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 alumnus, former publisher
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Happy holidays
 from News and Public Affairs!
The Record returns Jan. 11, 2010.
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a biweekly publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

Dec. 14, 2009 • Vol. 18/No. 12

the RECORD

Welcome, Confucius Institute!

by Dr. Tonjanita L. Johnson
 tljohnso@mtsu.edu

After a highly competitive selection process, MTSU has joined the ranks of a distinguished group of American institutions of higher learning approved to host a Confucius Institute on its campus.

In recognition of this achievement, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee hosted a ceremonial signing of the Confucius Institute agreement with representatives from its Chinese partner institution, Hangzhou Normal University in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, on Dec. 1 in Room 106 of MTSU's Peck Hall.

"We are honored to have been selected to host this prestigious institute on our campus," McPhee said. "MTSU has a strong commitment to international education, and we have been particularly enriched by our

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IT'S OFFICIAL—MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, seated at left, and Hangzhou Normal University President Ye Gaoxiang sign the agreement to form the Confucius Institute at MTSU. Standing behind the presidents are members of the delegation from Hangzhou Normal University. From left are Tang Shiming, vice director of HNU's International Cooperation and Exchange Division; Yang Xiaohong, professor in the School of Foreign Language and dean of the Confucius Institute at MTSU; Yin Qiping, dean of the HNU School of Foreign Language; He Lijun, vice dean of the School of Materials and Chemistry; and Chen Zhenhong, vice director of HNU's Planning and Financial Department.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

5-year, \$1.925M grant will train math, science teachers

by Randy Weiler
 jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU, home of one of the state's premier teacher education programs, has received a five-year, \$1.925 million grant to help launch MTeach, university officials announced.

MTeach, which will begin Jan. 1, is a replica of the nationally known UTeach program created at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997, said Dr. Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

"UTeach fundamentally changes the way high-school math and science teachers are trained," Cheatham said.

"UTeach recruits strong math and science majors with a chance to try out teaching for free through two one-credit freshman courses that help the college student prepare and deliver an active-learning lesson for elementary students and middle-school students. UTeach supports deep content knowledge and

early and often engagement of future teachers in K-12 classrooms."

Dr. Amy Phelps, professor in the chemistry department, and Dr. Linda Gilbert, associate professor in education leadership, will co-direct the MTeach program.

MTeach is a partnership between the colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education and Behavioral Science.

"We in the College of Education and Behavioral Science have enjoyed the collaboration with our colleagues in math and the sciences in preparation for this grant and look forward to continuing the work to prepare the best possible math and science teachers for Tennessee," said Dr. Phil Waldrop, associate dean for his college and a professor in the Department of Elementary

and Special Education.

"Tennessee, like most areas of the country, has a critical shortage in math

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IN BRIEF

GOT PRESENTS? WRAP 'EM UP!

Members of Alpha Delta Pi sorority are hosting their annual Faculty Gift Wrap Dec. 14-16 in the second-floor lounge of the

Keathley University Center. Wrapping is free for all MTSU faculty and staff members from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, and no supplies or appointments are needed. For more information, e-mail Mallory Phillips at adpirop@gmail.com.

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1,633 students to receive degrees in Dec. 19 ceremonies

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

An estimated 1,633 degree candidates will graduate during MTSU's upcoming 98th fall commencement ceremonies, says Dr. Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost of enrollment services.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and speakers starting at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center. Of the 1,633 set to graduate, 1,398 are undergraduates and 235 are graduate students, including 218 master's candidates, 12 education-specialist degree recipients and five doctoral candidates.

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

Mike Williams, a former state representative and MTSU alumnus, will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony.



Williams

Williams currently is the Tennessee director for the American Petroleum Institute, handling public relations and government. While at MTSU, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in economics in 1981, he was president of the Associated Student Body (now known as the Student Government Association), a cheerleader for three years, a member of the gymnastics club and a charter member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Following his graduation from MTSU, Williams—after working in politics for several years, including with the Tennessee Democratic Party and on several individual legislative and congressional campaigns—entered the business world, where he managed a telecommunications equipment company before starting his own business.

In 1989, he was elected to the Franklin, Tenn., Board of Aldermen and three years later to the Tennessee House of Representatives. During his second term on the Hill, Williams' colleagues elected him floor leader. In all, he served five terms for District 63 before retiring from politics in 2001.

A native of Waverly, Tenn., Williams is married to Nancy Sloan Williams (B.S. '84) of Murfreesboro. Her grandfather, the late Gene Sloan Sr., is a member of the Blue Raider Hall of Fame. The Williamses have one son, Keel, who is a professional bassoonist, and a daughter Emma, 12.

Ellen Leifeld, who recently retired as president and publisher of *The Tennessean* in Nashville, will be the featured speaker for the 1 p.m. commencement ceremony.

Her 35-plus years of newspaper experience included reporting, editing,

Who: 1,633 graduates* (1,398 undergraduates, 235 graduate students)

What: Fall 2009 commencement ceremonies

When: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19

Where: Murphy Center, MTSU

Speakers:

- 9 a.m.—Mike Williams, MTSU alumnus and former state representative
- 1 p.m.—Ellen Leifeld, former president and publisher, *The Tennessean*

For more info: Go to www.mtsunews.com and click on the "Graduation Info" link at the left side of the page.

*Approximate number as of Dec. 4, 2009.



management and executive positions in Nebraska, California, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. Leifeld also was a regional vice president for the Gannett Co. with responsibility for Tennessee publications and Web sites in Nashville, Clarksville, Jackson, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Ashland City, Dickson, Springfield and Hendersonville as well as for the *Montgomery Advertiser* in Alabama.



