



**Positive change**  
**PBSI teams make difference**  
**in Midstate classrooms**  
 see page 3

**Inside this edition:**

Former TBR counsel joins staff, page 2  
 Gore Center seeking veterans, page 6  
 More study-abroad students, page 8



**A little more Help, page 6**

a biweekly publication for the Middle Tennessee State University community

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*the* **RECORD**

**Getting warmed up for '10**

by Randy Weiler  
 jweiler@mtsu.edu

Following an awesome autumn, a new semester, spring 2010, dawns at MTSU.

On the heels of 1,633 degree candidates graduating Dec. 19, the MT Blue Raiders capping off a 10-win season by capturing the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Dec. 20 and countless classroom successes, the returning, transfer and online students and faculty will be back on campus Thursday, Jan. 14, in anticipation of academic achievement this spring.

"Although we will be faced with many of the same budgetary challenges that we encountered in 2009, exciting things are on the horizon for MTSU in 2010," said President Sidney A. McPhee. "We are making significant progress in the implementation of the recommendations associated with our 'Positioning the University for the Future Initiative'; our campus construction projects are progressing nicely; and we are making significant strides in our preparations for our

See 'Spring' page 7



**Welcome back!**

MTSU Photographic Services photo by J. Intintoli

**New student union is next big step in master plan**

by Tom Tozer  
 ttozer@mtsu.edu

It might save paper to note what amenities *won't* be housed in MTSU's new \$77 million, 197,000-square-foot, one-stop, full-service Student Union.

Brandon McNary, MTSU's Student Government Association president, noted during the Nov. 6 student-union groundbreaking ceremony that the good things we do often succeed us—that legacy is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

"I am reminded of the fee increase that the student body voted in favor of in 2006 to fund the Student Union," he noted. "This building is a testament to your willingness to continue to make MTSU the best university in the state. ... Without [that] support, we would clearly not be where we are today."

The first floor of the building will house a 640-seat dining facility and another casual dining area that will accommodate 102 people, all supported by a fully equipped kitchen. There will be a game room, bookstore, ATM area and retail

See 'Union' page 5

**TeachersNow funding secured**

Two members of Tennessee's congressional delegation have secured federal funding for MTSU to strengthen its teacher-training program and support an after-school program for at-risk youth.

MTSU's TeachersNow program received \$750,000 to establish a new baccalaureate degree in education. The degree will require middle-school teachers to develop an in-depth understanding of the

science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The program also will provide continuing education for existing middle school teachers in the STEM disciplines. Congressman Bart Gordon worked with U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander to secure funds for the program.

"In order to keep good-paying jobs in the United States, our country must compete at a higher level with better skills and higher

See 'Funding' page 5

**ASCE making a difference for staff**

by Gina K. Logue  
 gklogue@mtsu.edu

They're up front helping students wend their way through the university bureaucracy to add and drop classes and try to stay on track toward degree goals.

They're behind the scenes inserting all manner of data into the veins and arteries of MTSU's computer network.

They make it possible for administrators who couldn't operate the

fax machine or the photocopier without a diagram look as though they know what they're doing.

They are the secretaries and clerks who toil in academic and nonacademic units to keep MTSU's day-to-day essential functions functioning. In 1976, they banded together to represent their collective interests under the name Clerical Caucus. Today, as the Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees, or ASCE, these professionals strive

See 'ASCE' page 3

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**IN BRIEF**

**HOME (PAGE) MAKEOVER**

The redesign for MTSU's home page on the Web is tentatively set to be unveiled Monday, Feb. 1. An improved search mech-

anism will be one of the many redesign features. Campus community input is still needed before the final decision is made, however, so view the redesign plans at [www.mtsu.edu/newdesignblog](http://www.mtsu.edu/newdesignblog) and send comments and suggestions to [newdesign@mtsu.edu](mailto:newdesign@mtsu.edu).



[www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com)



# Former Regents counsel is new MTSU legal eagle

by Tom Tozer  
ttozer@mtsu.edu

Heidi M. Zimmerman, who has served as interim university counsel and assistant to the president at MTSU for the past two months, will become permanent legal counsel for the university beginning Monday, Jan. 18, said Dr. Sidney A. McPhee.

Zimmerman, who has worked in the Tennessee Board of Regents' central office since 1989, replaces James Floyd, who recently left MTSU after working here for six years.

"MTSU is fortunate to have someone of Heidi Zimmerman's experience, especially with the TBR, to serve as its chief legal counsel," McPhee said. "She has done an excellent job in serving the university on a part-time basis, and we are delighted to officially welcome her as a new member of the President's Cabinet and as part of the MTSU family."

Zimmerman said she is excited about bringing her 20 years of experience at the TBR to a campus setting.

"During my brief time as interim counsel at MTSU, I have been able to interact with some great people," she said. "I appreciate the confidence that Dr. McPhee and the search committee have placed in my ability."

**'I am looking forward to becoming part of this dynamic ... community.'**

*Heidi Zimmerman, newly appointed university counsel for MTSU*



Zimmerman served as TBR's associate general counsel since 2004 and as assistant general counsel for 15 years before that. In that capacity, she provided legal advice and support to TBR officials and administrators and helped shape board guidelines and policies.

