



Digging up info
Geology students investigate
TVA coal-ash sludge spill
 see page 2

Inside this edition:

Construction team builds on win, page 3
Chemist provides lectures, expertise, page 7
Campus growth still moving forward, page 8



Enriching academic quality, page 6

a biweekly publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

Feb. 23, 2009 • Vol. 17/No. 15

the **RECORD**

Results available now from more thorough faculty-evaluation tool

by Gina K. Logue
 gklogue@mtsu.edu

At the end of each semester's classes, MTSU students rate their professors' performances by filling out questionnaires. In its continuing efforts to provide the highest quality service to students, the university replaced the traditional questions in fall 2008 with a teaching evaluation instrument created at the University of California-Berkeley, one that allows students to provide more meaningful feedback to help educators improve their teaching.

Results for fall 2008 are available now to all faculty for internal use, says Barbara Draude, assistant vice president for academic and instructional technologies and co-director of the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center. Students will assess their instructors for spring 2009 at the end of the semester.

Anecdotally, students and professors have agreed for years that the previous evaluation instrument did not give students the opportunity to provide more nuanced perspectives on their classroom experiences.

"It was a neutral instrument that didn't upset anyone, but it didn't do much good," says Dr. Vic Montemayor, physics professor and former chair of the Pedagogy Task Force. "It was contentless. There was nothing there to help instructors improve their teaching."

After some two years of debate through that task force, response to the Berkeley instrument was overwhelming. One hundred percent of faculty volunteers, 100 percent of deans and chairs and 76 percent of students found the Berkeley instrument superior in a pilot study conducted prior to fall 2008.

See 'Results' page 5

Town-hall talk



SEEKING ANSWERS—MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee listens to a question from Aisha Kabba, a junior pre-med/chemistry major, during a town-hall meeting at the Keathley University Center Theater focusing on leadership in uncertain times. The forum, sponsored by MTSU's Office of Leadership and Service as part of Leadership Week 2009, offered students, faculty and staff another opportunity to ask questions and air concerns about funding, educational quality and opportunities for change. For more information on positioning the university for the future, including proposals from strategic work groups, please visit www.mtsu.edu/strategic.

photo by Andy Heidt

Web site waives fee to help with housing crunch

by Gina K. Logue
 gklogue@mtsu.edu

To help students, faculty and staff dealing with high prices and tight budgets, the MTSU Off-Campus Housing Web site has waived its \$25 fee for posting notices of apartments to be sublet.

The Web site (www.mtsuoffcampus.com) was created in November 2007 by the Office of Off-Campus Student Services in cooperation with Off-Campus Partners, a Virginia-based company providing services to nearly 30 universities.

"It is a Web site that allows students, faculty and staff to search the properties that are subscribed on that Web site by the type of (housing) they want and the location of the (housing)," says Dr. Carol Ann Bailly,

See 'Web' page 5

Unlikely barista's book is summer '09 selection

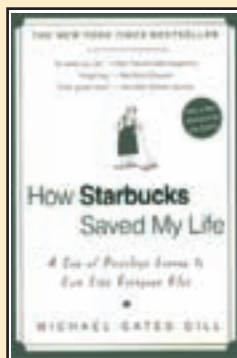
Summer readers can get a boost from MTSU's Summer Reading 2009 title, *How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else* by Michael Gates Gill, as they prepare for the fall 2009 semester.

The Summer Reading Program, created in 2002, aims to provide a unifying experience for entering freshmen, give them a chance to read and interact with acclaimed authors and affirm the importance of reading for a successful and fulfilling life. Incoming freshmen are expected to read the book before fall classes start Aug. 29, and all University 1010 classes will discuss the selection.

Faculty members are being asked to incorporate the book into their classes when possible.

"As you prepare and/or revise your syllabi for the fall semester, please keep the MTSU Summer Reading Program in mind," said Dr. Laurie Witherow, director of the

Academic Support Center at MTSU. "This program's success depends on the involvement of the faculty who make use of the Summer Reading selection in fall classes.



Gill

"Students come to us in the fall expecting to discuss the Summer Reading Selection in classes and use it as the basis of assignments. *How Starbucks Saved My Life* would be a perfect starting point for discussions on a wide range of topics and is especially recommended for use in

communications, education, psychology, sociology, business and English courses," Witherow continued.

"All new students are required to read the book prior to their arrival on campus in the fall, so *How Starbucks Saved My Life* may be perfect as the basis for an early writing or other assignment. The students will be expecting to discuss their summer reading book from a variety of perspectives."

Faculty who want to use the book in their classrooms may contact Witherow at 615-898-2339 or lwithero@mtsu.edu for a review copy.

Faculty and staff also are being encouraged to read the book and to join students at the University Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. in Murphy Center, when Gill will serve as the keynote speaker for the opening of the 2009-10 academic year.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

www.mtsunews.com

IN BRIEF

LOST OR FOUND SOMETHING?

Please turn "found" items in to the centralized University Lost and Found, located at the Keathley University Center Information Desk

on the KUC's second floor across from The Grill. Students, faculty, staff and guests may contact the information desk to inquire about lost and found items at 615-898-2782 or fill out a claim form at <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~mtunions/lost.htm>.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MURFREESBORO TN
PERMIT NO. 169

Geology students investigating TVA coal-ash sludge spill

by Dr. Warner Cribb and Jennifer Pickering
cribb@mtsu.edu

Nobody really wants a “Nightmare Before Christmas.” Yet on Dec. 22, 2008, Mother Nature and the Tennessee Valley Authority sent a rather ugly Christmas gift to residents living near the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant. Following several days of heavy rain, 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash sludge spilled from a Kingston Plant surface impoundment after a retaining wall collapsed. The spilled sludge covered approximately 300 acres, damaged nine homes and destroyed three others.

Beyond the immediate damage to homes and property, scientists began assessing the potential environmental and health dangers of coal ash leaked into the surrounding stream and river systems.

