‘Sustainability has always been a passion’ for her

Amelia Mayahi
Sustainability coordinator, University of Memphis

The details
Describe your job: The University of Memphis has been chosen by TVA to participate in a pilot program, the Alliance to Save Energy initiative, that may lower energy bills at the campus. In my green job, I'm known as a "lead stakeholder" for this project.

TVA funding covers program-implementation costs, and wages for four paid student interns, who will develop and execute on-campus energy-efficiency projects and campaigns. These interns work closely with me, and with a "stakeholder committee." I supervise the work of the interns and work as the liaison between them and the physical plant. However, I encourage the interns to take initiative and work independently. I want them to get as much real-world experience as possible, and develop those professional skills needed after graduation.

I also work with the stakeholder committee on our campus: Michael Allen, physical plant assistant vice president; Thomas Montoya, HVAC and plumbing manager; Charlie Black, energy and environmental manager; Kenneth Mulvany, landscape architect; and Michael Chisamore, assistant professor of architecture. This committee meets once or twice a semester to help guide the work and develop action plans for the interns.

Why did you choose a green career? Sustainability has always been a passion. I was raised in a family that took the lifestyle very seriously and both of my parents worked for the University of Tennessee at Martin. My father, Dennis Kosta, was over all sustainability initiatives there and actually started the only recycling program there that is open to the entire community. So the union between sustainability and higher educational institutions is something very familiar and important to me. It's as much of a passion and history, as it is a career.

What education/experience did you need for your job? You need at least a bachelor's degree, and most of all experience in sustainability leadership and implementation.

Most recent job(s): Before the position as sustainability coordinator at the University of Memphis, I was working a similar position at the University of Tennessee at Martin as a student. I had worked in that position since I was 18 years old and continued through college. I also served in student government for four years, while obtaining my undergraduate degree. Working through student government gave me many opportunities to progress sustainability initiatives from the policy side, while I also worked in a more direct way as a student worker for the physical plant.

What's the hardest thing about finding work in your field (in the Greater Memphis area)? Finding work anywhere, in any field is difficult in these times, but I think work in the green field is such an expanding job sector that anyone with a background in sustainability definitely has a heads up. The careers in green jobs are so diverse and multidisciplinary, so that is definitely an advantage.

What one green practice would you recommend to others? One green practice would be to make at least one day of the week dedicated to alternative transportation. This can be done by carpooling, riding a bike, walking or public transport. It is a win-win situation, because you are saving money and the environment at the same time.

What green trends would you like to see in the future? I would love to see an urban community connected more to nature.

— Compiled by Emily Adams Keplinger

Christmas table arrangement course set

Holiday centerpieces will be quick and easy for those who complete a Christmas table arrangement course being offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The one-night course is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday on the UT Martin campus.

The course will focus on the creation of Christmas centerpieces and participants will leave with a completed project to use at home or give as a gift. Lauren Armbruster will instruct the class, exploring basic concepts and techniques of floral arrangement while helping students develop personal flair and creativity. She will also cover flower placement, as well as the needed materials and how to use them.

Registration is $45 plus a fee for supplies, payable to the instructor on the night of the class. The supply fee is $43, which includes an arrangement container, sink flowers, Christmas greens, berries or filler, glue, wire and any other materials needed.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
Rick Bragg’s ‘music’ has a rhythm of its own

Glenda Caudle
Special to the Press

There is a theory that late 19th and early 20th century Southern writers made their words waltz in similar songs because they were all nurtured on the King James Bible’s cadence.

Only a tone-deaf reader could have missed the ties that bound them. There is some sweet scriptural rhythm to Pulitzer Prize-winner Rick Bragg’s work.

But there is more gritty fiddle and heart-tripping drum.

The pulse of it snare s at a range of random visceral emotion at the same time it’s tapping across the brain’s synapse on its way to forging new connections. Which is a fancy way of saying the northeast Alabama native does more than impart facts by stringing together combinations of 26 letters.

He orchestrates stories. He composes tales. He whistles both fictional truths and factual perceptions perfectly on key, and when he has filled in the lines and spaces on the score, his song sets feet to moving.

“Do you read your work out loud while you’re doing it?” he was asked in a recent interview.

“I read everything out loud. It’s the only way you know the flow, cadence or rhythm,” he said.

He is, then, extremely well-read. Bragg will be reading some of his completed work to teens and their parents and grandparents when he visits northwest Tennessee in mid-winter. He will begin his two-day visit at the University of Tennessee at Martin Feb. 2, where he will be the speaker for the free Meek Library Lecture at 7:30 p.m. at Watkins Auditorium.

The next day, he will sit down with about 700 high school and some middle school students from Union City, Obion County Central and South Fulton to talk about writing and reading and living.

That evening — Feb. 3 — he will be honored at the Union City Rotary Club Distinguished Speaker annual banquet at the Hampton Centre in Union City.

Tickets for the latter event are now on sale at Lanzer Printing and Office Supply in downtown Union City.

“I still don’t know if I can feel comfortable describing myself as a writer,” he confesses.

“You’re always learning. I think I can write a little bit and I’m honored to get to do it, but the arrogance I had as a young writer has evaporated, although sometimes I still get a little full of myself. I listened to Pat Conroy read aloud and thought it was one of the most elegant things I’ve ever heard. But I guess I’m tickled when I hear my stuff read out loud.”

After a long career in newspapers — a career he had no formal education for — Bragg is now teaching the art of writing at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

He is the author of a family trilogy — “All Over but the Shoutin’,” “Ava’s Man” and “The Prince of Frogtown” plus a collection of his favorite newspaper columns published under the title “Somebody Told Me”; another volume that celebrates the mill people while mourning with family and friends who are numbered among them the passing of their way of life in “The Most They Ever Had”; and a veteran’s tale, “I Am a Soldier Too: The Jessica Lynch Story.”

Under his breath, he is humming his way toward a couple more compositions these days.

“The best time I ever had is the one I have now — teaching,” he says of his career. “It may not make you feel young; some days it makes me feel real old. But talking about writing — my craft — to people who want to know how to do it is great. Being on a college campus is the best place on earth to write. I’m so lucky to have this surreal setting. I go about writing there — I sweat and gripe and cuss over it — like some people build a fence.”

And prior to this gig, what ranked highest? “It was my first job at a weekly paper covering sports,” says the journalist who made his name by
shaking the fine-grained blotting sand of compassion across pages necessarily penned in blood.

"I had yet to write about killing and dying and suffering. I was writing from a two-by-four press box in Alabama about something deadly serious though: football. Or I was sitting in a baseball press box and watching — being paid to watch — a baseball game and eating a hot dog. I'm proud of every word I ever tried to put down. They weren't always good and maybe they didn't always make sense, but when I was 18 or 19, it was a lot of fun," Bragg credits his family with giving him a voice.

"My Aunt Edna was a fountainhead for my books. I'm so grateful she was willing to talk to me for 15 years. She'll live forever in those books," he says of the volumes that tell the family stories lots of folks could have written about their own kin. But nobody else did. At least not like Rick Bragg.

"I asked my mother once if something was the truth. She said, 'Hon, she was telling God's sanction.' It was such a mix of the good old King's English and Appalachian. Either, on its own, wouldn't have produced that same effect. I can't take credit for the language if it's right there in front of me. They talk in poetry and as a writer you have to organize it. But I'd rather beat myself in the head with a hammer than organize it."

He's apparently utilized the ballpen to better effect at this point, however: "My Uncle Jimbo ... now it's a beautiful thing to listen to him. At a family reunion, Jimbo sits down next to me and I say, 'How ya doin' Jim?"' and he says, 'Not doin' good, son. I quit lying.'

"I ask him how long ago he gave it up and he says, "bout 15 minutes ago." "But telling that, you can get in trouble. You can get disowned in a hurry," he laughs.

He's asked to describe a typical day at the university.

"I teach one class one day a week on Tuesdays. I teach long-form narrative nonfiction story writing. I spend lots of time with kids and some graduate students and I enjoy it. I like talking about writing. I like it, God help me. I talk about ways to make stories come alive. My drum beat is 'show me; don't tell me.'"

The next question deals with his dedication to his craft. "Do you apply any discipline to your own writing?"

"I write when my wife lets me. She tells me I can write in the afternoons." He denies practicing any hobbies.

"I'm a bad fisherman. I try to be a good stepfather. (His youngest stepson of three will graduate this year.) Their relationship has been played out in several published venues, most often on the back-page Southern Living column Bragg submits each month. I write stuff. That's all I do. I love to read, but mostly I just write stuff. Writing doesn't make me happy. What makes me happy is having written. It's not that I don't love the words. I like having written. I like looking at it and going, 'Maybe that will do. Maybe that will be OK.'"

Forced to a choice between reading and writing, which would he embrace for keeps?

"I'd read, for sure. Reading is fun. It would be like cooking or eating, and I'd choose eating. I'd be selfish, though. I wouldn't read Aristotle; I'd read Dickens and Larry McMurtry and Walker Percy and Cormac McCarthy — although that makes me crazy — and Eudora Welty and James Lee Burke's novels about Acadians. I'd read candy and biscuits and gravy, because life is too short to read what people tell you to read."

One suspects, however, that he would sneak and write, as well.

Because the rhythm is in his blood. And it purely begs to play out somewhere, just as it did in his grandmother, Ava Bundrum.

She was a buck dancer as long as she could physically compel her feet to follow the music. And her grandson really has no choice but to provide the rhythm.

Editor's Note: Glenda Caudle is the special features editor at The Messenger in Union City.

She may be contacted at glendacaudle@uемessenger.com.

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UT Martin women’s basketball plans benefit

The University of Tennessee at Martin head coach Kevin McMillian has announced a fundraiser dinner to be held before hosting Southeastern Conference powerhouse Vanderbilt on Wednesday.

The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be located in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse. McMillian and the University of Tennessee president Joe DiPietro will be on hand to address the crowd.

In addition to the dinner, those in attendance will have the opportunity to bid on a variety of Skyhawk memorabilia during a silent auction.

After the dinner, those in attendance will then take a walk-through of the newly-renovated locker room and team room and receive a ticket to the game and passes to the Skyhawk Club hospitality room at halftime.

Tip-off from the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center is scheduled for 7 p.m. The fundraiser is open to the public and the cost of admission is $100 per ticket. There is limited seating availability so fans are asked to make their reservations quickly.

Those interested in attending can call Leanne Rainey (located at Alexander Thompson Arnold) at 587-1997.

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Fall concert

The University Singers and the New Pacer Singers will present their combined fall concert at 3 p.m. The concert will be in the Duncan Ballroom on the second floor of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The concert is free and open to the public.
Remembering Christmas past

Melissa Goodman remembers a time when almost everything at Santa’s Village was white. The annual fundraiser event held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus has been an area tradition for 26 years.

While raising thousands of dollars for the local needy, the holiday wonderland setting, countless vendors and sleigh rides have also brought thousands of visitors to enjoy the massive Christmas celebration.

Although she is also able to use her agriculture background to relate to the large agriculture industry in the two counties, part of Goodman’s job also involves crafting through cultural arts education to involve clientele.

“Every step that I’ve taken, whether I understood it at that point or not, has influenced who I have become. All of that has given me the knowledge to help me help my clientele.”

Goodman now lives in Fulton with her husband, Stephen, whom coincidentally, she met in that first freshman agriculture class, and her two sons Ezekiel and Elijah.

Santa’s Village is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. It will be held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus.

Bow after bow of Goodman’s seven-loop design was hung around the arena, adding to the holiday atmosphere that would brighten the days of thousands of guests.

“There was a lot of work that went into creating the child’s fantasy. It’s something fun that everyone looks forward to, but it’s also a great cause because it provides for those that need help during the holiday season. It’s a win-win,” Goodman said.

Ironically, all of that bow-tying practice would come in handy for Goodman later in life.

She began her collegiate career as an ag education major, but graduated in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in family and consumer science and now works for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service as an extension agent for family and consumer sciences in Fulton and Hickman counties in Kentucky.

Past

Goodman has experienced first hand the benefits that Santa’s Village provides even to those behind the scenes. When she was a freshman at UT Martin in 1997 she volunteered for the event, initially to get extra credit for an agriculture class.

“I had been to Santa’s Village as a child, and at that time I didn’t realize how many people it took to organize and set up the event. That was back when they had all the tree limbs and things painted white. I was helping to bring those in and brush them white,” Goodman said.

That was before her true value to the village was discovered.

“When they found out that I could make bows, I spent the rest of the time making bows,” Goodman said laughing. She added that she had initially learned bow-making from a floral design class in high school.

Although she has learned several crafts over the years, it was always her ambition to be able to make balloon animals for children, and she will be back again this year.

Goodman now lives in Fulton with her husband, Stephen, whom coincidentally, she met in that first freshman agriculture class, and her two sons Ezekiel and Elijah.

Santa’s Village is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. It will be held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus.
Parish Attends First Rising Star Summit

Caroline Parish, a high school student from Carroll County, attended the first RisingStar Leadership Summit held on Nov. 17-18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A total of 37 high school juniors and seniors attended the event, which taught students leadership skills through team building exercises. The summit was sponsored by the WestStar Leadership program, Ayers Foundation and UT Martin. Parish is pictured with Charley Deal, director of alumni relations at UT Martin and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program.

Chamber Makes it Easy to Get Business Advice December 13

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) are happy to provide free confidential one-on-one consultations to entrepreneurs and existing business owners.

Take advantage of the opportunity to get one-on-one business consulting from Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the University of Tennessee At Martin. Markin will be at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce in Huntingdon, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13. He is available to help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with advice on a business plan, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the chamber at 731-986-4664 or by contacting Markin directly at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1981 for the purpose of advancing the commercial, industrial, civic, and general interests of the County of Carroll and its trade area.

CAN DO – WCMT and Star 95.1 along with the Student Athlete Advisory Council at UT Martin had the 27th Annual Can Caravan with Weakley County Schools Dec. 1. Schools collected cans for over a month. Along with athletes from UT Martin, over 10,000 cans were collected for Santa’s Village. 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.
UTM commencement is Saturday

Notable journalist and University of Tennessee at Martin alum, Jennifer Horbelt, will deliver the fall commencement address at UT Martin, at 11 a.m. Dec. 10, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Horbelt began working with WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky. in 2007 as a reporter, while she was still in her senior year at UT Martin. A year and a half later she landed the female evening anchor position at the station, which she kept until recently accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo. While working with WPSD Local 6, Horbelt won first place in the See UTM, Page 4

UTM FROM PAGE 1

Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Spot News along with photojournalist Michael Driver. In 2008, she was awarded First Place in the Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Hard News Feature along with photojournalist Chad Darnall, and an Honorable Mention for Best TV Reporter. In 2009 she was nominated for a Mid-America Emmy with several of her peers for Team Coverage during Winter Storm '09. A native Texan, Jennifer moved to Memphis while in high school. During her time at UT Martin, she acted as support and development director, news director, and on-air talent for the campus radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” and also worked with the West Tennessee PBS affiliate, WLJT-DT, as a camera operator.

Before graduating she was named Best Television Journalist in the Southeast Journalism Conference and received the Communicator Award of Distinction for a Habitat for Humanity Public Service Announcement. She graduated from the university in May 2007 as a University Scholar.

Tickets are not required for admission to December commencement, and more than 600 degrees are expected to be awarded. A live webcast will be available at the “View Commencement Live” link on the UT Martin homepage.

Local songwriter commemorates the New Madrid quakes of 1811-1812

Larry Holder, a songwriter from Martin, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812 with a new song, “The Days the Earth Would Not Stand Still,” which debuted on local radio station WCMT on Dec. 5, during the Morning Show with Chris Brinkley and Paul Tinkle.

After researching the history of the quakes and writing the initial lyrics, Holder shared the song with his high school friend, Chris McGoldrick, who works at the earthquake center at the University of Memphis. McGoldrick and his associates checked the words for historical accuracy. With a documentary video also in progress, the song is being considered for inclusion as the music during the rolling credits.

Local musicians Terry Lewis, Will Turner, and Craig Ingram lent their talents to the project, providing the additional instrumentation of mandolin, banjo, and lead guitar. Holder provided vocals, guitar, and bass.

Collectively, the group is known as “Ralston Station” (taken from the original town name for Ralston, Tennessee).

The mp3 and lyrics of the song are freely available at: larryholdermusic.org/earthquake.html The Reelfoot Lake Bicentennial Committee has also expressed an interest in using the song to promote the 200th anniversary of Reelfoot Lake, which was created as a direct result of the historical earthquakes.

Holder has debuted a number of songs on WCMT over the years, including contemporary Christian songs as well as several humorous songs such as “I’ve Died and Gone to Starbucks” and “Everything I Know In Life I Learned From Chris and Paul.”

Holder also co-wrote the theme song of the Tennessee Soybean Festival, “There’s Nothing Like the Bean,” with Dr. Jim Byford, former dean of Agriculture at UT Martin. Holder is a computer professional and instructor at The University of Tennessee at Martin, as well as a musician and songwriter. He is the senior bass guitar player at First Baptist Church in Martin, and performs with the house band for the annual Martin Rotary Sing-a-Like.
Renewable energy forum held at UTM

Martin – A vibrant renewable energy industry is quietly growing in West Tennessee, and plans are already developing for the creation of a statewide “Renewable Energy Corridor” that can be a vehicle for creating stable, well-paying jobs for Tennessee workers, according to a news release.