Leifeld

A six-time winner of the Gannett President's Ring for Publishers, which recognizes the company's top 10 publishers each year, Leifeld is chairwoman of the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and a member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and Executive Board.

Her civic memberships also include the Nashville United Way Board of Directors and Executive Board, the Tennessee Press Association Board of Directors and the African American Museum Board of Directors. In 2008, she was chairwoman of the United Way Campaign for Metropolitan Nashville.

Leifeld and her husband, Ron, a freelance photographer, are the parents of two adults, Ann and Mike, and have one granddaughter, Dakota Blue.

MTSU's Miller said she wanted to remind all degree candidates of the importance of appropriate dress, decorum and respect for the commencement ceremony. The graduation committee also emphasized that students who participate in commencement will be required to stay for the entire ceremony. The ceremony should last about two hours, and candidates planning celebration activities should be aware of this commitment, Miller said.

For more information about commencement, please visit the Records Office Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.htm or call 615-898-2600.

Honors College initiates 55 new members into Phi Kappa Phi

by Randy Weiler
jweiler@mtsu.edu

Fifty-three MTSU students and two honorees were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi during Dec. 3 ceremonies in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

"The 2009 initiates to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society are the select of MTSU's students and gain election to membership only by invitation," said Dr. Bill Badley, president of the MTSU chapter, interim vice provost for academic affairs and director of general education. "The initiation ceremony is a recognition of students' past extraordinary scholarly and personal efforts and an encouragement to continue to strive for excellence throughout their lives."

Badley added that the "qualifications for membership are very stringent, selecting only those who are in the top 7.5 percent of the junior class and the upper 10 percent of the senior class."

"However," he continued, "unlike other honor societies, Phi Kappa Phi invites excellent students from all disciplines in higher education, and students remain Phi Kappa Phi members for life."

Phi Kappa Phi members from public service include former President Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Al Gore (chapter #246 MTSU), U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Badley said. Two special honorary initiates were inducted for community and staff endeavors: Dr. L. Diane Miller, MTSU's interim executive vice president and provost, and

Murfreesboro City Manager Robert J. Lyons.

The primary objective of the national Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the recognition and encouragement of superior scholarship in all academic disciplines.

Sixteen faculty members also were recognized as influential faculty by the student initiates. A full list of student honorees, by home county and city, follows:

- **Cannon County:** Lori Jackson, insurance/risk, of Auburntown;
- **Coffee County:** Carla Trail, nursing, Manchester; and Samuel Brace, accounting, and Jessica Evans, English, both of Tullahoma;
- **Davidson County:** Nancy Edmondson, education, Monique Richard, behavioral science, and Gabriel Zurita, economics, all from Antioch; Tiffany Watkins, nursing, of Cane Ridge; Charles Agin, liberal arts/humanities, Hermitage; Minh Le, marketing, Elizabeth Michels, organizational communication, Ausra Naujokaite, economics, and John Rives, business, all of Nashville; and Dana Parsley, psychology, of Old Hickory;
- **Franklin County:** Paul Bauer, biology, Belvidere;
- **Hamblen County:** Jennifer Dickens, occupational health/therapy, Talbot;
- **Hamilton County:** Jason Du Ban, aerospace, Ooltewah;
- **Marion County:** Scott Baskette, recording industry, Jasper;
- **Rutherford County/Murfreesboro:** Michelle Drury, psychology; Angela Fairchild, special educa-

tion; Rachel Lampley, biology; Melanie Landerfelt, psychology; William Lanier, finance/banking; Rachel Leathers, education; Brittany Mauney, communication disorders; Brittany Mimms, education; Matthew Naylor, English; Austin Purvis, political science/government; Robert Teesdale, philosophy; Dmitry Terekhov, actuarial science; Danielle Thompson, literacy studies; Kyle Tornquist, engineering systems technology; Evan Totty, economics; Beverly Wallace, finance/banking; and Bonita Woitkowiak, liberal arts;

- **Rutherford County/Smyrna:** Amber L. Gray, aerospace; Caitlin Orman, psychology; Emily Strecker, special education; and Sean Urrutia, history;
- **Sumner County:** Hope Foley, marketing, and Seth Foley, psychology, both of Hendersonville;
- **Washington County:** Michael Boggs, mass communication, of Johnson City;
- **Warren County:** Chelsea Beaty, communication disorders, and Summer Mink, psychology, both of McMinnville;
- **Williamson County:** Sara Haywood, behavioral sciences, Brentwood; Claudia James, education, Lindsey Perry, psychology, and Karen Wimmer, liberal studies, all of Franklin;
- **Wilson County:** Michelle Atkins, accounting, and Sara Gideon, history, both of Mt. Juliet.

Out-of-state initiates included Sean Barrett of Liberty Lake, Wash.; Eleanor Franey, geography, Summerville, S.C.; and Lisa Morris, nursing, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Actress/playwright is spring Visiting Artist

by Dr. Claudia Barnett
cbarnett@mtsu.edu

Heather Raffo, actress and playwright, will spend a week in residence at MTSU this spring to present a staged reading of selections from her award-winning play "9 Parts of Desire" and to teach the Visiting Artist's Seminar, University Honors 3200.

The staged reading will take place Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m. at Tucker Theatre as part of both UH 3200 and Theatre Appreciation 1030. The event is free and open to the public.

The five-day Visiting Artist's Seminar will meet Feb. 22-26 or March 15-19 from 3 to 5:40 p.m. daily. Students may register for this class through PipelineMT.

A one-woman show told through the lives of nine Iraqi women, "9 Parts of Desire" is Raffo's first work as a playwright.

