

THE ALUMNI RECORD

News for MTSU alumni and friends

March 2010 Vol. 7 / No. 3

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Alumni Summer College III will be music to participants' ears

By Rhonda Wright King rwright@mtsu.edu

We all recognize songs as part of the fabric of our lives. But did you ever think about what is involved in the life of a song? Find out June 23-25 at the third annual Alumni Summer College, at Middle Tennessee State University as we study "A Song's Life."

Alumni Summer College is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of interesting subjects with a curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours specifically created with MTSU alumni in mind. Alumni Summer College is sure to be a highlight of your year as you return to campus for three days of education and entertainment, Blue Raider camaraderie, music, good food and an exciting

field trip. Open to alumni and friends, the program will provide several once-in-a-lifetime moments that you do not want to miss.

You will follow the life of a song through its

development from poetry on paper to a part of our history, and MTSU faculty and alumni will share information about the recording industry.

Professional songwriters will teach you how they start with a melody or some words scribbled on a napkin and develop a song. Find out how songwriting by inspiration and craft differ. Learn whether it is possible to sit down and write a No. 1 hit.

To reach the masses, a song must be recorded. You will see how far the technology involved in recording and producing songs has advanced over time.

From wax cylinders to digital recordings, the Center for Popular Music houses thousands of songs. Established in 1985 as one of just 16 Centers of Excellence at universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the



(See 'Summer College,' Page 5)

Raiders rule

MVP Dasher dashes S. Miss hopes;
MTSU finishes 10-3 with bowl victory

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

Blue Raider football players, fans, alumni and university friends have waited years to experience what happened Dec. 20 in New Orleans.

Powered by quarterback and game most valuable player Dwight Dasher, MTSU rallied from a 14-0 deficit to defeat Southern Mississippi 42-32 in the nationally televised R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl in the Louisiana Superdome.

It was the first victory in the Football Bowl Subdivision era for the Blue Raiders, who capped a 10-win season with seven straight wins. They finished 33rd in the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll and 37th in The Associated Press poll.

"This was one of the most thrilling times of my lifetime," alumnus Bud Morris ('68, '75) of Murfreesboro said. "I've been going to football games since the late 1940s, when my dad used to carry me on his shoulders. It was an



Chris Graythen/Getty Images

Players give Coach Rick Stockstill a Gatorade bath.

(See 'Raiders,' Page 8)

Alumna Seivers takes the reins in education

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

East Tennessee native Lana Seivers has made an exciting — and emotional — return home to MTSU, her alma mater, after being appointed dean of the College of Education.

"Humbling and exhilarating" is how Seivers described her return. "I came here for (Volunteer) Girls' State," she said. "I started at MTSU when I was 17. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I did not look at my life going, career-wise, where it has gone."

Seivers ('72) said she has "been privileged to serve as teacher and principal (Oak Ridge), director of schools (Clinton

(See 'Seivers,' Page 2)

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MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

New look — by design

University unveils home page

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

University officials unveiled a new look for its Internet presence on Feb. 1 — the first different design at mtsu.edu in three years.

An improved search mechanism is one of the many features of the redesign.

“The search mechanism will be licensed through Google and offer better search capabilities,” Tonjanita L. Johnson, associate vice president for marketing and communication, said.

Barbara Draude, assistant vice president for academic and instructional technology, said the “I’m One” aspect of the former home page and a two-year MTSU marketing campaign “will still be a component of the new site, but not as prominent. And we’ll be able to expand to other areas on campus. We have been featuring five students (and students who became alumni). The redesign “will feature one person, but it can spotlight more than just students.”

In a late January message to the MTSU community, Lucinda Lea (’74), vice president for the Division of Information Technology and chief information officer, said, “More than just a cosmetic change to the home page, this process has involved reviewing the message, branding, content and navigation of the mtsu.edu domain. In conjunction with efforts to move existing campus Web sites into the official content management system, the redesign process has resulted in a unified presentation that provides a revitalized look for MTSU, along with improved Web site navigation and searching ability.”

Lea added that ITD’s Web applications team converted more than 300 sites and over 5,000 pages to the new look since the new design was approved in December.

Maine-based CampusTours Inc., an interactive media and software company that created the virtual tour unveiled in August, again worked with the Web site committee on the redesign of the MTSU home page.



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mtalumni.com

THE ALUMNI RECORD

Published quarterly (Sept., Dec., March and June)

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Photographs: MTSU Photographic Services,
except where noted
Printed by Franklin Web Printing Co., Franklin, Tenn.

Attention Postmaster: Change Service Requested
Address changes and other correspondence
should be addressed to

Advancement Services
MTSU P.O. Box 109
1301 E. Main St.
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

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UR058-0210

Seivers

City) and Tennessee Commissioner of Education.” There have been other stops along the way, most recently as executive director of the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, but she always has searched for the best ways for teachers to impart knowledge to students.

Arriving for her interview last fall, Seivers said driver Pat Thomas of the provost’s office “drove up next to Rutledge Hall. I looked over and thought, ‘There’s my dorm room.’ Then I interviewed where I used to eat on the meal plan. It was emotional, but in a good way ... like I had stepped back in time.”

“When you are a student, you can’t wait to get out (graduate). At this stage of my life, you think, ‘that was the greatest time of my life.’ You do not realize the impact this university will have on you for the rest of your life.”

Seivers, a Clinton native (and, yes, younger brother Larry was the two-time All-American wide receiver at the University of Tennessee), said she forged a lot of relationships as a student. “I’m lucky to have maintained a lot of those friendships,” she said, adding, “We still get together often. MTSU is still an important part of my life personally. It’s just fun to be back.”

Seivers said fellow alumni, friends and others in the community, embraced her wanting to become dean, asking who they could call or write letters to on her behalf. “I look forward to renewing those acquaintances and interactions with people I haven’t talked to in years,” she said.