This was one of the many issues discussed at the Crockett Policy Institute’s forum on renewable energy and job creation at UT Martin Tuesday evening.

A distinguished panel of academics, elected officials, and industry leaders outlined the corridor’s ongoing development and outlined steps to nurture a profitable, lasting industrial base.

The distinguished panel was introduced by Crockett Policy President LiGen John Castellaw (Ret.), and was moderated by UTM’s own Dr. James Byford.


Castellaw summed up the forum’s findings.

“Here in West Tennessee, we have the feedstocks to create renewable energy in abundance. Whether you’re talking about biomass like corn, soybeans or switchgrass, or solar or wind power – even natural gas, we have it all right here. Most importantly, we also have ready access to the consumers of fuel and power, such as Federal Express and Delta in Memphis, and the mid-America transportation nexus of railroads, highways airports and two major rivers.

“Industry is already coming here,” he continued. “Companies like Green Plains in Obion are already producing competitively priced renewable energy right here in West Tennessee. Public-private initiatives like the solar farm in Haywood County will spur investment in new technologies. The work of organizations like the Memphis Bioworks Foundation in Memphis and our educational institutions are working to educate dislocated workers and retrain them for renewable energy jobs.”

Forum participants spent two hours discussing opportunities for economic development through renewable energy and accepting questions from the audience.

“I was very pleased we had such a thoughtful, productive discussion in the spirit of cooperation. In today’s world, too often allow politics or pre-conceived ideas get in the way of solving the very real problems we face. That’s why we formed Crockett Policy,” he said.

The Crockett Policy Institute is a non-partisan research and policy organization with claims it is dedicated to improving the lives of Tennesseans by providing practical, workable, and fair solutions to address the challenges facing the state. The Institute seeks to build consensus around moderate, common-sense proposals to make Tennessee a better place to live, to work and to raise kids, according to a news release.
LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND FIRST RISING-STAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Two Weakley County high school students attended the first RisingStar Leadership Summit held on Nov. 17-18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A total of 37 high school juniors and seniors attended the event, which taught students leadership skills through team building exercises. The summit was sponsored by the WestStar Leadership program, Ayers Foundation and UT Martin. On hand were (from left), Marvin Flatt, director of career and technical education with Weakley County schools; Virginia Grimes, coordinator of the WestStar Leadership Program; Conner Verdall; Brooke Baker; Charley Deal, director of alumni relations at UT Martin and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program; and Barbara Virgin, executive director of the Weakley County Chamber.

SPORTSWOMAN SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

For 38 seasons, Coach Pat Summitt has racked up big numbers on the basketball court, but it’s perhaps the big heart she’s shown off the court in the last few months that has propelled her to the title of Sports Illustrated’s 2011 Sportswoman of the Year.

The announcement was made Monday morning and for the 2011 Sportsman of the Year, Sports Illustrated went with another famed coach, Mike Krzyzewski of Duke.

Of course, Summitt’s 1,075 wins and counting and eight national titles at the helm of the Tennessee Lady Vols’ program carried a lot of weight with the decision.

When the legendary coach went public with the announcement of early-onset dementia in August, however, touching off several supportive programs including a “We Back Pat” T-shirt and the recent formation of the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund, she took on a new level of respect from both lifelong Tennessee fans and those not fa...
**Annual Santa’s Village offers something for all**

Visitors to the 27th annual Santa’s Village charity event will have an opportunity to enjoy more than 70 entertainers — ranging in age from 6 to 70 — from across the region.

Scheduled performances include pop, country, Broadway, classical, jazz and rock musicians and ballet, jazz and tap dancers, as well as the more traditional music.

Santa’s Village will be open from 6-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of $5 worth of canned goods or toys, which will be given to several area agencies which help less fortunate families at Christmas. Among them are Chimes for Charity and Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services, as well as We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Healthy Start Northwest Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

The entertainment schedule released for this week’s Santa’s Village includes:

**Thursday**
- 6 p.m. — Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 6:30 p.m. — Larry Holder, vocal and guitar
- 7 p.m. — Carla Field, Ed and Elaine Knight, violin and accordion
- 7:30 p.m. — Tassi, Rene and Brian McWherter, vocal
- 8:30 p.m. — Linda Ramsey, vocal

**Friday**
- 5:45 p.m. — Joy Jones, piano
- 6 p.m. — Rose Brawner, vocal
- 7 p.m. — Jamie Worrell, vocal
- 8 p.m. — Charles and Debbie Ross, vocal

(See Page 2, Col. 1)

**Santa’s...**
(Continued from Page 1)

**Saturday**
- 10:45 a.m. — Madison Brown, piano
- 11 a.m. — Rachel Alley, Blake and Katie Snider, vocal and instrument variety
- Noon — Wes Sliger, vocal and piano
- 12:30 p.m. — Austin Emmerson, Emma and Jackson Kelly, vocal and piano
- 12:50 p.m. — Kelsie Winstead, vocal
- 1 p.m. — Amy Day, vocal
- 1:10 p.m. — Natalie Hurst, vocal
- 1:20 p.m. — Claire Capps and Kelsie Winstead, dance
- 1:30 p.m. — Joy Jones, vocal
- 2 p.m. — Stepz Dance Studio
- 2:30 p.m. — Cadence Drummond, dance
- 2:45 p.m. — Joy Jones and Jenny Bradshaw, vocal, piano and violin
- 3:30 p.m. — Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. — The Jim Fiebers, violin and guitar
- 5 p.m. — Carla Lee, vocal

**Sunday**
- 12:45 p.m. — Jason Batchelor, piano
- 1 p.m. — Rose Brawner, piano
- 1:15 p.m. — Austin Emmerson, piano
- 1:30 p.m. — Oliver’s Chapel Presbyterian Church, drama and music presentation
- 2:15 p.m. — Lexie Knott, vocal and guitar
- 2:30 p.m. — Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 3 p.m. — Rose Brawner, vocal
- 3:30 p.m. — Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4 p.m. — Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. — Janice Murray, vocal

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 881-6784.

**CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS**

**WEAKLEY COUNTY:** The Tennessee Department of Aeronautics, the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, and UT Martin are partnering to host an art competition for children and young adults from Obion and Weakley counties to be held at the airport from January 2 until January 11, 2012. Deadline to enter is 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2011.

There are three age categories for participation: 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17 years old. All children in the two counties are eligible to participate. Winners in the three categories will be sent on to Nashville for the state competition. The theme for the competition is “Silent Flight” and specific definitions and details can be found on the entry form. To obtain an entry form, contact Jo Ann Speer at the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, 731-885-1221 or ESA@estewartregionalairport.us. An opening reception will be held Friday, January 6, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The exhibition will be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Commencement scheduled for Saturday at UT Martin

Journalist and University of Tennessee alum Jennifer Horbelt will deliver the fall commencement address at UT Martin at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Tickets are not required for admission to the December commencement, where more than 600 degrees are expected to be awarded.

A live webcast will be available at the "View Commencement Live" link on the UT Martin homepage at www.utm.edu.

Ms. Horbelt began working with WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky., in 2007 as a reporter while she was still in her senior year at UT Martin. A year and a half later, she landed the female evening anchor position, which she held at the station until recently accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo.

A native Texan, Ms. Horbelt moved to Memphis while in high school.

During her time at UT Martin, she acted as support and development director, news director and on-air talent for campus radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk" and also worked with the West Tennessee PBS affiliate, WLJT-DT, as a camera operator.

Before graduating from UT Martin, she was named Best Television Journalist in the Southeast Journalism Conference and received the Communicator Award of Distinction for a Habitat for Humanity public service announcement.

She graduated from the university in May 2007 as a University Scholar.

While working at WPSD, Ms. Horbelt earned honors from the Kentucky Associated Press Awards along with photojournalists Michael Driver and Chad Darnall. In 2009, she was nominated for a Mid-America Emmy along with several of her peers for their team coverage of the 2009 winter storm.

SPORTSWOMAN
SPORTSMAN
OF THE YEAR

Pat
Summitt
Tennessee
Lady Vol
Mike
Krzyzewski
Duke

WINNING COACHES – Tennessee Lady Vol head coach Pat Summitt (left), a UT Martin alum, and Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski grace the cover of Sports Illustrated as the two have been chosen by SI as Sportswomen and Sportsman of the Year.
Geology professor flies to aircraft carrier

On an average day in the classroom, Dr. Stan Dunagan, associate professor of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, passionately lectures on water resource issues, volcanic hazards and earthquakes.

He discusses tectonic plate motion, climate change issues and fossil fuel reserves, among other scientific topics.

Last summer, however, he was catapulted off of an aircraft carrier flight deck, accelerating from zero to 150 mph in two seconds. That day was not average.

As part of the U.S. Navy’s Distinguished Visitors program, Dunagan was invited to spend roughly 30 hours on the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, where he witnessed first-hand the life of Navy servicemen.

He and 14 others toured most of the carrier, including the flag bridge, combat direction center, public affairs offices, meteorology department, medical and dental facilities, chapel, library and educational areas.

“The ship was amazing, the aircraft exhilarating, the flight in and out thrilling beyond words, and the sailors were admirable and deserving of my gratitude and praise for their service to our country,” Dunagan said.

In the Distinguished Visitors program, individuals in influential positions — including legislative representatives, corporate executives and educators — are invited to experience the unique, first-hand look at seviceman life aboard aircraft carriers. Dunagan received his invitation by email about three weeks prior to the trip and he said it was quite a surprise.

“One could argue that you have to have certain leadership skills and/or potential in your field of expertise in order to literally be on the Navy’s radar for the DV program,” Dunagan said. “But, honestly, at first I thought the email was a phishing scam.”

After flying to San Diego, Dunagan and his Distinguished Visitors group were flown to the USS Abraham Lincoln, situated off the coast of Mexico, aboard a C-2A Greyhound aircraft.

To fly to the USS Lincoln, the DV group wore flotation vests, helmets and flight visors during the 45-minute flight from Colorado Bay to the USS Lincoln.

“The Navy was running maneuvers, recertification for F/A-18 pilots, so they can take off and land in carriers,” Dunagan said. “We were cleared to land in between runs of F/A-18s.”

Once aboard, the group got to observe the day operations, which consist of takeoffs and landings from the USS Lincoln flight deck.

“The day ops are so hard to describe. You’re standing 20 to 25 feet away from one of these F/A-18 jet fighters during the daytime and that thing powers up and shoots off. I was afraid it was going to blow the camera out of my hands. You could feel the heat from their jet engines. That tremendous heat wave washes over you as the jet shoots down the flight deck and it is just so indescribably loud. You smell and can almost taste the jet fuel burning off. It gave me chills every time,” Dunagan said. “I could have stood there all day long just watching them take off.”

The tour schedule prevented him from staying in one place too long as the group explored deep into the vessel and met the inspiring personnel.

“It was interesting, the person whom ran the operation center was an enlisted person,” Dunagan recalled. “They said that was unusual, but it showed that with proper training and work ethic, anybody can excel. I met people from all over the United States.”

The USS Abraham Lincoln has 5,000 service men and women on board during flight training, most of them around the age of 23, he said.

“Think of a city of 5,000 — all the medical and dental issues coming up, these places were packed, especially the dental place,” Dunagan said. “My kids asked if I went up and down the elevator. There are none; you have to go up and down ladders. I am not very tall and I would have to bend over to keep from bumping my head.”

Dunagan said he was impressed with the responsibilities those working on the carrier manage on a daily basis, but he also gained a new respect for the Navy, as it is the first to respond to many of the major natural disasters, about which he often teaches in the classroom.

“One thing I teach a lot about are natural hazards and so whenever you have a major earthquake or tsunami, the Navy is the first response before the Red Cross gets there. They really try to get the carrier there, because they have the manpower and the ability to make a difference through their medical facilities,” he said.

The Navy is also interwoven with much of the geological knowledge that Dunagan regularly passes on to students.

“Our understanding of tectonics was largely built upon our understanding of the geography and geology of earth’s ocean basins which were extensively mapped by the U.S. Navy during the Cold War era,” he explained.

The icing on the cake was departing the USS Abraham Lincoln aboard another C-2A Greyhound aircraft that catapulted off the flight deck, accelerating from zero to 130 mph in two seconds.

The flight home from California was uneventful, but the memory remains for Dunagan.

“I would do an embark to any naval ship or submarine in the future and I have told the Navy so,” he said.
Santa’s Village offers entertainment for all ages

The 27th annual Santa’s Village, scheduled Thursday, December 8 through Sunday, December 11, at the McWherter Agriculture Pavilion on the campus of UT Martin, will offer a winter wonderland of entertainment and activities for the whole family.

The Village includes thousands of lights, and enchanted forest and a giant Christmas tree.

Visitors to the 27th annual Santa’s Village charity event will have an opportunity to enjoy more than 70 entertainers from across the region, ranging from 6 years to 70.

Scheduled performances include pop, country, Broadway, classical, jazz and rock musicians, and ballet, jazz and tap dancers, in addition to the more traditional Christmas music.

Visitors are asked to donate $5 in non-perishable food items or toys as admission to the charitable event, which provides a wide variety of entertainment, while assisting needy families this holiday season from across the region. Donated items are distributed through several local charities to those truly in need.

The entertainment schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, Dec. 8**
- 6 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 6:30 p.m. – Larry Holder, vocal and guitar
- 7 p.m. – Carla Field, Ed and Elaine Knight, violin and accordion
- 7:30 p.m. – Tassi, Rene and Brian McWherter, vocal

**Friday, Dec. 9**
- 5:45 p.m. – Joy Jones, piano
- 6 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 8 p.m. – Jamie Worrell, vocal
- 8 p.m. – Charles and Debbie Ross, vocal

**Saturday, Dec. 10:**
- 10:45 a.m. – Madison Brown, piano
- 11 a.m. – Rachel Alley, Blake and Katie Snider, vocal and instrument variety
- Noon – Wes Sliger, vocal and piano
- 12:30 p.m. – Austin Emerson, Emma and Jackson Kelly, vocal and piano
- 12:50 p.m. – Kelsie Winstead, vocal

Annual Santa’s Village... Continued from page 1

- 4:30 p.m. – The Jim Fiesers, violin and guitar
- 5 p.m. – Carla Lee, vocal
- 6 p.m. – Tara Elam, vocal
- 7 p.m. – Whitley Southerland, Ashley Mitchell and Lindsey Wade
- 3:30 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal

- 8 p.m. – Jonathan McDowell, vocal and guitar
- 8:45 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 9:30 p.m. – The Naples, flute

**Sunday, Dec. 11**
- 12:45 p.m. – Jason Batchelor, piano
- 1 p.m. – Rose Brawner, piano
- 1:15 p.m. – Austin Emerson, piano
- 1:30 p.m. – Oliver’s Chapel Presbyterian Church, drama and music presentation
- 2:15 p.m. – Lexie Knott, vocal and guitar
- 2:30 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 3 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 3:30 p.m. – Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4 p.m. – Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. – Janice Murray, vocal

Santa’s Village will be open from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11, in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-881-6784.
Local high school students attend first RisingStar Leadership Summit

Two Weakley County high school students attended the first RisingStar Leadership Summit held on November 17-18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A total of 37 high school juniors and seniors attended the event, which taught students leadership skills through team building exercises. The summit was sponsored by the WestStar Leadership program, Ayers Foundation and UT Martin.

Pictured (left to right) are: Marvin Flatt, Director of Career and Technical Education with Weakley County Schools; Virginia Grimes, Coordinator of the WestStar Leadership Program; Conner Verdell; Brooke Baker; Charley Deal, Director of Alumni Relations at UT Martin and Executive Director of the WestStar Leadership Program; and Barbara Virgin, Executive Director of the Weakley County Chamber.

JODI WOODS MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT – Mercy Ford of Dresden is the fall semester recipient of the Jodi Woods Memorial Award. The Jodi Woods Memorial Award was established at the University of Tennessee at Martin in memory of the late Jodi Woods, a special education major, who died June 24, 2006. It is given each semester to one graduating special education major who excels in student teaching by including and building self-esteem in students with special needs. The award represents Woods’ warm and caring demeanor. The funds from the award are given to assist the graduating teacher in stocking his or her new classroom. Pictured are (from left) Stephanie Ruszkowski, cooperating teacher; Ford; Judy Todd, cooperating teacher; and Staci H. Fuqua, director of field placements. Not pictured is Kathy Bucy, university supervisor.
Santa's Village gears up for 27th year

Visitors to the 27th annual Santa's Village charity event will have an opportunity to enjoy more than 70 entertainers from across the region, ranging from six years to 70. Scheduled performances include pop, country, Broadway, classical, jazz and rock musicians, and ballet, jazz and tap dancers, in addition to the more traditional Christmas music.

