Crews takes helm of UT Martin Honors Programs

Dr. Lionel Crews

Dr. Lionel Crews, associate director of University of Tennessee at Martin Honors Programs, recently was appointed director. Crews, associate professor of physics, succeeds Dr. Dan McDonough, who returns to a full-time history professor position at the end of the semester after five years as director.

"Dr. Crews is an engaging teacher and dedicated scholar who has been an outstanding associate director," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "He has some innovative ideas, and I look forward to working with him and the Honors Council to strengthen what is already one of UT Martin's signature programs."

Crews joined UT Martin in 2000 and became Honors Programs associate director in 2005. He received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Vanderbilt University. He serves as associate curator of the Pink Palace Family of Museums in Memphis and is chairman of the.

Commissioner of agriculture honored

Terry Oliver, of Gleason, Tennessee commissioner of agriculture, receives a plaque from Dr. Jerry Gresham, interim dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and chair, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. The plaque recognized Oliver for his service to Tennessee agriculture and the university. The commissioner was the keynote speaker for the UT Martin Fellows Research Program and 4-H Centennial Celebration Recognition Dinner held Nov. 18 in the Boling University Center. The Fellows Research Program fosters and enhances undergraduate research through a mentored relationship with a department faculty member. Also pictured is Whitney Crow, of Atoka, sophomore agriculture major and a Fellows Research Program participant.
Elder’s history with Santa’s Village began as UT Martin freshman

Calvin Elder has a history with Santa’s Village. He began helping with the event in 2003 as a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In response to requests from two Department of Agriculture professors, Dr. Joey Melhorn and the late Dr. Tom Greer, Elder became a greenery cutter and assisted with other tasks until the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex at UT Martin was transformed into a holiday fantasyland.

This year’s event is slated for 6:00-9:00 p.m., December 9-10; 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., December 11; and 1:00-5:00 p.m., December 12. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., December 9. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

“They (Mehlhorn and Greer) were also offering bonus points in class, and I sure needed them at the time,” said Elder.

Elder went on to graduate with a degree in agricultural business in 2007 and is now in the process of earning a master’s degree in agricultural leadership education and communication from UT Knoxville. From 2008 until recently, he was a 4-H Youth Development Agent and Adult Agriculture Agent in Dyer County. A resident of Gates, he is now employed by the Farm Service Agency.

Early on at Santa’s Village, Elder moved from greenery cutter to providing wagon rides for children, something he and his dad, Philip Elder, have been doing at other events for more than 20 years.

He approached Martin Department of Parks and Recreation about the idea of bringing horse-drawn wagon rides to the event and it was a hit from day one.” He added, “The children really enjoy seeing the big horses because it is not something they get to see every day.”

He also enjoys the children who take the wagon rides. The children always ask if they can pet and sit on the horses. “I get to hear everything from Christmas songs, what they want for Christmas, jokes and stories.”

Elder said that in addition to Martin Parks and Recreation and the agricultural complex personnel, James and Rachel Mathis always help with the Santa’s Village rides.

Elder said he and his dad spend about 300 hours a year giving rides “for a good cause,” such as Relay For Life, Buck Creek Trail Ride for St. Jude Children’s Hospital and other charitable events and fundraisers.

“I guess the biggest reason I continue to offer the wagon rides is because I enjoy doing it. I also get to see some of my old classmates and professors each year at the event, and I also get to meet new people,” said Elder.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin.

Alsop awarded PRSSA National President’s Citation

Alsop, of Prospect, is a senior communications major.

The National President’s Citation is awarded to chapter presidents who have met criteria that distinguish them as having demonstrated outstanding leadership to a local chapter. Out of more than 300 chapters across the country, 13 individuals received the award this year.

“I’m very pleased that Rebecca received this honor. Without question, her active involvement and leadership have made our chapter an extremely active and involved PRSSA chapter, and she deserves the recognition that should come along with such actions,” said Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications and PRSSA adviser. During the convention, Hoyer received a service award for his 12 years of continuous service as UT Martin’s PRSSA chapter adviser.

Hoyer and UT Martin public relations students, Amy Dysinger, of Bon Aqua, and Lori Winters, of Summertown, accepted the award on Alsop’s behalf.

Rebecca Alsop

Rebecca Alsop, president of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America, was awarded the National President’s Citation at the PRSSA Convention in Washington, D.C., October 15-18.
Recipients of Gault Scholarships announced

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2009-10 Stanley Gault Scholarship to four West Tennessee students. Each student will receive $500 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 Di’Yana Fisher, Stevie Gossett, Taylor Barnett and Chelsea Mathis.

• Di’Yana Fisher, daughter of Dion Fisher and Chantay Fisher of Dyersburg, is a freshman in the pre-dentistry program.
• Stevie Gossett, son of Tom Gossett and Lorraine Gossett of Union City, is a freshman majoring in accounting.
• Taylor Barnett, son of James and Traci Watson of Dresden, is a freshman in the pre-pharmacy program.
• Chelsea Mathis, daughter of Curtis and Julie Mathis of Union City, is a freshman with an undeclared major.

The scholarship was established in 1996 by former Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. communications manager. Recipients included, from left, Stevie Gossett, Taylor Barnett, Chelsea Mathis and Di’Yana Fisher.

Gov. Phil Bredesen appoints Martin man to state board

A Weakley County man was one of 100 men and women appointed by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen to serve on 34 state boards and commissions from all across the state.

Martin resident Richard L. Saunders is one of seven new appointees to serve on the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board. Saunders is the director of Special Collections at the Paul Meek Library located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“I thank these individuals for their willingness to serve the state through its boards and commissions,” Bredesen said. “Tennessee’s reputation as the volunteer state is reflected through these citizens’ willingness to contribute their time and talents to improve our state, and I thank them for their service.”

Appointment terms vary based on statutory recommendations or term limits specified by geographic or other qualifications.
Legacies, Life Lessons part of Alums' connections with UT Martin

The four University of Tennessee at Martin alumni and friends who were honored as part of homecoming activities had memories of campus life that were as vivid as yesterday's. The award recipients were recognized during the Alumni Awards Banquet and again at the homecoming football game at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Honorees were Betsy Brasher, of Memphis, who received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award; William C. Hoy Jr., of Clarksville, who received the Outstanding Alumni Award; Bob and Nancy Hurt, of Trinville, who received the Chancellor's Award for University Service.

Brasher said the word that kept coming to her mind as she prepared her remarks was legacy. The legacy of her family attending UT Martin, the legacy of knowing people such as former and current chancellors, other administrators and faculty members and the legacy of UT Martin traditions, such as homecoming, Greek competitions, rodeo and friendships. Brasher also spoke about the legacy of the UT Alumni Association and Women's Council.

"I truly believe that the legacies of my experiences on this campus, the relationships I have built with faculty, staff and other students, the traditions that have passed from generation to generation and the love I have for UT Martin have truly brought fulfillment to my life," said Brasher, when she accepted her award.

Hoy cited several memories of his life on campus and noted that he appreciated the opportunities he was given as a student. "I owe so much to this university," said Hoy, as he accepted his award. "I am honored and very humble."

The Hurts also recounted memories of campus life when they were UT Martin students. "Thanks UT Martin for providing such quality education and amazing life experiences for so many thousands of youngsters each year and for allowing us to be a part of that service," Hoy added that their children, Rob and Rachel and son-in-law, Chris Payne, have degrees from UT Martin. He said he is "pushing for the third generation of UT Martin grads" with their five grandchildren. "UT Martin helped open doors in my life," Nancy Hurt said. "I received a B.S. degree in business education ... and found a career teaching for 30 years." She added that she met her husband at UT Martin and reiterated that both children were graduates. "You can see why UT Martin means so much to me."

Dr. Jan Simek, left, University of Tennessee interim president, and Dr. Thomas Rakes, right, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, are pictured with Betsy Brasher, during the annual UT Martin Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet, hosted October 15. Brasher received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Dr. Jan Simek, left, University of Tennessee interim president, and Dr. Thomas Rakes, right, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, are pictured with William C. Hoy Jr., of Clarksville, during the annual UT Martin Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet, hosted October 15. Hoy received the Outstanding Alumni Award.
Beginning Microsoft Access course offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a Beginning Microsoft Access class from 9 a.m.-noon, December 7 and 9. The instructor for the course is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The registration fee is $85.

Beginners can learn how to design and create a database and how relational databases function. Students will also learn how to design and setup tables and relationships, edit data, sort and filter, create quick reports that can be customized, create quick forms for data entry and learn how queries give answers. Participants will work with Access 2007 and Vista.

To register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non-degree/home.php.

Dr. Jan Simek, left, University of Tennessee interim president, and Dr. Thomas Rakes, right, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, are pictured with Bob and Nancy Hurt, of Trimble, during the annual UT Martin Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet, hosted October 15. The Hurts received the Chancellor's Award for University Service.

Christmas giving

The University of Tennessee at Martin Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity is working in cooperation with the Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program to raise money for children served within a seven-county radius. The counties served include: Weakley, Obion, Henry, Gibson, Lake, Carroll and Benton. The program is currently providing services to 74 families. This fundraiser will help provide each child served with gifts and other items during the Christmas holidays. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a gift for a child or giving a donation to this project, contact Lalanai Hilliard, Healthy Start program coordinator, at 731-881-7863, or send a check donation to Healthy Start, 409 Clement Hall, UT-Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

Among those involved in the project are, from left, Willie Robertson, of Whitesville, fraternity member; Debbie Walden, Healthy Start family assessment coordinator; Cecile Buchanan, family support coordinator; Hilliard; Lydia New, family support coordinator; and Michael Lockridge, of Martin, fraternity member.
Caixa Trio to perform December 5

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is hosting the Caixa Percussion Trio performance at 3:00 p.m., December 5, in Room 112, Boling University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The Caixa Percussion Trio, featuring Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, Amy Smith and Julie Davila, will be playing instruments such as calabashes, buckets, marimbas, drum sets, snares of quarters and more. The majority of works performed by the trio are composed specifically for the Caixa Trio. As a result, the group has sculpted a program of vast contrast in style and instrumentation.

The Caixa Trio was formed in 2000 and is a professional percussion ensemble based in Tennessee. The ensemble derives its name from the caixa, or snare drum, used in escolas de samba in Brazil. The Caixa Trio performs an eclectic repertoire including classical, contemporary, world and rudimental percussion.

For more information, contact Hill at 731-881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.

UTM Dance Ensemble presents fall showcase

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the annual UT Martin dance ensemble fall showcase, "Surrender," at 7:00 p.m., December 2-4, and at 3:00 p.m., December 5, at Elam Center Dance Studio. Tickets are $3 for UT Martin students with ID, $5 for adults and free to children under the age of 12.

This year's ensemble, under the direction of Sarah McCormick, lecturer of dance, includes new dance works from student choreographers and guest artists, Carone Tharpe and Justin Paschal.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

Students Attend UT Martin Preview

Abby Hale, right, of Jackson, student at Jackson Christian School, and Kristal Jones, of Finger, student at Adamsville High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Preview Day. More than 225 students were in attendance and received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and various university academic programs.
EUROPE BOUND — Union City Rotary Club has announced the 10 juniors from Obion County Central and Union City High Schools who will be enjoying a free educational trip to four European countries next summer. They include (seated, from left) Peyton Mosley of UCHS, chaperone David and Mary Hellen Johnson, Nick Crumble of UCHS, (standing) Breanna Brown of UCHS, Catie Stanford of OCCHS, Chelsea Southerland of OCCHS, Hailey Cash of UCHS, Grant Walton of UCHS, Megan Cook of OCCHS, Devin Burnside of UCHS and Julie Mathenias of OCCHS.

Local high school students selected for European tour

By GLENDAL CAUDLE
Special Features Editor

"We would love to have sent at least 20," Rotarians Clay Woods and Dr. Leland Davis said as they announced the names of 10 juniors who will be traveling to Europe this summer, thanks to a $50,000 commitment from Union City Rotary Club.

The members of the Class of 2012 who were actually selected after attending one of two orientation sessions with a parent, completing an application and taking part in individual interview sessions with a Rotary Club trip selection committee include six Union City High School juniors: Breanna Brown, Devin Burnside, Hailey Cash, Nick Crumble, Peyton Mosley and Grant Walton; and four Obion County Central High School juniors: Megan Cook, Julie Mathenias, Chelsea Southerland and Catie Stanford. No students from South Fulton High School attended the orientation sessions or contacted committee members about the program, which was publicized both in The Messenger and through the school.

The students, who will be chaperoned by Union City Middle School teacher Mary Hellen Johnson and her husband, David, will leave Union City June 28 on a flight from Memphis, will change planes somewhere in North America and wing their way to London overnight, arriving in the City of Big Ben fame around midnight June 29 to begin their adventure. The trip is titled "from St. Paul's to St. Peter's" to describe the itinerary that begins with sites such as the famous London cathedral and ends at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with the entourage returning to Union City on July 10.

Union City Rotary Club trip planning committee members visited UCHS and OCCHS Monday to deliver the exciting news and invite the students who were selected to the first of several "classes" they will be attending between now and the time (See Page 5, Col. 1)

Local...

(Continued from Page 1)

the group departs.

The 10 students and the Johnsons will be special guests at Friday's Rotary Club meeting and will then convene Sunday afternoon in the family life center at Union City First United Methodist Church to get to know each other better and begin to make their special plans for the future.

Mrs. Johnson will be handing out research assignments on the countries they will be visiting at that session and students will be responsible for completing these and returning them to her in the future. In addition, the travelers will set up a calendar of hands-on classes to take place over the next few months. These classes, which have been facilitated by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Dr. Stan Sieber and his wife, Sarah, of Martin and by UCHS art teacher Hilary Webb for previous Rotary travel groups, will cover some sites they will see and will offer a review of history, art, architecture, monetary systems, cultures, travel etiquette, safety tips, packing and baggage handling and travel safety issues. Attendance and participation is mandatory for the students, but their parents are welcome to attend any or all of these sessions, as well. Siblings and friends are discouraged from joining the group, however, since their presence would be a distraction.

In addition to London and Rome, the group will also spend time in Paris; Lucerne and Lugano in Switzerland; and Verona, Venice, Florence and Pisa in Italy. The itinerary is identical to the one enjoyed by the 2010 Rotary Club
travel group, which included nine students from the three area high schools. Travel One in Union City works with the club to plan the trip each year and Davis says without the assistance of Linda Aaron, the undertaking would not be possible.

Union City's Rotary Club not only pays airfare and tour costs for the students and chaperones, it provides their passports; gives them two distinctive shirts with the club's emblem to wear on their trip over and back; hands out carry-on backpacks and travel journals; and gives them funds to spend on meals not covered by the tour itself, plus some additional money for subway travel within cities and "extra" side trips not included in the original tour cost. Students are encouraged to earn and save money of their own for personal shopping and for taking part in even more sightseeing possibilities as a group.

When the group returns, they will be guests of the Rotary Club again and will provide a review of their trip. The program is one they will also be expected to share with their fellow students and with any others in the community who are interested in hearing about and seeing their adventure.

"The Rotary Club's desire is not to reward any particular students; instead, the goal is to offer young men and women, about to enter their last year of high school, a life-changing opportunity they could not otherwise afford," says Woods. "We began this program two years ago when 10 UCCHS students were selected. Last year, we broadened the scope to include a student from OCCHS and one from FHS. That experiment worked perfectly. The students formed bonds with each other that exceeded anything we had even hoped for and it has been a joy to see these young men and women expand their horizons and discover new strengths and interests as they explore another world. We expect this year's travel team to carry on a proud tradition and establish their own unique experience — an experience that will shape their future positively."

**Percussion trio to play Sunday at UT Martin**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is hosting the Caixa Percussion Trio performance at 3 p.m. Sunday in Room 112 of Boling University Center.

The event is free and open to the public.

The Caixa Percussion Trio — featuring Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, Amy Smith and Julie Davila — will be playing instruments such as caixas, bongoes, marimbas, drum sets, sacks of quarters and more. The majority of works performed by the trio are composed specifically for the Caixa Trio.

As a result, the group has sculpted a program of vast contrast in style and instrumentation.

The Caixa Trio was formed in 2000 and is a professional percussion ensemble based in Tennessee. The ensemble derives its name from the caixa, or snare drum, used in escolas de samba in Brazil. The Caixa Trio performs an eclectic repertoire including classical, contemporary, world and rudimental percussion.

For more information, contact Dr. Hill at (731) 881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.

**Gault Scholarships Given**

The annual Gault Scholarships awarded by the University of Tennessee at Martin were recently presented by Clint Smith (center), Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. communications manager. The four West Tennessee recipients were (from left) Stevie Gossett, son of Tom Gossett and Lorraine Gossett, both of Union City, a freshman majoring in accounting; Taylor Barnett, son of James and Traci Watson of Dresden, a freshman in the pre-pharmacy program; Chelsea Mathis, daughter of Curtis and Julie Mathis of Union City, a freshman with an undeclared major; and Di'Yana Fisher, daughter of Dion Fisher and Chantay Fisher, both of Dyersburg, a freshman in the pre-dentistry program. Each student will receive $500 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 associate. 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 Kentucky School Boards Association will present officials with the Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation, Fulton Independent, Carlisle County, Fulton County and Hickman County schools the Public Education Achieves in Kentucky (PEAK) Award today at the Fulton Independent gymnasium following a demonstration of the districts' award-winning program, the Four Rivers Scholarship Program.

The Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation began two years ago to provide students in these four school districts with financial assistance, career counseling and ACT preparation to help them become successful adults and to promote economic growth in the region.

Since then, the program has grown and provides career exploration and counseling beginning in middle school; sponsors an annual Christmas book giveaway for students in kindergarten through fourth grade; holds annual career fairs with a local focus; and offers dual-credit courses to students to provide a head start on college.

Students and educators from all four districts will be on hand to discuss the various aspects of the program.

Representatives from all four partner colleges will also attend.

School board members and city and county officials from all four communities will be in attendance, as will individuals and business and community partners who have supported the program.

The PEAK Award was established in 1997 by the KSBA Board of Directors to bring greater attention to noteworthy efforts by public schools aimed specifically at enhancing the learning skills of students, and to promote the positive impact of public elementary and secondary education in the state.
Obion County Schools offer dual credit courses

Imagine showing up on campus for the first day of college with a dozen or more credit hours already under the belt. Thanks to dual enrollment offerings, it will be a reality for a number of Obion County Central and South Fulton High School seniors next fall.

