



Big Blue Challenge

Your 'Snack break' money can make a real difference

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a biweekly publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

Nov. 16, 2009 • Vol. 18/No. 10

the RECORD

MTSU crews focusing on NASA's 'transition'

by Gina E. Fann
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This is one giant step, in two big leaps, for MTSU: Students from two mass communication classes are shooting a documentary in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the transition and "reinvention" of NASA as the official media crew for Nashville Public Television, WNPT.

The first step involved the Oct. 28

test flight of the new Ares-IX rocket from the Kennedy Space Center. The second will focus on work surrounding one of the final flights of the space shuttle Atlantis, tentatively set for Nov. 16.

"We went down for a launch several years ago, and because we're always trying to find opportunities to involve our students, we started putting together ways to get students down here, too," explains recording

industry professor Dan Pfeifer.

But when the Columbia explosion grounded shuttle flights for more than two years—just a month before an MTSU crew was scheduled to visit—Pfeifer and Dr. Mary Nichols, electronic media communication professor, had to regroup.

"They started flying the shuttles again in 2005, and we started planning again ... scrounging money and getting permissions about a year

ago," Pfeifer says. "Our intention was to go down for another launch ... and plan a second trip to shoot B-roll. But we realized that the window of opportunity was so narrow and we could get two (launch) shoots in one semester, so we decided to stay because of the story of the transition of NASA."

NASA says its "'Transition' is the

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Hats off to Campus School!



80 years
1929-2009
Homer Pittard
Campus School

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!—Students at Homer Pittard Campus School toss their hats into the air, above, as they perform in the gymnasium Nov. 6 to celebrate the school's 80th anniversary. At right, fourth-grader Emily Musselman shows her desk and work to her mom, Kathy Musselman, assistant vice president for human resources at MTSU, during a classroom tour. Students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and guests enjoyed a day of festivities at the school, which serves kindergarten through sixth grades.

MTSU Photographic Services photos by J. Intintoli



Web redesign under way to 'balance message'

MTSU's home page on the Web will have a different look this spring, thanks to a redesign project now under way.

"Three years ago was our last redesign, and with Web technology and content constantly evolving, a new design will provide a way for us

to balance our message and serve our prospective students, current students, faculty, staff and guests," said Barbara Draude, assistant vice president for academic and instructional technologies.

Like the virtual tour of MTSU's campus launched this fall, the Maine-

based CampusTours Inc., an interactive media and software company, is working with a university committee on the redesign of www.mtsu.edu.

"There are representatives from each (university) division to give

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New passport to success: Study Abroad Fair Nov. 17

by Gina K. Logue
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A passport to a world of new and exciting possibilities awaits MTSU students at the annual Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Keathley University Center.

Rhonda Waller, director of Education Abroad and Student Exchange, says this year's fair will be the biggest ever in terms of opportunities to travel to countries all over the world for the learning experience of a lifetime.

"My philosophy is to come and learn more information," Waller says. "You may be surprised to find what's possible. We're here to find out what fits you."

Exchange programs offered by MTSU can send students to Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

In addition, relationships with a number of consortia, including the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, the

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IN BRIEF

GETTING YOU NOTICED!

The last edition of *The Record* for 2009 will be published Monday, Dec. 14. If your events, news, etc., will occur between Dec.

14 and Jan. 11, 2010, when *The Record* resumes publication, please submit it to gfann@mtsu.edu by Wednesday, Dec. 3, to make sure your news gets noticed. Don't forget the basics—who, what, where, when, how (much)—and necessary contact information!

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China gently changes student's preconceived notions

by Drew Dunlop
news@mtsu.edu

Having lived in several parts of our country, I've been able to spot many similarities and also many differences in attitudes, beliefs and ways of life among the people of various regions.

For instance, the use of "ma'am" and "sir" is prevalent here in the South, while the use of it in the Northeast is not that common. What might be an innocuous curse up North may be near the top of offense here in the South.

One commonality I have found everywhere I go, however, is what I call the "disease of omnipotence." The majority of people are sure they know all about other people in the world, even when they have spent no time talking to them or reading about them and their culture.



Dunlop

I fell into the trap myself when it came to China. Before I visited this past August, I had a "clear" picture in my mind about life over there. There would be armed soldiers or Communist Party agents all over the streets. Anything that resembled religious buildings or symbols would be absent. Bicycles would be the dominant transportation method. And the people would be quiet and serious.

Thankfully, I was given the opportunity to go to China and be taught, once again, that I am not omnipotent and will never truly know anything about people and places if I don't make an effort to learn about them.

My lesson started in Beijing. We were walking down the street to go to a high-end shopping district (e.g., Pierre Cardin, Gucci, etc.). I looked up at a building on my left and saw crosses on the top of it. I then looked over and saw a large statue of Jesus.

When I asked about it, the tour guide told me that it is one of three Catholic churches in Beijing. When we went to Lanzhou later in our trip, I saw

mosques everywhere as well as men wearing the traditional Muslim skullcaps. I was told that a beautiful mosque that I had pointed out to our hosts had almost been torn down because the government had wanted to expand the highway on either side of it. I was told it remains because the government and the Muslims could not come to terms, and the Muslims ended the negotiations. I told my hosts that I would have believed that the government would have gone ahead and bulldozed the place whether the Muslims wanted to give it up or not.

Among my other surprises:

- There were many, many cars everywhere we went, mostly brand new;
- During our two-week trip, I saw about 25 police officers total, none armed, and about half of those I saw in one night at a tourist district called Ho Hai in Beijing, where they were mostly concerned with the drunks in the bars;
- The people we ran into shared a sense of humor very similar to ours, including finding it hilarious when my friend Chris and I exchanged put-downs;
- The food was so fantastic that it made me sad to come back to the United States (and Chinese hosts will stuff you to the gills).

