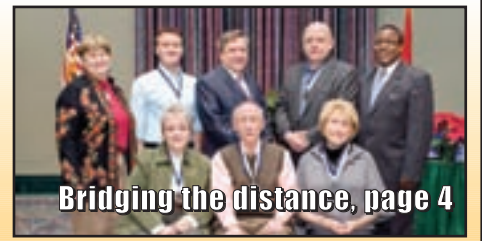


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a publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

Jan. 12, 2009 • Vol. 17/No. 12

the RECORD

Campus School renovations have safety-first focus

by Tom Tozer
 ttozer@mtsu.edu

Officials are pleased with the progress made on renovations at the 80-year-old Homer Pittard Campus School, especially in the crucial areas of safety and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

Along with \$2.6 million committed by the Rutherford County Commission, the Christy-Houston Foundation and MTSU each pledged \$1 million, which enabled the renovation project to move forward.

The bid was awarded last June, and workers began in earnest on the first three phases of the project about two weeks before teachers returned for the fall semester, said Dr. Stan Baskin, Campus School principal.

Safety considerations were first on the list. "They hit it hard," Baskin said of the workers. "They took out all the glued-on ceiling tiles because they did not meet fire codes. They removed the remaining tiles in two kindergarten rooms over the Christmas break. The wiring is about 75 percent done, and the sprinkler system is probably about 75 percent done."

When those projects are completed, the building will have new electrical wiring, and every room in the building will have an automatic sprinkler system. Baskin added that new chillers have been installed, and about half of the blower units connected to the heating/cooling units have been put in place.

"Safety, efficiency and comfort: we have to have those things," he noted.

Construction of the ADA ramp and elevator began last August. Baskin said the elevator will be finished by the first of August 2009, "but I've heard they might be able to finish it by late February or March."



DISCUSSING THE DETAILS—Jimmy Stokes, daytime custodian, and Dr. Stan Baskin, principal, discuss ongoing safety renovations at the Homer Pittard Campus School.

photo by J. Intintoli

The ramp on the northwest corner of the building leading to the ground-floor elevator will make it possible for people to access all three floors

See 'Campus' page 5

Welcome back: Spring 2009 filled with new classes, events, as well as eye toward future

Busy semester awaits 21,600-plus students

by Randy Weiler
 jweiler@mtsu.edu

A new year, new semester and new outlook await MTSU students and faculty as they return to campus Thursday, Jan. 15, for spring semester classes with an eye toward the May 9 commencement, which may see the university's largest ever graduating class.

Spring enrollment should be near or slightly ahead of spring 2008 totals when 21,648 students took regular and online classes, Drs. Deb Sells and Sherian Huddleston said.

"Projected enrollment appears to be on target, right in line with the past two or three years," Sells, inter-

im vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services, said. "Typically, spring enrollment runs about 1,200 to 1,500 students below fall. Right now, we look to be on track to hit about the same mark as last spring, which would be about 21,650 students. We may even see a tiny increase, but we won't know for sure until after the fee payment deadline (Jan. 8)."

Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services, said increases in enrollment were running about 2.2 percent by Jan. 6. She said she will submit final census totals to the Tennessee Board of Regents Jan. 28.

See 'Busy' page 5

President's update on budget, strategic planning

by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
 smcphee@mtsu.edu

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy new year. Although I would prefer to start this new semester off on a more positive note, I felt it very important to share with you the latest update regarding the university's budget situation.

Just before the holiday break, we were advised of two possible budget-reduction scenarios that would significantly affect MTSU's current budget. The first scenario indicates that our budget could be reduced by as much as \$19,310,600, effective July 1, 2009. This amount is 20.3 percent of our current \$95,246,400 state appropriation. The second possibility is that the reduction could be slightly less if the state receives funding from the federal stimulus package. In this case, our reduction could be approximately \$11.8 million and would also be subject to what the legislature and the governor approves. In either case, the reductions are still significant but are in line with what we had expected.

As a means of addressing one of the two possible budget-reduction

See 'Update' page 5

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
 STATE UNIVERSITY

www.mtsunews.com

IN BRIEF

SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

Facilities Services reminds us to be aware of energy-saving opportunities this winter by turning off lights, computers and other equip-

ment when possible; enabling Energy Star features on equipment; keeping doors and windows closed; and eliminating or minimizing use of electric space heaters. E-mail comments, suggestions and questions to the Center for Energy Efficiency at cee@mtsu.edu.

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Campus Rec offers even more fitness, fun in new year

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

Are you ready for a new year and a new you? If so, MTSU Campus Recreation has a variety of fitness programs that may help you get off to a good start with your fitness program.

For those eager to get back into a fitness routine, Campus Rec has scheduled a limited number of aerobic classes through Friday, Jan. 16.

It also will again offer the Faculty and Staff Wellness Program for \$150 per person. Participants must sign up by Friday, Jan. 30, to get the full benefit of the program. The wellness program includes beginning and ending fitness assessments, a weekly session with a personal trainer, a fitness punch pass for 30 classes and the opportunity to purchase additional personal-training sessions for only \$15 per session.

In addition to the wellness program, Campus Rec offers the Get Fit Stay Fit program, which is a continuing program that you can join at any time. The cost is \$30 for students and \$50 for faculty, staff and members, and the program includes a fitness assessment, weight-room orientation, cardiovascular-room orientation, an aerobics punch pass for \$30 and the opportunity to purchase additional personal training sessions for only \$15 per session.

New this spring is the Beach Body Boot Camp, which will begin Monday, Jan. 26, and continue through March 6. The cost of this intensive workout is \$70, and it offers two group workout times with personal trainers—12:30 to 1 p.m. and 4:45-5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. These sessions will be held in the downstairs aerobic room, and you must be registered for the Boot Camp. You will get a beginning and ending fitness assessment to gauge your progress.

The Campus Rec fitness staff is working on several other programs to introduce this year, so you should be able to find one that you like that fits your schedule.