The classes in math, history and English count both towards high school and college requirements and are taught by instructors certified to teach college classes. These teachers have Master's degrees, which include at least 18 credit hours in upper division classes in the subjects they instruct.

OCCHS offers Math 140 (college algebra) and 160 (applied calculus) and English 111 and 112. South Fulton High School offers math, English 1010 and 1020, and American History 2010 and 2020. Theoretically, an OCCHS senior could graduate high school with 12 college credits while a SFHS senior could have as many as 18 hours.

At OCCHS, Lana Warren teaches English to 35 current dual enrollment students. “The course is primarily focused on composition; students submit a portfolio of 15-25 pages of their writing at the end of each semester,” said Warren. “Students also complete four novel projects each semester. These projects include power point presentations, original book covers, and commercials.”

At SFHS Charyl Craddock teaches college algebra and Greg Barclay teaches English. Barclay, who is in his third year of teaching dual enrollment, has 17 current students. “My role in this class differs from my role in the other classes I teach because I am more of a facilitator in the dual enrollment class,” said Barclay. “The dual enrollment students are the higher achieving students at South Fulton, so they are already motivated to do well.”

Students are required to have at least a 3.0 GPA and at least a 19 on the reading and language section of the ACT to take dual enrollment classes, according to Barclay.

Tori Mitchell is a senior at OCCHS; she is preparing for her future as a teacher by taking the dual credit enrollment through UT Martin. When she graduates in May she’ll be ready to start UT Martin next fall with six credit hours. Mitchell said she chose dual enrollment because she wanted to get a head start on the realities of university life.

“It’s helping me prepare for what college coursework will be like,” said Mitchell. “It’s definitely more challenging than regular senior English with more independent work.”

Hope Montgomery is a senior at OCCHS and is currently enrolled in both dual enrollment math and English through UT Martin. She hopes to pursue a future in psychology or art at a liberal arts college, preferably at The College of Wooster in Ohio.

Montgomery will have 12 hours at UT Martin when she graduates in May.

“I have friends already in college who tell me the dual enrollment math really helps with college calculus so even if my hours won’t transfer to the school I hope to attend, the preparation is still very helpful,” said Montgomery.

Rebekah Carmen is the dual enrollment Math 140 teacher at OCCHS. Carmen said students are able to take their math in the high school setting where the teachers are less intimidating and the teacher student ratio is lower.

“Other big advantages of dual enrollment classes are the amount of time spent in the classroom, plus the book is provided by UTM,” said Carmen.

“Normally a college freshman would pay over $100 dollars for the book when they are enrolled at UT Martin.”

The dual enrollment courses aren’t free however. Students are paying normal college tuition to take the classes. In-state tuition at UT Martin is $259 per credit hour. One course can cost over $700 with added fees.

Barclay said during the past two years, government stimulus money has helped pay for the students’ classes. “Also, students are able to receive a $300 Tennessee Lottery grant each semester to be put toward their dual enrollment offerings. Whatever money is not covered by the lottery grant or stimulus money is each student’s responsibility,” according to Barclay.

Alex Gallien is currently enrolled in dual enrollment English and history at South Fulton High School. That added financial accountability is something he understands. “We’re given more responsibility than the everyday high school student and not just with more homework,” said Gallien. The dual classes cost money unlike regular high school classes, and that can definitely be a hassle in these economic times.

After high school graduation, Gallien said he plans to spend a year at The Ramp School of Ministry in Hamilton, Alabama. “After you graduate there I plan to come back home and attend UT Martin and major in religion, English, or maybe even do some studies in history,” said Gallien. “I really don’t know yet. I’m going to allow God to help me with that decision during my year at The Ramp.” When he does

South Fulton High School Senior Paxton Sisson uses the SFHS computer lab to explore the World Wide Web for information on her dual enrollment English research project. Sisson is earning both high school and college credit in the dual enrollment course offered in the Obion County School System. (Photo submitted)
Beginning Microsoft class set for Dec. 7

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a Beginning Microsoft Access class from 9 a.m.-noon, Dec. 7 and 9. The instructor for the course is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The registration fee is $85.

Beginners can learn how to design and create a database and how relational databases function. Students will also learn how to design and setup tables and relationships, edit data, sort and filter, create quick reports that can be customized, create quick forms for data entry and learn how queries give answers. Participants will work with Access 2007 and Vista.

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HCMC Welcomes Naik to Gastroenterology Group

By WeeklyStar Staff

PARIS, TN - Henry County Medical Center welcomes Arne Naik, MD, Gastroenterologist from Jackson, TN. She joins Dr. Hollis and Dr. Kayal in their practice and comes here on Wednesdays to the Medical Arts Building Specialty Clinic located in suite 104.

Naik moved to Henry County with her family in 1989. She graduated with honors from HCMC in 1995. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin with majors in both biology and chemistry.

She ranked tenth in her doctor of medicine class (out of 162) at University of Tennessee, Memphis Health Science Center in 2002.

Dr. Naik's post-graduate training took place at St. Louis University Hospital in Categorical Internal Medicine fellowship and residency programs. Her fellowship at the University of Tennessee, Memphis was in Gastroenterology/Hematology.

Naik is Board-Certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 2005.

"I was a "Candy Stripper" at HMCN when I was in high school here," said Naik.

"I enjoyed working in the pathology lab and in the surgery department. Later, I went to work in the Medical Records Department."

Gastroenterology is the study of the digestive system and its disorders. The focus of this specialty includes the organs from mouth to anus along the alimentary canal. Hepatology encompasses the study of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree as a sub-specialty.

"I really enjoy the balance between the clinical and the procedural processes in Gastroenterology," she said.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Naik, you may call 800-243-9220 or contact the clinic in Paris on Wednesdays at 731-644-8454. She joins Dr. Robert Hollis and Dr. Daniel Kayal in the Paris clinic.

Located in Paris, TN, Henry County Medical Center is a progressive, integrated healthcare organization committed to serving the healthcare needs of Henry County and the adjoining region. Including a 142-bed hospital and other facilities, the medical center provides a variety of outpatient services, as well as inpatient care. Henry County Medical Center is a county-owned and operated nonprofit institution.

UTM Music Department performance slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has planned an evening of vocal music performed by students, slated for 7:30 p.m., Dec. 9, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

The recital will feature students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, who will perform one song each. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and several students will accompany the performers on piano. The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Yeung at 881-7408 or ayeung@utm.edu.
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"I have friends already in college who tell me the dual enrollment math really helps with college calculus so even if my hours won't transfer to the school I hope to attend, the preparation is still very helpful," Miss Montgomery said.

Rebekah Carman is the dual enrollment Math 140 teacher at OCCHS. She said students are able to take their math in the high school setting where the teachers are less intimidating and the teacher student ratio is lower.

"Other big advantages of dual enrollment classes are the amount of time spent in the classroom, plus the book is provided by UTM," she said. "Normally a college freshman would pay over $100 for the book when they are enrolled at UTM."

The dual enrollment courses aren't free, however. Students are paying normal college tuition to take the classes. In-state tuition at UT Martin is $259 per credit hour. One course can cost over $700 with added fees.

Barclay said during the
past two years, government stimulus money has helped pay for the students' classes.

"Also, students are able to receive a $300 Tennessee lottery grant each semester to be put toward their dual enrollment offerings. Whatever money is not covered by the lottery grant or stimulus money is each student's responsibility," Barclay said.

Alex Gallien is currently enrolled in dual enrollment English and history at South Fulton High School. That added financial accountability is something he understands.

"We're given more responsibly than the everyday high school student and not just with more homework," Gallien said. "The dual classes cost money unlike regular high school classes and that can definitely be a hassle in these economic times."

After high school graduation, Gallien said he plans to spend a year at the Ramp School of Ministry in Hamilton, Ala.

"After a year down there, I plan to come back home and attend UTM and major in religion, English or maybe even do some studies in history," Gallien said. "I really don't know yet. I'm going to allow God to help me with that decision during my year at the Ramp."

When he does decide, Gallien's 12 dual enrollment hours earned in high school will be waiting for him at UT Martin.

Dual enrollment history at South Fulton is taught by Bill Gray, while Nancy Johnson teaches a section of dual enrollment English at OCCHS.

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**UT Martin jazz bands to perform**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Big Band and Small Jazz Group will be performing a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on campus.

The program will include the compositions of Pat Metheny, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson and Tadd Dameron. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music, at (731) 881-7404 or kgorman@utm.edu.

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**Wednesday's community briefs**

Posted December 1, 2010 at 8:53 a.m.

**ACT prep class**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 4, at Great Oaks Church of Christ, 3356 Brunswick Road. The instructor is Julie Algcyer. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book. A lunch break will be included and is covered in the $65 fee.

To register, call ECOS at 731-581-7082 or register online at utm.edu/departments/ecos/mondegree/home.php.
Santa’s Village schedule of events

The 26th annual event is gearing up for Dec. 9-12, 2010, at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex, on the campus of UT Martin. Bring the kids for all the fun and excitement of “The Enchanted Forest,” a petting farm, children’s rides, visit with Santa, view the model train display, ride in a horse drawn wagon and listen to live entertainment. It’s absolutely free to the public but a five-dollar toy or non-perishable canned good donation will be appreciated. All proceeds from Santa’s Village will go to help less fortunate families. You can help us to make a heartfelt thank you to the monetary sponsors of the Village by letting the following know how much their support is appreciated: University Plaza of TN, Greenball, Frontier Communications, First State, Volunteer Community Hospital, Tyson Foods, McDonald’s, Hampton Inn, MTD Products and Huddle House. For more information contact the department at 587-6784.

Live Entertainment at Santa’s Village (subject to change) – Thursday, Dec. 9 5:40 p.m. Christy Lee – Piano
6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. High Variety’s 15 Year Reunion Part 1 (Christmas Special) Tassi Renee; Carla Lee; Janice White; Debbie Cook; Michael Brewer; Rose Brawner; Zach Rae; Brian McWherter; Bonnie Moore; Tami Gooch; Mike Teal; Pam Daniel; Stephanie Bates; Betsy Brasher; Michele Platts
Friday, Dec. 10 5:40 p.m. Brooke Baker – Piano
6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. High Variety’s 15 Year Santa’s Village Reunion Part II (Favorite Songs through the Year) Lindsey Wade; Nealey Wade; Tara Elam; Tabitha Dawson; Alex Butler; Joy Jones; Kayla Clanton; Allie Baker; John P. Winstead; Rose Brawner; Whitley Southerland; Amber Vermillion; Ashley Mitchell; Ashley Ay
Mary Katherine Maxey; Maggie Blackwell Saturday, Dec. 11 10:40 a.m. Joy Jones – Piano
10:55 a.m. Hannah Graves - Vocal
11 a.m. Kelsie Winstead - Vocal; Amy Day - Vocal; Natalie Hurst - Vocal; Kelsie Winstead - Dance; Karson Scott - Dance; Claire Capps - Dance; Tabitha Dawson - Vocal
12 p.m. Brooke Baker - Christmas Bells
12:15 p.m. Rachel Alley - Piano; Katie Snider - Piano; Blake Snider - Banjo & Violin
1 p.m. Santa’s Seven - Vocal Group; Miley Cyrus Christmas Selections; Kiley Wright - Vocal; Emma Kelley - Vocal; Kayla Campbell - Vocal; Lexie Knott - Vocal; Karson Scott - Vocal
1:45 p.m. Rose Brawner - Vocal
2 p.m. Jenny Bradshaw - Harp; Joy Jones - Vocal
2:45 p.m. Michael Brewer - Vocal
3 p.m. John Knight & Carla Field - Accordion and Violin
3:30 p.m. The Bell Family - Accapella Vocal Group
4 p.m. The Fieser Family Fiddlers – Jim, Emma, David and Michele
4:30 p.m. Alex Butler - Vocal; Lindsey Wade - Vocal; Nealey Wade - Vocal & Signing, Rose Brawner – Vocal
5:45 p.m. Tara Elam, John Paul Winstead, Michael Brewer, Tabitha Dawson
7:30 p.m. Jonathan McDowell - Vocal & Guitar
8:15 p.m. Dave Chaffen - Vocal & Guitar
Sunday, Dec. 12 12:40 p.m. Rose Brawner – Piano
1 p.m. Kiley Wright
Lexie Knott - Vocal
1:15 p.m. Rose Brawner - Vocal; Lindsey and Nealey Wade - Vocals
2 p.m. Bible Union Baptist Church – Signing Group
2:30 p.m. Lana Lee - Vocal
3 p.m. Michael Brewer - Trio-Vocal
3:30 p.m. Linda Ramsey - Vocal
4 p.m. The Maxeys - Vocals – Allison, Bailey, Lukus, and Mary Katherine
4:45 p.m. Michael Brewer - Vocal
UT Martin preparing to entertain

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the annual UT Martin dance ensemble fall showcase, "Surrender," at 7 p.m., Dec. 2-4, and at 3 p.m., Dec. 5, at Elam Center Dance Studio.

Tickets are $3 for UT Martin students with ID, $5 for adults and free to children under the age of 12.

This year's ensemble, under the direction of Sarah McCormick, lecturer of dance, includes new dance works from student choreographers and guest artists, Carone Harpe and Justin Paschal.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is hosting the Caixa Percussion Trio performance at 3 p.m., Dec. 5, in Room 112, Boling University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The Caixa Percussion Trio, featuring Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, Amy Smith and Julie Davila, will be playing instruments such as calabashes, buckets, marimbas, drum sets, sacks of quarters and more. The majority of works performed by the trio are composed specifically for the Caixa Trio. As a result, the group has sculpted a program of vast contrast in style and instrumentation.

The Caixa Trio was formed in 2000 and is a professional percussion ensemble based in Tennessee. The ensemble derives its name from the caixa, or snare drum, used in escolas de samba in Brazil. The Caixa Trio performs an eclectic repertoire including classical, contemporary, world and rudimental percussion.

To find out more information, contact Hill at 731-881-7418 or jhills@utm.edu.

Glencoe Museum to Host Lytton Book Signing

December 2nd, 2010 · No Comments

Glencoe Museum will host a book signing with Charles Lytton, author of New River Bonnets, Apple Butter and Moonshine: The Raising of a Fat Little Boy on Dec. 7. The book signing will take place 3:30 - 6 p.m. at Glencoe Museum in Radford. Admission to the museum and event is free. There will be copies of the book for sale for $15.

Charles H. Lytton is a storyteller in the oral tradition so often attributed to Appalachia. He has been telling his stories for years to the delight of friends and colleagues and in recent years for audiences of adults and children around the campfire at the Mountain Lake Resort in Giles County.

Growing up on River Ridge, which is a suburb of Long Shop, Virginia, Lytton enjoyed having the New River right out the back door of his parents’ house and Tom’s Creek not too far from the front door. Charles has a large and colorful extended family; very large and very colorful! In his early childhood, he listened to and was educated by the stories told by the old men who lived and articulated those stories in Long Shop and told them at night in Tom Long’s Store.

Lytton was educated at Price’s Fork Elementary School and then Blacksburg High School. Later on he attended The University of Rhode Island, The University of Tennessee at Martin, and Virginia Tech. Lytton is currently a part-time retired person all the while still working as the 4-H Extension Agent for Giles County.

New River Bonnets, Apple Butter and Moonshine: The Raising of a Fat Little Boy recounts the author’s experiences growing up in Appalachia around his grandmother and her traditional Appalachian way of life. The author includes many childhood stories, recipes, and examples to bring his experiences to life.
Rudolph, scholarship program recognized

A scholarship program partially funded by Murray businessman Robbie Rudolph was awarded by the Kentucky School Board Association on Wednesday.

The KSBA presented officials with the Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation, Fulton Independent, Carlisle County, Fulton County and Hickman County schools the Public Education Achieves in Kentucky (PEAK) Award at the Fulton Independent gymnasium following a demonstration of the districts’ award-winning program, the Four Rivers Scholarship Program, said a press release from KSBA.

“it’s gratifying that (the KSBA) recognized the program,” said Rudolph. “They acknowledged that the program is working. I’ve told everyone this is a ten-year project and to keep the eye on the horizon and not just tomorrow.”

The Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation began two years ago to provide students in these four school districts with financial assistance, career counseling and ACT preparation to help them become successful adults and to promote economic growth in the region.

“I’ve seen over the years our loss of employment and population in the four rivers area. I wanted to do something to bring that back, that’s why I started this program. I chose to start by enhancing education to help bring back employment,” Rudolph said.

Since then, the program has grown and provides career exploration and counseling beginning in middle school; sponsors an annual Christmas book giveaway for students in kindergarten through fourth grade; holds annual career fairs with a local focus; and offers dual-credit courses to students to provide a head start on college.

Fulton Independent Superintendent Dianne Owen, in whose district the program originated, said the total annual cost for the four districts is about $150,000, with $70,000 going directly to scholarships.

The remaining funds are used to support the dual-credit programs, textbooks, transportation, registration fees, books and staff. The dual-credit tuition is supplemented by federal GEAR Up grant funds and local business and individual donors.

Of the 400 juniors and seniors in the four districts, 198 of them are currently taking a total of 970 dual-credit hours, with an annual savings of future postsecondary costs to parents of $97,000. The dual credits are offered in partnership with Murray State University, West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Mid-Continent College and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its two years, the program also has given away more than 1,000 books, has held two annual career fairs and has awarded 50 scholarships to students who otherwise may not have been able to overcome financial barriers to continue their education.

Rudolph, a 1973 Fulton Independent High School graduate and owner of Rudolph Tire, worked with school officials to start the scholarship program and continues to support it, according to the nomination application for the PEAK Award.

The PEAK Award was established in 1997 by the KSBA Board of Directors to bring greater attention to noteworthy efforts by public schools aimed specifically at enhancing the learning skills of students, and to promote the positive impact of public elementary and secondary education in the state.
Wild horse adoption

The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management will offer 40 wild horses from yearlings to 5-year-olds to potential adopters today and Saturday at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Those interested can adopt and provide a home for a wild horse in Tennessee for a minimal fee, according to a news release.

The adoption will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday on a first-come, first-served basis. The animals can be previewed from 2 to 7 p.m. today. The adoption fee is $125 for animals less than 3 years of age and $25 for animals 3 and older. The fee for a buddy animal is $25 when any animal is adopted at the full fee of $125, the release said.

Applications to adopt may be submitted until Saturday. For more information, call (866) 468-7826 or visit wildhorseandburro.blm.gov. Information also available at facebook.com/BLMWildHorseandBurro.

