Goodbye, and Thank You All!

Retiring from the College of Liberal Arts recently were Russell Church (Speech and Theatre), Fred Colvin (History), Patrick Conley (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Ellen Garrison (History), Larry Gentry (English), George Kerrick (English), Robert Jones (History), Paul O'Farrell (Geosciences), Robert Rucker (Social Work), Carolyne Shaw (Speech and Theatre), and Rebecca Snow (Forensic Institute for Research and Education). Best wishes to all of you, and special thanks for all your years of service to the students of Middle Tennessee State University.

Dean’s Notes

This will be the last note from Dean John N. McDaniel. No one could say it better than the dean himself.

Too soon and much to his chagrin, Dr. John Noble McDaniel departed this life on May 3, 2010, leaving behind his wife and best friend Jean, sons Scott (Donnetta) and Craig, granddaughters, Alex, Mandy, and Heidi, twin brother Tom, and sisters Sue and Sal, all of whom he loved beyond measure but didn’t say so often enough, by his own admission. Dr. McDaniel was an honors graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, where his academic and athletic accomplishments grew ever greater in his later years (as he recalled); he also earned masters and doctoral degrees from respectively, Johns Hopkins and Florida State. He came to Middle Tennessee State University in 1970 as an assistant professor of English, went on to become chair of the English Department, and then served for a quarter-century as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, a position that he navigated with some grace and survived with considerable luck. Having lived “the examined life” with animated good humor, Dr. McDaniel leaves behind few regrets and many memorable moments for loved ones to contemplate at their leisure. Teaching Shakespeare’s tragedies for four decades left him with the distinct impression that almost everyone dies in the end, though he had hoped that perhaps in his case an exception would be made. Failing that, he expressed on leaving for that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns that it had been a “good ride, mainly.” And, mainly, a noble one.

If you would like to donate to the John N. McDaniel Teaching Excellence Award, please contact Robyn Kilpatrick at 898-5223, or send donations to College of Liberal Arts, MTSU Box 97, 1301 East Main St., Murfreesboro, TN 37132, c/o of Robyn Kilpatrick.
Bones Creator Speaks at FIRE Legend Event

Kathy Reichs, author of the *Bone* series of fiction books and executive producer of the *Bone* TV series, was at MTSU on April 14, 2010, as the Legends in Forensic Science spring 2010 speaker. Reichs is one of only 70 American Academy of Forensic Science board-certified forensic anthropologists in the United States, along with MTSU’s Hugh Berryman, director of the Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE), which sponsors the lecture series. Reichs spoke to a crowd of more than 1,000 in Murphy Center about solving cases and writing books.

The fall 2011 Legends in Forensic Science speaker will be Henry Lee, most famous for his appearances in court cases concerning Laci Peterson, O. J. Simpson, and JonBenet Ramsey, and for his research on war crimes in Croatia and Bosnia.

Faculty News

Sean Foley (History) has a new book, *The Arab Gulf States: Beyond Oil and Islam*, released by Lynne Rienner Publishers this spring.

Kari Neely (Foreign Languages and Literatures) recently won a $93,800 TBR Access and Diversity Grant to bolster Kurdish studies at MTSU.

Jetta Halladay (Speech and Theatre) wrote and produced *MTSU Appalachian Roots*, a play performed at local schools and presented to audiences in Northern Ireland in May. Others who contributed to the play were Carol Ponder, Nancy Boone-Allsbrook (Music), and Kim Neal Nofsinger (Speech and Theatre).

Outstanding Advisors from the College of Liberal Arts for 2010 were Dawn McCormick (History), Susan Hopkirk (English), Nancy Boone-Allsbrook (Music), and Kevin Smith (Sociology and Anthropology).

Jeremy Rich’s (History) coedited volume, *Navigating African Maritime History*, has been published by the International Maritime Economic History Association.

Nancy Rupprecht (Holocaust Studies Committee chair), author and editor, and Wendy Koenig (North Central College, Naperville, Illinois), editor, have announced that their compilation of papers from the 2007 Holocaust Studies Conference, “Holocaust Persecution: Responses and Consequences,” has been released. The publisher has asked for a proposal for the 2009 papers. Good luck for another success!

Jeff Gibson (Speech and Theatre) received the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s Medallion Service Award.

Lisa Pruitt (History) has won a National Institute of Health grant to help in her research on childhood disability.

