

# HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

*Magazine*

## BRIGHT MINDS

MTSU is a top producer  
of Fulbright scholars

*Kaitlen Howell's remarkable life  
journey is part of that success story.*

Middle Tennessee  
Medical Center

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

For the prisoners, Riverbend is where they live, go to school, work, worship, and relax. Constance Grieves, a student in the lecture series class, pointed out, "While residency may not be voluntary, Colson described how prisoners contribute to their prison community by conducting maintenance, cooking meals, sewing bedding and clothes, making furniture, and maintaining the grounds."

Wesley Vanosdall explored the idea of prison as city in one of her responses: "The prison in the context of being a city is an intriguing idea...there are undoubtedly deeper nuances in the relationships and culture of the people—inmates and staff—that inhabit the prison. This leads to the question of how prison fits into the larger picture of society as a whole."

Perhaps the answer will surprise those who only think that prison is about punishment. Grieves recalled the dual purpose of the prison as community model: "Colson contended that, because 97 percent of prisoners will be released to their communities at some point, it is imperative for them to learn how to be contributing members in society once they are released. By offering masonry classes, woodshop training, technical skills, and career counseling, the prison grants inmates the opportunity to learn skills that are transferrable when they are released, increasing the odds that they will be able to secure employment and be productive citizens." As offenders transition from prison back into public life, they must adjust to being back in a city without walls. [H](#)



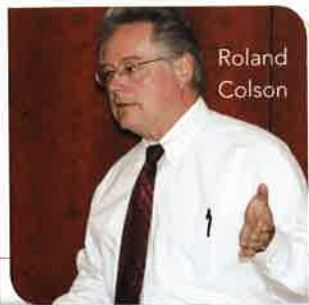
## CALA Benefits Teachers, Fulbright Scholar

The Honors College hosted the 10th annual summer language institute for the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), founded by Dr. Shelley Thomas. Students attended three different sessions of Spanish, French, and Arabic in the mornings. Teachers from four different states attended the afternoon workshops seeking to learn hands-on teaching methodologies they had experienced in the morning with a new language.

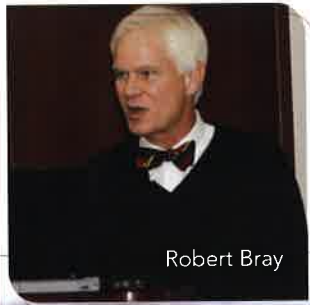
Among the participants were Sunita Watson, president of the Tennessee affiliate of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages); Miranda Runcie, foreign language director of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute; Nona Hall, Rutherford County ESL coordinator; and Adam Emerson, a Fulbright scholar and 2012 Honors graduate.

Emerson said, "As a recipient of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, I'm venturing to Russia to teach the English language and serve as an ambassador of our culture. I've always been confident in my ability to do the latter, and now, thanks to the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition, I feel more qualified to do the former. Over the course of only five days of lessons with Dr. Shelley Thomas, I acquired not only an extensive French vocabulary but also an understanding of the ways in which we acquire language, best practices for ensuring my students' comprehension of important concepts, and effective classroom management techniques."

For more information on CALA, contact Dr. Thomas at [shtomas@mtsu.edu](mailto:shtomas@mtsu.edu). To see a video clip of the language institute, go to [www.acceleratedacquisition.com/CALAClip.html](http://www.acceleratedacquisition.com/CALAClip.html). [H](#)



Roland  
Colson



Robert Bray