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5th fun-filled year at MTSU
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a publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

May 21, 2007 • Vol. 15/No. 21

the RECORD

Employees of the Year, retirees honored

from Staff Reports

Four current and 26 retiring members of the MTSU community have been honored for their exemplary work and years of dedication in separate ceremonies in the James Union Building.

Recognized April 11 for their combined 680 years of service to the university, the retiring honorees received engraved clocks commemorating their accomplishments from President Sidney A. McPhee. Winners at the May 9 Employee of the Year reception received engraved crystal awards and monetary gifts for their commitment to the success of MTSU.

"I want to thank all employees for their hard work and dedication to MTSU, and today we

want to acknowledge and recognize the four Employee of the Year winners," Senior Vice President John W. Cothern said at the May 9 awards event.



"All employees are an integral part of the university in meeting our educational mission of instructing students. I also would ask you to thank our students, for without them, we would not be a university."

The Employee of the Year winners were chosen from dozens of nominees, including quarterly award recipients in the secretarial/clerical category, during the 2006-07 academic year. They are:

- **Jennifer Coppinger**, assistant director of the Budget and Financial Planning Office, winner of

the 2007 Administrative Award;

- **Donnie Murray**, central shipping/receiving supervisor in Distribution Services, winner of the 2007 Classified Award;

- **Michelle "Shelly" Graham**, executive secretary to the dean of the College of Mass Communication, 2007 Secretarial/Clerical Award winner; and

- **Jimmy Stokes**, custodian at the Homer J. Pittard Campus School, winner of the 2007 Technical/Service Award.

Retirees honored April 11 included:

- **Hylda M. Anderson**, post office;
- **Leon Bell**, custodial services;
- **Dr. Raymond P. Bills**, music;

See 'Employees' page 5

Mentoring builds esteem, rapport in local schools

by Claire Rogers

Beginning in the summer of 2006, MTSU student-athletes agreed to partner with local schools in a mentoring program. Today, the collaboration is still going strong.

The program is one facet of the partnership created two years ago between MTSU and Murfreesboro City Schools to share resources and increase community development.

"We help them with their accreditation initiatives, and they help us with ours. It is a mutually beneficial relationship," said Dr. Gloria Bonner, dean of the

College of Education and Behavioral Science.

The 14 MTSU teams are each assigned to visit a school monthly to read, talk and play with the children to get them excited about learning. Since the program's creation, there has been a noticeable, positive change in the class behavior, attendance and

See 'Mentoring' page 5

Coach of the Year—again!



A BIT OF RECOGNITION—Head Coach Dean Hayes poses alongside memorabilia from his decades of leadership at the recent unveiling of new displays at the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame. Hayes, whose men's team captured its second straight Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field title May 13 in Lafayette, La. (and his 42nd conference win in 43 years), was voted SBC Coach of the Year for the 14th time.

photo by News and Public Affairs

Author Alfie Kohn to address June 2 teachers' summit

by Lisa L. Rollins

Some 400 educators are expected to visit the MTSU campus Saturday, June 2, when nationally known author-speaker Alfie Kohn presents a teachers-only workshop as part of the inaugural Positive Behavior Support Conference.

Dubbed as "perhaps the country's most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades (and) test scores" by one *TIME* magazine writer, Kohn is the author of 11 titles to date, including *Beyond Discipline: From Compliance to Community*, a book that addresses the nonacademic realm of school life, including the ways in which at-school discipline tends not only to backfire but to actively interfere with helping students grow into responsible, compassionate adults.

"The Department of Elementary and Special Education is especially pleased to welcome Alfie Kohn to our campus," said Dr. Connie A. Jones,

See 'Kohn' page 5



Bonner



Kohn

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IN BRIEF

MT-SWIM UNIVERSITY: DIVE IN!

MT-Swim University, a summer camp for competitive swimming, is ready for ages eight to 17. Camps begin June 4; for more information, contact Pam Footit at 615-898-2104.

FEEL BETTER WITH A CLICK

The MTSU Faculty-Staff Wellness program has a new Web site! It's www.mtsu.edu/~wellness and includes information about health-related topics, tips on proper fitness and nutrition, updates on research findings and information about the campus wellness program.

LADIES, GRAB YOUR HELMETS

Head Football Coach Rick Stockstill and his staff invite female football fans to join them Saturday, July 14, for the 2007 Ladies Football Clinic in Murphy Center, featuring seminars on strategy, equipment, training and rules. Call Danny Lewis at 615-898-2311 for more info.

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Registration deadline is May 31

Girls’ rock camp rolls into its 5th fun-filled year

by Gina K. Logue

Registration will run through Thursday, May 31, for the fifth annual Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp, a weeklong music day camp for girls ages 10 to 17 slated July 16-21 on the MTSU campus.

Volunteers will tutor the campers in vocals, keyboards, drums, guitar and electronic music. The girls will learn about other aspects of the music industry through workshops in subjects such as photography, music journalism, recording, DIY arts and crafts, and songwriting, as well as panel discussions with industry insiders.

Throughout the week, campers will form their own bands, write songs, and practice two hours each day with volunteer band managers. At the end of the week, the girls will show off their talents in a Saturday-night showcase in Tucker Theatre.

The camp is a program of Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities, or YEAH, a nonprofit arts organization. The event was inspired by the Rock ‘n’ Roll Camp for Girls, which was founded in 2000 in Portland, Ore.

