

MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2011 Vol. 15 No. 2

100 *Things*

We Love About MTSU

...including
THE *enduring* COLUMNS
of **Kirksey Old Main.**
See page 29.

Special Centennial Edition



The most beloved of all MTSU buildings, **Kirksey Old Main** was the first classroom building constructed on the campus of Middle Tennessee State Normal School **100 years ago**. Pictured here are students, athletes, coaches (can you spot coaches Rick Stockstill and Rick Insell?), and administrators (how about President Sidney A. McPhee?) gathered to commemorate the University's Centennial on the historic building's front steps.

Contact MTSU Magazine editor Drew Ruble at drew.ruble@mtsu.edu



Photo: J. Intintoli
Cover Photo: Andy Heidt



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MTSU's Centennial book is now available.
Place your order at www.mtsu.edu/centennial now!



TRADITIONS OF EXCELLENCE

A Century in the Making

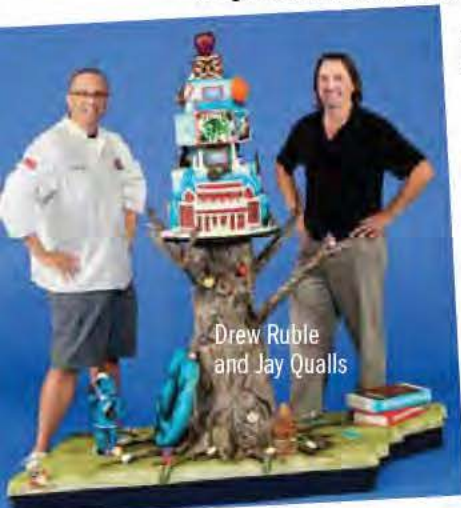
MY OFFICE IS LOCATED IN THE TOM JACKSON BUILDING, ONE OF MTSU's original four buildings when it opened 100 years ago in 1911. Right outside the front door is the Veterans Memorial plaza. It is one of the things I personally love most about MTSU.



In 2002, two MTSU alums, Pierre Piche ('00) and Ken Ballard ('02), died in overseas conflicts. Two MTSU political science professors, Dr. Andrei Korobov and Dr. Robb McDaniel, were inspired to action. Along with military science professor and war veteran Dr. Derek Frisby ('94), the group approached

MTSU's development office about seeking funding for a memorial. What started out as a vision for a monument snowballed into a plan for a plaza.

With roughly two-thirds of the needed \$100,000 raised entirely through private support, MTSU's development office got a phone call from MTSU alum John Harris ('74), a retired Army officer and Florida-based businessman. He said he'd cover the remaining cost of the project to get it done. Harris's inspiration? "I think it's so important for there to be a spot on campus where students can be reminded of the sacrifice people in the service make that ultimately allows them the privilege of being a student at a place like Middle Tennessee."



Drew Ruble
and Jay Qualls

Both big and small gifts from alumni are what make MTSU great. Featured on page 27 is a cake designed by Murfreesboro celebrity cake designer and MTSU graduate Jay Qualls. Qualls and his staff donated the cake out of his deep appreciation for his alma mater, which he credits for all his wild successes in life.

Qualls, a recent cast member on the TLC cable television hit *The Next Great Baker*, recently launched a new fondant product that is sure to shake up the cake-making world in a big way. (Qualls is a graduate of the Jennings A. Jones School of Business at MTSU, so he knows a thing or two about entrepreneurship.) The

cake, which kicks off "100 Things We Love About MTSU," is currently on display in Walker Library on the MTSU campus.

What says birthday more than cake and gifts? As such, let this Centennial-themed edition of *MTSU Magazine* serve as a part of the kickoff to MTSU's Centennial year, which officially begins next month on Sept. 11. All together now: "Happy Birthday to MTSU, . . ." **MTSU**

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University Editor

Drew Ruble

Art Director

Kara Hooper

Contributing Editors

Michael Burgin, Bill Fisher

Contributing Writers

Molly E. Cochran, Gina E. Fann,
Allison Gorman, Bill Lewis, Gina K. Logue,
Candace Moonshower, Tom Tozer, and Randy Weiler

Design Assistance

Lauren Finney, Martha Millsaps,
Darrell Callis Burks, Sherry Wiser George

University Photographers

J. Intintoli, Andy Heidt

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Brad Bartel, Brandon Batts and the MTSU SGA,
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MTSU Athletics, Nick Perlick, Jay Qualls, Jack Ross,
Kippy Todd, Tara Wann, Cathy Weller, Terry Whiteside,
Doug Williams, Tim Williams, Rhonda Wimberly

University President

Sidney A. McPhee

Vice President for Development and University Relations

Joe Bales

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Andrew Oppmann

MTSU Magazine is published twice per year.

Address changes should be sent to Advancement Services,
MTSU Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; alumni@mtsu.edu.
Other correspondence should be sent to MTSU editor, Drew Ruble,
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**MIDDLE
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STATE UNIVERSITY



Sidney A. McPhee

In the 100
years ahead,
MTSU will also
assume a
bigger role
in national
life and
will forge
a global
focus.



The Next 100 Years

MTSU kicks off a celebration of its **Centennial year** next month. What will MTSU be in the next 100 years?

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee: This year we celebrate the pride, tradition, and excellence of MTSU's first century as a leading academic institution in middle Tennessee. Looking forward, service and leadership will continue to be key to our vision for the future as middle Tennessee's premier public university. So too will nationalization and internationalization of the MTSU brand.

MTSU started as a small teacher-training school in 1911. It has grown tremendously in the last 100 years—particularly the last 20—and has become a key component of middle Tennessee's education and economic engine. In January 2010, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010, which calls for colleges and universities to focus on student retention, degree completion, improvement in the areas of transfer and articulation, and institutional mission distinctiveness. MTSU had already made those goals a strategic priority. The century ahead will be marked by MTSU further expanding its role as the primary public higher education institution for the citizens of middle Tennessee.

MTSU has long been a place to obtain an excellent education. It has been the marketplace for the exchange of ideas. It has been a place where students obtain a better understanding of human rights, civic virtues, and ethical values and learn their duties as citizens of a democracy. In the 100 years ahead, MTSU will not only continue to perform those roles but will also assume a bigger role in national life and will forge a global focus.

To do this, we must continue to build interrelated programs among the University, international organizations, and businesses. We must continue to focus on collaborative research among industries, research institutions, and the University. And we must continue to improve our facilities so as to continue to attract world-class faculty and students to MTSU.

Revisiting our history makes us proud. But it also underscores our tremendous responsibility and dreams for the future. Spend a little time around our students, faculty, and alumni, and I have no doubt you'll be as excited as we are about what the next 100 years will bring.

The General Assembly adjourned this year without signing off on funding for MTSU's desperately needed new science building. How do you feel that effort is going?

McPhee: In my 11 years at MTSU—many of which have been spent with MTSU's new science building at the top of the state's capital projects priorities list—I have never been more confident that state decision-makers are going to find a way soon to fund a new MTSU science building. Heading into next year, based on all the feedback I've been receiving, I feel very good about the prospects that via some form of state funding—be it bonds or some other source of revenue—we will be breaking ground sooner rather than later on a vital new science building at MTSU. Doing so once and for all will assist our entire regional economy in its push to improve science education and steer us ever closer to our goal of attracting more and more of the jobs of tomorrow to middle Tennessee.

Thank you for your time, Mr. President. MTSU

MTSU's Centennial celebration will run all year long. Check www.mtsu.edu/centennial/ frequently for updates and events, including new videos, photos, and college-specific information.



BLUE RAIDERS:
Masters of the postseason.



FOOTBALL

Three bowl games in the last five years



WOMEN'S SOCCER

2010 NCAA Regional appearance



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Five consecutive NCAA appearances

SINCE MY WIFE IS AN ALUM of MTSU, we receive all the publications. The new magazine is FIRST RATE in every way. Also, it has been some time since I have seen a magazine with photos that "pop" like this. There is probably a national competition for publications of this type, so be sure to enter it. Wow.

Jim Sparks
Jim Sparks Communications

[Editor's Note: Jim "Doc" Sparks is the former editor of Tennessee Business magazine, the Volunteer State's first-ever glossy, full-color business magazine. Thanks for your kind words, Doc.]



I AM SURPRISED THAT THE University decided to name Middle Tennessee's new alumni magazine *MTSU Magazine* at a time when so many members of the University community want MTSU to change its name to the University of Middle Tennessee. Other than the name, I find the new alumni publication more attractive and appealing than the *Alumni Record*. However, I

would have chosen a different name other than *MTSU Magazine* and one that reflects the new era of the University. Why not name the publication, *Middle Tennessee Magazine* or *MT Magazine*?

Mark Finley, M.B.A. ('98)

WHAT A MARVELOUS WORK the new *MTSU Magazine* is. You guys have set the bar pretty high with this first edition, and I look forward to receiving the subsequent issue. As a leading proponent for changing the school name to Univ. of Middle Tennessee (UMT), I appreciated

There is probably a
national competition
for publications
of this type, so be
sure to enter it.
Wow.

Dr. McPhee's comments and analysis...As usual, his pragmatism comes to the forefront, and I couldn't agree with him more in that the top priority should be the completion of the science building and new labs. Let's hope the economy and other

things politically change for the better, and the name change can be effected in the future. I'm patient.

Bob Coleman ('58)
Franklin

WHAT AN EXCELLENT edition of the new magazine. My husband, Russell Smith, and I are both graduates, '56-'57, as well as our three children and their spouses. I was vice president of the student body along with John Bass as president. Give our regards to Suma Clark as she was a classmate. Again, thanks.

Joyce Watson Smith ('57)

I ENJOYED THE SPRING 2011 edition of the *MTSU Magazine* very much. I am truly disappointed, however, to see all factions of athletics represented on page 7 and not a cheerleader in the bunch. I am all too aware that many people do not consider cheerleading a sport, but these young people are trained athletes who work and train long hard hours just as the "real" athletes do. They suffer sports injuries and are treated by many of the same physicians as the "real" athletes. They compete

in National competitions. Yet, you publish a full-page photo of every kind of athlete imaginable, and the cheerleaders are not represented. Please give these hardworking students the credit and respect they deserve.

Karla Wright

I RECEIVED MY COPY OF the new *MTSU Magazine* yesterday, and it looks spectacular! The writing, layout, and graphics are all top-notch! Overall, I most enjoyed reading the professional profiles of past graduates; however, my favorite profile was on Larry Sizemore, the grounds supervisor. What a neat guy with such a long career! Kudos for taking the time to highlight his knowledge, years of hard work, and accomplishments. Congratulations on a job well done!

J. Scott Ellis
General Counsel
Smith & Wesson
Security Solutions

I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE new *MTSU Magazine*. Well done!

Keith W. Carlson
Retired Professor
Department of Psychology

Clarification:

PAGE 17 IN THE APRIL EDITION OF *MTSU MAGAZINE* REFERRED TO THE "87,300-square-foot education building that will house the [...] College of Behavioral and Health Sciences." Actually it will house only the College of Education.



Katie Miller, Class of 2012

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

In coming weeks, student callers like Katie will be contacting you asking for support for the **MTSU Annual Fund**.

Gifts to the Annual Fund increase **the value of your degree** by helping MTSU retain exceptional faculty members and by providing scholarship support to outstanding students.

MTSU needs your support. **Will you answer the call?**

Visit www.mtsu.edu/supportMT if you would like to make your gift online today.

**MIDDLE
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ANNUAL FUND

Though it might seem humorous to imagine Lady Gaga or U2 recorded on a cylinder, it's really no laughing matter.

1 *Songster*, a lyrics-only songbook, Harrigan & Hart's *Mulcahey Twins Songster*, 1872

2 *Songbook*, *Slave Songs of the United States*, the earliest published songbook of African American spirituals, 1867

3 *Edison Cylinder*, precursor to recorded discs, "Casey Jones," artist Billy Murray, 1910

4 *Sheet music*, "Hound Dog," written by Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller, performed by Elvis Presley, 1956

5 *Handwritten music*, "The Treble to Pilgrims Farwell," Luzon Nichols, 1820

6 *Song broadside*, "The Captain of the Provost" with panorama of Nashville, 1863

7 *Cabinet card* of String Trio, unknown musicians, ca. 1880

8 *Gospel songbook*, *Singers Glory*, publisher James D. Vaughan, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., 1951

9 *Reel-to-reel stereo tape (3")*, "Lullaby of Birdland," *Ella and Duke at the Cote D'Azur*, composer George Shearing, performer Ella Fitzgerald, 1967

10 *Transcription disc* of a recorded radio program (not sold commercially), 1940

11 *Sheet music*, "Flag of the South," C. D. Bensen & Co., a Confederate imprint, Nashville, Tenn., 1862

12 *Music for the Silent Movies*, "Agitated Apassionato; For agitated themes of commotion of emotional and dramatically pathetic character," Robbins Music Corp., 1927

13 *Flute and violin tune book*, *The Musical Miscellany*, the oldest item in the center's collection, 1729

PHOTO KEY

by Drew Ruble

Preservation REQUIRED

The **Center for Popular Music** houses a **world-renowned archive**—and direct portal to the **popular consciousness of past generations.**

IT'S THE LARGEST AND OLDEST RESEARCH CENTER FOR POPULAR music in the world. A part of the College of Mass Communication, it's a real jewel in MTSU's crown.

Having recently celebrated its 25th year of existence, it's fair to say the Center for Popular Music at MTSU is better known around the world than in its own backyard.

Established in 1985 as one of 16 centers of excellence statewide, the center today boasts a collection of more than 300,000 cataloged items. That includes 75,000 pieces of sheet music, 2,200 rare periodicals, and about 175,000 recordings.

Those recordings come in many forms, from Edison cylinders (they still work like a charm) to modern-day mp3s. A laboratory filled with Victorolas, functioning 8-track players, turntables, and the like enable center archivists to digitize and preserve the popular music of any recorded age.

From a text-only perspective, the center possesses the largest collection of "broadside" outside of the Library of Congress. Smallish, art-filled lyric sheets, these penny items were the 19th-century equivalent of a 99-cent mp3 download and were key to the dissemination of popular music in prerecording America. Many publishers bound these texts into little, cheap books called "songsters." (Think of a songster as a centuries-old ancestor of the iPod.) Next to the Bible, the songster was the form of literature carried most often by soldiers in the Civil War.

As large as it is, the center's collection is still growing. Recent acquisitions will make it a hotspot for the collection and study of sheet music written for silent films. Titles include "terror music" or "party music"—captioned to capture the essence of a scene.

Other centers like MTSU's exist—but none are so prominent. Through the years, more than 40,000 scholars from all over the

world have logged research hours at the center. From a scholarly perspective, the center's profile is waxing as historians increasingly realize how poorly popular music history has been chronicled and preserved through the years. After all, what better than the music of the day—something that matters to people, that defines who they are and positions them in society and culture—to tap into the consciousness of the past?

Preserving sound and archiving music in a digital age punctuated by the proliferation of music distributed through independent channels makes the work of the center a tall task indeed. Might preservationists reverse course and begin to convert mp3s to vinyl and cylinders to ensure their shelf life? Though it might seem humorous to imagine Lady Gaga or U2 recorded on a cylinder, it's really no laughing matter. Center officials themselves don't rule out the possibility that older technology may play a role in preserving modern music. [MTSU](#)

[Editor's Note: Officials with the MTSU Center for Popular Music traveled in South Africa this summer, exploring the global reach of American popular music and working to forge a collaboration with the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music in South Africa.]

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

Items courtesy of the Center for Popular Music: <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu>.



A look at **recent awards**, events, and accomplishments involving the **MTSU community**

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



High Achievers

MTSU students **Evan Craig** (pictured at right) and **Chris Ehemann** (left) earned prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, and **Lauren Rigsby** (center) received honorable mention. The Goldwater Scholarship, honoring former U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, encourages outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. Graduating senior **Kim Yarborough** and alumnus **Patrick Pratt** were MTSU's most recent recipients of prestigious the Fulbright Program for U.S. Students award. The Fulbright is intended to foster cross cultural understanding. Yarborough is headed to Spain, and Pratt is headed to Tanzania.

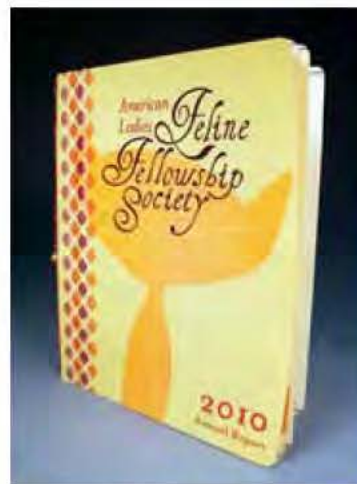


Miss Speaker

MTSU junior **Katie Bogle** participated in the Campus-Capitol Connection on Capitol Hill in April, an event where university students observe and learn about the various elements of state government. Bogle will serve in the role of Speaker of the House when the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature convenes this coming November. A political science major, Bogle plans to work in government on public policy issues after graduation.