Bob Hunt (History) is to be congratulated for his new book, *The Good Men Who Won the War: Army of the Cumberland Veterans and Emancipation Memory*, published by the University of Alabama Press. It is the winner of the 2008 Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize for the best manuscript on Southern history or culture.
Public History
Sponsors Forum
on New National Park Network

On May 26, the MTSU Public History program, collaborating with the National Park Service (NPS), presented a free public forum on a new effort to link national parks associated with the history of World War II. Held at the Rutherford County Courthouse, the forum provided details about the World War II Network of Parks, which is intended to increase heritage tourism at sites of historical significance during the war years. Moderating the forum was Stephanie Toothman, chief of cultural resources, Pacific West Region, NPS. Other participants were Tracy Fortmann, superintendent, Fort Vancouver, National Historic Site; Vince Santucci, chief ranger, George Washington Memorial Parkway; and Tom Leatherman, deputy superintendent, Port Chicago Naval Magazine (California).

Readings from Around the World

The Eighteenth Annual Women's International Poetry Reading, coordinated by Michael Rice (German) and Lauren Gates (Spanish), was held Wednesday, March 24. The theme for the event was “Food for Thought.” Poetry written by women from Armenia, Canada, Cuba, France, Senegal, and Spain was featured. The reading was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Women's History Month, and the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students.

Regional Theatre/Dance Conferences Visit MTSU

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Regional Conference was held on campus February 2–6, chaired by Jeff Gibson (Speech and Theatre). The American College Dance Festival Southeast Regional Conference, chaired by Kim Neal Nofsinger (Dance), was held at MTSU March 6–10. Both these conferences brought students from the southeast U.S. to compete and to continue their training with professionals in the fields of theatre and dance. MTSU and the College of Liberal Arts were honored to host these events.

History Day Contest Returns to MTSU

On February 26, the History Department and the College of Liberal Arts, in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Society, again sponsored the Middle Tennessee District History Day competition. Since 2002, the college has hosted this event, which brings junior high and high school students to campus to compete in exhibits, documentaries, dramatic performances, research papers, and Web-based interpretation. The winners go on to participate at the state level and, if successful, at the national level. Many months of planning are required for this event, and history professors Rebecca Conard and Jan Leone, who co-chaired the competition, once again did a fantastic job.

Participants in the Eighteenth Annual Women's International Poetry Reading, left to right: Michael Rice, Deborah Mistrion, Lauren Gates, Maria Clayton, Nancy Goldberg, Kari Neely, Leah Lyons, Joan McCrae, and Judith Ruscioletti.
In Memoriam

With great sadness, we note the passing of four faculty members associated with the College of Liberal Arts: T. Coy Porter, Daniel McMurry, David LeDoux, and our dean and friend John N. McDaniel.

T. Coy Porter

T. Coy Porter, professor of Foreign Languages, passed away April 12 at the age of 87. Porter is survived by his wife, Fanajo, three daughters, and a son-in-law. Professor Porter taught at MTSU for 20 years in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department (1964-1985) and served for a time as chair of the department.

Dan McMurry

Dan McMurry, professor emeritus (Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work), passed away March 27, leaving his wife of 51 years, Carolyn, and children Dawn, Josh, and Jenny. Professor McMurry taught at MTSU for 30 years (1968-1997). He will be remembered for his compassionate research on the homeless in Tennessee.

David LeDoux

David LeDoux, professor of Art, passed away May 25. He is survived by his wife, Pat; children Paul (Ann), Patricia, and Jeanne (Marvin); and stepdaughters Leilani and Jennifer. He taught painting and drawing at MTSU for 38 years (1956-1994). He will be missed at gallery openings and many other University events.

John N. McDaniel

John N. McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of English, passed away May 3 after a valiant fight with cancer. Dean McDaniel is survived by his wife, Jean, and sons Scott (Donnetta) and Craig. Family was very important to Dean McDaniel, and he spent many weekends with grandchildren Alex, Mandy, and Heidi. Dean McDaniel taught at MTSU for 40 years (1970-2010). We will miss him, but he established guidelines for the college that will continue for years to come.
Jazz Groups Conquer in Kentucky

Congratulations to the MTSU Graduate Jazz Combo (directed by Tom Giampietro) and MTSU Jazz Ensemble I for their performances at the University of Louisville 2010 Jazz Festival. Jazz Ensemble I was named Outstanding Ensemble and was invited to perform as the opening act for jazz legend Houston Person. Outstanding soloists/performers were Jonathan Wires (bass), Rick Mraz (flute), Ryan Middagh (baritone saxophone), Carl Roberts III (drum set), Shannon Stewart (lead trumpet), Ashton Kimbrough (piano), Cord Martin (tenor saxophone), and Matt Hall (trombone). Congratulations to all of you and to Don Aliquo, jazz studies director.