The new dean understands the rich tradition of the program, which has produced a large percentage of the state’s teachers.

“We have a rich history in producing teachers,” Seivers said. “Teacher education formed our foundation and continues to do so. Nationwide and statewide, there is a call for teacher education programs to retool. There’s a teacher shortage, especially in math and science. The College of Education has a unique opportunity to design programs that capitalize on the strengths of other colleges.

“Demands have changed, content has changed, accountability has changed. We can’t afford to prepare future teachers and school leaders the way we did in the past. We’ll have to change with the times. ... This will not be an easy thing to do. With limited resources, it’s going to be tougher.



Seivers

from Page 1

“The whole answer lies in faculty and in the vision of the president. Dr. McPhee has high expectations for MTSU to become a leader in teacher education redesign, beginning with forging strong partnerships with PreK-12 schools. We are limited only by our own creativity, expertise and attitudes. There’s a lot we can do. This faculty is so strong. School districts are more eager to partner with us. I know we can come up with really effective ways to approach teaching preparation. It’s not about me. I’m just the conduit for all of us to get it done.”

Arriving for both the interview and first day on the job, Seivers’ caught sight of the construction of the new College of Education Building, set to open in spring 2012.

“Here we are front and center,” she said. “It brings a huge responsibility to prove ourselves. With technology and resources, we can truly transform the way we teach. We have an obligation to use that building to impact instruction at both the PreK-12 and university levels. It still comes down to the belief that the key influence on the quality of a student’s education is the quality of the teacher.”

Without being asked, Seivers brought up the fundraising aspects that will be necessary as the college reaches and passes the MTSU centennial.

“We need to raise money for the college,” she said, adding that she knows she will have many discussions with Development Office Director Nick Perlick and Lucie Murphy, College of Education development director, about methods to achieve their goals.

“I think we can tap into contributors who can look back at their own school or their favorite teacher and say, ‘This teacher made a difference,’ and start a scholarship or make a donation in the school’s or teacher’s name. While I would love \$25,000 donations, a \$25 donation means a lot.

“I’m aware there’s a lot of room for fundraising growth in our college. Based on my athletic background, I’m competitive. I don’t want to be at the bottom of anything. Especially if those efforts directly impact the quality of the teachers we send into public schools.”

Seivers, a 2007-08 Distinguished Alumnus, earned a bachelor’s in speech and hearing therapy with minors in political science and secondary education. She earned her master’s and doctorate at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She has a son, Matthew, who lives in East Tennessee.

Seivers replaces Dr. Gloria Bonner (’72, ’74), who became assistant to the president in the Office of Community Engagement and Support in April 2008. Dr. Terry Whiteside, a psychology professor at MTSU since 1973, served as interim dean.

ALUMNI MAKING WAVES



Submitted photo

Alumna Rebecca Holden ('76), left, of Chattanooga, visits with U.S. Rep. and alumnus Bart Gordon ('71) at the White House. In January, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching for 2008.



Submitted photo

Alumnus Randy Ford ('00), right, became chief of staff and communications director for U.S. Rep. John Tanner on Jan. 4.



Submitted photo

Alumna Gayle Ray ('67), left, receives congratulations from Gov. Phil Bredesen after being sworn in as Tennessee Department of Corrections commissioner. Her son, Austin, observes. She had served as deputy commissioner since June 2004.



Submitted photo

Alumnus Garry Hood ('77), right, visits with First Lady Michelle Obama and President Barack Obama in December during a nationally televised holiday performance at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Hood, a 2004 MTSU Distinguished Alumnus, served as stage manager for the production. The show aired on TNT.

mtalumni.com

Spring '10: fun, family — and BLUE

From MTSU Alumni Relations

Spring 2010 kicks off with fun family activities and great group discounts for alumni and friends.

"This year, we wanted to offer our alumni a chance to bring their families to MTSU events and have a great experience and fun time, all at a great price," said Paul Wydra, Alumni Relations assistant director. "We have a wide variety of activities, and we encourage everyone to wear blue, show their MTSU spirit and reconnect with other area alumni and friends."

The Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament will host an all-school Alumni Champagne Reception Sunday, March 7, in Hot Springs, Ark.

"This event is always a great time and well-attended by alumni and fans from all of the Sun Belt Conference schools" Wydra said. "This reception is just another opportunity for our alumni and friends to show their Blue Raider spirit during an exciting tournament weekend."

Say thank you to administrative professionals who keep your office running by bringing them to the Rutherford County Scholarship luncheon on April 21 at Bonefish Grill.

"Each year, the proceeds of the luncheon go toward the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship. Twenty scholarships were awarded this past academic year," Wydra said. "We always hold this luncheon on Administrative Professionals Day

because we think it's a great opportunity for our alumni and friends to show their appreciation to the staff in their offices and support an important scholarship." A limited number of seats are available so please make your reservations early! RSVP by April 14.

MTSU Alumni and Friends Day at the Nashville Adventure Science Center is May 1.

"Our alumni love to bring their families to MTSU events," Wydra said. "With our reduced ticket prices, the Nashville Adventure Science Center provides a great afternoon of family fun at reasonable costs." RSVP by April 23.

On Saturday, June 12, Nashville Shores will host MTSU Alumni and Friends Day.

"We are turning Nashville Shores BLUE!" Wydra said. "New this year will be a lazy river and a wave pool. Bring the whole family out and have a great time!" The gates open at 10 a.m., and alumni and friends will receive a discounted admission ticket and a buffet lunch for \$20. RSVP by June 4.

We look forward to seeing you this year. Be sure to go to mtalumni.com for more information and more events in 2010 including Nashville Sounds' and Memphis

ALUMNI & FRIENDS SPRING 2010

March 7
SunBelt Basketball Tournament All Alumni Champagne Reception
10 a.m., Hot Springs Convention Center
Hot Springs, Arkansas
(For tournament tickets call 1-888-YES-MTSU.)

