



## Commencement!

Aug. 9 ceremony features address from professor

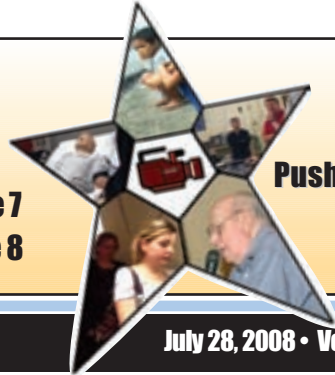
see page 7

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Pacific Theater to become classroom, page 6

Workshop creates collaborators, friends, page 7

Fulbright award helps sustain ambitions, page 8



Pushing 100, page 3

a publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

July 28, 2008 • Vol. 17/No. 2

# the RECORD

## Preserving battlefield is hot summer work

**M**TSU students are going back in time this summer—and bringing history forward—by using their expertise to help expand visitor services and preserve and maintain the grounds and artifacts at the Stones River National Battlefield. Twenty-one students majoring in public history, biology, agriculture, mass communication or outdoor recreation are using their talents and knowledge in sometimes unexpected ways.

### Grad students' love of history translates well

by Stephanie Dragoo

Graduate students in MTSU's public history program are preserving the military and cultural history of Murfreesboro at Stones River National Battlefield.

Elizabeth Goetsch, 23, a third-year graduate student, and John George, 43, a doctoral candidate in public history, are working alongside the battlefield staff to bring history to life for tourists and visitors.

Goetsch is a park ranger and gives tours both in the museum and on the grounds. Her interests extend beyond the military element of the battlefield's history, and she incorporates details about lesser-known people and groups into her talks.

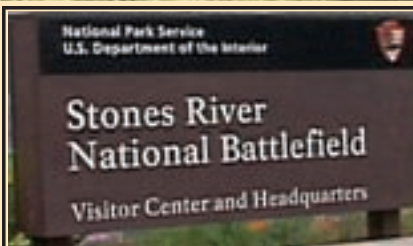
"I try to build the story more than just the battle, because the landscape tells more stories,"

See 'History' page 5



**HAUL IT AWAY**—MTSU students feed brush and tree limbs into a chipper after clearing an area at the Stones River National Battlefield in video from an upcoming edition of "Middle Tennessee Record," the university's monthly video magazine. Twenty-one students majoring in public history, biology, agriculture, mass communication or outdoor recreation are working this summer in various capacities at the battlefield site northwest of Murfreesboro.

photos by News and Public Affairs



### EMC major finds new way of networking

by Joshua Graham

Switching between protective ear wear and a pair of headphones doesn't seem to be a problem for MTSU junior Lannie White.

During the day, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., he can be found at Stones River National Battlefield, taking care of the grounds, and at night he's conducting his own radio show on MTSU's student-run FM station, WMTS 88.3.

Originally from Anne Arundel County, Md., White said he chose to attend MTSU for the mass communication program, where he's enrolled in its electronic media emphasis.

Whether he is on the battlefield or on campus, however, White said he is learning that "Tennessee has a

See 'Networking' page 5

### Grant will aid teacher recruitment

A \$478,492 U.S. Department of Education grant will assist MTSU in recruiting math and science middle-school teachers to help keep the nation competitive in today's global marketplace, U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon said.

"For the U.S. workforce to be competitive in the future, it's imperative that we recruit and train math and science teachers now," said Gordon, who chairs the House Science and Technology Committee.

"These teachers are necessary to grow the highly skilled workforce we must have to help keep good jobs in

the United States."

The funding stems from an appropriation Gordon and Sen. Lamar Alexander secured in Congress.

"The College of Education was looking for fourth- through eighth-grade math and science education majors, and we could only find five. We're working very hard to recruit," said Dr. Dovie Kimmins, associate director of the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center in the College of

See 'Grant' page 3

### Conference holds 'keys to excellence'

by Tom Tozer

MTSU is bringing Disney Institute's traveling professional development program, the "Disney Keys to Excellence," to Nashville on Tuesday, Sept. 9, with the Jennings A. Jones College of Business serving as a silver sponsor for the event.

This full-day, interactive workshop provides the opportunity for area business professionals to experience the "business behind the magic." Walt Disney World instructors will teach proven Disney success strate-

gies, which participants can adapt and apply to their own organizations.

"Professional development programs that we offer at the Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort have proven extremely popular," said George Aguel, senior vice president for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

"Community leaders around the country started asking us to bring similar programs to their cities, and the 'Disney Keys' program does just that. Participants will discover Disney

See 'Keys' page 3



www.mtsunews.com

### IN BRIEF

#### TINY TEACHERS NEEDED

Project Help is in need of little teachers for its special-needs students. It has immediate openings for toddlers 15 months to 30 months

old to serve as role models for the program. For more information, please call 615-898-2458 or e-mail [mbowens@mtsu.edu](mailto:mbowens@mtsu.edu).

#### ARE YOU ON THE LIST YET?

Nearly 7,200 users are registered for MTSU's emergency text-

messaging system, nearing the goal of 10,000 users by August. Please encourage students you meet this summer to learn more and register now by visiting [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u); all new faculty and staff should register for the alert updates, too.

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## FOR THE RECORD

# Summer '08 INROADS interns expand talents, discover new strengths for business world

by Joshua Graham

**I**NROADS Inc., founded by Frank C. Carr in 1970, is a program designed to increase ethnic diversity in cooperative management in the United States. According to its Web site ([www.INROADS.org](http://www.INROADS.org)), the goal is to help change the way candidates gain entry into the business world.

For three MTSU INROADS interns, Danny Heyward, Chris Whitaker and this writer, the program is fulfilling all expectations.

Deborah Roberts, business coordinator for INROADS and director of administrative services at MTSU, is responsible for working with departments to place the interns in jobs relating to their majors around campus.

Roberts, who has worked with INROADS at MTSU since 1996, said a majority of INROADS interns have graduated, and she still remains in contact with some of them today.

"It's an excellent program," Roberts said. "I personally wish I had the opportunity to be with INROADS. It allows students to prepare for the business world."