She dealt with higher-education issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and

Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Her experience at the federal level included representing client institutions before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Civil Rights and the Department of Labor. In addition, she assisted the Office of the Attorney General with gathering information and preparing witnesses for testimony.

"Heidi Zimmerman has done stellar work as an integral part of the TBR's legal team for over 20 years," noted Christine Modisher, general counsel for the TBR. "She will be sorely missed, but I know she will be a great asset at MTSU."

"There is great energy here at MTSU," Zimmerman added. "I am looking forward to becoming part of this dynamic university community."

Zimmerman graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Kentucky University, majoring in government and English. She received her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Get weather-related delays, cancellations and closings first!

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Go to [www.mtsu.edu/alert4u](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u)

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Rave

## HUD awards \$300K to help MTSU fight kids' lead poisoning

by Randy Weiler  
jweiler@mtsu.edu

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and MTSU announced the Tennessee Alliance for Lead-safe Kids, or TALK, last fall to increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning hazards, effects and prevention in nearly every Tennessee county.

On Dec. 4, William Dirl, the Nashville HUD field office director, presented MTSU officials with a check for \$300,000 for grant funds during a reception held in the university's James Union Building Dining Room C.

Those attending the presentation included Faye Johnson, assistant to the executive vice president and provost for special initiatives; Wasimuddin Qureshi, assistant director for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; Dr. Saeed Foroudastan, associate dean for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; Dr. Kathy Mathis, TALK principal investigator and professor of engineering technology; and Lena Sprowl, a Murfreesboro resident who recounted the challenges faced by her family as a result of her daughter's lead poisoning.

TALK will work with Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee and Tennessee Voices for Children to educate families and professionals about childhood lead poisoning, said Leah Woodcock, Tennessee Lead Elimination Action Program coordinator for East Tennessee.

Lead poisoning can come from lead-based paint found in homes built before 1978 as well as in soil, older plumbing, toys and some hobby materials, Woodcock said. The effects of lead poisoning can include developmental delays, decreased IQ points, behavioral problems and coma or death at high levels. Children under the age of 6 are especially vulnerable because their bodies still are developing.

"The only way to know if a child is lead-poisoned is a simple blood test,"



**FUNDING OUTREACH**—William "Bill" Dirl, second from right, Nashville field office director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, presents MTSU with a check for \$300,000 for lead-outreach activities. MTSU officials include, from left, Dr. Kathy Mathis, Wasimuddin Qureshi, Dr. Saeed Foroudastan and Faye Johnson.

Photo submitted

Woodcock said.

TALK's main office will be in Knoxville, where Woodcock can be reached at 865-244-4350.

"The effects of childhood lead poisoning are permanent, but it is completely preventable," said Faye Ralston, manager of MTSU's HUD-funded Tennessee Lead Elimination Action Program, or TN LEAP.

TN LEAP covers 94 of Tennessee's 95 counties. Shelby County has its own lead-elimination program.

To learn more about MTSU's TN LEAP program, call Ralston at 615-494-8795 or e-mail [fralston@mtsu.edu](mailto:fralston@mtsu.edu).



for career enhancement to better their work environment and themselves.

ASCE President Kym Stricklin, an executive aide in the Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience, says she joined because she wanted to reach out to establish real human contact beyond the digital communication that has revolutionized the workplace.

"It was an opportunity for me to network, meet other secretaries at the university and put faces with names," Stricklin says. "I still think there's a tremendous value in networking and knowing who to call in another department, establishing a professional relationship beyond e-mails."

With 16 years as an ASCE member under her belt, Kathy Kano, the group's



**KEEPING TRACK**—Kym Stricklin, center, president of MTSU's Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees and an executive aide in the Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience, looks over historical papers of the ASCE being donated to the Albert Gore Research Center with ASCE Vice President Shirley Lusinski (secretary, Student-Athlete Enhancement Center) and Gore Center archivist Matthew Brown. The ASCE is gearing up for a new membership drive.

photo submitted

treasurer and a past president, agrees.

"I have benefited from it by the ability to know people on campus," says Kano, an information research technician for the Division of Student Affairs. "That helps in learning what to do."

It also helps in learning how to improve one's income and resume. Employees can earn Certified Professional Secretary status by passing an exam that assesses the full range of their skills. They are then eligible for a nine percent pay raise.

"With state pay grades, there are not merit-based raises, and we're not receiving cost-of-living raises," Stricklin notes.

"Today, most of the secretarial job announcements say 'degree preferred' or 'CPS preferred,'" Kano adds. "What's going to happen to all the women who don't have that?"

However, it costs \$300 to take the test, which is offered only twice a year. Furthermore, there are three books of study materials for each of three different exams, and those books cost nearly \$100 each. Many secretaries can't shell out that kind of money.

Enter ASCE with a CPS scholarship funded by annual pecan sales and a set of CPS books available for checkout by members. The group also has sets of study books at the James E. Walker Library and June Anderson Women's Center.

In addition, ASCE's pecan sales help fund the Bonnie McHenry Scholarship, for which all MTSU clerical employees and their dependents are welcome to apply. Stricklin says sales for 2009 totaled more than \$1,000.

The annual dues are an inflation-busting bargain. In 1976, the dues were \$2 per member. Today, they're only \$5 per member.

