



Hall of Fame time
April 26 ceremony honors
7 'exemplary' state educators
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the RECORD

earth day: MTSU goes greener

by Claire Rogers

MTSU's Students for Environmental Action will sponsor an Earth Day celebration on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23.

The festival will be held on the knoll in front of the Keathley University Center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day in an effort to bring the campus and community together in support of a common goal.

Earth Day events will kick off with a climate-commitment signing by MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee shortly after noon April 22.

"The goal of the Campus Climate Commitment is to ensure MTSU's continued success in the fight against global warming and other environmental issues," said Carl Caum, an officer for SEA.

"It also guarantees the university will do everything reasonable to combat the problem by building more energy efficient buildings and purchasing more clean energy over time, with the goal to become carbon-neutral."

Activities on Tuesday will include an earth-friendly art show featuring artwork made of recycled materials, food from local vegetarian and vegan restaurants, live music from local bands and organic shopping made available by Origins Skincare and ThinkHappyStuff.com.

A "Green Dining" survey will be conducted on the Knoll to measure how many students are vegetarian/vegan, what they are looking for from campus dining and how concerned they are about how waste is handled.

A petition in support of the new Tennessee Bottle Bill will be available for students to sign. This bill would attach a redemption amount to almost all recyclable bottles, as well as call for reusable glass bottles.

See 'Earth' page 5

Bonner will guide new community support office

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Gloria Bonner, current dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, has been chosen to lead the Office of Community Engagement and Support, a newly created administrative office initiated to support MTSU's overall mission to address the ever-growing needs of both the university and the surrounding community.

Bonner's new OCES appointment as an assistant to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and member of his presidential cabinet will become effective May 1. The university will begin a national search later this year to fill the deanship role that Bonner has held for a decade.

In announcing the creation of the OCES, McPhee said its impetus sprang from "a compelling need for a new office whose mission and focus centered on engaging the community with the overall goals and objectives of the university as it pursues mutually beneficial opportunities and undertakes new challenges."

As the fastest growing university in the state, MTSU—for the past decade—has experienced an enrollment growth of 26 percent and has been the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee since 2003. MTSU also has experienced significant growth in academic and support programs, including gaining the Carnegie Foundation designation as a major comprehensive doctoral degree-granting institution.

Throughout this period of unprecedented growth in both students and programming, however, MTSU's administrative and organizational growth has remained minimal,

See 'Bonner' page 5

Senior Gift coffers near \$10,000 goal

by Randy Weiler

Entering the spring semester, efforts to reach the \$10,000 goal for the Senior Gift Program stood just \$2,000 shy of achieving the mark, said Meredith Edington, coordinator of annual giving for the MTSU Office of Development.

"Our goal is to get \$10,000 so we can endow it and every year give up to a \$1,000 scholarship," Edington said. The program began in 2005.

Related graduation info, page 6

"The overall purpose of the Senior Gift Program is to raise funds for the Foundation Graduate Scholarship, which is awarded (each fall) to a student who is attending graduate school at MTSU," Edington continued.

"As an incentive to give to the Senior Gift Program, graduating seniors receive a unique lapel pin to wear on their graduation gown and will be recognized by President (Sidney A.)

See 'Senior' page 6

Mixing up a win

SOUNDS GREAT—Recording industry professors and students celebrate a student team's second-place win in the 2008 Student Mixing Competition sponsored by the Nashville Section of the Audio Engineering Society. From left are professor and AES co-adviser Michael Fleming, seniors Morgan Hobbs and Austin Hanson, professor Cosette Collier and senior Thomas May. MTSU teams won first in 2006 and 2007.

photo submitted

Dyslexia grant aids expansion

by Casey Brown

One of MTSU's most distinctive programs is about to expand its services yet again. The Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia recently received a community enhancement grant from the state.

The \$5,000 grant will be used to hire a certified speech language pathologist to evaluate every child tested by the center for possible language disorders. Director

See 'Dyslexia' page 5

U.S.-Sino workshop adding up to success

by Dr. L. Diane Miller

Middle Tennessee State University and Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, People’s Republic of China, will co-host a workshop on mathematics and science education on MTSU’s campus the week of June 22-27. Participation is by invitation only and will include 125 scholars, 50 confirmed from 20 universities in China and 75 confirmed from 40 universities in the United States.

Four plenary lectures and 48 topic session papers will be given by both U.S. and P.R.C. scholars. Participants will be divided into research working groups, or RWGs, whose objective is to identify common priorities that promote collaborative research. Topic session papers will cover six broad areas: curriculum, assessment, teacher preparation, professional development, integrating technology into the teaching and learning of mathematics and science, and strategies for reaching underserved populations.

The week’s activities will begin with a dinner event during which U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon will deliver the opening address. Plenary lectures will be delivered by:

- Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, division director, National Science Foundation;
- Dr. Liping Ma, author of *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics* and currently with

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching;

- Dr. Guo Shaoqing, professor at NWNNU and member of several projects funded by the United Nations Development Program; and
- Dr. Wan Minggang, NWNNU professor and member of several projects sponsored by the European Union Commission and the United Kingdom government that focus on improving basic education in the remote areas of Gansu Province and western China.

The speaker for the closing luncheon will be Dr. Xue Yanqing, a division chief for the China Education Association for International Exchanges in the P.R.C.’s Ministry of Education.