Through it, she has found a unique voice bridging Iraqi and American culture. Her father is originally from Iraq and her

mother is American. She grew up in Lansing, Mich., and was shaped tremendously by the events of the first Gulf War during her time as a student at the University of Michigan.

Raffo first performed "9 Parts of Desire" in 2003 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It later moved to Bush Theatre in London's Off-West End, where critics hailed it as one of the five best plays in London in late 2003. Its New York premiere was in the fall of 2004 at Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, where the show ran for nine sold-out months, had five extensions and was a critics' pick (*New York Times*, *Time Out* and *Village Voice*) for 24 weeks in a row.

Raffo is the recipient of a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and the Marian Seldes-Garson Kanin Fellowship. She received a 2005 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show as well as Helen Hayes, Outer Critics Circle and

Drama League nominations for outstanding performance.

Since 2005, "9 Parts of Desire" has been produced across the United States, including the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles; Berkeley Repertory Theatre; Seattle Repertory Theatre; Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; the Guthrie in Minneapolis; Actors Theater of Louisville, Ky.; Wilma Theater in Philadelphia; Geva Theater in Rochester, N.Y.; the Alliance in Atlanta; the Lyric in Boston; and Next Theater in Chicago. It is being translated for international productions in Brazil, Greece, Sweden, Turkey and France. Publications are by Northwestern University Press and Dramatists Play Service as well as a number of anthologies.

'The community of voices we pull together ... would be ... immigrant voices.'

Actress/playwright Heather Raffo, Spring 2010 Visiting Artist

The Visiting Artist's Seminar, an interdisciplinary honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered seven times so far and has included topics as diverse as poetry writing and papermaking. Artists frequently visit campus to speak to students, but the Visiting Artist's Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts for five days and requires intensive student participation.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar enhances culture and creativity on campus and touches students' lives in an unusual way. It is taught at an introductory level so students from any field of study can participate. The seminar is limited to 15 students. The only prerequisites are upper-division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

For the spring 2010 seminar, Raffo has drawn on her experience writing and performing "9 Parts of Desire" to develop a course called

"Writing Identity."

"Essentially, what I felt was unique about the process of creating '9 Parts of Desire' was how I wrote using the tools I had come to have as an actress," she explained. "Also, the poetic rhythm and structure I employed was heavily based on what I felt was an Iraqi vernacular rhythm as it translated into English. So I have tried to incorporate some ideas on how to use or teach these tools in a writing process that would have as the end result a monologue or poem that could be performed or read, depending on the student's intention.

"I am very much interested in immigrant culture, and I think much of the joy of writing '9 Parts' was because I was able to immerse myself in a cultural community so different

from the Michigan one I grew up in. I think it might be of interest for the students to have to do something similar. And the community of voices we pull together for the production would itself be a community of

immigrant voices from your region—perhaps even (with some work) worthy of being united as a play telling the immigrant story at MTSU."

The Visiting Artist's Seminar is a five-day writing-intensive course exploring cultural identity from the first-person singular perspective. The aim of the class will be to create a performance monologue, poem or other first-person fiction based on immigrant identity.

Students will be asked to choose an individual, either real or fictional, with a specific cultural identity and set of given circumstances they wish to explore.

Dr. Claudia Barnett is the program coordinator for the Visiting Artist's Seminar in the University Honors College. She can be reached at cbarnett@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2887.

Article reprinted with permission from the Fall 2009 "Honors Edition," the University Honors College newsletter.



Get weather-related delays, cancellations and closings first!

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Go to www.mtsu.edu/alert4u

ITD schedules December system downtimes

MTSU's Information Technology Division has scheduled three significant downtimes in December that will affect services delivered to the university.

The first is scheduled from 5 p.m. to midnight Tuesday, Dec. 22, to accommodate necessary electrical work. All central services—including but not limited to Banner, RaiderNet, e-mail, PipelineMT and Internet and network access—will be affected.

The second downtime is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. to noon. RaiderNet, e-mail, MT\$ource, off-campus library access, wireless and residence-hall networks and other systems relying on PipelineMT creden-

tials for access will be unavailable during that period.

The third downtime is set to begin at noon on Monday, Dec. 28, and extend through 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30. During this period, PipelineMT and RaiderNet will be unavailable.

For more information about ITD's services, to create a work order or make a suggestion, visit its Web site at www.mtsu.edu/itd or call the Help Desk—when classes are in session—at 615-898-5345.

The latest edition of the division's newsletter, *The Communicator*, also is available at the site.

Commissioning, fall awards end busy semester for military science

by Randy Weiler
rweiler@mtsu.edu

The commissioning of one senior cadet and the Blue Raider Battalion Fall 2009 Awards Ceremony concluded a busy semester of military science activities in MTSU's Army ROTC program.

Cadet Jeremy Adams, who is set to graduate Saturday, Dec. 19, with a degree in criminal justice, will be commissioned Friday, Dec. 18, in a 10 a.m. ceremony in Forrest Hall's second-floor library. Adams, who is from Murfreesboro, will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the chemical corps.

The fall awards were presented Nov. 24 in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

"These young men and women have worked hard to balance academics, military science requirements, families, extracurricular activities and jobs, and they have performed exceptionally well," said Lt. Col. T.K. Kast, professor of military science. "They are more than deserving of the recognition we give them."

Twenty cadets earned the Army Physical Fitness Test Badge.

The Blue Raider Ranger Challenge team finished 15th out of 42 teams in an Oct. 23-24 competition at Fort Knox, Ky., and as a result of their efforts, 11 cadets received Ranger Challenge Awards.