Lifetime Achievement

Bart Gordon, longtime U.S. representative for Tennessee's 6th congressional district, recently donated his congressional papers—representing 26 years in office—to MTSU's Albert Gore Research Center. Serving from 1985 to 2011, Gordon has held positions on a number of committees in the U.S. House of Representatives, including chair of the Committee on Science and Technology.



ADDY Girl

Five gold awards—including Best of Show by senior **Stefanie Cobb**—and two silvers led to a spectacular night for the MTSU Department of Art at the 2011 Nashville Student ADDY Awards. Cobb, who graduated in May, earned a Gold ADDY and Best of Show for her "American Ladies Feline Fellowship

Society Annual Report" entry. A past president of the student chapter of AIGA, the professional association for design, Cobb also earned a Silver Student ADDY for a mixed-media campaign, "Streets in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of Brutalist Architecture." The following senior art majors also received Student ADDY Awards: Cody Newman, Eric Pavol, Nathan Henris, Whitney Mortimer, and Michael Slattery.



Scenic City Connection

Chattanooga State Community College students will find it easier to pursue a bachelor's degree at MTSU under an agreement reached by the leaders of both institutions. President **Sidney A. McPhee** and CSCC president **James Catanzaro** announced a Memorandum of Understanding, committing to a shared curriculum plan for students seeking an associate degree in Chattanooga who also wish to pursue a bachelor's degree in Murfreesboro. Under the agreement, Chattanooga students who meet specific eligibility requirements will qualify for dual admission at the community college and MTSU and will be guaranteed acceptance into MTSU. They will get access to MTSU faculty and staff while attending the community college and can take advantage of enhanced advising and transition services offered by the University.



Sports Round Up

Men's golfer **Brett Patterson** became the first-player in school history to qualify for the U.S. Open. Blue Raider baseball player **Will Skinner** was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 25th round of Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft. And for the third straight year, MTSU earned the Sun Belt's annual **Vic Bubas Cup**, given to the school that gained the most cumulative points in the conference's 19 sponsored sports. Western Kentucky finished second.

Big Spring

The University awarded more than 2,400 degrees at MTSU's 100th spring commencement in May, setting a record for the spring ceremony. MTSU, the state's largest undergraduate institution, divides its commencements into two ceremonies to accommodate its large graduation classes. Candidates recognized at spring 2011 commencement surpassed the mark set in spring 2009, when 2,147 were honored.

Set in Stone

The MTSU Department of **Concrete Industry Management (CIM)** came out from under the umbrella of the Department of Engineering Technology to become one of 10 departments in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. CIM, the first program of its kind in the country when students first took classes in fall 1996, offers a four-year bachelor of science degree for its majors. An executive M.B.A. degree to train students at a higher level is expected to be added to the CIM Department.

Growth by Association

MTSU's new **Saudi Students Association** was formed to organize, promote, and support activities that allow an exchange of cultural, social, and sports activities between all its members and the campus and city communities. Graduate student **Abdullah Alkobraish**, a native of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, cofounded the organization and serves as its president. According to Alkobraish, the association will help orient new Saudi students at MTSU and at the English Language School to American culture and also serve the Murfreesboro community. "We hope our friends here in town will help us to build the bridges and find solid ground for a peaceful world," Alkobraish said.

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MTSU has changed and expanded the University's news offerings with video, audio, slide shows and text at www.mtsunews.com. The multimedia website replaces The Record, MTSU's twice-monthly print newspaper. Using electronic delivery, MTSU can now get more news to more people, more often, than it has ever been able to do. Visit the website and sign up for the eRecord, MTSU's weekly digital news digest – a roundup of relevant MTSU news delivered directly to your inbox.

School's in for Summer

Governor signs bill at MTSU opening Hope Scholarship dollars for 2012 study

by Tom Tozer

GOV. BILL HASLAM SIGNED THE TENNESSEE Education Lottery Scholarship Bill June 8 on the MTSU campus, a measure that will allow college students across the state to use lottery-scholarship funds to enroll in summer school next year. The signing took place in MTSU's new Education Building. Those scholarship funds previously were earmarked for use only during the regular academic year.

"This is a big day for education in Tennessee," Haslam announced to an overflow audience that included a large group of students. "There were only four or five items on the legislative agenda that we were going to focus on, and this was one of them. ... Last year when the Complete College Act was passed, it encouraged students to be about the business of graduating. It's important that we align our goals with how we're rewarding people."

Under the new law, lottery-scholarship funds will be available for qualified Tennessee recipients who began their post-high-school education in fall 2009 or later and who wish to enroll in summer college courses beginning in 2012.

"This new bill will be a step in the right direction, because it encourages students to move at a faster pace toward graduation," said MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee. "Research shows that students who participate in summer-school programs will graduate at a significantly higher rate than those who do not attend summer school...That's what



we're all about: student success, higher graduation rates and our production of a prepared workforce that will bring jobs to the state."

Both Haslam and McPhee thanked state Rep. Jim Coley of Bartlett and Sen. Jim Tracy of Shelbyville, co-sponsors of the legislation, as well as state Reps. Richard Montgomery of Sevierville and Joey Hensley of Hohenwald, House Education Committee chair and vice chair, respectively, for their long hours of work and commitment to education in Tennessee. [MTSU](#)



Haslam visits with MTSU students prior to the bill signing, where he is joined by (from left) Rep. Jim Coley, Sidney A. McPhee, Rep. Richard Montgomery, Rep. Joey Hensley, Sen. Jim Tracy, and Rep. Joe Carr.

Clearing the Air The case for a tobacco-free MTSU

from staff reports

MTSU recently joined hundreds of institutions of higher education nationwide by declaring itself a tobacco-free campus, restricting the use of all forms of tobacco by students and visitors on MTSU property.

Becoming a tobacco-free campus provides a healthy living, working and learning environment. It also adds to the overall campus aesthetic as the litter of cigarette butts and smokeless tobacco containers often can be an unfortunate distraction from the campus's appearance. The University's commitment to preparing graduates who are in demand by companies and organizations is also a factor. As health care costs escalate, more companies are asking about tobacco use of current and potential employees.

Lisa Schrader, director of health promotion for MTSU's Student Health Services, said the transition to a tobacco-free campus will be worth the short-term obstacles.

"Good health is essential to fully meeting one's academic and professional potential," Schrader said. "MTSU is proactively addressing the No. 1 health risk in the U.S. and creating a more vibrant environment for its next 100 years."

The policy will be implemented in January 2012, allowing time for the University community to be educated about the new policy and for the University to provide support to those who wish to cease tobacco usage.



CENTENNIAL HOMECOMING

Come home for a celebration 100 years in the making!

October 1 A Centennial Homecoming

- 11:30 a.m. Mixer on Middle Parade Watching Party at the Alumni House
Baby Raider Ride Contest (register at mtalumni.com)
- 12 noon Centennial Homecoming Parade
- 1–3 p.m. Alumni Tailgate Lunch at the Alumni House
(reserve at mtalumni.com or call 800-533-6878)
- 3:45 p.m. Raider Walk in Walnut Grove
- 6:00 p.m. Blue Raiders vs. University of Memphis Tigers
(Visit mtalumni.com for alumni discount ticket info)

Visit ***MTalumni.com*** or call Alumni Relations at
800-533-6878 for updates and to reserve your place.



by Drew Ruble

beat generation

Felicia Miyakawa's hip-hop expertise could prove a **big problem** for Lil Wayne

Based on her childhood musical influences growing up in Oregon, Dr. Felicia Miyakawa would have never predicted she'd grow up to be an expert musicologist on the hip-hop genre. Such an expert, in fact, that she was hired earlier this year to serve as a key witness in a copyright infringement lawsuit facing popular hip-hop performer Lil Wayne.

"There might have been hip-hop in Oregon when I was a kid, but if there was, I didn't know about it," says Miyakawa, associate professor of musicology and assistant director of MTSU's School of Music. "It wasn't in my 'hood."

How did Miyakawa rise from the ranks of the hip-hop uninitiated to her expert status? While a postgraduate student at Indiana University, Miyakawa veered from her focus on traditional musicology training—think ancient

Crossing the Line: MTSU School of Music assistant director Dr. Felicia Miyakawa's breadth of training in musicology makes her a copyright expert in identifying overt similarities in hip-hop music.

Greek notation or Byzantine chants—and started taking classes on American popular music. A new interest took root.

The next step in Miyakawa's evolution came soon after, when she read an article about female images in rap music. (Incidentally, Miyakawa is also a rising leader in Women's Studies at MTSU.) Married at the time to a man who possessed a healthy rap music collection, Miyakawa felt sufficiently enlightened to deem the author's argument shallow. Though still new to rap, she fashioned a stern rebuttal.

Photos: J. Intiboli



"That was the first time I wrote about rap," Miyakawa says. "And it wasn't because of a love of rap but because I thought this author was wrongheaded."

Miyakawa later took Pop Music of Black America, a class taught by famous ethnomusicologist Portia Maultsby. There, she first discovered seminal rap artists Public Enemy. Unlike the lightweight rap she'd heard peripherally in the past, Public Enemy's unabashed cultural and political agenda appealed to the scholarly Miyakawa. She was hooked. "What I'd heard before was fine," she says. "But this grabbed me."

Finally, while reading a book called *Nation Conscious Rap*, Miyakawa first encountered references to the so-called "five percenters," a hip-hop lifestyle reference rooted in the belief that only five percent of people possess true knowledge of themselves. It led to a dissertation, which later led to Miyakawa's own book—*Five Percenter Rap: God Hop's Music, Message, and Black Muslim Mission*, published during Miyakawa's first year as a faculty member at MTSU. The book is now frequently used as a text for teaching hip-hop music and culture courses nationwide.

It also served as a primary impetus for Atlanta artist Michael Bradford to hire Miyakawa as an expert witness in his pending case against Lil Wayne. Bradford claims he created a beat in 2004 that was later used as the foundation of Lil Wayne's 2008 hit "Mrs. Officer." According to Bradford, Lil Wayne's producer reworked his beat and took all the credit for the production.

Miyakawa listened to Bradford's evidence and agreed, preparing a court brief arguing the similarities in the music.

Miyakawa listened to Bradford's evidence and agreed, preparing a court brief arguing the similarities in the music.

So how exactly do you prove musical similarity is more than just coincidence in a hip-hop song? *MTSU Magazine* asked the expert.

"In my training as a musicologist, I've heard a whole hell of a lot of music drawn from centuries and centuries,"

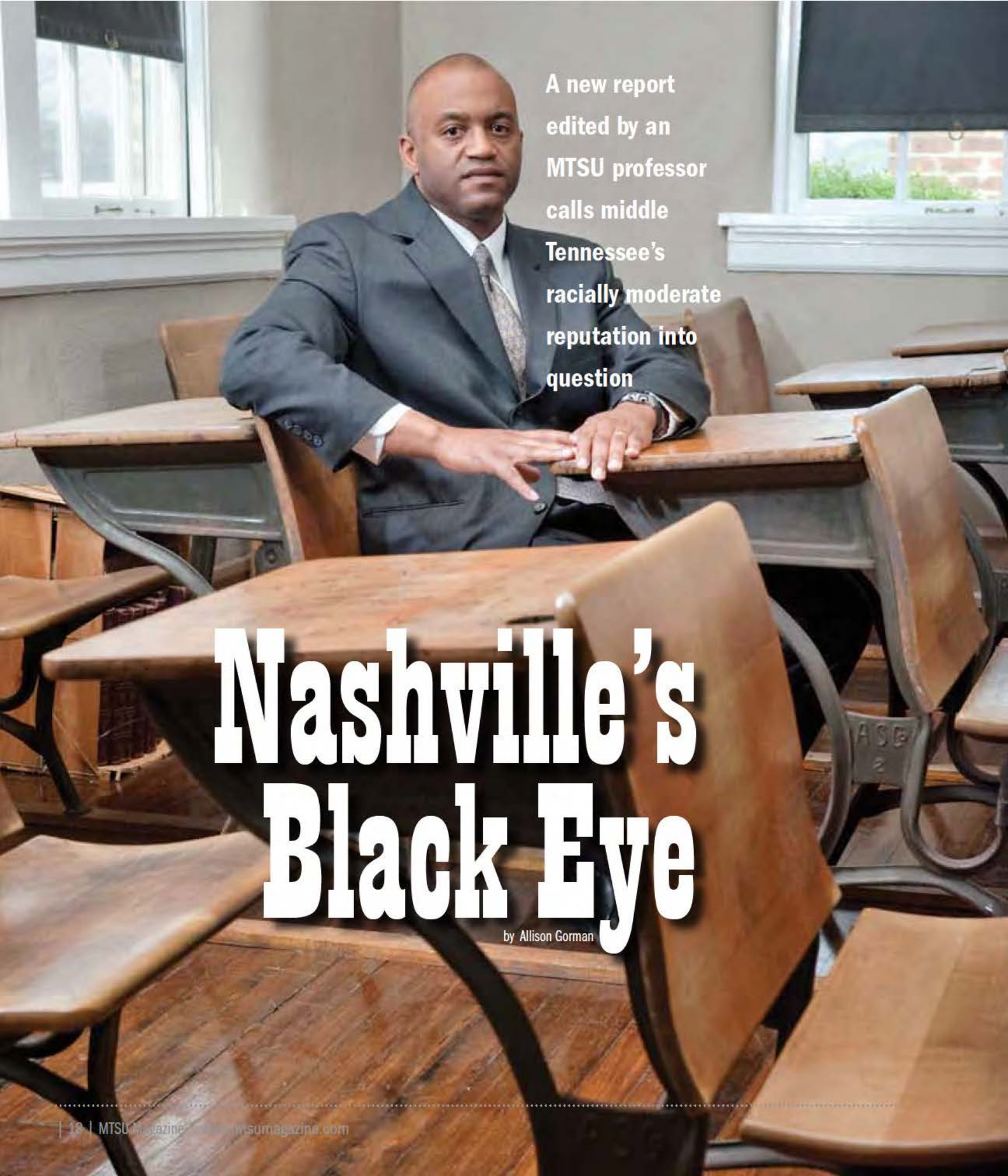
Miyakawa says. "You start to see aesthetic patterns in certain genres or time periods. There are types of things music makers prefer to do. For instance, you can talk about mid-16th century composers from France and the Netherlands and how they preferred to write their motets. You can actually talk about that. And you can apply those same sorts of aesthetic frameworks to hip-hop."

"Songs are not built in same way in hip-hop as in other types of music. The way hip-hop production works—there are only a certain number of ways to make it into the mainstream—is that certain music elements tend to interact. Beats come first. And they tend to be layered in very specific ways—in repetitive patterns."

"In hip-hop, the defining element is groove—as in patterns of interlocking timbres and sounds that repeat over a specified period of time. That gives it a signature. And if you start hearing a similar type of signature—given the way that producers in hip-hop tend to work—this is where you can start to argue that there are only so many ways you can come up with this independently."

So does Lil Wayne's hit song infringe on Bradford's original beat? According to court documents citing Miyakawa, it does, stating that if "random audiences" can hear the striking similarities in the two songs then clearly the producer of Lil Wayne's hit song did not adequately hide the source material.

Leave it to Miyakawa to demonstrate how the authorship of a hip-hop beat need not be such a Byzantine subject, after all. [MTSU](#)

A man with short-cropped hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, sits at a wooden desk in a classroom. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. His hands are resting on the desk. The classroom has several other wooden desks and chairs, some of which are empty. There are windows in the background with white frames and dark shutters. The floor is made of polished wood.

A new report
edited by an
MTSU professor
calls middle
Tennessee's
racially moderate
reputation into
question

Nashville's Black Eye

by Allison Gorman

FIFTY YEARS AFTER LUNCH COUNTER sit-ins helped desegregate downtown Nashville, the city's African American community still faces widespread racism, according to an exhaustive report, *The State of Blacks in Middle Tennessee*, published by the Urban League of Middle Tennessee (ULMT) and edited by Dr. Sekou Franklin, MTSU associate professor of political science. In Nashville, the report states, black men are likelier than whites to go to prison, black students likelier to be suspended from school, and black children likelier to die in infancy. And Nashville's neighborhoods are still segregated—not by laws but by the practices of realtors and mortgage lenders.

Most Southern cities have these problems, Franklin acknowledges. But there's one distinction, he says, that is specific to "the Athens of the South": "Nashville is very intentional about creating an image of being a city that's sophisticated, that's modern, that's racially moderate and progressive, whose problems of race and class don't rise to the level of seriousness that one might find in other cities," he says. That construct—"as critical to the image of Nashville as jazz and music are to New Orleans"—has been used as economic capital since the 1950s, he says. As a result, longstanding problems have gone unaddressed.

"This is my personal opinion—I didn't talk about this in the report—the political and financial elite in Nashville have been very successful at cajoling and coercing African American leaders to publicly support that image," Franklin says. "And that has discouraged a more critical discussion around race and class that needs to happen."