This spring and summer, MTSU geology students will play their own role in investigating these dangers by measuring the levels of toxic coal ash metals in river water and sediments in the vicinity of six TVA coal plants which store ash on-site. The research will provide important information to government agencies and lawmakers who must make decisions about the role of coal in our state and country’s environmental and energy future.

The Kingston disaster is just another chapter in the legacy of so-called “clean coal.” The reality is there is nothing “clean” about coal. From coal mining to coal burning, it is all dirty business. We have all heard about the contribution of coal burning to global warming, and we are just beginning to understand the potential dangers of coal ash. Yet according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, coal supplies 23 percent of all energy in the United States and 63 percent of Tennessee’s electricity generation. Coal is our country’s most abundant, available and cheapest energy resource. There is plenty of it for future generations. Do not believe that coal-fired power plants are going to disappear anytime soon, and do not believe that our electricity bills soon will be going down. The only way both will happen is if we all turn off our electricity 63 percent of every day. That’s 15 hours and seven minutes per day without electricity, to be exact.

Clearly, coal, with all its environmental problems, is here to stay. Consequently, one of the greatest challenges Tennesseans and TVA face over the next 30 years is to decrease our dependence on coal-generated electricity by increasing the amount of energy generated by new “green” technologies.

Doing so not only will help the environment but also will create thousands of new jobs. Last November, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development issued a report stating that investment in key areas of renewable energy and energy efficient technology could result in as many as 40,000 new jobs statewide. The report, “Growing Green: The Potential for Green Jobs in Tennessee,” stresses the importance of upgrading the “green” energy skills of the Tennessee workforce, including investment in bachelor’s and master’s programs in science, engineering and management related to green technologies. The report identifies five sectors that will contribute both to a diversified energy

base and new jobs: green buildings, biofuels, wind energy, solar energy and geothermal energy.

With sufficient investment and education of its workforce, as well as collaborative research among its universities, TVA and Oak Ridge National Labs, Tennessee can once again become a global leader in the development and implementation of new energy technologies. MTSU currently has in place much of the scientific, engineering and business education infrastructure to play a leading role in this process. MTSU professors and students already have pioneered new biofuel technologies and solar vehicles, and new on-campus mapping technologies can play a crucial role in planning new energy distribution networks. This is MTSU’s opportunity to use our expertise and resources to begin the long process of moving Tennessee toward a more renewable energy base. Doing so will help sustain a healthy environment, create thousands of new jobs and establish MTSU as a leader in renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Failing to do so may only lead to more “Nightmares Before Christmas.”



DIGGING UP INFO—Geology professor Warner Cribb, left, explains how students are collecting samples near TVA plants as senior geology major Jennifer Pickering listens.

photo by News and Public Affairs

Dr. Warner Cribb is a professor of geology in MTSU’s Department of Geosciences. Jennifer Pickering is a senior majoring in geology at MTSU. Cribb and Pickering, along with a Nashville chemistry teacher, a Rutherford County high-school student and MTSU freshman geology major Caitlin Shannon, are working under a National Science Foundation grant to the STEPmt Program (STEPping up Undergraduate Research at Middle Tennessee) to collect water and soil samples from various distances from the Kingston Fossil facility and six other TVA power plants to determine pollution levels.

Get noticed in MTSU’s official university publication!
Check *The Record*’s 2009 deadline schedule at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~proffice/rec_deadlines.htm.

Preds welcome MTSU again

MTSU Nights with the Nashville Predators are back! The Predators are making special ticket offers with savings of more than 40 percent off to the MTSU community for two upcoming home games.

Game dates and ticket prices are:

• **Thursday, Feb. 26, vs. Phoenix**—

lower-bowl end zone special price \$37; upper-level goal zone \$20;

• **Thursday, March 26, vs. San Jose**—

lower-bowl center special price \$42; club-level end zone \$35; upper-level goal zone \$20.

The Predators will donate \$4 from each game ticket sold for MTSU Nights to the Sports Marketing Scholarship in the Department of Management and Marketing.



Both games begin at 7 p.m. at the Sommet Center in downtown Nashville.

In addition to discounted ticket prices, MTSU purchasers will pay no ticket-order transaction fees. To order tickets by phone or for more information, call

Dan Schaefer, Nashville Predators group sales account executive, at 615-770-2115 and mention the MTSU Night promotion to receive the discount price.

Orders received two weeks before the game will be mailed to the address you provide; you can pick up tickets on game night at the will-call window at the Sommet Center ticket office.

To order tickets by mail, request an order form from Dr. Don Roy at 615-904-8564.

Nominate student ambassadors

February is MTSU Student Ambassador Recruitment Month, and applications are due Friday, Feb. 27.

As faculty and staff, you are the front line in recognizing great students. If you know a student you’d recommend to serve as one of the official hosts of MTSU, please encourage them to apply.

MTSU student ambassadors are university leaders who welcome guests, provide tours and support presidential, alumni, donor, academic and athletic events across campus.

Serving as a student ambassador is a great honor, and the services offer students excellent opportunities to make connections within their

field of study and with alumni from across the country.

To be chosen as a student ambassador, students must participate in a detailed selection process that includes applications and interviews. Those students selected for the 2009-10 school year will be announced on the MTSU Alumni Web site at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

For more information about the MTSU Student Ambassador program, visit www.mtalumni.com.

If you have questions about the program or selection process or you would like the student ambassadors’ help at your next event, please call Molly Cochran in the Alumni Relations Office at 615-898-2923.





Expanding knowledge, one kid at a time

by **Drew Dunlop**
news@mtsu.edu

MTSU will host its 15th Science Olympiad on Saturday, Feb. 28, continuing a tradition of "trying to expand kids' knowledge of science," director Dr. Pat Patterson says.

The Olympiad was founded by Dr. Gerard Putz of Macomb County Intermediate School in Michigan in 1982 and patterned on an event that took place in Delaware. It was expanded to a national event in 1985, and this year marks its 25th

national anniversary.

The event was started to create a passion for learning science in kindergarten through 12th-grade students and change the way the students perceive science.