Danny Heyward, a nongraduating senior majoring in construction management technology, works in construction and renovation at MTSU, completing his third year as an intern.

Heyward said INROADS has helped him with dining etiquette and writing résumés and has guided him in how to speak, present himself and meet the requirements to become a professional in the business world.

INROADS also has inspired Heyward to get involved more with his community. He is participating in Nashville Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity.

"I don't want to (only) participate—I want a leadership role," Heyward said.

Chris Whitaker, a rising junior at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who is majoring in computer science and electrical engineering, works at MTSU with the registrar's office.

Whitaker said that INROADS puts him ahead of the game when preparing his résumé and speaking in public.

Whitaker is also working with the Freshman Summer Institute, a program designed to make the transition from high school to college easier.

"I realized I really liked working in the university setting," Whitaker said. "I like working with the (Freshman Summer Institute) students. It's beneficial and keeps me well-rounded working in so many offices."

Both Whitaker and I have participated in the Toastmasters program, a session for students to practice speaking skills, that is administered by INROADS.

"Now I can jump in front of people and talk," Whitaker said. "I tried to be the last person to do it (speak in public)."



**FUTURE LEADERS**—The 2008 INROADS interns join their MTSU liaison for a photo during a brief break from their on-campus jobs. From left are Josh Graham, an MTSU sophomore majoring in electronic media communication; Chris Whitaker, a junior from UT Knoxville majoring in computer science and electrical engineering; Deborah Roberts, director of administrative services and INROADS liaison for the university; and Danny Heyward, a senior majoring in construction management at MTSU.

photo by Andy Heidt

My personal experiences with INROADS have been nothing short of an amazing adventure.

I first started INROADS with its pre-college program my junior year of high school. During this program, all the students were able to visit different universities and learn more about the college process. We visited MTSU during one of our university trips, which helped me finalize my decision on which college to choose.

After pre-college, students were then put into a talent pool, where we were given mock interviews to prepare us for real-world interviews. During the summer, INROADS students attend training sessions that focus on important factors to know in the business world, such as business writing, presentation skills, public speaking and managing different generations in the workplace.

I am currently an intern for MTSU, working with the Office of News and Public Affairs. My role in the office has gained me a ton of experience that I can look forward to utilizing in the future. I have been exposed to a variety of media-related responsibilities, including interviewing, working on video shoots, designing and even the basics of answering phones properly and clipping news stories. Thanks to INROADS, I have never felt so prepared for a position before.

*Joshua Graham is a sophomore majoring in electronic media communication.*

## Sells takes reins as interim VP for Student Affairs

by Tom Tozer

**D**r. Debra Sells, associate vice provost for Academic Support Services, has been appointed interim vice president for the Division of Student Affairs, effective Aug. 1. She replaces Dr. Bob Glenn, who has accepted the presidency at Athens (Ala.) State University.

Sells, who has been at MTSU for 12 years, said when she asked President Sidney A. McPhee how he defined "interim," he told her not to worry about the word and instead to focus on moving forward with projects already in motion.

"I am pleased that Dr. Sells has agreed to assume the position of interim vice president during this transition period," McPhee commented. "She is an excellent administrator who has demonstrated her concern for students and their welfare on our campus. She has an outstanding record of effective leadership, and I have no doubt she will continue her good work in carrying out her new responsibilities."

Sells referred to the proposed Student Union as one of those important projects already in progress. She said it also is vital to continue such activities as the Distinguished Lecture Series and the Fall Convocation, because such programs "straddle that bridge between faculty and students. We want to bring speakers to campus who

connect with faculty. We ask faculty, 'Who do you want to bring to campus that will enhance your class? We'll find ways to support those cocurricular programs that enhance teaching and learning.'

"Clearly we're working in a difficult budget environment," Sells noted. "When there is a budget crunch, that's a good time to look very strategically at what you're doing. Is everything we do addressing university priorities of recruitment and retention? If not, maybe it's time to take a step back and look again."

Regarding the issue of student-centeredness, Sells said she wants university staff to find ways to say "yes" to students instead of "no."

"Our job requires flexibility and the ability to exercise good judgment about how we can best support an individual student's needs. I hope we're getting better and better," she said, relating a story about a student who said her adviser not only helped her with her paperwork but volunteered to deliver the material to its destination.

"The student was totally stunned," Sells said. "That makes me very happy. It's not everywhere yet, but it's better. We need to keep talking about it."



Sells

Sells said she sees her greatest challenge as prioritizing and figuring out which areas need the most attention. She said her management style is simply to hire the very best people and give them the support and direction they need to do what they do well. "I want to hire the smartest, most highly qualified people we can attract to MTSU."

She speaks highly of her predecessor, who "leaves a rich legacy and who's been a big part of campus life. ... Dr. Glenn came here really determined that we would shift the culture so that a student knew what it meant to be an MTSU student," she said. "We demonstrate what we value by what we support with our presence. Bob certainly did a great job of that."

"I have worked with top student-affairs professionals from all across the country, and I have never come across anyone better qualified or more able than Deb. She will do a terrific job," Glenn said of his successor.

Prior to her position in Academic Support Services, Sells was director of MTSU Housing and Residential Life from 1996 to 2002. Before that, she held residential-life positions at Arizona State University. Sells earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and communications at Hope College, Holland, Mich.; a master's in social work at The University of Michigan; and her doctorate of education from ASU.

# 100 videos, 60,000+ hits: August marks a milestone

by John C. Lynch

“Middle Tennessee Record,” or MTR, is turning 100 in August ... sort of. With the posting of the August stories, there will be more than 100 MTSU videos on YouTube, and in all, they’ve been viewed more than 60,000 times.

MTR debuted Feb. 16, 2004, on NewsChannel 5+ in Nashville and Cable Channel 9 in Murfreesboro. Since that date, 10 additional cable outlets in the region have picked up the monthly video magazine.

Produced by the Office of News and Public Affairs, the award-winning program became available via RealPlayer streaming video in December 2004. Although streaming video was an added convenience, there were software compatibility problems, and last summer NPA began posting stories on YouTube, making them more widely available and easier to access.