To learn more about ASCE, contact Stricklin at 615-898-2523 or [kstrick@mtsu.edu](mailto:kstrick@mtsu.edu), or visit the organization's Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/asce](http://www.mtsu.edu/asce).

### Apply for ASCE scholarships by Feb. 1 deadline

ASCE is offering two scholarships per year, based on funding, to help members with the cost of taking the Certified Professional Secretary exam. The amount funded during the spring and fall semesters will be the cost of the exam, and the processing fee will be the responsibility of the member. A scholarship applicant must be an ASCE member for at least one year.

Those interested in applying for this scholarship may submit an application (available at [www.mtsu.edu/asce](http://www.mtsu.edu/asce)) by Monday, Feb. 1, to Annette Merriman, CPS, ASCE Scholarship Chair, MTSU, ITD - CAB 002, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132. Please enclose a copy of the confirmation letter from IAAP for registration for the CPS exam with the application.

## PBSI: Making a positive change in Midstate classrooms

by Megan McSwain  
[news@mtsu.edu](mailto:news@mtsu.edu)

Dr. Zaf Khan's Positive Behavior Support Initiative grant project is providing Middle Tennessee teachers and administrators with strategies for students' behavioral challenges and educational needs by creating a positive environment.

Khan, project director for MTSU's PBSI, said his team consists of graduate students and MTSU elementary and special education professors Jim Calder, Craig Rice and Karee Orellana and MTSU psychology professor Monica Wallace. The team, supported by Dr. Connie Jones, chair of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, provides free in-service training and consultation to teachers in Midstate county schools.

Khan said the grant, which is in its fourth year, consists of research-based positive behavioral strategies for students. He said it is a preventive measure to help decrease behavioral problems and increase academic achievement.

"Why wait for students to fail?" Khan said. "Why don't we do something on the front end and prevent failure, instead of react when they fail?"

James Hoggard, a graduate-student coach who has been working with the grant project since February 2009, said positive behavior support, or PBS, has three levels: primary, sec-

ondary and tertiary preventions. Each level addresses variations in behavior issues and educational needs.

Hoggard said PBS encourages students to make self-improvements by implementing a uniform, schoolwide set of rules in a positive way.

Jonna Watson is a graduate student who has been working with the grant for three years. She said the preventive strategies reduce the amount of time teachers spend disciplining students and gives more time for teaching.

Khan said teachers need to tailor their strategies to address a child's learning needs, instead of applying what he calls a "one-size-fits-all approach."

He said it is also important to separate the behavior from the child in order to better treat the behavior without making generalizations about the child being "bad." In addition to addressing the negative aspects of a child's behavior, Khan said it is imperative to address the positives.

"We need to recognize our children more," Khan said. "We just get so focused on curriculum. We forget to recognize and praise our students for their efforts and outstanding work."

There will be a free Positive Behavior Support Initiative and Inclusion conference on Thursday,



**STAYING POSITIVE**—Members of MTSU's Positive Behavior and Support Initiative team pose with students and staff members at Elzie D. Patton Elementary School in Mt. Juliet, where the team aided students and teachers in fall 2009. From left are teachers Wendy Hardin and Megan Hamilton, school counselor Katie Hendricks, Principal Lori Hassell, PBSI project director Dr. Zaf Khan, teachers Erin Killebrew and Kathy Hill and Assistant Principal Brian Hutto.

photo submitted

April 29, in MTSU's James Union Building. Dr. Harry K. Wong, former classroom teacher and now an author and speaker on classroom management, will be the featured speaker. Registration for the conference begins Saturday, Jan. 16.

For more information about the Positive Behavior Support Initiative grant project and its work, visit the

Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/pbsi](http://www.mtsu.edu/pbsi).

Megan McSwain received her bachelor's degree in journalism from MTSU in December. She was a practicum student in the Office of News and Public Affairs during fall 2009 and is now a graduate student at MTSU.



# Campus Calendar

## Jan. 11-24, 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](http://www.mtsunews.com)  
for other cable-outlet airtimes  
or [www.youtube.com/mtsunews](http://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](http://www.mtsunews.com).



### Jan. 13

**Wednesday, Jan. 13**  
**Tornado Siren Test Date**  
(no action needed)  
11:15 a.m., campuswide  
For information, contact:  
615-898-2424.

**MT Women's Basketball**  
**vs. Florida International**  
7 p.m., Murphy Center  
For information, visit  
[www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

### Jan. 14

**Thursday, Jan. 14**  
**Spring 2010 classes begin.**

**MT Men's Basketball**  
**vs. Florida International**  
7 p.m., Murphy Center  
For information, visit  
[www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

### Jan. 15

**Friday, Jan. 15**  
**Deadline to submit Voluntary**  
**Buyout Program applications**  
For information, visit  
<http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/index.html>  
or contact:  
615-898-2929.

### Jan. 16

**Saturday, Jan. 16**  
**MT Women's Basketball**  
**vs. Florida Atlantic**  
2 p.m., Murphy Center  
**MT Men's Basketball**  
**vs. Florida Atlantic**  
7 p.m., Murphy Center  
For information, visit  
[www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

**RMAX Arena Cross Tour**  
Tennessee Miller Coliseum  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/~tmc](http://www.mtsu.edu/~tmc).

### Jan. 17

**Sunday, Jan. 17**  
**Guest Vocal Recital:**  
**Joanna Wulfsberg**

3 p.m., Hinton Music Hall  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com)  
or contact: 615-898-2469.