"We are trying to put the same kind of flavor in kids' mouths (for science) that they have for sports," says Patterson, a chemistry professor at MTSU.

In all, the organization hosted 14,000 schools at events nationwide last year.

At this year's MTSU Olympiad, 17 middle and 14 high schools will compete in 23 events. The top six teams in each division will go to Knoxville for the state tournament. The top two teams from each division at that tournament will go to the national tournament at Augusta (Ga.) State University.

Bruce Ross of the Murfreesboro Water

Department has a long history with the event. Ross participated in 1985 as a senior at Glencliff High School in Nashville. Glencliff went to the state tournament and was one of two teams to go to the national tournament in Michigan. The team took third place in the computer-programming competition.

Although he'd already decided to make science his career, Ross says the Science Olympiad tournament had an impact on his studies.

"It made learning in science a lot more fun," he says.

Ross is now a volunteer for the event each year. "I just enjoy seeing the kids doing what I did 20 years ago," he says.

For more information on the tournament, contact Patterson at 615-898-5085.

Construction team builds on national competition win

by **Randy Weiler**
jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU's Construction Management Technology Team continues to build a national name for itself among four-year colleges and universities.

In a field of 36 teams, MTSU earned second place in the National Association of Home Builders student competition Jan. 19-21 in Las Vegas. The team has been first (2007), second ('09) or third ('08) in each of the past three years. In the past 11 years, MTSU has placed in the top 10 eight times and cracked the top five for the past five years.

"We've been blessed," said Dr. David Hatfield, construction management programs director and professor in the Department of Engineering Technology. "We work at it and it seems to pay off."

MTSU, with about 165 students in the construction management program, competes against schools with 600 to 700 students in their program, Hatfield said.

The 2009 team members included seniors David Taylor (team leader and director of construction operations), Brandon Butler (sales director) and Adam Bailey (marketing director) and juniors Shane Alexander (finance manager), Chris Jenson (area construction manager) and Austin Tenpenny (land acquisitions director).

The MTSU students spent two months in preparation for the competition, said Taylor, who added that he, Alexander and Tenpenny were part of a site visit to San Antonio, Texas, in early November.

The team conducted extensive market research, made themselves famil-

iar with the intricacies of the local area, and wrote a 10-inch by 16-inch proposal book, *The Villas of Silverado Hills*, more than 100 pages long, that formed 80 percent of their score. The book was sent to competition judges in early January. The final 20 percent of their score came in a 15-minute presentation by the team members, followed by a question-and-answer session with the judges.

"It was quite an undertaking," Taylor said. "All of us on the team never had been on a (construction-management) team before."

Team members spent 14- and 15-hour days working together in the final weeks of the project, said Taylor.

Brigham Young University earned first-place honors. California Polytechnic State University-SLO placed third.

"Our construction-management students continue to shine in the eyes of our national construction industry," said Dr. Walter Boles, chair of engineering technology.

"The second-place performance is the result of student teamwork, industry advisers and faculty. Our students, faculty and industry advisers all deserve recognition for successfully competing with other programs across the nation, finishing in the top 10 year after year."

The construction-management program is affiliated with the Rutherford County Home Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Tennessee and the National Home Builders Student Association.

For more information about the program, call 615-898-2781 or visit its Web site at <http://etis.web.mtsu.edu/Construction>.



March 2 is deadline for Scholars Week online abstracts

Faculty and students are preparing for Scholars Week 2009, which will be held March 30 through April 3, event organizers said.

Monday, March 2, is the deadline to submit online abstracts for poster and multimedia presentations to http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11202/Scholars_Week/ScholarsForm1-28-09.asp.

Planned activities include talks, readings, performances, posters and multimedia performances as well as invited speakers and a luncheon.

Scholars Week's events will feature department/college activities in discipline-specific venues for presentation of graduate, undergraduate and faculty scholarship.

The celebration will end in a universitywide showcase of posters, multimedia and performance on Friday, April 3.

For more information, visit the Scholars Week Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~research/scholarsweek.html.



This is only a test.

MTSU tests its tornado siren monthly.

Spring 2009 test dates are:

Wednesday, March 11, 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, April 14, 12:20 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13, 11:15 a.m.

(No action is required by building runners during monthly tests.)

Be prepared in a real emergency.

Find your nearest shelter at

www.mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado_shelter.shtml

Up to 100 full-time faculty can attend IT conference free

Up to 100 full-time MTSU faculty members can receive free registration to the 14th annual Instructional Technology Conference March 29-31, ITD officials said.

This year's theme is "Developing a Participatory Learning Culture."

Featured speakers at the conference, which will be conducted on campus and at the DoubleTree Hotel in Murfreesboro, include Dr. Michael Wesch, assistant professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University; Sarah "Intellagirl" Robbins, director of emerging technologies with Kelley Executive Partners at Indiana University; and Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities.

To register, visit www.mtsu.edu/~itconf/mtsuifac; there is a \$50 fee for a preconference workshop. Contact Robin Jones with questions at 615-898-2214 or rjones@mtsu.edu.

Campus Calendar

Feb. 23-March 8

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.

Through Feb. 26

Photo Exhibit: "Idiom Savant: Photographs by Jim Stone"
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 6-9:45 p.m. Sunday
Baldwin Photo Gallery, LRC
For information, contact:
615-898-2085.

Feb. 23

Monday, Feb. 23
News and Public Affairs "Get Noticed" Publicity Seminar
2-3 p.m., Cantrell Hall
No reservations required
For information, contact:
615-898-2919.

Spring Honors Lecture Series: Dr. David Carleton, "No, Gifted Kids Will Not be Okay: Politics and Advocacy in Tennessee"
3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.shtml or contact:
615-898-2152.

Black History Month: Saul Williams, "Poetry and Liberation"
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, contact:
rkershaw@mtsu.edu.

Monday, Feb. 23
MTSU Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

Feb. 24

Tuesday, Feb. 24
News and Public Affairs "Get Noticed" Publicity Seminar
10-11 a.m., Cantrell Hall
For information, contact:
615-898-2919.