Miller

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for researchers from the United States and China to meet, discuss and identify common priorities that promote collaborative research. The most important unit of the workshop will be the RWGs, which will be developing professional relationships that will sustain a collaborative research agenda over a period of time. A primary interest of the Office of International Science & Engineering at the National Science Foundation is the process through which the RWGs are formed and organized to conduct collaborative research that will ben-

efit mathematics and science education in both countries. The size of a RWG is not being defined prior to the workshop. The only guideline is that the membership of a RWG must contain both U.S. and P.R.C. scholars.

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee suggested the workshop to NWNNU President Wang Limin during McPhee’s visit to NWNNU in 2006. I am serving as MTSU’s co-chair of the workshop’s organizing committee, and Vice President Deng Hualing is serving as NWNNU’s co-chair. The partnership between MTSU and NWNNU dates back to 2003, when I and Mr. Deng participated in a Sino-American Leadership Training program sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the China Education Association for International Exchanges.

The June event is being funded by the National Science Foundation, Texas Instruments and MTSU’s Office of the President, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education and Behavioral Science and the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center with other sponsors pending.

Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim vice provost for academic affairs, serves as director of the McNair Scholars Program and MTSU’s undergraduate research and has been a member of MTSU’s mathematical sciences faculty since 1993.

Collage brings home silver again!

by Brett McIntosh

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression, MTSU’s student literary and arts publication, was awarded its second Silver Crown Award in two years at the annual College Media Convention.

The award ceremony, held March 16 in the Westside Ballroom of the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, honors outstanding college publications nationwide. Together, the fall 2006 and spring 2007 issues of *Collage* received one of 31 awards out of 1,355 submissions.

Only 13 publications were awarded the highest honor, the Gold Crown, and 18 collegiate publications received the Silver Crown Award, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s second-highest award. *Collage* adviser Marsha Powers and the editor of the fall 2006 issue, Travesty Vasquez-Terry, accepted the award. Talia Cunetto was editor of the spring 2007 issue.

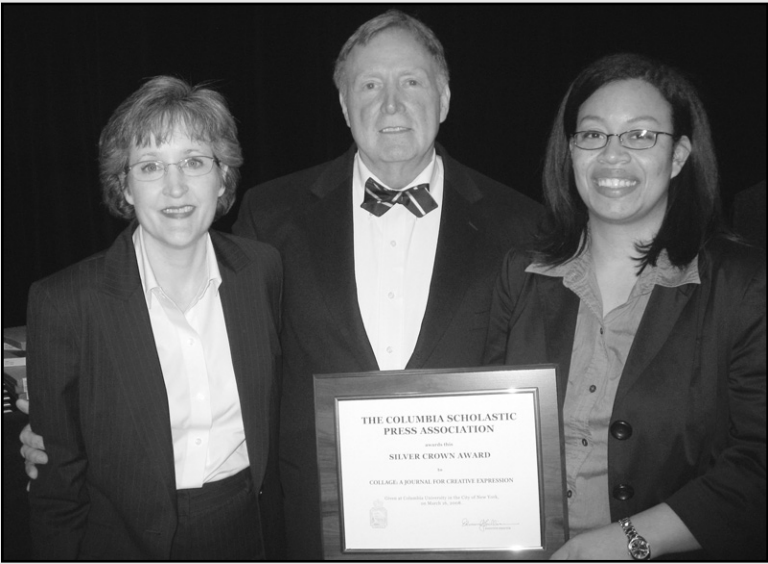
“As editor of the fall 2006 edition of *Collage*, I experienced so many emotions and successes, but none compare to the gratification of knowing that all the hard work, hours of dedication, and sleepless nights all count for something, and that some-

one thinks that all of that work is worthy of an award as prestigious as the Silver Crown Award,” Vasquez-Terry said.

The award ceremony was held by the CSPA, an international press organization founded by Columbia University in 1925. The CSPA unites student journalists and faculty advisers through award programs, educational conferences, textbooks and idea exchanges.

“We are extremely pleased and proud of our staff and faculty, and especially our many fine students who have contributed to the success of *Collage*,” said Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the University Honors College. “It is a labor of love, and to be counted among the nation’s finest literary and arts magazines is truly an honor.”

While *Collage* is a publication of the Honors College, its content represents the student body as a whole, and all MTSU students are encouraged to submit their creative works to the biannual publication.



CREATIVITY HONORED—*Collage* adviser Marsha Powers, left, joins fall 2006 *Collage* editor Travesty Vasquez-Terry, right, in accepting a Silver Crown Award from C. Bruce Watterson, chair of the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers’ Association’s Judging Standards and Practices. The CSPA recognized the fall 2006 and spring 2007 issues of *Collage* with a second Silver Crown Award in two years.

photo submitted

Brett McIntosh is a senior majoring in journalism with a concentration in newspaper/magazine. He also is prose editor for the spring 2008 Collage.

Fundraiser luncheon set at Outback

The MTSU Rutherford County Alumni Chapter is holding its annual fundraiser lunch at Outback Steakhouse, located on Old Fort Parkway, to benefit its scholarship program.

Two seating times will be available on Wednesday, April 23: 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, and the buffet lunch includes steak or chicken, bread, mashed potatoes and salad.

