

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2020

# Areté

[excellence • virtue]



## A GRAND PIANO

Economics professor follows interest  
in public choice from Italy to MTSU

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2020

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**ARETÉ MAGAZINE**

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**DEAN**

John R. Vile

**EDITOR**

Marsha Powers

**UNIVERSITY EDITOR**

Drew Ruble

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

Carol Stuart

**SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE  
MARKETING SOLUTIONS**

Kara Hooper

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Brittany Blair Stokes

**UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Andy Heidt, J. Intintoli, James Cessna,  
and Cat Curtis Murphy

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**CONTRIBUTORS**

Judy Albakry, Darby Campbell, Sandra Campbell,  
Teresa Carter, Laura Clippard, Anthony Czelusniak,  
Gina Fann, Austin Ford, April Goers, Jimmy Hart, Gina  
Logue, Susan Lyons, Philip E. Phillips, Morgan Posey,  
Nottely Seagraves, Vicky Travis, Ekaterina Valuiskaya,  
and Randy Weiler

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Ennio Piano, by J. Intintoli

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I AM *true* **BLUE**

Photo by J. Intintoli



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Economics professor follows interest in public choice from Italy to MTSU

Political economists gather to honor Nobel winner's 100th birthday

Alumni who benefited from Buchanan award are beginning to make their own marks on the world



Members of the media were wowed when scientists released a video of an adorable puffin bird in Iceland picking up a stick in July 2018 to scratch itself. This was apparently the first time anyone had filmed a sea bird using a tool, and this discovery called into question the familiar adage about individuals with “bird brains.” They may be smarter than we thought!

One of my first reactions was to think how flattering it would be to be the first person to achieve any positive accomplishment, especially one related to mastering technology. I began thinking of other tricks that I might perform if I were a puffin to entertain photographers and viewers. Recognizing the value of being human, I also mused that scientists had yet to identify the puffin by name and guessed that fellow puffins probably have no idea of its fame. Even were the puffin to wield a hammer, it is unlikely that it would garner recognition from its fellows.

“By accepting the challenges of an Honors education . . . students significantly contribute to the greater good.”

A number of students who have won our highest scholarships fear that they may have been selected by mistake. Others fall victim to the Imposter Syndrome, where they focus on their own inadequacies and doubt their intellectual competence.

Too often, Honors students put more pressure on themselves than their status warrants, and no wonder. Even though Honors courses are typically more

engaging than more difficult, Honors students as a group are overachievers, and when birds of a feather flock together, they observe those around them. They often focus on students who are getting the best grades (sometimes seemingly effortlessly), garnering national awards, presenting their research, and qualifying for prestigious graduate and professional schools. Others are virtuosos in art, music, or theater. Many have mastered multiple languages.

Just as in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is reputed to be king, so too, Honors students sometimes wish that they might be in an environment, perhaps like that of some of the high schools they once attended, where they stood academic head and shoulders above their classmates. They might remember that their parents once proudly filmed their first step and recorded their first word. Now they pressure themselves to execute academic cartwheels while effectively competing in an intellectual Olympics.

By willingly joining the company of others with above-average talents, intellectual abilities, and motivations, Honors students set a higher bar against which to measure their own accomplishments. By doing so, however, they are exercising and developing their potential to its fullest.

It seems unlikely that one puffin will ever increase the well-being of fellow puffins by teaching them how to scratch themselves with a stick. But, by accepting the challenges of an Honors education and aiming for challenging careers, Honors students significantly contribute to the greater good. Although they may feel that their own contributions are relatively meager compared to those of similarly gifted and ambitious companions, most will find—to borrow another avian analogy—that, by moving beyond the colony of puffins, they will have the thrill of flying with the eagles.

John R. Vile

**areté**  
noun (ahr-i-tey)

the aggregate of qualities, as valor and virtue, making up good character



Students register to vote during Constitution Day 2019.



# CONSTITUTION DAY 2019

Cody Maness



Honors Dean John R. Vile



Mary Evins, director of MTSU's American Democracy Project



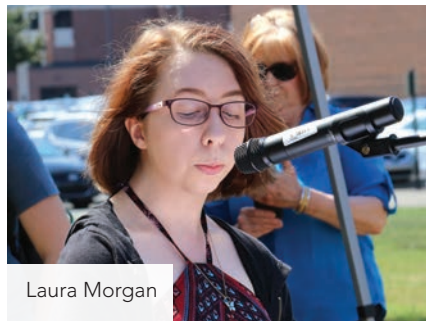
On-campus voter registration



Kylie Dykgraaf



Maya Swaminathan



Laura Morgan



Students waiting to read aloud from the Constitution



Tre Hargett, Tennessee secretary of state



# NEW BUCHANAN FELLOWS INAUGURATED

The 2019 class of Buchanan Fellows

Twenty freshmen, including four out-of-state students, were inaugurated as Buchanan Fellows on Sept. 6 at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. The 16 in-state students represented 14 Tennessee high schools and one home school.

Senior Buchanan Fellow **Cassidy Johnson** and junior **Mark Blackmon** welcomed the new scholars, and Buchanan Fellow alumna **Tandra Martin** ('15) challenged the group. Martin, a Rhodes Scholarship finalist and Fulbright Scholarship recipient, is currently program coordinator for the Office of Active Citizenship and Service at Vanderbilt University.

Honors Transfer Fellow **Gareth Laffely** provided music for the occasion.



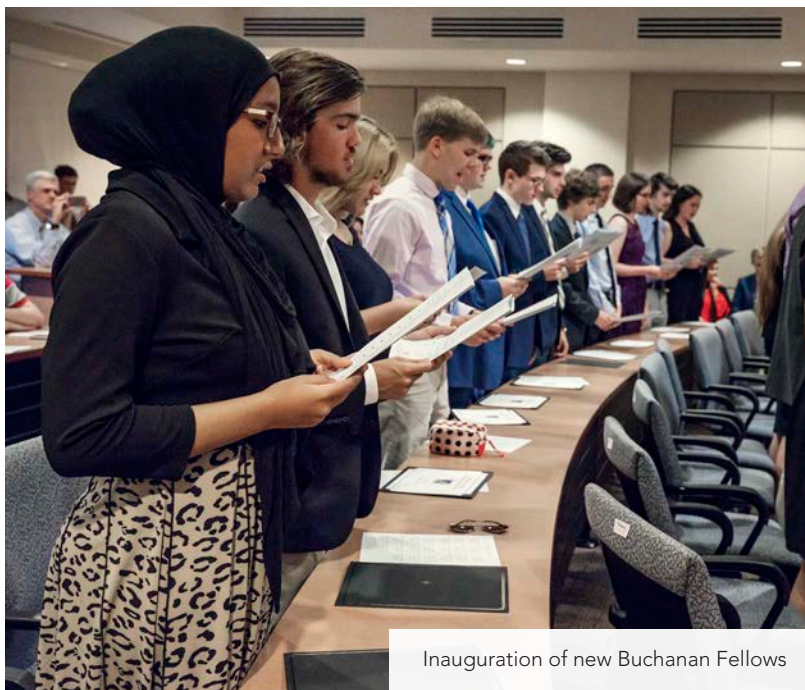
Mark Blackmon



Cassidy Johnson



Tandra Martin



Inauguration of new Buchanan Fellows



Honors Ambassadors gather together to discuss plans for the Fall 2019 semester. Pictured are (l-r): front, Madonna Ghobrial, Gabriella Morin, and Georgey Weismann, and back, Cody Maness, Connor Chase, Roqué Marcelo, and Gareth Laffely.

## HONORS AMBASSADORS

## GRANT TO BOOST TRANSFER EXPERIENCE



The Jennings A. and Rebecca Jones Foundation has awarded the Honors College a grant of \$15,000 a year for each of the next three years in order to enhance the educational experiences of transfer students within the college.

When making a presentation to the foundation, Honors Dean **John R. Vile** pointed to the increasing number of transfer students that the college has been attracting and that “the best indicator of success in college is success in college.” Vile was joined by **Gabriella Morin**, who described her positive experiences in the Honors College, and by **Gareth Laffely**, a transfer student from Volunteer State Community College.

The executive director of the Jones Foundation is **Lisa Mitchell**, whose son Clayton was an Honors student who subsequently went to pharmacy school.

The foundation is named for the founder of the former National Savings Life Insurance Co. and director of Murfreesboro Bank and Trust Co. and his wife, who served as an officer and director of the foundation. The Jones Foundation seeks to encourage innovative nonprofit projects, primarily through investments in educational institutions driven by exceptional leadership, focused on serving motivated students. The foundation supports the Chairs of Excellence at MTSU’s Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

Vile notes that the funds will be used to support study abroad, registration fees for conferences, presentations at professional associations, submission costs for publications, and other educational enhancements that will increase the competitiveness of MTSU students.



## PKP HOLDS FALL INITIATION CEREMONY

University mascot Lightning poses with the officers of MTSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (l-r): Philip E. Phillips, John R. Vile, Maria Bachman, Gina Logue, Sandra Campbell, Jasmin Laurel, Beatriz Dedicatoria, Cody Maness, and Dianna Rust.

Seventy-three of MTSU's brightest students became members of the University's most prestigious honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, in a Nov. 12 initiation ceremony in the Student Union Ballroom.

**Jason Martin**, interim dean of MTSU's Walker Library, served as keynote speaker. **Philip E. Phillips**, chapter president and Honors College associate dean, presided over the initiation ceremony and presentation of certificates. Student vice president **Cody Maness** introduced the influential faculty selected by new initiates.



Mary Evins (History) receives a membership certificate from Philip E. Phillips, MTSU's PKP chapter president.

## Honors Student Initiates

**Jarod Ball**  
Exercise Science

**Mark Blackmon**  
Social Work

**Alyssa Chaney**  
Tourism and Hospitality  
Management

**Daniel Cheek**  
Accounting

**Audrey Creel**  
History

**Victoria Deckard**  
Theatre/English

**Sandra Flavin**  
Theatre

**Emily Gleason**  
Animal Science

**Rebecca King**  
Video and Film  
Production

**Kaylee Lindgren**  
Social Work

**Elizabeth Murphy**  
Accounting

**Danny Ponder**  
Psychology

**Steven Quinn**  
Audio Production

**Colleen Roberts**  
Biology/Spanish

**Emily Rouse**  
Exercise Science

**George Schroeder**  
Biology

**Allison Wheeley**  
Marketing

**Spencer White**  
Video and Film  
Production

**Ethan Young**  
History





Jason Martin, Walker Library's interim dean, delivers the keynote address.



Phillips recognizes influential faculty member Martha Hixon (English).



Phillips presents a membership certificate to Rebekka King (Religious Studies).



Buchanan Fellow Mark Blackmon is congratulated by Barbara Turnage, interim associate dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

**Judy Albakry**, Honors College advisor, and **Mary Evins** (History), an Honors resident faculty member, also were initiated into the chapter. Members of the Honors faculty recognized as influential faculty were **Martha Hixon**, **Rebekka King**, and **Dianna Rust**.

**ABOUT PKP**

Phi Kappa Phi, established in 1897 to recognize excellence in all academic disciplines, continues that tradition today as well as engaging the community of scholars in service to others. Junior initiates must rank in the top 7.5% of their class, while seniors must rank in the top 10% of their class.



Cody Maness introduces influential faculty chosen by PKP initiates.



## TAKING HER SHOT

MTSU student veteran earns research experience at Yale

By Marsha Powers

“Marines fight to win” according to the U.S. Marine Corps website, and MTSU student veteran Teresa Carter is certainly no exception to the rule.

“We’ve had to endure and systematically deal with all kinds of obstacles, and we just won’t quit,” Carter said in a statement that reflects her life story, including her recent application to a seemingly out-of-reach research opportunity at Yale University.

Carter, a 26-year-old Psychology and pre-med Honors student at MTSU, last spring applied for one of seven slots nationwide to participate in a summer program that immerses student veterans in research. Her lack of scientific research experience and a looming application deadline did not deter her.

“ We’ve had to endure and systematically deal with all kinds of obstacles, and we just won’t quit. ”

Carter decided to “shoot her shot,” the same advice she offers others.

And she was selected as a participant in the nine-week Research Experience for Veteran Undergraduates (REVU) program on Yale’s campus. Designed by Yale astrophysicist Marla Geha and

Teresa Carter outside of the Martin Honors Building

supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the new program offers opportunities for military veterans interested in science careers to participate in real research.

Carter, the only student selected from Tennessee, and six other student veterans traveled to New Haven, Connecticut, where they were immersed in research projects in pathology, quantum physics, microbiology, geothermal dynamics, and neuroscience led by senior faculty members.

A self-described nerd, Carter accepted and conquered the steep learning curve she encountered. She spent the summer with colleagues in Paul Turner's Yale ecology and evolutionary biology lab, testing the reactions of antibiotic-resistant strains of *E. coli* bacteria to the introduction of bacterial phages—an environment very different from her world as an avionics technician on F-18 fighter jets.

According to Carter's program presentation, "Let's Talk About Phage, Baby: Using Growth Curves to Quantify Bacterial Resistance to Phage," the summer research yielded valuable information

about the efficacy of phage U136B on multiple strains of *E. coli* and contributed to the scientific community's ability to characterize the resistance of bacteria to phage.

Carter, a soon-to-be first-generation college graduate, grew up poor and wants to inspire others, such as her only sister's young son. She also wants to make use of her strength, which is helping others. The president of MTSU's Blue Raider American Veterans Organization (BRAVO), Carter is active in community outreach with varied service organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and local hospice centers.

As the first Marine in her family, Carter worked five years in aviation maintenance, ensuring the safety of navigation, communication, and electrical systems. She traveled frequently and was deployed to Japan and Guam.

Carter says she saw mental health issues in the military and realized how great it would be for veterans and service members to have a doctor who had been deployed and understood the resulting anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



Carter (l) with songwriter Marcus Hummon during the 2019 Operation Song, featuring area songwriters with veterans and student songwriters in the Bragg Media and Entertainment Building

Her goal is to become a psychiatrist and work with veterans. In addition to the Yale REVU program, Carter had a backup plan last summer. She applied and was accepted to a PTSD research program at Syracuse University and had to choose between the two opportunities, both of which would provide valuable experience.

A native of Long Beach, California, Carter is aiming high for medical school, just as in other areas of life. Her plan is to apply to Yale, New York University, UCLA, Vanderbilt, Emory, the University of North Carolina, and other exceptional med schools.