PLENTY OF ROOM—Wellness-conscious staff and students work up a sweat in the new second-floor cardio room in the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center. The facility features plenty of room—and activities—for those who've resolved to keep fit and have fun on campus in the new year.

file photo by Andy Heidt

For more information about these or other Campus Recreation activities, call 615-898-2104 or check the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~camprec.

Descendant of Douglass, Washington to speak at MLK brunch Jan. 17

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

Kenneth B. Morris, president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation, will be the honored speaker at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, in the Tennessee Room of MTSU's James Union Building.

Morris is the great-great-grandson of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, one of America's most brilliant orators and the first African-American nominated as a candidate for Vice President, and the great-great-grandson of pioneering educator and Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington. Morris' maternal grandparents were Dr. Frederick Douglass III and Nettie

Hancock Washington Douglass.

Following a career on the concert stage and in theater productions, Morris and a partner founded C&A Marketing in 1990. The firm develops marketing programs for cruise lines and resort hotels; its entertainment division has served such clients as Great West Life Assurance, London Life and the AutoZone chain of auto parts stores.



Morris

In addition to his duties at the Douglass Foundation, Morris serves on the boards of directors for Kaleidoscope Arts Factory, a nonprofit performing arts organization for children; the Booker T. Washington

Family Committee; and the Africa Global Partnership Inc.

Local heroes, heroines and humanitarians also will be recognized at the brunch, which is co-hosted by the Murfreesboro branch of the NAACP and the organization's MTSU collegiate chapter.

Sponsorships of this event are available at the Ewell Willis Bronze Level (\$25-\$100), the William Butler Silver Level (\$101-\$500) and the Jerry Anderson Gold Level (\$501 and up). Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students under 25 years old.

For more information, contact Dr. Barbara Knox at 615-275-9974 or bknox@mtsu.edu or any NAACP member.

Collage names latest award winners

by Susan Hill
news@mtsu.edu

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression has named its Creative Expression Award winners for the fall 2008 edition. Awards were given in the categories of art, poetry, prose and photography.

Taffeta Chime was the recipient in the fiction category for her entry "Barefoot." Chime, a sophomore English major with a double minor in writing and theater, has been published on numerous occasions, including two previous pieces published by *Collage*. In 2007, Broken Oak Publishing and Lightning Source Industries published *Stoodie*, which is available at Amazon.

In the poetry category, Jen Hayes received the Creative Expression Award for her entry, "Strawberry Picking." Hayes, a junior majoring in English and theater, has had two poems previously published by *Collage* and is vice president of the Young Artists and Writers Society and a frequent performer at the Grind.

Marcus Laxton was the winner in the photography category for his entry "Daybreak." He previously had a poem published in the spring 2008 issue of *Collage*. Laxton is a sophomore majoring in photography with a minor in graph-

ic design who enjoys traveling and plans on working in the field of commercial photography after graduation.

Adam Gaskill is the Creative Expression Award recipient in the art category for his entry "Rag and Bone," which is part of a series of themed bikes focused on past or underdeveloped societies. Gaskill is a studio art major with a concentration in printmaking. He hosted a student art show in his home in October 2008.

The Creative Expression Award began as the Martha Hixon Award in fall 2007, rewarding one

winner with a \$100 check. The awards have been expanded to four categories to include the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award in poetry and prose and the Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award in art and photography. Each of the four winners receives a \$50 prize.

Previous winners include criminal justice major Grace Langeland for her entry "3 a.m. fiction"; art major Miki Sato for the digital illustration "Self Control"; and mass communication major Justin Keoninh for the photograph "Drake Dreams."

Susan Hill is a December 2008 journalism graduate of MTSU.



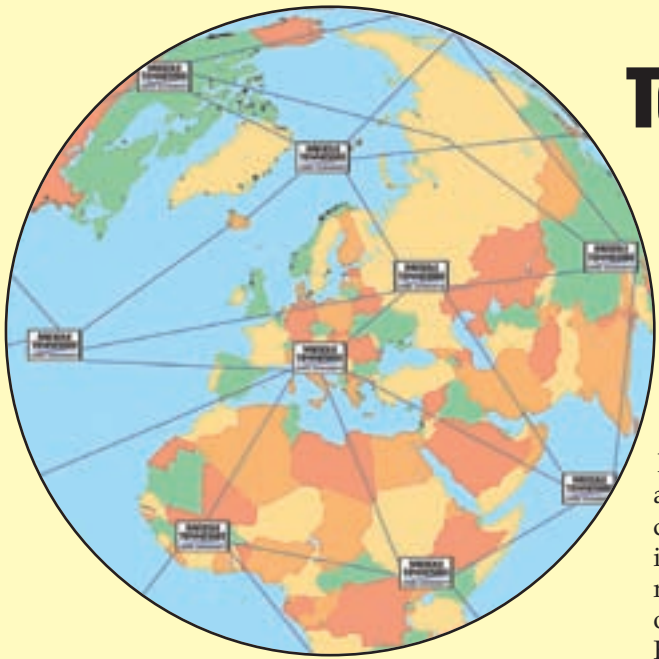
AMG, Peck Hall computer labs close; 6 labs still available

Beginning this semester, the Alumni Memorial Gym computer lab, located in AMG Room 204, and the University Writer Center computer lab in Peck Hall 326 will be converted to classroom space and will no longer be available for public use.

Six university computer labs are available to all students, faculty and staff with a current MTSU ID.

A list of these labs, including information about their locations and hours, can be viewed anytime at www.mtsu.edu/itd/students_complab_itd.shtml.

Technology, cultural knowledge heighten study-abroad experience for participants



years ago in Scotland. It all started with a little curiosity and an invitation.

"College campuses around the world are always a welcome place for college students and college faculty," Spires says.

Since then, Spires caught the travel bug. He has taught American media courses in Scotland and China and helped broaden the international curriculum in mass communication at MTSU. He is responsible for establishing exchange agreements at Glasgow Caledonian and the University of Northampton, both in Scotland, as well as Hangzhou Normal University, Hunan Normal University and China Agriculture University in Beijing, China.