“The mission of the Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp is to support a culture of positive self-esteem and collaboration among girls while building com-



munity through music,” says co-founder Kelley Anderson. “SGRRC recognizes the potential of every young woman to be a strong, talented, creative and empowered individual while providing a safe space where all girls rock.”

Musical acts slated to perform include:

- Those Darlins—a three-piece Murfreesboro-based band that plays traditional country music with a rock ‘n’ roll attitude. Members include SGRRC founder Anderson on bass, camp volunteer Nikki Kvarnes on ukulele and Jessi Wariner, who has attended all four summers of SGRCC, on gui-

tar; influences include The Carter Family, Woody Guthrie and Hank Williams Sr.;

- Six Gun Lullaby—a trio that fills its music with huge sonic landscapes and sounds reminiscent of the No Wave music scene in New York and intentionally lacking a bass guitar. Inspired by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche’s approach to art, the band believes “there can be no way of freeing your sound from its naturalization if you do not first limit yourself to what is most capricious: the bass.” Members include Claire Adams, Tiffany Minton and Martin Schneider.
- My Siamese Self—a three-piece punk band from Atlanta featuring lead singer and guitarist Deb Davis, drummer Kat Riederich and bassist and backup vocalist Stacey Singer. It’s been compared to Joy Division, Television and The Clash and currently has an EP, “If You Please.”

Sponsors of the Southern Girls Rock & Roll Camp include Rose Companies, Luna Guitars, Chambers Guitars, Grand Palace Silkscreen, Grand Palace Records and Makeshift Music.

Tuition is \$250 per camper. Scholarships are available, but they are expected to be distributed quickly. For more information, visit www.sgrrc.org, call 615-849-8140, or send an e-mail to sgrrc05@gmail.com.

Academic progress continues for MT athletes

3-year average rises; 13 of 17 sports exceed NCAA’s cutoff target

from MT Media Relations

MTSU has enjoyed a banner year in the athletic arena during the 2006-07 school year, and the Blue Raiders are making the grade in the classroom as well.

In the latest Academic Progress Rates, released May 2 by the NCAA, Middle Tennessee’s student-athletes produced an aggregate score of 951 for the 2005-06 academic year—its highest total in the three years of the existence of the APR.

The latest figure shows a continuing progression for Middle Tennessee, which produced a 908 in 2003-04, 918 in 2004-05, and the most recent 951 in 2005-06. Pending the results of final exams, athletic department officials anticipate a scoring range of 950 to 975 for the 2006-07 school year when APR results are next released.

“The progression we have demonstrated as a whole is very encouraging,” Director of Athletics Chris Massaro said. “It is a compliment to our student-athletes, our coaches and Jim Rost and his staff at the Academic Enhancement Center. The entire university placed a great emphasis on academic enhancement, and the results are there, as evidenced by the proof of these

scores and the progression you are seeing.

“The NCAA is pleased with the progress we have made, and it is even using our university as an example of how to manage APR.”

While Massaro is pleased with the latest results and the showing of all 17 of MTSU’s Division I sports teams, he said there is still work to be done.

emphasis being placed on academic enhancement at Middle Tennessee,” said McPhee, who also serves as president of the Sun Belt Conference. “Our student-athletes continue to exhibit the ability to successfully balance academics and athletics and that is very pleasing. We will continue to make strides, but I am delighted with the progress we are showing in this highly important area.”

results showed 13 of the university’s 17 sports earned an APR score of 938 or higher in 2005-06.

Ten of the 17 sports increased their points from 2004-05 to 2005-06, and three of the seven that did not show an increase only showed a slight decrease and still had a score that easily exceeded the NCAA cutoff line of 925.

Along the lines of progression, Middle Tennessee’s football program has been a model. The Blue Raiders scored at the bottom of the NCAA with 812 points in 2003-04, but increased to 893 in 2004-05 and raised the figure to 949 in 2005-06.

Middle Tennessee’s athletic teams that scored in excess of 925 on the APR during 2005-06 include:

- baseball (986 points)
- football (949)
- men’s basketball (940)
- men’s golf (979)
- men’s tennis (1,000)
- softball (955)
- soccer (952)
- volleyball (938)
- women’s basketball (960)
- women’s cross-country (950)
- women’s golf (964)
- women’s tennis (974)

The following three-year averages are below 900: men’s cross-country (917), men’s indoor track (885), men’s outdoor track (885) and women’s indoor track (919).

“With the information we have thus far in the school year, including summer terms, we anticipate all of our sports aggregate to be above 900 next year,” Massaro said.

‘We can continue to improve, and I know we will.’

*Chris Massaro
director of MTSU athletics*



“When you look at the three-year average and take into consideration the progress we have made across the board each year, clearly we are making strides,” Massaro said. “While I am pleased with the progress, I am still not completely satisfied because we can continue to improve, and I know we will.”

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, who serves on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and the NCAA Executive Committee, said academic enhancement must be at the forefront with student-athletes, adding that he is delighted to see significant results in the latest APR Report.

“I find the results of the recent APR data to be very revealing, because these data support the

The APR is calculated by measuring the academic eligibility and retention of student-athletes by team each term. Based on current data, an APR of 925 calculates to an approximate graduation success rate of 60 percent. Failing to reach the NCAA’s cutoff line of 925 could result in reduction of scholarships for a particular sport, as well as penalties for athletic departments, if their cumulative APR score of its programs dip below 925.

