Look Out!
There's a Dinosaur On Campus!

If you travel over to Ezell Hall where the Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum is located, you will see a new addition—an allosaurus. The curator of the museum, Al Ogden

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Dean's Notes

Welcome to the spring issue of Stay Current. After a busy and productive fall and a much-appreciated break, we are excited to be back for the spring 2011 semester.

Liberal Arts is the largest college on campus, with 315 full-time faculty members. Indeed, one of our ten departments—the Department of English—alone employs more full-time faculty members than can be found throughout either of two other MTSU colleges! With the inevitable turnover that comes with such a large faculty contingent, and with additional positions created to accommodate enrollment growth, hiring faculty is a vital and ongoing process.

This year we are conducting searches for two tenure-track positions in Music and in Speech and Theatre, and one each in English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and History. In addition, we are searching for a chair for Speech and Theatre, and the Provost's Office is handling the search for the dean of the college.

Later in the year, the college will launch searches for quite a few full-time temporary faculty positions, the final number to be determined as the enrollment picture for fall 2011 becomes clear.

The faculty hired through these searches will join the University just before it marks the centennial of its creation on September 11, 2011. Stay tuned for more information about the ways MTSU will celebrate the centennial.

In the meantime, please take a few moments to read this newsletter and learn about some of the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students.

Mark Byrnes, Interim Dean
Somaly Mam to Address Interdisciplinary Conference

The keynote speaker for the 2011 Interdisciplinary Conference will be Somaly Mam, a survivor of the Cambodian sex slave trade. Mam has dedicated her life to exposing the multibillion-dollar global sex trade, and she travels widely speaking on the topic. She founded the Somaly Mam Foundation in 2007.

Mam was a 2006 CNN Hero, was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2009, and received the first Rolan Berger Human Dignity Award. She will speak on March 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Schola Cantorum at the Vatican

MTSU’s Schola Cantorum has been officially accepted to sing at the Vatican on May 11, 2011, under the direction of Raphael Bundage (Music). What an honor! We hope to get some video footage to post online.

Cuba at the Crossroads

Gonzalez, far right, continues a stimulating conversation after his talk on Cuba.

Rodrigo Gonzalez, a native of Cuba, presented “Cuba at the Crossroads” at MTSU in fall 2010 as a guest of Rick Morris (Foreign Languages and Literatures). Gonzalez has been active for over 18 years in coordinating exchange programs in Cuba, and he continues to work as Cuba’s program director for Girasol, a nonprofit study abroad endeavor based in San Francisco. He also serves a researcher for a youth organization affiliated with the Cuban Ministry of Culture. Gonzalez hopes that the U.S. government will lift travel restrictions to allow more students to travel to Cuba.
Nancy Rupprecht (History) was presented the Enno Kraehl Award for her service to the European section of the Southern Historical Association. The award recognizes a lifetime of service to the organization.

Lalo Davila (Music) was interviewed for Zilkijian Story, the online magazine of one of the world’s leading cymbal makers.

Dawn McCormack (History) received $4,200 from a TBR Access and Diversity Grant through the College of Liberal Arts to continue her research on the South Abydos Mastabas Project, which will take four students to Egypt this spring to do archaeological work. (Apply for this TBR grant by calling Hilary Stallings at 898-5039 or by checking the Liberal Arts web page at www.mtsu.edu/liberalarts.)

The League of Women Voters sponsored a lecture by Robb McDaniels (Political Science) in fall 2010 titled “Civility in Public Discourse.”

Sonja Hedgepeth (Foreign Languages and Literatures) coedited Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust with Rochelle Saidel, founder and director of Remember the Women Institute in New York City. The book is one of the first written in English specifically about the violence suffered by women in the Holocaust. Brandeis University Press released the book in December.

Doug Heffington (History, Director of Global Studies) chaired the 2010 South Central Historical Archeology Conference at Radnor Lake. The conference was hosted by Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Friends of Radnor Lake, MTSU’s History Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Global Studies program.

Retiree News

We are always happy to hear from our retirees and catch up on their many projects. Below are updates from Shirley Farris Jones, Fred Rolater, and Ron Messier.

Shirley Jones (former secretary, Foreign Languages and Literatures) had her book, The Un-Civil War in Middle Tennessee, released in late 2010. The book is a compilation of articles concerning the Civil War era, with some of her family history included, that she wrote for the Murfreesboro Post. In an online interview with Gina Logue, Jones talks about discovering the diaries and letters that helped in her research. The book can be purchased for $30 through the Rutherford County Historical Society, P.O. Box 906, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-0906. If you would like a signed copy, send a check for $30 (payable to RCHS) to Shirley Jones at 2312 Tomahawk Trace, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Professor Emeritus Fred Rolater’s article, “The Local Origins of Landmarkism: First Baptist, Nashville; Concord Baptist Association; and Union University and the Definitive Controversy among Southern Baptists,” was published in the fall 2010 issue of Tennessee Baptist History. He also wrote a book-length bicentennial history of the Concord Baptist Association of Murfreesboro, Concord 200.

Professor Emeritus Ron Messier (History) had two books published in 2010: The Almoravids and the Meaning of Jihad and Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths.

