



# Graduate School News

## Spotlight: James Tyus, II

### Spring 2010 Registration Dates

#### Regular Registration

January 11-13

#### Late Registration/Schedule Adjustments

(Late registration fee of \$100.00 assessed)

January 14-22

#### Fee Payment/Confirmation Via MyTSU Deadlines

January, 15, 4:30 pm (students registered January 11-15)

January 16-22, 4:30 pm (students registered January, 16-22)

To register for courses, view your account balance, pay fees and confirm registration, visit: <http://myTSU.tnstate.edu>

James Tyus, II is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year doctoral student (Agricultural Biotechnology) working under the direction of **Dr. Samuel Nahashon** in the **Poultry Nutrition and Genomics Laboratory** at Tennessee State University. In August 2006, James received a Master of Science degree (Animal Science) from TSU. His Master's thesis project, entitled "Performance of Single Comb White Leghorn Chickens Fed Diets Containing Blood Meal Supplemented with Isoleucine," evaluated the efficacy of blood meal as a protein source for growing and laying chickens. Experiments in that project measured both growth and egg production performance of birds fed blood meal, as well as blood meal's effect on the expression of genes associated with nutrient metabolism. From that work, he has first-authored two manuscripts published in refereed journals and he is currently preparing a third manuscript centered on the genetic evaluations.

After receiving his MS, James accepted a one-year appointment as Research Assistant in the Institute

*Continues on page, 2*



James Tyus, II

## Donna Collins in "Hey Florence"

"Hey Florence!" – a musical directed by Australian playwright Craig Christie and produced by Vanderbilt University's Office of Cultural Enrichment premiered last September starring one of our own Tennessee State University graduate student, Donna Cheryll Collins BSN, RN (aka Florence). Donna is currently seeking her graduate degree from TSU's School of Nursing. She received her undergraduate education in Nursing from TSU. Danna served as class President for the Associate Degree Nursing (AND) class of 2006.

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Hey Florence Musical

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## Mark Your Calendar!

### Spring 2010 Workshops

#### Avoid Plagiarism

April 2010

For Master's & Doctoral Students

Date, Time and location will be posted online at: [www.tnstate.edu/grad](http://www.tnstate.edu/grad). Students will be notified via MYTSU e-mail accounts

#### Electronic Thesis/ Dissertation (ETD) Workshop

March 2010

Master's & Doctoral Candidates defending theses/dissertations in Fall 2009 are encouraged to attend.

Date, Time and location will be posted online at: [www.tnstate.edu/grad](http://www.tnstate.edu/grad). Students will be notified via MYTSU e-mail accounts.

#### Thesis/Dissertation Workshop

April 2010

Master's & Doctoral students beginning or completing thesis/dissertation in Spring 2010 are encouraged to attend.

Date, Time and location will be posted online at: [www.tnstate.edu/grad](http://www.tnstate.edu/grad). Students will be notified via MYTSU e-mail accounts.

## Spotlight: James Tyus, II

of Agricultural and Environmental Research. During that time, he honed his skills in techniques of molecular genetics including quantitative PCR, molecular cloning, gene sequencing and genomic library construction. He has presented data from these experiments at local, national and international research conferences and has won several oral and poster competitions for the effort. With lab mates **Gary Kelley, Carl Darris, Jessica Johnson** and **Niesha Bonner**, James is also preparing manuscripts from his work on the molecular characterization of the domesticated Guinea Fowl.

Currently, James is developing a prospectus for his PhD dissertation project. He plans to use genomic, proteomic and imaging approaches to evaluate Hypothalamic Angiotensin II and AMP-activated Protein Kinase activities in response to diet-induced obesity in avians. He is also pursuing several 'mini-projects' including the first-ever, high-resolution karyotype of the Guinea Fowl (using fluorescent-, transmission electron-, and atomic force- microscopy), and molecular characterization of the invasive fire ant. The work with fire ants, which is in collaboration with **Dr. Sam Ochieng** ([sochieng@bloband.net](mailto:sochieng@bloband.net)) at the **Otis Floyd Nursery Research Center**, promises to offer crop producers a rapid, accurate determination of the species and variety of fire ant attacking their nursery stocks. James hopes this work will lead to the development of a user-friendly, high-tech detection system that can be implemented on-site at nursery crop operations.