“Since the lunch will take place on Administrative Professionals Day, we are giving people the option of purchasing tickets for someone in their office, and the Alumni Office will send an Administrative

Professionals Day card with the tickets included,” said Paul Wydra, assistant director of alumni relations.

Last year, the chapter awarded \$15,000 in scholarships for Rutherford County incoming freshman. It plans to increase that number this year.

“This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the MTSU community and the people of Rutherford County,” Wydra said. “Outback is donating all the food and staff time, which means that 100 percent of the proceeds go directly to students in Rutherford County.”

For more information, please call 615-898-2922 or visit www.mtalumni.com.

Bring Spot to join the fun at May 10 run

Lace up your running shoes and pack the dog biscuits, because the popular See Spot Run 5K is back on the trail!

Sure to be an event to remember, participants are encouraged to run with their dogs. Participants and their pets will race to support Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity in an event unlike any other in Middle Tennessee.

The race begins Saturday, May 10, at 8 a.m. on MTSU’s campus. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at Peck Hall. The entry fee is \$20 before

Friday, May 2, and \$25 thereafter. Entry fees include a T-shirt for the first 200 participants and awards for the top age-group finishers. The 5K course is both flat and fast.

Registration is available at www.active.com, or download the registration form at www.mtsu.edu/~camporgs/events.

For more information, please contact Meagan Flippin at 615-898-5812 or camporgs@mtsu.edu. The event is sponsored by MTSU’s Student Government Association and the Office of Leadership and Service.



April 26 ceremony honors 7 educators' 'exemplary' efforts

by Lisa L. Rollins

The Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame will induct seven new members during its annual induction ceremony and banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, in the Tennessee Ballroom of the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

The black-tie affair will mark the 14th year that the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame has honored educators who have exemplified excellence in teaching in Tennessee.

To date, 71 educators have been inducted into the hall of fame, which is co-sponsored each year by MTSU and overseen by a board of governors, whose members are made up of representatives from all major educational organizations within the state.

"Although MTSU is the sponsor of the activities associated with the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, the effort truly is a statewide endeavor," said Dr. Gloria Bonner, dean of MTSU's College of Education and Behavioral Science and coordinator of the April 26 ceremony.

"The hall of fame is a wonderful way for Tennesseans to honor those who have made exemplary contributions to the education profession and the lives of young people," she added.

This year's inductees are:

- Selmer resident **Martha McCullar Glover**, who served 17 of her 35 years as a professional educator in the classroom and 18 in professional assignment. Cited as "an education visionary" who "impacted a school, a school system and thousands of students in countless ... positive ways," she joined the McNairy County School System as a classroom teacher in 1963 and served in that capacity until becoming an assistant principal for McNairy Central High School in 1980. She served as principal of the school from 1992 to 1998. Then, from 1999 to 2005, she was employed by Lambuth University as a planning coordinator for its freshman seminar program before serving as an adjunct professor in teacher preparation for UT-Martin's McNairy Center.

- Loudon resident **John Sizemore Napier**, who has thus far spent 34 years of his 35-year career in the classroom as a history and social-studies teacher, school historian and part-time coach. Napier began his teaching career in 1971 at North Middle School in Lenoir City, where he coached boys' and girls' basketball and taught social studies. He joined the faculty of Loudon High School in 1974, where he has taught classes in American history, world history, sociology, contemporary issues, and history of the 20th century, in addition to serving as a girls' softball coach and school historian.

In nominating Napier for the hall of fame, one supporter wrote that whenever the respected educator does finally decide to retire from the classroom, "he will leave a void that will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill."

- **Hilda Hale** of Manchester, who devoted all of her 29 years to teaching primarily Spanish and sometimes English for Coffee County Central High School. Hale joined the school's faculty after receiving a master's degree in English from MTSU. According to her nomination materials, Hale's teaching effectiveness was evident from the start. Her supporters noted that Hale's first teaching assignment/classroom was "in an old overcrowded high school in an auditorium balcony ... (with) none of the modern technology present in today's classrooms."

- Chattanooga resident **Bertha Collins**, a 39-year teaching veteran who devoted 33 years of her 39-year career to classroom teaching and another six to professional assignment, has been applauded for a commitment and dedication to students that found them leaving her classroom "with (a) feeling of self-worth and academic accomplishment that is so important in life." Collins taught English at Lookout Valley Middle/High School for 33 years, first joining its faculty in 1967, and served as the English department's chairwoman for 17 years.

Since her formal retirement in summer 2000, Collins—who is called "an icon" at her long-time teaching assignment—has returned to serve as a part-time educator for her school and also served as a literacy coach, a role in which she helps students become better readers and assists teachers in planning outstanding literacy activities to use in their classrooms.

- **Kathleen Phillips Pennington** of Huntsville, Tenn., devoted all of her 45 years in education to students in the classroom before her final retirement in 2007. A native of Smith Creek, Pennington's long education career began in 1957 when she was hired by the Scott County Board of Education to teach language arts for grades four through 12 and serve as librarian for Normal High School. In 1975, the county schools were consolidated, so she began serving Fairview Elementary School as its librarian—a job she undertook until her hus-



band's failing health prompted her to retire so that she could care for him during what would be the final year of his life. In 2004, the school system's director approached Pennington to fill a job for a qualified librarian. She, in turn, opted to return to Fairview Elementary, where she remained until her '07 retirement.