The entertainment schedule is as follows:

**Today:**
- 6 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 6:30 p.m. – Larry Holder, vocal and guitar
- 7 p.m. – Carla Field, Ed and Elaine Knight, violin and accordion
- 7:30 p.m. – Tassi, Rene and Brian McWherter, vocal
- 8:30 p.m. – Linda Ramsey, vocal

**Friday:**
- 5:45 p.m. – Joy Jones, piano
- 6 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 7 p.m. – Jamie Worrell, vocal
- 8 p.m. – Charles and Debbie Ross, vocal

**Saturday:**
- 10:45 a.m. – Madison Brown, piano
- 11 a.m. – Rachel Alley, Blake and Katie Snider, vocal and instrument variety
- Noon – Wes Sliger, vocal and piano
- 12:30 p.m. – Austin Emerson, Emma and Jackson Kelly, vocal and piano
- 12:50 p.m. – Kelsie Winstead, vocal
- 1 p.m. – Amy Day, vocal
- 1:10 p.m. – Natalie Hurst, vocal
- 1:20 p.m. – Claire Capps and Kelsie Winstead, dance
- 1:30 p.m. – Joy Jones, vocal
- 2 p.m. – Stepz Dance Studio
- 2:30 p.m. – Cadee Drummond, dance
- 2:45 p.m. – Joy Jones and Jenny Bradshaw, vocal, piano and violin
- 3:30 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. – The Jim Fiesers, violin and guitar
- 5 p.m. – Carla Lee, vocal
- 6 p.m. – Tara Elam, vocal
- 7 p.m. – Whitley Southernland, Ashley Mitchell and Lindsey Wade
- 8 p.m. – Jonathan McDowell, vocal and guitar
- 8:45 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal

**Sunday:**
- 12:45 p.m. – Jason Batchelor, piano
- 1 p.m. – Rose Brawner, piano
- 1:15 p.m. – Austin Emerson, piano
- 1:30 p.m. – Oliver’s Chapel Presbyterian Church, drama and music presentation
- 2:15 p.m. – Lexie Knott, vocal and guitar
- 2:30 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 3 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 3:30 p.m. – Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4 p.m. – Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. – Janice Murray, vocal

Santa's Village will be open from 6-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 881-6784.
UTM professor highlights Reelfoot Lake study

Martin - As part of the celebration of Reelfoot Lake's bicentennial, Dr. Mike Turner, lecturer of biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has written a history of zoological research originating from the Reelfoot Lake region.

According to the author, Tennessee, unlike other southeastern states, has had relatively few of its ecological communities subjected to parasitological studies, with most of these based in and around Reelfoot Lake.

These studies began 130 years ago with the collection of an unattached turtle leech taken from Indian Creek near the old Idlewild Hotel.

Other early efforts involved public health workers investigating malaria and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

Later, traditional natural history studies, primarily involving helminth (worm) parasites, were undertaken and were joined by recent comparative molecular work. Ninety reports of parasitology research, authored or co-authored by 72 investigators and published in 19 different journals, have originated from the region. Included in these reports were descriptions of 62 new parasitic worm species recovered from animal hosts inhabiting the region.

Six of the new species carry the specific names reelfooti or reelfootensis. Additionally, distribution records for 228 parasite species - including nine protozoans, 162 helminths, four leeches and 53 arthropods - were reported for the region.


Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge from UTM's institutional repository (IR), http://scholarship.utm.edu/ or by emailing the author at mturner@utm.edu.

PARASITE SPECIES AT REELFOOT LAKE - Illustrations of parasites species that carry Reelfoot Lake's name. A) Hapalorhynchus reelfooti from the stinkpot turtle, B) Cercaria reelfooti from the ramshorn snail, C) Cerchoris reelfooti from the three-toed amphiuma, D) Athesmia reelfooti from the common moorhen, E) Cotylaspis reelfoetensis from the giant floater mussel, and F) Amblosoma reelfooti from the rotund mystery snail.

Santa's Village breaks all records

Record Attendance Reported

The 27th annual Santa's Village held Thursday, December 8 through Sunday, December 11, at the McWherter Agriculture Pavilion on the campus of UT Martin, provided area families with a fun-filled winter wonderland of entertainment and activities for the whole family.

According to Special Recreation Services Director Kim Kirby, this year's attendance of 15,365 broke the all time attendance record set in 2001 of 13,515. She stated a total of approximately $40,117 in food donations was received. Food donations amounted to $40,117, and toy donations were $9,584, making the total donation for this year $49,701.

The Enchanted Forest featured a winding trail leading from one spectacular Christmas scene to the next. Many of the characters in the scenes were animated, filling the eyes of the youngsters with amazement and wonder.

The giant Christmas tree, donated by Linda Ramsey, was covered with thousands of glistening lights. Standing 36 feet, it was the largest tree ever displayed at Santa's Village.

Children enjoyed riding the giant slide, merry-go-round and barrel spin. They also got a thrill petting and feeding the animals at the petting zoo, including camels, donkeys, sheep, llama, rabbits and other lovable creatures.

Visitors enjoyed performances by groups of live entertainers from across the region. Visitors donated $5 in non-perishable food items or toys as admission to the charitable event, which assists needy families this holiday season from across the region. Donated items are distributed through several local charities to those truly in need.
SEAFWA AWARD – Dr. Jim Byford of Martin (left) accepted the Clarence W. Watson Award from Ed Carter, TWRA executive director, at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Conference held recently in Nashville. Photo submitted

Byford receives state SEAFWA award

Nashville – Dr. Jim Byford, who has been a mentor and friend to many people associated with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, as well as those affiliated with other state and national organizations, was honored by receiving the top annual award presented by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA).

The presentation came at the 65th Annual SEAFWA Conference banquet that was hosted by the TWRA in Nashville.

Byford was given the Clarence W. Watson Award. It is the most prestigious award given by SEAFWA and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years.

Research includes research, administration, law enforcement, I& E, wildlife and fish management, teachers and students.

Byford retired as dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and professor of wildlife biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin in December 2009.

He has touched many lives through teaching and mentoring as a administrator and as a leader in the community and throughout the Natural Resources professions.

From his pioneering of 4-H wildlife programs to his direct involvement with "Hunters for the Hungry" in Tennessee, to his mediation of diverse representatives in agriculture and natural resources, he has shared his love of nature and wildlife to teach not only students.

See Byford, Page 7

Horbelt to speak at commencement

Notable journalist and University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus Jennifer Horbelt will deliver the fall commencement address at 11 a.m. today in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at UT Martin, according to a news release.

Horbelt began working as a reporter with WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky., in 2007, while she was in her senior year at UT Martin. A year and a half later, she became the female evening anchor at the station, where she stayed until she recently accepted a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo.

While working with WPSD Local 6, Horbelt won first place along with photojournalist Michael Driver in the Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Spot News.

In 2008, she was awarded first place in the Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Hard News Feature along with photojournalist Chad Darnall, and an honorable mention for Best TV Reporter. In 2009, she was nominated for a Mid-America Emmy with several of her peers for team coverage during a winter storm.

A native Texan, Horbelt moved to Memphis while in high school. At UT Martin, she acted as support and development director, news director and on-air talent for the campus radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk" and also worked with the West Tennessee PBS affiliate, WLJT-DT, as a camera operator.

Before graduating, she was named Best Television Journalist in the Southeast Journalism Conference and received the Communicator Award of Distinction for a Habitat for Humanity public service announcement. She graduated from the university in May 2007 as a University Scholar.

Tickets are not required for admission to commencement, and more than 600 degrees are expected to be awarded. A live webcast will be available at the “View Commencement Live” link on the UT Martin homepage, the release said.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Only two people in history have received the honor of having their portrait commissioned by the University of Tennessee at Martin student body. The first was Harry Harrison Kroll.

“Almost any student, any alum, that went to school before 1958 has a Mr. Kroll story,” said Richard Saunders, associate professor of library science and curator and archivist at UT Martin. “He taught virtually every student who came through here.”

Saunders recognized Kroll’s importance to not only the past of UT Martin, but literature history. After extensive research he took it upon himself to publish the first ever biography on the former composition teacher, cementing the narrative of his life and work in American history. Saunders’ book, “Never Been Rich” was released in September.

The man had a dumpy build and a left shoulder damaged by polio as an infant. The motion of his arm was limited, a fact he often tried to conceal. Many photographs show him casually holding it in front of or behind him. Otherwise his appearance was average for a man in his ‘60s, white hair and glasses. However, Kroll is Tennessee’s most published author, with over 900 published stories. He taught writing composition at UT Martin from 1934-1958, during which time his eclectic and blunt personality gained him the status of one of the most popular professors on campus.

“He was an enormously colorful character, almost vulgar I have to admit,” Saunders said. “When you have a teacher that has a commissioned portrait by the entire student body organization, that says something about their relevance, their importance, their place, I guess, on campus and how they’re regarded.”

In his book, Saunders dissects the minutest details of the author’s life, many of them pieced together from countless letters to family, colleagues and former students.

Kroll’s early life was that of the average rural child in poverty in Indiana, and became that of Tennessee when his family was in the process of moving to Alabama and their buggy broke down irreparably in Dyersburg. He claimed to have never been to school before the age of 19, although Saunders does question this assertion in “Never Been Rich.”

It was not until the age of 19 that Kroll ever fathomed getting an education, according to the book. It was while traveling the countryside as a tramp photographer that he fell for the small town schoolteacher, Nettie Heard.

“It was then he realized that there was absolutely no future in being a tramp photographer and took himself to school,” Saunders said.

The rest is history. Kroll attended George Peabody College for Teachers, married Heard, went on to teach famous authors such as Jessie Stuart and Don West at Lincoln Memorial University, and had a successful career as a writer. His novel, “The Cabin in the Cotton,” was even made into a motion picture starring famed actress, Bette Davis. He spent his remaining days in Martin after retiring from UT Martin.

Saunders, originally from Oregon, became more familiar with Kroll after 2000 when he left his job as a production manager in the publishing industry to join the UT Martin faculty.

“I started collecting his books for the institutional loan,” Saunders said, which expanded the UT Martin library’s collection of Kroll works. “Then we started finding out, well, he didn’t just write books, he wrote stories, hundreds of stories, hundreds and hundreds of stories.”

900 stories in fact, and that only includes the ones that have been found thus far, making him the state of Tennessee’s most published author.

“Most professional writers might publish 50-60 stories; he’s published 900,” Saunders said.

Saunders is quick to point out that Kroll’s work was common writing for the day, not high literature, which is partly the reason the man is lesser known. Schools and universities require the study of Hemingway novels, not Kroll adventures and romances. Yet books like Kroll’s were more widely read than their sophisticated counterparts, and are thus more reflective of American literary interests of the time.

“Kroll by himself is not tremendously important, but what he represents to American literature is the way that most Americans read prior to 1950. Most people did not read William Faulkner, most people did not read Ernest Hemingway,” Saunders said.

The sidewalk to Kroll’s Martin home near campus now leads to a vacant lot, the portrait commissioned by the student body has long been lost, but Kroll’s history at UT Martin remains firm in “Never Been Rich.”
Jennifer Horbelt to speak at UT Martin Fall Commencement

MARTIN, Tenn. — Notable journalist and University of Tennessee at Martin alum, Jennifer Horbelt, will deliver the fall commencement address at UT Martin, at 11 a.m., Dec. 10, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Horbelt began working with WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky., in 2007 as a reporter, while she was still in her senior year at UT Martin. A year and a half later she landed the female evening anchor position at the station, which she kept until recently accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo.

While working with WPSD Local 6, Horbelt won first place in the Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Spot News along with photojournalist Michael Driver. In 2008, she was awarded First Place in the Kentucky Associated Press Awards for Best Hard News Feature along with photojournalist Chad Darnall, and an Honorable Mention for Best TV Reporter. In 2009 she was nominated for a Mid-America Emmy with several of her peers for Team Coverage during Winter Storm '09.

A native Texan, Jennifer moved to Memphis, Tenn., while in high school. During her time at UT Martin, she acted as support and development director, news director, and on-air talent for the campus radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk," and also worked with the West Tennessee PBS affiliate, WLJT-DT, as a camera operator.

Before graduating she was named Best Television Journalist in the Southeast Journalism Conference and received the Communicator Award of Distinction for a Habitat for Humanity Public Service Announcement. She graduated from the university in May 2007 as a University Scholar.

Tickets are not required for admission to December commencement, and more than 600 degrees are expected to be awarded. A live webcast will be available at the “View Commencement Live” link on the UT Martin homepage.
Westview students visit Oak Ridge

Six students from Westview High School recently attended a trip to Oak Ridge to tour the Y-12 History Center and the American Museum of Science and Energy. There they learned about the town’s role in developing nuclear weapons during World War II and saw demonstrations illustrating how nuclear technology is used for electricity producing power plants.

The students traveled with the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS), which received an Innovative Activities Grant from the Education Division of ACS to network with local high schools.

Twelve students and faculty from UT Martin and six Obion County Central High School students also attended the two-day trip.

WHS in Oak Ridge – Six Westview High students recently visited Oak Ridge with UT Martin SMACS members. Those who went on the trip included (kneeling, from left) Christy Lee, SMACS; Lindsey Castellaw, OCCHS; Saba Getaneh, WHS; Alex Crosser, WHS; Krishna Patel, SMACS; (standing, from left) D. Ray Smith, Y-12 Historian; Layla Gargus, SMACS; Heather Vacovsky, SMACS; Brandon Gindt, SMACS; Heather Streckert, SMACS; Gilbert Forgays, SMACS; Sarah Maxey, SMACS; Sarah Griffin, SMACS; Robert McCall, OCCHS teacher; Ashley Litchford, OCCHS; Aaron Crump, SMACS; Hannah Uzzle, OCCHS; Andy Zimmerman, OCCHS teacher; Amanda Bell, OCCHS; Dr. S.K. Airee, SMACS faculty advisor; Amber Taylor, WHS; Jessica Hightower, WHS teacher; Rachel Samuel, WHS; Kim Simmons, WHS teacher; and Stephanie Gourley, SMACS.

Photo submitted
UT MARTIN CELEBRATES STATUS AS ALL-STEINWAY SCHOOL
- The University of Tennessee at Martin has officially been named an “All-Steinway School,” becoming part of an elite group of only 135 institutions worldwide to hold the title. The honor was bestowed during a celebration including both student and faculty performances. On hand during the celebration were (from left), Tommy Edds, Steinway and Sons district sales manager; Bill Blankenship, Steinway campaign chair; Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music chair; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Tuition to be waived for high achievers

The University of Tennessee at Martin is now a more affordable college option for out-of-state residents. Beginning in 2012, UT Martin will waive out-of-state tuition for any applicant with an ACT score of 25 or above and a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

The tuition break is valued at about $12,400 per year and applicants will also be eligible for university scholarships such as the Deans, Chancellors and University Scholars.

Prospective students can apply online and find scholarship information at www.utm.edu.

The deadline to apply for scholarships will be Feb. 1, 2012.

UT Martin is listed as a top-tier university among southern, master’s level institutions in the 2012 edition of America’s Best Colleges.
Horbelt inspires UT Martin Class of’11

Martin – Jennifer Horbelt, former WPSD Local 6 evening news anchor, had no problem identifying with her audience as she delivered the commencement address Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Horbelt told how she is “making a leap, taking a risk” as she moves to a new position in an unfamiliar part of the country, a prospect likely facing many of the graduates in attendance at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Horbelt became a reporter with WPSD in Paducah, Ky., in 2007 while in her senior year at UT Martin. She earned the female evening anchor position at the station less than three years later, which she held until accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo. Her last day at WPSD was Dec. 5 and she begins her new job Dec. 19.

“We’re not that different. You’re making that leap, too,” she told the graduates, adding, “You’re going out there in a really tough economy with the hopes of finding your place — your dream, passion, whatever you want to call it — and then to make it your career.”

Horbelt talked about her start in the TV news business and reminded graduates “it won’t always be easy” gaining the experience necessary for success.

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Reelfoot Lake parasite studies highlighted by UTM professor

As part of the celebration of Reelfoot Lake’s bicentennial, University of Tennessee at Martin biology lecturer Dr. Mike Turner has written a history of zoological research originating from the Reelfoot Lake region.

According to the author, Tennessee, unlike other southeastern states, has had relatively few of its ecological communities subjected to parasitological studies, with most of these based in and around Reelfoot Lake.

These studies began 130 years ago with the collection of an unattached turtle leech taken from Indian Creek near the former Idlewild Hotel. Other early efforts involved public health workers investigating malaria and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

Later, traditional natural history studies, primarily involving helminth (worm) parasites, were undertaken and were joined by recent comparative molecular work. Ninety reports of parasitology research, authored or co-authored by 72 investigators and published in 19 different journals, have originated from the region.

Included in these reports were descriptions of 62 new parasitic worm species, 17 helminths, four leeches and 53 arthropods — were reported for the region.


Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge from UT Martin’s institutional repository, http://scholarship.utm.edu/ or by emailing the author at mturner@utm.edu.
Former news anchor is UT Martin commencement speaker

Jennifer Horbelt, former WPSD Local 6 evening news anchor, had no problem identifying with her audience as she delivered the commencement address Dec. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Horbelt told how she is “making a leap, taking a risk” as she moves to a new position in an unfamiliar part of the country, a prospect likely facing many of the graduates in attendance at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

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Horbelt talked about her start in the TV news business and reminded graduates “it won’t always be easy” gaining the experience necessary for success. “The first several months of my time at WPSD (were) spent either beating my head against the wall, crying or contemplating quitting, I got passed over for the hard-hitting stories because I was a rookie,” she said. But she pursued her passion for news and, “Well, somehow, somehow I became the more experienced, the one with better contacts, the person others came to for guidance on how to write their stories.”

She credited her late father (who died in 2009), her former TV station and UT Martin faculty members for inspiration and guidance, both personally and professionally. “I chose a great place to start my career, and that was WPSD,” Horbelt said. “The people there really embraced my inexperience and made sure I was on the right path to success.