Now I have been given the opportunity to go back to Lanzhou for a year to take intensive Chinese language training. There is no way that I would not go. I now have great friends there. I miss the foods, like hot pot, beef noodle, baotze, jiaotze and the juicy peaches and tasty cabbage. I love that everywhere you go, almost everyone is in love with America and Americans and enjoy your company very much.

In short, I miss my new second home.

Drew Dunlop is a senior communication studies major and a McNair Scholar. He will return to China next summer for a year of intensive Chinese language training at Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou. Video from his summer 2009 trip will be part of a story in an upcoming edition of the monthly video magazine "Middle Tennessee Record."

New Administrative Council to offer feedback, guidance to president

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee has established the Middle Tennessee State University Administrative Council, a group of faculty, staff and administrators who will serve in an advisory capacity to the president and the executive administration in identifying and addressing issues of importance and concern to MTSU.

The 83-member council will offer recommendations and perspectives on university policies and procedures and will serve as a sounding board for new ideas and institutional initiatives.

"I am excited about the establishment of this council because it provides university decision-makers with direct access to the thoughts and opinions of a broader range of key personnel as we address issues that have the potential to impact the overall success and viability of MTSU," McPhee said. "The feedback and guidance provided by this group, which will meet periodically, will be particularly important as we continue to implement the recommendations associated with our 'Positioning the University for the Future' Initiative and as we work to address future economic challenges as anticipated by the state."

The council's first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. in Cantrell Hall in the Tom Jackson Building.

Council members include Kim Edgar, assis-

tant to the president; Heidi Zimmerman, Tennessee Board of Regents associate general counsel; Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president; Deborah Belcher, Faculty Senate president; and the following division, college and/or departmental representatives:

- Audit and Consulting Service: Brenda Burkhart and Diane Snodgrass;
- Community Engagement and Support: Gloria Bonner and John Hood;
- Institutional Equity and Compliance: Forrestine Williams and Barbara Patton;
- Business and Finance: John Cothorn, Mike Gower, Kathy Musselman, David Gray, Patti Miller, Buddy Peaster and Ron Malone;
- Development and University Relations: Joe Bales, Tonjanita Johnson, Tom Tozer and Nick Perlick;
- Athletics: Chris Massaro, Diane Turnham and Mark Owens;
- Student Affairs and Enrollment Services: Deb Sells, Sarah Sudak and Sherian Huddleston;
- Graduate Studies: Mike Allen and Peter Cunningham;
- Provost's Office: Diane Miller, Bill Badley, Rick Moffett, Watson Harris, Becky Cole and Faye Johnson;
- Information Technology: Lucinda Lea, Tom

Wallace and Barbara Draude;

• Basic and Applied Sciences: Tom Cheatham, Wayne Dornan, Warren Gill, George Murphy, Earl Pearson, Richard Detmer, Walter Boles, Don Nelson, Tharrel "TK" Kast, Lynn Parsons and Ron Henderson;

• Business: Jim Burton, Jeffrey Hamm, Steve Lewis, Stanley Gambill, Charles Baum and Jill Austin;

• Education and Behavioral Science: Terry Whiteside, Deborah Newman, Jim Huffman, Connie Jones, Scott Colclough, Dellmar Walker and Dennis Papini;

• Liberal Arts: John McDaniel, Jean Nagy, Tom Strawman, Joan McRae, Ronald Zawislak, Amy Sayward, George Riordan, Ron Bombardi, Stephen Morris, Rebecca Smith, Jackie Eller and Rebecca Fischer;

• Mass Communication: Roy Moore, Dwight Brooks, Dennis Oneal and Chris Haseleu;

• Honors College: John Vile;

• Continuing Education and Distance Learning: Mike Boyle;

• Academic Enrichment: Marva Lucas; and

• Walker Library: Don Craig.

MTSU hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week Nov. 16-20

MTSU is joining entrepreneurship educators worldwide the week of Nov. 16-20 to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week, an effort to connect young people through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators.

The university's Department of Business Communication and Entrepreneurship and Wright Travel

Chair in Entrepreneurship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business is working in conjunction with the Department of Recording Industry in the College of Mass Communication to conduct the event.

Included in a week of outstanding speakers are:

- Steve Moore, senior vice president AEG Live!/Moore Entertainment and president of the Country Music Association, who'll provide a keynote address on Monday, Nov. 16, for the

Department of Recording Industry; and

- David Bullock, social media expert and co-author of *Barack 2.0: Barack Obama's Social Media Lessons for Business*, and Rich Miles, founder and managing member of CAPSTONE Business Advisors LLC, who'll team up for keynote speeches for the big finale event in the College of Business on Friday, Nov. 20.

The week's events will be held in the Business and Aerospace Building

and the Bragg Mass Communication Building, and all events are open to the public.

For a complete agenda of the week's events, please visit the MTSU entrepreneurship Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~entre and click on the colorful "Global Entrepreneurship Week" icon.

For more information, please call 615-898-2902.

valuable input into the design," Draude explained.

The team has been reviewing the site and making suggestions since August. One of the redesign's chief goals is highlighting current events and accomplishments across the campus community.

"The redesigned site will provide users with more immediate access to information about university programs and services and will focus on

showcasing the outstanding qualities of the university and the accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff," said Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, associate vice president for marketing and communications and a member of the redesign committee. "It will also provide access to more up-to-date news and items of interest to the university community and external constituents."

Draude said the new design,

which is targeted for launch in February, complements work that has been occurring over the last several years to move sites into the university's content-management system. It allows colleges, departments and other offices to maintain and update their Web content.

The campus community will be able to follow the redesign progress and offer comments by visiting a new progress blog, Draude said.

"We welcome suggestions for the page redesign," she said. "We get lots of good ideas from different areas of the university."

For more information about the home-page redesign and to make comments on it, visit www.mtsu.edu/newdesignblog when the design blog goes live early this week.