She admits to admiring inspiring heroines and successful underdogs and lives a life influenced by her dad's favorite, oft-repeated quote, "A coward dies a thousand deaths, but a brave man only one." With influence like that, no wonder she chooses to risk failure rather than miss an opportunity to be a successful underdog and inspiring heroine herself.



Jody Chameralin (l-r), Marcus Hummon, Robert Jason, Carter, and Kwantisha Farmer during Operation Song



Carter with members of the Yale REVU group



Carter (l) at MTSU's inaugural Faculty and Staff Stole Ceremony



## 2019–20 SCIENTIA STAFF

Members of the 2019–20 *Scientia et Humanitas* staff include (l–r): front, Jenna Schull (editor-in-chief) and Isabella Morrissey; and back, Jay Baldwin, Gabriella Morin (associate editor), and Katherine Mills.



## SIGMA TAU DELTA MEMBERS

English Professor Maria Bachman (l) and Honors Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips (r) pose with members of the newly revived Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Student members are (l–r): front, Chloe Creel and Gabriela Medellin, and back, Dawn Copeland, Nash Meade, and Tre' yana Ogilvie.



# SOVIET UNION TO HONORS DEGREE

Transfer Fellow excels at overcoming obstacles across the globe

By **Ekaterina Valuiskaya**,  
an Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Finance

A field near Ekaterina Valuiskaya's home in Ukraine

I was born in 1987 in Ukraine when it was still called the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). I do not recall anything about the Soviet Union, which fell in 1991, but I do remember the 1990s when Ukraine became an independent country. It was a time of recession and chaos. Working people were not being paid for months, there was a shortage of food in grocery stores, and people struggled to make ends meet.

In 2004, I graduated from high school and went to university. English was my major field of study, and I earned a master's degree in foreign languages. Upon graduation, I worked as an interpreter for several years and met my future husband, who happened to be American. In 2013, we married and came to the United States. I never thought I would leave my native country and start my life all over on the other side of the world.

Coming to the United States was like moving to another planet. Everything was so much different from my life in Ukraine. All the measures are different: ounces, Fahrenheit, miles, pounds, and yards. Everyone drives cars, everyone speaks foreign to me, and food is very different. I did not know a single person on a whole continent except my husband. It was scary and exciting at the same time because there were so many new opportunities. I think the most challenging for me was learning to drive a car. I was terrified of driving, and it was not easy to overcome my fear.

In 2018, I became a citizen of the United States. It was important for me to have the right to vote and participate in the life of a society, to have full rights and responsibilities. I have my family in this country now, have invested in my education, and plan to build a career here.



“ It was important for me to have the right to vote and participate in the life of a society. ”

My first job in the United States was a seasonal position as a cashier in an outdoor gear store. It was then that I decided to go back to school and learn something that I can use in this new country. Obviously, everyone spoke English much better than I did, and my profession was not in high demand. I decided to apply to a community college across the street from my first job. It was Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, and I must say it was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life. I met many wonderful, inspiring, and smart teachers who truly became my mentors in this new country. I studied Business Administration and earned an associate's degree with a 4.0 GPA two years later. I applied for the Honors Transfer Fellowship at MTSU and was picked for the program. It was a big honor and a big responsibility. Writing a thesis, the biggest project of my bachelor's degree, was worth all the hard work and gave me the valuable experience of being a researcher and a project manager.

During my studies at MTSU, I changed my major to Finance because I found it more interesting and challenging. Both the Jones College of Business and the Honors College opened many opportunities for my professional life. I had two internships during my junior year, working as an intern for the Tennessee Valley Authority during my spring semester and interning at Alliance Bernstein that summer. Last spring I also visited historical sites in Washington, D.C., and Virginia with the Honors study away trip.

I used to think that having an international background made me inferior to others in this country. Now I realize that it is one of my biggest strengths. I have the experience of living in a different culture, speak several languages, am a very open-minded person, and feel comfortable traveling abroad and meeting new people. I was strong enough to start my life over in a new country. I will always be grateful to MTSU for giving me a chance to change my life.



Valuiskaya in the Honors building



John R. Vile (I) and Valuiskaya during the 2018 Transfer Fellows inauguration



Sunflowers near Valuiskaya's home

“I used to think that having an international background made me inferior to others in this country. Now I realize that it is one of my biggest strengths.”



Valuiskaya's homeland of Ukraine





## MUSEUM SCREENS FILM WITH LAFFELY

Among those representing the Honors College at Gareth Laffely's *Spirit Song* screening at the Tennessee State Museum were (l-r) Sarah and Gordon Bell, Laffely, Ella Morin, Dean John R. Vile, and Rebekka King.

**Gareth Laffely**, a senior Honors Transfer Fellow at MTSU, performed on a traditional Native American drum and flutes at the Tennessee State Museum's special screening of a documentary that features him.

The movie, *Spirit Song*, was filmed at George Lucas' famed Skywalker Ranch in California and includes songs from the album *Voices of the Guardians*. The album is a collaboration between Laffely, a Native American flutist, composer, and musician, and Lance Bendiksen, an Emmy Award-winning producer, composer, and pianist, with narration by Wes Studi (*Dances with Wolves*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Avatar*).

State Rep. Harold Love Jr. attended the free screening Nov. 7 and introduced Laffely, a 2019 winner of Tennessee higher education's Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. Twenty-five Honors students, faculty, staff, and friends also traveled by bus to Nashville for the screening and the opportunity to see Laffely perform in person.

The 21-year-old, whose Native American ancestry traces to the Mi'kmaq and Cree tribes, followed up the documentary screening and performance with a Q&A session. Now a Marketing major at MTSU, Laffely was the youngest performer to reach No. 2 on the *Billboard* New Age Music Top 100 charts when he was just 17.

*Spirit Song* is an official selection of the 2019 American Documentary Film Festival and the George Lindsey Una Film Festival.

### More info

About Laffely and *Spirit Song*: [garethmusic.com](http://garethmusic.com)

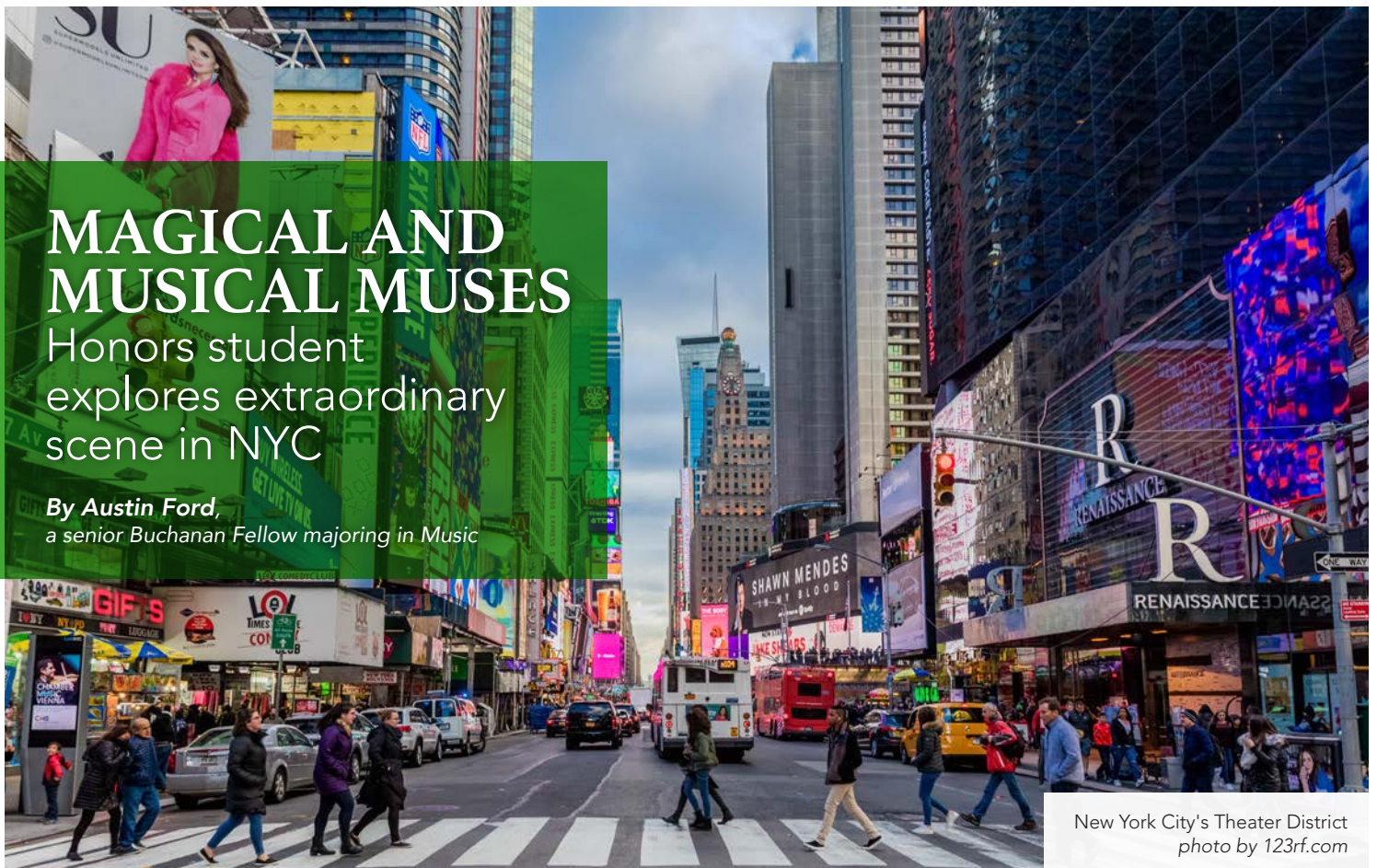
To hear his music on YouTube: [bit.ly/laffely](https://bit.ly/laffely)



Laffely plays "Loons on the Water" on two flutes made by Cherokee flutemaker Tony Francis.



State Rep. Harold Love Jr.



# MAGICAL AND MUSICAL MUSES

Honors student explores extraordinary scene in NYC

By Austin Ford,  
a senior Buchanan Fellow majoring in Music

New York City's Theater District  
photo by 123rf.com

After spending over a year and hundreds of hours developing and performing an intimate, formal variety show based on successful New York City magic shows and jazz clubs, Honors College funding enabled me to travel to NYC last May to see several shows firsthand. I couldn't ask for a better addition to my college education; the experience informed me as I wrote my Honors thesis, wrote a new parlor magic show, and prepared my senior recital.

“It was encouraging to see concepts that I use being performed at a high level that felt well within my reach.”

I traveled with Jackson Bieger, a performer and writer for our local show, “An Evening Out of Time.” We arrived in New York on a Friday morning and began exploring midtown Manhattan. Two of my favorite stops were Tannen’s Magic Shop and the Steinway Piano gallery. Tannen’s, located across from the Empire State Building, is one of the most famous,

historic magic shops in the world, and I met several local magicians there.

The nearby Steinway gallery is a beautiful glass building with pianos displayed in rows, but the real gallery, which only serious customers usually see, is downstairs. We were fortunate enough to tour the downstairs recital hall and studio, a large room with at least a hundred pianos, a workshop, and a room with 10 Steinway B’s, which are just a notch below their concert grand. It was a pianist’s Candyland.

Friday evening, we saw “The Magician,” Dan White’s sold-out show at The NoMad Hotel in midtown. White has performed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* numerous times, and his show was the one I had to see. The long, dimly lit room had a small stage at one end and magic memorabilia scattered on the walls. White’s show included a mainstream/classic magic repertoire, with even a few effects that I do. It was encouraging to see concepts that I use being performed at a high level that felt well within my reach.

That evening, we also heard the Greg Glassman Quintet at the Smalls Live jazz club in Greenwich Village. One of my favorite drummers, Jason Brown, who has played with jazz greats Monty Alexander and Joey DeFrancesco, was performing with Glassman

that night, and they did not disappoint. The musicianship and improvisation were astounding, and I had the opportunity to talk with Brown, sax player Stacey Dillard, and pianist Jeremy Manasia after the show.

Since I regularly busk performing magic, we walked the length of Central Park, a known busking hub, Saturday morning. There were musicians every hundred yards or so and an impressive team of acrobats, who drew a large crowd. Their stunts were excellent, but I was most impressed by their highly successful busking techniques (seeking donations for street performances). Within 20 minutes, they made a lot of money.

Saturday afternoon was a trip highlight, seeing Steve Cohen's show, "Chamber Magic," a 90-minute, formal, intimate magic show in a New York Palace hotel parlor room. Cohen's highly polished show was without question the best manifestation of the art I love that I have ever seen, and I am thankful to have it now as a North Star of sorts to guide my journey as a magician.

That evening, we went to a music club in the East Village to hear an exciting new artist, Sammy Rae, whose music is based in soul, with heavy influences of R&B, jazz, rock, and blues. Sammy Rae and her band, The Friends, performed a creative, high-energy concert to a packed house. Following the concert, we caught an hour-long show at the famous Comedy Cellar. As a huge standup nerd and a comedic performer, it was a delight to see a show in that venue.

On Sunday, we watched talented middle and high school-age jazz musicians play at the Jazz Standard's "Jazz for Kids" show. Later Sunday evening, we enjoyed another trip highlight, the Village Vanguard, which is considered one of the greatest and most important jazz clubs in the world. We saw a chord-less quartet, featuring Antonio Sanchez on drums, Scott Colley on bass, and Chris Potter and Donny McCaslin on tenor sax. It was far and away the best live jazz I've ever heard, and it was one of the most exciting musical experiences I've ever had.

I am grateful to the Honors College for granting me the opportunity to experience the two arts I love so much at their very best in their best environment.





## WORTH ALL THE EFFORT

Taking a chance on an email leads to last-minute China trip

By *Nottely Seagraves*, a junior majoring in Accounting

Nottely Seagraves in China

Last June, I received an email from the Honors College with the subject line "Travel Opportunity," which immediately caught my attention. Since I have a huge passion for travel, I immediately read the email and application for the program but quickly realized that this was probably not the trip for me. The application stated that I would need to come up with a startup company and write a business plan. Not only did I lack any knowledge about making business plans or have any existing ideas for a new company, but the application was due by the end of that day. I was about to delete the email and move on, but I decided that I might as well just apply. Nothing bad could result from applying, and as Wayne Gretzky once said, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

A couple of weeks went by and I had not heard back about the program, so I figured I had not been accepted and started working toward other opportunities. You win some. You lose some, right? Out of the blue, about a month later, just three weeks

before the program started, I received an email from a staff member of the Confucius Institute headquarters asking for my shirt size and travel plans.