Directions to the adoption site: Take Tenn. 43 East into Martin. Turn left onto University Street. Go .5 miles to Dewberry Lane. Take a left on Dewberry and follow the sign to the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Center.
carry on a proud tradition and establish their own unique experience — an experience that will shape their future positively."

Meet the students
Representing UCHS:

- Brittany Brown is the daughter of Chris and Tonya Brown of Union City. The UCHS junior is most excited about the prospect of visiting Italy. "I love their style of architecture, along with their unique culture. I wanted to expand my cultural background and take part in the experience of a lifetime. That's why I applied for the trip," she says. Miss Brown is the sister of Alex Brown of Union City.

- Devan Burns is the son of Albert Burns and Lashawnda Burns of Union City. His biggest dream is to see Paris and Venice. "I wanted this trip because I want to learn more about other cultures," he says. He is the brother of Damon Burns of Union City.

- Haley Cash is the daughter of Debra Cash of Union City and Richard Cash of Dyersburg. She wants to share the culture she is familiar with in Northwest Tennessee with people in other parts of the world, while learning about theirs. "I applied for the Rotary abroad trip because it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I know I shouldn't pass up. I've always wanted to visit a different country and this is probably the only chance I will get to do this," she says.

- Nick Crumple is the son of Kenda Turner of Union City. He decided to apply for the trip to travel and learn about other countries. "I'm looking forward to Italy the most. I love Italian food," he says.

- Peyton Mosley is the son of Danny and Mary Mosley of Union City. He decided to apply in order to learn about other cultures and their cultures. "I am looking forward to spending time with my friends and building better friendships on this trip," he says. Mosley is the grandson of Edith Mosley of Union City, Viola Marney of Hickman, Ky., and Ben Marney of Jackson. He is the brother of Danny Bishop of Union City, Christopher Robinson, serving in the U.S. military; and Raven Mosley of Hickman.

- Grant Walton is the son of Michael and Chistina Walton of Union City. "I want to see parts of the world I would probably never get to see otherwise and one of those I'm looking forward to most is the 10,000-foot summit of Mount Tilds," he says. Walton is the brother of Garrett Walton of Union City.

Representing OCCHS:

- Megan Cook is the daughter of David and Audrey House of Rives and Woody Cook of Samburg. The OCCHS junior says, "I decided to apply for the trip because I thought it would be an awesome experience and something I would remember for the rest of my life. I'm looking forward to London the most." She is the daughter of Tim and Amy Fields of Union City.

- Julie Mathenia is the daughter of David Webster and Carla Mathenia, both of Union City. She is looking forward to all the places the group will be going and the sights they will be seeing. "I thought it would be a great opportunity and experience," she says. She is the sister of Matthew Mathenia, Steven Mathenia and Ashley Mathenia.

- Chelsea Southland is the daughter of Gary and Donna Southland of Ossian. She is looking forward to seeing all the historical landmarks, especially the Eiffel Tower. "I know this will be a once-in-a-lifetime trip to explore and learn about other countries," Miss Southland says. She is the granddaughter of Charles and Betty Southland of Union City and Jimmy and Carolyn Durham of Tiptonville and is the sister of Kaitlyn Southland of Ossian.

- Cole Stanford is the daughter of Tammy Boucher-Standard of Union City. She is the granddaughter of Norm and Linda Boucher and Thomas and Kathy Stanford, both of Union City.

"This trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and I simply could not let my only opportunity to travel abroad pass me by," she says. "I have always dreamed of visiting Europe and would like to thank the Rotary club for selecting me. I have been on cloud nine since I got the news. I am looking forward to representing Ossian County in Europe and making lasting friendships with the other students on the trip. I love music, fashion and writing, so I cannot wait to visit Abbey Road in London where The Beatles recorded."

Published in The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, December 3, 2010

UC resident Chase Taylor to serve as wildlife officer

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has appointed Union City resident Chase Taylor to the position of wildlife officer in Dyer County.

Taylor was commissioned as TWRA wildlife officer in a ceremony at the TWRA main office in Nashville. He completed an extensive training program to earn his commission status.

As a wildlife officer, Taylor's duties will include enforcing and educating the public of hunting and fishing regulations, boating regulations, conducting hunter education programs and public education in the outdoors, and habitat management.

Taylor, a native of Robertson County, is a 2005 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, earning his bachelor's degree in natural resources management with a concentration in wildlife biology. Since his graduation for college, he has been employed as a wildlife technician working at various TWRA Wildlife Management Areas, primarily in Dyer County. He resides with his family in Union City.

TWRA is an organization of more than 600 professionals dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of Tennessee's fish and wildlife.
Budget-Cutting Colleges Bid Some Languages Adieu

By LISA W. FODERARO

Albany

THE bad news was not unexpected: sweeping cutbacks at the State University of New York at Albany, prompted by sweeping cutbacks in state aid. The reactions, too, had a whiff of the familiar: student rallies, faculty resolutions, an online petition.

But then came an op-ed article in the French newspaper Le Monde, calling the cuts Orwellian. And an open letter from the French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy, sarcastically suggesting that universities give up teaching the humanities altogether.

If the cuts have struck a nerve far from this upstate campus and in more than one language, it is in large part because they involve language itself, and some cherished staples of the curriculum. The university announced this fall that it would stop letting new students major in French, Italian, Russian and the classics.

The move mirrors similar prunings around the country at other public colleges and universities that are reeling from steep drops in state aid. After a generation of expansion, academic officials are being forced to lop entire majors. More often than not, foreign languages — European ones in particular — are on the chopping block.

The reasons for their plight are many. Some languages may seem less vital in a world increasingly dominated by English. Web sites and new technologies offer instant translations. The small, interactive classes typical of foreign language instruction are costly for universities.

But the paradox, some experts in higher education say, is that many schools are eliminating language degrees and graduate programs just as they begin to embrace an international mission: opening campuses abroad, recruiting students from overseas and talking about graduating citizens of the world. The University at Albany's motto is "The World Within"
"There's no way on earth we should be cutting these languages," said John M. Hamilton, executive vice chancellor and provost at Louisiana State University, where officials this year decided to phase out majors in German and Latin, as well as basic instruction in Portuguese, Russian, Swahili and Japanese, after losing $42 million in public financing over the last two years.

"We should be adding languages and urging more students to take them," Dr. Hamilton added. "I'm being asked to prepare students for the global economy, but this is almost like asking them to use the abacus instead of computers."

Most public colleges still teach languages, but fewer are allowing students to make them a specialty. The University of Maine's president, Robert A. Kennedy, has recommended suspending undergraduate degree programs in German and Latin. This fall at the University of Nevada, Reno, students can no longer declare majors in German Studies or minors in Italian. At Winona State University in Minnesota, officials have placed a moratorium on new majors in French and German while it challenges the faculty to make those disciplines more relevant to the contemporary world.

Other schools, public and private, have recently eliminated or diluted the foreign-language component of their core curriculums. Starting next fall at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at the George Washington University, students will no longer have to take a foreign language to graduate, although they may use language courses to help fulfill a broader humanities requirement.

Bob Peckham, a professor of French at the University of Tennessee at Martin whose own program came under threat, has made it his mission to fight the retrenchments nationwide. As chairman of the Commission on Advocacy of the American Association of Teachers of French, he monitors cutback proposals and provides research that helps campuses tailor their protests.

"There are at least 54 foreign-language majors that have been either threatened or eliminated," Dr. Peckham said. "People don't realize that this is happening in a lot of places."

Still, languages are holding their own on campus. A report due Wednesday from the Modern Language Association, which advocates for language programs nationwide, will show that overall enrollments in college language classes are actually up over 2006, when the last
survey was conducted, and are at their highest level since 1960.

One reason is a surge of interest in languages like Arabic and Spanish, which is thriving on campus in response to the nation’s growing Latino population. China’s rising importance has prompted more college programs in Mandarin, and the Chinese government has been generous in financing them.

Richard N. Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, caused a stir with a speech last month to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in which he questioned the prominence of European language instruction, given the shift of power centers and political hot spots from Europe to Asia and the Middle East.

“My argument wasn’t so much against this or that language,” Dr. Haass, a former State Department official, said in an interview. “But if we’re going to remain economically competitive and provide the skill and manpower for government, I think we need more Americans to learn Chinese or Hindi or Farsi or Portuguese or Korean or Arabic. In an ideal world, that wouldn’t mean fewer people would know Spanish, French, German and Italian. But in a real world, it might.”

Rosemary G. Feal, executive director of the Modern Language Association, rejected the notion of languages as “a zero-sum game,” and said the field had become too responsive to fads.

“We always do these things in fits and starts,” said Dr. Feal, who is a Spanish professor at the University at Buffalo. “We pick targets of opportunity as the geopolitical circumstances change, and we don’t create a steady infrastructure so that language learning at a deep level is possible.”

She said the program cuts also revealed an “Anglocentric perspective” that fluency in English was enough to understand the world.

“How can you be a comprehensive university center,” Dr. Feal said, “and not offer students even the chance to take advanced courses in French, German, Russian and Italian, to read Goethe in the original?”

It is a tough choice, but a necessary one as publicly funded universities can no longer rely on piecemeal, one-time cuts to balance budgets, said Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president of the American Council on Education. Across the country, he said, foreign language programs “are being looked at carefully with an eye toward measuring student demand versus
expenses."

At SUNY Albany, which has lost tens of millions of dollars in state aid in the past few years and faces another $13 million loss this year, the situation has "reached a breaking point," said its provost, Susan D. Phillips.

The French department has seven full-time faculty members and 40 majors, while 15 doctoral students do "a great deal of the undergraduate instruction," Dr. Phillips said. In Russian, there are three full-time faculty members for 19 majors. By contrast, the communications department employs six full-time faculty members for 520 majors.

The university, which has also stopped accepting new majors in theater, has suspended degree programs in French, Italian and Russian. Making the change permanent would require State Department of Education approval.

Dr. Phillips said she hoped some instruction would continue in those languages. Currently, classes are offered in 13 languages, including Arabic, Dutch, Hebrew and Korean; students can earn undergraduate degrees in Spanish, Chinese and Japanese, and in East Asian Studies.

Meanwhile, those who have declared French, Russian or Italian as a major or minor say they worry that their diplomas could lose value if the degree programs vanish.

Jessica Stapf, a freshman, arrived on campus planning to pursue a double major in French and political science, followed by a master's in French, the only language in which the university offered advanced degrees. She hopes to land a job someday with the United Nations in Africa, where French is widely spoken.

Though the university made an exception and allowed her to declare a French major anyway, she was advised that she would need to cram 11 upper-level courses into the next three semesters. The master's, she said, appears to be out of the question.

"It's extraordinarily inconvenient for me," Ms. Stapf said. "If the university wants to provide that 'world within reach' they've been sloganeering about, then they have to provide the languages that bring the world within reach."
UT Martin Jazz Band concert
The UTM Jazz Band will play a free concert at 7:30 p.m. today in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

UT Martin Caixa Percussion Trio
The Caixa Percussion Trio concert will begin at 3 p.m. today in Room 112 of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee Martin. Free.

Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, recently spoke about ‘The Future of Higher Education in Tennessee’ at the University of Tennessee Martin. His presentation was part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series. Prior to Simek’s presentation, he met with honors program students to discuss his work. With Simek is Allyson Butler, of Jackson, a sophomore education major.
26th celebration of Santa’s Village opens Thursday at UT Martin

The tradition of holiday entertainment and food and toy collections continues for the 26th year, as Santa’s Village will be sponsored Dec. 9-12. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

To date, 226,510 people have attended Santa’s Village, with donations of $882,968 in food and toys that have been distributed to area families.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 9-10; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 11; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 12, the “Enchanted Forest” theme will be depicted as part of the holiday scenes. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m., Dec. 9. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event to date include: University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenbriar, Frontier Communications and McDonald’s. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

“This is the 26th year for the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin to work together on this great event,” said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

“We will help approximately 1,900 families this year. So not only are we providing a fun and free holiday event for families, we are also helping to meet some of the needs of families in our community and surrounding area around the holidays.”

Moore expressed thanks to sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Brainstorm

Foreign Languages and Stark Numbers

December 7, 2010, 11:20 am

By Mark Baurein

In The New York Times this weekend, a story appeared on the threats to foreign-language programs at universities across the country. The title: "Budget-Cutting Colleges Bid Some Languages Adieu." The story cites the most publicized cut so far, SUNY-Albany’s decision to drop majors in French, Italian, Classics, Russian, and Theater. We also hear about other decisions:

"The University of Maine’s president, Robert A. Kennedy, has recommended suspending undergraduate degree programs in German and Latin. This fall at the University of Nevada, Reno, students can no longer declare majors in German Studies or minors in Italian. At Winona State University in Minnesota, officials have placed a moratorium on new majors in French and German while it challenges the faculty to make those disciplines more relevant to the contemporary world.”

And then there is LSU’s decision to kill majors in German and Latin, and drop “basic instruction” in Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, and Japanese. Indeed, according to Bob Peckham, French professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin and head of the Commission on Advocacy of the American Association of Teachers of French, fully 54 foreign language majors across the country have been threatened or eliminated.

The story contains a brighter note, however. The MLA plans to release a report tomorrow documenting an actual rise in foreign-language enrollments. Spanish and Arabic, in particular, have prospered, and Mandarin is on the rise as well (with financial support from the Chinese government).

With some languages doing much better than others, though, administrators may merely shift foreign language resources from one to another. MLA Executive Director Rosemary Feal warns. For SUNY-Albany to cut the programs noted above is both to adopt an "Anglocentric perspective" and to give up on the goal of being a "comprehensive university center." SUNY Provost Susan Phillips has a matter-of-fact rejoinder. With a $13-million dollar loss in state aid, the university finances have "reached a breaking point." An accounting needs to be done.

"The French department has seven full-time faculty members and 40 majors, while 15 doctoral students do a great deal of the undergraduate instruction," Dr. Phillips said. "Russian, there are three full-time faculty members for 19 majors. By contrast, the communications department employs six full-time faculty members for 520 majors."

Those numbers an administrator cannot ignore. We shall see what tomorrow’s report provides in terms of both majors-to-professors ratios and enrollers-to-professors ratios.

Santa’s Village Dec. 9-12

Performers who will take the stage during Santa’s Village to provide 22 hours of continuous entertainment at the 26th annual event include vocalists, instrumentalists and dance soloists from across the region.

The event marks the 15-year reunion of the High Variety act that features special and favorite songs through the years. Other acts will perform vocal, piano, banjo, violin, accordion, harp, signing, guitar, ballet, jazz and tap selections. There will be more than 100 performers, with ages ranging from 7-70.

This year’s Santa’s Village theme is "Enchanted Forest." It is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 9-10; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 11; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 12. Doors open at 6 p.m., Dec. 9. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Reba Wade, of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin, has volunteered as entertainment coordinator of Santa’s Village for 22 of the 26 years.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and NorthwestTennesseeEconomic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenball, Frontier Communications, McDonald’s and Huddle House. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Foreign language courses growing on campuses

Posted: Dec 08, 2010 10:04 AM
Updated: Dec 08, 2010 10:04 AM

By ERIC GORSKI
AP Education Writer

A growing number of college students are studying foreign languages, a trend propelled by greater interest in Arabic, a broader palette of languages being taught and more crowded language classes at community colleges, a new study finds.

But despite the strong interest, experts warn that foreign language study on campuses is in peril because of budget cuts and a dwindling number of graduate students who form the foundation of future college language faculties.

The latest figures from the Modern Language Association, released Wednesday, show that enrollment in foreign language courses grew 6.6 percent between 2006 and 2009, achieving a high mark since the study began in 1960.

While advocates of language study say any growth is good, things have slowed down since the group's previous report, which showed 12.9 percent growth between 2002 and 2006.

"This is a vulnerable time for language study," said Rosemary Feal, the association's executive director and a Spanish professor at the University of Buffalo. "While interest in language study remains strong and students are increasingly interested in studying a wide range of languages, opportunities to study languages may be threatened by program cuts at many colleges and universities."

Spanish remained the most popular language, with 864,986 students enrolled in classes, a 5 percent increase from 2006. Other European standbys such as French, German and Italian gained, too, but not as fast as other languages.

The biggest gainer was Arabic, which jumped to No. 8 from No. 10 on the list of most-studied languages.

Interest in languages often rise with world events, but many experts say Arabic is not a passing fad considering the long-term importance of U.S. relations with the Muslim world.

Enrollments in Arabic courses grew 46 percent, to 35,083. Other languages that saw double-digit enrollment gains include Korean (up 19 percent), Chinese (18.2 percent), American Sign Language (16.4 percent), Portuguese (10.8 percent) and Japanese (10.3 percent).

More than 244 less-commonly taught languages saw enrollment growth of more than 20 percent in total. More than 35 languages were being taught that were not in classrooms in 2006, including several Native American languages.

Russell Berman, professor of German studies and comparative literature at Stanford University, cites a variety of reasons for the growth of foreign language study: career opportunities, students motivated by their heritage, the rise of globalization and the importance of foreign languages as a cornerstone of a liberal arts education.
The report also shines a light on significant growth of language studies at two-year colleges - 14 percent between 2006 and 2009. Community colleges see more students in general during down economic times. But Feal also said more students see the job training perks to speaking another language.

"If a student is going into health care, it might be important to learn Vietnamese or Korean if it's spoken in the community," she said.

More disturbing to supporters of foreign language education is the 6.7 percent decline in graduate enrollments in foreign languages. While Feal said there are more qualified PhD holders than tenure-track positions in languages, the decrease "may limit avenues of study for a generation or more."

A thorough accounting of the foreign-language cutbacks at colleges is hard to come by. Robert Peckham, a professor of French at the University of Tennessee at Martin who has been sounding the alarm about the trend, said 70 programs at 39 institutions have either been eliminated or threatened in the last 30 months alone.

In Louisiana, some foreign-language students took part in a mock jazz funeral for the humanities after officials announced the elimination of majors in German and Latin and basic classes in other languages because of state budget cuts.

The similarly budget-challenged State University of New York announced this fall it would no longer let students major in French, Italian and Russian, citing the relatively low number of majors, among other factors.

"It's perplexing given the increased student demand," said Berman, of Stanford. "It's also perplexing given a decade or more of discussion about globalization and the need for Americans to become more aware of the world around them."