Employee Giving makes a Big Blue Difference

by Dr. Gloria Bonner
gbonner@mtsu.edu

Dear Friends,
We are excited that the 2009 Employee Charitable Campaign is going to put a heavy emphasis on recruiting first-time participants, in addition to retaining those individuals committed to giving year after year. The campaign committee is hopeful that more MTSU employees will contribute, no matter how large or small, to meet the growing needs within the community. After all, we are a university family known for showing compassion for others.

The theme for the 2009 Employee Charitable Campaign is "I'm One Who Really Makes a Difference." So again, we would like to invite you all to take the BIG BLUE CHALLENGE with us. Just imagine what an organization this size could accomplish if every employee challenged their colleagues to donate their "\$nack break" money for a week, a month or a year! That's why your leadership will be instrumental to the success of the project this year.

Certainly, our goal is ambitious, but our community needs are also greater considering the tough economic challenges we have faced recently. Now, more than ever, we are focused on the growing commitment to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. It will take all of us working together to inspire giving to a community of deserving citizens who are in need. This year's campaign gives us another opportunity to demonstrate that BIG BLUE SPIRIT on behalf of family, friends, and neighbors.

Given the recent economic climate, the support from MTSU employees

will make a BIG BLUE DIFFERENCE in the lives of others who would otherwise have to do without. Each community service provider you help reach today can make a big difference in our community tomorrow. All we need are a few more willing contributors and participants than last year in order to reach a few more neighbors in need.

We are looking forward to a great campaign on our campus this year.

Please join us in the "I'm One Who Really Makes a Difference" this year and also invite your colleagues to join you in taking the BIG BLUE CHALLENGE together. Go to www.mtsu.edu/givemtsu and make your difference today.

Please follow the process outlined below:

- Review the Giving Campaign brochure (www.mtsu.edu/givemtsu/pdfs/campaignbooklet09.pdf) and determine the listed charity or charities to which you wish to contribute.
- Get the code number of your selected charity or charities. For example, the United Way of Rutherford County code is C65-000; the Boy Scouts of America, Middle Tennessee Council, is listed under United Way of Rutherford County and its code is C65-002.
- Complete the 2009 Campaign Pledge Form (www.mtsu.edu/givemtsu/pdfs/pledgeforms09.pdf). Please use your M number on the form instead of your social security number.
- Return the pledge form to your team captain (list available at www.mtsu.edu/givemtsu/volunteers_giving.shtml#captain). Team captains should turn in all pledge forms to Laurie Glenn in Room 114 of the Cope Administration Building no later than Friday, Nov. 20. Thank you for your generosity and your participation.

Dr. Gloria Bonner is chair of the MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign and director of the Office of Community Engagement and Support.



Bonner



President's Commission funding new curricula on women

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

The President's Commission on the Status of Women at MTSU is offering three grants of \$1,800 each to faculty members who want to integrate the experiences and perspectives of women into the curriculum.

The grants are intended for use in the summer of 2010 to revise a course, revise a general-education course for a study-abroad program, create a new course, reconceptualize a current minor or create a new minor.

Among the 2009 PCSW grant winners is Dr. Gretchen Webber, assistant professor of sociology, for her new upper-division undergraduate course "Gender, Work and Family in the 21st Century."

"Gender, race/ethnicity and class significantly shape women's and men's experiences in both the workplace and the family," Webber says. "This course takes an integrative approach to two key institutions, work and family, that have enormous influence on nearly all people."

Using the Sloan Work and Family Research Network to access current issues in work-family scholarship in conjunction with sociological texts, Webber says her goal will be "to motivate students to make connections between knowledge and its application to their lives, particularly as workers and family members."

Webber's course, which will be taught in spring 2010, will be open to all students who have completed Sociology 1010 or 2010.

Another 2009 grant winner, Dr. Meredith Huey Dye, assistant professor of sociology, developed a spring 2010 special topics course, "Women in Prison."

"Although the course will focus primarily on the experiences of women as inmates and as workers, it will also cover the collateral consequences of imprisonment for women in general, *i.e.*, the effect of incarceration on women as daughters, mothers and spouses/significant others," Dye says.

She says the bulk of the course will examine special issues of women in prison, including drug use and

treatment, physical and mental health, mothering, aging and dying, as well as education, vocation and reentry. A tour of the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville is one important feature of the course.

The third 2009 grant recipient, Dr. Tricia Farwell, assistant professor of journalism, created a Journalism 4800 course, "Advertising and Social Media."

Farwell says the undergraduate course, which is being taught this semester, began as a look at how advertisers incorporate social media into campaigns after an employer's request that students know how to use social media strategically. She revised the course to explore how women and marginalized groups are using the Internet to communicate with advertisers and how social media are used to build gendered communities.

Tenured or tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply for the 2010 PCSW grants. Each proposal 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 curriculum vitae.

Applicants who wish to revise courses or minors should also state how their course or minor would change as a result of the revisions. Priority will be given to courses that can be implemented within two years and those that are developed or revised for the undergraduate curriculum.

The deadline for submission of grant applications is Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. Applicants should send seven proposals (the original and six copies) to Dr. Samantha Cantrell, Office of Research Services, P.O. Box 124. Selected members of the PCSW's Academic Issues Subcommittee will make the final decisions.

To submit an application, go to www.mtsu.edu/pcsw/grants.shtml. For more information, contact Cantrell at 615-494-8751 or scantrel@mtsu.edu.

Campus Calendar

Nov. 16-29

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.
Visit www.mtsunews.com
for other cable-outlet airtimes
or www.youtube.com/mtsunews
for a complete show archive.

Nov. 16

Monday, Nov. 16
Deadline for Spring 2010 Distinguished Lecture Fund applications
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/nsfp or contact: 615-898-2454.

Fall Honors Lecture Series: Dr. Ellen Garrison, "Military Training on Campus"
3-3:55 p.m., Room 106, Honors Amphitheatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~honors or contact: 615-898-2152.

