New Wetlands for Murfreesboro

With the guidance of Debrah Sickler-Voigt (Art), students created a new wetlands courtyard for Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School. Plants and sculptured animals native to Tennessee wetlands fill the new courtyard. Ceramic pieces include a 20-foot red and gold corn snake and super-sized renditions of a frog and a duck. Fifteen undergraduate students, fifty Mitchell-Neilson students, and eight veterans worked together to prepare the courtyard and the construction of the animals. Bertha Chrietzeberg (retired HPERS faculty) served as the wetlands resource person. Tony Halterlein (Agribusiness and Agriscience) advised in the planting of trees for the site. Alley & Cassety provided free delivery of blocks, and Farrer Brothers Ace Hardware donated paint for the project.

Sickler-Voigt received a public service grant, and Mitchell-Neilson art teacher Mindy Black supplemented the project with a $500 business education partnership grant from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

Liberal Arts: Greetings!

Summer 2006 was another super summer. With forums, Governor’s School, field schools, traveling, faculty and staff searches, and researching for books taking place, Liberal Arts was an energized lot. Enrollment for summer 2006 set another record. Now, on to a review of summer news.

John N. McDaniel, Dean

Governor’s School 2006

MTSU was home for 230 Governor’s School students for five weeks this summer. Trish Decker, Governor’s School secretary, said this was a fantastic year with some wonderful talent. Decker, who has been secretary with the program for the last 12 years, says the students are what it is all about. The paperwork can be quite tedious, but the students make all the work worth the long hours. Below are the numbers for each division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Dale McGillard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>53 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Chair</td>
<td>John Ashworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>12 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Chair</td>
<td>Nancy Ammerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>137 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Chair</td>
<td>Jerome Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>28 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Chair</td>
<td>Jeff Gibson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructors from across the state worked with the talented students to help expand their skills and interests. MTSU has the largest Governor’s School in the state, with students receiving six hours of college credit for their work. We look forward to 2007 and a new cohort of 230 artistically gifted high school students coming to campus for a life-changing immersion into the fine arts.
Rethinking the Civil War at 150 Years

Rebecca Conard (History), with the help of grant funding, brought eight Civil War researchers to campus on June 22, for an engaging panel discussion of the Civil War after 150 years. Dwight Picaihley—MTSU's 2006 Visiting Distinguished Public Historian—served on the panel with Nancy Bassett (Biblical Resource Center and Museum in Memphis), John Costi (historian and director of Library and Research at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia), Walter T. Durham (current State Historian), Robert Hicks (author of The Widow of the South), Norm Hill (chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission), Stuart Johnson, superintendent of Stones River National Battlefield), and Wayne Wilson (commander of Murfreesboro Camp 33, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and teacher at Page High School in Williamson County). Each panelist had pertinent comments concerning the rethinking of the war. One interesting discussion involved the various names given to the war by people from different parts of the country. Some called it the Civil War, others called it the War Between the States, and a notable Louisiana native opted for The War of Northern Aggression.

Conard was a very busy person this summer not only with the planning of the forum but also with the Landmarks of American History Teacher Workshop funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The workshop for K–12 educators was an intense study of important historical topics taught on site, as was this year's Teaching Andrew Jackson workshop.

Making the TV Rounds

Tom Nolan (Geosciences) was interviewed by Channel 5's Ben Hall regarding his work with the Alvin C. York battlefield discovery in France.

Karen Petersen (Political Science) appeared on Channel 2 to discuss the relationship between North Korea and the U.S. and the recent testing of missiles by North Korea.
Retiree News

Retire—to withdraw from action or danger; withdraw from one’s occupation. We all know the definition, but this sure doesn’t describe the retiree Stay Current met with recently. Frank Ginanni (retired English chair) took a trip to South Africa this spring to visit his daughter Katie, who lives and works there. While some might think of gold and diamonds while in Cape Town or Johannesburg, Frank thought about the similarities with his hometown near the San Francisco area. The beautiful coast with its rich seafood and native wines were qualities that brought home to mind. But Frank and Katie went beyond the recognizable cuisine to try some exotic local delicacies, such as zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, crocodile, and impala. Yum!

Not far away from the coast of South Africa is a small land mass called Robben Island, which some might remember as the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for many years. Now the island is a museum where many go to remember Mandela and what he stood for and still stands for today. Something Ginanni wasn’t prepared to see on this trip were the children in the not-so-picturesque parts of the cities. When Ginanni asked his guide why they traveled to places that weren’t so flattering, the guide said he wanted...
Student Accomplishments

At a late spring ceremony in Atlanta, the American Advertising Federation awarded 11 of our MTSU art students gold and silver awards. There were over 1,000 entries in the competition from 23 colleges and universities throughout the South. The winner will advance to a national event in San Francisco. You will recognize these names from the Nashville Advertising Federation Contest held earlier this year. Good luck in San Francisco!