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Entertainers share talent to benefit Santa's Village cause

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Foreign Language Courses Grow On Campuses

Study: Interest In Arabic Language Rises

ERIC GORSKI, AP Education Writer

POSTED: 10:41 am EST December 8, 2010
UPDATED: 9:08 pm EST December 9, 2010

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"It's perplexing given the increased student demand," said Berman, of Stanford. "It's also perplexing given a decade or more of discussion about globalization and the need for Americans to become more aware of the world around them."

Online: www.mla.org

(This version CORRECTS the last name of Robert Peckham.)

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**UTM students two of 21 in nation to serve as National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors**

Jeremy Fair, a senior agricultural education major, and Brandon Neil Bringle, a junior agricultural education major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently were selected as two of 21 National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors.

Fair, of Newbern, and Bringle, of Munford, join students from Colorado State University, Texas A&M, University of Missouri, South Dakota State, Ohio State and others in the program to promote agricultural understanding and development.

Pam Bartholomew, of Decaturville, was the first UT Martin student chosen in 2005 as one of 10 students nationwide to serve in this capacity. Bartholomew was followed by Heather McLean, of Newbern, who served two years; Brittany Cole, of Atoka; Ashley Amsden from Munford; and Cody Norton, of Columbia, who served last year.

Fair, Bringle and the other ambassadors promote agricultural awareness to different local school and community groups in their state. The ambassadors work to help their communities better understand the value and importance of agriculture and how it is a part of their daily lives. To date, more than 1,500 presentations have been given to more than 75,000 people since the program began.

The ambassadors went through an application and interview process before being selected. For their year of service to the program, they receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector.

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**UTM vocal studio recital December 9**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has planned an evening of vocal music performed by students, slated for 7:30 p.m., December 9, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

The recital will feature students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, who will perform one song each. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and several students will accompany the performers on piano. The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Yeung at 881-7408 or ayeung@utm.edu.
Four Rivers program builds workforce, stimulates economy

12/08/10
Email this story to a friend

The Kentucky School Boards Association presented officials with the Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation, Fulton Independent, Carlisle County, Fulton County and Hickman County schools, the Public Education Achieves in Kentucky (PEAK) Award Dec. 1, at the Fulton Independent gymnasium.

The presentation followed a demonstration of the districts' award-winning program, the Four Rivers Scholarship Program. The Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation began two years ago to provide students in these four school districts with financial assistance, career counseling and ACT preparation to help them become successful adults and to promote economic growth in the region. The program has since grown and provides career exploration and counseling beginning in middle school; sponsors an annual Christmas book giveaway for students in kindergarten through fourth grade; holds annual career fairs with a local focus; and offers dual-credit courses to students to provide a head start on college.

The dual credits are offered in partnership with Murray State University, West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Mid-Continent College and the University of Tennessee at Martin, all of which had representatives attending the demonstration.

The PEAK Award was established in 1997 by the KSBA Board of Directors to bring greater attention to noteworthy efforts by public schools aimed specifically at enhancing the learning skills of students, and to promote the positive impact of public elementary and secondary education in the state.

Upon KSBA's visit to Fulton Independent Bill Scott, KSBA Executive Director said, "In an era of shrinking resources, at both the state and federal level, the Four Rivers Scholarship Program is an example of how a region can forge its own solution to a major challenge."

Delmar Mahan, KSBA president said, "The Four Rivers Scholarship Program is one of the most stirring presentations I have had the opportunity to be at since I've been president."

Allen Kennedy, member of KSBA Board of Directors, said "I see it as a benchmark for other school systems to use as a model because it is so inclusive, not only in the number of students, but in their ages, serving students of all ages." Ronnie Holmes, member of KSBA Board of Directors, said, "It was just amazing to see all four school districts come together and do all of that work for their students."

Robbie Rudolph, a 1973 Fulton Independent graduate, said, "The program was established to build a highly qualified workforce in Western Kentucky in order to attract industry. Every child can have the opportunity to receive a post secondary education and not be denied basis on the lack of funding, but can pursue an associates or bachelors degree from a university or trade school."

Fulton Independent Superintendent Dianne Owen said, "I believe the recognition of KSBA awarding our four small districts the PEAK Award will show our students they are fortunate to be able to be a part of the Four Rivers Scholarship Program and to have Mr. Rudolph, the foundation, the colleges, the businesses, and the communities giving them the opportunity to get a jump start on post secondary training. Seeing the excitement for the program build among the students and seeing the result of the program in changed lives is the true "PEAK" of the program."

Dennis Bledsoe, superintendent at Fulton County, said the program better prepares students for college or careers. Kenny Wilson, superintendent at Hickman County, said the program assists students through everyone's combined efforts. Keith Shoulders, superintendent at Carlisle County Schools, said the program assists students in developing the career skills required for jobs in Western Kentucky.

Wendell Benningfield, assistant superintendent for Fulton Independent Schools, serves as director of the scholarship foundation said, "We have 50 students on scholarships from the four school districts. Each student's progress is tracked to make sure they are successful academically. The goal is to ensure they not only begin a post secondary program, but remain on track to completion."
Communications tower replaced at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin is building a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The project will benefit WUTM-FM and WLJT-DT, as well as the UT Martin Office of Housing, Maintenance Center, Department of Public Safety and barn radio operators' frequencies.

The project includes engineering, supplying and installing a new 300-foot, three-leg, self-supporting communications tower, foundation and all appurtenances and a precast concrete building.

The new tower includes a climbing ladder with anti-fall system, transmission line support ladder and brackets, obstruction warning lights, antenna mounts, grounding and lighting protection and site signage according to Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Communications Commission and all other regulations.

The existing tower will be removed under a separate contract once the new tower is in place and fully operational.

"The new location of the tower is such that it will allow for better use of the property and better access for future tower maintenance," said Tim Nipp, UT Martin Physical Plant director.

"One other key element is the structural integrity of the new tower. This upgrade will provide a safer campus tower for years to come," he said.

The new tower and equipment building offer improved features such as updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security. This ensures the public safety communications equipment, WUTM-FM, UT Martin's student-operated radio station, and WLJT-DT public television station can stay on the air during emergency situations or power outages.

"Connectivity to the new facility also gives us the ability to monitor key functions at the site such as tower lights, heating and cooling and power," said Rodney Freed, UT Martin instructor of Communications.

"When the tower and building are complete, transmitting antennas and cabling on the tower will be installed. We're hoping everything can be completed by May," he said.

Kenneth Robinson, director of engineering for WLJT, added, "We will benefit from the added security for the fiber equipment and microwave transmitter, due to the enclosure layout of the tower building, and the UPS/generator system, which should supply power 100 percent of the time. The new tower building will also have proper cooling, which should extend the life of the equipment it houses."

The project designer is SSR Fillers Inc. of Memphis and the contractor for the tower project is Diversified Contractors Inc. of McKenzie.

Voice recital slated for Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has planned an evening of vocal music performed by students for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

The recital will feature students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, who will perform one song each.

Delana Easley of Union City, lecturer of music, and several students will accompany the performers on piano. The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Yeung at (731) 881-7408 or ayeung@utm.edu.
Castellaw to Speak at UTM Fall Commencement
By WestKyStar Staff

MARTIN, TN - Retired Lt. General John "Gas" Castellaw will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18 at 11 am in the Kennehe and Tom Blow Center.

Approximately 600 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Tickets are required for admission to December commencement. A live webcast will be available at the Vols Commencement Live, 11 am, Dec. 18 news link on the UT Martin homepage.

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (RITC). In 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and the Paul and Martha Weak Leadership Award.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he first served in Marine tank and amphibious tractors units before becoming a helicopter pilot. He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990.

During his 36-year career, he held several commands, including Marine Aircraft Command 264, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, U.S. Forces East Timor, and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He served tours afloat and ashore and aboard ship in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. His last assignment was as an active duty in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and the Marine Corps budget, evaluation and execution.

In 2008, he retired with the rank of lieutenant general and returned home to the family farm. There he has resumed his first love, farming, in addition to consulting with various companies. He also serves on the board of directors for The Bank of Crockett and volunteers as a board member for the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce, the Crockett County Industrial Board, the Veterans Museum and the Tennessee State Veterans Homes and is a member of the UT Martin Alumni Council.

As a retired service member, Castellaw maintains a deep interest in National Security issues and in veterans' affairs. He serves on the Department of the Navy's Naval Research Advisory Committee reporting to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition. He has authored editorials on security issues published in such major newspapers as the Washington Times, the Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Jackson Sun. As a veteran, he is a member of the Marine Corps League, The Marine Corps Association and is the National Commander of the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

He is married to the former Wanda Nelson of Obion County (who has a master's degree from UT Martin and serves on the Development Committee), a senior policy analyst for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), who works in support of the Department of the Army's personnel programs. They have one son, Jake, who is with the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Dr. Joseph Dieterle, UT president-elect, will attend the ceremony to congratulate graduates, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will provide over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Hartsook, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Distinguished Service Professor, will be the master of ceremonies, and the procession marshals will be Dr. Janet Wilbert, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Mike McCullough, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hudson, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Lon Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement.

A reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.
National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors

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The ambassadors went through an application and interview process before being selected. For their year of service to the program, they receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector. "Both Neil and Jeremy, as well as many of our other agriculture students, have represented UT Martin nationally by serving as members of this ambassador group," said Dr. James Butler, professor of agricultural education.

Santa's Village performers take stage

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jacksonsun.com First in News.

UT-Martin building new tower

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WestKYNews

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*Information provided by a press release from The University of Tennessee at Martin.*
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built on UTM campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin is building a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The project will benefit WUTM-FM and WLJT-DT, as well as the UT Martin Office of Housing, Maintenance Center, Department of Public Safety and ham radio operators' frequencies.

The project included engineering, supplying and installing a new 300-foot, three-leg, self-supporting communications tower, foundation and all appurtenances and a precast concrete building. The new tower includes a climbing ladder with anti-fall system, transmission line support ladder and brackets, obstruction warning lights, antenna mounts, grounding and lighting protection and site signage according to Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Communications Commission and all other regulations. The existing tower will be removed under a separate contract once the new tower is in place and fully operational.

"The new location of the tower is such that it will allow for better use of the property and better access for future tower maintenance," said Tim Nipp, UT Martin Physical Plant Director. "One other key element is the structural integrity of the new tower. This upgrade will provide a safer campus tower for years to come."

The new tower and equipment building offer improved features such as updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security. This ensures the public safety, communications equipment, WUTM-FM, UT Martin's student-operated radio station, and WLJT-DT public television station can stay on the air during emergency situations or power outages. "Connectivity to the new facility also gives us the ability to monitor key functions at the site such as tower lights, heating and cooling and power," said Rodney Freed, UT Martin instructor of communications. "When the tower and building are complete, transmitting antennas and cabling on the tower will be installed. We're hoping everything can be completed by May."

Kenneth Robinson, director of engineering for WLJT added, "We will benefit from the added security for the fiber equipment and microwave transmitter, due to the enclosure layout of the tower building, and the UPS/generator system, which should supply power 100 percent of the time. The new tower building will also have proper cooling, which should extend the life of the equipment it houses."

Project designer is SSR Ellers, Inc., of Memphis, and the contractor is Diversified Contractors, Inc., of McKenzie.

NEW TOWER – The University of Tennessee at Martin is installing a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Two workers climb the new tower with the old tower in the background. The project will include updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security, benefiting WUTM-FM, WLJT-DT and other offices on campus.
Naik returning to Henry County Medical Center

A Henry County High School honor graduate who once was a Candy Stripper is returning to Henry County Medical Center as a gastroenterologist. Ami Naik will join Robert Hollis and Daniel Kayal in practice, coming here on Wednesdays to Suite 104 of Henry County Medical Center.

Moving to Henry County with her family in 1989, Naik graduated with honors from HCHS in 1995. She then graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in both biology and chemistry.

At the University of Tennessee, Memphis Health Science Center, she ranked 10th (out of 162) in her doctor of medicine class in 2002. Her post-graduate training was at St. Louis University Hospital in categorical internal medicine fellowship and residency programs. A fellowship at UT Memphis was in gastroenterology/hematology.

Naik was board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 2005.

"I was a Candy Stripper at HCMC while I was in high school," Naik said. "I enjoyed working in the pathology lab and in the surgery department.

She later went to work in the medical records department.

The study of the digestive system and its disorders, gastroenterology's focus includes the organs from mouth to anus along the alimentary canal. Hepatology encompasses the study of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree as a sub specialty.

"I really enjoy the balance between the clinical and the procedural processes in gastroenterology," she said.

To schedule an appointment with Naik, call 1-800-243-9220 or contact the clinic in Paris on Wednesdays at 644-8434.

WHNT

UT Martin to have new communications tower by end of year

By Associated Press

3:04 AM CST, December 9, 2010

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin is building a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The project will benefit WUTM-FM and WLJT-DT, as well as the UT Martin Office of Housing, maintenance center, Department of Public Safety and ham radio operators' frequencies.

The project included engineering, supplying and installing a new 300-foot, three-leg, self-supporting communications tower, foundation and a precast concrete building.

The new tower and equipment building offer improved features such as updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security.

The existing tower will be removed once the new tower is in place and fully operational.
Retired lieutenant general to speak at commencement

Retired Lt. Gen. John "Glad" Castellaw will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m. Dec. 18 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

About 602 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Tickets are not required for admission to December commencement. A live webcast will be available at the “View Commencement Live” news link at 11 a.m. Dec. 18 on the UT Martin homepage.

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). In 1972, he received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, he first served in Marine tank and amphibious tractor units before becoming a helicopter pilot. He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990.

During his 36-year career, he held several commands, including Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, U.S. Forces East Timor and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He served tours ashore and aboard ship in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. His last assignments on active duty were in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and the Marine Corps budget creation and execution.

In 2008, he retired with the rank of lieutenant general and returned home to the family farm. There he has resumed his first love, farming, in addition to consulting with various companies. He also serves on the board of directors for The Bank of Crockett and volunteers as a board member for the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce, the Crockett County Industrial Board, the Veteran’s Museum and the Tennessee State Veterans’ Homes and is a member of the UT Martin Alumni Council.

As a retired service member, Castellaw maintains a deep interest in national security issues and in veterans' affairs. He serves on the Department of the Navy’s Naval Research Advisory Committee reporting to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition. He has authored editorials on security issues published in such newspapers as The Washington Times. The Commercial Appeal and The Jackson Sun.

As a veteran, he is a member of the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps Association and is the National Commander of the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

He is married to the former Wanda Nelson of Obion County, who has a master's degree from UT Martin and serves on the Development Committee. She is a senior policy analyst for Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) and works in support of the Department of the Army’s personnel programs. They have one son, Jake, who is with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Joseph DiPietro, UT president-elect, will attend the ceremony to congratulate graduates, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees.

Dr. Robert Hartshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer and the procession marshals will be Dr. Janet Wilbert, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Mike McCullough, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

A reception will be held in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.
Dynamic duo
Southaven Rotary honors father & son from Horn Lake High

By Barry Bouchillon / Special to My Life
Posted December 12, 2010 at 9:38 p.m.

The Southaven Rotary Club recently recognized its Student and Teacher of the Month from Horn Lake High School. Mackenzie "Mack" Cooley and John Cooley, respectively.

Mack is a senior at HLHS with a 4.04 GPA. He scored a 29 on his ACT. He has the highest average in keyboarding and computer applications. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council. Mack plays on the football and baseball teams. He has done volunteer work at Youth Villages, HomeRun 5K and Special Olympics. His college plans are to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin to study to be a park ranger and game warden. He is the son of John and Cindy Cooley and has two brothers, David and Josh, and one sister, Lauren. Mack enjoys hunting, fishing and football.

John is in his fourth year at Horn Lake High School. He is the head football coach and teaches health and physical education. He taught for 30 years in Memphis City Schools and won 100 games at Ridgeway High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Harding University and has completed his master's degree in educational administration and athletic administration from the University of Memphis. He and his wife, Cindy, have three sons, David, Mack and Josh, one daughter, Lauren and one granddaughter, Iris. John enjoys college football, umpiring youth baseball and playing golf with his co-workers and sons.

Barry Bouchillon is a member of the Southaven Rotary Club.
UTM student delegation recognized

The University of Tennessee at Martin's nine-member delegation was voted best House delegation Nov. 18-21 at the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature’s 41st General Assembly, according to a news release.

Allison Jones, of South Fulton, was UT Martin's lead delegate. Other delegation members include Abigail Castleberry, of Duck River; Grant Monroe, of Linden; Sarah Appleton, of Jackson; Jamie Arnett, of Memphis; Joel Elegood, of Union City; William Morris, of Madison; Jarod Saucedo, of Smyrna; and Jessica Watts, of Palmyra.

Approximately 200 students represented 37 Tennessee colleges and universities. This is the third year a delegation from UT Martin participated, Jones said in the release.

TISL, operated by an alumni board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee. The top bills passed by the student legislature will be sent to the state Legislature for consideration. Tennessee's seat belt law originated as a TISL bill, the release said.

Castellaw to speak at UTM graduation

Retired Marine Lt. General John "Glad" Castellaw will deliver the fall commencement address at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at the University of Tennessee Martin. Approximately 602 degrees are expected to be awarded, according to a news release.

Tickets are not required for admission. A live webcast will be available through a link on the UT Martin homepage at www.utm.edu. A reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.

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Steve Damron named Oklahoma Professor of the Year

Oklahoma State University's Steve Damron has been named the 2010 Oklahoma Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

"Dr. Damron is very much deserving of this national recognition, which honors the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country, those who excel at teaching and providing a positive influence in the lives and eventual careers of students," said Robert E. Whitson, vice president, dean and director of OSU's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Damron was chosen for official recognition as one of 38 state award recipients, selected from more than 300 top professors in the United States. A professor of animal science, he is renowned for his ability to explain technical, complex materials in an easily understood manner.

"Steve teaches a global perspective using numerous real-world applications, integrating and weaving information and ideas together into a broader, practical picture," said Ron Kensinger, head of the OSU department of animal science.

"His effective use of special projects, papers and case studies helps students develop the ability to find and seek information and develop strategic thinking skills, as well as integrate and apply information in a problem-solving context," Kensinger said. "Steve is truly outstanding."

Since joining the OSU faculty in 1988, Damron has developed and taught courses ranging from an introduction to animal science and agricultural animals of the world to agro-ecosystems being the basis of life, principals of nutrition, pet and companion animal management, livestock feeding and canine handling and training, including distance education classes that serve several hundred students from across the country and around the world.

