

StayCurrent

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER

2009

New Chairs for Liberal Arts

The Department of Political Science has recommended **Stephen David Morris** as new department chair, and TBR has approved the recommendation. Professor Morris comes to MTSU from the University of South Alabama, where he served as director of the international studies program. He earned his B.A. and M.A. at Georgia State and his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. We welcome Professor Morris and wish him a long and productive tenure at MTSU.



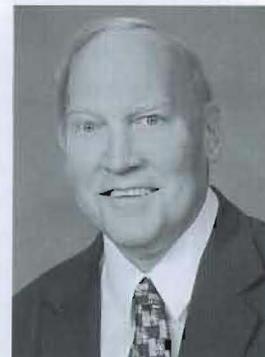
We would like to thank **Professor Clyde Willis** for his service to the Department of Political Science as chair during the 2008–09 academic year while a national search for a new chair was completed.

The search committee for chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has completed its search, and **Professor Joan E. McRae** will begin her work at MTSU this fall. Kleinlein received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College, her M.A. from Middlebury College, and her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia–Charlottesville. Professor McRae comes to us from Hampden-Sydney College, where she was an associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages. She is presently vice-president of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, to be followed next year with the presidency of the largest regional division of the M.L.A.

Professor **Tom Heine** served the department for two years while a national search was completed. We appreciate his willingness to serve and serve well.

Dean's Notes

Summer 2009 brought hundreds of students to campus for Governor's School, CSI-MTSU Camp, workshops, CUSTOMS, and summer school. Finalizing searches, research, and classes occupied most faculty schedules, while some took the summer off to refresh and refuel. To catch up on College of Liberal Arts news, check out the newsletter in hard copy or online at www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts.



*"When summer gathers up her robes of glory,
and, like a dream, glides away."*

—Sarah Helen Whitman

John N. McDaniel, Dean

MTSU to Join New AASCU American Democracy Project eCitizenship: New Tools, New Strategies, New Spaces

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and its American Democracy Project invited MTSU in July to join a select group of state universities across the country to study the capacity of social networking to engage and empower citizens. The new initiative, which is designed as a three-year project, is called eCitizenship: New Tools, New Strategies, New Spaces.

Participating universities will work together to study how social networks support and facilitate civic agency and political engagement. The goal is to provide insights and strategies for the best ways to harness technology and networking

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American Democracy Project

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tools to prepare undergraduates for lives of engagement and participation. The invited institutions will hold an organizational meeting November 12–13, 2009, at the Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University in Detroit.

MTSU will build a cross-disciplinary team of faculty, staff, and students to oversee the development of the project on our campus over the next three years. The eCitizenship team will be coordinated by MTSU's American Democracy Project (ADP) under the leadership of **Mary Evins**, associate professor in the Department of History. She is taking over the leadership post from former coordinator **Jim Williams**, who is stepping down to devote more time to the Albert Gore Research Center, which he now directs.

Increasing the civic engagement of students is a critical component of MTSU's ten-year academic master plan. Faculty members in every college are invited to develop curriculum and make curricular links that promote civic engagement.

National Constitution Day is September 17, and campus-wide reflection on the U.S. Constitution will be observed the week of September 14–18, focusing on the theme "Developing a Constitutional Conscience." Faculty are encouraged to involve students and classes in the week's activities and take advantage of the speakers, panels, programs, displays, performances, and public-speaking opportunities that will be offered throughout the week by many campus organizations, including ADP and the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies.

Help bring civic engagement to the forefront of the University's identity. Become civically engaged. Post your ideas and initiatives on American Democracy Project MTSU on Facebook. If the American Democracy Project can be of assistance to you or if you are interested in becoming involved in the eCitizenship initiative, please contact amerdem@mtsu.edu.

Faculty News

Philip Phillips (English) has been awarded the 2008–09 Mary Catherine Mooney Research Fellowship. Phillips has also published a book coedited with Noel Harold Kaylor Jr.: *The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I: The Queen's Translation of Boethius's "Des Consolatione Philosophiae,"* *Public Record Office Manuscript SP 12/289* (Arizona State University Press, 2009). Phillips is also coeditor of *Carmina Philosophiae: Journal of the International Boethius Society* and *New Directions in Boethian Studies* (Western Michigan University Press, 2007).

Hugh Berryman (Forensic Institute for Research and Education) was in Washington, D.C., in July as principal investigator for the Meriwether Lewis scientific team. The Lewis family is campaigning to have the remains of Meriwether Lewis exhumed to settle a 200-year-old cold case. Was Lewis murdered or was it suicide? Meriwether Lewis, coleader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, is buried on federal property near Hohenwald, Tennessee, which is the stumbling block for the exhumation. The family is seeking federal permission to try to finally resolve the much-talked-about mystery. We will keep you posted.

Kris McCusker (History) is the recipient of a 2009–11 National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine grant. The grant will allow McCusker reassigned time to do research at archives around the South for a book tentatively titled *Just Enough to Put Him Away Decent: Southern Death Ritual, 1918–1945*.



