



**Don't miss it!**  
**Make reservations now**  
**for Sept. 9 'Blue Tie Gala'!**  
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**McNair Scholars go to India, page 3**  
**Taking top Quiz Bowl honors, page 7**  
**Grad student helps fight obesity, page 8**



# the RECORD

## Byrnes is new dean of College of Liberal Arts

**M**TSU has chosen longtime professor and community leader Dr. Mark Byrnes as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts after a national search.

Byrnes, a Murfreesboro native who also is a product of the Murfreesboro and Rutherford County school systems, has served as acting and interim dean follow-



Byrnes

ing the illness and May 2010 death of Dr. John N. McDaniel. McDaniel was MTSU's dean of liberal arts for 26 years.

"Dr. Byrnes has served with distinction at MTSU as a faculty member, associate dean and interim dean," said University Provost Dr. Brad Bartel. "The entire University community respects him and looks forward to his upcoming leadership of the College of Liberal Arts."

Byrnes, a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and Tennessee politics, has taught political science at MTSU since 1991 and was associate dean of liberal arts from 2006 to 2009.

He is a graduate of MTSU who earned his master's and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt University and also was the recipient of one of the MTSU Foundation's 2010 Public Service Awards, which were presented at the Fall Faculty Meeting last August.

Byrnes has coordinated MTSU's Legislative Internship Program since 1993, selecting and supervising 12 to 16 students to work with the Tennessee General Assembly each spring.

"Liberal Arts is a large and

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COMMENCEMENT '11

## Senior 'just never looked back'

**Graduation marks another life goal attained by Liu**

by Laura Beth Jackson  
[news@mtsu.edu](mailto:news@mtsu.edu)

**C**ollege graduation represents the end of a long journey for every student, but for Mimi Liu, it is the finish line of a marathon.

"I am a woman with a goal," Liu says. "I wrote down what I wanted to do. By the age of 40, I wanted to run a marathon or graduate college, whichever came first."

This spring, she will accomplish both. She plans to run the Country Music Marathon on April 30 and then, on May 7, receive her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from MTSU.

Liu also will be the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. Her mother, Pong, never learned to read or write but made it possible for her daughter to get an education.

When Liu was 11, Pong escaped Laos with her daughter and two older children. They had discovered that Liu's father, who had been missing for three years, had been killed in a Communist prison camp.

"That was when my mother had had enough," Liu



**ON THE JOB**—MTSU alumna-to-be Mimi Liu, center, stands with two of her colleagues at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. At left is Kelli Beam, director of membership, and at right is Nicole Samples, membership account executive.

photo submitted

recalls. "She said, 'Okay, we're going.' She wanted to make a better life for us."

With other refugees, Liu and her family crossed the Mekong River on a rowboat in the middle of the night. Upon arriving in Thailand, they surrendered to police, who took them to refugee camps.

After living in refugee camps for three years, the

See 'Senior' page 5

## MTSU started as a 'normal school'

by Sydney Warneke  
[news@mtsu.edu](mailto:news@mtsu.edu)



**W**hat is a "normal school"?

As we move further into 2011, the entire University community will be celebrating MTSU's 100th birthday.

Despite the current "university"

status of the school, however, MTSU was not always a four-year institution. It actually began as something known as a "normal school," more commonly known as a teaching school.

The idea of the normal school is believed to be derived from the French, who had the first school used to educate and train teachers in Paris. Most of those would go on to teach in the elementary or primary grades.

The late Dr. Homer Pittard, longtime education professor and Rutherford County historian, documented how Middle Tennessee Normal School was conceived and inaugurated in his book *The First Fifty Years: Middle Tennessee State College 1911-1961*.

"Strong men in the past, usually in solo roles, had made vigorous

See 'Normal' page 2

### IN BRIEF

#### ROCK FOR WRITING CENTER

Join MTSU's University Writing Center on Wednesday, April 27, for the 2011 UWC Benefit Rock Show! The event is sched-

uled for 6 to 11 p.m. at Good Time Charlie's at 450 Butler Drive in Murfreesboro. A \$5-per-person donation will benefit the Writing Center's outreach program. For more information, contact Emily James at [ehj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:ehj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu) or call 615-904-8237.



# It's the don't-miss event of the century!

It's an event 100 years in the making, a can't-miss, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—the MTSU Blue Tie Centennial Gala! The 100-year “Traditions of Excellence” event will be held Friday, Sept. 9. A 6 p.m. reception will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. dinner and dancing at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center.

“The Blue Tie Gala will be an exquisite event worthy of honoring such a monumental occasion as 100 years of excellence in education,” said Michelle Stepp, associate director of alumni relations. “MTSU family and friends will come together in celebration while commemorating their place in MTSU’s history and seeing the University into the next 100 years.”

“We have been planning, sorting, listing, pulling people together,” added Hanna Witherspoon, a fellow gala-committee member and an alumna of the MTSU Class of 1964.

“We are anticipating this will be a once-in-a-lifetime event that you can’t afford to miss. It will be a really exciting time, an event to commemorate the contributions of alumni to this state, the nation and the world.”

The celebration of “refined elegance with blue-and-white grandeur” will feature a dinner with “dual entrées, an extra-special dessert and other desserts, too,” Stepp noted.

The MTSU School of Music will provide entertainment for the reception

and dinner. Super T and the Tyler Smith Revue will provide dance music and surprises, and a wine reception and cash bar will be part of the festivities. Bob Lamb (B.S. ’69, M.S. ’77), who serves as chair of the all-inclusive Centennial Committee, said organizers have been “working diligently” for the last 21 months to prepare for the historic occasion.



“An event of this magnitude and importance requires careful and thoughtful coordination to ensure that it will be a memorable occasion for our University family,” Lamb said. “I deeply appreciate the commitment and efforts of all the committee members who give freely of their time to help ensure that this celebration will be worthy of ‘Tennessee’s Best’ University.”

The cost to attend is \$125 per person, and 10 people will be seated per table. MTSU employees may reserve their spots through payroll deduction, and table sponsorships are available.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-533-6878, going online to [www.mtalumni.com](http://www.mtalumni.com) or by mailing

a check payable to MTSU with a Blue Tie Gala form to MTSU Alumni Relations, Box 104, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 37132.

For more information, email Stepp at [mbstepp@mtsu.edu](mailto:mbstepp@mtsu.edu).

## Normal

from page 1

attempts to provide systematic training programs at state expense, but these generally were cries in the wilderness as consecutive legislatures turned deaf ears and calmly tightened the rawhide purse strings,” Pittard wrote of pre-20th-century efforts to educate teachers.

