



HIGH SIGNS

Recent successes of Tennessee Board of Regents universities
Summer 2009

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Middle Tennessee State University



Members of the “Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons” course at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, taught by MTSU English professor Dr. Philip Phillips, close their 10-week session. At left, Perry McDonald comments on a short story by Edgar Allan Poe as Phillips listens.

‘Great Books’ prison courses offer different views

Dr. Philip Phillips, director of “Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons” and an associate professor of English at MTSU, recently finished teaching his second literature course at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville.

The 10-week program, which is a partnership with the Great Books Foundation, the Tennessee Department of Correction and MTSU, also is conducted at the Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility and the Tennessee Prison for Women by other MTSU volunteers. Each class is taught by the Shared Inquiry method, in which teachers ask an open-ended question at the beginning of class to get the discussion started.

“The idea in these classes is that the role of the instructor isn’t to lead so much as pose questions to the

class and generate the discussion,” Phillips said.

This year, Phillips chose to use *The Seven Deadly Sins Sampler*, an anthology of short stories published by the Great Books Foundation. He said the book explores real situations with which students can identify.

Of the 15 participants at Riverbend, about half, including William Murphy, are returning students. “I like the different views people bring to the discussions. We have so many people from different cultures that you can read the same story and have 20 different ways to interpret it,” Murphy said.

Phillips said the RMSI students don’t hesitate to contribute to the discussions, and they’ve developed as critical thinkers. Inmates learn not only to express their ideas but to also listen respectfully to others in the class.

Child-welfare collaboration with DCS nets national award

MTSU has received an Academic Award of Excellence from the American Public Human Services Association, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, bipartisan organization concerned with human services.

MTSU received the award because of its record as a strong collaborative partner of the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services.

Since August 2004, MTSU has assumed responsibility for a multimillion-dollar training grant awarded by DCS. The university houses two programs with a significant impact on the public child-welfare reform effort in Tennessee—the

Department of Social Work, one of the catalysts for the creation of the first Tennessee Social Work Education Consortium, and the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, which recently established the Tennessee Child Welfare Learning Collaborative to develop a statewide training system.

“The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services has made great strides to reform public child welfare,” said DCS Commissioner Viola Miller, who nominated MTSU for the award. “Without the strong support of MTSU, we could not have achieved so much so quickly.”

Farmers’ market now open at MTSU

MTSU is inviting the community to enjoy the flavors of locally grown produce while supporting agricultural education at the Plant and Soil Science farmers’ market each Friday this summer.

The market opened May 22 in the Horticulture Center off Blue Raider Drive on the MTSU campus and will remain open weekly into the fall. Now in its second year, it will offer fresh produce as well as perennials, annuals and houseplants for sale to the community.

Proceeds from the market are used to purchase supplies for MTSU’s on-campus greenhouse and to cover expenses of agriculture students’ travel to

conferences and competitions.

“We grow our own transplants in the greenhouse on campus and then transfer them to a quarter-acre plot on the Guy James Farm,” said Dr. Nate Phillips, professor of horticulture. The farm also provides a location for some produce, like melons and sweet corn, to be grown near the river bottom.

MTSU purchased the 435-acre farm on Guy James Road, located off Halls Hill Pike, from Rutherford County two years ago. Long-term plans for the farm include moving MTSU’s dairy facility there and consolidating other agricultural facilities into a central location.

Students present project at National Sustainable Design Expo

Austin Peay State University students presented a research project at the National Sustainable Design Expo held in April in Washington, D.C.

The expo is considered the most prestigious national student research program in the sustainability area of research.

For their project, the students, from the departments of biology and engineering technology, explained how they converted solar energy and waste CO₂ (for example, carbon dioxide that is released in power plants by burning fossil fuels) into an array of biofuels through the sequential use of microorganisms in bioreactors.

First, the team used microalgae in a photobioreactor to produce oil using CO₂, water and light as an energy source. Produced oil was converted into biodiesel. Next, glycerol, a byproduct of biodiesel production, was used as a substrate for making H₂ and ethanol by immobilized bacteria in a bioreactor. Finally, students tested one of the produced biofuels, hydrogen, in a fuel cell to run a small motor.