April 21
Rutherford County Scholarship Luncheon Fundraiser
Bonefish Grill
505 North Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro
Two seatings, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Cost \$12, RSVP by April 14

May 1
Alumni and Friends Day at the Nashville Adventure Science Center
800 Ft. Negley Blvd., Nashville
\$9 adults, \$7 for ages 3-12, 2 and under free
Planetarium tickets \$5 each
RSVP by April 23

June 12
MTSU Alumni and Friends Day at Nashville Shores
4001 Bell Road, Hermitage, Tenn.
\$20 per person including lunch from 12-1 p.m.
RSVP by June 4

To register for events go to www.mtalumni.com
or call 1-800-533-6878.



Redbirds' baseball games and upcoming events throughout Tennessee. Go Blue!

CALENDAR

Campus-related events

March

- March 1 Deanna Little, flute; Windell Little, piano; faculty recital*
- March 1 Holly Hofman, jazz flute, Mike Wofford, piano; guest recital*
- March 1-4 PRINTS: Through the Collector's Eye curated by MTSU professor Christie Nuell**
- March 2 MTSU Symphonic Band and Brass Ensemble*
- March 3 World Percussion Concert*
- March 4 MTSU Wind Ensemble*
- March 5 First Friday Star Party Kepler Telescope: Finding Earth-like Exoplanets with Eric Klumpe***
- March 15 Lisa Schroeder, flute; Michael Nigro, guitar; Noteworthy Duo*
- March 15-25 Memoria Kinetic Sculpture by John Powers**
- March 17 Frederieke Saeijs, guest violin recital*
- March 18 Duo Elegancia*
- March 18 Christine Poythress, soprano; Joseph Walker, piano; faculty recital*
- March 21 Bach Festival*
- March 21 MTSU Army ROTC Golf Tournament, Old Fort G.C.*****

- March 21-25 Tennessee Guitar Festival*
- March 25 Maya Stone, faculty bassoon recital*
- March 29 Stones River Chamber Players*

April

- April 6-12 Studio Bachelor of Fine Arts Candidates Exhibition**
- April 7 MTSU Percussion Ensemble*

- April 8 Spring Choral Concert*
- April 9 First Friday Star Party: Hubble Space Telescope's Great Discoveries with Chuck Higgins***
- April 10 MTSU Jazz Artist Series: Nashville Jazz Orchestra*
- April 14 Brenda Schuman-Post, guest oboe recital*
- April 15 MTSU Wind Ensemble*
- April 16-23 Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #1**
- April 18 H. Stephen Smith, tenor; Lynn Rice-See, piano; faculty voice recital*
- April 20 BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Martin Chair of Insurance Golf Tourn., Champions Run G.C.#
- April 24-25 Spring Dance Concert, MTSU Dance Theatre****
- April 25 MTSU Symphony Concert*
- April 26 MTSU Women's Chorale*
- April 27 MTSU Symphonic Band*
- April 27-30 Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #2**
- April 28 MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble*

May

- May 1-5 Graphic Design B.F.A. Exhibition #2**
- May 7 First Friday Star Party: Galactic Superstructures with Jeff Gritton***
- May 8 Spring Commencement in Murphy Center

For more information, go to:

- * <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~music> **<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~art>
 - *** dwolke@mtsu.edu **** www.mtsu.edu/theatre
 - ***** Bradley Christmas: bjc3d@mtsu.edu or 615-593-1306
 - # Dr. Ken Hollman, 615-898-2673 or khollman@mtsu.edu
- Note:** All dates, times subject to change.



Confucius Institute

MTSU joins elite group; grand opening set April 21

Following a Dec. 1 signing of the Confucius Institute agreement, MTSU awaits the proposed grand opening, set for Wednesday, April 21, as part of week-long festivities. The Confucius Institute is housed in Peck Hall. To learn more about the institute and grand opening, call Yvonne Elliott at 615-494-8696. (Above) MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, second from left, is presented with a Confucius scroll by administrators from Hangzhou Normal University. (Above right) McPhee talks at the signing. (Right) Alumnus and Campus Recreation Director Charlie Gregory ('83, '86), left, gives the Chinese visitors and McPhee a tour of the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.



Andy Heidt/MTSU Photographic Services



We are now accepting nominations for the
2010 - 2011

Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards

The Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association annually seeks and accepts nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards. The selection is made from candidates who have distinguished themselves by attaining a high level of service to their profession, their community and/or Middle Tennessee State University.

Nominations are sought in the following categories:

- Distinguished Alumni - Professional Achievement
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the Community
- Distinguished Alumni - Service to the University
- Young Alumni Achievement Award

To view nomination and selection criteria as well as obtain a nomination form:

- visit www.mtalumni.com for a downloadable version
- call the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-533-6878

Nominations must be postmarked by April 2, 2010.
Nominations are valid for three years.

International alumni profile

(Third in a series)

Name: Jeremy N. Majors

U.S. home town: Nashville, Tenn.

International location: Hirakata City, Japan

Additional information: 2004 MTSU graduate, with a bachelor's in international relations and minors in global and Asian studies. Also has studied at American University in Cairo, Egypt. Works as business English instructor. Awarded first-ever study abroad Student of the Year in '05. Calls MTSU's Walker Library "one of my favorite places on earth."



Majors

About his experience: "As far as an international experience goes, study abroad defines you in ways you cannot imagine. ... It did take initiative to learn to do for myself and challenge myself when necessary. ... Living in the Middle East was a great experience ... but it was quite a challenge and sometimes stressful. In Japan, I was treated generously and somewhat first-class; in Egypt, I was at times treated with hostility or indifference. ... In Japan, I've developed a stronger work ethic."



The MTSU Alumni Association
is seeking nominations for the
2010 class of
Alumni Association

Board of Directors

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

Nominations are due April 1, 2010.