In addition to sharing his personal experiences, Spires always brings international students to talk to his media classes. He says it's important for students to get a firsthand experience listening to an international student's perspective of America.

Spires says he regrets not initiating global exchange for MTSU sooner. Globalization has affected students for years, and it will continue to affect mass communication in a big way. Due to the fast-paced nature of technology in the media field, he notes, it has been difficult to come to grips with how media as a profession is changing.

For new graduates with a mass communication degree, Spires points out that the scope of the working environment will be much smaller than it has ever been. In a sense, it is becoming more important for media students to understand cultural differences.

"They will be working with someone from another country . . . or they'll be working across the Internet," Spires says. "They will be, in some way, interconnected."

He emphasizes the importance of interconnectedness. Whether or not MTSU students communicate and work with their peers all over the globe, it is possible. The opportunities that materialize from these global connections are infinite, and they are the cause of global progress.

One factor that attracts international students to MTSU, especially in the College of Mass Communication, is the accessibility of advanced technology. Universities around the globe may have Photoshop on the campus computers, but few house an animation lab or full TV studio.

And Milne has taken advantage of the media equipment at his fingertips. He has spent a lot of time editing film with the Instructional Technology Support Center, and exposure to the editing process of TV programs has fueled a new passion for him.

"I've actually asked back home to try and get an additional module put into my last three semesters so I can actually learn the programs," Milne says. "I want to actually learn the system, because once you learn the system, you can generally use them all."

Spires and many other faculty members across campus are making efforts to include international insight into their curriculum to the benefit of incoming and outgoing exchange students.

Spires can be reached at 615-898-2217 or rwspires@mtsu.edu. For more information about studying abroad or international exchange programs, contact MT Abroad at 615-898-5179 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad.

Stacy Williams is a December 2008 journalism and global studies graduate of MTSU.

by Stacy Williams
news@mtsu.edu

Scots native Kevin Milne got his first tempting taste of American culture through film, specifically college party movies.

"It's kind of cheesy, but it's always the kind of films like 'Animal House' and 'Revenge of the Nerds,' where you see all these parties and you think, 'Ah, that looks so fun,'" says Milne.

And although Milne likes to have a good time, studying abroad in America has been more valuable to him than a toga party.

Back at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, Milne is pursuing a journalism degree, but during his semester abroad at MTSU, he has had the opportunity to explore the entire media field. During his six-month stay, he seems to have found his niche in film editing.

Milne's experience was possible in part due to a university partnership established by Electronic Media Communication professor Dr. Bob Spires, whose international education work began 12

MT Abroad welcomes new director

by Stacy Williams
and Gina K. Logue

According to MTSU's Office of International Education, 260 students took advantage of study abroad opportunities in the 2006-07 academic year, the last year for which complete statistics are available.

Dr. Bob Spires, professor of electronic media communication and a pioneer for exchanges in China and Scotland, believes that MTSU is making key efforts to promote international education.

"MTSU sends more people abroad than any other school in Tennessee," Spires says.

Fortified with a new director and several new scholarship initiatives, the MT Abroad office is striving to make the study abroad experience accessible and affordable for all students.

Rhonda Waller, MT Abroad's new director, says she is very impressed with the vibrancy of the MTSU student body and has witnessed enthusiasm in her office and around campus.

"I believe in international education and its value, and I think students really do see that (value)," Waller says. "I think they see it as an investment in their future. These students are eager to learn a foreign language, and they're eager to have an internship in another country."

As former assistant director of the study-abroad program at University of Missouri and a participant in Japan Exchange Teaching, Waller is an experienced adviser and traveler. One of her main goals with MT Abroad is to reach out to underrepresented groups and help them share in the study abroad experience. For example, she says that men, education majors and first-generation college students are all underrepresented in study-abroad programs.

Waller says she also hopes to dispel myths about studying abroad, noting that opportunities offered at MTSU do not discriminate based on the size of one's wallet. As of fall 2007, each MTSU student's tuition helps to improve international education.

Additionally, an internationalization fee of \$10, which raised approximately \$460,000 in 2008, is used to fund study-abroad scholarships, says Spires, a member of the International Education and Exchange Committee.

A student planning to study abroad may apply for a study-abroad scholarship if he or she has a 2.75 GPA, has completed at least one semester at MTSU, submits a letter of recommendation from an MTSU faculty member and enrolls in an academic program during the time spent abroad.

"Students can get up to 50 percent of their program paid for

through scholarships potentially," says Waller's supervisor, Dr. Anne Sloan, special assistant to the provost for international education.

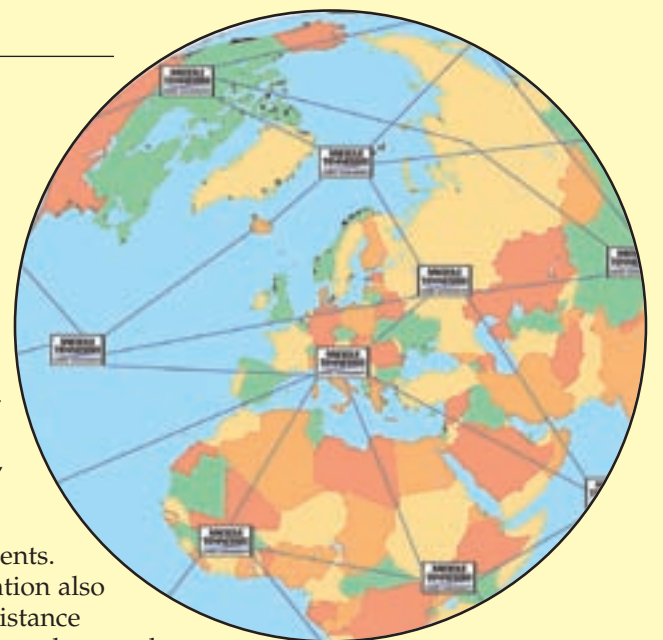
According to Sloan, since spring 2008, 133 scholarships have been awarded to MTSU students.