Franklin's role as editor of the report synthesized his two professional lives:

one in academia and one in social activism. As an activist, he'd worked with ULMT president Patricia Stokes, who tapped him to oversee the study, which mirrors the National Urban League's annual *State of Black America* report. Franklin says the majority of its content reflects real-life concerns he discovered through his work with several grassroots groups, including Nashville's Urban EpiCenter, which he cofounded with activist Keith Caldwell. The initial framing of the report also blossomed from weekly dialogues initiated by Rev. James Lawson, one of the nation's preeminent theoreticians on nonviolence. The report touches on broad-ranging subjects: children and church, education and incarceration, housing and homelessness.

When the report was published last December, it drew some criticism from African Americans who are politically or commercially vested in Nashville's 'Athenian' image."

He solicited and compiled data and commentary from more than 30 Nashville-area "academicians, advocates, and activists." Many are well known, like Juanita Veasy, director of the Black Children's Institute of Tennessee, and longtime social activist Kwame Lillard, a participant in those 1960 sit-ins. Others, like former foster child Danosha Edwards and homeless advocate Al T. Star, Franklin calls "critical voices in Nashville who will never get a seat at the table but are in the trenches."

While the report's authors describe a population harmed by entrenched, systemic racism, Franklin notes that "a lot of people would say those decisions

that reinforce [institutional racism] have been made by people who see themselves as quite progressive on race." Veasy, for example, argues that mainstream social agencies created to advocate for minority children divert limited funding from more effective, black-led grassroots organizations. A parallel and relatively new phenomenon, Franklin says, is the marginalization of poor blacks as socially liberal whites (and some middle-class blacks) gentrify Nashville's urban neighborhoods.

Franklin says when the report was published last December, it drew some criticism from African Americans who are politically or commercially vested in Nashville's "Athenian" image. "If you ask most activists who are not in the pocket of the Chamber of Commerce, they'll tell you these issues are well known," he says. "But the report now offers empirical evidence for dialogue."

Lonnell Matthews, a member of the Metro Council's Black Caucus, accepts the premise of the report but argues that cooperation—not conversation—is the sticking point.

"You can find programs that focus on our youth all around this city," Matthews says, "but it's people wanting to reinvent the wheel and get credit for it rather than coming together to solve a problem that's common to all of us, that we all know about, but that we target as individuals and not as a community."

While some might view the report as disheartening, Franklin says he is encouraged by its authors' specific and varied recommendations for change. Those, he hopes, will inspire dialogue and help bridge divisions, including those within Nashville's black community. **MTSU**

Keeping It Clean

by Bill Lewis

AS MTSU'S ATHLETICS PROGRAMS get better and better, they're attracting welcome attention from the media, fans, boosters, and professional leagues. University officials, meanwhile, are being vigilant to ensure student athletes don't attract attention of an unwelcome sort—from rogue sports agents whose gifts, money, or favors can wreck an athlete's undergraduate career, cost the University revenue, and erase winning seasons.

Student-athletes play for the love of the game and, in the case of a few elite athletes, the prospect of financial rewards after graduation. That prospect of a future payday attracts agents who may be tempted to bend or break NCAA rules, usually at the expense of schools and students.

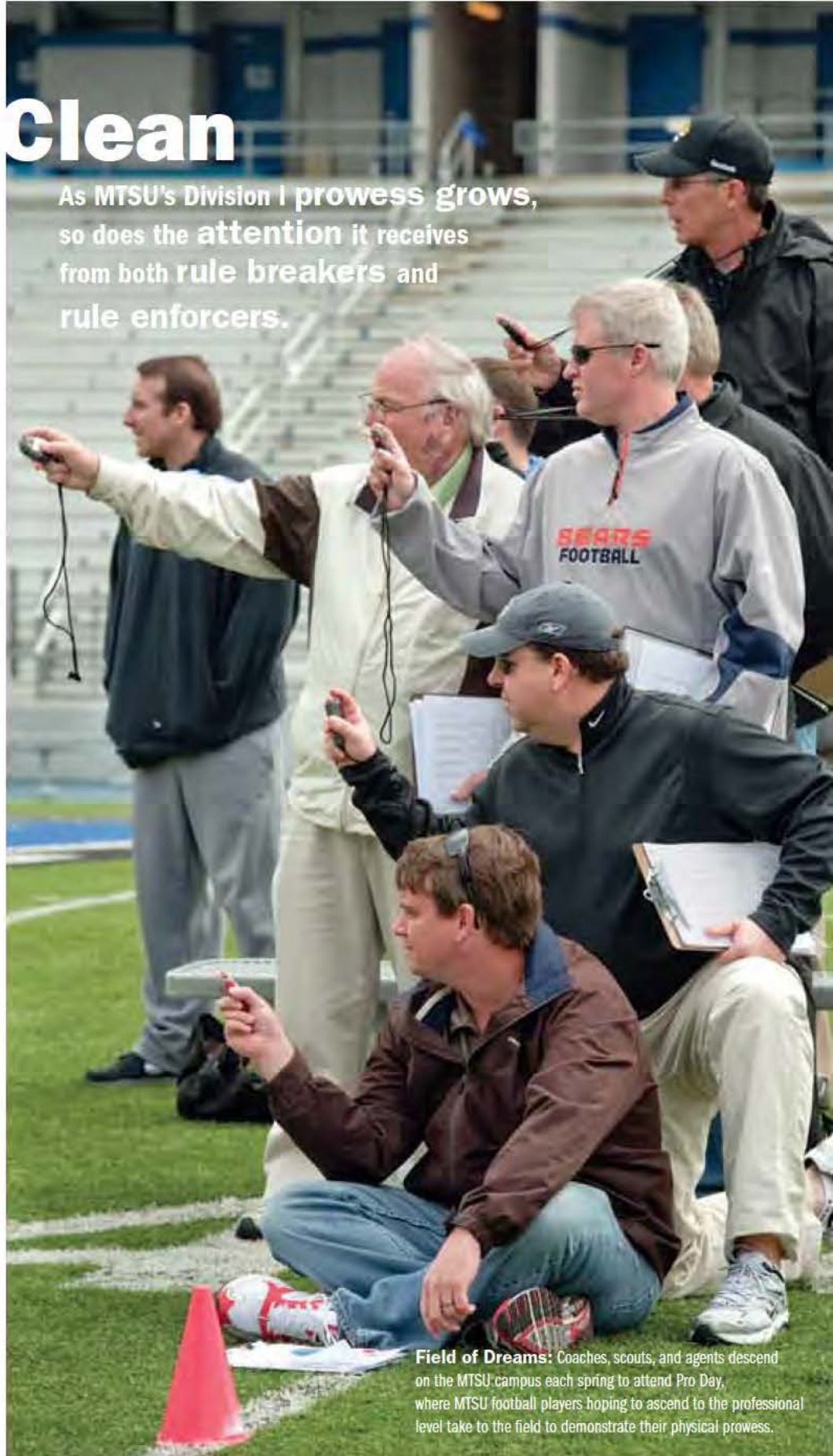
"If your signing bonus is \$1 million, if there's a potential to make a lot of money in the future with your athletic ability, they will be around," says Associate Athletic Director Daryl Simpson, who leads MTSU's efforts to comply with NCAA rules that are intended to protect the integrity of collegiate sports.

MTSU has developed an 800-page booklet to help guide undergraduate athletes through the maze of problems to avoid and rules to follow. The NCAA allows students to meet with agents, but they can't enter into contracts or accept any "extra benefits" that other students wouldn't get. That includes meals, transportation, or gifts. Doing so can jeopardize their eligibility to play and place the school at risk of sanctions.

The trap of accepting an extra benefit is easy to stumble into. The Blue Raider football program suffered a setback last season when quarterback Dwight Dasher accepted a \$1,500 loan from an acquaintance. The University suspended Dasher for four games.

"If we had not, we would have had to forfeit every game he played," says Terry

As MTSU's Division I prowess grows, so does the attention it receives from both rule breakers and rule enforcers.



Field of Dreams: Coaches, scouts, and agents descend on the MTSU campus each spring to attend Pro Day, where MTSU football players hoping to ascend to the professional level take to the field to demonstrate their physical prowess.

Whiteside, dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. As faculty athletics advisor, Whiteside reports directly to MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee regarding the University's compliance with NCAA regulations.

"We're playing by the rules, and we expect students to play by the rules," says Whiteside, who reminds students of their priorities while at the University.

"At MTSU, we expect you to win, but we demand that you graduate," he says.

Agents are supposed to register with the University, but there are no guarantees. That's why Simpson devotes so much time and effort to education and communicating with coaches to see if "somebody questionable" is hanging around practices. Cell phones and social media such as Facebook make the job tougher.

"It's hard for an 18-year-old kid to turn down gifts or money," Simpson says. "So it's about educating the kids."

All the effort is necessary, even though problems are more likely to occur on campuses where large numbers of athletes enjoy the likelihood of multimillion dollar careers, Simpson says. Even now, the NCAA is mounting investigations at several large universities

"At MTSU, we expect you to win, but we demand that you **graduate**," he says.

ties where athletes may have received favors from agents. For athletes in a mid-major sports program like MTSU's, there's less

chance of falling victim. On a campus where about 300 students participate in team sports, eight were drafted by professional sports teams last year. One student-athlete, baseball star Bryce Brentz, was a first-round pick by the Boston Red Sox. Everybody carefully followed the rule book, Simpson says.

Wherever they turn up, shady agents could face prosecution or other penalties. Former U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon ('71), was instrumental in passing the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA), which empowers state attorneys general and the Federal Trade Commission to prosecute agents.

Gordon emphasizes that the weight of compliance still falls most heavily on schools and athletes. "The bottom line in all this is a sports agent has nothing to lose," he says. But professional leagues may be beginning to take the problem more seriously, as well. Former agent Josh Luchs was decertified last year by the NFL Players Association after writing in *Sports Illustrated* magazine that he made payments to recruit college players.

As MTSU athletics continues to grow in prominence, the burden to protect athletes will continue to grow, as well. **MTSU**

Boosterism by the Book

UNSCRUPULOUS SPORTS AGENTS CAN CAUSE great damage to a university's athletics program, but if you ask Bruce Pearl or Jim Tressell, they'd probably tell you some wounds are self-inflicted.

That's why MTSU created "Compliance Corner" on its website to help boosters avoid NCAA rules violations that could result in sanctions against a student-athlete or the University. There could even be serious consequences for the offending booster, no matter how innocent the mistake might seem.

"If you do things you aren't supposed to do, you are only hurting the school and may be 'disassociated.' You wouldn't be allowed to go to games," says Assistant Athletic Director Daryl Simpson.

According to faculty athletics advisor Terry Whiteside, the NCAA's rules are strict.

"We have a saying that if something is just good old-fashioned Southern hospitality, it's probably an NCAA rules violation," he says half-jokingly.

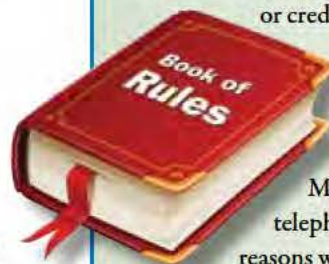
"We have a saying that if something is just **good old-fashioned Southern hospitality**, it's probably an NCAA rules violation."

Fortunately, boosters don't have to guess at what's permitted and what's out of bounds. The dos and don'ts are spelled out at www.goblueraiders.com.

Examples include that MTSU student-athletes may not receive a special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase (e.g., airline ticket, clothing) or a service (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning) from an MTSU employee or an MTSU booster. It is also not permissible to allow MTSU student-athletes to use a telephone or credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced cost.

Boosters at MTSU have not caused any difficulties with the NCAA, but at other schools there have been instances of "boosters run amok," Simpson says. "A lot of things don't seem like a big deal, but the rules are in place because someone did something."

Be a fan. Follow the rules. **MTSU**





by Tom Tozer

Standing Out among the Masses

In the wake of natural catastrophes like the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, one of the unhappy tasks first responders face is finding, identifying, and properly handling large numbers of the deceased.

Officials at Homeland Security were so impressed with Stubblefield's presentation that they have asked to meet with her privately.

Given that grim reality, it's no wonder recent MTSU graduate Jeannie Stubblefield's research on alternatives for managing deceased human and animal remains in mass fatalities has piqued the interest of the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Earlier this year, Stubblefield won first place for her poster research at the Fifth Annual U.S. Department of Homeland Security University Network Summit, held in Washington, D.C. The official title of

Stubblefield's research was "Potential Use of Chlorine Dioxide to Decontaminate Skin Surfaces in an Animal Mass Casualty Response." Conducted under an MTSU Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) grant of \$161,000, her research was funded by DHS and managed through Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Southeast Region Research Initiative.

"I was shocked and surprised—that's about all I can say," Stubblefield says. "I really didn't think my project had a chance of winning because I was up against so many master's and doctorate-level research projects."

Stubblefield plans to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular sciences at MTSU. But first she has an appointment to keep. Officials at Homeland Security were so impressed with Stubblefield's presentation that they have asked to meet with her privately. **MTSU**

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

Nontraditional Success Story: One of thousands of adult MTSU students, Jeannie Stubblefield (whose son is also an MTSU undergraduate) is yet another sterling example of an MTSU undergraduate excelling in activities usually performed by postgraduates.

Photo: J. Intintoli



CENTENNIAL FALL EVENTS

Come home for a celebration 100 years in the making!

September 10 Centennial Celebration Kickoff
Blue Raiders vs. Georgia Tech

October 1 A Centennial Homecoming
*Golden Raiders Society Reunion and Induction, class of 1961;
Mixer on Middle parade-watching party at the Alumni House;
tailgating; Blue Raiders vs. Univ. of Memphis Tigers*

November 19 Salute to Veterans
Blue Raiders vs. Arkansas State

Visit MTalumni.com or call Alumni Relations at
800-533-6878 for updates and to reserve your place.



GRADE **A** GRADS

Introducing the 2011–2012 class of Distinguished Alumni
by Gina K. Logue, Drew Ruble, and Randy Weiler

Many MTSU alumni bring the University recognition and prestige through their innovative work and loyal support. Each year since 1960, MTSU's Alumni Association has recognized accomplished alumni with the association's highest honor—the Distinguished Alumni Award. This year's honorees include a map librarian, a country politician, and a Brazil-born businessman. Each is well deserving of the honor, and their personal stories don't make for a bad read, either.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Hudson on the Hudson

Alice Hudson ('69)

by Gina K. Logue

The New York Times,
which once called Hudson
“a poet of place,”
described collection
visitors as a **hodgepodge**
of **builders, developers**
and **architects**,
novelists, and **urban**
archaeologists—even
“conspiracy
theorists
decoding the World
Trade Center bombing.”

Alice Hudson didn't need a map to get from her hometown of Oak Ridge to Murfreesboro or from Murfreesboro to New York. All she needed was her love of geography and a college education. On her second summer trip to visit her sister in the Big Apple in 1970, Hudson was hired as a map cataloguer and reference librarian at the New York Public Library. The rest is not only NYPL history—it is the history of New York.

By October 1981, Hudson was chief of the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division of the New York Public Library system. Its holdings include “more than 433,000 sheet maps and 20,000 books and atlases published between the 15th and 21st centuries,” according to NYPL. *The New York Times*, which once called Hudson “a poet of place,” described collection visitors as a hodgepodge of builders, developers and architects, novelists, and urban archaeologists—even “conspiracy theorists decoding the World Trade Center bombing.”

Hudson's 1969 bachelor's degree in geography from MTSU has served her well in helping navigate the technological changes in both cartography and library science over the years.

The brave new world of Google Earth and MapQuest is not alien to Hudson.

“I think they're a lot of fun because they brought a lot more people to the importance of geography and spatial relationships,” Hudson says.

Nevertheless, the librarian who took her geography courses in Kirksey Old Main retains a fondness for the tactile sensation of holding a map, like a journalist who won't give up a subscription to the hard copy edition of the newspaper just because it's accessible online.

“I like to have the map in my hand where I can see the entire map of the state of Tennessee, not just a three-inch square in my car,” Hudson says.

Retired since July 2009, Hudson considers her paramount achievement the cofounding of a group called the Mercator Society to raise money to expand and maintain the library's world-renowned map division. According to the *Times*, the NYPL collection, the largest in any public library in the country with the exception of the Library of Congress, grew exponentially during Hudson's tenure. [MTSU](#)

illustrations by Tim Williams



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Community Servant

George W. Fraley ('55)

by Drew Ruble

In endorsing him for reelection, former Gov. Phil Bredesen once said Fraley's **"commitment to putting people first"** had brought **"new jobs and opportunities"** to his district.

First as a Franklin County commissioner, then county executive, and finally as state representative for the 39th District, comprising Franklin, Moore, and part of Lincoln counties, retired public official George Fraley always made taking care of the home front his primary goal.

It was Fraley, a lifetime farmer, former educator, Korean War veteran, and Arnold Engineering Development Center engineer, who, during his term as Franklin County executive, steered Nissan Corp. to build an engine plant in Dechard. Other political achievements included securing funding for a new library and a nursing center at Motlow College.