In addition to his research pursuits, James is also very active in many professional organizations including the American Society of Animal Science, the Poultry Science Association, the Tennessee Biotechnology Association, and the Agricultural Sciences Graduate Student Association (TSU). Perhaps most notably, James serves as Co-Executive Director for the **Association of Pre-Professional Life Scientists** (APLS or "Apples"; [www.aplsglobal.com](http://www.aplsglobal.com)). APLS is multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary professional organization focused on providing a more well-rounded training experience to high-school, undergraduate and graduate students in the life sciences. Through academic enrichment, professional development, life science education and student advocacy initiatives, APLS seeks to become an important resource supplement to its diverse membership. As of December 2009, APLS boasts a membership roster of more than 150 students, faculty and staff at TSU, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University and, most recently, Middle Tennessee State University. James notes that, "as active as APLS is in working to help make students more competitive, we are just as interested in reaching out to the community in terms of mentorship and science education. We have got to narrow the achievement gap between young people from advantaged backgrounds and those from more limited-resource families and communities. Who better to serve as mentors and exemplars than young, professional scientists in training? I commend the APLS Service Committee, headed by **Carl Darris** and **Lakesha Glover**, for their work in positioning our organization as a 'go-to' for the community at large and specifically for the minority K-12 population in Nashville."

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## Student and Faculty News

**Mr. Oluropo Charles Agbaje**, a graduate student from the research group of **Dr. Cosmas Okoro**, completed the M.S. program requirements in Chemistry, in 2009. His thesis title was "Lewis Acid Mediated Diastereoselective Synthesis of Fused Fluorinated and Non-Fluorinated Spiroketal as Potential Biologically Active Unnatural Products." Mr. Agbaje is currently pursuing a second master's degree in Environmental Engineering at Tennessee State University. Another student of Dr. Okoro, **Mr. Olugbeminiyi Fadeyi**, graduated with a M.S. in Chemistry in 2007, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Vanderbilt University. Mr. Fadeyi is also employed as Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Chemistry at Tennessee State University.

**Ms. Shahrina Alam**, a graduate student of **Dr. Mohammad Al-Masum** recently successfully, defended her thesis titled "Potassium Allyltrifluoroborates and Its Use in Organic Transformations." Ms. Alam, who will be graduating in December 2009, is a co-author on a paper with Dr. Al-Masum, titled "Remarkable Regioselectivity in Microwave-Enhanced Palladium-Catalyzed Allylation Reaction Involving Allyltrifluoroborates and Aryl Halides" published in *Tetrahedron Letters*, volume 50, page 5201 (2009). In March 2009, Ms. Alam presented a poster titled "Microwave Irradiated Palladium Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reaction of Potassium Allyltrifluoroborates and Organic Halides" at the 237<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Ms. Maya Chen Wai**, another graduate student of Dr. Al-Masum, successfully completed the M.S. requirements in 2009, and is currently enrolled in the Pharmacy doctoral program at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Wai's thesis title was "Microwave-Irradiated Benzoylation Reactions and Coupling Reactions." Ms. Alam and Ms. Wai presented a joint poster at the 60<sup>th</sup> Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2008. Ms. Wai presented a second poster in the 60<sup>th</sup> Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) in Nashville, in 2008. Dr. Al-Masum has published a paper titled "Students' Categorizations of Organic Compounds" in *Chemistry Education Research and Practice* (volume 9, page 114), in 2008, in collaboration with **Dr. Daniel Domin** and **Dr. John Mensah**. Dr. Al-Masum has also presented his work at the Gordon Research Conferences in Bryant University, Rhode Island, the 235<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Tennessee Academy of Sciences meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2008.