Black History Month: Jeff Johnson, "The Quest for Black Citizenship"
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, contact:
franklin@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 25

Wednesday, Feb. 25
News and Public Affairs "Get Noticed" Publicity Seminar
10-11 a.m., Cantrell Hall
For information, contact:
615-898-2919.

Black History Month: Quiz Bowl
7 p.m., BAS State Farm Room
sponsored by MTSU NAACP
For information, contact:
cas4i@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 26

Thursday, Feb. 26
Invention Convention
9 a.m.-noon, JUB Tenn. Room
For information, contact:
tring@mtsu.edu.

Free Legal Clinic
sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center
7-9 p.m., JUB 206
Open to all MTSU personnel; appointments required
For information, contact:
615-898-2193.

Feb. 27

Friday, Feb. 27
Black History Month: Stefanie Batten Bland, "Excavation Self: Choreography Workshops on Cultural and Racial Identity"
3-5 p.m., Fairview 140
For information, contact:
nofsinge@mtsu.edu.

Feb. 28

Saturday, Feb. 28
Regional Science Olympiad
For information, contact:
615-898-5085.

March 1

Sunday, March 1
"MTSU On the Record—English Language School"
Jeff Hutcheson, district director of English Language Schools, and MTSU ELS Director Donna Myers talk about the need to help people improve their English skills and prepare for university studies.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com.



March 2

Monday, March 2
Spring Honors Lecture Series: Ada Long, "How Would Athena Score on the ACT? Wisdom and Knowledge in Honors Education"
3-3:55 p.m., HONR 106
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.shtml or contact:
615-898-2152.

Faculty Senate Meeting
4:30 p.m., JUB 100
For information, contact:
615-898-2582.

March 5

Thursday, March 5
MTSU Women's Chorale
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, contact:
615-898-2493.

March 6

Friday, March 6
First Friday Star Party: Dr. Chuck Higgins, "Weird Galaxies"
6:30 p.m., Wiser-Patten Science Hall 102
For information, contact:
615-898-5946.

March 8

Sunday, March 8
"MTSU On the Record—The Writer's Loft"
J. Terry Price, director of MTSU's creative writing program, talks about the art and the craft of nurturing budding authors.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast available at www.mtsunews.com.

Get noticed in *The Record*!

Submit Campus Calendar items for publication in the March 9 edition of *The Record* to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Deadline for publication in the March 23 *Record* is 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Please don't forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why, plus contact information—with your submission!



Three information sessions to help you

Pick One!

Monday, Feb. 23, 2-3 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 10-11 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 10-11 a.m.

Cantrell Hall, Tom H. Jackson Building

News and Public Affairs
(615) 898-2919 • news@mtsu.edu • www.mtsunews.com



As it turned out, the Berkeley instrument already was in use by the MTSU faculty-mentoring program, but Montemayor says that had no impact on the final decision. However, the mentoring program administrators say they are delighted with the questionnaire.

The former student-evaluation sheet would gauge students' reactions to statements such as "course requirements are clear," "the class begins at scheduled times" and "instructor presents material clearly" with ratings of "almost always," "usually," "rarely," "never" or "not applicable."

The more thorough questionnaire that students filled out in the fall posed 30 descriptions such as "has a genuine interest in students," "lectures easy to outline or case discussion well organized," "gives assignments and exams that are reasonable in length and difficulty," "discusses recent developments in the field," "invites criticism of own ideas" and "motivates me to do my best work." Students were asked to agree or disagree with those descriptions of their professors on a scale of one (disagree) to five (agree).

Montemayor says MTSU made no modifications to the Berkeley instrument.

"This instrument has years of research behind it at Berkeley," he says. "If you change anything, you invalidate the research."

"Information Technologies was asked to develop a system where faculty could access this information securely online and archive those results for future use," Draude adds.

All data will become available at the same time. While students will continue to fill out paper Scantron ballots designed for computer tabulation, faculty and administrators will be able to view results online.

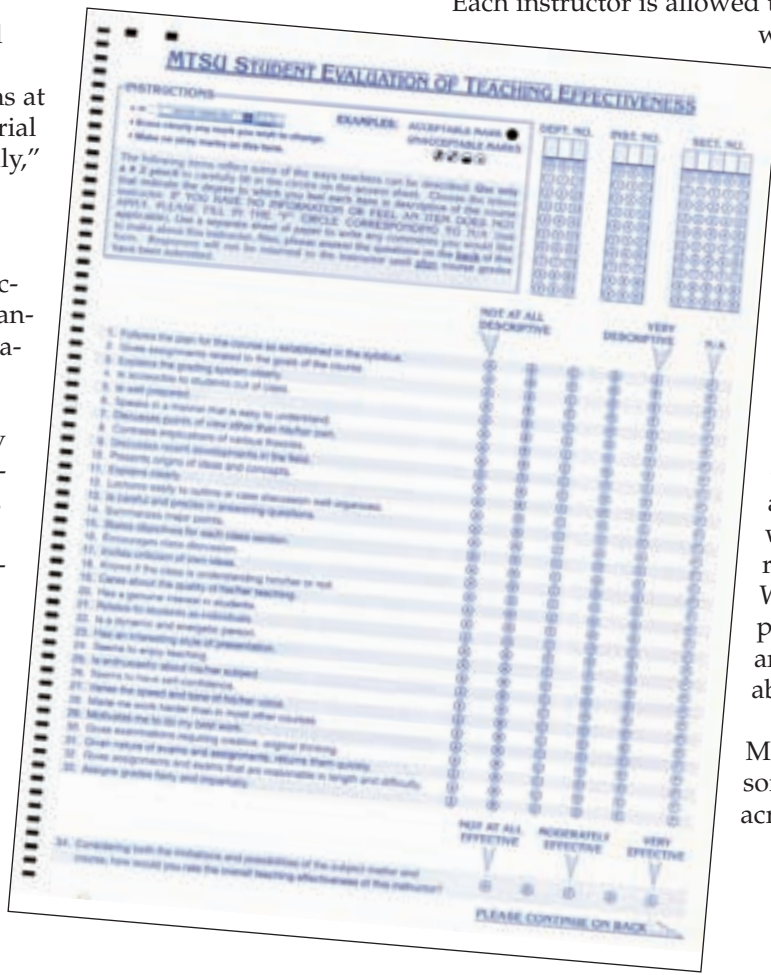
"The provost's office has sent e-mails to faculty and instructions to chairs and deans on how to access the system and how the results can be interpreted," Draude says.

