

MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Doctor *of Evidence*

Dr. Hugh Berryman helps
MTSU build a top-notch
forensic science program

Celebrating MTSU's
100th birthday



MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

traditions of excellence 1911-2011

Crème of the
Class of **2011**



Outside the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building

Photo: J. Intintoli

In an effort to better serve you, the alumni base, with our publications, we have launched this full-color, glossy magazine as a replacement for *The Alumni Record*. Our goal? To produce an alumni and friends publication that, like MTSU itself, will be considered Tennessee's "best" in field.

We hope you like the results. And we welcome your feedback. As one of more than 90,000 MTSU alums, this is your publication. Let us know how we're doing. And thanks for your support of "*Tennessee's Best*" university.

Contact MTSU Magazine editor Drew Ruble at druble@mtsu.edu.



Drew Ruble

SOMETIMES YOU THINK YOU KNOW,
but you don't.

As a professional journalist working in the middle Tennessee market for more than nine years, I had plenty of opportunity to cover Middle Tennessee State University. As editor of *BusinessTN* magazine—the only statewide business and public affairs magazine in Tennessee—and its successor, *Nashville Post*, I covered aspects of the University ranging from its strong business and educational ties to China to its signature recording industry, aerospace, and concrete management programs. I considered myself more aware than most of MTSU's value to the area, whether through economic impact or in its role as an institution of higher education.

In retrospect, I had no idea how significant MTSU was to the local market area—and specifically to the business community. MTSU is roughly the size of Vanderbilt, Tennessee State, Belmont, Fisk, and Lipscomb universities combined. It produces more graduates for Nashville's workforce than those other five institutions put together. And to top it off, MTSU students actually stay and work in the middle Tennessee market at a much higher rate than graduates of the other schools.

In Rutherford County—in recent years, a national leader in job growth—MTSU is a linchpin of economic and cultural vibrancy. A good-sized city each day during the school year, the county's second-largest employer also plays an integral role in the quality of life in Murfreesboro.

MTSU's future promises to be just as impressive—if not more so—than its past. From bringing new buildings online to growing important new Ph.D. programs to the exciting research being conducted by its faculty, **MTSU is a university on the move**. Even amid budget cutbacks, MTSU's momentum has not stalled.

My first few months as the University's new senior editor for University publications opened my eyes to the richness of academic and social life here at MTSU. The stories in this edition represent some of those findings. In preparing this inaugural edition, I've also discovered what many have known for a long time—MTSU is the best-performing university in all of Tennessee. Among all TBR schools, MTSU's graduation rate ranks second—even though the University boasts the largest undergraduate enrollment in the state at more than 26,000 students. This has been accomplished despite the fact that the amount of taxpayer funds appropriated to MTSU during the 2009–2010 fiscal year was almost half that of UT–Knoxville. The bottom line? MTSU lives up to the hype as “Tennessee's Best” performing university.

Sometimes you think you know, but you don't—and then you learn. **MTSU**

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**MIDDLE
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Priorities and Perspectives



Sidney A. McPhee

Independent outlets such as *Forbes*, the *Princeton Review*, and *U.S. News & World Report* have recognized us as **a great university and a great value.**

Some members of the University community would like to change MTSU’s name to the University of Middle Tennessee, believing that taking the “State” out of the name would boost MTSU’s prestige. It’s not a new idea. What is your position?

As we approach our centennial, there is a natural focus on the progress that MTSU has made during its 100 years of existence. It speaks well of some of our alumni, students, and friends of this University that they have raised the issue of a potential name change. I view this conversation very positively. It is an expression of pride that our supporters have in this University.

It is important that we put this discussion of the name change into perspective. We must consider many of the other issues facing the University, from the financial challenges that are a result of the economy to our commitment to respond positively to the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010. The state has identified the act as its priority for higher education. So, the question becomes, where do we put our energies?

My position is that I am listening to the various voices on this issue, as well as many other issues. I think it’s a healthy debate to have. I encourage our alums and supporters to take into consideration all of the implications of such a move.

Wouldn’t such a decision require consideration—and approval—beyond our campus?

A change would, in fact, require legislative action. That’s part of looking at it from a comprehensive point of view and making sure we understand all the implications. For example, our number-one need before the General Assembly and the new gubernatorial administration is to secure funding for the Science Building, which would replace our current, inadequate facilities. I would suggest that the Science Building is more deserving of the immediate attention of our state’s leadership.

We also should consider that, over the past few years, we have achieved a significant amount of

regional and national recognition. Independent outlets such as *Forbes*, the *Princeton Review*, and *U.S. News & World Report* have recognized us as a great university and a great value. Those are external confirmations of the success—and we did all of that as Middle Tennessee State University. That’s not to say that changing the name wouldn’t further help the University. But let’s remember we have made significant progress over the years as MTSU.

The Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 connects state funding levels to graduation rates. What is MTSU doing to fulfill the act? Is the act equitable?

Our University, faculty, staff, and administrators are very supportive of the goals of this reform initiative. We do have some concerns about implementation of the new formula and how will it affect MTSU long term. And we have expressed our concerns to both [the] Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Notwithstanding, however, we will continue working with THEC, the TBR, and the state to monitor the financial impact of these changes on our University. Our intent is to achieve a fair and balanced consideration that recognizes how successful we’ve been in the last 10 years in the number of graduates we’ve produced for the middle Tennessee region. And we are particularly proud that 78 percent of our alumni live in Tennessee, which illustrates vividly the role we play in providing a quality, educated workforce for the entire state.

We recognized the need to focus on retention and graduation rates even before the act came to pass. Our University College, formed last year, is helping us better coordinate the services we offer to keep students on track. The new college has proved to be a good fit within the priorities set forward in the act. It has been stellar in its outreach, particularly with adult students and veterans, whose access or persistence in higher education is often challenged by family, work, and other demands.

Thank you for your time, Mr. President. [MTSU](#)

Excellence.



Few schools are as dominant in their conference.

Six Sun Belt Conference all-sports trophies in ten years.

Twenty-six NCAA postseason appearances since 2005.

Average student-athlete GPA above 3.0.

Highest academic progress rate among public Tennessee universities.

Achievement knows no bounds.



A **brief** look at important research at MTSU

Growth Experience

by Drew Ruble

An endangered local ecosystem stands to benefit from the return of two problem-solving plant ecologists

Outside garden clubs and co-ops, seeds probably don't figure in the daily discussion of the average person. Yet, after water and oxygen, seeds are about as crucial to human life as it gets. One need look no further than the so-called "Doomsday" seed vault located in the Norwegian tundra—a repository for the world's food sources should man, or outside forces, one day need to resow the planet—to see how serious a matter seed preservation can be.

Still, storing a seed does little good if one does not know how to make it germinate. That's where MTSU's own seed experts—Drs. Jeffrey Walck and Siti Hidayati—come in. The husband-wife duo of plant ecologists study seed germination and have cracked the mysteries of hard-to-germinate species around the world.

The pair recently returned to MTSU after a two-year sabbatical working in Australia as part of a collaborative partnership among Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth, the University of Western Australia's School of Plant Biology, and the Millennium Seed Bank Project at the Royal Botanic Gardens. (Dramatically named Norwegian seed vaults notwithstanding, this latter project is the world's largest seed conservation initiative for safeguarding plants against extinction.) While in the Land of Oz, the couple cracked the mystery of germination in Guinea flowers—dominant shrubs in temperate Australia—and also worked on several plants important for mining restoration.

Yet, after water and oxygen, **seeds** are about as crucial to human life as it gets.



"[Australians] have large mining operations, so they have to reclaim the land

but couldn't get the seeds of the native species to germinate," Walck explains. "That was very big for them from both an academic and industrial standpoint."

Success unlocking Australia's seed mysteries garnered attention elsewhere around the globe. Taiwan and South Korea each have the couple working to unlock their own seed germination mysteries. It's also led to greater notice in the global science community. Based on additional efforts in Australia reviewing the effects of global climate change on plant regeneration from seeds, Walck recently coauthored and published an opinion article in *Nature*, one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals, titled "Time to Future-proof Plants in Storage."

While the couple's global seed germination studies continue to percolate in incubators lining the halls of the Davis Science Building on MTSU's campus, the pair is turning their attention to a problem closer to home—the preservation and restoration of middle Tennessee's signature cedar glades.

Cedar glades, where limestone bedrock occurs near or at the surface and make it impossible for trees to grow, are an endangered ecosystem. Globally unique, they are found primarily in middle Tennessee. But because of the rapid growth of Metro Nashville and nearby Murfreesboro and Lebanon, many of the cedar glades (an estimated 50%) have been destroyed by development. Plant communities of highly specialized species, **many of which are found nowhere else in the world**, have been destroyed along the way.

Walck has focused on restoration ecology—or what to do to "fix" a glade that's been disturbed or destroyed. "Nothing has ever been done on that question," Walck says. "We have some glades that have been heavily impacted and could probably

be restored, but we lack the basic ecological data needed to do it.”

Though the rest of the world may miss them, Walck and Hidayati’s return to middle Tennessee comes just in time for the cedar glades.

To learn more about MTSU’s educational efforts to preserve cedar glades, visit http://frank.mtsu.edu/~mtsucee/Cedar_Glades.htm.

A Fine Grasp

by Drew Ruble

Daniel Erenso tackles sickle cell diseases one cell at a time

Dr. Daniel Erenso, associate professor of physics and astronomy, must have been hard to beat when playing the game Operation as a kid. (Remember the game where players use tweezers to extract parts from small slits in a cartoon body without touching the edges of the cavity for fear of being electronically “buzzed” out of the game?)

That’s because Erenso uses an experimental technique that enables him to “grasp” individual cells with a laser beam to study the morphology and elasticity of red blood cells (RBCs) by measuring their responses to linear and rotational deformations.

What’s the upside? Abnormalities in RBC shape or flexibility, which are caused by genetic mutation, can result in sickle cell (SC) diseases. The prevalence of these diseases in the United States is approximately one in 5,000. Worldwide, an estimated 300,000 affected individuals are born each year. SC affects mostly people (or their descendants) from parts of tropical and subtropical regions since the gene mutation is caused by frequent exposure to malaria, which is common there.

Though several treatments have been developed to treat these diseases, the most promising technique is stem cell–targeted gene therapy. Recently, a clinical trial conducted in mouse models by a group led by Dr. Derek Persons at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis corrected two common types of sickle cell diseases: sickle cell anemia and beta-thalassemia.

Future human clinical trials of such stem cell–targeted gene therapy will require a different

approach to measure the efficacy of the treatment in mice. One method is to conduct a comparative study on the elasto-mechanical properties of the normal, the sickle, and the genetically corrected RBCs of the mouse model using laser tweezers. Last summer, Erenso teamed up with St. Jude’s Persons to conduct this study. Erenso and coworkers found that the new blood cells generated through the gene therapy technique have properties resembling those of healthy cells, a breakthrough for the scientists and good news for those with sickle cell diseases.

A RetroFit Future

by Randy Weiler

Dr. Charles Perry invents a way to make every car a hybrid

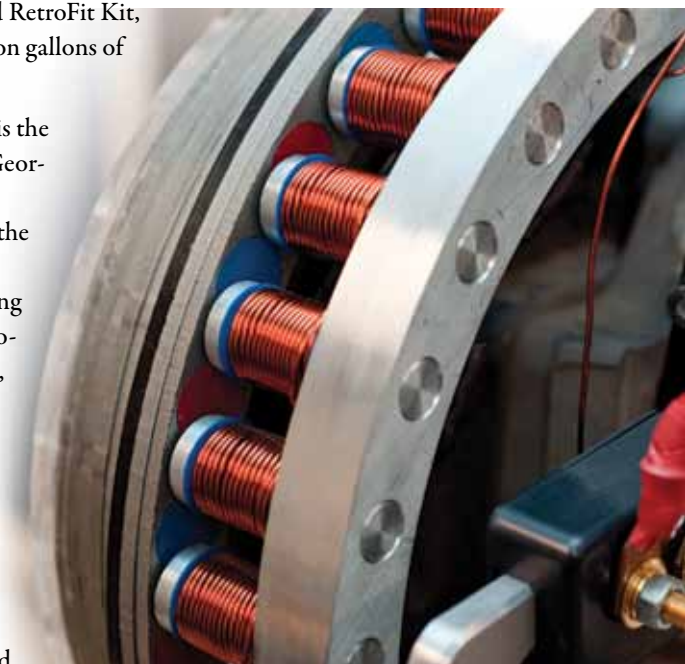
Prolific patent recipient Dr. Charles Perry’s latest invention, the Plug-In Hybrid RetroFit Kit, could save America 120 million gallons of fuel daily.

Perry (B.S. ’66 and M.S. ’69) is the holder of the Robert E. and Georgianna West Russell Chair of Manufacturing Excellence in the Department of Engineering Technology. He is spearheading an eight-member team collaborating on this patent-pending, wheel-hub motor project.

Perry says that 80% of U.S. drivers make daily trips of 30 miles or less driving 40 mph or less. Those trips can be made with his 10- to 15-horsepower electric motors that would be powered by extra batteries installed in the car’s trunk. (The hybrid retrofit kit is installed in the space between the brake mechanism and the hub.)

Perry, a former IBM electrical engineer who was awarded 40 patents during his career there, says he believes the kits could be developed into a product selling for between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Erenso uses an **experimental technique** that enables him to “grasp” individual **cells with a laser beam** to study the morphology and elasticity of red blood cells.



(The hybrid retrofit kit is installed in the space between the brake mechanism and the hub.)

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Pick of the Crop

by Drew Ruble

Jeremy Kellem gains recognition for his performance both on and off the field.

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30, FROM A MICROPHONE ON THE stage of the Radio City Music Hall in New York City, Jeremy Kellem ('11) hopes to hear his name called.

But if the 30 teams in the National Football League choose not to draft Kellem, the star MTSU defensive back shouldn't be too concerned about finding employment. He'll have his high grade point average to fall back on.

Kellem, who recently graduated cum laude with a degree in organizational communication (and achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA in his final semester), is the **first MTSU football player** since 1991 to be named to the ESPN Academic All-America Football Second Team. Kellem is just the fourth Academic All-American in school history, and the first to be both an Academic All-American and a first team All-Conference performer.