Dr. Sergei Markov and Dr. Joseph Schiller, both associate professors of biology, worked with the student team on the project and accompanied them on the trip to Washington, D.C.



Austin Peay State University students present their project during the National Sustainable Design Expo held in April in Washington, D.C.

APSU will offer new M.S.W. degree in Fall 2009

Beginning in Fall 2009, Austin Peay State University will offer a new Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree.

The degree program, which requires 60 credit-hours of course work for completion, is open to graduates with a bachelor's degree in social work or in any other field.

"Going into the profession requires someone who has a heart for people," said Dr. Pete Stoddard, graduate coordinator for the M.S.W.

Students who have a bachelor's degree

in social work can start the program as early as Fall 2010 and graduate in one year. Those with bachelor's degrees in other fields can begin the program in Fall 2009 and graduate in 18 months.

Classes will meet Thursday evenings and online. Students may enroll either part time or full time.

After earning the M.S.W., the terminal degree for practitioners, graduates are able to pursue the licensed critical social worker (L.C.S.W.) program.



During Austin Peay State University's spring commencement May 8, 20 ROTC cadets were administered the U.S. Army Officers Oath of Office – the largest number of cadets to do so in APSU history.

Record 824 grads earn diplomas

A record 824 graduates received degrees during Austin Peay State University's commencement ceremony May 8.

"This is so far the largest class we've had," Telaina Wrigley, registrar for the University, said. "I think it's a positive sign because it seems like we have more students completing their degree requirements and graduating."

Last year, the

University also saw an increase, when about 750 students received diplomas during the May commencement. This trend of large graduating classes led APSU to split its commencement into two separate ceremonies – morning and afternoon services.

In addition, during the morning commencement ceremony, 20 ROTC cadets took the U.S. Army Officers Oath of Office – also a record number for APSU.



Members of the newly formed Austin Peay State University Retirees' Association and APSU officials are seen following the signing of the group's bylaws, officially recognizing the APSURA as an organized group.

New APSU Retirees' Association formally organized

The Austin Peay State University Retirees' Association (APSURA) is now organized after APSU officials signed the bylaws during a brief ceremony May 1.

The purpose of the APSURA is to promote the welfare of retired faculty and staff through various programs and activities, to support continued involvement with the University and to participate in activities that benefit the community in general.

The organization serves as a partner to the University and a resource for retirees.

Membership is open to retired APSU administrators, faculty and staff and their spouses, as well as spouses of deceased University retirees. APSURA plans to pursue a number of programs and sessions on topics ranging from medical benefits to taxes, in addition to seeking affiliation with the national retirees' association devoted to higher education.

Dental Hygiene Clinic at TSU gets a facelift

An enormous oak tree on the campus of Tennessee State University will be uprooted to make way for a new addition to the university's Dental Hygiene Clinic. A groundbreaking was held May 5 on the clinic's lawn announcing the much needed renovation and extension. The \$ 1 million expansion will enable it to offer better and extended services to students and the general public.

"This upgrade will significantly boost the Clinic's capacity for training dental assistants, hygienists and technicians," said Dr. Marian Patton, dental hygiene department head. "Most importantly, the renovations will provide students with a learning environment in a state-of-the-art facility, which builds upon the team approach to dentistry in the working world."

The new wing designed by Gill Melvin & Associates Architects will be located on the first floor and will increase the clinic's square footage by 3,900 square feet. Twenty-five new operatory spaces will be added to the 40 currently available for services, bringing the total number of patients students can assist to 65. The space will also provide additional room for faculty and staff offices.



Tennessee State University's president, administrators and faculty break ground on a new \$1 million addition to the university's dental hygiene clinic

The TSU Dental Hygiene Clinic has been located in the University's Frank G. Clement Hall since moving from Meharry Medical College's School of Dentistry in 1974. A program that is in high demand based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, dental hygiene ranks among the top 30 growth professions in the United States. The only dental hygiene program in the Middle Tennessee area, TSU boasts a teacher student ratio of one to five and a placement rate of over 90 percent. Faculty and staff at the clinic believe that the new space will provide additional one-on-one teaching and training as well as individualized practice for students.

