MAKING MEMORIES — University of Tennessee at Martin freshman Julie Phillips of Rives knew she had "been there and done that" when she walked into the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus to help set up for the 22nd annual Santa's Village. Miss Phillips first saw Santa's Village as a kindergartner in 1994, when she attended with classmates as part of a sneak preview offered to area schools. "I remember walking in. It was like a childhood fantasy — toys, huge tree and all lit up. I remember the music," Miss Phillips said. This year, Miss Phillips, the daughter of Dwight Phillips of Rives and the late Marsha Phillips, is among the legion of UT Martin students who are helping to create the fantasyland for others. While she is volunteering as part of a class, she added, "I thought it would be fun to help. It's all about the kids." Santa's Village is set for Thursday and Dec. 8 from 6-9 p.m.; Dec. 9 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dec. 10 from 1-5 p.m. The opening ceremony will be held Thursday at 5:45 p.m. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. Chimes for Charity and the Obion County chapter of the American Red Cross are among the agencies which benefit.
Dr. David Kohl gave the keynote address at the fifth annual MidSouth Agricultural Finance Conference. Kohl said that part of the big picture in agriculture is oil and energy.

Professor emeritus outlines
How to survive
Speaker provides glimpse of future of agriculture at MidSouth Conference

"The farm bill may be postponed depending upon WTO negotiations. Leaders do not want to develop a farm bill that will not conform to WTO negotiations."

Kohl said, "However, whether we have a farm bill or not, emphasis will definitely be in the area of conservation, the environment, food safety and security. "Energy is going to be another emphasis and, of course, we see it with our ethanol and biodiesel plants," he added. "Then product identity is going to be another area because food safety and security is going to be real important."

Kohl also said that part of the big picture in agri-
How to survive

Continued from front page

ture is oil and energy. Eight out of every 810 farmers and ranchers spend is somehow connected to oil and energy. Oil and energy has less influence on personal lives in the general economy, but everybody is asking if ethanol is a good investment.

“We have three ethanol plants coming on board per month now in 2006,” he said. “By 2007, that jumps to nine per month. I really foresee the need for a national energy program with ethanol and biodiesel, but it is kind of like the gold rush. As long as the price of a barrel of oil stays above $40-845 they are going to make money. Should it go down to $20-830 a barrel, only the well managed companies will make money. Then only the well capitalized, well managed companies with working capital will make it through adverse events. Those ethanol and biodiesel plants and alternative energy plants will make it and so I really foresee the possibility that oil prices could eventually go back down. With the slowing of the U.S. and Chinese economies, biodiesel will be competitive with existing energy sources.”

Kohl also discussed land values, adding he doesn’t foresee a crash like the one in the 1980s, primarily because a lot of older people own the farm ground and they also do not carry much debt on that farm ground so they don’t have to sell.

“Also we have other influences, like oil, energy, ethanol and recreational farm ground that has put a shield on our land base,” he said. “The key on land base is interest rates. If interest rates go up even by about 1 percent on long term rates, then you will start seeing land values appreciations start to slow.”

Kohl expects short term interest rates to continue to go up, particularly if core inflation goes up.

The Federal Reserve may continue to raise interest rates, possibly not past 6 percent, they are at 5.25 now,” he said. “However, the decline inflation, housing markets and economic slowdown could actually result in the Fed reducing rates.

Long term interest rates are very dependent on foreign money and as long as foreign money continues to come in you will see flat long term interest rates, but should foreign money suddenly go to some other areas of the world then you will see long term interest rates go up and that is going to impact the balance sheets and the income statements of these agricultural producers.”

Kohl discussed the dynamics of bringing the younger generation back to the farm.

“Its takes an older generation that is willing to accept their new ideas and new methods of farming,” he said. “What often happens is the young generation does not understand where the older generation is coming from. You build up all this wealth and you just don’t want to have a youngster go out and blow it. Then, on the other side, that youngster has to bring the new thoughts and new ideas - the technology - aboard to stay globally competitive, so what I find is it takes a nice mesh of that older generation giving a little “give-and-take” to the younger generation to bring new ideas back into that business.”

When that doesn’t happen, a lot of bickering results and all the time and energy is wasted on bickering. Within five to 10 years, the youngster leaves and the farm is sold.

