2008 Mid-South Ag Finance Conference set for Aug. 6

David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 6. Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last six sessions and has provided the growing audiences with practical information.

"As one of the world's leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Dr. Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Thomas Payne, holder of the Horace and Sara Dungan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UT Martin.

This year, Kohl will focus on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. The agricultural economy has been quickly and permanently changed, and participants will benefit from practical tools to maximize profit and minimize risk. His sessions on "Sustained Profitability: Agricultural Production" and "Lending in the Age of Turbulence and Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Best Practices for the Producer-Lender Team" will provide ways to strengthen balance sheets and increase operating cash flows. He will draw on his 30 years working with lenders and serving as facilitator of the Farm Financial Standards Task Force as he provides benchmarks of financial performance and personal investment strategies. Conference participants will receive useful "take-home tools" on agricultural best practices, transition management and how to grow profits while managing risk.

This year's conference will also feature a session on "There's Gold in Them There Fields (But For How Long)? The Future of Commodity Prices and Land Values." This session will be led by Dr. Matthew Roberts from Ohio State University. Roberts will address the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values. He will draw on his trading experience and forecasting expertise as he outlines the political and economic forces that determine the sustainability of prices and the producers' bottom line. This information will equip both lenders and producers as they deal with globalization, alternative fuel, climate, global demand and crop selection issues.

Finally, in the wake of the sub-prime crisis and credit crunch, this year's conference will include a special session on "The Availability and Cost of Agricultural Loans in 2009."

"First-time and repeat attendees will find the ag finance conference useful with its new information and timely topics. Our intention in the planning and design of the conference is to provide relevant information that agriculturalists can use to make their operations even more successful," said Terri Brundige, president of BancorpSouth in Dresden, and member of the conference planning committee.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, should also attend. The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers, and $25 for spouses and students. Registration information is available by contacting Payne, at 731-881-7324, or visit the Website, www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited so registration is requested by Aug. 1.

University of Tennessee at Martin students residing in Greater Memphis, received degrees during the spring commencement.

Kevin L. Watkins of Southeast Memphis earned a graduate degree.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were:
Downtown — Candace Akilah Hooper and Travis Preston Ragie.
Frayser — Jessica R. Davis.

North Memphis — Richard Jamar Dorsey.
Northeast Memphis — Lauren Jean Witty and Anthony William Cheshire.
Raleigh — Tiffany Nicole Reese and Carmen Monique Hampton.
South Memphis — Kristen Joyce Keys, Aarika Michelle Cox, Elizabeth Joy Anderson, April Lynette Beard, Barry Collins and Artis Merritt.

Southeast Memphis — Erica N. Cole, Rashauda Tramell Patterson, Andrea Sharde Cash, Valerie Lashey Frazier, John Henry Swanigan III, Karl Andrew McGowan Jr., Treneas Shani Fox, Durrell DeWayne Wright, Camille LaVoy Murphy, Keshia DeMyra Wade, Paula Rangel Comerlotto and Francine D. Burford.
UTM earns ‘best’ rating

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to the Princeton Review for 2009.

The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section on its Web site feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since its first release in 2003.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students.

“We’re pleased with this designation and to be recognized among the best in this region,” Rakes said. “Our students are our best ambassadors and we appreciate the opportunity to serve them as they prepare for careers in the global economy.”

Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing, said schools are selected “based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

“We also take into account what each school’s customers — their students — report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey,” Franek said. “Finally, we work to have (See Page 8, Col. 5)

UTM... (Continued from Page One)

our annual roster of ‘regional best’ colleges presents a range of institutions in each region that varies by size, selectivity, character and locale.”

The 139 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its Best in the Southeast designations are located in 12 states — Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West and 159 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 650 colleges named “regional best(s)” represent about 25 percent (one out of four) of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

In the recently-released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, “The school’s manageable

Pageants to be held at Soybean Festival

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival gives girls the chance to participate in upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants. The University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the pageants.

Girls to age 19 are invited to participate in the pageants, Aug. 30, during the festival. Pageants begin at 10 a.m. in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee Martin. Deadline to register is Aug. 27.

The pageant lineup includes Baby Miss Soybean (to age 1), 10 a.m.; Tiny Miss Soybean (2 to 3 years old), 10:45 a.m.; Petite Miss Soybean (4 to 5 years old), 11:30 a.m.; Little Miss Soybean (6 to 9 years old), 1 p.m.; Pre-teen Miss Soybean (10 to 12 years old), 2:30 p.m.; Teen Miss Soybean (13 to 15 years old), 3:30 p.m.; and Miss Soybean (16 to 19 years old), 4:30 p.m. All pageants will have one queen and four maids.

A $30 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Mail fee and application to Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 101 University St., Martin, TN 38237 or deliver to Martin City Hall. There will be no registration at the door. Call (731) 588-2507 or (731) 587-7333.

Applications for pageants are available at Martin-UT Federal Credit Union, Land’s Boutique and Bridal, Sugar and Spice, UT Martin Student Life Center and Martin City Hall; Union City, Joann’s, Milan, Special Occasions; Jackson, Bonnie’s Boutique. To receive an application online, go to www.tnsoybeanfordal.org.

UTM earns ‘Best in the Southeast’

The University of Tennessee Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2009. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section on its Web site feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since its first release in 2003. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students. Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing, said schools are selected “based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

In the recently-released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, “The school’s manageable
UT Martin holds summer graduation for 200

The Jackson Sun

Approximately 200 students will attend summer commencement for the University of Tennessee Martin on Saturday, according to a university press release.

Karen Bowyer, president of Dyersburg State Community College, will deliver the commencement address, the release said. Graduation begins at 11 a.m. in the Elam Center on campus.

Thomas Rakes, chancellor of the university, will preside over the ceremony and confer degrees to the graduates. Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the 200 summer graduates.

Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace-bearer.

Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harriss, faculty senate past president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for University advancement.

A reception will immediately follow in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse, the release said. Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986. She received a bachelor of arts in mathematics from Knox College, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Alabama, the release said.

Casada receives Legion of Valor Cross

University of Tennessee Martin ROTC Cadet Richard G. Casada has been awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement. Casada has been assigned the incoming cadet battalion commander. This award, consisting of a bronze cross and certificate, is presented for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects to stimulate the development of leadership. Out of more than 273 schools nationwide only 10 cadets are awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement.

Casada is a political science major scheduled to commission and graduate in May. He has a grade-point average of 3.97 with a ROTC GPA of 4.0. His parents are Richard and Jill Casada.

His academic achievement includes Dean's List each semester; Phi Kappa Phi (honor society); American Legion Scholastic Achievement; numerous cadet ribbons and honors; Army schools/Airborne and Air Assault. His extracurricular activities include president, UT Martin College Republicans; vice chairman, West Tennessee State Chapter of College Republicans; president, ROTC Fundraising and Activities Group for two years; member, Skyhawk Battalion Ranger Challenge Team for three years; and member, intramural teams for three years.

Martin, TN

Monday Aug 4

UT Martin holds summer graduation for 200

Approximately 200 students will attend summer commencement for the University of Tennessee Martin on Saturday, according to a university press release.

Phylea Foster, a rising senior at Brighton High School, here with Dr. Henry Parker, attended the Young Scholars Academy at the University of Tennessee at Martin June 22-28. The academy is a competitive weeklong program designed for under-represented high school sophomores and juniors. The program seeks to introduce students to the optimal college experience by focusing on three learning environments – special aptitude development, personal and social development, and college/major exploration. A select group of G3 West Tennessee students was chosen for this program. Phylea received certificates of achievement and trophies for highest GPA and for being winning third place in the academy application essay at the opening ceremony. She also received a certificate of achievement and a medal in recognition of completing the Young Scholars Academy at the graduation ceremony.
Concerted effort will urge students to serve communities, others

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first meeting of the Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization that fosters programs encouraging faculty to create activities within courses designed to serve critical needs of community partners while deepening the learning of the students engaged in those activities.

The Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization now affiliated with the National Campus Compact, was formed earlier this year to make service-learning education more organized and effective throughout the state.

"The Tennessee Campus Compact is a natural fit with elements of our American Democracy Project and a refocused LEAD Academy program to build capacity of our students to become more active, involved citizens," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

The national organization has existed since 1986 as the primary organizing body for service learning in higher education. Hundreds of schools are now members, joining the original three: Brown, Stanford and Georgetown.

Among national campus compact initiatives have been projects to tutor at-risk youth, build houses for low-income families, conduct environmental safety studies and care for the sick, hungry, homeless and elderly.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, will lead UT Martin's campus compact efforts, which also will include a leadership emphasis. The American Democracy Project and LEAD Academy, UT Martin organizations, will serve as partners.

"I have included a service-learning component in my public relations classes since 1988 and have found it to be an extremely valuable, 'win-win' experience," said Ogg. "I don't know a better way to learn than providing an opportunity for students to use their knowledge to benefit our nonprofit partners from across West Tennessee."

"UT Martin has been involved in service learning for some time, but these relationships with the National and Tennessee Campus Compact organizations offer support, encouragement and recognition," said Dr. Mike McCullough, UT Martin ADP chair. "Those who have done service learning will be encouraged to continue, more will join, and our membership in Campus Compact will show institutional commitment to service learning."

Mani Hull, who spearheaded the drive to affiliate Tennessee with Campus Compact, led the statewide steering committee meeting at UT Martin, July 28. Hull also met with UT Martin administration and faculty, July 29, to answer questions regarding the mission of Campus Compact and UT Martin's role in the state organization. The committee, under the direction of chair, Dr. Deborah K. Harley, assistant vice president for community engagement, learning and leadership at East Tennessee State University, worked on a mission statement, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and strategies and measurements.

UT MARTIN HOSTS STATEWIDE CAMPUS COMPACT MEETING — The steering committee of the Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization that fosters programs to make service-learning education more organized and effective throughout the state, had its first meeting recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Tennessee Campus Compact, formed earlier this year, is now affiliated with the National Campus Compact that has existed since 1986 as the primary organizing body for service learning in higher education. Hundreds of schools are now members. Among those attending the first meeting were (from left) Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Mani Hull, who spearheaded the drive to affiliate Tennessee with Campus Compact; Dr. Deborah Harley, chair; and Dr. Mike McCullough, UT Martin American Democracy Project chair.
UTM earns 'Best in the Southeast' designation

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2009. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section on its Website feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since the recognitions were first released in 2003. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students. “We’re pleased with this designation and to be recognized among the best in this region,” Rakes said. “Our students are our best ambassadors, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve them as they prepare for careers in the global economy.”

Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing, said that schools are selected “based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

“We also take into account what each school’s customers — their students — report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey,” Franek said. “Finally, we work to have our annual roster of ‘regional best’ colleges present a range of institutions in each region that varies by size, selectivity, character and locale.”

The 139 colleges. The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West, and 159 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 630 colleges named “regional best(s)” represent about 25 percent (one out of four) of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

In the recently released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, “The school’s manageable size creates a patently student-friendly environment.” Also noted was, “Among its claim to fame, UT Martin has a high graduate school acceptance rate for students in the health fields, including pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy.”

About campus life, one student said, “Campus life at UTM is particularly pleasant thanks to apartment-style dormitories and the pervasive ‘small-town atmosphere.’”

Another student said, “The people who aren’t happy at UTM are the ones who don’t get involved. Student organizations, including Greek life and religious groups, are what make Martin interesting.” The student added, “There are groups for almost everyone, and if given the right opportunity, you will find your niche of people.”

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is known for its test preparation courses, books, and college admission and other education services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine.

Ceremony, open house marks University Village expansion project completion

Completion of a $28 million University Village expansion project that will provide apartment-style living for approximately 400 freshmen will be marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house, 10 a.m., Aug. 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Tours will follow the ceremony.

Located on the former McCord Hall site, three, four-story buildings with controlled access joined the original University Village apartment-style complex in offering the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing. The newest complex features four-floor plans with one-four-bed-room apartments.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will be joined by elected officials, architects, contractors and campus leadership in officially opening the complex. The public is invited to attend. The freshman move-in date is Aug. 20.


For more information about University Village or other UT Martin student housing, call 881-7730.
**Mary Beth French**  
**Kala Kildies**  
**Elizabeth Barnes**  
**Amy Gardner**

**UTM awards Stanley Gault scholarships**

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2008-09 Stanley Gault Scholarship to four West Tennessee students. Each student will receive $450 for the academic year. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit, leadership and a personal essay. First preference is given to the son or daughter of a Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. associate.

This year’s recipients are Mary Beth French, Kala Kildies, Elizabeth Barnes and Amy Gardner.

- Mary Beth French, daughter of Ricky and Sheila French of Sprinville, will be a junior this fall majoring in fine and performing arts.
- Kala Kildies, daughter of Joyce Kildies of Martin, will be a freshman this fall majoring in family and consumer science.
- Elizabeth Barnes, daughter of Cleo and Becky Barnes of Union City, will be a sophomore this fall majoring in human learning.

- Amy Gardner, daughter of Rusty and Marchelle Gardner of Martin, will be a freshman this fall with a currently undeclared major.

The scholarship was established in 1996 by former Goodyear Union City plant manager Dick Davies and his wife, Barbara, in honor of the former Goodyear chairman.

The scholarship was established as an endowment; the principal is invested and only the interest is spent. Therefore, the scholarship will continue to be awarded and grow in future years.

To be considered for the Gault Scholarship, students must apply during the spring semester for the following academic year. Current or past recipients of the Gault Scholarship may be reawarded the scholarship in following years, but must reapply each year to be eligible. Applications are available at Goodyear or the UTM Office of Development.

---

**Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the macebearer. Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harris, faculty senate past president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement. Immediately following the commencement ceremony, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.**

**Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986. She received a bachelor of arts in mathematics from Knox College, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Alabama.**

She serves as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges (SACJTC); member, Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); board member, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality/Integrity (NACOI) for the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council.

---

**Dr. Bowyer is UTM speaker**

Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, will deliver the summer commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m., August 9, in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the 200 summer graduates. Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Bowyer will become interim president of Dyer County YMCA board of directors; member, Dyer County Historical Society; vice president for education for the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce; Dyer County United Way chair; and a member of the Kiwanis and Giving Friends clubs. She is a graduate of the Dyer County Leadership Program (class of 1997), and a former member of the Education Foundation for Dyer County and American Heart Association Board for Dyer County.
Lonestar and The Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 7, in Martin, with the theme “The Crossroads of Good Livin’.”

A mix of entertainment, along with a car and bike show, pageant, talent contest, parade, barbecue cook-off and educational programs, also highlight this year’s event.

“This is our 15th year to promote agriculture and community through the Tennessee Soybean Festival,” said David Belote, festival chairman. He added that the festival continues to be a week packed with events to interest people of all ages throughout Martin and the region. “We try to offer the best possible entertainment while striving to provide a program of events that is diverse and exciting.”

“The Tennessee Soybean Festival has grown to be one of the premier festivals in the state,” said Randy Brundige, Martin mayor. “I am proud of what this community has done and the way it comes together during the event.”

The 2008 festival will include “The Return, A Beatles Tribute” concert as the Tuesday night feature during festival week, the fourth annual Faith and Community Night, sponsored by the Martin Ministerial Alliance, with Daniel Doss Band and also the Melody Makers as the Wednesday night entertainment, and Corey Smith performing Thursday night. On Friday, the Nashville Songwriters Jam will be staged in Virginia Weldon Park. Bluegrass in the Park is scheduled, along with performances by Voodoo Village at the North Lindell Street Gap Stage and the Peacemakers performing on the main stage. Margarita Beach and Peacemakers will perform on Saturday.

The Marshall Tucker Band concert Friday night and Lonestar’s performance Saturday night will cap festival musical events. All concerts are free. Lonestar is known for such hits as “Amazed,” “I’m Already There,” “My Front Porch Lookin’ In” and “Tequila Talkin’.”

Marshall Tucker Band released its first album in 1973 and had success with hits that include “Heard it in a Love Song,” “Fire on the Mountain,” and “Can’t You See.”

Big Harvester sponsors include the city of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First State Bank, First Citizens game show, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Company; Rotary Club golf tournament; Kiwanis 5K run; Optimist Club bicycle rodeo; the 12th annual car and bike show, sponsored by MTD Products Inc., and the 15th annual barbecue cook-off, sponsored by Tyson Foods. Also planned are senior adult events, an art exhibit and competition, quilt show, youth soccer jamboree, youth horse show and health fair.

Complete festival information is posted on the Web at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org. For more information, call Kimberly Craddock, at 731-588-2507, or e-mail mcd@martintennessee.org.
State, Rural Development funding to expand Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility

USDA Rural Development State Director Ruth Tackett and Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and other state and local officials recently to announce the expansion of the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility on the UT Martin campus.

The expansion project, funded by $127,000 Tennessee Department of Agriculture and $55,000 Rural Development grants, will provide expanded exhibition and stalling areas to permit hosting larger and more diversified livestock events.

“UT Martin is a great partner in helping to support and develop our agricultural industry. We’re proud to support the expansion of the Smith livestock facility through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program,” said Commissioner Givens. “This project will have a lasting effect on the local rural economy by enhancing marketing and promotional opportunities for West Tennessee livestock producers.”

The TAEP was established in 2005 by Gov. Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly to help improve animal health and livestock production and to encourage farm diversification in Tennessee.

“Agricultural production is a big part of the economy in our rural communities,” added Tackett. “I am proud that Rural Development has the financial resources to partner with UT Martin and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to help farmers and ranchers expand their markets and increase sales.”

Rural Development’s rural business enterprise grant program provides assistance to public or not-for-profit entities to support community economic development programs that assist small businesses in developing local business infrastructure, providing job training, conducting feasibility studies and providing technical assistance to businesses and community leaders.

Currently, the merchandising facility includes a sales and exhibition area and is the site of numerous regional livestock shows and sales.

“We have simply outgrown the existing facility and are having to use tents and outside pens to pen animals for current sales,” said Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair.

The center was dedicated in April 2004 and was named in recognition of the Smiths’ $50,000 gift to renovate an existing campus facility, which leveraged other gifts, including a $100,000 grant from USDA Rural Development and a $25,000 commitment from Dr. and Mrs. David Gordon of Covington. The Smiths are Huntington residents. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McCreight of Dresden and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Gallimore of Martin also made significant commitments to the facility.

“It is gratifying to see the growth of the original concept made possible by the Smith gift now expand in scope through the support of USDA and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. When private, state and federal partnerships join forces, successful ventures are assured,” said Rakes.

Making grant presentations at the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility expansion announcement at the University of Tennessee at Martin, July 24, are (front row): Ken Givens, Tennessee Department of Agriculture commissioner; and Ruth Tackett, USDA Rural Development state director. Others attending the event are (from left): State Sen. Roy Herron, Terry Oliver, Department of Agriculture deputy commissioner; Dr. Jim Byford, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair; Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development area director; Union City; Wilma and Ray Smith; and Brad Thompson, Congressman John Tanner’s field director.
DSCC president is commencement speaker

She serves as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges (SAC/JTC); member, Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); board member, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality/Integrity (NACQI) for the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council.

Active in community life, she is a member and past president of the Dyer County YMCA board of directors; member, Dyer County Historical Society; vice president for education for the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce; Dyer County United Way chair; and a member of the Kiwanis and Giving Friends clubs. She is a graduate of the Dyer County Leadership Program (class of 1997), and a former member of the Education Foundation for Dyer County and American Heart Association Board for Dyer County.