Historical penalties begin to occur when the average falls below 900, but officials said MTSU is fine in that regard, based on the NCAA’s statistical confidence boundaries. Middle Tennessee’s three-year aggregate score is 925, and the most recent



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Faculty: Please don't say goodbye for the summer!

from Staff Reports

Faculty and staff: Are you on campus this summer doing research, teaching a class section in one of the summer sessions or just organizing your files and enjoying a little downtime?

As you know, the news never rests, even when the rest of the world is on vacation. That means the Office of News and Public Affairs is always looking for experts—those who have background, training and experience in specific areas of interest to the media.

“Today’s Response” is a media tip sheet that NPA sends out every weekday—yes, even in the summer—to more than 170 print and electronic media members, offering expert commentary on timely news topics.

A recent “TR” item, for example, quoted Kenneth Sanney, recording industry adjunct and a licensed attorney, on the legal and mental-health system loopholes that may have had an impact on the Virginia Tech massacre. Other topics have been as wide-ranging as talk radio, consumer confidence and requiring Shakespeare courses for an English degree. (To get a feel for TR, check out its blog at <http://todays-response-from-mtsu.blogspot.com>.)

To ensure the success of TR—and keep MTSU’s wealth of expertise at the forefront when local media need commentary—NPA needs to continually replenish the pool of experts on campus.

If you are a new faculty member, or if you’ve never volunteered your expertise before, visit the NPA Web site at www.mtsunews.com and click on “Experts List.” The form there can be filled out and sent to NPA, or you can do the same with the form at right.

Your expert contributions do more than inform the community and keep MTSU in the forefront; they’re also excellent fodder for your curriculum vitae! Check out the rest of the NPA Web site to get a feel for the ways MTSU is in the news, and then add your expertise to the list!

For more information, call Gina K. Logue, “Today’s Response” editor, at 615-898-5081 or e-mail her at gklogue@mtsu.edu.

We need your expertise for “Today’s Response”!

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Office phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell phone (if we can give it to media): _____

Your specific area(s) of expertise/work experience: _____

Would you like to be included in our Speakers Bureau?

Please return this form to Gina K. Logue in CAB 209, fax it to extension 5714, or e-mail your information to gklogue@mtsu.edu. Thanks!

Create happy campers with Campus Rec’s summer opportunities

from Staff Reports

Don’t want your children sitting in front of the tube all summer? Campus Recreation has a couple of day-camp opportunities to consider.

Youth Adventure Day Camp is open to guys and gals 13 to 15 years old and meets weekdays through the month of June from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The camp is staffed by male and female counselors from Campus Recreation’s Outdoor Pursuits Program and supervised by full-time professional staff.

Campers will learn basic to intermediate skills in canoeing, rock-climbing, kayaking, camping and backpacking. They also will be exposed to team-building activities,

challenge/ropes course climbing, outdoor skills workshops and adventure games.

Campers will travel locally to perform the practical application of skills. Sessions are scheduled June 4-8, June 11-15, June 18-22 and June 25-29.

Cost for one session is \$150 per camper with discounts available for multiple family members and/or multiple sessions. A \$25 nonrefundable deposit reserves your child’s spot with the reservation form and is



applied to the total cost of the camp.

For more details, visit www.mtsu.edu/~camprec or contact Scott Pruett, Challenge Course coordinator.

Summer Youth Sports Camp begins Monday, June 4, and runs weekly through July 30 for boys and girls seven to 13 years old. A variety of sport, leisure and fitness activities will be taught.

Tuition for each weekly session is \$150 with lunch or \$125 if campers bring their own lunches. A \$25 nonre-

fundable deposit for each session must accompany the registration but is applied to the total cost of the camp. Discounts are available; for details, check the Web site or contact Fitness Director Jerry Langham.

There’s also still time to take advantage of summer family memberships for only \$50. That membership gives MTSU employees and their young folks access to the indoor and outdoor pools, the gym and racquetball courts.

Campus Rec also offers a variety of swimming lessons, as well as skills clinics and workshops. Costs vary, and more information is available at the Web site or by calling 615-898-2104 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

CUSTOMS orientations planned for new students

by Randy Weiler

CUSTOMS, the summer orientation for new MTSU students and family members, will begin a two-month run May 30-31, officials in New Student and Family Programs said.

CUSTOMS is a two-day session to aid the transition of new undergraduate students to the university, prepare them for educational opportunities and to initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural and social climate of MTSU.

College of Basic and Applied Sciences and College of Mass Communication majors will attend CUSTOMS May 30-31, June 8-9, June 19-20, July 10-11, July 24-25 and July 30-31.

Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education and Behavioral Science and College of Liberal Arts majors will attend June 5-6, June 12-13,

June 22-23, July 19-20 and July 30-31.

Undeclared majors can attend one of the 11 CUSTOMS sessions available throughout the summer (see above dates).

CUSTOMS dates are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, a New Student and Family Programs representative said.

Gina Poff, director of New Student and Family Programs, said “more individualized advising” would take place this year.

“We expect that most students will get to meet with a faculty member or adviser to individually talk about their major and the course requirements within that major,” Poff said. “The SOAs (summer



orientation assistants) will be leading their groups to all the events that are in the agenda, so there should be even more group cohesion and an opportunity for our new students to get to know other new students.”

Poff added that a pre-CUSTOMS online program that students must complete before they arrive for the orientation will be helpful.

