New Interim Chairs for Liberal Arts

Clyde Willis (Political Science) was named interim chair of the Political Science Department beginning July 1. Willis took over from John Vile, who became the new Honors College dean. Professor Willis brings with him eight years of MTSU service and eight years of other university service. Willis has been an important part of the successes of MTSU’s mediation program, and he serves as president of the Intercollegiate Mediation Association. Along with his other responsibilities, Willis has contributed several essays for an encyclopedia over the past years, and he just completed a noninstructional assignment last fall to continue his scholarly work. We welcome Professor Willis to the role of chair, and we know he will serve the department, college, and University well.

Jackie Eller (Sociology and Anthropology) has been selected to serve as interim chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department until a national search is completed for a new chair. Eller will lead the department following the decision by Ron Aday to return to teaching. Eller has served as graduate program director, undergraduate program director, and CUSTOMS advisor for the department.

Eller has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of the department’s student learning outcomes for graduate and undergraduate programs. Eller came to MTSU in 1985 as a tenure-track faculty member, so she brings 23 years of valuable experience to her new role as chair.

Dean’s Notes

Welcome to the summer 2008 edition of Stay Current. Many personnel changes have taken place over the summer, and budgets have had to be addressed while many of you have been away. And while others have been teaching this summer, some used their summer to complete books, articles, and essays, or engage in other activities.

As you return to campus we hope you are recharged and ready to go when school begins on August 25. New Faculty Orientation will be August 18 and 19, and the General Faculty Convocation will be August 22. Read on for news from the College of Liberal Arts.

John N. McDaniel, Dean

John Vile named Dean of University Honors College

John Vile, former chair of the Political Science Department, was named dean of the University Honors College; his tenure began July 1. We thank Professor Vile for his dedicated service to the Political Science Department, where he served for 19 years. All will agree that the department grew and became nationally recognized under the supervision of Vile. Recently, Vile was one of two persons inducted into the Hall of Fame at the American Mock Trial Association during the national championship tournament in St. Paul, Minnesota. Congratulations, Dr. Vile, on this fine honor, and best wishes on your new appointment.
John McDaniel Receives the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award

Dean John McDaniel received the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award at the 2008 President’s Celebration of Excellence at the end of the spring semester. This award recognizes a faculty member who has dedicated his or her life to educating young people at MTSU. Dean McDaniel came to MTSU in 1970 to teach English, and that he has done and done well. Although he no longer teaches in the classroom, he continues to serve as dean of the college, serves on many committees, and occasionally pens a letter to the editor of the local paper. Congratulations, Dean McDaniel; we are very proud of you and applaud the committee for its wise choice.

Ron Aday Returns to the Classroom

Ron Aday (Sociology and Anthropology) will return to the classroom in spring 2009 after serving the Sociology and Anthropology Department as chair for two years. Aday will spend the fall 2008 semester on a non-instructional assignment to continue his research for “Aging Women in Prison: An Invisible Population.” We thank Professor Aday for his service and wish him well on his research projects.

New Microcomputer Expert for Liberal Arts

Marion Gwyn has been named the new microcomputer expert for the College of Liberal Arts, taking the place of Frantina Houston who left this spring. Gwyn’s office is located in the dean’s suite in Todd 231, and her phone number is 898-5141. Gwyn has asked that you report all computer problems using the online work order form on the ITD home page. If you report the problem online, 99 percent of the time she can address your problem that same day. But if you have an emergency, you may call her office and leave a message. We welcome her to campus and to the College of Liberal Arts.

Charles K. Wolfe American Music Series

The University Tennessee Press announced a new series titled the Charles K. Wolfe American Music Series this spring. The series will commemorate Wolfe’s work as a scholar of American popular and folk music. Wolfe was with the MTSU English Department until his death in 2006. The University of Tennessee Press has begun taking applications for the series.