Dr. Karen Bowyer

Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, will deliver the summer commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11:00 a.m., August 9, in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate 200 summer graduates. Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the macebearer.

Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harris, faculty senate past president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Immediate following the commencement ceremony, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986. She received a bachelor of arts in mathematics from Knox College, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Alabama.

Upcoming Exhibit

"Her Lab in Your Life: Women in Chemistry" is on display at the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library. The focus of the exhibit, which officially opens during homecoming week, is to encourage young women to consider science, technology, engineering and math disciplines when they make education choices. UT Martin alum, Dr. Helen Cherry Bell, Dyersburg State Community College, who was one of the first UT Martin women to earn a chemistry degree, recently visited campus to reflect on her experiences as a woman of science. Bell also met with library staff and Dr. Judith Irarte-Gross from Middle Tennessee State University and Dr. Edie Banner from Murray State University to discuss ways to pool time and resources to reach even more young women with this message.
Master’s in family, consumer sciences join list of UT Martin’s online courses

An online master of science in family and consumer sciences has been added to the list of courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin via UT Online. “We believe this program has tremendous potential and are pleased to offer it as part of our service and outreach missions,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs. “These faculty are outstanding, and anyone who enrolls is going to receive the same top-notch, practical education we have traditionally provided on campus.”

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the online program with two concentrations: general family and consumer sciences and dietetics. The first concentration is general in nature and based on a selected range of comprehensive courses. The dietetics concentration incorporates a Dietetic Internship Program (DI) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. The DI offers graduates of didactic programs in dietetics a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion of the concentration are eligible to take the registration examination that leads to becoming a registered dietitian. This option incorporates the DI practicum into an advanced-degree program that will lead to a master’s degree.

“We are excited about offering our master’s degree online. We believe this will provide new opportunities for a greater number of professionals in our region to pursue the master’s degree in a convenient format,” said Dr. Lisa LeBlou, UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

The courses for the general option of the master’s in family and consumer sciences and the dietetics option, with the exception of the internship are accessible 24/7 using Blackboard CourseWare. The courses have discussion, email, chat, assignments and Web-conferencing capability. Students also have free technical support 24/7 through UT Martin’s Help Desk.

Faculty hold graduate faculty status at UT Martin and all have specialized knowledge and experience in the areas in which they are teaching.

Applicants may be admitted as degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking. Degree-seeking candidates must meet all university requirements as listed in the university catalog under “Types of Admission.” Individuals who plan to complete the dietetic internship must be degree-seeking. Applicants who plan to complete the master’s must meet requirements for unconditional or conditional admission.

“UT Online anticipates a chance to deliver this degree to students online. This market needs this opportunity, and we are looking forward to helping these students develop in their careers,” said Dr. Tommy Cates, Online and University Studies director.

For more information about this new program, contact UT Online, toll-free, at 866-587-7589, or 731-881-7589, or visit www.utm.edu/utonline.

Hutchens completes 53 year career at UT Martin

Martha Hutchens, administrative services assistant at the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, likely holds the record as the longest-tenured support staff member in the institution’s history. She retired June 30 completing 53 years service.

Hutchens began employment at UT Martin Branch, July 1, 1955, as a library circulation/clerical staff member. She was employed during eight UT Martin administrations beginning when Paul Meek was dean of the UT Martin Branch. In addition to other changes too numerous to mention, the technological advancement she’s seen has been amazing.

“My first computer was a DOS Rainbow,” she said of her initial foray into technology. The addition of IRIS (online integrated financial and human resources management system) many years later, she added, “changed the way we did almost everything.”

“The most enjoyable aspect of my job was working with people whom I liked and respected and dealing with the library budget,” said Hutchens. “I remained with the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin my entire career because it is the best place to work in West Tennessee and West Tennessee is the best place to live.”

Hutchens plans to complete all the documentation to get her retirement officially under way. “After that, I’ll take each day as it comes and try to make the most of it.” She added, “Hopefully, I will find some volunteer work, and I have my duties as treasurer of the Weakley County Genealogical Society. I may also return to working on my family tree.”

She added, “I have had mixed feelings about retiring, but I believe I have done the right thing. It’s time for new beginnings.”
Kohl to focus on trends at Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., August 6. Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last six sessions and has provided the growing audiences with practical information.

"As one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Dr. Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Thomas Payne, holder of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UT Martin.

This year, Kohl will focus on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. The agricultural economy has been quickly and permanently changed, and participants will benefit from practical tools to maximize profit and minimize risk. His sessions on "Sustained Profitability: Agricultural Production" and "Lending in the Age of Turbulence and Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Best Practices for the Producer-Lender Team" will provide ways to strengthen balance sheets and increase operating cash flows. He will draw on his 30 years working with lenders and serving as facilitator of the Farm Financial Standards Task Force as he provides benchmarks of financial performance and personal investment strategies. Conference participants will receive useful "take-home tools" on agricultural best practices, transition management and how to grow profits while managing risk.

This year’s conference will also feature a session on "There’s Gold in Them There Fields (But For How Long)? The Future of Commodity Prices and Land Values." This session will be led by Dr. Matthew Roberts of Ohio State University. Roberts will address the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values. He will draw on his trading experience and forecasting expertise as he outlines the political and economic forces that determine the sustainability of prices and the producers’ bottom line. This information will equip both lenders and producers as they deal with globalization, alternative fuels, climate, global demand and crop selection issues.

Casada receives 1 of 10 national Legion of Valor Achievement awards

Casada

University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC Cadet Richard G. Casada has been awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement. Casada has been assigned as the incoming cadet battalion commander.

This award, consisting of a bronze cross and certificate, is presented to outstanding MS-III cadets for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects to stimulate the development of leadership. Out of more than 273 schools nationwide only 10 cadets are awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement.

Professors of military science nominate cadets from the battalions. Nominees must meet the following criteria: must be regularly enrolled as a MS-III ROTC cadet; must be in the top 25 percent in ROTC and academic standing; and must demonstrate the quality potential required of an Army officer, including ROTC grades, academic grades, military leadership and academic leadership.

Casada is a political science major scheduled to commission and graduate May 2009. He has a grade-point average of 3.97 with a ROTC GPA of 4.0. His parents are Richard and Jill Casada.

His academic achievements include Dean’s List each semester; Phi Kappa Phi (honors society); American Legion Scholastic Achievement; numerous cadet ribbons and honors; Army schools/Airborne and Air Assault.

His extracurricular activities include president, UT Martin College Republicans; vice chairman, West Tennessee State Chapter of College Republicans; president, ROTC Fund Raising and Activities Group for two years; member, Skyhawk Battalion Ranger Challenge Team for three years; and member, intramural team for three years.

Ceremony, open house marks University Village expansion project completion

Completion of a $28 million University Village expansion project that will provide apartment-style living for approximately 400 freshmen will be marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house, 10:00 a.m., August 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Tours will follow the ceremony.

Located on the former McCard Hall site, three, four-story buildings with controlled access joined the original University Village apartment-style complex in offering the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing. The newest complex features four floor plans with one-four-bedroom apartments.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will be joined by elected officials, architects, contractors and campus leadership in officially opening the complex. The public is invited to attend. The freshman move-in date is August 20.


For more information about University Village or other UT Martin student housing, call 731-881-7730.
Soybean pageants slated

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants, sponsored by The University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union, will be held Aug. 30.

Girls 0-19 years of age may participate in the pageants during the festival. Pageants begin at 10 a.m. in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline to register is Aug. 27.

The pageant lineup includes:
- Baby Miss Soybean (0-1 year old), 10 a.m.;
- Tiny Miss Soybean (2-3 years old), 10:45 a.m.;
- Petite Miss Soybean (4-5 years old), 11:30 a.m.;
- Little Miss Soybean (6-9 years old), 1 p.m.;
- Preteen Miss Soybean (10-12 years old), 2:30 p.m.;
- Teen Miss Soybean (13-15 years old), 3:30 p.m.; and
- Miss Soybean (16-19 years old), 4:30 p.m.

All pageants will have one queen and four maids.

A $30 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Mail fee and application to: Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 101 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237 or deliver to Martin City Hall.

Applications for pageants are available at: Martin - UT Federal Credit Union, Lana’s Boutique & Bridal, Sugar and Spice, UT Martin Student Life Center and Martin City Hall; Union City, Tenn.; Joanna’s, Milan, Tenn.; Special Occasions; Jackson, Tenn.; Bonnie’s Boutique, or visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, August 6, 2008

UT Martin earns “Best in the Southeast” designation

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2009. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section on its Web site feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since the recognitions were first released in 2003. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students. “We’re pleased with this designation and to be recognized among the best in this region,” Rakes said. “Our students are our best ambassadors, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve them as they prepare for careers in the global economy.”

Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing, said that schools are selected “based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high-school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

“We also take into account what each school’s customers - their students - report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey,” Franek said. “Finally, we work to have our annual roster of ‘regional best’ colleges present a range of institutions in each region that varies by size, selectivity, character and locale.”

The 139 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West, and 159 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 630 colleges named “regional best(s)” represent about 25% (one out of four) of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

In the recently released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, “the school’s manageable size creates a patently student-friendly environment.” Also noted was, “Among its claim to fame, UT Martin has a high graduation school acceptance rate for students in the health fields, including pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy.”

About campus life, one student said, “Campus life at UTM is particularly pleasant thanks to apartment-style dormitories and the pervasive ‘small-town atmosphere.’”

Another student said, “The people who aren’t happy at UTM are the ones who don’t get involved. Student organizations, including Greek life and religious groups, are what make Martin interesting.” The student added, “There are groups for almost everyone, and if given the right opportunity, you will find your niche of people.”

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is known for its test preparation courses, books, and college admission and other education services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine.
Organization focuses on initiatives for students

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first meeting of the Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization that fosters programs encouraging faculty to create activities within courses designed to serve critical needs of community partners while deepening the learning of the students engaged in those activities.

The Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization now affiliated with the National Campus Compact, was formed earlier this year to make service-learning education more organized and effective throughout the state.

“The Tennessee Campus Compact is a natural fit with elements of our American Democracy Project and a refocused LEAD Academy program to build capacity of our students to become more active, involved citizens,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

The national organization has existed since 1986 as the primary organizing body for service learning in higher education. Hundreds of schools are now members, joining the original three: Brown, Stanford and Georgetown.

Among national campus compact initiatives have been projects to tutor at-risk youth, build houses for low-income families, conduct environmental safety studies and care for the sick, hungry, homeless and elderly.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, will lead UT Martin’s campus compact efforts, which also will include a leadership emphasis. The American Democracy Project and LEAD Academy, UT Martin organizations, will serve as partners.

“I have included a service-learning component in my public relations classes since 1988 and have found it to be an extremely valuable, ‘win-win’ experience,” said Ogg. “I don’t know a better way to learn than providing an opportunity for students to use their knowledge to benefit our nonprofit partners from across West Tennessee.”

“UT Martin has been involved in service learning for some time, but these relationships with the National and Tennessee Campus Compact organizations offer support, encouragement and recognition,” said Dr. Mike McCullough, UT Martin ADP chair. “Those who have done service learning will be encouraged to continue, more will join, and our membership in Campus Compact will show institutional commitment to service learning.”

Mani Hull, who spearheaded the drive to affiliate Tennessee with Campus Compact, led the statewide steering committee meeting at UT Martin, July 28. Hull also met with UT Martin administration and faculty, July 29, to answer questions regarding the mission of Campus Compact and UT Martin’s role in the state organization.

The committee, under the direction of chair, Dr. Deborah K. Harley, assistant vice president for community engagement, learning and leadership at East Tennessee State University, worked on a mission statement, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and strategies and measurements.

Ceremony to mark completion of project

Completion of a $28 million University Village expansion project that will provide apartment-style living for about 400 freshmen will be marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house at 10 a.m. Aug. 13 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Tours will follow the ceremony.

Located on the former McCord Hall site, three four-story buildings with controlled access joined the original University Village apartment-style complex in offering the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing. The newest complex features four floor plans with one- to four-bedroom apartments.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will be joined by elected officials, architects, contractors and campus leadership in officially opening the complex. The public is invited to attend. The freshman move-in date is Aug. 20.

Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates Inc. of Jackson and Lyle, Cook, Martin of Clarksville, began in April 2007.

For more information about University Village or other UT Martin student housing, call (731) 881-7730.
Effort urges students to serve

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted the first meeting of the Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization that fosters programs encouraging faculty to create activities within courses designed to serve critical needs of community partners while deepening the learning of the students engaged in those activities.

The Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization now affiliated with the National Campus Compact, was formed earlier this year to make service-learning education more organized and effective throughout the state.

“The Tennessee Campus Compact is a natural fit with elements of our American Democracy Project and a refocused LEAD Academy program to build capacity of our students to become more active, involved citizens,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said.

The national organization has existed since 1986 as the primary organizing body for service learning in higher education. Hundreds of schools are now members, joining the original three: Brown, Stanford and Georgetown.

Among national campus compact initiatives have been projects to tutor at-risk youth, build houses for low-income families, conduct environmental safety studies and care for the sick, hungry, homeless and elderly.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, will lead UT Martin’s campus compact efforts, which will also include a leadership emphasis. The American Democracy Project and LEAD Academy, UT Martin organizations, will serve as partners.

“Have included a service-learning component in my public relations classes since 1988 and have found it to be an extremely valuable, ‘win-win’ experience,” Ogg said. “I don’t know a better way to learn than providing an opportunity for students to use their knowledge to benefit our non-profit partners from across West Tennessee.”

“UT Martin has been involved in service learning for some time, but these relationships with the National and Tennessee Campus Compact organizations offer support, encouragement and recognition,” said Dr. Mike McCullough, UT Martin ADP chair. “Those who have done service learning will be encouraged to continue, more will join and our membership in Campus Compact will show institutional commitment to service learning.”

Mani Hull, who spearheaded the drive to affiliate Tennessee with Campus Compact, led the statewide steering committee meeting at UT Martin. Hull also met with UT Martin administration and faculty to answer questions regarding the mission of Campus Compact and UT Martin’s role in the state organization.

Four local students awarded Stanley Gault Scholarships

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2008-09 Stanley Gault Scholarships to four West Tennessee students. Each student will receive $450 for the academic year.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit, leadership and a personal essay. First preference is given to the son or daughter of a Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. associate.

This year’s recipients are Mary Beth French, Kala Klidies, Elizabeth Barnes and Amy Gardner.

Ms. French, the daughter of Ricky and Sheila French of Springville, will be a junior this fall majoring in fine and performing arts.

Ms. Klidies, the daughter of Joyce Klidies of Martin, will be a freshman majoring in family and consumer science this fall.

Ms. Barnes, the daughter of Cleo and Becky Barnes of Union City, will be a sophomore majoring in human learning this fall.

Ms. Gardner, the daughter of Rusty and Marchelle Gardner of Martin, will be a freshman this fall with a currently undeclared major.

The Stanley Gault Scholarship was established in 1996 by former Goodyear Union City plant manager Dick Davies and his wife, Barbara, in honor of the former Goodyear chairman. It was established as an endowment; the principal is invested and only the interest is spent. Therefore, the scholarship will continue to be awarded and grow in future years.

To be considered for the Gault Scholarship, students must apply during the spring semester for the following academic year. Current or past recipients of the Gault Scholarship may be reawarded the scholarship in following years but must reapply each year to be eligible.

Applications are available at Goodyear or the UT Martin Office of Development.
Bowyer: Pursue ‘purpose higher than self’

Special to the State Gazette

MARTIN — Dyersburg State Community College President Dr. Karen Bowyer congratulated University of Tennessee at Martin graduates on Saturday, complimenting them on a job well done.

"You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree."

Bowyer wasted little time in challenging graduates to pursue self-transcendence or living for a purpose higher than self.

She quoted George Bernard Shaw who expressed his idea of self-transcendence in the following way: "This is the true joy in life ... being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one ... being a force of nature instead of ... complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy ... I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

Adding her own take of life’s purpose, she said, "We need something to be passionate about, something beyond our own selfish gain. I would like to invite you to join me for one of my passions. I care deeply about helping people realize their potential through education."

Noting the country is falling behind the rest of the industrialized world in educational achievement, she said, "You might ask, what difference will that make for me? If our community is made up of a sizeable percentage of under-educated people we will not realize a very high level of economic activity, the arts will not flourish, crime will be a problem, and many resources will be needed for social services. I don’t know about you, but that kind of community does not sound very attractive to me."

Bowyer cited that in Northwest Tennessee only 69 percent of the adults have high school diplomas and 10 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher and added there is a sizeable gap between the region and the entire state. Since October 2001, this region has lost more than 4,000 manufacturing jobs, she said. "Given the under-education, it is difficult to bounce back and find other employment with similar salaries," she said. "We are in a global economy that is driven by knowledge and technology. Many of our fellow citizens are not prepared to compete."

"Eighty percent of new jobs will require postsecondary education, and 52 percent of today’s jobs require at least some college education or postsecondary training," she said. "There is a shortage of highly skilled, college-educated workers. To compete and have an economically healthy community, we must grow our own professionals, which means we have to improve on the education statistics I mentioned earlier. We can only do this if enough of us develop a passion or a fire in our belly about the importance of improving education at all levels."

"The world is a better place today because we are unleashing the energy and talent of the 200 graduates sitting before me. The education, skills and friends that you have gained while you were here at UT Martin will guide you as you work to make a real difference in the world and contribute in a meaningful way."

UT-Martin’s summer graduates represent 38 Tennessee counties and 11 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah. Also, there were graduates from Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, Taiwan and Turkey.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen congratulated the graduates and UT-Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes conferred degrees and presided over the commencement ceremony.

"Good luck to each of you," said Rakes. "Be assured the faculty and staff on this campus wish you the very best."
Crawford receives teaching award

Former Parisian Renee Crawford of Nashville received First Steps Inc.'s Above and Beyond award at the school's annual graduation ceremony last Friday in Nashville.

The award is given to a teacher that exemplifies the mission of First Steps and goes the extra mile to serve preschool children with special needs. Honorees are teachers who through meaningful relationships and strong service, bring children and professionals together to ensure a successful program.

Crawford is the daughter of Steven Crawford and Kim Page, both of Paris, and is engaged to Aaron Vaughn of Nashville.

A 2000 Henry County High School graduate, she graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in psychology with emphasis on child and family studies.

"Renee has been a teacher at First Steps since 2006 and has taught dozens of special needs children in her care," said First Steps executive director Heather Higgins. "She can take a simple activity like sanitizing a table after lunch and turn it into an opportunity for lots of friendship, language and laughter for children of all abilities. She is inventive in the way she handles multiple challenges and demonstrates the true meaning of going with the flow in her busy classroom."

The mission of First Steps, Inc. is to educate and care for children with special needs and medical conditions alongside their typically developing peers in inclusive environments and to support their families. Since 1957, First Steps has been serving children who are often turned away from other programs because of the severity of their health issues, medical condition and/or limited resources. For more information, go to www.firststepsnashville.org.

French receives scholarship

Mary Beth French of Springfield has received a $450 Stanely Gault scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

French, who is the daughter of Ricky and Sheila French of Springfield, will be a junior this fall majoring in fine and performing arts.

The Gault scholarship was established in 1996 by Dick Davies and wife Barbara. Davies was former Goodyear Plant manager in Union City. The scholarship was established to honor a former Goodyear chairman.

