Faculty Tenured and Promoted in the College of Liberal Arts

Tuesday, October 24, Provost Kaylene Gebert announced newly tenured and promoted faculty. The College of Liberal Arts is proud to recognize those from its departments.

Tenured
Kenneth DeShane
Ellen Carlson
Vicky MacLean
Lyne Rice See
Rebecca Smith

Promoted
Barry Baskampers
Jimmie Cau
Mary Magenta Ward
Carolyn Van West

Tenured and Promoted
Alex Blackwell
Laura Dubek
Martha Foster
Louis Hans
Brooklin Martin
Janet McCormack
Carol Nics
Paul Osterfield
Raymond Thomas

Dean's Notes
Before we begin a new semester and a new year, let us look back at the many events and accomplishments in Liberal Arts for Fall 2006. The college served as host to many special and interesting guests. David McCullah spoke on the history of Tennessee at 900, James Madison (aka John Vie) made a return visit for Constitution Day, and Field Cate (aka. Ric Morris) addressed students, faculty, and guests. Events were held; faculty members received promotions and tenure, books were written, and students set the academic and performance bar higher with their participation in concerts and competitions.

What does the new semester bring? The Windham Lecture will feature special guest Rory Kennedy, the Forensic Institute for Research and Education will launch the program with a special lecture by William Bass, famed forensic scientist associated with UT's Body Farm. The Liberal Arts Awards Reception in April will spotlight the height of the high, and the Holocaust Committee will host its biennial conference in November. Now, on to more details about what is happening in Liberal Arts. Have a great semester!

John N. McCullah, Dean

David McCullah at MTSU
On October 24, 2006, David McCullah packed Tucker Theatre over 500 came to hear the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and highly personalized perspective on the American Revolution. McCullah spoke eloquently about the history he has researched and his love of history. With the line wrapped around the lobby of Tucker Theatre, McCullah took the time to speak with each person who wanted to have a book signed. He encouraged students and teachers to love what they do and do whatever they love. The college is grateful for help from the Distinguished Lecture Fund in bringing McCullah to our university.
Sgt. Alvin C. York's World War I Battle Site

On October 8, 1918, after three other non-commissioned officers had been killed, Alvin C. York of Fite's Point, Tennessee, assumed command of his group and led seven others in a bold attack on an enemy machine gun post. The action resulted in the capture of 132 German troops and earned York the Medal of Honor. Tom Nolan (Geosciences) and Michael Birdwell, an Alvin C. York scholar and member of Tennessee Tech University's history faculty, along with a support team, spent nine days in Château-Chéhéry, France, attempting to locate the site of the famous World War I engagement. After eight days of searching, Birdwell found "the button." The button—a 328G collar-button from York's 82nd Infantry Division—was a powerful indication that the site had been found. Nolan provided the GPS expertise, which involved combining information from maps and narratives for conversion to coordinates on a map, followed by building a model of the landscape and superimposing the map on the model. On a spatial database, the GPS connected the X and Y coordinates of previous artifacts found. The site is 250 kilometers northeast of Paris. Along with the button, 1,600 other artifacts were found including German gas masks, German gas mask filters, German bayonets, Mauser rifle bolts, and spent Colt .45 rounds. The site is scheduled to be marked by a museum, to be dedicated on October 6, 2007, when the team will return to celebrate its historically significant discovery.

John Vile, a.k.a. James Madison

John Vile (Political Science) brought James Madison back to the Constitution Day celebration. Juniors and seniors from local high schools were invited to join Vile, in the guise of the fourth U.S. president, for a day of discussion about the Constitution. The occasion also gave students the opportunity to express their views about constitutional amendments. Mark Byrnes served as host of the event, and he presented prizes to students who scored the highest on a quiz about the Constitution. (The college thanks the American Democracy Project for funding this event.) This was a great opportunity for high school students to come to campus, meet faculty members, and hear more about MTSU.

Faculty Research and Creative Projects Awards for Spring/Summer 2007

Christoph Rosencrantz (History), "Patterns, Permanence, Pathos: Images of the Court Society of Colonial Mexico, 1650-1715." Pippa Holloway (History), "A Century of Criminal Dismemberment in the U.S. South." Holloway is a finalist for the Soros Justice Media Fellowship. In early December she was in New York for a final interview. The recipient will be announced soon. Good luck, Pippa.

Sean Foley (History), "The Arab Gulf States: When Oil Is Not Enough." Foley was awarded a $60,980 grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation in support of his book project. This grant will allow him some time away from teaching this year to finish the book and work on other projects.
Lectures, Conferences, and Forums on Campus

Albert Gore Sr., biographer Professor Anthony J. Badger was on campus for the 50th anniversary of the interstate highway system and to speak at an audience crowded that wanted to know more about Gore's involvement. (As a U.S. senator from Tennessee, Gore was a key proponent of the interstate system.) Badger is Paul Mellon Professor of American History at Cambridge University and Master of Clare College, Cambridge. Among his books are The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940 and The Making of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement. His latest book, the Gore biography, is scheduled to be out by what would have been Gore's 100th birthday, December 2007.

The Department of Social Work hosted the American Poverty and Children's Health Issues Forum during the fall, with Robert Rucker serving as chair of the event. The roundtable event included Mark Rank, George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, who discussed his book One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All; John Siegenthaler was also a guest, serving as moderator of the question-and-answer session following Rank's presentation. Headstart programs from around the state were well-represented, as were diverse groups of social service agencies. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Social Work students to hear from professionals and those in the trenches. A special thanks goes out to Robert Rucker for planning the event.

