Constitution Day 2012

September 17, 2012, was a day of celebration on the MTSU campus. More than 290 people took the oath to become new United States citizens at Murphy Center, and Peck Hall served as a site for students to read the Constitution from beginning to end.

Drs. Ron Kates (English), Rebecca McIntyre (History), Amy Sayward (History), and Mary Evins (History) had students participating in the reading of the Constitution. Rain did not stop the reading and celebrating.

Afterward, the program moved to Murphy Center for the Naturalization Ceremony, where Magistrate Judge Joe B. Brown presided. Chief Justice Gary R. Wade of the Tennessee Supreme Court led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prior to the naturalization, Professor Dina Cancyn sang, accompanied by professors David Amling (trumpet), Donald Creech (trumpet), Angela DeBoer (horn), David Loucky (trombone), and Benjamin Miles (tuba).

Debate Team

2011 saw the revival of the MTSU Debate Team (The Blue Raider Debaters). And what a year it was: the team managed to take home at least one trophy from each of the ten tournaments attended. This year, the team more than doubled its ranks and hosted a large, region-wide tournament on campus October 19-21 and a mock presidential debate on October 25. The team is lead by professor Pat Richey.

Debate Team: top—Dale Sikkema, Jaleesa Rodgers, William Griffen, Joseph Huckleberry, Khalid Williams, Marquawn Fultz, Tevin Mason, Felicia Chunn, Mary Choate, Jackie Smith, Alexis Hudson, Hailey Lawson
Robert Bray (English) is coediting two books with R. Barton Palmer: *Modern American Drama on Screen* and *Modern British Drama on Screen*. Bray will also be directing the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference in New Orleans in March 2013.

Pat Bradley (English) received the Ayne Cantrell Award for Outstanding Service to the MTSU Women’s Studies Program for 2011-12.

Jessica Kratzer (Speech and Theatre) had a book published this summer by Polity Press titled *The Dark Side of Family Communication*.

Rebecca Conard (History) traveled to England to present a keynote address titled “Public History Education in the U.S.” at Teaching History in Higher Education: the Higher Education Academy’s 14th Teaching and Learning Conference at the University of London.


Tim Wilt (English) published a literary translation from the Hebrew of the Book of Psalms.

Michael Neth (English) has published his edition of Percy Shelley’s *Laon and Cythna*.

Albert Ogden (Geosciences) is the recipient of the National Speleological Society award, annually given to recognize one person who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the scientific study of caves and karst over a long period of time.

Sonja Hedgepeth (Foreign Languages and Literatures) recently returned from the Symposium at University of Southern California, where she presented her work on Sexual Violence Against Jewish Women During the Holocaust—co-edited with Rochelle G. Saidel. The Symposium was sponsored by the Shoah Foundation created by Steven Spielberg.

Mark Jackson (English) had a CD released that he compiled, edited, and produced entitled *Jail House Bound: John Lomax’s First Southern Prison Recordings, 1933*.

New Minors and Course Information

The Jewish and Holocaust Studies minor is now available for students. For more information contact Elyce Helford (English).

The new interdisciplinary minor in War, Policy, and Society is intended to offer a multi-dimensional study of war and war-making in the modern world.

Political Science has a newly launched M.A. program in International Affairs.

New course in Philosophy for spring 2013: Bioethics. Bioethicist Glenn McGee is author of the textbook that will be used for the course. McGee has contacted Phil Oliver (Philosophy) for feedback from the course.

The College of Liberal Arts celebrated Homecoming 2012 with an entry in the parade, popcorn, cotton candy, and circus frills. This year’s theme was “Under the Blue Top.”