Derek Frisby (History) took his Topics in Global History class to the Central Pacific islands of Iwo Jima, Guam, and Peleliu to study WWII Pacific campaigns. Traveling with the former Marine and assistant professor were Eric Barton, Courtney Fultz, Blake Winters, Lindsey Kilpatrick, Paul Hoffman, Elizabeth Goetsch, Ben Hayes, Chad Soeder, and Bethany Hall.

Shannon Hodge and **Kevin Smith** (Sociology and Anthropology) saw their historical and bioarchaeological research come full circle at a dedication ceremony held at the Enslaved Memorial at the Heritage, home of President Andrew Jackson. Hodge and Smith, along with their undergraduate students, worked for two years researching those who were buried at the Ingleside Slave Cemetery. The memorial included the reburial of the slaves with a permanent marker at the memorial site. The marker acknowledges the work of the MTSU Anthropology Research Project. The research that Hodge and Smith collected will be the basis for an upcoming book.



Melissa Lobegeier has received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for \$165,000 to study the water quality in the Clinch and Powell rivers of Virginia.

Douglas Heffington (History) has been awarded the 2009 Certificate of Merit by the Tennessee Historical Commission. The state of Tennessee recognizes individuals and organizations working to protect our state's special historic places and/or advancing the study of Tennessee history. Professor Heffington is recognized for his long-standing work with students on cultural heritage projects at Radnor Lake, including the identification and registration of archaeological sites in the area and an oral history project.



The MTSU Women's Chorale performed at Carnegie Hall in June. Assistant Professor **Jamila McWhirter's** 55-member ensemble was selected by audition to perform

MTSU Women's Chorale

in the Gala Concert for the 70th anniversary of Shawnee Press under the direction of Tim Seelig. While in New York, the chorale also performed at St. Malachy's, the Actor's Chapel, under the direction of Dr. McWhirter, and you might have caught their performance on The Early Show on CBS.

Distinguished Public Historian Spencer Crew

The Public History program and the Department of History hosted their annual Distinguished Public Historian speaker this summer with Spencer Crew as guest. Crew led a panel discussion titled "American Slavery and Its Impact on Universities, Past and Present." Jim Campbell (Stanford University), Alfred Brophy (UNC-Chapel Hill), and **Carroll Van West** (MTSU Center for Historic Preservation) were the panel participants. Crew is considered one of the top historians in the nation; he teaches public history at George Mason University and works with museums and historic sites across the nation. Previously, he was executive director/CEO of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. He worked at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History from 1981 to 2001.



2009 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Summer Salary Grants

Art

Debrah Sickler-Voight

English

Mohammed Albakry
Angela Hague
Justyna Kostkowska
Julie Myatt

Geosciences

Mark Abolins

History

Sean Foley
Loren McWatters
Lisa Pruitt

Philosophy

Clarence Johnson

Political Science

Amanda DiPaolo

Sociology and Anthropology

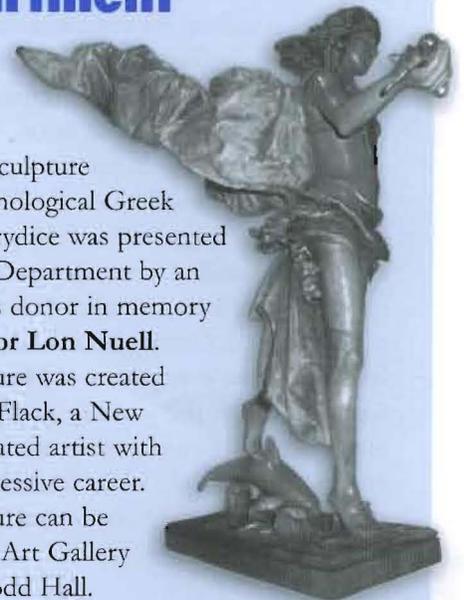
Angela Mertig

Speech and Theatre

Yang Soo Kim

Gift to the Art Department

A bronze sculpture of the mythological Greek nymph Eurydice was presented to the Art Department by an anonymous donor in memory of **Professor Lon Nuell**. The sculpture was created by Audrey Flack, a New York-educated artist with a very impressive career. The sculpture can be seen in the Art Gallery office in Todd Hall.



Faculty Art Show Coming in Fall

The Todd Art Gallery will present the Department of Art's 2009 biennial Faculty Art Exhibition September 22 through October 1. The art of faculty members will be introduced to art majors, the broader campus population, and the community in a range of styles including representational, abstract, and nonobjective, through traditional media in a straightforward manner and through mixed media with a twist.

Participating this year are **Erin Anfinson, Michael Baggarly, John Donovan, Kim Dummons, Bob Durham, Janet Higgins, Jarrod Houghton, Sisavanh Houghton, Noël Lorson, Jean Nagy, Melissa Newman, Christie Nuell, Marisa Recchia, Thomas Sturgill, Patricia Tenpenny, and Daniel Lai.**

Read to Succeed Needs Volunteer Tutors

Read to Succeed, a nonprofit family literacy initiative, is calling for volunteers to tutor adults in Rutherford County. You can make a difference! Please consider training to become a Read to Succeed tutor. Also, please tell others about this volunteer opportunity. Training sessions will be on the five Tuesdays in September from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lon Nuell Family Literacy Center in downtown Murfreesboro. Training will also take place in North County later in the fall, but **learners from every area of Rutherford County are on the waiting list now.** If you are interested, please contact Shelly Stanley at Read to Succeed, (615) 738-7323 (READ) or read.to.succeed@comcast.net. Thank you!