International Education also set up two financial assistance accounts—a bridge loan and a travel grant—which will receive a fixed 5 percent deposit from the yearly internationalization fee.

The bridge loan, effective since January 2008, acts as an interest-free loan to financial aid students. They can "borrow against that account to put toward program fees" due 90 days before the program begins, Sloan says. When the student's financial aid arrives at the beginning of the semester, the borrowed amount will be replenished and deposited into the account.

The program will take at least five years to be completely self-sufficient, due to the small amount of funds initially available. The bridge loan allows students who are less likely to have the resources to study abroad to enjoy these opportunities. Sloan considers the loan a necessary tool to build recognition and student involvement with MT Abroad.

The travel grant is designed for



students who have been invited or wish to attend an international conference, workshop or seminar or conduct university-approved research abroad. The funds will be distributed similarly to a faculty-led excursion abroad, where travel, lodging and meal expenses are covered, says Sloan. Individuals may fill out travel grant applications through the MT Abroad office.

This spring, MT Abroad is sending 70 students out of the country, and a bigger turnout is expected for the summer term. Application deadlines are Sunday, Feb. 15, for summer programs and Monday, March 9, for fall semester programs.

For more information, contact MT Abroad at 615-898-5179 or www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad.

Stacy Williams is a December 2008 journalism and global studies graduate of MTSU.

Campus Calendar

Jan. 12-25

Please note:

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

TV Schedule



"Middle Tennessee Record"

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

Jan. 12

Monday, Jan. 12

Faculty Piano Recital:

Dr. Lynn Rice-See

8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall

For information, contact:

615-898-2493.

Jan. 15

Thursday, Jan. 15

Spring semester classes begin

Women's Studies Research Lectures: Dr. Susan Hopkirk, "A Century of Anne: Green Gables and the Development of Canadian Literary Tradition"

3 p.m., JUB 100

For information, contact:

615-898-5282.

Jan. 16

Friday, Jan. 16

MTSU Dance Theatre Benefit: "Holiday Patterns"

7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre

Admission: \$10

For information, contact:

615-494-7904.

Jan. 18

Sunday, Jan. 18

"MTSU On the Record—Number 44"

On the Sunday before the inauguration, Dr. Robb McDaniel (political science) talks



about President-elect Barack Obama's handling of the transition period and the prospects for the new administration.

7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Podcast available at

www.mtsunews.com.

Jan. 19

Monday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

university closed

Jan. 20

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Inauguration Day

Jan. 21

Wednesday, Jan. 21

MT Women's Basketball vs. Arkansas State

7 p.m., Murphy Center

For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 22

Thursday, Jan. 22

MT Men's Basketball vs. Arkansas State

7 p.m., Murphy Center

For information, visit

www.goblueraiders.com

or contact: 615-898-2450.

Jan. 25

Sunday, Jan. 25

"MTSU On the Record—Express Yourself"

Editor-in-Chief Hannah Green and Marsha Powers, University Honors College

coordinator, discuss

the latest edition of

Collage, the student literary

magazine.

7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM

Podcast available at

www.mtsunews.com.



Faculty, staff honored for work with distance learning

by Brian Estes
news@mtsu.edu

Students who have taken online classes can likely attest to their flexibility and convenience, allowing them to fit coursework into their everyday schedules. The College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning recently recognized five MTSU faculty and staff members for making that convenience possible by their work in distance-learning education.

Dr. Duane Graddy, professor of economics and finance, Dr. Sandra Poirier, associate professor of human sciences, and Pamela Taylor, associate professor of nursing, all won Faculty Awards.

Chris Haseleu, chair of the recording industry department, won the Chair Award, and Scott Hurt, assistant director of MTSU's Admissions Office, received the Staff Award.

"It's a rewarding experience to see how you can integrate material into technology and achieve classroom results online," Graddy said.

Haseleu said that one of his department's major contributions to distance learning is offering five courses online; three more are in development. "We want to try to offer all required core classes online," Haseleu said.

"It allows adult students to further their education without having to be in a confined classroom," Taylor said, adding that one of the most rewarding experiences she has had with distance learning is offering classes to students who otherwise might not be able to take them.

"There are a lot of students who wouldn't ask questions in a traditional class, but they do in an online class," Poirier noted. "They feel empowered."



BRIDGING THE DISTANCE—Winners of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning's Distinguished Educator honors pose with university administrators at the recent Department of Academic Outreach and Distance Learning's faculty appreciation luncheon. Seated are, left to right, honorees Pamela Taylor, associate professor of nursing; Dr. Duane Graddy, economics and finance; and Dr. Sandra Poirier, human sciences. Standing are Dr. Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost; honoree Scott Hurt, admissions; Continuing Ed Dean Dr. Mike Boyle; honoree Chris Haseleu, recording industry; and university president Dr. Sidney A. McPhee.

photo by J. Intintoli

Hurt's work in admissions has attracted students who have expressed an interest in MTSU's online offerings.

"I'm usually the first point of contact for these students," he said.

Brian Estes is a senior majoring in journalism.

of the building.

"We've never really had a child who could not navigate the stairs adequately," Baskin said, "but we have had several instances over the years when parents and grandparents could not get to the third floor for a classroom program. Sometimes they would just have to miss the program. Access to all three floors of the building is very important."

Rutherford County Schools Director Harry Gill said the system is "excited about the progress being made with the Campus School renovations and the partnership we have developed with MTSU during the project. Many wonderful teachers in Rutherford County have benefited from the mentoring program at Campus (School), and the school is a valued part of our school district."

"It is especially important to note

that in determining project priorities, safety was and is the No. 1 consideration," added Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU president.

"I am grateful to the county and Campus School officials, to Christy-Houston and to the many parents for their interest in making these much-needed improvements while also striving to preserve the school's historical integrity. Campus School will continue to be a crown jewel of which all of us can be proud."

The fourth phase of the Campus School renovation will include the brickwork and plumbing.

"A lot of people came together to make this work, and we're appreciative of all of them," Baskin said. "Everyone is excited about things being finished."