“It is more of an informational video that is entertaining and filled with important information, yet brief,” she said.

CUSTOMS registration for students is \$64 and \$40 per person for family members. Overnight accommodations will be available in residence halls for an additional fee.

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~customs, e-mail customs@mtsu.edu or call 615-898-5533. For questions about admission status, call 615-898-2111.

Campus Calendar

May 21-June 3

TV Schedule

"Middle Tennessee Record"

Cable Channel 9:

Monday-Sunday—5 p.m.

NewsChannel 5+:

Saturdays—1 p.m.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/MTR.html for airtimes on 11 other cable outlets.

Through June 15

Student Photography Exhibit

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday (closed May 28 and June 2)
Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
No admission charge
For information, contact: 615-898-2085.

May 21

May 21-26

BlueCross Spring Fling

TSSAA baseball, track and field, and tennis championships
Reese Smith Field, MT Track & Soccer Complex and Buck

Bouldin Tennis Center
For information, visit www.tssaa.org or contact: 615-889-6740.

May 27

May 27-June 2

Volunteer Girls State

Campuswide
For information, visit www.volunteergirlsstate.org.

Sunday, May 27

"MTSU On the Record—The Multimedia Manifesto"

Guest: Chris Harris
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com or via free subscription at iTunes.

May 28

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day Holiday

No classes; all university offices closed.

May 30

May 30-31

CUSTOMS Orientation

Colleges of Basic & Applied Science, Mass Communication and undeclared majors
7:30 a.m., campuswide
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~customs or contact: 615-898-5533.

May 31

May 31-June 1

4-H District Horse Show

Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, contact: 615-832-6550.

June 1

Friday, June 1

Final Exams, Summer Session I

June 2

Saturday, June 2

Positive Behavior Support Conference

Guest speaker: Alfie Kohn
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., LRC 221
For information, contact: 615-898-2680 or 615-898-2687.

Middle Tennessee Arabian Horse Association "Open Fun Show"

9 a.m., Tenn. Livestock Center
For information, visit www.mtaha.com/shows1.htm or contact: 615-468-4040.

June 3

Sunday, June 3

"MTSU On the Record—In Vino Veritas"

Guest: Dr. Tony Johnston
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com or via free subscription at iTunes.

Blue Raider Football "Mini Camp"

for boys in ninth to 12th grades
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On your mark!



READY, SET, GO!—Dignitaries celebrate the long-awaited completion of the newly renovated Middle Tennessee Track and Soccer Complex at the corner of Greenland Drive and Champions Way at the north end of the MTSU campus. Joining in for the official May 1 ribbon cutting for the \$4 million project are, from left, 48th District State Rep. John Hood, D-Murfreesboro; former state senator and current Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Chairman Andy Womack; Murfreesboro City Councilman Doug Young; Murfreesboro Vice Mayor Chris Bratcher; Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley; MTSU President Dr. Sidney McPhee; MTSU Athletics Director Chris Massaro; and MTSU First Lady Liz McPhee. The facility will house the upcoming BlueCross Spring Fling (see calendar above) as well as the 2009 Sun Belt Conference Track Championships.

photo by Andy Heidt

- Dr. Jerry H. Brookshire, history;
 - Dr. Robert A. “Bob” Bullen, educational leadership;
 - Jennifer B. Butt, criminal justice administration;
 - Dr. Sarah C. Dawkins, accounting;
 - Roy H. Fults Jr., facilities services/building services;
 - Dr. Anthony J. “Tony” Halterlein, agribusiness and agriculture;
 - Joyce E. Harding, custodial services;
 - Dr. Thomas E. Hemmerly, biology;
 - Robert R. Hester, custodial services;
 - John L. High, Jazz89 WMOT-FM radio;
 - Dr. Cary T. Hughes, computer information systems;
- Dr. Geoffrey P. Hull, recording industry;
 - Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, economics and finance;
 - Dr. Karen K. Lee, social work
 - Peggy L. Lukasick, institutional research;
 - Mary K. Malone, custodial services;
 - Dr. Powell D. McLellan, health and human performance;
 - Mary McKee, speech and theatre;
 - John Claytor Moore, men’s golf coach/athletics;
 - Dr. Donald E. Parente, journalism;
 - Grace W. Prater, College of Graduate Studies;
 - Dianne H. Wagoner, English (posthumous award); and
 - Connie L. Witte, photographic services.



TIMELY HONORS—MTSU staffers recognized at the recent Employee of the Year Awards are, from left, Jennifer Coppinger, Administrative Award winner; Donnie Murray, Classified Award; and Jimmy Stokes, Technical/Service Award. Not pictured is Michelle “Shelly” Graham, Secretarial/Clerical Award winner.

photo by Andy Heidt

Top scholars



ON THEIR WAY—Jessica Arndt, a sophomore aerospace administration major, senior chemistry major Sara Serati and Erin Meaker, a senior philosophy and anthropology major, are the 2007 recipients of the June S. Anderson Foundation Scholarships, presented annually to female nontraditional students at MTSU who are pursuing careers typically occupied by males. Anderson, a former chemistry professor at MTSU who died in 1984, was an independent person who believed in reaching beyond one's grasp.

photo by Andy Heidt

Kohn

from page 1

department chairwoman. “Kohn is a sometimes controversial and often irreverent speaker, but he always challenges us to look beyond the façade to the important issues affecting children and the quality of their education today,” she observed. “He is well known for his positions on K-12 assessment, classroom management, parental involvement and homework.”