Six cadets earned Blue Brigade Awards for participating in the color guard at three or more events this semester.

A dozen cadets received the LTC Ribbon for successfully graduating from the Leadership Training Course at Fort Knox in the summer. Eighteen seniors received Leader Development Assessment Course Awards.

Kast presented the Land Navigation Trophy to the Blue Raider Class of 2010 for earning the top land navigation results in the 7th Brigade this summer.

The AROTC commander also recognized cadets Cody D. Sneed, Justin L. Stewart, Mark A. Lewis, Shane D. Vachunek and Cory J. Hammock as Distinguished Military Student awardees for the fall semester.

Cadets Jonathan Anderson, Daniel Clayton, Brandon Cotton, Laura Harris, Blake Mohamed, Nathan Nelson, Patrick Sourinho, Kenneth Weathers, Jeremy Weaver and Taylor were recognized for contracting into the Blue Raider Battalion and then sworn in.

Other recognitions included 18 students who made the Dean's List (3.5 grade-point average), nine students who received Honors Awards (3.2 GPA) and eight students who earned Scholar Awards (2.9 GPA), all from the spring semester.

Campus Calendar

Dec. 14, 2009-Jan. 11, 2010

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.

Radio Schedule

"MTSU On the Record"

8 a.m. Sundays,
WMOT 89.5-FM
Podcasts available
anytime at
www.mtsunews.com.



Through Dec. 17

Final exams

Dec. 14

Dec. 14-16
Annual Faculty Gift Wrap
sponsored by Alpha Delta Pi
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Keathley
University Center second-floor
lounge
Free; no appointment or sup-
plies necessary
For information, e-mail
adpirvp@gmail.com.

Dec. 18

Friday, Dec. 18
**National Science Foundation
Day at MTSU**
workshop for researchers and
potential NSF grantees
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Business and
Aerospace Building
Registration fee: \$20 per person
For information, visit
www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=115793&org=NSF.

Dec. 19

Saturday, Dec. 19
Fall 2009 Commencement
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy
Center
For information, see story on
page 2 or click on the
"Graduation Info" link at
www.mtsunews.com.

Dec. 20

Sunday, Dec. 20
**MT Women's Basketball
vs. Western Kentucky**
2 p.m., Murphy Center

**R+L Carriers New Orleans
Bowl: Blue Raider Football
vs. Southern Mississippi**
7:30 p.m., Superdome
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com.

Dec. 22

Tuesday, Dec. 22
**MT Men's Basketball
vs. Howard University**
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com.

Dec. 25

Dec. 25-Jan. 3
Winter holidays
University closed

Dec. 28

Monday, Dec. 28
**MT Women's Basketball
vs. Kentucky**
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 1, 2010

Friday, Jan. 1, 2010
New Year's Day

Jan. 2

Saturday, Jan. 2
**MT Men's Basketball
vs. Louisiana-Lafayette**
7 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 3

Sunday, Jan. 3
**MT Women's Basketball
vs. Louisiana-Lafayette**
2 p.m., Murphy Center
For information, visit
www.goblueraiders.com.

Jan. 4

Monday, Jan. 4
University offices reopen.

Get noticed in *The Record!*

Submit your Campus Calendar items and other news tips to gfann@mtsu.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, for the Jan. 11, 2010, edition of *The Record* or 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, for the Jan. 25 Record.

Weird weather? Watch the Web this winter

When inclement weather arises, MTSU closing information will be available online, via MTSU's Rave Alert emergency notification system and on area radio and TV stations. Class cancellations will apply to all classes, credit and noncredit. All MTSU offices will be open unless the message specifically says all offices will be closed. Overnight closing decisions will be announced by 6 a.m. the next day.

Learn more anytime at www.mtsunews.com by clicking the "Inclement Weather Information" link, following @MTSUalert on Twitter or visiting www.mtsu.edu/alert4u. To register for the Rave Alert system, visit www.getrave.com/login/mtsu and log in with your MTSU e-mail account information.



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IT DOES.

www.mtsu.edu/alert4u

Remember: If you pull a fire alarm, call 911 or 615-898-2424 to report your location, too.

and science teachers," Waldrop added. "This grant gives us the opportunity to do exciting work in the preparation of math and science teachers and will allow us to recruit top students into the teaching profession in ways that aren't possible now."

U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, a long-time advocate for improving math and science education, once again aided MTSU's efforts to land this award, Cheatham said.

"In order to keep good-paying jobs in the United States, our country must compete at a higher level with better skills and higher productivity," Gordon said in a statement from his Washington, D.C., office. "That means ensuring that workers in Tennessee and across the country have the skills they need for the jobs of the future."

"It starts with the students, though, who will become the workforce of our country. MTSU's MTeach program will focus on empowering math and science teachers with the most up-to-date understanding and content knowledge available in their fields. This will help them provide students with strong grounding in math and science, ensuring they are prepared for technical jobs of the future."

On average, MTSU graduates five high-school math and five science teachers each year. The goal of MTeach is to graduate 30 per year within five years and 60 per year within 10 years. Cheatham said the experience at other replication sites indicates that growth will exceed expectations.

MTSU is one of two replication sites funded by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Department of Education. The University of Tennessee at Knoxville also received a \$1.925 million grant; its program is called VolsTeach.

connections to the people, culture and universities of China.

"We look forward to strengthening our existing friendships and academic partnerships in China as well as to playing a significant role in the overall growth and development of relations between China and the United States through the Confucius Institute at Middle Tennessee State University."

Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost, who was instrumental in the development of MTSU's proposal for the Confucius Institute, was among those who joined McPhee in greeting the Chinese delegation, which visited the Murfreesboro campus Nov. 30 through Dec. 2.