Students apply for the scholarship during the spring semester to be considered the following academic year.
Bowyer: Pursue 'purpose higher than self'

Sunday, August 10, 2008

MARTIN -- Dyersburg State Community College President Dr. Karen Bowyer congratulated University of Tennessee at Martin graduates on Saturday, complimenting them on a job well done.

"You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree."

Bowyer wasted little time in challenging graduates to pursue self-transcendence or living for a purpose higher than self.

She quoted George Bernard Shaw who expressed his idea of self-transcendence in the following way: "This is the true joy in life ... being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one ... being a force of nature instead of ... complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy ... I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

Adding her own take of life's purpose, she said, "We need something to be passionate about, something beyond our own selfish gain. I would like to invite you to join me for one of my passions. I care deeply about helping people realize their potential through education."

Noting the country is falling behind the rest of the industrialized world in educational achievement, she said, "You might ask, what difference will that make for me? If our community is made up of a sizeable percentage of under-educated people we will not realize a very high level of economic activity, the arts will not flourish, crime will be a problem, and many resources will be needed for social services. I don't know about you, but that kind of community does not sound very attractive to me."

Bowyer cited that in Northwest Tennessee only 69 percent of the adults have high school diplomas and 10 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher and added there is a sizeable gap between the region and the entire state.

Since October 2001, this region has lost more than 4,000 manufacturing jobs, she said, "Given the under-education, it is difficult to bounce back and find other employment with similar salaries," she said. "We are in a global economy that is driven by knowledge and technology. Many of our fellow citizens are not prepared to compete."

"Eighty percent of new jobs will require postsecondary education, and 52 percent of today's jobs require at least some college education or postsecondary training," she said. "There is a shortage of highly skilled, college-educated workers. To compete and have an economically healthy community, we must grow our own professionals, which means we have to improve on the education statistics I mentioned earlier. We can only do this if enough of us develop a passion or a fire in our belly about the importance of improving education at all levels."

"The world is a better place today because we are unleashing the energy and talent of the 200 graduates sitting before me. The education, skills and friends that you have gained while you were here at UT Martin will guide you as you work to make a real difference in the world and contribute in a meaningful way."

UT-Martin's summer graduates represent 38 Tennessee counties and 11 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah. Also, there were graduates from Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, Taiwan and Turkey.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen congratulated the graduates and UT-Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes conferred degrees and presided over the commencement ceremony.

"Good luck to each of you," said Rakes. "Be assured the faculty and staff on this campus wish you the very best."
Southern rockers headed to Martin

Marshall Tucker Band, country’s Lonestar will play Soybean Festival

The Jackson Sun

Lonestar and The Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30 through Sept. 7, in Martin. The theme of this year’s festival is “The Crossroads of Good Livin’,” according to a news release.

The festival will feature a mix of live entertainment plus a car and bike show, pageants, talent contest, a parade, barbecue cookoff and educational programs, the release said.

“This is our 15th year to promote agriculture and community through the Tennessee Soybean Festival,” David Belote, festival chairman, said in the release.

He added that the festival continues to be a week packed with events to interest people of all ages throughout Martin and the region.

“We try to offer the best possible entertainment while striving to provide a program of events that is diverse and exciting,” he said.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige said the festival has grown to be one of the premier festivals in the state.

“I am proud of all that this community has done and the way it comes together during the event,” he said.

Lonestar is known for such hits as “Amazed,” “I’m Already There,” “My Front Porch Lookin’ In” and “Tequila Talkin’.”

Carroll County Students Receive Scholarships to Attend UT Martin

MARTIN - Three Carroll County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- Tiffany Cathey, daughter of Mike and Debbie Cathey of Hollow Rock, will be a freshman. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.
- Lauren Scott, daughter of Ricky and Theresa Scott of McKenzie, will be a freshman. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.
- Elizabeth Stokes, daughter of Roy and Leatha Stokes of Huntington, will be a freshman. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238.

In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 381-7040.

WBBJ-TV West Tennessee’s News Channel - Local News

UT Martin Dorms
By: Emily Jordan

UT Martin is celebrating the completion of a long awaited expansion project. Faculty and students gathered for a ribbon cutting Wednesday to officially announce the grand opening of the university village dorms.

The four story complex located on the former site of McCord Hall features spacious plans offering students more living space. 400 freshmen will now call the $28 million University Village home this fall.

With luxuries such as a living room, fully equipped kitchen and private bedrooms, UTM officials say its quite an asset to the campus.

"It really brings us to a level that you would expect on a cutting edge campus. It does cost money but students are paying for what's there, and we are going to provide them the absolute best that is available to them," said UT Martin Chancellor Thomas Rakes.

Incoming freshmen like Rachel Triplett say the layout of the new dorms played a key factor in her decision to come to UTM.

"Definitely the dorms influenced it a lot, because they don't have housing like this anywhere I visited," said student Rachel Triplett. With the move in date just a week away, the apartment style housing offers a variety of living space students need.

"Students today are looking for different things depending on their background. Where they are coming from. But lots of students come from a private bedroom at home. When they go away to school they are looking for something similar to what they had at home," said Director of UTM housing Earl Wright.

"If you want to bring the students in, you have to provide what their expecting," said Rakes.

UT Martin officials say there is room to expand, and construct additional apartment style dorms in the future.
Bowyer urges graduates at UT Martin to pursue ‘purpose higher than self’

Dr. Karen Bowyer congratulated University of Tennessee at Martin graduates Saturday, complimenting them on a job well done.

“You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree,” she said.

Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, wasted little time in challenging graduates to pursue self-transcendence or living for a purpose higher than self.

She quoted George Bernard Shaw, who expressed his idea of self-transcendence in the following way: “This is the true joy in life ... being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one ... being a force of nature instead of ... complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy ... I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.”

Adding her own take of life’s purpose, she said, “We need something to be passionate about, something beyond our own selfish gain. I would like to invite you to join me for one of my passions. I care deeply about helping people realize their potential through education.”

Noting the country is falling behind the rest of the industrialized world in educational achievement, she said, “You might ask, what difference will that make for me? If our community is made up of a sizeable percentage of under-educated people we will not realize a very high level of economic activity... the arts will not flourish, crime will be a problem, and many resources will be needed for social services. I don’t know about you, but that kind of community does not sound very attractive to me.”

Bowyer cited that in northwest Tennessee, only 69 percent of the adults have high school diplomas and 10 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher and added there is a sizeable gap between the region and the entire state.

Since October 2001, this region has lost more than 4,000 jobs, she said.

(See Page 8, Col. 6)

Bowyer...

(Continued from Page One)

manufacturing jobs, she said.

“Given the under-education, it is difficult to bounce back and find other employment with similar salaries,” she said. “We are in a global economy that is driven by knowledge and technology. Many of our fellow citizens are not prepared to compete.”

She added, “Eighty percent of new jobs will require postsecondary education and 52 percent of today’s jobs require at least some college education or postsecondary training. There is a shortage of highly skilled, college-educated workers. To compete and have an economically healthy community, we must grow our own professionals, which means we have to improve on the education statistics I mentioned earlier. We can only do this if enough of us develop a passion or a fire in our bellies about the importance of improving education at all levels.

“The world is a better place today because we are unleashing the energy and talent of the 200 graduates sitting before me. The education, skills and friends that you have gained while you were here at UT Martin will guide you as you work to make a real difference in the world and contribute in a meaningful way.”

UT Martin’s summer graduates represented 38 Tennessee counties and 11 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah. Also, there were graduates from Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, Taiwan and Turkey.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen congratulated the graduates and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes conferred degrees and presided over the commencement ceremony. “Good luck to each of you,” Rakes said. “Be assured the faculty and staff on this campus wish you the very best.”
Bowyer urges graduates to pursue purpose higher than self

Dr. Karen Bowyer congratulated University of Tennessee at Martin graduates, Saturday, complimenting them on a job well done. “You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree.”

Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, wasted little time in challenging graduates to pursue self-transcendence or living for a purpose higher than self.

She quoted George Bernard Shaw who expressed his idea of self-transcendence in the following way: “This is the true joy in life . . . being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one . . . being a force of nature instead of . . . complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy . . . I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.”

Adding her own take of life’s purpose, she said, “We need something beyond our own selfish gain. I would like to invite you to join me for one of my passions. I care deeply about helping people realize their potential through education.”

Noting the country is falling behind the rest of the industrialized world in educational achievement, she said, “You might ask, what difference will that make for me? If our community is made up of a sizeable percentage of under-educated people we will not realize a very high level of economic activity, the arts will not flourish, crime will be a problem, and many resources will be needed for social services. I don’t know about you, but that kind of community does not sound very attractive to me.”

Bowyer cited that in Northwest Tennessee only 69 percent of the adults have high school diplomas and 10 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher and added there is a sizeable gap between the region and the entire state.

Since October 2001, this region has lost more than $4,000 manufacturing jobs, she said. “Given the under-education, it is difficult to bounce back and find other employment with similar salaries,” she said. “We are in a global economy that is driven by knowledge and technology. Many of our fellow citizens are not prepared to compete.”

She added, “Eighty percent of new jobs will require post-secondary education, and 52 percent of today’s jobs require at least some college education or postsecondary training. There is a shortage of highly skilled, college-educated workers. To compete and have an economically healthy community, we must grow our own professionals, which means we have to improve on the education statistics I mentioned earlier. We can only do this if enough of us develop a passion or a fire in our belly about the importance of improving education at all levels.”

County student receives scholarship to attend UTM

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Kelsey Potts, daughter of Randy and Cheryl Potts of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. In-state residents telephone (800) 829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
Photography, yoga, conversational Spanish among special-interest classes

Learning new skills or finding new interest in old ones is what non-credit courses are all about. Beginning Excel, Conversational Spanish, Yoga, Digital Photography and a concealed weapons permit class are among courses offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of ECCE.

To register, call ECCE at 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non-credit_registration.php. For a brochure of all the non-degree programs and courses available this fall, visit the Web site at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.

• Beginning Excel will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon, Sept. 23 and 25, with Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, as the instructor. The fee is $85. Learn to build spreadsheets using easy-to-use techniques. Learn functions, how to manage files, move and copy, format, prepare multiple worksheets and graphs and use drawing tools for emphasis. Participants will work with Excel 2007 and Vista.

• Yoga & You — Yoga Basics for Beginners will be taught by Dr. Leslie LaChance, registered yoga teacher, from 5:30-7 p.m., in two sessions. Session I will be Mondays, Sept. 8-Oct. 20 (no class Oct. 13), and Session II, Mondays, Oct. 27-Dec. 1. The cost is $55. Each six-week course will introduce beginners to the basics of this ancient art, which promotes physical health and mental and emotional clarity. LaChance will guide participants toward creating a personal practice that can aid strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students will learn basic yoga postures, simple yoga flow sequences and improve awareness. Mentally, yoga can improve concentration, help participants deal more effectively with stress and benefit overall mood. Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement (shorts or athletic tights). Participants may register for either Session 1, Session 2, or both. Enrollment for Session 1 is not required for enrollment in Session 2.

• Yoga — Beginners Level 2 will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 21 with Ken Zimmerman as instructor. The fee is $55. This six-week course will continue the basic principles introduced in Yoga and You. Focus will be placed on flowing sequences of poses (vinyasa yoga) as well as precision, alignment and breath. Zimmerman, a nationally certified yoga teacher, will conduct the class and help students who wish to establish or improve a personal practice or who are looking for a way to gain flexibility, increase energy, endurance, and strength in a class situation. Yoga aims at improving lives from the inside out as well as from the outside in. Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement (shorts or tights).

• Midday Yoga is planned on 12:05-12:55 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 15 with Zimmerman as instructor and a fee of $50. Each class of the six-week series will last for 50 minutes. It will be a combination of gentle bends and stretches as well as basic yoga poses. Return to work or class or home refreshed, de-stressed and ready to face the rest of the week. The class is suitable for beginners or experienced practitioners. Come to class with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal). Classes are done in bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement—shorts or tights.

• Making Sense of the ACT is planned from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 18. Ron Ramage is the instructor, and the fee is $50. This course will help participants plan a strategy to make the highest possible score on this test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should have the book at the first class meeting. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Phone 881-7760 for a reserved copy. Class limit is 20.

• Basics of eBay Selling will be offered from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6. Instructor is Olen Batchelor, eBay-trained education specialist. The cost is $75, with a $19.95 book fee paid to the instructor. Participants will learn to make a supplemental or full-time income from an eBay-certified certified education specialist. This multimedia course will include eBay University's training materials and will cover selling basics and beyond, including research, opening and using a PayPal account, improving listings with better descriptions and digital photography, security and post-sale activities such as billing and shipping.

• Digital Photography Part I — Camera Operation & Basic Photographic Skills will get underway way 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 9-30. The cost is $75 and the instructor is Tom Gallien. This course is designed to make digital photography less intimidating. It will also help participants better understand all the controls on the camera and how to make better photographs using digital technology. Whether you just make...
family snapshots or have a true creative side, this course will help you feel more competent in making good photos in any situation. Proper photographic exposure, composition and use of the camera’s histogram will be discussed. Participants should provide a digital camera, the camera’s instruction manual, if possible, and a small notebook. Printed and emailed handouts will supplement the presentations. Even though this course is primarily for novice digital photographers, solutions and ideas for photographers with intermediate skills can also be discussed.

• Concealed Weapon Permit Class is a new offering planned 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 12, Oct. 18 or Nov. 8. Instructors are John Ayers and Larry Coffman, state-certified handgun instructors. The fee is $95. This course of instruction will provide education in the fundamentals of handgun safety and the use and operation of handguns. Areas to be covered are cleaning and storage of handgun; legal liabilities of carrying a handgun; firing range participation; course review and testing. The handgun safety course consists of classroom instruction and firing range instruction. Upon completion of the course, a written examination and handgun firing qualification will be administered to each student. A minimum of 70 percent must be achieved on the written examination and firing qualification separately to successfully pass the Concealed Weapons Course. After successfully completing this course, students will be able to apply for a concealed weapon permit from the State of Tennessee. Each student must furnish pen, pencil, paper for classroom; handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition for firing range instruction; safety glasses and hearing protection. No one under the age of 21 will be allowed to enroll in this course. Students also should take a pistol cleaning kit to class.

High school bands train for marching season at UTM

Several area high school bands will receive hands-on instruction to help prepare their fall marching percussion music at Drumline “Tuneup Day” at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Julie Hill, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of percussion studies, will be the instructor for the session that is slated for Aug. 23, in the Fine Arts Building. Guest artist will be Alan Compton of Blast and The Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps.

Bands from high schools in Huntingdon, Waverly, Munford, Ripley, Arlington, Jackson and Lone Oak, Ky., are among participants.

For more information, contact Hill at 881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.

Area residents attend Governor’s School for the Humanities at UTM

Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the five-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the fifth year students were able to earn college credit. Weakley County participants were, from left, Max Batchelor, McKenzie High School, and Rebecca Moore, Dresden High School.

It’s all about the customer

“Customer Service: It’s All About the Guest in Your Business” is the theme of the next seminar planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Slated for 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Aug. 21, at Snappy Tomato Pizza, 501 First St., Union City, the event is sponsored by the Obion County Chamber of Commerce. The instructor will be Jamie Frakes, a Tennessee Small Business Center director. There is no fee, and lunch may be purchased.

The customer is a priority for success. What customers see and feel in the service they receive can make or break a business. Management and staff can benefit from this informative session to learn the do’s and don’ts of customer service.

To reserve a seat, contact the REED Center at 731-587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reeb.
Children, youth will find fun at 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival

A talent show, parade, street fair, pet show and sports activities, all scheduled with children and youth in mind, are planned during the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, August 30-September 7, in Martin.

The fourth annual Soybean Festival Talent Contest, with categories for contestants ages 8 and younger, 9-12, 13-21 and 22 and older, will be September 1, on the downtown stage. The junior competition will be at 6 p.m. The competition serves as a Mid-South Fair Preliminary Contest for participants ages 13-21, who will compete at 7 p.m., along with those 22 and older. The contest is sponsored by the Westview Key Club and WCMT. Call Linda Ramsey, at 731-587-5549, for more information.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m., September 2, in the parking lot of Graham Stadium at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The parade, with entry fee required and prizes awarded, is sponsored by First State Bank. Call Jeff Capps or Regina Vickars, at 731-587-9561, for more information.

Also popular with children and youth is the street fair with food, entertainment and craft vendors beginning at 1 p.m., September 2, downtown. It continues at 1 p.m., September 3, and 4 p.m., September 4, 1 p.m., September 5 and 10 a.m., September 6.

On September 6, the UT Martin Skyhawk football team will face Baker State at 4:30 p.m., at Graham Stadium. Pre-game tailgating will take place in the stadium parking lot. For more information, call UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at 731-881-7660.

The School Children's Street Fair will be sponsored by Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, and Volunteer Community Hospital will sponsor a lunch. The event will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., September 5, in downtown Martin. Immediately following the street fair will be the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. Dippin' Dots ice cream will be available for purchase. Roberta Peacock can be reached at 731-587-3148 for more information.

Children and youth can participate in "The Singing Bee" live game show program, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co., at 6:30 p.m., September 5 at Weldon Park.

The annual Youth Soccer Jamboree will begin at the Martin Recreation Complex at 9 a.m., Sept. 6. Contact Randall Ricketts, at 731-588-1495, for more information.

The second annual Soybean Classic All Youth Horse Show will be at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Nancy McKenzie, at 731-587-4763 or Erin Bragg, 731-364-3164.

Rounding out festival events and activities that will attract children include Saturday's lineup of the Soybean Festival 5K Road Race/Mile Fun Walk, sponsored by Martin Kiwanis Club, Kent-Tenn Sports, and The Sideline Physical Therapy and Fitness Center, at 7:30 a.m., at the Martin Recreation Complex (softball parking lot) and a pet show, sponsored by Weakley County Animal Clinic, with registration at 2 p.m. and the show at 3 p.m., at Weldon Park. Contact numbers are as follows: road race/fun walk, Jim Scott at 731-587-9572; and pet show, Dr. Joseph Adcock or Amy Mitchell at 731-587-5319.

A bicycle rodeo is planned Sunday, Sept. 7, with registration at 1:30 p.m. and events at 2 p.m. at the recreation complex. Sponsors are the Martin Optimist Club and the Martin Pilot Club. Call Steve Vantrease, at 731-881-7766, or Lynn Gibson 731-588-2570, for more information.

A host of other activities for all ages are featured at this year's festival. Visit www.tsosoybeanfestival.org or call 731-588-2507 for more information.

Soybean Festival Pageants August 30

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is offering girls the opportunity to participate in upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants. The University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the pageants.

Girls 0-19 years of age are invited to participate in the pageants, August 30, during the festival. Pageants begin at 10 a.m. in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline to register is August 27.

The pageant lineup includes the following: Baby Miss Soybean (0-1 year old), 10 a.m.; Tiny Miss Soybean (2-3 years old), 10:45 a.m.; Petite Miss Soybean (4-5 years old), 11:30 a.m.; Little Miss Soybean (6-9 years old), 1 p.m.; Preteen Miss Soybean (10-12 years old), 2:30 p.m.; Teen Miss Soybean (13-15 years old), 3:30 p.m.; and Miss Soybean (16-19 years old), 4:30 p.m. All pageants will have one queen and four maids.

A $30 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to: Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 101 University St., Martin, TN 38237 or deliver to Martin City Hall. There will be no registration at the door.

For more information, call 731-588-2507 or 731-587-7333.