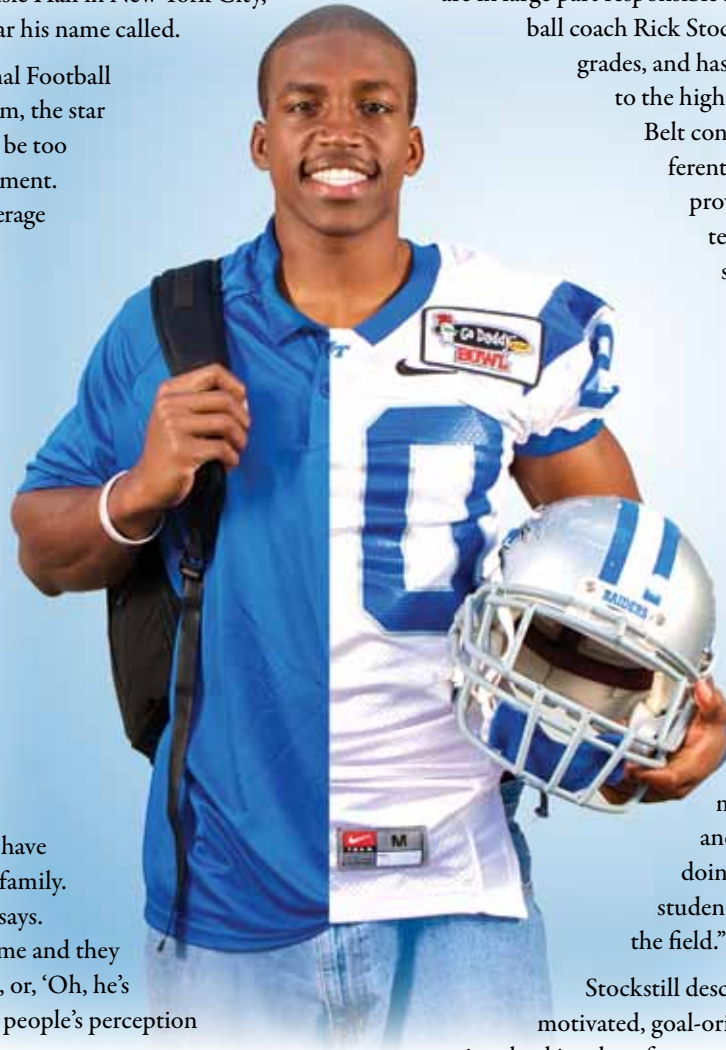
According to Kellem, academics have always come before sports in his family. "Plus, I like to shock people," he says. "They get in the classroom with me and they are like, 'Oh, he can actually talk, or, 'Oh, he's not dumb'—I just like to change people's perception of athletes."

Kellem is a four-year starter on the team, and his good grades are in large part responsible for that. MTSU head football coach Rick Stockstill is a stickler for good grades, and has, in fact, led MTSU

to the highest APR rate in the Sun Belt conference. (The APR—different from graduation rate—provides a real-time look at a team's academic success each semester by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete. Factors include eligibility, retention, and graduation, thus providing a picture of the academic culture of each sport.) Entering the 2010 season, 75 of the 78 student-athletes who have played under Stockstill earned degrees.

"Football comes last to Coach Stock," Kellem says. "He really focuses on making you a better student and a better man. If you aren't doing well as a man and as a student, he isn't going to let you on the field."

Stockstill describes Kellem as a "highly motivated, goal-oriented young man" who is involved in a lot of community outreach activities like



"I just like to change people's perception of athletes."





In Memoriam

Clantina Marie Lapae Stewart

Oct. 17, 1989 – March 2, 2011

A NATIVE OF MEMPHIS, TINA STEWART came to MTSU after an outstanding career at Memphis Central High School. At MTSU, she majored in exercise science. It was said that she had a smile that would light up a room. She proudly stated in the women's basketball program's media guide that the people who influenced her the most were her family. Stewart is survived by her father and mother, Adrian and Ida Jackson, and her three siblings, Adrian, Monika and Miesha. [MTSU](#)

“You’ve got an obligation to this football program, to this University, and to these fans. You’ve got an **obligation** to finish.”

motivational speaking to students in local elementary schools. “He’s a great **example** of what a college student-athlete should be,” Stockstill says. “He’s what every coach would love for his players to be.”

That local involvement resulted in Kellem being nominated for a college football “Rudy” award. Founded by Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger, the inspiration behind the blockbuster Hollywood film *Rudy*, the award seeks to identify the most inspirational and motivational Division I football players in America who best defined what Ruettiger refers to as “The Four Cs”: Character, Courage, Contribution, and Commitment.

Perhaps on April 30, Kellem can add “draft pick” to his list of accomplishments. [MTSU](#)



Photo: Jack Ross

Holding Up Their End

We asked MTSU head football coach Rick Stockstill what he told his team when its record stood at 3 and 6 and its odds of evening the record and becoming bowl-eligible were low. (The team rallied to win its final three games and received an invitation to the GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Ala., where it lost to Miami University of Ohio.)

“I said, ‘You’ve got an obligation to this football program, to this University, and to these fans. You signed the scholarship, and giving up is never written in that scholarship. You’ve got an obligation to finish, and not only to this University and its fans but to yourself in terms of how you are going to play these last three games.’ They kept playing.”

[MTSU](#)

Recipes for Success

Two MTSU foodies put their degrees to work chasing down dreams

by Candace Moonshower

Seasoning to Taste

April McKinney finds multiple ways to combine her passion for cooking with her Mass Communication degree

April McKinney began making homemade videos in sixth grade, so when it was time to choose a college and a major, the Mass Communication program at MTSU was a natural choice for the Murfreesboro native. McKinney was soon involved with the MTSU television station (MTV). “I saw what it would be like to work in broadcasting in real-life, real-time experience,” McKinney says. “I enjoyed it, but it taught me that I did not want to report news. I wanted to be more creative,” McKinney says.

McKinney worked as an intern with WTVF’s daily *Talk of the Town* program. She noted that every day there was a recipe and a recipe demo, and this piqued her interest. While she had no culinary education, McKinney always had enjoyed cooking. She had lived at home during her last two years of college and cooked for her entire family. In return, her parents encouraged her culinary efforts. “They bought all the food,” she says. “The good stuff.”

After graduating in December 2009 with her B.S. in Mass Communication—and a backup license in real estate—McKinney threw herself full force into real estate. But something was missing. “I thought, ‘I love cooking, and I love broadcast journalism,’” she says. “I talked to my fiancé, and he said, ‘Let’s keep our eyes open.’”

A few days later, McKinney received an email from one of the Kraft mailing lists to which she subscribes. “Do you want to be the next great cooking star?” the email asked. McKinney went to the website and discovered a contest to use cream cheese in a recipe. She submitted a video. Two weeks later, she got a call that she was a finalist: one of the top 16 out of approximately 8,000 entries.

Two days after her honeymoon, McKinney traveled to Savannah, Ga., to the home of cooking star Paula Deen for

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Baker's Mark

For Jay Qualls, a twisting career path becomes a cakewalk.

Like so many Gen-Xers, Jay Qualls' route to success has been a circuitous one. Qualls, who grew up in Fairview, Tenn., began his college years at MTSU and continued to work at his education on and off while he started a family and worked at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in business administration for 15 years. In 2003, Qualls received his B.S. in business from MTSU and underwent bariatric weight-loss surgery. These events led to a career change—a position at Centennial Medical Center's Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence—followed by a transfer to Baptist Hospital, and then, when Baptist and St. Thomas merged, the loss of his position.

Out of work at age 36, Qualls realized that he wanted to take control of his own destiny. His partner, Dr. William Langston, a psychology professor at MTSU, asked Qualls a pivotal question: "What would you do if you could do anything in the world?"

"Make cakes," Qualls answered without hesitation. That simple answer led to the opening of a combination deli/bakery in Murfreesboro in 2005, but it soon became evident to Qualls that he was trying to do all things for all people. "I was working 24/7," he says. "We made cakes, we catered, we served lunch, we met with brides—but I realized during that first chaotic year that my passion was wedding cakes."

In 2006, the business was redefined as Maples Wedding Cakes.

Since focusing his talents on wedding cakes, Qualls has been featured in the recent 15th anniversary edition of *Martha Stewart Weddings*. He has traveled to Montreal

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Past as Prologue

by Suma Clark

A veteran MTSU chronicler finds plenty of surprises while sifting through the University's past



A

DOES PRESIDENT P. L. Harned sound familiar? It didn't ring any bells for me either, but he was, for a very short time, this University's second president. Apparently, when our first president, Professor R. L. Jones, supported the wrong person in a heated governor's race in 1918, Jones's resignation helped avoid damaging the Normal School. Perry L. Harned, from Montgomery County and a member of the State Board of Education, was elected to replace Jones.

However, nobody checked with Andrew L. Todd, the Murfreesboro attorney who influenced virtually everything about the

beginnings of the Normal. His control continued as he sought to prevent a political rival from heading "his" school. He encouraged a local citizens' group to join the fray, and they selected their own candidate—P. A. Lyon, dean and mathematics professor at the Normal. Whatever attraction moving to Rutherford County held for Harned vanished, and he immediately resigned.

Lyon was named acting president. Just two years later, the political winds shifted, and Alf Taylor was elected governor, clearing the way for Jones to become president again, a position he held until 1921, when he left to become superintendent of schools in Memphis. Not surprisingly, politics

played just as relevant a role—maybe more so—almost 100 years ago as it does today!

That is but one of myriad surprising historical nuggets I found while rummaging through University materials in preparation for a book chronicling MTSU's first 10 decades. (And I thought I knew all about MTSU. After all, I've been writing about it for more than thirty years—along with editing the words of others!) In case the Centennial has snuck up on you, Middle Tennessee State Normal School, MTSU's predecessor, opened its doors on Monday, Sept. 11, 1911, and plans are well under way for celebrating our 100-year mark. (See sidebar.)

Other nuggets of interest:

- Though it perhaps shouldn't have been a surprise, I was struck by how very different the decades are. What was socially and morally acceptable at one time often is very jarring to us today. For example, in the January 1922 issue of *The Normalite*, a student publication, a writer describes the editorial contribution box as "about as popular as a ham sandwich" at a picnic of a specific ethnic group that avoids consuming pork. Sitting in the quiet confines of Walker Library Special Collections reading room, I gasped audibly. That really brought home to me how different the world was then.
- Still another startling difference is seeing colorful Lucky Strike cigarette ads and other tobacco-related promotions adorning covers and center spreads of football programs from the early and mid-1900s.
- More interesting as a confirmation of history than as revelation—married female students were identified through their husbands. In a listing of early graduates, "Mrs. Hugh Burrum" fairly jumps off the page.



B

A. P. A. Lyon, acting president, 1918–20, and president, 1922–37, is seen front center with what seems largely to be a group of students in front one of the four original buildings, now known as Kirksey Old Main. Photo courtesy of the Albert Gore Research Center. **B.** 1912 diploma Image courtesy of Walker Library Special Collections.



This image was taken between the main building and what's now Rutledge Hall. It is labeled "Co-ed 1920 Variety."



Caroline (leaning forward) and President M. G. Scarlett are hosting Governor Winfield Dunn, probably at a basketball game in Murphy Center, which opened in 1972.

- Though it's commonly accepted that track began with Coach Joe Black Hayes in 1955, alumnus Winifred Lewis McFerrin telephoned with what really happened. He said that in 1948, "Coach Bubber Murphy called several of the athletes [from various sports] together and told us the athletic department had allocated a small amount of money for track and field." Murphy asked Lomas Moffett, who was older than the others, to be in charge. McFerrin says they traveled to meets but could only compete in events for which they had a qualified participant. A newspaper clipping found in a scrapbook housed in the Alumni Office confirmed his story. McFerrin, 83 and retired, is a WWII veteran who attended on the GI Bill and was a basketball walk-on.

Researching MTSU's rich history has made me wish that time travel were real; I long to talk with Charles Joseph Woodson, a slightly built player on the 1923 baseball team. His patched, woolen uniform is stored at Kennon Sports Hall of Fame. And when I'm at the Gore Research Center reading letters from early faculty members, I long to have a face-to-face conversation instead.

But though we may not be able to travel in time, we can travel through pages of photographs and words. To that end, I invite you to join me in meeting figures from our history who helped create traditions of excellence. The *Centennial Book* will be available for purchase later this year. Information can be found online at www.mtsu.edu/centennial.

Editor's Note: We thank longtime MTSU editor Suma Clark for her decades of service chronicling MTSU in various publications, including this magazine. We hope to continue her tradition of smart, informed, and interesting University publications going forward. Suma, I'll be calling you!

The Century Marked

Middle Tennessee State University was founded on Sept. 11, 1911, and is the oldest and largest university in the Tennessee Board of Regents System. During 2011-12, the University is having a yearlong observance and celebration of our founding.

The celebration includes a Centennial website (www.mtsu.edu/centennial) featuring a history timeline for viewers to revisit dates throughout the decades. It also includes a Centennial Facebook page. Alumni and friends of MTSU are encouraged to visit any or all of these sites for new content, new announcements of upcoming events, and even a digital clock counting down the days, hours, and minutes to the Blue Tie Gala, which will kick off the celebration on Sept. 9, 2011. Alumni and friends are invited to post or send photographs or messages concerning their MTSU days to be included on one of the Centennial sites.

During 2011, MTSU will also establish the Centennial Scholars program, which, along with the existing Buchanan Fellows and Presidential Scholar programs, will offer MTSU students three of the most competitive scholarships in the region.

If you have questions about the University's Centennial Celebration, please contact us at centennial@mtsu.edu.

Keep up with MTSU's centennial at www.mtsu.edu/centennial • centennial@mtsu.edu



Photos and other items courtesy of the Albert Gore Research Center. *Normalite* cover courtesy of Walker Library Special Collections.

A **look back** at significant news developments

compiled by Gina E. Fann, Gina K. Logue, Tom Tozer, and Randy Weiler



Middle Kingdom meets Middle Tennessee

MTSU's ongoing efforts to build international relations and its international student population is still on track with the Confucius Institute. The institute's main purpose is to enhance the understanding of Chinese language and culture, facilitate engagement with China, which is Tennessee's third largest export market, and create opportunities for exchange and collaboration between communities in Tennessee and China. The University partnered with Hangzhou Normal University to sponsor the Confucius Institute at MTSU. Chinese delegation members are pictured here with Sen. Bill Ketron.

A New Umbrella

The new College of Behavioral and Health Sciences gathers service-oriented educational disciplines under one umbrella. It includes the departments of Criminal Justice Administration, Health and Human Performance, Psychology, Social Work, and Nursing, as well as the Communication Disorders concentration, several centers, and the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services. To learn more, go to www.mtsu.edu/cbhs.

The Good Shipp

A \$1 million gift commitment from Ken "Coach" Shipp, a 1947 graduate, will have a significant impact on campus. First, Shipp's gift will further enhance the endowed scholarship he established in 2009 ensuring that money is not the determining factor in whether or not Rutherford County students with promise and potential are able to attend MTSU. Next, the gift will allow for renovations of the coaches' office space in Murphy Center for the Lady Raiders basketball program. Now 83, Shipp was an assistant coach in the National Football League and during the 1975 season was interim coach of the New York Jets. During his career, he coached both Archie Manning and Joe Namath.