“The other aspect to bring the younger generation back is to have him or her take one or two internships on farms in California or Colorado or somewhere else to get some new experiences,” Kohl said. “He also should take at least one internship overseas because that youngster, compared to his dad, is going to be operating in an even more global type of environment. If the family is not willing to accept those types of dynamics, then they are probably going to have trouble being able to maintain the farm, because the world is bigger than West Tennessee, Missouri or Kentucky.

“I have a saying: think globally, act locally,” he said. “Having that global perspective is very important.”

He added that not all the children can be treated alike. The child that stays on the farm basically will get a higher percentage of the assets because he is putting his sweat equity into it.

“You can’t divide the farm by thirds or by a fourth, that blows them out of the farm business,” Kohl said. “Transition planning can’t be done in a day or a week, it sometimes takes 18 to 24 months. It is a slow grinding process that may require third party consulting.”

Farm businesses will be operating in an environment of extremes, and those who wish to survive must be prepared for that.

“You have to go from the best year ever to the worst year and make it,” he said. “A good producer positions himself to capture the profits on the up tick and mitigate the risk on the down tick so be prepared for extremes.”
Instructor receives Eagle Award

A University of Tennessee at Martin instructor of history, Brent Cox, recently received the Tennessee Eagle Award for "heroic contributions to Native Americans."

The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

While Cox appreciates the honor, he credits UT Martin for making it possible and for drawing attention to issues facing Native Americans through many efforts such as the annual Civil Rights Conference and other programs that promote diversity.

"I am thankful to be honored, and UT Martin is a big reason why I received the award," said Cox.

"We all know of Brent's devotion to Native American issues and his numerous contributions to the community and to our university," said Dr. David Coffey, chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy and interim dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. "It is simply wonderful that he is being recognized as a champion of his people." Coffey added, "I believe this award also speaks to the broader commitment by members of the department to celebrate and promote diversity, cultural understanding and tolerance."

Cox's involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination. He began as a adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999.

Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose four grandparents have Indian (mixed) lineage. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life. The lifestyle he learned from her at an early age resurfaced when he became an adult, and he continues to practice those teachings today.

"I follow the old ways. The main goal is to help everyone and deny yourself. A lot of people don't realize that's possible," said Cox. He explained the "old ways" as walking softly and not being prideful. Cox said many people wrongly consider those as passive characteristics.

"Those are two things you don't normally see in society today," he said. The way of life also is explained as having a connection to the earth — "an understanding of what we're doing to the earth."

One of Cox's focuses has been the archaeological identification of Native American burial grounds and other sites of importance. And like others involved in civil rights issues, he said, "It's an ongoing thing."

Jazz ensemble to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin jazz ensemble will perform a concert at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert will consist of music by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Charles Mingus and Miles Davis, as well as two Latin charts. The ensemble has 19 members including both music majors and non-majors.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 881-7402.

WELCOME SIGN — Chase Elliott, senior communications major from South Fulton, was part of a class project group that produced a marketing campaign for the local Kiwanis Club last spring. Elliott developed the idea for a civic club sign, not only for the Kiwanis Club, but including the other local civic groups, as well. The result was a sign placed on U.S. 45 that can be seen by southbound traffic. The campaign was planned to eventually produce signs for each entrance to the city.
LOCAL STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT LITTLE INTERNATIONAL SHOWMANSHIP – Cassie Chapel (left), of Greenfield, was the third-place sheep amateur; Kody Owen (center), of Gleason, was the fourth-place swine amateur and Max Carlton (right), of Dresden, was the fourth-place cattle amateur at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattleman’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals.

A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattleman’s Association.
PROFESSORS PITCHING IN FOR PETS — At last year’s open house at A County Pet Resort and Spa, featured entertainers included University of Tennessee at Martin instructor of communications Teresa Collard (left) and chair and associate professor of family and consumer sciences Lisa LeBlue. This year’s open house promises to have all the entertainment and fun that made last year’s event a hit with Weakley County citizens all in the name of celebrating and honoring local pets.

Santa’s Village open this week, UTM

Santa’s Village will celebrate its 22nd year of being a true Santa’s helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 7-8; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 9; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa’s Village include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity.
UTM tells a tale of three cities

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a travel-study program to eastern Canada, March 8-17. Students will visit Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City.