**Mr. Prashant Bajaj**, a graduate student of **Dr. Joshua Moore**, defended his master's of science thesis this past November. His study is titled "Synthesis and Characterization of Lead Chalcogenide (PbE; E = Se, Te) Semiconductor Nanocomposite Materials in Silica Matrices." **Dr. Nsoki Phambu** is training one of his graduate students, **Mr. Murali Krishna Marneni**, through a user proposal (approved) that was submitted to Oak Ridge National Laboratory for access to core characterization facilities. The project is titled "Interactions between Membranes and Anionic Antimicrobial Peptides in the Presence of Metal Ions." Mr. Marneni, along with two other graduate students of Dr. Phambu, **Mr. Mahesh Kumar Aitha** and **Ms. Courtney Kennemore**, presented at the 237<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition at Salt Lake City, Utah, in March 2009. Mr. Marneni and Mr. Aitha is also scheduled to present individual posters, titled "Interactions between Antiviral Drugs and Model Membrane in the Presence of Metal Ions" and "Spectroscopic Studies of the Interactions of Cytosine with Metal Ions," respectively, at the 239<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition in San Francisco, California, in 2010. **Mr. Baibai Kamara**, who received his M.S. in Chemistry in 2007 from Dr. Phambu's research group, is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Howard University. Mr. Kamara has presented posters at American Chemical Society national meetings in Atlanta and Chicago in 2006 and 2007.

**Alan Bunger, Dana Davis, Sunaina Dhawan, LaNedra Lee, and Edilberto A. Raynes**, research, "Should Physical Therapists Consider Pulmonary Function in Asthmatic Children When Implementing an Aerobic Exercise Program?" was accepted in Proceedings by Intellectbase International Consortium Atlanta, GA, October 2009. It came in third place, at the poster presentation, Research Symposium Program, Tennessee State University, March 2009.

**Matthew Corn, Chad Bullock, Don Kallail, Darin Payne, and Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes** study entitled "Does Supplemental Creatine Decrease Rehabilitation Time In Young Adults With Immobilization Related Injuries?" has been submitted (abstract) to the Experimental Biology 2010 Annual Conference Anaheim, CA, April 2010

"The study "The Ethical Issues of Scientific Research in Developing Countries," co-authored by Drs. Edilberto A. Raynes, **Ronald De Vera Barredo, Natalie Housel, Rosalyn Pitt, and Robert O'Connell, Jr.**, PhD (candidate); and **Elizabeth Kunnu** (HIA, Ed. S), was accepted for platform presentation Sydney, Australia, July 2009 (but not presented). The study has been published in *International Journal of Health Information* Intellectbase International Consortium.

**Edilberto A. Raynes'** made a poster presentation of his study "Cultural Differences on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices Toward Tuberculosis Among Healthcare Providers in Nashville/Davidson County" at the Texas Center for Health Disparities, Fort Worth, TX. May 2009.

**Dr. Sujata Guha**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry at Tennessee State University received news that she has been appointed Chair-elect of the Nashville Section of the *American Chemical Society*.

## Important Dates to Remember\*

### January

- 11-13 Registration
- 14 Classes Begin
- 14-22 Late Registration
- 18 Holiday-Martin Luther King
- 19-22 Late Registration
- 23 Doctoral Examinations
- 30 Doctoral Examinations

### February

- 24 Last Day to File Application for M.Ed., MPA & MS Comprehensive Exams for Spring 2010

### March

- 1-7 Mid-Term Examinations
- 8-14 Spring Break
- 16 Last day to Sign-in Thesis/ Dissertation
- 19 MPA Comp. Examinations
- 20 M. Ed. & M.S. Comp. Exams
- 29 Last day to defend Thesis/ Dissertation
- 31 Last day to withdraw from courses (Office of Records)
- 31 Last day to withdraw from University (Counseling Center)

### April

- 2 Holiday—Good Friday
- 12 Last day to Submit Thesis/ Dissertation
- 29 Last day of Class
- 30 Final Exams

### May

- 1-7 Final Examinations
- 8 Spring Commencement

\*Calendar subject to change at any time prior to or during the academic year.