In spite of "overcoming many personal tragedies of her own," Pennington "has never failed to accommodate those individuals who require both financial and personal support and assistance," wrote one supporter.

- **Teddy Brown Haley** of Clarksville served all 39 years of his education career in the classroom in service to students as both a coach and teacher in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School District. He began his career in as an elementary physical-education teacher at Moore County Elementary before taking an assignment in 1969 at Northwest High School as an assistant football coach. In 1970, he added history-teaching duties to his responsibilities at Northwest and served in that capacity until 1974. From 1975 to 1979, he taught history at Montgomery Central High School and served as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. He joined the faculty of Northeast High School in 1980 and continued to teach history and coach at the school until accepting a job as principal of Northwest High School from 1990 to 1992. He returned to coaching and teaching history at Northeast High School in '92, where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

Heralded as one who is "genuinely interested in helping students, a Christian role model and a well-prepared teacher," Haley maintained "a special ability to relate to a diverse range of students," noted David E. Baker, former director of Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools.

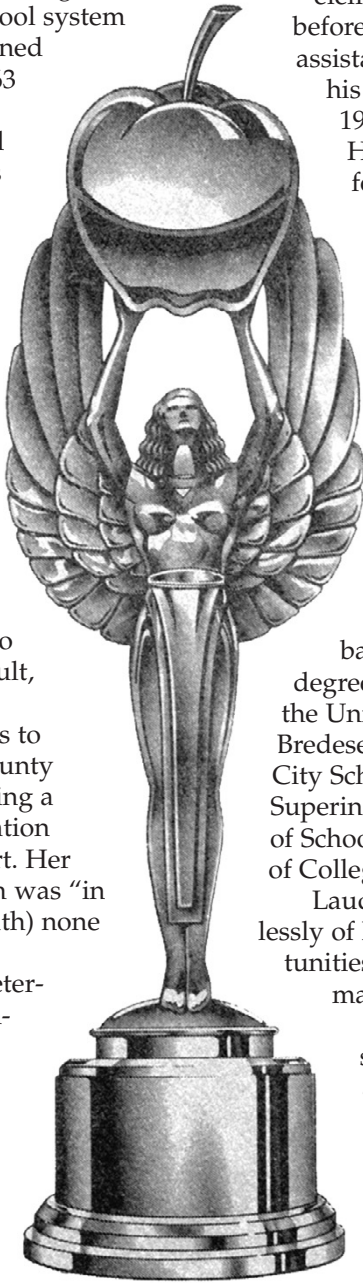
- **Dr. Lana Seivers**, a resident of Nashville and the former commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Education, who has thus far dedicated 31 years to education, including 13 years in the classroom. A native of Clinton, Tenn., Seivers earned a bachelor's degree in education from MTSU as well as a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in education from the University of Tennessee. Prior to her 2003 appointment by Gov. Phil Bredesen as education commissioner, Seivers was director of Clinton City Schools and served as chairwoman of the East Tennessee Superintendents' Study Council, treasurer of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and chairwoman of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Elementary and Middle School Committee. Lauded as "the ultimate champion for students" who "has given selflessly of her time and considerable energy to improve educational opportunities for Tennessee youth," Seivers is credited with consistently maintaining her focus on the classroom.

The Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame was created with the support of the late Dr. James E. Walker, former MTSU president and a one-time public school teacher; Dr. Robert Eaker, former dean of MTSU's College of Education and Behavioral and a current education professor; former Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter; Dr. Charles Smith, the state's former commissioner of education; the late Dr. Otis L. Floyd Jr., one-time chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents; and Dr. Cavit Cheshier of the Tennessee Education Association.

Since its 1994 inception, the hall of fame's spring ceremony has annually welcomed about 500 educators, legislators and other dignitaries from across the state, all of whom gather to honor inductees for their remarkable public service and role modeling through teaching.

"This is an exciting opportunity for all of us to honor a group of very special Tennesseans, while at the same time enhancing the status of the teaching profession," Bonner said.

Advance tickets to the banquet and induction ceremony are \$50 each and available by calling the College of Education and Behavioral Science office at 615-898-2874.



Campus Calendar

April 21-May 4

TV Schedule

“Middle Tennessee Record”
Cable Channel 9:
Monday-Sunday—7 a.m., 5 p.m.
NewsChannel 5+:
Sundays—1:30 p.m.
Visit www.mtsunews.com for other cable outlet airtimes.

Through April 30

WMOT-Jazz89 Annual Fundraising Campaign
For information, visit www.wmot.org, listen to 89.5 FM or contact: 615-898-2800.

Through May 1

“High Gloss” Senior Design Show
Opening reception: Monday, April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Exhibit hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday, Todd Gallery
For information, visit: www.highglossdesignshow.com or contact: 615-898-5653.

April 21

Monday, April 21
MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 22

April 22-23
MT Baseball vs. Memphis
April 22: 6 p.m.; April 23: 3 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Tuesday, April 22
National Women’s History Month: Pay Equity Day
11 a.m.-2 p.m., KUC Knoll
For information, contact: 615-898-5961.

Dr. Miriam Sivan of Haifa University, “Contemporary Women Writing in Israel”
time TBA, HONR 106
For information, contact: 615-494-7906.