Update

from page 1

scenarios, each of the Tennessee Board of Regents institutions was asked to submit a proposed summary by Dec. 22 explaining how the institution might make the necessary cuts. Although we have submitted this very general and preliminary proposal as requested, we remain committed to the strategic planning process that we currently have in place, which involves giving the entire campus community an opportunity to provide input and receiving recommendations from our four strategic work groups. Our final plan to the board, which is to be submitted later this spring, will rely significantly on the recommendations made by our work groups along with the appropriate consultation with various other constituent groups on campus.

I am very pleased with the progress that is being made by the Steering Committee and the Strategic Work Groups that are associated with our "Positioning the University for the Future" initiative. Each of these groups met before we left for the holiday break and has returned to work to begin the process of formulating the appropriate recommendations as determined by the role of each. (A listing of the chairs and committee members of each group has been posted to the initiative Web site at www.mtsu.edu/strategic.) This remains an ongoing process, and I

continue to solicit your feedback and support for our efforts to identify the best ways to reduce our budget, reallocate existing funds and to generate new or additional revenue.

Updates on the activities of our strategic work groups are forthcoming. Please continue to watch the initiative Web site and your e-mail for additional updates as they become available. You may also continue to use the electronic suggestion form to provide the appropriate committees with your recommendations and concerns.

As I reminded you before, the decisions that have to be made are not going to be easy and will not

be received positively by every member of this family, but please know that you can count on my commitment to not compromise the academic quality or integrity of this institution. MTSU belongs to each of us, and its continued success depends significantly on your commitment to its principles and its mission. With that said, please accept my continued gratitude for your support and positive attitude as we face these challenging times together.

This is a reprint of recent e-mail communications from Dr. McPhee to the university community.

Learn more @

www.mtsu.edu/strategic

Clean house for AAUW Book Sale

Those books, CDs, DVDs, tapes and records that you sorted over winter break to give away can be donated to the American Association of University Women Murfreesboro chapter for its annual book sale.

Donations are being accepted now for the AAUW's annual sale to benefit the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship for MTSU Students, which will be held March 30-31 in the Keathley University Center in front of Phillips Bookstore.

On-campus donations may be dropped off at the James E. Walker Library, and curbside pickups can be arranged there, too. Contact Ann Funkhouser at 615-898-2538 or afunkhou@mtsu.edu.

Busy

from page 1

Sells, who replaced Dr. Bob Glenn (now president at Athens State University in Alabama) in August, said priority items for the spring will include "working to communicate effectively with students about upcoming changes in tuition and fee structures" and sharing regular updates on President Sidney A. McPhee's strategic workgroups working on the "Positioning the University for the Future" project.

"There will, of course, be a strong focus on recruitment and enrollment issues, including moving to a direct-lending program for financial aid," Sells said. "We also expect to continue to focus on important student initiatives, including opening the new pharmacy at Student Health (Services), which will also be open to faculty and staff; making continued progress on the Student Union project; and supporting a healthy spring fraternity program."

Along with classes, the spring semester will feature distinguished lectures and the Spring Honors Lecture Series, "Searching for Athena: An Exploration of Honors and Gifted Education" (full schedule at www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.shtml), as well as many other activities.

For example, a full schedule of Black History Month events is available by visiting www.mtsu.edu/~aahm or calling the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs at 615-898-5812.

The 37th annual Groundhog Day Luncheon for the MT baseball program is planned on Monday, Feb. 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Murphy Center Monte Hall Arena floor. Tickets will be \$20 each. For reservations, call the MT Ticket Office at 615-898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU, or the Blue Raider Athletic Association office at 615-898-2210.

For the Jazz Artist Series, pianist and composer Donald Brown will appear Thursday, Feb. 12, to headline a busy February for the School of Music. Call 615-898-2493 or visit the School of Music Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~music for more details and other music events.

MTSU's Office of Financial Aid once again will participate in College Goal Sunday, which will be held from 2 until 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, in the Business and Aerospace Building's State Farm Lecture Hall. MTSU personnel will assist prospective students and answer questions. For more information, call 615-904-8414 or visit <http://financialaid.web.mtsu.edu>.

Some of the region's sharpest young minds will visit campus and participate in the Invention Convention on Thursday, Feb. 26, and the Science Olympiad on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The Admissions Office's Spring Preview Days, which are open to prospective students and their families to tour the university, are set for Saturday, March 21, and Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10 a.m. each day at the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

National Women's History Month activities through March can be found by visiting www.mtsu.edu/womenstu or calling the Office of Women's Studies at 615-898-5910.

Scholars Week activities will be March 30 through April 3. For more information, call 615-898-2071.

In addition to MT basketball, baseball, softball and track and field action in the next five months, many of the state's top girls' and boys' basketball teams head for Murphy Center for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association tournaments March 11-14 and March 18-21. The BlueCross Spring Fling will be May 18-23. Visit www.tssaa.org or call 615-889-6740 for ticket and other information.

First Friday Star Parties will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1 in Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102.

MTSU will serve as host for the International Horse Show Association Nationals April 23-26; contact Anne Brzezicki at 615-904-8481 for more information.

Spring also will mark the return of the Tennessee Labor Management Winter Conference March 11-13 in Memphis, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Executives in Residence event on Wednesday, April 8, and the President's Celebration of Excellence on Saturday, April 18.

For spring theater and dance events, visit www.mtsu.edu/~theatre.

Spring 2009 dates to remember

- Jan. 15—Classes begin
- Jan. 19—Martin Luther King holiday (no classes)
- March 9-14—Spring break
- March 13—University closed
- April 29—Last day of classes
- April 30—Student study day (no classes)
- May 1-7—Final exams
- May 9—Commencement (9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ceremonies in Murphy Center)



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Apply by Jan. 30 for grant to infuse curriculum with women's issues

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

The President's Commission on the Status of Women is accepting applications from MTSU faculty for three grants of \$1,800 each to be awarded in summer 2009 for integrating women's issues into the curriculum.