“ I also really enjoyed being able to mark 'hiking on the Great Wall of China' off my bucket list. ”

It turns out I had been accepted, but there had been some miscommunication. I was so excited, but I could not get too far ahead of myself. I still had to figure out how I would pay for my travels and get a visa in time. I reached out to the Honors College, remembering they had mentioned in the email that they could assist with travel expenses. The staff was incredibly helpful, and to my surprise, Dean John R. Vile was gracious enough

to award me a scholarship to cover all of my travel expenses. I could not be more thankful.

This spur-of-the-moment decision to fill out an application had turned into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to China for three weeks! I hope my story proves to those reading this that it is always worth the time and effort to take advantage of and apply for opportunities, no matter how far-fetched they may seem.

Throughout the first week of the program, we had several lectures about entrepreneurship and the business culture of China. We also hosted a business fair in which students from the local university came to listen to our business proposals and to choose which startup they would invest in hypothetically. Later that week, we presented our business proposals in front of a panel of Chinese investors. This was a great experience to practice giving a pitch and to receive feedback from experts.

Another major part of the program was visiting Chinese businesses. They ranged from smaller startups to global companies, such as Huawei and Lenovo. My two favorites were Xag and Lenovo. Xag is a drone company that focuses on researching and innovating technology that makes farming more sustainable. Lenovo is a huge tech company. When we visited, we were able to take a tour and see the company's smart home devices, including a few that are still in the process of being developed. This tour blew my mind. As cheesy as it sounds, I felt like I was in the movie *WALL-E*.

Apart from the educational and business components of the program, another favorite aspect of the trip was

the diversity of the participants. I was the only student in the group representing the United States. The others were from all over the world, and everyone was there for different reasons. Impressively, some already had successful businesses that operated in multiple other countries and were hoping to expand their markets to China. This gave me the opportunity to learn about starting a business and about other cultures, pushed me out of my comfort zone, and provided me the chance to network and make connections around the world. I also really enjoyed being able to mark "hiking on the Great Wall of China" off my bucket list. The size of the Great Wall and the mountain views were breathtaking. Lastly, I loved the public transportation system. It made traveling around Beijing and Shenzhen easy, even without knowledge of the Chinese language.

My most significant takeaways from the trip:

- The Chinese business market is very difficult to enter, but having local connections helps drastically. Selecting a business partner is like choosing a marriage partner.
- Make sure you have done research about the market you are hoping to enter before you present to investors.
- Jump at every opportunity, especially if it scares you a little.
- I love the Chinese culture and food!

This will no doubt be a trip to remember and reflect on for my entire life. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

P.S. I have become an expert at applying for a last-minute Chinese visa, so reach out to me if you ever need some tips.



China group

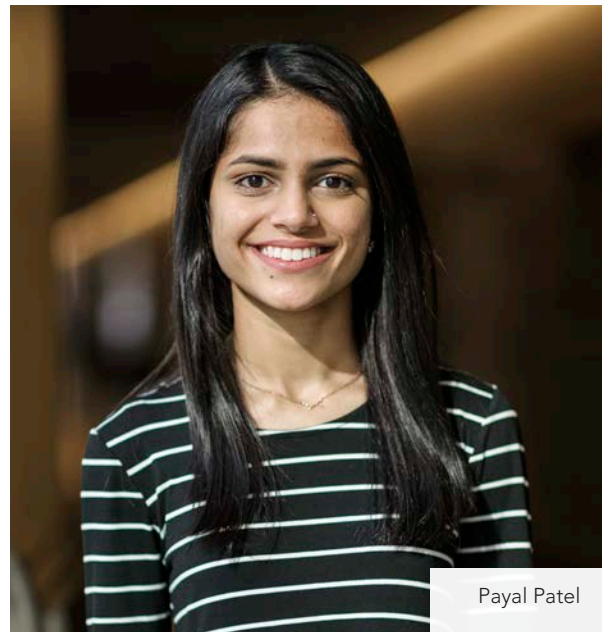


Seagraves (r) and friend at the Great Wall

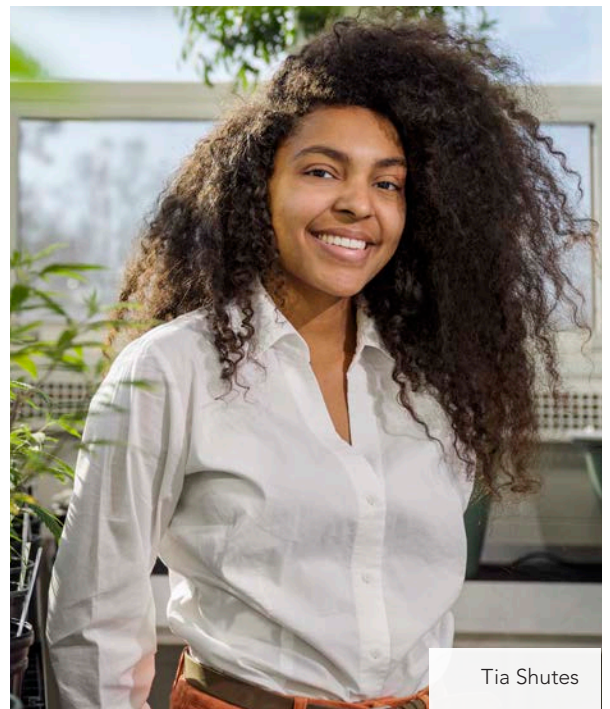


## HONORS FEATURED IN RESEARCH MAGAZINE

George Schroeder



Payal Patel



Tia Shutes

The forthcoming *MTSU Research* magazine, published by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, features team research of Honors faculty and students in articles focused on the Norton/Cynthiana grape collaborative research between faculty members **Tony Johnston** (Fermentation Science) and **John Dubois** (Biology).

The publication highlights the research of current and former undergraduate Honors thesis students, detailing the efforts of **Amanda Uhls** ('16) and **Nolan Jolley** ('18) on propagation studies. Their theses were combined and published in March 2018. It also describes research by **Aimee Wilson** ('18) on the tissue culture of the grape, which led to a publication and her presenting her procedures at Zamorano

University in Honduras. The research of **Hannah Hall** ('18) and current student **Rebekkah Riley** on grape tissue culture is also noted.

One article describes the tissue culture projects of **Kayla Thomas** ('18), **Xoe Thacker** ('18), **Payal Patel**, **Rachel Bailey**, and **Tia Shutes** on the industrial hemp project through MTSU's Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research. **Savannah Lawwell's** research on industrial hemp breeding studies is included as well as the thesis research of **Cassandra Mihalko** ('18) on anti-inflammatory products produced by a plant called King of Bitters and **George Schroeder's** research on ginsenoside compounds in American ginseng.



Georgy Weismann



# HALLOWEEN TREATS

Dale Clifford



Brianna Walker



Gareth Laffely (I) and Roqué Marcelo



Morgan Posey



Janelle Valdez



Brittany Smith (I) and Nikki Parrish



Maria Hite

# FALL 2019 THESES DEFENDED



## Devin Adcox

*Anthropology*  
"Utility of 3D Laser Scanning for the Virtual Curation and Metric Analysis of Skeletal Remains"  
*Tiffany B. Saul, advisor*



## Kaleb Askren

*Computer Science*  
"A Survey of Deep Neural Networks Handling Plan Development Using Simulations of Real-World Environments"  
*Sal Barbosa, advisor*



## Rachel Bailey

*Biology*  
"The Effect of Elicitor Stimulation on Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) Varieties in a Hydroponic System"  
*John Dubois, advisor*



## Montgomery Barreto

*Accounting*  
"Analyzing Financial Literacy Among Undergraduate Students and Current Methods of Increasing Financial Literacy"  
*Keith J. Gamble, advisor*



## Brianna Bauman

*Mechatronics Engineering*  
"Girl Scouts STEM Weekend Camp Badge-Earning Weekend Lesson Plan"  
*Eric Klumpe, advisor*



## Lillian Beck

*Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*  
"Correlation Between Mean Length of Utterances in Preschoolers and Different Maternal Education Backgrounds"  
*Kathryn Blankenship, advisor*



## Aleana Boudle

*Horse Science*  
"Repeatability of TRH Stimulation Test for Equine Pituitary Pars Intomedia Dysfunction during the Months of February through June"  
*John C. Haffner, advisor*



## Joshua Brinegar

*Concrete Industry Management*  
"The Recreation and Feasibility of Sulfur Concrete on Mars"  
*Heather J. Brown, advisor*



## Britney Brown

*Animal Science*  
"Evaluation of Breed, Milk Production, and Udder Characteristics on Somatic Cell Count and Udder Pathogens in Lactating Holstein and Jersey Cows"  
*Jessica G. Carter, advisor*



## Bonnie Carroll

*Psychology*  
"Do Situational Differences Exist Between the Fatal Shooting of Armed Versus Unarmed Persons by Law Enforcement?"  
*John T. Pennington, advisor*



## Daniel Cheek

*Accounting*  
"A Plan for Beckett Timepieces"  
*Adam Smith, advisor*



## Christopher Cowherd

*Political Science*  
"On the Necessary Preconditions for a Just Social Order: Presuppositional Anarcho-Capitalism as a Response to the Consequentialist and Deontological Schools"  
*Daniel J. Smith, advisor*



## Audrey Creel

*History*  
"The Untold Story of the Maney Slaves"  
*Lynn A. Nelson, advisor*





**Nicholas Cummings**

*Recording Industry*  
"Documenting Underground Music  
in Nashville through Photography"  
John Dougan, advisor



**Caitlyn Ellis**

*Global Studies*  
"A Snapshot of Israeli Religion"  
Karen K. Petersen, advisor



**Anthony Czelusniak**

*Public Relations*  
"Investigating the Rationale for  
Social Media Use by Nashville  
Nonprofits"  
Matthew P. Taylor, advisor



**Tatum England**

*Community and Public Health*  
"Caregivers or Drug Pushers?  
An Examination of Medical  
Practitioner Stigma and  
Emphatic Communication  
toward Opioid Use"  
Mary E. Asbury, advisor



**Beatriz Dedicatoria**

*English/Video and Film Production*  
"SPEAK NOW! A Look at  
Diversity at MTSU"  
Poushali Bhadury



**Michaela George**

*Aerospace*  
"The History and Evolution of the  
NASA FOCUS Lab"  
Andrea Georgiou, advisor



**Josie Dowd**

*Animation*  
"Bug Planet"  
Richard W. Lewis, advisor



**Emily Gleason**

*Horse Science*  
"Perceptions of Practices Used  
in Equine-Assisted Activities and  
Therapies: A Survey"  
Andrea Rose Rego, advisor



**Anna Marie Duchac**

*Physics/History*  
"History of Women Astronauts"  
Chuck Higgins, advisor



**Lisa Hardie**

*Psychology*  
"Investigating Emotion and  
Gender Differences Associated  
with Encoding and Recognition"  
James R. Houston, advisor



**Rachel Eccles**

*Biology*  
"The Human Papillomavirus:  
Barriers and Initiatives"  
John Dubois, advisor



**Cassidy Johnson**

*Audio Production/Media  
Management*  
"A Journey Through Dance"  
Angela S. Ramos, advisor



**Josiah Ediger**

*Audio Production*  
"Levels and Leitmotifs: Creating  
an Immersive Experience through  
Video Game Music"  
Matthew C. O'Brien, advisor



**Seth Jones**

*Foreign Languages*  
"Christianity and Biblical  
Translations in Japan"  
Philip E. Phillips, advisor



**Kerry Keitzman**  
*International Relations*  
 "The Role of Women's Education in the Rate of Infant Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa"  
 Stephen D. Morris, advisor



**Anuradha Nugawela**  
*Information Systems*  
 "Wage Penalty Associated with MLB Starting Pitchers in Correlation to Tommy John Surgery at Free Agency"  
 Michael A. Roach, advisor



**Gareth Laffely**  
*Marketing*  
 "Real Narratives Benefit Native Peoples and Sustainable Tourism: The Culture Connection between Native American Culture and Travel Marketing"  
 Carroll Van West, advisor



**Payal Patel**  
*Biology*  
 "Inducing Somatic Embryogenesis in Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) Tissue Callus"  
 John D. Dubois, advisor"



**Zachary Lay**  
*Biology*  
 "Isolation and Identification of Fungal Endophytes Present in *Vitis aestivalis* Originating from Vineyards Located in Virginia and New York in Comparison to Mid-Western/Southern States"  
 Rebecca L. Seipelt-Thiemann, advisor



**Samir Qattea**  
*Mechatronics Engineering*  
 "The Flint Water Crisis: A Case Study of How Internal Motivations within Local, State, and Federal Systems Caused a City's Downfall"  
 Daniel J. Smith, advisor



**Sunny Lusins**  
*Forensic Science*  
 "The Relation between Behavioral and Emotion Changes in Patients during Their Treatment and Perceptions of Family Investment"  
 Michelle Boyer-Pennington, advisor



**George Schroeder**  
*Biology*  
 "Comparison of Ginsenoside Profiles in Different Age Groups of Red and White American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) Roots"  
 John D. Dubois, advisor



**Morgan Marshall**  
*Theatre*  
 "She's the Man: The Context and Importance of Sarah Siddon's *Hamlet*"  
 Katie J. Goodwin, advisor



**Robyn Sessler**  
*Psychology*  
 "The Effects of the Five Facets of Mindfulness on Positive and Negative Relationship Quality"  
 Cameron L. Gordon, advisor



**Josh Martin**  
*Animation*  
 "VR Media Arts Interactive Exhibit"  
 Rodrigo Gomez, advisor



**Tia Shutes**  
*Biology*  
 "Initiation and Cannabinoid Assessment of Trichomes on Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*)"  
 John D. Dubois, advisor



**Jon-Thomas Neely**  
*Exercise Science*  
 "The Effects of Running with a Partner on Cardiovascular Performance and Motivation"  
 Sandra L. Stevens, advisor



**Robin Smith**  
*Psychology*  
 "Exploration of Ethics"  
 Ellen R. Donovan, advisor



### Meena Swaminathan

Marketing  
"College Students' Awareness, Attitudes, and Buying Behaviors Involving Sustainable Methods in the Textile Industry"  
DeAnna S. Kempf, advisor



### Marissa Turner

Biology  
"The Distribution and Population Based Predictors of Foodborne Illness Incidence by County in Tennessee, 2015-2017"  
Kahler W. Stone, advisor



### Ekaterina Valuiskaya

Finance  
"Corporate Social Responsibility in Business-to-Business and Business-to-Consumer Companies: Nucor Corporation and Starbucks Corporation"  
Don P. Roy, advisor



### Grant Waldron

Psychology  
"Teaching Truth Through Fiction: A Study in C.S. Lewis"  
Joan E. McRae, advisor



### Wyatt Weatherford

Marketing  
"Things Go Better with Nostalgia: How the Coca-Cola Company Uses Brand Storytelling to Influence Its Marketing Efforts"  
Timothy R. Graeff, advisor



### Allison Wheeley

Marketing  
"Assessing the Effectiveness of Advertising in Video Games"  
Tricia M. Farwell, advisor



### Angela Womack

Sociology/Psychology  
"Women's Experiences with Relapse"  
Ariana E. Postlethwait, advisor



Students from Cleveland State and Motlow State community colleges pay a late November visit to MTSU's Honors College.