University Salute

MTSU landed in the top 15% of military-friendly schools in the U.S., according to a recent survey by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. MTSU currently enrolls nearly 1,000 veterans. The magazine cited MTSU's Military Center, established in 2009, as a major reason for the lofty ranking. The future of that center, a one-stop shop located in the University College for veteran students, depends on a pending grant to fund a director's position and an advisor. For more information, call (615) 494-8952, or visit www.mtsu.edu/military.

Fulbright Futures?

Ten MTSU seniors are shooting for the same prize captured by 2010 graduates Kaitlen Howell and Eric Little last year: Fulbright Fellowships to study abroad for one academic year. The 10 applicants, twice as many as applied a year ago, will learn their Fulbright fates by mid-summer. Discover more about the program, the stated purpose of which is "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills" and eligibility requirements by calling (615) 898-5464.

Cuba Libre

For the first time in six years, MTSU students and faculty will have the opportunity to study and perform research in Cuba this summer. Dr. Ric Morris, professor specializing in Spanish and linguistics, says the program has been revamped to comply with new laws. Contact Morris at (615) 898-2284.





Eye in the Sky

MTSU and ISR Group of Savannah, Tenn., will develop an unparalleled Unmanned Aerial System program in the southeastern U.S. Unmanned aircraft is in high demand for use in defense and homeland security, law enforcement, emergency management and agriculture. MTSU's Department of Aerospace is also assisting the Federal Aviation Administration to define standards for small UAS flight operations and training certifications, as well as manned and unmanned next-generation air traffic management, to ensure safe integration of UAS into the national airspace.

Capital Gains

Giving back has always been part of Jim Gaines' DNA. The '69 graduate (B.S. history) recently reaffirmed not only his generosity but his unwavering devotion to his alma mater by moving forward to establish the Jim Gaines Endowed Chair in American History through his estate. The gift ultimately will enable the university to recruit a renowned historian to the faculty. A former six-year board member of the MTSU Foundation, Gaines has been a stalwart of the insurance business for decades. In 2003, he formed his second company, Jim Gaines Insurance and Financial Services. He did so just two years after he sold his original insurance agency, Insurance Designers of San Diego, which he formed in the mid-1980s.

A Change in the Air Waves

MTSU's historic radio station, WMOT 89.5-FM, changed formats in February from nearly 30 years of jazz programming to classical music during the daytime format (filling a niche left open by fellow public radio station WPLN's all-talk format change). Jazz remains the format on evenings and overnights. The switch retained the popular drivetime show *The Takeaway* and added National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* to the new mix.

Under Construction

MTSU's current construction projects—those creating a new campus skyline—include the \$30-million, 87,300-square-foot building that will house the newly configured College of Education. It is slated to be occupied this summer. The new \$77-million student union, scheduled to open its doors in the summer of 2012, will feature dining facilities, lounges, game rooms, a video theater, meeting and seminar rooms, and an 840-seat ballroom, among other amenities. An adjacent building will serve as a one-stop shop for all student services.

Going for the Grammys

MTSU basked in the national spotlight at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards Feb. 13. Recording Industry professor John Hill won a Grammy for "Best Engineered Album, Classical" for his work on *Daugherty: Metropolis Symphony; Deus Ex Machina* by Giancarlo Guerrero and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Alumnus Clarke Schleicher (B.S. '80) won a "Record of the Year" Grammy for engineering and mixing Lady Antebellum's "Need You Now" single—defeating records by (among others) Eminem and Alicia Keys. And alumnus Josh Kear (B.A. '96), a former MTSU History major, co-wrote "Need You Now," which won him two Grammys, one for "Song of the Year" and one for "Country Song of the Year." Kear now boasts three Grammys.



Clark Schleicher

Photo: Andrew Bazinet

Feel the Boom

MTSU continues to experience impressive enrollment increases. Final spring semester enrollment totalled 24,660 students. That's an increase of 4.26% over 2010 and marked a record enrollment for the spring.

Got Milk? Oh, Yes.

By mid-May, the MTSU farm at 3001 Guy James Road will boast a new \$4 million dairy facility. The MTSU dairy provides chocolate and white milk for campus dining facilities. 3,800 pounds—or one-third of the dairy's production—is consumed on campus every week. The remaining milk is sold to the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association.



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**MIDDLE
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Development Office

Home Grown

Larry Sizemore has been finding green solutions on the MTSU campus for decades

by Drew Ruble

MTSU Grounds Supervisor Larry Sizemore has watched MTSU grow—literally—for more than 40 years.

Until last spring, when budget cutbacks froze the program, Sizemore was the man who grew and supervised planting of the more than 10,000 flowers that dot MTSU's 500-acre campus each spring. He still grows and furnishes the ornate greenery that decorates University events like Commencement. He also keeps beds mulched, cares for shrubbery, and consults on University building projects to ensure the MTSU campus regains some of the tree species it has lost over the years.

During his time at and around MTSU, Sizemore has been a friend to campus presidents and rank-and-file workers alike. He shows no interest in retiring anytime soon.

"I'm having too much fun," he chuckles.

A 1971 alum and a biology major, Sizemore was initially hired as MTSU's greenhouse supervisor, growing snapdragons and mums and anything else horticulture students needed to complete their studies. He's still doing it, boasting a collection of more than 100 exotic flowers and plants that he's collected and maintained over the years (for example, a 35-year-old banana plant that remains in its original pot).

Sizemore has witnessed firsthand many of the changes at MTSU since his arrival. In the mid-1970s, the greenhouse area was "nothing but cornfields and cows," he says. Sizemore stands on the front porch of his office—a converted tool shed—and has a good view of the new College of Education and student union buildings under construction. But of cows and cornfields? "Not anymore," he says with a smile. **MTSU**



I'm one!

Across the ZOO NIVERSE

Dr. John Wallin works to hone and harness
**the computing power of
scientists and citizens alike**

An astrophysicist who studies interacting galaxies and the gravitational force of objects at the edge of our solar system, Dr. John Wallin has a passion for applying the power of computing to astronomy. As the director of MTSU's new Ph.D. program in Computational Science, Wallin is eager to explain how his chosen field is so crucial to scientific advancement.

"Across the sciences, computation has become an indispensable bridge between theory and experiments," he says. "Complex theoretical calculations are impossible without computer simulations.

The new Ph.D. program administered by the College of Basic and Applied Sciences directly addresses a national priority. A 2005 report to then-President George W. Bush, authored by the National Coordination Office for Information Technology Research and Development, strongly recommended that universities and the federal government's R&D agencies make "coordinated, fundamental, structural changes" to affirm **the integral role of computational science in addressing the nation's most important problems, including national security, public health, and economic innovation.**

The program also addresses the large demand for computational scientists in Tennessee. Oak Ridge National Laboratory has some of the most powerful supercomputers in the world and employs hundreds of computational science researchers. Arnold Engineering Development Center also employs scientists working in this area.

For Wallin, the Computational Science program is part of a much-needed effort to redress a widening gap between a valuable tool and its users. "Most science students are never taught how to use computational tools effectively at either the undergraduate or graduate level," says Wallin, who spent much of the last decade helping build the computational science Ph.D. program at George Mason University in Virginia. "The way that science is being practiced has become more and more disconnected from the way it is taught in the classroom," he adds. "Unless this disconnect is addressed, we will simply not have scientists who have the tools they need to solve the complex problems we are facing across the science disciplines."

As much as Wallin works to increase the training and skill of today's and tomorrow's scientists, he's no abstracted, lab-coated elitist. Wallin also serves a pivotal role in the study of an online suite of citizen-science projects called Zooniverse to determine the implications of public involvement in large-scale scientific activities. Zooniverse projects

by Drew Ruble

Computational Science is one of **three new Ph.D. science programs**

launched during the Fall 2010 semester at MTSU.

The other two?
Molecular Biosciences and Mathematics and Science Education.

range from an effort to track solar explosions to an effort to understand how galaxies merge—a Wallin specialty. Essentially, as technology has increased the flow of new information in fields like astronomy, Wallin has embraced the opportunity to use “citizen scientists” to unlock the data.

According to Wallin, the goal is to “build a partnership between machine analysis and human volunteers.” And it’s working. To date, **Zooniverse has over a half million volunteers** who have contributed nearly 60 million classifications. Such data is used to help train computers to make the same detailed observations and categorizations. Citizen science has in fact already led to the development of two new classes of astronomical objects, including the new galaxy classification known as “green peas,” or clusters of stars that resemble fuzzy, bright green spheres.

Though the new Computational Science degree may target a different population than the Zooniverse project, both endeavors—and the man in the midst of them—share a common goal: to further scientific knowledge through increased computing efficiency and mastery. **MTSU**

Editor’s Note: Do you have a question you’d like to ask an MTSU expert? Email MTSU magazine editor Drew Ruble at druble@mtsu.edu and your question might be answered in an upcoming edition of the magazine.

Rising Star: Dr. Wallin, seen here in MTSU’s naked-eye observatory (the Uranidrome), is spending the 2011 spring semester in the U.K. as a visiting fellow at Mansfield College Oxford University, the nexus of the Zooniverse project.

Dr. Carroll Van West does his part to ensure that a sesquicentennial leaves its mark on state tourism

A WAR TO REMEMBER

by Bill Lewis

THIS YEAR MARKS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL of the beginning of the Civil War. And though no one wants to celebrate the carnage of the War Between the States, Dr. Carroll Van West believes the sesquicentennial is a prime opportunity to commemorate and to reflect upon the meaning of the conflict. After all, it ripped apart the nation—Tennessee especially—and planted the seeds for a new birth of freedom.

The Civil War has lessons to teach us today, West says, and he should know. West is the director of MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation and the director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and he cochairs the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The latter body was created to lead the state's efforts in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

“Out of the Civil War's four years of death and destruction rose a nation reborn, where the words that began our country—that all men are created equal—finally began to mean what they said,” West says. “Without this Civil War, we would not have been a beacon for the world, protecting freedom and democracy in two great world wars, nor the unified people who send their sons and daughters to faraway lands to protect freedom in a modern world where darkness still lurks.”

The Heritage Area and the Sesquicentennial Commission are partners, along with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, in assisting statewide commemoration efforts. Such statewide partnerships have been especially important in a time of lean state budgets. The Civil War Sesquicentennial is a historic tourism opportunity for the state. Tennessee has contributed less to its effort than

other Southern states have to theirs. In the past two years, the Tennessee General Assembly allotted \$314,000; the figure for Virginia is more than \$4 million.

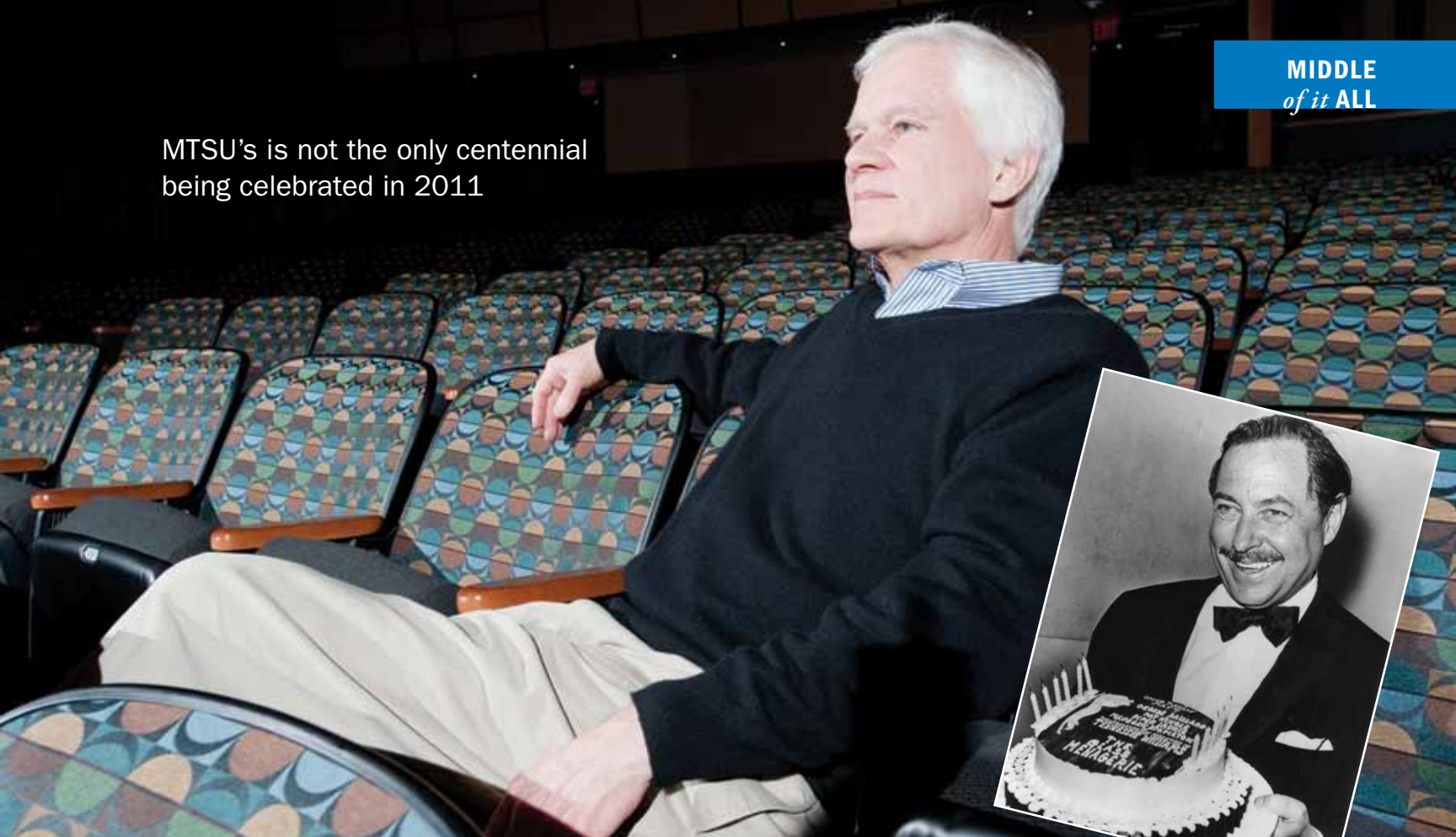
Despite lagging budgets, West says Tennessee is more ready than other states, including Virginia, to capitalize on the expected spike in heritage tourism.

West says the significance of these events could only be conveyed by “telling the whole story accurately,” he says. “That is what the Heritage Area and the Sesquicentennial Commission have been striving to do.”

It's a big order—the Heritage Area West directs is the nation's only heritage area to encompass an entire state. That means every one of Tennessee's 95 counties was touched by the war. State officials hope that, 150 years later, every county is touched again—this time, by dollars generated from heritage tourism. **MTSU**

For more information on the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU, visit www.mtsuhistpres.org.