Department of Defense awards TSU \$537,917 for Cybersecurity Research

Tennessee State University has been awarded \$537,917 by the Department of Defense (DOD) Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) program to enhance education programs and research capabilities in scientific disciplines critical to national security and the DOD.

The grant enables development of novel security methods to support future Air Force and Homeland Security in Cybersecurity enterprise at TSU.

One of the goals of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in information operations and security is to conduct research to develop new approaches to detection on intrusion, forensics, and active response and recovery from an attack on information systems. TSU proposes to conduct research in developing heterogeneous virtual memory replication, a new approach to intrusion detection, active response and recovery on servers in data centers. The grant has been awarded for three years.

TSU announces largest land donation in its history

Marking a milestone in the agricultural history of Tennessee State University, Dr. Melvin N. Johnson announced the donation of 250 acres of land – the largest donation in the university's nearly 100 years – for the creation of the TSU Research Park and Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The donation preserves TSU's longstanding mission as a Tennessee land-grant school and positions the institution for a new century of unprecedented innovation, public-private partnership, job creation and economic prosperity.

"This is the most transformative opportunity in the history of TSU and represents the university's largest single contribution ever," Johnson said. "The TSU Research Park and Center for Sustainable Agriculture presents TSU and its students with the rare opportunity to

play a leadership role in advancing sustainable agriculture practices at a time when locally grown, organic food is a priority for communities across the globe. It also opens the door to TSU students for unsurpassed opportunities with leading-edge companies, making our university uniquely competitive in the region."

The donation is made by the Nashville May family and includes:

- 200 acres of property along the Cumberland River that TSU will use for sustainable agriculture farming
- \$400,000 towards an endowment for a Chair of Excellence for Sustainable Agriculture
- A 50-acre site in May Town Center for the TSU Research Park for innovations in sustainable agriculture

The initiative will be housed in the University's award-winning School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences



and will be led by Dr. Maria Thompson, interim vice president for the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs. Thompson oversees the University's current research in such areas as biofuels and alternative energy, biosecurity and organic farming and will continue to advance that work in anticipation of the TSU Research Park groundbreaking in 2012, which also marks TSU's centennial anniversary.

Tennessee State University President Melvin N. Johnson (center) joins in announcing the TSU Research Park and Center for Sustainable Agriculture as part of the May Town Center project with Frank (left) and Jack May.



Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble featured in national PBS documentary

It's the most recorded group of its kind in history and has presented multiple concerts at New York's famed Carnegie Hall. Now, the Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble, along with founder and director R. Winston Morris, has been featured on the small screen in a national PBS documentary. *Tuba U: Basso Profundo*, which premiered in April, follows the history of the tuba from Bill Bell, tubist for John Philip Sousa, to Bell's student Harvey Phillips, to his protégé, Morris. It explores what producer Todd Jarrell calls Morris' "curious tuba tribe" — the TTTE student tuba and euphonium ensemble Morris founded at the university more than 40 years ago and still directs today. "The documentary delivers the history, physicality and personalities of the humble tuba — an amazing, if unheralded, horn," Jarrell said. "Tubas are [commonly] viewed as simplistic, un-sexy — ridiculous even. But with an octave range greater than any other horn, the dexterity with which these tubists excel is remarkable."

TTU partners with DeKalb County High School to establish hydroponic systems, study vegetable consumption

Tennessee Tech University's schools of Agriculture and Human Ecology have created a partnership with faculty and students at DeKalb County High School to establish hydroponic growing systems for tomatoes and lettuces at the school. With a two-year, \$200,000 USDA grant, the partnership will allow nearly 30 high school students to participate in the study and help care for the plants, the yields of which are periodically harvested for consumption by those students and their families. "The main objective for this project is to see if obesity factors in high school students are affected by eating vegetables they've helped to grow. In other words, we want to find out if growing their own vegetables helps them make healthier food choices," said Melinda Anderson, assistant professor of human ecology at TTU.