Applications for pageant are available at these locations: Martin - UT Federal Credit Union, Lana's Boutique & Bridal, Sugar and Spice, UT Martin Student Life Center and Martin City Hall; Union City Joann's; Milan Special Occasions; Jackson Bonnie's Boutique. To receive an application online, go to www.tsosoybeanfestival.org.

Potts receives scholarship

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Kelsey Potts, daughter of Randy and Cheryl Potts of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.
Concerted effort will urge students to serve communities, others

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first meeting of the Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization that fosters programs encouraging faculty to create activities within courses designed to serve critical needs of community partners while deepening the learning of the students engaged in those activities.

The Tennessee Campus Compact, an organization now affiliated with the National Campus Compact, was formed earlier this year to make service-learning education more organized and effective throughout the state.

"The Tennessee Campus Compact is a natural fit with elements of our American Democracy Project and a refocused LEAD Academy program to build capacity of our students to become more active, involved citizens," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT?Martin chancellor.

The national organization has existed since 1986 as the primary organizing body for service learning in higher education. Hundreds of schools are now members, joining the original three: Brown, Stanford and Georgetown.

Among national campus compact initiatives have been projects to tutor at-risk youth, build houses for low-income families, conduct environmental safety studies and care for the sick, hungry, homeless and elderly.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, will lead UT Martin's campus compact efforts, which also will include a leadership emphasis. The American Democracy Project and LEAD Academy, UT Martin organizations, will serve as partners.

"I have included a service-learning component in my public relations classes since 1988 and have found it to be an extremely valuable, 'win-win' experience," said Ogg. "I don't know a better way to learn than providing an opportunity for students to use their knowledge to benefit our nonprofit partners from across West Tennessee."

"UT Martin has been involved in service learning for some time, but these relationships with the National and Tennessee Campus Compact organizations offer support, encouragement and recognition," said Dr. Mike McCullough, UT?Martin ADP chair. "Those who have done service learning will be encouraged to continue, more will join, and our membership in Campus Compact will show institutional commitment to service learning."

Mani Hull, who spearheaded the drive to affiliate Tennessee with Campus Compact, led the statewide steering committee meeting at UT?Martin, July 28.

Hull also met with UT Martin administration and faculty, July 29, to answer questions regarding the mission of Campus Compac and UT Martin's role in the state organization. The committee under the direction of chair, Dr. Deborah K. Harley, assistant vice president for community engagement, learning and leadership at East Tennessee State University, worked on a mission statement, SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and strategy and measurements.
'Friends' group revived at UTM Paul Meek Library

Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin wants a little help from its "friends." The "Friends of the Paul Meek Library" group is reorganizing and seeks members from throughout the region. A meeting is set for 7 p.m., August 27, in Room 118 of the library.

Frances Darnell of Fayetteville and John Nye of Crossville, "Friends of Tennessee Libraries" advisory committee members, and Tom Mendina, from the University of Memphis McWherter Library, will speak at the organizational session. In preparation for the revitalization of "Friends" at UT-Martin, Beau Pemberton, an alumnus of UT Martin and the University of Tennessee College of Law, has revised the organization’s charter.

“The Paul Meek Library faculty and staff are thrilled that the friends of the Meek library are reorganizing,” said Mary Carpenter, director of library services. “There are a multitude of benefits to an active Friends of the Library (FOTL) organization; both for the library and the participants. Members can be actively involved or simply add their support with membership dues.”

For more information, call 731-881-7060.

GRADUATES FROM UT MARTIN — Emily Anne Sparks of Union City was joined by her father, Art Sparks of Union City, following UT Martin’s summer commencement Saturday at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Miss Sparks received a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance.

Five local students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

They include:

• Kerry Duck, son of Ray Duck of Kenton, who will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship and the UT Martin Band Scholarship.

• Danny Hannaman, son of Danny and Leanne Marvin of Kenton, who will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.

• Jessica Jones, daughter of Edward and Susanne Jones of Obion, who will be a junior. She received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Transfer Scholarship.

• Logan Parker, son of Nick and Julie Parker of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the UT Martin McWhorter Scholarship.

• William Townes, son of William and Martha Townes of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the UT Martin McWhorter Scholarship.
Photography, yoga and Spanish among special classes

Learning new skills or finding new interest in old ones is what non-credit courses are all about.

Courses in beginner Excel, conversational Spanish, yoga, digital photography and concealed weapons permit are among those being offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of ECCE. To register, call ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php. For a brochure of all the non-degree programs and courses available this fall, visit the Web site at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.

The courses being offered include:

* Yoga and You — Yoga Basics for Beginners, which will be taught by Dr. Leslie LaChance, registered yoga teacher, from 5:30-7 p.m. in two sessions. Session I will be Mondays Sept. 8-Oct. 20 (no class Oct. 13) and Session II will be Mondays Oct. 27-Dec. 1. The cost is $55. Each six-week course will introduce beginners to the basics of this ancient art, which promotes physical health and mental and emotional clarity. LaChance will guide participants toward creating a personal practice that can aid strength, endurance and flexibility while it boosts energy. Students will learn basic yoga poses, simple yoga flow sequences and breath awareness. Mentally, yoga can improve concentration, help participants deal more effectively with stress and benefit overall mood. Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement (shorts or athletic tights). Participants may register for either Session I, Session II or both. Enrollment for Session I is not required for enrollment in Session II.

* Making Sense of the ACT, planned from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays Sept. 27-Oct. 18. Ron Ramage is the instructor and the fee is $50. This course will help students plan a strategy to make the highest possible score on this test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will receive the "ACT Prep Guide" and should have the book at the first class meeting. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Call (731) 881-7760 for a reserved copy. The class limit is 20.

* Digital Photography Part I — Camera Operation & Basic Photography Skills, which will get under way 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays Sept. 9-30. The cost is $75 and the instructor is Tom Gallien. This course is designed to make digital photography less intimidating. It will also help participants better understand the controls on the camera and how to make better photographs using digital technology. Proper photographic exposure, composition and use of the camera's histogram will be discussed. Participants should provide a digital camera, the camera's instruction manual, if possible, and a small notebook. Printed and e-mailed handouts will supplement the presentations.

Even though this course is primarily for novice digital photographers, solutions and ideas for photographers with intermediate skills can also be discussed. Gallien will be utilizing email evaluation and critiques of images during the course. This introductory course is a springboard for the follow-up Intermediate/Advanced skills course. This course will be limited to four evenings, each class 2 1/2 hours in length.

* Conversational Spanish, slat for 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays Sept. 30-Oct. 18, with Ron Ramage as instructor. The fee is $50. This course is designed for anyone who would like to learn a few words of Spanish in a short period of time. Course content will include, but not be limited to, identifying yourself and others, making your wishes known, asking directions and language skills for other situations.

* Concealed Weapon Permit Class, which is a new offering, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 12, Oct. 18 or Nov. 8. The instructors are John Ayers and Larry Coffman, state-certified handgun instructors. The fee is $95. This course of instruction will provide education in the fundamentals of handgun safety and the use and operation of handguns. Areas to be covered are cleaning and storage of handgun; legal liabilities of carrying a handgun; firing range participation; course review; and testing. The handgun safety course consists of classroom instruction and firing range instruction.
UTM earns ‘Best in the Southeast’ designation

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2009. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section on its Web site feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since the recognitions were first released in 2003. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students. “We’re pleased with this designation and to be recognized among the best in this region,” Rakes said. “Our students are our best ambassadors, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve them as they prepare for careers in the global economy.”

Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president of publishing, said that schools are selected “based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

“We also take into account what each school’s customers—students—report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey,” Franek said. “Finally, we work to have our annual roster of ‘regional best’ colleges present a range of institutions in each region that vary by size, selectivity, character and locale.”

The 139 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West, and 159 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 630 colleges named “regional best(s)” represent about 25% (one out of four) of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

In the recently released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, “the school’s manageable size creates a patently student-friendly environment.” Also noted was, “Among its claim to fame, UT Martin has a high graduate school acceptance rate for students in the health fields, including pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy.”

About campus life, one student said, “Campus life at UTM is particularly pleasant thanks to apartment-style dormitories and the pervasive ‘small-town atmosphere.’”

Another student said, “The people who aren’t happy at UTM are the ones who don’t get involved. Student organizations, including Greek life and religious groups, are what make Martin interesting.” The student added, “There are groups for almost everyone, and if given the right opportunity, you will find your niche of people.”

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is known for its test preparation courses, books, and college admission and other education services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine.
Upon completion of the course, a written examination and handgun firing qualification will be administered to each student. A minimum of 70 percent must be achieved on the written examination and firing qualification separately to successfully pass the Concealed Weapons Course. After successfully completing this course, students will be able to apply for a concealed weapon permit from the State of Tennessee. Each student must furnish pen, pencil and paper for classroom; a handgun; 50 rounds of ammunition for firing range instruction; safety glasses; and hearing protection. No one under the age of 21 will be allowed to enroll in the course. Students should also bring a pistol-cleaning kit to class.

LOCAL GRADUATE — Jenny Churchwell of Union City arrived at the Elam Center prior to Saturday’s commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in sociology. She was joined by her fiancé, Josh Murray of South Fulton.

Several students from Obion County have been named to the Dean’s List for the summer semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The honorees, listed by hometown, include:
- South Fulton — Kady E. Elliott, high honors.
- Troy — Carolyn A. Duncan, highest honors; and Melissa G. Tipps, high honors.
- Union City — Perry B. Burnett, high honors; Garrett S. Flannery, highest honors; Emily A. Sparks, highest honors; Adam D. Vallee, high honors; and Nathan K. Woods, honors.

To be eligible for Dean’s List recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Dean’s List with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Enjoy outdoor concert on Aug. 28
An evening of outdoor musical performances is planned from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Aug. 28, in the area adjacent to Paul Meek Library and Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event is being sponsored by Paul Meek Library. Those attending may bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating and picnic during the event. The public is invited, and there is no admission fee.

Performers will be Max Batchelor, McKenzie High School junior; R.B. Tolar, a UT Martin junior, and his daughter, Sandy, from Union City; Ezra Nance, Westview High School senior; and Max Laporte, UT Martin sophomore. All play guitar and sing.

For more information, contact Jim Nance, librarian, at 881-7093.

Annual prawn sale slated for Aug. 20
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ annual prawn (freshwater shrimp) sale is planned from noon-6 p.m., Aug. 20, at the campus aquaculture ponds on Derryberry Drive. The cost is $4 per pound.

The department is researching more cost effective ways to produce prawn. Money raised from the sale of the prawn will go to offset the costs of labor and supplies.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries, at 881-7255.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

Annual prawn sale slated for Aug. 20
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ annual prawn (freshwater shrimp) sale is planned from noon-6 p.m., Aug. 20, at the campus aquaculture ponds on Derryberry Drive. The cost is $4 per pound.

The department is researching more cost effective ways to produce prawn. Money raised from the sale of the prawn will go to offset the costs of labor and supplies.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries, at 881-7255.

It’s all about the customer
"Customer Service: It’s All About the Guest in Your Business" is the theme of the next seminar planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Slated for 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Aug. 21, at Snappy Tomato Pizza, 501 First St., Union City, the event is sponsored by the Obion County Chamber of Commerce. The instructor will be Jamie Frakes, a Tennessee Small Business Center director. There is no fee, and lunch may be purchased.

The customer is a priority for success. What customers see and feel in the service they receive can make or break a business. Management and staff can benefit from this informative session to learn the do’s and don’ts of customer service.

To reserve a seat, contact the REED Center at 587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.
Dr. Karen Bowyer congratulated University of Tennessee at Martin graduates, Aug. 9, complimenting them on a job well done. “You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree.”

Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, wasted little time in challenging graduates to pursue self-transcendence or living for a purpose higher than self.

She quoted George Bernard Shaw who expressed his idea of self-transcendence in the following way: “This is the true joy in life... being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one... being a force of nature instead of... complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy... I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.”

Adding her own take of life’s purpose, she said, “We need something to be passionate about, something beyond our own selfish gain. I would like to invite you to join me for one of my passions. I care deeply about helping people realize their potential through education.”

Noting the country is falling behind the rest of the industrialized world in educational achievement, she said, “You might ask, what difference will that make for me? If our community is made up of a sizeable percentage of under-educated people we will not realize a very high level of economic activity, the arts will not flourish, crime will be a problem, and many resources will be needed for social services. I don’t know about you, but that kind of community does not sound very attractive to me.”

Bowyer cited that in Northwest Tennessee only 69 percent of the adults have high school diplomas and 10 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher and added there is a sizeable gap between the region and the entire state. Since October 2001, this region has lost more than 4,000 manufacturing jobs, she said. “Given the under-education, it is difficult to bounce back and find other employment with similar salaries,” she said. “We are in a global economy that is driven by knowledge and technology. Many of our fellow citizens are not prepared to compete.”

She added, “Eighty percent of new jobs will require postsecondary education, and 52 percent of today’s jobs require at least some college education or postsecondary training. There is a shortage of highly skilled, college-educated workers. To compete and have an economically healthy community, we must grow our own professionals, which means we have to improve on the education statistics I mentioned earlier. We can only do this if enough of us develop a passion or a fire in our belly about the importance of improving education at all levels.

UT Martin’s summer graduates represent 38 Tennessee counties and 11 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah. Also, there were graduates from Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, Taiwan and Turkey.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen congratulated the graduates and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes conferred degrees and presided over the commencement ceremony.

“Good luck to each of you,” said Rakes. “Be assured the faculty and staff on this campus wish you the very best.”

---

**Important Phone Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Info</th>
<th>881-7000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Office</td>
<td>881-7040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>881-7777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Help Desk</td>
<td>881-7900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Records</td>
<td>881-7050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>881-7730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Martin Bookstore</td>
<td>881-7760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>881-7060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Affairs</td>
<td>881-7810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Plant</td>
<td>881-7600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Recreation</td>
<td>881-7745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>881-7700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Store</td>
<td>881-7879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Success Center</td>
<td>881-7744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Info</td>
<td>881-7740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning new skills or finding new interest in old ones is what non-credit courses are all about. Beginning Excel, Conversational Spanish and Yoga are among courses offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of ECCE.

To register, call ECCE at 731-881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

For a brochure of all the non-degree programs and courses available this fall, visit the Web site at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_non-degree.php.

• Beginning Excel will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon, Sept. 23 and 25, with Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, as the instructor. The fee is $85. Learn to build spreadsheets using easy to use techniques.

• Learn functions, how to manage files, move and copy, format, prepare multiple worksheets and graphs and use drawing tools for emphasis. Participants will work with Excel 2007 and Vista.

• Yoga & You – Yoga Basics for Beginners will be taught by Dr. Leslie LaChance, registered yoga teacher, from 5:30-7 p.m., in two sessions. Session I will be Mondays, Sept. 8-Oct. 20 (no class Oct. 13), and Session II, Mondays, Oct. 27-Dec. 1. The cost is $55.

Each six-week course will introduce beginners to the basics of this ancient art, which promotes physical health and mental and emotional clarity.

LaChance will guide participants toward creating a personal practice that can aid strength, endurance and flexibility while it boosts energy.

Students will learn basic yoga postures, simple yoga flow sequences and breath awareness.

Mentally, yoga can improve concentration, help participants deal more effectively with stress and benefit overall mood.

Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement (shorts or athletic tights).

Participants may register for either Session 1, Session 2 or for both. Enrollment for Session 1 is not required for enrollment in Session 2.

• Yoga – Beginners Level 2 will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 21 with Ken Zimmerman as instructor.

The fee is $55.

This six-week course will continue the basic principles introduced in Yoga and You. Focus will be placed on flowing sequences of poses (vinyasa yoga) as well as precision, alignment and breath.

Zimmerman, a nationally certified yoga teacher, will conduct the class and help students who wish to establish or improve a personal practice or who are looking for a way to gain flexibility, increase energy, endurance and strength in a class situation.

Yoga aims at improving lives from the inside out as well as from the outside in. Classes are done within with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement (shorts or tights).

• Midday Yoga is planned on 12:05-12:55 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 15 with Zimmerman as instructor and a fee of $50. Each class of the six-week series will last for 50 minutes.

It will be a combination of gentle bends and stretches as well as basic yoga poses. Return to work or class or home refreshed, de-stressed and ready to face the rest of the week.

The class is suitable for beginners or experienced practitioners. Come to class with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal). Classes are done in bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement—shorts or tights.

• Making Sense of the ACT is planned from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Sept. 27-Oct. 18. Ron Ramage is the instructor, and the fee is $50. This course will help participants plan a strategy to make the highest possible score on this test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans.

Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should have the book at the first class meeting. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Phone 713-881-7760 for a reserved copy. Class limit is 20.

• Digital Photography Part I – Camera Operation & Basic Photographic Skills will get under way 6:30- 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 9-30. The cost is $75 and the instructor is Tom Gallien. This course is designed to make digital photography less intimidating. It will also help participants better understand all the controls on the camera and how to make better photographs using digital technology. Whether you just make family snapshots or have a true creative side, this course will help you feel more competent in making good photos in any situation.

Free outdoor concert on Aug. 28 in Martin

An evening of outdoor musical performances is planned from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 28 in the area adjacent to Paul Meek Library and Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee Martin. The event is sponsored by the Paul Meek Library. Those attending may bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating and their picnics. There is no admission fee.

Performers will be Max Batchelor, McKenzie High School junior; R.B. Tolar, a UT Martin junior, and his daughter, Sandy, from Union City; Ezra Nance, Westview High School senior; and Max Laporte, UT Martin sophomore. All play guitar and sing.

Call Jim Nance, librarian, at (731) 881-7093.
UT Martin earns 'Best in Southeast' designation

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2009. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 139 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Southeast" section on its Web site feature 2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

UT Martin has earned the designation annually since the recognitions were first released in 2003. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality educational experience for students.

"We're pleased with this designation and to be recognized among the best in this region," Rakes said. "Our students are our best ambassadors, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve them as they prepare for careers in the global economy."

Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president of publishing, said that schools are selected "based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite."

"We also take into account what each school's customers - their students - report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey," Franek said.

"Finally, we work to have our annual roster of 'regional best' colleges present a range of institutions in each region that varies by size, selectivity, character and locale."

The 139 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its "Best in the Southeast" designations are located in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The Princeton Review also designated 212 colleges in the Northeast, 120 in the West, and 159 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 630 colleges named "regional best(s)" represent about 25% (one out of four) of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

In the recently released student opinion data in The Princeton Review, the UT Martin narrative said, "the school's manageable size creates a patently student-friendly environment." Also noted was, "Among its claim to fame, UT Martin has a high graduate school acceptance rate for students in the health fields, including pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy."

About campus life, one student said, "Campus life at UTM is particularly pleasant thanks to apartment-style dormitories and the pervasive 'small-town atmosphere.'"

Another student said, "The people who aren't happy at UTM are the ones who don't get involved. Student organizations, including Greek life and religious groups, are what make Martin interesting." The student added, "There are groups for almost everyone, and if given the right opportunity, you will find your niche of people."

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is known for its test preparation courses, books, and college admission and other education services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University and is not a magazine.

COMMUNITY

Teachers work on writing

By Rita Mitchell
Special to My Life

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 16th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Fourteen teachers met for 15 days and shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups, and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading and writing.

The group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year.

A program of professional development for teachers of all subjects, the WTWP is housed in the Department of English at UT Martin and has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993. With the goals of improving writing and writing instruction in schools, WTWP offers a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher inservice and more.