Nov. 19

Nov. 19-21
MTSU Theatre and Dance: "An Evening of Short Plays: 'Shards of Glass' and 'Portrait of a Mother and Son'"
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre
For information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~theatre or contact: 615-494-8810.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Free Legal Clinic
sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center
6:30-8 p.m., Room 206, James Union Building
Appointments required
For information, contact: 615-898-2193.

MTSU Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Nov. 20

Friday, Nov. 20
MTSU Wind Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Nov. 21

Saturday, Nov. 21
MT Football vs. Arkansas State (Hometown Heroes)
3:30 p.m., Floyd Stadium
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com or contact: 615-898-2450.

Sunday, Nov. 22
MTSU String Studio Recital
7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Nov. 23

Monday, Nov. 23
Faculty Recital: Maya Stone, bassoon
6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Nov. 25

Wednesday, Nov. 25
MT Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Nov. 26-27

Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving holidays
No classes; university closed.

Breaking new ground



GOING UP—MTSU's building plans are moving ahead with two groundbreaking ceremonies in just a week's time. At left, dignitaries toss a few shovels of dirt at the Oct. 30 ceremony for the new \$29.88 million College Education and Behavioral Science Building. From left are MTSU president Sidney A. McPhee; Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning; Dr. Harold Whiteside, interim dean of the college; Dr. Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost; and alumnus Ed Gray, superintendent of Bedford County Schools.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by J. Intintoli

In the photo at right, officials scoop the first ceremonial shovels of dirt on Nov. 6 to open construction of the new \$77 million Student Union Building. From left are State Sen. Bill Ketron; David Gregory, vice chancellor for administration and facilities development for the Tennessee Board of Regents; Dr. McPhee; Student Government Association President Brandon McNary; Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services; State Sen. Jim Tracy; State Rep. Joe Carr; and Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt



Nov. 22

Sunday, Nov. 22
"MTSU On the Record—How to Cook Everything"
Mark Bittman talks about his book, his blog and his work for *The New York Times*, all of which are dedicated to cooking.
7 a.m., WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcast at www.mtsunews.com.



Nov. 24

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Guest Recital: Eva Amsler, flute
6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
MTSU Guitar Ensembles
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall
For information, visit www.mtsumusic.com or contact: 615-898-2469.

Nov. 28

Saturday, Nov. 28
MT Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee Tech
7:30 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

evolution of people, property, processes and plans to enable space-exploration missions by evolving from our Space Shuttle-based human-space flight system to a new architecture designed to achieve the objectives of the U.S. Space Exploration Policy."

That new architecture includes the Ares I-X, NASA's next-generation spacecraft and launch-vehicle system. The Oct. 28 Ares flight gave NASA an early opportunity to test and prove flight characteristics, hardware, facilities and ground operations associated with it. The scheduled Nov. 16 Atlantis launch will be used to rotate crew members of the International Space Station.

The media crews for the Ares test and Atlantis launch are a combination of Nichols' EMC 4940 undergrad course, Advanced Production Seminar, and Pfeifer's Master's in Recording Arts and Technologies 6340 course, Directed Production. Ten students from the EMC and MRAT classes are making each trip to Florida.

"This truly is an amazing experience that we all have the opportunity to be a part of," the teams wrote on their blog. "We are not only taping one of the first launches of the new Ares-IX rocket, that is destined to replace the old weathered shuttles, but [we] will also be taping one of the last seven scheduled shuttle launches for NASA."

Post-launch, they noted: "Good thing for text updates, because we have been left speechless."

The classes have talked with several "above the line" advisers for their projects, including former astronauts and NASA scientists Dr. Rick Chappell and Dr. Rhea Seddon. While they're on-site, they're working with NASA public affairs officers during media briefings and events, press conferences, etc., to obtain access for interviews.

"We're casting as broad a net as we can," Pfeifer says. "It's really been amazing how many people are coming out to help us and make referrals. ... We're getting some very compelling stories of the people of NASA

and the excitement of their involvement. If they have the slightest part in getting a shuttle or a rocket up, they're proud of it."

"I was surprised the students would come up with something like it, but it's just great," Nichols says. "The whole point of it is 'what's NASA done for me lately?', and their approach is going to show how NASA is reinventing itself with the help of its people."

To follow the MTSU NASA crew's adventures, read their blog at <http://mtsunasa.blogspot.com> or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mtsu.nasacameracrew. There's even a documentary video about the documentary at the Facebook page.

Study

from page 1

Cooperative Center for Study Abroad and the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, provide students with numerous other options.

"The fair is a great first step, but the next step is to come in for advising," Waller says. "Don't wait until the last minute!"

MTSU sent 254 participants, including 232 undergraduates, abroad in the 2008-09 academic year. Sixty-seven percent of them went to Western Europe.

Twenty percent went to Latin America, and nine percent went to Asia.

In the same year, MTSU hosted 46 exchange students from 15 countries ranging from Antilles to Thailand. Seven of those students came from France, the destination for MTSU's general education courses at the Institut Universitaire de Technologie in Cherbourg.

The school hosts MTSU undergraduates each June for summer classes augmented by historical trips to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont St. Michel and the D-Day beaches of Normandy.

"Although we offer French, we're not primarily a foreign-language program," says Dr. Steven Livingston, professor of political science and coordinator of the Cherbourg excursions.

Accommodations are at a former French emperor's naval hospital that has been converted into a cinema school. Each student will have his or her own room with a bath and kitchenette.

"I'm sure the students like the field trips the most because there are spectacular places they've never been," Livingston says. "I just like daily life in France: the pace, the food, strolling around. France is still a country of small, individual shops. The shops you see in Cherbourg you're not going to see anyplace else."

"I loved being able to get out of my comfort zone and experience different cultures," Leah Rehmert, a senior marketing major from Union City, says of her 2008 Cherbourg trip.

Students seeking to study abroad for summer 2010, fall 2010 or the full 2010-11 academic year can apply for generous scholarships. The deadline is Jan. 28, 2010. For more information, contact Livingston at 615-898-2720 or slivings@mtsu.edu or Waller at 615-898-5179 or mtabroad@mtsu.edu.