MTSU’s history goes back to the Congressional Land Grant of 1806, which set aside portions of the revenue from sales of uninhabited land to finance two universities in Tennessee. Unfortunately, due to the large number of people “squatting” on the land and refusing to leave, the legislature was eventually forced to abandon this plan.

In 1855, Robert Hatton, a legislator from Wilson County, introduced a bill in the Tennessee House of Representatives that called for the creation of a normal school in Lebanon.

“The provisions of the act were so revolutionary for the times that the representatives sat in shocked silence as Hatton presented his petition,” Pittard noted. The reason: Hatton’s bill not only allotted \$50,000 for grounds and plants, it called for free tuition and textbooks for all students as well.

The efforts would be delayed again and again until 1909, when prospective locations finally were examined for three normal-school locations, one in each of Tennessee’s three grand divisions. On Nov. 30, 1909, it was decided that Middle Tennessee Normal School would be located in Murfreesboro.

A number of architects bid for the contracts, and C. K. Colley and George W. Moore and Son of Nashville won out. Construction at the site began almost immediately, and Middle Tennessee Normal was the first of the three institutions to be completed.

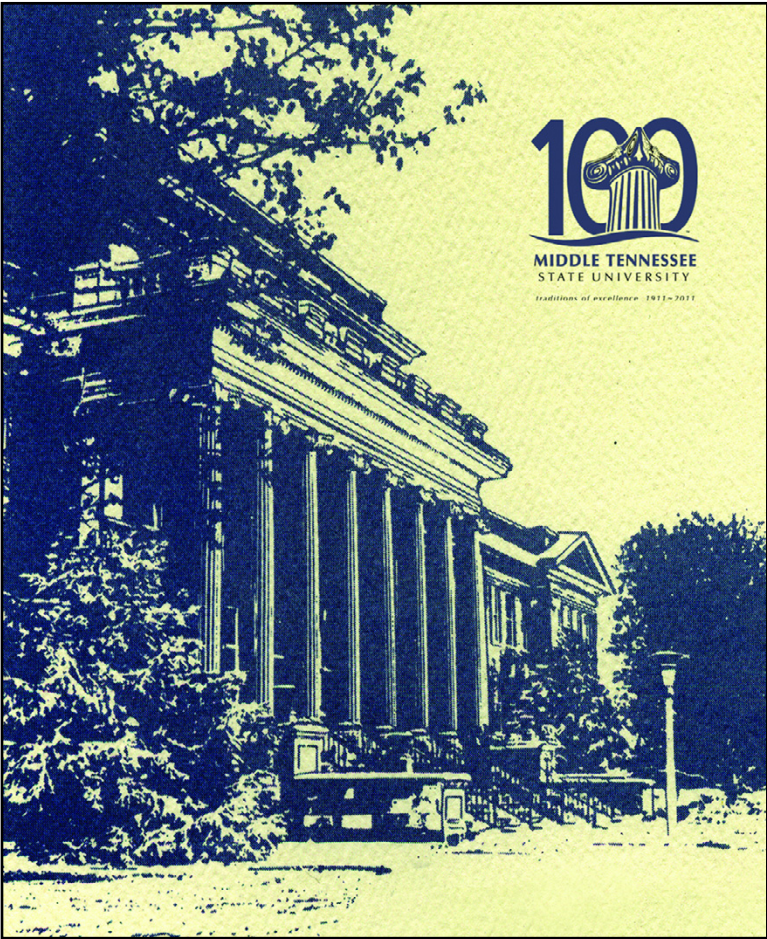
On Nov. 10, 1910, Robert Lee Jones was chosen as the first president of Middle Tennessee State Normal School. The first faculty members were chosen, and the school opened on Sept. 11, 1911, as a two-year program with an enrollment of 125 students in four buildings on 100 acres.

“The impact of this first faculty on the minds of the students of those early years was indeed remarkable,” Pittard wrote. “After 50 years, many of those who sat at the feet of these early teachers recall with a minimum of difficulty vivid personal descriptions, illustrative stories and the little eccentricities that humanize but seldom diminish the

stature of an instructional staff.”

Pittard’s words are echoed in the statements of early students, archived in the Albert Gore Research Center’s Middle Tennessee Oral History Project.

“I had a special regard for Middle Tennessee Normal; I loved it as my school, my alma mater. I thought it was a good place for young people to learn how to become teachers,” said Lowell Bogle,



a student from 1916 to 1918.

Katherine Holden (1935-1940) said, “We were the Demonstration School, so the student teachers could demonstrate on us. We learned French songs. We had a garden. It made an impression on me.”

Mildred Dark, a student from 1928 to 1929, recalled her experience at the Normal School in the Murfree Society:

“[The Murfree Society] was a girls’ sorority. They did not call it a sorority, but there was no one but girls in it. We had programs and reports on different subjects. We promoted our interests. I do not

remember that we were politically minded, but we were conscious of women’s position in society.”

The Normal School became a four-year teachers’ college in 1925, offering a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1935, it added the Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1943, the Tennessee General Assembly designated it as Middle Tennessee State Teachers College.

While in certain aspects Middle Tennessee Normal School was similar to MTSU today, some aspects of student life were quite different. Today’s common complaint is parking, but it never affected Normal School students.

“When we were in school, they only had a few faculty automobiles,” said Madison Dill, a student from 1936 to 1940. “We never had any trouble with parking, because mostly we had bicycles, or people walked. The first automobile the students had that we can remember was the one that Coach (Charles M. “Bubber”) Murphy got when he was in school.”

“I had to drive a horse hitched to a buggy because we didn’t have cars then,” added Cornelia Davidson, a student from 1917 to 1920.

Almost every college student can relate to antics in the dormitories on campus, regardless of the century. Anne Lokey (1936-40) shared a story of just that nature:

“I was celebrating one of my birthdays. We had planned to cook sausage at midnight when the house mother would be asleep. We had cold drinks, and just as we were having a good time warming the sausages on a hot plate, a girl on the second floor had a severe pain. They had to call a doctor. She had appendicitis ... (and) we got caught.”

MTSU began as Middle Tennessee Normal School, a place to raise new crops of teachers. From one of three small state schools with 125 students on 100 acres to Tennessee’s largest undergraduate institution with more than 26,400 students on 500-plus acres, MTSU still has the same goal 100 years later: to raise new crops of educated citizens.

