National Women's History Month

Feminist, journalist, and activist Gloria Steinem will be the keynote speaker at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, in the Tennessee Room, James Union Building, as the University begins its annual observation of National Women's History Month. There will be a book signing and reception after Ms. Steinem's talk. Call the June Anderson Women's Center at (615) 898-2193 for more information about Women's History Month Activities on campus.

Pam Davis (Political Science) received the Secretarial Quarterly Award in fall 2009. Davis will be eligible for the yearly award in spring 2010. Congratulations to Davis in this show of appreciation for her dedication to her department and the University.

Dean's Notes

For the last eighteen months or so, MTSU has been discussing a reorganization plan called "Repositioning the University for the Future." One of the major features of the initiative is the proposed restructuring of the university's colleges. If, as now appears likely, these changes come, they will dramatically reshape our current college structure. Under the most recent "discussion document" issued by the interim provost, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) would cease to exist. Four of our current eleven departments—Art, Music, Speech and Theatre, and Social Work—would go elsewhere. A new College of Humanities and Sciences (or perhaps College of Arts and Sciences) would be created with two schools or divisions, one for the sciences and one for the humanities. Six current Liberal Arts departments would go to the School of Humanities: English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology and Anthropology. The last of the current eleven CLA departments, Geosciences, would move to the School of Sciences. The final decisions about restructuring will be made later this year.

There's no denying that the reorganization, combined with the economic downturn, has brought considerable uncertainty to campus. Change of this magnitude is never easy. Still, I am confident that the departments currently in Liberal Arts will continue to flourish in their new homes. As always, our focus will remain on providing our students with the best education we can. Now, on to news of the College of Liberal Arts.

John N. McDaniel, Dean
William R. Wolfe (retired English professor) passed away on January 6, 2010. He was the son of the late Roland Corrington and Mary Agnes McConnell Wolfe. He is survived by his younger brother, Donald Thomas Wolfe of Murfreesboro. Wolfe attended Overlook School and Father Ryan High School in Nashville. He held degrees from Saint Ambrose College, Marquette University, and the University of Virginia. Wolfe came to MTSU in 1969, became a full professor in 1982 and retired in 1996. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

Help-Portrait, a worldwide photo shoot was the idea of MTSU alum Jeremy Cowart. Cowart is a professional artist in Nashville who has photographed stars from Britney Spears to Sting, but on Saturday, December 12, 2009, he turned his camera to the homeless, disadvantaged, and everyday people. Through the Internet, Cowart got the word out to other photographers to do the same, and it became a worldwide event. Over a 24-hour period, over 40,000 portrait photos were taken by more than 6,000 volunteers including photographers, lighting specialists, and make-up artists. Cowart’s aim was to let all people know that they are valued individuals. What a difference one person can make!

Jason Nabors (adjunct, Foreign Languages and Literatures) received the 2009 Distinguished Latin Teaching Award from the Tennessee Classical Association at the November 2009 Annual Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Conference.

Lynn Rice-See (Music) recently released a CD of piano music called Evocation. The work was supported by a grant from the MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee and by Appalachian Pain Rehab of Johnson City, Tennessee. In a review of the CD, the American Record Guide said of See’s performance of Busoni’s Sonatina No. 2, “It is a difficult work to pull off, but that appears to be no problem for her.”

Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee recipients for 2010 are Lorne McWatters (History), Alicia Renfroe (English), Karen Petersen (Political Science), Dawn McCormick (History), John Maynor (Political Science), William Leggett (Sociology and Anthropology), Justyna Kostkowska (English), Allen Hibbard (English), Ida Fadizillah (Sociology and Anthropology), Claudia Barnett (English), Amanda DiPaolo (Political Science), Meredith Dye (Sociology and Anthropology), Nancy Boone-Allsbrook (Music), Kim Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre), Jette Halladay (Speech and Theatre), Felicia Miyakawa (Music), Albert Ogden (Geosciences), and Vicky MacLean (Sociology and Anthropology).

Ric Morris (Foreign Languages and Literatures) has a new book out: Pronunciacion de la lengua Espanola para anglohablantes [Spanish Pronunciation for English Speakers], published by Focus Publishing.

Stones River Wind Quintet performed on the stage of Squires Recital Hall in the Center for the Performing Arts at Miami University–Oxford, Ohio, on November 16. Laura Ross (oboe), an alumna of Miami, returned to her alma mater with fellow MTSU music faculty members Deanna Little (flute), Todd Waldecker (clarinet), Angela DeBoer (horn), and Maya Stone (bassoon). The quintet performed works by Reicha, Ligeti, and Arnold.

Continued on page 4
Sixty-two faculty and staff members from Liberal Arts received service awards during the December awards presentations. Those receiving awards for 45 and 40 years were Fred Crawford (History) 45 years, Fred Colvin (History) 40 years, and George Vernardakis (Political Science) 40 years. Congratulations to all these dedicated employees.

Prints: Through the Collector’s Eye

The MTSU Department of Art will present 38 original prints from private collections. Manet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Wedgwood, and Warhol, to name only a few of the artists, in the collection to be presented in Todd Art Gallery from February 16 to March 4. A reception will be held Monday, February 15, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This exhibition is free and open to the public.
Ellen Garrison (History) has been named to the first class of Society of Georgia Archivists Fellows. The Fellow Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the preservation of Georgia's documentary heritage through noteworthy leadership in the field, promotion of excellence through outstanding achievements, and/or significant contributions to the betterment of the profession.