The Social Work Department was quite busy in the fall. In addition to the children's health forum, a second event brought to campus Mylly Soffari, a writer and lecturer who addresses issues of race and diversity, as part of the University Lecture Series. The student of Phi Alpha Honor Society worked hard and long to secure funding for the lecture and organize the event. Margaret Seidman and Beverly English (Social Work) served as faculty sponsors. Those 300 in attendance thank you for your dedication.

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Retired Faculty

Jack Justin Turner (Political Science, retired) has a new book titled The South's Most Memorable. Turner is from his home of Maytown, Kentucky. The book is one of a trilogy, with the second to be out in July. If you would like to purchase the book, please visit www.chestmuthillpublishing.com.

Turner will be on campus Thursday, March 1, for a book signing and to read excerpts from his new novel.

MTSU Wind Band Conference

The 22nd annual MTSU Wind Band Conference was held at the McLean School of Music on Thursday, February 1, at 4:00 p.m., and concluded with a concert on Saturday, February 3, at 2:00 p.m. The final concert took place at Tucker Theatre to better accommodate a larger audience. This was an outstanding opportunity for Tennessee's finest high school wind and percussion ensembles to rehearse and perform challenging music in a concentrated setting.
Student Successes

Leah Wilson, the very first graduate of MTSU's Bachelor of Arts in Art History program, has moved to Spain to study art history at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. Leah spent a semester in Spain as an exchange student while at MTSU.

Emily Kent and Derek Mceler (Music) competed in the Charles Lynnham National Vocal Competition at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, October 1–13. They were chosen as two of 12 invited semifinalists from 150 CD submissions from 27 states and three countries outside the U.S. MTSU was the only school to have two semifinalists in the competition. Even though neither Emily nor Derek advanced past the semifinals, they were honored to be there. Congratulations to both!

Matthew Moore, Josh Scisco, Noel Roberts, Andrea Basley, and Andrea Cooper (Speech and Theatre) made a presentation on diversity to their classmates and invited guests in their Organizational Communications class taught by Lisa Moore. The group made a pitch for a "Celebration of Diversity" day on campus. They have received a monetary commitment from the Ford Corporation to cover some of the costs. The proposal has been presented to administrators for implementation.

Lectures cont. from page 3

The 15th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium took place on campus November 15–16. Chair Vicki MacLean ( pictured) and Tanya Perez (Sociology and Anthropology) brought together a host of professionals to present papers that represented the title of the symposium: Resilience and Social Change in the Wake of Disaster. Capping off the event was Patrick Jenkins, professor of sociology, University of New Orleans; Nick Fielder, homeland security liaison and emergency service coordinator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; and Ronald Sipes, Nashville's chief of police, discussing "First Responders: Is Planning for Disaster Possible?"—a timely topic in the wake of Katrina and other natural disasters.

Ben Austin (Sociology and Anthropology, retired) was presented a plaque for his outstanding service and dedication to the symposium. Thank you, Ben, for many years of planning and commitment to this worthwhile event.

Motor City Bowl

The football team marked the only MTSU team at the Motor City Bowl. Our own Band of Blue, 566 members strong, took off on Christmas Day to arrive in Detroit for the big day at Ford Field. Along with the band, two buses of Blue Raider fans sporting blue and white Santa hats were there to support the football team and band. Thanks to John and Hanna Witherspoon for the hats and for their support of MTSU.
**New Books**

Kris McCooker (History) has a contract with the University of Illinois Press to publish her book manuscript, *Lavish Images and Bawdy Talk: Angels vs. Whores in Born Done Radio*.

*The Life of Saint Anthony: A Text by Martin* in French, translated and edited by June McCaskill (French), Languages and Literatures; and Judith Clark Brown, professor emerita of French at Western Illinois University, was released November 2, 2006 by McGraw-Hill and Langham. The text is a late 12th-century or early 13th-century hagiographical romance (a saint’s life that borrows many characteristics from secular romance). This is the first time in fifty years that this text has been edited, and the new version is also the world’s first translation.

Nancy Kelker (Art) has received a contract with Left Coast Press for *Fishing Around America*, co-written with Karen Olsen Bruland of San Francisco State University. The book deals with looting of pre-Columbian sites, the art market for antiquities, master forgers, famous fakes, and forgeries; and antiquities law enforcement.

**Awards/Projects**

Debrah Sckleer-Voigt was named the 2007 Tennessee Arts Education Association Higher Education Art Educator of the Year. Debrah was instrumental in creating a new wetlands project for Murfreeboro.

Greg Simmel (Speech and Theatre) was the recipient of the Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award.

The fall was a busy time for Erin Anfinson (Art), who had three exhibitions. She was part of a group exhibition at the Claypool-Young Art Gallery, Morehead State University, August 30–September 29; the Arts at the Airport Flying Solo Series, Nashville International Airport, September 8–December 8; and a solo exhibition at the James S. Murray Gallery, Lincoln Land Community College, October 20–November 17. Erin received a $1,000 Tennessee Arts Commission Professional Development Support Grant that helped in the completion of the work that was displayed at the Lincoln Land Community College show.

Congratulations to all!

**Inside Academia**

*Inside Academia* is an MTSU television show hosted by Richard Hannah (Economics and Finance). Hannah is currently hosting a series on Cahns. Fred Colvin (History) served as the first guest for the series he spoke about the history of Canada. The 30-minute show is broadcast on Channel 10.
MTSU Wind Ensemble in China

The Wind Ensemble will embark on a concert tour of China in July. The ensemble has been invited to perform in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, and Macau.

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) 994-2502. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send an e-mail to our college Web page, http://libarts.web.mtsu.edu/

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