### Jan. 18

**Jan. 18-21**  
**4-H State Hog Show**  
Tennessee Livestock Center  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/~tlc](http://www.mtsu.edu/~tlc).

**Monday, Jan. 18**  
**Martin Luther King Holiday**  
No classes; university closed.

**MT Men's Basketball**  
**vs. Western Kentucky**  
7 p.m., Murphy Center  
For information, visit  
[www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

### Jan. 20

**Jan. 20-21**  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Blitz Build Information**  
**Sessions**  
4-5 p.m., Keathley University  
Center Theater  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/service/habitat.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader/service/habitat.htm) or contact:  
615-898-5812.

### Jan. 22

**Jan. 22-24**  
**Eastern Barrel Futurity**  
**Association Barrel Racing**  
Tennessee Miller Coliseum  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/~tmc](http://www.mtsu.edu/~tmc).

## GLOBAL TENSIONS: A Focus on the Middle East

SPRING 2010  
HONORS LECTURE SERIES  
LH 3000 CRN# 10195

**JANUARY 25**  
First class meeting—no lecture

**FEBRUARY 1**  
Problem Solved? The Political Implications of Palestinian Statehood  
Karen Petersen, Political Science

**FEBRUARY 8**  
Calamitous Clusters:  
The Conflict Implications of a Democratic Iraq  
Steve Saunders, interim director, McNair Program

**FEBRUARY 15**  
An American Abroad: My Years in Cairo and Damascus  
Allen Hibbard, English, director, Middle East Studies

**FEBRUARY 22**  
Main Themes in American Foreign Relations  
Toward the Middle East Since World War II  
Amy Sayward, History chair

**MARCH 1**  
Chechnya: Statehood, Religion, and Nationalism  
Andrei Korobkov, Political Science

**MARCH 15**  
It Is Easier to Torture the "Others"  
Clyde Willis, Political Science

**MARCH 22**  
Jihad and Holy War: Are They the Same?  
Ron Messler, former director, Honors Program

**MARCH 29**  
They Were Young Once: An Examination of America's Gen Y War Veterans  
Leon Allgood, Journalism

**APRIL 5**  
Words into Swords: Frightening Attempts to Misuse the Holocaust Today  
Sonja Hedgepeth, Foreign Languages and Literatures

**APRIL 12**  
When Only Women Will Work:  
Gender and Social Change in the Gulf  
Sean Foley, History

**APRIL 19/ APRIL 26**  
Student Thesis Presentations

**Mondays, 3:00-3:55 p.m.**  
**Amphitheater, Room 106**  
**Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building**  
All lectures are free and open to the public.  
Lecture topics are subject to change.

Cosponsored by the MTSU Middle East Center

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outlets as well as a copy center, lounges and e-mail check stations.

The second floor will serve as a conference and meeting hub for large and small groups and will feature two large, two medium and three small meeting rooms. There also will be seminar rooms, a 95-seat video theater and an 84-seat parliamentary room with a built-in voting system. A formal dining area with kitchen support will support an 840-seat ballroom with a green room and two dressing rooms. Lounges, an e-mail check station and a collaborative computer center will enhance both in-person and e-communication.

Student activities and governance will comprise much of the third-floor space with offices and meeting spaces planned to support Student Involvement and Leadership, Student Programming, SGA and other student-oriented organizations. Lounge areas will offer collaborative technology.

Patti Miller, assistant vice president for campus planning at MTSU, said that both the exterior and interior of the building have been designed to create a seamless food and fellowship area for students. For example, an outside courtyard in the new union spills into an interior food court.

"The building is oriented on the east-west pedestrian access, and the food court will be there right on the pedestrian corridor," Miller noted. "It's what I call 'single-loaded,' with all the functions—the circulation and gathering and meeting areas—focused on the west side of the building. The site of the union was selected as part of our master planning process, which calls for a parking garage directly east of the union with a bridge connecting the two buildings."

Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services, credited her predecessor, Dr. Bob Glenn, for having the vision to create a new student union on campus, referring to it as "a new family room" for MTSU.

Sells also acknowledged SGA Senator Spencer Wood for presenting the formal resolution for a student union in the fall of 2006 and Jay Cash, then president of the SGA, for providing the leadership that passed the resolution.

"Let's remember that we are also thanking countless other unnamed students who campaigned, who debated and who ultimately made the tough decision to invest in something bigger than themselves," Sells reminded her listeners at the groundbreaking.

McNary saluted the administration—President Sidney A. McPhee and Dr. Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and SGA adviser, as well as Glenn and Sells—for their hard work and support. And he challenged everyone to "leave MTSU better than what it was when you got here."

Miller pointed out another aspect of the Student Union project: the lighting analysis that officials are conducting to determine how to achieve the most effective exterior illumination while using the least energy. In addition,



**MAKING CHANGES**—The building pad for the new Student Union at MTSU is shown above in a late-November aerial photo looking northeast with Scarlett Commons and the roundabout in the upper portion of the view and the University Honors College at lower right. At left, an exterior perspective of the building from a northeast ground-level view shows the three-story design.