*Thanks to the Albert Gore Research Center for access to its Middle Tennessee Oral History Project, located in the Todd Building on campus and online at <http://janus.mtsu.edu>. Thanks also to Dr. Pittard’s book, published in 1961 by Courier Printing.*



# 10 McNair Scholars make presentations on international trip

by Randy Weiler  
jweiler@mtsu.edu

Ten McNair Scholars experienced a rare and special opportunity during their recent spring break, when they visited three cities in India.

While being tourists and exploring archaeological and historical sites such as the Taj Mahal, the McNair students also “continued our Ambassador Program in presenting research internationally” at SRM University in Chennai, said Monique Richard, a McNair staff member.

The students—sociology major Felicia Brown, history major Lindsay Gates, history major Jonathan Gilliam, aerospace major Amber Gray, economics major Matt Hampton, biochemistry major Michael Harris, history major Petra Morkel, mathematics major Paige Stubbs, social-work major Laurence Tumpag and sociology major Kamryn Warren—presented their 2010 summer research to students in an SRMU aerospace class.

Richard said the research presentations included aerospace, Hispanic health, economics, social sciences, history and dance.

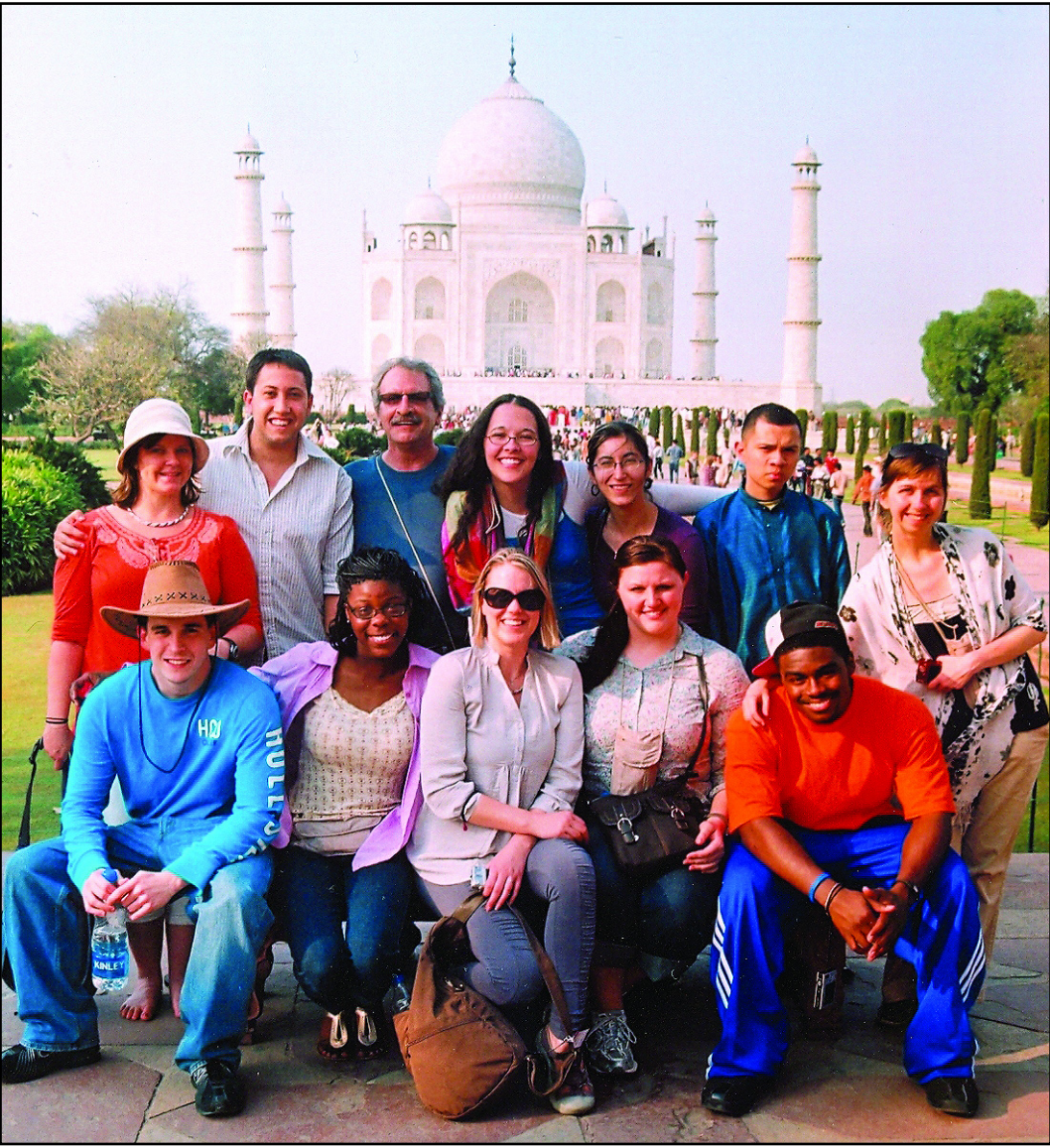
“We were building a rapport for continuing a relationship between MTSU and SRM,” she added. “We have one student, Lindsay Gates, who is considering continuing her education at SRM and living in India as well.”

Richard said the students found the trip “eye-opening in regard to culture, living conditions and population,” adding that more than 8 million people live in metropolitan Chennai, the capital of the Tamil Nadu state on India’s southeast coast. “It was a good overall experience. The Indians are very endearing, accommodating and friendly.”

McNair Program Assistant Director Steve Saunders led the trip. “We couldn’t have done all this without significant support from the MTSU community,” Saunders said. “I especially would like to thank the Division of Academic Affairs, the Office of International Education, Study Abroad, the Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Initiative and the Student Government Association for their financial help. Our director, Dr. Diane Miller, was instrumental in enlisting them as partners.”

Miller guides the McNair program, which focuses on undergraduate research to encourage college students to earn doctoral degrees.

Saunders added that he wanted to thank Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate



**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**—MTSU McNair Scholars stop for a group photo during a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. Seated on the front row are, from left, Matt Hampton, Paige Stubbs, McNair staffer Monique Richard, Amber Gray and Michael Harris; standing are, from left, Petra Markel, Jonathan Gilliam, McNair Assistant Director Steve Saunders, Kamryn Warren, Felicia Brown, Laurence Tumpag and Lindsay Gates.

photo submitted

professor of foreign languages and literatures, who “helped make the connection to SRM University in the first place.”

