16th Annual Windham Lecture Series

Rory Kennedy, documentary filmmaker and copresident of Moxie Firecracker Films, was on campus April 5 as our speaker for the 16th Annual Windham Lecture Series. William and Doris Windham sponsor this highly anticipated lecture, and the audience was treated to "The Camera Doesn't Lie," the story of many of Kennedy's documentaries such as American Hollow; A Boy's Life, Pandemic, and her latest, The Ghost of Abu Ghraib. These films deal with poverty, abuse, AIDS, drugs, torture, and many other social and economic issues. The State Farm Room was filled to its 250-person capacity, and the attentive audience had the opportunity to question Kennedy about her work. Kennedy graciously took time to meet with the audience following the lecture. The youngest child of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the filmmaker was introduced by a friend of her family and of MTSU, John Seigenthaler. It was a very special evening for the College of Liberal Arts and Middle Tennessee State University.

Dean's Notes

As we close another semester, I would like to take a minute to look back at some of the outstanding performances by students and faculty, events sponsored by the college, and the many other accomplishments we have made. From a documentary filmmaker to a forensic anthropologist to Middle East specialists and authors from many genres, Liberal Arts has reached a new high in bringing in top speakers to the University. We are all about reaching new goals and making improvements. Speaking of improvements, read on for improvements to be made to Peck Hall this summer.

John N. McDaniel, Dean

Peck Hall Under Construction

Peck Hall, built in 1967-68, will be undergoing numerous construction projects this summer. A new Social Work suite will be constructed in the southwest corner of Peck; a new HVAC system will be installed and a second elevator added in what is now PH 243 and PH 343; History secretaries who will be displaced by the new elevator will move to new offices on the north side of the second floor (formerly Psychology Lab offices); and a new English GTA teaching center will be added, along with new ADA restrooms/changing rooms.

These projects will be completed in phases. The first phase will begin on the first floor in early summer, with most work taking place after Session I. There will be no summer classes in Peck Hall after the Session I finals, but the building will remain open with limited air conditioning. If you have any questions about the project, contact Hilary Stallings, at 898-5039.
2007 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Project Winners

Undergraduates

Erin Meaker, Sociology and Anthropology, Poster 219: “The Brainwash of Self-Denial: Cult Indoctrination and Anorexia Nervosa”

Doug Hayes, Geosciences, Poster 217: “Improving Low-Angle Rock Dip Measurements”

Sara McCarty, History, Poster 177: “Our Country Was Then Perfectly Distracted: Nannie Haskins’s Civil War Diary”

Graduates

Hillary Robson, English, Poster 135: “Theorizing the Fan Experience”

Jessica Lendon, Sociology and Anthropology, Poster 100: “The Pharmacist Freedom of Conscience Act and Degree of Religiosity”

Sarah Hildenbrand, English, Poster 128: “Diasporic Identity and Literary Studies”

Fulbright Scholar Coming to MTSU in Spring 2008

Vladimir Ilyin, professor of sociology at St. Petersburg State University, will be at MTSU beginning in spring 2008. He is coming to us as a Fulbright Scholar on behalf of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) and the U.S. Department of State. Ron Aday (Sociology and Anthropology) will serve as faculty associate to Ilyin, who will provide guest lectures and pursue research into American consumerism.

Student Mediation Team

MTSU’s Student Mediation Team participated in the National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament at Drake Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. Andrea Borella, Brian Clifford, Robyn Diez, Ashley George, Jordan Sluder, Tesse Swartz, and Marshall Weber earned All-American Honors—seven of the ten mediators or attorney-client pairs so honored. Jordan Sluder was selected as top mediator in regular competition and fourth in the championship round. Brian Clifford and Marshall Weber were awarded second place as the attorney-client pair in the championship round. Completing the team of participants from MTSU this year were Mindy Glossom, Logan Grant, Channing Hatmaker, Andrew Johnson, and Candes Prewitt. A special thanks goes to Clyde Willis for serving as faculty sponsor and mentor.