The author-speaker’s MTSU visit is funded by a Positive Behavior Grant directed by Dr. Zafrullah Khan, assistant professor of elementary and special education, Jones said.

Kohn’s presentation, “Beyond Bribes and Threats: Realistic Alternatives to Controlling Students’ Behavior,” will “begin by addressing the problems with trying to manipulate students’ behavior with the use of rewards, including praise, or punishment ... (often referred to) as ‘consequences,’” according to event organizers.

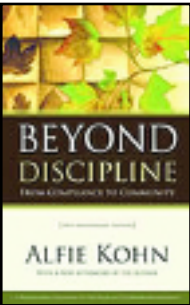
“Then we will dig deeper, looking at how much is lost by focusing on behavior in the first place, how a demand for short-term compliance ... gets in the way of our long-term goals for kids (as well as) how many problems originate with the assumption that the teacher should be in control of the classroom.”

Kohn’s four-hour session, which begins at 8 a.m., kicks off the June 2 workshop in the Learning Resources Center’s Room 221. The event also will include added education sessions before its 3:30 p.m. conclusion.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for educators in our region to hear this nationally known speaker,” Jones noted.

Teachers interested in learning more about the event, including registration information, may contact Linda Copciac at 615-898-2680 or lcopciac@mtsu.edu. Seating is limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about Kohn, please access his Web site at www.alfiekohn.org.



Mentoring

from page 1

self-esteem of mentored students, participants report. Many of the children in the city schools system live in single-parent homes, and program organizers say that mentoring provides them with support from other adults who are interested in their well-being. “They need someone to meet with, say, once a month to talk about what their hopes and aspirations are,” said Zane Cantrell, former principal of Black Fox Elementary School and director of MTSU community resources, who works alongside Bonner. The program is also expanding into Rutherford County Schools. For example, the men’s basketball team is assigned to Central Middle School, currently the only county school in the partnership. Organizers say the college athlete-mentors are well received by the students at CMS. “The kids treat them like rock stars,” Cantrell said. Cantrell added that there is a special need for more female volunteers in the mentoring program, especially with the adolescents at CMS. Due to the large number of girls in the partnership, groups such as sororities or women’s organizations are welcome to participate, he said. MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee mentors 16 CMS students—most with troubled backgrounds—once a month. McPhee said he stresses developing “stickability,” or perseverance through life’s troubles, to the youngsters. The program continues to attract volunteers from outside MTSU, many of whom are from local churches. However, organizers said,

the mentored children prefer college students, apparently because of the smaller age gap between them. Additional aspects of the partnership between MTSU and area schools include providing teachers, either MTSU staff or graduate students, to help with hands-on activities in art, science and social studies. “We have a tremendous science program here on campus,” Cantrell said. “Science is one of the weakest areas in elementary education, and we have a wonderful resource here to help that.” The mentoring program is a great way to fill individual community service requirements while making a positive contribution to society. Interested individuals or groups may contact Bonner at 615-898-2874 or gbonner@mtsu.edu.

Mass Comm’s ‘Wall of Fame’ grows by 4 names

from Staff Reports

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

Dean Anantha Babbili announced during an April 25 ceremony that alumni Tracey J. Rogers, Greg McCarn and Lucas L. Johnson II would be honored with plaques and photos installed on the northwest interior wall of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Also honored was Friend of the College Judith G. “Judy” Clabes.

The Wall of Fame began in 2000 as a way to both honor successful mass communication graduates and inspire current students to continue working toward their goals. Each year, each of the college’s depart-

ments solicits nominees from faculty, chooses an honoree and submits his or her name to the dean. Details about the four “Wall of Fame” 2007 additions include:

- Rogers (B.S. ’91), an alumna of the Department of Electronic Media Communication, is currently news director at WMC-TV, the Memphis CBS affiliate. She worked at all three of Nashville’s network news affiliates, then worked in Paducah, Ky.,



Rogers



McCarn



Johnson



Clabes

before joining WAFF in Huntsville. Under Rogers’s leadership, WAFF transformed from the third-rated station to the first-rated station in the market. After seven years in Huntsville, Tracey transferred to WMC-TV.

- McCarn (B.S. ’89), an alumnus of the Department of Recording Industry, is now vice president of marketing for Lyric Street Records in Nashville.
- Johnson (B.S. ’91), an alumnus of the School of Journalism, joined the

Associated Press’s Nashville bureau immediately after his graduation. He stayed with the AP for 10 years before taking a two-year sabbatical to write his first book, *Finding the Good*, the story of author Alex Haley’s childhood friend, Fred Montgomery, published in June 2003. Johnson has since returned to the AP to cover the Tennessee legislature.

- Clabes, the 2007 “Friend of the College,” has been president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation since 1996. A member of the College of Mass Communication’s Board of Visitors, she also serves on the board of directors for the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, Ohio University School of Journalism and the National Conference of Community and Justice.

Students thank interior-design mentors

by Lisa L. Rollins

Students honored three members of MTSU’s Department of Human Sciences faculty as part of the first “Celebration of Interior Design Awards,” held April 26 in Peck Hall.

Members of MTSU’s student chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers planned the ceremony to formally recognize Sharon Coleman, Dana L. Miller and Dr. Janis Brickey, all assistant professors of interior design, for their exceptional contributions to the students’ learning, said Dr. Deborah Belcher, faculty adviser to MTSU’s student ASID chapter.

