

# ALUMNI MAKING WAVES



Submitted photos

Alumni George Rowles ('99), top right, and Michela "Mikki" Rose ('05) are shown with the Oscar earned by the Rhythm & Hues Studios team for the film "Golden Compass" Feb. 24. Bill Westenhofer is their supervisor.



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Runnerup finishes in two national bodybuilding championships in 2007 helped Brandon Curry ('06) become a Flex magazine cover story. He recently moved to San Diego. He was second in the NPC USA Championship in July and also in the NPC Nationals Championships in November.



Courtesy of Valleycrest Productions Ltd.

Michael Kearney ('98), 24, of Murfreesboro, sitting across from "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" host Meredith Vieira, earned \$25,000 when he appeared April 25 and 28 on the syndicated game show. He won \$1 million in 2006 as the first winner in an online reality game called "Gold Rush." A former child prodigy, Kearney graduated from MTSU with a master's degree in biochemistry at age 14. He began teaching at Vanderbilt University at age 16. He is listed in the Guinness Book as the world's youngest university graduate at the age of 10. He is trying to earn his doctorate and teaching college chemistry. Kearney's younger sister, Maeghan ('02), also is a former child prodigy.

## ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

Ginger Corley Freeman, Director  
Michelle Stepp, Associate Director  
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Martha Jordan, Administrative Assistant  
Kari Janetvilay, Secretary

## MTSU Office of Alumni Relations MTSU Box 104

Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
1-800-533-MTSU (6878)  
615-898-2922 Fax: 615-898-5746  
mtalumni.com

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Sidney A. McPhee, President

Joe Bales, VP, Development and Univ. Relations  
Tonja L. Johnson, Assoc. VP, Marketing & Comm.  
Tom Tozer, Director, News and Public Affairs  
Randy Weiler, Editor ([jweiler@mtsu.edu](mailto:jweiler@mtsu.edu))

Contributors: Gina Fann, Gina Logue, John Lynch, Lisa Rollins, Paula Morton and MTSU Office of Alumni Relations staff

Consultants: Suma Clark and Bill Fisher, MTSU Publications and Graphics  
Special assistance: Betsy Williams, MTSU Advancement Services

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Brig. Gen. David Ogg ('78) speaks candidly and answers questions about his U.S. Army career with ROTC cadets from left, Jason Eaves, Nick Gregory, Michael Burrows, Robert Barrett and Joshua Causey during the students' March 27 military science class. Ogg's father, Col. Robert Ogg ('53, '64), and son Stuart, who is a current cadet, make three generations to attend MTSU and be in the ROTC program. Eaves, Gregory and Causey graduated May 3. They were commissioned May 2.

## Cothron

history and critical thinking skills in various career fields.

"They also gained some insight into the extremely complex intelligence community and the role intelligence played in the Iraq war and war on terrorism."

Cothron is the director of intelligence for the Chief of Naval Operations and the 62nd director of Naval Intelligence. His lecture was titled "U.S. National Security Policy and Decision-Making: Insights on How and Why Our Nation Is at War."

Cothron commanded the U.S. European Command's Joint Analysis Center at Royal Air Force Molesworth, U.K, from August 2001 to July 2003, transforming the command in response to the global war on terrorism and supporting combat operations against Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also commanded the Navy's national level, operational intelligence and scientific and intelligence analysis center, the Office of Naval Intelligence from September 2004 to January 2006. Upon his promotion to flag rank, Cothron was assigned to the National Security Agency as deputy director of Signals Intelligence for Customer Relationships.

Cothron said U.S. forces' efforts in Iraq have worked, that the area has been stabilized and terrorists' numbers have decreased. He does warn that the threat of terrorist attack will not go away.

He made a reference to a world map showing 19 al-Qaida terrorist attacks in the past six or seven



Christina Runkel/MTSU History Club

Alumni Don Witherspoon ('64), Rear Adm. Tony L. Cothron ('77) and Derek Frisby ('94) visit after Cothron's lecture.

years.

Frisby said Cothron's visit is "just one of several events designed to highlight and bolster our military history program." The MTSU Veterans Memorial will be dedicated this fall to remember all MTSU veterans, especially the more than 60 who have died in the service of their country, he added. Next spring, Frisby will lead a study abroad tour of Guam, Peleliu and Iwo Jima. Also in April 2009, the military history program will serve as host to the Society of Military History annual meeting in Murfreesboro to discuss the topic "Warfare and Culture."

For more details, e-mail Frisby ([dfrisby@mtsu.edu](mailto:dfrisby@mtsu.edu)) or call 615-525-8762.

## from Page 1