Each instructor is allowed to access only his or her own scores via password. Department chairs are able to look at only their instructors' scores, and deans will be able to see only scores for the departments under their purview. The office of Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Kaylene Gebert has access to all the scores.

After the scores are assessed, faculty will have opportunities to attend workshops developed by the LT&ITC on campus. These workshops are designed to address specific categories of feedback provided by the Berkeley instrument.

"Our intent is that as they review results or if they discuss a problem with their chair or dean, faculty will have resources to go to for assistance," Draude says. "That might be a workshop out of the LT&ITC. It may be online resource materials that we have on the LT&ITC Web site. We archive and video-stream all of our past workshops so they can go onto our Web site and access a workshop they might not have been able to attend."

"The best way to improve is to inform," adds Montemayor. "This instrument can help professors work on improving teaching in all disciplines across campus."



Priceless contributions



CELEBRATING SERVICE—MTSU's Black History Month observance features recognition of those whose service and dedication set an example for every member of the university community. The month launched with recognition of the 2009 Unity Luncheon Honorees Feb. 3, shown in the photo above left. Holding their awards are, seated from left, Katie F. Wilson and Annie M. Cox, and standing, from left, William Washington, James Thomas, James E. McAdams and Carl Wade. Washington was custodian for the Cope Administration Building from its opening in 1964 until his retirement in 1994. In the photo above right, Dr. Adonijah Bakari, center, history professor and director of African-American studies, accepts the 2009 John Pleas Faculty Award from Professor Emeritus Dr. John Pleas, right, and MTSU President Dr. Sidney A. McPhee during a Feb. 10 ceremony. The John Pleas Faculty Award has been presented since 1996 to a minority faculty member who makes significant contributions to the university and community.

photos by J. Intintoli and Andy Heidt

Web

director of MTSU Off-Campus Student Services.

Baily says property managers pay fees to post information such as location, price and type about apartments, condominiums and houses for rent and for sale. Various styles of living quarters and living arrangements are available.

"What we would like to do is expand the number of properties on the Web site in both directions—the number of low-cost student apartments that might be available that have not previously joined the service as well as the higher-end apartments

that would be available for our faculty and staff," Baily says.

In addition, Baily says, she would like to invite owners of duplexes or people who rent apartments over their homes to advertise on the Web site. She says it is a very effective way to target the campus community.

"One of the property managers reported that she did not have any vacancies in August," notes Baily. "She usually had to scramble to fill her apartments. She had to turn people away this August, and she attributed it to the Web site."

Managers who want to advertise properties on www.mtsuoffcampus.com need only register with a user name and password of their choice, list the number of units they have available and select the kind of subscription they prefer. The Web site has a feature that can calculate the cost based on the number of units they have to offer. Photos may be uploaded, and managers can target either faculty and staff or students.

To make it easier for users to cut transportation costs, the Web site also features Carpool Central, a message board for people seeking rides to and

from school; Ride Board, for rides wherever they want to go out of town; and a Roommate Matching message board.

"There's even a space to sell or trade furniture—things that you would need for your apartment," Baily says.

To find out more about the Off-Campus Housing Web site, contact the Office of Off-Campus Student Services at 615-898-5989 or send an e-mail to ocss@mtsu.edu.

Help out Habitat and come 'See Spot Run' April 5 on campus

Middle Tennessee State University's Office of Leadership and Service and the Student Government Association are teaming up to present See Spot Run at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 5, at MTSU's Walnut Grove.

The fourth annual See Spot Run is a 5K run/walk for participants and their dogs. All proceeds, including entry fees, admissions and sponsorships, will go toward the MTSU Habitat for Humanity Building Fund.

The goal of the fund is to raise the \$50,000 necessary to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity "blitz build" on campus during Homecoming. It's one in a series of campus fundraisers designed to generate money for the upcoming blitz build. The blitz-build home will become a way students can give back to the Murfreesboro community.

Organizers have been working for months in preparation for the event,

which features a certified 5K course through the MTSU campus that is both flat and fast. Local businesses and organizations have helped by providing financial support and volunteers.



"We've solicited a number of sponsors, worked to promote the event on and off campus and helped to recruit a number of participants and volunteers for the event," said Amanda Samsel, coordinator of judicial affairs and adviser of See Spot Run.

"See Spot Run is a race unlike any other for the campus and the community. We encourage everyone to come out to enjoy a great event and support an

even greater cause."

Participants can register by visiting www.active.com or by calling 615-898-5812. On-site registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. the day of the event.

Minority Fellows at MTSU help enrich academic quality

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

What do the following have in common: "Family Violence Under a Multicultural Perspective in Colombia," "The Role of Hydrogen Peroxide in the Cell Cycle Regulation of Endothelial Cell Proliferation" and "A Predictive Model to Identify High School Dropouts in a Rural Mississippi School District"?

They're the dissertation topics of Esperanza Camargo, Ogbeyalu Onumah, and Mario Antonio Owens, respectively, recipients of MTSU's Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowships.

MTSU actively recruits minority graduate students across the nation who are pursuing fields of study in which minorities are typically underrepresented. Camargo, who is from Colombia, most recently attended the University of Nebraska. Onumah attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville and Oberlin College in Ohio. Owens has degrees from Grambling State University and the University of Arkansas.