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, named in honor of the late Challenger space-shuttle astronaut, assists first-generation and racially underrepresented undergraduate students to prepare for and succeed in graduate school. For more information about the McNair program, visit the office in Room 103 of the Midgett Building, email Richard at [mcnairpr@mtsu.edu](mailto:mcnairpr@mtsu.edu) or contact Saunders at 615-904-8462 or [saunders@mtsu.edu](mailto:saunders@mtsu.edu).

# Alumnus, now at CNN, says internships are jobs key

by Sydney Warneke  
news@mtsu.edu

Jeffery Reid, executive producer for CNN’s documentary unit and an MTSU alumnus, planned to be on campus Friday, April 22, for the College of Mass Communication’s annual awards ceremony.

Added to the college’s Wall of Fame in 2010, Reid says he was both honored and humbled by the recognition.

“To be recognized by my alma mater is just very rewarding for me,” he says. “I don’t consider myself to have been one of the best students while I was there, but I managed to learn on the job and was able to get to the position I’m in now.

“I really do owe it all to MTSU, and I am so honored that they have recognized my achievements.”

Beginning as a criminal-justice major when he first arrived from Whitwell, Tenn., Reid eventually found his place in the field of broadcast journalism.

He always had an interest in radio, he says, and as he began to take classes in that field, he became more involved in the campus public-radio station, WMOT-89.5 FM. Though his major would finally focus on television, Reid says he knew immediately that he was hooked and wanted to pursue the world of broadcast.

While he says he’s unable to point out the most

influential aspect of his MTSU career, Reid has nothing but praise for the institution and its program.

“I can’t say any one person influenced me, but I was very impressed with the equipment, as well as the professionalism of the professors. They seemed to be very knowledgeable,” he says.

In fact, compared to a local TV station in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he worked for his first internship, Reid says, MTSU had better equipment.



Reid



“I was very impressed with the overall journalism program and still am,” he says of his alma mater. “It’s only gotten better since I was there.”

Thirty years after he studied and worked on campus, Reid now is behind many successful projects featured on CNN, including “Black in America,” a two-part series that documents African-American progress since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

He’s also been connected with other respected projects, such as the network’s 2004 presidential-campaign coverage and a recent documentary on the 20 years after the Rodney King beating during the Los Angeles riots of 1992.

While Reid did not do an internship during his study at MTSU, he says it’s definitely an advantage for students to get more practical, on-the-job experience.

“Getting the diploma is very important and is the pay-off, of course. But the internship is really invaluable,” he says. “When I came out of school, there weren’t a lot of internships, but today you really need them. Do two if you can.”

Though he is now a successful alumnus, he says his initial lack of experience made it difficult to find work. Applying to more than 100 different places, Reid says he received just one response: a paid intern position in Chattanooga.

If he’d done an internship in college, Reid says, he believes he wouldn’t have had to do one as his first job. Luckily, it was a paid, 40 hours-per-week position that eventually led to a full-time job.

Reid regularly offers some advice to students looking to make a mark on the world.

“School isn’t all work and no play,” he advises, “but it should be a lot of work and making contacts in the field along the way.”



# Campus Calendar

April 25-May 8, 2011

## Please note:

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

## TV Schedule

### OUT OF THE BLUE

#### "MTSU Out of the Blue"

Cable Channel 9:  
Monday-Sunday, 7 a.m., 5 p.m.  
NewsChannel 5+ (Comcast 250):  
Sundays, 1:30 p.m.  
Visit [www.mtsunews.com](http://www.mtsunews.com)  
for other airtimes or  
[www.youtube.com/user/MTSUOutoftheBlue](http://www.youtube.com/user/MTSUOutoftheBlue)  
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).



## Sports @ Home

April 26: **MTSU Softball vs. Southeast Missouri**, 1 p.m.

April 27: **MTSU Baseball vs. Belmont**, 6 p.m.

May 6-8: **MTSU Baseball vs. Florida International**  
(6, 4 p.m. and noon)

For information, visit  
[www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com).

## April 25

Monday, April 25  
**MTSU Flute Choir**  
6 p.m., Hinton Music Hall

**Piano Studio Recital:**  
**Lynn Rice-See**  
8 p.m., Hinton Music Hall  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com)  
or contact: 615-898-2493.

## April 26

April 26-May 5  
**Bachelor of Fine Arts**  
**Candidates' Exhibition:**  
**Graphic Design 2**  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Todd Gallery  
(opening reception 6:30-8:30  
p.m. Monday, April 25)  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/art](http://www.mtsu.edu/art)  
or contact: 615-898-5653.

Tuesday, April 26  
**MTSU Symphonic Band/  
Brass Ensemble/  
Chamber Winds**  
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com).

## April 27

Wednesday, April 27  
**Last Day of Classes**

**Rutherford County Alumni  
Scholarship-Fundraiser Lunch**  
11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
Bonefish Grill, Murfreesboro  
Cost: \$12 per person  
For information, visit  
[www.mtalumni.com](http://www.mtalumni.com).

Wednesday, April 27  
**Department of Engineering  
Technology Open House**  
3-5 p.m., Cantrell Hall,  
Tom H. Jackson Building  
For information, email  
[sswoape@mtsu.edu](mailto:sswoape@mtsu.edu).

**MTSU Commercial Music  
Ensemble**  
7:30 p.m., Hinton Music Hall  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com).

## April 28

Thursday, April 28  
**Study Day**  
No classes; offices open.

**Accounting Alumni  
Appreciation Day**  
7:30 a.m.-4:50 p.m., State Farm  
Lecture Hall (Room BAS S102),  
Business and Aerospace Building  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/accounting](http://www.mtsu.edu/accounting)  
or contact: 615-898-5306.

**Employees of the Year  
Reception**  
9-10:30 a.m., Tennessee Room,  
James Union Building  
For information, contact:  
615-898-5344.

**Piano Studio Recital:**  
**Arun Nadgir**  
10:30 a.m., Hinton Music Hall

**String Studio Recital:**  
**Andrea Dawson**  
7 p.m., Hinton Music Hall  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com).

## April 29

April 29-May 5  
**Final Exams**

Friday, April 29  
**First Friday Star Party:**  
**Special Guest Charlie Warren,**  
**"Astronomy Down Under"**  
6:30 p.m., Room 102, Wiser-  
Patten Science Building  
(Please note earlier date.)  
For information, contact:  
615-898-5946 or 898-2483.

## April 30

Saturday, April 30  
**Spring Preview Day**  
9 a.m., campuswide  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/admissn](http://www.mtsu.edu/admissn)  
or contact: 615-898-2111.

