organization that helps minority students obtain experience in corporate America, also allows students to compete for internships during the summer months.

MTSU has served as a sponsoring INROADS entity since 1994 and has welcomed a total of 56 interns to campus since that time due to the help of Dr. Bichaka Fayissa, professor of economics and finance and the coordinator of the INROADS pre-college component here at MTSU. This summer, six interns are working in various departments at MTSU.

“MTSU allows interns to be exposed to a very unique company because we are not a Fortune 500 or your typical company,” said Deborah Roberts, director, business and finance, who is the liaison between the INROADS Nashville office and MTSU. “I coordinate the interns’ work with their supervisors, and help with interviews, payroll and evaluations with INROADS.”

Crystal Ellis is entering her sixth year at MTSU, having worked two summers in campus planning and three in athletics. This is her first summer in the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center. She attends the University of Tennessee and will graduate in August with a bachelor’s in education. She works with the CHAMPS/Life Skills program (CHallenging Athletes Minds for Personal Success) that was created by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and adopted by MTSU.

“CHAMPS was developed to enhance the student-athlete experience within the university setting by supporting their academic, athletic

and personal development,” she said.

First-year intern Danny Heyward Jr. joined construction and renovation services, one of the most unique areas on campus. A Tennessee State University sophomore studying architectural engineering, Heyward’s current internship includes measuring classrooms and drawing up floor plans to determine how much furniture can fit into a particular area.

“Danny’s positive attitude and sense of humor have confirmed his place in this busy department,” said Terri Carlton, department manager. “He is helping designers, with floor plans, reflected ceiling plans and electrical layout.”

Sonya Leak enjoys the people she works with in alumni relations. Leak, an MTSU sophomore studying public relations, utilizes her skills as MTSU entertains special guests and events.

“Every day is different,” she said. “Some days I have to attend meetings, some days I’m making phone calls for events and other days I’m out and about getting more involved in the planning process.”

Fifth-year intern Janina Overton will graduate in August from MTSU with a degree in business administration. Overton interns in the Information Technology Division under the supervision of Robin Jones and is tackling two major projects this summer.

The first project consists of setting up a new database for the annual Instructional Technology Conference. The second project involves reviewing and analyzing a training project from a student’s point of view while also creating video clips to enhance the program.

“Janina is very conscientious



LEARNING BY DOING—The 2006 INROADs interns at MTSU gather for a group photo. Shown seated are Crystal Ellis, who will graduate from the University of Tennessee in August, and Janina Overton, who will graduate from MTSU Aug. 12. Standing are, from left, Danny Heyward, a sophomore at Tennessee State University; Jamil Price, a freshman at UT; and Chris Whitaker, also a freshman at UT. Not pictured is INROADS intern Sonya Leak, who will be a sophomore at MTSU.

photo by J. Intintoli

and extremely self-motivated,” said Jones. “She is an asset to the division as well as the university.”

Scheduling center and records office worker Christopher Whitaker is receiving invaluable experience to help him become a computer engineer. A 2006 Riverdale High graduate, Whitaker will attend the University of Tennessee this fall.

“Chris has worked on several projects in the Scheduling Center,” said Cathy Kirchner, assistant director, “including CUSTOMS, Summer Freshman Institute paperwork and

registering students in Governor’s School.”

An ‘06 graduate of Lebanon High School, Jamil Price is working this summer in the news and public affairs office. He will be a journalism and electronic media major at UT-Knoxville.

“I get a taste of everything from writing news stories to making telephone calls to shooting video and doing voiceovers. I do it all,” said Price, who added that he hopes one day to sit at a news anchor desk as a career.

Prep now for quality exams

from Staff Reports

Ready to take the next step in your career? Join the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning for noncredit courses this summer to prepare you for quality certification exams.

The Personal Development and Personal Enrichment courses include:

- Certified Manager of Quality (Course No. PD06F-2721), 6-10 p.m. Mondays beginning Aug. 21 through Oct. 16 (excluding Sept. 4), in preparation for the Oct. 21 Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence Certification Exam administered by the American Society for Quality.

Cost is \$650 and includes all materials; instructor is David Yoest, senior engineering specialist for Arnold Engineering Development Center.

- Certified Quality Technician (Course No. PD06F-1381), 6-10 p.m. Mondays beginning Aug. 21 through Oct. 16 (excluding Sept. 4), in preparation for the Oct. 21 ASQ Quality Technician Excellence Certification Exam.

Cost is \$650 and includes all materials; instructor is Darryl Webb,

ASQ-certified as a Quality Technician and Quality Engineer.

- Six Sigma Green Belt Certification (Course No. PD-3011), beginning Monday, Aug. 21, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Additional preparatory courses planned at MTSU include:

- Certified Quality Auditor (Course No. PD-3351), which will be offered in early October to prepare for the Dec. 2 ASQ Quality Auditor Excellence Certification Exam;

- Certified Calibration Technician (Course No. PD-361), which will be offered in early October to prepare for the Dec. 2 ASQ Quality Calibration Technician Excellence Certification Exam;

- Certified Quality Auditor (Course No. PD-1281), which will be offered in spring 2007 to prepare for the ASQ Quality Auditor Excellence Certification Exam; and

- Six Sigma Black Belt Certification (Course No. PD-3211), which will be offered in January 2007 in preparation for the March 3, 2007, ASQ exam.

For more information about the courses or to place your name on a “wait list,” call 615-494-8952 or e-mail cdelamet@mtsu.edu. To register for the courses, visit www.mtsu.edu/pdpe.

Faculty, alumni art shows set

by Lisa L. Rollins

Eleven members of MTSU’s visual art faculty will present their creativity for all to see during MTSU’s annual Faculty Art Exhibition Aug. 28 through Sept. 8 in the university’s Todd Gallery.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, will feature works by Erin Anfinson, Michael Baggarly, John Donovan, Janet Higgins, Jarrod Houghton, Noel Lorson, Jean Nagy, Marissa Recchia, Patricia Tenpenny, Tanya Tewell and Tom Thayer.

