

CLA

College of Liberal Arts

Middle Tennessee State University ■ www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts

Fall 2014 ■ vol. 3, no. 1

MIDDLE
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True Blue Family Duos

College of Liberal Arts

Middle Tennessee State University

www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts

Fall 2014 ■ vol. 3, no. 1

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*Art from Sculpture I class (above): "Scissors" by Madeleine Seage;
"Tape Measure" by Kelsey Rogers; "Telephone" by Joy McCrary*

Good Guidance

Keeping students enrolled and on track to graduation is the top priority at MTSU. From the retooling of curriculum in some key classes to the recent opening of a new \$16 million Student Services and Admissions Center, examples abound of MTSU's student-centered focus.

This quest for student success is perfectly aligned with the goals of the General Assembly (higher education funding levels in Tennessee now depend on student retention and graduation, not enrollment) as well as the governor's office (whose goal it is to increase the percentage of Tennesseans with postsecondary degrees or certifications to 55 percent). It is also, simply stated, the right thing to do. As President McPhee has said repeatedly to faculty and staff, "If students become an interruption in your day, you're in the wrong business."

Liberal Arts faculty and staff have always worked tirelessly to help students succeed. Indeed, if we didn't care about our students and their academic progress, it would be a clear indication that we had made very poor career choices! To expand its efforts, the college has taken a number of steps to provide students with extra help by offering more tutoring, hosting more events to bring faculty and students together, and supplying additional financial support for student research and creative activity.

The most far-reaching initiative, however, involves academic advising. Across campus, more than 40 full-time, professional advisors will be hired this year, dramatically ramping up the University's advising capacity. Liberal Arts will add seven more advisors, bringing our full-time total to ten. Dr. Lucy Langworthy, a long-time advisor in the college, will manage this staff.

Our college advisors will work in tandem with faculty members who will continue to provide essential advice about courses, academic programs, and career and graduate school possibilities. Our college-based advisors will support the faculty but also take a more proactive approach to students who are struggling. Using a new software package the University is adopting, college advisors will be able to reach out to students who might be having trouble academically as identified through instructors' alerts or the predictive analytics function of the software. Other universities have seen great results from similar, more hands-on methods of advising.

These enhancements are expensive, especially in light of ongoing reductions in state higher education funding. But it is an investment worth making, and it demonstrates that we are "walking the walk" when it comes to student success.

Transitions

Every year brings great change to the College of Liberal Arts. After nine years of excellent service as chair of the Department of English, **Dr. Tom Strawman** is handing over the reins to **Dr. Maria Bachman**, who comes to us from Coastal Carolina University. Running the department is a huge job; with more than 80 full-time faculty members, the English Department



Mark Byrnes, Dean

photo: Andy Heidt

alone is larger than three of the University's other colleges! I'm happy to say that Tom will remain in the department for at least a year.

Dr. Jackie Eller, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, has also stepped down after many years of able service. Jackie is now interim associate dean in the College of Graduate Studies. **Dr. Brandon Wallace**, a longtime faculty member in the department, will serve as interim chair this year.

Last fall brought the retirement of our associate dean, **Dr. Jan Leone**, who served in that role for three years after more than two decades teaching in the Department of History. We were sad to see Jan go but are happy to announce that **Dr. Karen Petersen** has been hired to fill the position. Karen has primary responsibility for curriculum matters and student requests and complaints, and she helps with most other tasks handled by the office. Also new to the staff is **Dr. Dawn McCormack**, who is taking Karen's place as part-time assistant dean and will oversee assessment and accreditation.

We had a great academic year in 2013–2014 and are looking forward to the upcoming year, which will include the launch of our College of Liberal Arts Speakers Series (CLASS) and our Lifelong Learning program. We invite you to participate in the exciting events coming up, and we hope to see you on campus soon. ■

Mark Byrnes, Dean

www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts



The impact of your support

Last year, private support had a profound impact on our students and faculty and the communities around us. Giving by alumni and friends helped provide scholarships to students, brought renowned guest lecturers to campus, strengthened our fine arts programs, and sent students abroad for international experiences. For these and the many other ways that our college was enhanced by your support, we say THANK YOU.

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Coordinator's Note

From Memo to Magazine . . . and a New Vision for Lifelong Learning

As I was preparing material for this issue of *CLA Magazine*, I was reminded of working with Dean John McDaniel in the past to pull information together for our Year-in-Review memo, the first attempt to compile as much news concerning the college as possible. It included news about books published, grants approved, awards given, promotion and tenure granted, and much more. We're still covering all the outstanding accomplishments and interesting news of the college, but the magazine format gives us a lot more space to highlight, under the supervision of Dean Mark Byrnes, a host of new projects and events.

One new endeavor is our Lifelong Learning Program for those 50 and older. Beginning next spring and held in the new MT Center of the Ingram Building, two courses will be offered—Tennessee History and Tennessee Archeology—taught by Dr. Fred Colvin (professor emeritus, History) and Dr. Tanya Peres (professor, Sociology and Anthropology), respectively. We will explore “Our Tennessee” in this inaugural session. The deadline for enrollment is March 31, 2015. You may sign up online at www.mtalumni.com or call (615) 494-7628. Each course is \$20, and classes will be held concurrently on Mondays: May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 9:00–10:30 and 11:00–12:30. If you are a lifelong learner, join us for an enlightening adventure.

Along with the Lifelong Learning Program, we will continue to bring thought-provoking speakers to campus; sponsor a host of venerable, well-respected academic conferences; and provide support for the many influential academic and research centers that call the CLA home. Read on for more about exciting new projects in progress! ■

Connie Huddleston, Coordinator
Connie.Huddleston@mtsu.edu



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The College of Liberal arts features programs in humanities, social sciences, and the arts that are the foundation of a thriving democratic society.

Support from alumni and friends is critical in attracting and retaining exceptional faculty; providing scholarships for our outstanding students; and enriching the campus through technology, performances, and educational lectures.

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True Blue Family Duos

by Patsy B. Weiler

TTrue “blue bloods” are scattered through the College of Liberal Arts, and they are not actors in police dramas or members of noble families—they are parents and their children who work and study under the liberal arts umbrella.

One of the perks of being a full-time MTSU employee’s dependent is getting a 50 percent undergraduate tuition discount. There were over 200 such students enrolled during the 2013 fall semester according to the Bursar’s Office. It’s a nice savings, for sure, but students and parents agree that the discount was *not* the determining factor in choosing MTSU.

Other than wanting to stay close to friends and family, the students below say they were drawn to the University because of its committed faculty, the availability of online classes, and the opportunity to get a strong foundation for the future. Their parents enjoy watching their offspring mature up close. And grabbing an occasional lunch together is good, too.



photo: J. Intintoli

Erin and Don Aliquo: A Pair of Creative Hearts



Erin and Don Aliquo have imaginative hearts and hands. She creates beauty with metal. He inspires with music. A sophomore transfer student from UT–Knoxville, Erin is pursuing a B.F.A. in Art with an emphasis in sculpture.

“I was like most high school students who wanted to get away from home after high school, but I felt lost in Knoxville,” she said. “There were too many people in the program to have a close relationship with your professors. I love the MTSU Art Department because everyone here is close-knit. My confidence has really moved forward.”

“It makes me rethink how and what I teach at times, as I connect the lives of students with that of my kids.”

— Don Aliquo

Now Erin feels focused and “is very passionate about sculpture. My professor, Thomas Sturgill, is awesome,” she says. “He really pushes me.”

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True Blue Family Duos

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Her father, a professor of saxophone and director of jazz studies, says he enjoys riding to campus with his daughter in the morning and Erin's occasional visits to his office. Their time together has motivated him to adjust his classroom style.

"It is interesting to teach students the same age as my children," says Aliquo, who also is a composer and professional musician and recording artist who has released several solo projects. "It makes me rethink how and what I teach at times, as I connect the lives of students with that of my kids."

Beyond their daily routines, perhaps the best connection has been a deeper appreciation of each other's artistic expression.

"Of course, the similarities between art and music careers are something we talk about," he said. "I'm not a visual artist, but I guess Erin got the artistic gene."

Erin loves the free-flowing conversations she has with her father about the similarities between jazz and sculpture.

"It has been easy for us to relate through our art and music," Erin says. "I like to discuss my projects with him, and it is really nice to take my Dad into the studio to see them."

Erin worked as a teaching assistant in drawing and a resident assistant during Governor's School for the Arts, which she attended as a high school student in 2011.

"I remember how excited I was to be accepted," she says. "It was my first time to be around students my age who were all excited about art. It made me want to attend college and be around these kinds of people. It was cool to be back and working with kids that love the same things as me."



Samantha and Tara Hayes: Academic Team

At an age when most teens prefer watching their hometown get smaller in the rearview mirror, Murfreesboro native Samantha Hayes is thrilled to be pulling into an MTSU parking lot.

A Political Science (pre-law) junior, Sami (as she likes to be called) plans on having a law practice someday.

"I like the fact that my daughter is close to home and we can go to school together, but coming here was totally her choice."

—Tara Hayes



photo: Darby Campbell

"I am very interested in law and the legal system, and MTSU has a great Political Science Department that helps me feed that interest," she says. "It offers mock trials, moot court, LSAT prep courses, and teachers who have a lot of experience in the field."

Joining Sami on her academic journey is her mother, Tara Hayes, an executive aide in the History Department, who is an undeclared sophomore working toward a B.S. in Liberal Studies.

Together, they are an academic team, good friends, housemates, and each other's best encouragement.

"I like the fact that my daughter is close to home and we can go to school together," Tara says. "But coming here was totally her choice."

Sami says, "My mom helps keep me level-headed when things get stressful. She constantly tells me how proud she is of me but can be a tough critic because she knows I can do it and there are no excuses. MTSU would not be the same without her here with me."

Their classes are a regular topic of discussion, and Sami visits her mom's office a couple times a week. There, she does homework with the student workers and helps with a variety of tasks.

"Time spent with Sami is very important to me," Tara says. "We discuss each other's classes and what is going on in our day. She has a great respect for her peers and professors alike."

For someone so young, Sami can see her future quite clearly.

“I want to teach at MTSU after retiring from my law practice,” she says. “MTSU is an amazing school that truly cares about students, and I would be proud for my children to follow my and my mother’s footsteps.”

“MTSU has helped me grow not only as an intellectual but as a human being,” she says. “It has taught me patience, ethics, hard work, and determination to achieve my dreams.”

Austen and Sonja Burk: Step Up to the Future

Austen Burk first connected with MTSU as a student at Homer Pittard Campus School, a public elementary school operated by the University and Rutherford County.

The bright 18-year-old renewed his relationship with the University as a high school senior this year, taking collegiate-level courses in the

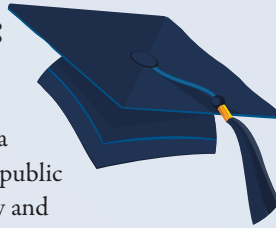


photo: Darby Campbell

“Austen’s father and I wanted him to take a dual-enrollment class that would not only challenge him but, more importantly, prepare him for the strict requirements that engineering majors must follow.”

—Sonja Burk

dual-enrollment program. His mother, Sonja Burk, is an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts.

A peek at Austen’s transcript shows an A in chemistry from MTSU, which will help with his plans to pursue a major in biosystems engineering. He graduated with honors in May from Oakland High School, where he participated in the International Baccalaureate program.

He says his mother gave him a “push” to explore dual enrollment. Sonja, an extrovert, smiles at her son’s comment: he’s usually a young man of few words.

“It gave me a chance to experience the demands of college classes early,” Austen says. “I really enjoyed the MTSU chemistry class.”

Sonja’s experiences as a student advisor gave her insight regarding the classwork ahead for her future engineer.

“Austen’s father and I wanted him to take a dual-enrollment class that would not only challenge him but, more importantly, prepare him for the strict requirements that engineering majors must follow,” she says. “Without a doubt, I knew [MTSU] would do just that.”

For Austen, being a part-time student has had the added benefit of free admission to campus events: he’s a fan of Blue Raider athletics.

As the Burk family looks toward college, Sonja says, “The experience greatly helped prepare my son for the rigors ahead of independent learning, responsibility, and accountability.”

The dual-enrollment program is one Austen recommends to other high school students.

“It’s a great way to get some of your classes out of the way before your freshman year,” he says.

Austen may have started a family tradition: his sister, Amanda, has her sights set on the dual-enrollment program for 2014–15.

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True Blue Family Duos

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Jimmy and Brenda Johnson: Never Too Late to Start Over

Nearly 40 years ago, Brenda Johnson wrote under her senior high yearbook picture that she would attend MTSU and be a secretary. At the time, she had no idea how prophetic her words would be. She came to the University in 1976 as a typist and in 1981 moved to the Art Department, where she is still employed as an executive aide.

She has watched the explosive growth of the College of Liberal Arts from a front-row seat. Today, there are nearly 3,200 majors in liberal arts disciplines.

“There is so much for students to choose from at MTSU,” she says. “Interesting classes and ways to learn. As we continue to grow, the amount of courses and opportunities grow, too.”

Brenda’s son, Jimmy, is a 41-year-old senior who works for Asurion, a technology support company. He’s seeking a B.S. in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in business and psychology.

“I try to be a good listener and always encourage him to be his best,” Brenda says.

Jimmy’s long road to graduation has been bumpy. He left the University in 1996 after struggling with bad grades and a difficult personal relationship. In 2011 Jimmy joined the online learning community, after being inspired by his wife, who was taking nursing classes, and a desire to be a “good provider and father.”