BON JOUR, MES AMIS!—Students enjoying their MTSU Study Abroad experience at Fort du Roule in Cherbourg, France, in 2009 are, from left, Kristian Goff, Kris Robinson, Lucas McCoy, Jodee LaVoie, Vickie Elliott, Lisa Mayo, Dave Byars, Kelsey Johnson, Lisa Buggs, Robyn Cawley and Amanda Green.

photo submitted

College restructuring plan deadline extended for more review

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

This is a campuswide update regarding our current discussions on the academic college restructuring recommendation in the "Positioning the University for the Future" Initiative report.

Over the past few months, there has been considerable discussion and debate about how MTSU's colleges should be restructured and the overall significance of this process to the future success and viability of the university. The open and honest dialogue associated with the proposed restructuring has been extremely valuable and has led me to determine, after consultation with the Faculty Senate leadership and others, that more time is needed to allow the academic leadership and faculty to address critical issues and explore other possible models that might prove effective in our final decision-making.

With this in mind, I am extending the deadline for the provost to submit a recommendation for my consideration from Dec. 1, 2009, until April 1, 2010.

It is very important that we continue discussions on efforts that will strengthen the academic program offerings at our university consistent with the Academic Master Plan. The fiscal challenges that we continue to face in Tennessee, along with the changing demands and expectations of institutions of higher learning across the country, dictate that doing nothing is not an option as we seek ways to move the university forward. Although the majority of the recommendations in the "Positioning the University for the Future" report were approved to help the university cut costs, many others were proposed as an investment in our future. While we do expect some minimal cost savings to result from the new college structure, the greater focus in following through with this recommendation is in taking the necessary steps to reposition the university to more effectively take advantage of, and benefit from, unique opportunities on the horizon for our institution. While we are

currently in a tough financial period, we anticipate that better times will emerge.

As president of MTSU, I have the responsibility of providing visionary leadership that will further the mission of the university and maintain the kind of dynamic academic environment that supports the goals and objectives of our long-term academic master plan. I firmly expect that the investment of time and resources that we have and will put into realigning some of our college structure will help us in generating additional revenue to compensate for cuts in state support while also giving us the competitive advantage over other institutions when it comes to having academic programs that are organized based on current best practices and the anticipated needs of students and faculty.

Please know that, at this point, no particular proposed structure has been decided on or placed as a priority above any other as it relates to our college restructuring. Dr. Diane Miller, interim provost, recently disseminated a revised proposal reflecting feedback from faculty members and discussions that are ongoing. This is only a proposal at this point in our deliberation. As discussions continue, I want this effort to remain an inclusive and collaborative process that will result in our being able to tap into the full potential of our resources. Dr. Miller will continue to provide additional information about the various procedures and processes that will inform the development of the final proposal that will be considered. Additionally, we are working on a more comprehensive update that will give the entire university community a sense of where we are with the remaining recommendations and provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions that we are receiving about the overall "Positioning the University for the Future" Initiative.

As always, thank you for your continued support and input. I look forward to interacting with the Provost's Office, the Faculty Senate and other faculty colleagues as we work through this very important change process together.

Reserve tickets now for Dec. 5 Victorian Holiday Feast

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

The MTSU Women's Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Jamila L. McWhirter, will present the second Victorian Holiday Feast, featuring a dinner and music, on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

McWhirter says that guests are invited to "travel back in time and usher in the holidays with the beautiful singing and caroling of the MTSU Women's Chorale and MTSU Bel Canto."

The Victorian Feast begins with the assembly of guests in the lobby of the James Union Building starting at 6 p.m. with entrance to the dining area of the Tennessee Room at 6:30 sharp.

"Last year's event was a wonderful success, with all tables sold out," McWhirter said, noting that the dinner will feature "beautiful piano, string and brass music throughout the evening ... as well as singing."

This year's "feast" menu will include roast pork medallions with Marseilles sauce, tossed salad, green bean casserole and red-skinned potatoes in herbed butter, with a choice of chocolate cake, chess pie or peach cobbler for dessert, along with a choice of water, iced tea or coffee.

"Come enjoy such holiday classics as 'White Christmas,' 'Sleigh Ride,' 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy,' 'Carol of the Bells,' 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' and much, much more," McWhirter says.

Admission is \$30 for the meal and full evening of entertainment. Admission for MTSU students is

\$17. High-school groups wishing to attend may call 615-898-5922 for information on a discounted table rate.

Tickets are available by mail order only, and reservations must be received by Sunday, Dec. 1.