## May 2

Monday, May 2  
**New Faculty Senators'  
Reception and Faculty Senate  
Meeting**  
3:45 and 4:30 p.m., JUB 100  
For information, visit  
[www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate](http://www.mtsu.edu/facultysenate)  
or contact: 615-898-2582.

## May 7

Saturday, May 7  
**Spring 2011 Commencement  
Ceremonies**  
9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy  
Center  
For information, visit  
<http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo>  
or contact: 615-898-2600.



SEPTEMBER 9:

# Centennial Blue Tie Gala

TABLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE ~ CONTACT MICHELLE STEPP AT [MBSTEPP@MTSU.EDU](mailto:MBSTEPP@MTSU.EDU)



MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

1911 ~ 2011



diverse college, serving 3,600 majors and, through the General Education program, virtually every MTSU student,” said Byrnes.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to lead the college and plan to continue its tradition of focusing on students and supporting our faculty and staff. I graduated from an MTSU liberal-arts department, Political Science, and have worked as a professor and administrator here for 20 years. I’m sure I’ll enjoy this role in the college as I have the others.”

As dean, Byrnes will direct 10 academic departments offering 20 bachelor’s degrees, five master’s degrees and two doctorates, as well as

nearly 20 interdisciplinary majors and minors, and 10 different centers and programs; a dean’s office staff of 10; and 315 full-time faculty members and 165 adjunct instructors. The College of Liberal Arts currently grants about 700 degrees annually.

The new dean also is chairman of the Rutherford County School Board, elected by his fellow school-board members and currently serving his second two-year term. He was first elected in 2004 to the school board, which oversees more than 38,000 county students in kindergarten through 12th grades.



COMMENCEMENT '11

Senior

from page 1

United Nations permitted Liu’s family to move to California, where she enrolled in Huntington Beach High School in Orange County. Despite knowing little English, Liu excelled and graduated in four years.

At age 20, Liu moved to Tennessee and began working for Nissan North America in 1998. She entered their employee-tuition program in 2001 and enrolled at MTSU. She married and had two daughters, and for nine years, she juggled third-shift work, school and family.

“Everyone said, ‘Mimi, I couldn’t do it like you,’” she says, “but I just never looked back. My mother said, ‘Always get your education.’ And I wanted to do it for her.”

In 2009, Liu left Nissan to complete her degree and pursue internship opportunities before graduation. This spring, she completed an internship with the Membership Department at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

“I want to thank my [MTSU] adviser, Dr. Robert Blair, my neighbor and teacher Ms. Jean Wilson and Mrs. Kelli Beam at the Chamber of Commerce,” Liu says. “I have grown up so much there.”

As she nears completion of two of her greatest

life goals, however, Liu thinks most of her mother, who passed away more than 10 years ago. On commencement day, Liu knows her No. 1 fan will be there.

“At my high-school graduation, my mom was screaming my name,” Liu says. “I know she’ll be there (on May 7) too.”

*Laura Beth Jackson, a 2005 alumna of MTSU, is the community-relations specialist for the Business Education Partnership Foundation at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts degree in English at MTSU.*

2,420+ grads ready for 100th spring commencement

from Staff Reports  
news@mtsu.edu

More than 2,420 degree candidates are expected to graduate during MTSU’s 100th spring commencement ceremonies, according to a report from Cathy Kirchner of the Registrar’s Office.

MTSU will again feature dual ceremonies and dual speakers beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7, in Murphy Center. Of the 2,420 set to graduate during the event, 1,974 are undergraduates and 446 are graduate students, including 365 master’s candidates, 70 education-specialist recipients and nine doctoral candidates. Two graduate students also will be receiving graduate certificates.

Candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education and the College of Mass Communication will receive their degrees in the morning ceremony. That afternoon, degrees will be conferred on candidates in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and the University College.

MTSU alumnus Mark Gwyn, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, will serve as the guest speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony.

Gwyn is serving his second term as director. He was appointed to his first six-year term in 2004 and is the first African-American to lead the state’s top law-enforcement agency.

A 1985 graduate of MTSU, he began as a patrolman with the McMinnville Police Department, then joined the TBI as a special agent in 1988. Since becoming director, Gwyn has expanded the TBI into a far-reaching law-enforcement agency overseeing the creation of the Technical Services Unit and Cyber Crimes Unit.

Under his watch, the state’s Fusion Center was constructed within TBI headquarters, housing liaisons from the state Department of Homeland Security along with programs such as the AMBER Alert and statewide Sex Offender Registry.

In 2006, MTSU recognized Gwyn as the Distinguished African-American Alumnus of the Year, and in 2010, he was the recipient of MTSU’s Distinguished Alumni Award for professional achievement.

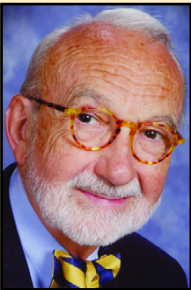
Dr. Hershel “Pat” Wall, special assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee since October 2009, will speak to the graduates at the 1 p.m. ceremony. While he was chancellor of the UT Health Science Center, Wall, also an MTSU alumnus (B.S. ‘57), was responsible for planning and executing the strategic direction of the statewide academic health care system with campuses in Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis. He now devotes his efforts to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Former associate dean for admissions and student affairs in the UT College of Medicine, Wall has also served as chancellor and vice president for health affairs, interim dean of the COM in Memphis and vice provost for students on the Health Science Center campus.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from MTSU, Wall graduated in 1960 from the College of Medicine, completing his residency in pedi-



Gwyn



Wall

**Who:** 2,420 graduates\* (2,000 undergraduates, 446 graduate students)

**What:** Spring Commencement ceremonies

**When:** 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, May 7

**Where:** Murphy Center, MTSU

**Speakers:**

- 9 a.m.: MTSU alumnus **Mark Gwyn**, director, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.
- 1 p.m.: MTSU alumnus **Dr. Hershel “Pat” Wall**, special assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee.

**For more info:** Go to <http://bit.ly/MTGradInfo>.

*\*Approximate number as of April 21, 2011.*

atrics at the Memphis campus and serving as chief resident. He returned to the UT College of Medicine as a faculty member in 1965 after military duty in France.

He was promoted to professor of pediatrics in 1979 and has served as division chief of general pediatrics. Wall is now in his 46th year as an active teacher in the Department of Pediatrics.