“There is so much for students to choose from at MTSU. Interesting classes and ways to learn. As we continue to grow, the amount of courses and opportunities grow, too.”

—Brenda Johnson



photo: Andy Heidt

He says he talks with his mom every day, and even though he’s grown, some things never change—she still asks about his grades. “I dropped out many moons ago and can’t get the [dependent] discount. Because of my work schedule, I can only do online classes,” he says. “This has given me a sense of accomplishment by finishing what I started.”

His advice to older learners is simple: Always keep going. It is never too late to go back. ■



All in the MT Family

Students and parents featured here aren’t the only ones who have family ties to the College of Liberal Arts.

English professor Dr. **Ted Sherman** has two children who attend MTSU: **Kathryn**, an International Relations major, and **Nathaniel**, an Economics major. After graduation, Kathryn wants to move to London for graduate study, and Nathaniel has his eye on studying in Australia.

The History Department’s Dr. **Robert Hunt** specializes in the Civil War and Reconstruction, the antebellum South, and the history of modern war and is director of the undergraduate program for the

department. Fittingly, his son, **Andrew**, is a History minor.

Tim and Kathy Musselman are the parents of **Natalie Grace Musselman**, who recently finished her freshman year as a Pre-physical Therapy student who is leaning toward majoring in Psychology. Kathy is assistant vice president in Human Resource Services; Tim works in the School of Music as manager of facilities, publicity, and concert production. ■

Meet the *New Members* of the Friends of the Liberal Arts Board



photo: Andrea Hallgren

Susan H. West ('81) is vice president and chief of staff in the Office of the President at Belmont University. During her 25 years at Belmont, she has worked in Admissions, Special Academic Programs, and the University College. Dr. West is a member of Belmont's Peer Learning Network, the Nashville Chamber of Commerce

education committee, the steering committee of the National Museum of African American Music, Women in Higher Education in Tennessee, and United Way of Nashville's Community Partnership board. She was a member of the 2006 class of Leadership Middle Tennessee. Also in 2006, she was named an Outstanding African American Alumnus at MTSU, and in 2007 she was a nominee for the Athena Award. Dr. West received her Ed.D. from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and is a graduate of the Harvard Institute for Educational Management.

Emily Gibson ('98, '02) a native of Houston, Texas, now lives in Chapel Hill. She majored in Criminal Justice Administration as an undergraduate and earned her M.A. in Sociology. She completed coursework in the Master of Public Administration program at Tennessee State University and is a graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute, the LEAD



photo: Theresa Montgomery

Tennessee Management Training program, and the National Institute of Correction's Executive Excellence program.

She has been employed by the State of Tennessee for 15 years, starting as an investigator for the Comptroller of the Treasury and also as a senior legislative research analyst. She later served the Department of Finance and Administration as a senior management consultant. From 2005 to 2011, Gibson was an administrator with the Board of Probation and Parole. She was also an adjunct professor of sociology at Columbia State Community College. In 2011, Mrs. Gibson joined the Tennessee Department of Correction as director of budget and fiscal services, where she developed, directed, and managed the department's \$948,442,100 budget for 6,878 employees. In September 2013, Emily was sworn in as the Department of Correction's deputy commissioner for administration.

Kevin Rayburn ('06) majored in political science and was active in the Mock Trial program at MTSU. In 2010, he received an M.B.A. from the University of Tennessee and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law. In law school, Rayburn clerked at several firms and was a clinic attorney for the University of Tennessee



photo: John Hatcher

Business Law Clinic. He also was an editor for *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law* and the *Baker Center Journal of Applied Public Policy*. He practiced law in Columbia, Tenn., for two years and helped coach MTSU's Mock Trial team. He is now assistant director, Tennessee Secretary of State, Business Services Division. ■

Friends of Liberal Arts Board

The board works to cultivate and maintain relationships with community, state, and national leaders; promote the achievements of CLA faculty and students, as well as overall public image; expose students to various career options; serve as mentors to those students; and pursue external funding.

Lauren Agee

James Brooks

Jeff Davidson

Dan Elrod

Charlotte Gardner

Emily Gibson

Phillip Hodge

Robert Jones

Joe Klingmeyer

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Kevin Rayburn

Marlene Sanders

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Doug Young

(chair)

BRAZIL'S STREET PROTESTS

The Impact of Electronic and Digital
Media in Small Towns and Villages

by Richard Pace

Cultural anthropology research—or ethnography—is by definition an expedition into the unfamiliar and unexpected. Whether it involves an arduous trek to an isolated tropical rainforest village or a quick bus ride to a megacity shantytown, the research experience is hardly predictable. Such was the case for me and a research team of four MTSU anthropology graduates who traveled to Brazil in 2013. Along with coinvestigators Dr. Conrad Kottak (University of Michigan), Dr. Glenn Shepard Jr. (Goeldi Museum, Brazil) and Department of Sociology and Anthropology colleague **Dr. Brian Hinote**, I received a National Science Foundation grant to study the evolution of media influence in five rural communities in Brazil.

Two-thirds of the way through the research period, Brazil erupted in massive protests against government corruption and extravagant spending for the World Cup and the upcoming Olympic Games despite deteriorating transportation and healthcare services for the average citizen. Over two months, millions took to the streets to protest.

As the demonstrations unfolded, the team quickly refocused research efforts to understand what roles Facebook, cellphones, and television played in the organization and spread of the protests in the places they

were studying. While most national and international media focused on events in major cities, the MTSU researchers were able to document the surprising creativity of small town and village residents as they “indigenized” or “localized” the general discontent being played out at the national level.

Ibirama

For example, in the town of Ibirama, Santa Catarina, in southern Brazil, Cynthia Pace (2008 MTSU graduate and now a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Florida) saw extensive use of Facebook and television to follow and participate in the protests. Ibirama is a tight-knit community of German, Polish, and Russian migrants who are overwhelmingly middle class and have had access to high-speed Internet for at least a decade. Facebook (accessed from home computers or smartphones) is now a preferred form of communication. Daily (if not hourly) messages mark comings and goings, invite others to all kinds of local events, and advertise businesses. As the national protest spread throughout Brazil in June, plans for an Ibirama event were posted on Facebook. The message reached thousands, and the resulting protest drew hundreds. Upon request, Cynthia Pace filmed the protest, and the result was posted on a protester’s Facebook page and later shown on regional TV. The protest focused on political and economic mismanagement by the Brazilian government. Participants felt sure that their actions would be seen as part of the wave of protest across the nation and sweep President Dilma Rouseff out of office.

Cunha

In Cunha, São Paulo, in southeast Brazil, events played out differently. Cunha is an agricultural community nearly halfway between São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. It has deep roots in caipira (country) culture. High-speed Internet is available in town but typically not in the rural interior, where 44 percent of the population lives. When the protest movement began, my wife, Olga (M.Ed. from MTSU), and I observed local concern and fascination with the marches and violence in the nearby capitals, which, for the most part, people saw on television. As small-town protests sprung up in support of the urban ones, a call went out on Facebook for a meeting in Cunha’s town square. Fewer than 100 people arrived, and the crowd quickly dissipated. By contrast, the community’s Founders Day and Corpus Christi celebrations a few weeks earlier—orchestrated through traditional media and word of mouth—drew thousands. The message of the protests focused on local political infighting and corruption, not national events.

Arembepe

Arembepe, 42 kilometers northeast of Salvador, Bahia, in Brazil’s arid northeast, presented a third pattern. The community’s economy is based on beach tourism and some commercial fishing. There is a wide range of income levels, from affluent owners of weekend beachfront houses

Cunha. Photo by Richard Pace.





Street protest in Ibirama. Photo by Cynthia Pace.

to the chronically underemployed and unemployed. Internet access by cellphone allows many in Arembepe to use Facebook daily. Researchers Simon Hurst-Dodd and Lucy Miller (2011 MTSU graduates now in the graduate program at Indiana University) saw that, during the months of protest, community members kept track of events but organized only a brief and poorly attended protest in their own town. When Hurst-Dodd and Miller asked about the protests, the people of Arembepe responded that the nonpolitical nature of the community and the carefree attitudes of its inhabitants limited protest. Yet, as the researchers surveyed townspeople, they encountered some who had traveled to nearby Salvador (and one to faraway Rio) to participate in the big protests. Some of them were teargassed and others witnessed vandalism. These participants were called into action through a number of media outlets, but personal communication rather than Facebook invitations were more commonly reported.

Methods of organization and rationales for protest were as varied and multifaceted as Brazil's electronic media viewers and users

Gurupá

Gurupá is an agro-extractivist community on the Amazon River in the state of Pará. Most people of Gurupá are relatively poor by national standards, but the community has benefited greatly from government poverty-alleviation programs and a recent boom in açai exports. The community has strongly supported of President Rousseff's Worker's Party (PT). Access to the Internet in Gurupá is problematic, with frequent interruptions and slow service, and access in the countryside, where 67 percent of the people live, is nonexistent. Cellphones, available in the area only since 2011, are used to access Facebook whenever and wherever service allows. The people of Gurupá followed the protest movement mostly on television. Researcher Monte Hendrickson (a 2009 MTSU graduate now writing her doctoral dissertation at Vanderbilt University) observed that most individuals were slow to

identify with the movement. They tended to see it as political venting by urban residents far removed from the realities of the Amazon. Eventually a protest event was planned and posted on Facebook, although the real organization was accomplished by face-to-face interactions. The event drew fewer than 100 people. Photos of the gathering were put on Facebook by the event organizers. Although the event was framed as a protest against the Rousseff presidency, the real focus appeared to be on the local PT and allegations of political corruption. Participants came mainly from opposition parties.

Turedjam

Turedjam is an Amazonian community at the fringes of the Kayapó Indigenous Territories near the town of Ourilândia do Norte, Pará. The village, established only three years ago, is unusual in Kayapó (Mebêngokrê) because it has electricity, television, and cellphone service. Internet service is not available, but some of the villagers have used it while in nearby towns, and a few have Facebook pages. According to researcher Glenn Shepard (Goeldi Museum), the villagers followed the protests on television. Because many Kayapó have limited proficiency in Portuguese, some details of the protest were not readily understood. Yet, people realized the federal government was weakened by the intensity of popular discontent and saw a political opening to pursue long-held grievances. Men congregated daily in the "men's house" at the center of the village, covered their bodies in black war paint, prepared arrows and other weapons, and maintained constant contact with other villages via shortwave radio and cellphone. The original plan was to block traffic on the Transamazon Highway in an attempt to force concessions from the Rousseff government. Principal concerns focused on proposed new laws that would weaken indigenous land rights and on the construction of the Belo Monte Dam, which will lead to losses of land for indigenous peoples. After several days of tense discussions, the highway blockade plan was abandoned in favor of direct talks with government officials. When Shepard asked about the rationale behind the street protests they saw on TV, the Kayapó interpreted the events as general discontent among "whites" to which they wished to add their particular concerns.

Research Team

Responding to the unpredictable, our research team refocused its ethnographic efforts to document street protests as they unfolded in small towns and villages. They observed a fragmented news landscape created by varying access to electronic media and differing cultural backgrounds and sociopolitical concerns. The results recalled the often-used Brazilian aphorism, "unity in diversity." Mass participation in the demonstrations created a momentary "imagined solidarity," even though methods of organization and rationales for protest were as varied and multifaceted as Brazil's electronic media viewers and users. ■



Turedjam. Photo by Richard Pace.



Protest in Turedjam. Photo by Richard Pace.

New App Gives Officers a Crime-Scene Checklist

by Gina E. Fann

Using a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, FIRE partnered with WillowTree Apps of Charlottesville, Va., to create CASE (Checklist App for Scene Examination). LifeWings Partners of Collierville, Tenn., a consulting company, provided guidance.

The app aims to serve as a “systematic guide for the new officer who first arrives at a scene,” according to the application prepared by Dr. Berryman. “I know that the scene is its most pristine when the first responding officer arrives and will deteriorate with every minute that follows,” Berryman said. “Time, weather, and the movement of essential

personnel such as EMTs and scene investigators can alter the scene and destroy evidence. Early documentation of evidence can make a difference in bringing justice to both the guilty and the innocent.”

The CASE app begins a 72-hour countdown when the crime-scene documentation is completed, and data can be transferred to a police department computer.

“We focused our strategic design and development efforts on providing a streamlined, intuitive, and secure experience for first responders,” said Blake Sirach, vice president of design for WillowTree.

For more information on FIRE and the CASE app, visit www.csimsu.com. ■



The first moments at a crime scene can be critical. Thanks to an MTSU-led effort, a key to preserving crime scenes can now be held in an officer's hand. MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE), led by Dr. Hugh Berryman, worked with other investigators across the country to develop a system to guide law enforcement officers through what can be chaotic situations. Instead of juggling notepads and cameras, officers can capture information with their smartphones.

