

# To our newest 4,200 members since '07 ...

Congrats; you've joined a connected, active alumni group; touch base with us

Dear recent graduates (I'm talking to you if you have graduated since this time last year):

Congratulations on your graduation during the past year and all of the hard work it took to get there. You now can brag that you are part of a group that is more than 92,000 strong and spread out among every state (even as far away as Alaska).

You have joined a group of people that represent just about every geographic, demographic and cultural background you can imagine.



McClendon

You have joined a group that never has been

more connected. You will find more professional, regional and special interest alumni chapters than ever before. There are e-mail newsletters, *The Alumni Record*, updates via Facebook, LinkedIn, Plaxo and MySpace.

I believe you will be happy to find plenty of activities with your fellow alumni. There are (and have been) spring activities for those in the nursing, accounting, and even performing arts industries, among several others. For those who love the water, we will have an MT Day at Nashville Shores in July.

Whatever your interest, take a moment to touch base and let the alumni office know how you want to be involved. Call or e-mail and let us know where you will be and how we can help. Whether it's updating your mailing and e-mail addresses or volunteering to help develop new events wherever

you are, your Alumni Association is here to serve and connect.

Finally, whatever your future plans hold, take a moment and check back in from time to time. We'd always love to hear from you.

Go Blue!

2007-08 MTSU National Alumni Association president Devin McClendon is a 1996 graduate living in Brentwood with his wife, Laura, and children, Campbell and Maggie. He is an affiliate broker and director of development and marketing with XM Commercial Real Estate.

## Mass Communication recognizes alumni

Stevens, Blakeman, Prater added to Wall of Fame during April 23 ceremony

From staff reports

MTSU's College of Mass Communication added three distinguished alumni to its Wall of Fame during annual awards April 23 in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Joining more than 40 other accomplished graduates on the colleges Wall of Fame for 2008 are

- James Stevens ('03), founder and CEO of James Stevens Design in Nashville;
- Mark Blakeman ('93), vice president of orchestra and building operations and general manager of the Nashville Symphony; and
- Sgt. Maj. Phillip R. Prater ('81), Army Public Affairs.

The event honored those mass communication alumni who have distinguished themselves in the

professional world through their accomplishments as well as juniors, seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their respective areas of study.

During the event, the Office of the Dean also honored a new "Friend of the College" — Debbie Turner, president and general manager of the News Channel 5 Network.

### CAMPUS NEWS

#### New literacy Ph.D. to help rethink, reteach reading

Experienced and successful educators with graduate degrees and a minimum of three years of field experience will be returning to MTSU in the fall because they realize that what they already know about teaching reading isn't enough to transform every child into a skilled reader.

School psychologists, speech-language pathologists, reading teachers, classroom teachers and school administrators at all levels will be among those seeking MTSU's new doctoral degree in literacy studies. This program will address why the National Assessment of Education Progress consistently shows that an average of four out of 10 children fail to read at grade level by fourth grade.

The interdisciplinary doctorate is

based on the idea that narrow expertise in one area does not equip grads to understand the many factors that support successful literacy.

The new program is a first-of-its-kind partnership that has emerged from the Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia at MTSU, a hands-on learning lab that may be the only one of its kind in the nation.

The Dyslexia Center is a unit in the College of Education and Behavioral Science where professionals with different backgrounds work together to improve educational outcomes for children with dyslexia.

To learn more about the new degree, and course requirements, visit [mtsu.edu/~literacy/info.html](http://mtsu.edu/~literacy/info.html) or call 615-898-5642.

— Tom Tozer [tozer@mtsu.edu](mailto:tozer@mtsu.edu)

## MTSU mourns passing of two faculty members

From staff reports

MTSU witnessed the late winter passings of two longtime faculty members. They were:

- Dr. Leon R. "Lon" Nuell, 68, of Murfreesboro, professor in the Department of Art (faculty member since 1971) and director of Todd Gallery, who died March 12; and
- Dr. David Walker, 69, of Franklin, professor in Speech and Theatre (faculty member since '65), who died March 13.

Nuell

Nuell's family includes Dr. Christie

Nuell, a fellow MTSU art professor, and sons, Jordan of Minnesota; Isaac, a graduate student in Denver; and Aaron, an MTSU senior majoring in education. A scholarship in Lon Nuell's name has been established in the art department.

Walker is survived by his wife, Sandra Barnes Walker; son and daughter-in-law David Ellis and Lavinia Walker of Geneva, Switzerland; daughters and sons-in-law Suzy and Derk Frizzell of Houston, Texas, Cindy and Jeff Key of Murfreesboro; and Michelle and Mike Clark of Murfreesboro.



Walker

## Baby from Page 6

Chelsea Elizabeth Read, born March 26, 2008, to Tracy ('02) and Jack Read of Murfreesboro.

Annabelle K. Redferin, born Jan. 22, 2008, to Jennifer ('04) and James A. Redferin ('04, '05) of Leavenworth, Kan.

Victoria Nicole Russell, born March 24, 2008, to Nicole Lester ('98) and Joe L. Russell II ('89) of Murfreesboro.

William Charles Siegfried, born September 2007, to Karen and Emanuel Siegfried ('04) of Cordova, Tenn.

Arabella Marie Shepherd, born March 5, 2008, to Allison ('04) and Brant Shepherd ('03) of Knoxville, Tenn.

Anna Clay Shirley, born June 11, 2007, to Mary Francis ('00) and Stephen

Shirley ('01) of Murfreesboro.

Walter Joel Simpson II, born Dec. 28, 2007, to Chesley H. ('98) and Gregory J. Simpson of Alexandria, Va.

Stella Jewell Stites, born Aug. 17, 2007, to Stacy ('93) and Phillip Craig Stites of Fort Smith, Ark.

Connor Nathaniel Thomas, born Dec. 6, 2007, to Chassidy Gray ('05) and Chris Thomas of Bethpage, Tenn.

Emma Grace Walton, born Feb. 12, 2008, to Kara Walton ('01) of Havelock, N.C.

Myles Griffin Weaver, born Dec. 6, 2007, to Amanda ('99, '01) and Yok Weaver of Murfreesboro.

### In Memoriam

MTSU and the Office of Alumni Relations extend deepest sympathy to the families and friends of alumni who have passed away.

1930s

Ida Payne ('39), Shelbyville, Tenn., died March 6, 2007.

1940s

Dr. Daniel J. MacMillan ('49), Charleston, S.C., died Feb. 9, 2008.

1950s

Charles N. Alley ('58, '62), Mancelona, Mich., died April 3, 2007.

Lois Mitchell Keas ('59, '67), Venice, Fla., died Feb. 1, 2008.

Martha Jane Ketring ('53), Murfreesboro, died Oct. 3, 2007.

Wayne D. Wilks ('56), North Richland Hills, Texas, died Dec. 16, 2007.

1960s

Miles Frost ('67), White House, Tenn., died Feb. 26, 2008.

Edith Moulton ('63), Rockledge, Fla., died Dec. 11, 2007.

Dr. Joan C. Schmidt ('65), Fort Myers, Fla., died Oct. 16, 2007.

1970s

Walter George Wood ('73), Calhoun, Tenn., died Feb. 22, 2008.

2000s

Jeffrey Davis Limbaugh ('05), Murfreesboro, died Dec. 29, 2007.