The grants are for use by tenured or tenure-track professors for the revision of a course, revision of a general education course for the Study Abroad program, creation of a new course, reconceptualization of a current minor or creation of a new minor.

A proposal for a Curriculum Integration Grant should include a completed grant application form; a brief description of the project; a statement of goals and objectives; a timeline for completion and implementation of the project; a tentative bibliography, including materials on the theories and methods of curriculum integration; and a curriculum vitae.

The 2008 grants were awarded to Dr. Felicia Miyakawa, assistant professor of music; Dr. Bill Levine, associate professor of English; and Dr. Kari Neely, assistant professor of foreign languages.

Miyakawa used her funding to create "Women in Music," a course that covered "not only women composers in the Western tradition, but also women performers, women patrons and women as objects and symbols in the marketing and consumption of music," the syllabus reads.

Levine's course, "Women Writers of the Restoration and British Eighteenth Century," focuses on how "selected Restoration and 18th century women writers' lives and works participated in the ongoing struggle for inclusion and legitimacy within a male-dominated public sphere," according to the syllabus.

Neely's course, "Women of the Middle East: Representations and Perceptions," takes a look at "images of Middle Eastern women and their reception in the Middle East and the West," states the syllabus. "Through an exploration of notable women such as Cleopatra, Mary (mother of Jesus), and the Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum, we address how political and social issues have been and are played out upon women."

The Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the PCSW will review the proposals.

The deadline for faculty to submit grant applications is Friday, Jan. 30. Details are available at www.mtsu.edu/~pcsw/grants.htm.

For more information, contact Dr. Samantha Cantrell in the Office of Research Services at 615-494-8751 or scantrel@mtsu.edu.

Transfer Student Services still growing

New director, new office location aim to ease transition

by Stacy Williams
news@mtsu.edu

Hundreds of questions plague transfer students as they search for an institution to continue their education. The last thing they want is to be "transferred" from one office to another.

To ease the transition, MTSU has made efforts to roll out the red carpet for transfer students since 2005, and with a new director and new location, those efforts are continuing.

Michelle Blackwell is improving MTSU's image by making Transfer Student Services, located in Room 106 of the McFarland Building, a central point of information for prospective and current transfer students.

Among the new initiatives of TSS is the "no transfer" policy, which states that students' questions will be answered on the spot or specifically directed to the correct administrator.

"If we have to take their name and number and call them back with the right answer, we take their name and number and call them back with the right answer," says Blackwell, the former assistant director of the Honors Program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

This kind of direct attention confirms Blackwell's dedication to transfers. She says her work at UT Knoxville has given her insight to assist the MTSU community. MTSU's appeal is strengthened by support services offered exclusively to transfers.

"I definitely can empathize with the transfer students because, being a transfer here, I have experienced a lot of the things that they talk about, just from the administrative side," said Blackwell, adding that she was drawn to MTSU's student-centered atmosphere.

Currently, transfer students make

up nearly half of the student body at MTSU, according to recent surveys conducted by TSS.

"If you look at the total population of all four to five years of students that are here now, the population [of transfers] is right around 44 percent," Blackwell says.

As the enrollment of community colleges increases, so will the number of transfer students. The majority of students come from "feeder schools," mainly Motlow State Community College, Columbia State, Nashville State and Volunteer State. Students from all over the country are also attracted to the aerospace, recording industry and concrete management programs, Blackwell says.

In preparation, Blackwell is enhancing the office technology to benefit students and administration. Students tend to consult the Internet first, she notes, so providing concise information online is crucial.



Blackwell



All transfers begin with an online orientation, which is maintained by New Students and Family Programs, Blackwell says.

"Even if they're coming from California, they can at least get the orientation done and be able to schedule an advising appointment," she says.

The biggest concern expressed by these students is how their credits will transfer. An extensive transfer equivalency chart, maintained by the Admissions Office, can be found through the TSS Web site. It allows students to see how their courses are confirmed or substituted at MTSU.

There also are Transfer Advising Days, a concept created by former TSS Director Virginia Donnell. Many offices on campus, including advising, admissions and scheduling, are now using BlueInfo software to com-

municate efficiently with each other each time a new transfer student is admitted to MTSU.

As students make appointments with an adviser throughout the year, the appointment is uploaded into the BlueInfo system, making that information available to the other offices. Transcripts and similar data are now prioritized based on the student's appointment date, so each office can prepare for the appointment with the student's updated information.

"We figured out a way to make all the paperwork and all the information processed [online] so that their advising appointment is as successful as possible," Blackwell says.

Making Academic Progress, known by its acronym MAP and also established by Donnell, provides personal support to improve the individual's study skills. Students in the MAP program work one-on-one with a faculty member, who then

exchanges progress notes with TSS. This fall, 33 students participated in the program.

In addition to MAP, University 2020 is offered to transfer students to smooth the transition to MTSU. A policy, similar to that of the University 1010 course requirements, mandates that transfer students on academic probation complete

University 2020 to help them

get acclimated to the university during their first semester, Donnell says. The course is comparable to a workplace orientation, and transfers appreciated that it was compact.

"They already know what college is," Donnell says. "They don't need someone to hold their hand and take them around."

However, they can be sure to receive a warm welcome from Blackwell's office.

For more information, contact Transfer Student Services at 615-898-5728 or visit www.mtsu.edu/transfer.

Stacy Williams is a December 2008 journalism and global studies graduate of MTSU.

Honors College initiates nearly 90 into Phi Kappa Phi

by Randy Weiler
rweiler@mtsu.edu

Nearly 90 MTSU students were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi during Dec. 2 ceremonies in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

"These students rank in the top 7.5 percent (for juniors) and top 10 percent (seniors and graduate students) of their respective colleges," said Dr. Lucy Langworthy, president of the MTSU chapter and adviser in the College of Liberal Arts.

"No other honor society on our campus has a standard this high. To achieve this, these students have had to have an insatiable desire to learn, a drive for excellence and a willingness to sacrifice and work hard. And from these students, we expect more."

Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the University Honors College, added that these students must serve as "examples of education's ability to enrich lives, expand

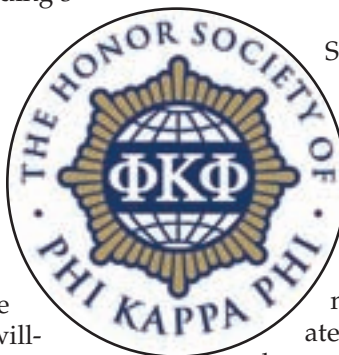
wisdom and improve communities."

Two special honorary initiates were inducted for community and staff endeavors: alumna Nancy R. Allen, who served as Rutherford County mayor from 1994 until 2006, and Tom Tozer, who serves as director for the Office of News and Public Affairs.

The primary objective of the national Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the recognition and encouragement of superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. The society is convinced that in recognizing and honoring those persons of good character who have excelled in scholarship, in whatever field, it will stimulate others to strive for excellence.

Sixteen faculty members also were recognized as influential faculty by the student initiates. For a full list of the faculty and student honorees, please read this story online on the NPA Web site at www.mtsunews.com.

Phi Kappa Phi is housed under the Honors College. For information, call 615-898-2152.



State Farm donates \$35,535 to support MTSU programs

by Drew Dunlop
news@mtsu.edu

State Farm Insurance Company recently gave MTSU \$35,535 to support a professorship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business as well as to fund the MTSU Science Olympiad, the annual Invention Convention and various activities that support the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans.

G. Ron Nichols, vice president of operations for State Farm Insurance Companies, presented the check to MTSU officials.

The largest portion of State Farm's donation, \$25,000, was earmarked for supporting a professorship in the Jones College of Business. Dr. Jim Burton, business dean, said that State Farm has been a generous supporter of the college for many years.

"This grant will help address numerous needs," Burton said. "Our need now is to recognize and reward excellent professors."

The dean added that the funds are particularly helpful now because anticipated budget cuts will make raises unlikely for professors this year.

Nichols said that the company's support for the Science Olympiad and Invention Convention programs stems from a concern about America falling behind other nations in the sciences.

"We need high-school students to get excited about math and science with hands-on activities. These programs at MTSU are stimulating their creativity," Nichols said.

Dr. Tracey Ring, professor of elementary and special education, and Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, accepted the donations earmarked for the education and science programs.

"The donation (\$4,000) for the Science Olympiad program will allow us to fund several teams of high-school and middle-school students to come to the Olympiad in the spring," Cheatham said. "We bring in teams from as far away as Chattanooga to participate."

Ring, organizer of the Invention Convention, which is sponsored every year by State Farm, added that the gift of \$3,335 will have a similar impact on children who participate in the program.

"We bring in fourth- through sixth-graders for the convention," Ring said. "We take the students through all the stages of an invention. They must come up with the invention, write and explain the invention, and all the math and the parts of the invention must be identified."

Invention Convention participants create either a new game or something to make life easier. More than 300 students come each year and exhibit



STILL A GOOD NEIGHBOR—G. Ron Nichols, center, vice president of operations for State Farm Insurance Companies, presents a check for \$35,535 to MTSU to support programs in various disciplines. Recipients are, from left to right, Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Dr. Tracey Ring, professor of elementary and special education; Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business; and Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations.

photo by Andy Heidt

between 150 to 175 inventions, Ring noted.

Nichols also noted State Farm's ongoing support of the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans program. MTSU officials said that State Farm, with its most recent contribution of \$3,200, has been instrumental in keeping the program running.



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Faculty

from page 8

Learning," at the National Delta Pi Epsilon Conference in Chicago Nov. 21.

Drs. Sherry J. Roberts (business communication and entrepreneurship) and **Leigh Anne Clark** (management and marketing) presented "MySpace, Facebook, and Other Social Networking Sites: How are they used by human resource personnel?" at the Delta Pi Epsilon National conference in Chicago Nov. 20-21.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (chemistry) presented two talks at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Nashville Nov. 12-15: "What Should Be Included in the New 'Foundations of Inorganic Chemistry' Course for the New ACS Guidelines?" and "Clickers in General

Chemistry: Two Uses and Studies of Effectiveness." The latter was co-authored by MTSU chemistry colleagues **Drs. Gary White, William Ilsley, Amy Phelps, Earl Pearson and Michael Sanger**.

Publications

Dr. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) has published "The Disconnected Values Model: Intervention Strategies for Exercise Behavior Change" in the *Journal of Clinical Sport Psychology* (December 2008, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 357-380).

Drs. Mark Anshel, Minsoo Kang, Normal Weatherby and Tiffany Watson (health and human performance) have published an article, "Rasch calibration of a unidimension-

al perfectionism inventory for sport," in the journal *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* (January 2009, Vol. 10, pp. 210-216).

Drs. Larry Burriss (journalism) and **Kathleen Burriss** (elementary and special education) have published "Gender Differences Related to Coorientation Discrepancy in NASA Space Photography" in *Visual Communication Quarterly* (15:4, 258-265).

Dr. Glenn Littlepage and **Anna M. Littlepage** (psychology) have published "Transactive memory and performance in work groups: Specificity, Communication, Ability Differences, and Work Allocation" with colleagues A.B. Hollingshead and L.R. Drake in *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice* (12, 232-241).

Randy Livingston (journalism) is a contributor to the new *Adobe Illustrator CS4 Wow! Book: Tips, Tricks and Techniques from 100 Top Illustrator Artists* (Peachpit Press), which has a target release date of April 2009.

Dr. Don Morgan (health and human performance) has published a chapter on locomotor economy in youth in the second edition of *Paediatric Exercise Science and Medicine*.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (chemistry) and chemistry doctoral candidate **Gabriel Gillette** published "35Cl NQR Spectra of Group 1 and Silver Dichloromethanesulfonates," in the international journal *Hyperfine Interactions*. The work was presented earlier at an international conference in Iguassu Falls, Brazil.

HRS' Batey motivated by benefits of healthier living

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

For the last two years, people around campus have been seeing less of Lisa Batey, Human Resource Services benefits director.