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

The Murfreesboro chapter of the AAUW hosted the 2007 state convention on March 23–25. AAUW president Ruth Sweetser was the keynote speaker. Many MTSU faculty members (past and present) contributed to the success of the conference. The Murfreesboro branch was the winner in the first phase of the Member-Get-a-Member Campaign. The Murfreesboro branch brought in the highest number of new members by percentage—13 new members, a 65% increase in one year. Also, Tennessee was the state that brought in the most new members by percentage—20 new members, a 21.18% increase since 2006. If you are interested in joining AAUW, contact Ayne Cantrell at acantrell@comcast.net
Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE)

FIRE officially began March 27, with Internal and External Advisory Board members meeting before the inaugural William M. Bass Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship. Bass, internationally known forensic anthropologist and founder of the famous Body Farm at the University of Tennessee, presented the lecture. Bass serves on the External Advisory Board with Brian O’Hare, Steven Chopin, and Randy Thysse, FBI; Ron Turk, ATF; Nick Fielder, TEMA and Homeland Security; Fran Wheatley and Denise Overton, medical examiner officers; Mike Tabor, State DDS; Philip Smith and Mark Gwyn, TBI; Mike Bottoms and William Whitesell, district attorneys; and Charlie Gravat, DEA.

Internal Advisory Board Members are Ron Aday, Sociology and Anthropology; Mike Boyle, Continuing Education and Distance Learning; Becky Cole, associate vice president for academic resources; Anthony Farone, Chemistry; Saeed Foroudastan, Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies; Deborah Newman, Criminal Justice Administration; Patricia Patterson, Chemistry; Buddy Peaster, chief of MTSU Police; Karen Petersen, Political Science; Saleh Sbenaty, Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies; Rick Short, associate dean of education and behavioral science; Kevin Smith, Sociology and Anthropology; Linda Wilson, Chemistry; Hugh Berryman, Sociology and Anthropology and FIRE director; and Connie Huddleston, coordinator, College of Liberal Arts.

The center will work to partner with community institutions and governmental agencies, offering programs to educate students in forensics and promote further education for professionals. If you have questions or are interested in FIRE, contact Hugh Berryman at 494-7896.

Middle East Center

Allen Hibbard, director of the Middle East Center, was busy this semester scheduling lectures and interviewing prospective new faculty members to teach courses in the Middle East curriculum, along with the many other responsibilities that come with setting up a new center. Gregory Gause and John Esposito were just two of the visiting lecturers the center hosted this semester, and we look forward to many more in the future.

We would also like to welcome Chantel Rich, the center’s new secretary.

Graduates Going Places

Wayne Haun (Music graduate) along with Tracey Phillips (Music major) spent March 22–30 in Prague, Czech Republic, recording music for commercial projects. Haun graduated magna cum laude in 1994 with a concentration in Theory-Composition and a minor in Secondary Education. He completed his master’s in conducting at the University Miami (Florida), where he was awarded a graduate assistantship. Haun prepared 20 orchestral scores for the Prague orchestra. Phillips, well-known in the South as a pianist, teacher, and clinician, returned to college at MTSU in 2005. She plans to complete her bachelor of music with a concentration in Theory-Composition in 2008. Phillips has performed on a number of recordings and has been nominated for several Dove Awards.
New Office of Institutional Diversity

Liberal Arts faculty member Sharon Shaw-McEwen has been named assistant vice provost for institutional diversity in the Office of the Provost. Shaw-McEwen will assemble an institutional diversity committee that will be available to provide guidance to University units. The committee will review the strength of “diversity language” in the University mission statement; establish definitions of diversity and diversity-related terms for MTSU; develop a University plan consistent with the current environment; explore the short- and long-range educational benefits of diversity for our institution; and establish plans to monitor, evaluate, and report progress in achieving diversity goals and objectives.

If you would like to join or have input into this effort, please e-mail the Office of Institutional Diversity at cdinit@mtsu.edu or call 898-5029.

American Democracy

Andrei Korobkov (Political Science) and Jim Williams (History) have been named codirectors of the American Democracy Project at MTSU. Korobkov will work with international issues and Williams will deal with U.S.-based activities.

Ursula Payne—Womanist Theory in the Arts

Funds from the Dance program in Speech and Theatre along with Distinguished Lecturers, the Black History Month Committee, and the National Women’s History Month Committee brought in Ursula Payne, associate professor of dance at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, for a lecture exploring Alice Walker’s definition of “womanist.” With the 1983 collection In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens: Womanist Prose, Walker introduced the term to the American lexicon. Payne spoke on womanist theory in the arts.

Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference

Tricia Smith (English) was the middle Tennessee host for the 2007 Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference in Nashville recently. The three-day conference, called “Static and (dis)Harmony: Tuning into Writing Centers in the Music City,” was a great success due to Smith’s efforts and the help of Jessica McKee (writing program secretary), MTSU TAs, writing center assistants and assistant directors (Karen Wright, past, and Rachel Robinson, present), and peer mentors Alan Coulter, Laurel Taylor, Stacia Watkins, Becky Bobbitt, and Dianna Baldwin. Many hours of hard work and organization go into a conference, so we applaud Tricia and her host of helpers for a job well done!
Second Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference

Warren Tormey and Ron Kates (English) and Crosby Hunt (Speech and Theatre) coordinated the second Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference on campus. This year Gerald Wood, Carson-Newman College, served as keynote speaker, and the special lunch speaker was Detroit pitching great Denny McLain. McLain spoke about his personal family and his baseball family—the ups and downs of both.

History Program: The Davis Exhibit

A group of MTSU students received the Best Exhibit Award from the Tennessee Association of Museums at the group's March meeting. Brenden Martin (History) says graduate students in his Museum Management Seminar class spent last semester planning and constructing the award-winning exhibit, Recovering Their Story: African Americans on the Davis Plantation, 1850–1925. The project now is a permanent exhibit at the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna.

Scholars Week

The College of Liberal Arts celebrated Scholars Week in a big way this year. Mark Byrnes, associate dean, organized an afternoon of faculty members and students speaking and performing for students with interests in Liberal Arts. A special thanks goes to students Silviu Ciulei, Music; Ian Hunt, Alex Verson, Matthew Trayer-Smith, and Alli Scott, Theatre; Amanda Bloomer, Kimberly Matarase, Lesley Fox, Ashley Gillentine, and Patsy Hancock, English; Lacey Fleming, Brandy Dacus, Erica Roe-Fehrman, Shenah Abdullah, Angela Stroupe, and Lynn Funkhouser, Anthropology; and Donna Baldwin, Ben Hayes, Angela Smith, and Scarlett Miles, History. Faculty members participating were Cindy Rehm, Art; Mohammed Albakry, English; Kevin Donovan, English; Kevin Smith, Tanya Peres, and Shannon Hodge, Anthropology; Lorne McWatters, History; Eletra Gilchrest, Communication Studies; and Patrick Chinnery, Political Science. Thanks to everyone for their contributions to a great day!

Geosciences Acquires New Spectrometers

Funded by the National Science Foundation, our Geosciences Department has two new instruments for undergraduate geology study: an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer and an ICP-mass spectrometer. Geochemical analyses of earth materials are used in every aspect of geologic academic research and industry, and experience and training with these instruments will give our students a big advantage over others competing for graduate research and employment opportunities. Within the next year, MTSU geology alumni will complete Ph.D.s in climatology at UT and in geochemical toxicology at Vanderbilt.
Student News

Sarah Elizabeth Hickman (M.A. student in History) has taken the position of education coordinator for the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna.

MTSU dancers were recognized for excellence in performance and choreography at the American College Dance Festival Association Regional Conference at the University of Mississippi. The work “Stone in the Pocket: A Meditation on Virginia Woolf,” choreographed by Kim Neal Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre), was selected from a field of 38 dances for the Gala Concert. The dancers were Jessica Cavender, Tessie Quinn O’Connor, Mary Catherine Musick, Kathryn Turney, Hilary Walker, Tiffany Philpot, and Steven Tate.

The MTSU Band of Blue was recognized by the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) at its 2007 national conference. The Band of Blue is one of five collegiate bands to be in the first group ever selected for a video presentation at the CBDNA event, hosted by the University of Michigan. Congratulations to Craig Cornish, director. Cornish sent in the video for consideration, and he considers the win a great honor for the University, the McLean School of Music, and the band program.

The MTSU Salsa Band, under the direction of Lalo Davila (Music), performed for the Rutherford County Elementary Choral Festival before leaving town for the 13th Annual Alabama Percussion Arts Society Day of Percussion.