As an educational author, his book "Introduction to Animal Science: Global, Biological, Social and Industry Perspectives" is one of the most widely used animal science texts in the world. It is currently in its fourth edition, and is accompanied by web-based teaching and learning tools.

He advises approximately 100 animal science students each year and has served as faculty adviser to Agricultural Student Council, University Crew Club, Alpha Gamma Rho, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate Dressage Team and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences during his time at OSU.

"Steve has been outstanding as the department's teaching coordinator, providing the insightful leadership so vital to ensuring our teaching programs are providing the best educational experience possible for students," Kensinger said.

Damron was honored as a 2010 recipient of the division's prestigious Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award earlier this semester. During his career, he has received more than 20 teaching and advising awards from the likes of OSU, the University of Hawaii, the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, the National Academic Advising Association, the Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta honor fraternities and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture organization.

Damron earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1975. He earned his master's degree in animal nutrition-management and doctoral degree in animal nutrition from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1978 and 1982, respectively.

Dr. Damron is the son of Mrs. Angeline Fisher Damron and the late Walter Louis Damron, the brother of Dawne Damron Belote and the nephew of Mrs. Martha Fisher High all of Martin.
HAVING FUN AT THE VILLAGE – People came out in droves to help celebrate the 26th year of Santa's Village at the Ned McWherter ag pavilion on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin this weekend. Festivities kicked off Thursday through Sunday as performers entertained and children played while visiting the lighted displays. Kayla Evans and her 4-year-old daughter Alexis of Martin (above) enjoyed the slippery slide on hand at Santa's Village on Sunday. Linda Ramsey of Martin provided a charming holiday melody. Admission to the event consisted of donations - canned goods; toys or monetary, to help raise money for local organizations at Christmas.
Students experience legislative process

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students gaining experience in the state legislature. Two students, Allison Jones, a senior political science major from South Fulton; and Grant Monroe, a junior political science and history double major from Linden; will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during spring. UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

Jones was the lead delegate for the UT Martin delegation to the 2010 Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature that was voted Best House Delegation. She plans to pursue a career as a lobbyist. Monroe was a senator for the 2010 TISL. He plans to attend law school.

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor of political science, at 731-881-7367.

CAN CARAVAN — WCMT and Star 95.1 along with the Student Athlete Advisory Council at UT Martin had the 26th Annual Can Caravan with Weakley County Schools Tuesday Dec. 7. Schools collected cans for over a month. Along with athletes from UT Martin, 14,478 cans were collected for Santa’s Village. The results are as follows: Martin Primary - 3,070; Martin Elementary - 1,462; Martin Middle - 700; Martin Westview - 1,610; Greenfield - 1,606; Gleason - 725; Sharon - 746; Dresden Elementary - 1,307; Dresden Middle - 1,657; Dresden High - 104; UT Martin Athletes - 1,491, Total = 14,1478. Pictured are coordinators WCMT’s Community Service Director Lana Carpenter and UT Martin Assistant Athletic Director Danielle Fabianich along with UT Martin Athletic Staff and athletes.
UT Martin students graduate Saturday

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UTM FROM PAGE 1

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A reception will be held in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.
Christmas cheer plentiful at 26th annual Santa’s Village

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

Christmas cheer plentiful at 26th annual Santa's Village

The big smiles, hearty laughter and excitement seen on the faces of children at the 26th annual Santa's Village, held December 9-12 inside the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke volumes about the success of this year’s event.

It was the seventh largest attendance in the event’s history with 12,746 visitors, and food and toy donations totaling $50,494.

Santa’s Village featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan. WCMT reported a total of 14,450 canned goods collected this year.

On behalf of the City of Martin and UTM, Martin Parks and Recreation Department Director Brian Moore expressed his appreciation to the volunteers who implemented Santa’s Village, the visitors who donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas, the sponsors who contributed time and money to the annual event and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toy from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

...Continued On Page 16

For more information, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Christmas cheer...

...Continued from page 1

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter of American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

The “Enchanted Forest” theme depicted various holiday scenes – some of them animated – much to the delight of young and old alike.

Towering high above the other holiday displays was the giant, 40-foot-tall Christmas tree donated by Wayne Copeland, which was decorated with hundreds of sparkling lights and ornaments. Donations of toys and canned food for the needy were artistically displayed underneath the huge tree emphasized the dual purpose of the event – providing fun-filled activities for visitors while helping deserving families across the region to enjoy a happy holiday season.

This year’s Santa’s Village featured an expanded petting zoo, featuring lots of friendly animals such as a kangaroo, zebra and a camel. Other attractions included wagon rides, MTD’s model train display, children’s rides, local entertainment, and over 50 arts and crafts vendor booths. Children also enjoyed visiting with Old Saint Nick and telling him what they want for Christmas.

Over 100 performers provided live entertainment, including: soloists, duets and groups singing a variety of Christmas songs; instrumentals featuring piano, banjo, violin, accordion, harp, and guitar; and dance routines from ballet to tap.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenball, Frontier Communications, McDonald's and Huddle House. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

Martin Parks and Recreation Program Director Kim Kirby and Athletic Coordinator Laura Taylor, seen staffing the information booth, helped coordinate the activities at this year’s Santa’s Village.
Santa’s Village a winter wonderland of fun

The 26th annual Santa’s Village, featuring live entertainment and scores of fun activities for the whole family, offered something for visitors of all ages. The Enchanted Forest, carousel, elephant ride, giant slide, animal petting zoo, Santa’s workshop, and other activities, attracted hundreds of visitors from surrounding counties and neighboring states.

Children get a thrill ride on the giant slide at Santa’s Village.

Artist Lisa Baechtle paints the face of Madison Kolwyck, daughter of John Kolwyck and Bandy Simmons of Trenton.

Bryant Knott, 10-year-old son of Eric and Jamie Knott of Greenfield, pets a camel at the animal petting zoo.
Lindsey and Emily Webb, children of Josh and Ashley Webb of Rives, have their portrait sketched at the artist’s booth.

Youngsters from across the region line up to ride the ever-popular carousel.

Phil Hooker of Hooker Farms in Milan introduces the crowd to his pet kangaroo named ‘Jack’ as the audience goes from one animal attraction to another at the animal petting zoo.

Sixteen-month-old Paisley Thetford, daughter of Jamie and Kristi Thetford of Bradford, stares in youthful wonder at the giant inflated bear, snowman and Santa Claus figures at Santa’s Village.
Children are given candy treats while watching the trains at MTD’s train display move around the tracks through a miniature winter wonderland of picturesque, snow-covered city and country scenes.

Dancer Kelsie Winstead clicked up her heels for the audience by tap dancing to a Christmas song.

Children enjoy a spin on the elephant ride, which was one of several attractions just for kids featured at Santa’s Village.

Eighth-grade vocalist Natalie Hurst, daughter of Melissa Hurst of Martin, sings onstage.
Allie Steelman, daughter of Amy and Ron Steelman of Paris, was one of hundreds of children visiting with Santa at the 26th annual Santa’s Village. (See additional photos on page 16.)

Vocalist Rose Brawner of Gleason sings a Christmas tune. She also played the piano during this year’s Santa’s Village.

Singers entertain visitors to this year’s Santa’s Village, featuring live entertainment and offering something for visitors of all ages, just in time for the Christmas season. Over 100 performers provided live entertainment during the four-day holiday event.
New communications tower built on UT Martin campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin is building a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The project will benefit WUTM-FM and WLJT-DT, as well as the UT Martin Office of Housing, Maintenance Center, Department of Public Safety and ham radio operators' frequencies.

The project included engineering, supplying and installing a new 300-foot, three-leg, self-supporting communications tower, foundation and all appurtenances and a precast concrete building. The new tower includes a climbing ladder with anti-fall system, transmission line support ladder and brackets, obstruction warning lights, antenna mounts, grounding and lighting protection and site signage according to Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Communications Commission and all other regulations. The existing tower will be removed under a separate contract once the new tower is in place and fully operational.

"The new location of the tower is such that it will allow for better use of the property and better access for future tower maintenance," said Tim Nipp, UT Martin Physical Plant director. "One other key element is the structural integrity of the new tower. This upgrade will provide a safer campus tower for years to come."

The new tower and equipment building offer improved features such as updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security. This ensures the public safety communications equipment, WUTM-FM, UT Martin's student-operated radio station, and WLJT-DT public television station can stay on the air during emergency situations or power outages. "Connectivity to the new facility also gives us the ability to monitor key functions at the site such as tower lights, heating and cooling and power," said Rodney Freed, UT Martin instructor of communications. "When the tower and building are complete, transmitting antennas and cabling on the tower will be installed. We're hoping everything can be completed by May."

Kenneth Robinson, director of engineering for WLJT added, "We will benefit from the added security for the fiber equipment and microwave transmitter, due to the enclosure layout of the tower building, and the UPS/generator system, which should supply power 100 percent of the time. The new tower building will also have proper cooling, which should extend the life of the equipment it houses."

Project designer is SSR Ellers, Inc., of Memphis, and the contractor is Diversified Contractors, Inc., of McKenzie.
Castellaw to speak at fall commencement

Retired Lt. General John “Glad” Castellaw will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11:00 a.m., December 18, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Approximately 600 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Tickets are not required for admission to December commencement. A live webcast will be available at the UT Martin homepage.

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). In 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he first served in Marine tank and amphibian tractor units before becoming a helicopter pilot. He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990.

During his 36-year career, he held several commands, including Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, U.S. Forces East Timor, and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He served tours ashore and aboard ship in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. His last assignments on active duty were in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and the Marine Corps budget creation and execution.

In 2008, he retired with the rank of lieutenant general and returned home to the family farm. There he has resumed his first love, farming, in addition to consulting with various companies. He also serves on the board of directors for The Bank of Crockett and volunteers as a board member for the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce, the Crockett County Industrial Board, the Veteran’s Museum and the Tennessee State Veterans’ Homes and is a member of the UT Martin Alumni Council.

As a retired service member, Castellaw maintains a deep interest in ‘National Security issues and in veterans’ affairs. He serves on the Department of the Navy’s Naval Research Advisory Committee reporting to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition. He has authored editorials on security issues published in such newspapers as the Washington Times, the Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Jackson Sun. As a veteran, he is a member of the Marine Corps League, The Marine Corps Association and is the National Commander of the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

He is married to the former Wanda Nelson of Obion County (who has a master’s degree from UT Martin and serves on the Development Committee), a senior policy analyst for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), who works in support of the Department of the Army’s personnel programs. They have one son, Jake, who is with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Joseph DiPietro, UT president-elect, will attend the ceremony to congratulate graduates, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Hartshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procesionnal marshals will be Dr. Janet Wilbert, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Mike McCullough, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement.

A reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.

Retired Lt. General John “Glad” Castellaw

UT Martin students experience legislative process

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students gaining experience in the state legislature. Two students, Allison Jones, a senior political science major from South Fulton; and Grant Monroe, a junior political science and history double major from Linden; will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during spring. UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

Jones was the lead delegate for the UT Martin delegation to the 2010 Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature that was voted Best House Delegation. She plans to pursue a career as a lobbyist. Monroe was a senator for the 2010 TISL. He plans to attend law school.

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor of political science, at 731-881-7367.
Jones UT Martin lead delegate

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s nine-member delegation was voted best House delegation at the Tennessee Intercolligate State Legislature’s 41st General Assembly, Nov. 18-21. There were approximately 200 students representing 37 Tennessee colleges and universities in attendance.

Allison Jones, of South Fulton, was the UT Martin lead delegate. Jones said claiming best House delegation “meant that we had the most people speak up and debate, and we were just really excited about winning that award.” Jones said this is the third year a delegation from UT Martin participated.

Jones, a senior political science major, and Grant Monroe, a junior political science and history double major from Linden, Tenn., will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during spring. UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

Jones plans to pursue a career as a lobbyist. Monroe was a senator for the 2010 TISL. He plans to attend law school.

Other UT Martin delegation members include: Abigail Castleberry, of Duck River; Grant Monroe, of Linden; Sarah Appleton, of Jackson; Jamie Arnett, of Memphis; Joel Ellegood, of Union City; William Morris, of Madison; Jarod Saucedo, of Smyrna; and Jessica Watts, of Palmeyra.

TISL, operated by an alumni board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee. The top bills that were passed by the student legislature will be sent to the Tennessee State Legislature for consideration. Tennessee’s seat belt law originated as a TISL bill.

Alumni of this collegiate mock legislative program include Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lillard; current state senators, Mike Faulk, Doug Overby and Roy Herron; Senate chief clerk, Russell Humphrey; current representatives, Mike Kernell and Ron Lollar; and judges and business leaders.

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor of political science, at 731-881-7367.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, December 15, 2010

UT Martin student from SF gains legislative experience

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students — including one from South Fulton — gaining experience in the state legislature.

Allison Jones, a senior political science major from South Fulton, will serve as an intern in the legislature in Nashville in the spring.

Also serving will be Grant Monroe, a junior political science and history double major from Linden.

UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

Miss Jones was the lead delegate for the UT Martin delegation to the 2010 Tennessee Intercolligate State Legislature. She plans to pursue a career as a lobbyist.

In related news, UT Martin’s nine-member delegation was voted Best House Delegation at the

excited about winning that award.” She said this is the third year a delegation from UT Martin participated.

Other UT Martin delegation members included: Grant Monroe, Joel Ellegood of Union City, Abigail Castleberry of Duck River, Sarah Appleton of Jackson, Jamie Arnett of Memphis, William Morris of Madison, Jarod Saucedo of Smyrna and Jessica Watts of Palmeyra.

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ALLISON JONES

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**26th anniversary**

**Santa’s Village nets bounty**

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Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, the Obion County chapter of the American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can-
van, WCMT reported a total of 14,450 canned goods collected this year.

"On behalf of the City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who implement Santa’s Village and the visitors who have donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas," said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenball, Frontier Communications, McDonald’s and Huddle House.

For more information, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.

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**UT Martin students voted best house delegation at Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature**

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He is married to the former Wanda Nelson of Obion County (who has a master's degree from UT Martin and serves on the Development Committee), a senior policy analyst for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), who works in support of the Department of the Army's personnel programs. They have one son, Jake, who is with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

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A reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.

Watts part of UT-Martin delegation voted best

Jessica Watts of Palmyra was part of The University of Tennessee at Martin's nine-member delegation voted best House delegation at the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature's 41st General Assembly.

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Other members of the delegation were Allison Jones of South Fulton, Abigail Castleberry of Duck River, Grant Monroe of Linden, Sarah Appleton of Jackson, Jamie Arnett of Memphis, Joel Eliegood of Union City, William Morris of Madison and Jarod Saucedo of Smyrna.
Recipients of Gault Scholarships announced

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2009-10 Stanley Gault Scholarship to four West Tennessee students. Each student will receive $500 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 Di'Yana Fisher, Stevie Gossett, Taylor Barnett and Chelsea Mathis.

Di'Yana Fisher, daughter of Dion Fisher and Chantay Fisher of Dyersburg, is a freshman in the pre-dentistry program.

* Stevie Gossett, son of Tom Gossett and Lorraine Gossett of Union City, is a freshman majoring in accounting.
* Taylor Barnett, son of James and Traci Watson of Dresden, is a freshman in the pre-pharmacy program.
* Chelsea Mathis, daughter of Curtis and Julie Mathis of Union City, is a freshman with an 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. 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.

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR AT UT MARTIN:
Nationally renowned political commentator Jonathan Alter used "President Obama and American Politics in Light of the November Elections" as his topic, Nov. 18, at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Academic Speaker Series. Prior to his presentation, he met with Honors Programs students to discuss his work. With Alter is David Lewellyng, a freshman computer science major from Dyersburg.
Martin Parks & Rec. weekly

SANTA’S VILLAGE
The sights and sounds of the 26th annual Santa’s Village have come to an end. 12,746 visitors were in attendance.
This year’s participants enjoyed the “Enchanted Forest,” children’s rides, visits with Santa, model train display, petting farm, live entertainment, wagon rides, giant decorated Christmas tree and all the other lights, decorations and activities of the event. The value of donations was $50,494.
We would like to extend a special thank you to the following:

MONETARY SPONSORS
University Plaza of TN, LP; Greenball, Inc.; Volunteer Community Hospital; First State; MTD Products, Inc.; Tyson Foods, Inc.; Frontier Communications; McDonald's; Huddle House; Hampton Inn

EVENT DISPLAY/ACTIVITY COORDINATORS
MTD Products; PAICO-Bert Dyer; Hooker Farms; WCMT/WCDZ Radio Stations; Pope’s Concessions; Philip & Calvin Elder; Pepsi Mid-America; Weakley County 2010 Youth Leadership Class; Martin Senior Adult Center

VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS
Professor Shadden, Dr. Smartt, Dr. Parrott and Dr. Melhorn Students; Westview Anchor Club; John Taylor; Martin Kiwanis Club; UTM Rodeo Team; John Luthie; Jerrie Thomeson; Westview Jobs for TN Graduates; Martin Optimist Club; Union City Jaycees/Jayettes; Westview National Honor Society; Westview Key Club; Martin Lion’s Club; Charlie Rowlett and the Ag. Pavilion Staff; UTM Institute for Civic Engagement; UTM Chi Omega Sorority; Pat Sanders; Jeana Mills; Bruce Hicks; Jonathan Yoess; Candace Kendall; Blake McCollum; Seth Coleman; Ragan Liles; Jessica Garrigus; Olivia Wilson

SUPPOR PERSONNEL
Martin Fire Department; WC MES; UTM Maintenance Department; Tim Nipp; Weakley County Farmers Coop; UTM Public Safety; Martin Police Department; Wayne Copeland; Public Works Dept.; Billy Gene Wagster; Mayor Randy Brindige; Chancellor Tom Rakes; Tim Barrington and crew

PUBLICITY/PROMOTION
UTM Public Relations Office; Bud Grimes; Rita Mitchell; WCMT/WCDZ Radio Stations; Weakley County Press; Dresden Enterprise; KYTN/WQAK; Jentri Gilbert; Kara Kidwell; Justin Skinner; Ethan Vasquez; Nathan Doss

SERVICE AGENCIES
We Care; Chimes for Charity; Northwest TN Economic Development Council; Obion County Red Cross; Santa’s Helpers; Healthy Start Program

ENTERTAINMENT
Rose Brawner; Michael Brewer; Tabitha Dawson; Lindsey Wade; Nealy Wade; John P. Winstead; Debbie Cook; Bonnie Moore; Tami Gooch; Mike Teal; Pam Daniel; Stephanie Bates; Betsy Brasher; Michele Platts; Allie Baker; Ashley Mitchell; Ashley Arv; Carla Lee; Christy Lee; Brian McWherter; Zach Rae; Linda Ramsey; Tara Elam; Whitley Southerland; Kayla Clanton; Jonathan McDowell; Tassie’ Renee; Amber Vermillion; Hannah Graves; Kelcie Winstead; Amy Day; Natalie Hurst; Brooke Baker; Rachel Alley; Katie Snider; Blake Snider; Emma Kelley; Kaya Campbell; Lexie Knott; Karson Scott; Jordan Lybrook; Kiley Wright; Claire Capps; Mary Kate Jones; Jenny Bradshaw; Joy Jones; John Knight; Carla Field; “The Maxey’s”-Allison, Mary Katherine, Lukus, Bailey; Maggie Blackwell; Jim-Michelle-David-Emma Feiser; Alex Butler; Janice White; Lana Lee; “The Bell Family”; Dave Chaffen; Bible Union Baptist Signing Group; Ronnie Wade and especially Mrs. Reba Wade.