MTSU's is not the only centennial
being celebrated in 2011



The Playwright's the Thing

by Bill Lewis

IN MARCH, MTSU PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH ROBERT BRAY, Ph.D., was in New Orleans, serving on two panels discussing the legacy of Tennessee Williams. The event combined serious scholarship and celebration of the playwright's 100th birthday.

"I plan to join others in toasting him with several glasses of champagne that evening," said Dr. Bray, during an interview earlier this year.

Bray has been traveling to New Orleans, where Williams first signed his name as "Tennessee" at a local guesthouse, each March for 17 years to participate in the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference, of which he is the founding director. Bray also serves on the programming committee and appears on panels for the annual Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival. He has written two books and dozens of articles about Williams, and since 1998 has served as the founding editor of the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*.

This year's events blended scholarship and entertainment. During the Stanley and Stella Shouting Contest, visitors reenacted the unforgettable scene from the 1951 film version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* when Marlon Brando bawled out his anguished "Stell-ahhh" at his wife upstairs in their apartment.

That combination is an appropriate way to celebrate the centenary of one of the most influential and popular literary figures of the 20th century—and now the 21st. Williams's 100th birthday will be celebrated with events across the country, proof that his reputation continues to grow.

An academic partnership between MTSU and the Historic New Orleans Collection, which maintains the Todd collection of Williams' work, enables Dr. Bray to edit the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* and to participate in the scholars conference and the literary festival each year.

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Photo of Tennessee Williams courtesy of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

Crème of the class of 2011

by Laura Wilbanks '11

Every year, MTSU yields another strong crop of graduates. We couldn't possibly tell the story of every single achiever, but we can tell a few. Here is a brief look at five members of the Class of 2011 who have made the most of their experience at MTSU.



O'Neal is hopeful, and with **two published novels** under her belt, she feels confident about what the future holds for her.

The Write Stuff

Not many graduating seniors can say they are published novelists, but English major Taffeta O'Neal has already written and released two books of fiction.

Her first novel, *Stoodie*, written during her high school career and published in 2007 under the pen name Taffeta Chime, allowed her to realize a dream. Her newest work, *The Last*, which she wrote as her Honors Thesis Creative Project, was published in March.

O'Neal is an inaugural member of the MTSU Honors College Buchanan Fellowship program. She says she can't imagine what her MTSU experience would have been like without that "gigantic blessing," which provides a full tuition waiver for four years and is the top scholarship at MTSU. She also receives the HOPE Lottery Scholarship, which she uses to pay rent, and she has accumulated several other smaller scholarships during her time at MTSU.

O'Neal plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in creative writing. She recently finished applying to eight different schools and is awaiting acceptance. (Among those schools is the University of Iowa, long considered the premier M.F.A. creative writing program in the nation.)

She jokingly admits that when she tells people about her future plans, she often gets a "get-ready-to-live-in-a-cardboard-box stare" in return. But O'Neal is hopeful, and with two published novels under her belt, she feels confident about what the future holds for her.

She leaves incoming freshmen at MTSU with this advice: "Dream big, and quit pretending that your life is scripted!"

To O'Neal's way of thinking, you write your own story.

While at MTSU, Sonia Qureshi has integrated her Western and Muslim identities.

International Relations and Global Studies major Sonia Qureshi **traveled across the globe** before coming to MTSU.

Financially Sound

Graduating debt-free sounds like the kind of advice middle Tennessee-based personal finance guru Dave Ramsey might dispense on his national radio program. In reality, though, accomplishing such a feat is an improbable dream for most college students. But don't tell that to Finance major Billy Champa. For him, it's about to become a reality.

Adopted as an infant from South Korea, Champa moved from New Jersey to middle Tennessee as a teenager when his adoptive parents separated. In order to ease the burden on his single mother, he pursued financial assistance to further his education. He credits the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship for saving him from relying on student loans to fund his education. In addition, Champa earned several other scholarships during his time at MTSU, including the Aaron's Inc. Scholarship and the 2009-2010 Professor Emeritus Scholarship.

"There's a lot of money out there. People just don't realize," Champa says, referring to the scholarships he has earned.

Those scholarship dollars kept Champa on track to attain a degree in business. Now, as he approaches graduation in May, he looks back at his years at MTSU and believes it is a place unlike any other. A minority student, Champa praises MTSU as "one of the most accepting schools, especially if you're a minority" because of its size and diverse student population.



Champa currently interns at Neace Lukens, an insurance company, at its Franklin location. After graduation in May, he plans to pursue employment in the insurance field using the knowledge he gained from both his internship and classes at MTSU.

Champa observes that many times college students "allow their possessions to own them, instead of the other way around," which he describes as a trend he refuses to follow. Perhaps channeling his inner Dave Ramsey, he challenges incoming freshmen to "live within their means."

If they listen, they might, like Champa, start their professional careers debt-free.

Traveler's Rest

International Relations and Global Studies major Sonia Qureshi traveled across the globe before coming to MTSU. She's thankful for the journey. Her family (including her father, Dr. Wasimuddin Qureshi, assistant director and fiscal compliance officer of MTSU's Office of Research Services) left Karachi, Pakistan, early in Sonia's life to come to America. "If it weren't for God's help and my parents' determination to give their children a better future and more opportunities than they had, I wouldn't be here," she says.

Qureshi has a host of scholarships under her belt, including the Raider Scholarship, the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship, an Academic Achievement Scholarship, and the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship.

Her future plans include traveling to Japan under a research grant from the Fulbright Association. At press time, she was awaiting confirmation on the grant, which will most likely be completed by July. Qureshi is considering a five-year Ph.D. degree program at the University of Chicago's political science department for the 2011-2012 school year.

Since as far back as 2007, Qureshi has been making her mark as a student-thinker. During the annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium that year, Qureshi presented a paper titled "Muslim Women Adjusting to a Westernized World." Such scholarship has continued across her years at MTSU.

She leaves incoming freshmen of MTSU with this advice: "The departments that you choose will become your home away from home, and the professors will help you achieve

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Halie Hampton, Class of 2011

HELP *TENNESSEE'S BEST* STUDENTS!

The lives of Halie Hampton and her family were literally blown apart when their house was destroyed by the 2009 Good Friday tornado that ripped through Murfreesboro. Hampton says she found solace knowing that, thanks to the J.D. and Marge Vance Scholarship, one strong life support was still in place.

Your gifts provide critical resources for top University priorities such as scholarships for exceptional students like Halie. Please consider making your **online gift** today.

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**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Fund

Crème of the Class

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your goals. It is up to you to make something of yourself, and at MTSU you will find all the support you need and more to become a better you.”

First, America. Then, MTSU. And along the way, Sonia Qureshi has made the most of her opportunities.

Taking Center Stage

For theatre student Meghan Davis, college presented the opportunity to step out of her comfort zone. Davis, who says she spent much of her youth doubting her future, was inspired by her passion for the arts to pursue her studies in MTSU’s Speech and Theatre Department. “Every day for a whole semester, I looked in the mirror and said to myself before leaving the house, ‘Be bold, Meg. Be bold,’” she says. Her endeavors were eventually rewarded when her play, *Zest*, was performed by MTSU’s Speech and Theatre Department last November. “My department supports me so fiercely,” she says. “The students in the theatre department have dedicated so much time to my project.”

Davis is an inaugural member of the MTSU Honors College Buchanan Fellowship program, a scholarship she believes she would be “completely lost without.” Davis credits the Buchanan Fellowship, which connected her to other Buchanan Fellows through joint classes, with establishing a “built-in” family at MTSU.

After graduating later this year, Davis plans to attend graduate school to study playwriting. During her final semester, she plans to intern and devote much of her time to the MTSU Theatre program.

Davis challenges incoming freshmen at MTSU to never settle for less than they deserve. “With so many majors at MTSU and so many people willing to invest time into the students here, there should be no excuse for not finding your bliss here.”

All the world’s a stage. And Meg Davis is a player on it.



[Editor’s Note: Laura Wilbanks is not only the author of this article but also a stellar member of the class of 2011 herself. The Mass Communication major (who’s focusing on learning TV and radio production) has an overall 3.85 GPA, has spent seven straight semesters on the Dean’s List, is in the top 15% of her class academically, and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the academic excellence honor society.]

More Than a Number

For students, part of the experience of attending college is discovering their own niche. Accounting major Michelle Ebel has done just that.

Ebel is an inaugural member of the MTSU Honors College Buchanan Fellowship program, which drew her to MTSU over other colleges that didn’t offer her the assistance she required. As a member of the distinguished Fellows, Ebel took lower-division classes with other members of the group. “We were together from day one,” she says. “We were all going through the same thing.”

Ebel further secured her personal niche while putting her accounting skills to use outside the classroom by joining Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting fraternity she began attending her sophomore year. By the time she became a senior, her fellow club members elected Ebel president of the organization, which she credits as both “a résumé builder and an experience builder.”

Even amid difficult economic times, that résumé has already landed Ebel a job. After graduation in May, Ebel plans to accept a standing job offer at regional accounting firm Lattimore, Black, Morgan, & Cain, commonly referred to as LBMC. Ebel began pursuing the job in the fall of last year.

She has this advice for incoming freshmen: “Get involved, join a group, and find a group of friends.”

After all, the college experience is more than just a numbers game.

MTSU

FEATURE STORY



After graduation in May, Ebel plans to accept a **standing job offer** at regional accounting firm Lattimore, Black, Morgan, & Cain.



“Be bold, Meg. Be bold.”

Piece by Piece

by Allison Gorman

An internationally recognized expert in forensic science builds a powerhouse program at MTSU

IT WAS BITTERLY COLD AND GROWING DARK—A terrible time to hunt for bones. But when Dr. Hugh Berryman got the call that a child's skull had been found near Stones River National Battlefield, he knew he couldn't wait for the luxury of daylight. Soon, snow would blanket what was looking like a crime scene.

"There was no way of holding that site," recalls Berryman, a research professor with MTSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. "It's Friday night; on Monday I'm leaving town for a week; and snow is coming. I've got two days to make this work." So he and his Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery (FASR) Team abandoned their weekend plans and met on site, where detectives from the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) had secured the wooded area and were waiting nearby with generators and halogen lights. "Law enforcement doesn't go under the yellow tape," Berryman explains. "Our team were the only ones inside. We worked for hours." Before dawn, they had collected and photographed a set of remains, later identified as a toddler who had been reported missing from her Smyrna home two years earlier.



They had done their job. They couldn't bring the child back to life, but they could provide some answers and the possibility of justice.

RCSD Detective Ralph Mayercik, who had placed the call to Berryman, says he could have called the department's own crime scene group, "but we probably wouldn't have gotten that quick of a response or that level of expertise."

That's not surprising, considering Berryman's reputation as one of the nation's foremost forensic anthropologists; Berryman recently learned that he will receive the 2012 award for lifetime achievement in physical anthropology from the American Academy for Forensic Sciences. The T. Dale Stewart Award, given annually to a single recipient, is the highest honor bestowed upon a forensic anthropologist in the United States. Venerable institutions like the Smithsonian regularly tap his expertise on bones and bone trauma. Since moving to the Nashville area in 2000, he's made himself available to regional law enforcement and other agencies who deal with death and homicide. As MTSU Provost Brad Bartel notes, "Hugh Berryman is probably on the speed dial for a lot of counties in middle Tennessee."

What's more surprising is the makeup of his FASR team—all MTSU students handpicked by Hugh Berryman, many of them undergraduates.

Crewing the Flagship

Since Berryman joined the MTSU faculty and established FASR in 2006, he and the team have collected and analyzed remains for local law enforcement and fire departments, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the State Medical Examiner's Office in Nashville.

The TBI's routine use of FASR as a resource indicates "a tremendous level of confidence" in the team, says TBI director and MTSU alum Mark Gwyn ('85). "You're trusting people with other people's lives—not only a victim but a potential perpetrator and all the ramifications that go with that down the road, such as trials and court proceedings."

At first, that trust was anchored by the weight of Berryman's authority. Now his FASR team is earning its own credentials.

Dr. Tanya Peres, an associate professor of anthropology whose undergraduate students assist her with lab and field work, says MTSU's forensics and anthropology students tend to display the sort of commitment that leads to pulling a Friday all-nighter in the bitter cold. "I've taught at several universities," she says, "and I've seen a level of dedication from our undergraduates I haven't seen in other places."

Certainly the glamorization of forensics has inflamed student interest across the United States. But at MTSU, Berryman has turned forensics into a flagship program that benefits students and community alike; it operates as an invaluable regional resource while turning out graduates who are several steps ahead of their competition.

Hired to bolster the quality and visibility of MTSU's forensics program, Berryman has done so systematically, as is the nature of a forensic scientist.

He created FASR to give his students critical field experience while lending scientific expertise to regional authorities who, as Berryman says, "don't know one bone from another." He founded MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE), which offers extensive training for local law enforcement. He developed MTSU's Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship, which attracts high-profile speakers like renowned anthropologist Dr. Clyde Snow, whose testimony has helped convict perpetrators of genocide, and Dr. Kathy Reichs, crime novelist and producer of the television series *Bones*. (Both are Berryman's peers on the elite American Board of Forensic Anthropologists.)

Last fall, building on the momentum Berryman created, MTSU introduced a bachelor's-level program in forensic science—the only one in Tennessee, one of only three in the Southeast, and expected to be one of fewer than 20 accredited programs of its kind in the country.

Bartel says this confluence of talent and opportunity in forensics will give the University national name recognition. "As a provost, you want all of your programs to be as good as they can be," Bartel says. "But some, by the nature of the quality faculty you have, and maybe just the uniqueness of the program, rise to a higher level nationally. I view the forensic program as one of those signature, reputational programs for MTSU."

"Hugh Berryman is probably **on the speed dial** for a lot of counties in middle Tennessee."

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“Hugh is funny, he’s a great lecturer, and he’s fun to be with,” Bass says. “And if you’re going out to look at a dead body, you want somebody that’s fun to be with.”

Bringing the Bone-a Fides

If Berryman is the guiding star in this constellation, you wouldn’t know it by his demeanor; he is affable and absolutely without pretension, his accent belying his west Tennessee roots. He’s also quick to laugh, which almost makes one forget how gruesome his work can be—until he starts to talk about it.

In that respect, Berryman is strikingly similar to Dr. Bill Bass, the pioneering anthropologist who established UT–Knoxville’s legendary “Body Farm.” In fact, Berryman earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees under Bass, working as his teaching and then his research assistant. (“I know you’re not supposed to get all your degrees from one place,” Berryman says, “but I was interested in bones. I would be stepping down to go anywhere else.”) The two have been fast friends ever since.

It’s hard to say whether Bass rubbed off on Berryman or whether like attracts like. But Berryman says he saw in Bass how to be a teacher and a mentor, and Bass says he recognized in Berryman the qualities that make a great forensic scientist.

Berryman recalls his first class with Bass.

