

OWLs' Outlook



Vol. XI No. 2

Spring 2006

OWLs Scholarships Deadline Feb. 6

February 6 is the deadline to submit applications for the 14 scholarships distributed by the Older Wiser Learners organization. You can join OWLs and apply for these scholarships online at www.mtsu.edu/~owls.

The OWLs at MTSU have ten Academic Service Scholarships that provide \$1,500 per semester and require five hours per week of work on campus, normally in an office associated with your major. These scholarships are renewable for up to six semesters, provided you maintain a 2.5 semester GPA and a 2.9 cumulative GPA each semester. You must be enrolled full time (12 hours) while you are receiving this scholarship.

You must be a U.S. citizen seeking your first undergraduate degree. You must have already completed 9 hours of courses at MTSU and currently have a 2.9 GPA or better. You must also be a member of the OWLs organization to apply for one of these scholarships.

Other scholarships available through the OWLs organization include two OWLs Enrichment Scholarships that provide \$1,000 per semester for one year only for students with GPAs between 2.5 and 2.89. The Jane Nickell Taylor Scholarship provides \$500 per semester for the senior year of a non-traditional female student undergoing life changes, and the Joan Nickell Bailey Scholarship provides \$500 per semester for the senior year of an elementary education major. Both of these privately funded scholarships require a 2.9 GPA and OWLs membership.

Focus on Faculty for the Adult Learning Conference Feb. 23–24

Students may attend the Adult Learning Conference for free. This thirteenth annual conference on adult learning will be held in JUB Hazlewood Dining Room beginning at noon on Thursday, February 23, and concluding by noon on Friday, February 24. We can waive the student conference fee for a certain number of MTSU adult students thanks to Student Activity Fee Funds. If you are interested in participating, contact the Adult Services Center at 615-898-5989 by February 11.

Our theme this year, **Adult Learners and Faculty: Enrich the Experience**, will give both adult students and the educational professionals who work with them some new insights about how to enrich the educational experience for both parties. Our keynote speaker will be Terry Weeks, professor in Educational Leadership and a former National Teacher of the Year. He will speak about how faculty can learn from their adult students and how adult students can learn from the faculty. Breakout sessions for students will focus on ways students can maximize their educational experience by getting to know faculty.

Thursday, Feb. 23

- 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Keynote Luncheon, Dr. Terry Weeks, MTSU
- 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion of Award-winning Faculty and Selected Adult Students
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. "Are You on the Net? A New Vision of Adult Student Leadership and Development," Laura Jones Cole and Carla R. Warner; Adult, Commuter, and Transfer Services, ETSU

Friday, Feb. 24

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. "Qualitative Research as a Method to Cultivate Mentoring Relationships," Masoud Ghaffari, College of Nursing, ETSU
- 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. "A Student's Experience Putting Learning Styles to Work for the 'I need to be perked' up! and Other Stories from the Wonderful World of Nontraditional Learners," Meredith Anne Higgs, assistant professor, Developmental Mathematics, and Sherri Stinson, vice-president of Pinna- cle, MTSU
- 10:30 - 12:00 Concluding brunch and wrap-up.

Deadline to sign up for this conference is February 11.

Dr. Carol Ann Baily, Director

OWLs Activities

April 7 Nominations for OWLs Awards due



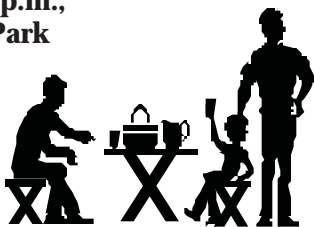
The OWLs organization gives out awards each spring semester to the Best OWL Professor, the Best OWL Spouse, the Best OWL Son or Daughter, the Best OWL Family, and the Best OWL Friend. We also present an award to the Best Juggling OWL and the Best OWL Volunteer. You may pick up a nomination form in the Adult Services Center in KUC 320 or use the online form available at www.mtsu.edu/~owls/owlnom.htm

April 7 Deadline to join the Pinnacle Honor



All juniors and above with 3.0 GPAs or graduate students with 3.4 GPAs are eligible to join. Fill out an application online at www.mtsu.edu/~owls and then click on Pinnacle in the list on the left, or come by KUC 320 to pick up an application.

May 4 Annual OWLs Picnic, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Barfield Park



This is a fun time for family and friends. We have a potluck picnic in the park to close out the school year! Bring a dish to serve 8-10 of salad, veggies, or side dishes to go with barbeque, plus a liter bottle of your favorite soft drink. We provide the barbeque and all the paper products we need. We give out the OWLs awards and have the Pinnacle Honor initiation also at this event.

President's Perspective

I would like to invite all nontraditional students to visit the Adult Services Center. There are many helpful services available to make your educational experience more enjoyable and productive. The environment is friendly and relaxing. Our office has a comfortable area for lounging and a kitchen area equipped with a microwave where you can drink coffee and eat lunch. Computer access is also available. In addition to these services, you will have the opportunity to meet other nontraditional students and share your experiences.