Five of the top YouTube videos will be featured on the August program.

“Philippine Street Children,” with Dr. Chuck Frost, is the most viewed story, followed by “Faster than the Speed of Light,” with physics professor Bill Robertson. Dr. Bob Womack’s interview about legendary Walking Horse Wilson’s Allen is third. The fourth most popular YouTube MTR video features Chief Buddy Peaster’s review of the campuswide tornado drill in 2007. Rounding out the top five is a student-produced story about a dummy, SimMan, used to provide realistic learning experience for nursing students.



**VIDEO STARS**—Top YouTube videos from “Middle Tennessee Record” are, clockwise from top, Dr. Chuck Frost’s “Philippine Street Children,” Professor Bill Robertson’s “Faster than the Speed of Light,” Dr. Bob Womack’s interview about legendary Walking Horse Wilson’s Allen, Chief Buddy Peaster’s review of the 2007 campuswide tornado drill and a story on the School of Nursing’s SimMan.

photos by  
 News and  
 Public Affairs



Other stories in the August lineup include a look at MTSU’s first Alumni Summer College and interviews with agriculture students who provided the campus with a variety of healthier, more environmentally friendly, locally grown vegetables. In the remaining two stories, the Center for Environmental Education wins a national award, and Erin Anfinson, assistant professor of art, has created another mural for the Heritage Center.

To view MTR’s YouTube videos, go to [www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/MTR.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/MTR.html) and click on the YouTube icon. That same Web page also has a complete listing of the cable outlets that carry the program.

MTR has won a number of awards, including the 2008 Silver Communications Award from the Tennessee College Public Relations Association. The August videos will be posted on Thursday, July 31, and the program will begin airing Sunday, Aug. 3.

**VEGGIE TALE**—Plant and soil science majors Ben Kelly, left, a junior, and senior Nathan Marsh dig potatoes in an off-campus garden site that’s provided fresh vegetables for MTSU since early summer. The students’ project is featured in the August edition of “Middle Tennessee Record,” which will be posted at [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com) on Thursday, July 31, and will begin airing on local cable channels Sunday, Aug. 3.

photo by News and Public Affairs

## Grant from page 1

Basic and Applied Sciences.

The center will use the grant money to fund \$2,000 scholarships for math and science education sophomores and juniors and \$500 scholarships for freshmen with the same major. Staff will recruit freshman students through the university’s freshman orientation program, Kimmins said.

“The overall goal is to increase the number and quality of math and science teachers, specifically middle-school teachers trained by MTSU,” Kimmins said. “We’re also trying to better the programs of study by working on content. We’re really excited about this program and appreciative of the congressman’s help.”

Gordon wrote the House version of the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush in August 2007. The legislation puts the United States on a path to double basic scientific research and establishes or expands initiatives to improve the teaching of math and science to K-12 students.

## Keys from page 1

success stories and learn about management philosophies and behind-the-scenes operations that have made the Disney Parks and Resorts a benchmark for businesses around the world.

“What makes the Disney learning experience so different and meaningful,” Aguel continued, “is that we don’t simply teach theory. We showcase philosophies and strategies that have made Disney Parks and Resorts a success—ideas that are easily adaptable to other organizations.”

Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jones College of Business, said the seminar will be useful for MTSU staff, too.

“I believe the Disney ‘keys’ can help us in and outside of the classroom and certainly in the areas of recruitment and retention issues,” Burton said, “especially when it comes to such efforts as being student-centered and providing students with the very best environment possible—physical, social and academic—a total campus experience that promotes social interaction and substantive lifelong learning.”

The Nashville “Disney Keys” program will showcase four 90-minute sessions:

- Leadership, Disney Style—Discover how effective leadership has been the catalyst to drive employee/customer satisfaction and bottom-line results from the company’s inception to today.

- Management, Disney Style—Examine the importance of integrating an organization’s corporate culture into selection, training and care of employees.

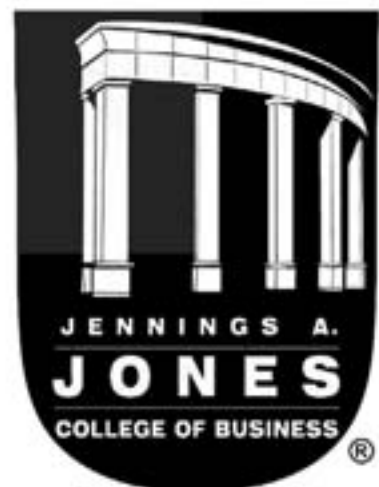
- Service, Disney Style—Explore world-renowned principles for service excellence.

- Loyalty, Disney Style—Learn key practices and principles in building and sustaining loyalty that have made Disney a trusted brand around the world for more than 75 years.

Registration and cost information is available at a hot link at the Jones College of Business’s Web site, <http://business.web.mtsu.edu>, or by going directly to [www.keysnashville.com](http://www.keysnashville.com). Registration includes all course materials and a full day of catered meals and beverages.

To receive a \$50 registration discount, attendees may use promotional code MTSUBNR when they register online.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
 STATE UNIVERSITY



# Campus Calendar

## July 28-Aug. 10

### Please note:

Event dates, times and locations may change after press time. Please verify specifics when making plans.

### TV Schedule



Cable Channel 9:  
Monday-Sunday—7 a.m., 5 p.m.  
NewsChannel 5+:  
Sundays—1:30 p.m.

### Through Aug. 2

#### Walking Horse Owners Association International Grand Championship Pleasure/Colt Walking Horse Show

Tennessee Miller Coliseum  
For information, visit [www.walkinghorseowners.com](http://www.walkinghorseowners.com) or contact: 615-494-8822.

### July 30

**July 30-31**  
**McNair Scholars Program Student Presentations**  
Cantrell Hall, Jackson Building  
For information, contact: 615-904-8462.

### Aug. 1

**Aug. 1-3**  
**Middle Tennessee Dog Fanciers Agility Show**  
Tennessee Livestock Center  
For information, contact: 931-648-5296.