“It was such a fun lecture; he was just all over the place, and I remember leaving class and thinking, ‘Man, we laughed through the whole thing; we didn’t get anything done.’ Then I realized I had seven pages of notes—and I thought, ‘That’s how you do it.’”

Bass says students learn best through humor, which also helps lighten an inherently dark subject. “Hugh is funny, he’s a great lecturer, and he’s fun to be with,” Bass says. “And if you’re going out to look at a dead body, you want somebody that’s fun to be with.”

And Hugh Berryman has looked at a lot of dead bodies. After earning his doctorate, he joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and was director of the Regional Forensic Center there, overseeing the morgues for the medical examiner and UT Medical Center. He took the job so his two children

would be close to their grandparents in nearby Weakley County; they stayed there 20 years, until his wife’s job took them to Nashville, where he went into private consulting. Along the way, Berryman established his reputation as the go-to guy for bone analysis—from helping identify bodies to determining the cause of bone trauma.

He has lectured at the Smithsonian Institution, which in 2005 invited him to join an elite scientific research team examining the 9,300-year-old skeleton dubbed “Kennewick Man.” He is also part of the effort to exhume the body of Meriwether Lewis to determine whether his shooting death was a suicide, as originally reported, or murder. (Despite Lewis’s descendants’ offer to pay for the investigation, it is being held up by the National Park Service because Lewis’s grave near Nashville is on federal parkland.)

Berryman also provides consultation and regular testing and review for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) in Hawaii, which identifies soldiers from as far back as the Civil War. It’s one of the world’s most technologically advanced forensic labs, says its director, Dr. Tom Holland, and home to a lot of professional egos. “What’s critical about having external consultants is that the analysts whose work is being looked at have to respect that reviewer,” Holland says. “If they don’t, it’s an immediate friction point. **Hugh Berryman is universally respected**—not only within the profession but certainly in this laboratory.”

Holland says Berryman possesses a rare and valuable combination of qualities: “He has extreme wealth of knowledge, and he knows how to use it.”

Bearing the Burden

But for the forensic scientist, that skill set sometimes must extend from the scientific and the practical to the psychological.

“It’s one thing to work with bones with old, dried tissue on them,” Berryman explains. “But how do you handle someone you’ve pulled out of a car who is burned up but not completely burned up? How do you handle a decomp where the odor is so strong, and what you’re looking

at is just disgusting—this used to be a person—and there are insects and maggots?”

Eventually, he says, you get used to the smell. (He warns against using Vicks VapoRub under the nose, à la the autopsy scene in *The Silence of the Lambs*: “It makes you hate menthol.”) And staying focused on the task at hand helps distract from the gruesome visuals.

More difficult to block out are the details of a heinous crime, especially when it’s your job to document them. Berryman has worked on many brutal murders but admits that one, the 1985 slaying of a young woman in Memphis, still haunts him, and he can’t entirely explain why. He doesn’t like to talk about it, and even with this passing reference, his customary spark dims. “It got into my mind and I couldn’t get it out,” he says. “I don’t ever want to have another one do that. I can’t afford that.”

Regardless of academic aptitude, he concludes, some people simply can’t handle the psychological rigors of fieldwork—and the typical forensics student doesn’t get that type of exposure until graduate school, after they’ve already invested years in the classroom. That’s why Berryman created FASR, a special collaboration between university and law enforcement, to give MTSU students practical experience at the undergraduate level.

Making the Cut

Not all of Berryman’s students, and not all forensic science majors, are on the FASR team. Students may apply for one of 10 spots only after they’ve completed one of Berryman’s two forensics classes, taken coursework familiarizing them with human and animal bones, and had archeological field experience. Berryman talks to their teachers, noting which ones seem smart, diligent, and (his favorite quality) “aggressive.”

Those who make FASR are invited to accompany and assist him at crime and accident scenes. “His team has come out on several cases with me, and they’re wonderful,” says Denise Martin, lead death investigator for the State Medical Examiner’s Office and herself one of Berryman’s first students at MTSU. “They’re incredibly mature and very knowledgeable.”

And maturity is critical, Berryman says, because those on a crime scene learn information known only to law enforcement, the medical examiner, and the perpetrator. That sort of student access is highly unusual, particularly for undergraduates, and it is secured by Berryman’s own reputation.

“If you trust Dr. Berryman,” Detective Mayercik says, “you’re going to trust the people he chooses.”

Eventually,
he says,
you
get
used
to the
smell.

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CSI: Murfreesboro

Three of Dr. Hugh Berryman’s top Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery (FASR) students investigate on location by shovel skimming and troweling.

In February 2010, **Ali Jordan** (left) presented a paper she coauthored with Berryman at the American Academy of Forensic Science conference in Seattle. Jordan presented her research in hastening personal identifications through enhanced data tracking of surgical or orthopedic implants.

Tiffany Saul (center) spent last summer accompanying a group of MTSU history students on an expedition to Palau, a small Pacific island nation that was a sniper stronghold for the Japanese in World War II. Saul’s expertise in dealing with human remains as an FASR student won her the invitation to participate in the trip.

Amber Schmuhl (right) is conducting a large research project with Berryman to uncover new ways to determine the gender of human remains.

He pushes them to teach, to attend meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS), and to present papers, not just at MTSU but nationally.

The inviolable rule, therefore, is no talking—to anyone. “If you’ve done it once, you’re off the team,” Berryman says. “I’m serious about that.” His FASR team is serious about it, too. They are so tight-lipped, he says, they won’t discuss details of a crime scene even with other team members.

The bar thus raised, Berryman raises it further: “Once they get on the team, **I will do whatever I can to make them succeed. Whatever I can.**” Which means he pushes them to do research as undergraduates. He pushes them to teach, to attend meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS), and to present papers, not just at MTSU but nationally. With interest in forensics exploding and grad programs rejecting smart but inexperienced students, competitive graduates don’t just need a bachelor’s degree, Berryman says. They need a curriculum vitae.

Standing Out

Take student Alicja Kutyla, who came to Berryman with no anthropological training and no forensics experience, just the dream of doctorate in forensic anthropology, inspired by Dr. Bill Bass and the Body Farm. By the time she graduated from MTSU, she didn’t have a resume; she had a CV.

She had been published; she had worked crime scenes and autopsies; she had earned a national forensics award based on her joint research with Berryman, which they presented at a meeting in Washington, D.C. She’d also won a prestigious fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution.

She did all that in two years. She’s now completing that doctorate at UT–Knoxville.

Kutyla’s success is a testament to her own intellect and determination and to Berryman’s calculated guidance. A joint citizen of Australia and Poland, she enrolled as a master’s student in biology at MTSU, where she asked Berryman to help her reach her goal.

Doctoral programs in forensic anthropology typically don’t accept biology majors, Berryman says; he quietly doubted Kutyla could make the cut. “And I got that impression,” Kutyla recalls. “But all I wanted was for him to tell me what I needed to do to get there.”

Berryman obliged, turning over a research project he’d shelved for lack of time. He says he watched as Kutyla ran with it. “And I thought, ‘OK, let’s make a plan to get you a Ph.D. in anthropology,’” he says.

Kutyla remembers a checklist; Berryman remembers a strategy. She should expand the project he’d handed her by studying a collection of bones at

No Small Feat

When MTSU’s Biology, Chemistry, and Criminal Justice Administration departments joined forces to offer a bachelor’s-level forensic science major, Biology Department chair George Murphy didn’t worry about attracting students to the new program. Thanks to popular fascination with crime shows, the interest was already there. Launched just last fall, the program boasts 40 enrollees representing a broad demographic—from teenagers right out of high school to middle-aged students wanting a new career in a dynamic field.

MTSU Provost Brad Bartel, who as a professor of anthropology in North Carolina

worked some crime scenes, says the left-brain part of the job might be a rude awakening for someone whose only knowledge of forensics comes from “crime scene investigation fantasy shows.”

And that has happened, Murphy says. “There are some students who watch *CSI* and say, ‘We want to major in forensics!’—and then they look at the curriculum and pale at the classes they’d have to take.”

MTSU’s forensic science major—the only bachelor’s-level forensics program in the state, and one of only three in the Southeast—is rigorous, requiring 30 hours each of chemistry and biology and 12 hours of

criminal justice. Unlike most other undergraduate forensics programs, of which there are fewer than 20 accredited in the country, it also requires a junior and senior seminar, as well as a 160-hour internship. The focus of the program is lab analysis—from computer forensics to DNA, chemical, and hair analysis.

For the tenacious, however, there’s a promising payoff. MTSU designed the program with input from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, which will offer internships in its high-tech Nashville lab and its auxiliary labs in Memphis and Knoxville. Private labs have expressed interest as well, Murphy says.

Vanderbilt. Then she should develop the project further by studying skulls at the Smithsonian. And while she's there, she should get to know a few people and make sure they knew her. People such as Dr. Douglas Owsley, the head of the Smithsonian's Division of Physical Anthropology, whose good reference would carry weight.

"It's a chess game," Berryman says, "and I position my students."

Ultimately, of course, Berryman's students position themselves. Kutyla applied for and won the Smithsonian fellowship on her own. Owsley, impressed, approached her about a collection of anthropometric data taken by Germans in occupied Poland. "Dr. Owsley felt that someone should use this data set for research, but they had not been available to the general public," Kutyla says. "He thought that I would have the best shot at gaining access to these data, as I'm a Polish citizen." The data will be the subject of her doctoral dissertation.

Like Kutyla, many of Berryman's students are now in graduate-level forensics programs; others are already in the workforce, like Denise Martin of the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Meanwhile, Berryman is encouraged by the steady stream of smart, motivated students attracted to MTSU's forensics program. (One is so smart that

if she gets a test question wrong, he checks to make sure he keyed the answer in correctly.) "I see so much potential in these kids; sometimes, I don't think they see it in themselves," he says.

Building Momentum

Last fall's launch of a bachelor's-level forensic science major further broadens that potential. While Berryman's focus is fieldwork, the new forensic science major focuses on lab analysis, encompassing areas like DNA, trace-evidence, and chemical analysis. It's a fast-growing field; forensic technologies are constantly advancing, and lab analysts are in high demand, says Dr. George Murphy, chair of the Department of Biology, who helped develop the course curriculum. "There's a huge need," Murphy says. "There is probably double the number of forensics labs now than there were 10 years ago."

As MTSU's first forensics class completes year one of study, it is a perfect complement to the premier program that Hugh Berryman has put together. Along with FASR and FIRE, the new program is just another step in the process of establishing and increasing MTSU's national standing in forensic science. It, too, can be viewed as a chess game—and here, as with his individual students, Berryman is positioning his pieces to win.

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FIRE Starter

Dr. Hugh Berryman founded FIRE, the Forensic Institute for Research and Education, to offer training and education to law enforcement and other groups whose work involves forensic science (including a summer camp for high school students). He also likes to involve his higher-level forensics students, who both teach and learn from the professionals alongside them.

"As they begin to excavate, you'll hear the student, who's had archeological experience, saying, 'No, hold your trowel like this.' And you'll have law enforcement saying, 'Nope, you've got to get a photograph of that before you move it! So there's another layer of training going on there, based on people's experiences."

Editor's Note: For more information about FIRE and the programs it offers, or to donate to FIRE, visit www.mtsu.edu/fire/index/shtml.

Such hands-on training makes these students highly employable once they graduate, says TBI director Mark Gwyn, a '85 MTSU grad.

"If you can get someone who already has knowledge and understanding of that particular venue, then it makes the training easier and shorter, and it puts that person to work a lot quicker. We're always looking for that," Gwyn says.

This sort of practical lab experience, much like the crime scene work Dr. Hugh Berryman does with his FASR team, is highly unusual at the undergraduate level, Bartel says. "It's really an amazing opportunity for undergraduate students to get equivalency training to what they would normally get at the master's level at another institution."

MTSU can apply for accreditation for the new degree in 2012. In the meantime, Murphy says, he hopes to get the major into the Academic Common Market, which allows students from nearby states that don't offer an equivalent program to apply to MTSU's at a discounted rate.

The **new forensic science major** focuses on lab analysis, encompassing areas like DNA, trace-evidence, and chemical analysis.



Fact vs. Fiction

The beam of a flashlight plays across a warehouse floor, finally coming to rest on a body, awkwardly twisted. The investigator squats down, sweeps his light, then a gloved finger over the singed fibers where a bullet left the body. “Dead before he hit the ground,” he says.

“Ever notice they do that in the dark?” asks Dr. Hugh Berryman. “Apparently, they don’t know how to turn the lights on when they investigate a crime scene.”

Having investigated plenty of crime scenes during the past 30 years or so, Berryman gets a kick out of dramatic representations of what he does for a living, though he says he almost never watches them. That’s a bold statement, given that you can’t pass a television nowadays without running across a police procedural. In the 1970s, Americans loved *Quincy*, starring Jack Klugman as crusading medical examiner, but the nation really caught forensics fever in 2000, with the premiere of *CSI* (now ubiquitous through spinoffs, copycats, and the combination of syndication and hundreds of cable channels).

To their credit, most crime shows do seek input from forensic experts. (Years ago, Berryman was asked to be a consultant for both *CSI: Miami* and the crime drama *Crossing Jordan*. “When *CSI* called, I said, ‘You know, I never watch your show.’ They never called me back.”)

Internationally renowned forensic anthropologist Dr. Kathy Reichs, who visited MTSU last April as part of Berryman’s Legends in Forensic Science series, is uniquely positioned in both the real and fictitious worlds of forensic science. Her series of novels about forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan inspired the hit TV series *Bones*, which Reichs produces. While there’s sound science behind her show, she says, some parts of a forensic scientist’s job simply don’t lend themselves to dramatization—like the prolonged tedium of reconstructing a shattered skull fragment by fragment.

The wild popularity of crime shows hasn’t changed forensics, Reichs says, but it has changed popular perception of the field, with mixed results.

“People have a better idea of what we do,” she says. “I don’t think anyone had heard of forensic anthropology 15 years ago. And I think they have an unrealistic expectation of what science can do, but it’s good that the public does have a better understanding of what a powerful tool it can be.”

That’s a point driven home regularly in the news, as cutting-edge DNA analysis, taught at MTSU as part of its new forensic science major, is now helping exonerate prisoners who have spent decades behind bars—sometimes on death row—for crimes they did not commit. [MTSU](#)

Playwright continued from page 23

According to Bray, Williams’s drama has a universal quality that transcends Southern literature or even American literature.

“Several years ago, I taught his work at a university in Rio de Janeiro while I was there on a Fulbright scholarship, and the students loved it. His drama often deals with affairs of the heart and family dysfunction, and who can’t relate to those themes?” he says.

One of Bray’s greatest pleasures is discovering and publishing previously

unpublished plays and stories, such as the one-act version of *Streetcar* called *Interior: Panic* he located in the archives of the University of Texas. Visiting the Harvard theatre archives, he found and published the last short story Williams wrote, *The Negative*, which was published in the *TW Annual Review*.