Otto Stoy (Music major) won first prize at the 32nd annual Beethoven Club Young Artist Guitar Competition. Benjamin Golden and John Hollandsworth were awarded second and third prizes, respectively. The Beethoven Club was founded in 1888 and is one of America’s oldest private music clubs. We understand that this is the fourth time MTSU students have swept all the guitar awards in this annual competition. Congratulations to William Yelverton (Music) for his commitment to guiding these students in guitar.

Abi Cofer (Music major) won the Mid-South Flute Festival’s Young Artist Competition in Memphis in March.

Official notice has been sent to Aaron Shew (Political Science major) from the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) that he will be spending next year in Lucknow, India, on a fellowship completely paid for by the U.S. Department of Education. He will head to Washington D.C. June 9 and on to India June 11 with the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). At the end of the CLS program, he will remain in India for the AIIS fellowship until late April 2011.

Erica Simmons (Music major) has received full acceptance into Spoleto as well as the American Institute of Musical Studies.

Congratulations to Ana Valenzuela (History major), who has won a spot in the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program for outstanding college sophomores and juniors. A weeklong program based in New York City, it is designed to reward undergraduates who have demonstrated superb research and writing skills in the field of American history and to provide an opportunity for the next generation of historians to engage in discussion with eminent scholars and in primary-source research.
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/

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.

University Convocation - 2 p.m. 
Sun. August 29

Homecoming (MTSU vs. Louisiana at Monroe) 
Sat. October 23

Social Sciences 
Tues.–Wed. November 2-3

Undergraduate Symposium

Evening of Swing 
Sat. November 6

CUSTOMS 2010 Dates for Liberal Arts

Tuesday–Wednesday, June 15–16
Wednesday–Thursday, June 23–24
Friday–Saturday, July 16–17
Wednesday–Thursday, July 28–29
**Liberal Arts Welcomes New Associate Dean**

Jan Leone (History) has been named interim associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts for academic year 2010–11. Leone has served in the History Department for 21 years and has an excellent record of teaching, research, and service. The responsibilities of the associate dean are handling student requests and complaints, curriculum and program developments, and special projects. We welcome Professor Leone to the dean's staff.

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**Byrnes Named Interim Dean**

Provost Brad Bartel announced on July 26 that Professor Mark Byrnes (Political Science) has been named interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents. This will be a one-year appointment for Professor Byrnes while a committee is formed for a national search to fill the position permanently. Professor Byrnes has served the college as associate dean since 2006 and acting dean since spring 2010.

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**Dean's Notes**

Welcome to the fall 2010 issue of Stay Current. As did the dean before me, I will use this avenue to disseminate information to you and also brag about our many accomplishments in Liberal Arts. The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of excitement to campus. The opportunity for a fresh start and the endless possibilities of a new school year are so appealing that they make the increased traffic around campus almost tolerable.

This year has brought major changes to the College of Liberal Arts. John McDaniel, who served as our dean for a quarter century, passed away in May after a valiant fight with cancer. Although we remain saddened by his loss, we take pleasure in remembering the innumerable ways he shaped the college and influenced the lives of its faculty, staff, and students. And, of course, we remember him personally for his quick wit, kindness, and wisdom.

I am happy to report that the College of Liberal Arts survived the recent University reorganization. One version of the “Repositioning the University for the Future” plan would have dismantled the college, splitting its departments among other existing colleges and a new college of arts and sciences. Fortunately, President Sidney McPhee did not accept that sweeping recommendation, instead opting for a more limited reorganization. Liberal Arts did lose the Department of Social Work and the Communications Disorders program within the Department of Speech and Theatre to the new College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. We are sad to lose those programs and their faculty but relieved that the rest of the college remained unscathed.

As the college goes through these transitions, we remain committed to providing a first-rate education to our students. Continue reading to see some of the ways we are working toward that goal.