Marc Burnett (l.), vice president of student affairs, and Jack Armistead, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Learning Villages to offer TTU students and faculty a new place to call home

A blend of English tradition, Ivy-League example and local originality will shape the way future Tennessee Tech University college students stay involved with the university for a lifetime. Tennessee Tech will soon invite students to become members of "learning villages." These villages will offer smaller, caring groups led by faculty within the larger community. TTU will be the first

public university in the state to offer these communities in which a student can become a lifetime member. "We hope to enhance student-faculty interaction and extend learning beyond the classroom with this new style of residential living," said TTU Provost Jack Armistead. In Fall 2010, students will be invited to join one of two initial theme-based villages — service or environment.



Jackson County High School's Cody Franklin tests his boat in the TTU Fitness Center pool.

Cardboard boats help float STEM education in region

When Jackson County High School students put cardboard boats in Tennessee Tech University's Fitness Center pool this spring, it was proof that not only did the boats float, but so did teacher Matt Boynton's efforts to explain what engineering is all about. Boynton, a TTU civil engineering graduate student, leads the class in hands-on, real-world projects that show students how science, technology, engineering and mathematics are relevant in their lives. Through

matchstick rockets, drinking straw bridges, fuel cells, even cardboard boats, he's increasing student motivation, cooperative learning skills and student achievement. The class is supported by TTU's Extended Programs, College of Engineering and Jackson County school system through a national grant-based program called "Project Lead the Way." This pilot project specifically targeted a rural school where resources are limited.



U of M partnered with Apple Inc. to recycle electronic equipment.

U of Memphis and Apple hosted vastly successful recycling effort

In a world that is experiencing a crisis in the disposal of electronic waste, a major recycling event co-sponsored by Apple Inc. and the University of Memphis resulted in tons of old and unused electronic equipment being properly disposed of May 14-16. All items were ground down to confetti-like material to ensure information security prior to being recycled.

Steve Terry, who coordinated the successful event, said it spoke volumes that Apple returned to the U of M two years in a row; last year was the first year for the ambitious event.

The University's commitment to sustainability has grown dramatically since President Shirley Raines signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment two years ago. A new campus Sustainability Committee is defining a strategic sustainability plan for the campus.

Details are available from Terry at (901) 678-2194 and online at www.memphis.edu/greencampus/erecycling/index.php

South Memphis Revitalization Project Involves U of M Students

The U of M is a partner with the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development and the Memphis and Shelby Division of Planning and Development in the South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative, which aims to design and implement a comprehensive set of community improvement projects to enhance the quality of life for current and future residents of South Memphis.

Last fall, more than 40 students in anthropology, architecture, city and regional planning, and engineering conducted archival

research, studied population and housing trends, surveyed building conditions, and interviewed a cross-section of area civic leaders to gain understanding of physical and social conditions in South Memphis and to determine residents' hopes and dreams. The students developed proposals and designs for open-space improvement, housing rehabilitation, mixed-use development, and safe routes to schools.

In March 2009 teams of neighborhood residents and U of M students conducted a

Fulbrights Go to Education Professors, NSF Career Award to Engineering Professor

Dr. Chrysanthe Preza, assistant professor in the Herff College of Engineering's Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received a \$743,781 National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Award for her research to improve live cell imaging.

The Career Award is the most prestigious award junior faculty members can receive from the NSF. Preza's is the fifth such Career Award that faculty in the Herff College have received in the past 11 years.

Dr. Preza leads the Computational Imaging Research Laboratory and conducts research in the areas of imaging science and model-based estimation theory. She collaborates with researchers at the UT (Memphis) Health Science Center, the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the University of Colorado, and Washington University in St. Louis. More information about Dr. Preza's research is available online at <http://cirl.memphis.edu>.

Also, she is actively recruiting graduate research assistants and post-doctoral fellows. She may be contacted by email at cpreza@memphis.edu



Preza



Allen



Wright

Dr. Lee Allen, assistant professor of instructional design and technology/information science in the College of Education, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at Ostrohradsky Poltava Regional Pedagogical Institute in Ukraine during the 2009-10 academic year. He will train Ukrainian teachers in the use of Web-based technologies, including Web applications and freeware, so that they can use the knowledge and skills with their own students. He also will demonstrate how teachers can incorporate Web applications into research and products in various academic contexts.