Campus construction maintains green light

Despite snow and freezing temperatures, workers continue to make progress with several large construction projects. (At right) From the roof of Jim Cummings Hall, an overview of the College of Education Building can be seen. (Below right) A worker pounds away at materials on the site for the new College of Education Building on the east side of campus. (Below left) Fencing and signage mark the construction site for expansion of McCallie Dining Hall, which will see a 50-seat expansion. The 87,300 gross square foot College of Education Building will include 993 classroom seats and 87 faculty offices. It is scheduled for completion by spring 2012. Adjacent to the education building will be a new, nearly 200,000-square-foot, \$77.13 million Student Union.



J. Intintoli/MTSU Photographic Services

Summer College

from Page 1

Center for Popular Music is an archive and research center devoted to the study of American popular music from the pre-revolutionary era to the present. Alumni Summer College students will learn the importance of this center in the preservation and research of music history.

This year's class will experience music engineering technology at its best when it records in the state-of-the-art Studio A in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. Studio A boasts a new Vision Surround Console made by Automated Processes Inc. The \$300,000 board, which was funded by students, was installed last summer. Some class members' performances will be recorded in the booth as others man the board.

The marketing and promotion of a song spans the processes of shopping demos, artist development, radio tours, release parties ... the list goes on and on. A lot goes into presenting a song to the public. It's a business that the MTSU faculty knows well. You will gain knowledge of how to create a marketing package that could make a song all the rage. You'll also get insight into how artists are developed, from voice lessons to makeup sessions.

The class will be treated to a concert by faculty, students and alumni. Enjoy these talented songwriters, musicians and artists as they share the music that is within them. If you play an instrument, bring it along to Alumni Summer College and be part of the entertainment.

A highlight of Alumni Summer College will be the class field trip. We will travel to Nashville to the Country Music Hall of Fame, where we'll explore the history of country music, the genre that is most identified with the Middle Tennessee region. It will be a chance to learn the stories behind songs you may know by heart and to view musical artifacts such as Mother Maybelle Carter's 1928 Gibson L-5 guitar, Elvis's gold Cadillac and the steel guitar Barbara Mandrell played onstage as a child. The choruses of songs from your childhood will flood your memory as you stand in the Hall of

Fame Rotunda, lined with bronze plaques representing the 108 inductees. An induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame is the highest honor in country music. *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* is poignantly scripted above, a testament to the survival of America's music over the years and to the talent that continues to play a hand in its evolution. You will enjoy lunch in the atrium of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The class also will tour historic RCA Studio B, one of the world's most important recording studios. More than 35,000 songs were brought to life by the Studio B magic, including more than 1,000 top-10 American hits, and over 150 Elvis Presley recordings.

Alumni Summer College will end with dinner at the world-famous Wildhorse Saloon. After a game of pool, learn to line dance to today's hottest songs and enjoy the live music at one of Nashville's No. 1 dining and entertainment destinations.

By the end of the three-day experience, you will have earned the honor and distinction of being an Alumni Summer College graduate. Enjoy your accomplishment at the graduation ceremony.

The tuition for Alumni Summer College is \$205 per person, and the registration deadline is May 21. Space is limited. Tuition includes your classes, seven meals, transportation from the Alumni House each day and transportation to and from Nashville. To request a brochure and registration information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-6878. The brochure also is posted on mtalumni.com. Special

rates are available at area hotels. Contact Rhonda Wright King, Alumni Relations assistant director, at rwright@mtsu.edu or call 1-800-533-6878 with any questions.

A Song's Life

June 23-25, 2010

Here is just some of what you'll enjoy at the 3rd Annual Alumni Summer College:

- Opening Picnic at the Alumni House
- Get Reacquainted with Your Alma Mater
- Songwriting Session
- Recording and Producing
- Recording Session in MTSU's Studio A
- Marketing and Promotion
- Faculty/Student/Alumni Concert
- The Center for Popular Music
- The Country Music Hall of Fame
- RCA Studio B
- Wildhorse Saloon
- Good Food
- Great Friends
- Loads of Blue Raider Spirit
- Fun, Fun, Fun

To request a brochure and registration information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-6878, or visit www.mtalumni.com.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Dr. Ronald Coleman ('65, '69), Hendersonville, Tenn., is the retired dean of Allied Health at Volunteer State Community College, and is currently teaching at the college and serving as a consultant on the college's Perkin's Grant CTE activities.

Priscilla Gregory Hunt ('66), Perry, Fla., retired from 32 years of teaching family and consumer sciences in the state of Florida.

Samuel McClanahan ('63, '73), Murfreesboro, has written his latest novel, *Rage of Eagles*.

Kenneth Moore ('66), Tyler, Texas, is a retired U.S. Dept. of Justice criminal investigator.

Gayle Ray ('67), Brentwood, Tenn., is the commissioner of correction for the state of Tennessee.

Lenard Whaley ('61), Dalton, Ga., is retired from Whitfield County government, after serving as county administrator for 32 years. The Whitfield County Health Center was named the Whaley Health Department to honor him and his wife.

1970s

Brian Banner ('74), Branchville, N.J., was awarded a 25-year membership certificate by Samaritan #98 F&AM of New Jersey.

Leilani Barna ('77), Winchester, Virginia, launched Change Your Conversations LLC, www.changeyourconversation.com.

Bruce Higdon ('72), Murfreesboro, is one of 10 of today's most recognized cartoonists and caricaturists on a week-long USO entertainment tour to visit troops stationed in Germany and the Persian Gulf.

Thomas Sparrow Long ('71), Jacksonville, Fla., just released his book, *Spent Shells Along the Atlantic*.

John R. Nelson ('74, '75), Maineville, Ohio, is the assistant dean for administrative services at University of Cincinnati Clermont College.