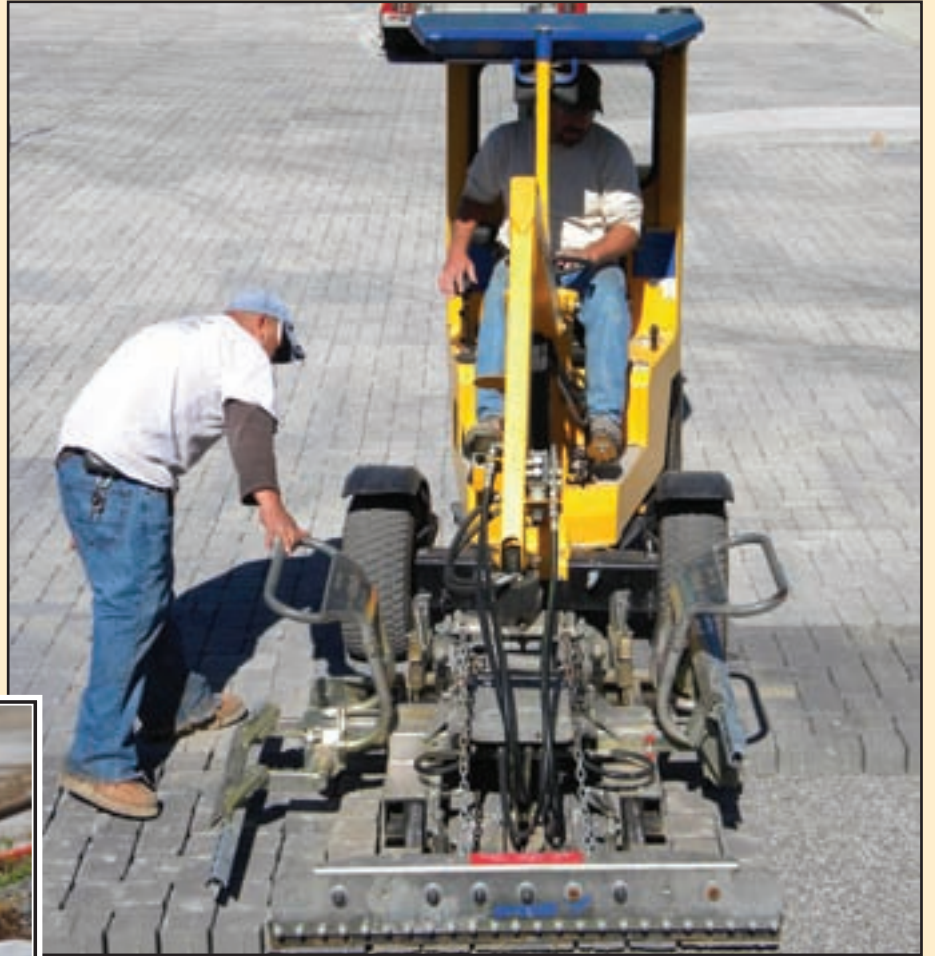
For more information, please visit the MTSU School of Music Web site at www.mtsumusic.com and click on the "Victorian Holiday" link at the bottom of the page. Reservation forms are available at the site.

Those without computer access may pick up reservation forms in the School of Music office in the Wright Music Building. Seating priority will be based on date of ticket purchase, and no refunds will be issued.

Event organizers also ask that no photographs or recordings be made during the dinner.

CIM making a permanent mark on MTSU's campus

MIXING IT UP—MTSU's nationally recognized Concrete Industry Management program mixed up two recent campus projects: applying permeable interlocking concrete pavement to a parking area adjacent to the military science department's Forrest Hall, shown at right, and providing decorative concrete on the south side of Murphy Center, shown below. CIM Director Heather Brown said the \$48,000 permeable paver project included a \$13,000 clean-energy grant through the Office of Student Life and \$35,000 in donations from sponsors Oldcastle Belgard Environmental, Ragan-Smith-Associates Inc., Siteworks Inc., Stan Reece Concrete, Moody Dozer Service, Swanson Development, the Rogers Group Inc., Nashville Ready Mix and ADS Pipe. About 75 invited guests and MTSU administrators attended an Oct. 20 demonstration that showed the benefits of using the permeable interlocking concrete pavement. Attendees watched workers, at right, cover an area in the parking lot and then saw a 43,000-pound Murfreesboro Fire Department fire truck, which was sitting on top of the surface, apply 1,000 gallons of water that quickly disappeared.



The \$17,000 decorative project placed a concrete pad that can be used by media trucks covering events in Murphy Center and Floyd Stadium. The MT athletic logo was stenciled and colored onto the pad, being prepared by at left by Dr. Brown. CIM paid \$2,000 for concrete, and 10 companies or organizations—the American Society of Concrete Contractors, Butterfield Color, Decorative Concrete Council, Dusty & Sons Inc., Fritz Pak, L.M. Scofield, Nashville Ready Mix, Oakley Construction, Stan Reece Concrete Inc. and Stardek Inc.—provided gifts in kind totaling \$15,000, Brown said. CIM classes attended the five-day project, which became a hands-on learning experience for the students.

photos submitted

Dec. 1 is the deadline for 2010-11 academic scholarships

from Staff Reports
news@mtsu.edu

Prospective MTSU students seeking academic scholarships for 2010-11 must submit all their information by the priority deadline of Tuesday, Dec. 1, said David Hutton, director of the MTSU Office of Financial Aid.

Prospective students should submit an admission application, official ACT or SAT test scores and an official transcript to the admissions office, said Hutton, who added that information mailed with a Dec. 1 postmark will meet the deadline.

Prospective students who apply between Dec. 2 and Feb. 15, 2010, may be considered if funding is available.

Guaranteed academic scholarships and awards include the Chancellor, Presidential, Academic Service, Valedictorian and Salutatorian, and Provost Scholarships. Students who apply for admission by the deadline automatically will be considered for these awards, said Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships.

Other academic scholarships at MTSU include the Buchanan Fellowship, National Merit, National Achievement, DREAM (Diverse Representation and Educational Access at MTSU) and the new International Baccalaureate Diploma scholarships.

Students may visit the MTSU Web site at www.mtsu.edu/scholarships for information about requirements,

application procedures and deadlines for these awards, McCarty added.

Current students can apply online by Dec. 1 for Enrichment and Vision scholarships, said Julie Hughes, financial aid scholarship assistant. They can visit www.mtsu.edu/scholarships to learn more about requirements and application procedures.

Transfer applicants must submit official college transcripts. The scholarship deadline for transfer applicants is Feb. 1, 2010, and more details are available at the scholarship Web site.

Most MTSU Foundation and DREAM scholarships have a Feb. 15 deadline, Hughes said.

High-school students interested in applying for an Army ROTC national scholarship must apply through www.armyrotc.com, call 615-

898-2470 or e-mail Maj. Trey Brannom at lbrannom@mtsu.edu. This scholarship has a Nov. 16 deadline.

The School of Music awards scholarships on a competitive basis to music and nonmusic majors. These will be awarded in 2010 after auditions are held on Friday, Jan. 29, Friday, Feb. 19, and Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Wright Music Building. Students can register for auditions by visiting www.mtsumusic.com online.