Wall retired from the military as a colonel in 1995 after 35 years of service, including the command of the 330th General Hospital, a 1,000-bed facility, and a stint in Germany as a member of the 300th MASH in the Tennessee National Guard for Desert Storm.

During his 51-plus-year career as a physician, Wall has been recognized for his contributions to medical education, clinical skills and many contributions to the community. In September 2008, UT President John D. Petersen led the inaugural dinner of the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society at UTHSC. The society was established to honor distinguished alumni and special friends who have made a commitment to the UT Health Science Center through planned gifting.

Graduation committee members emphasized that students who participate in the May 7 commencement events will be required to stay for their entire scheduled ceremony.

The ceremonies should last about two hours each, so graduation candidates planning celebration activities with families and friends should allow for the time commitment.

For more information about commencement, please visit the Records Office website at [www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/~records/grad.shtml). Questions about graduation may be directed to the Records Office at 615-898-2600.



# Dual program offers teaching licensure plus master's degree

by Tom Tozer  
ttozer@mtsu.edu

A new program in MTSU's College of Education is giving individuals with a bachelor's degree the opportunity to teach mathematics in fourth through eighth grades and earn a master's degree at the same time.

University officials are recruiting a cohort of 20 individuals who will move together through five semesters of study and earn a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. The program is slated to begin in fall 2011.

"This is ideal for anyone who wants to change career directions or who loves working with children and would like to become a licensed teacher," said Dr. Dovie Kimmins, a professor of mathematical sciences at MTSU. "What a fine opportunity for a housewife or youth counselor—someone who enjoys working with that age group but doesn't possess the credentials to be in the classroom. This is a path to gaining licensure and a graduate degree."

"Individuals who have a love for children and an inclination toward mathematics should consider this degree," added Dr. Jeremy Winters, an assistant professor in MTSU's Department of Elementary and Special Education.

"Several people in the current K-6 program have had previous experience working with children, such as coaching or working in after-school programs, and have decided that a teaching career is for them. I believe the new (grades) 4-8 program will interest individuals of a similar disposition."

Winters is referring to the current Initial Licensure Program Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in grades K-6, which is already successful.

"The mathematics courses have been designed with consideration of what someone needs to know and how they need to know it to effectively teach middle-school mathematics," Kimmins noted.

Classes will be offered in the evenings, on weekends and online to accommodate working adults. A candidate must have a bachelor's degree in any field and a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Some graduate assistantships may be available.

Partial financial support for the program is from a Teachers Now Phase II grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

Interested individuals need to apply for graduate school and should contact Winters at 615-494-7729.

# 2 more seniors intern at Southwest

by Randy Weiler  
jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU aerospace-maintenance management seniors Ryan Hall and Nick Weaver were almost as excited as their faculty mentor, Joe Hawkins, when they learned they'd be interns at Southwest Airlines this summer at Love Field in Dallas.

Hall, 23, who expects to graduate Saturday, May 7, hopes the internship will be a kick-start to his postgraduation days of employment in the industry.

For Weaver, 21, who hopes to graduate in December, this summer's work will be another way to show his grandfather, Gabe Weaver, a former airport employee, that switching his major from professional pilot to maintenance management was a good decision.

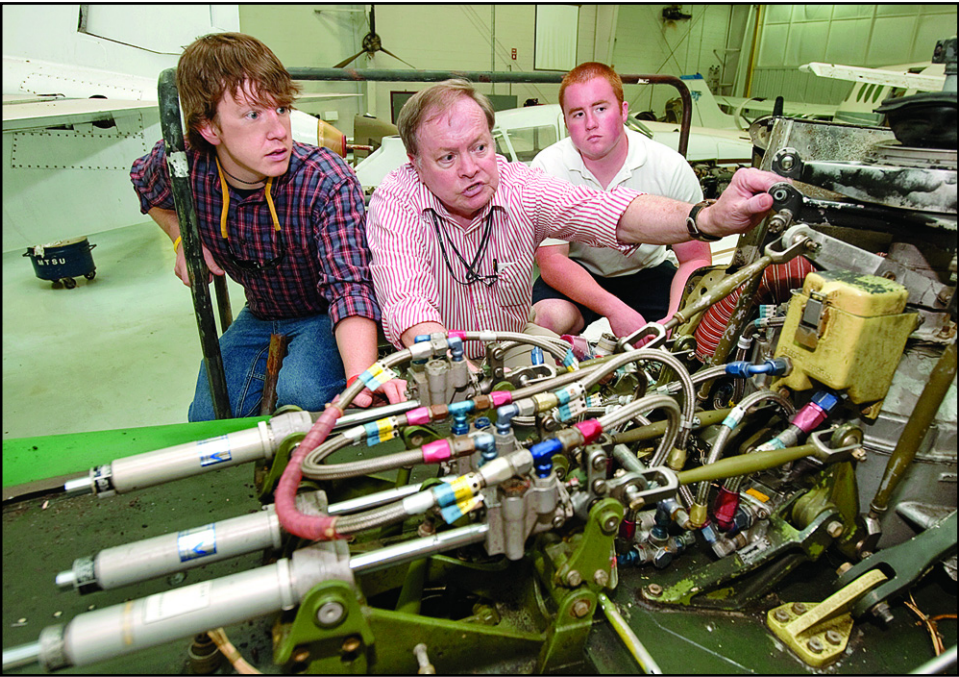
Hall and Weaver were two of more than 13,000 college and university students worldwide who applied for 72 Southwest internships this year.

They follow MTSU aerospace alumni Lauren Lipe, a professional pilot major, and Antonious "Tony" Basalyous, a flight-dispatch major, who received Southwest internships last summer.

"We're certainly excited for Ryan and Nick," said Hawkins, who also is an award-winning career aircraft-maintenance man and MTSU alumnus. "They were the first to be selected from our concentration, and they've certainly worked the long hours it takes to complete our program."

Both students also credit aerospace faculty members Bill Allen, Steve Gossett, Mark Blank and Jerry Hill with helping them prepare for their interviews.

Weaver, a Murfreesboro native, said he discovered during the interview process that Southwest "wanted



**PREPARING FOR INTERNSHIPS**—Ryan Hall, left, and Nick Weaver, right, learn more about the hydraulics in a helicopter from associate professor Joe Hawkins. The pair will be working as maintenance interns for Southwest Airlines this summer.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by J. Intintoli

you to be yourself." Weaver interviewed first, then offered interview pointers to Hall.

