

THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

March 2008 Vol. 5 / No. 3

'Princeton Review' distinction

McPhee: Alumni can be 'proud' MTSU among 146 Best Southeastern Colleges

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

For MTSU's thousands of alumni, *The Princeton Review's* January designation of the university as one among 146 Best Southeastern Colleges is "something our alums should be proud of in terms of what's happening on this campus as it relates to academic quality," President Sidney A. McPhee said.



and make them proud of the institution and the quality that it represents," McPhee said.

He said the distinction is something that alumni "can hang their hats on and know that their institution, particularly by current students, has been recognized.

"It ought to be somewhat of a rallying cry for our alums to get more involved — if they haven't been back to campus, they ought to get excited about coming back to see the progress that the institution has made over the last several years. They ought to come back and get involved with our university.

"And they ought to use this as a conversation piece with their neighbors and friends, and parents of high-school seniors and upcoming graduates and say, 'Maybe you ought to take a look at MTSU.



McPhee

There's something special that's going on."

The Princeton Review designation came as the result of a survey of MTSU students by the publication, which conducts surveys with millions of college undergraduates in hopes of identifying the top schools in each region of the country.

Students said MTSU offers "the best bang for your buck in academia, sports and overall experience," according to survey findings.

"We include schools that we have a high opinion of their academics and overall college experience," said Jen Adams, *Princeton Review* student survey manager. "We survey many, many students and guidance counselors before we make our selections. MTSU should be pleased with being part of this group."

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Entrepreneurial effort by alumna

Wright's \$1.25M pledge endows new professorship

By Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

Scholarships serve individual students, while a professorship in a particular discipline can influence generations of students. That's one major reason MTSU alumna Pam Wright ('73) decided to establish an endowed professorship in entrepreneurship in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business at the university she loves and has served for many years.

"I felt it met what I wanted to achieve," explained Wright, founder of Wright Travel, "which was a broader concept of what will serve as an opportunity to promote growth with entrepreneurship in middle Tennessee and beyond. The middle Tennessee community has been extremely beneficial to me, and the spirit here has greatly contributed toward my company's success."

The \$1.25 million pledge, paid during a period of five years, will provide funding for the endowed chair and will allow university officials to launch a search for the position and begin chair activities. The first installment has been completed.

"An endowed chair typically represents the best in their field," said Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations. "Pam has helped us establish the first chair of this type, and we are eternally grateful to her."

Wright opened her doors for business in 1981. The



Wright

(See 'Wright,' Page 2)



MTSU News and Public Affairs photo

Workers lay bricks and perform other jobs at the new observatory next to Smith Hall.

CAMPUS EXPANSION

State Building Commission gets MTSU master plan

By Tom Tozer ttozer@mtsu.edu

Communities know that universities bring vitality and economic stability through employment, retail sales, commercial and residential uses and their support

of cultural and social events. College towns attract employers and a diverse workforce.

According to a study conducted by the Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU during fiscal year 2002-03, the universi-

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ALUMNA MAKING WAVES



Submitted photo

U.S. Army Capt. Bridgette Lee Williams ('89), who is deployed to Kuwait, is shown in her office area. An MTSU Raiders banner sent by Phillips Bookstore was hung at her work station. She received her commission from the ROTC and military science programs.

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Bob Noblitt ('59), left, Dwayne Duke, Gayle Duke ('65) and Nell Noblitt visit during the annual Signal Society and Heritage Society dinner at the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame in December. They are among a special group of alumni and friends who have supported MTSU 20 years or more.



Submitted photos



Jack and Mary Weatherford have been Signal Society members for more than 20 years. He is the namesake for the Jack O. Weatherford Chair of Finance.



Alumni and Drs. Pat ('65) and Delores ('66, '68) Doyle remain steadfast in their annual giving to the university. They are retired educators: He was an MTSU biology professor and she taught in the Murfreesboro City Schools system.

Alumni at heart of Signal Society

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Forty-year donors Lynn Greer Jr. ('63) of Nashville, Dr. Mary Tom Berry and Martha Turner of Murfreesboro and Paul ('63) and Anne Cantrell of Lascassas were the featured donors recognized during the annual Signal Society and Heritage Society dinner, which was held in December at Kennon Sports Hall of Fame. "We were very pleased to be able to honor our 40-year donors," said Kippy Todd, assistant director for annual giving. "For these donors to invest year after year, we're very grateful." As always, alumni make up a large part of Signal Society members who have given annually

for 20 to 45 years, as Dr. Ernest Hooper ('42) of Huntsville, Ala., has done.

Other longtime alumni members are John Hood ('54, '74), Norman Martin ('64), Charlie Pigg ('55, '76) and Ross Spielman ('55, '66).

Todd said one of the more unique attendees was Gordon Janaway ('74), who had not returned to campus in 33 years.

President Sidney A. McPhee attended as did Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations; development office Director Kirk Purdom; veteran fundraiser Robyn Kilpatrick; Meredith Edington, coordinator of annual giving; and first-year college fundraisers, John Mitchell, Lucie Murphy and Jennifer Allen.

Wright from Page 1

largest travel agency in Tennessee now employs 70 people and, in addition to Tennessee, operates offices in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina and Utah.

"I wanted not only to be just an alumna but a business connection to this community," she said. "The university has been fabulous in allowing me the opportunity to participate and contribute through board and committee involvement."