On behalf of the staff of our department, we wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your gift of caring!
Santa's Village has record participation

The recent 26th annual Santa's Village, Dec. 9-12, at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recorded the seventh largest attendance in the event's history with 12,746 visitors. Food and toy donations totaled $50,494.

Santa's Village featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Santa's Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan. WCMT reported a total of 14,450 canned goods collected this year.

"On behalf of the City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who implement Santa's Village and the visi-

See Village, Page 4

Village From Page 1

ators who have donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas," said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

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Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenball, Frontier Communications, McDonald's and Huddle House.

For more information, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

ALL-STEINWAY CAMPAIGN

Donors recently recognized as part of the All-Steinway Campaign at the University of Tennessee at Martin included Hunter Mountjoy (left) and Richard and Betty Smith, all of Union City. At the culmination of the campaign, UT Martin will become one of more than 120 conservatories, colleges and universities worldwide and the third public institution in Tennessee with the distinction as an All-Steinway institution. Students in these institutions perform and are taught primarily on Steinway pianos.
Retired general urges Martin grads to embrace challenges

MARTIN — Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw told University of Tennessee Martin graduates at Saturday's commencement that they have begun running a race. "That diploma is a baton," he said. "Those of us that have already run the race are passing the diploma — the baton — to you. Now it's your time to pick it up and face the challenges that face us."

Approximately 600 degrees were expected to be awarded Saturday in the ceremony at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on UT Martin's campus.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises and conferred degrees. UT President-elect Joseph DiPietro was present to congratulate the graduates, who represented 45 different Tennessee counties and 16 states. Graduates also represented the countries of France, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Castellaw told the graduates, "You know, each generation has all its challenges. And sometimes we may look a little bit inward and forget about how history has shown us that there are always better times ahead." As examples, he cited the challenges of the struggling economy and of being at war for 10 years.

"Democracy is the worst form of government except for everything else," Castellaw said, paraphrasing a Winston Churchill quote. "It's the best opportunity for us as citizens to make sure our voices are heard," he added.

Castellaw told graduates that they are going to face some responsibilities and urged them to reflect on others who have gone before them as examples. He also reminded them they received a world-class education. "It's preparing you to go out and be leaders in industry, in the military and in government," he said.

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture in 1972.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Castellaw served in Marine tank and amphibian tractor units before becoming a helicopter pilot. He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990. His last assignments on active duty were at the Pentagon.

Amber Tulley, of Lexington, gets ready for commencement Saturday at the University of Tennessee Martin. Tulley, pictured with her husband Christopher, received a bachelor's degree in education. She has a teaching position in Henderson County.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw speaks to fall graduates Saturday at the University of Tennessee Martin's commencement ceremony. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees, and UT President-elect Joseph DiPietro attended and congratulated the graduates.
Universitv of Tennessee at Martin Implements the State’s First University Desktop Virtualization Solution

UT Martin Adopts Citrix XenDesktop to Provide More than 8,000 Students and Faculty with Free, Anytime Access to Desktops, Apps, Resources and Personal Files

December 20, 2010 09:01 AM Eastern Time

BETHESDA, MD—(EON: Enhanced Online News)—Citrix Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ-CTXS) announced today that the University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) is implementing Citrix® XenDesktop® to deliver full Windows® desktops and applications as an on-demand service giving the university’s more than 8,000 students and staff free, anytime access to virtual desktops, applications, personal files and network resources. UT Martin is one of the first universities in the state of Tennessee to deploy Citrix XenDesktop virtual desktop technologies.

UT Martin has already begun running Citrix virtual solutions at selected university general purpose labs, and soon the solutions will be rolled out to more than 900 PCs at departmental and general purpose labs. Ultimately, UT Martin intends to provide virtual applications and desktops to all university- and student-owned personal devices.

Citrix XenDesktop with on-demand app delivery is expected to save the university more than 40% in desktop computing costs by enabling easy, centralized management of desktops and applications and reducing the need to refresh expensive hardware. The virtualized solutions also will give the university a competitive advantage in attracting students to its campus, UT Martin officials said.

"We want to make applications available to students in the way they want to access them—in university housing, off campus, via mobile phones, however and wherever they want. We plan to offer them everything that Citrix delivers." UT Martin's Tom Simmons, area vice president—US Public Sector at Citrix

Citrix Platinum Partner, LPS Integration, is assisting UT Martin with the rollout of Citrix virtualization solutions.

Quotes

Tom Simmons, area vice president—US Public Sector at Citrix

"The University of Tennessee at Martin is committed to leveraging technology that gives students more access to data and applications. The university's new program demonstrates how Citrix virtual computing solutions can help individual students achieve their educational goals and, at the same time, ease budget worries."

Shannon Burgin, CIO—University of Tennessee at Martin

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Facts and Highlights

- UT Martin intends to offer students and staff up to 30 applications through XenApp, as an integrated feature of XenDesktop.
- Because more than 90 percent of UT Martin students bring their own computing devices to campus, implementation of XenDesktop will significantly reduce the need to purchase computers for student use.
University of Tennessee at Martin Implements the State's First University Desktop Virtualization Solution

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Students will benefit from enhanced productivity as XenDesktop transforms any Windows, web or SaaS application into an on-demand service that can be accessed by any user, on any device, anywhere, with unparalleled simplicity and scalability. As an integrated feature of XenDesktop, Citrix XenApp(TM) provides users with on-demand applications that can be accessed from anywhere, on any device, including PC, Mac, smartphone or tablet. Students will thus enjoy choice of personal devices and using a range of devices to accommodate their individual virtual lifestyles.

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Quotes

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Volunteer Advocacy Project
Training set at UTM this spring

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center is offering training during the spring semester for volunteer advocates at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The comprehensive training will be held in the spring on Thursday evenings, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Jan. 13 and continuing until March 31. The training will be held on the Vanderbilt campus in The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and video-conferenced to UT Martin and other sites across the state. There is a $30 charge to cover the cost of materials for the training.

The purpose of this project is to train volunteer advocates to provide instrumental and affective support to parents of children with disabilities. In this training, participants will learn more about special education law and advocacy strategies. At the end of the training, each participant will shadow an advocate at a special education meeting.

Following graduation from the program, participants will be linked with a family of a child with a disability. Each volunteer advocate is expected to work with, at least, four families, at the discretion of The Arc and STEP.

The training will include a binder of materials including passages from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, No Child Left Behind, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Additionally, the participants will be given copies of each training session’s PowerPoints along with relevant materials. For each training session, the participant will be expected to read pertinent materials.

For those interested, contact Meghan Burke at Meghan.m.burke@vanderbilt.edu, call 615-322-420 or visit http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/vap/.

Certified Lead Renovator and Lead Dust Sampling Technician courses planned at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS) is offering a Certified Lead Renovator Course that complies with the Environmental Protection Agency Renovation, Repair and Paint Rule.

The Certified Lead Renovator Course is scheduled from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break, on Jan. 15, at UT Martin. The $250 fee includes: the textbook, Certified Renovator certificate from the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and EPA materials.

The eight-hour course will begin with “Why should I be concerned about lead paint?” The following topics are also included: regulations, before beginning work, contain dust during work, during the work, cleaning activities and checking work, recordkeeping and training non-certified renovation workers.

This class meets EPA and Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements. Successful completion earns EPA Certified Renovator status for five years. Students will learn what EPA/HUD requires of Certified Firms and Renovators, and how to work in a lead-safe manner while complying with the EPA RRP Rule.

The EPA began enforcing the lead paint law, known as the RRP Rule, on Oct. 1. Anyone who renovates, repairs or paints any building built before 1978 must comply with the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule. If a project will disturb more than two-six square feet of interior paint surface, then a certified professional must perform a lead test. Violators of the EPA RRP Rule can be fined up to $37,500 per day.

NCHH is the EPA authorized training provider for the course. Instructor will be H. Dale Fortner, NCHH principal instructor.

To register, call ECOS at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ece/non_credit_registration.php.
Reading classes offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and UT Martin Reading Center are offering three spring reading clinic sessions for students grade 2-12. The sessions run from Jan. 24-Feb. 17, Feb. 21-March 24, and April 4-28. There will be no classes the week of March 14. The registration fee is $125, including a workbook.

The course, led by Dr. Beverly Hearn, UT Martin Reading Center director, is for students who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting. Students can choose either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Times available: 3-3:50 p.m., 4-4:50 p.m., 5-5:50 p.m., 6-6:50 p.m. or 7-7:50 p.m.

To register, please call ECOS at 731-881-7082.

Crews receives award for contributions made

Dr. Lionel Crews, University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of physics, recently received the Piero Award from the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers Association for his contributions to the teaching of earth science in Tennessee.

The award was presented at the area National Science Teachers Association meeting, in the Tennessee Science Teachers Association awards luncheon at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, 2001 Piero Award recipient and TEST higher education adviser, made the presentation.

"It truly is an honor for me to receive this award. I can’t say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with teachers across the state to improve earth science education," said Crews.

Crews has been active in the teaching of earth science over the past decade. He has been involved in two grant programs, Revitalizing Earth Science Education in Tennessee and the Institute for Middle Grade Educators in Science, and has made numerous presentations at National Science Teachers Association and Tennessee Science Teachers Association conferences. He also makes regular school visits to do presentations on astronomy in the classroom, as well as help the local teachers host a "star party" for observing the night sky. He recently completed an astronomical observatory at UT Martin and plans to allow teachers to use it for experiential learning as well as student research projects.

"Dr. Crews has been an invaluable asset to earth science education in Tennessee. Until his involvement with TEST, teacher development opportunities related to astronomy were few and far between in Tennessee. Now astronomy is becoming more widespread and better taught. Dr. Crews has become one of the teachers’ favorites for development opportunities," said Gibson.

Piero is the nickname for the official state fossil of Tennessee, Pterotrignia (Scabrotrignia) Thracica, designated by act of legislature in 1997. This fossil represents the vast geologic and paleontological riches across Tennessee and commemorates their utility as an educational resource. Recipients receive an authentic fossil Piero mounted on a plaque.

The UT Martin Geology Club received the award in 1999.

UT Martin to sponsor FAFSA workshop at MCHS

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor two sessions on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The sessions are scheduled from 5:15-7:15 p.m. on Jan. 6 at McNairy Central High School in Selmer and Jan. 11 at the UT Martin Ripley Center in Ripley.

The workshop will provide assistance in filling out the FAFSA form online, answers to financial aid questions and information regarding the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship.

Participants need to take completed 2010 tax returns for both the student and parents, W2 forms from 2010 for both the student and parents and, if available, their Personal Identification Number (PIN) for electronic signature.

If the 2010 tax return has not been filed, then bring your last pay stub for the 2010 year or your 2009 tax return in order to file your FAFSA based on an estimated tax. To apply for a PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance at 731-881-7040.
Castellaw tells UTM graduates to take up baton and run the race

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw told graduates at Saturday’s commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin that they have begun running a race. “That diploma is a baton,” he said. “Those of us that have already run the race are passing the diploma - the baton - to you. Now it’s your time to pick it up and face the challenges that face us.”

He added, “You know, each generation has all its challenges. And sometimes we may look a little bit inward and forget about how history has shown us that there are always better times ahead.” Citing challenges, he noted being at war for 10 years and the economic situation. Paraphrasing a Winston Churchill quote, Castellaw said, “Democracy is the worst form of government except for everything else.” He added, “it’s the best opportunity for us as citizens to make sure our voices are heard.”

The speaker told graduates that they are going to have some responsibilities. Castellaw urged them to reflect on others who have gone before them as examples. He told graduates that Americans have great character, are a courageous people, they believe in having opportunity for all to improve their lives, in fairness and generosity and they value the differences in people. “We are a nation of so many diverse cultures, religions, peoples and views, and we’re able to bring it all together and create such a tremendous environment. You as graduates are going to be able to take advantage of that environment.” He added, “We still stand on that hill as a beacon to the entire world.”

Speaking to graduates’ families and friends, he said, “Thank you for the sacrifices that you have made. You, by that support of these graduates, are going to ensure that we continue to have leadership, we continue to have the talent that will bring America, again, out of this discomfort that we’re in now and put us back to where we all want to be economically and otherwise.

“UT Martin has truly become a world-class institution, and we should take a moment to really … thank those that have been responsible for that.” Reminding them that they have received a world-class education, “It’s preparing you to go out and be leaders in industry, in the military and in government.”

He closed his remarks saying, “May God bless this nation, and thank you all for what you have done.”

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). In 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he first served in Marine tank and amphibian tractor units before becoming a helicopter pilot. He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990. His last assignments on active duty were at the Pentagon.

University of Tennessee President-elect Dr. Joseph DiPietro attended the ceremony and extended congratulations to graduates who represented 45 different Tennessee counties and 16 states including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. Graduates also represented the countries of France, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises and conferred degrees. He congratulated graduates and asked them to maintain contact with UT Martin, offer advice and support and be supportive of higher education. “You are joining over 38,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.” He added, “Education is not what is received, but rather what is achieved. As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement - your resume now contains another tool, a body of knowledge and problem-solving skillset that, if used wisely, can help ensure a wonderful future for you and those around you.”

Bennett celebrates achievement

Adam Bennett, of Gleason, gets ready for commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on December 18. Bennett received a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance. With him are his brother, Colin, left, and his parents, Sandy and Mike Bennett. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees. University of Tennessee President-elect Joseph DiPietro attended and congratulated graduates.
Santa’s Village nets bounty during 26th Anniversary

The recent 26th annual Santa’s Village, December 9-12, at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recorded the seventh largest attendance in the event’s history with 12,746 visitors. Food and toy donations totaled $50,494.

Santa’s Village featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan. WCMT reported a total of 14,450 canned goods collected this year.

"On behalf of the City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who implement Santa’s Village and the visitors who have donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas," said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Greenball, Frontier Communications, McDonald’s and Huddle House.

For more information, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Weakley County Chamber makes it easy to get business advice

Erik Markin, Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 9:00 to 11:00, January 6, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce.

Markin recently joined the TSBDC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the chamber at 731-784-1842 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

Students receive Leadership Awards from UT Martin

Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston, center, are Courtney Brackeen, left, of Humboldt; and Casey Curlin, of Fulton. A magna cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Curlin has served as assistant news editor, news editor and executive editor of The Pacer student newspaper. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Women in Communications, Alpha Delta Pi and Karate Club. She led The Pacer to recognition as a Best Collegiate Newspaper in the south and was named Best Feature Writer in the southeast. A cum laude graduate in health and human performance, Brackeen has served on the Student Activities Council and as a member of Sigma Alpha, Collegiate FFA, SHAPE Club, Pre-Vet Club and Athletic Training Society. She also has served as a campus ambassador, Summer Orientation and Registration staff member, PEP leader and regional Health Occupations Students of America competition judge. She was named Most Outstanding Athletic Training Student.
Crews receives award

Dr. Lionel Crews

Dr. Lionel Crews, University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of physics, recently received the Ptero Award from the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers for his contributions to the teaching of earth science in Tennessee.

The award was presented at the area National Science Teachers Association meeting, in the Tennessee Science Teachers Association awards luncheon at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, 2001 Ptero Award recipient and TEST higher education adviser, made the presentation.

"It truly is an honor for me to receive this award. I can't say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with teachers across the state to improve earth science education," said Crews.

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The UT Martin Geo-Club received the award in 1999.

UT Martin students voted Best House Delegation at Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature

The University of Tennessee at Martin's nine-member delegation was voted best House delegation at the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature's 41st General Assembly, November 18-21. There were approximately 200 students representing 37 Tennessee colleges and universities in attendance.

Allison Jones, of South Fulton, was the UT Martin lead delegate. Jones said claiming best House delegation "meant that we had the most people speak up and debate, and we were just really excited about winning that award." Jones said this is the third year a delegation from UT Martin participated.

Other UT Martin delegation members include: Abigail Castelberry, of Duck River; Grant Monroe, of Linden; Sarah Appleton, of Jackson; Jamie Arnett, of Memphis; Joel Ellegood, of Union City; William Morris, of Madison; Jarod Saucedo, of Smyrna; and Jessica Watts, of Palmrya.

TISL, operated by an alumn board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee. The top bills that were passed by the student legislature will be sent to the Tennessee State Legislature for consideration. Tennessee's seatbelt law originated as a TISL bill.

Alumni of this collegiate mock legislative program include Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lillard; current state senators Mike Faulk, Doug Overby and Roy Herron; Senate chief clerk, Russell Humphrey; current representatives, Mike Kernels and Ron Lollar; and judges and business leaders.

Pair from UTM named agricultural ambassadors

University of Tennessee Martin students Jeremy Fair, a senior agricultural education major, and Brandon Neil Bringle, a junior agricultural education major, recently were selected as two of 21 National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors.

Fair, of Newborn, and Bringle, of Munford, join students from other universities to promote agricultural understanding and development among school and community groups in their state.

Fair and Bringle each will receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector for their year of service through the program.
Student's experimental learning enhances her college education

Casey Curlin of Fulton completed an internship at The Washington Times during her senior year and said it's that type of experiential learning that enhances a college education.

The University of Tennessee at Martin communications major graduated Saturday and also received the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award, the only award presented during commencement.

In addition to the internship, Miss Curlin combined her college coursework with experience serving as executive editor of The Pacer, the UT Martin student newspaper, and other roles on campus to maximize her career opportunities.