This year's fall workshop will be Sept. 13, and is titled "Differentiated Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas." For more information, visit the Web site, utm.edu/wtwp.

Rita Mitchell is the university editor for University of Tennessee at Martin.

Shelby County participant Julia Schuster from St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School, (center) is pictured with the Summer Institute Focal Team. (from left) Beth Halbert, Becky Hasselle, Jenny Brandon and West Tennessee Writing Project director David Carithers.
Bass anglers team aims to land the big one

BY ODUZZIE • READER SUBMITTED • AUGUST 13, 2008

Post a Comment Recommend Print this page E-mail this article

SHARE THIS ARTICLE:
Did you see this? Facebook Digg Reddit
Now what is this?

Many collegiate sports teams never achieve a top-20 national ranking. Such is not the case for the UT Martin collegiate bass anglers team. Since forming two years ago, the team has received national attention, including a top-20 national ranking in late 2007 and a 15th place finish at the Under Armour College Bass National Championship, July 9-11, at Lake Maumelle in Little Rock, Ark.

Now recognized as a sport club by the university and supported by commercial sponsors, the bass anglers team is positioned to remain competitive in the world of collegiate bass fishing.

Sanctioned by the College Bass Anglers Association, the amateur sport appears to be growing in popularity among college students. Kevin Strebel, a senior business administration major from Clarksville, is the UT Martin team's vice-president. In 2007, he said some 30 schools participated in the national championship tournament; this year, more than 50 schools registered, according to the tournament venue site. Among the schools also sponsoring bass fishing teams are Murray State, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Auburn University and UT Knoxville.

Strebel, 23, remembers his dad taking him fishing for the first time when he was about six years old, and he's literally been hooked ever since. High school friend and recent UT Martin graduate Houston Smith, also of Clarksville, recruited Strebel to join the team. Although he pursues all kinds of fish, Strebel especially enjoys the challenge of bass fishing.

"Bass are more of a tournament fish, and they come in different sizes, weights and lengths, and you gotta have a certain length to take these fish in for your weight," Strebel said. In Tennessee, he said, the approved length for a large-mouth bass is 15 inches, spotted bass are 12 inches and small-mouth 15 to 18 inches. (Private ponds have no restrictions.) Tournament points are earned based on the weight of "keeper" bass caught.

The UT Martin team has 16 members and is open to any student. Team members pay $20 annually to participate and must earn at least 250 points on the team's point-keeping system to receive sponsor benefits, a system that levels the playing field for everyone on the roster. Strebel said the point system is fair "because you can't go out there one day and not catch anything" and then the same person have a great day catching fish the next time out.

Many team members own boats, so the team is divided into boaters and non-boaters. During past pre-tournament meetings, the boaters draw to choose non-boater fishing partners. This year, the team will use a computer program to assure that team members fish with each other at least one time. Regardless how members are paired, everyone is guaranteed to fish. "We've got more boats than we did non-boaters," Strebel said.

Practice often involves pre-fishing tournament sites and trying to find the "hot stuff. So, you pretty much just want to go in there and catch a few times, and ... if your catching some, just let it go," Strebel said. "Put your rod and reel down, start the motor and move somewhere else. Try to find more fish because you never know if these fish that you're planning to catch that day are going to be there tomorrow, so you just gotta keep finding different spots." There are no pre-fishing restrictions for local tournaments, but national tournaments do restrict pre-fishing, he said.

Major tournaments require participants to follow specific rules and regulations, and licenses are required for state participation. Team members are divided on the rules and then required to sign waivers before a tournament begins. "One real strict rule that they do abide by is that guys that bring motors on a boat have to wear life jacket, and if you get caught without if you're disqualified from the tournament," Strebel said.

Strebel has worked hard to secure several commercial team sponsors and a faculty adviser, Dr. John Overby, from the College of Business and Public Affairs. The Office of Campus Recreation also supports the team, and to increase awareness, the team will have booths during two events for university students in late August, followed by an exhibit in the Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 26-Sept. 7, in Martin.

Gena McClure, director of campus recreation, said the university supports the team "to meet the needs of a diverse student population." She said that people often associate recreation with traditional sports. "But recreation really does expand into other things such as our clay target club, such as the bass anglers... It's just a little bit different, and I think we're really trying to stretch out and meet the needs of our student body.

As for the successful run in the Arkansas tournament, Slayton Gearn, of Greens, and Kevin Shoney, of Thompson Station, represented the UT Martin team. Gearsn, a junior marketing major, and his partner pre-fished Lake Masseenee for two days and were told that five to six pounds of fish per day would win the tournament. They were also told to keep fishing, even if a storm blew in, because the bass would move to shallower water and start biting.

The tournament opened with cloudy weather the first day, which Gearsn said caused the fish to move. The team managed to catch only two or three keepers by late morning. However, a storm developed, and following the advice they received, the pair kept fishing through the rough weather. They managed to catch four keepers, including one that Gearsn said was among the biggest Bass caught that day. "And that's what made our day the first day... The storms lasted for 30 minutes, and that's what made all of us get out all said fish that first day that put us in the top five," Gearsn said.

The second day of fishing wasn't so kind, and the team finished in 15th place. But the experience was still positive for both Gearsn and Shoney. "It's just a real good tournament - met a lot of good people, and everybody our age being interested in the sport made it interesting for us," Gearsn said.

Next up for the team is the National Collegiate Bass Fishing Tournament, a five-day tournament, Sept. 18-20, on Lake Lewville near Ft. Worth, Texas. Strebel said that his team's top four-point leaders could likely represent UT Martin, looking at this event and beyond. Strebel is optimistic about the future of competitive bass fishing at UT Martin and at the college level.

"It's a sport out there in the college world right now... Not everybody can get on the football team. Not everybody can get on the baseball team. A lot of people can get on the fishing team," he said. "And yes, it's something that you can enjoy." Teammate Slayton Gearn agrees that the sport will only continue to grow, and he's grateful that the university supports the team. "It's unbelievable to have access to this (at UT Martin)." he said.

Anderson takes oath as judge

S. Thomas Anderson took the oath of office as a U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Tennessee in a public ceremony Friday at Memphis City Hall.

Anderson was born in Jackson. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee Martin and his law degree from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis in 1980, according to a news release.

Anderson was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed as a district judge on May 21. He was appointed to the position by the U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Tennessee and was the first administrative law judge appointed to the Tennessee Civil Service Commission, Western District.

Following 15 years of private law practice devoted primarily to civil rights litigation and municipal law, Anderson was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the Western District of Tennessee in 2003.

Anderson is married and has three children.
We lived the hard way

As economic worries abound, these West Tennesseans share lessons from growing up in the Great Depression

By MARIAN MARTIN
mmartin10@jacksonsun.com

Nell Daniel-Miles can still see that penny on the street, a copper disc of untold riches for a child growing up in the Great Depression.

"It was the first penny I ever had," Daniel-Miles said. "And I grabbed it up and ran down the street to the store, squeezing it in my hand.

"Once I got to the store, I just stared at the different kinds of candy behind the counter. Because I wanted the candy, but I hated to turn loose of that penny."

Daniel-Miles is among a warying number of West Tennesseans who remember what it was to grow up in the Great Depression, which began with the crash of the stock market in 1929 and continued until the beginning of World War II. And as people today talk about high fuel prices, rising food costs, unemployment, economic downturns and recessions, Daniel-Miles and other children of the Depression say things are not nearly as bad as they were when they were growing up.

"You hear all these highfalutin people on TV talking about a recession — they don't know what a recession is," said Daniel-Miles, who was 13 when the stock market crashed. "We didn't have anything back in those days, but we didn't think about it because no one else had anything."

**Flawed comparison**

At least some economists agree with Daniel-Miles. According to Parker Cashdollar, a professor of economics at the University of Tennessee Martin, the definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of declining gross domestic productivity.

"We have actually had growth in the last two quarters," Cashdollar said. "That doesn't mean that there aren't problems out there with the price of energy, the housing crisis and the unemployment rate.

"But it isn't even comparable to the Great Depression, especially when you look at the unemployment rate. Most of the 1930s was just really bad."

West Tennesseans who lived through the Great Depression agree the world is a different place than it was in the 1930s.

**Nothing to lose**

Nell Daniel-Miles, now 92, knows what it was like to grow up poor during the Depression, but she does not remember those days as being terrible.

"We had everything but money," said Daniel-Miles, who now lives at St. Mary's Manor in Jackson. "But my parents didn't lose any money because they didn't have nothing to lose."

Please see SURVIVORS, 6A

She grew up in Jackson, living on Lexington Street with her parents and a brother and sister. Her father worked at Southern Engine Boiler Works on Royal Street, but the company went out of business soon after the Depression started.

After that, he worked as a painter and paper hanger, Daniel-Miles said.

"We never went hungry, even if we just had potatoes and beans to eat," she said. "Since we lived in Jackson, we couldn't grow anything, but had to buy everything we ate.

Daniel-Miles said she remembers her dad walking eight blocks to buy coal for his family. He would pay 35 cents for a bag and carry it home on his back so the family could stay warm during the winter.

"People don't believe how hard it was," Daniel-Miles said. "But we were loved and protected.

Her mother sewed all their clothes from the neighborhood children had outgrown, she said.

"A lot of people talk about sewing clothes from fertilizer sacks, but we didn't live on a farm, so we didn't even have those," Daniel-Miles said.

Her brother had to quit school to go to work, but she was able to graduate. They ate biscuits or peanut butter and crackers for lunch. If a child was lucky enough to bring a dill pickle to school, the students passed it around and everyone took a bite.

"We didn't have any toys, but we made our own fun," Daniel-Miles said. "We used tops of fruit jars to make mud pies and played hide and seek and kick the can."

Daniel-Miles also remembers listening to President Franklin D. Roosevelt give his fireside chats on the family's little Sears radio.

"I will never forget the name of his dog, Fala," she said. "And he would say, 'All we have to fear is fear itself.'

In 1936 Daniel-Miles went to work at Woolworth's, where she worked nine- or 10-hour days, six days a week. She earned $4 a week, which was a lot of money back then, she said.

"Even a dime was a whole lot of money," Daniel-Miles said. "I still pick up every penny I see because if you have 10 pennies, you have a dime."

Daniel-Miles married Ernest Daniel in 1938, and they moved into two rooms on Lafayette Street.

"We didn't have anything but a two-eyed burner and some pots and pans," she said. "That is what is wrong with people today — they want to go right to the top and buy these expensive homes. No wonder they lose them."

**Sharecropper's son**

William Smith lives in Beech Bluff with his four dogs and one cat. He is 90 years old and still grows a garden every year and takes care of his yard. And on most summer afternoons, he can be found sitting on a swing in the back yard, with a fan blowing over him.

"I don't like being inside if I don't have to," Smith said. "We grew up without air conditioning, and I don't mind the sun."

He grew up in Luray, and his family moved from one farm to another during his childhood, sharecropping for various farmers, he said.

"We lived the hard way," Smith said. "We did all the work while the farmer sat under the shade tree. And then we gave him half the money for the crops.

"But I thought those were some wonderful times, and I wouldn't mind going through them again. We didn't know there was a depression because we didn't have any money to begin with."

Smith said his family always had enough to eat. They grew their own fruits and vegetables and hunted and fished.

"We bought sugar and flour and coffee from the store, but this was pretty much all," Smith said. "We even raised our own corn and ground it for cornmeal."

They hunted and ate raccoons, squirrels, opossums and hickory nuts in the fall.

"Even if we didn't have anything else to eat in the winter we always had nuts and parched corn," Smith said.

His mother sewed clothes for the whole family, he said. Most of them were made from flour sacks and fertilizer sacks.

"People think they have these fancy T-shirts now days, but they didn't have nothing on us," Smith joked. "Our shirts would say Tennessee Rose or Daybreak Fertilizer with a picture of a rooster crowing on the back."

One pair of shoes would last them the whole year, because they would go barefoot most of the time, even when there was frost on the ground, he said.

Smith started working with the corn and cotton fields when he was 7 and "bent enough to reach the plow handle," he said. His brothers and sisters would race to see who could pick the most cotton in a day.

"I don't like being inside if I don't have to," Smith said. "We grew up without air conditioning, and I don't mind the sun."

He grew up in Luray, and his family moved from one farm to another during his childhood, sharecropping for various farmers, he said.

"We lived the hard way," Smith said. "We did all the work while the farmer sat under the shade tree. And then we gave him half the money for the crops.

"But I thought those were some wonderful times, and I wouldn't mind going through them again. We didn't know there was a depression because we didn't have any money to begin with."

Smith said his family always had enough to eat. They grew their own fruits and vegetables and hunted and fished.

"We bought sugar and flour and coffee from the store, but this was pretty much all," Smith said. "We even raised our own corn and ground it for cornmeal."

They hunted and ate raccoons, squirrels, opossums and hickory nuts in the fall.

"Even if we didn't have anything else to eat in the winter we always had nuts and parched corn," Smith said.

His mother sewed clothes for the whole family, he said. Most of them were made from flour sacks and fertilizer sacks.

"People think they have these fancy T-shirts now days, but they didn't have nothing on us," Smith joked. "Our shirts would say Tennessee Rose or Daybreak Fertilizer with a picture of a rooster crowing on the back."

One pair of shoes would last them the whole year, because they would go barefoot most of the time, even when there was frost on the ground, he said.

Smith started working with the corn and cotton fields when he was 7 and "bent enough to reach the plow handle," he said. His brothers and sisters would race to see who could pick the most cotton in a day.
"We got in the field by the time we could see and stayed there until dark," Smith said. "I remember striking matches to look at the scales to see how much cotton we picked."

"The reason I know work don't kill people is because if it did, I'd have been dead a long time ago."

Smith did go to school but only when his dad didn't need him in the fields, he said. He repeated the third grade for seven years because he attended so infrequently. Finally, when he was 19, he quit going to school.

"I knew the third-grade books pretty well by that time, but never could make it all the way through," he said. "If I had gone to school more, I would probably have been president or something."

He said there were no local doctors in those days and most people were healthy. He broke his arm three times as a child, but his grandmother set it each time.

"It was as good as new," he said.

Even with all the work, Smith said, they had time to play in the gullies on the farm and make wagons from old boards and trees.

His brother loved to play with June bugs and would tie several of them on strings and let them fly around his head, Smith said.

"He would have five or six at a time, but I never played with them that much," he said.

Christmas gifts were usually a stick of candy, an apple and an orange, Smith said. But he said he doesn't remember complaining about the lack of toys or gifts.

"No one else had anything, either," he said. "If we had it, we had it, but if we didn't, we didn't. And nobody threw a fit about it."

**Confusing farm policy**

Fred Robertson grew up on a farm in Enville and was 18 when the Great Depression started in 1929.

"Even if we didn't have anything, we always saw people who were poorer than we were," said Robertson, who lived with his mother and sister. "But people that worked were able to get by.

There was no such thing as welfare, and neighbors helped each other out.

If someone got sick, the women in the community would take turns spending the night and bringing food, Robertson said.

Even though many people blamed Herbert Hoover for the Depression, Robertson said he wasn't sure it was Hoover's fault. But he did vote for Roosevelt when he ran for president.

"I've been sorry ever since," he said. "If you look back over his record, he really didn't do that much to help America, and he brought in this whole welfare mess."

Robertson said he remembers when the New Deal began to be implemented. That year, the government offered to pay $12 an acre if a farmer plowed under half of his cotton crop.

"I had worked really hard that spring and planted 12 acres of cotton," Robertson said. "That was a lot of cotton for one man to take care of."

So he decided to plow up six acres of his cotton, and the government paid him $72 for it.

That fall he picked two bales of cotton from the other six acres, he said. He took it to the gin and was paid $68 for the cotton.

"I got more out of what I plowed up than what I gathered," Robertson said. "The government has confused me ever since then."

**Feeding big families**

Mary Kathryn Winn was born in Savannah in 1920, the youngest of 11 children.

Her father was a self-educated teacher, and her mother worked at the post office in Savannah, Winn said.

"We had a big family, so we didn't have a lot of extras," she said, speaking in a phone interview from her home in Memphis, where she now lives.

Winn said she remembers playing dress-up with her brothers and sisters while she was growing up because they didn't have many toys.

"We had a room that we used for our pretend games," she said. "We would pretend to be movie stars and act out movies."

Winn said they lived close to the Tennessee River, and she and her friends would go down to watch the steamboats come in at the landing.

She also would work in their large garden.

"As the youngest, I probably didn't have to do as much," Winn admitted. "My older brothers and sisters did a lot of the work."

**Crash dashed dreams**

John Graham was only 3 years old when the stock market crashed, but the disaster that his family experienced changed the course of their lives, he said.

His family was living in Birmingham, Ala., and his father had just invested in a laundry business. But in 1933, the banks closed, taking with them every penny his daddy had in the business.

"He didn't own his house, and all his money was in the business," Graham said. "So he went down to the bank and gave them the key to his laundry business. Then he loaded the family up and went back to Luka, Miss."

The Grahams lived there until 1937, as his dad tried to find work as a salesman.

But the family never went hungry because they had a large garden, Graham said.

"You didn't think about being poor, because everyone else was poor," he said.

Graham said he still remembers when his dad strapped him and one of his playmates onto the plow and together they plowed the garden. Graham also would help hoe and do other chores in the garden.

"I hated picking bugs off the beans and sweet potatoes," he said, shuddering at the memory. "You had to shake them into this can and let them die."

In 1937, Graham's father got a job in Jackson as a delivery man for Tom's Toasted Peanut Co. He moved the family to Jackson in 1938, and conditions improved slightly for the family, Graham said.

Fred Robertson grew up on a farm in Enville and was 18 when the Great Depression started in 1929.
Housing expands at UTM

The Jackson Sun

When Rachel Triplet, of Union City, moves into the newly completed apartment-style housing at the University of Tennessee Martin this fall, undoubtedly it will bring back memories for her parents, especially her mother. Both Jeff and Teri Triplet are alumni, and Teri lived in the former McCord Hall.

Located on the site where McCord Hall once was, the three new, four-story buildings joined the original University Village apartament-style complex and offer controlled access and the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing, according to a press release.

UT Martin held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house last week to mark completion of the $28 million expansion project. Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates Inc. of Jackson and Lyle, Cock, Martin of Clarksville, began in April 2007.

Triplet, a biology major, looks forward to the privacy of her own room and the shared living spaces. "It definitely helped me in deciding to come to Martin," Triplet said in the release. "I like having our own kitchen and living room to hang out with friends.

"Having your own bedroom, you can get away from them or you can get away from them to study or to just study," she added. "You have your own space."

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity," Teri Triplet said. "It's just so different from what we had. And, we think it is very important to live on campus.

"We've been to colleges that don't have dorms that compare to this," she added. "I think, for her, it was a big draw to come here. For us? We want our daughter to be comfortable and in an atmosphere that is as much like home as possible."

She said being on campus again has brought back memories.

"When we came for SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration), my husband and I just had to walk across the quad for old times' sake. We've been really impressed with what UT Martin has done over the years. It's just amazing all the changes that we've seen in our lifetime and how the university has kept up with the times."

Fall classes at UT Martin begin Aug. 25. The freshman move-in date is Wednesday.

Karen Bowyer told University of Tennessee Martin graduates, 'You are joining a select group. Only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States has reached the milestone of a baccalaureate degree.'

The Dyersburg State Community College president challenged graduates to pursue living for a purpose higher than themselves. The summer graduates represented 38 Tennessee counties and 11 states.