Sponsored by the Department of Art at the start of each fall semester, the exhibit showcases works by half of the art faculty to introduce the department’s staff artists/educators to MTSU’s art students and the community at large.

“The artists work in a variety of media and styles, including the representational, abstract and nonobjective through traditional media in a straightforward manner to mixed media with a ‘twist,’” Dr. Lon Nuell, gallery curator, said.

A member of MTSU’s art faculty since 1971, Nuell said that the faculty “represent years of experience of productive work, as evidenced by

the extensive and ongoing record of exhibitions in juried and invitational shows. Each faculty member is an active, working artist and visual art educator.

“Their personal work is invaluable to them and to their students, all of whom learn from the efforts and successes of their mentors in the art studio,” he noted.

On the heels of the faculty show, an inaugural Alumni Art Show featuring works by 20 graduates of the MTSU art department—including Howard Hull, the first graduate of the program in 1960—will open in the Todd Art Gallery on Sept. 18 and continue through Oct. 8.

Also free and open to the public, the alumni show will highlight works by participating artists who have settled in various parts of the country.

Each alumni artist, Nuell said, remains active in some aspect of art production.

The Todd Gallery, located on the MTSU campus, is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each Monday through Friday. It’s closed on state-approved holidays.

For more information, including artist inquiries or parking details, please telephone the gallery at 615-898-5653.

Nontraditional students’ lives are balancing act

by Gina K. Logue

Most parents have difficulty getting their 15-year-old son to clean up his room. Caleb Proctor volunteers to cook dinner for his mother, MTSU student Terri Proctor of Murfreesboro.

“Not only does he cook, but he cleans the kitchen as well!” Proctor exclaims. “While I have been working on research papers and trying to meet deadlines, he has washed the laundry and vacuumed. What’s really amazing is that he has ‘listened’ to my research papers many times over without falling asleep! Actually, he has made some good revisions at times.”

Caleb Proctor also is a straight-A student and a member of his wrestling team at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro. How does he manage?

“I just try to find time,” he says. “Time is more important than wrestling and stuff. I put that first.”

In fact, Caleb’s persistence has resulted in another honor for his mantel—the 2006 Best Son Award from the Older Wiser Learners, the official organization for adult and reentry students at MTSU.

“We all struggle to fulfill the obligations of our “real lives” along with our studies. OWLs bands us together, making us stronger and better able to meet the challenges which we share with other adult students,” reads a description on the OWLs Web page (www.mtsu.edu/~owls/owl.htm).

“I love my son for who he is,” Terri Proctor says. “His support of me as an adult student makes attending college all the more a pleasure.”

The Best Daughter Award went to Tori Gholson, daughter of Aimee Gholson of Hermitage. Tori Gholson finds time to plan her wedding and teach eighth grade while helping her mother make it through college. Amiee Stinson of Antioch also was nominated for that honor by her mother, Sherri Stinson. Both are MTSU students and majors in social work.

Sherri Stinson’s husband, Jimmy, received a certificate as a nominee for Best Husband. She says Jimmy “hung the moon” and has supported her through seven years of college.

Robert Fischer of La Vergne, nominated by wife Robin, also got a certificate. At one point, however, it remained to be seen whether he would be around

to appreciate the acknowledgement. He suffered a heart attack while mowing the lawn April 28, the last Thursday of classes before Robin’s finals.

“He’s doing much better,” Robin says. “One of the first things he said was, ‘You’re going to finish school.’”

After hearing that, Robin dismissed from her mind any notion of skipping summer school.

Robert Fischer, a regional food service manager for Bigelow Tea, is back at work. He is financing

‘He never fails to support ... and encourage me and lift me up.’

Robin Fischer, elementary education major, speaking of her husband, Robert

Robin’s entire college education. With an 84-year-old mother and a stepdaughter whose needs also must be met, Robin knows how lucky she is.

“I get so overwhelmed, and he never fails to support me and encourage me and lift me up,” says the elementary education major.

The winner of the Best Husband award was Richard Denney of Murfreesboro, whose name was put in the running by wife Monique, an elementary education major. For the Denneys, seven is enough. They have five kids ranging in age from 10 to one—and Richard is a full-time student, too, majoring in business administration.

“We’re balancing our schedule right now,” Monique says. “The main thing is he’s been going to school at night so I can go to school in the day.”

Keeping life on track requires a strict schedule for the kids. Monique studies from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. The older children, 10-year-old Davien and 9-year-old Avionne, play with the babies and help with the cooking and household chores. In fact, they received a certificate as nominees for Best Children.

“We understood this is a huge opportunity,” Monique says. “We understood that we were going to have to sacrifice our personal time, but we’re looking at the bigger picture. The kids aren’t suffering in the least.”

The OWLs award for the Best Children went to Matthew, Sabrina, Austin, Ashleigh and Emily McDonald, who were nominated by mom Cathy

McDonald. She says she nominated her youngsters as a group “because they help around the house and cook dinners and look after each other while their mom studies. They don’t complain about coming to the library on a sunny day or that Mom misses a school function because of studying and papers,” according to information from MTSU’s Adult Services Center.

Taking top honors for Best OWL Family were the Castleberrys of Franklin. Darrell and Debbie, parents of two children, were described by friend Evadane Brownlee as attending school full-time, working part-time and “still available to extend a hug to a friend in need.”

Tommy Sands of Chattanooga was named The Best Juggling OWL. Tommy’s wife, Dawn, says he “works two jobs about 70 hours a week, visits nursing homes to talk to the elders who never get visits, volunteers for Special Olympics and with veterans.”

Maria Hopton of Columbia received a certificate as a nominee for Best OWL Friend. The award went to Lela Cathey.