“I also chose a great place to prepare for a career (in) a very competitive field, and that’s UT Martin. I still keep in close contact with my former professors. They keep me grounded, and they make sure I’m always asking myself how I can do better in my craft.”

Horbelt also emphasized the importance of growing as a person, and how she credited her volunteer work as a “reading buddy” to an elementary school student for helping her to keep things in perspective. “He (the student) reminds me not take life or my job too seriously. And every time I visit him, I remember what it was like to be that age.”

She assured graduates that life beyond graduation “really isn’t all that bad,” adding, “You wouldn’t believe all the great things that are to come. I never imagined that I’d be where I am today, doing what I’m doing. But I’ve been open to opportunities, open to taking risks, and I had great preparation for that right here at UT Martin.”

UT President Joe DiPietro conferred degrees, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recognized graduates who represented 49 Tennessee counties, 13 states and eight nations.

Professor highlights parasite studies at Reelfoot Lake in research

As part of the celebration of Reelfoot Lake’s bicentennial, Dr. Mike Turner, lecturer of biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has written a history of zoological research originating from the Reelfoot Lake region. According to the author, Tennessee, unlike other southeastern states, has had relatively few of its ecological communities subjected to parasitological studies, with most of these based in and around Reelfoot Lake.

These studies began 130 years ago with the collection of an unattached turtle leech taken from Indian Creek near the old Idlewild Hotel. Other early efforts involved public health workers investigating malaria and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease. Later, traditional natural history studies, primarily involving helminth (worm) parasites, were undertaken and were joined by recent comparative molecular work. Ninety reports of parasitology research, authored or coauthored by 72 investigators and published in 19 different journals, have originated from the region. Included in these reports, were descriptions of 62 new parasitic worm species recovered from animal hosts inhabiting the region. Six of the new species carry the specific names reelfooti or reelfootensis. Additionally, distribution records for 228 parasite species, including nine protozoans, 162 helminths, four leeches and 53 arthropods, were reported for the region.

Turner’s article, entitled “A History of Parasitological Field Studies Originating from the Reelfoot Lake Region of Tennessee and Kentucky,” appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge from UTM’s institutional repository (IR), http://scholarship.utm.edu or by emailing the author at mturner@utm.edu.
Families enjoy winter wonderland at Santa’s Village

Santa’s Village brings cheer to local youngsters

Little Macy Glidewell, daughter of Marley Mathis and Montana Blackwell of Dresden, tells Santa what she wants for Christmas and receives a candy treat, during the 27th annual Santa’s Village, held Dec. 8-11 at the Ned R. McWherter Ag Pavilion at UT Martin. (Photo by David Fisher; see story on p. 2 and additional photos on page 10.)
An overview of Santa’s Village shows a giant Christmas tree and an array of various types of Christmas displays in the Enchanted Forest, which is filled with numerous animated characters.

Area youngsters get a thrill sliding down the Giant Slide.

Kaylei Marie Sweatt of Paris feeds and pets the sheep.

Youngsters enjoy a spin on the barrel ride at Santa’s Village.

Morgan Finch, the four-year-old son of Jeremy and Heather Finch of Sharon, laughs with glee as he views the many Christmas displays along the trail winding through the Enchanted Forest.

Josh Little of Obion feeds the rabbits at the petting zoo, which was one of several animals at this year’s Santa’s Village.

Brennan and Mara Marbry of Bardwell, Kentucky stop by to see the baby camel at the petting zoo.

Martin Parks and Recreation personnel staff the information booth at Santa’s Village. They are (l to r): Pat Sanders, a volunteer worker; Jamie Rickman, wife of employee Brad Rickman; and Charlotte Calderaro, executive assistant.
Joy Jones plays holiday classics on the piano for enjoyment of the audience at Santa’s Village.

Visitors to Santa’s Village enjoy listening to vocalist Rose Brown-er sing a Christmas song.

Area youngsters enjoy a spin on the merry-go-round over the weekend at Santa’s Village. Visitors dropped off donations of toys and non-perishable food items as admission to the winter wonderland, which was filled with fun and excitement for the whole family. The generosity of those attending the event provides a merry Christmas for many less fortunate families this holiday season.

Jodi Woods Memorial Award recipient selected

Mercy Ford, of Dresden, is the fall semester recipient of the Jodi Woods Memorial Award. The Jodi Woods Memorial Award was established at the University of Tennessee at Martin in memory of the late Jodi Woods, a special education major, who died June 24, 2006. It is given each semester to one graduating special education major who excels in student teaching by including and building self-esteem in students with special needs. The award represents Woods’ warm and caring demeanor. The funds from the award are given to assist the graduating teacher in stocking his/her new classroom.

Pictured (left to right): Stephanie Ruszkowski; cooperating teacher; Merci Ford, award recipient; Judy Todd, cooperating teacher; and Staci H. Fuqua, Director of Field Placements. Not pictured - Kathy Bucy, University Supervisor.
UT Martin celebrates successful Campaign for Tennessee

UT Martin celebrated the conclusion of "The Campaign for Tennessee" with a reception and dinner December 3 at The Lindell in Martin. The event included major donors, university officials and members of the UT Martin campaign steering committee. Campaign officials announced reaching the $1 billion campaign goal 18 months ahead of schedule in June 2010. In March of that year, UT Martin became the first UT campus to meet its campaign goal twice with a $43 million total. The campaign continued until its official conclusion this month as UT Martin announced a total of $57,254,633 raised. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Crawford Gallimore, member of the UT Board of Trustees and the UT Martin Campaign Steering Committee (CSC); Bill Blankenship, member of the UT Martin CSC and Steinway Campaign chair; Ray Smith and Lew Dougherty, co-chairs of the UT Martin CSC; Ron Kirkland, member of the UT Martin CSC; Kim Cross, president of the UT Alumni Association; and Len Solomon, UT Martin vice chancellor for advancement.

Drugs Disposal Program

Pictured (left to right) are: Dr. Ann Gathers, MED advisor; Amber Watson, SMACS member; Chelsea Peeler, SMACS project director; Heather Streckert, SMACS member; Meagan Eason, SMACS member; Corey Jones, SMACS president; Heather Yacovski, SMACS member; Joe Cook, MED president; David Moore, Martin Police Chief; Matthew Sipes, Drug Enforcement Administration task force officer; Dr. Anita Airee, associate professor, UTCHS College of Pharmacy at Knoxville; Don Gill, Martin pharmacist; and Dr. S. K. Airee, SMACS advisor.

More than 75 guests attended the recent Drug Disposal program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Co-sponsored by UT Martin's Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) and Mu Epsilon Delta (MED), the program featured presentations by Dr. Anita Airee, Martin Police Chief David Moore, local pharmacist Don Gill and Drug Enforcement Administration officers, Matthew Sipes and Vann Winn. During the program, Martin police officers also collected unused or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal.
Business planning seminar set

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-5 p.m., Dec. 22, at the Obion County Industrial Training Center.

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 Obion County Chamber at 731-885-0211 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

Former WPSD News Anchor shares common ground with graduates in commencement address

Jennifer Horbelt

Jennifer Horbelt, former WPSD Local 6 evening news anchor, had no problem identifying with her audience as she delivered the commencement address Dec. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Horbelt told how she is “making a leap, taking a risk” as she moves to a new position in an unfamiliar part of the country, a prospect likely facing many of the graduates in attendance at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Horbelt became a reporter with WPSD in Paducah, Kentucky, in 2007 while in her senior year at UT Martin. She earned the female evening anchor position at the station less than three years later, which she held until accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colorado. Her last day at WPSD was December 5, and she begins her new job December 19.

“We’re not that different. You’re making that leap, too,” she told the graduates, adding, “You’re going out there in a really tough economy with the hopes of finding your place - your dream, passion, whatever you want to call it - and then to make it your career.”

Horbelt talked about her start in the TV news business and reminded graduates “it won’t always be easy” gaining the experience necessary for success. “The first several months of my time at WPSD (were) spent either beating my head against the wall, crying or contemplating quitting.... I got passed over for the hard-hitting stories because I was a rookie,” she said. But, she pursued her passion for news and, “Well, somehow, somehow I became the more experienced, the one with better contacts, the person others came to for guidance on how to write their stories.”

She credited her late father (who died in 2009), her former TV station and UT Martin faculty members for inspiration and guidance, both personally and professionally. “I chose a great place to start my career, and that was WPSD,” Horbelt said. “The people there really embraced my inexperience and made sure I was on the right path to success.

“I also chose a great place to prepare for a career (in) a very competitive field, and that’s UT Martin. I still keep in close contact with my former professors. They keep me grounded, and they make sure I’m always asking myself how I can do better in my craft.”

Horbelt also emphasized the importance of growing as a person, and she credited her volunteer work as a “reading buddy” to an elementary school student for helping her to keep things in perspective. “He (the student) reminds me not take life or my job too seriously. And every time I visit him, I remember what it was like to be that age.”

She assured graduates that life beyond graduation “really isn’t that bad,” adding, “You wouldn’t believe all the great things that are to come. I never imagined that I’d be where I am today... doing what I’m doing. But I’ve been open to opportunities, open to taking risks, and I had great preparation for that right here at UT Martin.”

UT President Joe DiPietro conferred degrees, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recognized graduates who represented 49 Tennessee counties, 13 states and eight nations.
Chemistry professor retires from UTM after 25 years

The Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) honored retiring UT Martin professor, Dr. Robert Hartshorn, with a reception on December 8. Hartshorn retired after 43 years of teaching, 25 of which were spent at UT Martin. Hartshorn received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Southwest Missouri State College, a master's in education and a master's of science from Bowling Green State University and his doctor of education degree from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has taught chemistry at UT Martin since 1986 and has been involved in SMACS activities. His other merits include the publication of several scholarly articles, co-authoring a chemistry textbook and a laboratory manual, organizing and presenting at numerous workshops and winning outstanding teacher and educator awards on the campus and state level.
UT Martin student from Newbern appointed to Tenn. Higher Education Commission

MARTIN, Tenn. - A University of Tennessee at Martin student from Newbern has been named by Gov. Bill Haslam as student member to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Greg Frye, a junior majoring in University Studies, will serve two years on the commission, one as a non-voting member and the second as a voting member.

University of Tennessee and Tennessee Board of Regents students are selected by the governor to serve on the commission. UT rotates the student member every two years among the UT Health Science Center and the Chattanooga, Knoxville and Martin campuses.

Frye enrolled in 2008 at UT Martin a week before his 39th birthday. Active in the Non-Traditional Students Association, Frye is also involved in the UT Martin Student Government, Habitat for Humanity and serves as a Peer Enabling Program leader, assisting university freshmen with the transition to college life.

Before coming to UT Martin, Frye was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after serving in the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He is also a professional touring drummer, performing for and supporting independent and professional country and rockabilly music artists. He plans to attend law school after graduation.

"I'm grateful to Gov. Haslam for this opportunity to represent Tennessee college students as a commission member," Frye said. "Higher education is opening new opportunities for me, and I hope to use this appointment as a platform to encourage others to pursue the great higher-education opportunities that Tennessee has to offer."

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly to coordinate and support the efforts of Tennessee post-secondary institutions. The 15-member commission meets quarterly in Nashville.

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 winners, Kyle Gillespie, left, of Cordova; and Sarah Rowland, right, of Selmer. A cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree, Gillespie served UT Martin as a PEP leader with the freshmen initiative program and as Senator-at-Large in the Student Government Association. He is a member of Pi Sigma Epsilon, the marketing fraternity, where he held a number of positions, including risk manager, pledge trainer, recruitment chair, house manager and chapter president. Gillespie is also a member of the Order of Omega honorary fraternity, which recognizes select Greek members with high standards of leadership. A magna cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Rowland served UT Martin as a resident assistant with the Department of Housing, as a student worker with the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, and as a staff writer for the student newspaper, The Pacer. She also completed a reporting internship with the Times Daily newspaper in Alabama. Rowland also received the Central Housing Student Worker of the Year award and was named Who's Who for the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
Tai Chi for Arthritis classes offered at UTM

Tai Chi for Arthritis will be offered in January by Benita Giffin, UT/Obion County Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent at the Obion County Farm Bureau in Union City, Tenn.

Giffin is recognized as a certified Tai Chi for Arthritis Instructor by the Tennessee Arthritis Foundation and Dr. Paul Lam, an internationally renowned Tai Chi master who practices family medicine and teaches this method in Australia.

Giffin obtained certification through the instructor/leader course lead by Shelia Rae. Rae, teacher at Memphis State University is a gold and bronze medal award winner in the International Tai Chi competition in Dallas Texas in 2003. She is also certified by Dr. Paul Lam to teach Tai Chi for Arthritis for applying instructors and participating clients.

Tai Chi (pronounced “tie-chee”) for Arthritis is known for its many health benefits. The slow, graceful, meditative movements pay dividends in increased strength, muscle tone, enhanced range of motion, flexibility, breathing skills, and coordination. Tai Chi for Arthritis has been documented to relieve pain associated with arthritis. Along with these benefits, it can improve concentration, memory and improve ability to cope with stress and depression.

There are several styles of Tai Chi. Dr. Paul Lam has developed a special Sun style form for those with arthritis. The form is endorsed by the Arthritis Foundation for those who suffer from arthritis and has preventive health benefits for all. It is also helpful for improving a person’s balance and in preventing osteoporosis. Tai Chi exercises the mind as well as the body. The slow movements uplift mood as well. Qigong (pronounced “chee-gong”) exercises will also be implemented during Tai Chi for Arthritis sessions. Qigong is a sequence of slow, gentle exercises that focus on breathing. Qigong improves blood circulation. It also increases absorption and utilization of oxygen and fosters a calm, relaxed mental and emotional state.

Anyone may participate in Tai Chi for Arthritis, even if they do not have arthritis. Dress comfortably for moving with ease and arrive with an open mind. Shoes most suitable are low heeled, flexible tennis shoes. Classes will use the full hour of class time however this hour will pass quickly. All movements made are in the standing position. Many warm up movements are exercised.

These classes involve six Tai Chi for Arthritis movements and Qigong exercises. After class completion, participants will be able to use these techniques every day, if they wish for the rest of their life.

The fee will be $48 per person for eight sessions of Tai Chi for Arthritis. Make payments to UT the first day of class.

Tai Chi for Arthritis classes will be offered Jan. 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20 from 10-11 a.m. at the Obion County Farm Bureau.

Cost is $48 for eight classes and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to UT. Fee is payable on the first day of class.

To register for Tai Chi for Arthritis call 731-885-3742 and ask for Benita Giffin, leave her a voicemail after hours or e-mail her at bgiffin1@utk.edu. To pay for the class, visit the office located on the corner of Church and Third in Union City. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-5 p.m.
Santa's Village boasts record year

The numbers are in and agencies listed for contributions from the 27th annual Santa's Village have picked up their goods.

Martin Parks and Recreation director Brian Moore said Tuesday afternoon the event boasted a record attendance of 15,361. Donations of food items totaled $40,117 and toy donations brought in a record number at $9,584.

Agencies benefiting from the charity event include: We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers, Chimes for Charity, NWTN Disaster Services, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council and UT Martin's Healthy Start program.

WASHINGTON RECEIVES DEGREE – Joyce Washington (right) of Martin was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Saturday. Washington and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

ANDREADE RECEIVES DEGREE – Daniela Andreade (right) of Salvador, Brazil, was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Saturday. Andreade and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.
LOCAL STUDENT GRADUATES WITH ENGINEERING DEGREE
- Jarrod Bonar (center) of Martin was inducted into the Order of the Engineers at a ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Saturday. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Ed Wheeler (left), Department of Engineering interim chair, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, made the presentation.

SHAMIEH RECEIVES DEGREE
- Mousa Shamieh (right) of Ramallah, Palestine, was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Saturday. Shamieh and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.
UTM student named to state commission

A University of Tennessee at Martin student has been named by Gov. Bill Haslam as student member to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Greg Frye, a junior Bachelor of University Studies major from Newbern, will serve two years on the commission, one as a non-voting member and the second as a voting member.

University of Tennessee and Tennessee Board of Regents students are selected by the governor to serve on the commission. UT rotates the student member every two years among the UT Health Science Center and the Chattanooga, Knoxville and Martin campuses.

Frye enrolled in 2008 at UT Martin a week before his 39th birthday. Active in the Non-Traditional Students Association, Frye is also involved in the UT Martin Student Government Association, Habitat for Humanity and serves as a Peer Enabling Program leader, assisting university freshmen with the transition to college life.

Before coming to UT Martin, Frye was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after serving in the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He is also a professional touring drummer, performing for and supporting independent and professional country and rockabilly music artists. He plans to attend law school after graduation.

“I’m grateful to Gov. Haslam for this opportunity to represent Tennessee college students as a commission member,” Frye said. “Higher education is opening new opportunities for me, and I hope to use this appointment as a platform to encourage others to pursue the great higher-education opportunities that Tennessee has to offer.”

The 15-member Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the General Assembly to coordinate and support the efforts of post-secondary institutions.

Santa’s Village breaks record for attendance

It was a record-breaking year for Santa’s Village.

The 27th annual event held last weekend at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin recorded the highest attendance numbers in the event’s history with 15,365 visitors.

The numbers surpassed the previous record of 13,515 set in 2001.

Food donations totaled $40,117 and toy donations added up to $9,584 — making the final donation total $49,701.