"Someone told me they don't hire individuals; they hire a 'family member,'" added Hall, who is from Chattanooga. "They have a fun-loving attitude, but they want you to be serious when you need to be."

Hawkins said most aerospace-maintenance classes are six hours long, twice the length of normal academic courses at MTSU. Students must complete a minimum of 1,890 hours of training to obtain the required Federal Aviation Administration Airframe and Powerplant Certificate.

"There's also an FAA 100-percent-attendance rule," Hawkins said. "Students can't miss a class for any reason, and we have to provide the FAA with documentation that our students earned all their hours."

Get noticed in MTSU's official publication!  
Check out (and bookmark!) *The Record's* 2011 deadline schedule at  
[www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml).

## MTSU Police add toll-free numbers for text messages

The MTSU Police Department has activated two new toll-free phone numbers that will accept text and picture messages: 855-898-2424 and 855-MTSU911 (855-687-8911).

In an emergency, a person may call 615-898-2424 or 911 from any campus phone. The new toll-free numbers add a text-messaging and multimedia component that expands the service and increases ways to call for help or report an incident, officials said.

"We encourage everyone to use the new numbers for text or picture messages," said Lt. Jim Fanguy.

"If you want to call MTSU police, use the standard 615-898-2424 number or call 911 from a campus landline phone. Remember, if you call 911 from your cell phone, you'll reach the (Murfreesboro) city police, not the MTSU police."

Fanguy said that with the increasing requirements of the Clery Act, federal mandates require university police departments to be more accessible and to make sure students know how to contact them. Adding the new text-message capability increases that accessibility, he said.

## Criminal Justice plans seminar for law enforcement

Professor Dennis Powell and the MTSU Department of Criminal Justice are preparing for the department's third Law Enforcement Training Seminar.

It will be held Monday through Thursday, May 23-26, at MTSU.

Open to law-enforcement members only, the seminar will feature a wide range of topics, including:

- "Campus Police Issues," "Dealing with the Mentally Ill," "Stress Management" and "Gangs of the 21st Century" on the first day;
- "Ethics of Gratuities," "Internet Crimes Against Children" and "Juvenile Law" on day two;
- "Media Relations," "Domestic Violence" and "Child Sex Abuse" on the third day of the event; and
- "Legal Updates," "Crime Scenes" and "Use of Force" on the final day.

Some of the area's leading law-enforcement and judicial officials will be leading the seminars.

For more information, contact Powell at 615-898-2630 or at [dpowell@mtsu.edu](mailto:dpowell@mtsu.edu).



# ‘Buchanan Fellows’ team takes top Quiz Bowl honors



**REWARDING CHALLENGE**—Members of the “Buchanan Fellows” 2011 Quiz Bowl team accept their winners’ checks from University Honors College adviser Laura Clippard, right. From left are team members Cody Malone, Troy Berry, Ashlin Harris and Adam Emerson.

photo submitted

The “Buchanan Fellows” won the 2011 Scotty Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl during an eight-team campus competition in the Learning Resources Center TV Studio on March 29.

The Quiz Bowl, now in its 22nd year, was co-sponsored by the Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma professional insurance fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Teams were asked trivia questions from almost every discipline on campus. The event was taped for later replay on MTTV (Channel 10).

The 2011 Quiz Bowl runner-up was the Society of International Affairs team, followed by the Omicron Delta Kappa team. The top

three teams won \$175, \$100 and \$50, respectively. Buchanan Fellows team members included Troy Berry, Adam Emerson, Ashlin Harris and Cody Malone. The SIA team, known as “Giant Squid,” included Michael Allen, David Hiller, Chris Kandt and Michael Pollard. ODK team members were Matthew Hidbon, Christen Vann and Lee Whitwell. Dr. Ken Hollman, holder of the Martin Chair of Insurance in the Jones College of Business, is adviser for Gamma Iota Sigma, and Rachel Casillas is the chapter president. Valerie Avent is president of Phi Kappa Phi. This year’s Quiz Bowl emcee was Glenda Pipkin, an alumna of Gamma Iota Sigma.

## Scholar will study at Penland School

from Staff Reports  
[news@mtsu.edu](mailto:news@mtsu.edu)

Kelsey Wells, one of 20 sophomore Buchanan Scholars at MTSU, has received a work-study scholarship for two weeks this summer at the Penland School of Crafts outside Asheville, N.C., University Honors College Dean John Vile said.

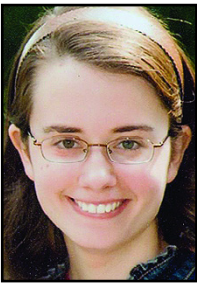
Wells’ class will introduce her to printmaking.

“Penland is a national center for craft education,” Vile said. “Kelsey will be taking a class called ‘Plate and Type Together.’ It will explore how to combine letterpress printing and

copper plate etching and will include work on prints, broadsides and books.”

The class will be taught by Bill Hall, a master printer at Pace Prints in New York City, and Amy Pirkle, an instructor at the University of Alabama and the proprietor of Perkolater Press, Vile added.

Wells was valedictorian of her class at Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. She attended the 2007 session of the Governor’s School for



Wells

the Arts, which is held each summer at MTSU.

Wells’ interests include storytelling, writing and speaking German, and she is an award-winning fiddle player. She has been serving as a work-study student at MTSU and is majoring in graphic design in the College of Mass Communication and has minors in German and mathematical sciences.

Wells is the daughter of Mike and Kory Wells of Murfreesboro.

The Buchanan Fellowship is the highest scholarship award given to entering MTSU freshmen. The program is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, MTSU’s Nobel Prize-winning alumnus.

### Get noticed in *The Record!*

Submit Campus Calendar items, Faculty/Staff Updates and other news to [gfann@mtsu.edu](mailto:gfann@mtsu.edu) by **3 p.m. Wednesday, April 27**, for the May 9 edition of *The Record*. Deadline to submit items for the May 23 edition of *The Record* is **3 p.m. Wednesday, May 11**. Check out (and bookmark!) *The Record's* 2011 deadline schedule at [www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/news/Record/deadlines.shtml).