# FUTURE RAIDERS?



## CLASS OF TRANSFER FELLOWS WELCOMED

Twenty-nine new Honors Transfer Fellows participated in the annual fall inauguration Sept. 13 in the MTSU Student Union Ballroom.

Transfer Fellow alumnus **Lee Rumble** ('16, '19), who previously attended Nashville State Community College, challenged the new students in his address to the group. Rumble, a certified arborist, earned his B.S. in Plant and Soil Science as an Honors student and then completed an M.S. in Biology at MTSU.

Senior Transfer Fellows **Kaylee Lindgren** (Social Work), a graduate of Walters State Community College, and **Roqué Marcelo** (Video and Film Production), a transfer student from Cumberland University, welcomed the new students. Honors Dean **John R. Vile** introduced Honors Transfer Fellows faculty member **Maria Bachman**, who led the recitation of the Honors Creed.

Academic Advisor **Judy Albakry** facilitated the students' signing of the Honors College's *Book of Town and Gown*.



Pictured following the 2019 Transfer Fellows inauguration are (l-r): front, Dean John R. Vile, Leah Seir, Carina Vazquez Nunez, Emily Stafford, Hannah Monday, Morgan Smith, and Maria Bachman; second row, Isabella Morrissey, Lilliana Napier, Savannah Tucker, Haley Brazel, Briana Sands, and Abigail McCarthy; third row, Makayla Barrett and Natalie Foster; fourth row, Esteban Sanchez, Dale Shackelford, Drew Bray, Summer Pritchard, Karen Cranston, Matthew Parris, Luke Arnold, and Alan Webb; fifth row, Judy Albakry, Antonio Chioccio, Terryn Seaton, Kayleigh Payne, and Lee Rumble; and sixth row, Nathan Wahl, Tyler Christian, Andrew Modaff, Jonathan Locke, John Lichtman, and Roqué Marcelo.



## ODK ADDS 23 MEMBERS

The MTSU circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leadership Honor Society initiated 23 new members Nov. 14. ODK national Mission Committee member Matthew Hibdon, a charter member of MTSU's ODK circle and current College of Liberal Arts strategic communications manager, initiated new members and officers. Honors College resident faculty member Mary Evins (History), who also directs MTSU's American Democracy Project, was the speaker for the event.

Student officers for 2019–20 are Tatum England, president; Nathan Wahl, vice president; Brian Sharber, service project coordinator; and Tammy Nunez, secretary.

### ABOUT ODK

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded in 1914, is the first national college honor society to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship. The society recognizes achievement in the areas of scholarship; athletics; journalism, speech, and the mass media; creative and performing arts; and campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government.



Nathan Wahl, ODK vice president



Mary Evins, History and American Democracy Project



Students initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

## New Initiates

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Jarod Ball       | Cody Maness      |
| Mark Blackmon    | Gabriella Morin  |
| Catheryn Bolick  | Ashlin Murphy    |
| Arielle Brooks   | Jada Murriel     |
| Meredith Craig   | Emily Oppmann    |
| Audrey Creel     | Michelle Schmidt |
| Jori Graeff      | Molly Scott      |
| Turner Hamilton  | Marissa Turner   |
| Sarah Jones      | Emily Webb       |
| Gareth Laffely   | Sierra Wiencek   |
| Katelin MacVey   | Mary Evins       |
| Abigail McCarthy |                  |

For more information about ODK, contact Susan Lyons, MTSU circle coordinator, at **615-898-5645** or [susan.lyons@mtsu.edu](mailto:susan.lyons@mtsu.edu).



Matthew Hibdon, strategic communications manager of the College of Liberal Arts



Molly Scott



Initiates take the ODK membership oath.



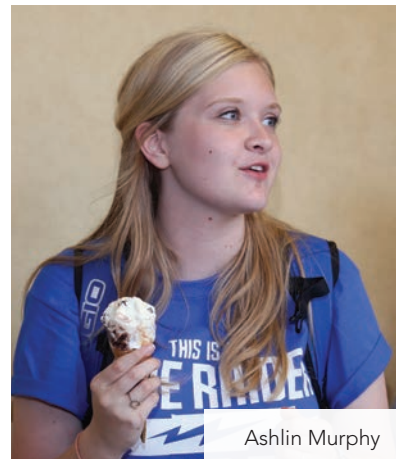
Emily Oppmann (l-r), Sarah Jones, Anna Levine, Channing Mullinax, Nate Parris, and Nathan Scott



Nathan Wahl



Buchanan Fellows (l-r) Liam McBane, Alyssa Chaney, Miquellie Bonner, and Mark Blackmon



Ashlin Murphy



Honors Ambassadors (l-r) Chase Connor, Roqué Marcelo, Madonna Ghobrial, and Cody Maness



Emma Beard, Hope Scott, and Owen Tadych



John Dubois (l) and Philip E. Phillips





## STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO WIKIPEDIA

Literature can take us to times and locations in our world that we may have never seen or experienced before. Students in Professor **Joan McRae's** Foreign Literature in Translation class took this journey and created six new Wikipedia pages about novels released outside of the United States.

Two of the new pages focus on novels originally published in French. *Suzanne*, a bestseller in Quebec and other French-speaking areas, is an award-winning biographical novel about poet and painter Suzanne Meloche, who is the grandmother of the book's Canadian author Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette. The second novel, *Incest*, was published in 1999 by French author Christine Angot. As a fictionalized biography or autofiction, the author and the protagonist in this work share the same name and occasionally the same experiences.

Another two pages feature Spanish language works, Argentinian author Samanta Schweblin's 2014 horror novel *Fever Dream*, which takes inspiration from the environmental problems in Argentina, and *The Transmigration of Bodies*, a 2013 post-apocalyptic novel by Mexican author Yuri Herrera.

McRae received one of MTSU's 2019 Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology awards for the ongoing project to use the creation and editing of Wikipedia articles as part of her Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures classes.

Wikipedia, an easy way to learn about new concepts or topics, welcomes additions from students and instructors using the site as an educational tool.

"We're working one student at a time, one article at a time, to build up the reputation of Wikipedia," she said.

McRae said those skeptical of Wikipedia in its early days might be surprised at how stringent the online

encyclopedia has become about editing or creating new content.

"One of the things I am struggling with in working with Wikipedia is the wider public perceptions of it—the 10-years-ago perception when anybody could do anything," she said. "That is not the case at all. Yes you can add, but if your addition is not properly sourced it will get taken away."

McRae developed the project in recent years with Jean Reese, coordinator of instructional media resources at MTSU's Walker Library, to integrate an information literacy component into humanities courses by assigning students to create scholarly content and disseminate it to the public through Wikipedia.

The Wikipedia editing and creation project was first used last spring in HUM 2610H: Foreign Literature in Translation, a course that is required for Buchanan Fellows and counts toward general education requirements. The project has been extended to some graduate-level classes

Other professors who would like to include Wikipedia editing as a learning tool in their classes can visit [teach.wikiedu.org](http://teach.wikiedu.org) and gain access to free tools, online trainings, and printed materials.

As part of the process, McRae led a group of students to France earlier this year to visit locations to be highlighted in their pages.

"The biggest thing I found at the end is how excited and satisfied students were that their work, that they had spent hours putting together, instead of going in my file cabinet was out for everyone to see," she said. "They are so proud they can't wait to tell mom or their friends, 'I have been published.' It makes it real."

*Craig Myers, editor of MTSU's ITD Communicator, contributed to this report.*



# à grand PIAN

## Economics professor follows interest in public choice from Italy to MTSU

By **Anthony Czelusniak**, a senior Honors Transfer Fellow majoring in Journalism, MTSU PRSSA president, and Collage editor-in-chief

**B**ecause he originally wanted to become a war correspondent, Ennio Piano started his academic career by studying history.

"To me, to be a good journalist you needed to be a good historian," he said. "You can imagine my parents weren't very excited about that. They wanted me to become a doctor."

Piano, who was born and raised on the Italian island of Sardinia, started his journey as a reporter by spending a bit of time writing for a website for free and then for a small national paper. However, his experience working in the world of journalism wasn't quite as in-depth as he would have liked.

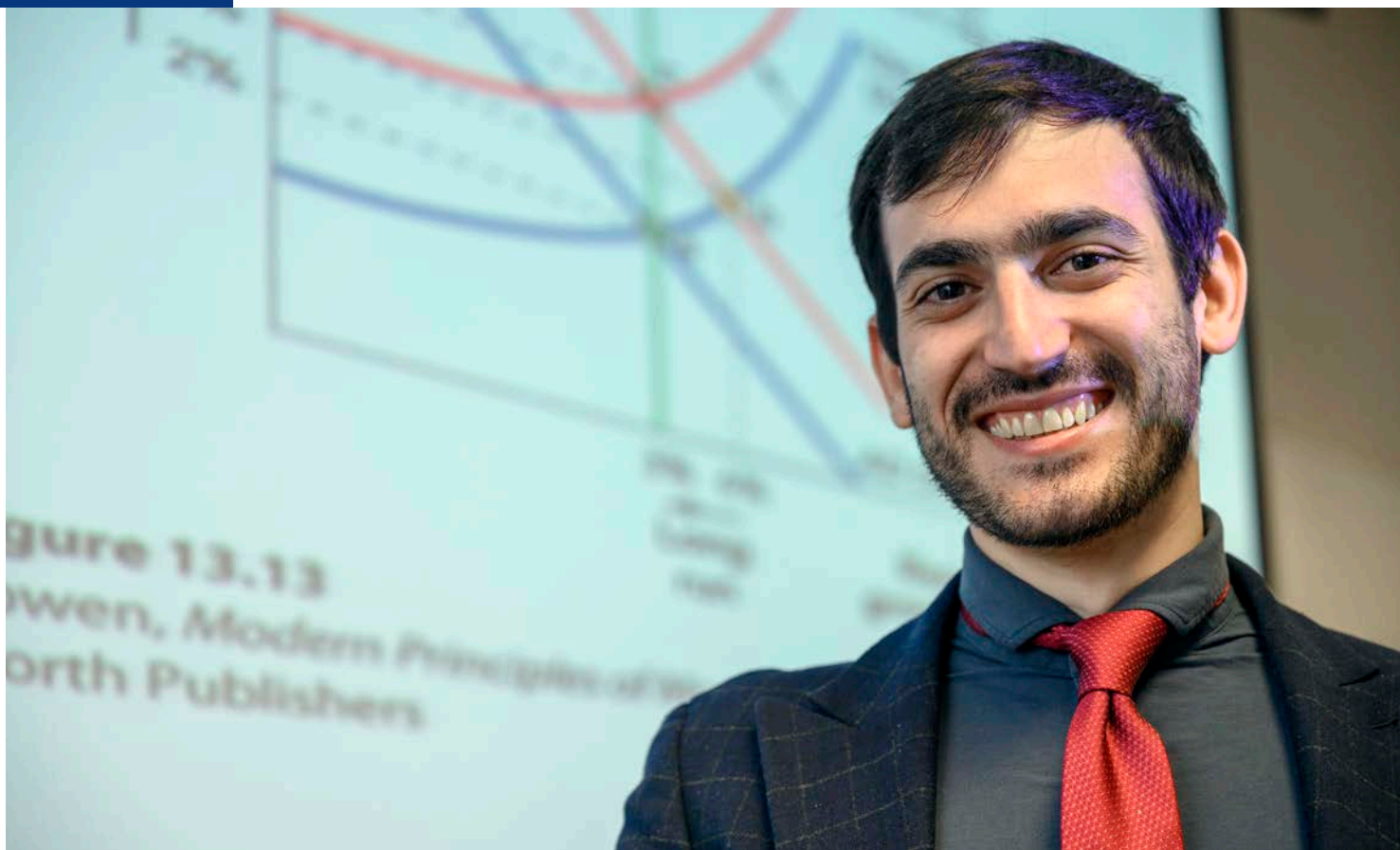
"You don't get a chance to really learn a lot about any one individual topic, so that was very frustrating to me," he said.

“The Honors College wanted to have somebody here that recognizes Buchanan as an important figure in economics.”

Piano has now found a home at MTSU as an assistant professor of Economics within the Honors College and with the new Political Economy Research Institute. But it took a couple of stops around the globe before he settled in Murfreesboro—and even on his current career.

Leaving journalism behind, Piano went all-in on the scholarly side of things and finished his History degree at the Università degli Studi di Siena in Tuscany. He was then given a scholarship to earn a doctorate in History—a degree he would soon move away from after a chance encounter in Rome with a group of economists that sparked his passion for the field.

"They converted me," he said.



### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BUCHANAN

At first, Piano tried to merge his studies in economics and history in an attempt to bring the fields together, but he met resistance from the History faculty.

“We didn’t have any economic historians in the department, and none of the professors were willing to work with me,” he said.

Piano told the faculty that he was only willing to finish his degree there if he could work on economic history. The school held firm, and Piano was off to another college and, in fact, another country entirely—to the United Kingdom.

King’s College London was where he began his graduate studies in Economics. Piano knew he needed a bit of help in mathematics before diving into a doctoral program, and King’s College was the place he would find it. The ultimate goal, however, was across the pond.

He had already decided on George Mason University in Virginia, and a couple of factors led him to GMU, where he would earn his doctorate. One of the people who introduced him to economics talked about GMU in a positive way. But, more than that, Piano found a specific subset of economics that resonated with him: public choice theory. Piano explained public choice theory is a purely positive science of human behavior and is a way to try to explain why things happen in society.

Another famous economist that studied public choice theory? None other than MTSU alumnus James Buchanan, who also taught at George Mason and won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his work as the architect of public choice theory. Although Buchanan died before Piano started studying there, his doctoral advisor was a student of Buchanan’s, which provided a unique connection to the late economist.

Piano partially credits this connection to MTSU with helping him land the job in the Honors College, where Buchanan’s gifts to the University now support the Honors College’s Buchanan Fellowship program.