### Aug. 3

**Sunday, Aug. 3**  
**"MTSU On the Record—Beyond the Plantation"**  
Graduate student Dollie Boyd and history professor Dr. Brenden Martin, who worked on a permanent exhibit on the history of slavery in Murfreesboro at Oaklands Historic House Museum, discuss their research.  
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM  
Podcast available at [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com).



### Aug. 7

**Thursday, Aug. 7**  
**Summer Session III, Summer Full Term final exams for M-Th classes**

**Blue Raider Blast at The Avenue**  
5:30 p.m., Medical Center Parkway, Murfreesboro  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-2450.

**Friday, Aug. 8**  
**Army ROTC Summer Commissioning Ceremony**  
10 a.m., KUC Theater  
For information, contact: 615-898-2470.

### Aug. 9

**Saturday, Aug. 9**  
**Summer Commencement**  
10 a.m., Murphy Center  
For information, contact: 615-898-2919.

### Aug. 10

**Sunday, Aug. 10**  
**"MTSU On the Record—The Split Tongue Sparrow"**  
Dr. Jan Hayes, professor emeritus of educational leadership, will discuss her children's book, *The Split Tongue Sparrow*, and how a trip to Asia inspired it.  
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM  
Podcast available at [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com).



## Add 'get new campus tag' to your to-do list

**W**hen you're preparing your to-do list for the new academic year, don't forget to request your 2008-09 campus parking permit from MTSU Parking and Transportation Services.

Employees already should have received their parking permit request paperwork by campus mail, officials said. The deadline to submit a parking permit request by mail is Monday, Aug. 11, in order to receive the permit by Aug. 15. Employees also may stop by the Parking and Transportation Services office, which is located in the back of the building at 1403 E. Main St. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

White permits, which are available to faculty, administration, staff and graduate teaching assistants, will cost \$125 this year. Green permits, which are available to faculty, administration, staff and students, cost \$105.

Payment may be arranged by pre-tax payroll tax deduction (at a rate of \$10.41 per month for white and \$8.75 per month for green permits) or by lump-sum payment.

Each parking permit is transferable to any vehicle that an employee chooses to drive on campus, so each employee needs only one parking permit per academic year.

Employees who purchase a permit in person may pay by payroll deduction, cash, check or credit card. Those who mail in their parking permit requests should pay by payroll deduction or lump-sum check; cash should not be sent through the mail. All checks should be made payable to MTSU and include the employee's assigned "M" number.

For more information about campus parking permits, call Parking and Transportation Services at 615-898-2850 or stop by the office during regular business hours.



### Aug. 8

**Aug. 8-10**  
**Southeast Horse Sale and Cutting Horse Show**  
Tennessee Miller Coliseum  
For information, visit [www.professionalauction.com](http://www.professionalauction.com).

**Friday, Aug. 8**  
**Summer Session III, Summer Full Term final exams for M-F classes**

**Saturday, Aug. 9**  
**Air Force ROTC Summer Commissioning Ceremony**  
5 p.m., BAS S102  
For information, contact: 615-957-4937.

**Sunday, Aug. 10**  
**Football Fan Day**  
2 p.m., Murphy Center  
For information, visit [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com) or contact: 615-898-2450.

### Calendar Items Welcomed

Want to make sure your event gets plenty of attendees? Get it on *The Record's* Campus Calendar page! Submit your campus event information—at least three weeks in advance, please—to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu) and don't forget the date, time, location and contact information.

Goetsch said.

Goetsch visited the battlefield frequently last fall as a part of her graduate research on a community of African-American workers that settled near the cemetery after the Battle of Stones River.

During her research, she met Gib Backlund, chief of operations for the park, and Jim Lewis, who's in charge of cultural resource management and law enforcement. Their work in managing the park as a cultural resource aligned with her scholarly pursuits. Since Goetsch joined the staff, both Backlund and Lewis have helped her find ways to utilize the park's resources for her studies, such as designing exhibits.

"My major is public history, and my track is cultural resource management," Goetsch said. "I have the hands-on experience of being able to do this for my internship requirement. Being a park ranger fulfills that for me."

Park officials welcome the expertise and enthusiasm that MTSU students are bringing to their summer positions.

"We have 21 employees working seasonally at the battlefield," Backlund said. "MTSU has been a really great source of employees for us who are studying in the fields of history, biology, parks and recreation and agriculture. Their skills have really helped us do a better job at the battlefield."

Goetsch earned her undergraduate degree in history at New Mexico State University, and she plans to continue in the public history doctoral program at MTSU. If her eventual career is not with the National Park Service, she said she still hopes to continue presenting history to others in an engaging way. For now, that means telling the stories of women and civilians as well as soldiers.

"It's a much bigger picture," Goetsch said. "I like to try to broaden it so that visi-



Goetsch

tors can walk away understanding more of the significance."

For the indoor exhibits, doctoral candidate George focuses on preserving artifacts as a museum tech. One of his responsibilities is maintaining the museum's "integrated pest management" by trapping destructive insects. He also treats paper, wood and other historic materials that disintegrate over time.

"There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes in conserving artifacts from our past that most people wouldn't think about. There are certain insects that absolutely destroy a historic artifact," George said. "If a moth likes to eat wool, and you have a Civil War uniform made out of wool, you need to get rid of that moth!"



George

George is eager to share his love of history through teaching this fall at MTSU. He earned his undergraduate degree in business administration at Faulkner University, a small private college in Montgomery, Ala.

While working 18 years in business, he pursued his-

tory as a hobby and dreamed of someday making it a career. He earned an advanced degree in local history online from Oxford University and a master's in American studies at the University of Alabama.

George said he was drawn to the public history program at MTSU because of its emphasis on museum work, historical sites and preservation. "And we have a great resource in the Center for Historic Preservation on campus, which is very highly regarded nationally," he said.

George finds fulfillment pursuing his passion rather than financial gain.

"Everybody wants to prosper, but you're not prospering very well if you're unhappy," he said.

For George and Goetsch, historical preservation is a continually rewarding pursuit. They both explore and share history daily at the battlefield.

lot of history—a lot more history than I thought."