In endorsing him for reelection, former Gov. Phil Bredesen once said Fraley's "commitment to

putting people first" had brought "new jobs and opportunities" to his district. John Hood ('54, '74), former state representative and current MTSU official, says of Fraley that "no one was more diligent in working for his constituents on individual issues as well as matters of general concern for the good of all Tennessee."

Fraley, who served as president of the Franklin County MTSU Alumni Association, credits much of his success to his MTSU education. He adds that much has changed about MTSU since 1955.

"When I started in school, we had to hitchhike from Franklin County and Winchester," he says. "There were only three cars on campus with Franklin County tags. Then when the quarter ended, everybody had to hitchhike back." [MTSU](#)



YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Budding Business Titan

Jeferson Jorge ('99)

by Randy Weiler

"I have tried to embody this quality of **'human respect and deference to all'** since meeting him, and the **effects in my life** have been **transformational.**"

Launching a new business in a slumping economy that had in particular devastated the Detroit, Mich., area may not have indicated the smartest decision for most people. But MTSU alumnus Jeferson "Jeff" Jorge ('99) is not most people. Passionate about helping other businesses grow, Jorge took a leap of faith in 2009, becoming principal and executive partner in the Royal Oak, Mich.-based consultancy group Global Development Partners Inc.

Jorge's previous professional success includes being one of the youngest employees to ever lead large-scale, global implementations at TRW Automotive; earning a sales achievement award for having a key role in securing one of the largest contracts in company history for Delphi; and serving as a leader on a team that won seven international advertising awards with Delphi.

A native of Brazil, Jorge credits Dr. Sid Sridhara, professor in the Department of Engineering Technology, for preparing him for real-world business experiences.

"Everyone with whom he comes in contact with receives the same level of dignified respect and is held in high regard," Jorge says. "I have tried to embody this quality of 'human respect and deference to all' since meeting him, and the effects in my life have been transformational."

Informed that he had been awarded the 2011-2012 Young Alumni Achievement Award by MTSU, Jorge said he was "overwhelmed, honored, and humbled," adding that his hope is to "leverage it to continue the work I have set out to do in simultaneously helping companies and socially responsible causes." [MTSU](#)

100 Things We Love About MTSU*

by Drew Ruble

A look at the **laudable,**
the **deserving,**
and the **downright**
delightful aspects of
Tennessee's Best
University

To celebrate Middle Tennessee State University's 100th birthday on September 11, 2011, *MTSU Magazine* presents its unofficial, hardly comprehensive list of the 100 Things We Love About MTSU.

Though **numbered**, the list is **not ranked**. After all, the MTSU experience is so rich, and the body of faculty, staff, students, and alumni so vast, one person's number 100 would be another's number 1.

No, the purpose of this list is not to compare apples to oranges (to grapes, to kiwis, etc.) but to celebrate the entire experience—the whole basket of fruit!

As we compiled this list, though, we did discover that much of what we love about MTSU falls nicely into definable categories that speak well to who we are as a university.

- We're about student success ● we're key to regional economic development ● we're global in reach ● we're filling the jobs of tomorrow
- we're instilling competitiveness ● we're bridging history and high-tech
- we're a culture of achievement ● we're broadening perspectives
- we're building for the future ● we're supporting the midstate
- we're targeting solutions ● we're seeking excellence
- and we go the distance.

Said another way, at MTSU, we're all about pride, tradition, and excellence.



The trees of
page 32

The Horseshoe
page 32



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

We produce Tennessee's teachers

page 47

Harvey!

page 38

Our student-run farmers' market

page 34

Our surging athletics programs

page 32

The Center for Popular Music

page 37

Turn the page for more!



The enduring columns of Kirksey Old Main

page 29

The Roundabout

page 40

on campus

oe

Read more about the centennial cake in the editor's letter on page 4.

[Editor's Notes: First, a hearty thanks to the students, staff, faculty members, and Facebook followers who helped us compile this list. Next, if you think we overlooked something great about MTSU (and I'm sure we did), send me an email at Drew.Ruble@mtsu.edu, and I'll publish selected responses in the next edition of MTSU Magazine.]

We're in the middle of it all

page 46

OUR NEW AIR TRAFFIC **CONTROL** simulator

MTSU's brand new, \$3.4 million,
360-degree seamless simulator

is the most sophisticated
of its kind in the world.

No other flight school in America
has a device like this.



99



We are the NASHVILLE area's workforce

MTSU's enrollment exceeds those of Vanderbilt, Tennessee State, Belmont, Fisk, and Lipscomb universities *combined*. The University produces more graduates for Nashville's work force than those five institutions put together. Though more MTSU graduates stay and work in middle Tennessee than do graduates of other schools, Blue Raiders can be found throughout the U.S. and worldwide.



98

We're student- centered

MTSU's new student intake program makes a contract with new students in the Colleges of Education, Behavioral and Health Sciences, and Mass Communication stating explicitly what it will take to be successful at their chosen goals. Then it keeps academic advisors aware of the decisions students are making throughout their academic careers. The end result? Better informed (and tracked) students who stay on course toward graduation.

**THERE IS NOT ANOTHER
UNIVERSITY IN AMERICA
WITH A STUDENT
RETAINMENT MODEL
LIKE THIS!**

97

**Mastering
the correct
stride length
to successfully
walk up the
steps to
Murphy Center.**



Tailgating *in* Walnut Grove

Walnut Grove, between Peck Hall and Cope Administration Building (which some say has trees grown from nuts collected at Mt. Vernon), is popular with students, alumni, and fans before Blue Raider home football games (the Greenland Drive tailgating area is a good time too). Raider Walk features football players and coaches making their way through the gathered crowd and on to the football stadium.



We're *non*traditional

A few years back, then-Gov. Phil Bredesen issued a challenge for some university in Tennessee to step up and build a successful adult degree completion program. MTSU responded to the call, promising the governor 15 students. Instead, it churned out 500. Today, officially half of MTSU students are classified as adults (many of whom benefit from the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students). That makes MTSU a major cog in efforts to improve graduation rates—a high priority among state policymakers.



Our 3 *new* science Ph.D. PROGRAMS

MTSU's three newest Ph.D. tracks reflect the University's commitment to filling the jobs of tomorrow. Molecular Biosciences teaches students to understand biological patterns and processes. Computational Science is used to solve complex problems using numerical solution, computational modeling, and computer simulation. Mathematics and Science Education prepares graduates for positions in colleges and universities, where they will conduct discipline-based research and prepare America's next generation of K-12 mathematics and science educators and leaders.



93

THE *enduring* COLUMNS
of Kirksey Old Main.



92

WE'VE GOT THE BEST milk!

The chocolate milk MTSU produces for students has won national awards. MTSU's new \$4 million dairy facility for the herd of approximately 60 cows includes a large hay barn, shop and storage barn, a six-bay commodity feed structure, bedding pack barn, and milking parlor (the dairy). The dairy provides chocolate and white milk for campus dining, and 3,800 pounds per week—or one-third of the dairy's production—is consumed on campus. (The remaining milk is sold to the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association.)

89 Our world-class Center for Dyslexia

Albert Einstein, Walt Disney, and Leonardo Da Vinci all were thought to have some form of dyslexia. Many others who suffer from the disorder, however, don't lead such successful lives. The Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia at MTSU is a model for the organization and delivery of professional services to students with dyslexia, to psychologists and teachers who identify and instruct them, and to schools that must orchestrate a broad range of factors to enable these students to achieve their potential.



91 Savvy business partnerships

MTSU has recently partnered with several top Chinese universities on research initiatives sure to bring us recognition around the globe. In collaboration with a major corporate partner, MTSU recently developed an unparalleled Unmanned Aerial System program in the southeastern U.S. The Department of Aerospace is assisting the Federal Aviation Administration to define standards for next-generation air traffic management. And the list goes on and on ...

90 ALUMNI SUMMER COLLEGE

Open to alumni and friends, Alumni Summer College provides an opportunity to expand one's knowledge of interesting subjects with a curriculum that combines innovative classes and entertaining tours specifically created with MTSU alumni in mind.



87 We go the DISTANCE

Distance learners comprise close to 37 percent of MTSU's undergraduate enrollment (over 10,000 students), and unlike many universities, MTSU does not have a separate faculty serving its online student body. Distance learners have access to the same core faculty that traditional students have in on-campus classroom settings.

86 **BERC**

How do we know that Nashville's health care industry contributes nearly \$30 billion and 210,000 jobs to the local economy? Or that Bonnaroo is a cash cow for middle Tennessee? And who conducted a study that led to federal funding for a \$20 million northwest Tennessee slack water port? The Business and Economic Research Center, housed in the Jones College of Business—that's who. The most outstanding tracker of Tennessee's economy, BERC is often cited in newspaper analyses statewide.

85 Our strong ties to China, including the Confucius Institute

By 2030—well within the professional work lives of most current MTSU students—China will surpass the U.S. as the world's economic superpower. MTSU has forged several savvy relationships with Chinese institutions and organizations—most prominently, Hangzhou Normal University to sponsor the recently established Confucius Institute. The purpose of the Institute is to enhance the understanding of Chinese language and culture. Given that China is Tennessee's third-largest export market, that's a sentiment business and political leaders throughout Tennessee can support.

The MTSU Poll 84

The MTSU Poll is the most read and most respected poll in Tennessee. Media outlets statewide carefully watch for the poll and write breakout articles about the results. Conducted twice yearly, the poll tracks attitudes regarding free expression, faith in major institutions, and a wide range of public issues. Students serve as poll interviewers as an integral part of their training in mass communication.

83 We graduate!

MTSU currently boasts the second highest graduation rate—52.9 percent—of all four-year universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents system and is achieving that high rate even though it has by far the largest student body in the system. Such success is in lock step with the directives of the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 passed by the Tennessee General Assembly.

82 Our ASCAP Partners in Craft Program

The program pairs veteran songwriting and publishing mentors with students majoring in Recording Industry and concentrating in Commercial Songwriting. These students learn the ropes and gain a distinct advantage in getting heard on Music Row.

81
*The trees on campus—
fall foliage and spring green.*

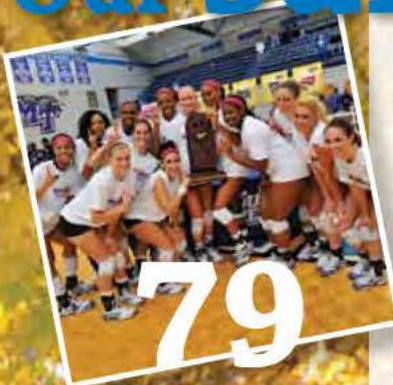


80

The new Student Media Center

The College of Mass Communication's new student media center puts the student newspaper and radio station and journalism students under one roof together in a state-of-the-art facility. That multiplatform environment mimics real-life modern journalism and further enhances the reputation of the college as a premier place nationally to study media.

Our surging athletics programs



79

Earlier this year, MTSU's football program went to its third bowl game in five years, scoring its fourth nationally televised game of the season, a new school record. And the Lady Raiders basketball team made their second straight NCAA tournament. In all, MTSU won or shared six SBC championships during the 2010-11 campaign and had four Coach of the Year honors, five All-Americans, two Conference Players of the Year; and an impressive 26 student-athletes won individual conference championships. Numerous MTSU baseball players have been drafted by the major leagues, including former first-rounder Bryce Brentz (Red Sox). It all culminated recently in another Bubas Cup—the Sun Belt's annual recognition of the conference's top athletic program. Better yet, our student-athletes continue to excel academically—46 percent of all student-athletes this spring had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Football coach Rick Stockstill was named one of the top 10 coaches in America for academic progress. Those are sports statistics worth crowing about!



The Horseshoe

78

Put in place in 2006, the blue horseshoe has a penny from 1911 (the year the University was founded) buried beneath it. Alumni, students, and fans are encouraged to touch the horseshoe for good luck before events like a big game, a performance, or even a test.

77

The Albert Gore Research Center

The Albert Gore Research Center is a manuscripts repository dedicated to preserving and making available for research primary source materials related to Tennessee history. Through its public programming, educational activities, oral history program, and exhibits, the center goes beyond preservation to promote the active study of the region's history by its citizens. The papers of Albert Gore Sr. ('32), former congressman and senator, form the cornerstone of the center's collection. Its equine studies research papers are also second to none.

76

MTSU's academic alert system

The University's new system allows MTSU faculty to send out electronic messages alerting students and their academic advisors about adequate progress. Clearly, keeping students enrolled and advancing toward their degrees is a top priority of MTSU. And the faculty believes it is their job not only to teach students but also to help them succeed and graduate.

75

We're Adult-Focused!

MTSU is the only college or university in Tennessee designated an "Adult Learning Focused Institution" by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. The recognition by the international learning coalition signals that MTSU is the destination of choice in our state for adult students. It also shows we excel in serving adult learners and helping them succeed.

Our research

Our people are studying individual cells to unravel the causes of sickle cell anemia, producing research on the leading edge of metabolic engineering, spearheading groundbreaking research on sportsmanship, and executing exciting research on restoring movement for paraplegics, to name just a few efforts.

Our

concrete advantage

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program recently became the University's newest department in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. Job placement rates top 90 percent, and CIM graduates boast some of the highest starting salaries among MTSU graduates. The program attracts students quite willing to pay out-of-state tuition to get the benefit of the new department's curriculum. MTSU initiated the first-of-its-kind degree program over 10 years ago in partnership with the concrete industry, a largely rurally based, mom-and-pop-intensive industry, where middle management roles were historically left to chance. (Is it any wonder why MTSU boasts pervious pavement all over campus?) An 18-month executive M.B.A. program is scheduled to begin in August 2012.

Our new student union building

The new student union's 197,180 square feet will accommodate a bookstore, copy center, game room, and food court on the first floor; a ballroom, parliamentary room, video theater, computer center, conference and meeting rooms, and student lounges on the second floor; and offices for student involvement and leadership on the third floor.

SITE OF NEW STUDENT UNION



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71



70

Generous donors

There are too many to list, so we'll just point to Don (left) and Carolyn (far right) Midgett's recent establishment of the Ralph and Elizabeth Gwaltney Centennial Scholarship, and the first Centennial Scholarship earmarked for the University Honors College named in honor of Carolyn's parents. Louise Parker (middle) is the younger sister of Elizabeth Gwaltney.

68

THE JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MTSU's business college is one of the largest in the nation.

67

SUMMER SCHOOL

MTSU operates the most successful summer school program in America. In terms of participation, no other university in the nation comes close. Data strongly suggests that students who attend summer school graduate at a higher rate. Students home from other colleges can enroll as transient students. High school students can start college coursework, too.



69

Our student-run media outlets

Tune in to WMTS 88.3, student-run radio. Check out MTTV, a student-run television station with programming that ranges from nightly news to a dessert-based entertainment show. And read *Sidelines*, the student-run, editorially independent newspaper.



Our top-notch Recording Industry program

The Department of Recording Industry—a signature, nationally respected program—is the clearest proof that the road to Music Row (or the music industry in New York or Los Angeles) starts in the 'Boro. *Rolling Stone* magazine has recognized MTSU as having one of the preeminent music business programs in the nation.

66

THE MTSU CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The center has helped recognize more than 1,400 farms, all continuously owned by the same families and in agricultural production for more than 100 years, through the Tennessee Century Farms program. The center also launched the Rural African American Church Survey; administers the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area; and helps communities statewide develop historic preservation plans, historic structure reports, heritage tourism plans, Main Street program assistance, National Register and survey projects, and a host of other related assistance.

65

OUR STUDENT FARMER'S MARKET

Students grow their own transplants in the greenhouse on campus and then transfer them to a quarter-acre plot at the Guy James Farm, which MTSU purchased from Rutherford County a few years ago. Happy consumers know where their money is going—to support students and programs.

64

63 James E. Walker Library

Opened in 1999, the four-floor, 250,000-square-foot building has a capacity of 800,000 volumes. And it has a Starbucks. The Library had 980,000 visitors in the fall semester 2010, an average of 30,000 a week.

The bell tower that peals from the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, signifying that another MTSU student has completed an Honors thesis.

62

61

The Center for Cedar Glades Study (CCGS)

Established through EPA funding, the CCGS provides education and research on the ecology of cedar glades, a globally unique, endangered ecosystem found primarily in middle Tennessee, where limestone bedrock occurs near or at the surface (making it impossible for trees to grow). Rapid growth and development has destroyed about half of the area's cedar glades.

60

The Rec

Weight, cardio and fitness aerobic rooms, including ellipticals that allow you to produce energy while working out (be healthy and be green!). A climbing wall. Six basketball courts, six racquetball courts, an indoor track, and an indoor soccer arena. An indoor swimming pool with a slide and diving board, and a zero-entry, 5-ft. deep, outdoor pool. A challenge course available for corporate team building. And don't forget opportunities like Ocoee whitewater raft trips offered through Campus Rec. Need we say more?