Photo courtesy of Aerial Innovations of Tennessee; exterior perspective courtesy of Street Dixon Rick Architecture and Thomas Miller and Partners

designers have developed ways to use landscaping to make the loading-dock side of the building aesthetically pleasing and still utilitarian.

"The space between the Education Building and the Student Union has been designed as a student gathering space with lots of grass, raised sitting walls and berms—ideal for movie-watching, Frisbee and other activities," Miller said.

Street Dixon Rick Architecture and Thomas Miller and Partners designed the new Student Union. Contractors are Messer Construction and Pinnacle Construction as joint-venture partners.

The Student Union should reach substantial construction completion in summer 2012, and the final move-in and occupancy will take place by the end of that year if all goes as planned, Miller said.

Funding

from page 1

productivity. That means ensuring that workers in Tennessee and across the country have the skills they need for the jobs of the future," Gordon said. "It starts with the students who will become the future workforce of our country. With these funds, MTSU's TeachersNow program will be able to further help teachers provide students with strong grounding in math and science, ensuring they are prepared for technical jobs of the future."

Added Alexander, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee: "Training new teachers in science and math education will help America set the pace in science and technology for the next generation, and I'm glad to see this funding coming to MTSU to do just that."

Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations at MTSU, said the university

is "extremely grateful to Congressman Gordon and Senator Alexander for their continued support of our teaching, research and service efforts. These funds will enable us to strengthen our education programs and ensure that children throughout Middle Tennessee are receiving the education they need to succeed in the future."

Gordon, an MTSU alumnus who has announced his planned retirement this fall after almost 25 years in Congress, also helped secure \$150,000 for the Rutherford County Boys and Girls Club's Project Learn, a program that partners with MTSU. Project Learn is an after-school program that serves at-risk youth between ages 5 and 18 during the school year by assisting with homework, tutoring, high-yield learning and parental involvement.

# More money en route for FIRE, aerospace, activity center

**F**unding also has been secured for MTSU to improve law enforcement and aviation safety training as well as help the university complete a Physical Activity Center that will help fight obesity among children and teens.

MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education will receive \$625,000 to enhance its training program for Tennessee law enforcement and forensic specialists. The institute brings together faculty and students in several scientific specialties to provide educational and training opportunities for law-enforcement officers and personnel.

"At a time when many of our sheriff and police departments can't afford to offer specialized training to officers, this funding will help MTSU continue to provide quality training to Tennessee law enforcement and educate more students to become forensic scientists and technicians," said Congressman Bart Gordon.

The MTSU Department of Aerospace also will receive \$700,000 for MTSU to continue its training of air traffic controllers and pilots. MTSU is one of only 14 univer-

sities in the country that participates in the Federal Aviation Administration's AT-CTI program, which is designed to prepare young men and women to attend the FAA Training Academy in Oklahoma City.

Gordon also secured \$400,000 for MTSU's Physical Activity Center, which will organize media and advocacy campaigns to emphasize the importance of physical activity for children and adolescents.

"These funds will enable us to expand our existing programs in forensics and aerospace and allow us to further develop our innovative efforts at addressing childhood obesity, one of our state and nation's leading health concerns," said Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations at MTSU.

Gordon secured the funding for each project in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2010, which was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives Dec. 10. The Senate passed the bill Dec. 13, and it was signed into law on Dec. 16.



## Gore Center seeks veterans' history participants for new interviews

by Lisa L. Rollins  
lrollins@mtsu.edu

The Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU, as an official partner in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, has an ongoing need of referrals for possible interview participation.

The focus of the Veterans History Project ([www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)) is to gather firsthand accounts of U.S. veterans and civilians who supported them—such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors and medical volunteers—in World War I (1914-20), World War II (1939-46), the Korean War (1950-55), Vietnam War (1961-75), Persian Gulf War (1990-95) and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present).

"To date, we have interviewed more than 400 veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam," said Dr. Jim Williams, center director. "We also interview civilians who supported the wars in defense-related jobs and other activities."

Williams said it is important to note that the project's participating veterans "need not have been in combat to be considered for an interview, nor must they have been stationed in Korea or Vietnam, for instance, or any particular theater of operations." Instead, "they need only to have served in the Armed Forces during the conflicts listed."

Those who know of potential interview subjects are asked to submit the individual's name, phone number and mailing address to Betty Rowland at [browland@mtsu.edu](mailto:browland@mtsu.edu). Rowland will follow up with any leads she receives.

Those with general questions about the project may direct them to the Gore Center's staff by calling 615-898-2633 or by e-mailing Williams at [jhwillia@mtsu.edu](mailto:jhwillia@mtsu.edu).

## Latest 'Collage' is available on stands now

by Randy Weiler  
jweiler@mtsu.edu

The fall 2009 edition of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, published by the MTSU Honors College, was made available to the campus in December.

Volume 10 of the publication includes art, poetry, photography and prose.

"The *Collage* publication reflects the hope our students and alumni have that their creativity and hard work will, at least, make others question preconceived ideas and, at most, change mindsets and behaviors in some positive way," Jasmine "Jaz" Gray wrote in her "Letter from the Editor."

"This semester's magazine also reflects changes in how *Collage* is created," she said. "A revamped Web site and a new online submission system have made it much easier for students and alumni to submit their

edition have been realized, and these technological changes have allowed *Collage* to reach more students than ever."