Best Wishes to Becky Snow, who retired as administrative secretary to the Forensic Institute for Research and Education at the end of 2009. Mitzi Dunkley has accepted the vacated position to work with Hugh Berryman, director. We welcome Dunkley to the College of Liberal Arts.

The MTSU Dance Program received national recognition with the selection of Semaphore by Kim Neal Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre) for Breaking Ground 2009, a choreographers showcase in Tempe, Arizona, held in December 2009. The selection of MTSU demonstrates the high caliber of work being fostered in the dance program: Semaphore features student performers, but it was selected for a professional showcase.

Student News

Eric Covington, Communication Studies student and Debate Team member, has been selected to participate in the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference at the 2010 Southern States Communication Association Convention. His submission, "Life," "Liberty" and "Security": The Use of Ideographs within Popular Conservative Rhetoric," is a substantial revision of his COMM 4650 rhetorical criticism paper that won the award for best undergraduate paper at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association convention.

In his original analysis, Covington identified the rhetorical ideographs of "life" "liberty" and "security" in the public discourse of the three most popular conservative political pundits: Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Michael Savage. In his latest analysis, he further examines their unique rhetorical use of these American political ideographs, and he explains how and why they function persuasively in our public discourse as extraordinarily powerful motivators for recent new social movements and fanatical opposition to President Barack Obama.

Covington's scholarship in rhetorical criticism is remarkably insightful and potentially groundbreaking for rhetorical theory and political communication because he identifies a new American ideograph (security) in this discourse. He is continuing his work this spring in an independent study to expand the analysis and examine the use of these ideographs by other popular conservative pundits and the national Tea Party movement. He plans to present his ongoing work during MTSU's Scholars Week and the annual NCA convention to further refine it for publication.

Greg Simerly has served as mentor to our Debate Team students, and we would like to thank him for his dedication.

Congratulations to Abi Coffer (Music major). She is one of three chosen finalists for the Mid-South Flute Festival's Young Artist Competition, to be held March 19–20 at the University of Memphis.

Flutists Eric Griffin and Jenny Davis (Music majors) were winners at this year's state-level MTNA Collegiate Winds Competition. Griffin won first place and Davis was runner-up. Go flutes!

Joe Jordan, a Music major concentrating in Music Education, has advanced to the semifinals of the National Trumpet Competition in the jazz division. Jordan will travel to George Mason University in Virginia for the competition in March. Also, congratulations to Brian Potter and Shannon Stewart, both Music majors concentrating in Instrumental Performance, on making the semifinals in the undergraduate division.
History Graduates

On Saturday, December 19, 2009, Brian Hackett, Brian Dempsey, Kevin Cason, and Spurgeon King received the Ph.D. in Public History offered by MTSU's Department of History. Hackett has accepted a tenure-track position at Northern Kentucky University. There is also news about two previous graduates of the program: Heather Bailey accepted a public history position in Colorado, and Liz Smith will work at a historical interpretative site in Kansas.

GIS Workshop

The Geosciences Department sponsored the 2009 GIS Workshop in November. Tom Nolan (Geosciences) chaired the event, which brought back twelve MTSU alums who currently work in their major field.

The 26th Winter Music Education Workshop, a joint project with MTSU and the arts education program of the Tennessee Department of Education, took place on Saturday, January 16. Kelli Lynn Nichols from Seattle, Washington, served as the general music session clinician, and Jamey Simmons (MTSU Music) was the jazz improvisation clinician. The day was a great success with 102 participants including 47 college students. County school systems in Tennessee that participated were Bedford, Coffee, Franklin Special School District, Giles, Hamilton, Humphreys, Lawrence, Macon, Memphis City, Montgomery, Moore, Murfreesboro City, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Smith, Sumner, Tipton, Williamson, and Wilson.

Honors Lecture Series Fall 2009

Fred Colvin (History) presented the History of Sports at MTSU as part of Blue Raider Milestones: Approaching the Centennial, the fall 2009 Honors Lecture Series. This presentation was recorded, and it will be part of the University’s centennial observances in 2011. Before Colvin’s lecture, history student Matt Clark presented his fifteen-minute documentary of football at MTSU, titled Hail Mary’s to Raising Hell: MTSU Football in the 1940s. This project was created for Lorne McWatter’s film class.

Renovation of Tucker Theater in 2010

Tucker Theatre will be closing during spring 2010 for a $1.2 million renovation. New seating, new sound and light systems, restrooms and ramps designed to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and new flooring are all part of the renovation plan. The lobby and ticket office will also be renovated. Completion date for the project is July 15, and the results will be on display early fall 2010.
STAY INTOUCH 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 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) 898-5223. 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, non-nicely identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA/EO/AA

Upcoming Events

For Music, Art, and Theatre and Dance events, go online to www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts, and click on “Events” in the sidebar for more details, or call (615) 494-7628.

Prints: Through the Collector's Eye
Todd Art Gallery
February 16–March 4

Strickland Lecture: speaker, Christon Archer
Business and Aerospace Building
February 18

Wayne White, artist and alum of MTSU
Business and Aerospace Building
March 18

Baseball and Literature Conference: special guest, Ferguson Jenkins
James Union Building
March 26

Japanese Speaking Contest
James Union Building
April 3

MTSU Retiree Coffee, hosted by the College of Liberal Arts
Foundation House
April 8

Liberal Arts Awards Reception
James Union Building
April 21

Spring Commencement
May 8