Bryan Kemp, Courtney Edwards, Matt Thompson, Johnny King
Pets Do It Too, Spay USA Ad Campaign—Gold

Leigh Bernstein, Chad Cooper, Daniel Brown
Soft Strong Longlasting, Scott Products Ad Campaign—Silver

Ben Stewart
Shrubber, Stationery Package—Silver

Kayla Clark
Holitoriis, Packaging—Gold

Eric Kreutter
Keith Walker, Web Site—Gold

Chris Jenke
The Delicious Pear Exotic Foods, Editorial Design—Gold

Retiree News cont. from page 3

everyone to see all his cities, not just the famous parts. What an experience. Frank, enjoy your travels and continue learning.

We would like to hear from other retirees. What are you doing these days? Do you have a hobby you would like to tell us about, or have you taken a trip you would like to talk about? Call 494-7628 or e-mail Stay Current editor Connie Huddleston at chudd@mtsu.edu.

Faculty News and Projects

Elyce Helford (English) portrayed April Green in The Hot L. Baltimore at Murfreesboro Little Theater this summer. The play was directed by alumnus Bob Roberts, a 2002 graduate who majored in theater with an emphasis in performance.

Kevin Smith
(Sociology and Anthropology) headed up another summer dig at Castalian Springs, Tennessee. The project is to gain an initial understanding of the size and extent of a prehistoric Native American town there dating back to AD 1000–1400, with the hope that any development will not have a negative impact on the site. This year’s dig was a continuation of last year’s. The project was sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at MTSU along with the Bledsoe’s Lick Historical Association and the Tennessee Division of Archaeology. From June 5 to July 7, students honed their abilities in surveying and recording—work that is definitely not for the impatient. It takes many hours to prepare a site just to begin a dig, not to mention the many tedious hours of work that follow. So if you go to a site, don’t simply ask, “Whatcha find?” The search and discovery process is a complex and arduous one!
Speech and Theatre’s Lori Kissinger is executive director of VSA arts Tennessee, a nonprofit group based in Gallatin that supports the mission of empowering individuals with disabilities through the arts. Lori had students from her Fundamentals of Communications class work on a service-learning project named Keymunicate, a state-wide relay conducted in each of the nine congressional districts. Students from MTSU handled the activities for the Murfreesboro-area district. They met with residents at the Veterans Administration Home. The veterans created art and poems representing what patriotism meant to them, and the results were shared with children in elementary schools. The children created their own art in response to what they saw and heard, and a scrapbook of the entire process was made and given to the Veterans Home.

Another effort is the Ryman project. Students researched disabled performing artists and created an activity book that included historical information, dot-to-dots, mazes, coloring pictures of famous performers with disabilities, crossword puzzles, and a word find. On October 25, 2006, artists with disabilities will perform on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium for 2,000 special education students, followed by an evening performance for the general public. Copies of the activity book will be given to the children. Students from Kissinger’s ORCO class will assist with publicity and general logistics.

This year VSA arts Tennessee was awarded the 2006 National Award for Public Awareness and Outreach for these two projects. The award was given at a program in Washington, D.C., on June 9. Congratulations to Lori and all participants!

Six English faculty members worked with Linebaugh Public Library on the Bookends Project for the 2006 Summer Lecture Series. The in-depth exploration of contemporary literature for book discussion groups ran from June through July this summer. Mohammed Albakry lectured on Freedom in the Making of Western Culture, by Orlando Patterson. Elvira Casal spoke about Waiting for Snow in Havana, written by Carlos Eire. Jenny Marchant, children’s literature specialist, discussed The Canning Season, by Polly Horvath. Jimmie Cain spoke about Tim O’Brien’s Going After Cacciato, a book on comedy and bleak horror (interesting combination). Clifton Kaiser chose The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion. Bob Petersen’s selection was Andrea Barrett’s Ship Fever, a volume of stories by Andrea Barrett. Thanks to all for their participation in the program and service to the community.
Model UN Team

Twelve students from the MTSU Model UN team attended the Virginia International Crisis Simulation (VICS) at the University of Virginia this spring. The students competed with delegates from Princeton, Columbia, Georgetown, Concordia, the University of Florida, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. Five of our MTSU delegates were recognized for their outstanding performances. Jesse Moore won Best Delegate for his role with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia, 1989. This is the highest honor given at VICS. Nathaniel Potts won Honorable Mention for his role as the ambassador to China on the Russian Cabinet, 2015. Garrett Kidd won Honorable Mention for representing Libya in the League of Arab States for the second consecutive year! Ben Cooley won a Verbal Commendation for his role on the U.S. Supreme Court. Sara Fisher won a Verbal Commendation for her role as the Hindu Mahasabha on the pre-partition India committee. Hard work and dedication pay—congratulations! Thanks also to Karen Petersen, faculty sponsor, for leadership and direction.