



HIGHSIGNS

Recent successes of Tennessee Board of Regents universities
Fall 2008



Tennessee Tech University

Organic techniques researched on new TTU farm



With profits from tobacco farming going up in smoke as the crop continues to decline, organic farming could provide a healthy alternative in the livelihoods of Upper Cumberland area farmers. Professors in Tennessee Tech University's School of Agriculture and Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources are joining forces to take the lead in that emerging trend by establishing a 113-acre organic farm in southern Putnam County. The project was recently awarded grants from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the USDA. Vegetable crops of tomatoes, squash and bell peppers were planted and sold locally this year.

New Nursing and Health Services Building debuts

Tennessee Tech's new Nursing and Health Services building opened with much fanfare on Friday, Aug. 15 — and the occasion is especially significant to the academic program that began at the university in 1980. That's because the 67,500-square-foot, \$24 million building is the first facility to be designed and built specifically for TTU's nursing program, and it will help to double and eventually nearly triple the program's enrollment. In addition to the School of Nursing, the new building also features an updated Health Services center and a 282-seat auditorium that can be used for campus, community and health care industry purposes. Perhaps the most state-of-the-art features of the new nursing school are three computerized patient simulation laboratories focusing on critical care, basic nursing skills, and women's health and pediatric nursing. The facility is located near the Cookeville Regional Medical Center.



Engineering professor captures NASA grant

A Tennessee Tech civil and environmental engineering assistant professor is one of only 18 recipients nationwide selected for a NASA New Investigator Program grant in Earth Sciences. Faisal Hossain's winning proposal, among 78 submitted, is the first NIP award of its kind in TTU history. His goal is to tag information sent from satellites to help users decide whether or not the information is relevant and appropriate for their use. Just as consumers read nutrition labels to learn about the contents, those who use satellite data to monitor and predict rainfall will be able to use information tags attached to satellite information to learn more. Hossain's three-year grant was funded for more than \$300,000.

TTU ranks among region's best colleges

For the seventh year, Tennessee Tech ranks among the south's best universities and is again one of the Top 10 Public Universities in the South according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2009



America's Best Colleges guide. The guide ranks TTU 8th place in the Top Public Universities in the South — Master's category. This marks the seventh year *U.S. News* has given TTU top billing among Tennessee public universities. TTU also ranked 27th among the Best Universities (which includes both public and private institutions) for the southern region this year. For the fifth straight year, TTU ranks in The Princeton Review's "Best in the Southeast" college listings. Of 16 schools listed for all of Tennessee, TTU remains one of only five public universities to earn the designation.

ABC's "20/20" broadcast professors' hard-hitting documentary

"Babyland," an in-depth look at the high rate of infant mortality, using Memphis as a prime example and broadcast Aug. 22 by the ABC network's "20/20" news program, was actually a documentary produced by U of M professors Craig Leake and David Appleby.

The hour-long program, hosted during prime time by ABC correspondent Elizabeth Vargas, examined the problem of infant mortality in Memphis and the steps the community is taking to reduce the number of those deaths. The documentary cut across issues of race and class; it featured an interview with a poor black mother and her mentor, a white woman of comfortable means, as well as the relationship the two women have developed over time.

Also interviewed was Dr. Sheldon Korones, a well-known and well-respected Memphis physician who pioneered the neonatal intensive care unit at the public hospital in Memphis, and others who are combating the problem of infant mortality, including Irma Simpson, a long-time counselor to pregnant teens, and Dr. Kenneth Robinson, former Tennessee commissioner of health who is now a pastor at a Memphis church.

ABC adapted the documentary to the "20/20" format and aired it as ABC's alternative to CBS' and NBC's sports programming that night. The broadcast drew almost five million viewers, plus accolades from TV critics, who congratulated ABC for revealing a difficult subject in a sensitive way.

"Babyland" is the latest work of Leake and Appleby, who have each earned critical acclaim for their earlier works. Appleby's films have received a Peabody Award, several CINE Golden Eagle awards, an Emmy and an Emmy nomination, an NAACP Image Award nomination, and the Erik Barnouw Award for the best historical film of the year. Leake's work has earned a number of Emmy and CINE Golden Eagle accolades, two Peabody Awards, an Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Journalism Award.