Joe Tillett ('71), Shelbyville, Tenn., is a Bedford County commissioner and current chairman of the budget and finance committee. He was elected chairman of the Bedford County Railroad Board after serving as vice chairman.

1980s

Alan Bauer ('86), Haddon Township, N.J., is owner of Elauwit Media.

Dr. James Bratten ('80), Murfreesboro, recently celebrated 25 years of dental practice in Rutherford County.

Lisa Frazier Cripps ('80, '94), Liberty, Tenn., in 2008 was named DeKalb teacher of the year and regional teacher of the year.

Paul Ladd ('87), Nashville, Tenn., was the 2009 winner for Best Locally Produced Specialty Show at the Nashville Achievement in Radio Awards.

Christy Mitchell ('89), Tullahoma, Tenn., recently completed the master of science degree in management from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Sandra Nissen ('89), El Paso, Texas, is certified to teach in EC-4th grades in El Paso.

Lisa Nix ('89), Murfreesboro, was awarded the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award from Leadership Health Care.

Sandra Small ('81), Glen Allen, Va., is teaching exceptional education in Henrico County schools.

Kory Wells ('86, '91), Murfreesboro, is chief communications officer for Specific Software Solutions and SIGMA Actuarial Consulting Group in Brentwood, Tenn.

She recently published her first collection of poetry, *Heaven Was the Moon*.

Dennis C. Wright ('81, '83), San Antonio, Texas, has been selected for promotion to chief master sergeant, the Air Force's highest enlisted grade. Chief master sergeants comprise the top one percent of the Air Force enlisted force.

1990s

Jason Allen ('91), Hermitage, Tenn., is the scriptwriter for the movie "Lucky Fritz" starring Corey Feldman.

Terri Conduff ('95), Morristown, Tenn., is owner of TDC Communications, www.tdc-comm.com.

Daphne M. Davis ('99), Nashville, Tenn., has graduated from Nashville School of Law and opened her own law practice in Nashville.

Jade Graham ('94), Smyrna, Tenn., is president and operator of Graham Insurance Inc.

James Graham ('95), Jacksonville, Fla., has passed the Florida bar exam and is a practicing attorney in Jacksonville.

Case Robertson ('99), Powder Springs, Ga., is a GIS coordinator for Electric Cities of Georgia.

Chip Robison ('93), Moses Lake, Wash., works as an environmental engineer for a green company that produces the main components for solar panels.

2000s

Stacy Alcala ('07), Nashville, Tenn., is an assistant account executive for McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations.

Amanda Brown ('01), Shelbyville, Tenn., recently competed in the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship with her AMCH GRCH Dalwhinnie Highlander of Junction, better known as George.

Scott Gardner ('05), Nashville, Tenn., graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law and has accepted a position with Kay, Griffin, Enkema and Brothers PLLC.

Robert J. Hazard ('03), Tullahoma, Tenn., joined Gullett Sandord Robinson & Martin PLLC as an associate in the firm's estate planning and probate section.

Matthew Holton ('07), Franklin, Tenn., is host of a two-hour weekly show on Channel 9 devoted to scary movies.

Sepideh C. Khansari ('03, '04), Murfreesboro, is an associate in the litigation department of Miller & Martin PLLC.

Julianna J. Loden ('01), Knoxville, Tenn., is a 2010 J.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Holly Luechauer ('07), Oakland, Tenn., is a director for 1st Class Montessori School in Cordova, Tenn.

Paul Marker ('04), Richmond, Texas, is a federal tax manager for Waste Management Inc. in Houston, Texas.

Joseph Relyea ('08), Nolensville, Tenn., is an employee of BMI on Music Row, Nashville.

Rachel Segrest ('07), Pegram, Tenn., is a special education teacher at Harpeth High School.

Baby Raiders

Gavin Reed Bogle, born Dec. 10, 2009, to Clint and **Christi Bogle** ('03) of Woodbury, Tenn.

Clarke Michael Boutte, born Oct. 30, 2009, to Scott and **Rae Clarke Boutte** ('03) of Ringgold, Ga.

Jadon Isaiah Brinson, born July 7, 2009, to Andrey and **Michelle Brinson** ('91) of Nashville, Tenn.

Assata Che Marley Christman, born Oct. 21, 2009, to Bryant and **Trudy Lyn Stearns Christman** ('08) of Tallahassee, Fla.

Brennan Tyler Gregory, born Nov. 23, 2009, to Josh and **Kasey Gregory** ('06) of Murfreesboro.

John Hampton Harvill and **Mary Evelyn Harvill**, born Oct. 16, 2009 to Chuck and **Michelle Harvill** ('94) of Birmingham, Ala.

Nicholas J. Hudgins, born Dec. 25, 2009, to **Alonzo** ('04) and **Mealand Ragland Hudgins** ('03) of Murfreesboro.

Nicholas Creed Lockmiller, born Dec. 30, 2009, to **Jon** ('98, '00) and **Lori Lockmiller** ('01) of Franklin, Tenn.

In Memoriam

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

1940s

Yvonne Blankenship ('40), Nashville, Tenn., passed away Sept. 15, 2009.

1950s

Ellis E. Davidson Jr. ('53), Marietta, Ga., passed away Dec. 4, 2009.

Joyce Cooper Shahan ('55), Tullahoma, Tenn., passed away Dec. 3, 2009.

1960s

John Martin Bradley ('66), Cleveland, Tenn., passed away March 23, 2009.

Lillian Elizabeth Lodes, born Sept. 22, 2009, to **Lance** ('94) and **Laura Lodes** of Edmond, Okla.

Liam Jude Marker, born June 7, 2009, to **Paul** ('04) and **Jennifer Marker** of Richmond, Texas.

Samuel Wilson Neal, born Sept. 16, 2008, to **Tony** ('86) and **Kathy Neal** of Springfield, Tenn.