## 2009 Theses/Dissertations Published by ProQuest/UMI

### Saudat **Adamson**

Cytotoxic Extracts of Ethnomedicinal Plants: In Vitro Evaluation of Anticancer Activity and Progress Towards Bioassay-Guided Isolation and Characterization of Active Constituents

### Oluropo Charles **Agbaje**

Lewis Acid Mediated Diastereoselective Synthesis of Fused Fluorinated & Non Fluorinated Spiroketal: As potential biologically active unnatural products

### Sherry Lane **Armstrong**

Values Incorporated in the Stories of Three Basal Reader Series Grades One through Three

### Jacqueline Monique **Berrios**

The Anti-carcinogenic effect of Chromolaena odorata, Ocimum basilicum, Erythraea suaveolens on Breast and Colon Cancer Lines

### Ryan S. **Clark**

The Anti-Microbial Effects of Camellia Sinesis on Escherichia Coli, Salmonella Typhimurium and Staphylococcus Aureus

### Teresa Joy **Clay**

Reservation Gaming: A Catalyst for Self-Governance for the Tribes of Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma

### Willie Clark **Corlew**

The Absence of a Father or Father Figure and its Impact on Academic Success of High School Males

### Rhonda Lane **Coffelt**

Effects of Tributyltin on Cytosolic Calcium and Actin in Human Natural Killer Cells

### Kimberly Nyota **Davis**

Paternal Figure Influence on Resiliency Development in African American Adolescent Females

### Christopher A. **Duke**

The Quality of Student Life and its Impact on Retention at an Urban Historically Black University

### Christina Helen Barland **Edmondson**

Self-care Advocacy as an Ethical Obligation in Counseling Psychology Programs

### Carren Marie **Gallaher**

A Tale of Two Tracks: Analysis of Student Dialogue in Standard and Honors High School English Classes

### Brian C. **Griner**

Examining Knowledge and Stereotypes Regarding HIV/AIDS and Attitudes toward Condom Use in HBCU Population

### Sheba LaKeyesh **Green**

The Impact Bullying and Agression Has on Social Competence

### Lindsay Michelle **Hall**

Problem Solving and Creativity: A Gender and Grade Level Comparison

### Marquitta M. **Henry**

Vocational Identity Development and Affect among African-American and Caucasian Undergraduate Men



# 2009 Theses/Dissertations Published by ProQuest/UMI

Natasha Cherrie-Anne **Hinkson**

The Effects of Hexabromocyclododecane on Human Natural Killer Cell Function

James Olen **Harris**

Relationship of Factors Pertaining to Youth Attitudes Toward School, Self-Esteem, and Guns and Violence

Wayne Lee **Holt**

Examining the Effectiveness of Interactive Mathlets in a Web Enhanced Math Course

Dana Marie **Ivory**

Preparation of Gold and Silver Nanoparticles Using Chondroitin Sulfate or Cartilage Powder and Their Possible Immunomodulatory Effects

Ruth Tomaschke **Kinnersley**

Mentoring Relationships of Female Administrators in Tennessee Higher Education

Heather Allyson **Knox**

Psychological Birth Order and Theoretical Orientation of Professional Psychologists

Lynn **Larson**

TDOC Officer Perceptions and Mainstreaming Death Row Inmates in Tennessee

Lisa Ann **Lorenzen**

Life Satisfaction and Body Image Confidence: Health Risk Factors for African American-College Women

Lucinda Jane **Long**

Effectiveness of animal-assisted therapy interventions in altering childhood aggressive behaviors

Reney **McAtee**

Qualitative Case Study of Two Novice Teachers in a Private Middle School

Shikheldin Bilal **Mohamed**

The Synthesis and Characterization of  $Gd_2(Mo)_4O_{13}$  Using the microemulsion Synthetic Technique

Jimmy Donald **Morris**

Compare and Contrast the Fundamental Group and the Homotopy Group

Gerard **McShepard**

Evidence for the Involvement of Dynamin and Other GTPases in the Trafficking of the Choline Cotransporter