Wright has served on the MTSU Foundation Board and the College of Business Advisory Board. In 2002, she was among the first group to receive the Exemplar Award, which is presented to alumni who have served as models for students of achievement in business and industry.

Wright said she had been thinking for a few years about how she might contribute to the university.

"I met with Jim Burton [business dean] a while back, and he promoted involvement between business and the university," she said. "In addition, whenever I was at a board meeting or an event and heard Dr. [Sidney A.] McPhee talk ... he creates a lot of motivation to do something to contribute to the university."

"There is always a need for scholarships to support our students," Burton said, "but given the shortage of faculty in the business disciplines, one of the issues that we have is attracting and retaining the highest quality faculty. This endowed chair will enable us to do that. This person will hopefully be an outstanding teacher, researcher and publisher, and will provide leadership in entrepreneurship and continue to build

that program on the basis of what our excellent faculty is already doing."

Burton noted that the curriculum for the entrepreneurship program at MTSU originally was a joint venture between the Departments of Management and Marketing and Business Communication and Entrepreneurship. The dean also alluded to a report recently released by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce that touts entrepreneurship as a driving force for creating jobs in the region. Rather than being an alternative to not finding steady work, he said, entrepreneurship has become a deliberate choice for students who want to be their own bosses.

McPhee said he views the endowed chair in the context of the university's goals in the Academic Master Plan.

"A gift such as this is a rare gem because an endowed professorship of this kind brings together the three major goals of the university: enabling us to be even more student-centered in the discipline of entrepreneurship, enhancing our academic quality and demonstrating the power of partnership between business and education," he said. "We are grateful to Pam Wright, whose success as a person and a businesswoman will serve as an example to thousands of students in years to come."

Through the efforts of McPhee and Burton, the university recognized Wright publicly for her gift during halftime of the Feb. 16 MTSU-Western Kentucky men's basketball game in Murphy Center. McPhee presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

CALENDAR

Alumni events

For complete details about upcoming alumni events, go to mtalumni.com.

March

9 All Sun Belt Conference Alumni Gathering at The U.S.S. Alabama — Mobile, Ala.

28-April 5 Alumni Travel Program presents Italy

29 Paint the Zoo Raider Blue — Knoxville

April

12 Paint the Zoo Raider Blue — Memphis

12 President’s Celebration of Excellence

May

2 Alumni Accounting Day

3 Paint the Zoo Raider Blue — Atlanta

15 Young Alumni Wine Tasting at Beachhaven Vineyards and Winery — Clarksville

17 Paint the Zoo Raider Blue — Nashville

Campus events

March

1-2 MTSU American Indian Cultural Festival

For more information, go to www.mtsu.edu/powwow.

5-8 TSSAA Girls’ State Basketball Tournament

For more information, go to <http://www.tssaa.org>.

12 Marcin Bela, piano; Jamey Simmons, trumpet; faculty recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

12-15 TSSAA Boys’ State Basketball Tournament

For more information, go to <http://www.tssaa.org>.

13 Deanna Little, flute; Jerry Reed, piano; faculty recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

14 Presidential Concert Series, Aulos Ensemble

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

14 Star Party

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~physics/Star%20Party.htm>.

15-18 Tennessee Guitar Festival

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

16 Xiao-Fan Zhang, faculty cello recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

24 Christin Schillinger, guest bassoon recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

26 World Percussion Ensemble

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

28-29 “Rhythm in You” by Ian Hunt

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~theatre>.

31 Stones River Chamber Players

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

April

2-5 “Rhythm in You” by Ian Hunt

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~theatre>.

3 MTSU Chamber Winds

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

4 First Friday Star Party

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~physics/Star%20Party.htm>.

5 Clavierfest

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

7 MTSU Women’s Chorale

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

9 MTSU Percussion Ensemble

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

10 MTSU Wind Ensemble

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

12 MTSU Jazz Artist Series — legendary saxophonist Lee Konitz

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

13 Dina Cancryn, faculty voice recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

14 MTSU Concert Band

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

17-19 Spring Dance Concert by MTSU Dance Theatre

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~theatre>.

20 MTSU Symphony Orchestra

For more information, go to, <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

21 MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

22 MTSU Symphonic Band

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

23 Maya Stone, bassoon; Leo Erice, piano; faculty recital

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~music/calendar.html>.

May

2 First Friday Star Party

For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~physics/Star%20Party.htm>.

3 May 2008 Commencement

9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Murphy Center. For more information, go to http://www.mtsu.edu/~proffice/gradlist/grad_info.htm to find the respective colleges’ graduation times.

19-24 TSSAA Spring Fling

For more information, go to tssaa.org or call 615-889-6740.

For MT athletic events, visit goblueraiders.com.

For Tennessee Miller Coliseum events, visit mtsu.edu/~tmc/schedule.htm.

For Tennessee Livestock Center events, visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~tlc/>.



MTSU Office of Alumni Relations photo

Judy Smith ('60), left, retired associate dean of students, and Eleanor Teasley receive a visit from Lightning while enjoying some appetizers before the game.

MTSU vs. Memphis

Inaugural Sun Belt Classic is a success in Nashville

From staff reports

On Dec. 15, 2007, the MTSU men's basketball team served as the host in the inaugural Sun Belt Classic doubleheader at the Sommet Center in Nashville. A sold-out crowd watched the Blue Raiders take on the top-10 ranked Memphis Tigers before Western Kentucky met Tennessee in the second game.