ANCIENT PERSPECTIVE

S by Drew Ruble

Honoring Sandy's Legacy

A centuries-old statue known as “Sandy,” housed at the McClung Museum in Knoxville, has been approved as the official state artifact of Tennessee. The sandstone figure created by a Native American artist between A.D. 1000 and 1350 was discovered by a farmer in 1939 and was featured in *Time* magazine in 1941. In 2004, Sandy appeared on a U.S. postage stamp as part of the Art of the American Indian series. In January 2014, the Tennessee Council for Professional

Archaeology, led by its president, MTSU's **Tanya Peres**, asked the General Assembly to name the 18-inch-tall figure an official Tennessee state symbol. Bills were sponsored by Sen. Mae Beavers (R-Mt. Juliet), Sen. Bill Ketron (R-Murfreesboro), and Rep. Mark Pody (R-Lebanon). Peres says that naming Sandy the official state artifact “acknowledges the state's ancient past and will encourage Tennesseans to learn more about and work to help preserve our shared history. Listing Sandy as the state artifact also honors the legacy and accomplishments of Native Americans who lived in Tennessee for more than 10,000 years prior to the arrival of European settlers.” ■



In Search of First Peoples

Associate Professor Tanya Peres has launched the Rutherford County Archaeology Research Project. The goal is to survey the county to learn more about prehistoric peoples who called the area home. Peres has focused on two sites so far: Magnolia Valley and Black Cat Cave. Magnolia Valley, near Eagleville and the site of the 2014 MTSU Archaeological Field School, shows evidence of Native American occupation starting around 12,000 years ago and seems to have an interesting and comprehensive history. The other site, Black Cat Cave, is within the city limits of Murfreesboro. Dr. Peres and **Dr. Shannon Hodge**, also an associate professor and archaeologist, and some of their students in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, are among a group trying to preserve, protect, and study prehistoric and historic occupations of Black Cat Cave. The cave is well known locally as the reputed site of a speakeasy during Prohibition. Since 1971, the cave has been part of a public park and recreation area, but the city has kept the entrances closed due to vandalism and concern about liability for injuries. Recent discoveries have shown that the cave is an important prehistoric Native American site. ■



Uncovering History

Professor Kevin Smith helped uncover ancient history at the Sulphur Dell construction site, where the city of Nashville is building a new minor league baseball stadium. (The site is also where Nashville's first professional baseball was played.) Fire pits and broken pieces of ceramic that could date back as far as A.D. 1150 were found, suggesting that the site was a place where mineral water was boiled to collect salt for trade. It's the first discovery of its kind in the region, according to a *Daily News Journal* article. The ballpark will be built over the archaeological site but not in a way that will damage artifacts. ■



From Literary Canon to

by Candace Moonshower

Vampire Slaying

Dr. David Lavery is crafting a new pop canon, one Buffy at a time



"I've been asked a hundred times why I'm interested in *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*," says Dr. David Lavery, director of Graduate Studies in English. "I say it's because it makes me feel like my education wasn't for nothing."

Connecting the respected canon of literature to a TV show about vampires and a heroine slayer isn't typical from a professor of English literature. But Lavery isn't typical. Since 1978, when he

earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Florida, Lavery's career, which began with a desire to focus on American literature and specialize in Native American literature, has taken a surprising detour out of the realm of the canon and into the uncharted waters of popular culture, particularly television studies. The first leg of that journey was his dissertation, which concerned the films of Federico Fellini. Then, during an early stint at the University of Memphis as an associate professor of communication and film studies, he was asked to teach a class called TV and Culture.

"At first, I thought it was ridiculous, but I enjoyed it," he says. Little did he know that he was among the first in a group of scholars engaged in groundbreaking studies about television and its influence on culture.

Since arriving at MTSU in 1993, he has continued to break new ground, bridging the gap between pop studies and traditional curricula.

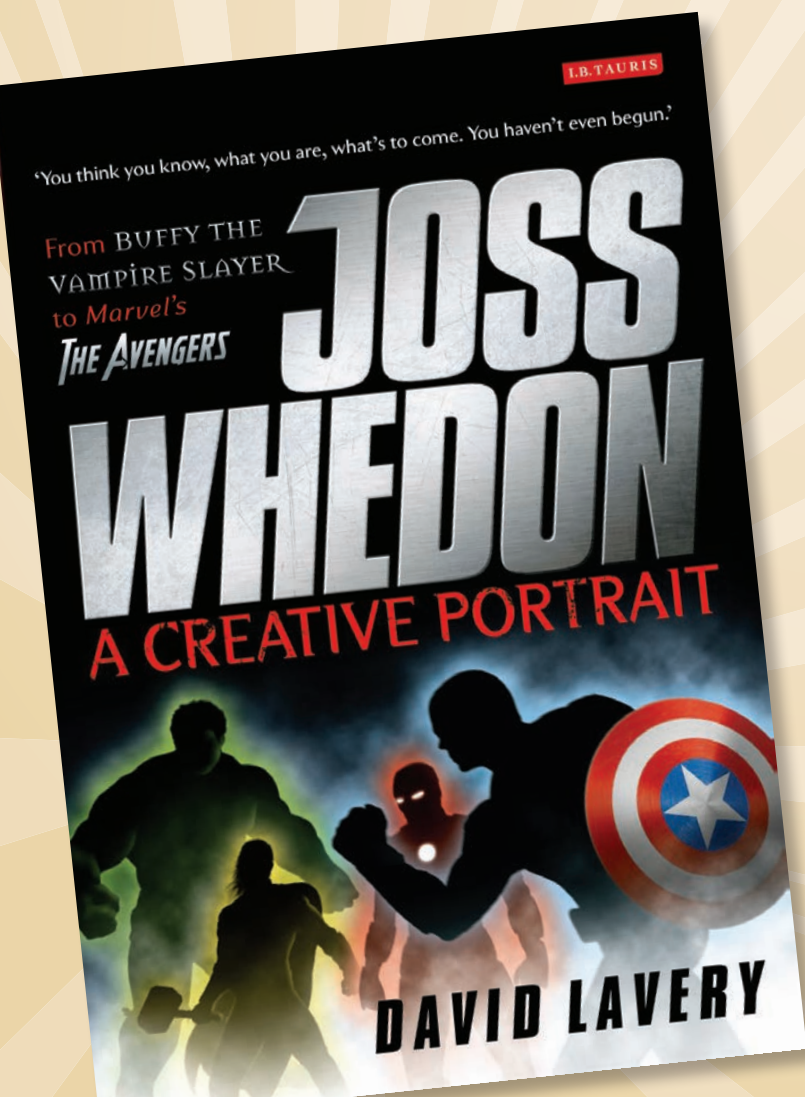
"It's exciting to teach at a school with such a comfort level," Lavery says. "Here at MTSU, I can teach Wallace Stevens and then Joss Whedon," the latter being the creator of *Buffy* and the director of the box-office smash *The Avengers* and other popular shows and movies. Lavery's book *Joss Whedon: A Creative Portrait* was published in 2013. "No one has ever invited me to Australia to talk about Wallace Stevens, but they have invited me there to talk about *Buffy*," he says.

One aspect of this burgeoning area of study is the need for scholarly articles and books. Lavery wrote the first one devoted to a single TV series, *Twin Peaks*.

"No one had thought of taking on a book about TV—and I certainly never anticipated being that person," he says. Since that book, Lavery has written, cowritten, edited, or coedited more than 20 books and more than 150 essays, chapters, and reviews.

Lavery believes MTSU is a leader in the integration of pop culture and traditional English studies. He acknowledges that English departments have accepted film studies, but many have shied away from TV, which he calls misguided.

"TV shows are like novels," he says. "They cover a long narrative time, and they should be part of the canon. The canon will grow." ■



Middle Runs Through

by Gina K. Logue

Rick Mansfield's relationship with MTSU is a family affair in more ways than one. The Murfreesboro real estate attorney is an alumnus ('80) and so is his wife, Paula ('82), 2013–2014 National Alumni Association vice president. Two of their three children, 21-year-old Jimmy and 20-year-old Anna Cate, are current students. Beyond that, Mansfield talks about the University as though the institution itself were a family member—a sort of comfort zone that nurtured him and molded his character.

Small Town, Big Dreams

It could be said that Mansfield never wavered in his **True Blue** commitment to MTSU. “I can remember playing football in the end zone of an MTSU football game while the game was going on because it was such a small place,” Mansfield says of his Murfreesboro childhood. His father, a traveling funeral supplies salesman, moved the family from Dayton, Tenn., to Murfreesboro when Rick was in the second grade.

As a teenager, Mansfield worked for the *Daily News Journal* taking photographs of K–12 recreational activities. Those pictures helped Murfreesboro’s then recreation director, Ray Duffy, be more influential when it was time to create the next budget. Duffy repaid the favor. When Mansfield was in high school, Duffy wrangled some Notre Dame football tickets from an old army buddy who had become Notre Dame’s president. He gave them to Mansfield, who went to the game. Mansfield says the hoopla was surreal and heady, but it didn’t change his mind about college: he never intended to go anywhere other than MTSU.

“I think it was more of a social thing where I felt comfortable,” Mansfield says. “A lot of my friends were going to MTSU.”

Halcyon Times

In those days, houses on Maple Street constituted Fraternity Row. “Everything centered around the Greek system,” Mansfield recalls. “If you were going to meet people, those fraternity houses were the logical place to go. It was almost like going to your friends’ house.” By his own

A Firm Foundation

After graduation, Mansfield worked as a photographer for 10 years with the now-defunct *Nashville Banner* while attending night classes at the Nashville School of Law. He later landed a plum job clerking for the state attorney general. He married Paula in 1988. All three children were born while Mansfield was in law school. Home beckoned when Mansfield accepted a job working for Whitney Stegall, who was an interim judge for a year. Little did Mansfield know at the time that Stegall would become one of his law partners in 1994, along with David Bragg.

Stegall founded the MTSU Foundation, the fundraising arm of the University, and the Wood-Stegall Building on campus houses the Division of Development. Bragg, who is now a circuit court judge, earned his master’s at MTSU and is the former director of University housing and assistant to the dean of students.

Paying It Forward

The MTSU thread runs through the entire fabric of Mansfield’s life. He made the first leading College of Liberal Arts gift as part of the University’s Centennial Campaign. The funding helps support various priorities such as the creation of the College of Liberal Arts Speaker Series (CLASS). “That was a real eye-opener for me, just to see what an art it is to put something like that together,” Mansfield says of the yearlong campaign.

Mansfield also is an inaugural member of the Friends of Liberal Arts board and is about to begin his second three-year term. “I really

It For Rick Mansfield, MTSU is like a member of the family

admission, Mansfield was not quite ready to buckle down and study. It took the history major six years to graduate. “I was having too much fun,” he says.

Yet he recalls that his instructors had genuine concern for students. He especially saw it in Dr. Fred Colvin, a history professor. “Whatever Fred Colvin taught, we took it,” Mansfield says. Direct personal involvement is important to Mansfield, who says his liberal arts education helped him develop critical thinking skills. “I mean, you could be an archaeology major and still have that apply to going to law school just because you’ve got to solve problems and figure things out on your own,” he says. He sees his children, including son Jimmy, a Recording Industry major, receiving the same kind of attention today.

“He has benefited from his teachers investing in him outside the classroom because they really care,” Mansfield says.

think that the whole liberal arts experience is such an overlooked investment because the way that you think, the way that you create your values, the way that you solve problems is not based on some GPA that you have,” he says.

Mansfield marvels at how much the University has grown since he staged his own little Blue Raider experiences in the end zone of the football field as a little kid. “To still be here and have seen this change and this growth in the school and to still be connected to it is really kind of a neat opportunity,” he says. “You just don’t know how much more is going to happen. You don’t want to miss anything.”

For Mansfield, that’s not unlike the experience of being a part of a family, seeing it grow and mature, and eagerly awaiting the next frontier. ■

CALA: Leading Language Learning

For ten years, teens and adults have jumpstarted their understanding of new languages during the University's Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) five-day Summer Language Institute. In 2013, people with no experience in Spanish or French who took the placement test at MTSU tested out of one to four semesters of instruction after CALA sessions. Tammie Dye (Human Resource Services) is a grandmother who went to South America after CALA. "I am at a loss for words to express how much I enjoyed the class and how pleased I am with the results," said Dye. "I am still amazed that I can understand so much Spanish! I am truly energized and can't wait to try to converse with people in Paraguay."

Dr. Shelley Thomas, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and founder/director of CALA, said, "We all understand that we don't acquire a taste for coffee by looking up its qualities on the Internet, nor do we acquire the skill of riding a bike by memorizing its parts. Research on language acquisition shows we acquire our second language the way we acquired our first: through direct experience and engaging contexts like stories."

In traditional language classes, students might be asked to memorize vocabulary lists and

repeat verb charts. CALA classes use the intensive, brain-friendly language acquisition tools Total Physical Response (TPR) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS).

In CALA classes there is direct experience with new vocabulary first, then personal interaction and games to process new knowledge to help it go deeper. Finally, there's a question/answer session about the stories and language. Some beginning learners are able to grasp and use new vocabulary in just five days.

"We take about 200 to 300 words that students can touch, see, and act out. We don't use any words that they don't actually experience in class, so that it goes into long-term memory. We've had people take Level 1 and come back a year later for Level 2, and they say they are able to pick right back up where they left off. We start reading a simple novel on the fifth day, and when students realize they are understanding comfortably without any aid from a dictionary, they are amazed," said Thomas.

The CALA immersion classes are the result of a Special Projects Grant Thomas was awarded in 2003. Test results for that summer were published in *Fluency through TPRS Storytelling* by Blaine Ray, inventor of TPRS. Ray's book, now in its sixth edition, is used by teachers all over the world.

Since 2003, CALA has gained international recognition, and Thomas earned an MTSU Teacher of the Year Award. She's been invited to coordinate five-day summer language classes or teacher workshops at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute in Nashville, the



Photos from left to right:

CALA students practice stories in French.