The three scholars are not only working toward their doctorates but also serve as full-time faculty at

MTSU, receiving salaries of \$30,000 each plus medical insurance. Camargo is on the faculty in the criminal justice administration department, Onumah in the chemistry department and Owens in the business communication and entrepreneurship department.

As if research and teaching were not enough to keep them fully occupied, Camargo, Ogbeyalu and Owens will serve on a panel and speak to McNair Program scholars on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 4:30 to 5:50 p.m. in Room 123 of Kirksey Old Main.

McNair Scholars, named after NASA astronaut Ronald E. McNair, who perished in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion, are undergraduate students at MTSU who are preparing for graduate study. They are either first-generation college students who need financial assistance or underrepresented minority students.

"We're delighted to have them talk to our undergraduate students," said Steve Saunders, assistant director of the McNair Program. "McNair students can hear firsthand what it takes to succeed in graduate school, what the challenges are and how to deal with those challenges. Given the workload the Minority Fellows at



REPRESENTING QUALITY—Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellows at MTSU are, from left, Mario Antonio Owens, currently working in MTSU's Department of Business Communication and Entrepreneurship; Esperanza Camargo, who's currently a member of MTSU's criminal justice administration department; and Ogbeyalu Onumah, who's working in the Department of Chemistry.

photo submitted

MTSU have, they are surely experts on good time management, one of the most important skills required of graduate students."

All three fellows/instructors

began their work at MTSU in August 2008, and all three plan to defend their dissertations this coming May, Saunders noted.

DTC adds 'Middle Tennessee Record' to program lineup

MTSU's monthly TV program, "Middle Tennessee Record," has been added to the program lineup for myDTC3, the local television channel available to DeKalb Telephone Cooperative TV customers in the Alexandria, Gordonsville, Smithville and Woodbury areas.

"MTSU has long been an important contributor to the education of many of our customers' families," said Nick Nokes, marketing administrator for DTC. "We are excited to provide a local outlet for this program."

"MTR" Producer John Lynch said that adding DTC brings the number of cable outlets carrying the program to 15. These cable outlets cover 34 counties in the region and serve more than a half-million viewers.

"MTR" also is available on YouTube via www.mtsunews.com.

Get MTSU news anytime, anywhere at www.mtsunews.com.

Free outdoor-play symposium offered Feb. 28 in BAS

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

MTSU is offering a free workshop for parents and educators wanting to enhance their child's learning in the great outdoors.

Play Symposium II: Physical Activity, the Outdoor Classroom and Recess is the title of the free daylong event, which will be held from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, and will meet in the lobby of MTSU's Business and Aerospace Building.

Open to the community and specifically of interest to student teachers and home-school and public-school educators, the rain-or-shine event is sponsored by the Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth. Registration may be made in advance or on-site. Those who want lunch provided, at \$9.50 per person, must pre-register, but participants are welcome to bring a sack lunch.

This year's workshop will offer attendees a choice of seven afternoon field-trip options as well as presentations by three professional educators—"The Outdoor Classroom" by Dr. Kathy Burriss, "The Importance of

Physical Activity and Recess for Children's Learning" by Dr. Don Belcher and "The Blend of Man-Made and Natural Features in Outdoor Playscapes" by Cheri Lindsley, state coordinator for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance.

"The outdoor classroom is severely underutilized for a variety of reasons," explained Burriss, a professor of elementary and special education at MTSU, "but probably the greatest one is just a misunderstanding of what it is and how to connect outdoor activities with traditional indoor learning."

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable attire, such as tennis shoes and jeans, for the symposium's afternoon field trip.

This year, the day's trip options will include an exploration of the indigenous aspects of an area nature trail, creating quality outdoor play areas for preschoolers, pond-centered curriculum and activities, science and play in the outdoor laboratory and outdoor learning via a cedar glade, among other activity options.

For more information, including advance registration, please contact Burriss at 615-898-2323.

Noted chemist Hinkle provides Feb. 26-27 lectures, expertise

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

Dr. Amber Hinkle, quality lead in plastics manufacturing for Bayer's Material Science facility in Baytown, Texas, will be the MTSU National Women's History Month Women in Science invited lecturer.

Hinkle will speak from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102 and also again during a 2-6 p.m. workshop Friday, Feb. 27, in Monohan Hall Room 219, event organizers said.

Her Feb. 26 talk will be on "Women in

Chemistry: Successful Leaders."

"This presentation will discuss how success is defined for many professionals in the scientific field today," Hinkle said. "It will also show the many faces of successful women in the sciences and highlight success stories from past interviewees of the American Chemical Society's Women Chemists Committee."

Hinkle's workshop presentation will be on "Leading Without Authority."

"Leading in a volunteer



Hinkle

organization comes with many challenges, not the least of which is having no direct authority over the volunteer members," she said. "Therefore, leaders need to be able to engage and influence members to get things done, even when they may be putting up barriers or have different viewpoints."

The Feb. 26 lecture is open to the MTSU community and general public. The Feb. 27 workshop requires registration at <http://acs.learn.com/custom/customloginpage.asp>.

For more information, contact Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, chemistry professor, at 615-904-8253.

Weather on the Web
Classes canceled?
Check www.mtsu.edu/alert4u first!

Faculty

from page 8

and Freed Hardeman College. He also was a retired Church of Christ minister and a former Chevrolet dealer in Hohenwald and was active in many civic organizations; he especially loved family genealogy. Memorials may be made to the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund or Healing Hands International.