“Our community is truly fortunate to have sponsors, activity/display coordinators and volunteers who make this event come to life. We hope the guests of the village enjoyed their visit. Their donations will definitely help the less fortunate in our area,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director.

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(See Page 2, Col. 6)
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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.

Service agencies that will receive food and toys collected from Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, NWTN Disaster Services, Santa’s Helpers, Healthy Start NW Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event were the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors included: First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, McDonalds and the Hampton Inn.

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

Students receive leadership awards from UTM

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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 winners Kyle Gillespie of Cordova and Sarah Rowland of Selmer. A cum laude graduate with a bachelor of science degree, Gillespie served UT Martin as a PEP leader with the freshmen initiative program and as Senator-at-Large in the Student Government Association.

He was a member of the social fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, where he held a number of positions, including risk manager, pledge trainer, recruitment chair, house manager and chapter president.

Gillespie is also a member of the Order of Omega honorary fraternity, which recognizes select Greek members with high standards of leadership. A magna cum laude graduate with a bachelor of arts degree, Rowland served UT Martin as a resident assistant with the Department of Housing, as a student worker with the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, and as a staff writer for the student newspaper, The Pacer.

She also completed a reporting internship with The Times Daily newspaper in Alabama.

Rowland also received the Central Housing Student Worker of the Year award and was named Who’s Who for the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
Local residents graduate from UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Duckedom – Amy Lynne Bailey;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Gleason – Lee Charles Lawrence;
- Greenfield – Robert Lynn McCall;

PROFESSOR RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS – Dr. Robert Hartshorn was honored with a reception on Dec. 8. Hartshorn retired after 43 years of teaching, 25 of which were spent at UT Martin. Hartshorn received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Southwest Missouri State College, a master's in education and a master's of science from Bowling Green State University and his doctor of education degree from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has taught chemistry at UT Martin since 1986 and has been involved in SMACS activities. His other merits include the publication of several scholarly articles, co-authoring a chemistry textbook and a laboratory manual, organizing and presenting at numerous workshops and winning outstanding teacher and educator awards on the campus and state level. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Becky L. Lee of Martin; Chelsea N. Peeler, SMACS secretary, of Paris; Hartshorn; Corey L. Jones, SMACS president, of Linden; and SMACS vice president Lee A. Elliott of Martin; (back row, left to right) Gilbert J. Foygays, SMACS president-elect of Clarksville; Gary Mansfield, SMACS' treasurer; Paul J. Jones, of Bartlett; Lana Ferrell, Department of Chemistry and Physics; Brandon P. Gindt of Lakeland; and Dr. S. K. Airee, SMACS advisor.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011
Degrees conferred for international students

Several international residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Cancun, Mexico – Beatriz Cropper;
- Changle, China – Endian Wang;
- Conakry, Guinea – Sire D. Diane;
- Gujarat, India – Dharmendra Patel;
- Japan – Hiroki Shinosawa;
- Seoul, South Korea – Saeyeal Chung, Sichang Lee, Won-Ki Lee, Hyun Suk Alex Oh, Dae Hyun Kang, Yeon Ji Kim;
- Taiwan – Yu-Yi Chen, Chun Nung Lin, Yeh Doo;
- Thessaloniki, Greece – Leah Rhodi Kerassidis.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Bangkok, Thailand – Kiativit Lertkhantitham;
- Ramallah, Palestine – Mousa Sami Shamieh;
- Salvador, Brazil – Daniela Gomes Andrade;
- Taiwan – Chao-Feng Chung.

Spring 2012 travel study to focus on Holocaust

In spring 2012 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to study the history surrounding the Holocaust genocide in Europe. The UT Martin history department is offering three credit hours in history through a Holocaust travel-study experience.

The spring courses, HIS 342: Europe War to War 1914-1945 and HIS 468: History of the Holocaust will be open for undergraduate students, while graduate students may take HIS 542: Europe War to War 1914-1945 during the spring semester or Maymester.

The courses will be offered in distance/online format for off-campus students, and students may also receive two credit hours of PACT 122: Aerobic Walking/Jogging on the trip.

The climax of the courses will be a 14-day trip to the European cities of Warsaw and Cracow, Poland; Prague, the Czech Republic; and Dresden and Berlin, Germany. The trip will take place from May 20 to June 2 and will include visits to concentration camps, ghettos, churches, synagogues, history museums, art museums and other cultural and historical sites.

The cost of the trip is $4,500, and various university, college, and departmental travel scholarships are available to students. For more information, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls at aecarls@utm.edu or 881-7472.

Trio of undergrads selected as legislative interns

Three students – Amanda Daniel, a senior political science and history double major from Memphis, Bruce Harbin, a senior political science and communications double major from Springfield and Jessica Terry, a senior political science major from Camden – will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville in the coming spring.

Harbin served as the news editor for the UT Martin student newspaper, The Pacer, and volunteered for Roy Herron’s U.S. House of Representatives campaign in 2010. He plans to eventually attend graduate school to study political science with an emphasis on voting behavior. Later he hopes to work in political or non-profit public relations, before obtaining his Ph.D and teaching political science on the collegiate level.

Daniel served as a senator in the UT Martin Student Government Association and was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies. She is considering attending graduate school and hopes to eventually become a professor of history or a lawyer.

Terry is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society and was president of the UTM Writer’s Guild for three years. She was also named in Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities. Terry eventually plans to attend law school and later hopes to enter politics in the legislative branch.

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

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor of political science, at 881-7367.
BROTHERS RETIRE FROM UT MARTIN – Family and friends joined Curtis and Horace Roberts as the brothers were honored with a retirement reception Dec. 7 in UT Martin’s Holland McCombs Center. Curtis (left), who lives in Como, worked more than 18 years with the university, and Horace (second from right), who lives in Gleason, is retiring with more than 23 years of service. Both were in custodial services, part of the UT Martin Physical Plant. Family members attending the reception were: (front row, left to right) Michelle Roberts (Curtis’s daughter) and Sandra Dilday (Horace’s daughter); (back row, left to right) Chris Dilday (Horace’s son-in-law) and Geneva Roberts (Curtis’s wife); and (far right) Connie Roberts, Horace’s wife.

Photo submitted

The Bike Barn: Specializing in one-on-one service and help

A Martin man has his sights set on providing one-on-one quality bicycle repair service without the hustle and bustle of the big city atmosphere. With the opening of The Bike Barn on Nov. 1, Ken Leibold has been able to do just that.

Located at 300 Crawford Drive in Martin, Leibold’s business buys, sells and repairs used bikes by appointment. The Bike Barn uniquely provides personal service and education on bike riding and bike repair all within a casual and comfortable setting. In addition to buying and selling used bikes, Leibold also sells and builds custom bikes. His goal is to help people get out and ride bikes for enjoyment and health benefits.

Customers should give him a try first because he provides in-town service as opposed to driving long distances to get to larger places such as Paducah, Ky. or Jackson and spending the extra gas money.

Leibold offers tune-ups for $35 and can pick up a bike, fix it and return it to the customer personally. In addition, a cycling club is being started at UT Martin and Leibold recycles the bikes by making art pieces from them. To find out more information or to make an appointment, call 319-231-1377 or email KJLeibold@frontier.com.
The residents of Greenbrier Meadows have enjoyed programs provided by groups from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

The brothers of the Phi Mu Alpha fraternity entertained our residents with Christmas carols on Dec. 3.

They brought a red carnation for each resident, knelt and serenaded the ladies.

During lunch, a saxophone trio played Christmas carols while the residents dined.

A wonderful time was had by all and we are grateful for this fraternity sharing their time and talents with us.

Also on Dec. 3, the sisters of the Sigma Alpha Iota sorority came to carol with the brothers of thePhi Mu Alpha fraternity. The rooms and halls of Greenbrier were filled with wonderful music, as this large group entertained our residents.

We are very grateful for these students taking time to share their talents with the residents of Greenbrier Meadows and welcome them back anytime.

If you have a group who would like to sing or play for our residents, please call me, activities director, at 587-9303.
DRUMMING UP FUN

- Greenbrier Meadows residents enjoyed a drum circle led by percussion students from Dr. Julie Hill's classes at the university. The residents each got to play a drum or other percussion instrument as they played their own music and followed the leader in the midst of the circle.

Photos submitted
Local Students Receive Degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Clarksburg Derek Allen Collins;
- Hollow Rock Jern LaRanzia Harpe, Allison Jericho Simmons;
- Overstreet, Tiffany Lynn Cathey;
- Lavonia Daniel Ryan Istvanko;
- McKenzie Scott Vandel Cunningham, Ryan Allen French, Lauren Elise Scott, Kimberly Lynn Baskin, Catherine Ashley Little, John Karl Rhodes, Travis Ray Russell;
- McLeemosville John Joshua Abel.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Atwood Raven Danielle Cowan Jones;
- McKenzie Ken T. Solano, Tara Jayne Chambers Wade;
- Trezevant Patty Gall Hudgins.

Students earn degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bradford - Jacquelyn Michelle Steele, Joshua R. Hefner, Derek Williams Proudfit, David L. Terry, Casey J. Ward, June Bolton, Mitzie Leigh Taylor, Mary Helen Bryant, Matthew Aaron Maitland;
- Dyer - Matthew Eric Bobbit, R. Joseph Moore Jr., Charles Matthew Cox;
- Humboldt - Bethany Ann Loeffel, Joe Carl Davis;
- Medina - Matthew Tyler Williams, Whitney Lauren Foster, Jessica Elizabeth Winchester, Meredith Leigh Dunn, Tyler Ray Hawk;
- Milan - Troy Daniel Garrison, Jennifer M. Laird, Haley Cole Miller, Adria L. Greer, Ashanti L. Epperson, Cassy Elizabeth Morris;
- Rutherford - Ra'Sheda Lashun Wright;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyer - Elizabeth Ann McCurdy;
- Milan - Weston W. Gentry, Angela Jane Smith;
- Trenton - Misty Kerr Watson, Heather Nicole Scruggs.

Among those who received graduate degrees were:
- Kenton - Megan Hunter Poore;
- Rives - Aaron Jotham Caldwell.
- South Fulton - Chasity Nicole Conner Batts, Jessica Kim Curtis and James Chadwick Malray.
- Union City - Zachary Scott Buckland, Patrick Russell Hall, James Lee Morris, Jennifer Lachelle Durham and Angela Scott Searcy.
Jennifer Horbelt, former WPSD Local 6 evening news anchor, had no problem identifying with her audience as she delivered the commencement address Dec. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Horbelt told how she is "making a leap, taking a risk" as she moves to a new position in an unfamiliar part of the country, a prospect likely facing many of the graduates in attendance at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Horbelt became a reporter with WPSD in Paducah, in 2007 while in her senior year at UT Martin. She earned the female evening anchor position at the station less than three years later, which she held until accepting a morning anchor position with KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo. Her last day at WPSD was Dec. 5, and she begins her new job Dec. 19.

"We're not that different. You're making that leap, too," she told the graduates, adding, "You're going out there in a really tough economy with the hopes of finding your place -- your dream, passion, whatever you want to call it -- and then to make it your career."

Horbelt talked about her start in the TV news business and reminded graduates "it won't always be easy" gaining the experience necessary for success. "The first several months of my time at WPSD (were) spent either beating my head against the wall, crying or contemplating quitting. I got passed over for the hard-hitting stories because I was a rookie," she said. But, she pursued her passion for news and, "Well, somehow, somehow I became the more experienced, the one with better contacts, the person others came to for guidance on how to write their stories."

She credited her late father (who died in 2009), her former TV station and UT Martin faculty members for inspiration and guidance, both personally and professionally. "I chose a great place to start my career, and that was WPSD," Horbelt said. "The people there really embraced my inexperience and made sure I was on the right path to success."

"I also chose a great place to prepare for a career (in) a very competitive field, and that's UT Martin. I still keep close contact with my former professors. They keep me grounded, and they make sure I'm always asking myself how I can do better in my craft."

Horbelt also emphasized the importance of growing as a person, and she credited her volunteer work as a "reading buddy" to an elementary school student for helping her to keep things in perspective. "He (the student) reminds me not to take life or my job too seriously. And every time I visit him, I remember what it was like to be that age."

She assured graduates that life beyond graduation "really isn't all that bad," adding, "You wouldn't believe all the great things that are to come. I never imagined that I'd be where I am today, doing what I'm doing. But I've been open to opportunities, open to taking risks, and I had great preparation for that right here at UT Martin."

UT President Joe DiPietro conferred degrees, and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recognized graduates who represented 49 Tennessee counties, 13 states and eight nations.
Locals among UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2011 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

Local students listed on the honor roll include:
- Andrew R. Sproul, Clinton, highest honors;
- Nathan T. Grasfeder, Fulton, honors;
- Michael E. Pate, Fulton, high honors;
- David F. Whitesell, Fulton, highest honors;
- Adam J. Preshoda, Hickman, highest honors;
- Joshua L. Potts, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Katherine R. Bivens, South Fulton, high honors;
- John R. Burrow, South Fulton, honors;
- Audreý E. Casey, South Fulton, honors;
- Samuel C. Curtis, South Fulton, high honors;
- Megan L. Dame, South Fulton, high honors;
- Dorothy D. Fields, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Rebecca M. Grogan, South Fulton, high honors;
- Victoria A. Harvel, South Fulton, high honors;
- Melissa R. Jackson, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Mark S. Maloney, South Fulton, high honors;
- Andrew H. Moore, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Robbie A. Peoples, South Fulton, high honors;
- Kristen N. Prince, South Fulton, high honors;
- Daniel L. Richardson, South Fulton, high honors;
- Shelia R. Sanders, South Fulton, honors;
- Bethany M. Seratt, South Fulton, highest honors;
- William B. Sisson, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Carly B. Smith, South Fulton, honors;
- Jonathan W. Smith, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Adam D. Tolley, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Jacqueline D. Tuck, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Sarah K. Turner, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Amanda J. Wall, South Fulton, highest honors;
- Jing Yu, South Fulton, highest honors.

Local students receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dukedom - Amy Lynne Bailey;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Gleason - Lee Charles Lawrence;
- Greenfield - Robert Lynn McCall;

Conference room named for former UT Martin dean

Dr. Harold J. Smith, former Dean of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored recently with a ceremony dedicating a conference room in his name in Brehm Hall on the UT Martin campus. Smith became the head of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture in 1967 and later dean of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics. Since his retirement Smith has been an avid supporter of UT Martin. Pictured (left to right) are, Smith, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, and Smith’s daughters, Cindy Cooper and Claudía Namay, as the nameplate for the new conference room is unveiled.
Local students named to UTM Chancellor's Honor Roll

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Dyersburg - Kathleen N. Alford (Highest Honors), Seth E. Appleton (Highest Honors), Jennifer L. Arguello (Highest Honors), Jacob M. Armstrong (High Honors), Belinda J. Barker (Highest Honors), David M. Bennett (Highest Honors), Mallory L. Brimm (Highest Honors), Clifty L. Bule (Highest Honors), Alicia D. Burkeen (Highest Honors), Lindsey J. Burns (Highest Honors), Rachal E. Carter (Honors), Chelsea L. Chaffin (Highest Honors), Courtney R. Countess (Honors), Jesse R. Cowart (Highest Honors), Corey W. Criswell (Honors), Caitlin A. Crocker (Highest Honors), Jenny E. Depew (Honors), Holly N. Elgin (Honors), Britney D. Finley (Honors), Elizabeth B. Finley (Honors), Elizabeth A. Fisher (Honors), Jessica D. Floyd (Highest Honors), Melissa K. Frank (Highest Honors), Stacey R. French (Highest Honors), Monica A. Galewski (Highest Honors), Amber N. Garner (Highest Honors), Justin K. Golden (Highest Honors), Leah J. Graham (Highest Honors), Robin L. Griffin (Highest Honors), Elizabeth A. Harris (Highest Honors), Megan H. Hummer (Honors), Alexandra L. Jacobi (Highest Honors), William B. James (Highest Honors), Brittany T. Jones (Honors), Jennifer A. Jones (Highest Honors), Jessica P. Jones (Honors), Terra S. Jones (Highest Honors), Eric C. Kennedy (Honors), Danielle M. Ketchum (Honors), Cody J. Kimbrell (Honors), Elizabeth N. Lee (Honors), Rachel D. Lemonds (Highest Honors), David A. Lewelling (High Honors), Adam R. McCormack (Honors), Judith L. McCormack (Honors), John M. Moody (Highest Honors), Weston H. Newbill (Honors), Jared A. Nobles (High Honors), Kyle E. Paschal (Highest Honors), Alison M. Petty (Highest Honors), Alissa R. Plewa (Highest Honors), Samantha L. Price (Highest Honors), Taylor J. Ricks (Highest Honors), Kenneth J. Sandlin (Honors), Stephanie M. Sells (Highest Honors), Michael W. Singleton (Highest Honors), Brandon D. Smith (Honors), Corey A. Smith (Honors), Christopher R. Sorrell (High Honors), Sandra Stafford (Highest Honors), Johnnie M. Stephens (Highest Honors), Mary K. Sykes (Highest Honors), Lisa E. Tarr (Highest Honors), Claire A. Tidwell (Honors), Amanda L. Tittle (Highest Honors), Casey L. Turnage (Highest Honors), Mary C. Var (Honors), Joy M. Vick (Highest Honors), LeAnna P. Waldron (Highest Honors), Christina West (Highest Honors), Cara L. Williams (Highest Honors), Vickie R. Williams (Honors), Valerie L. Winters (Highest Honors), Matthew B. Wolf (High Honors), Jennifer L. Wright (Highest Honors), Christopher R. Zumbach (Highest Honors).