Dr. Thomas takes CALA to China.

Dr. Thomas with CALA schoolchildren in India



CALA Summer Language Institute 2013

University School of Nashville, O'More College of Design, the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, and the Isha Vidya School in Coimabtoe, India. She has given keynotes and presented workshops at international, national, and regional conferences. At MTSU, she has been providing 12 hours of training for Chinese teachers from the Central South University of Forestry and Technology, hosted by MTSU's Confucius Institute.

In addition to the important role CALA plays at MTSU, it has volunteer teachers, materials, and workshops for the Murfreesboro Hispanic Family Center.

Laura Clippard, Honors College undergraduate fellowship coordinator, recommends CALA for Fulbright Scholars who are required to teach English abroad. An example is Adam Emerson, who said, "I acquired not only an extensive French vocabulary but also an understanding of the ways in which we acquire language, best practices for ensuring my students' comprehension of important concepts, and effective classroom management techniques."

Brian Roberts and **Ahmad Jeddeeni** teach the Spanish and Arabic CALA classes, respectively. Roberts graduated with majors in psychology, philosophy, and Spanish. After living and traveling in Spain and France, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching. Because he learned TPR and TPRS during his internship, he became a language specialist for the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, teaching Spanish to employees. He continues

to teach for CALA each summer because he finds it so rewarding. Jeddeeni, a native of Syria, earned a degree in English literature in 2006 from the University of Damascus. He came to MTSU as a graduate student on a Fulbright assistantship in 2009 and taught Arabic for two semesters. He discovered TPR and TPRS in Dr. Thomas's graduate methodology class. He has taught Arabic for CALA and as a graduate assistant in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. CALA offers training in TPR/TPRS in the afternoons following language classes. Rutherford County Schools, Murfreesboro City Schools, and the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute have sent teachers to the institute.

Because of CALA's success, Thomas was invited to bring the program to the Honors College, and Dr. Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, invited her to give a presentation and demonstration to the college's advisory board this spring.

"We want CALA to be an example of brain-based teaching to the teaching profession and continue to evolve and improve methods and teaching skills and provide language classes for the global community."

Thomas told the board, "We want CALA to be an example of brain-based teaching to the teaching profession and continue to evolve and improve methods and teaching skills and provide language classes for the global community."

Doug Young, board chair, was so impressed that he asked, "How can we make MTSU number one in this?" Thomas replied that her Special Projects grant made CALA possible. The program has grown from one TPR/TPRS-trained teacher delivering one week of Spanish class to five weeks offering up to five languages, which Thomas coordinates voluntarily. "The demand for year-round classes requires serious investors who can provide a year-round salary for a full-time assistant coordinator and a full-time teacher. This will make us number one in the nation," she said.

Find details at acceleratedacquisition.com or email Dr. Thomas at shtomas@mtsu.edu. ■

Dr. Thomas with CALA schoolchildren in India



Congressional Art Competition

This year's finalists in the annual Congressional Art Competition representing Tennessee's 4th District were announced during a reception this spring at Todd Art Gallery. Chosen from the work of nearly 90 high school students across the 16 counties of the district, pieces by second and first runners-up and the winner became part of a display in the Cannon Tunnel adjacent the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The finalists were Oksana Ferenchuk, best of show; Mary Nyhus, first runner-up; Rachel Cross; Dylan Upchurch, second runner-up; Hannah Middleton; Allie Heffington; Bonnie Wakefield; Mila Lance; Savannah Stone; and Emalee Blevins. The reception also highlighted *NSEW: What Grew Us*, a national undergraduate exhibit featuring work from across the United States, and an encore presentation of *Eye Candy*, the work of Laura Brake, Carmen Elkins, Noelle Yeargins, Josh Petty, Alex Otarola, Allison Ford, and Kayla Connelly. *NSEW* and *Eye Candy* were displayed in Todd Gallery through May 29. ■



Hannah Middleton (represented by her father) and Dylan Upchurch, Murfreesboro Central Magnet student winners in the Congressional Art Competition, with U.S. Representative Scott DesJarlais



1



2



3

Murfree Gallery artwork: Featured artists John Smith (4) and Mary Watkins (5); MTSU Artists/Students Nick Murphy (1), Davion Baster (2), and Lindsey Isbell (3);

Thou Doth Print Too Much

Artwork in the first-floor atrium of James E. Walker Library at the end of the spring semester had a Shakespearean theme marking the Bard's 450th birthday. Two handheld paper skulls evoking a scene from *Hamlet* greeted library patrons. The skulls were flanked by speech bubbles containing the admonition, "Thou doth print too much." Associate Professor **Erin Anfinson's** students spent more than two weeks building the installation in class. Earlier in the semester, students submitted proposals and a vote was taken to choose the strongest design. Then the students worked on the idea together. Used paper collected from a recycling bin in the library was used to create the skulls, and the entire project was recycled at the close of the exhibition. Drawings were done in ink, tea staining, and a bit of white charcoal. ■

Students involved in the creation/installation were the following:

Jayson Alexander	Jordan Kennedy	Annabelle Smoot	Yessenia Hinojos	Andrew Myers
William Brown	Kiki Kixmiller	Kristina Soles	Alex Howard	Aiken Pierce
Colin Copeland	Leslie Luanglath	Dean Willis	Kierra Johnson	Shelby Rehberger
Amber Dole	Jared Moore	Genetha Alexander	Doniqua Joyner	Seth Tipps
Tobias Ferrell	Mallory Saladino	Tyler Allen	Jessica Mason	Heather Tucker
Blake-Lyn Giles	Kristina Scott	Anna Benjamin	Levon Mkrtychyan	
David Higdon	Jimmy Smith	Kira Curtis	Hunter Mollenkoph	

photo: Darby Campbell



Chawan Maker and International Faculty Member of the Year Award

Associate Professor **Marisa Recchia** (Art) was one of five American artists chosen to participate in an international exhibition by 100 chawan makers. A chawan is a bowl used to serve tea, and production of chawan bowls has a long tradition in East Asian cultures. The exhibition was held in Taiwan, October 5–20, 2013, and was organized by the Kaohsiung Ceramic Industry Alliance. About her work Recchia said, “These chawan were produced in a spirit of resonance between old technology (the ancient practice of wood-firing pottery) and new technology: a recently built low carbon, energy-efficient smokeless wood kiln. They represent to me thoughts of reverence and respect for the past [while] embracing the present moment and what presence has to offer: connections to ceremony, beauty in the movement of the potter’s wheel, and the dance of the flame as the kiln is firing.” All three of her bowls are now in the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ken-hsiung Lee. Recchia is working to bring a version of the exhibit to MTSU in 2015.

Recchia is the latest winner of the MTSU International Faculty Member of the Year Award. She was nominated by last year’s recipients, Prof. Nancy Goldberg (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and Prof. Kim Sokoya (Management and Marketing) and anonymously approved by the International Education and Exchange Committee. ■



Murfree Gallery

The Rutherford County Property Assessor’s Office now includes the Murfree Gallery, set up by Rob Mitchell, the current property assessor, and **Eric Snyder**, MTSU’s gallery director. Work from students and faculty will appear in the gallery, which had its first exhibit from November 2013 to January 2014. ■

2014-2015 MTSU Theatre and Dance Season



American Tall Tales

September 24-28



A Doll's House

November 5-9



EINSTEIN'S DREAMS

February 19-22, & February 25-March 1



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

April 23-26



COLLAGE

November 20-22

SPRING DANCE CONCERT

March 26-28



MTSU Debate



For ticket information, please visit
www.mtsu.edu/tuckertheatre

MTSU Arts
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

A Conversation with Dr. Jette Halladay

by Connie Huddleston

Before internationalizing the curriculum at MTSU became part of the Academic Master Plan, **Professor Jette Halladay** recognized the importance of exposing students to other cultures and traveled to other countries with her students. Below is a short question-and-answer conversation with Dr. Halladay.

When was your first trip outside U.S. with students?

In 2004, I took 20 students to Finland, Russia, and Latvia. We created a show called *American Tall Tales* (see ad on page 22), which performed for various audiences in all three countries. In Latvia, we performed at the Baltic Theatre Festival and won two awards for the show: Best Direction and Most Entertaining.

Where have you taken students?

Finland, Russia, Latvia, Honduras, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Denmark, and, in May 2014, Guatemala.

What do you gain by taking students with you?

I can't do it without the students. My study-abroad trips aren't merely classes; they are service oriented, and because we are theatre artists, we serve through performances. Without the students I would have little to offer in a performance. Add to that the fresh perspective on all the cultural and social events, sites, etc. Plus, I love being with the students. They make me laugh, and they love to meet people, so we do a lot of socializing when we travel.

What do the students gain?

Great résumé material. When they go to auditions in New York, they stand out from the others. The casting directors are intrigued that they have performed around the world. Also the bug to travel—their world opens up to new ways of thinking, living, spending or not spending. They open up and make friends in many countries. They are empowered.

What have been some stumbling blocks?

Money—money is always the biggest issue. When we take a show [abroad], I can't merely depend on those students that have the money. I also need those who are able to create a viable and entertaining show no matter what their finances. So finding money for everyone is tough. I do a lot of planning to find the least expensive way.

What have you personally gained by the adventures?

A love for my students, for travel, a sense of empowerment, and a delight in being flexible and changing plans as the need arises, in serendipitous circumstances.

What are your future plans for travel?

[In] May 2015 we will be performing in the U.K. and Ireland.

What was your biggest surprise from a trip?

Wow! That's tough. My students are always surprising me with their discoveries and delights. Especially when I give them time to explore a new place on their own. They are so excited to come back and tell me what they found. I think winning the awards in the Baltic Festival was a surprise as well. We performed the show in a medieval castle. The awards presentations took place at midnight in the courtyard. It was all in Latvian, so our host had to nudge me to go up and accept the awards. I didn't know what they were for—it took a few months for me to translate them. ■

Adding to the rich history of MTSU Debate was the April 10–13 hosting of the 17th annual International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Nationals, the first national tournament at MTSU in over a decade and the largest the IPDA has ever held. Over 300 debaters from 33 schools participated, accompanied by hundreds of coaches and supporters. The event required the use of the Bragg Mass Communication Building, the College of Education Building, and

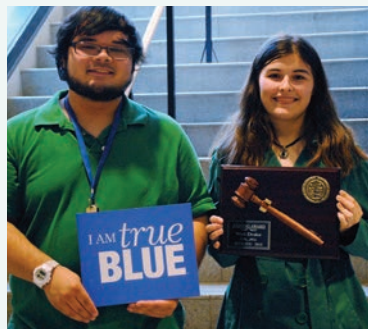
the Midgett Building, and included several business meetings and conferences. A banquet and awards ceremony was held on Sunday. Vigorous, exciting competition resulted in a national title for the team from UT–Knoxville, which squeaked past LSU–Shreveport by only two points.

The tournament took over a year to plan, and the MTSU team and its director, **Patrick Richey**

(Speech and Theatre), received indispensable help from faculty and staff members, students, and many academic and corporate sponsors.

Hosting the prestigious event capped one of the most successful competitive seasons ever for MTSU Debate. Several members performed with distinction in national competitions in surrounding states; Marquwan Fultz and Alvin Loyd did quite well on their home campus at the IPDA Nationals; and the team won several sweepstakes awards for percentage of wins in tournaments.

Last year's IPDA season, and especially its close at MTSU, added luster to the University's already shining debate reputation, and the future of forensics at MTSU looks very bright indeed. ■



The College of Liberal Arts brings noted speakers to campus each year. At many different events, renowned scholars and researchers share insights on a variety of topics intended to inform and educate and create discussion.

Dean Mark Byrnes believes in the power of the spoken word and is passionate about the college's role in bringing national and world figures to the University. "We have been very fortunate in recent years to have found funding to host speakers such as retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, author David McCullough, and musician Béla Fleck, to name a few," Byrnes said. "These are people who have helped shape their respective fields and our world, and we want to be able to continue this tradition for our students and the larger community." Byrnes says events like the Windham Lecture Series, which was established by William and Westy Windham through the MTSU Foundation, "truly embody the value of a liberal arts education—helping people become more reflective about their beliefs and choices, more creative in their problem solving, more

perceptive of the world around them, and better able to inform themselves about the issues that arise in their lives."



Podium Power

by Gina E. Fann, Jimmy Hart, Gina K. Logue, and Drew Ruble

Here is a look at some of the speakers who came to campus in 2014.

Windham Lecture Sheds Light on Tennessee's Political "Coup"

Public affairs consultant and former journalist **Keel Hunt** brought the story of Tennessee's unprecedented bipartisan ouster of a corrupt governor to the Windham Lecture Series in April.

Alumnus Hunt ('71), author of *Coup: The Day the Democrats Ousted Their Governor, Put Republican Lamar Alexander in Office Early, and Stopped a Pardon Scandal*, was joined in Tucker Theatre by **Alexander**, now Tennessee's senior U.S. senator; **John Seigenthaler**, *The Tennessean* editor emeritus; and former U.S. Attorney **Hal Hardin** ('66) for an in-depth discussion of the 1979 political scandal.

The panel recalled the story of Tennessee's constitutional crisis 35 years ago, when then governor Ray Blanton signed 52 executive clemencies, including pardons for a political pal's son and 20 other convicted murderers, during a federal investigation into a clemency-for-cash scandal. "One reason I wrote the book was that it was an extraordinary tale," Hunt said. "In hindsight, it's a pretty good case study in an episode of very serious bipartisanship at a very high level in our state government."