MTSU Symphonic Band/Brass Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 23

Wednesday, April 23
Last day of classes; Administrative Professionals’ Day.

Lunch at Outback Steakhouse
benefiting the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship Fund and honoring administrative professionals
11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$10 (includes salad, meat, potatoes and bread)
For information, visit www.mtalumni.com or contact: 615-898-2922.

Mass Communication Student Recognition and Wall of Fame Ceremony
3 p.m., Bragg MC courtyard
For information, contact: 615-898-5171.

Thursday, April 24
Free Legal Clinic
7-9 p.m., JUB 206
Appointments required
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

April 25

April 25-27
MT Baseball vs. S. Alabama
April 25: 6 p.m.; April 26: 4 p.m.; April 27: 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

April 25-May 1
Final exams

April 26

Saturday, April 26
African American Awards Ceremony

Recognizing excellence



GREAT WORK!—Betty Rowland, center, secretary for the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center, accepts the latest quarterly Secretarial/Clerical Award from Ben Jones, left, Business Office manager and chairman of MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee, and Gore Center Director Dr. Lisa Pruitt. MTSU’s Employee Recognition Committee salutes staffers who make outstanding contributions and demonstrate excellence in their roles. For information on nominating an administrative, secretarial/clerical, classified or technical/service co-worker for the quarterly award program, go to <http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/er/recog.html>, download an employee recognition form and submit it to Human Resource Services via campus mail, Box 35.

photo by Andy Heidt

Wednesday, April 23
Guitar Ensemble Concert
3 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

Faculty Recital: Maya Stone, bassoon, and Leo Erice, piano
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact: 615-898-2493.

April 24

Thursday, April 24
Study Day
No classes; all offices open.

6-9 p.m., Tom Jackson Building
Cost: \$10 (includes appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages)
For tickets, visit www.mtalumni.com or contact: 1-800-533-MTSU (6378).

April 28

Monday, April 28
Our Friends, Our Selves Bookclub
featured book: *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
3:30-4:30 p.m., JUB 206
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

April 29

Tuesday, April 29
University Scheduling Policy Workshop
10 a.m., KUC Theater
For information, contact: 615-898-5143.

May 2

May 2-3
MT Softball vs. Western Ky.
May 2: 3, 5 p.m.; May 3: 1 p.m.
Blue Raider Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

May 2-4
MT Baseball vs. Troy
May 2: 6 p.m.; May 3: 4 p.m.; May 4: 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Field
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Friday, May 2
First Friday Star Party
Dr. Chuck Higgins, “Messenger at Mercury”
6:30-8:30 p.m., WPS Room 102
For information, contact: 615-898-5946.

May 3

Saturday, May 3
Spring 2008 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Athletic Center
For information, visit www.mtsunews.com or contact: 615-898-2919.

with the university having one of the lowest administrative and professional staff-to-student ratios of all state colleges and universities. With this guiding principle in mind, MTSU’s leaders have opted to establish the OCES with its focus on strengthening community outreach.


“As a major economic force within the Rutherford County and middle Tennessee region, MTSU’s enhanced focus on community issues is essential,” McPhee observed. “Over the years, the university has demonstrated consistent progress in its community relationships ... yet as MTSU continues to grow and expand its operations, greater attention must be given to strengthening its relationship with the community at large.”

According to its proposed mission statement, the OCES’s primary aim will be to articulate the university’s mission and activities to the surrounding communities and, through involvement with the community, provide a listening ear to the needs and concerns of MTSU’s neighbors relating to the actions and activities of the university. OCES, too, will serve as a unit of MTSU where community members may feel comfortable accessing the institution.


“I am extremely appreciative and excited about the new appointment as assistant to the president for community engagement and support,” Bonner remarked. “I care deeply about this university and the community and consider it an honor to be a part of both.

“This is happening at a very exciting time as the university continues to expand its outreach mis-


sion throughout the community,” she continued, referring to the OCES’s creation. “I am looking forward to making significant contributions in a broader context on behalf of the institution. ... I am honored to be a part of his administration and inspired and encouraged by Dr. McPhee’s commitment and dedication toward enhancing the university’s relationship with the community.”



McPhee



Ketron



Bragg

Regarding Bonner’s appointment, state Sen. Bill Ketron of the 13th District said, “I commend Dr. McPhee for looking to Dr. Bonner to take this position, because I can’t think of anybody else who is so well-suited—not only from knowing the university life but knowing the community life. She will be able to make that transition and connect the two. There is a common thread between them, and many times that thread is not connected. I think Dr. Bonner has the skills, personality and ability to do well in this position. I look forward to working with her.”

Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg echoed his support for Bonner as the choice to lead the new OCES.

“Dr. Bonner understands the significant role education plays in the continued economic development of the Murfreesboro region,” the mayor said. “She is uniquely connected across the community and is a natural choice for this important position.”

With a strong record of community involvement already to her credit, Bonner’s new OCES role is one that community members have welcomed with enthusiasm.

“I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Gloria Bonner when she served two terms on the United Way board of directors—and that was from 1997 through 2002,” said Aurelia Holden, director of allocations and volunteer coordinator for United Way of Rutherford County.

“We worked together on the yearly allocations process, and I really consider her a friend now. She was just an enthusiastic and active board member, and I’m sure she will bring a lot to the new position.”