Professor receives prestigious scholarship from American Physical Society



Dr. Firouzeh Sabri, professor of physics at the University of Memphis, is one of three women awarded a 2008 H. Hildred Blewett Scholarship from the American Physical

Society. The others are faculty members at The Johns Hopkins University and Hampton University's Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

Sabri will use her stipend to further her study of the physical and chemical changes caused by ultraviolet radiation on materials, especially RTV 655 and silica aerogels.

This past May, Sabri's earlier research was spotlighted because of its connection to NASA's exploratory mission to Mars. Her contribution to that mission was the development of extremely thin coverings that protected sensitive equipment on the Mars lander from the fine dust on the Red Planet.

Sabri holds a Ph.D. degree from the United Kingdom's University of Cambridge, Cavendish Laboratory. Her career took her from Cambridge to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., to the National Institutes of Health, and to the University of Florida, before she joined the faculty of the Physics Department at the University of Memphis in August 2007.

U of M campus gains official arboretum status

The University of Memphis campus has been designated a Level 2 Arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and the Tennessee State Division of Forestry. That designation requires that at least 60 varieties of trees must be labeled and available for a self-guided tour. At the U of M, 67 varieties of trees meet those criteria.

U of M horticulturist Joellen Dimond said the wealth of different trees on the campus not only enhances the beauty of the campus, but is of educational benefit to University students, to elementary school students at the Campus School, and to pre-school students at the Barbara K. Lipman Early Childhood School.

The campus is working toward Level 3 status, which requires 90 varieties of trees, when the campus arboretum's re-certification takes place in 2013.

Vice president for student affairs joins American Psychological Association Board of Directors



Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham, vice president for student affairs and a professor in Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research at the University of Memphis, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Bingham has served as president of the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors, the International Association of Counseling Services, and the Society of Counseling Psychology of the APA. She serves on the group's board of educational affairs.

Bingham is a founder and one of the organizers of the APA's National Multicultural Conference and Summit. She was an APA presidential candidate in 2006 with the campaign slogan "Exclusion is Easy, But Inclusion is Power."

Joining the U of M in 1985 as director of the Center for Student Development, Bingham became assistant vice president for student affairs/student development in 1993 and was named vice president for student affairs in 2003.

Confucius Institute celebrates anniversary with gala

The Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis celebrated its first anniversary with a gala concert Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC). The event also marked the observance of the Chinese Full Moon Festival and the debut of the Confucius Institute's Performing Arts Ensemble.

The program featured the Memphis premiere of two Chinese symphonic masterworks, the violin concerto "Butterfly Lovers" and the piano concerto "Yellow River," with Pu-Qi Jiang, conductor of the U of M Symphony Orchestra, conducting. Liling Zhou, a guest soloist from China, also performed.

More information about the Confucius Institute is available online at <http://cium.memphis.edu>.

ETSU designated a 2009 'Best South-eastern College'

ETSU was recently named a "Best Southeastern College" by The Princeton



Review, and is one of just 139 four-year schools in 12 states to receive this distinction.

Other states with institutions earning the "Best in the

Southeast" designation for inclusion in 2009 *Best Colleges: Region by Region* on The Princeton Review's website are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

For consideration in the "region's best" listing, institutions must meet "standards of excellence within their region" and undergo an anonymous survey of the student body. ETSU has consistently been chosen for the recognition. The New York City-based education services company selected only about 25 percent – 630 schools – from the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges in four geographic regions that "stand out as academically excellent institutions of higher learning."

Gatton College of Pharmacy awarded Candidate Status

In June, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) awarded Candidate Status to the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy at ETSU.

"Candidate Status" is currently the highest level of designation for which the university is eligible. Full accreditation is considered only for pharmacy schools that have graduated their first class of students and have met other criteria. ETSU will graduate its first pharmacy class in 2010.

As a result of Candidate Status, students who graduate from the ETSU program will be eligible to take the licensing board examination to become registered pharmacists.

ETSU establishes Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education

A Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education – the first of its kind in the nation – has been established at ETSU. It will be housed within the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education and will focus on research, education, and service in the field of sport performance and coach education, with particular emphasis on the study of sport science.