During their three-day visit, HNU officials viewed the site where the institute, also known as CIMTSU, will be housed and further discussed plans for its development and grand opening.

Members of the visiting delegation included HNU President and Professor Ye Gaoxiang; Yin Qiping, dean of the School of Foreign Language; Tang Shiming, vice director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Division; Yang

Xiaohong, a professor in the School of Foreign Language and dean of the Confucius Institute at MTSU (sent by HNU); Chen Zhenhong, vice director of the Planning and Financial Department; and He Lijun, vice dean for the School of Materials and Chemistry.

Dr. Guanping Zheng, associate professor in the Department of Electronic Media Communication in MTSU's College of Mass Communication, will serve as director of the institute for MTSU. According to its agreement with the Confucius Institute headquarters, MTSU will share management of the institute with HNU. The two universities will work together to formulate and amend policies and regulations for CIMTSU; oversee activities related to teaching, research, scholarship and fundraising; and supervise the general fiscal operations of the institute.

As part of its outlined services, the CIMTSU will:

- develop Chinese language and cultural classes;
- provide Chinese language teaching resources;
- train teachers to teach Chinese as a foreign language;
- offer a Chinese Proficiency

Test and certification of Chinese language teachers;

- provide China-related library resources;
- promote research about contemporary China; and
- provide services and consultation to Middle Tennessee and the state on matters related to Chinese culture and language.

Founded in 2004, the Confucius Institute is a nonprofit organization established to strengthen educational cooperation between China and other countries. The programs supported by the institute are designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese language and culture, deepen friendly relations between China and other nations and promote the development of multiculturalism and global harmony.

According to the organization's Web site, as of October 2009, 282 Confucius Institutes and 241 Confucius Classrooms have been established in 87 countries and regions around the world. Only 80 of the Confucius Institutes established worldwide are hosted by institutions in the United States.

MTSU is making plans to host the grand opening of its institute in spring 2010.

McPhees plan holiday reception for faculty, staff

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee are going greener this year with an online invitation for their holiday reception for university faculty, staff and administrators.

University employees may visit www.mtsu.edu/holiday.html to view the colorful animated invitation for the holiday reception hosted by the McPhees on Monday, Dec. 14.

"We look forward to this opportunity to visit with each of you in our home," Dr. McPhee said in extending the invitation.

The reception is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m., but departments are encouraged to choose a visiting time based on names to make the event flow more smoothly for everyone.

Departments beginning with the letters A to E may choose to attend between noon and 1 p.m. Letters F to P can visit between 1 and 2 p.m., and departments beginning with the letters Q to Z may choose to stop by between 2 and 3 p.m.

Employees are asked to bring canned goods to share locally with community neighbors who are less fortunate.

Forensic science will be newest undergrad major

by Lisa L. Rollins
lrollins@mtsu.edu

Beginning in spring 2010, MTSU will boast a new program of study with the official addition of the university's newest undergraduate offering, the Bachelor of Science degree in forensic science.

The 120-hour program is the result of an academic collaboration by participating faculty in biology, chemistry and criminal justice administration, all of whom have teamed to build a strong interdisciplinary curriculum modeled in accordance with accreditation standards.

Dr. George Murphy, chairman of MTSU's biology department, said his department has agreed to handle the paperwork for the program, such as assignment of advisers, but faculty from each of the three departments will be involved in all aspects of the program.

"Just as forensic scientists are partners with law enforcement and the criminal justice system, the B.S. program in forensic science at MTSU is a partnership that provides an education for students to work as forensic scientists in the 'real world,'" said Dr. Deborah Newman, CJA chairwoman. "The biology and chemistry departments provide the extensive background needed in science, laboratory processes, technological procedures and analysis of evidence, while the criminal justice department provides the basic principles of crime-scene investigation, judicial processes and presentation of evidence in court."

Murphy said MTSU's newest degree offering arose from student demand and a desire to help fill the need for properly trained, degreed professionals in the forensic science field.

"We are strictly focusing on the lab-analysis aspect (of forensic science)," he said, noting that it will include the DNA portions of the lab and other Tennessee Bureau of Investigation-related crime-lab disciplines, such as drug

chemistry, latent prints examination, firearms identification, serology/DNA, toxicology and the like.

He added that MTSU's forensic-science degree, which has been in the making for two years, would be the lone such program offered in Tennessee. The nearest similar programs currently operate at Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Mississippi.

No minor will be required, Murphy said, since the degree is highly interdisciplinary. Its core curriculum includes 23 semester hours in biology, 25 credit hours in chemistry, nine hours in CJA and eight hours of forensic seminar/internship credit.

Murphy said he anticipates many of MTSU's forensic-science graduates will find employment with crime labs such as the TBI operation, which currently employs more than 100 forensic scientists at its three sites. There is an ongoing demand for degreed forensic-science personnel who are skilled in using scientific techniques to analyze crime evidence and have a strong working knowledge of the criminal justice system, he said.

"You're dealing with people's lives, so you have to meet certain certifications," Murphy explained, referring to those who work in TBI's crime labs.

Although officials don't yet know how many enrollees the new degree will have during its inaugural semester, "I think our bigger problem will be not overpopulating (the program), because of the popularity of TV shows such as 'CSI' and things like that," Murphy noted.

"I think once (students) experience the rigor of the program, there will be a bit fewer going into it. But potentially, we could turn out a lot of graduates here. I am guessing we will be turning out 10 (forensic-science) graduates a year during the first three years."

For more information on MTSU's forensic-science degree, please contact the Department of Biology at 615-898-2847.