The annual membership for OWLs is \$20. As an OWLs member, you will have the opportunity to take advantage of scholarships. The OWLs organization gives out awards each spring semester to the Best OWL Professor, the Best OWL Spouse, the Best OWL Son or Daughter, and the Best OWL Friend. We also present an award to the Best Juggling OWL and the Best OWL Volunteer. The winners are awarded at our Annual OWLs Picnic on May 4. We have a potluck picnic for family and friends at Barfield Park.

There will be an Adult Learning Conference on February 23-24, 2006. The theme this year is Adult Learners and Faculty: Enrich the Experience.

Our office is located in KUC 325 and our Web site is www.mtsu.edu/~owls/. We look forward to seeing you!

Julie Hancock, OWLs President



Join the Pinnacle Honor Society

If you are a junior or senior with a 3.0 GPA, you are eligible for membership in Pinnacle, the honor society for nontraditional students. Graduate students with 3.4 GPAs may also join. Membership in Pinnacle is a recognition of academic success as well as leadership and involvement. It will look good on your resume in the future. Pinnacle also sponsors the Reach for the Pinnacle Student Success Series of workshops to help nontraditional students acquire skills for academic success. You can be part of this work when you join Pinnacle. The initiation for new members will take place at the annual picnic on May 4.

You will soon receive an e-mail invitation to join. The deadline for applying is April 7. **You may apply online. Just go to www.mtsu.edu/~owls/pinn.htm.** Call us at 898-5989 if you have questions.

Pinnacle Cords for Graduation

Graduating Pinnacle members may purchase a blue and silver Pinnacle cord to wear at graduation. They cost just \$10. If you are graduating this spring, come by the Adult Services Center in KUC 320 to pick up your cord to wear over your gown on graduation day.



Reach for the Pinnacle

Student Success Workshops



Using Your Whole Brain

Tues., Feb. 7 or March 28 4:30–5:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 8 or March 29 12:45–1:15 p.m.



Improving Your Memory

Tues., February 14 4:30–5:00 p.m.
Wed., February 15 12:45–1:15 p.m.



Five Steps to a College Paper

Tues., March 14 4:30–5:00 p.m.
Wed., March 15 12:45–1:15 p.m.



Five-Day Study Plan

Tues., Feb. 21 or April 11 4:30–5:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 22 or April 12 12:45–1:15 p.m.

Call 898-5989 to sign up for any of these events.

Pinnacle Award of Achievement

Each semester, we seek to honor a Pinnacle member who has achieved academic success despite many obstacles encountered and overcome during an academic career. All you have to do to apply for this award is write an essay describing the obstacles you have overcome in order to achieve your academic success.

If you are graduating this spring as a Pinnacle member, you may apply for this award by April 7 in KUC 320 or **online at www.mtsu.edu/~owls/pinn.htm**

Nominations Sought for OWLs Awards

At the end of each spring semester during our annual picnic, the OWLs present awards to people who are exemplary in their support and who serve as examples for all OWLs members. This year we ask you to submit nominations for the various categories to the Adult Services Center by April 7.

The Best OWL Professor Award goes to someone who has demonstrated interest in and concern for adult learners that goes beyond the norm. All nominees receive a certificate of nomination and a letter is sent to their department chairs. The winner also receives an OWL trophy as a permanent reminder of the award.

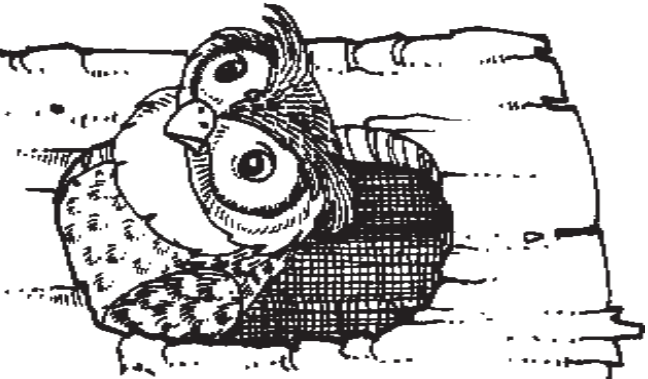
Other awards go to those who support adult learners in other ways: **Best OWL Spouse, Best OWL Son or Daughter, Best OWL Family, and Best OWL Friend.**

A final group of awards are for adult learners themselves who demonstrate extraordinary abilities to live their lives while doing college work. The **Best Juggling OWL Award** goes to the student who is juggling the most—job, family, school, etc.—while keeping a 2.7 GPA!

The **Best OWL Volunteer Award** goes to the person who serves others in the community or at MTSU while still maintaining a job, family, and college presence.

Be sure to submit your online nominations for these awards at **www.mtsu.edu/~owls/owlnom.htm** by the **April 7 deadline!**

OWIs' Outlook – Spring 2006



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Check out our Web site:
www.mtsu.edu/~owls

MIDDLE
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OWIs' Outlook

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