White said the experience he is now gaining by working on the battlefield will aid him in the future by improving his networking and communication skills.

"When I first got out here, I didn't know how it was going to go until I actually started interacting with different people who work here. So it turned out for the best," he said.

White lists his mother, Terrie Cochran, an employee with the U. S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., and his father, Harold White, an employee of the Memphis Health Institute and owner of his own landscaping business, as his main influences.

When he was younger, White worked alongside his landscaping father, who also is a recreation major. This childhood experience with his dad has helped to prepare him to work on the landscaping at Stones River Battlefield.



White

"That's actually where I got my experience to work (on the battlefield)," he said, referring to his dad. "A lot of the stuff we are doing now, I learned when I was really young."

White has gained myriad experiences while at MTSU and hopes to graduate in 2010.

"I'm learning a lot fast and taking it all in pretty well, I think," he said, "especially (since I am) coming from a different state."

One of the new skills he's gained at MTSU is running his own radio broadcast. White's one-man show, "The Show," is on the air every Tuesday from 10 p.m. to midnight.

"It's going pretty good," he said. "My show—like the first year-and-a-half I was here—was in the morning, and I just recently got it switched to the night slots. ... I do my show, play whatever I want. I play ... a lot of R&B, but mostly I diversify it."

When he's not at Stones River or WMTS-FM, White said, he's easily entertained and recently took on a new hobby.

"I like to just relax once I get off work," he said. "I have picked up skateboarding, actually. I just started skateboarding; my little brother was teaching me some tricks the other day."

White's plans for the future are extremely clear.

"I'm definitely interested in going into radio when I graduate ... nowhere specific, as long as I'm doing what I like to do."

## Senior trades gridiron for new field of interest at SRNB

by Stephanie Drago

**R**ichard Bortner, a senior in MTSU's outdoor recreation program, is chasing a different dream than his love for the game. Bortner, 22, of Crestview, Fla., is a former football player working to restore the historical landscape at Stones River National Battlefield this summer.

"I played football until the beginning of last season and got a neck injury, so they said it would be in my best interest if I didn't play anymore," he said.

Bortner came to MTSU on a scholarship to play right guard for the Blue Raiders football team. The injury prevented any further aspirations toward professional football.

"You always think NFL, but you're never really quite sure if you're good enough to make it," Bortner said. "But I never got a chance to try, so it kind of ruined that."

This turn of events led Bortner to pursue his interest in the outdoors. He became involved with the battlefield last summer when he worked 90 hours there for a field studies credit in his major.

"I did that voluntarily at the park doing the same natural-resources type of work that I'm doing now," Bortner said.

When it came time to find an internship for outdoor recreation, he knew he wanted to check back for opportunities at the battlefield.



Bortner

"I called them and they were hiring seasonal (workers), so this time I'll be paid," Bortner said with a smile.

Bortner and his colleagues are working to gradually change the battlefield's appearance. They use chemical treatments to kill non-native species, such as mustard grass and Chinese privet, which interfere with the plant life they want to preserve.

"Our main goal is that we're trying to restore the park to the original look of the native grasses," Bortner said.

They also use chainsaws to clear more than 600 acres of property littered with years of debris from farming. "We acquired a bunch of new property that needs to be manicured, so we'll be ripping out fences and old hog pens," Bortner said.

Working outside comes naturally to Bortner. His hometown on the Florida panhandle is about an hour north of Destin, and he grew up enjoying hobbies like hunting and fishing. Now his major encompasses a wide variety of possibilities for working outdoors.

"It's a little obscure, because with outdoor recreation, there are so many different things you can turn it into," he said.

After graduation this December, Bortner said he wants to pursue wildlife law enforcement. He plans to use his degree as a federal officer to keep the peace and protect the natural landscape from poachers.

"I'd like to go back to Florida because you get a fair mix," Bortner said. "You know, you've got people hunting, and you've got coastal fishing as well as inland on rivers and lakes. I think it would be fun."



### Where will you be safe?

Don't wait to find out.

Check the "Safest Places" link at

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# Professor turns Pacific Theater into classroom

by Gina K. Logue

An MTSU history professor will accompany students and members of the community on an exploration of the Central Pacific World War II battlefields of Guam, Iwo Jima and Peleliu in spring 2009.

Dr. Derek Frisby, who is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, says the trip is part of MTSU's Study Abroad program (MT Abroad) and will offer students college credit for studying in international settings. Frisby's course, "Special Topics in Global History," will examine public memory and World War II in the Pacific.

Scholarships and additional financial aid may be possible for students enrolled in the course. Participants who choose not to enroll in the course may still join the expedition.

Those who sign up for this fascinating adventure will study the World War II Pacific campaigns in the presence of surviving American and Japanese veterans. They will tour the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, hike through the jungles of Peleliu and meet on Guam with American and Japanese historians and Iwo Jima veterans during a Battle of Iwo Jima seminar prior to visiting the infamous volcanic island.

"Guam, Peleliu and Iwo Jima were some of World War II's bloodiest battles and the evidence of the conflict still can be observed today around the islands," says Frisby. "The Japanese government will end civilian excursions to Iwo Jima in the next few years. Currently, Iwo Jima is open only one day per year to civilians."

While in the Pacific region, students will film portions of a documentary honoring MTSU veterans. Frisby and his group also will honor those Tennesseans who fought in the three engagements under study, including the three known MTSU fatalities.

Former student body president and football star Roger Smith died on Guam and received a posthumous Navy Cross for his attempts to rescue wounded Marines under fire. William "Ug" McCrory, another MTSU star athlete, landed with the Marines on Iwo Jima and was mortally wounded establishing defensive positions for his unit. MTSU alum Carl Yates was a member of the Underwater Demolition Teams, which were forerunners of today's Navy SEALs, and perished during reconnaissance of Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi just prior to the main assault.

To find out more about this opportunity, contact Frisby at 615-494-8620 or [dfrisby@mtsu.edu](mailto:dfrisby@mtsu.edu), or visit [www.mtsu.edu/~dfrisby](http://www.mtsu.edu/~dfrisby).