Murphy



Newman

Blue Raiders heading to New Orleans for Dec. 20 bowl game

from MT Athletic Communications
www.GoBlueRaiders.com

The Blue Raiders are going bowling for the second time in four years.

Middle Tennessee has received an official invitation to represent the Sun Belt Conference as an at-large team in the ninth annual R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl on Sunday, Dec. 20. It will mark the second bowl game of the Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) era for Middle Tennessee and the sixth bowl game in school history.

The game against Conference USA representative Southern Mississippi will be played at the Louisiana Superdome, home of the NFL's undefeated New Orleans Saints, at 7:30 p.m. before a nationwide television audience on ESPN. It will mark the first meeting between the schools.

"We are thrilled to extend our season in New Orleans and appreciate the invitation by the R&L Carriers

New Orleans Bowl," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "It is a great bowl for our players and fans, and we can't wait to get there. We are proud to be one of just two schools in the state of Tennessee going to a bowl game, and we will represent the state well.

"It has also been a pleasure working with Troy, the New Orleans Bowl, the GMAC Bowl and the Sun Belt Conference in moving our league forward. Troy is able to match up against a conference champion in the GMAC Bowl, which allowed us the opportunity to go to New Orleans, and the Sun Belt has now put two teams in postseason play for the third time in four years."

Under Coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders put together one of the top seasons in school history in 2009 by going 9-3 overall and 7-1 in the Sun Belt Conference. The nine wins are the most regular season victories since 1992, and the seven league wins are the most ever by the Blue Raiders

as a member of the Sun Belt. Middle Tennessee enters the New Orleans Bowl riding a six-game winning streak, which ranks as the sixth longest in the country.

"One of our goals entering the season was to play in a bowl game, and I am extremely proud of our team and coaching staff for accomplishing this," Stockstill said. "It has been a great year, and to win nine games with our schedule is a testament to our players. This team is very deserving of a 13th game.

"We are very excited about this bowl game and the location of New Orleans. We expect our fans and families to take full advantage and attend the game."

The Blue Raiders will be facing a Southern Miss team that finished 7-5 and was one win from facing Houston in the Conference USA Championship game. The Golden Eagles also have some familiar faces in the coaching staff as Head Coach Larry Fedora, assistants Blake

Anderson and Todd Bradford and Director of Football Operations Gary Camp all are former Middle Tennessee staff members.

"We are playing an excellent opponent in Southern Miss, who had an excellent chance to be C-USA champs," Stockstill said. "They are very well coached in all three phases of the game and have some very impressive wins this season. I have not watched them on tape, but they have a great tradition, and we will have to play our best to compete with them."

Fans may purchase tickets through the Middle Tennessee ticket office by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU or logging on to www.GoBlueRaiders.com. Tickets for the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl are \$40 and include an official "Blueout" T-shirt. The commemorative shirt will be a collector's item, and fans are encouraged to wear it at the game.

SGA plans Road Rally to New Orleans

The Student Government Association is sponsoring Road Rally to New Orleans: Bowl Edition Dec. 19-21 to watch MTSU battle with the University of Southern Mississippi in the Louisiana Superdome.

The cost is \$110, which includes round-trip transportation, two-night hotel stay at the InterContinental New Orleans, a game ticket and T-shirt.

MTSU students will be given priority, and there will be a wait list if necessary. To sign up online and view a tentative itinerary, visit www.mtsu.edu/sga, or sign up in person in Room 208 of the Keathley University Center. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, Dec. 15.

For more information, contact Sarah Ayache, SGA vice president of administration and public affairs, at sgavpapa@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2871.



This is only a test.

MTSU tests its tornado siren monthly.

Spring 2010 test dates are:

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 12:20 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, April 13, 12:20 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12, 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

1 year's construction ends, and a new year's work begins

by Tom Tozer
ttozer@mtsu.edu

Workers are laying the foundation of MTSU's new Education Building, and plans are to occupy the facility in late 2011 and open it for general use in spring 2012.

The projected completion date for the new Student Union on the east side of campus is early 2012.

While the university community was breaking ground for the Education Building on Oct. 30 and the Student Union on Nov. 6, other less celebrated projects were under way, working toward reducing deferred-maintenance costs and improving creature comforts.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing work is in progress in Corlew Hall, and officials say they hope to have the residence hall back in action for the fall 2010 semester. A new addition to McCallie Cafeteria, located on the first floor of Corlew Hall, will increase capacity by as many as 50 seats. The addition will be located in the current site of the brick patio on the building's south side.

Anderson Piping is at work upgrading the heating and cooling infrastructure in the Cope Administration Building's computer server room.

A review meeting with city officials and engineers took place in early November on the proposed widening of Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Bids were received Nov. 19 for the renovation of Tucker Theatre. The project, which will begin in

January, will consist of refurbishing seats, replacing carpet and lighting and improving the lobby area and restrooms. It also will entail stage improvements, mechanical and electrical updates, code upgrades and improvements to meet disability-access requirements.

Completed projects include the Veterans Memorial Wall just south of the Tom Jackson Building, which was dedicated Nov. 14.

Other recent improvements and enhancements include the Forrest Hall parking lot, the Stark Agriculture Building elevator and fire-alarm system, the Walker Library sewer-line replacement, underground electrical work throughout various areas of campus and the remodeling of the food court at the Keathley University Center.

Harris understands; he is blind and walks using a tipped cane.

"If you live here on campus, you're going to be able to 'see' things on campus every day," says Harris. "But if you're commuting from somewhere every day, you may come in to campus and 'see' something totally different."