Michael Irwin **Moore**

Banach Spaces and The Hahn-Banach Theorem

Rachel J. **Person**

Effects of Butyltin Exposures on the Transcription Regulator AP-1

Jason Richard **Peterson**

Weblog Writing and Post-Process Ecomposition Theory in Secondary English Education

Haroun R. A. **Rababaah**

A Novel Energy-Logic Model for Multi-Modality Multi-Agent Data and Information Fusion

Denise A. **Reding**

Construct Validity and Short-Term Test-Retest Reliability of the Fear of the Feminine Projective Test

Gerald Gregory **Reed**

A Program Evaluation of United States Agency for International Development Funded Legislative Development in El Salvador and Nicaragua

Janice S. **Rodriguez**

Content Analyses of State-Level Language Policy Rhetoric, Pre- and Post- 9/11

Leigh Strahinic Arino de la **Rubia**

A Survey of the Scientific Epistemological Views of College Students: Assessing the Impact of an Implicit Curriculum in Science Education

Kerry Anne **Simon**

A Survey of the Perceptions of Tennessee Teachers, Their Administrators, and Teacher Educators Regarding Preservice Music Teacher Preparation

Rita **Sowell**

Interactive Communication as an Element of Student Success in Online Math Courses

Derriell Montez **Springfield**

Cycle Graph Graded Algebra & Cyclohedra

Arthur Ray **Schultz**

Another Look at the Hyperreal Numbers and their Applications

Gregory **Stewart**

Constructing Powerful Behavioral Paradigms: Paying Students to Do Well

Rebecca Ann **Temple**

Law Enforcement Officers' Personality and Perceptions of Organizational Stress: An SEM Study

Christina Lyn **Weston**

Upper Bound for Minimal Disjoint Path/Cycle Coverings of n-Vertex Simple Connected Graphs

Christina Monique **Wilson**

Symbolic Rees Algebra and Polynomials

## Transfer Credit Policy

At the master's level, a student may be allowed a maximum of twelve (12) semester or eighteen (18) quarter hours of graduate credit from another accredited college or university. At the educational specialist and doctoral level, a maximum of six (6) semester hours may be transferred. The Transfer of Credit form may be obtained online at [www.tnstate.edu/grad](http://www.tnstate.edu/grad) or from the School of Graduate Studies & Research. The course work being considered for transfer must be evaluated by the graduate coordinator/department chair, dean of the academic unit and the dean of the Graduate School. Only courses in which the student earned grades of "B" or better, and which are taken within the degree program time limit, will be considered for transfer. Credits earned in partial fulfillment of a previously completed degree program at Tennessee State University or any other institution may not be transferred or used for credit in another degree program. (2007-2009 Graduate Catalog)

## Class Loads Policy

Full-time status is attained when the graduate student enrolls in at least nine (9) credit hours in one semester. When a student enrolls in any courses for credit, the maximum class load for either the fall or spring semester shall be twelve (12) hours. Students may take up to fifteen (15) hours with an overload approval. The maximum load for either Summer Session I or Session II shall be six semester hours credit. Students desiring to carry an over-load must have the endorsement of the Major Advisor or the Dean of the College/School, and the Dean of the Graduate School. (2007-2009 Graduate Catalog)

## Second Master's Degree

Students may not be simultaneously enrolled in two Master's degree programs. Credits earned to fulfill requirements for the first Master's degree may not be used to satisfy any of the requirements for the second Master's degree, or reduce the number of hours for the second master's degree. (2007-2009 Graduate Catalog)

## Walter S. Davis Scholarship

*In memory of Dr. Walter S. Davis, President of Tennessee State University, 1943-1968, Mrs. Ivanetta Davis, his wife, and Dr. Ivan Davis, his son, established the Walter Strother Davis Scholarship Fund.*

*Each Spring, a \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded to the Tennessee State University graduate who has demonstrated the ability for advanced study and research. The award must be used for study leading to the Master's degree at Tennessee State University.*