Newbern - Megan N. Alford (Highest Honors), Wendy M. Butler (Highest Honors), Adam D. Clark (Highest Honors), Janelle L. Cleave (Highest Honors), Amanda B. Compton (Honors), Call B. Cupples (Highest Honors), Trista L. Ferguson (Honors), Gregory A. Frye (Highest Honors).

Hinson (Honors), Judy G. Jordan (Honors), William T. Kwasigroh (Honors), Lawson B. May (Honors), Heath A. McLean (Highest Honors), Mary D. Medling (Highest Honors), Felicia D. Mula (Highest Honors), Cary E. Smith (Highest Honors), Hannah P. Stewart (Honors), Brittany L. Sturgill (High Honors), Laura West (Highest Honors), and Andrew R. Zarecor (Highest Honors).

Trimble - James Jackson (Highest Honors).
UC RESIDENT HELPS — Peggy Dre-rup of Union City recently attended the Steinway Celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin as an honored donor. The university has officially been named an "All-Steinway School," becoming part of an elite group of only 135 institutions worldwide to hold the title.

ATTENDS SUMMIT — Andrew Warner (center), a high school student from Obion County, attended the first RisingStar Leadership Summit held recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event taught students leadership skills through team building exercises and was sponsored by the WestStar Leadership program, Ayers Foundation and UTM. Warner visited with Virginia Grimes, coordinator of the WestStar Leadership Program, and Charley Deal, director of alumni relations at UTM and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program.
GRADUATES — Annie Sanner (front, center) of Union City was joined by her family at the recent University of Tennessee at Martin commencement exercise in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. She received a bachelor of science degree. Among those on hand were (from left) grandmother Joyce Osborne, sister Ivey Westbrooks, husband Matt Sanner and parents Tony and Tracey Westbrooks. She is also the daughter of Hunter and Laurie Kirkland.

Charles earns master's degree from UT Martin

Carrie Jo Charles of Paris completed studies in August and was awarded a master’s degree in business administration during the December commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Charles earned a 3.8 grade-point average on a 4-point scale in her studies.

She is the daughter of Paul and Janice Charles and the granddaughter of Rosemary Neese and Marie Charles, all of Buchanan. Employed with Commercial Bank since 2006, she is the customer service call center manager and a member of the current Leadership Henry County class.

A 2002 honors graduate of Henry County High School, she attended Lipscomb University in Nashville and graduated in May 2006 from Murray State University with a degree in accounting and finance.

Sixteen countyians receive degrees from UT Martin

Sixteen Henry Countyians received degrees during the fall commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Earning undergraduate degrees were Dustin Wayne Fletcher, Daniel Keith Frame, Troy Norlen Barrow, Mark Nolan Bass and Madeline Jane Lovett, all of Paris; John Thomas Hinson III of Buchanan; Brandon Russell Doyle of Cottage Grove; Dustin G. McClure of Henry; and Pamela Jean Corbin of Springville.

Receiving graduate degrees were Carrie Jo Charles, Jason Wade Wilson, Susanne Adale Collins, Valerie Kay Guthrie, Belinda Inez Morgan, Leah Beth Nolen and Suzan Elizabeth Wol-ski, all of Paris.
Martin students named to UT Martin's Chancellor's Honor Roll

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Those students who made the list from Martin include:

Aimee C. Bilger, Highest Honors
Christy N. Bondurant, Honors
Matthew D. Borden, Honors
Judy L. Bowers, High Honors

Sylvester Boyd, High Honors
Lauren A. Breland, Honors
Chantia B. Brown, High Honors
Tara L. Brown, Honors
Elizabeth R. Bukeywick, Highest Honors
Megan N. Burcham, Honors
Justin D. Burlison, Honors
Brittney N. Burress, High Honors
Lauren N. Burress, Highest Honors
Alexandra P. Butler, High Honors
Ashley E. Bynum, Highest Honors
Christopher E. Capua, Honors
Megan N. Cartmell, Highest Honors
Santos A. Cedeno, Honors
Rashunn D. Cheney, Honors
Logan S. Coates, Honors
Scott E. Coleman, Honors
Joseph D. Copeland, High Honors
April M. Counsell, Highest Honors
Steven W. Dalton, Highest Honors
Martha E. Daniel, High Honors
Cheryl L. Deyeso, Highest Honors
Robert L. Deyeso, Highest Honors

Sire D. Diane, High Honors
Lacey E. Dodd, Highest Honors
Lauren B. Dowdy, High Honors
Nico E. Drake, High Honors
Calista M. Drone, Honors
Heather M. Dunn, Honors
Natalie E. Dunning, Highest Honors
William L. East, Honors
Edward M. Finch, Honors
Elizabeth T. Fitzgerald, Honors
Ashley L. Floyd, Honors
David W. Foley, Honors
Kimberly D. Foley, Highest Honors
Brittany L. Fortner, Highest Honors
Christopher T. Fowler, Highest Honors
Rachel E. Fowler, High Honors
Anna E. Frederick, Highest Honors
Abbie M. Fuqua, Highest Honors
Kassynla L. Gadlen, High Honors
Amy P. Gardner, High Honors
Raymond R. Gardner, Highest Honors
Layla R. Gargus, High Honors
Amanda G. Garner, Honors
Amanda R. Geary, High Honors
Brandt M. Gibson, Highest Honors
Kesley J. Gibson, Highest Honors
Sara B. Gilliam, Honors
Victor S. Gosser, High Honors
Stephanie R. Gourley, Honors
Ashley H. Holland, High Honors
Matthew J. Graner, Highest Honors
Chelsea M. Greer, Highest Honors
Ashley M. Gross, High Honors
Laura N. Gullatt, Highest Honors
Chris Gunlefeinger, Highest Honors
Jacqueline A. Guzman, Honors
Brandi L. Gwaltney, Highest Honors
Cynthia A. Hahn, Highest Honors
Kristin A. Hammill, High Honors
Kristen D. Harrelson, Honors
Devin D. Hardige, High Honors
Casey L. Hazlewood, Honors
Brittany M. Henderson, Honors
Toni L. Holford, High Honors
James R. Holland, High Honors
Cassie M. Hood, Highest Honors
Tashawna N. Hooten, Honors
Dacia D. Horne, Honors
Lacey M. Howard, Highest Honors
Coleen J. Hunt, Highest Honors
James D. Hutchins, High Honors
Bethany L. Ivy, High Honors
Lyndsey B. Jackson, Honors
Christopher A. Jayne, High Honors
Leah R. Kerassidis, Highest Honors
Kyeongmee Kim, High Honors
Jake R. King, Highest Honors
Zalak V. Patel, Honors
James M. Payne, High Honors
Suzanne M. Peckham, Highest Honors
Stevee N. Pentecost, High Honors
Breanna H. Pitcher, Honors
Carrie L. Powers, Highest Honors
James D. Powers, High Honors
Landon P. Prather, High Honors
Allison C. Price, Honors
William T. Price, Highest Honors
Joshua D. Pullen, Honors
Angela D. Reddick, Highest Honors
Julie M. Reddick, Highest Honors
Madeline K. Reid, Honors
William J. Riddle, High Honors
Ashley R. Ritz, Honors
Lauren B. Robertson, Honors
Ahmad R. Robinson, Honors
Devin E. Rotger, Honors
Mercedes L. Rubio, Honors
Victoria N. Russell, Highest Honors
Melody P. Sain, High Honors
Cory S. Sandefur, Highest Honors
Jared J. Scherer, Highest Honors
Landon G. Scott, Honors
Leslie N. Serrano, Honors
Kayla B. Simpson, High Honors
Mallory A. Simpson, Highest Honors
Ashante L. Smith, High Honors
Brianna L. Smith, Highest Honors
Olivia D. Smith, High Honors
Joel T. Stanley, Honors
David M. Stepp, Honors
Michael B. Stigall, Highest Honors
Rory D. Stutzman, High Honors
Tuner J. Swinea, Highest Honors
Gail L. Thomas, Highest Honors
Mayce R. Thompson, Honors
Delina K. Tiltman, Honors
Carly R. Unger, High Honors
Calista E. Vaughn, Highest Honors
Laura K. Vaughn, Honors
James A. Verdell, Highest Honors
Libbi W. Verdell, Highest Honors
John G. Vincent, Honors
Maegan L. Wadding, High Honors
Rose M. Warren, Honors
Stanton T. Watson, High Honors
William N. Wiedemann, High Honors
Cory A. Wilcox, Highest Honors
Kelsey P. Wiley, Honors
Brandon M. Wilson, High Honors
Brad E. Winter, High Honors
Dallas C. Wright, Honors
Durant B. Wright, High Honors
Michael S. Yandell, Highest Honors

James P. Moser, Honors
Whitney B. Mount, High Honors
Sarah Muller, Honors
Ezra F. Nance, Highest Honors
Rebecca J. Norton, Highest Honors
Sara A. Olds, High Honors
Emily Osment, High Honors
Carmesha R. Owens, Honors
Alexander W. Parham, High Honors
Jennifer L. Parrish, Highest Honors
Shelley M. Parsons, High Honors
Krisha V. Patel, Highest Honors
Saumil V. Patel, Highest Honors

Paige I. King, Honors
William A. King, High Honors
Sierra L. Kirk, Highest Honors
Christy L. Lee, Highest Honors
Joshua S. Lemons, Highest Honors
Sydney L. Lowry, Highest Honors
Jay A. Lusk, Highest Honors
Loren K. Mallari, Highest Honors
Chase G. Manley, Highest Honors
Melissa A. Manuel, Highest Honors
Michael C. Martin, High Honors
Michael J. Martin, High Honors
Dillon T. Matlock, High Honors
April N. May, Honors
Sydney E. McClure, High Honors
Katherine A. McKeel, High Honors
Shannon N. McMILLin, High Honors
Mary K. Mesimer, Honors
Jessie E. Miles, High Honors
William W. Morgan, High Honors

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee.

Thursday, December 22, 2011

HAMMOND, La. (AP) — Southeastern Louisiana University says its next football coach will be UT Martin alumnus Ron Roberts, who guided Delta State University to four Gulf South Conference championships and four appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

In five years under Roberts, the Statesmen are 47-16, with two of those losses in the 2010 NCAA Division II national championship and the 2011 semifinals. The Statesmen were 11-3 in 2011, when Roberts was named the AFCA Division II Region Coach of the Year, and 11-4 in 2010.

Roberts transferred to UTM, where he was on the 1988 Gulf South Conference championship team.
Joseph Sanders (r.), of Waverly, was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement on Saturday, December 10. Sanders and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured, l. to r., are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

Josh Davis (r.), of McEwen, was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement on Saturday, December 10. Davis and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured, l. to r., are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.
UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll

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The students of McEwen were: Micah A. D'Arachangel, High Honors; Aleina R. Early, Highest Honors; Tandy L. Gentry, Highest Honors; Caitlin E. Hoffs, High Honors; Samuel A. May, Highest Honors; Jordan C. McMillan, Honors; and Jordan D. Stokes, Highest Honors.

From New Johnsonville the students included: Rachael J. Cagle, High Honors; Taylor N. Dobson, Honors; Sara E. Hoffmiller, Honors; Jacob A. Riley, High Honors; and Tracy B. Robinson, Highest Honors.

Waverly students were as follows: Deanna Beuerlein, Honors; Larry Z. Dickson, Highest Honors; Rebecca B. Jones; Honors; Ashley M. McCravy, Highest Honors; Maggie B. Ragan, High Honors; Navy M. Smith, High Honors; Peter C. Tolene, Honors; and Laevey B. Wilkerson, Highest Honors.

Several Shelby County residents were among students to receive degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Students receiving undergraduate degrees included:

**Arlington** – Jamie Kristen Schuh;

**Bartlett** – Brittany Shea O’Nan, Jacob Robert Mosby Ross, Laura Elizabeth Buckland, Jennifer Lynn Roberts;

**Collierville** – Melissa Colleen Jernigan, Brittany Ann Kasparck;

**Cordova** – Bryce James Streger, James K. Gillespie Jr., Jessica Lauren Whaley, Emily Michelle Cates;

**Eads** – Patrick James Clark;

**Germantown** – Audra Clare Kirby, Mary K. Richards;

**Lakeland** – Brandon P. Gindt;

**Memphis** – Davida Alexandria Ambrose, Julius Ellis Blackburn, Britney E’Lynn Bolton, Phyllicia A. Brooks, James Buchanan, Bailey Lynn Childress, Irise Joanna Chornes, Brandon Lyle Cox, Deadrick Deshaun Dandridge, Faith Deneice Davis, Erin Alaine Dismuke, Christopher Lewis Douglas, Stephanie Patrice Douglas, Caylen Martel Pollis, Quinterio Javonte Franklin, Denissia S. Gordon, Gerald E. Guffin, Angela Renee Hayes, Chad Wesley Holmes, Jennifer Diane Ingram, Joia Rae McGaha, Renesha Kashun Nickleberry, Jeremy Norwood, Wesley Kyle Patterson, Carolyn C. Polk, Somoan Delaine Founders, Chasity Marie Roberson, Steven Andrew Smith, Daraneta Trenese Thompson, Mikhaila Joy Williams, Dominique Denise Wilson and Sherri D. Wright;

**Millington** – Jared Lee Falk, Carter James Smalley, Ra’Chelle Lanise Weaver and Julia Nicole Weatherford.
Local leaders named to WestStar

By KEVIN BOWDEN
Business Editor

Main Street executive director Phyllis Rauchle and Chuck Doss, president of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, have been named to the 2012 WestStar class.

The WestStar Leadership Program is operated through the University of Tennessee at Martin. The program identifies community leaders from across West Tennessee and then monthly sessions educate class members about issues facing the region. Charley Deal is the executive director of the WestStar program.

There are 33 members of the 2012 WestStar class, including the mayor of McKenzie, Medina’s police chief, the mayor of Gibson County and a variety of other government officials, health care officials and business leaders from across the region. Diversity is a key objective in identifying potential class members.

Mrs. Rauchle and Doss, who is an investment representative with First Citizens Financial Plus Inc., will attend their first session Jan. 5-6 at UTM. At the opening day of the first session, officials with the WestStar program will provide an overview of the WestStar program and the opening session will focus on increasing personal leadership and teamwork skills.

Class members will participate in a challenge course at the university and speakers throughout the two-day session will discuss various aspects of leadership.

The second day of the opening session will kick off with a presentation from state Sen. Roy Herron. State Sen. Dolores Gresham, a WestStar graduate, will address the class during the afternoon on Jan. 6 and Larry Snider with the Discovery Park of America is also on the afternoon agenda.

“The WestStar mission is to identify and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, want to help make West Tennessee become a better place and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles,” the WestStar website states.

Over the course of the next six months, Mrs. Rauchle and Doss will participate in monthly sessions that will begin on Thursdays and will continue through Friday afternoons. Programs will be held in various cities across the region and will focus on such topics as health care, economic development, health and welfare, public policy issues, education, energy and the environment, agriculture and community development.

All the sessions are designed to address specific issues from a regional perspective.

Obion County has had 22 people graduate from the WestStar program, which was started in 1990.

Business Editor Kevin Bowden may be contacted by email at kmbowden@ucmessenger.com.

Carpenter appointed vice-chair of the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries

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TACL is an organization that provides advice to the TSLA on the development of the long range programs for library services in Tennessee and assists TSLA in evaluating library programs, services and activities.

The council combines professional librarians and library users to represent a variety of perspectives. Carpenter is the director of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She represents academic librarians from West Tennessee on TACL.

“Mary’s professional background and experience will be invaluable in helping Tennessee meet the challenges of today and of the future,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said.

“I am confident her leadership during her term as vice-chair of TACL will ultimately benefit Tennessee library users.”

“Mary is one of Tennessee’s most respected librarians and I am excited to see what she will do in this new leadership role,” State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said. “I’m sure she will continue to offer valuable input and insights into how our libraries can best be run.”

Carpenter’s term expires in 2013.
Carpenter appointed to state advisory board

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Fuqua selected for leadership class

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Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development state director, joined state Sen. Roy Herron, president of the Ned McWherter Center, in making the announcement.

“The McWherter Scholars are among West Tennessee’s very best students and our future leaders,” said Herron. “Every dollar we invest in their education will repay our region multi-fold.”

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She was also a Peer Enabling Program leader and a member of the university’s Summer Orientation and Registration staff. PEP is a three-phase program that assists UT Martin freshmen with the transition to college life and includes SOAR, which provides freshmen a head start on fall semester by offering registration and other orientation activities. UT Martin students are selected to staff these programs.