A member of MTSU’s education faculty since 1985, Bonner earned her Bachelor of Science (1972), Master of Education (1974) and Education Specialist (1977) degrees from MTSU before receiving a doctorate in education from Tennessee State University in 1988.

Dyslexia

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Earth — from page 1

Stuart Bernstein said he believes the addition will greatly improve the center’s ability to assist affected children.

“Language disorders and learning disabilities, which include dyslexia, are typically diagnosed separately,” Bernstein said. “Because these services are separate, and the Dyslexia Center doesn’t have a certified speech lan-

guage pathologist on staff, we have no way of knowing the extent to which children with dyslexia may also have mild language disorders that limit their ability to learn to read.”

With new resources in hand, the center hopes to more accurately pinpoint the challenges faced by their students.

“The funding will be used to help us expand testing to better understand the nature of the deficits faced by these children,” Bernstein said.

The grant is being drawn from the 2007 state budget surplus, which allocated additional funds for public safety, cultural activities and community development.

State Sen. Bill Ketron (B.S. ’76) played an important role in obtaining the grant. After reviewing a number of proposals, Ketron selected the Center for Dyslexia as the recipient of the allocated funds.

“We greatly appreciate Senator Ketron’s support of the center and children with dyslexia all over Tennessee,” Bernstein said.

The center, established in 1993 by the Tennessee General Assembly, assists kindergarten through 12th-graders with dyslexia, as well as their teachers and families, through providing a clear description of each child’s condition, developing educational intervention plans and supporting school staff.

For more information, call 615-494-8880 or visit <http://dyslexia.mtsu.edu>.

SEA, Recycle Rutherford, the Murfreesboro Electric Department, People for a Better Tomorrow and MTSU Environmental Studies Department will have booths set up during the celebration.

Alternatively fueled vehicles will be displayed, including the Toyota Prius hybrid and concept hydrogen and electric cars. The city of Murfreesboro will have a bus from the Rover system there as well.

Also featured will be MTSU’s waste-grease bus. The green fee paid with tuition was used to convert this bus to run on cooking grease from campus dining facilities.

The celebration will wrap up Wednesday at 6 p.m. with a presentation of the documentary “Kilowatt Ours” in the KUC Theater. A question-and-answer session with filmmaker Jeff Barrie will directly follow the documentary.

On Wednesday, SEA will hold a membership drive for any students interested in helping their cause.

“SEA’s goal for this event is to raise awareness of environmental issues and show the significance of the problems we face,” Caum said. “From air and water quality to water shortages to ocean acidification, they all present each and every one of us with a challenge to unite and solve them.

“We believe with proper education, the power of human reasoning and a little passion, we can do just that.”

For more information about SEA’s event plans, please visit the organization’s Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~sea. In case of rain, events will move inside the KUC.



MONEY TO SERVE—Dyslexia Center Director Stuart Bernstein, left, joins colleague Dr. Diane Sawyer and State Sen. Bill Ketron to celebrate receipt of a \$5,000 community enhancement grant.

photo submitted

10 to earn Neill-Sandler scholarships

by Randy Weiler

Ten Middle Tennessee high-school seniors who have overcome hardships and tragedy to find success in life will be saluted Tuesday, April 22, during the 10th annual Neill- Sandler Strive for Excellence Banquet at MTSU.

The invitation-only event will start at 6 p.m. in the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame.

The students were nominated by their schools and school systems and have endured tough times. Despite their situations, each has excelled in the classroom and on college entrance examinations and exhibited leadership in and out of school.

Scholarships provided through

the Neill-Sandler Foundation and The Danner Company, a Nashville-based business led by Ray Danner, will go to deserving students from the Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Franklin, Rutherford, Warren, Williamson and Wilson county school systems and Tullahoma City Schools.

This year’s Neill-Sandler Scholars at MTSU will include Lacey Parchman of DeKalb County High School; Courtney Ashburn of Huntland High School in Franklin County; Kristen Bay of Lebanon High School; Amy Elizabeth Hutton of Warren County High School; Macie Mayberry of Tullahoma High School; Mistee Harris of Riverdale High School in Rutherford County; Ashley Ramsey of Cannon County High School; Matthew Bain of Cascade

High School; Kenneth James Trader of Brentwood High School; and Bridget Snell of Coffee County Central High School.

One scholarship winner will receive the \$10,000 Ray Danner Scholarship. Another will receive the \$7,500 Elizabeth and Sidney McPhee Scholarship. Each of the other eight winners will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

Kippy Todd, assistant director for annual giving and donor relations in the Office of Development, said 95 recipients have benefited from the scholarships since 1999. An annual golf tournament, usually held the first Wednesday in October, helps raise scholarship funds.

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~devofc/neill-sandler.htm.



Career-planning course offers workforce guidance

by Brittany Witt

Transitioning from student life into the workforce can be a hard adjustment. Although college gives a student certain knowledge needed to a secure a job after graduation, other important skills that further advancement in the workplace are often overlooked. The marketing department in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business now offers a career-planning course that gives students the proper skills required to find the perfect job.

Instructor Jean Wilson teaches the students important assets—how to market themselves to potential employers and how to respond in interviews. Wilson even instructs students on hygiene issues such as how much cologne or perfume to wear.

Many students graduate college with a skewed perspective of the workforce, Wilson said, adding that they may have unreasonable job and salary expectations.