Leaders heard about Blanton's plan to issue more pardons before Alexander was to be sworn in Jan. 20, 1979. Hardin, also an MTSU alumnus, called Alexander with the news.

"And I said, 'I'm not calling you as the United States Attorney, I'm calling you as a Tennessean, and here's what I know,'" Hardin told the audience, adding that he remembers that day's events "like it was yesterday."

Working with the state attorney general to determine whether an early inauguration was constitutional, Alexander, a Republican, had only a few hours to collaborate with Speaker of the House Ned Ray McWherter and Lt. Gov. John Wilder, both Democrats, to find a solution, which they did. Alexander took the oath of office three days early in the Tennessee Supreme Court chambers, and the bipartisan scramble prevented more pardons.

Alexander recalled how he felt. "I had to think about, 'How do you do this, since it has never been done?' Going through my mind were things like, 'If I appear to be the usurper of power, Tennessee will be even more of a laughingstock because of the pardons.'"

Attendees at the lecture watched archival news footage from the day that Alexander took the oath of office. "The days and weeks prior to this, all of the media in Tennessee was telling the story,



either in print or in broadcast, the story of the scandal,” said Seigenthaler, who wrote the forward to Hunt’s book and was editor-in-chief of Nashville’s daily paper at the time. “There were very few people in the state at the time who didn’t understand that this scandal, this crisis, was on us,” he said.

Hunt, a former *Tennessean* reporter and city editor who campaigned for Alexander in the 1978 election and later became his special assistant and speechwriter, interviewed many of the surviving participants for his book and learned details that surprised even Alexander. “I admire so much the book Keel has written because he’s collected a lot of stories I didn’t know anything about, because I was in the center of it,” Alexander said. Hunt called his book “a story of a crisis, and mainly the story of how that crisis was resolved. And the solution was a one of a kind.” He added, “I appreciate that a lot of the appeal of the story is due to the scandal and the corruption, but, genuinely, what was more interesting to me was how these other folks worked through the solution on that afternoon. There was a crisis, but there was also the solution. I would say this is not so much a story about bad guys doing wrong: it’s about good guys doing right.”

Hunt said of MTSU, “This is where I came of age. . . . This is where I spent my undergraduate time and made friends and associates that have been dear to me for the past 50 years. I’m so grateful to MTSU for what this University means to our state and so many like me.”

[Editor’s note: Dr. William Windham was a member of the faculty from 1955 to 1989 and served as chair of the Department of History for 11 years. His first wife, the late Westy Windham, earned a master’s in sociology at MTSU and founded the Great American Singalong. Since her death, Windham and his wife, Doris, have continued their sponsorship of the lecture series.]

Other Speakers

Sebastian Masuda, the “king” of Harajuku, a popular Tokyo shopping district, spoke as a guest of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature in March. The fashion icon, artist, and art director is also founder of the 6% Dokidoki clothing line.

Alumnus **Mark Hall** (’77) offered his views about the Affordable Care Act during his talk “Should the Young Subsidize Healthcare for the Old and Other Obamacare Conundrums of Social Justice” in October 2013. Hall is a professor in the Social Sciences and Health Policy Center for Integrative Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

In April, **Kamilah Aisha Moon**, a Pushcart Prize winner whose writing has appeared in the *Harvard Review*, *Oxford American*, *Essence*, and many other print and Internet publications, visited the creative writing class of Jennifer Kates (English). Kates said, “Visiting writers bring their individual experiences to the class; they are able to answer budding writers’ questions about process and publishing; and they make the art real.”

In March, the Department of History welcomed **Kris Lane**, holder of the Francis V. Scholes Chair in Colonial Latin American History at Tulane University. He presented “Debasing the Coin of the Realm: Crime and Crisis in the 17th-century Spanish Empire.”

Baseball Conference Brings the Past to Life

Willie Wilson, a former All-Star with the Kansas City Royals, shared stories from his career during an April 4 luncheon address at the ninth annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference. Wilson was an American League All-Star outfielder in 1982 and 1983 and led the league in singles for four consecutive seasons (1979–1982). He led the league in stolen bases in 1979 and captured the league batting title in 1982.

After the luncheon, Wilson signed copies of his book *Inside the Park: Running the Base Path of Life*, cowritten with Kent Pulliam.

The conference also presented turn-of-the-century baseball by reenactors who play in their own “vintage” league. Representatives of the Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball in period uniforms demonstrated an early version of the sport in Walnut Grove.

“The earliest versions of the game before it began to professionalize after the Civil War still had some of the same structures in place,” said Dr. Warren Tormey, a lecturer in the Department of English and codirector of the conference with English professor Dr. Ron Kates. Tormey said players did not wear gloves, and spectators saw much more cooperation between the pitcher and hitter than in the modern game.

Throughout the conference, leading baseball scholars delivered presentations on topics including the place of baseball in American childhood; the upcoming move of the Atlanta Braves to Cobb County, Ga.; and the politics of umpires’ calls.

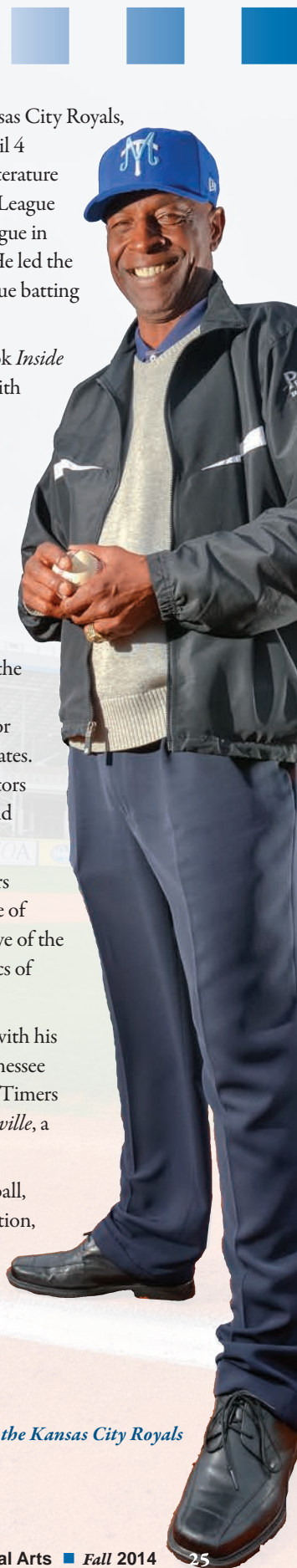
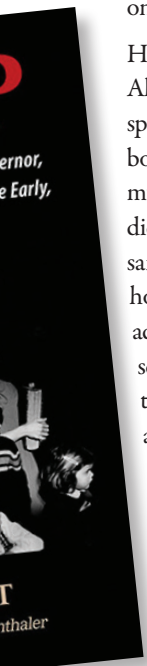
Skip Nipper, a local baseball historian, set the tone with his keynote address, “The Emerging Era of Middle Tennessee Base-Ball.” Nipper is president of the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association and author of *Baseball in Nashville*, a pictorial history.

Referring to the enduring academic interest in baseball, Tormey repeated historian Jacques Barzun’s observation, “Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.”

“No other sport has been credited with that sort of status in connection with larger developments in American society,” Tormey said. ■

Willie Wilson, a former All-Star with the Kansas City Royals

photo: J. Intintoli



THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK



by Gina K. Logue

An art major's creativity scores a goal

Although Scott Sulfridge's favorite hockey team didn't make the playoffs, he has more reason than most fans to be excited. Scott's favorite sport gave his budding art career a boost when Nashville Predators fans picked his work as the winner of this season's Design the Mask contest.

Sulfridge fashioned a guitar neck and strings across the top of the goalie's mask and piano keys around the bottom edge to represent Music City, and he included a stylized Nashville skyline. A guitar pick on the mask includes the three stars from the Tennessee flag.

Predators goalie Pekka Rinne wore the mask during morning skate and warm-up before the Preds' thrilling 4-3 at-home overtime victory on March 30 over the Washington Capitals.

Sulfridge went to the game with three guests and visited the locker room afterward to meet Rinne and get autographs. (He also attended a closed-door morning skate practice.)

Scott's love of hockey began with his father, a Buffalo Sabres fan who took his son to see the Nashville Knights, a minor league team that predated the Preds. "My uncle deepened my appreciation of hockey, too, as the '97-'98 season started," said Sulfridge. "What's funny about that is he's not even American or Canadian. He's from Australia!"

Fans submitted designs for the mask through the Internet, an app, or in person at AT&T stores in January. Three finalists were chosen by Predators officials from more than 150 entries. The finalists were voted on by fans via the Web. Sulfridge's winning design was forwarded to NHL headquarters for approval and then to Dave Gunnarsson, a Swedish artist who has been painting goalie masks for more than 20 years.

On pace to graduate with a B.F.A. in December 2014, Sulfridge credits Associate Professor Michael Baggarly with helping make him a better artist. "He's always pushed me to do my hardest work, even when I thought I had done my hardest work," Sulfridge said.

In the meantime, Sulfridge and his business partner, James Mangrum, are creating a different type of mask through their fledgling company, Uncanny Valley Productions. "We're hoping to branch out into a little more diverse and complex forms of mask making, but right now we do vacuum-form styrene plastic masks," Sulfridge said. "And we specialize in vintage and retro-style monsters like vampires, mummies—things like that." Sulfridge's favorite mask, however, is the one he did not make from scratch—it's the one that he designed that bears Pekka Rinne's autograph. That's one he'll keep for the rest of his life. ■



MTSU Graphic Design Student Wins Best of Show ADDY (again!)

In February, students and faculty from the Department of Art attended the American Advertising Award (ADDY) ceremony in Nashville. The national awards program is for full- and part-time students enrolled in accredited colleges or universities. There were 310 entries submitted from nine universities; MTSU entered approximately 50 projects. The students, all concentrating in Graphic Design, won ten Gold Awards, eight Silver Awards, the Rising Star Award, and Best of Show.

It was the fourth year in a row that an MTSU design student won Best of Show, which went this time to **Jolene Binkley** for her "Zoey and Friends" campaign. **Kelsey Greer** won the Rising Star award for her "New Eyes" calendar. Projects that won gold were forwarded to the regional ADDY competition. Students who won silver had the option of sending their work to the regional competition for a fee. ■

Gold Awards

Ruby Jazz, Enlightened
Taylor M. Watson,
Sisters of Seattle Annual Report
Kyle Patterson, Mine vs. Yours
LaRon Stewart, Vagrancy PSA
Abigail Atkins, Random Acts
Promotional Calendar
Kelsey Greer, New Eyes Calendar

Kyle Patterson, redpepper Intern
Promotional Video
Erhan Farmer, ArtFlow
Jolene Binkley, Zoey and Friends
Alexa Games, Polaris Island Resort Campaign

Silver Awards

Joy McCrary, Salt on the Rim Annual Report
Taylor M. Watson, Not All Clowns . . .
Whitney Walker Pierce, How to Look the Part
Erhan Farmer, Create

Courtney Hunter, Exposed
Sterling Hooks, Down Memory Lane
Kyle Patterson, Parents Raising
Dinosaur Kids
Erhan Farmer, Respect

Rising Star Award

Kelsey Greer, New Eyes Calendar

Best of Show

Jolene Binkley, Zoey and Friends

STUDENT
ADDY[®]

THE FUTURE OF ADVERTISING



Pictured left to right: Abigail Atkins, Whitney Pierce, Alexa Games, Sterling Hooks, Ruby Jazz, LeRon Stewart, Jolene Binkley, Taylor Watson, Erhan Farmer, Courtney Hunter, Kelsey Greer, Kyle Patterson, Joy McCrary

Success Starts Here

by Jimmy Hart

Liberal Arts legislative interns get close-up view of state politics



Front Row L-R: TBR Vice Chancellor David Gregory, Dean of Liberal Arts Mark Byrnes, State Senator Jim Tracy, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, State Senator Bill Ketron ('76), State Senator Steve Southerland, State Representative Joshua Evans, former State Representative and Director of MTSU Community Engagement and Support John Hood ('54); **Second Row L-R:** Michael Joak, Logan Elliott, Timecia Terry, Jared Adams, Jim Carpenter, Sara Mejia-Gomez, Wade Barnett, Nuraldeen Brifkani, Laura Ann Moore, Mark Naifeh, Jake King

A friend told senior **Timecia Terry** that she would be well served by participating in the University's legislative internship program, which gives students an inside look at lawmaking in the state's capital.

Wrapping up her internship with Sen. Jim Tracy (R-Shelbyville) and approaching graduation, the Political Science major from Nashville said she was thrilled that she took her friend's advice. "I learned a lot. I met a lot of great people," said Terry, who had previously completed a judicial branch internship. "I tried to get as much experience as possible. . . It's very broad. There are a lot of different things you can learn." Terry was among 13 MTSU students who worked as legislative interns during the most recent session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Dean Byrnes said the internships give students direct experience in state legislative processes. Among their responsibilities are bill analysis, constituent work, research, and general office work. "We send our students to Nashville for an entire legislative session to work for either a member or committee," Byrnes said. "The idea is to give them hands-on experience and experiential learning to supplement what they learn in the classroom."

Students are selected through a competitive process for the paid internships, and though many are Political Science majors, the positions are open to any major, Byrnes said. MTSU funds internships for students serving the Rutherford County legislative delegation. Students can also vie for spots with other

lawmakers and committees through the state legislative internship program, which has been around for four decades and is open to students at colleges and universities across the state.