The MTSU Office of Alumni Relations, along with the Blue Raider Athletic Association, sponsored a pregame send-off event for the team at the Renaissance Hotel. The team was introduced, and Coach Kermit Davis made a few remarks about the team and season. The Band of Blue played the fight song while the MTSU dance team, cheerleaders, alumni and friends cheered as the team boarded the bus for the game.

MTSU alumni Zoo Tour will include Knoxville, Memphis, Atlanta, Nashville

From staff reports

Do you like monkeys and tigers, lizards and bears, or maybe elephants and giraffes? If so, the MTSU Alumni Relations office has a treat for you.

We are painting the zoo Blue! In fact, we are traveling to Knoxville (March 29), Memphis (April 12), Atlanta (May 3) and Nashville (May 17) to meet up with alums, reconnect and enjoy a fun day at the zoo.

"This is a great chance for our alums to bring their families to the zoo at a discounted ticket price, where lunch is included, and meet up with old MTSU friends in their areas," said Paul Wydra, assistant director of alumni relations. "We hosted this event at the Nashville Zoo last year and it was a huge success. We had more than 500 alumni, family and friends join us. We wanted to

give our alums in other areas an opportunity for the same fun, so this year we are taking the show on the road."

Registration at each site will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets including lunch are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under and must be purchased in advance. To RSVP, please call 1-800-533-6878, e-mail alumni@mtsu.edu or go to the alumni Web site, mtalumni.com.

Bring your family, friends and fellow MTSU alums together and help us paint the zoo blue in your area.

"This is a great afternoon for families young and old. The animals provide plenty of excitement and entertainment, while everyone has a chance to reconnect and make new friends," said Wydra.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, so be sure and get yours today.

Paint the Zoo RAIDER BLUE!

March 29	Knoxville Zoo
April 12	Memphis Zoo
May 3	Zoo Atlanta
May 17	Nashville Zoo

Discounted admission & complimentary lunch for MTSU alumni and their families!

For lunch times, pricing and registration requirements, please visit www.mtalumni.com.

Wear BLUE at the Zoo!

Honors College Board of Visitors includes 9 alumni

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

The inaugural meeting of the University Honors College Board of Visitors Dec. 7, 2007, in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building brought together a "distinguished" group whose mission "is to provide leadership in promoting sustained program quality and positive change in the University Honors College," said alumnus Dr. Phil Mathis ('67), interim Honors College dean.

Nine of 17 board members are MTSU alumni, added Mathis. The alumni agreeing to serve include

- Don Ash ('77) of Murfreesboro, circuit court judge for the 16th Judicial District and a former Distinguished Alumnus;
- Emily P. Ellis ('72) of Clarksville, vice president for STAR Culture with Gaylord Entertainment in Nashville;
- Mark A. Hall ('77) of Winston-Salem, N.C., Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest University;
- Debra H. Hopkins ('80) of Murfreesboro, Southeast regional director for National Geographic School Publishing and Hampton-

Brown;

- Paul W. Martin Jr. ('75) of Knoxville, chief managing member of Clarity Resources LLC, 2002

Distinguished Alumnus, first graduate from the honors program and, along with his brother Lee, provider of more than half the money to build



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services

University Honors College Board of Visitors Chairman Jeff Whorley, front left, asks a question of the student panel as board members Don Ash ('77), Jim Bailey III and (back row, from left) Paul W. Martin Jr. ('75), distinguished board member June Hall McCash, Chasity Nicoll ('95), Dr. Paul Patel and Byron Smith ('84) listen during the inaugural board meeting.

the 21,000 square foot Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building;

- Chasity Wilson Nicoll ('95) of Manchester, partner in the law office of Nicoll & Nicoll;
- Byron Smith ('84) of Murfreesboro, retired chief marketing officer with Asurion Corp. in Nashville;
- Holly Thompson ('94) of Hendersonville, morning news co-anchor for WSMV-TV in Nashville; and
- Vincent Windrow ('94) of Antioch, vice president of Zycron Computers, with offices in Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Dallas.

James Buchanan ('40) of Blacksburg, Va., and Dr. June Hall McCash, founding director of the Honors College program in 1973 and retired professor in foreign languages and literatures, are distinguished members.

Buchanan, recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economics, is professor emeritus and advisory general director of the James Buchanan Center for Political Economy at George Mason University in Fairfax,

(See 'Honors,' Page 7)



MTSU News and Public Affairs photo

Work continues at a brisk pace on the addition to the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Facility to the existing Campus Rec Center. The project should be finished by June, a campus planning official said.

Expansion from Page 1

ty contributed more than \$680 million in business revenue, provided 9,176 jobs and generated \$343 million in personal income to the Nashville Metropolitan Statistical Area. No doubt those numbers have increased during the last few years, and with a current fall enrollment surpassing 23,000 students, the benefits of all that a vibrant university offers trickle down into every aspect of living. With nearly 2 percent growth every year, however, there comes the need for the

campus to expand by adding new buildings and parking lots. The Campus Master Plan, which was presented to the State Building Commission on Feb. 14, is a response to the university's Academic Master Plan. The physical plan, as reflected in the future-oriented map of campus, supports the academic goals of the university and provides a framework for future additions and modifications to accommodate the enrollment growth and the educational needs of our students.

In particular, the Campus Master Plan helped define the requirements for a new science building and a new education building for the College of Education and Behavioral Science. Along with buildings, the plan summarizes utility and infrastructure work needed to keep pace with campus development.