Discipline-Specific and Master Classrooms on the Horizons

Seven classrooms in four different buildings will be updated to the tune of $632,062 as the result of their selection by the Tech Access Fee Committee. Proposals were received from departments and the dean’s office, and from those presented, seven were selected: Peck Hall 212 ($89,000), to be completed in June 2009; KOM 308 ($149,200), to be completed in fall 2008; TODD 103, 106, and 107 ($39,132), to be completed in June 2009; and Saunders Fine Arts 302 and 304 ($354,530), to be completed in fall 2008.
Noninstructional Assignments for the Upcoming Academic Year

**Fall 2008**
*Kris McCusker:* “Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Art and History of Dying in the South, 1918–1945”

*Ron Aday:* “Aging Women in Prison: An Invisible Population”

**Spring 2009**
*Pat Bradley:* “Tracing Captivity South: Gender, Race, and the Persistence of the Indian Captivity Narrative in Southern Literature”

*Martha Foster:* “Métis of the Northern Plains”

*Kevin Breault:* “Race, Ethnicity, Marital Status, and Mortality Risk”

Faculty Development Grants were given to *Carol Nies, Todd Waldecker,* and *Angela DeBoer* (School of Music), and *Leah Tolbert Lyons* (Foreign Languages and Literatures). *Felicia Miyakawa* (School of Music) received a 2008 Curriculum Integration Grant for her Women in Music course from the President’s Commission on the Status of Women.

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**Budget for 2008–09**

On April 30, Governor Bredesen informed state institutions that they would have to trim their budgets for 2008–09 (except for K–12 education). The state appropriation base funding was cut by $6,156,000, or 6.1 percent of the 2007–08 state appropriation. To accommodate the reduction, President McPhee asked administrative divisions, colleges, and departments to cut 5 percent from the 2007–08 budgets. (the College of Liberal Arts portion of the cut was $1,038,554.05 of permanent dollars.) As part of state’s budget position, there will be no salary increases, but the legislature did approve the $400 one-time, flat-rate salary bonus for employees who have three years of creditable service as of October 1, 2008. The bonus will be in October’s salary payment.

**Budget Update:** The 2008–09 budget will be cut only 2.4%, not 5% as previously thought. Some temporary faculty lines that were cut have now been restored.

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**International Music Festival in Spain**

*Leo Erice* (School of Music) was given $36,000 to continue a music festival in Spain for a third year by the sponsorship of Fundacion Caixa Galicia. Erice has also been invited by the Orquesta Clasica Santa Cecilia to perform Beethoven’s *Emperor* concerto in October at Symphony Hall of the Auditorio Nacional de Musica in Madrid.

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**2008 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Summer Grants**

The following were all recipients of FRCAS grants:

**English**
*Robert Bray, Elyce Helford,* and *Carl Ostrowski*

**Foreign Languages and Literatures**
*Shelley Thomas*

**Geosciences**
*Warner Cribb,* and *Melissa Lobegeier*

**History**
*Sean Foley,* *Jeremy Rich,* *Christoph Rosenmuller,* and *Louis Wood*

**Philosophy**
*Mary Magada-Ward*

**Political Science**
*Andrei Korobkov,* *Steve Livingston,* *John Maynor,* and *Karen Petersen*

**Sociology and Anthropology**
*Brian Hinote* and *Tanya Peres*
New Book for Professor Emeritus Jack Turner

Sometimes we wonder what our retired faculty members are doing. We hear about great trips, read about them in the paper, and get press releases announcing that they have written books. The latter is the case with Jack Turner, formerly with the Political Science Department, who has come out with his second book, Big Medicine River Days, which also happens to be the first volume of a planned trilogy called The Foxes and the Hounds (Chestnut Hill Press). The two volumes to follow are Bluegrass Days and Colorado Days. The series highlights life in the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky, where Professor Turner and his wife, Judy, were born and raised.