“It is an honor for my family to be associated with such an outstanding program that develops the future leaders of our state,” said Mike McWherter, son of the late Ned McWherter. “The center’s administration understands the importance of education and training in the continued efforts to improve the lives of Tennesseans and with their help, the McWherter Scholars Program will brighten the future of Tennessee for years to come.”
Local students named to Chancellor's Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2011 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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Yahya S. Alismail, Campus Mail, TN 38238, High Honors

Fahad A. Almutairi, Campus Mail, TN 38238, Highest Honors

Dustin L. Boroughs, Campus Mail, TN 38238, Highest Honors

Kelsi B. Clark, Campus Mail, TN 38238, Highest Honors

Courtney L. Forsythe, Campus Mail, TN 38238, Honors

Dresden James T. Adkins, High Honors

Lisa C. Baskette, Honors Jennifer T. Beaty, Honors Katherine N. Blaylock, High Honors

Stacey L. Darden, Highest Honors

Orrin T. Eaves, Highest Honors Kimberly M. Edenfield, Highest Honors Amber E. Elliott, High Honors Lacey M. Ellis, Highest Honors Misty L. Evans, High Honors

Marcia L. Filtz, High Honors Shannon E. Fisher, Honors Mercy M. Ford, Highest Honors

Brittany B. Forrester, Highest Honors Cassie J. Frensley, High Honors

Justin B. Hatler, Highest Honors

John M. Herron, High Honors

Lacie C. Kelley, High Honors Monica M. King, Honors Sarah A. McAlpin, High Honors

Brittany D. Morgan, Highest Honors

Levi A. Odle, Highest Honors

Alayna S. Owens, High Honors

Cody W. Perkins, High Honors

Colleen E. Perkins, High Honors

Jessica M. Phelps, Honors

Meagan H. Pittman, High Honors

Hazel A. Purdum, High Honors

Maegan M. Smith, High Honors

Dana D. Stanfill, Honors

Steven P. Stewart, Honors

Adam S. Turbeville, High Honors

Ben M. Walker, Highest Honors

Benjamin R. Walker, Honors

Christian S. Webber, High Honors

Dukedom Erin L. Bivens, Duke-dom, High Honors

Gleason Ryan W. Clark, Highest Honors

Megan R. Crider, High Honors

Preston D. Frazier, Highest Honors Nicole M. Huisman, High Honors

Leah N. Mebane, Honors Riley E. Moran, High Honors

Evan J. Orr, High Honors

Kandi N. Sawyers, Highest Honors Katie L. Snider, Honors

Amy R. Spain, Honors Elizabeth D. Terrell, High Honors

Stacy W. Thompson, Honors

Adam R. Vaughan, High Honors

Sargent L. Wells, Highest Honors Jennifer L. Wilbanks, Honors

John M. Wilson, Highest Honors

Greenfield Dakota R. Betts, High Honors

Cody L. Clanton, Honors

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BUENA VISTA: Dan M. Guinn, Highest Honors; Ryan A. Guinn, Highest Honors

CLARKSBURG: Erin D. Grant, High Honors; Amanda C. Steele, Honors

HOLLOW ROCK: Tiffany L. Cathey, Highest Honors; Jan M. Pardue, Honors; Allison J. Simmons, Highest Honors

HUNTINGDON: John J. Abel, Highest Honors; Derek A. Collins, Highest Honors; Patty L. Cupples, Highest Honors; Benjamin A. Dempsey, Honors; Troy D. Garrison, Highest Honors; Jacob L. George, Honors; Joshua R. Gurley, Highest Honors; Lawson R. Johns, High Honors; Justin T. Johnson, Highest Honors; Julie M. Kelley, Highest Honors; Colin L. Luman, Highest Honors; Matthew W. McMinn, Honors; Katie E. O’Malley, Highest Honors; Kyle D. Pearson, Honors; Hillary B. Peterson, High Honors; Lea E. Stokes, Highest Honors; Rebecca A. Stokes, Highest Honors; Terry W. Wallace, Honors;

TRAVIS: W. Wallace, Honors; Desiree N. Wheeler, Honors; Brandy L. Williams, Honors

LAVINIA: Mary S. Barrow, High Honors

MCKENZIE: Bethany M. Aden, Highest Honors; Ashley L. Balus, High Honors; Emily J. Bloodworth, High Honors; Kelsey A. Carr, Honors; Katie A. Chadwick, High Honors; Benjamin R. Kee, High Honors; Chelsea M. Mathenia, High Honors; Linley H. McClain, Highest Honors; Rocio Mejorado, High Honors; Kristi A. Mendez, Honors; Jamie D. Mills, Honors; Brittany L. Mobbs, Honors; Cari J. Moore, Honors; Matthew C. Moore, High Honors; Allison D. Owen, Highest Honors; Janna N. Pratt, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. Rollins, Highest Honors; Travis R. Russell, Honors; Lauren E. Scott, Highest Honors; Caleb D. Watts, High Honors

TREZEVANT: Andrea T. Argo, High Honors; Morgan D. Gray, Highest Honors; Morgan N. Gunter, Honors

WESTPORT: Christine M. Craftchick, High Honors; Cody A. Jacobs, Highest Honors

YUMA: Tina C. Grant, High Honors
Brothers retire from UT Martin

Family and friends joined Curtis and Horace Roberts as the brothers were honored with a retirement reception December 7 in UT Martin’s Holland McCombs Center. Curtis (left), who lives in Como, worked more than 18 years with the university, and Horace (second from right), who lives in Gleason, is retiring with more than 23 years of service. Both were in custodial services, part of the UT Martin Physical Plant. Family members attending the reception were: (front row, left to right) Michelle Roberts (Curtis’s daughter) and Sandra Dilday (Horace’s daughter); (back row, left to right) Chris Dilday (Horace’s son-in-law) and Geneva Roberts (Curtis’s wife); and (far right) Connie Roberts, Horace’s wife.

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She was also a Peer Enabling Program leader and a member of the university’s Summer Orientation and Registration staff. PEP is a three-phase program that assists UT Martin freshmen with the transition to college life and includes SOAR, which provides freshmen a head start on fall semester by offering registration and other orientation activities. UT Martin students are selected to staff these programs.

Created in 2008, the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development selects a small group of college students each year to participate in a demanding leadership program. Participants must have a 3.5 grade point average, be a West Tennessee native, attend a college in West Tennessee and have a strong desire for public service.
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Local students achieving Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition include:

**Dresden** - James T. Adkins with High Honors, Lisa C. Baskette with Honors, Jennifer T. Beaty with Honors, Katherine N. Blaylock with High Honors, Stacey L. Darden with Highest Honors, Orrin T. Eaves with Highest Honors, Kimberly M. Edenfield with Highest Honors, Amber E. Elliott with High Honors, Lacey M. Ellis with Highest Honors, Misty L. Evans with High Honors, Marcia L. Fitz with High Honors, Shannon E. Fisher with Honors, Mercy M. Ford with Highest Honors, Brittany B. Forrest with Highest Honors, Cassie J. Frechette with High Honors, Justin B. Hutler with Highest Honors, John M. Herron with High Honors, Lacie C. Kelley with High Honors, Monica K. King with Honors, Sarah A. McAlpin with High Honors, Brittany D. Morgan with Highest Honors, Levi A. Odle with Highest Honors, Ayla S. Owens with High Honors, Cody W. Perkins with High Honors, Colleen E. Perkins with High Honors, Jessica M. Phillips with Honors, Megan H. Pittman with High Honors, Hazel A. Purdum with High Honors, Maegan M. Smith with High Honors, Dana D. Stanfill with Honors, Steven P. Stewart with Honors, Adam S. Turville with High Honors, Ben M. Walker with Highest Honors, Benjamin R. Walker with Honors, Christopher S. Webber with High Honors.

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with Highest Honors, Chase G. Mansley with Highest Honors, Melisa A. Manuel with Highest Honors, Michael C. Martin with High Honors, Michael J. Martin with High Honors, Dillon T. Matlock with High Honors, April N. May with Honors, Sydney E. McCullar with High Honors, Katherine A. McKee with High Honors, Shannon N. McMullin with High Honors, Mary K. Messimer with Honors, Jessica E. Miles with High Honors, William W. Morgan with High Honors, James P. Moser with Honors, Whitney B. Mount with High Honors, Sarah Muller with Honors, Ezra F. Nance with Highest Honors, Rebecca J. Norton with Highest Honors, Sara A. Olds with High Honors, Emily Osment with High Honors, Carmesha R. Owens with Honors, Alexander W. Parham with High Honors, Jennifer L. Parrish with Highest Honors, Shelley M. Parsons with High Honors, Krishna V. Patel with Highest Honors, Saumil V. Patel with Highest Honors, Zalak V. Patel with Honors, James M. Payne with High Honors, Suzanne M. Peckham with Highest Honors, Stevee N. Pentecost with High Honors, Breanna H. Pitcher with Honors, Carrie L. Powers with Highest Honors, James D. Powers with High Honors, Landon P. Prather with High Honors, Allison C. Price with Honors, William T. Price with Highest Honors, Joshua D. Pullen with Honors, Angela D. Reddick with Highest Honors, Julie M. Reddick with Highest Honors, Madeline K. Reid with Honors, William J. Riddle with Honors, Ashley R. Ritz with Honors, Lauren B. Robertson with High Honors, Ahmad R. Robinson with Honors, Devin E. Rotger with Honors, Mercedes L. Rubio with Honors, Victoria N. Russell with Highest Honors, Melody P. Sain with High Honors, Cory S. Sandifer with Highest Honors, Jared J. Scherer with Highest Honors, Landon G. Scott with Honors, Leslie N. Serrano with Honors, Kayla B. Simpson with High Honors, Mallory A. Simpson with Highest Honors, Ashante L. Smith with High Honors, Brianna L. Smith with Highest Honors, Olivia D. Smith with High Honors, Joel T. Stanley with Honors, David M. Stepp with Honors, Michael B. Steigall with Highest Honors, Rory D. Stutzman with High Honors, Tamer J. Swinea with Highest Honors, Gail L. Thomas with Highest Honors, Mayce R. Thompson with Honors, Defina K. Tiltman with Honors, Carly R. Unger with High Honors, Calista E. Vaught with Highest Honors, Laura K. Vaught with Honors, James A. Verdell with Highest Honors, Libbi W. Verril with Highest Honors, John G. Vincent with Honors, Maegan L. Wadding with High Honors, Rose M. Warren with Honors, Stanton T. Watson with High Honors, William N. Wiedemann with Highest Honors, Cory A. Wilcox with Highest Honors, Kelsey P. Wiley with Honors, Brandon M. Wilson with High Honors, Brad E. Winter with High Honors, Dallas C. Wright with Honors, Durant B. Wright with High Honors, Michael S. Yandell with Highest Honors, "Mary’s professional background and experience will be invaluable in helping Tennessee meet the challenges of today and of the future," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. “I am confident her leadership during her term as vice-chair of TACL will ultimately benefit Tennessee library users.”“Mary is one of Tennessee’s most respected librarians and I am excited to see what she will do in this new leadership role,” State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said. “I’m sure she will continue to offer valuable input and insights into how our libraries can best be run.”Carpenter’s term expires in 2013.

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Included are:

- **Trenton:** Cody H. Agee, High Honors; Jeffrey D. Arndt, Highest Honors; Zachary J. Barker, High Honors; Greer C. Barnes, High Honors; Jennifer N. Barnett, High Honors; Jeremy W. Butler, High Honors; Hannah L. Cates, High Honors; Catherine A. Cole, High Honors; Haliegh E. Cole, High Honors; Jake W. Davidson, Honors; Leslie M. Dodd, High Honors; Matthew S. Logan, Highest Honors; Alexi B. Ham, High Honors; Randall L. Hooker, High Honors; Lauren N. Jewell, High Honors; Johnathan M. Johnson, High Honors; Victoria G. Johnson, Honors; Kellie L. Joyner, High Honors; Kirby N. Lancaster, Honors; Lacy J. McCaig, Honors; Melissa L. Michel, Highest Honors; Ashley H. Neisler, High Honors; Matthew A. Norvell, Highest Honors; Brian A. Papkin, Highest Honors; Kimbra N. Ratliff, Highest Honors; Billy G. Reeves, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Shivers, High Honors; Rebecca J. Smith, High Honors; Rachel A. Ward, Honors; Bryce D. Watson, Honors; and Savannah L. Williams, Honors.

- **Bradford:** Natalie A. Alexander, Honors; Alsten R. Cates, Highest Honors; Chryslyna M. Chipman, High Honors; Clayton A. Hampton, High Honors; Clinton D. Hampton, Honors; Courtney B. Jackson, Highest Honors; Anthony L. Launby, High Honors; Jordan R. McDaniel, High Honors; Cassy E. Morris, Highest Honors; Joni M. Parrish, Honors; Derek W. Proudfoot, Highest Honors; Jacquelyn M. Steele, Honors; David L. Terry, Honors; and Joseph E. Wingo, High Honors.

- **Dyer:** Matthew E. Bobbitt, Honors; Charles M. Cox, Highest Honors; Britney M. Garner, High Honors; David B. Garrett, High Honors; Hannah L. Green, Honors; Robert C. Joyce, Honors; Katherine L. Parks, High Honors; Calah R. Paulhus, Highest Honors; Samuel T. Reed, High Honors; Amber L. Simmons, High Honors; Morgan E. Spellings, Honors; Nicholas B. Stephens, Honors; Eric M. Stone, Honors; Megan N. Turner, High Honors; and Emily R. Worrell, Honors.

- **Rutherford:** William Q. Abrams, High Honors; Marion K. Atkins, Honors; Miranda K. Barron, Honors; Jacob W. Dotson, Honors; Jessica M. Gordon, Honors; Carol A. Hall, High Honors; Shelley K. Simpson, Honors; Troy A. Tate, Honors; Jordan N. Teddleton, Honors; and Lindsey D. Whiteley, High Honors.

- **Kenton:** David W. Crum, High Honors; Jessica D. Dvorak, Honors; James K. Hardin, High Honors; David C. Holomons, Highest Honors; Jordan B. Jones, Honors; Lisa L. Ritter, Highest Honors; Sheila F. Scott, Highest Honors; Danielle N. Spencer, High Honors; and Mallory C. Walker, Honors.

- **Gibson:** Cody F. Houck, Honors.

- **Humboldt:** Robert E. Barber, Honors; Jason W. Barker, Highest Honors; Kiran S. Champion, Honors; Kayla C. Crook, High Honors; Joe C. Davis, 3.8343, Highest Honors; Robert L. Fish, Honors; Mercedes C. Floyd, High Honors; Cody A. Fowler, Honors; Amber D. Futrell, Highest Honors; Holly K. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Danielle J. Goff, High Honors; Kaela P. Grooms, Honors; Rachel L. Hall, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Hunley, Honors; Lisa M. Johnson, High Honors; Austin S. Koffman, High Honors; Diannah R. Lasley, Honors; Emma J. Leatherland, High Honors; Elizabeth D. Pafford, Honors; Amber L. Pearson, Honors; Sarah E. Pickard, High Honors; Annalynn E. Smith, High Honors; and Michael W. Stone, Honors.

- **Idlewild:** Claudia L. Chandler, Honors, and Joshua R. Heffner, Highest Honors.

- **Medina:** Stephanie L. Boling, Highest Honors; Kimberly A. Boswell, Highest Honors; Anthony C. Brown, High Honors; Lisa N. Detain, Highest Honors; Meredith L. Dunn, Honors; Whitney L. Foster, Highest Honors; Katelyn N. Hamilton, Honors; Christina E. Johnson, Honors; Kelly G. Kennedy, High Honors; Lucas J. Mercier, Honors; Samantha R. Ragain, Honors; Katy Reynolds, Honors; Lauren H. Rogers, High Honors; Seicy D. Scott, High Honors; Shelby L. Totty, Highest Honors; Casey J. Ward, Highest Honors; Matthew T. Williams, Highest Honors; and Jesse N. Winchester, Highest Honors.

- **Milan:** Anne R. Avery, Honors; Heather Butler, High Honors; Jonathan W. Cavender, High Honors; Brandon A. Coffman, High Honors; Shelby R. Counce, Honors; Sarah E. Cox, High Honors; Lucas C. Denton, Honors; Tyler S. Doyle, Honors; Gregory K. Garcia, Honors; Jobrainski O. Gilbert, Highest Honors; Brandon A. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Audrey A. Granger, High Honors; Wil- lic J. Harden, High Honors; Gwendolyn N. Harman, High Honors; Michael J. Hinnant, Highest Honors; Daniel R. Istvanko, Honors; Alex M. Jackson, High Honors; Autumn R. Jackson, Highest Honors; Timothy L. Jackson, Honors; Robbie M. Luten, High Honors;
Harden is inducted

Willie Harden (center) of Trenton was inducted into the Order of the Engineers at a ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement on Saturday. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Ed Wheeler (left), Department of Engineering interim chair, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, made the presentation.

Watson earns MBA

Misty Watson (right) of Trenton was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement on Saturday, December 10. Watson and 37 other students completed their Masters of Business Administration degrees from the university this fall. Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

Local residents among degree recipients

Several out-of-state residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Local students include: Aminda La-Sha Tharp of Fulton; Andrea Rae Hagerty of Clinton; and Daniel Charles Naughton of Hickman.
Santa’s Village record attendance set

The recent 27th annual Santa’s Village, held Dec. 8-11 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recorded the highest attendance numbers in the event’s history with 15,365 visitors. The numbers surpassed the previous record of 13,515 set in 2001.

Food donations totaled $40,117, and toy donations added up to $9,584, making the final donation total $49,701.

“Community is truly fortunate to have sponsors, activity/display coordinators and volunteers who make this event come to life. We hope the guests of the village enjoyed their visit. Their donations will definitely help the less fortunate in our area,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director.