A major objective of this center is to develop a formal education program for coaches. The new center will also partner with the local sport community by working with athletes of all ages on techniques for improving performance, as well as providing education for coaches on injury prevention. Another goal is to provide sport scientists, coaches, athletes, and athletic medicine and health professionals with knowledge on the cutting-edge advances in sport science.

The center of excellence will also support ETSU's proposed Ph.D. program in sport physiology and sport performance now undergoing review.

William L. Jenkins Forensic Center named at ETSU

The former U.S. Congressman who helped make the state-of-the-art forensic center a reality at ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine was honored this past June with the naming of the William L. Jenkins Forensic Center.



The Honorable Bill Jenkins chats with President Stanton (at right).

The center serves the upper eight counties of Northeast Tennessee by providing forensic services for county coroners, medical examiners, law enforcement personnel, district attorneys general, public defenders, and private attorneys serving in the region.

The former morgue was designed to handle some 30 cases annually, but that number quickly increased, and by the late 1990s the staff was performing more than 300 autopsies each year. Budget constraints prevented ETSU from funding a new building that would provide adequate space and bring the forensic pathology and toxicology divisions under one roof.

"Congressman Jenkins saw this dire need and was able to garner approximately \$1.2 million in federal money to support the renovation of a new forensic center," said ETSU President Dr. Paul E. Stanton Jr. "That became a pivotal first step, and, from there, we were able to secure the remaining dollars from the state and local county governments to complete the project."



The ETSU and General Shale Brick Natural History Museum and Visitor Center at the Gray Fossil Site celebrated its first anniversary on August 31, having already welcomed more than 100,000 visitors in less than a year.

Engaging the community, supporting neighbors

MTSU's new Office of Community Engagement and Support has already begun fulfilling its name by building bridges to the community that surrounds the Murfreesboro campus. On the first day of classes for the fall 2008 semester, OCE staffers joined university convocation speaker Greg Mortenson at an elementary school to aid his "Pennies for Peace" campaign.

Mortenson is executive director of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute and Pennies for Peace as well as the author of "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace"—this year's summer reading selection at MTSU.

Dr. Gloria Bonner, director of the OCES office, and her staff are working with area schools, churches and other organizations throughout the community to support the Pennies for Peace effort. Their goal is to secure enough funds to build a school and support the hiring of a teacher for one year.

One of the newest OCES staff members is former State Rep. John Hood, who recently departed the state Legislature after six terms as representative from the 48th District. An MTSU alumnus, Hood worked at MTSU from 1966 to 1976 in development and later as administrative assistant to former President Melvin G. Scarlett.

In announcing the creation of the OCES, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee said its impetus sprang from "a compelling need for a new office whose mission and focus centered on engaging the community with the overall goals and objectives of the university as it pursues mutually beneficial opportunities and undertakes new challenges."



Author Greg Mortenson, center, joins staffers from MTSU's new Office of Community Engagement and Support and the Murfreesboro City Schools during a visit to a local elementary school to promote the "Pennies for Peace" effort. With Mortenson are, clockwise from front left, Laurie Glenn, OCES administrative assistant; Linda Clark, principal of the Reeves-Rogers Discovery School; Cheryl Harris, Murfreesboro school-community relations coordinator; Murfreesboro Schools Liaison Zane Cantrell; Dr. Gloria Bonner, OCES director; and Dr. Laurie Witherow, director of MTSU's Academic Support Center. Not pictured is former state Rep. John Hood of the OCES.

MTSU student to study with Nobel recipient

Steve Sibley will realize the educational experience of a lifetime this fall when he interns for 10 weeks in Bangladesh with the Grameen Bank, the financial institution founded by Nobel Peace Prize-winner and former MTSU professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus.



Sibley, a senior from Signal Mountain slated to graduate in December, is the first recipient of a new financial stipend at MTSU—the Kawahito Scholarship for Experiential World Poverty Studies. The scholarship was created by and is named for Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor emeritus of economics and finance and former director of the university's Japan-U.S. Program.

Kawahito says he created the scholarship to give students a chance to live in some of the most debilitating conditions on the planet, examine why these areas are impoverished and witness conscientious efforts to fight poverty utterly unlike the quality of life of Americans who are considered poor.