Dr. Paul Wright, associate professor in the College of Education's Dept. of Health and Sport Sciences, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to conduct research in Valencia, Spain during the spring 2010 semester. His project will involve the implementation of a positive youth development model in schools. He will study how the U.S.-developed model is handled in a non-English-speaking, different cultural environment.

door-to-door survey to gather additional ideas and suggestions from residents.

During April, residents worked with students to develop each of these elements of the redevelopment plan. A final community review of the South Memphis Revitalization Action Plan was held May 2.

Details about the South Memphis planning process are available from Dr. Katherine Lambert Pennington at almbtrpn@memphis.edu or Dr. Kenneth M. Reardon at kreardon@memphis.edu

El Nuevo marks decade as region's only bilingual news publication

El Nuevo Kingsport Times-News, a yearlong ETSU interdepartmental student project featuring a collection of stories in both English and Spanish, hit newsstands this spring as a supplement to the Kingsport daily newspaper. The May 22 edition marks the 10th year for the only bilingual publication covering Northeast Tennessee.

The special publication was initially funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg

Foundation, which helped launch the university's Language and Culture Resource Center, and the *Erwin Record* was the region's first newspaper to partner with ETSU on the creation of *El Nuevo* in 2000. Additional *El Nuevo* sponsors are the *Greenville Sun*, *Johnson City Press*, *Morristown Citizen Tribune*, *Rogersville Review*, and *Mountain City Tomahawk*. Each edition highlights a specific community and its people.



Dr. Taylor is pictured here with Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the ETSU College of Public Health.

ETSU alumna to become "disease detective" for CDC

Dr. La'Shan Taylor has been awarded a prestigious two-year Epidemic Intelligence Services (EIS) fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Her fellowship begins July 1.

EIS is the nation's premier epidemiology training service. For more than 50 years, EIS fellows have earned a global reputation as "disease detectives" for their role in investigating the source, impact, and control of disease outbreaks. Many of the nation's leading public health professionals were trained in this program.

Taylor holds a Master of Science degree in biological sciences and a Master of Public Health in health services administration from ETSU, and the university conferred her Doctor of Public Health in epidemiology on May 9.

Peace Corps' annual top colleges rankings include ETSU

ETSU remains on the Peace Corps' 2009 Top 10 all-time list of colleges and universities in Tennessee producing Peace Corps Volunteers. Since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961, ETSU has produced 72 volunteers – ranking sixth among 68 Tennessee schools that have had alumni serving overseas. Currently, five ETSU alumni are serving in developing nations around the globe, and their assignments range from community development to youth entrepreneurship to public health education.

"ETSU has consistently been a top

producer of volunteers from Tennessee," said Ken Ayers, Peace Corps Southeast Regional Manager. "We are very impressed by the number of qualified, skilled students who have served overseas and expect even higher numbers in 2010."

The Peace Corps is especially attracted to ETSU because many of its undergraduates fill assignments in scarce skill areas where it is traditionally difficult to find qualified applicants. These areas include English, business, public health, math, and the sciences.

Med school added \$437.8 million to state economy in 2008

The James H. Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU is responsible for contributing \$437.8 million to Tennessee's economy during 2008. In addition, the college increased family incomes by \$162.6 million and created more than 3,800 jobs.

Those are some of the findings from a study conducted by Dr. Steb Hipple of the ETSU Bureau of Business and Economic

Research. The economic impact is measured in terms of output, which is the additional production of goods and services that can be attributed to the college. The study encompassed the College of Medicine, its Department of Family Medicine, ETSU Physicians and Associates, and the impact of Quillen alumni who are practicing in the Volunteer State.

ETSU introduces new service for students

It can be as simple as "Where is the Parking Services office?" or as complex as finding child care or financing their higher education. ETSU students now have a new way to get answers to their college-related questions. It's the "ASK ME" program!

Faculty and staff who place ASK ME

signs outside their offices and on their desks invite all ETSU students to "ask them" any questions related to being in school. The trained ASK ME volunteers welcome every student – undergraduate, graduate, and professional – to help them stay in school, succeed in school, and graduate.