The Honors College “wanted to have somebody here that is knowledgeable about Buchanan’s work and that recognizes Buchanan as an important figure in economics,” Piano explained.

### HISTORY AND POLITICS IN THE U.S.

Now that he is getting his feet underneath him, Piano looks to his future at MTSU.

“Middle Tennessee State University offers a Ph.D. in Economics, and so it would give me an opportunity to work with graduate students and teach graduate classes eventually,” he said.

Outside the classroom, Piano has made some observations about the culture surrounding politics in the U.S.

"Americans are much more aware of their history in a way that European countries necessarily aren't and have an awareness of the social problems that are associated with that history," he said.

The professor explained that in Italy, the focus is on contemporary issues, but that, "In the United States, that's not the way people frame political discourse and political conflict. They look at the Civil War or other historical issues."

Piano credits this with the fact that in the U.S., history is much more popular than it is in Italy, and that he sees a connection between historical and current issues.

"There is very much a divide that is a sociological divide and an economic divide that has its roots [in historical issues] today," he said.

While it would be understandable to assume that his role as an Economics professor is why he has an interest in American politics, the biggest reason is that he's been interested in American politics and culture since he was young.

"I've always followed American culture and American politics more than [Italian] politics and even [Italian] culture. I watched more American movies and TV shows than my peers growing up," Piano said. "I remember being up until five in the morning for the 2008 elections when Obama won."

### IMMERSION INTO THE CULTURE

While he has not been in middle Tennessee for very long, Piano is enjoying life in the area, and he listed a few of his favorite parts of living in the region.

"People are very nice, which is a stereotype, but it's very true," he said. "In terms of things I can't wait to

do, Nashville has national sports teams, it has a big music culture, and Nashville is becoming one of the centers for good food."

Piano also shared a few of the things he dislikes, saying, "I don't particularly love the car-based culture, which it's not like people have a choice, but I like to be able to walk to a restaurant or café. That is basically impossible to do here."

But MTSU, discussing the ups and downs of living in Tennessee, and American politics are not Piano's whole life. He is a man with sophisticated, and sometimes peculiar, tastes.

When asked about his favorite genre of music, Piano said he listens to classical music the most, but there is a caveat: "I'm not really a music person. My best friend is a classical musician, he's a bass player, so he's influenced my taste in music. But I can't say I am a very cultured classical music listener."

For his favorite television show, Piano said that "I am attracted and drawn to cleverness, and so clever comedy tends to win over everything for me, so I would say *Arrested Development*."

And when asked about his favorite piece of art, Piano gave a bit of pause. After a moment, and between a few chuckles, he said, "It's a weird piece of art, it's a Goya. It's *Saturn Devouring His Son*." Piano explained that he saw the gruesome painting in a Spanish movie where one of the characters is Francisco Goya. "At the end of the movie they show this painting, and it was so striking to me."

With a work ethic rivaling that of Buchanan, when asked about his favorite leisure activity, Piano could not help but laugh as he said, "Leisure? What's that?" **A**





Members of the Fall 2019 *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* staff at the August meeting are (l-r): front, Kelsey Keith, Nathan Wahl, Moose Williams, Bae Dedicatoria, Brenna Sharpe, Kate Carter, Hannah Tybor, George Boktor, and Anthony Czelusniak; second row, Hanan Beyene, Shannon Byrd, Emily Stafford, Simone Strange, and Ivy Torbett; third row, Isabella Morrissey, Lucy Crow, Elizabeth Clippard, Tanzeena Karim, and Allyson Bivvins; fourth row, Nibraas Khan, Niki Yonkov, Katelin MacVey, Leslie Bell, Janine Martin, Lisa Hardee, Zöe Haggard, Madeline Quinby, and Ty Morris; and back, Brian Sharber. Staff members not pictured are Emma Bradley, Evelyn Watson, Karen Cranston, Arif Bashar, and Katrina Scott.

## COLLAGE ISSUES CREATIVE AWARDS

Six talented students from a variety of majors won Creative Expression Awards for their submissions to *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. The fall journal staff selected the winners by secret ballot from among the semester's highest-rated works out of about 400 overall submissions. One winner is chosen from each of six major genres, with each receiving a \$75 prize.

### ABOUT THE AWARDS

Literature winners receive the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards, named in honor of the English professor and long-time supporter of *Collage* and the Honors College. Visual Arts winners receive the Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award, named in memory of the much-respected art professor and Holocaust educator at MTSU who died in 2008.



### Poetry

**Addison Gentry** was recognized for the poem "Three in the Morning on the Fourth of July." The senior is majoring in English Teacher Licensure with minors in Secondary Education and Writing.

### Prose

**Matthew Parris**, a junior, won a Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award for the fiction piece "Charcoal Figures." The Honors Transfer Fellow from Trevecca Nazarene University is majoring in English with a concentration in Literacy Studies.





## Art

**Lucy Crow**, won a Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award for *Boys Will Be Boys, There's No Other Choice*, a 48-by-72-inch collage, pictured at right. Crow is a freshman majoring in Animation with a minor in Art.



*Boys Will Be Boys, There's No Other Choice* by Lucy Crow

## Audio



**Ashley Johnson**, the winner for *The Suburbs*, is a Recording Industry major with a concentration in Commercial Songwriting. The senior is minoring in Music Industry.



*All Knowing Mother* by Adriana Klika

## Video



**Shelby Stewart**, a junior, received the award for *Outside*. Stewart is majoring in Video and Film Production and in Media and Entertainment with an Interdisciplinary Media concentration.

## Photography



**Adriana Klika**, a freshman, won for *All Knowing Mother*, pictured at left. The Biology major's concentration is in Organismal Biology and Ecology.



© Pressens Bild AB  
Photo by Börje Thuresson





# Buchanan

## CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

### Political economists gather to honor Nobel winner's 100th birthday

**T**op scholars in political economy from around the world gathered in Murfreesboro last fall for a conference celebrating the 100th birthday of late MTSU alumnus and Nobel laureate James Buchanan.

The Dr. James M. Buchanan Centennial Birthday Academic Conference, held Oct. 2–5 at Embassy Suites and on MTSU's campus, was designed to "celebrate, honor, and build on James M. Buchanan's scholarly legacy in his hometown," according to **Daniel J. Smith**, director of MTSU's Political Economy Research Institute (PERI).

"James Buchanan would have been very happy to see this group of scholars contribute to a conference in his honor," said **Ennio Piano**, MTSU assistant professor of Economics who took part in the conference. Among the participants were some of Buchanan's closest colleagues and students going back to the 1960s.

"Most importantly, and a real testament to his legacy, many of the presenters were junior scholars, themselves students of Buchanan's own students. As an academic entrepreneur, he would have seen the relevance of the fact that the tradition he contributed to establish is alive and well in today's academy," added Piano, an Honors and PERI faculty member.

A Rutherford County native, Buchanan graduated from MTSU in 1940 and received the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his leadership in developing the public choice theory of economics.

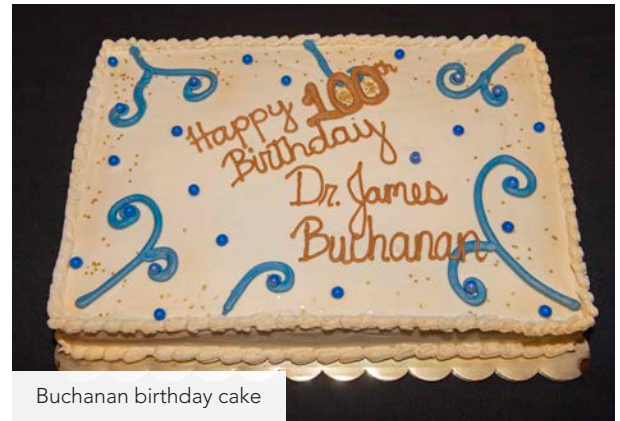
The welcoming address from **Peter J. Boettke** of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Virginia traced Buchanan's academic life. **Jay Cost** of the American Enterprise Institute delivered a keynote address on campus,



Jay Cost, American Enterprise Institute



Daniel J. Smith, director of MTSU's Political Economy Research Institute



Buchanan birthday cake

which was open to the public. A reception followed in Walker Library's Buchanan Room, where a replica of Buchanan's Nobel medallion is featured and his bronze bust is displayed.

Conference sessions centered on five topics: Influences on James M. Buchanan, Democracy, Constitutions, The Academy and Research in Public Choice, and Appraisals and Extensions.

“James Buchanan would have been very happy to see this group of scholars contribute to a conference in his honor.”

Scholars from throughout the nation and world—including King's College London, the University of Montpellier in France, Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Vienna, Walker Eucken Institut in Germany, Arizona State University, West Virginia University, Texas Tech University, and Duke University—gave presentations.

Some presentations were facilitated by MTSU's **Michael Federici**, chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations; Honors College **Dean John R. Vile**, who is a Political Science professor; and Piano. Vile observed that Buchanan's own approach was interdisciplinary and that the conference thus provided a good venue for political scientists as well as economists.

“The quality of the submitted papers pays a fitting tribute to James M. Buchanan's legacy of groundbreaking scholarship by advancing our understanding of political economy,” Smith said.

Through an arrangement with *Public Choice* editor-in-chief William F. Shughart II (Utah State University), papers presented at the conference and written by recognized scholars in political economy are being considered for a special issue of the academic journal, providing the opportunity to magnify the impact of the scholarly work featured at the conference.

“Importantly, the conference, by introducing these visiting scholars to our own faculty and graduate students, creates the possibility for future scholarly discourse and collaboration,” Smith said. “Our hope is that events such as this, along with PERI's fellowship and faculty support, will solidify MTSU's Ph.D. in Economics program as a premiere place for studying public choice.”

Buchanan is widely recognized as a key founder of the field of public choice, which applies economic reasoning to the public's understanding of political outcomes and the political institutions that influence those outcomes.

Buchanan's gifts to the University Honors College support the prestigious Buchanan Fellowship program, established in 2006 by MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee to attract top scholars from across the state and country.

Prior to the establishment of the Buchanan Fellowship, the University began awarding a Buchanan Scholarship to recognize top students in 1997. When visiting MTSU that year to address the first Buchanan Scholarship recipients, Buchanan said, "Economics, the discipline that was to be my scientific home, requires expository writing skills, logical structures of analysis, and grounding in ultimate reality. And political economy, the branch of moral philosophy from which economics springs, requires philosophical coherence. I came away from Middle Tennessee with all of these."

The fall conference was not all work and no play. Friday following the final session, interested participants traveled to Lynchburg for lunch at Miss Mary Bobo's, where Carolyn Midgett, wife of Honors Board of Visitors member Don Midgett, served as hostess for the visitors. The group also toured Jack Daniel's Distillery. **A**

## DR. JAMES M. BUCHANAN CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE  
University Honors College and the  
Political Economy Research Institute  
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

October 2-5, 2019



Cost speaks to guests.



Peter Boettke,  
George Mason University



John R. Vile, dean of MTSU's Honors College



Honored guests and  
presenters at the  
Buchanan Conference

# From Farming to the Nobel Prize

James M. Buchanan, a 1940 graduate of then-named Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College, often noted that the life of scholarly endeavor and accomplishment he had led was not even imaginable to him as a child growing up in rural Rutherford County. His motivation to pursue a higher education was simply that to do so was "better than plowing." Although he was the grandson of a Tennessee governor, he and his family experienced the same financial hardships common to many in middle Tennessee during the 1930s.

Buchanan attended country schools and lived at home on his family's farm while attending MTSTC. He paid for his undergraduate education by doing farm work. A student who eventually graduated with majors in English, social sciences, and mathematics, he wrote that the reason he entered the field in which he became famous—economics—was that MTSTC Political Science professor C.C. Sims helped arrange a fellowship for him to attend graduate school. Otherwise, Buchanan speculated, he would have become a high school teacher or taken a job in a bank.

Buchanan's radically different ideas about the intersections of economics, politics, and public policy and his willingness to challenge majority views—combined with hard work and long hours—led to the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986. Buchanan's leadership in developing the public choice theory of economics is now universally recognized.

In *Better than Plowing and Other Personal Essays*, Buchanan wrote, "In a sense I do embody something of the American myth of social mobility. For how many farm boys from middle Tennessee, educated in tiny, poor, and rural public schools, and at a struggling state-financed teachers' college, have received Nobel Prizes? . . . The simple fact that my selection offered hope and encouragement to so many . . . had been, when all is said and done, the most gratifying aspect of the whole experience of 'Nobility.' "

“ In a sense I do embody something of the American myth of social mobility. For how many farm boys from middle Tennessee . . . have received Nobel Prizes? ”



MTSU President Sidney McPhee (l) presents Buchanan an obelisk in 2011 to honor his contributions and professional achievements.



Jeff Whorley, Buchanan's nephew, speaks at the James Buchanan Celebration of Life in 2013.



McPhee presents Liz Bradley, younger sister of Buchanan and MTSU alumna, with Buchanan's honorary doctorate at a 2013 commencement.



Sculptor Tracy H. Sugg (l) and Bradley unveil the James Buchanan bust at MTSU in 2015.

## Mission of PERI

Established in 2016, the Political Economy Research Institute is a joint venture between the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the University Honors College, established with initial seed money from the Charles Koch Foundation.

The institute's mission is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in research that will further the understanding of business and economic principles, as well as their impact on regional, national, and international financial conditions and the well-being of society. To advance its mission, PERI will engage in research and educational programs that uncover the institutions and policies that encourage and enhance human well-being.



Daniel Smith, director of the Political Economy Research Institute, hosted the Economics and Free People Colloquium. The round-table discussion involved students and visiting professor Art Carden, an associate professor of Economics at Samford University.



Smith, director of MTSU's new Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), presents on "The Political Economy and Economic Impact of Tariffs on Ginseng Growers."



Chris Stephens (seated), the new chair of MTSU's Department of Mathematical Sciences, is welcomed by Honors College leadership (l-r) John R. Vile, dean; Sandra Campbell, executive secretary; and Philip E. Phillips, associate dean.

# HONORS WELCOMES NEW MATH CHAIR



Anthony Badger (l-r), former U.S. vice president Al Gore Jr., Mary Evins, and Kent Syler

## SUFFRAGE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT FALL SERIES



Amy Sayward



Michael Burns

The Fall 2019 Honors Lecture Series explored “Suffrage,” a topic selected in part because of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Tennessee’s major role in giving women the right to vote.