Yunus, an assistant professor of economics at MTSU from 1969 to 1972, has devoted the last 20-plus years to helping his country overcome its underdeveloped economy through microcredit, the practice of lending small amounts of money to people without any collateral or credit history to help them invest in their own futures. He and the Grameen Bank he founded were recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

New Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center already getting a workout

The staffs of MTSU's newly renovated and expanded Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center welcomed the community to the sparkling new facilities in August with a festive ribbon-cutting event.

The \$20 million, 18-month project added 4,000 square feet of workout and meeting space to the Campus Recreation Center's footprint and created a brand-new, 18,000-square-foot Student Health Services facility at the west side of the existing facility.

The new Student Health Services clinic, which will include a drive-through pharmacy, is an attraction all its own. Its 22 examination rooms more than double the available exam-room space in the previous building, and for the first time on campus, X-ray services will be available as well as travel medicine to support study-abroad students.

The center also got an unexpected workout during Labor Day week, when it served as a Red Cross emergency shelter for more than 450 Gulf Coast evacuees fleeing Hurricane Gustav.



Gulf Coast residents who fled Hurricane Gustav fill their time at MTSU's newly expanded Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center while waiting to return home. More than 450 evacuees were housed during Labor Day week at the center, an official Red Cross emergency shelter, just days after the ceremony to celebrate a \$20 million, 18-month renovation and expansion.

New APSU trolley in service; SGA partners with CTA to offer free transportation



The Student Government Association at Austin Peay State University has partnered with the Clarksville Transit System (CTS) to provide students, faculty and staff free transportation around campus via The Peay Pickup and around town on CTS buses.

The service became available following a ribbon cutting held Aug. 25. CTS will operate The Peay Pickup trolley from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday when classes are in session.

APSU students, faculty and staff must show The Peay Pickup trolley operator a valid University Peay Pickup card to ride for free. More than 4,000 cards have been distributed to students, faculty and staff since the service was implemented.

Also, APSU students, faculty and staff who show the bus operator a valid University Peay Pickup card ride for free on any CTS bus.

Peay Pickup trolley rides are available to those without the valid University Peay Pickup card for full fare. The trolley returns to the stops on the route during operating hours approximately every 15 minutes.

Education professor receives top distinction



Professor of Education Dr. Thomas J. Buttery recently was named a distinguished member of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE). He is also the former dean of the APSU College of Professional Programs and Social Sciences.

The association selects a Distinguished Member annually based on career service to the organization. Buttery is a past president and board member. He twice was recognized with the association's Distinguished Research Award for academic papers.

For eight years, Buttery chaired the selection committee for the Distinguished Dissertation Award and served as a member of the research, journal and election committees. He was on three national conference-planning committees and four summer workshop committees.

Buttery was editor of the second edition of the ATE-sponsored Handbook of Research in Teacher Education, for which he received the Outstanding Writing in Teacher Education Award from the American Association of College of Teacher Education (AACTE). He has authored more than 150 published academic articles and served as the editor of American Middle School Education and as guest editor of Action in Teacher Education, the ATE journal. He served on Action's Review Board for 15 years.

Prior to joining Austin Peay, he was the dean of education at Fort Hays State University.

Master of Arts in Teaching at Fort Campbell offered

Austin Peay State University began offering the Master of Arts in Teaching at the Austin Peay Center @ Fort Campbell this fall.

The master's degree provides an opportunity for a student with a bachelor's degree to complete initial teacher licensure requirements and a master's degree concurrently. The program at Fort Campbell, Ky., is available to individuals who wish to teach at the secondary level. Programs in elementary and special education are offered at the main campus.

To be eligible for the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.), a student must have a bachelor's degree in the licensure field or the equivalent with a minimum undergraduate grade-point average of 2.75, complete the GRE examination and be admitted to the APSU College of Graduate Studies.

The M.A.T. is not available to those who already hold a professional teaching license. However, individuals teaching on an alternative license in Tennessee may qualify for admission to the M.A.T. degree program.

The program consists of 10 courses, with two courses offered each term for five terms, and is offered in a cohort format. The first cohort began Aug. 18. The next cohort group will begin in the Fall I 2009 term.

Coursework is provided in both classroom and online formats. Field experiences in public schools are required as part of the coursework. At the end of the program, participants either must complete student teaching or teach on an alternative license and pass all required licensure exams to earn their teaching license.