Dr. Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost of MTSU, presented the awards on behalf of the students to honor Miller and Coleman “for their dedication, commitment and lasting contribution to excellence in the profession of interior design” and to acknowledge Brickey for “her outstanding teaching techniques and use of technology in the classroom,” Belcher said.

Amanda Alldaffer, publicity chairwoman and event coordinator for the campus ASID chapter, conceived the idea to acknowledge the trio.

She then enlisted the assistance of Belcher, also an assistant professor of interior design, to help plan and involve Gebert in the event so that ASID members “could recognize them on a larger scale, rather than just in our college and program,” said Lydia Melton, president of the university’s ASID student chapter.

“It’s hard to put into words what Ms. Coleman, Ms. Miller and Dr. Brickey have done for the interior design students,” said Melton, a Murfreesboro senior. “Yes, they have taught us everything from the basics of color choices and space planning to the intricacies of fire codes and computer drafting, but their influence goes so much further.

“They are our guides into the professional world of interior design and our friends. I know I can go to them anytime with a problem, be it school, work-related or a personal issue, and they will use their experiences and intelligence to advise me to the best of their ability.”

Dyersburg senior Jessie Cook agreed. “They have all pulled many strings for us to be able to have the best speakers, like Michael Payne (of HGTV) and many others, for our monthly meetings.”

Coleman joined MTSU in 1983 as the coordinator for the interior design program, dedicating herself to its development, pursuing accreditations, supervising internships and cooperative-education students in interior design. She also developed and lead study tours to New York and abroad, enhanced courses through interactive/experiential learning techniques and developed computer-



DESIGNING WOMEN—MTSU Provost and Executive Vice President Kaylene Gebert, left, joins members of the student chapter of the American Society of Interior Design at the April 26 Interior Design Awards ceremony. Honored faculty members Dana Miller, Sharon Coleman and Dr. Janis Brickey celebrated with student chapter ASID president Lydia Melton and event coordinator Amanda Alldaffer during the presentation.

photo by Jack Ross

assisted design courses and 3-D software programs to help prepare students for the technological demands and expectations of the profession, Belcher said.

“I was touched and honored that the students would take time out from the busiest part of the semester to host a reception to thank the interior design faculty,” Coleman said.

“Our interior design majors are eager to embrace new technology that supports their chosen career ... (and) as the faculty member who has developed, implemented and taught the computer application courses, it is rewarding to see students who are eager to explore new design tools and presentation options.”

A member of MTSU’s faculty since 1992 and a founding member of the Tennessee Interior Design Coalition, Miller said, “I was very impressed that the students cared enough to take time during the last week of classes to put this together.

“I know they all have large interior design projects to complete and were working themselves to death. I appreciate their thoughtfulness, and I was very surprised to be honored in this way.”

Credited with adding a wealth of design experience and technology skills to MTSU’s design stu-

dio, including developing interactive exercises and projects for foundation as well as senior-level courses, Brickey has been instrumental in bringing a variety of industry speakers into MTSU’s classrooms and student ASID chapter meetings.

“As the newest member of the MTSU interior design faculty team, I was particularly touched by the students’ recognition,” she said.

“During my first year here, I have witnessed many examples of how students have embraced new ideas and technology ... and look forward to many more opportunities to witness the special combination of talent, education, technology and individual dedication in the students.”

The design students’ appreciation for their faculty grows daily, said Cook, who is ASID co-president-elect at MTSU.

“(Each of these women) make a daily effort in helping all of their students to the best of their knowledge,” said Cook.

“It shows in all of these women that they love and enjoy their career, making them great professors and mentors, and for that we wanted to thank them.”



REVVING UP FOR SUCCESS—Representatives from the branch office of Auto Owners Insurance Co. in Brentwood join Dr. Ken Hollman, center left, and senior insurance major Harry Swaim, center right, to present the Murfreesboro student with a \$1,500 scholarship. From left are Joe Jackson, Auto Owners branch underwriting manager; Jim Baes, regional vice president, Brentwood branch; Hollman and Swaim; and Ed Colley, branch claims manager. Swaim is the latest beneficiary of the Auto Owners scholarship effort, which has been under way for the last decade and now totals more than \$14,500 in an endowed account.

photo by J. Intintoli

‘Right up there with Fulbrights’

History professor earns national justice grant

by Tabitha May

Winning a prestigious award doesn’t happen every day, but for Dr. Pippa Holloway, associate professor of history, that day has dawned.

A member of MTSU’s faculty since 1999, Holloway recently received a 2007 George Soros Justice Fellowship for her research on felon disenfranchisement in the South from 1865 to 1965.

Projects conducted by the Soros Justice Fellows “have helped to ensure that the criminal justice system in America does not ignore the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people,” according to information from the Open Society Institute, a private operating and grant-making foundation that aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance and human rights as well as economic, legal and social reform that includes the Soros Foundations Network.

Those competing for the Soros awards were among the best of the best, said Holloway, who noted that winning the George Soros Justice Fellowship is a true honor.

“The award is given once a year. This year, they gave over \$1 million to 18 people,” Holloway said.

According to OSI and the Soros Foundation Network, the 2007 Soros Justice Fellowships support work on local, state and national levels, and the fellows come from 10 states and the District of Columbia. Awards ranged from \$45,000 to \$71,250 for 12- to 18-month projects.