## Goldwater Scholars



**FURTHERING THEIR EDUCATION**—Three MTSU students celebrate with University leaders after receiving recognition from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. From left are University Honors College Dean John Vile, Goldwater Scholarship recipient Chris Ehemann, Goldwater honorable-mention recipient Lauren Rigsby, Goldwater recipient Evan Craig, Honors Adviser Laura Clippard and College of Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Tom Cheatham. Ehemann, a senior from Tullahoma, Tenn., is majoring in physics and mathematics and received a one-year Goldwater Scholarship. He plans to earn a doctorate in theoretical astrophysics and research objects like new stars and black holes. Rigsby, a junior Honors College Buchanan Fellow from Rockvale, Tenn., received an honorable mention from the Hanover, N.H.-based Goldwater program. She plans to earn a degree in medical physics and perform research in radiation oncology. And Craig, a sophomore Buchanan Fellow from Arlington, Tenn., and biology major, received a two-year Goldwater Scholarship. He plans to use his award to continue his molecular-biology research and go to graduate school.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt





# Grad student's work helps kids fight obesity

by Randy Weiler  
jweiler@mtsu.edu

MTSU graduate student and grandparent Debbie Goddard wants to help others, especially children, with obesity. Her desire led her to create a 12-week pilot program for children in the Murfreesboro City Schools system last year. Her research from the program, contained in the 70-page thesis that passed review last month, is helping her to graduate on May 7 with a master's degree in human sciences with an emphasis in nutrition. Now, her program soon will be helping students in all 12 city schools.

The Tennessee Obesity Task Force recently announced that 50 percent of Tennessee's children and 69 percent of adults are overweight. That news supported Goddard's research, gained from working with 30 students from two city schools beginning in August 2010, with the help of seven MTSU exercise-science and nutrition and food-science majors.

"It was a timely, intervention-style program where the children could learn about good nutrition and choices," Goddard explained.

"What is so gratifying in all this is the kids bond with them (MTSU students. MTSU students were role models. They get fond of them in a short amount of time."

A \$10,000 grant from the General



**RIGHT FOUNDATION**—Graduate student Debbie Goddard displays some of the posters she used for the "Body and Mind" curriculum for her obesity-research project.

MTSU Photographic Services photo by Andy Heidt

Mills Foundation, guided by Andrea Cain of the Murfreesboro City Schools, led to Goddard's partnership with the Rutherford County Health Department's Meri-Leigh Smith.

The 12-week program was called "BAM! Body and Mind." It began with Week 1's "Get Fit Kids" and ended with Week 12's "Family Night," an awards ceremony at the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring.

In between were weeks where the children learned about the "MyPyramid" food guide, "Portion

Distortion," sugar content in food and drinks, healthy restaurant eating, exercise, how media influences food choices and how to relieve stress.

Goddard is familiar with those topics not just because of her research but because she also lives with Type 1 diabetes.

"Debbie was a big asset to the BAM program, and she's a member of the Tennessee Obesity Task Force," said Dr. Janet Colson, a MTSU human-sciences professor and Goddard's mentor. "People from the

state Department of Health have looked at the BAM program because it's a wonderful program. It has given dietitians a lot of work and a lot of opportunities."

"This was fabulous research that is of human interest," added Professor Deborah Belcher, interim Department of Human Sciences chair.

Much of the data indicated that when children eat more meals at home, they are less likely to be obese. Goddard said the data also revealed, however, that when Hispanic males eat meals at home, they are *more* prone to obesity.

Colson said a major accomplishment occurred when "two children went from being extremely obese to obese. That's a 20 percent weight loss at a time when kids are growing, so the program's working."

Goddard's summer and fall 2010 effort led to the MTSU/City Schools/county health collaboration receiving \$250,000 in grant funding to expand the program to all city schools this year. Dr. Don Morgan with the MTSU Center for Physical Activity in Health and Youth has helped obtain funding, Colson said.

This semester, Goddard has been a graduate assistant, grading assignments for the online Nutrition for the Young Child course, assisting Colson with two classes and teaching an online nutrition course for Nashville State Community College.

## the RECORD

**Tom Tozer**  
Director, News and Media Relations

Editor: Gina E. Fann, gfann@mtsu.edu

**Contributors:** Gina K. Logue, Paula Morton, Randy Weiler, Sydney Hester, Lindsey Austin, Sydney Warneke, Kelly Ford and Susan Nogues.

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**Office of News and Media Relations**  
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## Faculty/Staff Update

### Activities

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Liz McPhee; John Hood (Development and University Relations); Dr. Roy Moore (College of Mass Communication); Dale and Lucinda Cockrell (Center for Popular Music); Dr. Steve Shearon (music) and his wife, Debora; and Randy Weiler (News and Media Relations) and his wife, Patsy, attended the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards, hosted by Gov. Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam April 12 in Nashville at Conservation Hall. Eight honorees were recognized in the areas of folk-life heritage, arts leadership and distinguished artist awards.

### Awards

Doug Williams (marketing and communications) was honored April 13 as the 2011 Project SHARE Volunteer of the Year for his work as a mentor to a young man at Monroe Harding, a Nashville facility serving at-risk children and youth and their families. Project SHARE is a school-based mentoring program that works to prevent students from dropping out of high school.

### Media

A question-and-answer session with Dr. Gaylord Brewer (English) on his new book of poems, *Give Over, Graymalkin*, was the March 23 headline feature at [www.chapter16.org](http://www.chapter16.org), the daily online publication of Tennessee Humanities.

Dr. Lynn Parsons (nursing) was included in an article, "Salary Survey Shows Experienced Nurses Gaining Ground," published April 1 at *NurseZone.com*, an online community with professional- and personal-development information for nurses.

### Personnel Changes

Jeff Farrar (Office of University Counsel) has joined MTSU as assistant university counsel. He formerly worked for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County as a senior litigation attorney.

### Publications

An essay by Dr. Sanjay Asthana (journalism), "Tradition, Power, Dialogue: A Hermeneutic Exploration of Youth Media Imaginaries in Palestine/Israel," has been accepted for publication in the *European Journal of Child and Youth Research*.

Dr. Joon Soo Lim's (journalism) manuscript "Social Media Activism in Response to the Influence of Negative Political Parody Videos on YouTube" has been accepted for publication in *Communication Research*.

An article by Dr. Jane Marcellus (journalism), "Southern Myths and the Nineteenth Amendment: The Participation of Nashville Newspaper Publishers in the Final State's Ratification," received second place in the inaugural Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award contest.

Dr. Martha Norkunas (history and director, African-American Oral History Project) has published an article, "Teaching to Listen: Listening Exercises and Self-Reflexive Journals," in the upcoming winter/spring 2011 edition of *The Oral History Review*.

### Seminars

Dr. Yuan-ling Chao (history) will participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, "An Introduction to Daoist Literature and History," July 18-Aug. 5 at the University of Colorado-Boulder.