The winner of the 2006 Pinnacle Award of Achievement was Amanda Cook, who returned to MTSU in 2003 following a divorce. Amanda had to overcome a disappointing grade point average from previous work because she failed to withdraw properly during a family emergency.

Cook nominated Dr. Mary Farone, assistant professor, biology, and Dr. Linda Wilson, professor, nursing, for the 2006 OWLs Professor Award, which went to Meredith Ann Higgs, assistant professor, developmental studies. This is the second OWLs professor honor for Higgs, who won in 2001.

“Being awarded is beyond an honor—to be nominated by students who are adult and nontraditional students is a recognition beyond compare,” Higgs says. “I’m happy to help students at all phases of their lives. They come with a variety of responsibilities, and being able to help them is an honor. Every day I come to work is a blessing.”

Higgs helped to put together a coffee klatch after math class that has helped students and professors learn more. She is the daughter of Alben and Mary Ruth Simmons, the granddaughter of Coy and Virginia Simmons, Max Logan and the late Rebecca Logan, and the wife of Ray Higgs.

Good communication is the key



TOP PERFORMANCE—Chris Crowell, right, of MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee, presents Shelly Graham of the College of Mass Communication with the First Quarter 2006 secretarial/clerical award. The committee salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. To nominate administrative, secretarial/clerical, classified or technical/service staff for the award program, download a nomination form at hrs.web.mtsu.edu/forms.html.

photo by Ken Robinson

MTSU athletics will ‘Blast’ into 4 communities

from Staff Reports

MTSU alumni, friends and fans can preview the 2006-07 athletic season at upcoming Blue Raider Blasts, the Office of Alumni Relations said recently.

The Blue Raider Blasts, which will run from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m., will be held Tuesday, July 18, at the Cannon County Courthouse Square in Woodbury; Thursday, July 20, at the Celebration Pavilion in Shelbyville; Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Lee Victory Recreation Park in Smyrna; and Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Historic Rutherford County Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.

Director of Athletics Chris Massaro and Blue Raider head coaches Rick Stockstill (football), Kermit Davis (men’s basketball), Rick Insell (women’s basketball) and Steve Peterson (baseball) will meet and greet fans.

Also, mark your calendar for Pigskin Pregame set for Saturday, Aug. 26. Visit mtalumni.com or call call 800-533-6878 for details about both events.

Calendar

July 17-Aug. 13

TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record”
Cable Channel 9
Monday-Sunday-5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+
Saturdays-1:30 p.m.

Every Monday night

MTSU Guys & Dolls Swing Dance Club
Dance lessons 6-7 p.m.,
open dancing 7-9 p.m.
Murphy Center Dance Studio A
Free & open to the community
For information, e-mail:
lindyfiend@gmail.com.

July 17

July 17-20
Tennessee Career and Technical Education Conference
Campuswide
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~voced/tctec06.htm
or contact: e-mail: 615-898-2031.

July 17-21
MT Scoring & Keeper Soccer Camp
Ages 10 to 18 years (coed)
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$130 per camper
For information, visit:
www.mtsusoccercamps.com
or contact: 615-898-5316.

July 18

Tuesday, July 18
“Bookends” Lecture Series
Clifton Kaiser, *The Year of Magical Thinking*
7:30 p.m., Linebaugh Public Library, 105 W. Vine St.
No admission charge
For information, visit
www.linebaugh.org.

July 20-21

July 20-21
CUSTOMS Orientation
Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education & Behavioral Science, Business and undeclared majors
7:30 a.m., campuswide
For information, visit
www.mtsu.edu/~customs
or contact: 615-898-5533.

July 20-22
Blue Raider Volleyball Setters and Hitters Camps
Setters Camp: 7th-12th graders
Hitters Camp: 9th-12th graders
Cost: \$140 per commuter camper, \$180 residential
For information, contact: 615-898-2230.

July 22

Saturday, July 22
Pleasure Walking Horse Association Celebration
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact: 615-849-2920.

July 22-27
National Guitar Workshop
McLean School of Music
For information, visit:
www.guitarworkshoporders.com/sessions/tn/
or contact: 1-800-234-6479.

July 23

July 23-25
Blue Raider Volleyball Team Camp II
Open to varsity, junior varsity and junior-high teams
Cost: \$140 per commuter camper, \$200 residential
For information, contact: 615-898-2230.

July 23-27
MT Girls’ High School Team Soccer Camp
Ages 10 to 18 years
Cost: \$300 per commuter camper, \$365 residential
For information, visit:
www.mtsusoccercamps.com
or contact: 615-898-5316.

Sunday, July 23
“MTSU On the Record—Terrorism and the Middle East”
Guest: Dr. Karen Petersen
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

July 24-25

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

July 25

Tuesday, July 25
“Bookends” Lecture Series
Dr. Bob Petersen, *Ship Fever, and Other Stories*
7:30 p.m., Linebaugh Public Library, 105 W. Vine St.
No admission charge
For information, visit
www.linebaugh.org.

July 28

July 28-29
TWHBEA World Versatility Horse Show
4 p.m. Friday, 8:30 a.m. Saturday; Miller Coliseum
For information, visit
www.twhbea.com/
or contact: 1-800-359-1574, ext. 589.

July 30

July 30-Aug. 5
WHOA International Grand Championship Pleasure & Colt Walking Horse Show
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
Cost: \$5 for adults, free for children 6 and younger
For information, visit
walkinghorseowners.com/events06.htm
or contact: 615-494-8822.

Sunday, July 30
“MTSU On the Record—Dwight Pitcaithley”
Guest: Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

July 31

July 31-Aug. 5
Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp
Campuswide
For information, visit:
www.sgrrc.org.

Aug. 4

Aug. 4-6
Central Tennessee Quarter Horse Futurity
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact: 931-670-4270.