Miss Frances Virginia Wilkinson (MTSU Library), 93, passed away Jan. 24. Miss Wilkinson taught library science at MTSU from September 1952 until her retirement as an associate professor in July 1980. She is survived by a sister, Rebecca Ann Wilkinson Mullins (Mrs. Eugene R.); a niece, Anne M. Hogan (Jack), of Montclair N.Y.; and nephews William E. Mullins (April) and Dr. James G. Mullins (Maria) of Decatur, Ga. A graduate of Middle Tennessee State College and George Peabody College for Teachers, Miss Wilkinson was acquisitions librarian and one of the Todd Library's principal book-selection officers, growing the MTSU collection from 39,676 volumes in 1952 to 422,521 volumes at her retirement. Miss Wilkinson was interested in genealogy and family history and was the author of *The Wilkinson Family of Middle Tennessee* (1976), *The McCord Family: From Skye to Tennessee* and *Giles Porter Hastings: His Forebears, His Descendants* (1980). A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Presentations

Kay Blasingame-Boike and **Dorothy Warren** (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented a session on the degree programs, minors and student organizations offered by the BCEN department Nov. 19 at the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Financial Literacy Conference, "An Income of Her Own," during Global Entrepreneurship Week. "An Income of Her Own" is designed to encourage girls 13 to 18 years old to take control of their own financial future through career awareness, traditional and nontraditional educational opportunities, entrepreneurship and networking with local businesswomen.

Dr. Beverly Burke (psychology)

and industrial/organizational psychology grad student **Lyndi L. Porter** presented "Corporate social responsibility" Nov. 8 at River Cities I-O Psychology Conference in Chattanooga. **Dr. Mark Anshel** (health and human performance) presented "What is Sport Psychology?" at the same conference. Burke also will present "Linking EAWOP and SIOP to Develop Study-Aboard Programs for Graduate Students" in a roundtable at the May meeting of the European Association for Work and Organizational Psychology in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Maria L. Edlin (Center for Economic Education) and Jackie Morgan of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Nashville Branch presented personal-finance teacher training for 177 high-school teachers from across Tennessee during 2008. Additional training is scheduled for 2009.

Dr. Donald "Skip" F. Kendrick (psychology) will present "The Science of the National Association for Cave Diving (NACD): Water Quality, Hydrogeology, Biology and Psychology" March 13-14 at the annual symposium of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences in Atlanta.

Dr. Yuri Melnikov (mathematical sciences) presented "A Surprising Outcome of a Routine Procedure for the Construction of Green's Functions for Laplace Equation" at the Third International Conference on Modeling: Simulation and Applied Optimization Jan. 20-22 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Chad A. Noggle (psychology) and his co-authors presented the following at the 37th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society Conference in Atlanta Feb. 11-14: "Converging and diverging correlational patterns of the RBANS indices and ILS based on hemispheric origin of cerebrovascular accidents," "Links between RBANS indices and ILS performance following cerebrovascular events," "Cortical and subcortical sensory-motor profiles in Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS," "Associated neurocognitive profiles of differential learning dis-

abilities," "Divergent neuropsychological profiles of ADHD and Bipolar Disorder," "Altering factor structures of the RBANS based on cortical or subcortical dementing etiologies," "Utility of the clock drawing tasks on the Dean-Woodcock Neuropsychological Battery as a cognitive screener in a pediatric sample," "Degree to which ratings on the Geriatric Depression Scale demonstrate linear relationships with neurocognitive outcomes on RBANS domains," "Profile renderings of the MMPI-2 in a sample of patients with Fibromyalgia," "Correlation between outcomes on the Word Memory Test and RBANS subtest performance" and "Predictability of outcomes on the Independent Living Scale based on RBANS subtest performance in a sample of patients with cortical-based dementing disorders."

Dr. Stephen R. Schmidt (psychology) presented a paper, "Exploring the Emotional Carry-Over Effect in Memory," at the meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Chicago in November. **Dr. William Langston** (psychology) and psychology graduate student **Brian Poole** presented a poster, "Affect and horizontal position," at the same meeting.

Dr. Lynn Parsons (nursing) presented "Preparing for the NCLEX-RN; Leadership Concepts" to senior students and faculty at Roane State Community College's Oak Ridge campus Jan. 28.

Dr. Ping Zhang (mathematical sciences) presented "State Space Models of Immune Response Under Treatment in Plams and Lymph Node" at the 2009 Hawaii International Conference on Statistics, Mathematics, and Related Fields Jan. 12-17 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Publications

Drs. Mark Anshel (health and human performance) and **Qiwei Gan** (former MTSU doctoral student) have published their article, "Sources of Acute Stress Among Chinese College Athletes as a Function of Gender and Skill Level," in the *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 2009, vol. 32, pp. 36-52.

Drs. Tom Brinthaupt (psychology), **Maria Clayton** (English) and **Barbara Draude** (Faculty Instructional Technology Center) have published a chapter, "Barriers to and Strategies for Faculty Integration of IT," in the *Encyclopedia of Distance Learning*, second edition, released in January by Information Science Reference. Brinthaupt and psychology colleagues **Dr. Michael Hein** and **Tracey Kramer**, a former graduate student, also published "The Self-Talk Scale: Development, Factor Analysis, and Validation" in the January/February 2009 issue of the *Journal of Personality Assessment*, Vol. 91, pp. 82-92.

Dr. Paul A. Craig's (aerospace) new textbook, *The Pilot's Manual—Access to Flight*, incorporates new flight-training methodology pioneered at MTSU and now being adopted worldwide. The book is a companion text to a new syllabus Craig wrote that is being used by aircraft manufacturer Cirrus Design this year to train pilots in their technically advanced aircraft.

Debra Sullivan (nursing) published "How to Make a Difference in Functional Outcomes of Children with Spina Bifida" in *Spinal Cord Injury Nursing*, 26 (1), 31-34.

See yourself in *The Record*!

E-mail your faculty/staff accomplishments to gfann@mtsu.edu. Deadline for publication in the March 9 *Record* is 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25; deadline for publication in the March 23 *Record* is 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. Please don't forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why—with your news!

Construction still moving forward across university

by Tom Tozer
ttozer@mtsu.edu

Cold, damp weather has had little impact on construction projects across the MTSU campus. Some work continued during winter break, while other projects got under way with the new semester. The following is a summary of current construction activity:

- Cummings Hall renovation is in progress, which includes installing new energy-efficient windows, upgrading bathroom fixtures and providing new mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure.
- Work has begun to replace the fire alarm system in Murphy Center.
- An underground electrical project has begun to install underground duct bank and a manhole/vault system for the western loop of campus on the James Union Building side.
- Work has begun on the G-Loop chilled water line, which will run from the south side of the Bragg Mass Communication Building through Walker Library parking lot to Alumni Drive. The dock at Mass Comm will be open.
- Work will begin later this semester to set the concrete slab for the Veterans Memorial on the west side of campus.
- Alumni Drive to Friendship Drive is now open and work will continue as weather permits.