Adam Ross Parkerson, born Nov. 17, 2009, to **Paul** ('01) and **Amanda Parkerson** ('01, '03) of Murfreesboro.

Caroline Elizabeth Russell, born Nov. 17, 2009, to **Joe L.** ('89) and **Nicole Russell** ('98) of Murfreesboro.

Maloree Taylor Walthaw, born July 16, 2009, to **Cedric** ('00) and **Aimee Walthaw** ('03) of Greensboro, N.C.

Madden Charles Warner, born Dec. 6, 2009, to **Charlie** and **Stephanie Bellis Warner** ('97, '07) of College Grove, Tenn.

Brady James Watts, born Dec. 10, 2009, to **Jason** and **Katrina Watts** ('05) of Nashville, Tenn.

John Brice ('69), Clarksville, Tenn., passed away Aug. 24, 2009.

Dorothy McGinness ('63), McMinnville, Tenn., passed away May 19, 2008.

Judith Smith ('66), Orlando, Fla., passed away May 5, 2007.

1970s

Bettie Jean Tripp ('73, '76), Tulsa, Okla., passed away Nov. 17, 2009.

1980s

Kenneth "David" Chambers ('81), Murfreesboro, passed away Oct. 23, 2009.

MTSU notes passing of key staff, faculty

The university has seen the passing of five longtime faculty members and one veteran staff member with a combined 141 years of service.

Most of all, these individuals impacted the lives and careers of thousands of students along the way.

The five include:

- **Alumnus David Chambers** ('81), 50, associate director in the Office of Financial Aid and employed at MTSU from 1992 until 2009, who passed away Oct. 23;

- **Dr. Clay Morris Chandler**, 82, professor emeritus in the Department of Biology, who taught at MTSU from 1970 until 1992, who passed away Nov. 17;

- **Alumnus/Dr. Raymond Oakley**

Jennings ('47), 90, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, who passed away Sept. 6. He taught at MTSU from 1962 to 1985.

- **Dr. Mary Ethel Freida Williams Martin**, 83, professor emerita in Educational Leadership and former dean of the graduate school from 1968 until 1994, who passed away Dec. 24;

- **Dr. Burns P. Phillips Jr.**, 86, associate professor in the Departments of Mathematical Sciences and Computer Sciences from 1957 until 1983, who passed away Sept. 10; and

Dr. William R. Wolfe, 75, professor emeritis in the Department of English, who passed away Jan. 6. He taught at MTSU from 1969 until 1996.

We all have a stake in university's future

Just before the holidays, my family and I were standing outside the Louisiana Superdome, before the New Orleans Bowl, where the Band of Blue was getting ready to take on the University of Southern Mississippi in the “Battle of the Bands.”

The moment our band members took their places and began to perform, a Southern Miss fan standing next to me leaned over and said, “You win.”

Not only did we win the Battle of the Bands, but our Blue Raider football team defeated Southern Mississippi to notch the university’s first NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision victory. Quarterback Dwight Dasher was named the game’s most valuable player, and the football team ended the season with 10 wins and its highest-ever Associated Press and ESPN/*USA Today* rankings.

Our athletic teams are making a statement not only in football but in all sports. We are a “player” on the national sports scene. As I write this, our men’s and women’s basketball teams are in first place in the conference; our golf team is nationally ranked; and our baseball, tennis and track programs all are expected to contend for conference championships. But our university’s competitive success has not been limited to athletics.

MTSU has landed the prestigious Confucius Institute, which will provide an international partnership to elevate our university and provide critical international education opportunities for our students. Also, our Mock Trial team defeated the likes of Vanderbilt, Duke, Southern Methodist and Georgia at the Georgia Tech Mock Trial Tournament in Atlanta. And recently, MTSU was selected as one of six institutions nationally to develop an innovative program in enhancing math-science education.

While we all should take great pride in MTSU’s increasingly successful performance in academics and athletics, as alums we also must be vigilant in looking out for our alma mater.

Recently, legislation was passed in the Tennessee General Assembly to revamp higher education in Tennessee. Among its many objectives, this legislation would make the movement of students from Tennessee’s community colleges to Tennessee’s four-year universities easier. It also would remove all remedial classes from four-year universities and require students to take these classes at community colleges. Finally, it proposes to define our institutions by “mission” and to tie funding for our state universities to graduation rates instead of enrollment.

Few would argue that we need a more educated populace, not only in Tennessee but across our nation. And we should rightly be concerned about access and the costs of going to college, assuring that those who are qualified and who want to pursue a college degree have the opportunity to do so.

However, it is important for our legislators and the public to know our institutions are unique and have very special roles and responsibilities in serving the state of Tennessee.

Much has changed since 1911, when we were formed as a small teachers college. Today,



Stubblefield

MTSU is “Tennessee’s Best” comprehensive university, serving the largest undergraduate population in Tennessee. Our growth hasn’t just happened; it has been driven by the quality of programs and the opportunities afforded our students.

As we have grown, we have maintained a commitment to the success of our students, as evidenced by the fact that we have the second highest graduation rate in the state, behind only the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Remedial studies haven’t been taught by MTSU in years; instead, our students are enrolled in programs that not only are challenging but, for many, are among the best in the region and/or nation.

What has been missing from the legislative discussion is that the state of Tennessee has not fully funded the current enrollment-based funding formula for more than 10 years, and MTSU receives each year, on average, \$1,500 less per student from state funding than the other state universities. The progress we are so justifiably proud of has occurred not as a result of major infusions of money from the state but rather because of the dedication and commitment of our university to our students and the people of Tennessee.

As alumni, I urge each of you who reside in Tennessee to contact your state senator and

state representative to let them know of your interest in making sure MTSU is treated equitably as they make changes to higher education.

Finally, I encourage you to become more involved with our university. If we want to continue to see our alma

mater prosper, we each have a personal responsibility to support MTSU. Whether you attend a musical or theatrical production, support our Blue Raider athletes or make a donation to the programs that are most important to you, your investment of time and resources is a critical component of our institution’s future. I urge you to become involved!