59 MTSU's MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The team has had several top-ten finishes in the national championship tournament and routinely beats high-profile competitors like Georgia Tech. MTSU's own invitational tournament, the Mid-South Mock Trial Invitational, is one of the largest of its kind in the United States.

58 Our new \$1.4 million mobile production lab

Mass Comm students can now do mobile productions in a custom truck outfitted with the latest technology in digital and high definition. Documentary production, disaster simulations, and remote location filming are just some of the educational exercises that take place in the 40-foot truck.

57 The football team saluting the student body to the music of "The Tennessee Waltz" at the end of every home football game.

56 FASR (Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery Team)

Mainly undergraduate students hand-picked by MTSU professor and nationally recognized forensic anthropologist Dr. Hugh Berryman, the FASR team accompanies Berryman to actual crime scenes when law enforcement calls him to collect and analyze remains. Clients range from local law enforcement and fire departments to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the State Medical Examiner's Office in Nashville. Where else can undergraduate students gain such experience in the field?

The Center for Popular Music

A world-class center for the study and archiving of popular American music, the CPM remains better known around the world than here in middle Tennessee. There are somewhat similar centers out there—but none this good or with a collection like this.

52 International connections

The internationalization of students is a priority. Today's students simply must communicate across cultures effectively if they are to participate in the international workplace. As of last fall, 400 international students from more than 60 countries attended MTSU. Students have the chance to engage on campus with people from everywhere in the world. And because of collaboration with other institutions, students can join exchange programs with universities in Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. From here to anywhere!

OUR ORIGINAL CAMPUS BUILDINGS

Four beautiful, weathered, 100-year-old original campus buildings are still in use today: The President's Home, Rutledge Hall dorm, the old dining hall now known as the Tom H. Jackson Building, and the beloved Kirksey Old Main.



51 The ping of the baseball bat at Reese Smith Jr. Field.

53 MTEC

(Middle Tennessee Education Center)

This partnership among MTSU, Motlow State Community College, and Bedford County provides additional higher education opportunities to those who live in the entire southern part of middle Tennessee. MTEC has several on-site classes, with a full degree program offered by MTSU's College of Education in interdisciplinary studies for K-6. Beginning this fall, the partnership will offer a full degree program in business administration—which could help economic development for the central Tennessee business region framed by Huntsville, Alabama; Arnold Air Force Base; and the Nashville metropolitan statistical area.

Collage magazine

MTSU's biannual creative arts magazine (housed in the Honors College) is regarded among the nation's top college magazines, winning several Columbia Scholastic Press Association Awards, including four Gold Medalist certificates for consecutive years 2006–2009 and Silver Crown Awards in 2007, 2009, and 2011.

48 Our new master's in Horse Science

This program, launched this spring, makes MTSU one of the southeast's best choices for undergraduate and postgraduate education in the multifaceted and evolving equine industry. Graduate students may choose to concentrate in Equine Physiology, Industry Management, or Equine Education. The Horse Science program is led by director Dave Whitaker, a nationally recognized leader in equine science. The program's faculty is regarded as among the best in the nation.

47

TSSAA Tourney and Spring Fling

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's (TSSAA) annual high school basketball tournaments in MTSU's Murphy Center are a fun time on campus and a tourist boon for Rutherford County. Spring Fling—TSSAA's annual sports extravaganza that crowns state champions in track & field, soccer, tennis, baseball and softball—is equal in impact. It's a neat feeling knowing that at the beginning every school year, high school athletes statewide set a goal to get to the campus of MTSU.

Harvey

49

Speaking of rivalries and icons, the rivalry between MTSU and Tennessee Tech arguably started in 1909 when the state legislature chose Murfreesboro rather than Cookeville as the home of one of three normal schools.

An ensuing athletic rivalry lasted, oh, about eight decades. In 1960, Fred Harvey, owner of Harvey's Department Store in Murfreesboro, donated an Alaskan totem pole to become the victory symbol for whichever university won the annual game. When MTSU won, the totem pole was known as "Harvey." When Tech won, and took the pole back to Cookeville, it was referred to as "Shinny-Ninny." Harvey came up missing after the 1984 Blue Raider victory over Tech. Tech officials claimed the totem pole had been stolen from their bookstore. Soon after, *Sidelines* began receiving photos of Harvey in front of the White House gates, at the Washington Monument, and an undisclosed Florida location. He eventually resurfaced, and came home permanently to MTSU in 1998 with the move to Division I-A. He is now housed permanently in the Rose and Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame on campus.

Our own post office 46

A 26,000-student university gets its own U.S. Post Office.

Our Aerospace program 45

The MTSU Department of Aerospace—established in 1942—is one of the top five aviation programs in the U.S. The only university with a seamless 360-degree air traffic control simulator for training students and conducting research, MTSU recently executed a \$1.4 billion contract with the FAA to perform research on next-generation communication technologies to control air traffic. The department's budding reputation in unmanned aircraft research is also nationally recognized.



44 One-of-a-kind student art in Todd Hall



Tennessee Miller Coliseum

The Coliseum—a premier venue for horse shows—sits on 154 acres and features a 150-by-300-foot floor, a covered warm-up area, 492 10-by-10 animal stalls, almost 70 camper hookups, 400 paved parking places, and a modern sound system. It seats 4,600 and can be extended to a capacity of 6,500. The \$21 million facility was named for the late John C. “Tennessee” Miller at the request of his wife and the benefactor behind the coliseum, the late Mary Elizabeth Miller.

42 The Battle of the Palladium

In Greek mythology, the Palladium was a wooden statue of Athena in Troy that fell from the heavens and protected the city until “raiders” Odysseus and Diomedes stole it during the Trojan War, leading to the fall of Troy. Today, the Battle for the Palladium is an annual football rivalry between the Blue Raiders and the Troy Trojans that ESPN has named one of the “Top Five Non-BCS In-conference Rivalries in College Football.”



41 Scholars Week

Each April, the University-wide celebration of student and student-faculty projects culminates in a poster and multimedia exposition followed by an awards ceremony. From science projects to original songwriting, this is what MTSU is all about.

40 The Roundabout

The old Tennessee State Capitol limestone columns displayed at our roundabout—the new front door to campus—remind us that Murfreesboro was the capital of Tennessee from 1818 to 1826 and almost became the permanent capital. In 1834, the state hired Professor James Hamilton to find its geographic center in order to locate the state capital as near as possible to the center of the state. Politics, though, left the capital in Nashville, although Gov. James K. Polk wanted it moved to Murfreesboro.

39

Blackout!

Each year, one home football game is designated as the program's Blackout game, during which fans set aside MTSU's traditional school colors and wear all black.

38 Milton Conference

Since 1991, scholars from all over the world have come to Murfreesboro to attend a biennial conference devoted to the work of the great British poet John Milton (1608–74). The conference, established by Professor Emeritus Charles Durham and hosted by the English Department, is often referred to by Miltonists as “the Murfreesboro Conference.”



37 Our School of Nursing

MTSU nursing students pass their state nursing exams on the first try at a higher success rate than any other program in Tennessee.



36 Guest speakers

Recent speakers include banjo virtuoso Bela Fleck; Kathy Reichs, producer of the hit TV forensics series, *Bones*; and veteran civil rights attorney Fred Gray (pictured above), who at age 24 represented Rosa Parks and was Martin Luther King Jr.'s first civil rights lawyer.

35

Our music studies influence

Earlier this year at a joint meeting of the Society for American Music and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, six MTSU faculty members were presenters. That contribution dwarfed the presence of other universities like UCLA and Florida State. It's proof of the unusual wealth of music studies talent in place at MTSU. Located so close to Music City, and with world-renowned entities including the Center for Popular Music and the Recording Industry program, MTSU is well positioned to brand itself as an extremely desirable place to study the history of popular music. The University also boasts the legacy of the late music scholar Charles Wolfe, a Grammy-nominated professor emeritus of English and folklore, who pioneered writing about country and pop music in a serious, informed, scholarly way.

34

Our Instructional Technology Support Center (ITSC)

MTSU is the only Tennessee university with a statewide educational satellite and webcasting network. Since 1998, the center has offered live, interactive, educational television programs free of charge to K-12 teachers and students in remote areas of Tennessee. More than 6,000 teachers and students from 116 school districts have participated in ITSC broadcasts or webcasts in the past two years. Recent programming has included content such as "Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trip: Women of the Revolution."

33

COVER STORY

Our proximity to Music City

A diverse economy. A growing nightlife scene. The brand in country music. Professional sports. Tourist attractions like the Country Music Hall of Fame. A new convention center under construction. A great place to raise a family. Students of MTSU enjoy the best of two worlds living and studying in a real college town like Murfreesboro but close to Nashville, one of America's most culturally diverse cities.



31

32

The Contest of Champions

This high school marching band contest is the preeminent such event in the southeast, drawing bands from New York to Texas. Across the southeast, band directors refer to the event simply as "Contest." The Contest is celebrating its 50th year this year.



Band of Blue, Pep Band and Dance Team

We love the first time you can hear MTSU's marching band, the Band of Blue, practicing at band camp. MTSU's largest student organization, the Band of Blue is larger than most Big 10 Conference bands. Also, men's and women's home basketball games simply

would not be the same without the Pep Band. And the 2010 Dance Team finished in second place in the Challenge Cup Division I-A Open at the NDA College Nationals in Daytona Beach. [MTSU](#)

The Uranidrome

Funded by NASA, MTSU's naked-eye observatory enables students (elementary through university) to observe celestial events in a way similar to the way Greek astronomers did. It's not a bad spot to sit and take a break either. Next door is a modern observatory with high-powered telescopes connected to HDTV screens that face outward onto the campus lawn for public viewing.

29 Phillips Bookstore

If you need it, the bookstore has it. If they don't have it on site, you can order from a catalog of 28,000 items.



28 The new WMOT

MTSU's historic radio station, WMOT 89.5-FM, updated its format earlier this year to add classical music to the daytime mix, aiming to fill a niche left open by fellow public radio station WPLN's all-talk format change. The update keeps jazz playing all night and adds news programs including NPR's *All Things Considered* to the schedule.

27 Our Kurdish language courses

Tennessee is home to the largest Kurdish community in the nation. MTSU is one of just a few universities nationwide that offers Kurdish language courses. Why is that significant? As a result of Saddam Hussein's regime, which for years forced Kurds to c, the Kurdish language is actually endangered.



26 On-campus eating

RFoC at McCallie and RaiderZone are two full-service dining halls. The KUC Grill offers quick service and great food, featuring Pizza Hut, Quiznos Subs, Chick-Fil-A, Asian Express, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and more. At Cyber Café, students surf the internet and satisfy their cravings for Subway and Topio's Pizza.

Homecoming

25 Don't miss game-day tailgating, club reunions, the chili cook-off, Tent City, and more.



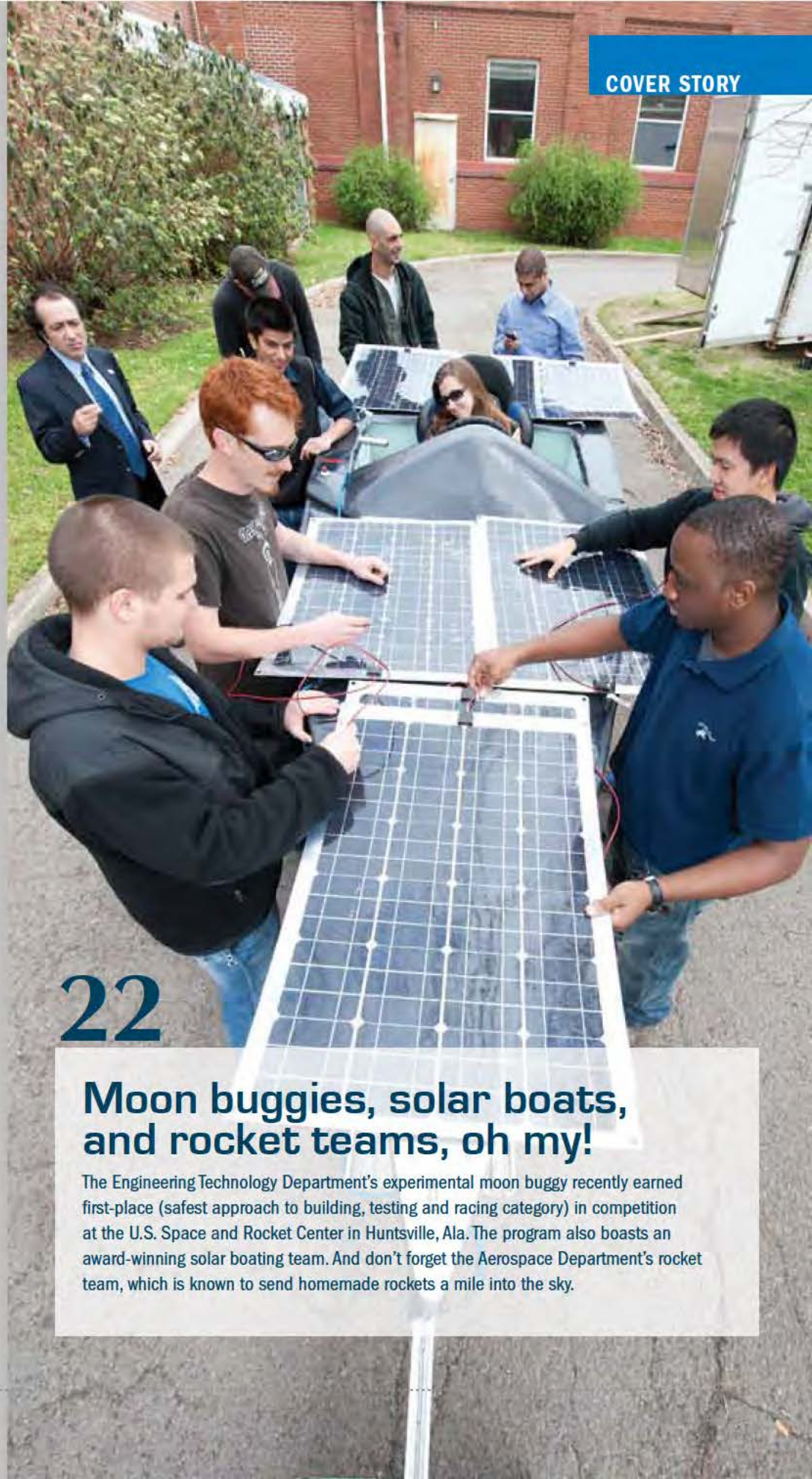
THE QUOTATIONS IN THE QUAD

24 THE QUOTATIONS IN THE QUAD

23 The Yunus program

MTSU and the University of Chittagong in Bangladesh recently entered a five-year agreement of friendship and exchange that will pave the way for the establishment of programs honoring the work and philosophy of Nobel Prize-winning economist Dr. Muhammad Yunus (a former MTSU faculty member).

The partnership is intended to heighten awareness of Yunus's work in microfinancing and thereby help eradicate poverty and reduce social problems in the world.



22

Moon buggies, solar boats, and rocket teams, oh my!

The Engineering Technology Department's experimental moon buggy recently earned first-place (safest approach to building, testing and racing category) in competition at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. The program also boasts an award-winning solar boating team. And don't forget the Aerospace Department's rocket team, which is known to send homemade rockets a mile into the sky.

21

MTSU Campus Pharmacy

Hours
Closed on
Fall & Spring
Monday - Thu
Drive-Thru
Summer Term
Winter and Se
Monday - Fri
Closed

MTSU's state-of-the-art student health care

Ten years ago, MTSU Health Services was little more than a band-aid station. Today, it's a modernized health center providing treatment of all kinds to students. (Short of brain surgery, they can do it.) Saving students a \$500 visit to an ER might be the thing that keeps them enrolled in college. The facility also houses the only pharmacy at a state school in Tennessee.

20

Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts at MTSU

The State of Tennessee provides 12 summer programs for gifted and talented high school students. These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in disciplines ranging from the arts to scientific exploration. The Governor's School for the Arts at MTSU focuses on music, dance, filmmaking, visual arts, and theater.

19

Student volunteerism

The BIG Event, a national initiative supported by the Student Government Association each spring, is the largest one-day, student-run service project in the U.S. Other student volunteer projects include Up 'til Dawn, Alternative Spring Break, and Habitat for Humanity, to name just a few.

15

We're big . . . really big . . . in fact, **the biggest!**

From humble beginnings as Middle Tennessee Normal School, responsible for the education of elementary and high school teachers, MTSU has grown to become the largest undergraduate university in the state of Tennessee. In a 10-year span, MTSU's enrollment has increased from more than 18,000 in 2002 to more than 26,000 in fall 2010.

14

Our student film festival

Who knows? Maybe the next Quentin Tarantino might be a student at MTSU. Each spring, in collaboration with the Nashville Film Festival, the Films Committee conducts a student film festival showcasing MTSU's best up-and-coming filmmakers. Check out this year's first-prize film by searching "FacesSpace.com" on YouTube.

