

# Professor turns Pacific Theater into classroom

by Gina K. Logue

An MTSU history professor will accompany students and members of the community on an exploration of the Central Pacific World War II battlefields of Guam, Iwo Jima and Peleliu in spring 2009.

Dr. Derek Frisby, who is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, says the trip is part of MTSU's Study Abroad program (MT Abroad) and will offer students college credit for studying in international settings. Frisby's course, "Special Topics in Global History," will examine public memory and World War II in the Pacific.

Scholarships and additional financial aid may be possible for students enrolled in the course. Participants who choose not to enroll in the course may still join the expedition.

Those who sign up for this fascinating adventure will study the World War II Pacific campaigns in the presence of surviving American and Japanese veterans. They will tour the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, hike through the jungles of Peleliu and meet on Guam with American and Japanese historians and Iwo Jima veterans during a Battle of Iwo Jima seminar prior to visiting the infamous volcanic island.

"Guam, Peleliu and Iwo Jima were some of World War II's bloodiest battles and the evidence of the conflict still can be observed today around the islands," says Frisby. "The Japanese government will end civilian excursions to Iwo Jima in the next few years. Currently, Iwo Jima is open only one day per year to civilians."

While in the Pacific region, students will film portions of a documentary honoring MTSU veterans. Frisby and his group also will honor those Tennesseans who fought in the three engagements under study, including the three known MTSU fatalities.

Former student body president and football star Roger Smith died on Guam and received a posthumous Navy Cross for his attempts to rescue wounded Marines under fire. William "Ug" McCrory, another MTSU star athlete, landed with the Marines on Iwo Jima and was mortally wounded establishing defensive positions for his unit. MTSU alum Carl Yates was a member of the Underwater Demolition Teams, which were forerunners of today's Navy SEALs, and perished during reconnaissance of Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi just prior to the main assault.

To find out more about this opportunity, contact Frisby at 615-494-8620 or [dfrisby@mtsu.edu](mailto:dfrisby@mtsu.edu), or visit [www.mtsu.edu/~dfrisby](http://www.mtsu.edu/~dfrisby).

# Vanosdall will lead TMSTEC team

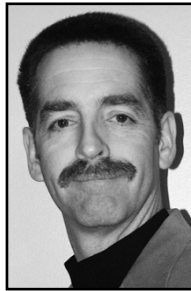
by Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Frederick "Rick" Vanosdall has joined MTSU as director of the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center, replacing former director Dr. E. Ray Phillips, who retired in December.

A member of Tennessee State University's faculty since 2005, Vanosdall most recently served as director of TSU's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, where he developed and led the implementation of an array of research and service efforts within the center and among academic and research divisions in areas such as early-childhood education, teacher development and student achievement, among other responsibilities.

"We are delighted to have Rick Vanosdall join MTSU," said Dr. Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost. "As a leader in math, science and technology education, Rick's experience will blend beautifully with many of our ongoing projects in these areas."

Vanosdall said he accepted the TMSTEC directorship "... because of the wonderful people that are MTSU. Over



Vanosdall

the past few months, I have enjoyed developing collegial relationships with various faculty and staff. ... MTSU is a community of diverse individuals coming together to build on the strengths of one another for the common good within the university community, across Tennessee, nationally and internationally. I want to be a part of a community that demonstrates their commitment and accountability to one another through constructive, progressive and innovative relationships."

The Lansing, Mich., native said one of the key challenges to which he most looks forward is working with faculty, staff and administrators to assess TMSTEC's strengths to refine its vision, mission and plan for elementary, secondary and higher education in science and mathematics.

"As MTSU broadens its leadership role, Rick will strengthen our ability to secure important grants and develop research data and models," Gebert noted. "His energy and enthusiasm will be a major contribution to our efforts."

Vanosdall received a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource and environmental education from Michigan State University and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Arizona State University. He earned his doctorate in education in 2004 from ASU.

# TECTA offering free orientation courses

from Staff Reports

Free orientation courses for people working in monitored early-childhood education programs, offered by the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, are getting under way this summer and into the fall at MTSU.

TECTA orientation, which is the gateway to eligibility for financial assistance for college course work leading to a degree in early-childhood education or related fields, is recognized by the Tennessee Department of Human Services as a way to satisfy annual training-hour requirements. Participants must complete the 30 hours to receive a TECTA Orientation Certificate.

Students who complete

the 30 clock hours and continue to work with young children become eligible for tuition assistance for academic coursework leading to a degree in early-childhood education at various levels—associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral.

There are five types of orientation programs: school-age, infant/toddler, family, school-based and administrative. The MTSU TECTA site is part of a statewide grant and serves Rutherford and 16 other counties in the south central area of Tennessee.

The TECTA Infant/Toddler Orientation course includes information on children six weeks to 3 years old. Sessions are under way now on Saturdays through Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ellington Human Sciences

Building.

The TECTA Center-Based Orientation course, which emphasizes work with children 2 1/2 to 5 years old, is meeting every Monday and Thursday night through Aug. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Ellington Human Sciences Building.

The TECTA Administrator Orientation course will meet every Thursday from Aug. 21 to Nov. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Ellington building. The focus of this orientation program is on running an early-childhood program, managing staff, etc.

TECTA also is launching the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential this year. The credential has been approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and is funded through the Tennessee

Department of Human Services. The administrator credential provides recognition to early-childhood administrators who demonstrate specific competencies for effective leadership and management through academic instruction and professional experiences.

TECTA is once again offering assistance to programs seeking national accreditation as a mark of highest quality. TECTA is funded through a contract with DHS and Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences.

For more information about these orientation courses or to register, call 615-898-5603 or visit the MTSU TECTA Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~tecta](http://www.mtsu.edu/~tecta).

# Blue Raiders win 4 marketing awards

from MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee has been chosen in four different categories for awards from the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators for 2007-08. It was the only Sun Belt Conference school honored.

There were more than 1,300 entries in the "best of" competition, and the Blue Raiders won a gold, silver and two bronze awards. Their winning entries, along with the other winners, will be compiled into a Best Practices manual that can be used by other universities and athletic departments throughout the country.

"It is great to be recognized by your peers and colleagues from around the nation for all the hard work that we are putting in for Middle Tennessee Athletics," said Marketing Director Brad Smith. "These are definitely not only marketing department awards but also athletic department awards, because we all work together to provide safe, clean fun for the entire family. The secret is out."

The Blue Raiders won a gold in the "Best of Student

Promotion" category for Mardi Gras Night, where the big attraction was a parade of student organizations and alumni during a basketball halftime. MTSU beat out Notre Dame and Auburn for the top prize.

In the "Best of New-Revenue Generating Idea" category, the Blue Raiders earned a silver award for the Family Fun Zone, an area inside Floyd Stadium created to target families with children's activities like inflatables, face-painting and balloon artistry.

The marketing group also captured bronze awards for the "Best of Single-Day Attendance Promotion—Football" and "Best of Ticket Sales Piece." The single-day attendance promotion was for KidFest, a pregame hospitality function that includes a skills challenge, concert and games targeted toward young families. The sales piece was a brochure designed by Bradley Lambert and Smith geared to group ticket sales and included football and men's and women's basketball.

"I really appreciate the hard work and dedication put forth by our marketing department," added Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "It is an honor for our university and athletic department for them to receive national recognition because they are very deserving."