Jake King, a senior Political Science major from Murfreesboro, interned with Rep. Dawn White (R-Murfreesboro). King learned that the atmosphere surrounding a piece of legislation can change quickly within the halls of the Capitol. "The main thing I've taken away from this internship is to expect the unexpected," King said with a wry smile. "You go in thinking, 'I know all about state government,' and you have no idea."

For the interns, "the vast majority say it's the best thing they ever did in college," Byrnes said. "Occasionally we'll get one that says, 'Ooh. Politics is not for me.' But to me that's a valid response; they've still learned something."

President Sidney A. McPhee lauded the program for matching classroom instruction with real-world application of theories. "What they learn during the internships—you can't teach that in the classroom," McPhee said. "Many of the alums who've gone through this program have gone on to take important positions within government and private industry." McPhee called the student interns among "the best and brightest that our university has to offer."

Sen. Bill Ketron (R-Murfreesboro) was so impressed with intern **Sara Mejia-Gomez** that he involved her in research for

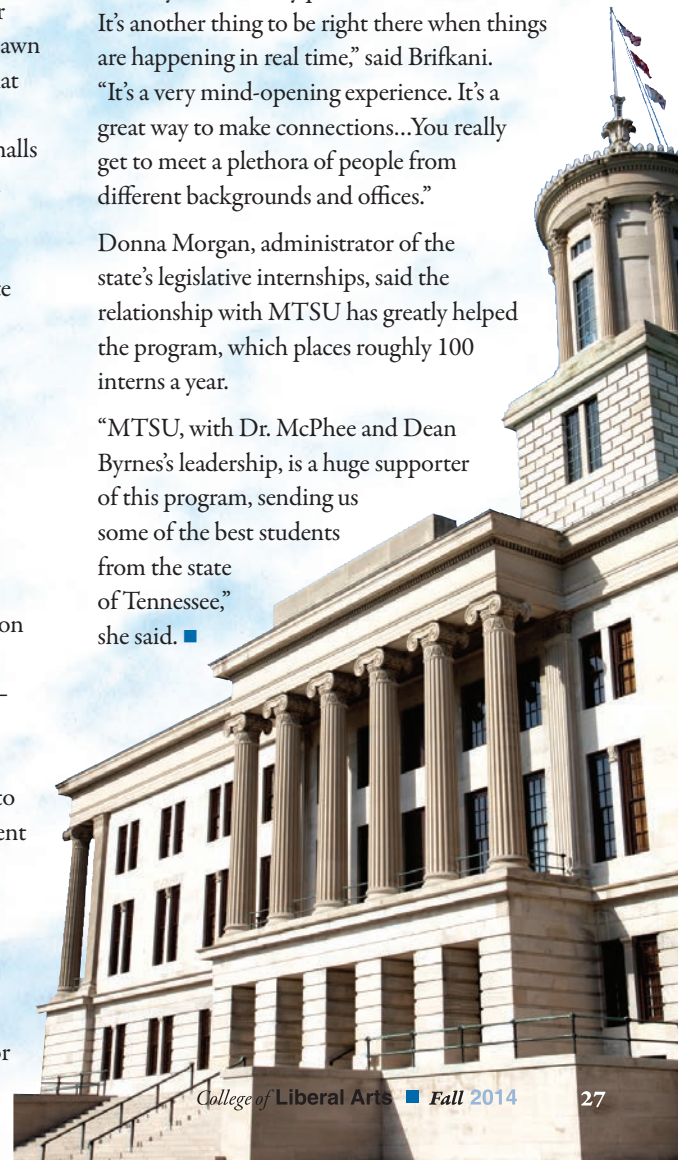
his proposal to study the feasibility of a monorail from Murfreesboro to Nashville.

"The quality of the students that I get in my office is simply amazing," said Ketron, who later hired Mejia-Gomez in his private business in Murfreesboro after she graduated in May. "It's such a great program." Mejia-Gomez, a senior International Relations major from Brentwood, said working on the monorail study project, in which she was a lead researcher, has given her confidence that the experience will pay off later in her career.

Nuraldeen Brifkani, a junior English major with a minor in Political Science, interned in the office of Rep. Charles Sargent (R-Franklin). "It's one thing to study politics, to study law, to study policies in the classroom. It's another thing to be right there when things are happening in real time," said Brifkani. "It's a very mind-opening experience. It's a great way to make connections... You really get to meet a plethora of people from different backgrounds and offices."

Donna Morgan, administrator of the state's legislative internships, said the relationship with MTSU has greatly helped the program, which places roughly 100 interns a year.

"MTSU, with Dr. McPhee and Dean Byrnes's leadership, is a huge supporter of this program, sending us some of the best students from the state of Tennessee," she said. ■



Inaugural Fall Applied Philosophy Lyceum

The Department of Philosophy has presented the Applied Philosophy Lyceum (APL) during every spring semester since 1992. This year, it became a semiannual event when the department sponsored the inaugural fall semester APL on November 8.

The speaker was Dr. Carlin Romano, professor of philosophy and humanities at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania, controversial and provocative polemicist, and critic-at-large for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. He explained why he thinks the U.S. is a vibrantly philosophical civilization, possibly even the greatest of all time—a contention he elucidated in *America the Philosophical* (Knopf 2012), a 672-page study of philosophy in American life. The *New York Times Book Review*, on its front page, called the book “an encyclopedic survey of the life of the mind in the United States.”

Dr. Romano is a former president of the National Book Critics Circle, and his criticism has appeared in the *Nation*, the *New Yorker*, the *New*

York Times, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *American Scholar*, *Harper's*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *Tikkun*, the *Village Voice*, and other esteemed publications.

He has taught philosophy at Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, Yeshiva University, Williams College, Bennington College, Temple University, and (in Russia) St. Petersburg State University and Herzen University, where he was a Fulbright professor.

Romano is a three-time winner of the Society of Professional Journalists First Prize in Criticism and a recipient of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Distinguished Arts Criticism Award and Commonwealth Speaker Award.

He was cited for “bringing new vitality to the classic essay across a formidable array of topics” as a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism. ■

The Tennessee Literary Project: Students Preserving a Precious Legacy

Proposed by **Dr. Randy Mackin** of the English Department, the Tennessee Literary Project (TLP) is a Special Topics in Writing course that, since 2009, has become an ongoing effort to promote and preserve the work of Tennessee-born writers and those closely associated with the state. The project is unusual in that it relies on the work of students who interview writers, take photos, and produce biographical pieces.

The TLP grew out of a conversation between Dr. Mackin and the late William Gay, a native of Hohenwald, Tenn., and the author of several novels and a number of short stories. (His first novel, *The Long Home*, won the 1999 James A. Michener Memorial Prize.)

Gay told Mackin that he wished Tennessee treated its writers the way Mississippi does, contrasting the celebrity of writers such as Faulkner and Welty with the relative anonymity of Tennessee authors with similar backgrounds and working with similar themes. The discussion gave Mackin the idea for the TLP.

“I'm proud that we are actually doing something that hasn't exactly been done before, and that is why so much emphasis has been placed on students making the project and the biographies ‘their own,’” said Mackin. “Other schools—UTK and UT–Chattanooga—have launched Tennessee author projects, but the efforts have not really been maintained and neither was personalized by the student participants.

Their work was almost exclusively research-based and lacked the personality that TLP students have successfully contributed to our project.”

Mackin added, “Students in TLP are given the opportunity to do something no one else has done: write original biographies that emphasize their own voices and styles, build a database of research and interviews for public access, and, I think, bring to the state's literary landscape a unique offering of their own. Students get full byline credit . . . and if the project's work leads to actual book publication, the students will become published writers.”

Find the Tennessee Literary Project at www.mtsu.edu/tnlitproj. ■

(adapted from an article by Kara Wilson, former Tennessee Literary Project intern)



Inset photo: Christopher Dilts

Hail to the Chief

by Jimmy Hart

MTSU grad student introduces President Obama

Graduate history student **Joshua Crutchfield** made some personal history earlier this year when he introduced President Barack Obama at a gathering of grass-roots organizations in Washington, D.C. Organizing for Action, a nonprofit that works to advance the president's policy objectives, invited the Murfreesboro resident to the National Organizing Summit held on February 25.

The invitation was sparked by a letter to the editor that Crutchfield wrote that was published in the *Daily News Journal* in which he explained how easy it was for him to sign up for healthcare coverage through healthcare.gov/marketplace under the Affordable Care Act. Crutchfield signed up after being dropped from his parents' insurance when he turned 26. Encouraged by his mom to visit the website, Crutchfield said he found a BlueCross BlueShield plan that only cost him \$54 a month after qualifying for a federal subsidy because of his graduate student status.

"There were a lot of plans to choose from," he said. "I got a really good deal. I really haven't skipped a beat since being dropped from my parents' plan: same doctor, same network, pretty much everything."

For Crutchfield, the best thing about the trip was that he and his parents, Eric and Barbara, and his brother, Justin, a 22-year-old MTSU business major, were able to meet the president and share the experience with him. Before the introduction, they spent 15 minutes or

so privately with the president, who greeted the Crutchfield men with a handshake and Barbara with a hug.

"She was probably more nervous than I was," Crutchfield said of his mom. "But I think we were all nervous. But once meeting him, it felt like meeting somebody that I already know. . . . He even gave my brother some business advice." For Crutchfield, who is black, personally meeting the nation's first black president carried special significance. "Every president is historic, you know, but especially this particular one," he said. "And I've read so many things about him, about his history . . . all that was in the back of my head as I was meeting him."

Crutchfield admitted that he was nervous introducing President Obama at first, but he fed off the crowd's energy and quickly relaxed.

He told the audience "But here's the thing—I didn't get covered just so that I can afford treatment if something happens. I did it so that something won't happen. I can go to the doctor before anything ever becomes a problem. . . . Healthcare reform isn't just about saving lives; it's also about living and living well!"

An introduction that lasted less than five minutes created memories that will last a lifetime. "After I introduced [Obama], he came up to shake my hand. He called me a natural at giving a speech. I said, 'No, not at all,'" said Crutchfield, a graduate teaching assistant who is accustomed to talking to audiences. "But not on that level," he said. "Giving a lecture is one thing, but this was something totally different."

At a dinner that evening as part of the summit, President Obama mentioned the historical role of the black church in grass-roots movements and how women played significant roles. Crutchfield was struck by how those comments related to his own academic research, in which he's exploring the relationship between the church and the black power movement. It's that call to action threading through history that prompted a young graduate student to share his experience with the practical aspect of a historic piece

"I'm not going to be a historian that's just a straight academic. I'm going to be one who is engaged with the public and my community."

of legislation by writing a letter to a local newspaper.

"Part of it is my academics. I'm a historian. I feel it's a responsibility that I have," Crutchfield said of why he wrote the letter. "I'm not going to be a historian that's just a straight academic. I'm going to be one who is engaged with the public and with my community." ■



FAITH HANDLERS

by Allison Gorman

A folklorist studies a widely misunderstood Appalachian tradition

Years before the National Geographic Channel sent film crews to Middlesboro, Ky., to document the life of preacher Jamie Coots for the show *Snake Salvation*, Associate Professor Patricia Gaitely (English) was there doing some documenting of her own. Equipped with a simple recorder and camera, a notebook, a Bible, and sometimes a tambourine, she traveled to Coots's church and other small congregations in the rural Southeast to immerse herself in the culture of snake handling. She'd long been fascinated by this unusual Appalachian tradition, and she hoped to interview women in the insular, generally patriarchal denominations in which snake handling is practiced. What she learned changed many of her assumptions about these people, whose lives bear little resemblance to reality TV.





Left Inset: Gaitely at Pastor Jimmy Morrow's church in east Tennessee holding a snake box (securely) containing a copperhead. Photo by Rhonda L. McDaniel. Top: Pastor Morrow handling a copperhead during a worship service. Right: Pam Morrow (Jimmy's wife), Gaitely, and Jimmy Morrow at their home.

Gaitely began with more than a passing knowledge of the subject. Raised Anglican, she started attending Pentecostal services at age 22, before she left her native England for graduate school in Alabama. "I was familiar with fairly lively expressions of worship," she says. "I believed in the supernatural, in healing, and speaking in tongues,

that kind of thing." But snake handling was a different matter. Only a few Pentecostal congregations—usually identified as "Holiness" churches—believe in a scriptural mandate (Mark 16:18) to take up serpents as a sign of faith.

The first known snake handler practiced in East Tennessee in 1909, but the tradition is older than that, Gaitely says. It spread throughout southern Appalachia, where it still attracts a vibrant subculture with hundreds of adherents. When Gaitely joined MTSU in 2006, she saw an opportunity to explore that subculture from its birthplace. "As a Christian, I am very interested in how others of the same faith express that faith," she says. "I'm also interested in snakes and belonged to a reptile club in Alabama. So it was an intriguing combination for me."

"As a Christian, I am very interested in how others of the same faith express that faith," she says. "I'm also interested in snakes and belonged to a reptile club in Alabama. So it was an intriguing combination for me."

The Internet and fellow researchers led her to Del Rio, Tenn., Sand Mountain, Ala., and Middlesboro, to churches that seemed remote from the world, although they weren't far from the interstate. "Many are in quite depressed areas," she says. "Every time I went to Middlesboro, it seemed like something else in town had closed down."