While these two buildings are essential for MTSU's growth, they will not solve all of the university's shortage of space.

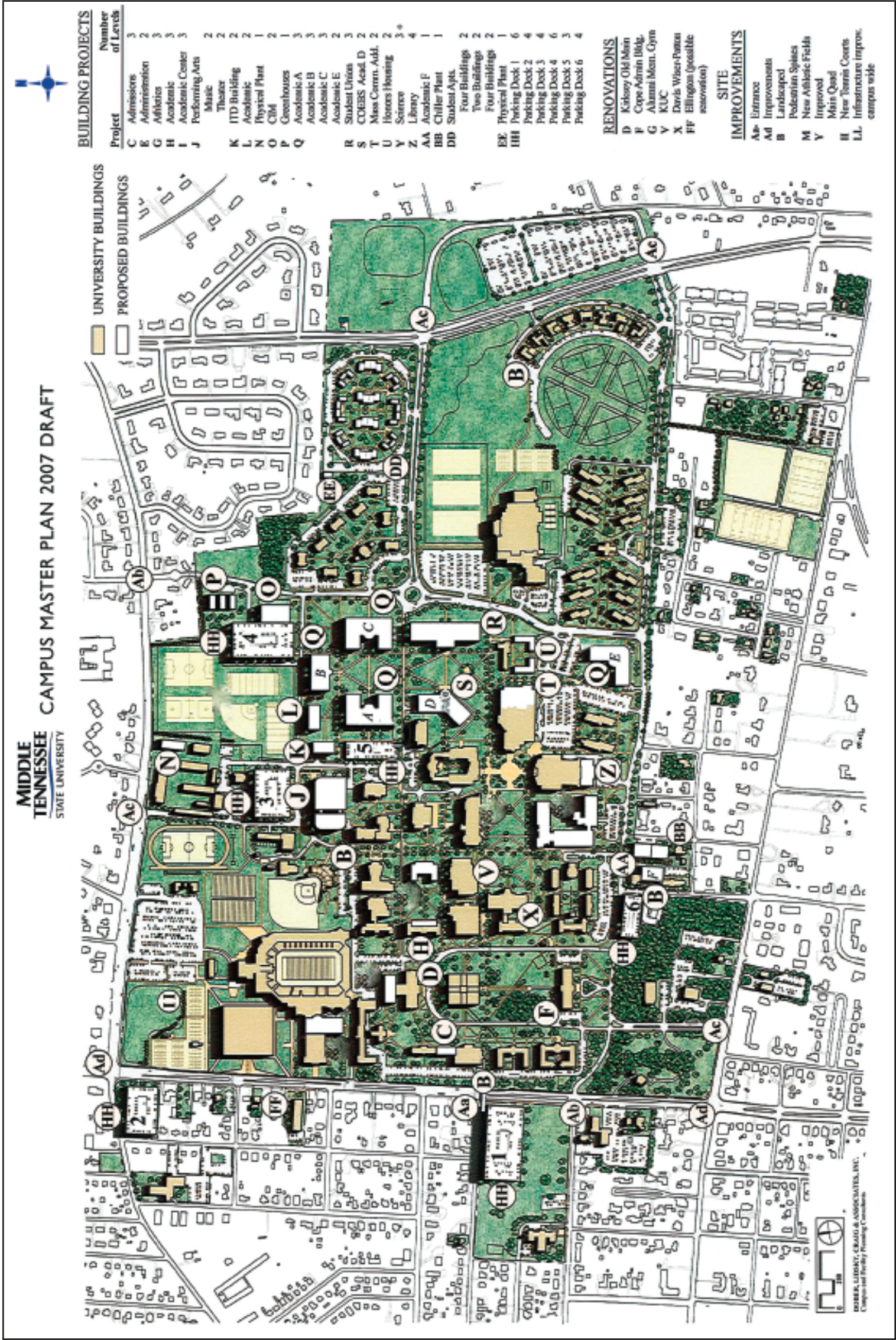
MTSU has significantly less space per student than all other institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents system. There currently are 84.54 net square feet per student at MTSU; other TBR schools average 114.53 net square feet per student. With a target total headcount of 27,000 students, MTSU will still need to construct 1.6 million gross square feet of non-residential space to accommodate enrollment growth and be on par with its sister TBR schools.

Rather than growing for growth's sake, however, MTSU's current and future physical expansion is the result of a carefully designed plan to catch up to current and future demands.

New buildings, additional parking lots, upgraded and expanding infrastructure — all are necessities to accommodate the educational needs of our students so that they will graduate and become contributing, successful citizens.

MTSU, which has the largest undergraduate enrollment in the state, continues to attract many of the best and brightest students from Tennessee and around the nation. We must provide them with the finest learning environment and facilities possible.

Editor's note: This is an edited version of a story that appeared in the Feb. 11 edition of The Record, a publication for the MTSU community. That story helped inform the campus and its neighbors of the university's plans for future growth and expansion.



CLASS NOTES

1960s

Bobby Wilson ('65), Crossville, Tenn., retired after 35 years of teaching in the Cumberland County school system.

1970s

Betsy Child '75, '76), Knoxville, Tenn., is the owner of Geothermal Utilities LLC.

1980s

Brian Ayers ('87), Ten Mile, Tenn., works for Abitibi Paper in Calhoun, Tenn.

Russ Burns ('82), St. Louis, Mo., is the president of Clayco Inc.