*Mark Byrnes, Interim Dean*
Welcome to New Faculty

ART
Shawna Harris (dissertation fellow)

ENGLISH
Kevin Brown
Matthew Brown
Ethan Castelo
Frances Henderson
Amy Kaufman
Christopher Mitchell
Jason Payton
Aaron Shapiro
Laura White
Aneeka Henderson (dissertation fellow)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Andrew Demil

GEOSCIENCES
Sarah Krentz
Christopher Schaney

GLOBAL STUDIES
Justin Phalichanh

MUSIC
Arunesh Nadgir
Jennifer Vannatta-Hall

SPEECH AND THEATRE
Debra Boyd
Madia Cooper
Perry Cotham
Stephen Decker
Bethany Hoppe
Kyle Kennedy
Beverly Norcross
Marsha Plemons
Kristi Shamburger
Ziaowei Shi
Lori Stephens

Debra Boyd  Madia Cooper  Stephen Decker
Andrew Demil  Bethany Hoppe  Kyle Kennedy
Arunesh Nadgir  Beverly Norcross  Christopher Schaney
Kristi Shamburger  Aaron Shapiro  Ziaowei Shi
Lori Stephens  Jennifer Vannatta-Hall
Tanya Peres and Shannon Hodge (Sociology and Anthropology), along with Aaron Deter-Wolf (Tennessee Division of Archaeology) are working on an emergency shoreline assessment of archaeological sites along the Cumberland River. Peres is lead investigator on the National Science Foundation Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant. With recent flooding in the Nashville area, many sites have been disturbed; this team will assess the damage through tracking and mapping. After the fieldwork, all recovered materials and project documentation will be returned to MTSU for processing and analysis.

Amy Sayward (History) coedited Tennessee’s New Abolitionists: The Fight to End the Death Penalty in the Volunteer State (University of Tennessee Press), along with Margaret Vandiver, UT faculty member.

Professor Emeritus Raymond Bills (Music, 1963–2006) and his wife Jean Bills performed, along with solo handbell artist Nancy Hascall, at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro this summer. Many of you will remember Raymond and Jean for their many years of dedicated service to MTSU and the Murfreesboro music community.

Steve Morris (Chair, Political Science) coedited Corruption in Politics in Latin America: National and Regional Dynamics (Lynne Rienner Publishers) with Charles H. Blake from James Madison University.

Gretchen Webber (Sociology and Anthropology) has been selected as a finalist in the annual competition for the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research. This award is a joint project between the Center for Families at Purdue University and the Boston College Center for Work and Family.


The U.S. Army’s Center of Military History selected Derek Frisby (History) to write volume 15, Campaigns in Mississippi and Tennessee, 1864, of the 17-volume Civil War Commemorative Campaigns Series.

Felicia Miyakawa (School of Music) was elected to a three-year term on the Council of the American Musicological Society, where she will serve as secretary.

Book reviews for Lynn Rice-See’s (School of Music) The Piano Teaching of Walter Hanitzig, with 613 Examples from Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Chopin compare the book to attending days at a master class and include the words “inspiring” and “fascinating.” Four main chapters cover twelve Beethoven sonatas, five Schubert sonatas and the “Wanderer” Fantasy, five multi-movement works of Schumann, and nine major works of Chopin.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Arts brought Take 6, the renowned Christian vocal jazz group to campus for a workshop/concert. MTSU’s Cedric Dent (Music) is a member of the Grammy-winning group, and he toured with the ensemble during summer break. Take 6 took time from its touring schedule to stop at MTSU to work with Governor’s School students and perform for a community crowd.

continued on p. 4
The Philip Roth Society has announced the establishment of the annual Siegel/McDaniel Award for Graduate Student Research in honor of Ben Siegel and our own John N. McDaniel. The award recognizes high-quality work presented by graduate students on Roth Society panels in a given academic year. The award is given in honor of both Siegel and McDaniel for their many years of dedicated scholarship on the work of the novelist Philip Roth.

Congratulations to Nancy Rupprecht (History) and the Holocaust Studies Committee for a contract to create a second book based on papers from the MTSU International Holocaust Studies Conference. The title will be *The Holocaust and World War II in History and in Memory*. The MTSU Holocaust Conference became the International Holocaust Conference in 2009 after attracting paper proposals from first-class scholars from Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Ukraine, Poland, Israel, Italy, and Slovenia to participate in the ninth biennial conference.

A new archivist has been appointed to the Albert Gore Research Center. James T. Havron Jr. began his work in August, replacing Matthew Brown, who left the University in May. Havron comes to MTSU from the special collections area of the Nashville Public Library. He has also worked at the Grand Ole Opry Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. In 2009, he finished an M.A. in history with a concentration in archives management at MTSU. He is also a certified archivist.

The MTSU Art Department has received a generous donation of $10,000 from an anonymous donor to fund the purchase of books/DVDs to support the teaching of Mesoamerican and medieval works of art. Nancy Kelker (Art) has been the primary contact for the gift that comes from a private foundation in Texas. They rarely make grants outside of Texas, but this time they have gone out of the state to support Middle Tennessee State University. This gift is greatly appreciated, as are all gifts to the College and University.