Completed projects include the baseball stadium renovation; satellite chiller plant; Lyon Hall renovation; KOM exterior renovation; Student Health, Recreation and Wellness Center; Monohan and Cummings roof replacements; and the Cope Administration Building electrical-service entrance.



CHECK THE PLANS—Construction workers James Mohler and Pete Cornett look over plans in the front lobby of Cummings Hall, which is closed for a renovation project that includes installing new energy-efficient windows, upgrading bathroom fixtures and providing new mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure.

photo by J. Intintoli

8 undergrads showcase research in 'Posters at the Capitol'

by Randy Weiler
rweiler@mtsu.edu

Eight MTSU student researchers were among 40 from six Tennessee Board of Regents universities participating in the annual Posters at the Capitol Feb. 11 in Nashville.

The MTSU students, their presentations and faculty mentors included:

- Charysse Archer, "Feedback

Control System for Laser Power Recycling Cavity" with mentor Yun Liu;

- Merranda Holmes, "The Production, Quantification and Fluorescent Detection of Anthrax-Simulation Edospores" with mentor Stephen Wright;

- Ramy Sayed, "The Forewarning of Seizure" with mentor Gary White;

- Joshua Parker, "Constructing and Testing of a Microphone ARRAY

for Acoustic Interferometry" with mentor William Robertson;

- Alexander Pegram, "Optimization of Spontaneous Parametric Down Conversion Parameters" with mentor Daniel Erenso;

- Amy Petty, "Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Prescription Drug Misuse" with mentor Mary Ellen Fromuth;

- Corderyl Martin, "Art Music Canon: Finding African-American Art

Composers in the Western Music Tradition" with mentor Felicia Miyakawa; and

- Taylor Barnes (two entries), "Computational Analysis of the Through-bond Interactions of Electronegative Atoms" with mentor Preston MacDougall and "Quantum Dynamics Simulations in MADNESS" with mentor Robert J. Harrison.

The posters were on display in the Legislative Plaza hallway.

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, Claire Rogers, Drew Dunlop, Sydney Hester, Bonnie Bailey and Erin Bridges.

Winner of the 2009 Special Merit Award for Internal Tabloids and Newsletters, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III.

Photos: MTSU Photographic Services, except where noted.

Printed by Franklin Web Printing Co.

Phone: 615-898-2919
Web site: www.mtsunews.com

MTSU's Office of News and Public Affairs publishes *The Record* every two weeks and distributes 3,500 copies free to faculty, staff, friends and media outlets.

Address all correspondence to:

The Record
Office of News and Public Affairs
MTSU P.O. Box 72
1301 E. Main St.
Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

UR046-0209

Faculty/Staff Update

Accreditation

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business recently achieved national accreditation by the Association of Small Business Development Centers. The TSBDC program is headquartered at MTSU and includes 12 offices across the state associated with other Tennessee Board of Regents institutions.

Appointments

Professor Marc Barr (electronic media communication) has been named director for education for ACM/SIGGRAPH, the world's premiere international organization for those who work in all aspects of computer graphics and interactive techniques, for a three-year term.

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) has been reappointed to a full membership in the graduate faculty.

Certifications

Maria L. Edlin (Center for Economic Education) and the MTSU Center for Economic Education have been certified to provide training for secondary teachers to receive

the employment requirement to teach personal finance. The center is one of only eight Tennessee agencies so certified.

Exhibitions

Computer-designed ceramic cups by Professor Marc Barr (electronic media communication) will be included in a nationally juried exhibit at the Starbrick Clay Gallery in Nelsonville, Ohio, in March and April. Barr also has been invited to exhibit at the Cervini Haas Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz., in April in conjunction with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference.

Passages

Dr. Ernest W. Hooper (history) passed away Jan. 30. Dr. Hooper taught at MTSU from September 1960 until his retirement in September 1985. A World War II Navy veteran, he will be remembered for his volunteer work. Survivors include a son, James Hooper, and his wife, Brenda, of Chattanooga; a daughter, Mary Hooper, and her husband, Charles Boley, of Huntsville; a sister, Mary Frances Brandon of Smyrna; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews. A Murfreesboro memorial service is planned later this spring. Memorials may be made to

First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro, MTSU, Heifer International or your favorite charity.

Dr. Frederick J. Kittrell (economics and finance), 80, passed away Jan. 31. Dr. Kittrell taught at MTSU from September 1971 until his retirement in June 1999 and was a professor emeritus in the department. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Anne Black Kittrell; a daughter, Linda K. Poteet and her husband, Dale, of Pegram, Tenn.; sons Richard L. Kittrell and his wife, Cindy, of Murfreesboro, Douglas W. Kittrell and his wife, Camille, of Roswell, Ga., and Dan Frederick Kittrell of Murfreesboro; grandchildren Laura Lease (Joe), Emily and Brian Kittrell, Katie Seifert (Stephen), Hope Perry (Andrew), Benjamin Poteet (Kristin), Zechariah Poteet (Jessica), Grace Donoho (Jay), Rebekah Poteet, Joshua Poteet, Caleb Poteet and Peter Poteet; great-grandchildren Jonathan and Adam Lease, Elijah and Ellen Seifert, Abigail, Eileen, Paul, Heidi, Kristina and Simeon Perry, Mason Beth Poteet, Braxton, Jackson, Audrey and Julia Poteet; nieces and nephews and beloved cousin Mary Jo Beasley. Dr. Kittrell was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, a member of North Boulevard Church of Christ and previously taught at David Lipscomb University

See 'Faculty' page 7