# Vanosdall will lead TMSTEC team

by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Frederick "Rick" Vanosdall has joined MTSU as director of the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center, replacing former director Dr. E. Ray Phillips, who retired in December.

A member of Tennessee State University's faculty since 2005, Vanosdall most recently served as director of TSU's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, where he developed and led the implementation of an array of research and service efforts within the center and among academic and research divisions in areas such as early-childhood education, teacher development and student achievement, among other responsibilities.

"We are delighted to have Rick Vanosdall join MTSU," said Dr. Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost. "As a leader in math, science and technology education, Rick's experience will blend beautifully with many of our ongoing projects in these areas."

Vanosdall said he accepted the TMSTEC directorship "... because of the wonderful people that are MTSU. Over



Vanosdall

the past few months, I have enjoyed developing collegial relationships with various faculty and staff. ... MTSU is a community of diverse individuals coming together to build on the strengths of one another for the common good within the university community, across Tennessee, nationally and internationally. I want to be a part of a community that demonstrates their commitment and accountability to one another through constructive, progressive and innovative relationships."

The Lansing, Mich., native said one of the key challenges to which he most looks forward is working with faculty, staff and administrators to assess TMSTEC's strengths to refine its vision, mission and plan for elementary, secondary and higher education in science and mathematics.

"As MTSU broadens its leadership role, Rick will strengthen our ability to secure important grants and develop research data and models," Gebert noted. "His energy and enthusiasm will be a major contribution to our efforts."

Vanosdall received a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource and environmental education from Michigan State University and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Arizona State University. He earned his doctorate in education in 2004 from ASU.

# TECTA offering free orientation courses

from Staff Reports

Free orientation courses for people working in monitored early-childhood education programs, offered by the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, are getting under way this summer and into the fall at MTSU.

TECTA orientation, which is the gateway to eligibility for financial assistance for college course work leading to a degree in early-childhood education or related fields, is recognized by the Tennessee Department of Human Services as a way to satisfy annual training-hour requirements. Participants must complete the 30 hours to receive a TECTA Orientation Certificate.

Students who complete

the 30 clock hours and continue to work with young children become eligible for tuition assistance for academic coursework leading to a degree in early-childhood education at various levels—associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral.

There are five types of orientation programs: school-age, infant/toddler, family, school-based and administrative. The MTSU TECTA site is part of a statewide grant and serves Rutherford and 16 other counties in the south central area of Tennessee.

The TECTA Infant/Toddler Orientation course includes information on children six weeks to 3 years old. Sessions are under way now on Saturdays through Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ellington Human Sciences

Building.

The TECTA Center-Based Orientation course, which emphasizes work with children 2 1/2 to 5 years old, is meeting every Monday and Thursday night through Aug. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Ellington Human Sciences Building.

The TECTA Administrator Orientation course will meet every Thursday from Aug. 21 to Nov. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Ellington building. The focus of this orientation program is on running an early-childhood program, managing staff, etc.

TECTA also is launching the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential this year. The credential has been approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and is funded through the Tennessee

Department of Human Services. The administrator credential provides recognition to early-childhood administrators who demonstrate specific competencies for effective leadership and management through academic instruction and professional experiences.

TECTA is once again offering assistance to programs seeking national accreditation as a mark of highest quality. TECTA is funded through a contract with DHS and Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences.

For more information about these orientation courses or to register, call 615-898-5603 or visit the MTSU TECTA Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~tecta](http://www.mtsu.edu/~tecta).

# Blue Raiders win 4 marketing awards

from MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee has been chosen in four different categories for awards from the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators for 2007-08. It was the only Sun Belt Conference school honored.

There were more than 1,300 entries in the "best of" competition, and the Blue Raiders won a gold, silver and two bronze awards. Their winning entries, along with the other winners, will be compiled into a Best Practices manual that can be used by other universities and athletic departments throughout the country.

"It is great to be recognized by your peers and colleagues from around the nation for all the hard work that we are putting in for Middle Tennessee Athletics," said Marketing Director Brad Smith. "These are definitely not only marketing department awards but also athletic department awards, because we all work together to provide safe, clean fun for the entire family. The secret is out."

The Blue Raiders won a gold in the "Best of Student

Promotion" category for Mardi Gras Night, where the big attraction was a parade of student organizations and alumni during a basketball halftime. MTSU beat out Notre Dame and Auburn for the top prize.

In the "Best of New-Revenue Generating Idea" category, the Blue Raiders earned a silver award for the Family Fun Zone, an area inside Floyd Stadium created to target families with children's activities like inflatables, face-painting and balloon artistry.

The marketing group also captured bronze awards for the "Best of Single-Day Attendance Promotion—Football" and "Best of Ticket Sales Piece." The single-day attendance promotion was for KidFest, a pregame hospitality function that includes a skills challenge, concert and games targeted toward young families. The sales piece was a brochure designed by Bradley Lambert and Smith geared to group ticket sales and included football and men's and women's basketball.

"I really appreciate the hard work and dedication put forth by our marketing department," added Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "It is an honor for our university and athletic department for them to receive national recognition because they are very deserving."

# Aug. 9 commencement to feature professor's address

by Lisa L. Rollins

**A** projected 832 degree candidates will graduate during the 96th annual summer commencement ceremony, MTSU officials announced.

The single-ceremony graduation will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, in Murphy Center with Dr. Kevin E. Smith, professor for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the current MTSU representative to the Tennessee Board of Regents' Faculty Subcouncil, delivering the commencement address.

Some 700 of this summer's degree candidates will be undergraduates, said Sherian Huddleston, assistant vice provost for enrollment services. One hundred twenty-nine students are slated to graduate from the College of Graduate Studies, including 117 master's degrees and 11 specialist in education degrees. Three graduate certificates also have been earned, but these are not bestowed during the commencement event.

Prior to joining the MTSU faculty in 1994, Smith served as an archaeological field and lab director for projects investigating plantation landscapes and slave life at The

Hermitage, home of U.S. President Andrew Jackson, and as a field director for the Vanderbilt University Archaeological Field School. He also was a teaching fellow of anthropology for VU from 1986 to 1991 and a state archaeologist in 1990-91, where he was principal investigator for archaeological projects on state lands before being named a federal programs archaeologist for the Tennessee Division of Archaeology from 1991 to 1994.

Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986 and a Master of Arts degree in 1990 in anthropology from VU before garnering a doctorate in



Smith

anthropology in 1992 from the same university. He also holds memberships in a number of professional archaeological organizations. In addition to his 2007-08 tenure as president of MTSU's Faculty Senate, Smith has penned numerous journal articles, technical papers, reports and book chapters as well as book reviews and encyclopedia entries. His upcoming book, *Speaking with the Ancestors:*

*Mississippi Stone Statuary of the Tennessee-Cumberland Style*, is to be published in November.

Dr. Diane Miller, vice provost for academic affairs and interim chairwoman of the commencement committee, said she wants to remind all degree candidates of the importance of appropriate dress, decorum and respect for the ceremony.

Miller also noted that the graduation committee emphasized that students who participate in commencement will be required to stay for the entire ceremony. The ceremony should last about two hours. Candidates planning celebration

**Who:** 832 graduates\*  
**What:** Summer 2008 commencement  
**When:** 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 9  
**Where:** Murphy Center, MTSU

**Speaker:** Dr. Kevin Smith, professor of sociology and anthropology and immediate past president of the MTSU Faculty Senate.

**For more info:** Go to [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com) and click on the "Graduation Info" link at the left side of the page.

\*Approximate number as of July 21, 2008.



activities should be aware of this commitment, she said.

At 8:30 a.m. Aug. 9, Murphy Center doors will open for the commencement ceremony. Candidates are expected to be in their assigned areas, dressed in their caps and gowns, no later than 9 a.m. Officials report that students who are not in their assigned gym at the proper times will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Because rehearsals are no longer conducted, timely attendance is mandatory for students.

For more information about commencement, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm) or call 615-898-2919.

## U.S.-Sino Workshop creates collaborators, friends

by Tom Tozer

**D**r. Diane Miller means what she says. When the newly appointed vice provost issued directives to all who participated in the recent U.S.-Sino workshop on mathematics and science education, she told them this was not going to be a "meet-and-greet-and-then-let's-go home session." It certainly wasn't.

American and Chinese scholars traded e-mail addresses as well as phone and fax numbers, and they made a commitment, as members of 12 Research Working Groups, to continue their collaboration for the next several months or years that would produce meaningful and lasting outcomes—outcomes that will ultimately have an impact on classroom teaching and learning.

"We'd been planning this for the last 18 months," Miller said. "Dr. McPhee proposed the idea to President Wang Li Min of Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou, People's Republic of China, in 2006. He asked me to take charge, and I wrote a proposal to the National Science Foundation in the spring of 2007 and submitted it in the fall of that year."

The weeklong event in June was co-hosted by MTSU and NWN. U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon delivered the opening address, and plenary

speakers included scholars from the National Science Foundation, The Carnegie Foundation, NWN and the Ministry of Education, P.R. China.

At the beginning of the week, nearly 125 scholars gathered together and presented topic-session papers. From those sessions, participants joined with others of similar interests and formed Research Working Groups, which spent the week discussing math and science curriculum, teacher preparation, assessment, integrating technology into the classroom, professional development and reaching the underserved population.

"On Friday, we asked the RWGs to summarize their discussions and what they hoped to accomplish as a working group in the future, including a timeline if they were that far into the process," Miller explained, adding that the reports turned out to be one of her most memorable experiences that week. "I really didn't know what to expect—they far exceeded my expectations."

It wasn't all work and no play. "We built in social time because I firmly believe the friendships that were developed will sustain the professional relationships that are needed to complete these research projects," Miller said.

"A lot of people commented that they thought this was a very successful part of the workshop," she continued. "You had groups that spoke differ-

ent languages and came from different cultures. Even their research paradigms are different. The research language is different in the United States from the language of Chinese researchers."

Several MTSU faculty and students served as translators in both formal and informal gatherings whenever they were needed.

The National Science Foundation has expressed an interest in providing funding for U.S. scholars to go to China for a follow-up workshop, if the research groups maintain their momentum, Miller said. She plans to keep in touch with the RWG facilitators and will post updates on a Web site.

"One group has already set up a discussion group online, and everyone is copying me on their correspondence," she said. "So, yes, the work has just begun, and the real success of the workshop won't be determined for several months. It will depend on these RWGs truly working together."

"We hope people will implement their research plans, present at professional conferences and publish from that. And we hope to get the group back together again. There were absolutely no difficult times. Everything went so smoothly and everyone seemed to be so happy ... it was a little scary."

## Miller welcomes busy workload as new vice provost

by Tom Tozer

**D**r. Diane Miller's new role as vice provost became effective July 14, and she's already hard at work keeping the approval process moving for three proposed doctoral degrees: computational science, mathematics and science education and molecular biosciences.

If the Tennessee Board of Regents and Tennessee Higher Education Commission give their nods to the degrees, the programs could be in place by fall 2009.

"This office helps to facilitate the flow of paperwork related to curricula issues," Miller

said, "which might include starting a new degree program or revising an existing program or course curriculum."

Miller also will work with reviewers who examine degree proposals, field student questions or problems and handle grade appeals. In addition to providing leadership for several centers on campus and continuing as director of the McNair Scholars Program, Miller noted that the provost also asked her to take on a new task of providing an organizational structure

for all programs dealing with international affairs, including devising new ways to attract more students from other cultures.

"I welcome Dr. Diane Miller to this senior level academic administrative position," said President Sidney A. McPhee. "Dr. Miller brings with her a wealth of experience as both a faculty member and an administrator and as a former president of the Faculty Senate. Her dedication and commitment to the university are certainly assets as she provides leadership in many areas within Academic Affairs and across the campus."

"I've been humbled and appreciative of all the e-mails and cards from people wishing me well," Miller said.