When first visiting a church, Gaitely usually sat in the back, near other women. ("I would *never* have presumed to sit behind the pulpit with the men who were sitting there," she says.) To interview the women, however, she typically went through a male "gatekeeper." But once she had access, what she saw and heard surprised her. The women acknowledged their traditional biblical roles as subordinate to men, yet they felt spiritually empowered. "I found that many women were active in these services, rather than passive," Gaitely says. They couldn't preach, but they "testified" (often a slim difference), sang and played music, and handled snakes as the spirit led them.

They also seemed socially empowered, as Gaitely noted in an article for the *North Carolina Folklore Journal*. They set their own standards for biblically appropriate dress and behavior. And because their

congregations functioned much like extended families, sharing practical and sometimes even financial support, child rearing was less onerous and lonely than it can be for many mothers, especially those facing economic hardship. That might explain why many of the women Gaitely met weren't raised in the tradition, as she had assumed, but had joined it voluntarily. As she concludes in her article, "The way of life they have chosen, and the way these women have chosen to express their faith, grants them a degree of freedom, autonomy, and self-expression that some with more material resources might find enviable."

Television has portrayed these communities as anything but enviable, as Gaitely predicted it would when she was visiting the Del Rio church and the BBC arrived to film a service for its documentary *Around the World in 80 Faiths*. "I remember saying, 'I know what they're going to focus on. They're going to film the toothless person or the person dancing around with no shoes on'—and that's pretty much what they did."

Gaitely has never seen *Snake Salvation*, but she understands its appeal; fascination with snake handling sparked her own research. (The subject got fresh media attention when Jamie Coots died of a snake bite in February, and again when his son Cody, who succeeded him, suffered a

nonfatal bite in May.) But she says focusing solely on snake handling—which, if it happens at all, might take up 10 minutes of a two-hour service—misses the larger picture, which is about people searching for spiritual authenticity. That's a tradition as old as humankind. ■



Expert U Folklorist Trish Gaitely isn't the only MTSU professor with an academic interest in serpent handling. **Dr. Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand**, assistant professor of religious studies in the Department of Philosophy, is frequently quoted by news outlets that cover the practice, specifically regarding legal aspects of the Tennessee law passed in 1947 that banned it. The last formal legal challenge to the law occurred in 1975, when the Tennessee Supreme Court weighed public safety over religious liberty and confirmed that serpent handling was too dangerous to be legal.

A Classical Connection Like No Other

Wind Ensemble's second Naxos CD features international composers

by Gina E. Fann

The MTSU Wind Ensemble stands alone in Tennessee with the release of its second CD, *Earthrise*, a collaboration with three international composers on Naxos, known as the world's leading classical music label.

"We're the only school in Tennessee that has one CD with Naxos, let alone two," said Dr. Reed Thomas, director of bands and professor of music and conducting in the School of Music.

Thomas conducted the ensemble for *Earthrise* and 2011's *Angels in the Architecture*. "It's such a great opportunity and a great experience for our students," he said.

Dr. Michael Parkinson, the school's new director, said working with Naxos of America, the Franklin, Tenn., U.S. headquarters of Hong Kong-based Naxos Classical Music Group, is especially remarkable for students. "It brings them into that world of recording that many musicians, let alone student musicians, never experience," he said. "Of course, preparing and performing a piece is a given in music education, but to have the opportunity to schedule several days for working with an internationally recognized recording company is very rare. It's a wonderful opportunity to provide documentation of their work for years and years to come."

The collection, now available as an MP3, was released on CD in February as part of the Naxos Wind Band Classics Series. You can listen to previews of the CD on iTunes at <http://ow.ly/tvy74> and learn more about it at Naxos at <http://ow.ly/steCZ>.

The featured composers' backgrounds range from military bands to rock and jazz music.

Nigel Clarke's title piece "Earthrise," represents the drama of the entire NASA Apollo 8 flight. That work contrasts with the composer's "Heritage Suite," an aural picture of life in the historic English market town of West Malling. Clarke's "Their Finest Hour," celebrating the Battle of Britain, uses the actual alarm bell that called RAF fighter pilots into action. Clarke, a

former MTSU composer-in-residence, recorded the pieces with the Wind Ensemble in spring 2012 after the U.S. premiere of "Earthrise" in Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building.

Composer Kit Turnbull, a friend of Clarke's, provided "Griot," in which a trombone assumes the role of a griot—a West African poet, storyteller, and musician who keeps tribal stories alive.

"This trombone concerto was written especially for our soloist, Professor David Loucky," Thomas said. "It's a very different piece than you normally expect from a trombone concerto, and I think people will really enjoy it."

Jesús Santandreu's "Sortes Diabolorum" evokes the violence of the Inquisition and the eventual triumph of common sense over superstition.

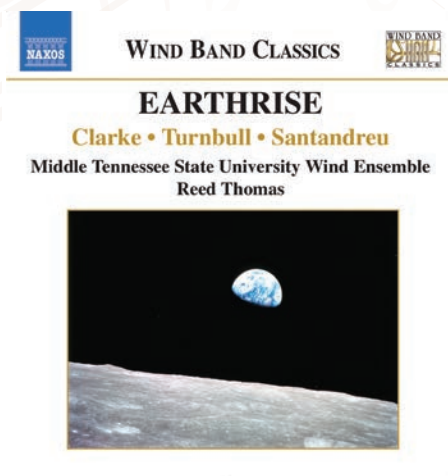
Thomas explained Santandreu's contribution to *Earthrise*.

"We'd met in Chicago at a conference, and he gave me a copy of his work and said, 'I've heard a lot about you at MTSU. Please play this and enjoy it,' just like that. We did!" Thomas said. "He spent a week with us and recorded it . . . and then I saw him again and asked him if he'd ever conducted his own music. He said no, and, long story short, he came to MTSU to study conducting with me, and he's now a second-year graduate teaching assistant here in the School of Music."

Thomas said the ensemble members hope to work again with all three composers. Clarke is already making plans to work with the group next year for a possible premiere, and the ensemble certainly would be proud to continue its work for Naxos.

"Naxos titles are distributed internationally via hard copy and streaming audio, so this is a wonderful thing for our students," Parkinson said. "With this partnership, we're essentially dropping a very large rock in the musical waters right now, and it will have an impact for years to come. For our students, the school,

and the University to have the opportunity to record a second CD with Naxos speaks very well as to the esteem with which they hold us. International composers are getting outstanding performances of their works from us that others will be striving to attain. It's a winning situation all around." ■



Musicians on *Earthrise*

Megan Baldwin, Roya Farzaneh, Aleesha Hillis, Melissa Keeling, Shannon Moore, Anna Laura Williams (flute/piccolo)

Robin Pope, Laura Ann Ross (oboe)

Randall Chapman, Gordon Inman, Chase King, Gabrielle Molina, Dustin Odom, Scott Rife (clarinet)

Jamie Kirkland, Sarah Pleace, Shelby Swick (bass clarinet)

Nelson Moore, Tristan Gordon, Colton McKnight, Jovan Quallo, David Williford (saxophone)

Kimberly Cook, David Hull (bassoon)

Andrew England, Amelia Honea, Tara Kloostra, John Sells (horn)

Michael Arndt, D.J. Creech, Matt France, Nick Haynes, James McCarl, Kyle Smiley, Shannon Stewart, Dan Whaley (trumpet/cornet/flugelhorn)

Tanner Antonnetti, Andrew Janes, Phillip Jones, Brad Keesler, Aaron King (trombone)

Matt Cantrell, Jeff McDonald (euphonium)

Alex Craft, Justin Miller (tuba)

Cremaine Booker (cello)

Mandy Funderburk (string bass)

Yeifei Wang (piano)

Caroline Scism (harp)

Christopher DeBerry, William Hickok, Tyler Hildreth, Brooke Huffman, Drew Jones, Chris Lowry, Chris Murphree, Ben Zolkower (percussion)

Something to Sing About

Dr. Cedric Dent Is Hall of Famer by Gina E. Fann

School of Music professor Cedric Dent and his colleagues in the award-winning group Take 6 are members of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. The a cappella sextet, formed in 1980, joined other Gospel Music Association (GMA) honorees at a ceremony at Lipscomb University earlier this year.

Dent joined MTSU in 2005 and teaches courses in music theory, the history of black gospel music, and music industry and directs the MTSU Singers, a jazz vocal ensemble. He toured with Take 6 until 2011, then began teaching full-time.

“Take 6 laid the foundation for what has become the norm for professional and collegiate vocal jazz ensembles today,” Dent said, referring to the popularity of televised vocal competitions such as the a cappella show *The Sing-Off* and shows like *Glee* and *Smash*. “Being innovators in the field is one of the accomplishments of which I’m most proud.”

The group’s harmonies, with Dent’s rich baritone, were reason enough to get the GMA’s attention. But Dent also points to “big-band . . . chord voicings, gospel music-inflected solos, a bass vocalist imitating upright and electric bass riffs, and finger snaps keeping time in tunes employing a jazz swing feel” that mark Take 6 performances. The group won 12 Grammys and is the most Grammy-nominated vocal group in history.

Dent, who earned a Ph.D. in music theory while touring and recording, says the most enjoyable part of his career has been the travel. “I’ve literally seen the world,” he says. “I’ve also met very interesting people.” Take 6 sang for five U.S. presidents and for Nelson Mandela and collaborated with the likes of Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Don Henley,

David Foster, Bobby McFerrin, Queen Latifah, and Herbie Hancock.

He’s been able to incorporate his experiences into his classes to help students prepare for lives as professional musicians and teachers. “When parents and potential students express concern about making a living in the field of music, I point to my experience with Take 6 as an example of what can be accomplished,” Dent says. “I hasten to add, however, that students should also be thinking of how to produce multiple streams of income.

“My experience is a wonderful testament to this reality. . . . I made a comfortable living from Take 6, guest lecturing, and as a college professor for several years. And when I was ready to retire from Take 6 to pursue teaching and research, I was able to make the transition based purely on my goals and dreams and not because of financial limitations.”

The men of Take 6 aren’t resting on their latest laurel; the group recently established a scholarship for jazz studies vocal students at MTSU.

“Working with Take 6 has had a direct effect on my research and teaching,” Dent says. “I hope that the publicity garnered from being inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame will draw attention to the Take 6 Vocal Jazz Scholarship Fund as well as my research in the field of gospel music.” ■



The 2010 lineup of Take 6, with MTSU’s Cedric Dent second from right, is shown in this publicity photo by Anthony Scarlati. From left are Alvin Chea, David Thomas, Claude McKnight and brothers Mark and Joey Kibble.



School of Music's Guitar Program

Former students, led by William Yelverton, are enjoying success in many interesting ways.

Luke Finney ('03) is a concerto soloist with the Sewanee Symphony and is in his second year as a visiting professor at the University of the South. He is pursuing his doctorate at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

Silviu Ciulei ('08) completed a concert tour with performances at Belhaven University in Jackson, Miss., and Troy University in Troy, Ala. An instructor at Florida State University, Ciulei won the \$8,000 first prize in the 2014 Schadt Concerto Competition in Allentown, Penn. He was a featured performer/clinician at the Tennessee Guitar Festival held at MTSU in May.

Salome Sandoval ('06) recently performed a concert at Petit Trianon in San Jose, Calif., presented by the South Bay Guitar Society. Salome lives in Boston and performs with the internationally renowned Boston Camerata.

Chris Lee ('04) received his doctorate from the University of North Texas, where he was awarded a doctoral teaching fellowship. He now performs, composes, and teaches in Knoxville.

Matt Palmer ('03) appeared in February as part of the D'Addario Performance Series at Carnegie Hall Series. Matt teaches at

Washington College in Chestertown, Md. In 2013, he was named "Up and Coming Guitarist of the Year" by *Guitar International Magazine* and was a featured performer at the prestigious Norsk Gitarfestival in Hamar, Norway.

K. Alan Shikoh ('12) recorded a CD with the progressive rock band Glass Hammer and joined them on tour. Alan teaches at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn.

Ben James Golden ('10) is touring guitarist for singer Brantley Gilbert. His March–July tour will include at least 39 concerts in 28 states, and a fall tour is planned. ■

Suzette Ervin: From MTSU to HOLLYWOOD

Suzette Ervin ('90) was born with creativity in her genes: her mother is a celebrated Southern artist, and her father was an art director at WSMV when television was in its infancy. The Speech and Theatre major grew up in Nashville and worked for Governor Lamar Alexander while going to school. She started a career in the music industry working for Steve Moore at Starwood Amphitheater. (Moore was later CEO of the Country Music Association.) Ervin then worked at the Nashville production house Scene Three, where she officially launched her television career. She art directed television specials and videos for George Jones, Vince Gill, Waylon Jennings, Dolly Parton, Marty Stuart, Trisha Yearwood, Toby Keith, Reba McEntire, Hank Williams Jr., the Smithereens, and many others.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1995 to work on the prestigious miniseries *Streets of Laredo* with veteran director Joe Sargent, Suzette amassed an impressive list of television credits as an art director for *Follow Your Heart: The Dottie West Story*, *Shattered Mind*, and TV pilots such as *The John Lovitz Show*, *Love*

American Style, *The Ellen Show*, and *Damages*. Her credits as an art director include *Boston Common*, *The Agency*, *Average Joe*, *Good Morning Miami*, *The Tick*, *Out of Bounds*, *Four Corners*, and *Jake in Progress*. She has designed interview sets for George Clooney, Gwyneth Paltrow, Brad Pitt, Ed Norton, Julia Roberts, and many other celebrities for *Access Hollywood*. She did production design work on *Will and Grace*, *The Megan Mullally Show*, *Wickedly Perfect*, and *The Assistant* plus television movies *The Premonition*, *Hostage Hotel*, and *Any Place But Home*. She also designed the feature film *The Last Producer* for director Burt Reynolds.