Submitted photo

Dr. Dylan Bondurant added to UC practice

Post: Monday, August 18, 2008 12:03 pm
The Messenger 8/19/08

Ophthalmologist Dr. Dylan Bondurant — a Union City native — has joined the practice of Drs. Donahue, Jordan & Bondurant at 522 East Rainey Ave. in Union City.

Dr. Bondurant, the son of Jan and Mary Nola Bondurant of Union City, graduated in May 2008 from the Southern College of Optometry and started work at the practice owned by Dr. Charles Donahue and Dr. Tob Jordan in June.

He and his wife, Courtnie, live in the area.

Prior to attending the Southern College of Optometry, he graduated from Union City High School in 1999 and from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2003.

Dr. Bondurant completed residencies for the Navy, for a Jackson area clinic specializing in contact lenses and for anocular disease clinic in Memphis. The local ophthalmologists' office offers comprehensive eye exams, a large frame selection, contact lenses and treatment of ocular disease.

The ophthalmologists' office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call the office at 881-0141.
Local students named to summer 2008 dean's list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean's list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

- Dresden: William E. Boyd, Honors;
- Gleason: Dustin R. Frazier, Highest Honors;
- Greenfield: Barbara A. Bridgewater, Highest Honors;
- Martin: Philip L. Brooks, High Honors; Cornelius A. Capps, Highest Honors; Jui Chiang, Highest Honors; Bernhardt T. Dotson, High Honors; Payton D. Evans, High Honors; Crista M. Glover, Highest Honors; Sarah Hensley, High Honors; Chandra M. Jacobs, High Honors; Willie P. Lemons, High Honors; William J. Pittman, High Honors; Stuart N. Shaw, Honors; Ryan N. Stover, Highest Honors;
- McKenzie: Natasha M. Davidson, Highest Honors;
- Sharon: Sharon R. Thomas, High Honors.

Degrees given at UTM

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent summer commencement held in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Holly O. Hodge, John Brandon Roland;
- Gleason – Michael Ryan Bennett, Dustin Randall Frazier;
- Greenfield – Shelley Carol Featherston, Sarah Elizabeth Robinson;
- Martin – Monica LaRae Davidson, Payton Dwayne Evans, Crista Marie Glover, Bryon Joseph Grimco, Melissa Ann Holloman, Jeremy L. Johnson, Klair Elizabeth Kraft, Katherine Leslie Mercuri, Gerald Radzielewicz Jr., Nancy Jane Riley, Catrina Cheutaunia Rose, Ryan Neil Stover, Ashley Ann Wade;
- Palmersville – Robert Paul Leyhue;
- Robert: Robert Paul Leyhue.

The McKenzie Banner, McKenzie, Tennessee, Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN - Several Carroll County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent summer commencement held in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Atwood – Rachael Leigha Slott;
- Bruceston – Joshua Farrin Edwards;
- Huntingdon – Jennifer L. James;
- McKenzie – David Matthew Featherston, Matthew Anderson Jones, Kristy Leann Wiser;
- Trezevant – Kevin Ray Nelson.

Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, was the keynote speaker. Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, congratulated the graduates, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided and conferred degrees.
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN FOCUS - Farmers, lenders and agribusiness professionals received the most up-to-date information about the agricultural economy at the recent seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, featured Dr. David Kohl. He is one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation. Kohl focused on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. Also featured was Dr. Matthew Roberts, from Ohio State University, who discussed the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values. From left are Roberts, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at Ohio State; Bob Egerton, president, CoBank Eastern Region Division, representing one of the sponsors; Dr. Tom Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair; and Kohl, professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech.

UT Martin seeking host families

Seven host families are needed for the weekend of Friday, Sept. 12, through the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 14, for six pairs of young women and one young man. UT Martin will host 13 university students from Takasaki City University of Economics from Aug. 27 through Sept. 16. This is the first opportunity since 2001 for Martin-area families to share their homes with TCUE students.

While participating in the special three-week program, the students will be focusing their studies on community development and residential systems in the United States.

If your family is willing to open your home for the two nights in September, contact Stephanie Butler at sbutler@utm.edu or Frank Leach at fleach@utm.edu or call 881-7344 at the International Programs office.

UT Martin Names Local Students to Summer Semester Dean’s List

MARTIN - The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass/fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

HOLLOW ROCK: Jennifer K. Brooks, High Honors
MCKENZIE: Natasha M. Davidson, Highest Honors; Douglas C. Rich, High Honors
YUMA: Kerri B. Foster, Highest Honors
When Rachel Triplett, of Union City, moves into the newly completed apartment-style housing at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall, undoubtedly it will bring back memories for her parents, especially her mother. Both Jeff and Teri Triplett are alums, and Teri lived in McCord Hall.

Located on the former McCord Hall site, the three, four-story buildings joined the original University Village apartment-style complex and offer controlled access and the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were hosted Wednesday to mark completion of the $28 million expansion project. Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson, and Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, began in April 2007.

Triplett, biology major, is looking forward to the privacy of her own room and the shared living spaces.

“It influenced my decision,” said Triplett, of apartment-style housing. “It definitely helped me in deciding to come to Martin. I like having my own kitchen and living room to hang out with friends,” she said. “I’m definitely excited about the private bedroom,” she added. “Having your own bedroom, you can get away to have time by yourself or time to study. You have your own space.”

The kitchen also was a selling point for Triplett. She’s been talking to her roommates, and “we’ve all gotten our different appliances and talked about ‘well, I can make spaghetti, and I can make . . . We’ve already decided, we’re definitely cooking a lot.’”

Triplett and her roommates will take advantage of the extra space they will have in the apartment.

“We got a larger TV for the living room,” she said. “We actually have already gotten a bunch of paintings and big mirrors to hang in the living room to decorate it like a house that we wouldn’t have had room for in a regular room.”

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity,” said Teri Triplett. “It’s just so different from what we had. And, we think it is very important to live on campus,” she added, to have the total collegiate experience. “We’ve been to colleges that don’t have dorms that compare to this. I think, for her, it was a big draw to come here. For us? We want our daughter to be comfortable and in an atmosphere that is as much like home as possible.”

She quickly admitted being on campus again has brought back memories. “When we came for SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration), my husband and I just had to walk across the quad for old times’ sake. We’ve been really impressed with what UT Martin has done over the years. It’s just amazing all the changes that we’ve seen in our lifetime and how the university has kept up with the times.”

Teri, who had a tape measure in her purse, headed off for a tour of the apartments with her daughter for some last-minute measuring. The freshman move-in date is Aug. 20.

“We believe our students will find the new apartment-style accommodations convenient, economical and inviting,” said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. “Our student affairs and housing staffs have worked long and hard to ensure students get off to a positive start this fall.”

“First impressions are very important to students,” said Dr. Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs. “To the prospective student, campus housing is no exception. During a campus visit, the type and style of residential facilities can be a deciding factor in the school selection process.” She added, “Students want privacy and creative space options. UT Martin recognized that students’ needs and demands have changed, and we commit to changing with them.”

For more information about University Village or other housing options, call the Office of Student Housing at 881-7730.
WTWP workshop planned for teachers of all grades, subjects

MARTIN— "Differentiating Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas – A Workshop for All Teachers, All Grades, All Subjects," is planned from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sept. 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

Knowing how to address students with different learning styles, different personalities and students who have all had different experiences in life is a tall order for teachers. Keynote speaker, Cheryl Sigmon, will help participants find out how writing in the content areas can make differentiation more manageable.

The registration fee is $45 before Sept. 5 and $55 after. Teachers who have taught fewer than two years will have a registration fee of $30. To register, call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 731-881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php. A workshop brochure can be found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.

Sigmon was a classroom teacher for 11 years, teaching all ages of students in classroom settings, labs and clinics. She also worked for nine years as a language arts consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education. She is currently a freelance consultant and presenter on topics in education.

Breakout sessions are planned on writing in the content areas and will be led by teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project. There will be a closing activity with Sigmon.

Morning refreshments, lunch and a reception following the workshop also are included. Continuing Education Unit credits are available.

This workshop is sponsored by WTWP, the UT Martin Department of English, College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Campus Bookstore, in cooperation with the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education.

WTWP has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993 and provides professional development for teachers in all subjects, grades K-16. WTWP aims to improve writing and writing instruction in West Tennessee. For more information, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/wtwp, email director David Carothers at dcarthers@utm.edu or call Carothers at 731-881-7290.

Local grads earn degrees at UT Martin

MARTIN— Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent summer commencement held in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Bradford: Brian D. Golden, Justin S. Lowery, Emily A. Moore;
- Medina: Yisel T. McConnell;
- Milan: Lindie Suzanne McCurry.

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Milan: Shanon Elane Harper;
- Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, was the keynote speaker;
- Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, congratulated the graduates, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided and conferred degrees.

MEDINA GRAD— Lacey Hipps, (left) of Memphis, and Amy McAdams, of Medina, arrive at the Elam Center prior to commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Hipps graduated with a bachelor of arts in Spanish. McAdams graduated with a bachelor of science in family and consumer sciences.

UTM names Dean’s List

MARTIN— The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Emily A. Moore, Bradford, High Honors
Yisel T. McConnell, Medina, High Honors
Mom’s dorm at UTM long gone; housing has new, improved look

When Rachel Triplet of Union City moves into the newly-completed apartment-style housing at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall, undoubtedly it will bring back memories for her parents — especially her mother.

Both of Miss Triplet’s parents, Dr. Jeff and Teri Triplet of Union City, are alumni and Mrs. Triplet lived in McCord Hall.

Located on the former McCord Hall site, the three four-story buildings join the original University Village apartment-style complex and offer controlled access and the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were hosted last week to mark completion of the $28 million expansion project. Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates Inc. of Jackson and Lyle, Cook, Martin of Clarksville, began in April 2007.

Miss Triplet, a biology major, is looking forward to the privacy of her own room and the shared living spaces.

“It influenced my decision,” Miss Triplet said of the apartment-style housing. “It definitely helped me in deciding to come to Martin. I like having our own kitchen and living room to hang out with friends. I’m definitely excited about the private bedroom. Having your own bedroom, you can get away to have time by yourself or time to study. You have your own space.”

“The kitchen also was a selling point for Miss Triplet. She’s been talking to her roommates and ‘we’ve all gotten our different appliances and talked about ‘Well, I can make spaghetti, and I can make ... We’ve already decided we’re definitely cooking a lot.”

(See Page 5, Col. 4)

Dorm...

(Continued from Page One)

Miss Triplet and her roommates will take advantage of the extra space they will have in the apartment.

“We got a larger TV for the living room,” she said. “We actually have already gotten a bunch of paintings and big mirrors to hang in the living room to decorate it like a house that we wouldn’t have had room for in a regular room.”

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity,” said Teri Triplet. “It’s just so different from what we had. And, we think it is very important to live on campus. We’ve been to colleges that don’t have dorms that compare to this. I think, for her, it was a big draw to come here. For us? We want our daughter to be comfortable and in an atmosphere that is as much like home as possible.”

Mrs. Triplet quickly admitted being on campus again has brought back memories.

“When we came for SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration), my husband and I just had to walk across the quad for old times’ sake. We’ve been really impressed with what UT Martin has done over the years. It’s just amazing all the changes that we’ve seen in our lifetime and how the university has kept up with the times,” she said.

Mrs. Triplet, who had a tape measure in her purse, headed off for a tour of the apartments with her daughter for some last-minute measuring. The freshman move-in date is Wednesday.

“We believe our students will find the new apartment-style accommodations convenient, economical and inviting,” UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. “Our student affairs and housing staffs have worked long and hard to ensure students get off to a positive start this fall.”

“First impressions are very important to students,” said Dr. Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs.

“To the prospective student, campus housing is no exception. During a campus visit, the type and style of residential facilities can be a deciding factor in the school selection process.

“Students want privacy and creative space options. UT Martin recognized that students’ needs and demands have changed, and we commit to changing with them,” she added.

For more information about University Village or other housing options, call the Office of Student Housing at (731) 881-7730.
Soybean Fest Talent Contest slated Sept. 1

On Sept. 6, the UT Martin Skyhawk football team will face Baker State at 4:30 p.m., at Graham Stadium. Pre-game tailgating will take place in the stadium parking lot. For more information, call UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at 731-881-7660.

The annual Youth Soccer Jamboree will begin at the Martin Recreation Complex at 9 a.m., Sept. 6. Contact Randall Ricketts, at 731-588-1495, for more information.

The second annual Soybean Classic All Youth Horse Show will be at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Nancy McKenzie, at 731-587-4763 or Erin Bragg, 731-364-3164.

Rounding out festival events and activities that will attract children include Saturday’s lineup of the Soybean Festival 5K Road Race/Mile Fun Walk, sponsored by Martin Kiwanis Club, Ken-Tenn Sports, and The Sideline Physical Therapy and Fitness Center, at 7:30 a.m., at the Martin Recreation Complex (softball parking lot) and a pet show, sponsored by Weakley County Animal Clinic, with registration at 2 p.m. and the show at 3 p.m., at Weldon Park. Contact numbers are as follows: road race/fun walk, Jim Scott at 731-587-9572; and pet show, Dr. Joseph Adcock or Amy Mitchell at 731-587-5319.

A bicycle rodeo is planned Sunday, Sept. 7, with registration at 1:30 p.m. and events at 2 p.m. at the recreation complex. Sponsors are the Martin Optimist Club and the Martin Pilot Club. Call Steve Vanrense, at 731-881-7766; or Lynn Gibson 731-588-2570, for more information.

A host of other activities for all ages are featured at this year’s festival. Visit www.tssoybeanfestival.org or call 731-588-2507 for more information.

Children and youth can participate in “The Singing Bee” live game show program, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co., at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 5, at Weldon Park.

Marshall County Tribune

Local pair get degrees from UTM

Special to The Tribune

MARTIN — Two Marshall County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent summer commencement held in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Charlie D. Perryman of Chapel Hill; and Lewisburg’s Evan Richard Braytenbah.

Dr. Karen Bowiey, Dyersburg State Community College president, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, congratulated the graduates, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided and conferred degrees.
Elliott among those on UTM Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Kady E. Elliott, South Fulton, received high honors.

GRADUATE FROM UTM MARTIN – Chase Elliott (left) of South Fulton, is joined by his father, Jerry Elliott, following UT Martin summer commencement, Aug. 9, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Elliott participated in commencement after receiving a bachelor’s degree in communications last December. He is also the son of Joyce Lawrence of South Fulton. (Photo submitted)

Teacher writing workshop planned

"Differentiating Instruction Through Writing in the Content Areas — A Workshop for All Teachers, All Grades, All Subjects" is planned from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

Knowing how to address students with different learning styles and different personalities and students who have all had different experiences in life is a tall order for teachers. Keynote speaker Cheryl Sigmone will help participants find out how writing in the content areas can make differentiation more manageable.

The registration fee is $45 before Sept. 5 and $55 after that date. Teachers who have taught fewer than two years will have a registration fee of $30. To register, call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at (731) 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/cece/courses_nondegree.php.

A workshop brochure can be found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/cece/courses_nondegree.php.

Sigmone was a classroom teacher for 11 years, teaching all ages of students in classroom settings, labs and clinics. She also worked for nine years as a language arts consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education. She is currently a freelance consultant and presenter on topics in education.

Breakout sessions are planned on writing in the content areas and will be led by teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project. There will be a closing activity with Ms. Sigmone.

Morning refreshments, lunch and a reception following the workshop also are included. Continuing Education Unit credits are available.

The workshop is sponsored by WTWP, the UT Martin Department of English, College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Campus Bookstore, in cooperation with the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education.

WTWP has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993 and provides professional development for teachers in all subjects, grades K-16. WTWP aims to improve writing and writing instruction in West Tennessee.

For more information, visit the Web site www.utm.edu/wtwp; e-mail director David Carithers at dcecarithers@utm.edu; or call Carithers at (731) 881-7290.
Children, youth will find fun at Tennessee Soybean Festival

A talent show, parade, street fair, pet show and sports activities, all scheduled with children and youth in mind, are planned during the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, August 30-September 4, in Martin.

The fourth annual Soybean Festival Talent Contest, with categories for contestants ages eight and younger, 9-12, 13-21 and 22 and older, will be September 1, on the downtown stage. The junior competition will be at 6 p.m. The competition serves as a Mid-South Fair Preliminary Contest for participants ages 13-21, who will compete at 7 p.m., along with those 22 and older. The Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m., September 2, in the parking lot of Graham Stadium at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Call Jeff Capps or Regina Vickers, at 731-587-9561, for more information.

Also popular with children and youth is the street fair with food, entertainment and craft vendors beginning at 8 a.m., September 3, and continuing to 1 p.m., September 4, and 1 p.m., September 5 and 10 a.m., September 6.

On September 6, the UT Martin Skyhawk football team will face Baker State at 5:30 p.m., at Graham Stadium. Pre-game tailgating will take place in the stadium parking lot. For more information, call 731-881-7660.

The School Children's Street Fair will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 5, in downtown Martin. Immediately following the street fair will be the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale.

Saturday, Sept. 5, Dots ice cream will be available for purchase. Roberta Peacock can be reached at 731-587-3148 for more information.

Children and youth can participate in "The Singing Bee" free game show program, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co., at 6:30 p.m., September 3, and 5 p.m., September 5, at Weldon Park.

The annual Youth Soccer Jamboree will begin at the Martin Recreation Complex at 9 a.m., September 5. Contact Randall Ricketts, at 731-588-1495.

The second annual Soybean Classic All Youth Horse Show will be at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Nancy McKenzie, at 731-587-4769 or Erin Bragg, at 731-364-3164.

Rounding out festival events and activities that will attract children include Saturday's lineup of the Soybean Festival 5K Road Race/Mile Fun Walk, sponsored by Martin Kiwanis Club, Kent-Tenn Sports, and The Sideline Physical Therapy and Fitness Center, at 7:30 a.m., at the Martin Recreation Complex (softball parking lot) and a pet show, sponsored by Weakley County Animal Clinic, with registration at 2 p.m. and the show at 3 p.m., at Weldon Park. Contact numbers are as follows: road race/run walk, Jim Scott at 731-587-9572, and pet show, Dr. Joseph Adcock or Amy Mitchell at 731-587-5319.

A bicycle rodeo is planned Sunday, September 7, with registration at 1:30 p.m. and events at 2 p.m. at the recreation complex. Sponsors are the Martin Optimist Club and the Martin Pilot Club. Call Steve Vann, at 731-881-7766, or Lynn Gibson 731-588-2570, for more information.

A host of other activities for all ages are featured at this year's festival. Visit www.tnsoybeaneventfestival.org or call 731-588-2507 for more information.
Gibson has the best of both worlds in UT Martin apartment-style housing

It is the best of both worlds that Kesley Gibson, of Martin, is looking forward to when she arrives on campus for fall classes. Gibson, a marine biologist major, will be among students taking advantage of the apartment-style housing at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were hosted recently to mark the completion of the $28 million expansion project.

"These apartments are amazing and allow you to become more independent in a secure environment," said Gibson. "The space is very much a step up (from traditional dormitory housing). With the common areas, you get to know your roommates, have a good time with your friends and be very much a part of a social life. But, you can retreat to your own space."

Gibson is the daughter of Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, and Edie Gibson, executive assistant to the chancellor and coordinator of institutional research. She recalls her father talking about housing options when he was in college and the advantages students have today. "I'm glad we have this opportunity," she said. "It's a very nice apartment style. It's secure."