13

MTSUNews.com and *Out of the Blue*

MTSU's news happens daily. And it happens fast. The recently launched MTSUNews.com delivers MTSU's news in real time rather than every two weeks like it once did in print. Visit the website at www.MTSUNews.com and see for yourself. The University's TV news magazine program, *Out of the Blue*, airs on NewsChannel 5+ and on public access channels across the region. If you haven't checked it out lately, you should.

12

Doing homework in the Grove.



Our on-campus cultural performances ¹⁸

See the Broadway play *Rent* at Tucker Theatre. Enjoy symphony, jazz, and choral concerts from the School of Music. Take in a guest or faculty recital. See MTSU's nationally recognized and fast-growing dance theater shows. These are just a few examples of the on-campus performances that add mightily to the culture and quality of life in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

The Middle East Center

The first of its kind in Tennessee, the center promotes an understanding of the various populations and cultures of the Middle East among the student body and in the surrounding community.

16 MTSU's specific color of **blue** is so flattering!

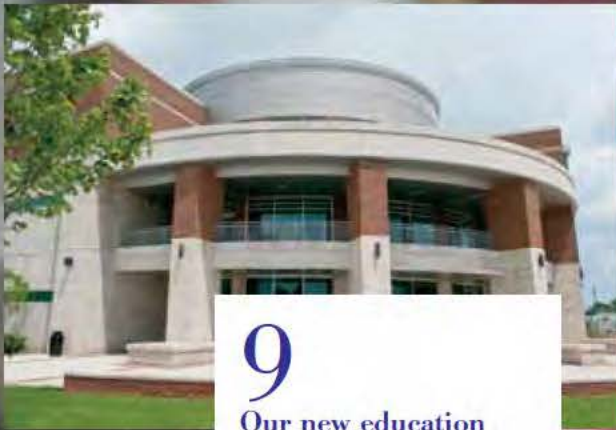
11 TXMD's annual Fashion Show

Feel transported to a fashion runway in France during the annual fashion show of the Textiles, Merchandising, and Design program. The show is fully organized and produced by the Fashion Promotion class—from fundraising to wardrobe selection, modeling, hair and makeup, staging and music, and publicity.

10 Bike Night

At 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights, after classes let out, the Quad in front of Walker Library starts filling up with people on bicycles. By 9 p.m., there are usually about 50 bikers on hand. Off they go for a late-night ride around Murfreesboro—past the Rec, behind Greek Row, out onto Rutherford Boulevard, down Main Street, and all the way to the heart of downtown, where they circle the square a few times before dispersing. Even some graduates are known to come back to campus for the moonlit ride.





9

Our new education building

How appropriate is it that on the **100th anniversary** of a school started as a teacher training college, MTSU is moving its College of Education into a state-of-the-art, \$30 million, 87,000-square-foot, wired and sustainable building?



8

We're military-friendly

MTSU proudly boasts more than 1,000 veterans among its student body. Last year, MTSU was included among the top military-friendly universities in the nation by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. MTSU's Military Center, a one-stop shop for veterans in need of special assistance on campus, was highlighted as a key reason for the designation. (And don't forget MTSU ROTC.)

7

Every spring and fall when seniors become graduates.



Middle Tennessee State University



6

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL

The geographic center of the state is a stone's throw from our campus. There's even a marker to prove it!

4 More than 250 student organizations

5 We're a top site nationally for physics teaching

There are only twelve National Science Foundation-approved Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTec) sites in the nation, and MTSU's Department of Physics and Astronomy is one of them. Others include Cornell, UNC-Chapel Hill, Arizona, and Colorado. The department's potential to increase the number and quality of physics teachers graduating annually from MTSU should get attention from state policymakers eager to see Tennessee's science IQ rise.

3 our Nobel Prize winner connections

James McGill Buchanan Jr., the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Science, graduated from MTSU in 1940. Muhammad Yunus, who shared the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize with the Grameen Bank, which he founded in 1983, began teaching economics at MTSU as a grad student and continued to do so after completing his degree in 1970. Former vice president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore had a formal faculty appointment at MTSU for a period of time.

2 We produce Tennessee's teachers

If someone asked you to name the five most influential people in your lifetime, would a teacher be on that list? One of the finest teacher preparation institutions in the southeast, MTSU produces a huge percentage of the certified teachers trained in the Tennessee Board of Regents system.

1 We're the No. 1 choice of undergraduates in Tennessee.

One reason why is that we are more than just an academic community. All of us—faculty, staff, students and alumni—are a family. Together, we strive to live up to our tradition as Tennessee's Best Comprehensive University. For the past 100 years, we have provided our students with unique and meaningful opportunities to unlock their intellectual potential, so they may realize the promise in their future.

We have drawn the notice of several prestigious organizations, including a No. 57 in *Forbes*' Magazine's 2009 rankings of America's Best Colleges and Universities; as well as a "Best Buy" notice by *Forbes*, at No. 47 for value in higher education; and *Princeton Review* and *U.S. News & World Report* recognition as one of the best universities in the south.



A photograph of three women, the Roach sisters, sitting on a dark green metal bench outdoors. They are all smiling at the camera. The woman on the left has short brown hair and is wearing a black and white patterned jacket over a black top. The woman in the middle has short blonde hair and is wearing a light beige blazer over a dark top. The woman on the right has short blonde hair, is wearing sunglasses, and a black and white patterned cardigan over a white top. The background shows a grassy area, trees, and a paved path.

I'M ONE!

Sister Act

The Roach sisters log several lifetimes of service to MTSU

by Drew Ruble

One hundred and thirty-eight and counting. That's how many combined years the Roach sisters of Woodbury have worked at MTSU.

Youngest sister Betty Roach Smithson (middle) is the only sister still working on campus. Entering her 46th year in the Student Affairs Office, Betty has worked closely since 1965 with student groups, fraternities, cheerleaders, and student government workers. Odds are good she's met as many MTSU alums as any other administrator on campus. "I've worked with a lot of students hands on," she admits.

So will she end the Roach sisters' 138-year streak any time soon? "I'm not going anywhere," she promises.

Eldest sister Martha Roach Turner (right) began the sisters' streak in 1958, taking a secretarial position in the Field Services Department. She'd later become director of placement for the University, growing the office to a staff of 10 before retiring after 45 years of service. When Martha took a brief sabbatical from MTSU in 1960, she referred her sister Frances Roach Rich (left) to be her

replacement. That began Frances' 48-year run at MTSU, mostly spent in Student Affairs, but ending in MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee's office last year.

When Betty graduated high school, it was obvious where she would go to work. "I came here because they were here and I didn't think there was anywhere else to go to work," Betty says. "Plus, it's what our mother wanted—all three daughters working together at MTSU."

That motherly instinct for togetherness might stem from the fact that all three Roach sisters started out working in the family's dry goods store, standing on boxes to pull items down from high shelves for customers and working behind the cash register.

While at MTSU, the sisters had a reputation for being seen together, whether at lunch or carpooling to and from work. Then vice president Dr. Bob Glenn once remarked that the Roach sisters' maiden name was appropriate given that you'd "never see just one of them" out and about on campus.

Asked what's changed about MTSU over the past half century, the sisters point to the University's growth in physical size and academic offerings.

What hasn't changed? "Us," Martha says. [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)

I'm one!

Building *MT* Blocks

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

A Financial and Planned Giving Insert for Alumni and Friends of Middle Tennessee State University

The crucial role of alumni giving to the life of a university

Like all public universities, MTSU's budget derives from a variety of sources, including tuition and fees, state funding, and private giving. While MTSU charges less in tuition and fees than most Tennessee schools, an MTSU education is still a costly undertaking. And since state funding has decreased over the years, donor support has become even more critical in maintaining MTSU's excellence.

Private gifts allow MTSU to attract and retain exceptional faculty, equip labs and libraries, fund construction of cutting-edge facilities, provide financial aid to deserving students, and improve programs throughout the University. They also enable MTSU to respond rapidly to changing times and fresh opportunities. Regardless of amount, every gift makes a difference.

Thanks to nearly 8,500 generous supporters, MTSU raised more than \$8.4 million in the recently completed fiscal year. That's a \$2 million increase over the prior year. These funds provide critical resources that are having a significant impact across the MTSU campus.

The following stories detail gifts that range from a few thousand dollars to a seven-figure investment. They are just a few examples of the ways in which giving helps MTSU deliver a higher education experience that is second to none in Tennessee.

The bottom line? Private support is enabling excellence and innovation at MTSU.

Photo: J. Infantioli



A Developing Story

by Drew Ruble

MTSU's Project Help makes a difference one child at a time

BORN ONE POUND AND THREE OUNCES AT 24 WEEKS, KALEPH Heard's leg could fit through his dad's wedding band at birth.

Now two years old, Kaleph has made remarkable progress. His mother, Rosanna, an MTSU graduate ('97) and a teacher at Thurman Francis Arts Academy in Smyrna, credits MTSU's Project Help (soon to be renamed the Ann Campbell Early Learning Center) with her son's significant strides.

"Without them, he wouldn't be as far along as he is now," Heard says.

Project Help, part of the College of Education, is an early intervention program offering services free of charge to families with very young children with developmental delays or disabilities who are six to 36 months of age in Rutherford County. The program's play-based teaching is provided in an environment with other children who are developing typically. In operation 26 years, the program also offers training for approximately 300 pre-service education majors each year—and includes Motlow State and MTSU nursing students.

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Go to www.mtsu.edu/development to learn more about how private giving is shaping the future of Middle Tennessee State University.



Those Who Can, Teach

A novel scholarship program helps fund future STEM teachers

EBONI EATON, A JUNIOR FROM COVINGTON, TENN., came from a family of teachers. She decided early in her college career not to follow in their footsteps.

"I didn't want to be like everybody else," she says. "Science is my thing. It's something I'm really good at. So I was pre-medicine. I wanted to be a pediatrician because I love being around kids."

A flyer detailing MTSU's new MTEACH program—one of only 21 nationally—altered Eaton's chosen professional path. The cooperative program between the Colleges of Education and Basic and Applied Sciences simply asks math and science majors to try out a one-credit teaching course free of charge to experience what it's like to be a classroom teacher.

Eaton decided to give it a try. She liked it so much that she recently switched her minor to secondary education.

Eaton is not alone in making that decision. According to MTSU MTEACH director Leigh Gostowski, the program has been

"radically successful" at MTSU. To date, MTEACH has increased the number of MTSU students committed to becoming math or science teachers by 222 percent.

That conversion fills a desperate need for teachers in those subjects across Tennessee—a key to the state's economic prosperity. But with program implementation funds quickly diminishing, donations are needed to keep the program running. According to Gostowski, a \$2,000 donation means 20 MTSU students can take an MTEACH course risk-free.

Dr. Elizabeth LaRoche, a Murfreesboro obstetrician/gynecologist and cosmetic surgeon, is among the donors who have contributed to the MTEACH program at around that level.

"When I see this program in action, it makes me want to give more," LaRoche says. "When I give, I know exactly where it is going. And really, it is a small amount considering the impact it can have on getting these kids into the realm of education."

MTEACH has increased the number of MTSU students committed to becoming math or science teachers by 222 percent.

by Drew Ruble

To learn more ways to make a lasting impact, call 615-898-2502; devofc@mtsu.edu.

A Real Assist

by Drew Ruble and Tom Tozer

Former MTSU coach shows support for academics and athletics

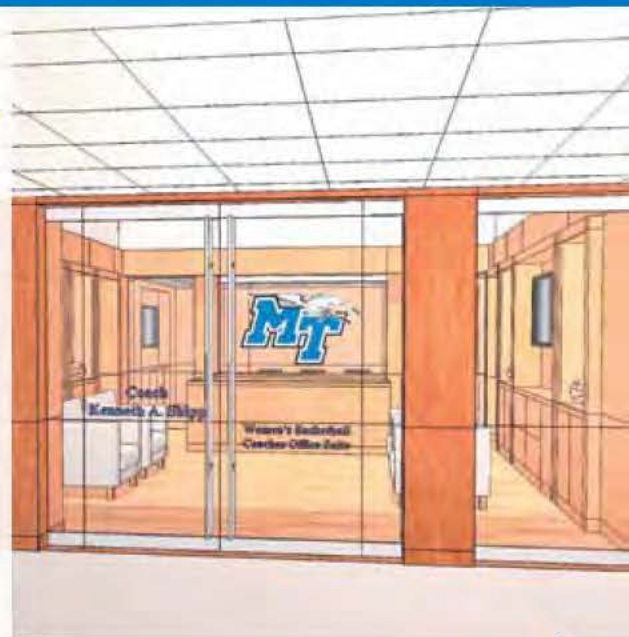


attention for benching quarterback Joe Namath for violating team rules.

A large portion of Shipp's \$1 million gift was designated to renovate and upgrade the women's basketball coaching offices. The balance will go toward scholarships for Rutherford County students who plan to attend MTSU.

The gift is already having an impact. When new Lady Raider basketball recruits come to campus, they not only see nice facilities for the players, but also for the coaches. And unlike in the past, the offices are located right next door and place the staff in one space where coaches can game-plan and strategize. The new facility represents a big step forward for the successful Lady Raiders program.

It's the basketball equivalent of a game-winning assist.



Visit www.mtsu.edu/supportMT to make your online gift to MTSU today.

HOW DO YOU BUILD A PREMIER college athletics program? One key is building facilities that rival the best in the nation.

The gift of new women's basketball facilities ups the ante for the Lady Raiders' program.

By this fall, an entire section of the ground floor of Murphy Center will be opened up to accommodate a new complex for the women's basketball coaches, transforming the area into an office suite that will put MTSU's program on par with any coaching program in the country.

The new offices are the result of a gift by alum Ken Shipp ('47), who played football for MTSU. Shipp is also a former assistant coach in the National Football League, who during the 1975 season, while serving as interim coach of the New York Jets, gained

Project Help

continued from page 49

Heard attributes Project Help's success to that mix of teachers. "To look at Kaleph now and see what he can do, you would never know that he had these hardships," she says. "It's just wonderful having highly trained staff and college students alike work with him. They've got a system down, and it works."

The program survives largely on donations. One generous source of support is the Adams Family Foundation of Murfreesboro.

Robert Adams ('73), chair and CEO at National HealthCare Corporation, says his father, Dr. Carl Adams, a local physician, long ago became enthusiastic about what Project Help was doing and made it one of the family's special projects.

"As people who knew him will tell you, he was very particular about what he would and wouldn't support," Adams says. "He just felt like all these families deserved the same opportunity as everybody else, so he put his focus on it."

Convergence of Giving

Mainstream media shows its support for MTSU's "new media" education

by Andrew Oppmann

JOURNALISM PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS alike must be as comfortable penning a breaking news story or Sunday feature article as they are shooting live video, staffing a podcast, or taking to the radio airwaves. The College of Mass Communication's new media convergence center will combine the newsrooms for radio stations WMOT and WMTS; *Sidelines*, the student newspaper; MTSU Records; and campus television station MTTV into one facility where students can hone reporting and storytelling skills through work on a range of multimedia platforms.

In all, \$100,000 has been raised in \$10,000 chunks from sources as varied as CNN producer Jeffrey Reid ('81, see page 54) to the Tennessee Press Association. Gannett-owned media operations in Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Clarksville are also among the inaugural Cornerstone Donors for the new center slated to open by the end of 2011. The *Tennessean* in Nashville donated \$10,000 through the Gannett Foundation, the charitable arm of Gannett Co., which owns the Nashville newspaper and its array of multimedia products. The *Daily News Journal* in Murfreesboro and the *Leaf-Chronicle* of Clarksville, also owned by Gannett, pledged \$5,000 each through the foundation to share Cornerstone recognition in the center's creation.

"The media center shows that MTSU shares Gannett's priority on reaching audiences through multiple platforms," said Carol Hudler, president and publisher of the Nashville media group and a member of the college's Board of Professional Advisors. "We're looking forward to seeing the work done by student journalists in this innovative facility."



Carol Hudler



Pam Wright and Doug Tatum

Sending the Wright Message

Nashville business icon Pam Wright gives the gift of innovation

by Drew Ruble

CEOs OF U.S. COMPANIES KNOW THAT AMERICA IS IN A fight for its life economically. Pam Wright ('73) decided to invest in that fight.

The founder and CEO of Nashville-based Wright Travel, Tennessee's largest travel agency, made that investment in the form of a seven-figure commitment to MTSU in 2007 that established an endowed chair in entrepreneurship.

Research conducted by Doug Tatum, holder of the Wright Chair of Entrepreneurship, in concert with NASDAQ and the Edward Lowe Foundation, is revealing that most jobs are created by second-stage entrepreneurs. That's not well understood by many policymakers in Washington. Tatum's research, made possible by Wright's \$1.25 million commitment, is changing that.

By endowing a faculty position, Wright's gift is also touching thousands of MTSU students. "The exposure, the informal instruction and teaching, the recognition of it all—it makes people think about what entrepreneurship is all about and whether or not it might be right for them," Wright says.