Students will first visit Montreal, a city that offers historic sites, ethnic neighborhoods and modern businesses and shopping districts. Among featured stops are the Jacques Cartier Square, China Town, Little Italy, the Notre Dame Basilica, the downtown underground shopping center and the "Royal Mount," from which students will have a view of the city's skyline.

Students will travel next to Ottawa, where they will visit the Parliament, the Canadian Supreme Court and Canada Foreign Affairs. The National Gallery of Canada, the Rideau Canal and the ByWard outdoor market are among other stops.

Quebec City will take students back to the 17th and 18th centuries with historic sites associated with Cartier, Champlain and the English conquest of Canada. Students will visit the Chateau Frontenac, the Quebec "National Assembly," the Ministry of International Relations and the Old City, which is set on a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

Cost is approximately $1,800 and includes round-trip flight, ground transportation in Canada and hotel room (double occupancy) for nine nights. Cost of meals is not included. In all three cities, students will have the chance to shop for souvenirs and experience authentic cuisine in Canadian, Quebec and ethnic restaurants.

HARD WORK FOR A GOOD CAUSE – Julie Phillips, a University of Tennessee at Martin freshman, knew she had "been there and done that" when she walked into the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex to help set up for the 22nd annual Santa's Village. Phillips first saw Santa's Village as a kindergartner in 1994. She attended with classmates as part of the sneak previews offered to area schools. "I remember walking in. It was like a childhood fantasy – toys, huge tree and all lit up. I remember the music," Phillips said. This year, Phillips, daughter of Dwight Phillips and the late Marsha Phillips of Rives, is among the legion of UT Martin students who are helping to create the fantasyland for others. While she is volunteering as part of a class, she added, "I thought it would be fun to help. It's all about the kids." The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 7-8; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 9, and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m. Dec. 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

For more information and/or an itinerary, call Dr. Paul Crapo, director of the Center for Global Studies and International Education, at 881-1023.
UT Martin draws biofuels experts to conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a conference, "Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture," Jan. 30, in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

The conference is expected to draw an audience of farmers, economic development directors and other business representatives.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Watkins Auditorium lobby, and the conference will begin with a welcome by Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

"Mid-South agriculture will play a vital role in meeting our future national energy needs," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics.

"The 'Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture' conference will be an excellent venue to focus on how agricultural producers, businesses and communities will be impacted by the emerging alternative fuels market."

Several speakers will discuss a variety of topics including "The U.S. Corn Industry Outlook," "Renewable Fuels and their Impacts on the Agriculture Sector and the Nation's Economy," "Distillers Grains and Animal Agriculture," "Quality Issues Related to Biofuels," and "Agriculture's Role in Meeting Our Energy Needs."

Other topics will pertain to the economics of biofuels, alternative fuels and livestock, commercial biofuels and agronomic aspects of biofuels crops.

Speakers include Geoff Cooper from the National Corn Growers Association; Drs. Burt English and Daniel Ugarte from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Drs. Gary Bates, Don Tyler and Larry Steckel from the UT Extension; Diane Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels; and Mick Henderson from Commonwealth Agri-Energy.

The registration fee is $20 and includes conference materials and lunch.

An online registration form for the conference is available at http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/anr/.

For more information, contact Mehlhorn at 731-881-7257.

UTM to host trip to Spain

Dr. Daniel Nappo, interim chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will guide students on a travel-study trip to northern Spain, March 7-19. The trip will include visits to Madrid, Zaragoza and Barcelona.

Madrid, the Spanish capital with nearly 5.5 million people, will offer students the opportunity to visit world-class museums and various historical sites. Some of the featured sites include the Prado Museum, home of the largest Velázquez and Goya public collections in the world; the Reina Sofia Museum, home of Picasso's masterpiece, "Guernica"; the medieval city of Toledo; the Roman aqueduct of Segovia; and a Sunday bullfight in Las Ventas, the legendary "plaza de toros" of Spain.