Located on the former McCord Hall site, the three, four-story buildings joined the original University Village apartment-style complex and offer controlled access and the privacy and amenities many students are looking for in on-campus housing. The newest complex features one-four-bedroom apartments. Construction of the complex, designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson, and Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, began in April 2007.

"We believe our students will find the new apartment-style accommodations convenient, economical and inviting," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Our student affairs and housing staffs have worked long and hard to ensure students get off to a positive start this fall."

"First impressions are very important to students," said Dr. Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs. "To the prospective student, campus housing is no exception. During a campus visit, the type and style of residential facilities can be a deciding factor in the school selection process." She added, "Students want privacy and creative space options. UT Martin recognized that students' needs and demands have changed, and we commit to changing with them."

The freshman move-in date is August 20. For more information about University Village or other housing options, call the Office of Student Housing at 731-881-7750.

A $28 million expansion of the University Village apartment-style housing at the University of Tennessee at Martin officially opened recently with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours. Participating in the ceremony are, from left, Dr. John Schommer, faculty trustee for the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and UT Martin professor; Brittany McGruder, student trustee and UT Martin Student Government Association president; Randy Brundige, Martin mayor; Tim Nipp, UT Martin director of physical plant; Mark White, vice president of A&K Construction, Paducah, Kentucky; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs; Earl Wright, UT Martin director of student housing; Lane Lyle, architect, Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville; Frank Wagster, vice president, TLM Associates, Inc. of Jackson; and Marshall Duncan, project manager, Lyle, Cook, Martin.

Ashley Nichols, a graduate of North Side High School and senior biology major at University of Tennessee Martin, will be a resident assistant in one of the newly opened buildings that is part of the University Village complex. Nichols and her roommates are among 400 students in three four-story buildings that border a large green space. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house marked completion of the $28 million project. Construction of the complex was designed in a joint venture by TLM Associates Inc. of Jackson and Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville. The freshman move-in date was Wednesday. Call the UT Martin Office of Student Housing at (731) 881-7730.
WTWP workshop planned, Sept. 13, for teachers of all grades, subjects

“Differentiating Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas - A Workshop for All Teachers, All Grades, All Subjects.” is planned from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., September 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

Knowing how to address students with different learning styles, different personalities and students who have all had different experiences in life is a tall order for teachers. Keynote speaker, Cheryl Sigmon, will help participants find out how writing in the content areas can make differentiation more manageable.

The registration fee is $45 before September 5 and $55 after. Teachers who have taught fewer than two years will have a registration fee of $30. To register, call the UT-Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 731-881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses/nonec-degree.php. A workshop brochure can be found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses/nonec-degree.php.

Sigm on was a classroom teacher for 11 years, teaching all ages of students in classroom settings, labs and clinics. She also worked for nine years as a language arts consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education. She is currently a freelance consultant and presenter on topics in education.

Breakout sessions are planned on writing in the content areas and will be led by teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project. There will be a closing activity with Sigm on.

Morning refreshments, lunch and a reception following the workshop also are included. Continuing Education Unit credits are available.

This workshop is sponsored by WTWP, the UT Martin Department of English, College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Campus Bookstore, in cooperation with the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education.

WTWP has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993 and provides professional development for teachers in all subjects, grades K-12. WTWP aims to improve writing and writing instruction in Western Tennessee. For more information, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/WTWP, email director David Carithers at dcarithers@utm.edu or call Carithers at 731-881-7290.

Kesley Gibson, of Martin, is one of the 400-plus residents who will live in one of the newly opened University Village complex buildings on the University of Tennessee at Martin. Gibson looks forward to having additional privacy and also the benefits of shared living spaces in the apartment-style housing.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

Soybean Festival Pageants slated

The Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The pageants will begin at 10 a.m. and are open to girls newborn to 19 years old. Applications may be downloaded at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org. Applications must be received no later than Aug. 27.

For more information call 587-3126 or 587-7333.

- Registration Begins For Soybean 5K/Walk

The 15th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival 5K Road Race and Walk will begin at 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 6 at the Martin Recreation Complex. In addition to the 5K, there will be a 1-Mile Kid Run for participants ages 10 and younger.

The event will be timed by the Jackson Road Runners and awards will be given in various age categories for both men and women competing in the 5K run.

Trophies will also be presented to the first, second and third place finishers in the boys and girls divisions of the 1-Mile Kid Run.

Walkers will not be competing for awards but will receive a T-shirt.

Entry fee for the 5K run is $10 in advance and $12 on race day. Entry fee for the walk and the kid run is $8.

For more information, contact Bill Austin at 587-9153, Jim Scott at 587-9572 or a member of the Kiwanis Club.
UT Martin names local students to summer semester dean’s list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must have at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79), or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Local students achieving dean’s list recognition include:
- A. Bridgewater with highest honors
- Martin - Philip L. Brooks with high honors, Cornelius A. Capps with highest honors, Jui Chiang with highest honors, Berhard T. Dotson with high honors, Payton D. Evans with high honors, Crista M. Glover with highest honors, Sarah Hensley with high honors, Chandra M. Jacobs with high honors, William J. Pittman with high honors, Stuart N. Shaw with high honors, Ryan N. Stover with highest honors
- McKenzie - Natasha M. Davidson with highest honors, Sharon - Shurron R. Thomas with high honors
- Dresden - William E. Boyd with honors
- Gleason - Dustin R. Frazier with highest honors
- Greenfield - Barbara

About Weakley County

American dream alive in Weakley County

BY RITA MITCHELL
factbook@jacksontsun.com

Tom Reavis, partner, E.T. Reavis and Son in Dresden, says life in Weakley County is good "because it is one of the most picturesque, safe places that you can live. I've grown up here, gone to school here, married here and raised a family here. The American Dream is alive and well here."

Dee Pritchett, Fuller Partners Real Estate broker/manager, says it's because of the “University of Tennessee at Martin, bringing diversity to our area along with college sports, music and the arts and, for most people, it is a much more stress-free life."

"My family and I chose to relocate to Weakley County to be a part of thriving community that continues to maintain a small-town feel," said Keith Cursey, Martin MTD Products, Inc., human resource manager since 2000, who moved to Weakley County in December 2007. "The people of Weakley County set this community apart from others, by their friendliness, hospitality and caring. This is a great place to raise our children."

Ask any number of Weakley Countians what it is that makes them live, work and play here, and they'll likely offer similar responses.

These residents know what keeps them here, and they understand the concerted effort made on a daily basis to ensure residents of the county can earn a living, raise a family and enjoy recreational and cultural opportunities.
Weakley County possesses an extensive list of assets: a strong agricultural base; continued improvement in the K-12 educational system based on recent test scores and graduation rates; a low crime rate, as noted in the most recent national report; and a comparatively low cost of living. The county also has the advantage of “geography” — being located along the I-69 route, complete with spur, and within the network of other major transportation infrastructure.

The county also is home to the University of Tennessee at Martin, the only four-year public higher education institution outside Shelby County. In addition to providing its students with quality academic programs, service-learning opportunities and social activities, UT Martin offers both the campus community and the region a full lineup of intellectual, cultural and sporting events.

Local officials do not take the county’s assets for granted. In recent years, leadership in the five communities within the county and county government joined to create the Weakley County Economic Development Board to make sure everyone ascribed to the same goals for growth and prosperity.

The most recent fruits of that and other economic development endeavors have been the hiring of the county’s first full-time economic development director, construction of a spec building in Martin and plans for another one in Dresden, the location of Champion Homes in Dresden and commercial development.

But maximizing the assets that benefit Weakley Countians does not stop at the county line. In recent years, Weakley County leaders have partnered with their Obion County peers to operate and expand Everett Stewart Regional Airport. Improvements under way include construction of new T-hangars, a runway extension and an upgraded access road.

“We joined Henry and Carroll counties to complete a study on a soybean crusher operation which an independent evaluation showed was a very viable project for our area,” said Jimmy Westbrook, current member and former chairman of the WCED board. Westbrook added that Weakley County was the best location because, along with Dyer, Obion and Gibson counties, it is “right in the heart” of major soybean-producing areas of Tennessee.

“Other opportunities are being looked at to partner with our neighbors — which by all accounts — is the future of economic development in our area.” He added, “With a good, educated workforce, a new spirit of cooperation among the municipalities of the county and county government and new leadership at the highest levels, I think we are poised to make a step in the right direction.”

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Dr. Tom Rakes
Dr. Tom Rakes continued his commitment to Weakley County and the region when he became the ninth chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin July 1, 2007. He leads an institution that has an enrollment of more than 7,200 students, in excess of 860 faculty and staff members and, according to the most recent economic impact study, contributed $118 million annually to boost the region’s economy in addition to its education mission. UT Martin’s roles as catalyst and resource base to foster the educational, economic, aesthetic and cultural life of the region reflect his top priorities.

“Our task is to build capacity among our faculty and staff, students and community partners,” he said.

Rakes is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and serves as the 2008 chair of the Weakley County United Way Campaign, member of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, member of the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and member of the Education Edge/Tennessee Scholars Board.
University of Tennessee at Martin

- Office of Admissions, 200 Administration Building, 554 University St., Martin 38238
- Phone: (731) 881-7020 (Admissions); (800) 829-UTM1
- Enrollment: 7,173 (fall 2007)
- www.utm.edu

The University of Tennessee Martin provides undergraduate and graduate educational programs to the region and beyond.

Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor, sees many reasons for optimism about UT Martin's future.

"In the fall, we admit our first class under revised admissions standards, and we expect several construction and renovation projects to be completed," Rakes said. "This progress, and the initiation of a comprehensive review of our academic program offerings, positions UT Martin to better serve the higher education needs for West Tennessee and beyond."

UT Martin set an enrollment record of 7,173 students in the fall of 2007. The university offers more than 100 different program areas involving undergraduate and graduate levels of study.

The main campus facilities include 46 academic and support buildings. University Village, a new 400-bed apartment complex, opened in 2005, while the second phase of University Village opens in fall 2008. A new Student Recreation Center and Fine Arts Building expansion are planned.

The university competes in NCAA Division I in men's and women's athletics and is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference. The UT Martin rodeo team, the only collegiate rodeo team in Tennessee, is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

PrincetonReview.com lists UT Martin as one of 146 schools to receive a "Best in the Southeast" designation, and the university is listed among America's "100 Best College Buys," a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. UT Martin is also tied for 50th place among Southern Master's institutions in the 2008 education of "America's Best Colleges," compiled by U.S. News & World Report.

Notable alumni

- Pat Head Summitt, 1974: Summitt's Lady Vols basketball team achieved another milestone by claiming back-to-back NCAA championships in 2007 and 2008. The 2008 championship brought a fitting close to her 34th season as Lady Vols head coach. Her 983 wins are tops in all of college basketball. The veteran coach has earned many honors. In April 2008, she became the first women's basketball coach to receive the John R. Wooden Award's "Legends of Coaching" honor. As a student at UT Martin, she led the Lady Pacers to a 64-29 record and two trips to national tournaments. Summitt was co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team.

- Bill Rhodes, 1987: As president and CEO of AutoZone, Rhodes often leaves his office to work behind the counter of an AutoZone store. Interacting with customers is his way of knowing and understanding the company from the ground up. This attention to detail is one reason that Rhodes earned the distinction in 2005 as the youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company. He was named the university's 2006 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recipient.

- Jerry Reese, 1988: Reese, a former UT Martin player and assistant football coach, was named senior vice president and general manager of the New York Giants in 2007. The 2008 Giants team won Super Bowl XLII, and to top off 2008, Reese was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. An outstanding football player at UT Martin from 1981-84, Reese is also a member of the UT Martin Hall of Fame.
15th annual Soybean Festival features many events for youth

A talent show, parade, street fair, pet show and sports activities — all scheduled with children and youth in mind — are planned during the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Saturday through Sept. 7 in Martin.

The fourth annual Soybean Festival Talent Contest, with categories for contestants ages 8 and younger, 9-12, 13-21 and 22 and older, will be held Monday on the downtown stage. The junior competition will be at 6 p.m.

The competition serves as a Mid-South Fair preliminary contest for participants ages 13-21, who will compete at 7 p.m. along with those 22 and older. The contest is sponsored by the Westview Key Club and WCMT. Call Linda Ramsey at (731) 587-5549 for more information.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 2 in the parking lot of Graham Stadium at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The parade, with entry fee required and prizes awarded, is sponsored by First State Bank. Call Jeff Capps or Regina Vickers at (731) 587-9561 for more information.

Also popular with children and youth is the street fair with food, entertainment and craft vendors beginning at 1 p.m. Sept. 2 downtown. It continues at 1 p.m. Sept. 3, 4 p.m. Sept. 4, 1 p.m. Sept. 5 and 10 a.m. Sept. 6.

On Sept. 6, the UT Martin Skyhawk football team will face Baker State at 4:30 p.m. at Graham Stadium. Pre-game tailgating will take place in the stadium parking lot. For more information, call UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at (731) 881-7660.

The School Children’s Street Fair will be sponsored by Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co., while Volunteer Community Hospital will sponsor a lunch. The event will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 5 in downtown Martin. Immediately following the street fair will be the Friends of the Library used book sale. Dippin’ Dots ice cream will be available for purchase. Roberta Peacock can be reached at (731) 587-3148 for more information.

Children and youth can participate in “The Singing Bee” live game show program, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co., at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at Weldon Park.

The annual Youth Soccer Jamboree will begin at 9 a.m. Sept. 6. Contact Randall Ricketts at (731) 588-1495 for more information.

The second annual Soybean Classic All Youth Horse Show will be at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Nancy McKenzie at (731) 587-4763 or Erin Bragg at (731) 364-3164.

Rounding out festival events and activities that will attract children will be Saturday’s lineup of the Soybean Festival 5K Road Race/Mile Fun Walk, sponsored by Martin Kiwanis Club, Ken-Tenn Sports and the Sideline Physical Therapy and Fitness Center at 7:30 a.m. at the Martin Recreation Complex (softball parking lot) and a pet show, sponsored by Weakley County Animal Clinic, with registration at 2 p.m. and the show at 3 p.m. at Weldon Park. Contact numbers include: road race/fun walk, Jim Scott at (731) 587-9572; and the pet show, Dr. Joseph Adcock or Amy Mitchell at (731) 587-5319.

A bicycle rodeo is planned for Sept. 7, with registration at 1:30 p.m. and events at 2 p.m. at the recreation complex. Sponsors are the Martin Optimist Club and the Martin Pilot Club. Call Steve Vantress at (731) 881-7766 or Lynn Gibson at (731) 588-2570 for more information.

A host of other activities for all ages are featured at this year’s festival. Visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org or call (731) 588-2507 for more information.

Tenn. soybean festival

LoneStar and the Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 7 in downtown Martin, Tenn. A mix of entertainment, a car and bike show, pageants, a talent contest, parade, barbecue cook-off and educational programs will highlight the event. "The Return, A Beatles Tribute" concert also will be presented.

Complete festival information is online at tnsoybeanfestival.org. Call Kimberly Craddock, at (731) 588-2507, or e-mail mcd@martin.tennessee.org.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer

The Commercial Appeal

Three Paris residents get degrees at UTM

Three Paris residents received degrees during the summer 2008 commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were Cornelius Amirezte Capps and Estella D. Kendall.

Brian Welp received a graduate degree.

Karen Bowyer, president of Dyersburg State Community College, was the keynote speaker.
'Ships' at UTM ensure institution stays on course, mission

From partnerships, internships and scholarships to championships, leadership and relationships, Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, gave examples in his annual fall faculty address of what some of those "ships" mean to UT Martin and the region. He also offered several observations in pursuing the institution's goals during the current economic conditions.

"By 'ships' I am referring to the value we bring to ourselves, our students, alumni, friends, business, community and other stakeholders," said Rakes.

The chancellor spoke about partnerships citing the connections faculty members foster with their students and colleagues. "I begin by thanking so many of you who, day in and day out, take the extra effort to ensure we offer the finest learning experience we can," Rakes told those attending the meeting.

He also highlighted a major partnership for the next several years that will involve components of the Tennessee Campus Compact meshed with the UT Martin American Democracy Project and a reconfigured LEAD Academy. Citizenship, leadership, internships and stewardship all will be enhanced by this initiative. "Developing involved, informed student citizens in their academic, social and governmental communities will continue to be a cornerstone of UT Martin’s service-learning initiatives, Rakes said."

Also an outgrowth of other relationships and partnerships, he highlighted UT Martin’s major growth areas — the extended campus and online programs — which now represent approximately 12 percent of the total enrollment. He added to that a possible record or near-record enrollment this fall semester of first-year students in the institution's history. Speaking about overall growth and progress, he said, "Through multiple sites ... we are realistically positioning ourselves to be more relevant and more viable as a university."

Additionally, Rakes cited improvements to campus facilities as a sign that goals of the past are being met. "We completed renovation of the business building, Elam Center and a portion of the humanities building renovation, and the Brehm Hall expansion is under way, not to mention more than $500 million in completed residence hall construction during the past four to five years."

The chancellor also commented about the new animal diagnostic center, improvements to athletics facilities and touted planned construction of a student recreation center, the first phase of the Fine Arts Building expansion and renovation of Duncan Ballroom in the university center.

Turning his comments to recent system-wide budget news and how that affects UT Martin, he said, "Consider three to four observations related to the positive side of what we are facing. Many share our situation ... Our citizens, our alumni, the public in general are feeling the crunch. Some area businesses and non-profit groups are struggling." He added it appears there is continued upswing in external interest in UT Martin that is reflected in overall enrollment and supportive alumni. Finally, he added, "We have the collective knowledge and experience to strategically plan and manage our situation."

As part of that management, he said "strategic allocation," planning reductions and reallocations, not an across-the-board approach, is being implemented. Resources will be maintained for the strongest, most essential, mission-linked units, programs and services. And, campus-wide groups will be involved in the planning.

In closing, he said, "Consider the work environment we have, your valuable role. Consider how well off we are and how much better we are than we might be. I am asking each of you to link your 'power of one' — leadership, scholarship, entrepreneurship, stewardship, partnership — with at least one or two other persons as we enter this academic year." He added, "Our successes will not be determined by chance, but by the wise choices and decisions we make — data-driven, calculated — but tempered by the realities of our strengths as a group of professional, positive individuals.

"I expect us to have another banner year as we guide a variety of 'ships.'"
New faculty introduced at annual fall meeting

A number of lecturers, instructors, assistant professors and associate professors have been appointed to the faculty at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the fall semester. They were introduced at the annual fall faculty meeting today. Classes begin Aug. 25.

"One of the highlights of every fall is welcoming our new faculty, and I am very pleased with the caliber of this year's additions to our academic team," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Our students are in for a real treat.

"Hires like this would not happen without the efforts of the faculty, department chairs and deans who worked so diligently to recruit these exceptional teacher-scholar-servants. Our folks understand how critical this process is, and the results bode well for our continued ability to offer top-notch educational experience," Ogg added.

Among faculty members recognized at the meeting were Kenneth W. Adlum, lecturer of psychology, Department of Psychology; Dr. Clayton R. Bailey, assistant professor of animal science, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Merry E. Brown, lecturer of philosophy, Department of History and Philosophy; Jesse Cunningham, instructor of mathematics and statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Pamela M. Davis, lecturer of English, Department of English; Thomas A. DePriest, laboratory instructor of geology, Department of Geology, Geography, and Physics; Delana M. Eastley, lecturer of music, Department of Music; April L. Elam-Dierks, lecturer of English, Department of English; Dr. Richard P. Garlitz, assistant professor of history, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Janice G. Hanna, assistant professor of marketing, Department of Management, Marketing, and Political Science; Muster Sgt. James E. Harbin, senior instructor of military science, Department of Military Science and Leadership; Jennifer R. Head, lecturer of English, Department of English; Jeffrey M. Hewitt, lecturer of education; J. C. Kim, assistant professor of sport management, Department of Health and Human Performance; and Dr. Tania I. Kott, assistant professor of music, Department of Music.