Dr. John McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Holloway’s recent Soros win “is right up there with Fulbrights and ... (national) Professor of the Year awards.”

Moreover, he observed, “the competition was both national and fierce, with 10 finalists being

flown to New York some months ago for in-depth interviews before the winners were selected.”

According to *www.soros.org*, Soros, an investor and philanthropist, created OSI in 1993 to support the foundations that he established to help countries make the transition from communism.

Born in Hungary in 1930, Soros fled to England in 1947 to escape his deadly fate as a Hungarian under communist rule. He moved to the United States in 1956 and today is one of the richest men in the world, according to *www.investingvalue.com*.

‘In the next year and a bit, I am hoping to wrap up five or six states ...’

Dr. Pippa Holloway
on her latest research project



Holloway said she did not submit her work for consideration until three weeks before the deadline, after learning about the award from a previous winner and friend who encouraged her to submit her work.

She said she didn’t think she had a chance at winning, since she had only three weeks to collect the required materials for the application.

“I sent in an application, three letters of recommendation and two letters from presses saying they would publish (the research), just so that they know that it is publishable,” she said. “Then they (review) all the applications.”

After she passed the initial cut, Holloway said, she was flown to New York for an interview. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history, and all about history—namely, Holloway’s latest research project,

for which she’s already received two grants.

Holloway explained that winning the Soros award will afford her much-needed time to continue working on the project, because part of her winnings include one year of paid salary. She’ll be temporarily away from the classroom so that she can more fully focus on her research; her goal is to write the history of felon disenfranchisement laws of 11 states within a year.

“In the next year and a bit, I am hoping to wrap up five or six states focusing on what the law is, how it has changed, how it is enforced and how it has been enforced over the years,” Holloway explained.

Part of Holloway’s passion for her work, she said, comes from the fact that these laws are relevant today. Some states still have a law making it illegal for any person who has ever been convicted of a felony to vote, she said, noting that those voting privileges are revoked for life.

Nationally, an estimated 5.3 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people with felony convictions, according to The Sentencing Project.

Considering the determination Holloway has to take on such an ambitious project, it’s not surprising this isn’t the first of her research endeavors.

Before receiving her doctorate from Ohio State University in ‘99, Holloway wrote her dissertation on social and political issues in Virginia from 1920 to 1945. After graduating, Holloway continued to work on the project, and five years later, in October 2006, her first book, *Sexuality, Politics, and Social Control in Virginia: 1920-1945*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Tabitha May is a senior majoring in journalism.

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‘They have a need and we are a land of plenty’

by Lisa L. Rollins

Thirty-seven boxes packed with 1,225-plus pounds of donated books headed to the John Rollins Success Primary School in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on May 7, thanks to the good will and efforts of one MTSU educator.

Dr. William “Bill” Whitehill, associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, said he learned of the school’s dire need for books earlier this year when he visited a friend in Jamaica and accompanied him to register his nieces for classes.

“While they were doing the registration, I wandered around and came to the library,” Whitehill said. “While there, I learned they had absolutely no books in the library, and that this school has been open only for 18 months.”

Once he returned to Tennessee, Whitehill said he made it his mission to collect books for the school’s library because “it was the morally right thing to do.”

“They have a need and we are a land of plenty,” he added. “Therefore, upon my return, I started talking to people, and the outpouring of help was great. One of the first people I spoke to was (retired educational leadership professor) Dr. Jan Hayes, and within a day, she had two boxes of books for me to take to this school.”

The May 7 shipment of books, whose initial freight costs were estimated at \$400 and funded by Whitehill, traveled from Murfrees-