Students and their parents or guardians must complete the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, to receive federal and other forms of financial aid starting Jan. 1, Hutton said.

For more information, call 615-898-2830 or visit the financial aid Web site at www.mtsu.edu/financialaid.

photojournalist. It took her a year to save for a more professional camera.

The media attention Skochilo received gave her opportunities to become a contributing writer for various publications. One of her reports caught the eye of the Associated Press, and she was asked to work as a freelance photographer, taking pictures of protests and presidential meetings in Kyrgyzstan.

Skochilo said she enjoys taking pictures more than writing because sometimes a photograph can better express what she feels than words can. In the future, she said, she would like to go back to Kyrgyzstan to help promote free speech and

share more stories through photographs.

"I would like to tell people not about politics; politics are so annoying," she said. "I would like to highlight social issues in my country, to help some people. It could bring people together. When we think about other people it brings us together. We get closer, and we will be a real nation."

To see some of Skochilo's photos, go to <http://morrire.livejournal.com/tag/photo>. Read some of her blog posts at <http://globalvoicesonline.org/author/elena-skochilo/> or at <http://morrire.livejournal.com>.

King-Hampton nominations sought

The Association of Faculty and Administrative Women at MTSU is accepting nominations for the King-Hampton Award, which honors Miss Jeanette Moore King, a member of the first Middle Tennessee Normal School faculty, and Miss Martha Hampton, the first female administrator at MTSU.

The award is presented to an individual from the MTSU community who has made an outstanding contribution to improve the status and equality of women on campus.



The deadline for nominations is Monday, Nov. 30.

Please submit your nomination, including a brief letter outlining the nominee's contributions, to The King-Hampton Award Committee, MTSU P.O. Box 13.

Visit the AFAW Web site, www.mtsu.edu/~afaw, for more information, and take a few moments to recognize the contributions of an individual that has made an impact on the lives of the women of MTSU's campus.

Judging the best



PICKING BIG WINNERS—

Members of MTSU's Horse Judging Team, which captured all three divisions and the overall top award at the American Quarter Horse Congress horse-judging contest Oct. 14 in Columbus, Ohio, pose with their awards. From left are Coach Dave Whitaker, junior Samantha Cobb, senior Kristen Chandler, junior Megan Hephner, senior Brittany Lehman and junior Patrick Davis. The MTSU team will compete in its final contest of the year Wednesday, Nov. 18, in Oklahoma City during the World Quarter Horse Show.

photo submitted

Fall Dance Concert set nightly at 7:30 Dec. 3-5 in Tucker

MTSU Dance Theatre will present its annual Fall Dance Concert Dec. 3-5 at 7:30 nightly in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Tucker Theatre.

Kim Nofsinger, director of MTSU Dance Theatre, said the concert—which will feature a total of eight works—was designed to showcase a wide variety of styles, from ballet and modern to tap and jazz.

"This semester we are pleased to bring two new choreographic styles to our repertoire with artists Wendy Allen and Erin Rehberg," he said.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for MTSU staff and students in kindergarten through 12th grades. MTSU students will receive free admission with a valid MTSU ID. Tickets are available in advance by calling 615-494-8810 or by visiting the Tucker Theatre lobby box office.

For more information, please visit www.mtsu.edu/theatre.

Faculty

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Whaley, all of Murfreesboro; brothers Donnie Chambers of Gulf Shores, Ala., and Ron Joe Whaley and Jesse Chambers, both of Murfreesboro; and a sister, Sara Chambers of Murfreesboro. Mr. Chambers was a graduate of Oakland High School and MTSU, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Middle Tennessee State University Foundation.

Performances

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) and his vocal group TAKE 6 performed with Amy Grant and the U.S. Air Force Reserve Band at the Grand Ole Opry House Oct. 26. The performance was a TV taping of a Christmas show to be aired on the Armed Services Network on Christmas Day and throughout the holiday season.

Presentations

Dr. Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agriscience) presented "Rain Gardens—Water Quality Structures You Can Build" to the Tennessee Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Oct. 8 at Montgomery Bell State Park near Burns, Tenn.

Dr. Wandi Ding (mathematical sciences) and her STEP^{MT} summer research students, Evan Lancaster (high-school teacher) and Raymond Hendon (senior math major), presented a poster, "Discrete Time Optimal Control Applied to Pest Control Problems," at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis Undergraduate Research Conference in Knoxville Oct. 23-24.

Dr. Mark Allan Jackson (English) presented a paper, "Blind Lemon Jefferson's Righteous Blues: Black Response to the Ethics of Racial Injustice," at the annual American Folklore Society conference in Boise, Idaho, Oct. 24.

Dr. Zachariah Sinkala (mathematical sciences) presented "Stability of Traveling Waves in Nonlinear Hyperbolic Equations" at the 29th Annual Southeastern-Atlantic Regional Conference on Differential Equations held Oct. 16-17 at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Drs. Vince Smith and Sherry J. Roberts (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented "Making the Transition from On-Ground (F2F) to Online Using

Desire2Learn (D2L)" at the Southern Business Education Association 2009 Conference in Huntsville, Ala., on Oct. 23.

Promotions

Karen Case (TMSTEC) has taken the post of assistant director with the Tennessee Math, Science and Technology Education Center that involves three large multiyear STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) grants: GK-12, Noyce Master Teaching Fellows and Noyce Scholarship. She previously served as an adviser for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Publications

Christy Groves and **William Black** (Walker Library) have authored a chapter, "Making the Best of the Best: Strategies for Effective Retention," for the book *Recruitment, Development, and Retention of Information Professionals*, which is to be published by IGI Global in 2010.

Seminars

Dr. Watson Harris (provost's office) conducted an interactive plenary

on "Institutional Culture—How to Identify, Change, and Celebrate" at the Society of College and University Planning Southern Regional Conference on Oct. 8 in Memphis.