Suzette has worked with Rob Reiner, John Patterson, Mikael Salomon, Brandon Tartikoff, Hal Needham, Ann-Margaret, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Dennis Miller, and Mark Burnett.

Suzette is now production designer for the Disney Channel's *Good Luck Charlie*. She is shown here with special guests the Muppets, who appeared on the show's 2013 season premiere. ■





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CLA Highlights

Retiring Faculty

With thanks for their years of service and best wishes for the future, we bid farewell to the following College of Liberal Arts colleagues who are retiring: David Rowe (History), Lynn Rice-See (Music), Bonnie Rushlow (Art), Jan Leone (History), Jan Gail Dayton (English), Steven Walker (English), Elizabeth Perez-Reilly (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Lorne McWatters (History), and Caneta Hankins (Historic Preservation).



CLA News

CLA Magazine has won a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) award for Magazine Improvement, Special Merit (a category for institutions with full-time enrollment of over 15,000 students).

Alumni News

Meredith Leigh Burton ('07) attended the Tennessee School for the Blind before MTSU. She graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in English and Speech and Theatre and then obtained her secondary teaching certificate. She enjoys working with students, helping them explore their talents and teaching them self-expression through writing. She lives in Lynchburg, Tenn. Meredith writes young adult fantasy novels, each of which feature disabled protagonists who fight evil. She hopes to show her readers that disabilities are really blessings—

that we all have gifts and long to make a difference in the world.

Jeff Fratus ('14), a recent School of Music grad who concentrated in Instrumental Performance (guitar), received a graduate assistantship from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) for fall 2014 to study with Professor Clare Callahan, an internationally renowned instructor who has headed the program at CCM for 41 years.

Steven Malone ('03) served as children's music conductor for the 2013 television production of *The Sound of Music*. He was associate musical conductor for the Broadway hit *Newsies*, which ran for well over 900 performances

Many of you might remember **Kevin McDaniel** ('13), an anthropology student who was featured in our first *CLA Magazine* (cover story). Kevin has been accepted at the University of Florida, working with one of the top researchers on the Amazon River. He hopes to develop a catalog of ceramic artifacts recovered in the Amazon region.

Alumna and adjunct faculty member **Abi Coffey** ('10) won the 2014 Kentucky Flute Festival.

Ryan Middagh (M.A., 2010) is completing his doctorate in jazz studies at the University of Northern Colorado. He is a lecturer in jazz studies at Vanderbilt.

Tyler Hildreth ('13) and **Heath Lester** became members of "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

History News

Assistant Professor Dawn McCormack has been named assistant dean. Her primary responsibilities will involve assessment and accreditation.

Professor Christoph Rosenmüller has been awarded a Fulbright/García Robles grant to conduct research in Mexico City during the 2014–15 academic year.



History Department 50th Anniversary photos (top to bottom):

Pierce Lodl, son of John Lodl (adjunct)

Former department chair William Windham does the honors

President McPhee stops by

History News cont.

In April, the **History Department** celebrated its **50th anniversary** as a separate academic unit with a gathering at the Ingram Building.

The Tullahoma Campaign is a new book that explores an incident in the Civil War that has been overlooked until now. David E. Currey (Stones River Battleground) and **Professor Robert Hunt** edited the book, which features articles written by Hunt and many photographs. The book is published by Backroads Heritage Inc. of Tullahoma.

Earlier this year, middle and high school students in the middle Tennessee area competed in the 2014 District National History Day (NHD) competition after months of intensive research. This was the largest contest in the district's 13-year history at MTSU with 335 students from 24 schools participating. Students researched original sources to create museum-type exhibits, video documentaries, original performances, or traditional research papers related to the theme "Rights and Responsibilities." The contest sent over 50 students to the state conference in Nashville on April 12. The NHD program annually engages over a half million students in grades 6 through 12 from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and American Samoa. Each fall, students nationwide begin the yearlong program,

2014 District National History Day, Oakland High School students (in no particular order): Ryan Hoelscher, Devon Jefferson, Bailee Prosser, Azalea Hallman, Danielle Apgar, Madison Fellows, Anna Gray, Zack Hicks, Joey Ligon, Elam Miller, Kaitlin Murphy, Katie Nevar, Elizabeth Penn, Kegan Reeves, Anzlee Adams, Deborah Bineza, Carson Blakely, Michaela Carson, Isaiah Edwards, Leya Franklin, Thomas Katchmar, Madeline Kiger, Delaney Lay, Eli Leskinen, Vicki Nguyen, Gabby Rincon, Noah Saracho, Stephen Sensei, Jocelyn Webster, Emily Wilson, and Haley Gooch, teacher Jamie Huffman

competing in a series of history contests in their local communities and states. The top students in each category are selected to participate in the national contest at the University of Maryland in early June.

Political Science News

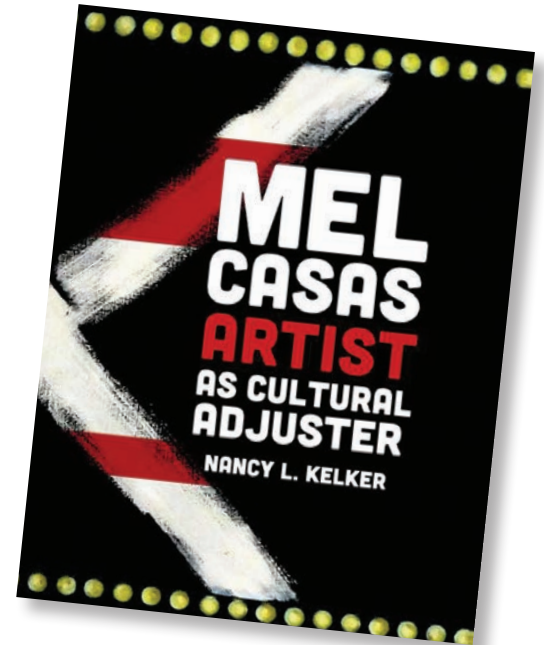
In April, the Department of Political Science held its inaugural Senior Practitioner Lecture in International Affairs with **Jason Lewis-Berry**, director of overseas operations for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations.

Assistant Professor **Amanda DiPaolo**, a new member of the board of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association, will join the faculty at St. Thomas University in her hometown of Fredericton, New Brunswick, in the fall. Her service to students and the University will be missed.

Philosophy News

At April's Applied Philosophy Lyceum, the department welcomed Dr. David Wood, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University, who presented "Disconcerting Experience," a lecture on what can be learned from experiences that may be disorienting or disruptive. Dr. Wood is the author or editor of 16 books including *The Step Back: Ethics and Politics*

After Deconstruction, Time After Time, Thinking After Heidegger, and his latest, *Reinhabiting the Earth*.



Art News

Prof. Nancy L. Kelker's newest book, *Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster*, places the American pop artist's body of work into context and identifies its significant meanings, showcasing how Casas's work became a vehicle for cultural, social, and political commentary from a Chicano point of view. Kelker explains how Casas helped burst society's bubble about on-screen fantasies and highlights consequences associated with overt objectification, hidden truths, and the loss of personal and cultural identity. Academics and educators focusing on postmodern principles of social justice, equity, gender issues, and inclusion will find the book most useful. General readers will appreciate Kelker's ability to present her material in an easily understandable way while adding wit and personal narrative.

continued on page 38



Art News cont.

Meghan O'Connor, a lecturer in the Art Department, had a recent solo exhibition, *Forced Prudence*, at the Nashville International Airport. A series of lithographs, prints, woodcuts, and drawings, the exhibit was part of the airport's "Flying Solo" series.



[Editor's note: Marisa Recchia, Lana P. Beardslee, Eric Snyder, and Debrah C. Sickler-Voight compiled the information for the Art News.]

Music News

Last year, **Professor Cedric Dent** was a panelist in a conversation about gospel music at the American Voices Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Also last year, he received the Heritage Music Award from the National Association of Negro Musicians.

Associate Professor Jamila McWhirter will be the new coordinator of the M.A. in Liberal Arts.

Julie Davila (percussion adjunct) was elected to the Winter Guard International Hall of Fame in April.

Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer was an invited presenter at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in January.

Adjunct professors **Paula Van Goes** and **Jessica Dunnivant**, known as the Greenbrook Ensemble, performed at the 2014 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference in March at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Foreign Languages and Literatures News

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures again hosted the Tennessee Area Japan Speaking Contest, led by Assistant Professor Priya Ananth. Universities from Tennessee and Kentucky participated. Sponsoring the contest were Mitsui & Co. USA, United Airlines, Bridgestone Americas Holding, Nissan North America, Mr. Japanese, Brother International, Toshiba America Information Systems, and the Japan Foundation. Assistance was also provided by the Japan-America Society of Tennessee, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.



L-R: Ellen Robertson, Siegel High School; William Duke, junior; Isley-Farmer; Elizabeth Ann Stripling, sophomore; Collin Peterson, freshman

English News

Effective August 1, the Department of English will have a new chair: **Maria Bachman**, most recently chair of the English Department at Coastal Carolina University in Camden, South Carolina. Dr. Bachman holds a B.A. in international affairs from George Washington University, an M.A. in English from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Her primary areas of study are 19th-century British literature and cognitive literary studies. She is coeditor of the *Victorians Institute Journal*, and she has published and edited scholarly work on Samuel Richardson, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Charles Dickens, Benjamin Disraeli, and Wilkie Collins. During her time at Coastal Carolina, Dr. Bachman also served as director of Interdisciplinary Studies, director of Women's and Gender Studies, and codirector of the University Honors Program. We welcome Dr. Bachman and wish her a long and productive tenure at MTSU.



Dr. Tom Strawman, who chaired the English Department for eight years, is returning to teaching. A recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award and a member of the University Honors Faculty, he has been a quiet, steady force and a much-respected advisor for one of the largest academic departments at MTSU. We thank him for his dedicated service to the department, the college, and the University.



Robert Bray (right) with radio host Geoff Currier.

CLA Highlights

English News cont.

In late February, **Dr. Robert Bray** was invited to participate in a series of presentations and interviews about Tennessee Williams for the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg. He gave the keynote before a showing of *The Glass Menagerie*, spoke at two other gatherings, and did radio interviews and podcasts. The trip was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

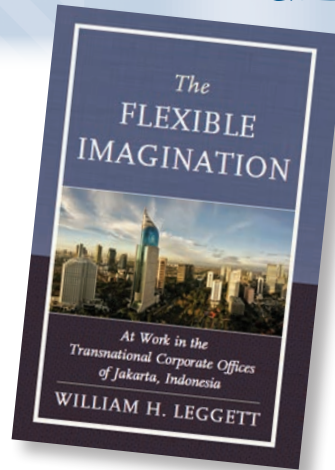
Mr. Matthew Brown (with assistance from other faculty members and **Hilary Miller**, manager of recruitment and resources for the College of Liberal Arts) recently created the Writers Corps: Operation Fireside, a writing workshop for military veterans and their dependents. The group's aim is to provide a place for interested veterans to talk about their experiences so they can gain confidence in their writing. A journal, *DMZ*, is one result of the workshop. Any veteran or veteran's dependent is welcome to visit or join the group by contacting Brown at matthew.brown@msu.edu.

Award presented by Dr. Earl Wright II, president of MSSA to Jackie Eller.



Sociology and Anthropology News

Professor Jackie Eller, chair of the department, was awarded the Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) Distinguished Career Award for exemplary achievements in sociology and for contributions to the MSSA.



Associate Professor Will Leggett's newest book is *The Flexible Imagination: At Work in the Transnational Corporate Offices of Jakarta, Indonesia* (Lexington Books). Dr. Leggett also recently won an MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award.

Professor Kevin Smith recently won an MTSU Distinguished Research Award.

Speech and Theater News

In April, at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C., **Professor Deborah Anderson** won the Milan Stitt Award for Outstanding Teacher of Playwriting. A Kennedy Center press release noted, "Professor Anderson has taught undergraduate playwriting classes at MTSU for more than 25 years. Many of her students have gone on to distinguished graduate playwriting programs, but [her] foundational work in the essential building blocks of playwriting [has] benefited countless students graduating to careers in performance and teaching."



Deborah Anderson receiving her award at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Tucker Theatre was sold-out for all shows at this fall's presentation of *Les Misérables*.

Director Kristi Shamburger, assistant professor, said,

"It was such a pleasure to be able to direct such a beautiful piece and to work with so many talented colleagues and students. The response was overwhelming, and we were so thrilled with the results of all the many hours of work that went into the production!"

The play included MTSU students and community members.

In May, the Experiential Learning Program (EXL) gave its Outstanding EXL Community Partner Award to VSA Tennessee and its executive director, **Ms. Lori Kissinger**, who teaches organizational communication courses. VSA Tennessee is the state affiliate of VSA International, a nonprofit group that works to bring arts and education to those with disabilities.

In Memoriam

Cheryl D. Floyd passed away in August 2013. A native of Baltimore, Md., she was an executive aide in the History Department.

Director of Bands Emeritus **Joseph T. Smith**, who founded what we all know today as the Band of Blue, died in May 2014. Smith was also founding director of the Contest of Champions, one of the longest-running high school band contests in the nation, hosted annually by the Band of Blue.



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