Miller

# Fulbright award helps Armstrong sustain ambitions

## Next 'leg' of musician's journey stops in Berlin

by Randy Weiler

Through the Jake Leg Stompers, a lively old-time jug band, MTSU alumnus and multi-talented musician Brandon Armstrong has seen much of the eastern United States: major cities like New Orleans, Chicago, Memphis, Louisville and Nashville, and small towns like Calhoun, Ga., Centerville, Tenn., and Leland, Greenville, Oxford and Clarksdale, Miss.

Through a Fulbright U.S. Student fellowship, Armstrong will see more of the world—particularly Germany—starting in September when he travels to Berlin to study urban sustainability.

Armstrong will study at the Technische Universitaet and also conduct research through work with “experimentcity,” a project of the Institute for Creative Sustainability, a nonprofit organization that explores and publicizes the linkages between culture, ecology, economy and community.

The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced the award in late June.

“My interest in sustainability was born at MTSU through involvement in Students for Environmental Action and the Clean Energy Initiative,” Armstrong, a Knoxville native and



**AUF WIEDERSEHEN**—Brandon Armstrong, an MTSU honors graduate, is the recent recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Student Fellowship for 2008-09. The German-language major will be studying urban sustainability in Berlin.

photo submitted

December 2005 graduate, said.

“The progress being made at MTSU is motivation for me to learn how to implement sustainability initiatives at the city level, and that is exactly what I will be studying in Germany,” Armstrong added. “As a city, Berlin has made profound commitments and achievements in how people can live sustainably in urban settings. I want to bring that experience to Tennessee.

“I’m tickled and excited. Berlin is

one of my favorite cities on the planet. Four years ago I lived in Germany for a year, and I knew then that I would return to learn about the culture of sustainability.”

Former University Honors College Dean Phil Mathis said he was extremely proud and excited upon learning of Armstrong’s Fulbright scholarship, and he informed MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, executive vice president and provost Kaylene Gebert, foreign languages

professor Sonja Hedgepeth and English chairman Tom Strawman of the news.

“I am so delighted and impressed by the news,” Mathis wrote in an e-mail to Armstrong. “It is a great honor and opportunity for you and, of course, the Honors College, and MTSU will be wanting a little of the stardust to fall on us as we rush to claim you as our own.”

“This is the second straight year we’ve had a major national/international scholarship/fellowship winner,” Mathis added, referring to Taylor A. Barnes, another honors student who won the Goldwater Scholarship in 2007.

“I want to give proper credit to Michelle Arnold (program coordinator and adviser) for her role in encouraging and assisting Brandon with the preparation of his application (portfolio).”

Armstrong, whose major was German language and minor was in music, graduated summa cum laude with distinction from the Honors College. He was the spring 2005 recipient of the President’s Award.

He is one of more than 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008-09 academic year through the Fulbright program.

Fulbright award recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

## the RECORD

**Tom Tozer**  
Director, News and Public Affairs

Editor: Gina E. Fann  
gfann@mtsu.edu

Contributors: Gina K. Logue, John Lynch, Paula Morton, Lisa L. Rollins, Randy Weiler, Eric Jackson, Stephanie Dragoo and Joshua Graham.

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## Faculty/Staff Update

### Appointments

Drs. Lynn Parsons and Suzanne Prevost (nursing) were selected from 500 nominees to become accreditation site visitors for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The MTSU School of Nursing recently underwent a CCNE accreditation site visit and anticipates a 10-year renewal.

### Passages

Dr. T. Earl Hinton (music), 83, passed away July 10. Funeral services were conducted July 14. Dr. Hinton, who taught at MTSU from 1960 until his retirement in 1994, was a former Faculty Senate president and a pioneer in arts education in Tennessee. The T. Earl Hinton Music Hall in the Wright Music Building was dedicated in his honor in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Nora Hinton; sons Kem (Marilyn) Hinton and Keith Hinton; grandson Thomas “T.J.” Hinton; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Memorials may be made to the Hinton Music Scholarship at MTSU, Music Fund at First United Methodist Church, Peabody College, Nashville Symphony Orchestra or your favorite charity.

Douglas Y. McCallie (food services), 66, passed away July 9.

Funeral services were conducted July 12. Mr. McCallie served as director of ARAMARK Food Services at MTSU from 1976 to 1998. The Corlew Building dining hall was named McCallie Dining Hall in 1999 in his honor. He is survived by his wife, Dottie Willis McCallie; children Valarie (Jeff) Day and Wade (Yvette) McCallie; and grandchildren Maddie and Colin McCallie. Memorials may be made to the MTSU Foundation for Alumni Scholarships.

James Grant Reed (facilities services), 60, passed away July 18. Funeral services were conducted July 21. Mr. Reed, who was a supervisor in the Facilities Services Department, was employed by MTSU from April 1986 until his retirement in May 1999 and was currently site manager of Piedmont Girl Scout Camp. He is survived by his wife, Martha Patch Reed; sons Timothy (DeAnna) Reed, Jason (Lori) Reed and Joey (Meg) Reed; daughters Janice Hoak and Laura (Jimmy) Cooper; sisters Carol Harris, Lucille Davenport and Wilma Christine Davenport; an uncle, Paul Blanton; and 14 grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Vanderbilt Heart Transplant program.

### Presentations

Lori Kissinger (speech and theatre) will present “Statewide Forums on Careers in the Arts” Sept. 10 at the National Endowment for the Arts in Chattanooga. Kissinger’s talk will focus on a fall 2006 conference that MTSU sponsored in conjunction with the Tennessee Arts Commission and Very Special Arts, or VSA.

Dr. Diane Miller (mathematical sciences, vice provost for academic affairs) presented a paper and participated in a discussion group at the 11th International Congress on Mathematics Education July 6-13 in Monterrey, Mexico. The discussion group focused on the nature and roles of international cooperation in mathematics education, and her paper reported on the “U.S.-Sino Workshop on Mathematics and Science Education: Identify Common Priorities that Promote Collaborative Research.”

### See yourself in The Record!

E-mail your faculty/staff accomplishments to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu), Attention: *The Record*, Faculty/Staff Update. Please note that publication of printed or hand-written contributions may be delayed.