CSI-MTSU Summer Camp

In June, 36 students from various high schools in middle Tennessee and one student from Huntsville, Alabama, arrived at MTSU for the three-day 2009 CSI: MTSU Summer Camp. The camp began with the students viewing a training video produced by the Charlotte Crime Lab, followed by half of the students touring the TBI Crime Scene Truck and the other half receiving an arranged 911 call to begin their forensic journey. This year the "crime scene" was an abandoned car on campus. The afternoon of the first day was filled with students rotating from the crime scene to the electronic evidence class and the blood lab. The second day began with lectures and labs on footprint casts, ballistics and signs, tattoos, and gang-related activity. After lunch, students learned about white powders and chromatography, DNA fibers, and fingerprinting and began to ask for evidence reports. On day three, the students asked for more evidence and were told that a body had been found. Half the group went to the body site to assist the Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery (FASR) team with a dig, sifting for evidence, while the others continued to ask for evidence and began to put the case together. On the last day, students spent the morning putting together PowerPoint presentations to present to parents in the final session.

This year, 11 scholarships totaling \$2,475 were given to students by the Tennessee Department of the Treasury director of internal audits. Also, the Honors College at MTSU provided lunch on Thursday for the students and gave them information about the Honors College. The Forensic Institute for Research and Education at MTSU, which directs the camp, is thankful for the support of the Department of the Treasury and the Honors College.

Those who have helped to make the camp possible each year are Hugh Berryman, director of the Forensic Institute for Research and Education; John Burchfield, director of Continuing Education; David Foster, marketing director of Continuing Education; Amy Phelps, professor, Patricia Patterson, associate professor, and Dwight Patterson, associate professor, all from the Chemistry Department; Saleh Sbenaty, professor in Engineering Technology; and Buddy Peaster, MTSU police chief. This year, the camp's staff also included Carter Smith, assistant professor in Criminal Justice Administration, and Guy Goff, school resource officer, Oakland High School.



Employee Buyout Plan Available

The TBR-approved Voluntary Buyout Program (VBP) is being offered to regular, active employees with at least six (6) months of service to the University as of December 1, 2009, who meet specified criteria and who are not in excluded job functions. Interested employees will have through January 15, 2010, to review and submit an application to the VBP administrator in the Office of Human Resources.

VBP Severance Package

- Payment equal to three times the monthly rate of pay in effect on November 30, 2009
- Payment of \$500 for each full or partial year of University service as of the voluntary separation date (partial months are rounded up)
- Payment equivalent to the next scheduled longevity payment
- Payment equal to six (6) months of the University's portion of the monthly health insurance premium based on plan election as of November 30, 2009
- Tuition assistance for TBR and UT systems entities for the employee only; maximum benefit of \$5,400 per year for two years, totaling \$10,800

Detailed information is available at following links:

Am I Eligible?

http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/Am_I_Eligible.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/FAQ.html>

Timeline

<http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/VBPTimelineofKeyEvents.pdf>

VBP Program Document (PDF)

http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/MTSU_VBP_Final_Proposed_7-13-09.pdf

VBP Application (PDF)

http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/VBP_Attachment_1_Application.pdf

VBP Waiver and Release Agreement (PDF)

http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/VBP_Attachment_2_Waiver.pdf

VBP Tuition Assistance Form (PDF)

<http://hrs.web.mtsu.edu/VBP/VBPTuitionAsstForm.pdf>

Congratulations to Leadership Studies

The interdisciplinary minor in Leadership Studies in the Department of Speech and Theatre received the Association of Leadership Educators Outstanding Program award for 2009. The association says the honor is "designed to recognize outstanding leadership programs developed or implemented by ALE members." Congratulations to Leadership Studies advisor **Deana Raffo**.



Student News

Ben James Golden (Music) won a \$500 first prize in the Collegiate Division of the Classical Minds Guitar competition, held at the University of Houston as part of the Texas Music Festival. Two days later, Golden performed for several thousand people as sideman for the country band Carolina Rain in Salt Lake City. Golden will begin his senior year this fall.



Music graduate student **Laura Price** was featured on the cover of *American String Teachers*, a publication of the American String Teachers Association.

Contact Information for the Voluntary Buyout Program

Kathy Musselman's E-mail and Phone
(Human Resources)
kmusselm@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2929

STAYINTOUCH AND STAYCURRENT!

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 more of you will become 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/>

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA024-0809

Upcoming Events

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|---|----------------------|
| Holocaust Studies Conference | October 22-24 |
| Homecoming | October 24 |
| Evening of Swing | October 30 |
| Undergraduate Social
Science Symposium
with Mark Bittman, author of <i>How to Cook Everything</i> | November 10-11, 2009 |



MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts

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