The series, which supported MTSU’s ongoing commitment to promoting civic education and civic discourse on campus, in the community, and across the nation, included multiple opportunities for students to hear from impressive state and national leaders, including former U.S. vice president Al Gore Jr.

Mary Evins, MTSU American Democracy Project director and an Honors College resident faculty member, coordinated the series along with Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the University Honors College. The series kicked off Aug. 26 with a welcome

and introduction by Evins and Phillips. Lecture topics related to African Americans, Tennesseans, felons, women, veterans, and students.

Other fall class activities, in addition to the conversation between Gore and Anthony Badger (Cambridge University), included Constitution Day readings across campus, a panel discussion on suffragists, a legislative panel, a presentation by Laura Clippard on fellowships and scholarships, and Honors student thesis presentations.

UH 3000 consists of a series of weekly, hour-long lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden students’ knowledge in a variety of disciplines. The course may be repeated for up to 3 hours of credit. The public is also welcome to attend the lectures.

*For more information about the Honors Lecture Series, please email [philip.phillips@mtsu.edu](mailto:philip.phillips@mtsu.edu).*

**Lectures topics and speakers:**



Pippa Holloway



Sekou Franklin

“The 15th Amendment and African American Voter Justice,” **Sekou Franklin**, Political Science and International Relations

“Albert Gore Sr.: Voting Rights, Civil Rights, and Public Policy,” a conversation between **Al Gore Jr.**, former U.S. vice president, and **Anthony Badger**, History, Cambridge University

“Suffragists and Citizenship,” a panel discussion with **Marjorie Spruill**, History, University of South Carolina, and state Rep. **London Lamar**, moderated by **Margaret Renkl**, *New York Times* opinion writer

“Civic Participation, Citizenship, and Voting in Tennessee: A Legislative Panel,” state legislators **Mike Carter**, **Shane Reeves**, **Bryan Terry**, and **Charles Baum**, moderated by **Mark Byrnes**, provost

“Tennesseans and Voting,” **Marion Ott**, president, Tennessee League of Women Voters

“Felon Disfranchisement in America,” **Pippa Holloway**, History

“Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment: The Perfect 36,” **Carole Stanford Bucy**, History, Volunteer State Community College

“Student Citizens and Voting Rights: A National Perspective,” **Michael Burns**, national director, Campus Vote Project, Fair Elections Center, Washington, D.C.

“Student and Veteran Leadership in the Fight for the 26th Amendment,” **Amy Sayward**, History



Legislative panel

# HIGHLIGHTING A LEGACY

Alumni who benefited from Buchanan award are beginning to make their own marks on the world

By Vicky Travis

James Buchanan, while living at home and working on the farm, graduated in 1940 from MTSU, then known as Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. The budding economist went on to get his master's at the University of Tennessee, serve during World War II, marry, and earn his doctorate from the University of Chicago by 1948.

In 1986, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences and is broadly recognized as one of the key founders of the field of public choice. He taught at UCLA, Florida State University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Chicago, Virginia Tech University, the University of Virginia, and George Mason University. But MTSU kept a place in his heart.

He died in January 2013 in Virginia at age 93. A few months later, in May 2013, his estate bequeathed \$2.5 million to MTSU's Honors College, which was later supplemented with another \$1.2 million.

"It is clear that Dr. Buchanan took great pride in the fact that even though he had commuted to the 'city' of Murfreesboro to get an education, he was able to succeed here and that his success as an undergraduate propelled him to future greatness," Honors College Dean John R. Vile said. "The Nobel Prize gave him a platform that he relished, and although he thought deeply, he

never worried very much about whether what he said was politically correct or not.

"He was well known for saying that if he could win a Nobel Prize, then anyone could!"

Each fall, 20 Honors College freshmen are awarded MTSU's highest scholarship, the Buchanan Fellowship. These high-achieving students participate in a specially designed cohort curriculum of courses, receive full tuition waiver for four years (not including summers), special seminars, priority registration, and a book allowance.

To apply, candidates must have at least a 30 ACT and a 3.5 high school GPA, but the class average now is about a 34 ACT and a 3.9–4.0 GPA. Each applicant also writes an essay.

"The committee looks for those we think will give back to the University community," Vile said. The committee also works to get a diversity of majors and may accept up to five students a year from out of state.

On Oct. 3, 2019, Buchanan would have been 100 years old.

What better way to honor Buchanan than to highlight his legacy: MTSU Honors College graduates who benefited from the Buchanan Fellowship and are now at the beginning of making their own marks on the world.





Buchanan Scholars program medallion

## Leland Waite ('13, '16)

- Bachelor's in Aerospace, Professional Pilot
- Master's in Aviation Administration, Safety and Security Management

For as long as he can remember, Leland T. Waite has been fascinated with airplanes. And while at Mountain View High School in Idaho, he also liked the sciences and considered medicine as a career.

"My thought was that I'd eventually make enough money to buy an airplane," he said. But when his light-bulb moment came, he decided that rather than wait for that day, why not fly as a career?

He earned his private pilot license as a teen, then he set his sights on finding a university with an Aerospace degree. "We didn't have any colleges in Idaho with an aviation program, and I wanted the four-year degree along with a professional pilot's license," Waite said.

The cross-country search led him to MTSU's Department of Aerospace and the Honors College. He earned one of the 20 spots as a Buchanan Fellow.

"Once it sunk in that I was one of 20, it was definitely nice," he said. With no connections to Tennessee, his first year in the Honors College and Buchanan community was priceless. "It was a cross-section of different disciplines, a group that wouldn't have met if not for the Honors College," Waite noted.

"One of the big things for me was that the Buchanan was very diverse and people were recognized for lots of accomplishments. So many scholarships are cookie-cutter, all about the numbers. This was unique."

As a Buchanan Fellow, Waite felt encouraged to try research opportunities and do his thesis project. "They really put a lot into making sure we succeeded," he said of the faculty.

“So many scholarships are cookie-cutter, all about the numbers. This was unique.”

Waite met his wife, Jenn, while they were both resident assistants at MTSU. They married in 2015. An English major, she got her master's in Education and now teaches at Blackman High School.

After he graduated, he worked at MTSU as an instructor while he earned his master's in Aviation Administration Safety and Security Management. Waite then worked for two regional airlines connected to Delta. Since December 2018, Waite has been flying Boeing 737s for Delta Air Lines.

"It's a good mix of trans-continental flights, some flights to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean," he said. Depending on the trip length, he may have time to explore a new city.

As a self-professed "airplane nerd," Waite mentors MTSU Aerospace students as his hobby. He also helps improve curriculum and sees how training is progressing. "It's such an interesting career field," he said.



Delta pilot Leland Waite



Waite (r) and wife, Jenn

## Tandra Martin ('15)

- Bachelor's in International Relations
- Minors in Spanish and Organizational Communication

Growing up in Murfreesboro and going to Blue Raider football games, Tandra Martin declared she'd never go to MTSU. It was just too close to home, and she was ready to explore.

But then, she turned down her dream school, New York University, to do just that . . . go to MTSU as a Buchanan Fellow.

The Buchanan scholarship and the Honors College challenged her and opened her eyes. "The Buchanan creates options for students performing at a high level," said Martin, who graduated as one of the valedictorians of Oakland High School. "The crop of people it's pulling from are star students who have that expectation that they have to go to a Harvard, Yale, or NYU."

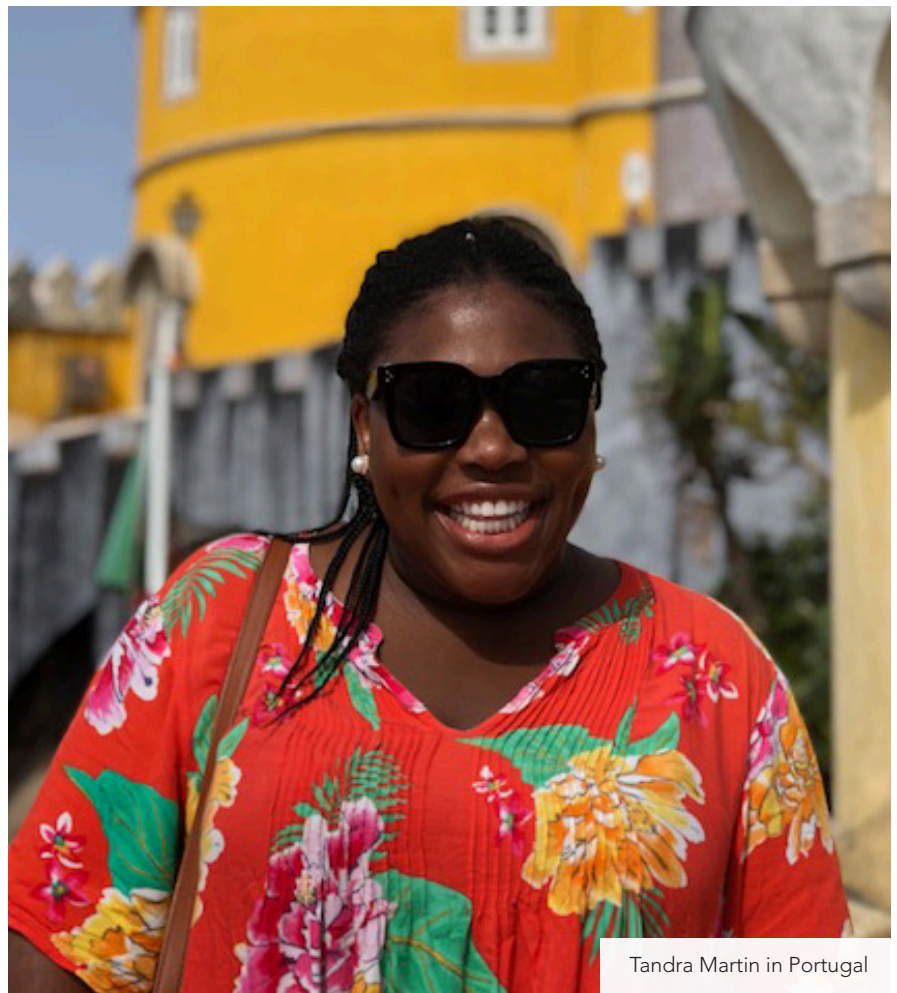
What she found in the Honors College and Buchanan Fellowship was a very high level of academic challenge and stimulation. "It's the right level of rigor for high-achieving students. It provides that incubator for them," she said.

Martin, who was already familiar with campus because her dad works there, would fall in love with MTSU. She joined a sorority and became a Blue Elite ambassador leading tours.

And her goals changed from getting a degree to make money to getting the degree so she could serve. Because of the Honors College advising, she applied for competitive programs and scholarships including the Rhodes Scholarship, for which she was a finalist.

Martin studied abroad in Israel, sparking her interest in the Middle East and the Arabic language. To further learn Arabic, she earned a Boren scholarship to Morocco, where she spent her entire senior year studying Arabic and completing her undergraduate research thesis on women's and girls' access to education in the Middle East.

After graduating, she worked at MTSU before she took off on a Fulbright scholarship to Bloemfontein, South Africa, where she supported literacy initiatives and began a college access program for high school learners. It was there that she says the education-policy part of her brain turned on. She worked at the Tennessee Department of Education to expand



Tandra Martin in Portugal

students' access to advanced coursework and industry credentials.

Currently, Martin works at Vanderbilt University, advising service-based student organizations and developing curriculum for a global program in Morocco, all while helping students engage with the community through meaningful service. And she loves to explore new places, indulge in street food and food-truck fare, enjoy live music, and listen to podcasts. Last fall Martin also was finishing up her master's in Leadership and Public Service from Lipscomb University.

“It's the right level of rigor for high-achieving students.”

During her days at MTSU, she remembers that when the bust of Buchanan was unveiled, she found a renewed sense of awe. "There is an alum who won a Nobel Prize," Martin said. "No matter where you go, it's all about what you make of the experience."

## Chad Slaven ('12)

- Bachelor's in Chemistry, minors in Biology and Psychology
- D.D.S. and post-doctoral in Pediatric Dentistry. University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

After earning his Doctor of Dental Science and his certification in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Chad Slaven has been practicing at Puget Sound Pediatric Dentistry near Seattle.

He had considered psychology as a career path, but chose dentistry, finding that the two disciplines are the perfect complements for a career as a pediatric dentist.

"Yes, getting a kid through an appointment is a combination of the best of both of those worlds," he laughed.

Born and raised in the small northeast Tennessee town on the Kentucky border, Slaven was valedictorian of Cumberland Gap High School.

"When you're from a small town, no one ever tells you that 'you can,'" he said about the thought of earning a scholarship like the Buchanan. "I thought it doesn't happen to kids like me. Only in the movies." It was actually his dad who found out about the Buchanan scholarship at MTSU and urged Slaven to apply. So he listened and credits his dad with pushing him not to settle.

"When they called and said I got the Buchanan scholarship, I really thought this has to be a mistake,"

Slaven said. "It was so special. I tangibly felt it was a gift that I'd been given."

Not knowing a soul at MTSU, the other 19 Buchanan Fellows became his brothers and sisters, hanging out together every day. "I don't think I would have made it without them."

The Honors College was a game-changer for Slaven. From his cohort to his professors to the rigor, he constantly sings the University's praises, even telling people in Seattle they should go to MTSU.

"All the professors in the Honors College were always so supportive," Slaven said. "It shaped me. It was a new trajectory for my life."

In dental school, he became class president and got involved in student government, other clubs, and volunteer work. At MTSU, he was a resident assistant for three years. The scholarship, along with book stipend and his RA job, meant he had money in the bank. And he could go into dental school debt-free, unlike many of his dental school friends.

It would be later into his MTSU years that Slaven would learn more about the scholarship's namesake. "My gratitude grew," he said, as he learned of Buchanan's contributions and his Nobel Prize. "To be associated with that name is even more of an honor."

Slaven has been at his Washington state practice since the summer of 2018 and is enjoying the adventure, getting outdoors as often as possible with his dogs. He loves tennis, hiking, camping and, of course, coffee in Seattle.



Pediatric dentist Chad Slaven



Slaven with furry friend

“ I skipped surprise and went straight to gratitude. I felt very lucky to be there. ”



Rayne Lawrence doing fieldwork in Hong Kong

### Rayne (Leonard) Lawrence ('13, '15)

- Bachelor's in Biochemistry
- Master's in Biology (genetics)

Rayne Leonard Lawrence grew up in Hohenwald, Tennessee, and her college choice became clear and easy when she learned she had earned a Buchanan Fellows scholarship.

"At the time, I probably didn't grasp how competitive it was," said Lawrence, who graduated from MTSU in 2013. Was she surprised she got it? "I skipped surprise and went straight to gratitude. I felt very lucky to be there."