“An important reason for the class is to put students’ expectations into perspective,” Wilson said. “We

are trying to teach students practical and important skills that will help them move from being a student to an employee.”

Participation was slim during the first two semesters that the course was offered, Wilson said. In fall 2006, only six students enrolled in the course, and by spring 2007, that number had decreased to four students.

But the success of the few students who took the course in the previous semesters could not be ignored. Several students landed jobs before graduation, and three students were

hired for management-level positions at Hobby Lobby.

Word of those success stories got around, and students in the College of Business began to recognize the importance of enrolling in the career-planning course. This semester, Wilson has 17 students registered. The course also is required for all marketing majors.

Wilson is trying to make the course a requirement for management majors as well.

“With a little persuasion, we should be successful,” she said.

Spring commencement slated May 3

More than 1,900 candidates to receive degrees

by Lisa L. Rollins

More than 1,900 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 96th spring commencement ceremonies, reported Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost of enrollment services.

On Saturday, May 3, MTSU will once more feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers starting at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,973 set to graduate, 1,679 are undergraduates and 294 are graduate students, including 240 master’s candidates, 44 education specialist degree candidates, one Doctor of Arts candidate and nine Doctor of Philosophy candidates.

Huddleston noted that the upcoming commencement marks the largest number of doctoral-level degrees conferred to date during an MTSU graduation event.

Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business and College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony. That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Mass Communication and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said Dr. L. Diane Miller, professor of mathematical sciences and interim chairwoman of the commencement committee.

Pete Fisher, vice president/general manager for the Grand Ole Opry, will be the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication from MTSU with a concentration in recording industry management and was recognized as a distinguished alumnus in 2004.

Named general manager of the Grand Ole Opry in June 1999, Fisher oversees all activities of the world’s longest-running radio show. He also manages the day-to-day operations of the Grand Ole Opry House and Acuff Theatre and produces its weekly Opry shows, in addition to serving as executive producer of “Grand Ole Opry Live” on the GAC cable network and “America’s Grand Ole Opry Weekend,” a two-hour syndicated



Fisher

radio program heard on more than 200 stations via Westwood One. Fisher’s entertainment industry experience spans from artist management to music publishing, with a special emphasis placed on service to a variety of music industry organizations. Prior to joining the Grand Ole Opry, he was a partner in Fisher Raines Entertainment, where he managed the careers of Warner/Reprise Records artist Paul Brandt and Sony’s Marcus Hummon, among others. He also spent seven years at WarnerSongs Inc. as director of creative services, where he managed the joint-venture publishing operation between Warner/Reprise Records and Warner/Chappell Music Inc.

Fisher currently serves as president of the Nashville chapter of the

Who: 1,973 graduates*
What: Spring 2008 commencement
When: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, May 3
Where: Murphy Center, MTSU

Speakers:

- **Pete Fisher**, general manager and vice president, Grand Ole Opry, 9 a.m. ceremony;
- **Ernest G. Burgess**, Rutherford County mayor, 1 p.m. ceremony

Webcast: Go to www.mtsu.edu and click on the “Spring 2008 Graduation Information” link at the bottom of the page. In addition to the streaming video link, the page also has links to other important graduation news. Video will be available about 15 minutes before each ceremony begins; you’ll need Windows Media Player to view it. Information on purchasing DVDs of the ceremony also can be found at the graduation info link.

**Approximate number as of April 10, 2008.*



National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and holds membership on the board of directors for the Nashville Songwriters Foundation and the Academy of Country Music.

Ernest G. Burgess, Rutherford County mayor, will be the featured speaker for the 1 p.m. ceremony. A cattle farmer and businessman, Burgess is a lifelong resident of Rutherford County and was elected mayor in 2006.



Burgess

Burgess earned a Bachelor of Science degree from MTSU and a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee. He retired as senior vice president of operations for the National Healthcare Corporation, or NHC, and is a past chairman of the Republican Party of Rutherford County.

Currently, Burgess devotes his time and service to several boards and committees, including serving as chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center Board and Community Care of Rutherford County Inc. He also serves as a board member for NHC and for National Health Realty.

Burgess’ past community-service record includes tenure as a board member for a number of area organizations, including the

Linebaugh Public Library, Discovery Center at Murfree Springs, Main Street Murfreesboro, Hospice of Murfreesboro, the MTSU Foundation and the MTMC Foundation.

Married for 47 years to Peggy Bryant, Burgess and his wife are the parents of three children and the grandparents of seven. The Burgesses are active members of North Boulevard Church of Christ, where he is an elder.

Regarding the upcoming commencement, Miller said she 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,” Miller said. “Commencement is a day that families always remember as special. It is difficult to give the ceremony the dignified atmosphere it deserves if people are using air horns or leaving before the completion of the ceremony.”

Miller noted that the graduation committee also emphasized that students who participate in commencement will be required to stay for the entire ceremony. The May ceremony should last about two hours. Those planning celebration activities should be aware of this commitment, she said.


For more information about commencement, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm or call 615-898-2600.

Senior

McPhee during the graduation ceremony,” she said.

“Seniors who give to this incentive also will be given top consideration if applying for the Foundation Graduate Scholarship in the future.”