Aug. 5

Saturday, Aug. 5
Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp Showcase
8 p.m., Tucker Theatre
Admission: \$6 door, \$5 advance
For information, e-mail
sgrrc05@gmail.com.

Aug. 5-7
Southeastern Driven Dressage Jubilee
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, contact: 931-638-3355.

Aug. 6

Sunday, Aug. 6
“MTSU On the Record—Migration in the United States and Former Soviet Republics”
Guest: Dr. Andrei Korobkov
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

Aug. 10

Thursday, Aug. 10
Final Exams—Summer Sessions III & IV
Classes meeting M-Th

Aug. 11

Friday, Aug. 11
Final Exams—Summer Sessions III & IV
Classes meeting M-F

Aug. 12

Saturday, Aug. 12
University Commencement
10 a.m., Murphy Center
For information, contact: 615-898-2919.

Southeast Summer Horse Sale
10 a.m., Miller Coliseum
For information, contact: 540-955-5040.

Tennessee Paint Horse Show
Tennessee Livestock Center
For information, contact: 931-424-8107.

Aug. 13

Sunday, Aug. 13
“MTSU On the Record—Summer for the Gods”
Guest: Dr. Ed Larson, author, *Summer for the Gods*
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com

Aerospace workshop inspires teachers

by John Lynch

The U.S. and the Soviet Union were neck and neck in the space race when the first Tennessee Aerospace Education Workshop was held at MTSU (then MTSC). Nearly 50 years later, teachers from across the state still attend the three-week summer program to access a wealth of aerospace and aviation knowledge.

Different workshops are held at various universities across the state, but Dr. Wayne Dornan, director, said MTSU's is the state's largest and the nation's longest continuously running workshop of its kind.

This was Dornan's first year as director, and he said it was an eye-opening experience. "I realize there's a lot of work to organize and carry out this workshop, but it's been exciting, because now I know how much it benefits the teachers.

"The most rewarding thing is to see interest teachers develop for aerospace and the ideas they talk about among themselves that they're going to bring to the classroom the next school year," Dornan added. "We turn them on to aerospace, and now they're going to take the torch and turn their students on."

Through the years, the workshop has gained a well-deserved reputation as a stimulating and fun way to acquire graduate level hours. Dr. Paul Craig, aerospace chair, said a few years ago he noticed a slight drop in the numbers attending the workshop and decided to call some teachers who didn't attend.

"Several of the teachers said they didn't attend because they were concerned that the curriculum wouldn't prepare them to teach to the testing requirements set by the Tennessee Department of Education," Craig said.

"We have worked to reassure the teachers that although the workshop is a lot of fun, it does, in fact, give the teachers the tools to prepare their students for state testing. For example, the exercise of making a flight plan requires students to use algebra and geometry, and they have to use concepts of length, area and volume to estimate and solve real-world problems."

One of the strongest endorsements comes from an educator who first attended the workshop because it seemed like an enjoyable way to earn some graduate credit.

Phyl Taylor was assistant director for the workshop this summer. During the school year, she is 11th-grade principal for Warren County High School in McMinnville.

"A great deal of what is taught here deals

directly with required state standards as they're taught in the classrooms," Taylor noted, "and I hate to say it, but everybody is driven by the tests.

"It's (the workshop) a very motivating technique to get teachers to have fun but teach those laws of physics which are sometimes kind of dry and dull and hard to grasp. If they can take some of what we've done here back to the classroom, the kids love it. Aviation is a very motivating concept for students."

Taylor was bitten by the aviation bug her first summer at the workshop 16 years ago. She was inspired to get her pilot's license and went on to teach flying to high-school students for eight years. Although she held one master's degree, she went on to get a second master's degree in aerospace education from MTSU. She has defended her dissertation proposal and completed the data analysis for a doctoral degree at Vanderbilt in higher education administration.

This was the first year at the aerospace workshop for Michael West, who teaches 9th through 12th grade at Daniel McKee Alternative School in Murfreesboro. His school is an alternative to expulsion for students, and they have an opportunity to participate in a behavior management program.

West said the workshop has given him some new tools for working with challenging students.

"When you go into a class and have to teach a concept and don't marry it with something real world, the kids just kind of lose that, they're not interested, but if you apply those concepts to things that are interesting to them — and aerospace is — then they're going to retain it.

"I would definitely recommend this to other teachers," West added. "It's not all science and



UP, UP AND AWAY—Workshoppers launch a paper mache balloon into the warm summer air. Several hot air balloons were able to stay airborne for a minute or more. Phyl Taylor, seen in photograph at left, explained that time in the air would have been much longer on a cooler day.

math. There's a lot of history. It's valuable across the curriculum."

During the three-week summer program, the educators have access to a wealth of aerospace and aviation knowledge. In addition to the coursework, there are guest speakers, such as former astronaut Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson.

Participants conduct experiments such as balloon launches, rocket launches and the egg-drop contest. They also enjoy field trips to local airports.

The teachers, accompanied by a certified flight instructor, also get a chance to become student pilots. Each year they get to spend several days on a distant military base or other aerospace-related facility. This summer, they traveled to Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida.

Funding for the workshop comes through an MTSU partnership with the Tennessee Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics. The university provides tuition allowance to the participants for four hours of graduate credit.



FLIGHT PLANNING—Phyl Taylor, aerospace workshop assistant director, left, goes over the daily schedule with workshop director Wayne Dornan. Later that morning participants got a chance to learn about the unique aerodynamic features of helicopters.

THE 'WRIGHT' STUFF—(Right) James Abbott, left, and Lucy Murphy, teachers from Harris Middle School in Shelbyville, build models of the Wright Brothers' 1902 glider. The project uses inexpensive materials such as toothpicks and foam food trays.

photos by
John Lynch



the deaf from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and a master of science degree in aural-oral rehabilitation from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, before garnering a Ph.D. in hearing and speech sciences from Vanderbilt University. She also holds professional memberships in the American Auditory Society, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Auditory-Verbal International. She was named a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and is a past president for the Tennessee Academy of Audiology, among other honors.