The public, it seems, can’t get enough of Tennessee Williams.

In the past year, Dr. Bray has been quoted in *Smithsonian* magazine, *U.S. News and*

World Report, the *New York Times*, and other newspapers. He made a DVD with Criterion Films on Williams’s movie adaptations and has done a podcast from the Young Vic Theatre in London on questions surrounding *The Glass Menagerie*.

“It’s a busy time to be a Williams specialist,” Dr. Bray says.

Editor’s Note: Find the Tennessee Williams Annual Review at www.tennesseewilliams-studies.org. [MTSU](#)

A Little Blue on Board

An MTSU stalwart helps guide the Southeast's largest energy provider

by Allison Gorman

NOT MUCH COULD KEEP DR. BARBARA HASKEW AWAY FROM MTSU, the heart of her career for the better part of 40 years. As a professor of economics and then chair of the Department of Economics and Finance, she regularly made the 200-mile round trip between Murfreesboro and her home on Elder Mountain, just west of Chattanooga; when work kept her near campus overnight, she bunked in a hotel. Later, as newly appointed dean of MTSU's College of Business, she lived in a dorm, where she shared a communal bathroom with students. Even breast cancer didn't keep her from her job as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, a position she held from 1995 until 2002, when she returned to teaching as a Distinguished Professor of Economics. (She recently marked 10 years as a cancer survivor.)

It took a confluence of events, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to lure Barbara Haskew from her University home.

As Haskew immersed herself in one of her academic specialties, labor economics, and as she lectured on the future of energy production and its environmental impact, 1.3 million cubic meters of coal ash from a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) power plant blanketed a neighborhood in Kingston, Tennessee. Haskew says the spill affected her on both a personal and a professional level: first as a longtime resident of the Tennessee Valley and second as a former employee of TVA, where for eight years she managed the rate staff—her only career absence from MTSU since 1970.

Meanwhile, there was a new administration in Washington, D.C., and President Barack Obama had four seats to fill on TVA's nine-member board of directors. So Haskew wrote a letter to then-U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, expressing her interest in a position with the nation's largest public utility. "I felt deeply about wanting that to be made right and be a learning experience for TVA," she says. Sworn in last October, she says

she's seen much that encourages her at TVA, beginning with the Kingston cleanup.

Now, Haskew is on the road again—this time to meetings throughout the Southeast, where TVA supplies power to 8.8 million people. It's one heck of a part-time job, necessitating her retirement from active teaching at MTSU, where she is now professor emeritus. Still, she found time in her busy schedule to talk with *MTSU Magazine*.

What was it like appearing before the Senate and finally being sworn in?

Haskew: I have to say there was a sigh of relief when we were sworn in because we had been working toward it for so long. There's a very intensive vetting of your whole personal and professional life and your financial holdings, and then there's the long confirmation process. So really, a year of the term that I anticipated serving was gone before I ever was able to move into it.

We did all go before the [Senate's] Environmental and Public Works Committee, and it was memorable to all of us not only because we were so anxious to move along with the process but also because that's when that



Sworn in last October, she says **she's seen much that encourages her at TVA, beginning with the Kingston cleanup.**

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Recipes for Success

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McKinney, cont.

a cook-off with four winners, one in each category. McKinney's Blue Peach Pizza didn't win, much to her relief. "It was weird, but not winning gave me the breathing room to regroup and develop myself as a cook."

At the encouragement of a fellow contestant, McKinney started a blog (www.cookinupdreams.com). Soon, she was creating her own recipes and appearing on local newscasts. In 2010, she entered a Thanksgiving recipe contest sponsored by NBC's *Today Show*. Her recipe, Hot, Sticky, and Sweet Potatoes, won McKinney an "incredible, surreal one-night experience" in New York, where she demonstrated her recipe on camera with *Today Show* cohost Meredith Viera. More recently, McKinney won \$1,000 for her Gorgonzola B-A-T sandwich recipe for Arnold Sandwich Thins.

McKinney has not restricted her efforts to one-shot recipe competitions and television appearances. In the last year, she has started two entrepreneurial endeavors. With Doorstep Dinners, McKinney cooks and delivers healthy meals to people at home. McKinney also decided it was time to rejuvenate that relic of the 1950s, the apron, and make it a fun and flattering option for today's modern cooks. As a result, Sweet Pea Aprons was born.

McKinney credits her MTSU education for much of her success. "My experience there brought me here. Without it, I would not have been so comfortable on camera."

As for her future, McKinney says she would like to host her own cooking show, though she adds that she is open to all opportunities that may come her way. After all, when it comes to her personal recipe for success, McKinney knows the specific ingredients are not as important as how she mixes them together.

"I'm living my dream."

Qualls, cont.

to conduct a class; he's working on a coffee-table book with all-original wedding cake designs, recipes, and how-to instructions; and he has formed Jay Qualls Inc., a business model for developing and teaching classes in wedding cake design and decorating.

Television came calling in 2010. The Learning Channel show *Cake Boss: The Next Great Baker* reached out to Qualls and asked if he would be interested in a baking competition show. "At first, I refused," he says, "but they called back and said I'd be great for the show. They asked me to send an audition video, which I did in June of 2010."

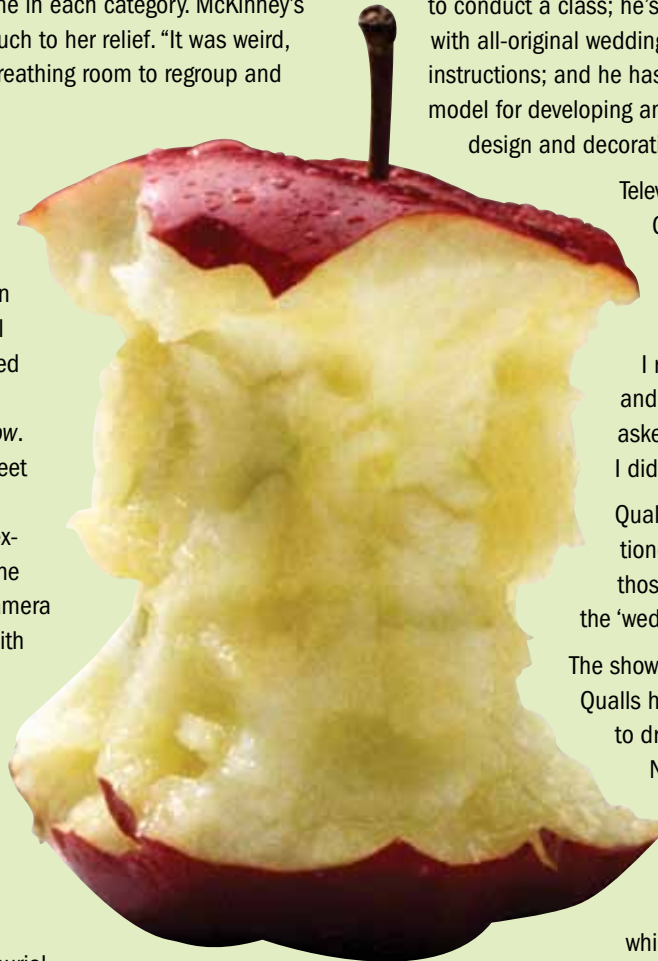
Qualls flew to New York in August, auditioned on camera and made the top 10 of those that auditioned. "I think I was cast as the 'wedding cake guy,'" he says.

The show films for five and a half weeks, and Qualls had only 48 hours' notice that he had to drop everything and get on a flight to New York. "We filmed every day—it was always something! Baker's challenges, interviews, long challenges, and elimination challenges." On the wedding cake challenge episode, which aired Jan. 10, 2011, Qualls was a team leader and, indeed, won the challenge. He advanced through six rounds of eliminations before being sent home in a controversial decision. Nevertheless, he is enthusiastic about the experience. "I went there and did what I set out to do. It was challenging but fun."

Ultimately, Qualls wants to travel and teach, consulting with small business owners about the wedding cake business. "The art of the wedding cake is special. It's a shared experience," he says. "It has to be taught one-on-one."

Maples Wedding Cakes will open an office on 21st Avenue in Nashville in early 2011 in order to expand its business. "I'm living my dream," Qualls says. "And I've used my degree from MTSU every day. A business professor of mine once said, 'Always remember: do what you know and know what you do.'"

The rest, it seems, is cake.



MTSU

Blue on Board

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giant snow hit Washington. I ended up being trapped there, but it was delightful because both my daughters came, and my youngest daughter brought her six- and three-year-olds. They will not remember that this had anything to do with Grandmother. They will just remember when they saw their first snow.

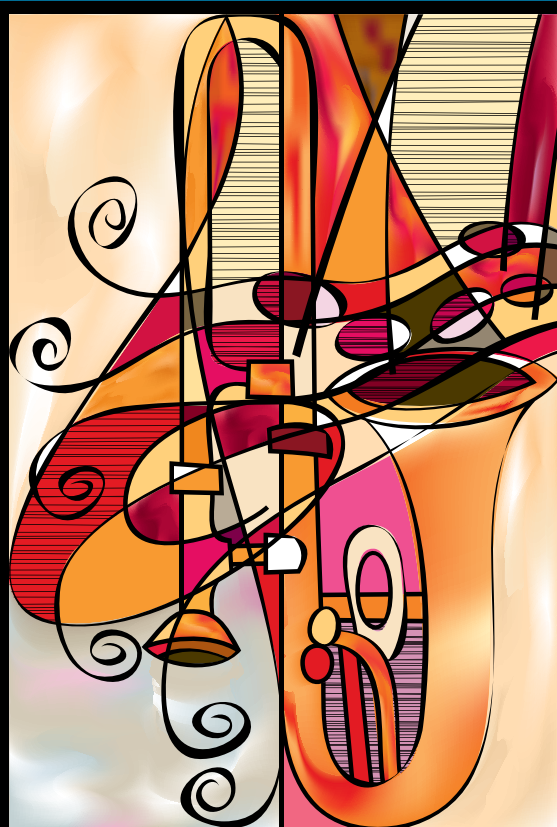
How did your experience as a professor of economics influence your decision to be considered for nomination?

Haskew: I've had a continuing concern about understanding that economic development is closely related to the availability of energy and the cost of energy. I found in my teaching that my economics students had a very minimal understanding of how

electricity is produced. When I'd ask them how they thought our power is primarily produced, they would say hydro power, which is maybe less than 10%, but that's what you think of with TVA. And then they'd say solar, because solar gets so much play in the media. Then they'd say nuclear. Finally, I would tell them that 60% of our power is still produced by coal. After the Kingston spill, we would talk about that, and then in my courses we would talk about the environment and emissions and what was happening there. These things were popping up in my courses, in the newspaper, in areas of my professional expertise. It simply seemed this was something I was prepared to do, that I wanted to do.

If money were no object and you could design your own economics course, what would it be?

Haskew: I would love to be part of an interdisciplinary course in economic development and in energy that would pull all sorts of disciplines into the discussion. Completely understanding all the issues that impact those matters requires not only economics and finance but also some knowledge of science and biology because, after all, we're in an era when we're much more concerned about the environment, and how power production impacts the environment, than we were 25 or 30 years ago. **MTSU**



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A **brief** look at important **research, cont.**

continued from page 9

Unto Others

by Tom Tozer

Colby Jubenville does his part to make the Golden Rule an MVP on the courts and playing fields of the Sun Belt Conference

In an age where athletics is often marred by acts of poor sportsmanship, Dr. Colby Jubenville has the remedy.

Jubenville, professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance and director of the Center for Sport Policy and Research at MTSU, created Real Sportsmanship, an online program platform focusing on the coach-athlete relationship especially for the collegiate level.

Real Sportsmanship asked questions and administered a pretest, then followed up with more questions and a post-test. The issues discussed include the realities that both student-athletes and coaches face, which include drinking, partying, sexual activity, cheating, and gambling. Participants are asked to reflect on their experiences and decisions as they relate to those issues. Jubenville, himself a former college athlete, says participants should better understand how to handle new situations and assume leadership roles on their teams and in life.

The Sun Belt Conference (SBC) began implementation of the platform for a five-year period, starting in 2010. Findings released from the Center for Sport Policy and Research at MTSU are based on data collected from 478 SBC coaches and 3,476 SBC athletes. The results indicate that the platform “significantly impacted several perceptual and behavioral aspects of coaches and student-athletes regarding sportsmanship.”

Jubenville notes that his research uncovered an important sportsmanship paradox—as the skill level increases, the ability to understand and implement sportsmanship decreases. Fortunately, the Real Sportsmanship program provides a means by which coaches and athletes can bridge this divide between skill and behavior before it grows too wide.



Drive to Succeed

by Randy Weiler

Professor Cliff Ricketts’s lifetime of alternative fuel research remains on course as he plans a 2,800-mile cross-country drive this fall using only 10 gallons of gas or less.

In October, if all goes as planned, the longtime MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience faculty member will drive a 2008 Toyota Prius from Wilmington, N.C., to a Pacific Ocean beach near Los Angeles. Besides a few drops of gas, his fuel will consist of sunlight and hydrogen from water.

Ricketts calculates that the journey, which will take five days to complete, will require 3.73 tanks to achieve 750 miles per fill-up (100 miles with solar electric, 200 miles with hydrogen, 350 miles with 95% ethanol and 5% gas, and 100 miles with on-board regeneration).

His perfect-world formula: Make the drive using only 1.87 gallons of gas. But he will take 10 gallons just in case his calculations are off.

“My whole passion is sun and water,” says Ricketts, who considers himself a modern-day Davy Crockett: “a frontiersman with energy” who has “blazed a trail with ethanol, blazed a trail with hydrogen, and blazed a trail with sun and water.”

Besides a few drops of gas, his fuel will consist of **sunlight and hydrogen from water.**

MTSU

Class Notes

Virginia Fielder Hobbs



As September 2011 approaches, the MTSU family is increasingly turning its sights toward the University's Centennial celebration. **Virginia Fielder Hobbs** ('37) has already turned that corner. The pioneering graduate celebrated her 100th birthday in November 2010.

A public school teacher, Ms. Hobbs was appointed supervisor of music for Davidson County Schools (later Metro Nashville Schools) in 1950. As such, the woman known as "Tootsie" in her hometown of Waynesboro, impacted literally thousands of middle Tennessee elementary schoolchildren whom she taught to sing, play the flute, or simply to enjoy music. At the time of her retirement in 1975—following 44 years in education—Tootsie was a member of the State Board of Education.

Among Tootsie's visitors on her 100th birthday was her niece, Dr. Virginia "Jenny" Dodge Fielder, a charter member of MTSU's College of Mass Communication Board of Visitors and former vice president for research for Knight-Ridder Inc. In 1998, Dr. Fielder established the Fielder Family Endowed Scholarship at MTSU.