That's why Nelson would like for visually impaired students to arrive to campus a week in advance of each semester so that she can give them guidance. She says that would

enable them to learn all sorts of geographical and bureaucratic changes at the university before they actually have to start concentrating on their education.

"They could be networking to take care of a lot of business so that they would be close to being on the same playing field when they start class," says Nelson.

For more information on Disabled Student Services at MTSU, call 615-898-2783 or go to www.mtsu.edu/dssemail.

Engineering technology students launch new Six Sigma projects

Graduate and undergraduate students majoring in engineering technology at MTSU started Six Sigma research projects in November.

A major initiative at Nissan North America in Smyrna involved student projects in the following plants: two students in trim and chassis, two students in paint, two students in body and three in quality assurance.

A new Middle Tennessee Medical Center student project involving survey data on patient satisfaction is under way and involves two graduate students. Another graduate student, an MTMC employee, is involved with the transition of the patients from the current MTMC facility to the new hospital being constructed on Medical Center Parkway.

Grants will fund research at 2 national parks, The Hermitage

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

With funding from two federal agencies in hand, three MTSU historians have embarked on research for two national parks and a treasured Tennessee landmark.

Dr. Jim Williams, director of the Albert Gore Research Center, will conduct oral-history interviews for Congaree National Park with a grant from the National Park Service.

The Web site for Congaree National Park, located near Hopkins, S.C., touts the property as "the largest remnant of old-growth flood plain forest remaining on the continent." Congress designated it a national natural landmark in 1974 and redesignated it as a national park in 2003.

Williams said he would like to interview about 30 people, including those who were involved either with the creation of the park or its transition from a monument to a park. He added that he hopes the study will help establish the Gore Center



Williams



Garrison



Leone

as a regional center for the preservation of oral history.

Dr. Ellen Garrison, associate professor of history, also has a National Park Service grant for a project that will help the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in east Tennessee.

Garrison will focus on improving the condition of the park's archival materials. Other project goals include reducing the archival materials' cataloging backlog and, as appropriate, creating finding aids

for the materials.

Dr. Jan Leone, professor of history, will examine the growing body of humanities scholarship on the early 19th century for her project, "The Hermitage, Andrew Jackson and America 1801-1861."

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Landmarks of American History program, Leone will design workshops for high-school teachers that will combine classroom and field studies, including archaeology.

Primary source evidence for this project will include a variety of documents from 1801 to 1861, objects in The Hermitage's collections, books owned by the Jackson family, archaeological remains left behind by enslaved black families, the architecture and the cultural landscape.

The grants secured by Williams and Garrison are yearlong stipends that began in September 2009. Leone's funding runs from Oct. 1, 2009, to Dec. 31, 2010, and workshops will be held in summer 2010.

Get noticed in MTSU's official university publication!

Check out (and bookmark!) *The Record's* 2010 deadline schedule at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~proffice/rec_deadlines.htm.

Jones; brothers Jerry Jones and Pete Jones; and a sister, Linda Sue Barrett. He is survived by his wife, Lillie Mae Jones; stepson, William G. Jakes; stepdaughter, Linda (Henry) Rohling; brothers Charlie Jones, Bobby James and Larry Wayne Jones; and a sister, Stella Qualls.

Presentations

Professor Jeff Gibson (speech and theatre) was a guest artist at American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates Nov. 11-17, where he offered a presentation, "More than Acting: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Through Theatre" and a workshop, "Theatre Marketing: Practical Methods for Developing an Audience." Gibson also provided a critique of a theater production presented by university students.

Dr. L. Diane Miller (Provost's Office) presented "International Partnerships That Promote Collaborative Research" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference in Nashville Nov. 20.

Dr. Martha Norkunas (history) delivered an invited talk on "Listening Across Differences" at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 25. The talk, which focused on the importance of civic engagement in the university and building relationships with diverse communities, was a part of the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies series.

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (chemistry) presented an invited talk on "Girls Raised in Tennessee Science" to the Southern Automotive Women's Forum Oct. 28 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Murfreesboro.

Promotions

Janet Kelly (nursing) was promoted to adviser, focusing on assisting online students and other nursing majors, after spending 23 years in the Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

Publications

Professor Leon Alligood (journalism) was one of 15 writers tapped to contribute to the American Valor

Project by Stephens Media, owner of the *Las Vegas Review Journal* and other newspapers. The project featured more than 50 stories of servicemen and women who were honored for their heroism in Afghanistan or Iraq. The series is being published in Stephens Media newspapers through December and will be published in book form next spring. The series' Web site is www.americanvalor.net.

Gina K. Logue (News and Public Affairs) wrote "Nursing Her Way to Service," a profile of 2009 Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar Award winner Miriam Mahfoud, for the Winter 2009 edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* magazine.

Drs. Michael Thompson and **Rebecca Seipelt** (biology), along with graduate student **Karen Beasley** and 2009 graduate **Matthew Schmidt** (chemistry), published a paper, "Arginyl aminopeptidase-like 1 is an alternatively processed aminopeptidase with specificity for methionine, glutamine and citrulline residues," in *Protein and Peptide Letters*, Vol. 16 (10):1256-66.

Drs. Debra Rose Wilson and **Lita Warise** (nursing) have published a

book review in the *Social Science Journal* (2009) 46(4), p. 806-807. They and Dr. Doug Eicher of Missouri Western State University reviewed *Ritual and Its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity* by A. B. Seligman, R. P. Weller, M. H. Puett and B. Simon. (2008).

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 **3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23**, for the Jan. 11, 2010, edition of *The Record* or **3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13**, for the Jan. 25 *Record*. Don't forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why, plus contact information—with your contributions!