In addition to her 2005-2006 tenure as president of MTSU's Faculty Senate, Fischer has served on various university committees, including membership on the President's Commission on the Status of Women and service as a convener for the university's Scholarship/Student Affairs Sub-Committee and the Women's Scholarship Committee, respectively.



Fischer Fischer also is a founding member and former secretary and vice president of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf Inc. and a

Who: 940 graduates* (688 undergrads, 252 graduate students)
What: 2006 summer commencement ceremony
When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12; doors open at 8:30 a.m.
Where: Murphy Center, MTSU
Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Fischer, president, MTSU Faculty Senate, and interim chair, Department of Speech and Theatre

— Approximate number as of July 11, 2006.

current member of the Tennessee Statewide Early Intervention Taskforce, which promotes early detection of hearing impairment.

Dr. Jack Thomas, vice provost for academic affairs and chairman of the commencement committee, said he wanted to remind all degree candidates of the importance of appropriate dress, decorum and respect for the commencement ceremony.

"We believe this is a very important day in the lives of many people," Thomas said. "Commencement is one of those few days that families always remember as special. It is difficult to give the ceremony the dignified atmosphere it deserves if attendees are using air horns or leaving before the completion of the ceremony."

Additionally, according to Thomas, the gradua-

tion committee also emphasized that students who participate in commencement will be required to stay for the entire ceremony. The ceremony should last about two hours. If candidates are planning celebration activities, please be aware of this commitment, he said.

"To make this a special day, it requires cooperation from everyone in attendance," Thomas said. "We believe it should be a dignified ceremony, which adds to its enjoyment of all in attendance."

At 8:30 a.m. Aug. 12, Murphy Center doors will open for the commencement ceremony. Candidates are expected to be in their assigned areas, dressed in their caps and gowns, no later than 9 a.m.

Officials report that students who are not in their assigned gym at the proper times will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Because commencement rehearsals are no longer conducted, timely attendance is mandatory for students to receive important instructions.

For more information about commencement or receiving a degree in absentia, please visit the Records Office Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm. Questions about graduation may be directed to the Office of Records at 615-898-2600.

The ceremony again will be shown via Webcast.

Arts

from page 1

McNair

from page 1

VSA arts International, said the award was given to VSA arts Tennessee because "the recipient took innovative approaches to conduct statewide education-infused awareness activities and connected the state's historical musical roots to its programming."

"This is a tremendous honor for our organization," Kissinger remarked. "I am thrilled with the award and excited about the opportunities that are ahead for our organization."

"We were also thrilled and excited to be the only VSA arts affiliate to receive the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant for 2006 and the only nonprofit to receive this award in middle Tennessee for our Ryman Auditorium project on Oct. 25," she added.

Members of the Tennessee chapter of VSA arts, as part of the organization's "Keymunicate" arts relay in 2005, actively worked to position artists with disabilities on the stage of Nashville's Bluebird Café in 2004 and 2005. The group, in

its ongoing outreach programming efforts, also has planned a Ryman Auditorium project that will take place in October 2006.

"We are hopeful that middle Tennessee, and Nashville in particular, will embrace these national recognitions and help us make the Ryman project something that Tennessee can truly be proud," Kissinger said.

Kissinger said the group also was commended for its connections to higher education, including:

- its relationship with Belmont University's annual awards program;
- its annual weeklong art institute at Volunteer State Community College; and
- its connections to MTSU and the ongoing support it receives for its numerous VSA projects and programs via the university, including service-learning opportunities that MTSU students participate in.

For more information about VSA arts Tennessee or its upcoming programs, please visit its Web site at www.vsaartstennessee.org.

research while the mentors receive \$500, he added.

Saunders said the trio of judges would come from the 2004-07 McNair Advisory Board.

The McNair coordinator said presentations will be published in

the McNair Research Review, which has the support of nine campus sponsors—James E. Walker Library, College of Liberal Arts, College of Mass Communication, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, University Honors College, College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, College of Education and Behavioral Science and College of Graduate Studies — and their deans.

All nine sponsors are featured in full-page advertising in the fourth volume of the 132-page McNair

Research Review—the published work of the 2005 scholars. The book, which was coordinated through

MTSU Publications and Graphics and published by MTSU Printing Services, had a print run of 250 copies.

"The newly designed journals are dwindling fast, which is a good prob-

lem to have," Saunders said, adding that the book has been circulated to 54 regional high schools, 13 community colleges "and an electronic distribution to 51 McNair Programs in a 300-mile radius."

Dr. Diane Miller serves as McNair Program director.

The program is designed to serve first-generation and low-income students as well as students from groups underrepresented in doctoral level studies.

For more information about the symposium or program, call 615-904-8462.

McNair Scholars make presentations

Who: 21 McNair Scholars
What: 2006 research symposium
When: 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1
Where: Tom H. Jackson Building
Etc.: Free and open to the MTSU community; for information, call 615-904-8462

Conference 'something to talk about'

by Tom Tozer

Labor and management often have "something to talk about," and turning those conversations into constructive results is the focus of the 19th annual Tennessee Labor-Management Conference Aug. 16-18.

Sponsored by the non-profit corporation, the Tennessee Labor-Management Conference, the statewide event at the Sheraton Music City Hotel (777 McGavock Pike) in Nashville, headlined "We've Got Something to Talk About," will draw more than 500 attendees.

The event is co-sponsored by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and facilitated by the Tennessees Center for Labor-Management Relations.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of changes in labor law, moderated by Peter Cheng, commissioner, FMCS, and with panelists Dennis Walsh of the National Labor Relations Board and Nashville attorneys Russ Morris and Jim Stranch.