the **RECORD**

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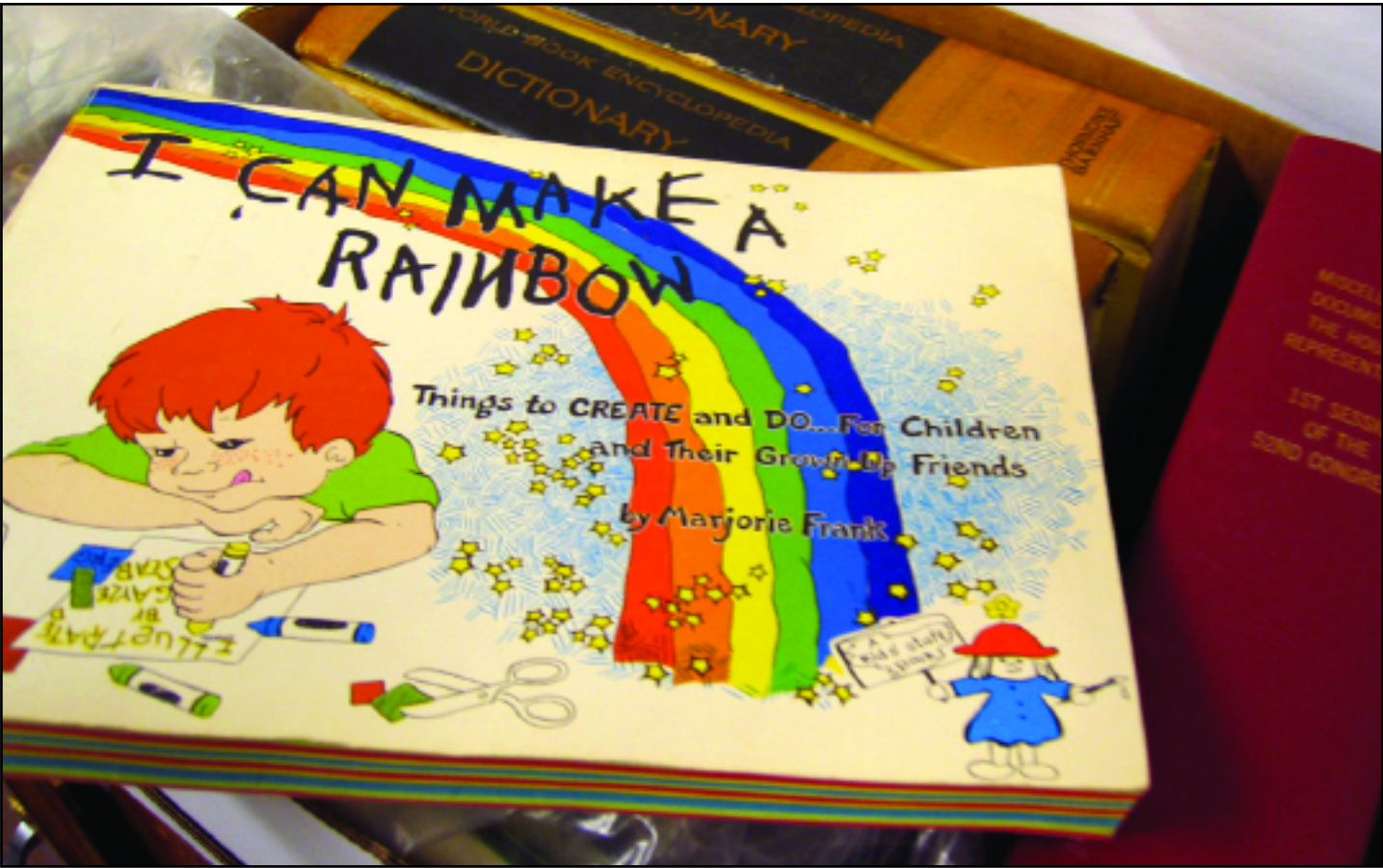
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READY TO HELP—Another box of books donated by the MTSU community awaits shipment to Jamaica and the students at the Success Primary School, thanks to a project by Dr. William Whitehill. For more information, contact 615-898-2811.

photo by News & Public Affairs

boro to Fort Lauderdale. From there, an organization known as Food For The Poor (www.foodforthe poor.com), a 25-year-old corporation whose mission is to improve the health, economic, social and spiritual conditions of impoverished people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, transported the books free to Jamaica, delivering them directly to the primary school’s principal.

The shipment also included titles collected by Kathy King and Tammy Sanchez, HHP secretaries; Beverly Corlew, an assistant professor in HHP; MTSU doctoral student Michele Dell Pruitt; Jeff Whitwell, textbook manager for Phillips Bookstore; Shirley Luscinski, secretary for MTSU’s Student-Athlete Enhancement Center; Thomas Keith, a teacher at Mitchell-Neilson Elementary; and donations from the community.

Considered one of two state-of-the-art educational centers in St. James Parish, the school—formerly

known as the Success Primary School—recently was renamed the John Rollins Success Primary School in honor of the late philanthropist and businessman whose developments played a pivotal role in the country’s tourism industry.

Whitehill said about 900 students are currently enrolled in the school, which was designed to accommodate 1,050 students and constructed by the Urban Development Corporation for Jamaica’s Ministry of Education.

Dr. Dianne Bartley, HHP chairwoman and a native of Trinidad, said that when Whitehill first told her about the bookless library, she was not surprised.

“Being from the Caribbean, I know such situations exist, even though most of us in the U.S. can’t imagine a library with no books,” she said. “We look forward to establishing an ongoing relationship with that school.”

A member of MTSU’s faculty

since 1994, Whitehill said the school’s book needs are “anything and everything,” and used as well as new book donations are welcomed, including donations from the community at large.

School principal Yvonne Miller-Wisdom said the books already are circulating among the students.

“The donations are being used extensively through grades one to six,” she said. “The children are enjoying them and request for more of these books to be read to them as well as to be put into the library.”

Said Whitehill: “These efforts to get books and educational materials to the school will be ongoing, and I hope it escalates to sending technology and other resources to this school. But the bottom line is, they need the help and we have the resources.”

For more information about donating books or learning materials via this MTSU-led campaign, please contact 615-898-2811.

Faculty/Staff Update

Elections

Dr. Carol J. Pardun (journalism) is the new vice president-designate for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. She’ll take office Oct. 1 and will become AEJMC president-elect in 2008-09 and president in 2009-2010.

Honors

Keith Jenkins and Jeff Henderson (facilities services) have been recognized by President Sidney A. McPhee for their unique skills and craftsmanship in contributing to the university’s Printing Press Project. Jenkins and Henderson constructed

the reproduction 18th-century English common press, which is used in a partnership between the Walker Library, the Art Department and the Rutherford County School System to enhance educational opportunities for students.

Presentations

Tom Nolan (geosciences) delivered a Jan. 15 presentation to the Rutherford County Historical Society and a Feb. 15 presentation to the Retired Military Officers meeting in Murfreesboro. Both discussions focused on his recent use of technology in locating the Alvin York battlefield site in France.

Seminars

Drs. Anhua Lin and Rong Luo (mathematical sciences) attended the second Computational Systems Biology Symposium March 22-23 in Athens, Ga.

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