"I decided to become a communications major after my freshman year when I took Frank Leach's English 111 course," Miss Curlin said. "With his instruction and support, I learned that I had a talent for writing and that I enjoyed it. I realized I wanted to pursue a career that involved writing and that communications was a perfect fit."

In addition to her communications professor and coursework, Miss Curlin thinks courses and professors outside her major helped her become well rounded.

"My English, philosophy and political science professors, in particular, have greatly broadened my scope on different world views. This new level of understanding and way of thinking have not only opened my mind to the endless possibilities of learning, but also helped me become more of an unbiased thinker. Unbiased thinking is an important part of a career in journalism," she said.

The Pacer editor's position also contributed to her preparation for a career.

"At the Pacer, we really get the skills we need to enter the workplace and, actually, The Times was really impressed with my resume because I've had so much experience," she said.

Miss Curlin said the thing about The Pacer is that the staff gets to learn and practice all the aspects of newspaper production, such as writing and reporting, layout and design, photos and posting content online.

"Those are the skills you have to have to really get a job in this field," she said.

One of the high points of her college career was winning the feature-writing contest at the Southeast Journalism Conference in 2008, but she really considers all the time spent at The Pacer as a bonus.

"I just can't describe how much I appreciate the opportunities it has offered me," she said.

Capping her college journalism career with The Times internship cemented the fact that a career that focuses on writing was the best choice. She was accepted into an internship program called the "Fund for American Studies." As part of the program, Miss Curlin got to choose from a list of internships.

"The Washington Times was a national newspaper, so I thought that would give me some good experience," she said.

Miss Curlin was treated as a staffer, not an intern.

"I wrote mainly for the nation section and a few politics and culture stories," she said. "I was in the office a lot, mostly on the phone constantly. It's really hectic sometimes. I might have three or four hours to get a story done, and so I was immediately on the phone getting sources, trying to get in touch with people."

Among her stories was one on police brutality and how the more commonplace existence of video recorders today, particularly on cell phones, is changing the playing field in regard to police conduct.

"That was a really interesting one," she said.

Another was a story about Blockbuster, how it was having financial problems and how brick and mortar video stores are not able to keep up with companies such as Netflix and downloadable movies on the Internet.

Living and working in Washington also offers the possibility of meeting and interviewing some interesting people, she said.

"One that I thought was really cool was Ron Steinman. He's a documentary filmmaker. He was nominated for five Emmys (and has) written and produced documentaries for A&E, Discovery Channel, History Channel and TLC," Miss Curlin said.

She also met Christo, an artist, and interviewed 2009 Miss Black USA Shayna Rudd.

"I did a story on a book series that she's working on, and that was really cool," she said.

As a recent graduate, Miss Curlin is keeping her options open. She'd like to enter the workforce, but also is interested in other internship opportunities and graduate school.

"I can see myself staying in the journalism business. I wouldn't mind trying out magazines, but I'm keeping an open mind for positions that I feel could use my skills: to contribute to the betterment of society in some way," she said. "I think the people skills and writing skills I have developed could be assets across a variety of platforms."

What's her advice for communications students?

"Don't let all your education come from the classroom," she said.

Miss Curlin added that courses provide a base of the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace.

"You have to develop this knowledge yourself by practicing in real-world environments," she said. "Communications simply has to be learned through experience. The opportunities to gain that experience are available; you just have to work for them."

Editor's note: Miss Curlin completed a summer internship at The Messenger in 2008.
Volunteer advocacy training to be offered at UT Martin

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To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

Amro helps UT Martin with Steinway goal

Memphis Business Journal

Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2010, 5:17pm CST

The University of Tennessee at Martin is working to become the third public university in Tennessee to be known as an "All Steinway School," meaning it will be an educational institution in which students perform and are taught mostly on Steinway pianos.

Amro Music, Memphis' exclusive Steinway dealership, is working with the school on the initiative.

UT Martin will be one of 120 schools in the world to be supplied by Steinway. In Tennessee, Steinway also supplies East Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University.

UT Martin currently has 15 Steinway pianos and is working with Amro Music, a group of private donors and the school's administration to acquire 15 more of them.

"Becoming an All-Steinway School is one of the most exciting initiatives I've seen during my 40-year association with the university," Elaine Harris, music department interim chair at UT Martin, said in a statement. "This campaign shows the value UT Martin places on the arts and affirms that student learning and achievement rank first on this campus."
STUDENTS RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS FROM UT MARTIN – Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston, center, are Courtney Brackeen, left, of Humboldt; and Casey Curlin, of Fulton. A magna cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Curlin has served as assistant news editor, news editor and executive editor of The Pacer student newspaper. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Women in Communications, Alpha Delta Pi and Karate Club. She led The Pacer to recognition as a Best Collegiate Newspaper in the southeast and was named Best Feature Writer in the southeast.

A cum laude graduate in health and human performance, Brackeen has served on the Student Activities Council and as a member of Sigma Alpha, Collegiate FFA, SHAPE Club, Pre-Vet Club and Athletic Training Society. She also has served as a campus ambassador, Summer Orientation and Registration staff member, PEP leader and regional Health Occupations Students of America competition judge. She was named Most Outstanding Athletic Training Student. (Photo submitted)

UTM Renovator class EPA compliant

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CHAMBER MAKES IT EASY TO GET BUSINESS ADVICE

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CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT - Adam Bennett, of Gleason, gets ready for commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18. Bennett received a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. With him are his brother, Colin, left, and his parents, Sandy and Mike Bennett.
‘Take up baton and run the race’

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a tremendous environment. You as graduates are going to be able to take advantage of that environment."

He added, "We still stand on that hill as a beacon to the entire world."

Speaking to graduates’ families and friends, he said, "Thank you for the sacrifices that you have made. You, by that support of these graduates, are going to ensure that we continue to have leadership, we continue to have the talent that will bring America, again, out of this discomfort that we’re in now and put us back to where we all want to be economically and otherwise."

"UT Martin has truly become a world-class institution, and we should take a moment to really ... thank those that have been responsible for that." Reminding them that they have received a world-class education, "It’s preparing you to go out and be leaders in industry, in the military and in government."

He closed his remarks saying, "May God bless this nation, and thank you all for what you have done."

Castellaw, a Crockett County native, played freshman basketball at UT Martin, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). In 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he first served in Marine tank and amphibious tractor units before becoming a helicopter pilot.

He flew more than two dozen different aircraft and was Marine Aviator of the Year in 1990. His last assignments on active duty were at the Pentagon.

University of Tennessee President-elect Dr. Joseph DiPietro attended the ceremony and extended congratulations to graduates who represent 45 different Tennessee counties and 16 states including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. Graduates also represented the countries of France, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises and conferred degrees.

He congratulated graduates and asked them to maintain contact with UT Martin, offer advice and support and be supportive of higher education.

“You are joining over 38,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world."

He added, "Education is not what is received, but rather what is achieved. As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement—your resume now contains another tool, a body of knowledge and problem-solving skill-set that, if used wisely, can help ensure a wonderful future for you and those around you.”
Curlin completes internship to enhance college degree

Casey Curlin completed an internship at The Washington Times during her senior year, and said it’s that type of experiential learning that enhances a college education.

The University of Tennessee at Martin communications major from Fulton graduated Dec. 18 and also received the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award, the only award presented during commencement.

In addition to the internship, Curlin combined her college coursework with experience serving as executive editor of The Pacer, the UT Martin student newspaper, and other roles on campus to maximize her career opportunities.

“I decided to become a communications major after my freshman year when I took Frank Leach’s English 111 course,” said Curlin. “With his instruction and support I learned that I had a talent for writing and that I enjoyed it. I realized I wanted to pursue a career that involved writing and found that communications was a perfect fit.”

In addition to her communications professors and coursework, Curlin thinks that courses and professors outside her major helped her become well rounded. “My English, philosophy and political science professors, in particular, have greatly broadened my scope on different world views. This new level of understanding and way of thinking have not only opened my mind to the endless possibilities of learning, but ... also helped me become more of an unbiased thinker. Unbiased thinking is an important part of a career in journalism.”

The Pacer editor’s position also contributed to her preparation for a career. “At the Pacer, we really get the skills we need to enter the workplace, and actually The Times was really impressed with my resume because I’ve had so much experience.”

Curlin said the thing about the Pacer is that the staff gets to learn and practice all the aspects of newspaper production, such as writing and reporting, layout and design, photos and posting content online. “Those are the skills you have to have to really get a job in this field.”

One of the high points of her college career was winning the feature-writing contest at the Southeast Journalism Conference in 2008, but she really considers all the time spent at the Pacer as a bonus. “I just can’t describe how much I appreciate the opportunities it has offered me ...”

Capping her college journalism career with The Times internship cemented the fact that a career that focuses on writing was the best choice. She was accepted into an internship program called the “Fund for American Studies.” As part of the program, Curlin got to choose from a list of internships. “The Washington Times was a national newspaper so I thought that would give me some good experience.”

Curlin was treated as a staffer, not an intern. “I wrote mainly for the nation section and a few politics and culture stories,” she said. “I was in the office a lot, mostly on the phone constantly. It’s really hectic sometimes. I might have three or four hours to get a story done, and so I was immediately on the phone getting sources, trying to get in touch with people.”

Among her stories was one on police brutality and how the more commonplace existence of video recorders today, particularly on cell phones, is changing the playing field in regard to police conduct. “That was a really interesting one.”

Another was a story about Blockbuster, how it was having financial problems and how brick and mortar video stores are not able to keep up with companies such as Netflix and downloadable movies on the Internet.

Living and working in Washington also offers the possibility of meeting and interviewing some interesting people, she said. “One that I thought was really cool was Ron Steinman. He’s a documentary filmmaker. He was nominated for five Emmys, written and produced documentaries for A&E, Discovery Channel, History Channel and TLC.”

She also met Christo, an artist, and interviewed the 2009 Miss Black USA Shayna Rudd. “I did a story on a book series that she’s working on, and that was really cool.”

As a recent graduate, Curlin is keeping her options open. She’d like to enter the workforce, but also is interested in other internship opportunities and graduate school.

“I can see myself staying in the journalism business. I wouldn’t mind trying out magazines, but I’m keeping an open mind for positions that I feel could use my skills to contribute to the betterment of society in some way,” she added. “I think the people skills and writing skills I have developed could be assets across a variety of platforms.”

What’s her advice for communications students? “Don’t let all your education come from the classroom.” She added that courses provide a base of the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. “You have to develop this knowledge yourself by practicing in real-world environments. Communications simply has to be learned through experience. The opportunities to gain that experience are available; you just have to work for them.”
Recipient of Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship announced

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2011 Nick Dunagan Scholarship to Roe Hughes of Dresden. Hughes is the son of Roe and Andrea Hughes of Dresden. Andrea Hughes is an alumnus of WestStar, class of 2009.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, was one of the founders of the WestStar Leadership Program. The scholarship was established in his honor to be awarded to a WestStar alumnus dependent who is enrolled at UT Martin. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a student who has proven leadership skills and/or displays leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who have displayed a high level of academic achievement and who have a proven record of community/university involvement.

DUNAGAN SCHOLARSHIP – Roe Hughes, center, receives the 2011 Nick Dunagan Scholarship from Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus. Also pictured is Hughes’ mother, Andrea Hughes, community bank president, First State Bank, Dresden, WestStar Class of 2009.

To be considered for this scholarship, students must apply to the WestStar Leadership Office. The WestStar Board of Trustees selected the recipient of this scholarship at its annual December board meeting. Hughes is a junior finance major, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity president and delegate on the Interfraternity Council and serves on the Undergraduate Alumni Council.

Lead renovator course offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS) is offering a Certified Lead Renovator Course that complies with the Environmental Protection Agency Renovation, Repair and Paint Rule.

The Certified Lead Renovator Course is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break, on Jan. 15 at UT Martin.

The $250 fee includes the textbook, Certified Renovator certificate from the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and EPA materials. The eight-hour course will begin with “Why should I be concerned about lead paint?” The following topics are also included: regulations, before beginning work, contain dust during work, during the work, cleaning activities and checking work, recordkeeping and training non-certified renovation workers.

This class meets EPA and Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements. Successful completion earns EPA Certified Renovator status for five years. Students will learn what EPA/HUD requires of Certified Firms and Renovators, and how to work in a lead-safe manner while complying with the EPA RRP Rule.

The EPA began enforcing the lead paint law, known as the RRP Rule, on Oct. 1. Anyone who renovates, repairs or paints any building built before 1978 must comply with the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule. If a project will disturb more than two-six square feet of interior paint surface, then a certified professional must perform a lead test. Violators of the EPA RRP Rule can be fined up to $37,500 per day.

NCHH is the EPA authorized training provider for the course. Instructor will be H. Dale Fortner, NCHH principal instructor.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.
STUDENTS RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS FROM UT MARTIN – Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston, center, are Courtney Brackeen, left, of Humboldt; and Casey Curlin, of Fulton. A magna cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Curlin has served as assistant news editor, news editor and executive editor of The Pacer student newspaper. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Women in Communications, Alpha Delta Pi and Karate Club. She led The Pacer to recognition as a Best Collegiate Newspaper in the southeast and was named Best Feature Writer in the southeast. A cum laude graduate in health and human performance, Brackeen has served on the Student Activities Council and as a member of Sigma Alpha, Collegiate FFA, SHAPE Club, Pre-Vet Club and Athletic Training Society. She also has served as a campus ambassador, Summer Orientation and Registration staff member, PEP leader and regional Health Occupations Students of America competition judge. She was named Most Outstanding Athletic Training Student.

The Milan Mirror-Exchange, Tuesday, December 28, 2010

Milan Chamber will offer free business advice

Erik Markin, Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 9 a.m. - noon, Jan. 20, at the Milan Chamber of Commerce.

Markin recently joined the TSBDTC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the chamber at 731-784-1842 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDTC, go to www.tsbdtc.org.

askew Hongstevos Herkisci & Associates Inc, welcomes the following new employees to the firm:

Ryan McDaniel, P.E., LEED AP, senior structural engineer and structural department manager. McDaniel earned his bachelor of science degree in engineering from the University of Tennessee Martin and earned his master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri Rolla. He is an adjunct civil engineering professor at the University of Memphis and is a member of several trade organizations, including the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the West TN Structural Engineers Association.
Online UT Martin MBA grad punches biggest ticket so far

Janette Bergman McCall's father believed that a person needed "tickets" to progress in life - building blocks that prepare a person to succeed. McCall collected her largest ticket yet Dec. 18 as she was among the first 13 students to graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a master of business administration degree offered online and designed primarily for banking and financial services professionals.

At 46, the senior member of her MBA classmates mastered new learning technology on the way to becoming the first person in her immediate family to earn a graduate degree.

McCall, of Memphis, is a retail strategies advisor with NCBS, a wholly owned subsidiary of SunTrust Bank.

Her husband, Jim, is a University of Memphis graduate and home-improvement contractor who owns JM Services. The Mc Calls also own seven Memphis rental properties, all managed by Jim while Janette handles the accounting duties.

Her path to the graduation stage began as the youngest daughter of a military family. Her parents were born and raised in Minnesota.

The hardship caused by the Great Depression made it necessary for her mother, Ruth, who wasn't allowed to attend high school, to stay on the farm to cook and care for her family.

A career U.S. Air Force officer, Col. Lloyd Bergman earned the equivalent of an electrical engineering degree while in the service. After tours of duty that took the family to Europe, the Bergmans returned to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia and then moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he headed Strategic Air Command at the former Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base.

He retired in 1973 and moved the family to Northwest Arkansas, the summer before she began the fifth grade.

The Bergmans instilled a strong work ethic in their children, and she said that her father's "unwavering support" encouraged her to become the only sibling to earn a four-year college degree.

She graduated in May 1986 with a bachelor's degree in human resource management from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and began working in retail, including a stint as a customer service manager and human resources regional specialist for Target Stores in Ft. Worth, Texas.

She moved to Memphis in 1991 and opened a business called Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium, which she continued until 1999. She closed the business that year and became a regional sales manager for a national publishing company.

In 2005, McCall accepted her current position with NCBS where she works with the company's consulting arm, advising financial institutions on retail strategy.

An opportunity to attend the Barrett School of Banking held at Christian Brothers University allowed her to meet Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder for the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and also interim chair for the UT Martin Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science.

Payne told her about the MBA degree for banking and financial services professionals, emphasizing that the courses were delivered completely online.

"He explained the program to me. It was basically an offer I couldn't refuse," she said. She took the GMAT exam, entered the program and began pursuit of her dream to earn a graduate degree.

She ultimately found her job structure helpful for her academic pursuits as she used flying time and downtime in hotel rooms as opportunities to study.

"So after I finished whatever work I needed to do for my company I was able to work on papers or whatever was assigned," Her classmates relied on Web conferencing to connect with her while she traveled.

"Of course, they also had to adjust the schedules for when American Idol was on or the time zone I was in," she said.

"It was, in my current situation, the only way I could do it, because I do travel so much that I couldn't attend classes in the normal way," she said.

"My weekends are mine. That's when I can be with my family..." She recalled the first time that she and her classmates met in Martin for an orientation session where they were introduced to the technology used to deliver courses.

She remembered how younger class members showed her how to use a webcam for online meetings. "They were the only ones who convinced me that I needed to get a Facebook page," she said.

Technology didn't replace the need for mutual support among class members.

"I think it was a learning experience for all of us as we moved through the program," she said. She recalled the first course in organizational framing and how the class bonded.

"We all formed relationships very quickly, and it was a great learning experience." She added, "And, I'm here to tell you that to do it online takes a whole lot more commitment than sitting in the classroom because there are a whole lot of excuses to not get the work done."

McCall is grateful to her husband and 10-year-old daughter, Joanna, for their support through the 20-month program. As she learned, life continues to happen as school demands are added to the mix.

One classmate has four young children, while another received chemotherapy for cancer while pursuing the degree.

"There are folks in this cohort that
had a lot more pressures than I did," she said.

Her experience is already paying dividends in her current position.

"My clients are looking to me to be abreast of the most recent technology and regulatory changes, to understand what options are out there," she said.

"The banking world in and of itself is changing exponentially all the time."

Faculty members are pleased with what the program accomplished through this first class, and they see the program filling an important niche for financial services professionals.

Dr. Kevin Hammond, MBA program coordinator, said that the online program has already earned attention from the American Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the accrediting agency for college business programs. AACSB International recently cited the program as a "best practice" in its review of UT Martin's business programs.

"We're thrilled with this first cohort and the quality of these graduates," Hammond said.