Early-bird registration for individuals will be available until July 18 at considerable savings; early registration for parties of five people or more will be accepted up to Aug. 1. A special conference rate for interested college students is available.

Dr. Barbara Haskew, professor of economics at MTSU and director of the MTSU-headquartered Tennessee Center for Labor-Management Relations, said this year's conference will kick off Aug. 16 with the traditional prayer brunch and program, followed by lunch and welcoming remarks at 12:45 p.m. by Roger D. Womble of the Communications Workers of America Local No. 3808, who is this year's conference president.

"Labor-Management participants at the August conference will have the opportunity to discuss possible solutions to problems in the health-care, pension and other workplace areas," Haskew said. "The focus on joint problem-solving and working together makes this labor management conference unique and generates excitement about the outcomes that such collaborations can

produce."

Concurrent workshops from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. will address interest-based bargaining, pension changes, understanding and resolving conflict, "street-smart" safety policies, and identifying and eliminating hostile work environments.

Dr. Richard Hannah, professor, economics and finance, will moderate a discussion on pensions.

During the banquet, which starts at 6:30 p.m., the winners of the \$2,000 Tennessee Labor-Management Scholarships will be announced, followed by a scholarship auction at 8:30 p.m. The scholarships encourage college students who are legal residents of Tennessee to remain in the state following their graduation—and to continue their pursuit of a career in labor relations.

TNCLMR is a consortium of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, MTSU and Tennessee Board of Regents.

For more detailed information on hotel reservations and conference registration, visit www.tnlabormgmt.org or call 615-895-4166.

Crunching Fall '06 enrollment numbers

Projected 3% increase would surpass 23,000

by Randy Weiler

MTSU is projected to reach and pass the 23,000 mark for student enrollment—a university milestone—when final, permanent totals are sent to the Tennessee Board of Regents during the week of Sept. 11, MTSU officials said.

“We will be very close to 23,200,” Dr. Bob Glenn, vice provost for enrollment management, said in discussing the projections. “We might be a little above it or we might be a little below it, but we will be close. Percentage-wise, we are right at 3 percent over the previous year. We are about where we wanted to be, so we are pleased with it.”

Glenn’s comments came following the release of the fall '06 enrollment forecast by Dr. David Penn, director of the Business and Economic



Glenn

Research Center for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

“The forecast is where we wanted it to be,” said Glenn, who also serves as vice president for student affairs. “As always, David has done an exceptional job of analyzing the available data. He has been working on the forecast for quite some time.”

“Our estimate for fall 2006 undergraduate enrollment is 20,919, an increase of 530 students from fall 2005 figures,” Penn wrote in his final summary.

“When you add in graduate enrollment, that number comes to 23,084,” Glenn said. “My assumption

is that we will have some growth in graduate student enrollment.”

Glenn, who lauded the efforts of many MTSU personnel for their work to achieve the increase, said that the “next two CUSTOMS (orientation sessions) are above capacity and it is likely that the remaining sessions in July will also be at or above capacity.”

Penn’s findings reveal that Davidson (22.9 percent), Cheatham (20.2 percent), Rutherford (14.7 percent), Wilson (12.8 percent) and Williamson (7.3 percent) counties “experienced over-the-year increases of 7 percent or more” in students attending MTSU.

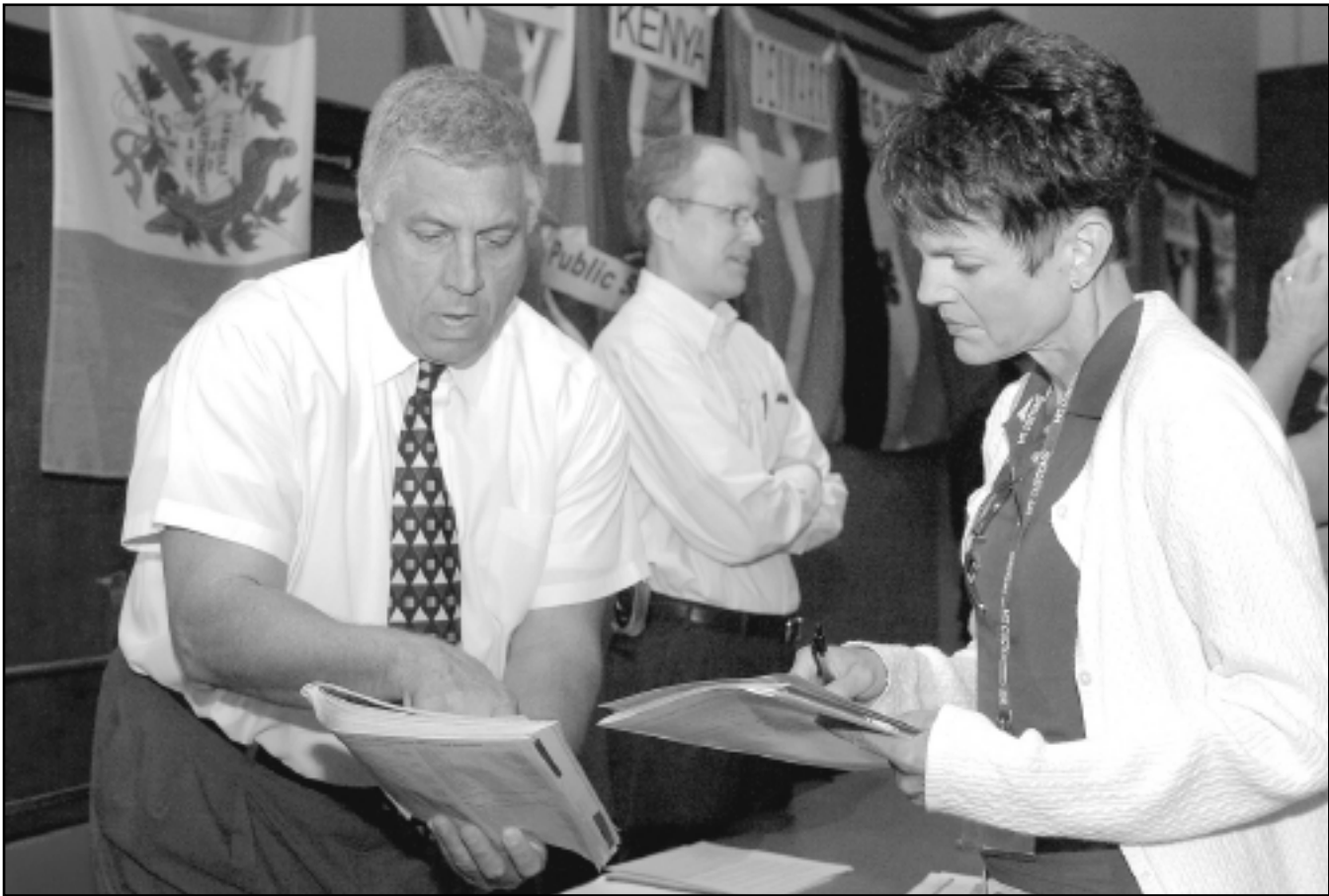
Another finding: “The number of first-time freshmen is expected to increase to 3,481, a gain of 273 from fall '05,” Penn said.