Also, this is the time of year when we look for alumni who can help provide formal leadership for our institution. Please know that nominations are being accepted for the MTSU National Alumni Board of Directors as well as for Distinguished Alumni. Go online to mtalumni.com or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 615-898-2922 for more information.

MTSU National Alumni Association President Jim Stubblefield received his B.S. in 1983. He has served as an aide to Congressman Bart Gordon for 25 years. He and his wife, Nancy (‘88), live in Murfreesboro along with their two daughters, Katherine and Margaret.

MTSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-10

Officers

President – Jim Stubblefield (‘83) Murfreesboro, TN
Vice President – Beth Barber Jones (‘99) Columbia, TN
Treasurer – Brent Campbell (‘02) Murfreesboro, TN
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Kent Ayer (‘99) Murfreesboro, TN
Ben Bennett (‘04) Lascassas, TN
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Jamie Burns Burris (‘03) Tampa, FL
Milbrey Campbell (‘74, ‘77) Murfreesboro, TN
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Kimberly Extine (‘06) Winchester, TN
Marla Frisby (‘95) Murfreesboro, TN
Aubrey C. Hardison (‘00) Murfreesboro, TN
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Jonathon Hawkins (‘93) Murfreesboro, TN
Rollie M. Holden (‘83) Murfreesboro, TN
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Ernest McKinney (‘76) Nashville, TN
Susan Melton (‘79) Woodbury, TN
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Brad Newberry (‘93) Rockvale, TN
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Katy Francisco Riddle (‘99, ‘05) Murfreesboro, TN
Ronald Roberts (‘84, ‘91) Murfreesboro, TN
Michele Butler Rogers (‘04) White House, TN
Kelly G. Rollins (‘93) Murfreesboro, TN
Chuck Shaw (‘78) Murfreesboro, TN
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Janice B. Tant (‘76) Nashville, TN
Mike Terry (‘92) Murfreesboro, TN
Emily Wright (‘07) Murfreesboro, TN
Doug Young (‘71) Murfreesboro, TN

Ex Officio Members

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee MTSU President
William J. Bales VP, Development & Univ. Relations
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Dr. Deborah Belcher MTSU Faculty Senate President
Brandon McNary MTSU SGA President

MTSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

Term	Name	Degree Year	1966	Whitney Stegall	‘37*
2008	Mary Esther Reed	‘92, ‘94, ‘96	1965	Wendell W. Wilson	‘39*
2007	Devin McClendon	‘96	1964	Edward L. Jennings	‘38*
2006	Bob Lamb	‘69, ‘77	1963	J. Howard Warf	‘30*
2005	Sandra Y. Trail	‘72	1962	Elbert L. Fox	‘27*
2004	Ben Landers	‘77	1961	John Herman Dixon	‘30*
2003	Tommy Campbell	‘74	1960	Charles Parker Parsons	‘30*
2002	Lorraine Singer	‘70, ‘71, ‘75	1959	Hiram W. Holtsford	‘39*
2001	John Ellington	‘56	1958	Kathryn C. Hay	‘33*
2000	Ken Summar	‘84	1957	Miles McMillian	‘40*
1998-99	David A. Cullum	‘55	1956	Roy W. Wiseman	‘48, ‘52*
1997	James Caperton Jr.	‘72	1955	William Bragg	‘40*
1996	James Powers	‘72, ‘73	1954	Homer Pittard	‘36*
1995	Eddie Freeland	‘76	1953	Roy Chester Smith	‘36*
1994	Dawn F. Eaton	‘80	1952	Hugh H. Burrum	‘27*
1993	Richard C. Key	‘62	1951	Ralph Lee DeFries	‘36*
1992	Cecil T. Cantrell	‘53	1950	Joe Frank Patch	‘35*
1991	Ann A. Eaden	‘59	1949	Lucy Belle Robertson	‘46*
1990	George E. Gardner	‘57	1948	Medford P. Bowman	‘28*
1989	John F. Scarbrough	‘69, ‘71	1947	Ervin H. Thomas	‘35*
1988	Connie G. Landers	‘76	1946	Wilburn A. Shannon	‘39*
1987	John D. Hood	‘54, ‘74	1945	Lowell W. Crane	‘34*
1986	Jonah L. Fitch	‘52*	1944	Carl L. Brockett	‘28*
1985	Charlene Key	‘62, ‘67, ‘92	1942-43	Perry Williamson	‘28*
1984	William M. Beasley	‘47*	1941	James H. Swann	‘29*
1983	James E. McFarlin	‘76	1940	Roy Dowdy	‘32*
1982	Linda W. Bramblett	‘67	1939	Elcia Guy Rogers	‘30*
1981	Charles F. Kerr	‘33*	1938	Charles F. Grigsby	‘36*
1980	Charles H. Sarver	‘36*	1937	J. Pope Dyer	‘30*
1979	Charles W. Holt	‘33*	1936	Paschal Shelton	‘31*
1978	Charles F. Harrell	‘62	1935	Robert Abernathy	‘36*
1977	Martha W. Scarbrough	‘64, ‘67, ‘76	1934	Baxter Hobgood	‘30*
1975	L. Quentin Lane	‘54	1933	Rex Cole Turman	‘30*
1974	Col. Howard Ray	‘54, ‘72*	1932	Roy Simpson	‘30*
1973	Thomas O. Dye	‘31*	1931	A.E. Wright	‘29*
1972	Ross Spielman	‘55, ‘66	1930	Clyde E. Richards	‘29*
1971	Thomas E. Fox	‘40*	1929	John Zumbro	‘26*
1970	H. L. Wassom	‘39*	1928	Frank E. Bass	‘26*
1969	Lytle “Jug” Landers	‘50*	1926-27	David Henry Piper	‘26*
1968	James E. Malone	‘30*			
1967	Vesta A. England	‘37*			

* — Deceased

Centennial kickoff

Gala set for Sept. 9, 2011, at Embassy Suites

By Randy Weiler jweiler@mtsu.edu

With the theme of “Traditions of Excellence” and a 2011 date and site for the kickoff to MTSU’s centennial celebration, the 51-member Centennial Celebration Planning Committee continues its quest to make it a time to remember for all associated with MTSU’s 100th anniversary.