Tamara Davenport ('89, '94), Nashville, Tenn., won the national True Value's Do It Yourself All-Star Contest for the renovation of her east Nashville home.

Thomas Norris Jr. ('82), Nashville, Tenn., received his master of law degree in taxation from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Chaplain Major **Jimmie Sanders Jr.** ('81) and **Lisa Sanders** ('81), Wichita Falls, Texas, along with their sons, were named 2007 Military Family of the Year for Sheppard Air Force Base.

Roy Vaughn ('82), Brentwood, Tenn., is the director of communications for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

1990s

Robert Chambless ('93), Scottsboro, Ala., is teaching English in Daegu, South Korea.

Laura Foster ('90), Maumelle, Ark., is a center instructional technologist and center courseware developer for FlightSafety International.

Bobby B. Grubic ('99), Marina Del Ray, Calif., has received his third Emmy Award in the Best Commercial division.

Michael Hall ('95), Murfreesboro, is an agent with Horace Mann Insurance Company.

Christie Holman ('98), Murfreesboro, is a training and development specialist for Manheim Vehicle Management Business.

Tiffany Mayhugh-Rego ('96), Groveland, Fla., is a high school administrator with Orange County Public Schools.

Michael Oliver ('94), Pelham, Tenn., has published his first novel, "Out of the Darkness."

William Reeves ('91), Murfreesboro, is the 2008 chairman of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

Cynthia Rohrbach ('97), Summertown, Tenn., is the statewide manager of the Green Schools Program for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation/Office of Environmental Assistance.

Dinan Pullen Spears ('98), Johnson City, Tenn., is an administrative and technical assistant for the center for civic advancement at Tusculum College.

Ron Spears ('97, '01), Johnson City, Tenn., is the GIS Manager for Anderson and Associates.

Elaine Wilson ('93), Lakeside, Mont., is a flight nurse for a hospital-based rotor wing program.

2000s

Stephen Benton ('01), Murfreesboro, is the creative manager for the *Daily News Journal*.

Dana Bryson ('06), Murfreesboro, designs for MainStreet Media, LLC.

Keith Bryson ('05), Murfreesboro, is a recruitment specialist contracted by Centennial Hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

James Davidson ('05), Memphis, Tenn., is a pilot for Mesaba Airlines.

Joel Fortner ('02), Tullahoma, Tenn., is the director of public affairs for Arnold Engineering Development Center.

Meagan Frazier ('01), Nashville, Tenn., is registered lobbyist with the firm of Smith Harris & Carr.

Shannon Gray ('00, '02), Florence Ala., is a specialty sales healthcare representative.

Marjorie Kaup Haines ('03), Franklin, Tenn., successfully passed the Tennessee Bar Exam in July 2007.

Dwayna Haley ('05), Los Angeles, Calif., has been elected to the board of Women in Cable & Telecommunications.

Stacey Kizer ('03), Woodbridge, Ind., is a research associate on the Quest Atlantis project at Indiana University.

Jeff Ingram ('05), Rock Hill, S.C., is a

field organizer for the Barack Obama presidential campaign in York County, S.C.

Luke Laird ('01), Nashville, Tenn., is cowriter of Carrie Underwood's hit song, "So Small."

Philip McGowan ('04), Nashville, Tenn., is the account supervisor for Seigenthaler Public Relations.

Jennifer Peggram ('05), Travelers Rest, S.C., coordinates business development opportunities for Upstate Alliance.

Kent Peggram ('07), Travelers Rest, S.C., is a visual arts teacher at Blue Ridge Middle School.

William Rosenbalm ('01), New York, N.Y., is an area marketing specialist for Microsoft Corporation.

Meredith Short ('04), Rockvale, Tenn., is the director of alumni relations and special events for The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tenn.

Adam G. Smith ('03), Antioch, Tenn., joined the law firm of Miller and Martin.

Rachel Smith ('05), Madison, Tenn., is an administrative assistant for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Allison Payne West ('03), McCalla, Ala., is the assistant director of athletic marketing and trademark licensing at the University of Alabama.

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Baby Raiders

Robert Edward Lee Ayers, born Nov. 23, 2007, to Lorinda and **D. Brian Ayers** ('87) of Ten Mile, Tenn.

Kate Benton, born July 28, 2007, to **Kandra** ('07) and **Stephen Benton** ('01) of Murfreesboro.

Sophia Riley Compton, born Sept. 19, 2007, to **Misty** ('97) and **Will Compton** of Antioch, Tenn.

Cash Dylan Coons, born July 10, 2007, to **Jennifer** ('02) and **Brian Coons** ('00) of Nashville, Tenn.

Hunter Robert Crabtree, born Nov. 10, 2006, to Katherine and Cpt. **Philip Crabtree** ('97) of Killeen, Texas.

Brayden Thomas Dimsdale, born May 15, 2007, to Rhonda and **Jeffrey Dimsdale** ('94) of Woodruff, S.C.

Robert Clay Dumat, born Oct. 23, 2007, to **Ashley** ('97) and **Anthony Dumat** ('97) of Murfreesboro.

Dane Michael Fitzgibbon, born Sept. 29, 2007, to **Heidi** ('92) and **Patrick Fitzgibbon** of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Noah Whitaker Francis, born April 3, 2006, adopted Sept. 25, 2007, by **Emily** ('93) and Jackie **Francis II** of Murfreesboro.