According to Dr. Fielder, her aunt Tootsie has been a remarkable story from the very beginning. Her family is said to have put Tootsie, born prematurely and weighing only 2½ pounds, in a buggy warmed with hot bricks and placed her under the flue in their house to keep her warm. "It is amazing she lived," Dr. Fielder says. "It's been an amazing life!" [MTSU](#)

1960s

Ed Gray ('66, '68), retired as school superintendent in Bedford County. Gray, who began his teaching career at Chapel Hill High School in 1966, was hired to lead Bedford County Schools in 2005.

Jeff Jordan ('67, '76), Murfreesboro, was reelected to the Rutherford County Commission for a second four-year term to represent the 13th District of Rutherford County. He was also reelected to a second term as chair of the health and education committee and a third term as a steering committee member.

James W. Morris ('69), Lebanon, completed his service as president of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Council at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

1970s

Walter C. Chitwood ('78), Murfreesboro, was elected president of the board of trustees for the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry.

Elizabeth Green ('78, '92), Murfreesboro, retired from Cavalry Bank and is an adjunct instructor in the MTSU History Department.

Mary Watkins ('72), Lascassas, taught special education at Riverdale High School before retiring. She came out of retirement to teach transition students at the Transition Academy at MTSU.

1980s

Janice Bane ('86), Hendersonville, is the general manager for Conexion Media Group Inc. in Nashville.

Matt Davenport ('80), Hendersonville, owns and operates two

multimillion-dollar entertainment companies north of Nashville: Matt Davenport Productions and Live On Stage.

Roy Vaughn ('82), Chattanooga, is vice president of corporate communications at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and is responsible for public affairs, media relations, and employee communications for the company.

Karen Cook Ward ('82), Chattanooga, is vice president for human resources at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, responsible for human resources functions across all lines of business for the company.

1990s

Phillip Brown ('99), Murfreesboro, owns DPSuccess, a creative services firm. Phillip celebrated 10 years of service with the *Nashville Business Journal* in 2010.

Keith Caywood ('96), and **Shannon Stanley Caywood, ('93)**, Shelbyville, own Caywood Builders, specializing in the drafting and construction of custom homes in middle Tennessee.

Donna C. Coker ('95), Hendersonville, is a retired lieutenant colonel who served for 23 years in the Army National Guard. Her active duty deployments included Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OEF Afghanistan. She is currently employed at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

Anthony Tate ('93), Hendersonville, president and CEO of Tate Commercial Services/Tate Commercial Enterprises, was honored with the 2010 Dr. R. H. Boyd Minority Business of the Year Award during a gala hosted by the Nashville Minority Business Center.



Andy Womack

Members of the Womack family have been avid supporters of MTSU for many years—to the point that their name is synonymous with the growth and development of the University throughout the decades. In 2009, for instance, the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education was renamed the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department.

The Womack family is also intimately tied to education progress across Tennessee as a result of the work of **Andy Womack** ('70). The Murfreesboro-based State Farm agent and former state senator was reappointed late last year to the executive committee of the Southern Regional Education Board (GREB), which works to guide improvement in public education across the region.

Womack served in the Tennessee Senate from 1988 to 2000. He was a member of the Education Committee and chaired the committee during his final four years. He joined the SREB in 1993, was reappointed in 2000, and served on the board throughout the last decade. [MTSU](#)

2000s

Barret S. Albritton ('02), was named a member at the Chattanooga law firm Leitner, Williams, Dooley, & Napolitan PLLC, focusing primarily on insurance defense litigation.

Brooke Arrington ('09), Nashville, works for Big Yellow Dog Music, where she manages the office, staff writers, and music catalog.

Malea Barron ('07), Nashville, is a senior account executive in the public relations department of GS&F, a Nashville-based advertising agency.

Dusty (Felder) Brown ('01), Murfreesboro, owns the Dusty Brown Jewelry Line and was recently selected to costume the jewelry for a film, *Firebird*. The line can be found at retailers across the region, and Brown has expansion plans for 2011. She has also been named director of marketing for Caywood Builders (see the 1990s entries.)

Mark Hornsby ('00), Springfield, is a music producer, audio engineer, musician, writer, and marketing specialist based in Nashville.

Sandie Johnson ('07), Murfreesboro, was promoted to senior staff at Deloitte and Touche.

Patience Long ('01), Bloomington, Ill., is the manager of major gifts for Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital in Normal, Ill.

Daniel Miller ('00), Nashville, is an associate manager for Borman Entertainment and is the day-to-day point person for red-hot country music act Lady Antebellum.

Marla F. Miller ('09), Mt. Juliet, completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

Cyndi L. Butler-Mobley ('07), Hixson, was presented with the Love of Learning Award, worth \$500, by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. This honor puts Butler-Mobley among 80 members nationwide receiving the award to help fund postbaccalaureate studies and career development.

Amanda Saad ('02), Nashville, is a public relations account supervisor for the Andrews Agency.

Pamela Wright

This past January, the Tennessee Board of Regents recognized **Pamela J. Wright** ('73), with its Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

Wright made a \$1.25 million commitment to MTSU in 2007 that established an endowed chair in entrepreneurship, allowing the University to attract a renowned teacher, researcher, and publisher in entrepreneurship. That person is Doug Tatum, a recognized expert on capital markets and entrepreneurial growth businesses who was chair and CEO of Tatum LLC for more than 17 years, growing the company into the largest executive services consulting firm in the U.S., with more than 1,000 employees in 30 offices.

Wright opened her first travel agency in Nashville in 1981. Today, she boasts the largest travel agency in Tennessee and one of the largest in the U.S. Wright Travel operates 18 full-service branch locations in nine states stretching from Florida to Utah. [MTSU](#)



2000s, cont.

Previously, she served as director of public relations for the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

Emily Shrum ('04), Nashville, is a manager for Deloitte and Touche.

2010s

Jasmine Gray ('10), Memphis; **Merranda Holmes ('10)**, McMinnville; and **Shannon Murphy ('10)**, Murfreesboro; are among 20 students nationally who received \$1,000 Foundation Scholarships for graduate study from the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society for graduate study. Holmes and Murphy are attending medical school at East Tennessee State University, and Gray is attending graduate school at Syracuse University in New York.

J. Todd Foster

Try topping a small-town daily newspaper earning a Pulitzer Prize for public service.

MTSU alumnus **J. Todd Foster ('82)**, came close. Following the *Bristol Herald Courier's* Pulitzer in 2010, managing editor Foster applied for and successfully obtained the executive editor position with the *Times Free Press* in Chattanooga, where he also honed his reporting skills from 1985 to 1989.

Last April, the *Herald Courier* earned journalism's top award for an eight-day series called *Underfoot, Out of Reach* for exposing a system that allowed energy corporations to drain natural gas belonging to thousands of landowners without compensating them. With Foster's guidance, investigative reporter Daniel Gilbert's research and reporting revealed that millions of dollars of royalties had not been paid into escrow, "spurring remedial action by state lawmakers," as the Pulitzer committee put it in the award citation.

With the *Times Free Press*, Foster is the primary editor of a newspaper with a circulation of 72,000 daily and 100,000 on Sundays serving 20 counties in three states. In the middle of an illustrious, award-winning career, Foster's resume includes being inducted into MTSU's College of Mass Communication Wall of Fame in 2003. [MTSU](#)



Brian Russell

Brian T. Russell ('00), who holds his graduate degree in conducting from the prestigious Eastman School of Music, won the American Choral Directors Association's annual Julius Herford Prize.

The honor, awarded by the Research and Publications Committee of the ACDA, recognizes outstanding doctoral research projects in choral music. Russell's research

presents editions of seven previously unpublished psalm settings of Georg Phillip Telemann along with commentary on the history of the works, their manuscript sources, and relevant issues of performance practice.

Russell is assistant professor of music at Illinois Wesleyan University, where he directs the university choir and teaches courses in music education. [MTSU](#)

Luke Laird

Pennsylvania-born **Luke Laird ('01)**, started writing music as a kid. But it wasn't until after graduating from MTSU and landing his first job as an assistant tour manager for Brooks and Dunn that Laird began to truly pursue a career as a songwriter in the music industry.

In 2007, Laird went to the head of the class of Nashville songwriters when he penned three songs on Carrie Underwood's album *Carnival Ride*, including number one Billboard singles "So Small" and "Last Name." "Hillbilly Bone" (Blake Shelton, featuring Trace Adkins) is also Laird's work. In all, more than seven million records featuring Laird's compositions have been sold, providing resounding affirmation of his choice of professions.

The hit songwriter—by anyone's measure among the hottest cowriters on Music Row today—is currently a staff writer for Universal Music Publishing in Nashville. And if you ever see him perform live, be sure to request his unpublished (and hilarious) rap song—a crowd pleaser every time. [MTSU](#)





Beverly Keel

How many universities can boast that one of their faculty members serves as a key executive with one of the world's largest record labels?

Not many. But MTSU can. **Beverly Keel ('88)**, Nashville, was named senior VP of media and artist relations for Universal Music Group Nashville late last year. She's responsible for developing and implementing media campaigns for the company's chart-topping roster of artists, who include Sugarland, Jamey Johnson, Billy Currington, Lee Ann Womack, Julianne Hough, George Strait, Gary Allen, Randy Rogers Band, Easton Corbin, and Laura Bell Bundy, among others.

At a time when the very survival of record labels is increasingly dependent on greater exploitation of their artists via social media, television, film, and other nontraditional outlets (even video games!), Keel has a crucial role at a crucial time. She's got the professional background to be successful. Keel is an award-winning music journalist and pop culture commentator who has covered the music industry for two decades. Long a professor in the Department of Recording Industry at MTSU and past director of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, Keel is temporarily on leave of absence from MTSU but plans to continue her affiliation with the university. [MTSU](#)

In Memory

1930s

Henry Cohen ('35), Freehold, N.J., died Oct. 12, 2010.

1940s

Clarence Campbell ('44), Chattanooga, died Sept. 18, 2010.

James Cornelison ('49), Chattanooga, died July 12, 2010.

Allan Curtis ('49), Nashville, died Sept. 27, 2010.

Woodrow Fanning ('40), Cleveland, died Jan. 3, 2011.

Thomas G. Gault ('46), Hermitage, died Dec. 10, 2010.

Margaret Taylor Knowles ('42), Tuckahoe, N.Y., died Nov. 11, 2010.

Nancy Moore ('49, '72), Murfreesboro, died Nov. 3, 2010.

Jane Osborne ('47), Goodlettsville, died Aug. 22, 2010.

Clarence William Puckett ('41), Eagleville, died Sept. 24, 2010.

Annie Ruth Taylor Slinkard ('44), Brentwood, died June 17, 2009.

Ada Taylor ('44), Lantana, Fla., died Aug. 11, 2010.

Mary Todd ('47), Mobile, Ala., died July 6, 2010.

1950s

Evelyn Gotcher Babb ('52, '76), Lebanon, died Aug. 6, 2010.

Winton Batson ('59), Hendersonville, died Oct. 19, 2010.

Sue-Dale Bonner ('57, '72), Florence, Ala., died Dec. 31, 2010.

Mary Elizabeth White Davenport ('51), Murfreesboro, died Aug. 7, 2010.

Katharine Davis ('51), Columbia, died May 17, 2010.

David Dodd ('54), Murfreesboro, died Dec. 18, 2010.

William Fincher ('58), McDonough, Ga., died Aug. 9, 2010.

Fred Grider Jr. ('50, '61), Saint Augustine, Fla., died Nov. 4, 2010.

John Grissom ('59), Laguna Woods, Calif., died Nov. 1, 2010.

Price Harrison Jr. ('56), Dowelltown, died Jan. 4, 2011.

James Houston ('50), Lexington, died Nov. 19, 2010.

Thomas Hull ('54), Tullahoma, died Oct. 10, 2010.

Faye Shaw Ledbetter ('58), Columbia, died Dec. 12, 2010.

Bradford Miller ('50), Murfreesboro, died Sept. 5, 2010.

Jane Moore ('52), Fayetteville, died June 26, 2010.

Jerry Nichols ('57), Columbia, died Nov. 27, 2010.

Albert Weldon Saddler ('59), Murfreesboro, died Dec. 2, 2010.

Billy Dean Smith ('55), Knoxville, died Sept. 27, 2010.

Ernest Smotherman ('50), Huntsville, Ala., died July 16, 2010.

Mary Swafford ('55, '64), Murfreesboro, died Sept. 24, 2010.

Louis Gilbert Swift ('57), Watertown, died Nov. 3, 2010.

1960s

Geraldine Adcock ('69), Gastonia, N.C., died Nov. 9, 2010.

Opal Armstrong ('69), Murfreesboro, died Nov. 14, 2010.

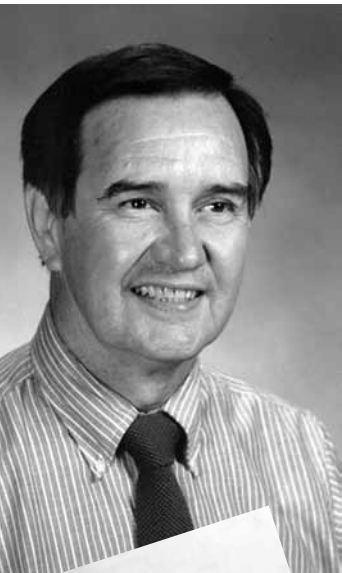
Marie Dehoff ('63), Murfreesboro, died Sept. 5, 2010.

Harry Dierkes ('66), Mesa, Ariz., died July 30, 2010.

Dorothy Harrison ('62, '72), Murfreesboro, died Sept. 8, 2010.

David Kirk ('66, '67), Jasper, died Nov. 10, 2010.

Thomas Kirk ('69), Columbia, died June 25, 2010.



Gerald Johnson

Legendary MTSU coach Charles “Bubber” Murphy once called **Gerald “Mama” Johnson ('54)** the best athlete he ever coached at MTSU. Among MTSU’s last three-sport standouts, Johnson particularly excelled at baseball, hitting .369 in 1950. An end in football, a forward in basketball, and a first baseman in baseball, Johnson went on to become a coaching legend himself. The Franklin resident died Nov. 14, 2010, at the age of 79 from complications of Alzheimer’s.

A graduate of Battle Ground Academy and MTSU, Johnson served in the Marine Corps and went on to earn a master’s degree before beginning his legendary teaching and coaching career—one marked by his drill instructor coaching style. He is a member of the Hall of Fame at both MTSU and BGA. His career included two *Tennessean* Coach of the Year Awards, a 1980 baseball state championship, induction into the Nashville Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, and the College Hall of Fame’s Roy Kramer Contribution to Football Award.