APSU student chosen as Carter Center intern

This past summer, Carrie Burggraf, a political science major, interned at the Carter Center, founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn. She spent the summer in Atlanta while working in the Carter Center Peace Program.



Burggraf, a pole vaulter for the women's track and field team, has also been named to the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Track and Field Team.

And the Grammy Scholarship goes to...

TSU students Jonathan Boddie and Michelle McBride have been awarded scholarships from the Nashville chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). Each year NARAS grants need-based scholarships to college students in the music industry.

“Each school year, we award scholarships to students at the local universities such as Belmont and MTSU. This year we gave a total of six scholarships and it was the first time TSU was included in the awards,” said Susan Stewart, south regional director for the Nashville chapter.

“Jonathan and Michelle were very passionate about their interest in the music industry and focused on their future career paths. We selected an amazing pair of students to represent TSU,” said Stewart.

A native of San Francisco, McBride sings and has played both viola and violin since the age of 4. She changed her major from biology to commercial music after transferring to TSU from North Carolina A&T University. Now in her junior year, the multi-talented student plays with the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra and is an active member of the NARAS college chapter at TSU. Her skills and poise afforded a recommendation to play in the orchestra during the performance of gospel singer Smokie Norful at the Stellar Awards.

“During my interview for the scholarship, I shared with the committee all of my experiences at TSU and my goals for a career in the music industry. It was a bit intimidating sitting in a room with music executives who make huge decisions in the music industry,” she laughs. “But I had a chance to tell them how I want to make changes in the music industry and how I am developing as a musician. I am happy I made the choice to come to TSU. I would not have received these opportunities anywhere else.”

Boddie, a junior majoring in music with a concentration in commercial music, has always been true to his first love. Also a transfer student, the guitar player came to TSU after starting out at Belmont University. Shortly after his first year in Nashville, he moved to Los Angeles to travel with his own band. While there, one of his songs was picked up for a short-lived reality show television series on the Fox network called “Nashville.” Drained by the hustle of a ‘gigging’ musician, he moved back to the Music City for a fresh start. Boddie decided to enroll at TSU. He changed his major to biology but quickly switched back to his passion, music. “I found that TSU’s music program is top notch. My experience has been unmatched,” he said.

\$740,525 grant awarded to design a measurement-based controller

The TSU Center of Excellence in Information Systems and Engineering Management (ISEM) has been awarded a \$740,525 grant over the next three years to design a measurement-based controller used for vehicles and aircrafts in the U.S. Air Force.

Funded through the U.S. Army Research Office, the research aims to develop mathematical models and techniques to include multiple performance specifications.

“Building a mathematical model of the controller system is often very complicated. Creating a model that represents the behavior of the system is so important because if it is accurate, you can predict the output of the system. Our aim is create a controller design that will be an attractive alternative over the existing techniques and a valuable asset to the control engineers,” said Lee-Hyun Keel, director of the ISEM Center for Systems Science Research program and principal investigator of the grant.

Techniques will be tested by applying guidance and control for re-entry vehicles and flight control of a hypersonic air-breathing vehicle. “These vehicles are either air or spacecraft in present experimentation. NASA and the Air Force are considering the use of several different vehicles in order to achieve high speed at high energy. We need very accurate controllers to make the vehicle fly this way,” said Keel.

Psychology professor awarded grant to study mental behaviors

Dr. Marie Hammond, associate professor, along with Drs. Robin Oatis-Ballew and Lara Ault, assistant and associate professors in the Department of Psychology, have been awarded a \$6,500 grant from the American Psychological Association (APA) for the next 18 months to study the personality and symptoms of black and white mental health clients at community-based facilities.

The research is part of “Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues Grants” (ProDIGs), a project funded by the Psychology and Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions Initiative. The goals of the initiative are to strengthen not only the departments and programs of psychology at ethnic minority serving institutions but also to build relationships with the broader community of psychology within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic serving institutions and tribal colleges and universities.



Patrice Barnes, a 2005 graduate of Tennessee State University and recruiter for Gaylord Entertainment, presented President Melvin N. Johnson with a check for \$50,000 from Gaylord Entertainment. L-R, President Johnson, Barnes, Director of Athletics Teresa Lawrence-Phillips and Associate Vice President for Major Gifts and Planned Giving Epechal T. Smalls.