*Collage* accepts submissions year-round, and a completed submission form must accompany each submission. Submission guidelines may be found on the Web site.

Submissions may be turned in at the *Collage* office, Room 224 in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday or by mail. Submissions also will be accepted via e-mail. You must be an MTSU student or alumni to submit items to *Collage*.

For more information, call 615-898-5789.



work. Those interested no longer have to rearrange their schedules in order to submit; they can simply go to [www.mtsu.edu/~collage](http://www.mtsu.edu/~collage).

"With over 300 submissions this semester, hopes for this year's fall

### A little more Help



**REASON TO CELEBRATE**—Graduate student/peer mentor Caty Chapman, left, joins graduate writing assistant Matt Rush and Writing Center Assistant Coordinators Stacia Watkins and Rachel Strickland to look over one of the books donated by the University Writing Center to the Dede Rucker Memorial Library as part of the "Books for Babies" program during the Project HELP Open House festivities on Dec. 17. The event welcomed parents, guests, community members and university staff, faculty and students to celebrate another year of work with Project Help, the early-intervention program and preschool that offers free services to very young children with developmental delays or disabilities.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt



## 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.)

[www.mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado\\_shelter.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado_shelter.shtml)



upcoming Centennial Celebration in 2011.

"Additionally, we are looking forward to the grand opening of the Confucius Institute at MTSU later in the spring as well as the implementation of three new doctoral programs in math and science in the fall. Needless to say, this should be yet another busy but productive year for all of us here at MTSU, and I am looking forward to working with the entire university community as we propel our institution to even greater heights of achievement."

MTSU again may have one of its largest graduating classes during the Saturday, May 9, commencement services scheduled for 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Murphy Center.

This spring's enrollment could be near or slightly ahead of spring 2009 totals, when 22,511 students took regular and online classes, said Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services.

"We were 5.34 percent above the total (20,648) for the same date (Jan. 5)," she said, adding that 22,511 students were submitted in enrollment data sent to the Tennessee Board of Regents by the census date, when MTSU's numbers are frozen. This spring's census date is Jan. 28.

A full slate is on tap for students this semester.

"It will be a busy semester, as spring always is," said Dr. Deb Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

Along with classes and lectures (led by the Feb. 1-April 12 Honors Lecture Series, "Global Tensions: A Focus on the Middle East"), the semester will feature many campus activities.

- Black History Month events are planned throughout February, including the Unity Luncheon, which starts at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

For a full schedule, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~aahm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~aahm) or call the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs at 615-898-5812;

- The 37th annual Groundhog Day Luncheon for the MT baseball program will begin at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, in the Murphy Center Monte Hall Arena. Tickets are \$20 each. For reservations, call the MT Ticket Office at 615-898-2103;

- For the Jazz Artist Series, trombonist Steve Davis will appear Thursday, Feb. 11. This will headline a busy February for the School of Music, which also will have auditions for new students on Friday, Jan. 29, Friday, Feb. 19, and Saturday, Feb. 27. Call 615-898-2493 or visit the School of Music Web site ([www.mtsu.edu/~music](http://www.mtsu.edu/~music)) for more details and events;

- MTSU's Office of Financial Aid will participate again in College Goal Sunday, which will be held from 2 until 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, in the Business and Aerospace Building's State Farm Lecture Hall. MTSU personnel will assist prospective students and their parents or guardians and answer questions. For more information, call 615-904-8414 or visit [www.mtsu.edu/scholarships](http://www.mtsu.edu/scholarships) (click on "Incoming Freshmen" and "College Goal Sunday" under "Other Opportunities");

- Feminist, journalist and activist Gloria Steinem's keynote address at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, leads MTSU's National Women's History Month activities. Call the June Anderson Women's Center at 615-898-2193 for more information;

- Graduate, undergraduate and faculty research endeavors will be recognized during March 22-26 Scholars Week activities. For more information, visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~research/scholarsweek.html> or call 615-898-2071;

- Admissions' Spring Preview Days will be March 27 and April 24. Online registration began Jan. 1. To register, visit [www.mtsu.edu/admissn](http://www.mtsu.edu/admissn) and

click on "Special Events" and then "Preview Days," or call 615-898-5670.

- Some of the region's brightest young minds will visit campus and participate in the 18th annual Invention Convention on Thursday, Feb. 25, which is expanding to Murphy Center, and the Saturday, Feb. 27, Science Olympiad, which begins in the McWherter Learning Resources Center and moves to various campus buildings;

- In addition to MT basketball, baseball, golf, softball and track and field action in the next five months (see [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com)), many of the state's top girls' and boys' basketball teams head for Murphy Center for the TSSAA state tournaments, set for March 11-14 and March 18-21, respectively. The TSSAA Spring Fling will be May 24-29 at various MTSU and Murfreesboro sites. Visit [www.tssaa.org](http://www.tssaa.org) or call 615-889-6740 for information;

- First Friday Star Parties will return at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5, March 5, April 2 and May 7 in Wiser-Patten Science Hall Room 102. For information, call 615-898-2130;

- The Office of Student Programming's movie lineup for the Keathley University Center Theater can be found online at [www.mtsu.edu/events/mma.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/events/mma.shtml). Two other key events will be the Saturday, Feb. 6, Tennessee Ultimate Fighter in Murphy Center (contact Anthony Gomez at 615-796-3919 for more information) and Last Band Standing (MTSU Battle of the Bands) starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in the JUB Tennessee Room (call 615-898-2551 for more information);

- The Jennings A. Jones College of Business's Executives in Residence will be held the first week in April;

- For theatre and dance events, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~theatre](http://www.mtsu.edu/~theatre).