Homecoming Blast

Homecoming was a blast for all Blue Raider alums and fans. The College of Liberal Arts greeted many of those who stopped by the tailgating tent for some cotton candy and conversation. If you didn’t make it for 2010, set your calendars for 2011.
Condolences
Sarah Howell

Sarah (Sally) Howell (History, retired) passed away Monday, January 3. Howell came to MTSU in 1970 as an assistant professor after teaching in Atlanta and Nashville. Professor Emeritus William Windham (former chair, History) said, “Dr. Howell was a very fine teacher and scholar. She was an elegant lady and was a pleasant and delightful colleague.” Howell retired in 1996 after a career dedicated to her students and colleagues. We express our deepest sympathies to her family.

Student News

Kevin Joest (Music student) received word at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference that four of his compositions would be published.

Take 6 Takes #1 Jazz Album

(L–R) Mark Kibble, Joe Kibble, Linda Hockersmith (Governor’s School for the Arts), David Thomas, Raphael Bandage (Music), Connie Huddleston (Liberal Arts), Cedric Dent, Alvin Chea, Claude McKnight

Take 6’s The Most Wonderful Time of the Year recently reached number one as an iTunes best-selling jazz album. Our own Cedric Dent (Music) is a baritone vocalist, arranger, and producer with the group. That connection brought the Take 6 to the Governor’s School for the Arts in 2010 to perform for students and guests.
Tucker Theatre Reopening

Former chair James Brooks (Speech and Theatre) joined current (interim) chair Jeff Gibson in October for the reopening of Tucker Theatre. Along with the chairs, John Cothern, senior vice president of Business and Finance, spoke about the multimillion-dollar renovation of the facility.

The celebration continued after the ceremony with a performance of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The program said, “Get ready to laugh, tap your toes, and perhaps shed a tear,” and that statement was right on target. Thanks to all for a fabulous job.

Rooker Talks Baseball

The 16th annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference will be hosted by the English Department on Friday, April 1, with special lunch speaker Jim Rooker, former pitcher for the Detroit Tigers (1968), the Kansas City Royals (1969–1973), and the Pittsburgh Pirates (1974–1980). After baseball, Rooker began a new career as a children’s book writer. Rooker will sign his books Paul the Baseball, Matt the Batt, and Kit the Mitt during the event. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Jay Labov, NRC, to Speak on Education

Professors Mary Hoffswelle (History) and Judith Iriate-Gross (Chemstry) are working together to bring Jay Labov to campus as part of their Tennessee History and Science Raider Learning Community course. Labov is a senior staff member of the National Research Council’s Center for Education. He will deliver a public lecture about teaching controversial topics on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building. For more information, contact Connie Huddleston at 494-7628.

Japanese Speaking Contest Returns

The Japanese Speaking Contest is returning to MTSU for a second year. Dr. Priya Ananth (Foreign Languages and Literatures) will again serve as on-site chair. The event, scheduled for Saturday, April 9, brings college-level contestants to campus to compete in three levels of speaking Japanese. Sponsors of the event are the Consulate General of Japan (Nashville Office), the Japan-America Society of Tennessee, and MTSU.

Calling Dr. G

Are you a fan of Dr. G: Medical Examiner? If so, you’ll want to hear Dr. Jan Carla Garavaglia (“Dr. G”) April 12, 7:00 p.m., when she appears as the featured speaker at the 2011 William Bass Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship. Dr. G is the medical examiner who identified the remains of Caylee Anthony, a south Florida toddler whose mother is accused of the child’s murder. Garavaglia is chief medical examiner for Florida’s Orange and Osceola counties. Dr. G: Medical Examiner has been the top-ranked show on the Discovery Health channel and is entering its seventh year. Returns are now on the Fox channel, and the new shows are on TLC.
## Upcoming Events

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| January 13–February 10 | 12x12, Biennial Exhibition, Small Works  
Reception: February 8, 6–8 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |
| January 31    | "The Mother-Goddess Figurine Problem of the European Paleolithic"  
Brad Bartel, University Provost  
Honors Lecture Series |
| February 14   | "Franco-Peruvian Writer and Diplomat Ventura Garcia Calderon"  
Nancy Goldberg, Foreign Languages  
and Literatures  
Honors Lecture Series |
| February 15–March 3 | Foundations/Survey Exhibition  
Reception: February 15, 6–8 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |
| February 18   | "Jesus Interrupted, God's Problem, and Misquoting Jesus"  
Bart Ehrman, UNC–Chapel Hill  
3:30 p.m., State Farm Room, BAS |
| February 21   | "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child: Reconstructing the Story of an  
American Song's Journey"  
Felicia Mikakawa, Music  
Honors Lecture Series |
| February 23–26 | Medea by Euripides  
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre |
| February 28   | "Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths: A Dialogue between Christians and Muslims"  
Ron Messer, Professor Emeritus, History  
Honors Lecture Series |
| March 15–March 24 | Studio B.F.A. Show 1  
Reception: March 15, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |
| March 21      | "Almost to Eden"  
June McCash, Professor Emerita, Foreign  
Languages and Literatures  
Honors Lecture Series |
| March 24–26   | "Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies"  
Interdisciplinary Conference |
| March 29–April 7 | Studio B.F.A. Show 2  
Reception: March 28, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |
| March 30–April 2 and April 6–9 | Rent by Jonathan Larson  
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre |
| April 12–21   | Graphic Design B.F.A. Show 1  
Reception: April 11, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |
| April 21–23   | Spring Dance Concert  
7:30 p.m., Tucker Theatre |
| April 26–May 5 | Graphic Design B.F.A. Show 2  
Reception: April 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Todd Art Gallery |

To keep up with all events, please check the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Music, and the Theatre and Dance programs at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu).

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