The list of high school athletes and coaches throughout Nashville and Middle Tennessee who were influenced by Coach Johnson is a long one. A favorite quote? “You’re either moving forward or falling back; you’re never standing still.” **MTSU**



Photo: 1953 Midlander

Top photo courtesy MTSU Athletics/Kennon Sports Hall of Fame

1970s

Marvin Moore ('69), Lady Lake, Fla., died Oct. 30, 2010.

Larry Needham ('68), Dahlonega, Ga., died Oct. 23, 2010.

Carole Sims ('62), Byron, Ga., died April 10, 2010.

William Wells ('65, '68), Columbia, died Nov. 8, 2010.

Louise Brooks Wilson ('62), Tulsa, Okla., died Dec. 8, 2010.

James Anderson ('72), Charlotte, N.C., died June 14, 2010.

Charles Bell ('71), Chattanooga, died Nov. 17, 2010.

Joseph Carson ('72), Hixson, died April 7, 2010.

Kenneth Cobb Jr. ('78), Waynesboro, died Dec. 23, 2010.

Peggie Reed Dill ('72), Lebanon, died Nov. 6, 2010.

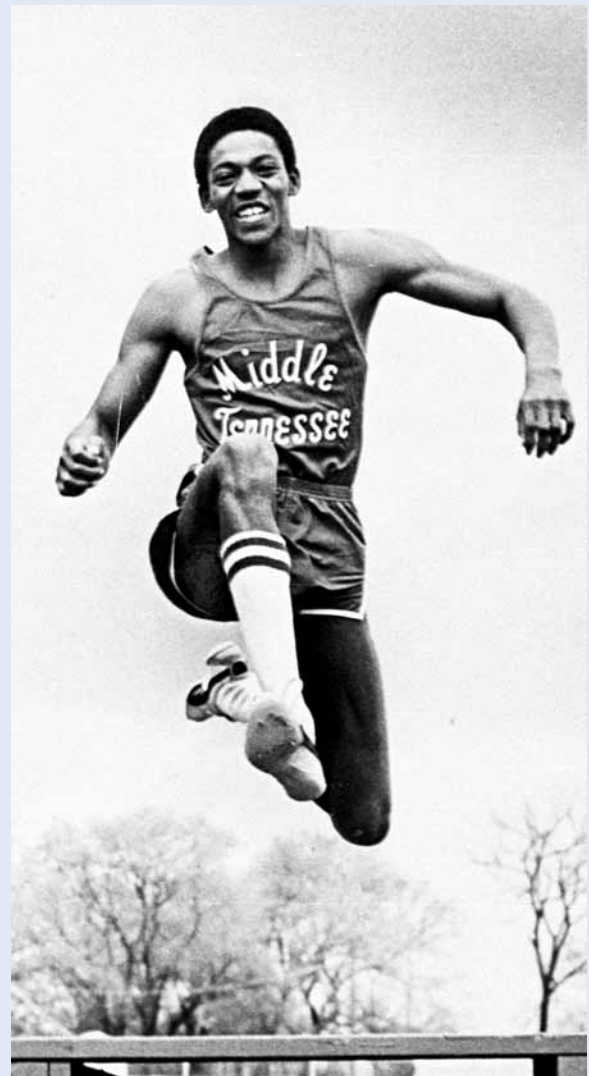


Photo courtesy MTSU Athletics/Kennon Sports Hall of Fame

Barry McClure

Barry McClure ('74), a seven-time All-American athlete while at MTSU and a two-time national champion triple jumper in 1972 and 1973, died on Jan. 13, 2011.

McClure was the first in a long line of nationally and internationally famous triple and long jumpers to train and compete under Blue Raider coach Dean Hayes. According to Hayes, McClure “has a legitimate claim to being one of the fathers of triple jumping in the U.S.”

In most national meets during McClure’s career, the triple jump was up for grabs between MTSU and UCLA. McClure was inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame in 1996.

MTSU

Jayne Holland ('78), Athens, died Nov. 13, 2010.

Linda King ('75), McMinnville, died Oct. 20, 2010.

Rex Warren McCain ('75), Winchester, died Oct. 29, 2010.

Thomas Pardon ('76), Pulaski, died July 5, 2010.

Howard Ramsey Jr., ('72), Jasper, died Oct. 5, 2010.

Mildred Stewart ('70), Monteagle, died Nov. 24, 2010.

Clayton Sullivan ('75), Christiana, died Aug. 29, 2010.

Ophelia Tisby ('78), Columbia, died Dec. 17, 2010.

Charles Trinks ('75), Lawrenceville, Ga., died Aug. 21, 2010.

Barry Underwood ('72), McMinnville, died Sept. 1, 2010.

Sandra Venable ('74, '77), Hendersonville, died Sept. 23, 2010.

Regina Warden ('70), Sierra Vista, Ariz., died Dec. 23, 2009.

Paul Warf ('71), Nashville, died Dec. 27, 2010.

Michael Womack ('74), Lynchburg, died June 15, 2010.

1980s

Karla Boyce ('83), Smyrna, died Oct. 27, 2010.

Rita Anne Burgner ('85), Nashville, died Sept. 8, 2010.

George Cate Jr. ('81), Houston, Texas, died June 21, 2010.

Gary Hobbs ('83), Knoxville, died June 27, 2010.

James Huggins ('87), Nashville, died Oct. 20, 2010.

Linda Bornesen Martin ('89), Scottsboro, Ala., died Nov. 13, 2010.

Jack McGuire Jr. ('86), Tullahoma, died Aug. 9, 2010.

Michael Smiley ('87), Cleveland, died Aug. 5, 2010.

David Stephenson ('85, '87), Memphis, died Oct. 13, 2010.

Paul Stricklen ('87, '93), Pittsburgh, Pa., died Oct. 30, 2010.

Steve Whitman ('82), Fort Lauderdale, Fla., died Dec. 20, 2010.

Maurita Yarbrough ('81), La Vergne, died July 30, 2010.

1990s

Christopher Kemp ('94), Nashville, died Nov. 21, 2010.

Darren Stafford ('92), Joelton, died Dec. 6, 2010.

Shannon Watts ('92), Louisville, died Nov. 3, 2010.

2000s

Alan Carter ('02), Waverly, died Dec. 21, 2010.

Holly Nelson ('09), Smyrna, died Aug. 25, 2010.

Todd Partain ('03), Athens, died Nov. 14, 2010.

Maggie Clark-Schneider ('01, '03), Murfreesboro, died Jan. 12, 2010.

2010s

Nathanael Fletcher ('10), Richmond, Va., died Dec. 21, 2010.

Nell Pinkerton

In 1960, while teaching at East High School in Nashville, **Nell F. Pinkerton ('34)**, was named *Seventeen* magazine's national home economics teacher of the year. The graduate of what was then Middle Tennessee State Teachers College later became director of home economics for the entire Metro School System, responsible for curriculum, budgets, and home economics teachers district-wide. She passed away on Nov. 17, 2010, at the age of 97.

Pinkerton also coauthored the *Nashville Cookbook* for the Nashville Area Home Economics Association. A fundraising effort that compiled the best family and Nashville historical recipes that local home economics teachers could muster, the book included written profiles and original charcoal drawings of many of the most historic homes in the Nashville area, including the Hermitage, Cheekwood, and Rattle and Snap. A wildly popular book, the *Nashville Cookbook* was eventually purchased by *Southern Living* magazine and commanded many additional printings.

Pinkerton, whose husband, James, also attended MTSU and served for many years as operations manager at Nashville Electric Service, is survived by her son, Jim Pinkerton, city manager for the City of Kingston in east Tennessee. [MTSU](#)



Sweet 17: Nell Pinkerton (center) is presented with the *Seventeen* magazine Home Economics Teacher of the Year award in 1960. Presenting is the mayor of Denver, Colo.

BABY RAIDERS

Gregory Scott Brandon, born Oct. 19, 2010, to **Matthew ('07)** and **Lauren Brandon ('07)** of Murfreesboro.

Bryson Alan Brown, born Nov. 23, 2010, to **William Alan ('00)** and **Amanda Brown** of Murfreesboro.

KayIn Vera-Rose Crook, born Nov. 28, 2010, to **Jeffrey ('08)** and **Melissa Crook ('09)** of St. Marys, Ga.

Merrick Scott Hamilton, born July 8, 2010 to **Josh S. ('03)** and **Julie A. Hamilton** of Huntington Beach, Calif.

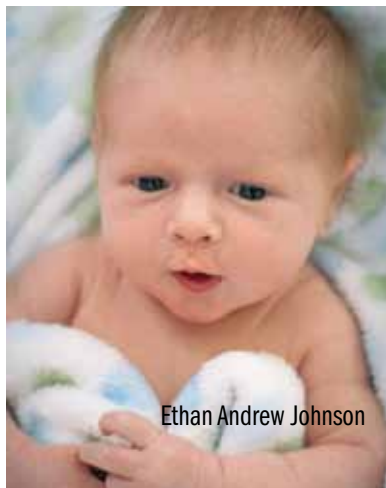
Ethan Andrew Johnson, born Feb. 5, 2010, to **Derrick Andrew ('05)** and **Rebecca Hamblin Johnson ('04)** of Pinker- ington, Ohio.

Sara Elizabeth Redd, born Jan. 18, 2010, to **Eric ('98)** and **Andrea Coates Redd ('98)** of Chapel Hill.

Lainey Addison Thompson, born April 29, 2010, to **Kevin ('03)** and **Allison Glover Thompson ('03)** of Nashville.

Hunter Brian Travis, born Sept. 15, 2010, to **Brian ('05)** and **Crystal Baker Travis ('05)** of Murfreesboro.

Mackenzie Noelle West, born Aug. 6, 2010, to **John ('99)** and **Minya West ('02)** of Franklin.



Ethan Andrew Johnson



Hunter Brian Travis

MTSU

You Do What?

The Wedding Planner

by Candace Moonshower

Diane Bowen helps couples take that first step toward “Happily Ever After”



IF YOU WIN THE BIG GAME, YOU may shout, “I’m going to Disney World!” but not everyone graduates from college with those words on their lips or that destination in mind for anything other than vacations. Diane Bowen is one of those fortunate people who get to enjoy Disney World as the place where her career dreams can flourish.

In her position as a senior wedding event planner with Disney Fairy Tale Weddings, Bowen is a prime maker of magic for prospective brides and

grooms, working with couples to plan events that will jump-start their own “happily-ever-afters.”

“We spend a day together planning everything that they need except for the wedding dress, invitations, and programs,” Bowen says. “It’s a one-stop shop.”

Who plans their weddings at a Disney property? “Many couples are already Disney fanatics, but some couples simply want a destination wedding and the quality of service that Disney provides,” Bowen says. “Destination weddings eliminate the large guest lists that weddings at home necessitate, and since we do all the work, they tend to be far less stressful and far more fun.” There are eight planners at Disney Fairy Tale Weddings, responsible for 1,000 to 1,200 weddings a year. “Overall, my work is happy work—the people are amazing,” Bowen says.

Bowen’s career began in the hospitality industry after she graduated from MTSU in 1984 with a degree in marketing and a minor in management. From positions with Opryland and the Visitors and Conventions Bureau in Nashville, she traveled to Pittsburgh and a career with the Hyatt Corp. “I had already resigned my job in Pittsburgh and was planning another move when 9/11 happened,” Bowen says. “I sold my home that night and left Pittsburgh two weeks later.” Walt Disney World in Orlando was her destination, and it wasn’t long before Bowen was working at Disney Fairy Tale Weddings and making dreams come true.

Bowen has fond memories of her MTSU years as a co-ed, sorority sister, and little sister for a fraternity. “I enjoy reading the alumni magazine and seeing where everyone is now in their lives,” she says. She keeps up with Blue Raider sports and hopes to get back to campus one day. “I hear and read about the growth of the school,” she says. “I may not recognize the place!”

MTSU

VOICES HEARD

Advice from the Friends List

“Go back and visit campus whenever you can. Stay connected with professors, fellow alumni, and college friends. Attend alumni, sporting, concert, and other campus events when you can. My connection with my MTSU family has been a valuable resource to me over the years both professionally and personally. Now more than ever, I would urge you to stay connected and stay true to the blue!”

Scott R. Munsell ('01), Starkville, Miss.

“Use your education to better yourself and the world around you.”

Keith Scott ('08), McMinnville

“The best way to be happy is to make others happy. The best way to make others happy is to be happy yourself!”

Rhonda McDaniel Norris ('81), Fayetteville

“It’s okay if you have to move back home for awhile. It’s only a temporary stop in your life.”

Deidre Wood ('10), Bluff City

“Any job is better than no job at all.”

Muffin Dixon ('95), Memphis

“Plan and boldly step forward these next few years, but always fix your vision ten years down the road.”

J. Greg Carter ('91), Tullahoma

“Success is NOT measured by the size of your paycheck.”

Kari Beard Janetvilay ('06) Murfreesboro

“Good luck. Your degree doesn’t mean much—all they want is experience, but no one will give you the opportunity for any.”

Jimmy Stephens ('06)

“Your degree does mean something—it means you finish what you start. Don’t think your first job must be CEO. Start where you can. Move from there.”

Bill Graves ('92)

“Learn to ask questions. Take responsibilities for your actions, or lack of action.”

Bill Riggs ('85), Tullahoma

We turned to the fertile ground of our MTSU and MTSU alumni Facebook pages and asked our thousands of followers:

“What is the best advice you’d give to the Class of 2011?”

Below is a selection of the responses we received.

“Dive head first into the future with a respectful nod to the past. Remember the basics in life like respect, gratitude, and integrity. If you combine those things with the gift of an educated mind, you can build a life that is worth being proud of.”

Margaret Claprod ('03), Mt. Juliet

“After you graduate, send out 20 more resumes to every job website than your classmates. They will be your fiercest competition to get the job you deserve.”

Orlondre' Lawrence ('10), Murfreesboro

“Follow your dreams. You can do whatever you put your mind to.”

Zack Barnes ('10), Muncie, Ind.

“Learning does not stop after the diploma arrives.”

Bryan McCoy ('08) Grand Forks, N.D.

The MTSU and Alumni Relations Facebook pages feature new content daily. Please visit www.facebook.com/mtsublueraiders and www.facebook.com/mtsualumni.

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traditions of excellence 1911~2011

Gala Table Host \$1,500
One Gala Table (10 Guests)
Program recognition
One table host favor
No tax deduction

Gala Patron \$1,500
Two Gala Tickets
Program recognition
One table host favor
\$1,200 tax deduction

You are cordially invited to attend the Centennial Celebration

Blue Tie Gala

Celebrating 100 years of educational excellence!

Friday, September 9, 2011

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner and Dancing: 7:30 p.m.

Blue Tie Optional

Individual Tickets are available for \$125 per person

Reservations may be made by contacting MTSU Alumni Relations at (800) 533-6878. For additional details go to www.mtalumni.com and click on Events and look for MTSU Centennial Blue Tie Gala.