Wright's gift is benefiting middle Tennessee's workforce, too. "All of us struggle to find the right employees," she says, "and anything that enhances that is really important."

As such, Wright's gift is one sure to resonate for decades to come across the midstate.

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Four MTSU alums fuel the fame of one of country music's biggest acts

Not all MTSU graduates who have become hit commercial songwriters have come out of the University's lauded Department of Recording Industry. **Josh Kear ('96, cum laude)**, a history major, wrote the 2011 Grammy song of the year and country song of the year, "Need You Now," with members of the smash country music act Lady Antebellum. The awards were Kear's second and third Grammys. (He previously won for country song of the year in 2007 for Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats.") Kear, who got his first publishing deal at the age of 21 with BMG Publishing, has been working with powerhouse independent Big Yellow Dog Publishing since 2002.



Josh Kear

continues to oversee their publishing. (Hill's other clients include one of Music Row's hottest songwriters, Wendell Mobley, whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Carrie Underwood, Rascal Flatts, and Reba McEntire.)

Clarke Schleicher (B.S. '80) was on stage with Lady Antebellum at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles earlier this year to receive his award for audio-engineering work on the song "Need You Now," which won record of the year. Schleicher also won a Grammy for the album of the same name, which won best country album of the year. Schleicher manages the Nashville recording studios for

Warner Bros. Records and also works as an independent recording engineer. His professional credits include projects with Neil Young, Joan Baez, Marie Osmond, Martina McBride, Travis Tritt, the Dixie Chicks, Amy Grant, and Taylor Swift.

Wonder what the band is like in person? **Daniel Miller ('00)** would know. He's an associate manager for Borman Entertainment and the day-to-day point person for the group. [MTSU](#)

[Editor's Note: Hillary Scott, the singer/songwriter who makes up one-third of Lady Antebellum and who left the 53rd annual Grammys with five awards, including song of the year and record of the year, attended MTSU but did not graduate. Hillary, MTSU's adult degree completion program is the nation's best! We can help you attain your degree! Call us!]



Hillary Scott



B. J. Hill

It's hard to believe that at one time, before the mega-stardom they've experienced as a band over the past few years, Lady Antebellum was considered a risky act to sign. MTSU graduate **B. J. Hill ('00)**, senior director of artists and repertoire (A&R) at Warner/Chappell Music (where he interned while an MTSU student) is well known on Music Row for his dogged pursuit of the trio. He signed Lady Antebellum members and songwriters Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley to Warner/Chappell and



Lady Antebellum: Dave Haywood, Hillary Scott, and Charles Kelley



Pat Duke

Voiceover talent **Pat Duke ('81)**, of Los Angeles, has voiced more than 10,000 national TV commercials (Napa, Coors, Mercedes Benz), has appeared in movies including *Talladega Nights*, and recently narrated *Swamp People* for the History Channel. He's also performed character voices for the Cartoon Network. Since arriving in L.A., he's been several superhero voices for Marvel Comics and, more recently, a video game called *Arcania*. In that one, Duke plays a huge, dumb ogre. "Typecasting?" he ponders. "Kinda." And,

oh by the way, have you heard of the blockbuster video game *Halo: Reach*, which sold three million copies its first day on the market? Duke plays Colonel Holland. (Ask your kid what he thinks of that.) **MTSU**



Jeffrey Reid

Jeffrey Reid ('81), is the Atlanta-based executive producer for CNN Productions and the man behind the first two installments of *Black in America*. Reid's latest project, which aired earlier this year, was called "Race and Rage: The Beating of Rodney King." Reid is a Cornerstone Donor to the new media center in the College of Mass Communication. **MTSU**

1960s

Last year, the Country Music Association's (CMA) board of directors gave ex officio board member **Jim Free ('69, '72)** the CMA Chairman's Award. Chair Steve Moore highlighted Free's "tireless efforts" on behalf of the country music format in Washington, D.C., over the years. Free joined the CMA board in 1997 after years of serving as the board's legislative consultant.

Dan Jewell ('63) published the mystery/detective fiction book, *Blood Country: A Nashville Sideman Mystery*, through Outskirts Press. The book centers on a Nashville musician (or "sideman") who, like most Nashville musicians, supplements his meager pay by doing something else—in this case, detective work. Before becoming a mystery writer, Jewell enjoyed a successful career as a college professor and dean of humanities at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. Jewell's wife, **Joyce**, and their son, **Barry**, graduated together from MTSU in 1987.

Lt. Col. (U.S. Army, ret.) Robert Rex Turman ('63), Ijamsville, Md., retired after 45 years of federal service, including 25 years as a U.S. Army officer in the medical service corps and 20 years as a budget and program analyst in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

1970s

Col. (USAF, ret.) Al Allenback ('73), was named vice president for airport planning and engineering at Goodwyn-Mills-Cawood, Montgomery, Ala. He returns to the firm following a two-year hiatus as district director for Alabama's second congressional district.

Bart Gordon ('71), Washington, D.C., recently retired after many years of service as U.S. representative for Tennessee's sixth district, is a partner in the public policy and law practice of K&L Gates.

Joyce A. Smith ('73), Chattanooga, is president of the Tennessee state chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors and was named 2010 Realtor of the Year by the Chattanooga chapter.

Brig. Gen. (U.S. Army, ret) R. David Ogg Jr. ('78, '87), Athens, Ala., is the new president and CEO of Applied Geo Technologies based in Choctaw, Mississippi.

1980s

Ken Strickland ('89), a veteran of the Washington bureau of NBC News, was named deputy bureau chief earlier this year. Strickland joined NBC in 1995 as an associate producer for *Dateline NBC*. He was named White House producer in 1997 and later was NBC's producer on Capitol Hill. Three days after he joined NBC in April

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Andy Adams

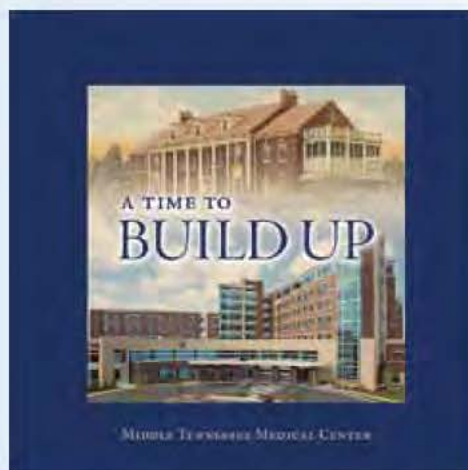
Andy Adams ('68), founder and CEO of Murfreesboro-based, publicly traded real estate investment trust (REIT) National Health Investors, handed his CEO title to president and COO Justin Hutchens. Adams remains chair of the company. He had been interim CEO since April 2008. The firm, founded in 1991, invests primarily in long-term care and comprises more than 120 facilities in 17 states. Adams also founded and remains a board director of publicly traded long-term care provider National HealthCare Corporation. [MTSU](#)

1980s, cont.

1995, the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed. Strickland was immediately dispatched to the scene to coordinate NBC's coverage with the local affiliate. In 2008, he won an Emmy for breaking news coverage on the collapse of the bank bailout talks in Congress. Strickland also produced coverage of former president George W. Bush's trip to Ground Zero in New York City in the days following the 9/11 attack.

1990s

The high school dropout problem is an epidemic in the United States. MTSU graduate **Alvin Allgood ('93)** is doing something about it. Allgood was recently named senior VP and head of the Student Dropout Recovery Center initiative at New York-based EdisonLearning. The company serves more than 450,000 students in 25 states, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East through 391 school partnerships. Allgood previously was executive VP and COO of middle Tennessee-based Educational Services of America, where he built four operating divisions including its recovery services.



A Time to Build Up

In a time when complicated surgeries are being performed with the assistance of robots, it's hard to believe that well into the 1920s doctors were conducting procedures on kitchen tables by lantern light. Realizing the need was great, a group of dedicated citizens toiled to bring a Child's Health Demonstration and eventually a small hospital to Rutherford County to improve medical care for the county and surrounding areas. A recently released book, *A Time to Build Up*, commemorates the 83-year legacy of Middle Tennessee Medical Center (MTMC) in Murfreesboro from the beginning to the opening of the new MTMC, a \$267 million facility, in 2010. Written by freelance writer **Patsy Weiler ('78)**, the project included fellow MTSU graduates **Susan Gear ('79)**, executive editor; **Angie Boyd-Chambers ('01)**, MTMC's former public relations director (now at Saint Thomas Health); and **Erin Yeldell ('08)**, MTMC public relations coordinator for the book. [MTSU](#)

The book won the 2011 National Indie Excellence Award for Best Coffee-Table Book.

Raiders of Industry

by Drew Ruble

Blue Raiders on the Hill

They file bills, brief senators and representatives, and keep the **assembly line** that is the Tennessee General Assembly **on track**.



Photo: J. Intintoli

We all know that MTSU graduates are the lifeblood of Nashville businesses. Here, then, is proof that MTSU is also cranking out the graduates that make Tennessee politics go round. The following is an alphabetical (and fairly comprehensive) listing of MTSU alums working the halls of legislative plaza.

Lauren Gillespie Agee ('01), senior policy advisor to Sen. Jim Kyle.

Liz Alvey ('99), attorney and senior policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris.

J. B. Brown ('04), audiovisual production specialist in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Andre' Carpenter Jr. ('05), audiovisual production specialist in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Skip Cauthorn ('00), House Democratic Caucus press secretary.

Lance Frizzell ('93), highest-ranking MTSU staffer on Capitol Hill and chief of staff to Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey.

Logan Grant ('07), research analyst for the Senate General Welfare, Health, and Human Resources Committee.

Daniel Hicks ('06), chief bill clerk for the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Cory Hudson ('08), electronic journal clerk in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Stephanie Jarnagin ('07), research analyst in the Senate Transportation Committee for the chair, Jim Tracy.

Tiffany Johnson ('09) works for Rep. Tim Wrigau of House District 75 and Rep. Bill Sanderson of House District 77.

Tammy Letzler ('93), assistant chief clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

1) J. B. Brown 2) Courtney Rynd 3) Colby Sledge 4) Daniel Hicks 5) Tori Veneuble
6) Patti Saliba 7) Lauren Agee 8) Kara Watkins 9) Andre Carpenter
10) Lance Frizzell 11) Skip Cauthorn 12) Amelia Mitchell 13) Tammy Letzler

Amelia Mitchell ('02), research analyst for the Tennessee House of Representatives' Children and Family Affairs Committee.

J. R. Moran ('10) works in Facilities Administration.

Courtney Rynd ('09) worked in the House Clerk's Office beginning with the 105th General Assembly and now works as a legislative assistant for Rep. John Ragan.

Patti Saliba ('93), executive assistant to Sen. Mae Beavers.

Paige A. Seals ('92) was hired as an attorney with the Office of Legal Services for the Tennessee General Assembly in February 1997. She provides legal advice for members of the assembly, assists them with the drafting of bills and amendments, oversees the preparation of summaries for bills and amendments, and serves on staff for the Tennessee Code Commission. (In her work with the Code Commission, Seals assists the publisher of *Tennessee Code Annotated* with the annual codification of public laws.)

MTSU graduates are the lifeblood of Nashville businesses.

Colby Sledge ('07), press secretary for the Senate Democratic Caucus, handling press coverage (arranging local and national media interviews and issuing legislative updates) and constituent contact (coordinating issues-based events for voters to interact with their senators) for the 13 Tennessee Democratic senators.

David Sprouse ('05) is a legislative researcher in the Office of Legal Services.

Raymond Temple ('06) is an audiovisual production specialist on the Hill.

Tori Venable ('07) is a legislative aide for Rep. Jeremy Faison.

Kara Watkins ('06) is deputy chief of staff for communications and policy in the House Speaker's Office, assisting the chief of staff with day-to-day operations, advising on policy issues, and handling media relations and communication for House Speaker Beth Harwell.

Brian Warner ('96) works for Legislative Information Services and is responsible for network routers, network switches, the phone system, domain controllers, and various servers on the network.

Allison Weir ('03) is a bill clerk in the Tennessee House of Representatives. [MTSU](#)

1990s, cont.

Emily Brady ('95), Fayetteville, is the 2010-2011 teacher of the year at Hazel Green High School and alternate teacher of the year in Madison County, Ala.

Peter Tuttle ('95), Brentwood, is a CPA and has been awarded the insurance designation Commercial Lines Coverage Specialist (CLCS). He is with Shelter Insurance in Cool Springs/Franklin.

Felicia Brown ('98) has been named treasury management officer at First Farmers and Merchants Bank, helping the 17-branch bank optimize cash management efforts for its commercial customers. Brown was the 2009 winner of the First Farmers Bank Innovation Award, which recognizes employees who contribute the most significant innovations.

Jennifer Pasalakis ('98), Nolensville, was recently inducted into Thirty-One Gift's Circle of Honor, which recognizes consultants whose stories have been included in their catalogs. She was honored in three of the top five categories for the 2009-2010 sales year.

Jody McHugh Dianna ('99) is a counselor with MTSU Counseling Services.

2000s

Marcia Beene Dickerson ('01, '04), Alexandria, Va., is the senior trainer in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy at the Pentagon.



Vicki Smith

Vicki Smith ('99) was named communications committee co-chair of the Nashville Symphony Council (with Andrew Oppmann, associate vice president, MTSU Marketing and Communications). Smith is senior manager of global communications for Nissan Motor Co. Her work involves writing for the CEO of the Renault-Nissan Alliance and for other global executives within the company. Smith's 24-year career with Nissan has included three years at the company's global headquarters in Tokyo. [MTSU](#)



Cynthia Fitzgerald

Cynthia Fitzgerald ('79), VP of legal services for compliance at the Tennessee Education Lottery, was highlighted for her social contributions by Gov. Bill Haslam during his State of the State address to the legislature in March. Describing her story as “one that shows a commitment to be more and then encouraging others to do the same,” Haslam explained how Fitzgerald was accepted by MTSU but, with no family car, simply gathered her luggage and started out walking the route to the Greyhound station, where she boarded a bus to Murfreesboro. She earned her degree at MTSU, worked as an IRS agent, and later earned a law degree

from Vanderbilt. Fitzgerald and her husband, Maurice, dean of students at Smithson Craighead charter school in Nashville, are the founders of the nonprofit In Full Motion, which works with inner-city youth, offering free ACT prep courses and helping kids get to college. There are 700 students in the program now. MTSU

2000s, cont.

J. P. Kraft ('02) is the city forester for the City of Tullahoma.

Robin Wallace ('02), Weehawken, N.J., recently appeared on the *Nate Berkus Show*. She is the author of the *ThriftyVintageChic.com* blog.

J. Scott Griswold ('03, '06) received the 2010 Harris Gilbert

Award from the Tennessee Bar Association for his outstanding commitment to pro bono service. Griswold is an attorney at the Knoxville firm of Paine, Tarwater, and Bickers.

Tommy Axford ('04) is a consulting actuary at BPS&M, a Wells Fargo company in Brentwood.

Joel Price ('04), Nashville, is a professional DJ.

Elizabeth Brown ('06) was hired earlier this year as a legislative assistant to Florida congresswoman Kathy Castor. Brown previously served in a similar position for now-retired Tennessee congressman John Tanner.

Nathan Jones ('08), is an accounting assistant for the Kroger Regional Accounting Center in Nashville.

Ashley Alexander Kraft ('09) is an independent support coordinator for the community development center in Shelbyville.

Ian Anderson ('09), Indianapolis, Ind., is an assistant professor of creative media and entertainment at Butler University.

Twin brothers **Matthew ('02)** and **Scott Pessoni ('02)**, won awards

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Jerome Hruska

While working in MTSU college radio as a Mass Comm major, **Jerome Hruska ('01)** heard that Blue Raider athletics officials were searching for a public address announcer for baseball games. He jumped at the chance, and a passion was born. In 2005, when Washington, D.C., was awarded a Major League Baseball franchise (the Washington Nationals), Hruska submitted his résumé to join the PA team—30 times.

He wasn't selected the first year, but he got a call in year two of the franchise and joined the team as a spotter. A year later, when the PA announcer for the Nationals stepped aside, Hruska stepped up to the plate, becoming the youngest PA announcer in the major leagues at age 29. MTSU



Eric Paslay

Songwriter/artist **Eric Paslay ('05)** recently signed to EMI Records Nashville, a sister label of Capital Records Nashville, and released his first album and has had his first single on the radio. In demand as a songwriter, Paslay wrote country artist Jake Owen's recent single "Barefoot Blue Jean Night." While studying music and business at MTSU, Paslay served as president of the MTSU chapter of the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) and worked as an intern at Cal IV Entertainment, which signed him as a songwriter about a year after his graduation. [MTSU](#)

at the 25th Annual Mid-South Emmy Awards in the Photography—Short Form category (Cinematography) for a project called *Digital Diary Christine*, which they shot for their client, GodFilms. The duo had previously won a student Emmy Award while attending MTSU for a project they

worked on for a documentary class in 2001. The Personis are the founders of Nashville-based Gemini Production Group, where Matthew is a producer and art director and Scott serves as director of photography and chief technology officer.

Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour

Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour ('97) can proudly boast to be America's first African American female combat pilot. After brief stints with the police departments of Nashville and Tempe, Ariz., Armour joined the Marines, became a combat pilot, and completed two tours in Iraq. Today, she is a professional speaker and founder of Washington, D.C.-based VAI Consulting and Training. You might have seen her as a guest on CNN, PBS, the *Tyra Banks Show*, *Tavis Smiley*, and *Oprah*. [MTSU](#)



In Memoriam

1930s

Margaret Batey ('37), Nashville, on Jan. 16, 2011.

Homer Long ('38), Linden, on March 30, 2011.

Howell Frances "Fran" Brandon ('39), Murfreesboro, on Feb. 26, 2011.

Milly Simmons Pettit ('39), Quebec, on Dec. 12, 2010.

1940s

Anne Lokey ('40), Atlanta, Ga., on April 27, 2010.

Charles Brown ('41), Harrisburg, Pa., on May 11, 2010.

Buford Foster ('41), Roswell, Ga., on March 29, 2011.

Thomas James Sr. ('41), Odum, Ga., on Oct. 23, 2010.

Thomas Meadows ('41), Memphis, on July 7, 2010.

Noel Norman ('41), Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 1, 2010.

Allie Whitaker ('41), Shelbyville, on Oct. 26, 2010.

Jean Lynn ('42), Bell Buckle, on Aug. 18, 2010.

Horton Tarpley ('42), Hermitage, on May 24, 2010.

Martha Holladay ('44), Miami, Fla., on Feb. 16, 2011.



Sam Hay Sr.

Sam Hay Sr. ('35), Huntsville, Ala., passed away Feb. 15, 2011. "Granddaddy Hay" was voted the Best All-Around Student at MTSU his graduating year. He was a Recognized Diplomat of the American College of Radiology, president of the Rutherford County Medical Society, and former president of the hospital staff at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. He also served as vice president of the Tennessee Medical Society, president of the Tennessee Radiological Society, and president of the East Tennessee Radiological Society. [MTSU](#)

Martha Head ('48), Springfield, on Jan. 27, 2011.

Ray Smith Sr. ('49), Old Hickory, on Jan. 10, 2011.

1950s

John Cox ('50, '69), McMinnville, on Nov. 16, 2010.

Della Hunt ('50), Nashville, on Nov. 12, 2010.

William Nichols ('50), Woodbury, on Dec. 30, 2010.

Thomas Woodruff ('50), Murfreesboro, on Sept. 18, 2010.

Calvin Duggin ('51), Murfreesboro, on Jan. 20, 2011.

J. Daniels ('52), Lewisburg, on Feb. 3, 2011.

Robert Jennings ('52), Woodbury, on Feb. 14, 2011.

William Willis Jr. ('52), Nashville, on July 30, 2010.

Thomas Bond ('54), Franklin, on Aug. 16, 2010.

Kenneth Duke ('54), Murfreesboro, on Feb. 7, 2011.

Floyd Hawk ('54, '59), Murfreesboro, on July 16, 2010.

Angie Elizabeth Kerr Caffy ('56, '61), Nashville, on March 3, 2011.

Herbert McKee ('56), Hartsville, on Jan. 8, 2011.

Carl Midgett ('56), Hudson, Fla., on March 6, 2011.

Robert Brooks ('57, '61), Tulsa, Okla., on April 5, 2011.

Larry Eugene Askins ('57), Fayetteville, on Sept. 24, 2010.

Sue Dale Oldham Bonner ('57, '72), Florence, Ala., on Dec. 31, 2010.

Ronald Johnson ('57), Lebanon, on Feb. 4, 2011.

Charles Williamson ('58), Nashville, on Feb. 9, 2011.

George Dye Jr. ('59), Knoxville, Tenn., on Feb. 14, 2011.

1960s

James Russell ('60), Butler, Ga., on Jan. 25, 2011.

Dorothy Harding ('61), McMinnville, on Nov. 14, 2010.

Carol Levy ('62, '65), Marietta, Ga., on Feb. 20, 2011.

Fern Becker ('65), Hendersonville, on Jan. 6, 2011.

Harold Conway ('66), Murfreesboro, on Feb. 17, 2011.

Wendell Rowland ('66), Shelbyville, on Jan. 20, 2011.

Diane Buchanan ('68), Burlington, N.C., on Feb. 11, 2011.

Carol Haury ('68), Port Orange, Fla., on Jan. 28, 2011.

1970s

Charles Blum ('70), Memphis, on Oct. 7, 2010.

Anne Forde ('70), Eden Prairie, Minn., on Oct. 9, 2010.

Wendell Hines ('70), Webster, Texas, on Feb. 4, 2011.

Bessie Dunston ('72, '79), Murfreesboro, on Feb. 15, 2011.

Timothy Graham ('72), Loudon, on Feb. 23, 2011.

William Weller ('72), Christiana, on Feb. 10, 2011.

Jerry Henderson ('73), La Vergne, on Feb. 14, 2011.

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

Steven Lindsey Collins ('75), Salem, Ore., on March 22, 2011.

Mary Frances Stewart Armstrong ('76), Lebanon, on Feb. 5, 2011.

Marilyn Carleton ('76), Estill Springs, on Feb. 9, 2011.

Steven Duncan ('78), Skippack, Pa., on Jan. 13, 2011.

1980s

Myra Cashmere ('80), La Vergne, on Jan. 12, 2011.

Joseph McCabe ('80), Tullahoma, on Sept. 28, 2010.

Brenda Mills ('81), Shelbyville, on Dec. 20, 2010.

Lisa Hughes ('82, '86), Springfield, Mo., on Jan. 14, 2011.

Anthony Bates ('83), Columbia, on Feb. 19, 2011.



Randy Wood

Dot Records founder **Randy Wood ('41)**, whose innovation in having white singers such as Pat Boone remake rhythm and blues hits by black artists (and, in so doing,

helped black musicians and early rock music to break in to the commercial mainstream), died in his California home in April. He was 94. Once, during the mid-1950s, Dot had five of the top 10 hits on the *Billboard* charts. Another innovation credited to Wood was his decision to automatically ship large numbers of a record to distributors—if he thought it was a hit. Paramount Pictures bought Dot in 1957.

Wood remained president for 10 years. Later, ABC bought Dot but shut the label down in 1977. Randy's Record Shop, where Wood first launched his label, closed in 1991. Today it is designated as a historical site in Tennessee. The Wood-Stegall Building at MTSU is named partly in his honor. [MTSU](#)



Ray Dunford ('85), Franklin,
on Feb. 5, 2011.

Martha Downs Sourek ('86),
Corinth, Miss., on Feb. 5, 2011.

Patrick Bolin ('87), Manchester,
on March 2, 2011.

Pamela Arnold ('89), Murfrees-
boro, on Sept. 9, 2010.

Robert Renfro ('89), Mount Pleas-
ant, on Oct. 10, 2010.

Daniel Wulfers ('86), Antioch,
on April 25, 2011.

1990s

Kenneth Armstrong ('90), Tusca-
loosa, Ala., on Nov. 14, 2010.

Florence Crouch ('90), Antioch,
on Feb. 6, 2011.

Nadine Johnson ('90), Columbia,
on Aug. 12, 2010.

Aaron Cooksey ('91), Franklin,
on Jan. 23, 2011.

Stephanie Higgins ('94), Chat-
tanooga, on Feb. 18, 2011.

Arthanise Wright ('94), Murfrees-
boro, on Feb. 19, 2011.

Michael Looney ('96), Kerrville,
Texas, on Sept. 19, 2010.

Kelly Hambrick ('97), Mount Juliet,
on Jan. 11, 2011.

Pamela Patterson ('99), Murfrees-
boro, on Jan. 10, 2011.

2000s

Norma Akins ('02), Mt. Pleasant,
on Jan. 22, 2011.

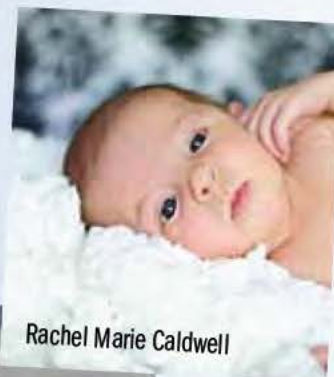
Reginald Doucet ('06), Jackson-
ville, on Jan. 14, 2011.

Ashley Vanderpool ('06), Smyrna,
on Jan. 25, 2011.

Baby Raiders

Rachel Marie Caldwell, born
Jan. 17, 2011, to Bonnie and
Mark Caldwell ('92) of Madison.

Anna Grace Collins, born Jan. 17,
2011, to Michelle and **Bryan
Collins ('94)** of Nashville. MTSU



Rachel Marie Caldwell



Anna Grace Collins

To submit
class notes and
photos, visit

www.MTAlumni.com

Alumni Events

Summer 2011

Alumni and friends enjoyed the 4th annual Alumni Summer College and MTSU Alumni Night at the Nashville Sounds baseball game. Fun was had by all touring the Tennessee Titans' locker room and the Nashville Superspeedway, listening to guest speakers, enjoying a private picnic at the Sounds game and reminiscing with other alumni, some who were on campus for the first time in 40 years. Check out mtalumni.com to see how you can get involved by attending future events.



You Do What?

Staying Fit

by Candace Moonshower

Meet one Mass Comm grad who has her career in excellent shape

SARAN DUNMORE ('98) WAS MTSU'S HOMECOMING Queen in 1996. Over a decade later, she became a professional football player. As a member of the Lingerie Football League's Chicago Bliss, Dunmore was named Offensive Player of the Year in 2009.

"I agreed to play in the Lingerie Football League after being introduced to the league by a friend," Dunmore says. "I was reassured by the fact that Lingerie Football isn't a 'prissy thing.' The uniforms resembled track and field uniforms—with lace trim—and the game those girls play is serious football."

Dunmore scored the most touchdowns in the league in winning the 2009 award. She clearly had fun doing it, too. "In every single photograph of me, I'm laughing!" she says.

It wasn't Dunmore's first experience playing America's favorite sport. As a student at MTSU, she played on an intramural team that made it to the national competition in New Orleans. (Dunmore also ran track at MTSU and was a conference hurdles champion.)

These days, Dunmore is putting her degree in Mass Communication (with a concentration in Radio-Television) to work as a fitness expert and TV personality, a career move that began when she was still an undergraduate at MTSU.

"I always had aspirations to be on TV, and I began by hosting shows on [MTTV, MTSU's television] station," Dunmore says. She had her own show, *Onyx*, a talk and variety show focusing on different campus organizations. After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., and worked for a video-monitoring service, moonlighting at Bally's as a fitness trainer.

After another move—back to her hometown of Chicago—Dunmore worked as a trainer on a public access channel TV show for teens. As a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, she attended a conference in the hope of pursuing a career as a fitness expert on a major network. An NBC news director in Chicago liked what he saw and, beginning in 2005, put Dunmore to work writing, producing, and broadcasting live weekly fitness segments



for the local NBC affiliate, WMAQ.

Dunmore's biggest break came in 2009, when MTV hired her as a fitness trainer on a new television program to help teens lose weight. The show, *I Used to Be Fat*, features 20 overweight high school seniors who each

As a member of the **Lingerie Football League's Chicago Bliss**, Dunmore was named the **Offensive Player of the Year in 2009.**

want a new image and more self-confidence before they enter college.

"I help these young people put their best

foot forward," Dunmore says. "I really want them to get a better sense of who they are."

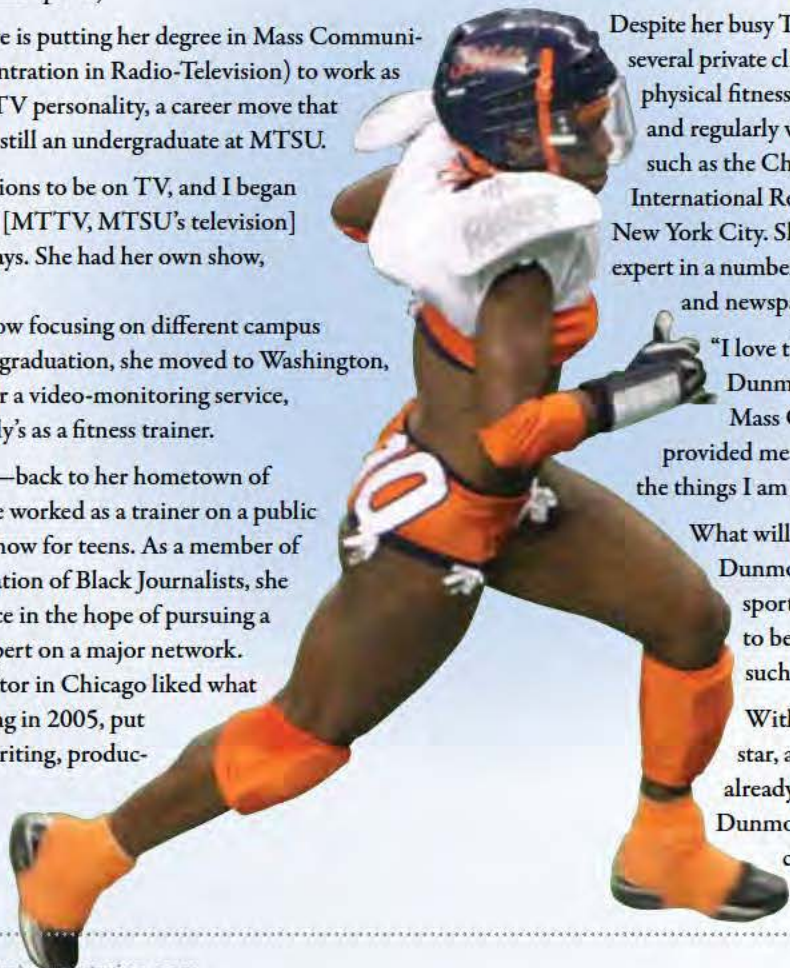
Despite her busy TV schedule, Dunmore still trains several private clients, is writing a book about physical fitness and personal motivation, and regularly works as a show host for events such as the Chicago Music Awards and the International Reggae & World Music Awards in New York City. She's also been featured as a fitness expert in a number of high-profile magazines and newspapers.

"I love the direction of my career," Dunmore says, "and I credit the Mass Comm program at MTSU—it provided me with so many opportunities to do the things I am doing today."

What will she be doing tomorrow?

Dunmore says she still aspires to be a sports reporter and would also love to be a motivational speaker on topics such as fitness and self-empowerment.

With homecoming queen, gridiron star, and television fitness personality already on her résumé, it seems likely Dunmore will make those dreams come true, too. **MTSU**



VOICES HEARD

Advice from the Friends List



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

“MTSU turns 100 years old this year. If you could give MTSU a birthday gift, what would it be?”

Below is a selection of the responses we received.

A reflecting pool with 100 new trees planted in and around it. Then, students and alumni could buy stepping stones engraved with name and date they attended MTSU.

Priscilla Kraemer

Happy Centennial, MTSU! Best wishes to the campus leaders who will guide the University into its next century.

R.D. Pugh ('80, '86)

MTSU needs more land that adjoins the campus!

Melody Joy Summar ('86), Glasgow, Kentucky

A 100% success rate for all graduates!

Lisa HiamTeague

A new drainage system.

Katie MacLucas ('06), Johnson City

A growing tree.

Vamsi Krishna, Murfreesboro

The respect and funding we deserve.

Chuck Shaw ('78), Murfreesboro.

A pet-friendly dorm on campus.

Samantha Justilian ('13), Murfreesboro

A football team full of four-star players.

Then, pick a fight with UT instead of Vanderbilt.

Josh Davis ('04), Chattanooga

A full football stadium at all home games!

Trese Carroll Tank ('04) Murfreesboro

A new name: the University of Middle Tennessee.

Matthew Kellon Moore ('01), Northern Virginia

Keep the name. That's our alma mater!

Diana Spencer ('00), Chattanooga

A remodeled KOM. It's a huge part of MTSU's history.

Sarah Bell Wilson ('10)

A new, more manly mascot.

Ashley Kraft

A gift card to Applebees.

Jeffrey Lamb

Two large sculptures at the Rutherford Gates. The only sculpture of any kind I know of is the horseshoe at Peck Hall. We need something unique on our campus!

Kamal Saba ('12), Brentwood

Applicants to MTSU must now have the ability to walk, ride a bike, or figure out the bus schedule, rather than complain about parking.

Adam Emerson

A new science building!

Vicky Kremer ('13), Murfreesboro

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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Turn it on!)))))))

Out of the Blue:

MTSU's premier monthly
television news magazine.

Watch it on:

- www.youtube.com/user/MTSUOutOfTheBlue
- Rutherford County local cable Channel 9, daily at 7 a.m and 5 p.m.
- NewsChannel5+ Nashville on Sundays at 1:30 p.m.



mtsunews.com