Edington added that the Senior



from page 1

Gift Program is important for graduating seniors “because it is a way for them to leave their legacy and start giving back to the university.”

For more information, contact Edington at edington@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2728.

1st Southern gospel conference a winner

from Staff Reports

The Center for Popular Music recently hosted “‘Farther Along’: A Conference on the Southern Gospel Convention-Singing Tradition,” the first academic conference devoted to a routinely ignored tradition in American music, and by all accounts, the two-day event was a rousing success.

More than 100 registrants, ranging from practitioners to publishers, singing-school instructors to university professors, attended the April 4-5 conference in the Tom H. Jackson Building, as well as students from middle school to doctoral programs and every level in between. Ages ranged from nine to mid-90s, and participants hailed from 15 states, including Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, New Jersey and every state in the Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association’s region.

Sessions were devoted to all aspects of the tradition, past and present. Presentation topics included:

- publishers of convention song books, from “mom and pop” outfits, such as the R. E. Winsett Music Company of Dayton, Tenn., to denominational publishing houses like the Church of God-sponsored Tennessee Music and Printing Company of Cleveland, Tenn.;
- classic gospel songs, like “The Grave on the Green Hillside,” written by Aldine Kieffer and recorded by the Carter Family, and Albert E. Brumley’s “I’ll Fly Away” (Brumley’s son, Bob, and granddaughter were in attendance, with Bob fielding questions from the audience after the presentation);
- singing-school instructors on the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee in the late 1800s and early 1900s;
- Southern gospel family groups, such as the Speer Family; and
- personal and social outcomes of convention singing, such as reported health benefits and the transmission of gender roles and family values.

Other highlights included a roundtable discussion with convention songbook publishers and a performance presentation on the art of convention-style piano accompaniment, which was followed by a roundtable discussion/demonstration with accomplished pianists from the tradition. A public “singing” on Friday evening drew more than 150 participants. The ending conversation on the future of convention singing provided much discussion, including a plea from those in attendance to make the conference a recurring event.

A significant honor



COMMUNITY SPIRIT—John R. Ingram, center, prepares to accept the 2008 Joe M. Rodgers Spirit of America Award from Aubrey Harwell, left, chair holder of the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, and Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Ingram, vice chairman of Ingram Industries Inc. and CEO of Ingram Content Holdings, received the award during the recent 17th Annual University Takeover/Executives-in-Residence program at MTSU, which is sponsored by the Free Enterprise Chair. The award is presented annually to a businessperson who has demonstrated the best of the spirit of America through significant contributions in government, education and/or civic and charitable organizations.

photo by J. Intintoli

ETIS plans open house in Alumni Gym

by Randy Weiler

You can learn more about LEGO Robotics, solar boats, space elevators, a “guitar gizmo” and more during the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies open house.

It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in Alumni Memorial Gym and is open to the campus community and public, said Elizabeth Lamb, an ETIS secretary.

ETIS student projects and faculty inventions also will include friction stir welding, hydrogen fuel cells, granular separation, truck crane strength analysis and miscellaneous senior projects.

Those attending the open house will see student and faculty poster presentations and learn about current research projects, organizers said.

“The presentations at the open house represent the diversity and advanced technology residing in the Department of Engineering

Technology,” said Dr. Walter Boles, the department chair. “Presentations represent projects that involve faculty research, industry collaborations, national student competitions and entrepreneurial activities. We invite the campus community to come and see our award-winning student vehicles, learn about alternative fuels and interact with students, faculty and industry partners.”

For more information, call 615-898-2776.

Majorette team twirls talent into a national title

from Staff Reports

MTSU’s majorette line brought home the 2007 national championship from the Collegiate Baton Twirling Championships of the National Coalition for the Advancement of Baton Twirling at Purdue University earlier this semester.

The MTSU twirlers scored as the top team overall, outpacing 17 other university competitors.

“This is something we can note with pride,” said Dr. George Riordan, director of MTSU’s School of Music.

The NCABT competition was the team’s first. The majorettes, coached by Niki Davis, perform with the MTSU Band of Blue at university athletic events.

The MTSU majorettes also received medals in several group and individual competitions, including Brittany Galyon and Kimberly Senters, first place, collegiate pairs; Senters, second place, collegiate individual line member; Alyse Gilman, second place, collegiate two-baton division, fourth place, one-baton division, and fifth place, three-baton division; and Kyla Holder, fifth place, collegiate freestyle division.

For more details, please visit <http://ncabt.com>.

Correction

A story on page 3 of the April 7 edition of *The Record* (“April 'MTR' includes campus library history”) incorrectly referred to the influential community leader and educator as Andrew Lytle Todd. That name should have been Andrew L. Todd.

Update — from page 8

test of inoculation theory,” in the latest issue of *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 84, No.4.

Dr. Bob Michael’s (history) *The Dark Side of the Church: A History of Catholic Antisemitism from the Crucifixion to Vatican II* was published in March with Palgrave Macmillan, and his co-authored *Dictionary of Antisemitism* was published in 2007 with Scarecrow Press.

Research

Dr. Abdul Khaliq (mathematical sciences) traveled to Chicago March 28-April 2 to work on a research collaboration with Dr. Bruce Wade of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

See yourself in The Record!

E-mail your faculty/staff accomplishments to gfann@mtsu.edu. Please note that publication of printed or hand-written contributions may be delayed.

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