Workshops

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters (biology, Center for Environmental Education) and MTSU doctoral candidate **Karen Hargrove** conducted a workshop, "Teaching Sustainably" at the Tennessee Environmental Education Association's annual conference in Nashville. Their workshop featured the internationally recognized "Facing the Future" curriculum on sustainability. Attendees received the kindergarten- through fourth-grade curriculum guide.

Get noticed in *The Record*!

Submit your Faculty/Staff Update items (including promotions and new hires) and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu by **Tuesday, Nov. 17**, for the Nov. 30 edition of *The Record* or by **3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2**, for the Dec. 14 *Record*.

Blogger: 'They didn't tell they beat some people, but I told'

Muskie Graduate Fellow is Kyrgyz journalist

by Megan McSwain
news@mtsu.edu

MTSU is welcoming a famous news blogger and Associated Press photographer, Elena Skochilo of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to its graduate program.

Skochilo, 28, is part of the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, which allows members from 12 countries of the former Soviet Union to study in the United States. Skochilo has been studying mass communications at MTSU for three months and is scheduled to stay for two years, said Dr. Clare Bratten, director of graduate studies for the College of Mass Communication.

"I think having international students here helps our programs become more globally oriented, more culturally aware and inclusive," Bratten said.

Skochilo said she enjoys her classes and finds them interesting because she's learning a lot. She graduated from Kyrgyz State National University with a degree in computer science and said classes there differ from the ones at MTSU.

"American students are more independent and research a lot of information themselves," Skochilo said. "In my country, the professor just gives a lecture."

She's interested in studying journalism and photography to improve her skills. Everything she knows about the two subjects, she says, she learned on her own and from friends and colleagues.

She started writing news stories through her blog, which she originally created to share personal pictures and stories with her friends. That blog gained fame when she wrote about the 2005 Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan.

She was surprised when her blog posts about the capital's protests against the president were quoted in the media. At the time, Skochilo had no experience writing news stories; she just wanted people to know what was going on in her country.

"I didn't want my friends to be fooled by local agencies," she said. "I just wanted them to know my opinion about this (and) how I saw that event."

The Tulip Revolution, which ultimately led to the overthrow of the administration, brought many sleepless nights, Skochilo recalled, as people from Russia, Ukraine, Norway, Australia and Canada called her to confirm stories.

"I felt a great, great responsibility for every word I was saying in my blog," she said. "I was just asking people, 'Don't panic. Please don't panic.



IN THE MIDDLE OF NEWS—Elena Skochilo, an Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellow currently studying in MTSU's College of Mass Communication, is shown preparing to take a photo during a 2007 news event in Kyrgyzstan. Elena's photo was taken by Bektour Iskender, co-founder of the Kyrgyz blogging community Kloop.kg.

photo courtesy of Bektour Iskender

Everything will be OK. Please don't believe any gossip.'

"We don't have any oppositional press in my country. We don't have a variety of opinions. It's getting worse and worse, and it's worrying me," she said.

Skochilo said she wrote about topics the government didn't and was shocked to see how the media covered the protests.

"They didn't say anything informative," she said. "They didn't tell they arrested some people, and they didn't tell they beat some people, but I told."

In addition to receiving information from other citizens about the events, she went to the capital to see and photograph the looting and damaged buildings.

She took her first pictures with a point-and-shoot camera, and after a news agency bought a few of her photographs, she thought of becoming a

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the RECORD

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Winner, 2009 Gold Award, Electronic Newsletter, and Silver Award, Printed Newsletter, Tennessee College Public Relations Association.

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UR046-1109

Faculty/Staff Update

Appointments

The National League for Nursing has selected **Deb Sullivan** (nursing) as an NLN ambassador for the MTSU School of Nursing. She will keep faculty and administration informed about NLN's initiatives, grant opportunities, conferences, publications, workshops and other benefits for league members.

Vincent Windrow (Intercultural and Diversity Affairs) has been selected as a participant in the Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellows Program, which is designed to provide insight to participants via cohort interaction, a mentoring relationship and exposure to the inner workings of the board. The program began in October and lasts until June 2010.

Awards

Dr. Sherry Roberts (business communication and entrepreneurship) received the 2009 Southern Business Education Association's Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award at the organization's conference in Huntsville, Ala., Oct. 23. Roberts also was named president of SBEA and will begin her term Jan. 1, 2010.

Exhibitions

An exhibition of dog drawings by **Sally Govan** (Business and Economic Research Center) will be on display at the Murfreesboro City Hall Rotunda through Dec. 31.

Events

Dr. Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agriscience) manned three displays—patio gardening, MTSU's vineyard and the MTSU vegetable garden—Oct. 3 at the inaugural Adventures in Agriculture at the Extension Center in Murfreesboro. The event was hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Tennessee State University in Nashville, Farm Bureau Insurance and the Rutherford County Soil Conservation District.

Media

Dr. Cedric Dent (music) was interviewed by **Dr. Robert Pondillo** (electronic media communication) as the featured guest on "In the Middle." It aired for two weeks beginning Oct. 26.

Dick Williams (recording industry) was profiled as part of an article written by graduate student **Tim Hall**, "A Semester in Eight Hours:

MTSU Students Get a Crash Course in Professional Recording," published in the November 2009 issue of *Mix* magazine.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Ralph Butler (computer science), along with two Argonne National Lab colleagues, has succeeded in running a critical nuclear physics application on 131,072 processors with an efficiency of 82.6 percent. As of a year ago, the application had never run with more than 2,000 processors. His success is due to use of the Asynchronous Dynamic Load-Balancing library, which is code developed primarily by Butler to be used in conjunction with message-passing interface, or MPI, to handle load balancing for high-performance computation applications.

Passages

David Chambers (Financial Aid), 50, passed away Oct. 23. Mr. Chambers, a native of Boaz, Ala., was employed by MTSU in October 1992 and was an associate director in the Office of Financial Aid. He is survived by his wife, Ann Chambers; a stepson, Corey Harper of Edinburgh, Scotland; parents Ken and Betty Chambers and Molly and Gary

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