Big Medicine River Days takes place during the time of “wild steamboat rides, family honor, flatland prostitution, greedy and prejudiced outsiders, and unbridled lust for the untold riches of coal buried in the hills of Kentucky.” Thanks to Judy, Professor Turner’s biggest fan and manager, for keeping us posted on the new book’s release and book signings. We hope to have Professor Turner back on campus this fall for a reading from his latest novel.

CSI-MTSU

Where could you meet new people, make new friends, and investigate a crime? The CSI-MTSU Camp sponsored by the Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) took place June 11–13 for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Twenty-six high school students attended lectures on how to solve a crime, viewed a mock crime scene, and then used their new skills to actually solve the mock crime. Students said they enjoyed investigating the crime scene and working as a team to solve the mystery. This course stresses the use of sciences and math and shows how these two areas are critical to solving problems. For more information on FIRE, see www.mtsu.edu/~fire/.

Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference

Warren Tormey (English) served as chair this year for the Third Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference held March 28 at MTSU. The conference, “Franchise Faces,” featured a variety of speakers and discussions included “Baseball in Film,” “Baseball in Historic Fiction,” and “Baseball Ethics and Spirituality,” to name a few. Special guest speaker this year was Orestes Destrade, a former major league player who is now an ESPN host.
New Books

Kris McCusker (History) has a new book titled *Lonesome Cowgirls and Honky-Tonk Angels: The Women of Barn Dance*, released by University of Illinois Press.

Vince Armstrong (History adjunct) has a new book titled *Unfurl Those Colors! McClellan, Sumner, and the Second Army Corps in the Antietam Campaign*, released by University of Alabama Press.

Student Accomplishments

Jeff Cox (M.A., School of Music) recorded an album with Grammy Award-winning guitarist Earl Klugh called *Spice of Life*. The album reached number three on the iTunes jazz chart and was at number four on the *Billboard* contemporary jazz chart the week of May 26.

Silviu Ciulei (School of Music graduate) has accepted a dean’s fellowship and graduate assistantship from Florida State University School of Music. The award provides full tuition and a stipend of $10,800.

According to Professor Bruce Holzman at FSU, this is the largest offer ever given to an entering master’s level guitar student at the school.

Keith Schumann (History major) was notified that he has been accepted for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s one-week history scholar program on the American Revolution. Out of 250 applicants from 166 institutions, Schumann was one of 50 accepted.

Murfreesboro’s Jazz Age

Erin Anfinson (Art) and students Emily May-Ragland and Sarah Sullivan have begun to create a 1920s Jazz Age–inspired, Art Deco–style mural for the Heritage Center. The mural will be 6 feet tall and nearly 20 feet wide. You might remember that Anfinson was the painter of the Civil War mural that is already featured at the Heritage Center. Mid-August is the anticipated date of completion. The Heritage Center is at 225 West College Street and is open 9 a.m.–4 p.m. daily. It is free and open to the public.
In Memory of

T. Earl Hinton

T. Earl Hinton (retired, School of Music) passed away on July 10. Our deepest condolences go to his wife Nora and sons Kem (Marilyn) and Keith. Earl Hinton was a great inspiration for generations of students and for his colleagues at MTSU and in state and national music education organizations.

Hinton received his B.M., M.M., and Ed.D. from George Peabody College in Nashville and spent his teaching career at MTSU. In 2005, T. Earl Hinton Hall in Wright Music Building was dedicated in his honor. A quote from his letter of retirement seems to tell a great deal about his love for MTSU: "There will probably never be a more bittersweet feeling for me than at this writing. As you know, it is my plan to retire from full-time work at MTSU on June 30 (1994). On that date, I will have completed thirty-four academic years at the University. Indeed, time flies when you are having fun."

Lorson Awarded Grant

Noel Lorson (Art) was awarded $18,160 from the Clean Energy Fee Committee to design and distribute a poster campaign and reusable bags with inserts promoting “green” awareness.