## Submit info for '2010-11 Blue Raider Planner and Handbook' by Jan. 25

It's time again to plan for the next academic year's events on campus! Gina Poff, director of new student and family programs, is collecting events to be included in the 2010-11 *Blue Raider Planner and Handbook*.

"Our turnaround time will be very quick when we return in January, because we will have to send the events schedule to the publisher in order to get the *Blue Raider Planner and Handbook* in time for CUSTOMS," Poff said. "I would like all ... information sent to our office by Monday, Jan. 25.

"Remember, this is a great way to advertise your events to the campus

community! All freshmen get the *Blue Raider Planner and Handbook* at CUSTOMS, and the bookstore also sells them."

To submit an event for the *Handbook*, please provide the name, date, time and location of the event and a contact person.

Poff said information may be e-mailed to her at [ghpoff@mtsu.edu](mailto:ghpoff@mtsu.edu) or to Ilene Hale at [ihale@mtsu.edu](mailto:ihale@mtsu.edu). Questions may be directed to either Poff or Hale at 615-898-2454.

## Faculty

## from page 8

of the Obama administration's Afghanistan policy on "Inside Politics" on NewsChannel5+ Dec. 11.

Robert Aaron Williams; her son Eric (Karen) Moser, and her grandchildren, Benjamin and Lauren Moser.

Nurse Delegation Decision-Making" in *Nursing Clinics of North America*, 44 (4) [December, 2009].

as chair of the Tennessee Academy of Science for 2009. **Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters** (biology and Center for Environmental Education) is past president and chair of the TAS Long Range Planning Committee, **Dr. Kim Sadler** (biology and CEE) is chair of the group's Education Committee, **Dr. Charles McGhee** (biology) is chair of the Fellows Committee and **Dr. George Murphy** (biology) is chair of the TAS Necrology Committee. At the annual TAS meeting held Oct. 30 in Knoxville, 11 College of Basic and Applied Sciences faculty and 20 students made 15 different presentations, and MTSU faculty chaired divisions and various sessions.

### Miscellaneous

The Department of Engineering Technology and its commercial construction management program have received a \$2,000 donation from Brentwood-based Turner Universal. Keith Merritt, project manager for Turner Universal and a 1998 graduate of MTSU, made the check presentation to **Dr. Walter Boles**, department chair, who said the donation will join others to fund a newly developed professorship in the CCM program.

### Personnel Changes

**Mitzi Dunkley** (Center for Organizational and Human Resources Effectiveness) has joined the staff of the Forensic Institute for Research and Education with the retirement of FIRE Executive Aide **Becky Snow**.

**Ben Jones** (Accounting Services) is the new assistant director of Accounting Services after serving as grants manager for the last five years. **Tammy Wiseman** (Tennessee Center for Child Welfare) is taking over the grants manager post.

**Kym Stricklin** (Center for Popular Music) is the new executive aide in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience. She also serves as president of the MTSU Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees.

### Publications

**Drs. Leigh Ann McInnis** and **Lynn Parsons** published "Thoughtful Nursing Practice: Reflections on

**Drs. Terry Quinn** and **Zachariah Sinkala** (mathematical sciences), **Drs. Anthony Farone** and **Mary Farone** (biology) and **Dr. Paul Kline** (chemistry) co-authored "A Practical Approach for Computing the Active Site of the Ribonucleoside Hydrolase of E.coli Encoded by ribC" in *Advances in Computational Biology*, part of the Springer Series *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, which will appear in 2010.

**Dr. Jeff Walck** (biology) and an Australian colleague have published an opinion paper in the journal *Nature*.

**Vincent Windrow** (Intercultural and Diversity Affairs) has published a book, *The Fox Traps for Teachers: Tips for Everyday Life in the Classroom*, with a Vanderbilt professor of education, a fifth-grade teacher and an industrial psychologist.

### Service

**Dr. Gore Ervin** (biology) served

### Passages

**Mrs. Marion Marie Williams** (Facilities Services), 75, passed away Dec. 15, 2009. Mrs. Williams was employed at MTSU from February 1970 until her retirement in May 1996. She was an Account Clerk 1 in Facilities Services. A member of the Baptist Church, Mrs. Williams was preceded in death by her parents, Marion and Dorothy Shacklett Jones, and son Edgar V. Moser III. She is survived by her husband of 38 years,

### Get noticed in *The Record!*

Submit your Faculty/Staff Update items, Campus Calendar contributions and other news tips to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu) by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, for the Jan. 25, 2010, edition of *The Record* or 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, for the Feb. 8 *Record*. Don't forget to include the specifics—who, what, where, when and why!

# Students' efforts lead to Gilman study-abroad stipends

**Prestigious scholarship means work in Japan for broadcast major, Mexico for concrete-industry major**

by Gina K. Logue  
gklogue@mtsu.edu

Two MTSU students are recipients of the 2010 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, one of the most prestigious study-abroad stipends in the nation.