Others were Dr. E. Sue Lehman-Trzynda, lecturer of nursing, Department of Nursing; Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, Department of Music; Sarah V. McCormick, lecturer of dance, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Dr. Karen R. Moffitt, assistant professor of management, Department of Management, Marketing, and Political Science; Dr. Robbie L. Montgomery, assistant professor of chemistry, Department of Chemistry; Maj. Walton A. Moore, assistant professor of military science, Department of Military Science and Leadership; and Dr. Scott D. Parrott, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rounding out the list were Dr. Kevin M. Pitz, assistant professor of biology, Department of Biological Sciences; Scott M. Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, Department of Health and Human Performance; Dr. Beth N. Quick, chair and associate professor of education, Department of Educational Studies; Darwintine Ramsey, instructor of sociology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice; Dr. Bradley A. Ray, assistant professor of fisheries science, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Willis O. Shem, lecturer of geography, Department of Geology, Geography, and Physics; Allen M. Shull, lecturer of English, Department of English; Dr. Timothy B. Smith, lecturer of history, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Mary C. Wallace, lecturer of office information systems, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

LEGACY LUNCHEON — University of Tennessee alumni and their children who are enrolled at the university for the fall semester were invited to the annual Legacy Luncheon recently hosted as the students moved in their residence halls. Among those attending the luncheon at Paul Meek Library were Martin residents, David and Dawn Belote, both alumni, and their daughter, Emily. David Belote is assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and director of student life.

UTM to participate in College Colors Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin will participate in National College Colors Day 2008 on Friday, Aug. 29.

College Colors Day, which coincides with both "back to campus" and the kick-off of intercollegiate athletics, strives to promote higher education through increased public awareness and celebrates the achievements of colleges and universities, acknowledging their critical and fundamental importance to the United States.

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen recently recognized College Colors Day in Tennessee. Fans, students and alumni throughout the state are encouraged by Gov. Bredesen's recognition to wear apparel representing their favorite college or university on Friday, Aug. 29.

Visit the UT Martin Bookstore, Aug. 28-29, and with any $50 or more purchase of UT Martin merchandise, receive an exclusive College Colors Day/UT Martin T-shirt, while supplies last.


The Collegiate Licensing Co., a division of IMG Worldwide, organizes College Colors Day.
University of Tennessee at Martin student Tiffany Brewer takes advantage of door prize giveaways offered by businesses such as Studio 311 during the City of Martin's Freshman Welcome event on Thursday. April Spence (right) of the style salon joined other Martin hot spots in welcoming the record number of freshmen to the UTM campus. See Page 16 for more pictures from the event.

Tenn. soybean festival

LoneStar and the Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 7 in downtown Martin, Tenn. A mix of entertainment, a car and bike show, pageants, a talent contest, parade, barbecue cook-off and educational programs will highlight the event. "The Return, A Beatles Tribute" concert also will be held.

Complete festival information is online at tnsoybeanfestival.org. Call Kimberly Craddock, at (731) 588-2507, or e-mail mcd@martin.tennessee.org.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Twenty-three teachers statewide recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate at a six-day workshop at the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for middle and junior high school teachers. Among them were Nancy Parker of South Memphis and Downtown Shelby Wilson.

The workshop involved activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum.
Allen Named Clinical Director of Baptist Home Care/Hospice

Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon welcomes to their management team Crystal Simpson Allen. Serving as clinical director of Baptist Memorial Home Care and Hospice, Crystal will oversee operations over 11 counties and management of 20 employees.

"The positive reputation of Baptist Huntingdon is what brought me here; I am very excited to be a part of a nationally recognized home care agency as well as a Christian based organization," Crystal says. "I look forward to working toward increasing wellness and making a difference, not only within the walls of Baptist Huntingdon, but also throughout our community and surrounding areas."

Crystal is a 1994 graduate of Hollow Rock-Bruceton High School, and she obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1996. Bringing five years of management leadership, Crystal has a diverse health care background, including extensive experience in home care, case management, labor and delivery, and staff RN.

A Hollow Rock native, Crystal now resides in Huntingdon with her husband, Adam, and their three children: Isaac-six, Samuel-four and Adalyn-two.

Legacy Luncheon held at UTM

University of Tennessee alumni and their children who are enrolled at the university for the fall semester were invited to the annual Legacy Luncheon recently hosted at the students moved in their residence halls. Among those attending the luncheon at Paul Meek Library were Martin residents, David and Dawn Belote, both alums, and their daughter, Emily. David Belote is assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and director of student life.

The Commercial Appeal

Thursday, August 28, 2008

Achievements

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar program, which identifies and educates people for leadership in West Tennessee's economic and social development, has added Downtown Downtowner Diana Threadgill to its list of graduates. She is executive director of the Mississippi River Corridor-Tennessee and a member of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails.

Tenn. Soybean Festival

LoneStar and the Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Saturday-Sept. 7 in downtown Martin, Tenn.

A mix of entertainment, a car and bike show, pageants, a talent contest, parade, barbecue cook-off and educational programs will highlight the event. "The Return, A Beatles Tribute" concert also will be held.

Complete festival information is online at tnsoybeanfestival.org.
Call Kimberly Craddock, at (731) 588-2507, or e-mail mcd@martin.tennessee.org.

Outdoor Evening Concert

5:30 p.m. today adjacent to UT Martin Paul Meek Library. Those attending may take chairs, blankets, picnics. Call 881-7093.

Former UTM professor to speak

Former University of Tennessee Martin professor Vaughn May will speak at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8 at Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin as the inaugural speaker in the 2008-09 Academic Speakers Series.

A specialist in American and Southern politics as well as the politics of the Civil Rights movement, May is the author of a variety of articles on American politics appearing in such publications as the Southeastern Political Review, Studies in Popular Culture, Tennessee Historical Quarterly, and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.
Academic speakers series
begins at UTM with Dr. May

Former University of Tennessee at Martin professor Dr. Vaughn May will speak at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 8, in Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin, as the inaugural speaker in the 2008-09 Academic Speakers Series.

A specialist in American and Southern politics, as well as the politics of the Civil Rights movement, May is the author of a variety of articles on American politics appearing in such publications as the Southeastern Political Review, Studies in Popular Culture, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.

He recently co-founded and serves as editor and lead adviser of the Right Aisle Review, a campus newspaper designed to offer a voice to conservative/libertarian students looking to editorialize about political issues concerning the Belmont community.

In the midst of the presidential campaign, May notes “scholars from a variety of disciplines recognize the importance of candidate narratives in shaping political success. What stories are Barack Obama and John McCain telling in 2008? Which stories are likely to cohere with young voters?”

“The 2008 elections promise to be among the most historically significant in recent memory,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director. “With serious foreign and domestic crises at hand, voters need all of the information necessary to make an informed decision at the polls. Vaughn May will cut through the campaign rhetoric and present the candidates and the issues in an accessible manner which will allow the audience to gain a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and the stance of the candidates upon them.”

Having received his doctorate in political science in 1996 from Vanderbilt University, May joined the faculty of UT Martin, where he served from 1996 through 2002. May established himself as an outstanding young faculty member and earned numerous awards and honors, including the University of Tennessee National Alumni Award for Outstanding Teaching (2001) and the university’s Outstanding Advisor Award (1999).

In 2003, May joined the faculty of Belmont University in Nashville. In this position, as well as his role as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, he has continued to excel. He was appointed chair of the Political Science Department at Belmont and, in 2006, received the Tower Award for Exceptional Contribution to Campus Life.

His visit will be sponsored by Honors Programs with the Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science as co-sponsor.

For more information, contact McDonough at 731-881-7436 or danmc@utm.edu.

Teachers invited to UT Martin for differentiating instruction workshop

“Differentiating Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas – A Workshop for All Teachers, All Grades, All Subjects.” is planned from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sept. 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

Knowing how to address students with different learning styles, different personalities and students who have all had different experiences in life is a tall order for teachers. Keynote speaker, Cheryl Sigmom, will help participants find out how writing in the content areas can make differentiation more manageable.

The registration fee is $45 before Sept. 5 and $55 after. Teachers who have taught fewer than two years will have a registration fee of $30. To register, call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 731-881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.

A workshop brochure can be found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.

Sigmom was a classroom teacher for 11 years, teaching all ages of students in classroom settings, labs and clinics. She also worked for nine years as a language arts consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education. She is currently a freelance consultant and presenter on topics in education.

Breakout sessions are planned on writing in the content areas and will be led by teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project. There will be a closing activity with Sigmom.

More information can be found at the Web site, www.utm.edu/ wtwp, email director David Carithers at dcarithers@utm.edu or call Carithers at 731-881-7290.
Upcoming lecture at UT Martin promises election year insight

Former University of Tennessee at Martin professor Dr. Vaughn May will speak at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8 in Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin as the inaugural speaker in the 2008-09 Academic Speakers Series.

A specialist in American and Southern politics, as well as the politics of the Civil Rights movement, May is the author of a variety of articles on American politics appearing in such publications as the Southeastern Political Review, Studies in Popular Culture, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.

He co-founded and serves as editor and lead adviser of the Right Aisle Review, a campus newspaper designed to offer a voice to conservative/libertarian students looking to editorialize about political issues affecting the Belmont community.

In the midst of the presidential campaign, May notes “scholars from a variety of disciplines recognize the importance of candidate narratives in shaping political success. What stories are Barack Obama and John McCain telling in 2008? Which stories are likely to cohere with young voters?”

“The 2008 elections promise to be among the most historically significant in recent memory,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director. “With serious foreign and domestic crises at hand, voters need all of the information necessary to make an informed decision at the polls. Vaughn May will cut through the campaign rhetoric and present the candidates and the issues in an accessible manner which will allow the audience to gain a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and the stance of the candidates upon them.”

Having received his doctorate in political science in 1996 from Vanderbilt University, May joined the faculty of UT Martin, where he served from 1996 through 2002. He established himself as an outstanding young faculty member and earned numerous awards and honors, including the University of Tennessee National Alumni Award for Outstanding Teaching (2001) and the university’s Outstanding Advisor Award (1999). In 2003, May joined the faculty of Belmont University in Nashville. In this position, as well as his role as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, he has continued to excel. He was appointed chair of the Political Science Department at Belmont and, in 2006, received the Tower Award for Exceptional Contribution to Campus Life.

His visit will be sponsored by Honors Programs, with the Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science as co-sponsor. For more information, contact McDonough at (731) 881-7436 or danmc@utm.edu.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, August 27, 2008

University introduces new faculty

A number of lecturers, instructors, assistant professors and associate professors have been appointed to the faculty at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the fall semester.

Among faculty members recognized at a recent faculty meeting were Kenneth W. Adlam, lecturer of psychology; Dr. Clayton R. Bailey, assistant professor of animal science, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Merry E. Brown, lecturer of philosophy, Department of History and Philosophy; Jesse Cunningham, instructor of mathematics and statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Pamela M. Davis, lecturer of English, Department of English; Thomas A. DePriest, laboratory instructor of geology, Department of Geology, Geography, and Physics; Delana M. Easley, lecturer of music, Department of Music; April L. Elam-Diers, lecturer of English, Department of English; Dr. Richard P. Garlich, assistant professor of history, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Janice G. Hanna, assistant professor of marketing, Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science; Master Sgt. James E. Harbin, senior instructor of military science, Department of Military Science and Leadership; Jennifer R. Head, lecturer of English, Department of English; Jeffrey M. Hewitt, lecturer of education; Department of Educational Studies; J.C. Kim, assistant professor of sport management, Department of Health and Human Performance; and Dr. Tama J. Kott, assistant professor of music, Department of Music.

Others were Dr. E. Sue Lehman-Trzynka, lecturer of nursing, Department of Nursing; Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, Department of Music; Sarah V. McCormick, lecturer of dance, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Dr. Karen R. Moffett, assistant professor of management, Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science; Dr. Robbie L. Montgomery, assistant professor of chemistry, Department of Chemistry; Maj. Walton A. Moore, assistant professor of military science, Department of Military Science and Leadership; Lt. Col. Angela M. Odom, professor of military science, Department of Military Science and Leadership; and Dr. Scott D. Parrott, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rounding out the list of new instructor were Dr. Kevin M. Pitz, assistant professor of biology, Department of Biological Sciences; Scott M. Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, Department of Health and Human Performance; Dr. Beth N. Quick, chair and associate professor of education, Department of Educational Studies; Darwin-Tamar Ramsey, instructor of sociology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice; Dr. Bradley A. Ray, assistant professor of fisheries science, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Willis O. Shen, lecturer of geography, Department of Geology, Geography and Physics; Allen M. Shull, lecturer of English, Department of English; Dr. Timothy B. Smith, lecturer of history, Department of History and Philosophy; and Dr. Mary C. Wallace, lecturer of office information systems, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.
Skipper Bondurant, administrator/CEO for Baptist Memorial Hospital-Tipton, stands before a GE Lightspeed 16-slice CT scanner.

Skipper Bondurant  Administrator/CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Tipton

The details

First job: As a teen I mowed yards and sold vegetables. After high school I worked for my dad in a sheet metal shop fabricating and assembling duct work at Central Metal Products. This allowed me to help my parents pay some of my expenses during my undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin. My first health-related job was with the University of Tennessee as senior research assistant, which helped study the effects of a physical education curriculum on elementary students in Memphis.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded students with scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year. Among them are Curtissa Deener, daughter of Adrienne Morris and Curtis Deener of Southeast Memphis, and Desteni Leakes, daughter of Leon and Cherry Morris of South Memphis. Both incoming freshmen received the Harold Conner Scholarship.
UTM names local students to Summer Dean's List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2008 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean's list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Included are:
* Emily A. Moore of Bradford, High Honors;
* Crystal L. Knight of Humboldt, High Honors;
* Laura M. Silva of Kenton, High Honors;
* Yisel T. McConnell of Medina, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Area residents earn UTM degrees

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent summer commencement held in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
* Humboldt — Benjamin Clay Luckey;
* Medina — Yisel T. McConnell;
* Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
* Humboldt — Lee Tyler Williams;
* Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, was the keynote speaker. Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, congratulated the graduates, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided and conferred degrees.

Seismic Safety Commission will meet at UT Martin

The West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission will meet, Sept. 4, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and the public is invited. Slated for 12:15-2 p.m., the meeting will be in Room 229, Boling University Center, Wayne Fisher Drive, Martin.

The West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission is a 12-member board, appointed as follows: two members chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives, two members chosen by the speaker of the senate and eight members appointed by the governor. The members include persons who represent the following professional areas: architecture, fire protection, public utilities, engineering, geology or seismology, local government, insurance, business, emergency health services, nonprofit emergency assistance, local education and emergency management. The commission mission, with the assistance and participation of other state, federal and local government agencies, is to initiate a comprehensive program to prepare the state for responding to a major earthquake.

For directions, special accommodations, or additional information, contact Gary Patterson at (901) 678-5264 or Bev Cook at (901) 678-5561.
Workshop planned

“Differentiating Instruction Through Writing in the Content Areas—A Workshop for All Teachers, All Grades, All Subjects,” is planned from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Sept. 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

Knowing how to address students with different learning styles, different personalities and students who have all had different experiences in life is a tall order for teachers. Keynote speaker, Cheryl Sigmion, will help participants find out how writing in the content areas can make differentiation more manageable.

The registration fee is $45 before Sept. 5 and $55 after. Teachers who have taught fewer than two years will have a registration fee of $30. To register, call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ccce/courses_non_degree.php. A workshop brochure can be found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ccce/courses_non_degree.php.

Sigmion was a classroom teacher for 11 years, teaching all ages of students in classroom settings, labs and clinics. She also worked for nine years as a language arts consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education. She is currently a freelance consultant and presenter on topics in education.

Breakout sessions are planned on writing in the content areas and will be led by teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project. There will be a closing activity with Sigmion.

Morning refreshments, lunch and a reception following the workshop also are included. Continuing Education Unit credits are available.

This workshop is sponsored by WTWP, the UT Martin Department of English, College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Campus Bookstore, in cooperation with the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education.

May to give election year insight

Former University of Tennessee at Martin professor Dr. Vaughn May will speak at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 8, in Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin, as the inaugural speaker in the 2008-09 Academic Speakers Series.

A specialist in American and Southern politics, as well as the politics of the Civil Rights movement, May is the author of a variety of articles on American politics appearing in such publications as the Southeastern Political Review, Studies in Popular Culture, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. He recently co-founded and serves as editor and lead adviser of the Right Aisle Review, a campus newspaper designed to offer a voice to conservative/libertarian students looking to editorialize about political issues concerning the Belmont community.

In the midst of the presidential campaign, May notes “scholars from a variety of disciplines recognize the importance of candidate narratives in shaping political success. What stories are Barack Obama and John McCain telling in 2008? Which stories are likely to cohere with young voters?”

“The 2008 elections promise to be among the most historically significant in recent memory,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director. “With serious foreign and domestic crises at hand, voters need all of the information necessary to make an informed decision at the polls. Vaughn May will cut through the campaign rhetoric and present the candidates and the issues in an accessible manner which will allow the audience to gain a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and the stance of the candidates upon them.”

Having received his doctorate in political science in 1996 from Vanderbilt University, May joined the faculty of UT Martin, where he served from 1996 through 2002. May established himself as an outstanding young faculty member and earned numerous awards and honors, including the University of Tennessee National Alumni Award for Outstanding Teaching (2001) and the university’s Outstanding Advisor Award (1999). In 2003, May joined the faculty of Belmont University in Nashville. In this position, as well as his role as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, he has continued to excel. He was appointed chair of the Political Science Department at Belmont and, in 2006, received the Tower Award for Exceptional Contribution to Campus Life.

His visit will be sponsored by Honors Programs with the Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science as co-sponsor. For more information, contact McDonough at 881-7436 or dmcdonaldc@utm.edu.

Consultant to be at REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center is offering an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or financial issues from Ron Acree, a Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant. He will be available from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 11.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Lauren Baskin of Memphis, Veronica Brown of Eads, Danielle DeVastey of Bartlett, Allie Hotz of Germantown, Matt Hotz of Germantown, Jeremy Williams of Cordova and Ariel Revere of Collierville were among the St. Benedict at Auburndale School students who were accepted to this summer’s week-long Young Scholars Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The program for minority students recognizes these students as among the best in Tennessee.

St. Benedict had an unprecedented number of students selected by Tennessee Governor’s Schools and who attended institutes this summer. The students are: Anna Cabe of Collierville who attended the Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin; Daniel Saba, Cordova — Governor’s School for International Studies at the University of Memphis; Kaitlyn Stoddard, Eads and Johnny Tracy, Oakland — Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences at UTM; Rebecca McCarthy, Eads — Governor’s School for Computational Physics at Austin Peay State University; Nathan Cummings, Memphis — Governor’s School for Emerging Technologies at Tennessee Technological University; Rebekkah Hermann, Eads — Governor’s School for Scientific Models & Data Analysis at East Tennessee State University; and Brea Armstrong, Arlington, and John Blount, Eads — Governor’s School for Prospective Teachers at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.