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.

Service agencies that will receive food and toys collected from Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, NWTN Disaster Services, Santa’s Helpers, Healthy Start NW Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event were the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors included: First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, McDonalds and the Hampton Inn.

For more information, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Obion County students honored at UT Martin

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2011 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

They include students from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Among the Obion County honorees, listed by hometown, are:

Kenton — David W. Crum, high honors; Jessica D. Dwork, honors; James K. Hardin, high honors; David C. Holland, highest honors; Jordan B. Jones, honors; Lisa L. Ritter, highest honors; Sheila E. Scott, highest honors; Danielle N. Spencer, high honors; and Mallory C. Walker, honors.

Obion — Andrew P. Berry, highest honors; Jeremy K. Green, honors; Rachael C. Holloway, highest honors; Colby J. Ross, highest honors; and Jennifer A. Webber, highest honors.

Rives — Ryan K. Byars, honors; John C. Castellow, highest honors; Michael G. Hahn, honors; Madaline L. Harris, honors; Brittany N. Lyell, high honors; Jannese R. Monis, highest honors; Emily A. Taylor, honors; Katie B. Vanceleave, honors; and Jeriann Webster, high honors.

South Fulton — Joshua L. Potts, highest honors; Katherine R. Bivens, high honors; John R. Burrow, honors; Audrey E. Casey, honors; Samuel C. Cortis, high honors; Megan L. Dame, high honors; Dorothy D. Frieds, highest honors; Sarah N. Gammon, highest honors; Levi E. Griffith, honors; Rebecca M. Grogan, high honors; Victoria A. Harvel, high honors; Melissa J. Jackson, highest honors; Mark C. Maloney, high honors; Andrew H. Moore, highest honors; Robbie A. Peoples, high honors; Kristen N. Prince, high honors; Daniel L. Richardson, high honors; Shelia R. Sanders, honors; Bethany M. Seratt, highest honors; William B. Sisson, highest honors; Carly B. Smith, honors; Jonathan W. Smith, high honors; Adam D. Tolley, highest honors; Jacqueline D. Tuck, high honors; Sarah K. Turner, high honors; Amanda J. Wall, highest honors; and Jing Yu, highest honors.

Troy — Whitney N. Bennett, high honors; Delaina D. Curry, high honors; Terry G. Chapman, honors; Barbara J. Cox, high honors; Lacy R. Evans, high honors; Lauren N. Hayes, honors; Kimberly A. Hernandez, honor; Jackquelyn K. Hopkins, honors; Ruby W. Kendall, highest honors; Cory A. Luther, honors; Ashley M. Moore, high honors; Justin D. Preuett, high honors; Crystal F. Rickert, highest honors; Matthew G. Roberson, honors; Joshua C. Robinson, honors; Mason B. Storey, highest honors; Amber L. Victory, honors; and Joshua B. Williams, honors.

Union City — Emma C. Adams, honors; John W. Adams, highest honors; Madison A. Adcock, high honors; Courtney A. Ams, honors; William H. Arnold, high honors; Debra J. Barker, highest honors; Jordan J. Barker, honors; Denise N. Bell, highest honors; Chelsea E. Boyd, high honors; Laura E. Buckland, highest honors; Britton M. Bugge, highest honors; Kyle H. Byassee, honor; Colin S. Cherry, honors; Brent M. Cooley, honors; Lisa M. Crum, highest honors; Selena R. Davis, high honors; Jackson R. Donnell, honors; Katelyn E. Dotson, high honors; Johnny T. Dyer, highest honors; Kayla M. Eason, highest honors; Sarah L. Forker, honors; Adam M. Gammons, highest honors; Ian E. Garrigan, high honors; Derek H. Griffin, high honors; Cameron T. Graham, high honors; Larry B. Green, highest honors; Cameron P. Grisham, highest honors; Caitlin D. Hull, high honors; Mark C. Hall, high honors; Jennifer D. Harper, honors; Katie L. Hawks, high honors; Courtney L. House, highest honors; Darrin R. Howard, honors; Shenisha R. Huff, honors; Kenneth R. Hutson, honors; Jamie M. Janusz, highest honors; Treymar D. Johnson, high honors; Matthew R. Keanthlay, high honors; Darcey E. Kirk, honors; Sherri M. Langford, high honors; Rebekah J. Lewis, highest honors; Tiffany K. Logan, honors; Rebecca L. Lovell, high honors; Carl A. Lowrance, honors; Craig E. Lowrance, honors; Spencer G. Maloney, high honors; Ashley N. Marshall, honors; Mallory A. Martin, high honors; Ashley G. Meador, high honors; Megan H. Miller, highest honors; George C. Mitchell, honors; Victoria D. Mitchell, honors; Kristin R. Moore, high honors; Johnathan C. Nolan, highest honors; Melissa A. Pollock, high honors; Alexandri N. Rapp, high honors; Aubrey M. Reedy, highest honors; Will J. Regan, highest honors; April M. Ring, highest honors; Britanny J. Robison, high honors; Jeffrey M. Robertson, higher honors; Michael G. Ruddy, highest honors; Candice F. Sergerson, high honors; Katie R. Shoemaker, honors; Laura E. Snyder, honors; Chelsea L. Smith, highest honors; Trevor H. Smith, highest honors; Whitney B. Southard, honors; Matthew T. Sparkman, highest honors; Joseph C. Speed, honors; Samantha D. Storey, high honors; Lisa R. Strain, honors; Rachel E. Teplett, highest honors; William P. Wesner, high honors; John-David O. Wheeler, honors; Chelsea D. White, high honors; Kyle D. Williams, highest honors; Lauren A. Williamson, highest honors; Ben M. Woods, highest honors; Johnathon B. Wright, highest honors; Sarah E. Wright, highest honors; and Timothy D. York, honors.
EARN MBA — Patrick Hall (right) of Union City was honored at a presentation ceremony prior to the recent University of Tennessee at Martin commencement. Hall and 37 other students completed their masters of business administration degrees from the university this fall. He was joined by (from left) Dr. Tom Payne, chair holder, Dunagan Banking Chair of Excellence; Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business; and Dr. Ernie Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

STUDENT GRADUATES — Joshua Potts (center) of South Fulton was inducted into the Order of the Engineers at a ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement recently. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Ed Wheeler (left), Department of Engineering interim chair, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, made the presentation.

HORNBEAK INDUCTEE — Ty Walley (center) of Hornbeak was inducted into the Order of the Engineers at a ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee at Martin's recent commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Ed Wheeler (left), Department of Engineering interim chair, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, made the presentation.
SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN — The University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated the conclusion of "The Campaign for Tennessee" with a reception and dinner at The Lindell in Martin. It included major donors, university officials and members of the UT Martin campaign steering committee. The campaign officially concluded as UT Martin announced a total of $57,254,633 raised. Among those on hand were (from left) Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Crawford Gallimore, a member of the UT Board of Trustees and the UT Martin Campaign Steering Committee (CSC); Bill Blankenship, a member of the UT Martin CSC and Steinway Campaign chair; Ray Smith and Lew Dougherty, co-chairs of the UT Martin CSC; Ron Kirkland, a member of the UT Martin CSC; Kim Cross, president of the UT Alumni Association; and Len Solomons, UT Martin vice chancellor for advancement.

UTM engineering students break ground on mobile app

Engineering students at the University of Tennessee at Martin are breaking ground on a mobile app design. Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, associate professor of engineering, said UT Martin students have made more than 20 mobile applications now available for Android and Apple products. The engineering students have designed the apps as part of class homework, final projects and senior design projects. Engineering majors, from left, John Anderson, Ezra Nance and Jesse Clift are getting mobile app design experience from UT Martin courses.

University School of Jackson wins Science Bowl in Martin

The University School of Jackson science bowl team was named the champion in the recent 31st annual High School Science Bowl hosted at the University of Tennessee Martin. Seated, from left: Habeeb Suara, Gray Magee, Carrie Cobb and Angad Bindra. Standing, from left: Dr. Robert L. Hartshorn, Science Bowl faculty adviser; Jane Ramer, USJ science teacher; Judy Sanderson, USJ science teacher; and Lee A. Elliott, Science Bowl coordinator. USJ students Suara, Cobb, Magee, Bindra and Akua Nuako all scored in the top ten in the written test competition. Suara received the highest chemistry test score and tied for the highest overall score. Nuako, Cobb and Samuel Rickman, also of USJ, tied for the highest biology test score.
UT-Martin announces local students on fall chancellor's honor roll

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the names of Henry Countians on the fall 2011 chancellor's honor roll, formerly called the dean's list.

Students on the list must take at least 12 hours of credits, pass-fail courses not included, and receive a grade-point average of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. Students who earned a GPA between 3.2-3.49 are listed with honors; 3.5-3.79, high honors; and 3.8-4.0, highest honors.

Named with highest honors are:
- From Paris — Jillian Barnes; Cody L. Chilcutt; Madeline J. Lovett; Madison K. Moody; Megan E. Schnepper; and Amber L. Wood.
- From Cottage Grove — Brandon R. Doyle.
- From Henry — Zachariah S. Carper; Regina L. Hilt; and Samantha J. Perry.
- From Mansfield — Kathy L. Webb.

Named with honors are:
- From Puryear — Cory A. Brandstetter and Krystl G. Guess.
- From Springville — Brianna J. Foss and Sarah M. Milam.

Named with high honors are:
- From Paris — Melanie L. Aiosa; Benjamin L. Burkhart; Carrie A. Dean; Angela H. Lee; Amanda N. Neumair; Colin C. Paschall; Tricia K. Rich; Courtney E. Sutton; Carrie E. Turner; Jake A. Vanderburg; and Drake H. Williams.
- From Buchanan — Morgan L. Perkins.
- From Cottage Grove — Thomas C. Hunt.
- From Henry — Dustin G. McClure.
- From Mansfield — Rachel N. Martin.
- From Puryear — Robert C. Gallimore; and Chelsey R. Lassiter.
- From Springville — Kimberly L. Ballard; Pamela J. Corbin; and Amy M. Whitaker.

Named with honors are:
- From Paris — Landon Blakesley; Maegan M. Farmer; Dakota B. Halstead; Kelsey T. Head; Houston N. Howard; Roe N. Hughes; Ashley L. Kilpatrick; Caleb C. Knott; Hunter E. Long; Alicia D. McClure; Chelsea N. Peeler; Matthew D. Powley; Justin T. Reed; Gary S. Shepherd; Kayla M. Solowey; Courtney A. VanDyke; Lauren W. Wilson; Morgan E. Wilson; and Jade A. Younger.
- From Buchanan — Nathaniel R. Briggs.
- From Henry — Katherine E. Dicus; Emily M. Ford; and Calie J. Wagner.
- From Puryear — Amanda L. Hall; and Candace M. Lewis.
- From Springville — Ricky L. French; Rachel B. Robison; Jessica R. Swor; and Lacy L. Wade.
Corporate finance brings MBA program graduates together

Miriam Gillespie was called to the stage Dec. 10 in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin to receive an award. Instead, she received a surprise marriage proposal from John Cieslits, a member of the 2011 class who later that morning received his master of business administration degree during the university’s December commencement exercises.

The pre-commencement ceremony that honored the university’s MBA students became a celebration for two people, living in Memphis, who met while pursuing their online graduate degrees.

“We met during an online class — corporate finance,” John said, who earned his undergraduate degree from Davenport University’s Detroit College of Business in Michigan. “She worked at Morgan Keegan. I worked at AutoZone, both on Front Street, downtown Memphis, and I’d seen on her Facebook profile that she worked just down the street from me, and I asked her if she wanted to study one night for corporate finance.”

A Mud Island restaurant — not a classroom — provided the setting for their first face-to-face meeting and, in John’s words, “the rest is history.” Miriam earned her UT Martin undergraduate degree in 2007 and almost a year ago in the same setting, she received her MBA. She was in the first student cohort to graduate from the university with an MBA degree offered online and designed primarily for banking and financial services professionals.

Both would likely agree that the stars had to align almost perfectly for this relationship to ever happen. Each was in a different student cohort and had only taken a couple of online classes together. Their first communication was exchanging emails about class projects. As the relationship grew, so did the talk of marriage, and John wanted to surprise Miriam — he wanted the proposal to be something special.

“So (there are) a lot of roots between us at UT Martin, and even though the program was online, this (the campus) is still, I thought, the best place to surprise her that really would mean a lot to both of us.”

Knowing that Miriam would attend the special ceremony for MBA students Dec. 10 before commencement exercises, John saw this as the perfect opportunity to ask Miriam to marry him. But he needed some assistance, and College of Business and Global Affairs faculty members were pleased to help. After all graduating students were recognized, Dr. Kevin Hammond, also the MBA program coordinator, called John back to the stage to present an “award” to Miriam for her persistence in earning her MBA degree.

“When he started calling my name, I thought, ‘Dr. Hammond, you’re picking on me. Thanks, Dr. Hammond.’ And then they called Johnny up there, I’m like, ‘Oh no, this can’t be good. This can’t be good,’” she said laughing, admitting that calling John to the stage indicated something more than an award presentation was coming her way.

John showed the framed “award” to the crowd, which read, “Will you marry me?” Then, he turned, showed his framed proposal to Miriam, dropped to one knee and proposed.
Military grad earns master’s degree, learns lessons from ROTC

Thane Elam Center was packed with students, faculty, staff, family, and friends as the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated its Dec. 10 graduation.

One standout graduate was Capt. Joseph Sanders of Waverly.

Capt. Joseph Sanders

Sanders achieved his bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 2001 from UT Martin, and 10 years later, he walked across the familiar stage to receive his master of business administration degree.

After attending Hickman County High School and graduating from Waverly Central High School, Sanders joined the Navy, where he served for six years before taking advantage of the GI Bill and deciding to attend UT Martin to pursue a philosophy degree.

Sanders has served 14 years of active duty, and during that time, he spent 39 months in the Middle East. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Basic Course and the Military Intelligence Captains Career Course.

While working on his undergraduate degree, he was involved with UT Martin’s ROTC program.

“I learned that I was not a good leader or manager,” Sanders said of his experience.

“That’s important, trying to understand your weaknesses and trying to work on that.”

As his time with ROTC progressed, Sanders said that the program helped him improve his leadership skills, and he plans to apply his degree in his service with the U.S. Army.

“As military intelligence we do a lot of research. So, the marketing aspect is almost a direct tie. Going out, looking at the environment, looking at competitors is a pretty good parallel,” Sanders said. The strategic planning aspects of business came easily to Sanders, who has a background in tactical operations with the United States Army.

2012 looks to be a big year for Sanders. With his MBA, he will await his next appointment with the Army and has requested a maneuver(tactical) unit in Hawaii in hopes of increasing his number of deployments, which currently stand at 39 months.

Between February and April, Sanders will be promoted to major and in May, he plans to marry U.S. Army officer Capt. Kristina Stokes in Key West, Fla.

“It’s a good vocation,” he said of his career path. “It’s a very professional organization, has an admirable and honorable reputation,” he added. “There’s a very established structure to it and a way to move up the chain. It’s like any corporation. It’s a very good job.”

Until the Army provides Sanders with his orders, he will be working with the UT Martin ROTC program.
UTM senior chosen for leadership class

Abbie Fuqua, a University of Tennessee at Martin senior education major, joined a select group of 14 college students this fall as she was chosen to participate in the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development 2011-12 Leadership Class.

Ms. Fuqua, who plans to become a teacher, was the only UT Martin student selected.

USDA Rural Development announced federal support for the leadership class in November. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant of $25,000 will be matched by $25,000 in contributions from the center to train West Tennessee college students in public service and leadership, ultimately improving the economic health of the communities they call home.

Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development state director, joined state Sen. Roy Herron, president of the Ned McWherter Center, in making the announcement.

"The McWherter Scholars are among West Tennessee's very best students and our future leaders," Herron said. "Every dollar we invest in their education will repay our region multi-fold."

Colleges nominated students for the class, initial interviews were held and a committee made the final selection. The group began meeting monthly in October and will continue through spring semester 2012.

Activities include team-building exercises and a group project that will focus on actions to help rural areas overcome economic challenges.

The group is learning about issues affecting West Tennessee and is meeting leaders from around the region.

"I was very excited to be chosen," said Ms. Fuqua, a Martin native. "This program has been so beneficial. It's been great to meet students from other local colleges."

When she graduates in May, Ms. Fuqua will be licensed to teach kindergarten through sixth grade. She's a member of Chi Omega Sorority and served two years as vice president of Kappa Delta Pi, the education honor society.

She was also a Peer Enabling Program (PEP) leader and a member of the university's Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) staff.

PEP is a three-phase program that assists UT Martin freshmen with the transition to college life and includes SOAR, which provides freshmen a head start on fall semester by offering registration and other orientation activities.

UT Martin students are selected to staff both the PEP and SOAR programs.

Created in 2008, the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development selects a small group of college students each year to participate in a demanding leadership program.

Participants must have a 3.5 grade point average, be a West Tennessee native, attend a college in West Tennessee and have a strong desire for public service.

"It is an honor for my family to be associated with such an outstanding program that develops the future leaders of our state," said Mike McWherter, son of the late former Gov. Ned McWherter. "The center's administration understands the importance of education and training in the continued efforts to improve the lives of Tennesseans and with their help, the McWherter Scholars Program will brighten the future of Tennessee for years to come."