Lawrence, now a field application specialist for Illumina, a biotechnology company in Nashville, worked at Insight Genetics for more than four years. She was in charge of all genomic sequencing, looking at patient samples and response data to cancer treatments.

She is convinced the work she did while an Honors student and a Buchanan Fellow set her up to get the funding for grants while she was in graduate school at MTSU. Lawrence also believes the graduate work she did at MTSU put her over the top to land the job at Insight right out of school.

At MTSU, she spread her wings, learned what she loved, and dug in.

As an undergrad, Lawrence had an awesome experience studying abroad in Argentina, doing a lot of seminar and interdisciplinary work. And for her Honors capstone thesis, the Biology major stepped out of science and completed a thesis in liberal arts, something she's so happy she did.

As an MTSU grad student, she got funding to go to China for three months, partnering with a lab there to do research. Lawrence also has mentored students in STEM programs.

Like many Buchanan Fellows, Lawrence's cohort became close friends. "At that age, there's something to be said for a built-in friend group," she said. "It was a small Honors College group and what we moved around in." Since graduation, she's been to a few weddings with Buchanan Fellows. And she got married in December 2018. When she's not working, Lawrence and her husband go kayaking, travel, and enjoy Nashville life.

And looking back now, she's grateful her time in higher education was debt-free.

"It's so rare to meet anyone who got full rides," she said. "And having no debt now, what a gift." **A**



Dani Bryson

## STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE

Prosecutor researched victims' rights bill for Honors thesis

**Dani Westerman Bryson** (Political Science, '09), now an assistant district attorney, wrote her undergraduate Honors thesis, "Judicial Standing: The Next Frontier of Establishing Victims' Rights," under the direction of Honors College Dean John R. Vile. She had enjoyed Vile's Constitutional Law class and got the idea for her Honors thesis when adjunct professor David Hudson commented that emerging victims' rights bills across the nation would make an interesting research topic.

Bryson called it "the perfect intersection of criminal and constitutional law for me," which became personally important to her as a prosecutor.

Another Honors class also has been particularly valuable to her career as a lawyer in the criminal justice system. "I chose my Legal Writing and Research class taught by Amanda Moore to turn into an

H-option [Honors contract] and now realize how great of a decision that was," Bryson said. "I use the skills and substance from that class constantly, and interestingly enough, my H-option paper dealt with a prolonged traffic stop and use of a narcotics dog, a highly relevant scenario in my daily work."

Her typical week might include a trial where a confidential informant purchased methamphetamine, a suppression hearing after a drug dog found 10 kilos of cocaine at a traffic stop, and a Drug Court plea deal allowing an addict to go to rehab.

Bryson earned a J.D. with honors and a concentration in Advocacy from the University of Tennessee Law School and is now an ADA in Tennessee's 23rd Judicial District (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart counties). In one three-year period, she handled over 2,000 domestic

violence cases, ranging from harassment to first-degree murder.

Her career has come full circle back to prosecuting Drug Task Force cases for the five-county district, but Bryson recently worked on two first-degree murder cases including a death-penalty case. Bryson also was the sole prosecutor in Stewart County for two years and actually practiced as an acting ADA as an intern for the 23rd under another attorney's supervision. She previously interned for the Knox County DA, always wanted to be a prosecutor, and had a career goal "to never bill an hour."

Bryson sings at church alongside her husband, MTSU alum Spencer Bryson (Interdisciplinary Studies, '06; M.Ed., Administration and Supervision, '09), a music leader and a teacher. The Brysons live in Dickson with two young sons and two dogs.



## 8 “JET” OFF TO JAPAN

MTSU grads teach English and share cultures

Rebecca Clippard (second from left) and fellow teachers at Mt. Kinpo in Minamisatsuma City

The Japanese language has nearly two dozen words for all the shades of indigo blue. Perhaps there'll soon be a new word for “True Blue,” too, now that a record number of MTSU graduates joined that country's most prestigious teaching exchange program last August.

Eight MTSU alumni, including two recent Honors graduates, began their new adventure with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program last fall and are now living and working in communities across the Asian nation. Some had studied in Japan before, while others were newcomers to international travel.

Jetting off on this cultural adventure were former Honors students **Rachel Reece Hooper**, a 2019 graduate with a double-major in Japanese and Global Studies, and **Rebecca Clippard**, a 2018 alumna who earned dual bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Japanese.

Hooper is teaching in Nishiizu, Shizuoka, a rural, but welcoming, beach town of 8,000 people. The day she arrived, she had tea with the mayor before being

escorted to a home with an ocean view that she and her new husband, Jeffrey Hooper, are sharing.

Teaching English has been especially fun and exciting, Hooper says. She teaches kindergarten children through middle-schoolers who “always have something interesting to say.”

“I think I have one of the most fun jobs there is,” Hooper said. “I remember on one occasion, a group of first-grade students decided to walk with me from the teachers' room to our classroom, all while excitedly chanting (or screaming) at the top of their lungs,

“ I think I have one of the most fun jobs there is . . . I don't know where else I'd get to have such a good time. ”

‘Let’s go! Let’s go!’—I don’t know where else I’d get to have such a good time.”

Hooper also has been able to enjoy new experiences outside of the classroom. She has made new friends, visited tourist sites, and sampled a variety of Japanese cuisine, including stingray fillets.

Clippard, meanwhile, returned to Japan for the JET Program after traveling there previously with the assistance of a 2016 Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship. She is living in Kagoshima prefecture where she teaches in six different elementary schools in the rural Minamisatsuma City area, which is surrounded by mountains and rice fields.

Clippard said her students are dedicated to their schooling, regularly sweeping the classrooms, scrubbing bathrooms, and washing dishes, all a part of their academic obligations. They respectfully call her Rebecca-sensei (teacher) or occasionally Ms. Rebecca-sensei, a combination of English and Japanese. Clippard and her co-teachers have established bilingual reading time and usually read stories or put on puppet shows during lunch breaks.

A hiking enthusiast, she has climbed Mt. Kinpo with her sixth-graders and has been invited to participate in a traditional New Year’s sunrise hike. Clippard also enjoys visiting friends she made while studying abroad in Japan as an MTSU undergraduate.



Rachel Hooper with husband in Japan



Rachel and Jeffrey Hooper



Clippard at Yamajigoku in Beppu City

Other 2019 MTSU JET recipients are:

- **Turquoise Campbell**, a 2014 alumna with a bachelor’s degree in Global Studies and Cultural Geography and a minor in Japanese language
- **Ashley Cetinel**, a 2018 graduate with a major in Global Studies and Cultural Geography and a minor in Japanese
- **Caleb Dunaway**, who completed dual MTSU bachelor’s degrees in English and Japanese in May 2019
- **Chris Johnson**, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and minors in Japanese and Mathematics
- **Corey Reed**, who finished his bachelor’s degree in Electronic Media Communication in 2015
- **Shannon Wilkinson**, a Metro Nashville Public Schools elementary school teacher who earned her English as a Second Language certification from MTSU’s University College in 2018





Clippard at Osaka Castle in Osaka



Rachel and Jeffrey Hooper by the ocean



Clippard at a hula dancing class in Minamisatsuma City

MTSU has been a part of the JET Program since 2008 and has sent 25 participants to Japan since then. Tye Ebel, coordinator for the JET Program at the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville, said that MTSU stands out because of the University's strong Japanese language program.

The JET Program, which is the only teaching exchange program managed by the Japanese government, began in 1987. Since then, more than 66,000 people from around the world, including almost 34,000 Americans, have participated across Japan.

“You want someone for JET to be conscientious and represent the United States in a positive way.”

JET Program participants represent the United States as cultural ambassadors as they work as assistant language teachers in Japanese public and private schools or as interpreters/translators in local and municipal government offices. Most are assigned to smaller towns and villages because positions in urban areas are snapped up more quickly and stay filled.

Professor Priya Ananth, who coordinates the Japanese major and minor in MTSU's Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, said the JET application deadline is in November. Each consulate interviews selected applicants in January and February. The decisions are announced in April, and the new JETs depart in July and August for their year in Japan.

“We encourage students with good communication skills, good community involvement, strong academics, and leadership to consider fellowships like JET and Fulbright, because you want someone for JET to be conscientious and represent the United States in a positive way,” said Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Honors College's Undergraduate Fellowship Office. The JET program seeks people who are interested in the culture of Japan, are very flexible, and have an interest in teaching and communication, she added.

#### More info

MTSU's Undergraduate Fellowships Office:  
[mtsu.edu/honors/ufo](https://mtsu.edu/honors/ufo)

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program:  
[jetprogramusa.org](https://jetprogramusa.org)

# BOARD OF VISITORS HOLDS FALL MEETING



Distinguished Honors College Board of Visitors members and Honors staff attending the October meeting were (l-r): front, Don Midgett, Phil Mathis, June McCash, Liz Bradley, Kaylene Gebert, and Raiko Henderson (with son Samuel Henderson); and back, John R. Vile, Don Witherspoon, Ron Messier, Lee Martin, Debra Hopkins, Tandra Martin, Katie Crytzer, Judy Powell, Josh Alexander, Gordon Bell, Joseph Olmstead, and Philip E. Phillips.

Sixteen members of the University Honors College Board of Visitors were treated to presentations by the first full-time Honors resident faculty member and seven exceptional Honors students at their meeting last October.

**Ennio Piano**, a new addition to the Honors faculty and to the Political Economy Research Institute, spoke to board members about his background, research, and role at MTSU (see *related article*, page 34).

Student speakers, who are always a highlight of the annual meeting, came from a variety of majors: **Gabriella Morin**, Biology/Spanish; **Hector Hernandez**, Mathematics; **Tia Shutes**, Biology; **Joseph Gulizia**, Animal Science; **Beatriz Dedicatoria**, English/Video and Film Production; **Liam McBane**, Music; and **Ashlin Murphy**, Political Science.

**John R. Vile**, Honors dean, gave board members an update on the state of the Honors College, and **Paul Wydra**, MTSU director of development initiatives, delivered a Development Office report. A lunch that included board members and Honors students, faculty members, and staff followed the student presentations. The meeting concluded with a brief business meeting.



Tia Shutes



Liam McBane



Hector Hernandez



Ashlin Murphy

## In Memoriam



**William Connelly,**

professor emeritus in the Department of English where he served as chair and a long-time friend of the Honors College, passed away Nov. 26, 2019, at the age of 76.

A specialist in medieval literature, Connelly was first reader for numerous undergraduate Honors theses and chaired a number of thesis committees for the Honors College.

Connelly was born in Detroit and earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Detroit and his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife, Carol Lallone Connelly; son Paul (Patricia) Connelly of Ringgold, Georgia; daughter Beth Connelly of Rockwood, Tennessee; and grandchildren Trevor Connelly, Shelby Connelly, and Emma Connelly, as well as many other family members.

A funeral mass was held at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church on Dec. 2.

## In Memoriam



The Honors College sadly notes the passing of **Fred Rolater**, 81, who taught in the History Department at MTSU and was associated with the University for more than 50 years. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of

Wake Forest University, Rolater earned his master's and doctoral degrees in History from the University of Southern California. He was MTSU's first Fulbright Senior Professor, teaching at the University of Kyusyhu and Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1987. He later served as professor of church history at the Korea Baptist Theological Seminary during 2000–06.

Known for his hearty laugh and his expertise both in Native American and Tennessee history, Rolater passed away at halftime at the last home football game of the year where he was cheering the Blue Raiders on to victory. Rolater wrote his dissertation on Charles Thomson, the secretary of the first U.S. Congress, and his article for the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* in 1977 continues to be a major source of understanding Thomas' important contributions to American history, according to Honors College Dean John R. Vile. Vile further noted that he and Rolater enjoyed creating surround sound effects when he was laughing on one side of Peck Hall and Rolater was laughing on the other.

# CLASS NOTES

## Students



**Russell Biesada** (Aerospace), pictured above, wrote an opinion piece on his experience as a new Freshman Buchanan Fellow at MTSU for T.C. Williams High School's "Letters Home" series, which was published by the *Alexandria (Va.) Gazette*: [alexandriagazette.com/news/2019/dec/03/opinion-commentary-letters-home-tc-williams-grads](http://alexandriagazette.com/news/2019/dec/03/opinion-commentary-letters-home-tc-williams-grads).

**Joseph P. Gulizia** (Animal Science) was first author on an article, "Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) Age Variability Effects

on Total and Nutrient-specific *in situ* rumen degradation," in the 2019 issue of the *Journal of Applied Animal Research*. He also recently received an assistantship to study for a MA in Poultry Science at Auburn University.

**Roqué Marcelo** (Video and Film Production) submitted a paper and was selected as a finalist for a National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Portz Fellowship.

**Jon-Thomas Neely** (Exercise Science) will begin Physical Therapy School at the University of Tennessee–Chattanooga in August.



**Robyn Sessler** (Psychology), pictured above, presented her thesis data at the annual

conference of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) in November. This was Sessler's second presentation at ABCT but her first time with a first-author poster. Her thesis research demonstrated that one's overall mindfulness is associated with their partner's relationship satisfaction. Sessler also had a literature review accepted for publication in the National Collegiate Honors Council's (NCHC) journal *UReCA*.



**Myranda Uselton** (Chemistry), pictured above, interned in the fall as an XR developer at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, developing AR/VR applications.

# CLASS NOTES

## Alumni and Friends



**Emily Aslinger** (Global Studies/French, '14), pictured above, married Michael Morgan Wise

in July. She works as an academic advisor at the University of Tennessee.

**Hannah (Hopkins) Barnhart** (Organizational Communication, '12; M.S., Leisure and Sport Management, '13) and her husband, Zach (Recording Industry, '13), welcomed a son, Haddon James, Aug. 13. They also have a daughter, Nora.

**J. T. Cobb** (English, '18) is teaching English Language Arts at Shelbyville Central High School.

**Chris Davis** (Biology, '08) is doing post-doctoral work in science in Dublin, Ireland.



**Pel Doski** (Biology, '18), pictured above, recently returned from serving as a Fulbright ETA in Korea and is working at Bridgestone as a project coordinator.



**Taylor A. Barnes** (Physics/Chemistry, '09) married Sydney Marie Boyle, a May graduate of the University of North Carolina, on May 11. She works as an assistant bookkeeper at Virginia Tech, where Barnes is a research scientist. They currently live in Radford, Virginia.

**Leia Green** (Foreign Languages, '18), who received a Fulbright Scholarship to Argentina in 2018, accepted the position of English teaching assistant (ETA) coordinator and returned to Argentina last March as part of the Fulbright staff.