Micah Nathaniel, Kathleen Elizabeth and Patrick Thomas Freeman, born Oct. 16, 2007, to **Ginger** ('89, '92) and JoJo **Freeman** of Murfreesboro.

Anora Faith Golden, born May 29, 2007, to **Amber Golden** ('04) of Smithville, Tenn.

Samuel Nathan Harding, born Aug. 8, 2007, to **Amy Jo** ('01, '02, '04) and **David Harding** ('99, '02) of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

Emily Grace Hill, born June 29, 2006, to **Darla** ('99) and **Grant Hill** of Winchester, Tenn.

Cooper L. Murphy, born July 6, 2007, to **Amanda** ('98) and **Gary Murphy** of Greenbrier, Tenn.

Addison McClain Neal, born June 27, 2007, to **Cheris** ('99) and **Kirk Neal** of Murfreesboro.

Emelia Catherine Peery, born March 1, 2007, to **Melanie** ('96, '02) and **Brian Peery** ('85) of Columbia, Tenn.

Rhys Robert Rego, born Sept. 5, 2007, to **Tiffany Mayhugh-Rego** ('96) of Groveland, Fla.

Bryce Berry Seaton, born Nov. 13, 2007, to **Holly** ('02) and **Brad Seaton** ('02) of Chickasha, Okla.

Maisie Banks Simpson, born Oct. 6, 2007, to **Brigitte** ('95) and **Timothy Simpson** ('95) of New York, N.Y.

Evelyn Noel Striegel, born Dec. 20, 2007, to **Kim** ('03) and **Matt Striegel** ('98) of Louisville, Ky.

Collin Brant Sutherland, born March 16, 2007, to **Amanda** ('03) and **Clinton Sutherland** ('06) of Winchester, Tenn.

Luke David Thibodeau, born Oct. 26, 2007, to **Kristen** and **David Thibodeau** ('93) of Hampstead, N.H.

Up 'til Dawn reaches \$80K for St. Jude

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Organizers of the 10th annual Up 'til Dawn finale said their efforts have reached \$80,000 toward a goal of \$105,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

"We have raised about \$80,000 in sponsorships, donations and funds for the hospital," said Crystal Griffey, Up 'til Dawn executive director. "We had tons of sponsors this year who worked to help make our event a success.

"We still have a way to go. The goal amount is how much we plan to have raised by the end of the school year. We are fine with our total at this point."

The finale was held Feb. 1-2 in the Campus Recreation Center.

Alumni like Meagan Flippin ('07) were involved either as being part of the organizing committee or supporting the student-led drive with contributions or sponsorships.

"They've been working really, really hard," said Flippin, a graduate assistant in student organizations and a three-time committee member from 2005 to 2007.

Griffey said teams "worked really hard to do fundraising activities and get money in to the hospital. College Ministry Team 3 combined to raise more than \$3,500. She added that freshmen from the Lightning Leadership program were involved."

In Memoriam

MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.

1930s

James Lokey ('35), Nashville, Tenn., died Sept. 29, 2007.

1940s

Lola Turner Williams ('41), Lakeland, Fla., died Nov. 1, 2007.

1950s

Ruth W. Brandon ('55), Brentwood, Tenn., died Oct. 25, 2007.
Dr. Joseph Knight ('58), Murfreesboro, died June 26, 2007.

1960s

Wayne Allen Orton ('67, '75), Nashville, Tenn., died Nov. 4, 2007.

1970s

Angela Marie Hunter ('78), Nashville, Tenn., died Oct. 26, 2007.

1990s

Burt Talley ('98), Murfreesboro, died Jan. 16, 2008.

2000s

Jeffrey Davis ('05), Murfreesboro, died Dec. 29, 2007.

Simple message: update, participate, nominate

Have you heard? Your MTSU has received the designation of one among 146 Best Southeastern Colleges by *The Princeton Review* as a result of a survey of MTSU students by the publication.

MTSU is “the best bang for your buck in academia, sports and overall experience,” according to the student survey.

Of course, most of us already knew this as it held true during our times as undergraduates. (See story, Page 1 and below.)

As your Alumni Association charges into spring, the end of the school year and the summer months, we want you to get involved and participate in one of the many events planned for alumni and friends of MTSU. Join us for the Zoo Tour this spring. Love our Lady Raiders basketball team? Join us in Mobile for the Sun Belt Tournament. There are even special events planned (after tax season, of course) for our accounting alumni. These are just a few of the many events and fun gatherings planned during the coming months.



McClendon

While I have your attention, I also want to remind you to go online (mtalumni.com) or call your alumni staff (1-800-533-MTSU) and update your information. Getting you timely and important information has never been easier thanks to e-mail and the Web.

Finally, I want to ask each and every one of you (we are more than 90,000 strong these days) to do just two things today: (1) call or e-mail the alumni office and update your information; and (2) go online to mtalumni.com and nominate someone as a Distinguished Alumnus or for the National Alumni Association Board of Directors. It’s that simple. Go Blue!



Devin McClendon is a 1996 graduate living in Brentwood with his wife, Laura, and children, Campbell and Maggie. He is the owner of McClendon Group Marketing.

Princeton from Page 1

In 2007, the Review surveyed a random population of MTSU undergraduate students and praised their professors as “extremely knowledgeable and very willing to meet with students outside of class.” One MTSU junior offered that “if I’ve ever had a problem, the administration and professor were there to help me.”