Folks also have been seeing less of Batey's HRS colleagues Karen Milstead and Wendy Brown.

It's not that these busy, industrious women have been missing work. Collectively, they have lost 220 pounds.

The trio and about a dozen other MTSU colleagues began their quest through an at-work Weight Watchers program.

Batey took it several steps further: She began to walk, run, swim and bike the pounds off. She registered for the MTSU Faculty and Staff Wellness Program. And she's lost 100 pounds.

"What made my mind up to do something about this was that I would be out of breath walking to my mailbox 50 or 60 feet or walking up steps at a Titans game," she said. "I thought I'd not be alive to see my daughter, Meagan, graduate from vet school at the University of Tennessee."

Before her weight loss, Batey had had back surgery and three left-knee surgeries. "I had high blood pressure, acid reflux, sleep apnea, high cholesterol and headaches before I lost the weight," Batey said. "Now I don't have any of that and I don't take any

medication now."

Batey and the others joined Weight Watchers in January 2007. For her birthday that month, she

asked for a treadmill; husband Greg Batey passed the got-the-perfect-gift test.

"My sister (and fellow MTSU employee) Ronda Vaughter, she's a runner," Batey said. "She was very instrumental and my inspiration to becoming very active. She started working with me to work up a plan to start running."

Early on, Batey would walk for two minutes and run for 30 seconds at a low speed (4.2 mph on the treadmill) for 30 minutes a day four days a week. Week two's routine became walking for two minutes and running for one minute.

"I wanted to see how far I could run and that would be my goal," she said. "I was trying to increase my endurance, not my speed, at that point. Eventually, I got to where I could run for 10 minutes without stopping."

When the weather improved and temperatures rose, she headed to the Stones River Greenway. Her Miniature Schnauzer, Roxie, and Great Dane, Brutus, joined her—"and they loved it," she said. Batey wanted to



prepare for See Spot Run, held on campus, with Spike, her Jack Russell Terrier. It would be her first competition.

She then decided to try what she calls sprint triathlons: a 200- to 250-yard swim, a five- to 10-mile bike ride and a one- to three-mile run. That May, she competed in the Jewish Center Triathlon, which is for beginners.

"My goal was just to do it and survive it," she said. "I liked it. I ended up doing three triathlons and one 5K in '07."

Last April, Batey entered the Music City Half Marathon. Later, she took part in the Middle Half along with HRS colleagues Gayle Barker and Tammie Dye. In 2009, she hopes to enter more triathlons.

"I can run three to five miles comfortably," she said. "Anything above



FEELING GREAT—Lisa Batey of Human Resource Services, above, runs with her dog Roxie in the photo above and poses with her sister, Ronda Vaughter, to celebrate losing weight and gaining better health.

photos submitted

that is a struggle. But my favorite thing to do is take my dogs to the Greenway.

"My philosophy is to eat less and move more. Plus, I'll steal from the Weight Watchers slogan: 'Thin feels better than food tastes.'"

Anyone interested in forming an at-work Weight Watchers program can contact Milstead at 615-898-2929 or kmilstea@mtsu.edu.

the RECORD

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Faculty/Staff Update

Awards

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) has been nominated, along with his fellow members of Take 6, for 2008 Grammy awards. Dent is nominated in the Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist category as the arranger of "Grace" from the CD "The Standard." Take 6's work on "Shall We Gather at the River" from the same CD is nominated for Best Gospel Performance, and guest soloist Till Brönner was nominated for a Best Jazz Instrumental Solo Grammy for Take 6's "Seven Steps to Heaven."

Certifications

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) recertified as a Certified Administrative Professional in November.

Passages

Professor Dale McGilliard (speech and theatre), 57, passed away Dec. 28. Professor McGilliard, who taught a variety of acting classes at MTSU while also serving as coordinator of theatre, head of performance studies and associate chair of speech and theatre, joined the university staff in 1990. He is survived

by his partner, Chad Linder of Murfreesboro; sister, Christina, and her husband, Steven Warren, of Indianapolis, Ind.; a nephew, Jeffrey Warren, of Franklin; and a niece, Kimberly, and her husband, Todd Garza, of Austin, Texas. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Dale E. McGilliard Scholarship Fund at MTSU.

Mr. John Earl Ward (physical plant), 86, passed away Dec. 1. Mr. Ward, who was employed as a custodial lead worker at the Physical Plant from September 1967 until his retirement in March 1985, is survived by his children, Elizabeth (Frank) Hurd, Brenda Ward Floyd, William (Anna) Turner, Everett (Brenda) Turner and Melissa Rhodes, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Dr. C. Wymer Wiser (biology), 85, passed away Dec. 21. Dr. Wiser, who taught at MTSU from September 1956 until his retirement in May 1995, was the longtime adviser to the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society and a driving force behind the Middle Tennessee Christian Center. He is survived by his wife, Laura F. Gribble Wiser; sons and daughters-in-law, Cy and Rhonda Wiser and Gary and Gayle Wiser, all of Murfreesboro; a brother, Vernon Wiser of Shelbyville; sisters Mildred Frazier of Murfrees-

boro and Eunice Driver of Wartrace; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews; and special friends Velma and Dorris Davis, Claude and Louise Gaddy and members of the Fairfield Church of Christ, where he preached for 36 years.

Presentations

Dr. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) spoke to the Exchange Club of Murfreesboro Dec. 2 on "Improving Health and Fitness."

Dr. Richard Bauer (psychology) will present two papers at the Southeastern Psychological Association convention Feb. 18 and 19 in New Orleans.

Dr. Watson Harris (provost's office) presented "Including Faculty in Emergency Planning" at the Society of College and University Planning Southern Regional Annual Meeting Nov. 7 in New Orleans.

Dr. Ronda G. Henderson (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented two papers, "Assuring E-Learning Quality" (with Dr. Betty F. Chapman of North Carolina A&T State University) and "Using Clickers to Facilitate Active

See 'Faculty' page 7