Murfreesboro's Brock Downing, a junior concrete industry management major, and Whitney Rhodes, a junior radio/television major from Whiteville, will use their opportunities in very different ways.

Rhodes, whose minors are art and Japanese, will attend Saitama University in Japan for the spring 2010 semester. She says she has always been interested in the nation's fashion, culture and history, but she did not want to learn about them from a distance.



Rhodes

"I don't want to be a tourist and marvel, taking pictures of everything and asking questions IN ENGLISH," Rhodes writes in an e-mail interview. "In order to be a less bothersome visitor in another country, I would like to know the language first."

Rhodes' major and her other minor also lend themselves to the study-abroad experience. She says she hopes to use the popularity of American film in Japan to expand her vision as a documentarian.

"Being able to convey your ideas to other people will greatly influence how well your production goes if you are a producer," Rhodes writes.

"I'm sure it would be wise to have skills in writing and art to get your ideas across. So the art minor will really be of great benefit to me when I need to translate ideas into something tangible."

Downing's interests, on the other hand, are all about "something tangible"—or, to put it another way, "concrete." A 27-year-old nontraditional student, Downing's major is also nontraditional for a study-abroad scholarship winner. His scholarship resulted from a special pilot award cycle for majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, field disciplines.

"These trips have always been geared toward people who were in the foreign languages department or international affairs or something like that," Downing says. "But there's definitely a need. We have to deal with foreign companies a lot, and there are a lot of opportunities out there."

With a mandatory business minor and a second minor in Spanish,

Downing will study during summer 2010 at the Centro KIIS in Morelia, located in central Mexico.

This new classroom serves as the instructional facility and administrative center for all programs in Mexico offered through the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to promoting international education.



Downing

Downing points out that the number of Hispanics in the construction business and the United States' efforts at becoming less dependent on foreign concrete create a demand for personnel who can bridge cultural divides.

"The way to achieve that is with new ideas and the ability to communicate with a variety of people, from the people laying the concrete to the guy who owns the company," Downing says.

"The Gilman Scholarship Program seeks to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go," says Rhonda Waller Education Abroad director at MTSU. "Specifically, the Gilman Program offers scholarships for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad."

Funded by Congress and sponsored by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Gilman Scholarship program provides "grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad," according to the program's Web site.

Recipients are selected competitively for these grants, which are used for such expenses as "program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare."

"Gilman also requires that students complete their service projects upon their return home," Waller adds. "Those service projects help to get the word out about the value of study abroad. So this program keeps paying dividends to our campus even after students receive their awards."

To find out more about MTSU's study-abroad opportunities, contact the MTSU Office of Education Abroad and Student Exchange at 615-898-5179 or [mtabroad@mtsu.edu](mailto:mtabroad@mtsu.edu). To learn more about the Gilman Scholarships, go to [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman).

## the RECORD

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UR054-0110

## Faculty/Staff Update

### Activities

Drs. Nate Phillips and Warren Anderson (agribusiness and agriscience) and ABAS students have partnered with the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity in establishing a community garden. The project was initiated several months ago with Habitat for Humanity Director Beth Smith, Drs. Gloria Bonner and Rosemary Owens (Office of Community Engagement and Support), ABAS and UT Extension personnel to help community members associated with Habitat for Humanity learn gardening skills they can use to grow their own produce.

### Awards

Dr. Walter Boles (engineering technology) is the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Aerospace Division of the American Society of Civil Engineering, one of the highest awards given to an individual who has contributed substantially to the advancement of aerospace science and technology through engineering. The award will be presented March 16 at "Earth & Space 2010," the ASCE Aerospace Division International Conference in Honolulu.

Dr. Lynn Parsons (nursing) has been named 2009 Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning by the MTSU College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

Deb Sullivan (nursing) was selected from a national pool of applicants to be a Health Informatics Technology Scholar through the National League for Nursing.

### Certifications

The following MTSU staffers recently earned Certified Professional Secretary designations: Cindy Dinwiddie (Tennessee Center for Child Welfare), Elizabeth Lamb (engineering technology), Melissa Lowrance (College of Graduate Studies), Melinda Messick (athletics), Sally Rivera (Instructional Technology Support Center) and Lori Yoders (Facilities Services).

### Exhibitions

One of Professor Marc J. Barr's (electronic media communication) computer-designed ceramic tea sets has been accepted into the collection of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Art Museum in China.

### Events

Dr. Jessica Carter (agribusiness

and agriscience) served as the associate judge for the national Red Angus show held during the North American International Livestock Exposition Nov. 16 in Louisville, Ky.

### Honors

MTSU faculty and staff members recently reviewed applications and interviewed students for The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship educational and cultural exchange program. The Undergraduate Fellowships Office in the University Honors College oversees the student competition at MTSU. Those serving were Michelle Blackwell (Transfer Services), Laura Clippard (honors), Drs. Scott Carnicom (psychology and honors), Allen Hibbard (English), Andrei Korobkov (political science), Preston MacDougall (chemistry), Richard Pace (sociology and anthropology), Karen Petersen (political science), Mary Phillips (accounting), Michael Rice (foreign languages), Jan Quarles (electronic media communication) and John R. Vile (honors) and MT Abroad's Rhonda Waller.

### Media

Dr. Sean Foley (history) discussed the international ramifications

See 'Faculty' page 7