Pat LeDoux (‘64, ‘85), widow of David LeDoux, gathered with friends at the closing reception of the show featuring Professor LeDoux’s work, along with work from his former students: “At the end, a little refinement, not too much.” Professor LeDoux passed away this year, but left an impressive legacy that included his own works of art.

### Symposium to Host Garbage Archaeologist

William Rathje will present some of his work on modern garbage to MTSU November 2 as part of the Undergraduate Social Science Symposium. Rathje led some of the most interesting investigations in the twentieth century on garbage dumps. His popular book, *Rubbish!: The Archaeology of Garbage*, written with Cullen Murphy, has been called “an in-depth examination of how garbage reflects the society that tosses it” (*School Library Journal*) and “a lucid and provocative book” (*New York Times Book Review*). Chair of the conference Brian Hinote (Sociology and Anthropology) said that this is a very timely topic with the problems experienced by Murfreesboro and the landfill on the outskirts of the city. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the symposium, contact Connie Huddleston at 494-7628.

### Fall Honors Lecture Series

The Honors College Fall Lecture Series focuses on China, and President Sidney McPhee opened the series with “China: A Decade through the Eyes of an American University President.” Yuan-ling Chao (History) presented “Confucianism and the Scientific Tradition in China” in September, and Jun Da (Foreign Languages and Literatures) will present “Language Policy and Language Use in China” on November 1. All lectures are held Mondays from 3:00 to 3:55 p.m. in the amphitheater, Room 106, in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.
History Prof Wins Fulbright Award

Sean Foley (History) has received the prestigious Fulbright Award for the coming academic year. He will be in Malaysia to continue his research on the influence of the Islamic/Egyptian journal al-Minar and on general Arab Muslim influence in southeast Asia between 1875 and 1935. Foley said, "This grant will allow me to reframe my vision of the Muslim world from one grounded in the Middle East to one that includes a portion of the world no less Islamic and in which hundreds of millions of Muslims live and practice their faith today: Indonesia." Congratulations to Professor Foley on this award.

New Chair for Speech and Theatre

Jeff Gibson has been approved to serve as the chair of the Speech and Theatre Department. With the reorganization of Speech and Theatre, former chair Rebecca Fischer has moved to the new College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. We thank Professor Fischer for her leadership of the department, and we welcome Professor Gibson.

MTSU Among Top Colleges 2011

Princeton Review has named MTSU one of 133 "Best in the Southeast" institutions of higher learning, based on accessibility of professors, quality of food, and campus life. The quality of academic programs and observations during visits to campus over the years were also part of the selection process.

Writing Center Moves to Library

The Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center has moved to Walker Library, Room 362. The center provides services to students as well as faculty. Students receive one-on-one tutoring, and the staff conducts short presentations to classes about the benefits of the Writing Center. The center is open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
**Events Fall 2010**

**October 6**
Tucker Theatre Re-opening
6:30 p.m. Ceremony on steps of the Tucker Theatre
7:30 p.m. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
Backstage post-performance tours are available.

**October 18-19**
Fall Break (no classes)

**October 23**
Homecoming

**November 2**
Evening of Swing

**November 15**
Stones River Chamber Players

**December 2**
Jazz Nutcracker

**December 18**
Fall Commencement

Please check the College of Liberal Arts Web page and the School of Music and Theatre and Dance pages at www.mtsu.edu to keep up with all events.

The Geoscience Department is sponsoring a shoe drive for **Soles 4 Souls**, a charity which collects shoes and gives them to those in need. Collection boxes are located in the KUC, James Union Cafeteria (Raider Zone), McCallie Dining Hall, and in the Dean of Liberal Arts Office. Nine dorms are also participating: Monahan, Lyon, Rutledge, Smith, Corlew, Cummings, Wood/Felder, Womack, and Scarlett Commons.

**Karen Wolfe**, department secretary, thought Soles 4 Souls would be a good cause for Earth Science Week in September and Geography Awareness Month in October. **Nicole Langford** ('09 Speech and Theatre major) of donor services with Soles 4 Souls was eager to enlist MTSU's efforts. The shoe drive is ongoing, but the Middle Tennessee collection will focus on September 15-October 31, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Karen Wolfe at 898-2726, or Nicole Langford at 615-391-5723.

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, non-discrimi-nable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.
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