*The scholarship is available only to students eligible for the May 2010 graduation. Eligibility is further limited to those students who have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8 for the May Graduation. The deadline for application is April 1.*

*Persons desiring more information or application forms should contact the office of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at: 615-963-5901 or [gradschool@tnstate.edu](mailto:gradschool@tnstate.edu).*

## Fee Adjustment Dates

January 13 Last Day for 100% Fee Adjustment

January 27 Last Day for 75% Fee Adjustment

February 10 Last Day for 25% Fee Adjustment

Tuition is charged at different per-credit-hour rates. Tuition will not be evenly exchanged for dropping and adding courses with different tuition rates. Once the semester begins, tuition exchanges are only allowed for courses with equal credit hours dropped and added on the **same day**. Visit [www.tnstate.edu/bursar](http://www.tnstate.edu/bursar) for more information.

Regents Online Degree Program (RODP) courses are charged at a different per-hour rate and are charged separately from Tennessee State University courses. RODP courses will not be evenly exchanged with TSU courses when dropping and adding even in the same day. For additional information visit:

[www.tnstate.edu/bursar](http://www.tnstate.edu/bursar)

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*Graduate School News* is published each semester by *the School of Graduate Studies and Research*, Tennessee State University. Its purpose is to provide timely and useful information to graduate students at Tennessee State University. Direct all questions to **Alex Sekwat** or **Mohammad Karim** at: 615-963-5901 or [gradschool@tnstate.edu](mailto:gradschool@tnstate.edu)

We are on the web at:  
[www.tnstate.edu/grad](http://www.tnstate.edu/grad)

## Spotlight: *James Tyus, II*

James has been very active at TSU in recent years. He currently works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant under **Dr. Constantine Fenderson** ([cfenderson@tnstate.edu](mailto:cfenderson@tnstate.edu)), Chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences. In 2009, he was named 'Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year' by the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences. Also in 2009, he was a participant of TSU's first Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Team headed by **Susan Verberne-Sutton** ([ssutto@tnstate.edu](mailto:ssutto@tnstate.edu)), Director of the Nano-Bio Core Facilities. He has been asked to serve on two taskforces: the TSU Research Park Taskforce led by **Dr. Maria Thompson** ([mthompson@tnstate.edu](mailto:mthompson@tnstate.edu)), VP for the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs; and the EPA-Compliance Taskforce, led by **Tommi Smith** ([tsmith@tnstate.edu](mailto:tsmith@tnstate.edu)), Coordinator of Campus Environmental Services and Safety. He has presented at the TSU University-Wide Research Symposium since 2007; twice winning top-honors in the graduate student oral competition. James was also tapped to moderate oral sessions at the 2009 TN Green Industries Field Day in McMinnville and the 2009 TN Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Annual Conference in Nashville.

James says: "When I decided to stay at TSU to pursue a PhD, I was determined to make the very most of my time here. Through APLS and ASGSA, I try to encourage new students to take as much ownership of their career development as possible. Graduate school is my job and I just want to put out the best product I can. I also want to bring new opportunities to my classmates and to my campus so that the next generation of grad students can leave here even more well prepared for their careers. We are doing some awesome things at TSU and I am just excited about being a part of them."

## Graduate School Contact Information

### Administrative

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## Donna Collins in "Hey Florence"

The 60 minute musical featured vignettes offering an inside look at the day to day world of nursing at the bedside. Donna noted that the show was poignant, hilariously funny and at times heart breaking featuring songs like, "Someone's Gotta Do It" which speaks of the messy jobs in nursing, "Another Goodbye" is all about the emotional toll of losing a patient, "Shut Up" which address the overworked nurse, and "I Need Chocolate" which speaks for itself."

Plans are in the works for the cast to perform for the American Nurses Association at the National Convention and possibly an international appearance in Scotland next year.

The School of Nursing is proud to congratulate one of our own!

*Comments and suggestions related to this publication can be directed to:*

[gradschool@tnstate.edu](mailto:gradschool@tnstate.edu) or (615) 963-5901