Rutherford County’s predicted increase will be 136 students with Davidson (41 students) Williamson (37 students), Wilson (32 students) and Hamilton (11 students) counties completing the top five.

‘We are about where we wanted to be, so we are pleased with it.’

*Dr. Bob Glenn,
vice provost for enrollment management*

CUSTOMizing the EXperience



THERE IS A DIFFERENCE—News and Public Affairs Director Tom Tozer, left, explains the EXL (EXperiential Learning) program to parent Terrie Rehert during CUSTOMS as Bill Black of the Walker Library, center, talks to another interested parent. Beginning this fall, MTSU will offer EXL certification courses in all majors to give students the opportunity to be involved in an array of community projects, study abroad, cooperative education/internships, applied learning, service-learning, creative activity, teacher education and laboratory experiences while receiving credit. CUSTOMS, the university’s freshman orientation program, has welcomed capacity crowds this summer as parents and students learn more about the university. The two remaining CUSTOMS sessions for the summer are set for July 20-21 and July 24-25. For more information about the EXL program, visit www.mtsu.edu/experience; to learn more about CUSTOMS, visit www.mtsu.edu/~customs.

photo by J. Intintoli

KUC will be site for regional bonsai show on July 29-30

by Gina K. Logue

Lovers of Japanese greenery from several states will compete in the Middle Tennessee Regional Bonsai Show Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30 in Room 322 of the Keathley University Center.

The show is co-sponsored by the Nashville Bonsai Society and the Japan-U.S. Program of MTSU.

Bonsai is the centuries-old Asian art of caring for trees and plants through meticulous pruning of roots and stems and restriction of roots. Some specimens, under the unwavering attention of their owners, have survived for hundreds of years.

At 1 p.m., participants will enjoy Japanese dancing sponsored by the Japan-U.S. Program.

Plants will be on display to the general public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday. Bonsai Master Warren Hill will conduct a demonstration at 2 p.m. The tree will be auctioned following the demonstration.

Hill will critique the bonsai on display at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. Awards will be given for Best Club Display, Best in Show, and Viewer's Choice, as well as Honorable Mention ribbons for deserving entries.

From 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, the bonsai again will be on display to the general public.

A selection of bonsai forests and pre-bonsai stock will be available for purchase both days along with Sara Rayner, Tokoname and Houtoku pots, bonsai tools, akadama, lava rock, soil, wire, other bonsai supplies and accent plants. Admission both days is free.

To register for the show or for more information, contact Barbara Walton at 615-337-4728 or 615-449-6693 or cuchem@charter.net.

Guitar workshop set July 22-27

from Staff Reports

The 13th Annual National Guitar Workshop at MTSU will be held July 22-27 in the Robert W. McLean School of Music.

The workshop, which will include both faculty and student concerts, annually enrolls about 100 student participants of all ages and offers top-notch instruction in various styles of guitar, bass, drums and songwriting.

“In the past 13 years, the National Guitar Workshop at MTSU has brought students in from 40 states and five foreign countries ranging in age from 12 to 73,” Dr. William Yelverton, director of MTSU’s guitar studies program, said.

The yearly workshop offers courses in rock, blues, jazz, country and acoustic, classical guitar, Yelverton said, in addition to instruction in songwriting, bass and

drums.

In addition to Yelverton, a professor of music at MTSU as well as a touring guitarist, more than 20 guest artists and faculty will participate in the 2006 event.

Guests include Brent Mason, one of Nashville’s most-recorded guitar virtuosos, and Jody Fisher, a West Coast-based jazz virtuoso and author of more than two dozen books on jazz.

Interested participants may reside on- or off-campus during the event. For registration information, including details about the event’s various seminars, from classical, bluegrass and jazz to songwriting, please visit the event’s Web site at www.guitarworkshop.com/sessions/tn/ or call 1-800-234-6479.



Yelverton

All the world’s a stage for summering students

by Justin Dinger

While most college students recuperate from the rigors of another academic year, MTSU seniors Megan Tozer and Neal Figueroa are pursuing their passion for musical theater in the Cape Cod hamlet of Falmouth, Mass.


Founded in 1969, the College Light Opera Company is the country’s largest residential opera company. During its nine-show season, opera company provides undergraduate students with an environment and experience to refine their skills and launch careers in musical theater.

“I heard about the company through professors and colleagues at MTSU,” said Tozer, a vocal performance music major and opera company vocal ensemblist.

“I knew I needed to begin applying for summer programs and internships this year, because they really help build an artistic resume.”