**Devyn Hayes** (Biology, '19), pictured above, is attending the Quillen College of Medicine at East

Tennessee State University. She was an author on "*Panax quinquefolius* (North American ginseng) cell suspension culture as a source of bioactive polysaccharides: Immunostimulatory activity and characterization of a neutral polysaccharide AGC1," published in the *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules* in 2019. **Matthew Fuller** (Biology, '15; M.S., Professional Science, '17) also was an author on the research paper.

**Caitlin (Orman) Howard** (Psychology, '13) and husband Phillip had a baby girl, Emma Rose, last October.

**Samantha Eisenberg** (Psychology, '19) is serving as

a student trustee for MTSU's Board of Trustees. She is currently pursuing a master's at MTSU in Clinical Psychology, specializing in neuropsychology. A graduate assistant in the Psychology Department, she is vice president of the Collegiate Neuroscience Society as well as treasurer of the American Democracy Project. Eisenberg formerly served as a senator and as attorney general for MTSU's Student Government Association.

**Evan Lester** (Aerospace, '16; M.S., Aeronautical Science, '19) was promoted to program supervisor in the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division.

**Lexi Marshall** (Foreign Language/Journalism, '19) is working for NPR in Washington, D.C.

**Clayton V. Mitchell** (Science, '18) is attending pharmacy school at Lipscomb University.

**Candace B. Moonshower** (English, '96) was recently promoted to senior instructor in the Department of English at MTSU.



**Samuel Musili** (Political Science, '18), pictured above, is working as a legal assistant at Cornelius & Collins LLP in Nashville.

**Dylan (nobigdy.) Phillips** (Recording Industry, '13) was featured in an August *USA Today* article, "Christian Hip Hop is Having a Moment: 6 Rappers You Should

Know, Including Chart-topper NF." Phillips was highlighted along with fellow MTSU alumnus LaCrae, Andy Mineo, Wande, Social Club Misfits, and NF.



**Courtney Rodman** (Global Studies/Organizational Communication, '14), pictured above, was promoted to an examiner position at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in Chicago last fall.

**Jeanette Stevens** (International Relations/Global Studies and Human Geography, '18) started a new position as an MTSU recruiting coordinator in the fall.



**Philip Sugg** (History, '15), pictured above, a Transfer Fellow, married Seneca Ewing (Animal Science, '16) in December 2016. The Suggs have two young children.

**Virginia (Vile) Tehrani**, who practices law in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., has been named as one of the Top 40 Criminal Defense Attorneys Under the age of 40 in Maryland and as a Super Lawyer Rising Star in the District of Columbia.

**Jennifer Johnson Tipton** (Psychology, '12) is a resident in counseling at Winchester Community Health Center.

**Amanda (Leachman) Uhls** (Biology, '16) is studying Epidemiology at East Tennessee State University.

**Anna Yacavone** (Global Studies/Organizational Communication, '11) accepted a position with the University of Utah's Asia Campus in Incheon, South Korea.



**Sanjay Asthana** (Journalism and Strategic Media), pictured above, had his book *India's State-Run Media: Broadcasting, Power, and Narrative* published last May by Cambridge University Press.

The book is a philosophical exploration into theory, media, and the postcolonial era. The book is aimed at researchers, scholars, media professionals, and graduate students interested in understanding the trajectory of media and broadcasting in colonial and postcolonial global contexts. Asthana has been interviewed about his recent book by the Department of Communication of the University of Hyderabad in India and by MTSU's Gina Logue for *On the Record*.

**Emily Baran** (History) had three articles recently published: "From Sectarians to Extremists: The Language of Marginalization in Soviet and Post-Soviet Society," *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* 46, No. 2 (2019): 105-27; co-authored with Zoe Knox, "The 2002 Russian Anti-Extremism Law: An Introduction," *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* 46, No. 2 (2019): 97-104; and "It Takes a Village: Collectivization in the Postwar Ukrainian Borderlands," *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 60, Nos. 3-4 (2018): 529-47.



**Sarah Wilfong Joblin** (Music, '18), who presented a paper at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology and Royal Musical Association in England in January, recently released a new CD, *Kettle of Fish*, a Celtic blend of original and traditional Christmas songs. She wrote and arranged several of the songs and performed on fiddle, harp, percussion, and synthesizer for the project.

# CLASS NOTES

## Faculty and Staff

**Kevin Bicker** (Chemistry) has been tenured and promoted to associate professor.

**Sandra Campbell** (Honors executive secretary) researched two women suffragist supporters in New York state as part of a crowdsourcing project through the Binghamton University Center for Historical Study of Women and Gender, and her submissions have recently been published in an online biographical database, Alexander Street, a ProQuest company. Margaret Lewis Morgan Norrie and Katharine Parker Howard Notman, Empire State Campaign Committee leaders, were the subjects of her published submissions.



**Yuan Ling Chao** (History), pictured above, presented a paper titled “Worms, Snails, and Swelling: Disease and Medicine in Jiangnan in The Qing Dynasty” at the 15th International Conference of the History of Science in East Asia in Jeonju, South Korea, last August.

**Paul Craig** (Aerospace) received the 2019 Career Achievement Award in May from the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission, a division of the state Department of Transportation. The aeronautics commission recognizes and honors individuals who have shown exemplary devotion to the aviation community throughout their lives. A professional pilot and Aerospace graduate professor, Craig has been an aviation researcher for more than 20 years and has authored

13 books on aviation safety and over a dozen articles for aviation magazines. He holds 11 FAA flight certificates and has garnered numerous awards, such as Tennessee Flight Instructor of the Year.



**Mark Doyle** (History), pictured above, was recently promoted to professor.

**Katherine Foss** (Journalism and Strategic Media), who has been promoted to professor, published *Beyond Princess Culture: Gender and Children’s Marketing* last March. Her book was published by Peter Lang Inc., an international academic publisher.

**April Goers** (Honors) is the 2019–20 MTSU Advisory Mastery Program (AMP) Committee chair. This committee leads all professional development opportunities for advisors on campus. In addition, Goers and fellow Honors advisors Judy Albakry and Laura Clippard have gotten 100% AMP certification for the past two years.

**Richard Hansen** (Theatre and Dance) presented a paper, “Alternatives to the Research Paper in Theatre History,” at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference in Orlando last August. The paper documented his methods of teaching theater history, which he has done at MTSU for over 21 years. The paper also amplified Hansen’s online article,

“Shakespeare Times Four or More,” in Vol. 5 of the *LMDA SourceBook* (Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas) published in January 2018. Additionally, Hansen received the 2018–19 Murfreesboro Little Theatre (MLT) DOT Award for his longstanding service to MLT in August. The award is presented by MLT’s board at its discretion.

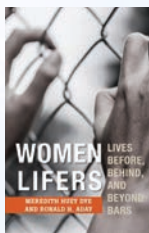
**Elyce Helford** (English) had a book published by the University of Kentucky Press this spring: *What Price Hollywood? Gender and Sex in the Films of George Cukor*.



**Brian Hinote** (Office of Student Success), pictured above, has two recent publications. “Data Analytics and Decision-Making in Admissions and Enrollment Management” by Tom Gutman and Hinote in *Analytics and Data-Informed Decision-Making in Higher Education*, edited by Karen L. Webber and Henry Zheng, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The book *Social and Behavioral Science for Health Professionals* (2nd edition) was co-authored by Hinote and Jason Adam Wasserman and published by Rowman and Littlefield.

Hinote has had numerous recent presentations, including “Optimizing Your Student Success Portfolio: Performance Metrics

**Meredith Dye** (Sociology and Anthropology), pictured with President Sidney A. McPhee, was recently promoted to professor and published a book, *Women Lifers: Lives Before, Behind, and Beyond Bars*, with MTSU's Ronald H. Aday in June. Dye and Aday also made presentations on their research at the Southern Sociological Association, American Society of Criminology, Southern Criminal Justice Association, and Mid-South Sociological Association. They are continuing their research by interviewing women who have served life or long sentences about their experiences after getting out of prison and plan to share the stories in a second book.



and Communication Plans” by Hinote, Richard Sluder, and Vincent Windrow for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities annual meeting in Minneapolis; “Optimizing Student Success: Performance Metrics and Communication Plans” by Hinote, Sluder, and Windrow for the EDUCAUSE annual meeting, Chicago; and “Using Data Analytics to Facilitate Strategic Decision-Making in Admissions and Enrollment Management” by Hinote and Tom Gutman for the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education in Orlando, all in 2019.

**Sisavahn Houghton** (Art and Design), who was recently promoted to professor, was Google Hangout Artist Lecturer for the Studio Art Foundations Lecture Class at Arcadia Art and Design, Arcadia

University, in Pennsylvania last October and visiting artist lecturer for East Tennessee State University in November. Her painting *Secret War on Laos: UXO* was featured in the fall online journal *Lantern Review: A Journal of Asia American Poetry*, Issue 7.3, in October. In addition, her painting *Bryan Thao Worra* was on the cover of *Before We Remember We Dream*, a book of poems by Worra.

Houghton’s paintings appeared in several exhibitions in 2019 and early 2020. *Aftermath* won Best Painting Award out of 400 works of art at ArtFields 2019 in Lake City, South Carolina, last May. *Clustered Debris* was in the “Women of Abstraction” show at Tinney Contemporary Gallery in Nashville in September, and *Rain* was in “Rumors of Necessity” at Tipton Gallery at ETSU in November.

Houghton had a solo show at Tinney in Nashville this January and will be a part of a forthcoming Minnesota Museum of Art creative project for the Southeast Asian diaspora/Lao Diaspora Storytelling Project by Little Laos on the Prairie ([theseadproject.org](http://theseadproject.org), [littellaosontheprairie.org](http://littellaosontheprairie.org)) in August.



**Tony Johnston** (Agriculture), pictured above, who served as faculty thesis advisor for Honors students Hannah Hall, Kayley Stallings, Ross Thomas, and Zachary



Lay in 2018 and 2019, is program coordinator for MTSU's new graduate Fermentation Science concentration under the Master of Science in Professional Science program. He taught a study abroad course in Mendoza, Argentina, in 2019 and is scheduled to teach a course in Germany, France, Switzerland, and Austria this May.

Johnston engaged in six research projects in 2018 and eight in 2019, including "Microbial Biocatalysis of Quercetin-3-glucoside and Isorhamnetin-3-glucoside in *Salicornia herbacea* and Their Contribution to Improved Anti-inflammatory Activity"; "A Modified Magnified Analysis of Proteome Method for Super Resolution, 3-D Imaging of Subcellular Architectures that Retains Fluorescence"; and "Evaluation of the anti-obesity effects of combinations of monascus pigment derivatives." He also contributed to three poster presentations last year at MTSU's Scholars Week and Posters at the Capitol.



**Rebekka King** (Philosophy and Religious Studies), pictured above, has been tenured and promoted to associate professor. King and Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand, the first two professors hired when the Religious Studies program became an MTSU major in 2012, were featured in a promotional article in the November issue of *Murfreesboro Magazine*.

**Katherine Mangione** (Elementary and Special Education) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor.



**Jane Marcellus** (Journalism and Strategic Media), pictured above, contributed a chapter focusing on race and masculinity in relation to suffrage media coverage to the book, *Front Pages, Front Lines: Media and the Fight for Women's Suffrage*, published by the University of Illinois Press in early 2020.

**Joan McRae** (World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) received an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award (see *related article, page 33*).

**Kate Pantelides** (English) who was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor, earned a 2019 MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award.



**Cindy Phiffer** (Honors), pictured above, interviewed Sarah McCoy, author of *Marilla of Green Gables*, at the 2019 Southern Festival of

Books. The 50-minute session concluded with the author reading aloud a passage from her book, recently out in paperback. Included in the interview were questions from the audience that was diverse in age and familiarity with the *Anne of Green Gables* series. Phiffer also had a short story, "1967," printed in *Pilgrim Writers*, an anthology published by Hamblett House last year.



**Philip E. Phillips** (Honors, English) received the J. Lasley Dameron Award for 2018 for his essay collection, *Poe and Place*,

published by Palgrave Macmillan. The award was announced by the Poe Studies Association (PSA) Executive Committee in 2019 and was presented at the 135th Modern Language Association Convention in Seattle this January. This is the highest award given by the PSA in recognition of the most distinguished essay collection or bibliography on Poe in a given year. Award recipients receive a \$200 honorarium and a plaque.

**Gina Pisut** (Human Sciences) has been promoted to professor.



**Lauren Rudd** (Textiles, Merchandising, and Design), pictured above, gave an invited gallery talk at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville last July. Over 50 participants learned about the

special aspects to the “Dress and Garments of Frida Kahlo,” including the significance of what she wore and why.

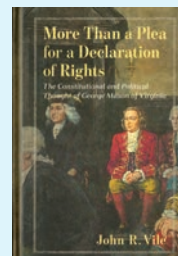
Rudd also had two of her original quilts, *Milky Way* and *Ripples*, selected for inclusion in the special exhibit “Sapphire Celebration” at the International Quilt Festival in Houston last fall. Quilts that are primarily blue and white were exhibited to help celebrate the 45th Sapphire Anniversary of the festival. Acceptance to the juried show is difficult because of the many submissions from around the globe. Following the Houston festival, the collection of quilts traveled to additional quilt shows through the end of summer 2020.

**Dianna Rust** (University Studies) was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor.



**Benjamin Stickle** (Criminal Justice Administration), pictured above, who was recently promoted to professor, had four international presentations in 2019: two for the annual meeting of the International Police Executive Symposium in Belgrade, Serbia; one for the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland; and one for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. Stickle also was an editor for the book *Police Behavior, Hiring, and Crime Fighting: An International View*; wrote four book chapters; and had multiple encyclopedia entries and book reviews.

**John R. Vile** (Honors dean) has published two new books. Talbot Publishing in New Jersey printed *More Than a Plea for a Declaration of Rights: The Constitutional and Political Thought of George Mason of Virginia*. Vile’s interest in Mason stems both from his interest in American founding fathers and from biannual visits that he has led to historic sites in Virginia and the District of Columbia. ABC-CLIO has published his book *The Liberty Bell and Its Legacy: An Encyclopedia of an American Icon in U.S. History and Culture*. This is his third of four books for this publisher that are focused on basic American symbols. Earlier volumes covered the U.S. flag and the Declaration of Independence, and his next volume will center on the U.S. national anthem.



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The Honors College deeply appreciates friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who made giving to the college a priority in 2019.

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