Alum's mom helps students navigate MTSU campus

Experience with son's disability spurs efforts

by Gina K. Logue
gklogue@mtsu.edu

One of the most helpful people working on the MTSU campus just might be one who is not an MTSU employee. She's Karen Nelson, an orientation and mobility specialist, or OMS, under contract to Vocational Rehabilitation Services, a section of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. It is her responsibility to teach visually impaired students problem-solving techniques to help them maneuver around campus.

"I block off a couple of weeks before school starts, especially in the fall, and I work around the clock, through the weekends, to unbelievable hours," Nelson says. "You can see me here at nine o'clock at night if need be."

The mother of a 2006 MTSU graduate who was paralyzed in a car accident, Nelson was a physical therapist's assistant working with profoundly intellectually delayed people at Clover Bottom Developmental Center in Nashville before she took a turn on her career path.

Nelson already had a bachelor's degree in management and human relations from Trevecca Nazarene, but she had to obtain a master's degree to become certified as an OMS. She refinanced her house, took a year off and headed for Texas Tech because Tennessee has no OMS certification programs.

Her son's quadriplegia and the level of interaction necessary to help him have a successful college experience gave Nelson an intimate knowledge of the MTSU infrastructure. She seems to know every curb, every building and every bus stop on campus.

In fact, one of her problem-solving techniques for the blind relies on the Raider Express. The buses that regularly weave their way through and around campus can help blind students regain their bearings if they become confused, she says.

"They (the buses) are consistently going to be there time and time again," Nelson says. "If a student will stop and listen and home in on where they are and walk toward that, they can reorient themselves."

Getting around campus is one thing; getting around off-campus is quite another. John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services, says discussions are under way to explore the possibility that Rover, Murfreesboro's city transportation system, could alter its routes to include campus thoroughfares.

That would address one of Nelson's pet peeves. She says blind students who live off-campus are spending large sums on taxis not only to get to class



LENDING A HAND—Karen Nelson, right, an orientation and mobility specialist, offers MTSU freshman Brenda Stokley, center, of Kingston Springs tips on how and when to safely cross Middle Tennessee Boulevard at Bell Street as Aimee Hendley, left, a junior animal-science major from Cross Plains, listens.

photo by News and Public Affairs

but to run errands or socialize with friends.

"They would like to be able to utilize public transportation," Nelson says. "A cab, at minimum, is going to cost them eight dollars one way. That's a lot of money."

And once they get to the university, the students will have to adapt to daily, weekly, monthly and sometimes permanent changes in the infrastructure. Street closings, elevator failures and construction issues are all part of the constant "to-do list" of adjustments blind students have to make in addition to focusing on their studies and the requirements for each of their classes.

See 'Helping' page 7

the RECORD

Tom Tozer
Director, News and Public Affairs

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

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

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.

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Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132

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UR050-1209

Faculty/Staff Update

Activities

MTSU's Commercial Construction Management Program raised more than \$7,400 during its inaugural golf tournament Oct. 15. Platinum-level sponsors included Skanska, Hardaway Construction, Turner Universal and Enterprise Electric. The funds will support the CCM board's main goal of funding a program-director position within the next two years.

Awards

Cindy Chafin (Adams Chair of Excellence/Center for Health and Human Services) has received the Eloise Q. Hatmaker Distinguished Service Award from the Rural Health Association of Tennessee for her work with the program "A-B-C-1-2-3 Healthy Kids in Tennessee" and with the Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, which serves all counties in the state, including 38 rural middle Tennessee counties with which Chafin is directly involved.

Jason Nabors (foreign languages and literatures) received the 2009 Distinguished Latin Teaching Award from the Tennessee Classical Association at the organization's meeting Nov. 14 during the annual

Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Conference in Franklin, Tenn.

Miscellaneous

Drs. Nate Phillips and Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agriscience) and three plant and soil science majors worked with Habitat for Humanity associates and community leaders to fill the raised bed constructed in October. The 24-by-4-by-1.5-foot high bed was layered with cardboard, leaves, newspaper and stall bedding from the Horse Science Center.

Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters (biology and Center for Environmental Education) worked with Mt. Juliet's West Elementary School science class to help the National Science Teachers Association review children's science books for pros, cons, kid-friendliness, age-appropriateness and science content.

Passages

Dr. Clay Morris Chandler (biology), 82, passed away Nov. 17. Dr. Chandler was employed by MTSU as a biology professor from September 1970 until his retirement in December 1992. Dr. Chandler, who was married to the late Mimmie Cary Chandler of

Milan, Tenn., was the son of the late H. Clay and Annie Lou Morris Chandler and the brother of the late Carol Chandler, all of Milan. He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Morris Lee Chandler and Cyndy Green Chandler of Milan and David Wesley Chandler and Carri Bostian Chandler of Park Hills, Ky. He also is survived by his brother, Charles R. Chandler of Memphis. Dr. Chandler was the grandfather of Jennifer Leigh Chandler and Nicole Marie Chandler of Milan and Darah Rae Chandler and Darren Clay Chandler of Park Hills and the uncle of Leigh Anne Chandler, Camilla Spadifino, Sally Chandler Wright and Thomas Elbern Carry III. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Milan (Tenn.) First Methodist Church General Fund, the Milan Mustard Seed or the American Cancer Society.

James B. Jones (Facilities Services), 78, passed away Nov. 25. Mr. Jones was employed by MTSU as a custodian in Facilities Services from January 1979 until his retirement in April 1993. He was a native and lifelong resident of Rutherford County and a member of the Compton Road Church of Christ. Mr. Jones was preceded in death by his parents, Vester Jewell Jones and Veronia Flippens

See 'Faculty' page 7