Professional benefits aside, McCall is proud of her accomplishment for personal reasons.

"It's the realization of one of my lifelong goals," she said.

"It's just something I've always wanted to do." Although her parents were not alive to see her graduate, she knows they would be proud of her accomplishment, especially her father.

He taught her that a person never stops learning, something she will teach Joanna who was present to see her mother participate in commencement.

"You may think you know everything there is to know about something, but you don't," McCall said.

Collecting tickets is important, and Janette McCall knows all about that as she's earned her biggest ticket so far.

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**Dual enrollment offered for top high school students**

Jackson-Madison County Schools offers a dual-enrollment program for high school students. Participating higher-education institutions include Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**What is dual enrollment?**

Dual-enrollment courses provide high school students with the opportunity to earn both high school credit and college credit in a specified course.

**What are the qualifications?**

They vary depending on the institution for higher education.

**Why should a student take a dual enrollment course?**

1. The college credit should transfer to any state institution and may transfer to many schools out of state.

2. College officials look closely at student transcripts when selecting applicants for admission and scholarship. Colleges post data on how many of their college freshmen entered college having already received college credit from dual-enrollment courses or AP tests as an indicator of how prepared their college freshmen are for college.

3. The increased rigor (difficulty) of a college level course will help students prepare for the all-important ACT.

4. The Tennessee Department of Education through the lottery education fund pays $300 toward the cost of the course. If you complete one course each semester of your junior and senior year, you will enter college with one complete semester "under your belt".

**Tips for students**

1. Maintain a high GPA (students should focus on grades as ninth-graders).

2. Students must maintain a 3.0 to qualify for the dual-enrollment grant, so it is important to do well in dual-enrollment courses.

3. Prepare for the ACT early. Students must have a minimum ACT score in reading, English and/or math to qualify for a dual-enrollment course.
Representative Holt Looks Forward to New Session

By Joel Washburn
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

State Representative-elect Andy Holt (R-Dresden) begins his service January 11, representing the constituents in Weakly and the northern portion of Carroll County. Holt, 29, is eager to begin his service.

Holt is a Knoxville-area native, a graduate of UT-Knoxville with a masters in business administration from UT-Martin.

A Dresden co-ed at UT-K, whom he met in an 8:00 a.m. English class in the year 2000 is the reason he moved to west Tennessee and Dresden. He married Ellie Anderson and moved to her hometown of Dresden, where the couple and their children, Josie, 2, and Andrew, 1 reside. The couple is expecting a third child.

By trade, he and his wife have a livestock farm and are involved in agritourism in the rural area between Dresden and Palmersville. He works part-time as a fertilizer salesman for the Weakly County Co-op at Greenfield.

Holt said his goals are to bring jobs and industry to the area. He knows that is a worry of many politicians, but he believes the area is positioned for job growth. Tennessee is a no income tax, right-to-work state, which in itself is incentive for industrial growth. Rural west Tennessee is flat and has abundant land for development, said Holt. Additionally, the north-south route of I-69 will connect with State Route 22 and the development of the slackwater port on the Mississippi River in Lake County will bring a Republican controlled House, Senate and governor’s office, Holt expects a tough time balancing a state budget with an estimated $167 million shortfall.

“Balancing the budget will be a huge part of the session,” said Holt.

He hopes to work to build a more business-friendly environment by voting to reduce burdensome restrictions on businesses. Those include changes to the workers’ compensation laws and tort reform. He said he hopes changes to the law can be made to reduce illegal immigration in Tennessee. Another recently approved law is one that requires building permits, which he sees as problematic.

Farmers and landowners are often burdened with environmental and agricultural laws, both of which need to be addressed, said Holt.

In other issues, Holt said he is passionate about his pro-life stand and wants to see Planned Parenthood defunded.

As a strong advocate of the Second Amendment, Holt said he is advocate for legislation to further gun rights to law-abiding citizens, who use their guns responsibly.

All government should be limited, said Holt. Government’s place is to be an aid to the citizens and not become a burdensome problem.

Holt will be assigned a permanent legislative address after January 11. However, his assigned e-mail address is rep.andyholt@capitol.tn.gov.
Curlin completes Washington Times internship

Casey Curlin of Fulton completed an internship at The Washington Times during her senior year, and said it's that type of experiential learning that enhances a college education. The University of Tennessee at Martin communications major graduated Dec. 18 and also received the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award, the only award presented during commencement.

In addition to the internship, Curlin combined her college coursework with experience serving as executive editor of The Pacer, the UT Martin student newspaper, and other roles on campus to maximize her career opportunities. "I decided to become a communications major after my freshman year when I took Frank Leach's English 111 course," said Curlin. "With his instruction and support I learned that I had a talent for writing and that I enjoyed it. I realized I wanted to pursue a career that involved writing and found that communications was a perfect fit."

In addition to her communications professors and coursework, Curlin thinks that courses and professors outside her major helped her become well rounded. "My English, philosophy and political science professors, in particular, have greatly broadened my scope on different world views. This new level of understanding and way of thinking have not only opened my mind to the endless possibilities of learning, but... also helped me become more of an unbiased thinker. Unbiased thinking is an important part of a career in journalism."

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One of the high points of her college career was winning the feature-writing contest at the Southeast Journalism Conference in 2008, but she really considers all the time spent at the Pacer as a bonus. "I just can't describe how much I appreciate the opportunities it has offered me...."

Capping her college journalism career with The Times internship cemented the fact that a career that focuses on writing was the best choice. She was accepted into an internship program called the "Fund for American Studies." As part of the program, Curlin got to choose from a list of internships. "The Washington Times was a national newspaper so I thought that would give me some good experience."

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Another was a story about Blockbuster, how it was having financial problems and how brick and mortar video stores are not able to keep up with companies such as Netflix and downloadable movies on the Internet. Living and working in Washington also offers the possibility of meeting and interviewing some interesting people, she said. "One that I thought was really cool was Ron Steinman. He's a documentary filmmaker. He was nominated for five Emmys, written and produced documentaries for A&E, Discovery Channel, History Channel and TLC."

She also met Christo, an artist, and interviewed the 2009 Miss Black USA Shanya Rudd. "I did a story on a book series that she's working on, and that was really cool."

As a recent graduate, Curlin is keeping her options open. She'd like to enter the workforce, but also is interested in other internship opportunities and graduate school.

"I can see myself staying in the journalism business. I wouldn't mind trying out magazines, but I'm keeping an open mind for positions that I feel could use my skills to contribute to the betterment of society in some way." She added, "I think the people skills and writing skills I have developed could be assets across a variety of platforms."

What's her advice for communications students? "Don't let all your education come from the classroom." She added that courses provide a base of knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. "You have to develop this knowledge yourself by practicing in real-world environments. Communications simply has to be learned through experience. The opportunities to gain that experience are available; you just have to work for them."
New communications tower at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin is building a new communications tower, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The project will benefit WUTM-FM and WLJT-DT, as well as the UT Martin Office of Housing, Maintenance Center, Department of Public Safety and ham radio operators' frequencies.

The project included engineering, supplying and installing a new 300-foot, three-leg, self-supporting communications tower, foundation and all appurtenances and a precast concrete building. The new tower includes a climbing ladder with anti-fall system, transmission line support ladder and brackets, obstruction warning lights, antenna mounts, grounding and lightning protection and sign. The tower is in place and fully operational.

"The most impressive thing about the tower is that it will allow for better use of the property and better access for future tower maintenance," said Tim Nipp, UT Martin Physical Plant director. "One other key element is the structural integrity of the tower. This upgrade will provide a safer campus tower for years to come."

The new tower and equipment building offer improved features such as updated tower lighting, backup emergency power and security. This ensures the public safety communications equipment, WUTM-FM, UT Martin's student-operated radio station, and WLJT-DT public television station can stay on the air during emergency situations or power outages.

"Connectivity to the new facility also gives the site the ability to monitor key functions at the site such as tower lights, heating and cooling and power," said Rodney Freed, UT Martin instructor of communications. "When the tower and building are complete, transmitting antennas and cabling on the tower will be installed. We're hoping everything can be completed by May."

Kenneth Robinson, Director of Engineering for WLJT added, "We will benefit from the added security for the fiber equipment and microwave transmitter, due to the enclosure layout of the tower building, and the UPS generator system, which should supply power 100 percent of the time. The new tower building will also have proper cooling, which should extend the life of the equipment it houses."

Project designer is SSR Eilers, Inc., of Memphis, and the contractor is Diversified Contractors, Inc., of McKenzie.

UT Martin to offer spring reading clinics beginning January

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and UT Martin Reading Center are offering three spring reading clinic sessions for students grade 2-12. The sessions run from Jan. 24-Feb. 17, Feb. 21-March 24, and April 4-28. There will be no classes the week of March 14. The registration fee is $125, including a workbook.

The course, led by Dr. Beverly Hearn, UT Martin Reading Center director, is for students who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting. Students can choose either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Times available are 3-3:50 p.m., 4-4:50 p.m., 5-5:50 p.m., 6-6:50 p.m. or 7-7:50 p.m.

To register, call ECOS at 731-881-7082.
Michelle Creswell named United Way executive director

Michelle Creswell has been selected as the new executive director for United Way of Obion County Inc.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin in early childhood education, Mrs. Creswell taught in the Union City School System.

She has been very active in the community and has served on numerous boards throughout Obion County.

She has served as secretary and president and is vice president of Main Street-Union City Inc.; has been secretary of the CornFest Board; and is a director for Miss Fall Fest, a preliminary to Miss Tennessee.

As a member of First United Methodist Church in Union City, Mrs. Creswell has also served on several boards within her church.

She and her husband, Al

MICHIELLE CRESWELL

Creswell, reside in Union City. They have a son and daughter-in-law, Phillip and Katie Creswell; and a grandson, Preston.

For more information about United Way of Obion County, call 885-7658 or 446-2891.

RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS — Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston (center), vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day.

The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. The recipients were Casey Curlin (right) of Fulton and Courtney Brackeen of Humboldt. A magna cum laude graduate with a bachelor of arts degree, Miss Curlin has served as assistant news editor, news editor and executive editor of The Pacer student newspaper. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Women in Communications, Alpha Delta Pi and Karate Club. She led The Pacer to recognition as a Best Collegiate Newspaper in the southeast and was named Best Feature Writer in the southeast.
Representative Andy Holt outlines goals of office

By Joel Washburn
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

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"Unemployment is high. We have a large number of workers ready to work," said Holt. He believes the ongoing regional jobs recruitment effort will pay off.

The Republicans' new House leadership takes office January 11, after which Holt will receive his committee assignments from the leadership.

When speaking about unfunded mandates, Holt said any state mandates handed to the counties and cities should be funded or avoided, if possible. Holt, himself, was elected both the state legislature and the Weakley County Commission during the 2010 elections. He will have the opportunity to experience governance at the local and state levels.

During this first session on a Republican controlled House, Senate and governor's office, Holt expects a tough time balancing a state budget with an estimated $187 million shortfall.

"Balancing the budget will be a huge part of the session," said Holt.

He hopes to work to build a more business-friendly environment by voting to reduce burdensome restrictions on businesses. Those include changes to the workers' compensation laws and tort reform. He said he hopes changes to the law can be made to reduce illegal immigration in Tennessee. Another recently approved law is one that requires building permits, which he sees as problematic.

Farmers and landowners are often burdened with environmental and agricultural laws, both of which need to be addressed, said Holt.

In other issues, Holt said he is passionate about his pro-life stand and wants to see Planned Parenthood defunded.

As a strong advocate of the Second Amendment, Holt said he is an advocate for legislation to further gun rights to law-abiding citizens, who use their guns responsibly.

All government should be limited, said Holt. Government's place is to be an aid to the citizens and not become a burdensome problem.

Holt will be assigned a permanent legislative address after January 11. However, his assigned e-mail address is rep. andy.holt@capitol.tn.gov.
Johnson Looks to New Year for Young Lawyers Division

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RICHARD J. ALLEY | Special to The Daily News

At 35, Shon Johnson slips in just under the wire of age acceptance into the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association. Yet he’s done more than slip in, he’s been elected president of the organization for 2011.

The Young Lawyers Division – whose cutoff is 36 – has the functions of bringing together the group and working to make the profession better by creating a congeniality among its members, providing a social outlet and improving the community through fundraising and volunteering. The division already plans to host the high school mock trial event in 2011 and host a golf tournament to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Downtown.

( Photo: Lance Murphey)

“There are plenty of lawyers that come into the market every year and the law is an area where you learn on the job, so to speak,” Johnson said. “So this provides a place where young lawyers can get advice from other lawyers who have been practicing from one to six to 10 years to help them learn about the profession and what’s expected.”

Johnson was born in Memphis but grew up in the northwest part of the state and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1998. He worked as an accountant for Trammell Crow in Memphis and then as an internal auditor for FedEx, a job that had him traveling around the world, improving operations and helping him learn about different cultures.

It was this eagerness to learn and experience new things that led him to school for his MBA at the University of Memphis and make an even larger change by attending law school at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, graduating in 2004.

“I’d always thought about going, but never had the money,” he said. “After I worked for a while being an accountant, I got in a position where I could afford it and I thought if I didn’t go and try it, I would never do it, and if it didn’t work out I could go right back to doing the career I already had.”

It did work out, and while a student, Johnson clerked for the Arkansas firm of Rieves, Rubens & Mayton. Offered a job there after graduation, he took and passed the Arkansas bar, practicing insurance defense and litigation work for the firm.
From there, he took the Tennessee bar exam and went to work for the small firm of Domico Kyle in Memphis, continuing his practice of insurance defense and adding medical malpractice to his resume.

Currently, Johnson works for Black McLaren Jones Ryland & Griffee PC in East Memphis, and touches on many aspects of law: save for bankruptcy and criminal defense. He sees his previous experience as an accountant as a boon to a well-rounded career and how legal decisions can and will affect a business.

"With most lawyers, there's a disconnect to the financial part where they just don't understand that much about it," he said. "So when I'm representing a client in an insurance case, or any type of company, really, to them it's not just about a case, but that case will affect their business and their finances. So I understand the full picture of how they're trying to make the decision of whether or not to settle or go to trial."

In addition to his work with the Young Lawyers Division, Johnson is a mentor with the MBA's Leadership Forum, on the board of the Tennessee Bar Association and a member of the Leo Bearman American Inn of Court.

He and his wife, Carie, an oncology nurse with Saint Francis Hospital-Bartlett, are also active with the local golden retriever rescue group.

Johnson's career path has been long and winding, even at his young age, and he hopes to use his experiences to guide up-and-coming professionals to be productive and giving members of the legal society.

"I want to continue to do good work and I want to continue to grow," he said. "I like something to always be changing as far as learning new things. ... I want to be continually learning about something."
Matthew 25:40 helps family in crisis, others like it during Christmas

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"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

-- Matthew 25:40

Christmas may be over, and who gave what present to whom may be insignificant to many at this point, but one woman is testifying the local charity of Matthew 25:40 is living up to the passage it was named after and does so on a regular basis.

Vickie Williams is a 34-year-old single mother of four children, who had nowhere to turn and nobody to go to when she needed help.

Williams and her children were facing eviction earlier this month. She was also contemplating the possibility of signing over guardianship of her children to her mother.

"I had almost given up," said Williams.

As December rolled around, bills came due and she was not able to pay her rent, much less be able to provide her children with Christmas presents. She had already told them there would be no Christmas and they may have to wait until January before she could get them presents. However, this was all before Matthew 25:40 and its executive director, Amy Schmitt McDonald, stepped in.

She was able to help Williams with her rent through money they received from the federal government's Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing Program. And the children awoke Christmas morning to find they had received clothes and a couple of mp3 players the girls had wanted.

The children were surprised and asked Williams where the items came from. She told them Matthew 25:40 had donated the items.

"They know there are people with good hearts and are willing to help somebody that needs help," said Williams. "And my baby girl made the comment that they (Matthew 25:40) were Santa Claus."

A recent graduate of Dyersburg State Community College and a junior enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin's satellite campus in Ripley majoring in social work, Williams is not your typical charity recipient and said she only turned to Matthew 25:40 when there were no other options available to her.

"Vicki is a wonderful person and she tries very hard," said McDonald. "She is working really hard to better herself and her children."

Since meeting McDonald, Williams said she is a real blessing and considers her to be like a sister. She also had some advice for others that may be in a similar situation.

"If people are feeling like they can't go on, they have just got to believe and have faith it is going to get better," said Williams. "God puts people in their lives for a reason."

McDonald also stated God plays a big role in providing for the less fortunate.

"Although times are hard for some, we need to keep the faith and remember there is a reason for everything that happens," said McDonald. "It is our path that is guided by God and the choices that we make. It is simply amazing how we can look back and understand why this or that has happened."

Since July 1, Matthew 25:40 has given over $76,000 in financial assistance to aid almost 500 families in Dyer County.

In November, the charity gave out 100 Thanksgiving baskets with 20 more sponsored by Sun Products. They also gave clothing to 182 individuals and food to 215 people.
During Christmas, 65 children were sponsored by various groups, churches and individuals and 52 more children were assisted by Matthew 25:40 thanks to private donors and local toy drives.

"Our success is a reflection of this community’s heartfelt kindness and generosity," said McDonald.

Matthew 25:40 accepts monetary donations, food, clothing, household items, toiletries and furniture. Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon. Drop-offs of donations can be arranged any afternoon or weekend by calling 286-9054 during office hours. The office is located at 432 W. Court St. in Dyersburg. All donations are tax deductible.

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Recipient of Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship announced

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2011 Nick Dunagan Scholarship to Roe Hughes of Dresden. Hughes is the son of Roe and Andrea Hughes of Dresden. Andrea Hughes is an alumna of WestStar, class of 2009.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, was one of the founders of the WestStar Leadership Program. The scholarship was established in his honor to be awarded to a WestStar alumnus dependent who is enrolled at UT Martin. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a student who has proven leadership skills and/or displays leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who have displayed a high level of academic achievement and who have a proven record of community/university involvement.

To be considered for this scholarship, students must apply to the WestStar Leadership Office. The WestStar Board of Trustees selected the recipient of this scholarship at its annual December board meeting.

Hughes is a junior finance major, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity president and delegate on the Interfraternity Council and serves on the Undergraduate Alumni Council.

Roe Hughes, center, receives the 2011 Nick Dunagan Scholarship from Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus. Also pictured is Hughes' mother, Andrea Hughes, community bank president, First State Bank, Dresden, WestStar Class of 2009.