After winning the grant in the Educational Awareness category, Lorson and 11 students worked for three weeks this summer producing concepts, designs, and printed pieces for a campus-wide campaign promoting the MTSU Sustainable Campus Committee and its initiatives.

The campaign will serve as a catalyst to the campus community promoting the simplicity of contributing to environmental conservation and sustainability while still participating in the college lifestyle. The idea is to provide awareness through mass communication (posters and bags with informational inserts) and encourage students to think about ways they can reuse, recycle, and conserve resources.

The project entailed a week of research, including trips to a certified FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) printer, a paper company, and a letterpress/silkscreen studio, and a week of design collaboration and a week of print production. The students gained a better understanding of the role that sustainability plays in design. They also became aware of the importance of design through mass communication.

By the end of the three weeks, an identity for the MTSU Sustainable Campus Committee was selected, more than 2,400 posters were designed and silkscreened with two to three ink colors, and several designs for the bags were created. The posters will be hung on campus and passed out to students during the fall semester, and the reusable bags will be distributed to the campus community sometime next year.
Craig Colten
Strickland
Visiting Scholar

In spring 2008, Craig Colten came to campus as a visiting scholar for the Strickland Lecture. Colten was on campus for two weeks to tell the story of New Orleans. The visit came to a close with Colten's lecture in the State Farm Room, "Extreme New Orleans: Growing Beyond the City's Limits."

Jim Williams
named Albert Gore Sr. Research Center Director

After teaching in the History Department for twelve years, Jim Williams will become the third director of the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center on August 1. Williams says that he has big shoes to fill following the two previous directors. James Neal, the first director, worked tirelessly to get the center established and develop an ambitious mission. The second director, Lisa Pruitt (who will move to the History Department as a full-time faculty member this fall), came to the center in 1999. Pruitt was instrumental in the Gore Center's move to its new home in Todd Hall, the ongoing Oral History Project, and the center's separation from the Rutherford County Archives. (The Rutherford County Archives now operates out of its home in the County Court House with its own archivist.)

Williams hopes to build quickly on the solid foundation of his predecessors. He plans to hire a full-time archivist who will focus on developing new collections, recruiting new users at MTSU and in the surrounding communities, and initiating several fundraising and outreach efforts. Williams will bring with him the coordination of the MTSU American Democracy Project, which seeks to increase the levels of civic engagement among MTSU students. Williams says that with Constitution Week in September and the presidential election in November, there won't be a dull moment.

Great Books in Tennessee Prisons

A partnership of the Tennessee Department of Correction, Middle Tennessee State University, and the Great Books Foundation has brought three Tennessee prisons—Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility, and the Tennessee Prison for Women—into the Great Books program, which provides reading and discussion classes and opportunities for inmates to discuss great books. Our own Philip Phillips (English) received a grant through MTSU for the pilot initiative.

Sharmila Patel, head of the education department for the Tennessee Department of Correction, says that the program enlarges minds and creates a sense of community for the inmates.

2008 Liberal Arts Retirees

Betty Rowland (Gore Center), Rosemary Kew (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Carol Dudinetz (English), and Jerry Perkins (School of Music) joined the ranks of the retired at the end of the spring semester. We wish them all well as they pursue a new chapter of life.
One-Stop Shopping

When the dean’s staff moved to new offices in Todd Hall last October, “one-stop shopping” for Liberal Arts students and faculty began. This summer, we further improved services by allowing students to file paperwork (upper-division forms, intent to graduate forms, and substitution forms) in the Dean’s Office in Todd 231. Peggy Slater (secretary) will be working Kathy Jones (graduation analyst) to input data and work with students. This new process should help ease the paperwork burden for our students. If you have any questions for Peggy Slater, call 898-5986. For Kathy Jones call 898-2602.

Upcoming Events

Seussical: the Musical  October 22–25, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Evening of Swing  November 1, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Fall Dance Concert  November 13–15, 2008, 7:30 p.m.