McPhee said the designation by *The Princeton Review* reflects the values in the university’s “I’m ONE” marketing campaign of treating each student as an individual.

As for future impact from the designation — in terms of increases in enrollment, retention, graduation rates and more scholarship dollars — McPhee said he’s not sure of the impact, but thinks “it will have an indirect impact on the perception that people have.

“Many folks out in the community have observed with great pride *The Princeton Review’s* rating of the university as a ‘Best Buy’ designating MTSU as one of the top universities in the region. They know some good things have been happening with the university, and it’s good to see that it’s being recognized externally. In

terms of promoting recruitment and the excitement of alums and non-alums, the impact is significant.”

McPhee said it is a special honor since “it recognizes the good work of our faculty and staff.

“... It doesn’t mean we have reached the pinnacle or there is not any more work for us to do. Obviously, in terms of new facilities, in terms of new academic programs, doing a better job of advising our students (and) improving our retention, it only means that we can get better. But I think it’s a very special designation that particularly our alums should be proud of.”

The Princeton Review is a for-profit educational company that offers test preparation for standardized achievement tests and advice regarding college admissions.

To read MTSU’s entry in the ranking, visit princetonreview.com, register free and search for “Middle Tennessee State” in the school search box.

(*The Offices of Marketing and Communication and News and Public Affairs contributed to this report.*)

Honors from Page 4

Va. John F. “Jeff” Whorley, an MTSU Foundation Board member and a former MTSU Campus School student, agreed to serve as chair of the board. He retired as executive vice president for SLM Corp., commonly called Sallie Mae, which provides student loans.

Mathis said that in order for the board to achieve its mission, it would

- assist the college in realizing and maintaining a distinctive niche within the domain of higher education;
- provide consultation to the dean concerning the perceived needs of students and society in a changing world;
- promote public and student awareness of the academic programs of the University Honors College; and
- enhance academic quality through assistance in identifying and securing funding sources.

In addition to its mission, the Board of Visitors’ role is expanded so that the “broad intent is to support the aspirations and mission of the Honors College. In fulfilling its role, the

board is expected to facilitate fundraising through personal giving in support of selected programs and projects; to provide advice and planning support to help the Honors College marshal resources through alumni, friends and foundations; and to provide guidance and support that will promote awareness and respect for Honors College programs to the college dean.”

“It’s truly a distinguished board,” said Mathis.

Other board members include James H. Bailey III, AIA, Johnson & Bailey Architects, PC, in Murfreesboro; Albert Cauz, headmaster at The Webb School in Bell Buckle; Emil Hassan, retired senior vice president for Nissan North America in Smyrna; H. Lee Martin, chairman of Abunga.com LLC in Knoxville; Dr. Utpal P. Patel, physician with the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and SurgiCenter; Nashville’s James A. Thorpe, vice president and general manager for the Kentucky/Tennessee region for AT&T; and Shelbyville’s Jim Tracy, Tennessee state senator from the 16th Congressional District.

MTSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-08		
Officers		
President – Devin McClendon ('96)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Vice President – Mary Esther Reed ('92, '94, '96)	Smyrna, TN	
Treasurer – Andy Womack ('70)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Secretary – Jim Stubblefield ('83)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Exec. Dir. – Ginger C. Freeman ('89, '92)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Past President –Bob Lamb ('69, '77)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Board Members		
Ronald Akins ('06)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Kent Ayer ('99)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Mary Megan Benton ('97)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Chontel Bridgeman ('93, '95, '96)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Norman Burns ('85, '95)	Richmond, VA	
Jamie Burns Burriss ('03)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Brent Campbell ('02)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Milbrey Campbell ('74, '77)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Alan Clark ('69, '75)	Estill Springs, TN	
David A. Cullum ('55)	Nashville, TN	
Joey Davenport ('95)	Evanston, IL	
Emily Pentecost Ellis ('72)	Clarksville, TN	
Marla Frisby ('95)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Ashley Elizabeth Graham	Alexandria, VA	
Russ Hamblen ('88)	Shelbyville, KY	
Donna Hastings ('70, '74)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Rollie M. Holden ('83)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Beth Barber Jones ('99)	Columbia, TN	
Angela Lee ('00)	Chattanooga, TN	
Jack R. Lewis Jr. ('64)	Penhook, VA	
Eddie Linville ('01, '03)	Lascassas, TN	
Susan Mack ('76)	Brentwood, TN	
John Marshall ('02, '04)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Ernest McKinney ('76)	Nashville, TN	
Susan Melton ('79)	Woodbury, TN	
Bud Morris ('68, '75, '81)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Liz Rhea ('55)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Katy Francisco Riddle ('99, '05)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Brandon Robbins ('03)	Cookeville, TN	
Ronald Q. Roberts ('84, '91)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Bob Rochelle ('68)	Lebanon, TN	
Michele Butler Rogers ('04)	White House, TN	
Mary L. Secrest ('74, '78)	Atlanta, GA	
Chuck Shaw ('78)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Greg Smith ('85)	Clarksville, TN	
R. Eugene Smith ('57)	Collierville, TN	
Janice B. Tant ('76)	Nashville, TN	
Chip Walters ('85)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Phyllis H. Washington ('74, '77)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Hanna R. Witherspoon ('64)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Bob J. Womack ('48)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Courtney E. Yates ('83)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Doug Young ('71)	Murfreesboro, TN	
Ex Officio Members		
Dr. Sidney A. McPhee	MTSU President	
William J. Bales	VP, Development and Univ. Relations	
John W. Cothorn	Senior Vice President	
Fred Adams ('72, '00)	MTSU Foundation President	
Wayne Groce ('69, '75)	MTSU BRAA President	
Dr. Kevin E. Smith	MTSU Faculty Senate President	
Chassen Haynes	MTSU SGA President	

MTSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS		
President/Year graduated	Term	Hometown
Linda Bramblett ('67)	1982-83	Shelbyville, TN
Tommy Campbell ('77)	2003-04	Murfreesboro, TN
Cecil Cantrell ('53)	1992-93	Asheville, NC
James Caperton Jr. ('72)	1997-98	Shelbyville, TN
David A. Cullum ('55)	1998-00	Nashville, TN
Ann A. Eaden ('59)	1991-92	Nashville, TN
Dawn F. Eaton ('80)	1994-95	Murfreesboro, TN
John E. Ellington ('56)	2001-02	Mufreesboro, TN
Eddie Freeland ('76)	1995-96	Bowling Green, KY
George E. Gardner ('57)	1990-91	Murfreesboro, TN
Charles F. Harrell ('62)	1978-79	Woodbury, TN
John D. Hood ('54, '74)	1987-88	Murfreesboro, TN
Charlene B. Key ('62, '67, '92)	1985-86	Lebanon, TN
Richard C. Key ('62)	1993-94	Lebanon, TN
Bob Lamb ('69, '77)	2006-07	Murfreesboro, TN
Ben Landers ('77)	2004-05	Knoxville, TN
Connie G. Landers ('76)	1988-89	Shelbyville, TN
L. Quentin Lane ('54)	1975-76	Chattanooga, TN
J. Devin McClendon ('96)	2007-08	Brentwood, TN
James E. McFarlin ('76)	1983-84	Murfreesboro, TN
James R. Powers ('72, '73)	1996-97	Crossville, TN
John F. Scarbrough ('69, '71)	1989-90	Tulahoma, TN
Martha W. Scarbrough ('64, '67)	1976-78	Tulahoma, TN
Paschal Shelton ('31)	1936-37	Christiana, TN
Lorraine Singer ('70, '71, '75)	2002-03	Winchester, TN
Ross Spielman ('55, '66)	1972-73	Murfreesboro, TN
Kenneth H. Summar Jr. ('84)	2000-01	Brentwood, TN
Sandra Y. Trail ('72)	2005-06	Murfreesboro, TN

Alumni Summer College

Explore your heritage at MTSU's first-time event

By Rhonda Wright

Mark your calendars now to make history as one of the first graduates of the Alumni Summer College at Middle Tennessee State University.

You can be part of this brand new experience June 25-27 as you return to campus for our inaugural session. Alumni Summer College will be an annual opportunity to expand your knowledge of interesting subjects with fellow MT alums.

Exploring Our Heritage is the theme for this year's college. A curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours has been specifically created with Blue Raiders in mind.

The college will be a casual, fun-packed two-and-a-half days of learning, where you will take a refresher course on MT history and discover little-known facts and forgotten memories about the university.

You will learn how to preserve your own stories through photographs and recordings so future generations can better understand your heritage.

You will find out how to trace your family's past and ensure it will positively impact the future.

As we look back at the history of MTSU, we will tour Tennessee Miller Coliseum and hear about the area's rich equestrian legacy, and visit the Floyd Stadium press box as we share the great tradition of MTSU football.

study the heritage of country music as we walk in the footprints of musical legends. You'll get VIP treatment as you tour backstage at both the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry House. We'll end the night front and center in the audience of the world-famous Grand Ole Opry.

Reminisce about your good old days in college while creating new memories. Imagine how fun college can be with no quizzes! Alumni Summer College is open to MTSU alumni, adult family members and friends. Make plans to enroll today.

A detailed schedule, registration information and tuition rates are posted at mtalumni.edu. The tuition will include your classes, meals, transportation from the Alumni House each day, transportation to and from Nashville, the Ryman Auditorium tour, and the Grand Ole Opry House tour and show ticket.

Alumni Summer College special rates are available

at area hotels. Contact Rhonda Wright, alumni relations assistant director, at rwright@mtsu.edu or call 1-800-533-6878 with any questions.



Martha Millsaps/MTSU Publications and Graphics

Alumni Summer College will begin with an opening barbeque on Wednesday night to be followed by seven unique dining experiences including dinner at a great Nashville establishment on Friday.

The highlight of Alumni Summer College will be our graduation trip to Nashville, where we will



MTSU Office of Alumni Relations photo

Corporate alumni chapters

Pictured is the Dell corporate alumni tailgate group. To start a corporate alumni chapter, contact alumni relations' Paul Wydra at 615-904-8199 or pwadra@mtsu.edu.

The MTSU National Alumni Association invites you to submit nominations for the following:

Alumni Association Board of Directors
Deadline: March 14
2008 - 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award
Deadline: April 1
2008 - 2009 Young Alumni Achievement Award
Deadline: April 1

Nomination forms are available online at www.mtalumni.com.

JOIN US IN HONORING THE 2007 - 2008 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Lana Seivers '72
Sandra Trail '72
Gale Princee '57

AND THE YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Brady Barnett '97

AT THE
President's Celebration of Excellence

APRIL 12, 2008 6:00 P.M.
JAMES UNION BUILDING

FOR RESERVATION INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE
AT 1-800-533-6878.