The inaugural event scheduled by the committee will be a kickoff dinner celebration that will be held Sept. 9, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro, said Joe Bales, vice president for the Division of Development and University Relations, who worked with MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee in appointing the committee.

“We plan to have a blue-tie gala event,” added Bob Lamb, chair of the Centennial Executive Planning Committee. “We look upon this being one of the major events the university has ever sponsored to celebrate 100 years of tradition and excellence.”

Lamb said the committee “is working on developing a first-class program at the gala.”

Alumna Suma Clark (’70, ’77), former director of MTSU Publications and Graphics and editor of *mtsu* magazine, is



Lamb

in charge of a Centennial commemorative book, to be produced by Donning Publishing Co., Bales said.

“Donning is one of the largest publishers of books of that kind in the country,” Bales said of the coffee table-type publication that will be produced. “It will be heavily laden with photographs with accompanying text and be a visual presentation and representation of the university’s history.”

Bales said one of the goals of the Centennial Celebration Planning Committee and subcommittees “is to find ways for people to get involved. Lots of things will be happening over the course of the year (September 2011 until May 2012).”

One of the ways will be through creating a virtual museum photo gallery.

Clark and Dr. Jim Williams want to attract historical materials (photos, papers, newspapers, memorabilia, etc.) to the university.

Contact Williams, director of the Gore Research Center, by calling 615-898-2632 or e-mail jhwillia@mtsu.edu.



Bradley Lambert/MT Athletic Communications

Alumna Faye Brandon (’49), second from right, made a \$100,000 commitment to endow a women’s basketball scholarship in February. In addition to the crowd, acknowledging her gift are MT Lady Raiders Coach Rick Insell, left, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro and university President Sidney A. McPhee.

Brandon makes \$100K gift

Alumna Faye Brandon (’49), a former Lady Raider (1946-47), MTSU faculty member in health, physical education and recreation from 1971-92 and longtime Blue Raider Athletic Association member, recently presented a check for \$100,000 as a commitment to endow a women’s basketball scholarship. She presented the

check to Director of Athletics Chris Massaro and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee.

More information on giving to the athletic program or endowed scholarships can be obtained from BRAA Executive Director Alan Farley by calling 615-898-2210 or the Office of Development by calling 615-898-2502.

Raiders

absolute thrill, and a lot of my friends were with me.”

The bowl experience was something to savor — one that many would love to see become a tradition.

“It was a really great experience. I look forward to many more,” alumnus Don Witherspoon (’64) of Murfreesboro said.

“The excitement and enthusiasm were great,” added Hanna Witherspoon (’64).

As a Blue Raider Athletic Association reward for buying or getting others to buy tickets to the game, the Witherspools flew with the team to New Orleans.

“The electricity on the plane ... the guys (players) were smiling, and coming home was even better,” Hanna Witherspoon said. “Coach (Rick) Stockstill did not stop smiling the whole trip. The coaches’ wives and children ... everybody was really into this.”

Dasher, a junior, had a New Orleans Bowl record 201 yards rushing, 162 yards passing, and he ran for two touchdowns and passed for two more.

“I’ve never been part of a team that plays with such effort, intensity, passion and toughness,” Stockstill said. “I’m proud of every single one on this team. I’ve never been part of a team that plays harder than we do. Other teams can’t match our intensity, enthusiasm and toughness, and that was evident.”

President Sidney A. McPhee acknowledged both the on- and off-the-field successes of the team.

“We are all extremely proud of the results of our 2009 football season,” McPhee said. “Our success came as a result of a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication by Coach Stockstill, his staff and our football team, along with the unwavering support of our Blue Raider fans and the Murfreesboro community.”

“What makes our success on the field even more exciting is that our football team also continues to excel in the classroom. These outstanding student-athletes have brought a significant amount of positive exposure to the university through their athletic performance, which also serves to increase public awareness of our outstanding academic programs and the quality of our faculty, staff and students.”

MT Athletic Communications reports that Stockstill-led efforts have taken the Blue Raiders’

With graduation the day before the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl game, many grads proudly displayed their new alumni status.



Academic Progress Rate from 892 to 990 in three years’ time — the biggest jump of any school in the country.

Director of Athletics Chris Massaro told local media that Stockstill has done “a terrific job ... not only record-wise but the academics and all those kind of things ... One can see the progression of our young talent, the progression of our academic work, the graduation and the effect on our student-athletes.”

Thousands of blue- and white-clad fans began gathering several days before the game, taking in the sights, sounds and tastes of New Orleans. “Go Blue!” yells became quite common. A National Alumni Association Bowl Bash drew an overflow crowd of fans and friends to enjoy a traditional New Orleans meal overlooking Fan Fest. A Battle of the Bands stirred fans’ emotions. (We’re told the Band of Blue won that battle, too.)

“There was a great turnout for the party,” Don Witherspoon said of the Bowl Bash. “Any time on



Marc Rogers (’80), right, and soon-to-be alumna daughter Claire made the New Orleans Bowl experience a father/daughter trip they will long remember.



Alumni Relations photos

More than 300 fans attended the Alumni Association’s Bowl Bash in New Orleans the night before the game. They spread the Blue Raider spirit and dined on local cuisine.

the trip, we were always trying to wear our Middle Tennessee logo. It was something that made us proud to be a part of the MTSU fans and proud to be alumni.”