Figueroa, who’s serving as one of three opera company assistant conductors, added, “College Light Opera Company will be able to provide me with valuable experience and arm me for the future.

“I’m doing this program in preparation for graduate school and the real world,” he added, “(and) I hope to be a stronger conductor and teacher.”



Tom Tozer
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Dr. John McDaniel, dean of MTSU’s College of Liberal Arts, said, “This is a highly competitive endeavor open only to the best college students, and we are immensely pleased that Neal and Megan are representing MTSU in this professional organization.

“Their appointment to this company, where they will work with a professional staff throughout the summer, is a credit not only to their talent but to the nurturing they have received from faculty in the music school.”

Each year, the opera company selects 32 vocalists for the ensemble, 18 instrumentalists for the orchestra, three assistant conductors and 12 stage technicians for its summer program. With such a small number of applicants accepted, the opera company has become a high watermark for young talent.

“I’m particularly happy for Megan because the true elitism in the program is for the vocalists,” said Figueroa, a Memphis native who’s double-majoring in music and theater education.

“Singers from some of the top music schools in the United States applied for the ensemble, and only a few, in relationship to the amount of



Figueroa

applicants, are accepted.”

As for the fact that two MTSU students were selected to participate in the prestigious summer company, “It says a great deal about the faculty members who invest their time into helping us be the best performers we can be,” Tozer observed.

Nevertheless, both Tozer and Figueroa insist they have no intention of letting their acceptance into the program inflate their egos or overshadow the talents of their colleagues in the music or speech and theater programs.

“We were the only two who applied from MTSU,” Figueroa said. “However, I believe that there are students in our program that have the talent and ability to give the rest of the CLOC ensemble a run for their money. It will be exciting to see what the future has in store for MTSU.”

Added Tozer, “I definitely think MTSU has a great deal of talent in both the music and theater departments. Other students have done similar programs and placed in statewide competitions just this year.”

Although the pair’s musical talents afforded them admittance into the highly competitive opera company program, both Figueroa and Tozer believe it would not have possible without encouragement from their



Tozer

respective MTSU faculty.

“Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer, my voice teacher, has undoubtedly been a huge inspiration since I’ve been at MTSU,” said Tozer, a 2003 graduate of Riverdale High School. “I knew that she would help me prepare and support me, whether or not I was accepted into CLOC.

“Dr. Isley-Farmer cares for each of us personally and spends a great deal of time getting to know our voices and selecting repertoire that suits us best. I can only hope to be half the teacher that she is someday.”

Figueroa, too, has a favorite faculty member whom he credits with mentoring his aspirations.

“Dr. Raphael Bundage has a vast knowledge of music history, choral literature and score interpretation,” Figueroa said. “I have learned a great deal from sitting in his choirs and observing him work.

“He is always willing to offer assistance if you ask and is the epitome of a great musical mind. However, Dr. Bundage is quite humble in his teaching and would never really admit to inspiring anyone, though he inspires many.”

Once their summer tenure with the opera company is completed, Tozer and Figueroa will return to MTSU for the fall semester to complete their senior-year studies. But the skills and experience from the program, they say, will stay with them well beyond graduation.

For more information on the College Light Opera Company, please visit its Web site at www.collegelightopera.com.

Justin Dinger is a May 2006 graduate of MTSU majoring in mass communication.

Writing teachers share, discover, retool

by Tom Tozer

Teachers need play time, too. That was a recurring theme during Visitors’ Day, the recent closing session of the Middle Tennessee Writing Project on campus in which class members brought professional peers with them to class so that they could get a taste of this five-week smorgasbord of high-energy writing and sharing.

The program ran from June 5 to June 30.

“In working with adults, the most important thing I learned is to give them the gift of time,” said one discussant, while reflecting on the experience. “Adults, like children, have individual learning styles.”

“Yes, adults need time to discover,” said Dr. Bobbie Solley, professor, elementary and special education and co-director of the project with Dr. Trixie Smith, assistant professor of English.

The Middle Tennessee Writing Project is part of the National Writing Project, a federally funded program launched in 1974 at the University of California at Berkeley. Solley and Smith wrote a grant that allowed MTSU to play host to the state’s second only such writing project. The program encourages teachers of writing to share best practices and provides them a respite to oil the wheelworks of their own writing creativity.

“This is really all about meeting teachers and children where they are,” Solley told the group. “We will come to your school and help you form study or focus groups with your teachers.”

Another participant raised her hand. “Teachers really do want to learn from teachers. We want to share our experience and passion.”

“This is much better than going to a seminar and getting ‘10 quick tricks’ from a writing expert,” a colleague chimed in. “This program has given us a map for a journey.”

Another class member told the group that she came to the program while caring for an ailing mother and following the death of a good friend.

“It was just nice to enjoy the pleasure of writing,” she said, describing herself as a literary coach and mentor to other teachers. “I learned about adults as learners, and I had the opportunity to be a student. I feel good about going into the next school year and teaching my fifth-graders. This program has become a lifetime relationship for me.”

Dr. Hilary Stallings, MTSU College of Liberal Arts, participated in this year’s program after visiting last year’s class and seeing all the colored paper on the walls, the projects and demonstrations. She was hooked.

“As a teacher who feels that writing is tied to gains in critical thinking, I ached for better ways to infuse writing into the curriculum. I left hoping that I could be a part of that program.” This year she was in the thick of it.

The class was composed of 20 teachers who applied for the program and went through a 45-minute interview.

“They have to tell us what they’re doing in the classroom that is unusual and unique,” Solley said. “We want applicants who teach kindergarten through college in all the areas-math, science, social studies, and so on.”

Participants received six hours of graduate credit. They came from Maury, Cannon, Wilson, Rutherford and Williamson counties as well as the Franklin City Schools district. Now that they have gone home, they will be required to hold workshops and in-service sessions on writing in their own schools’ systems.