Crime in Books and Film

Jack Justin Turner came to campus March 1 for a reading from his new book, The Sheriffs’ Murder Cases. The fireside room in Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building was wall-to-wall with an audience there to hear Turner tell the story of eastern Kentucky life. Seen in the crowd were retired faculty members Frank Essex and David Grubbs (Political Science), James Neal (History), and David LeDoux (Art) along with many faculty, staff, and community members. Some former students of Turner made the trip back to campus to hear their professor speak. Turner’s next book is the soon-to-be published Foxes and Hounds (Chesnut Hill Publishing).

Liberal Arts was well represented in this semester’s Honors Lecture Series on crime. Mark Byrnes (Political Science) delivered “Crime and Film;” Hugh Berryman (Sociology and Anthropology) presented “Talking to the Dead: A Forensic Anthropologist’s Perspective;” “Detective Fiction” was the lecture from Pete McCluskey (English); and MTSU alum Josh Alexander (Philosophy and History major) gave the last lecture of the series, “Crime and Punishment in 1940s Murfreesboro.” Alexander is now working at the Tennessee State Museum as an archivist and plans to enter graduate school.

New Faculty

Sociology and Anthropology has hired three new faculty members—Brian Hinote, Gretchen Webber, and William Leggett; the Center for Historic Preservation has hired Stacey Graham as a research professor; Music has hired Andrea Dawson (violin), Angela DeBoer (French horn), and Leopoldo Erice (piano); Philosophy has hired Phil Oliver; and Kari Neeley has been hired by Foreign Languages and Literatures to teach Arabic. There are 16 positions open including the chairs in History and Speech and Theatre.
**Faculty Books/Grants/Fellowships**

**Mary Hoffschwelle** (History) has been awarded a grant for fall 2007 from the MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Project Committee for her proposal “A Struggle Against Very Great Odds: Jeanes Teachers and the Politics of Education in Early Twentieth-Century Alabama.”

**Monica Wright** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) had her book *Weaving Narratives: Clothing, Conjurature, and Composition in Twelfth-Century French Romance* accepted for publication by the Romance Studies Series of Penn State Press. Wright received a FRCAC grant in summer 2006 to work on this project.

**Tom Agostini** (History) will be conducting research during the month of June at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, as a Robert L. Middlekauf Fellow.

**Jeremy Rich** (History) has won the Franklin Research grant from the American Philosophical Society.

**Don Aliquo** (Music) released *Jazz Folk: Don Aliquo with Rufus Reid, Clay Jenkins, Dana Landry, and Jim White*. The project was supported by an MTSU Creative Activity and Research Grant and was recorded in Studio B in the College of Mass Communication. White received his M.A. in music from MTSU in 2005 and is now an assistant professor of music at the University of Northern Colorado.

Take 6, the vocal group in which our own **Cedric Dent** (Music) performs, has been nominated for a Dove Award for Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year. Awards will be given at the 38th Annual Gospel Music Awards on April 25. Best wishes to Take 6!

**Silviu Ciulei** (Music major) won second prize in the Texas International Guitar Competition in Dallas on March 24. This competition is recognized as one the top guitar competitions in North America. Competitors also came from Uruguay, Brazil, Finland, Nicaragua, France, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand. The competition was open to all ages, and Ciulei was the youngest guitarist to appear. His prize was $2,000, the largest cash award ever won by an MTSU guitar student in competition.

**Matt Palmer** (Music graduate) won the Appalachian State University Concerto Competition and returned to North Carolina for two performances of Rodrigo’s *Concierto de Aranjuez* with the Appalachian Symphony.

**Sarah Schneider**, flute, was a Young Artist National Finalist in the Music Teachers National Association regional competition in Tallahassee recently. Schneider is a senior in the McLean School of Music.

**Emily Kent**, soprano, recently won the third place scholarship (Eberhardt Memorial Award) in the National Opera Association Vocal Competition in New York City. Kent is a senior in the McLean School of Music. She also just won a Grace Moore Competition Scholarship.
STAY IN TOUCH AND STAY CURRENT!

The dedication of administration, faculty, and staff members is only one reason for the successes summarized in this newsletter. Our alumni are also vital to our continuing progress. We hope you will become more involved in the growth and success of the College of Liberal Arts. Please check the Web address below for more news.

If you wish to donate to a specific program, please contact the Development Office at (615) 898-2502. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send an e-mail via our college Web page, http://libarts.web.mtsu.edu/

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