Students will stay one day and one night in Zaragoza, where they will visit the famous Palace of the Aljaferia. Rounding out the trip in Barcelona, participants will visit the Picasso Museum, stroll down las Ramblas and experience the architecture of Antoni Gaudí, Spain's most celebrated and mysterious architect. Additional Barcelona highlights include a visit to the Montserrat monastery, which is nestled in the mountains and offers students a breathtaking view of the countryside of Catalonia. In all three cities, students will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs and experience Spanish cuisine and culture.

The cost of the trip is $2,500 and includes round-trip air fare from Memphis to Amsterdam to Madrid and from Barcelona to Amsterdam to Memphis; round-trip bus service from Martin to Memphis; 11 nights of hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy); hotel service charges and taxes (VAT); transportation in Spain on trains and chartered buses; admission to all events including the bullfight; daily buffet breakfast; and a farewell dinner in Barcelona.

UT Martin credits in Spanish, strategic management and business policy, and/or business administration international study will be available to qualified participants. For more information or to see an itinerary, contact Nappo at 881-7420 or 881-7428.
UT president to speak at fall commencement

President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. John D. Petersen, will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ceremonies will be held at 11 a.m., Dec. 16, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. Approximately 425 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Petersen became the 23rd president of the University of Tennessee on July 1, 2004. Prior to his appointment as president, he was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut for four years, and he served as dean of the College of Science and professor of chemistry at Wayne State University from 1994-2000. For three years, he was faculty member, head of chemistry and associate dean for research in the College of Sciences at Clemson University. He also served five years as assistant professor of chemistry at Kansas State University.

Dr. John D. Petersen

Petersen received a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a bachelor of science in chemistry from California State.

During his first year with UT, Petersen made organizing his staff a priority, as reflected by the eight, new senior officers he selected. He focused on developing a strategic plan for the university during his second year in office, and his third year at UT began with his statewide campus tour to launch the new strategic plan.

Pi Kappa Alpha holds Christmas for area children

The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha are having a Christmas party for the children of the Martin community and Weakley County area.

This party is being held in conjunction with the Weakley County Chapter of the Reading Railroad at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

The first 200 children under the age of 5 to arrive will receive a toy and a book. A representative from the Reading Railroad will be available to sign up children and provide information on the program.

The Reading Railroad is a program for children from birth to 5 years old. Once they are signed up they will receive one book a month until they reach the age of 5 years old.

Refreshments will be served during the event.

All children in the community are encouraged to come out and celebrate Christmas with the Brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha and the Weakley County Reading Railroad.

For further information contact Rusty Young at (731) 571-3994, Jacob Crowe at (731) 514-7354 or C. W. West at (731) 514-3772.

Dougherty to perform

John Dougherty, University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus, will perform in the Opera Memphis production of “Amahl and the Night Visitors” by Menotti, Dec. 8, 9 and 10, at the Germantown Performing Arts Center in Memphis.

Evening performances on Friday and Saturday will begin at 7 p.m. Matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday will begin at 3 p.m.

For tickets call the GPAC ticket office at (901) 751-7500, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Student is initiated into UTM sorority

Kimi Foley of Martin was initiated into the University of Tennessee at Martin Delta Mu chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Zeta Tau Alpha was established at UT Martin in 1960 and is one of the nine social sororities at the university. Members are actively involved in a wide variety of campus and community events.

Kimi Foley is a freshman child and family studies major and the daughter of Jerry and Rebekah Partin of Martin.
UT MARTIN STUDENTS PRESENT DONATION TO UNITED WAY — Loretta McDonald, of Franklin, and Maggie Hodges, of Monteagle, both public relations majors at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently presented the Weakley County United Way with a $125 donation on behalf of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). The donation was presented at a monthly meeting held by the volunteer board of directors of the Weakley County United Way. Among those present to accept the donation were (front, from left) Shelly Bowers, with Weakley County Municipal Electric System; Susie German, Weakley County chair; Janet Elliot, MTD campaign chair; Loretta McDonald, PRSSA treasurer; and Maggie Hodges, PRSSA events chair; (back, from left) Richard Guthrie, Heartland Fasteners; Frank Gibson, Parker-Hannifin; Betty Baker, We Care Ministries; Danniele Rendell, Hamilton-Ryker; and Steve Vantress, UT Martin United Way representative. Not pictured is Jennifer Woods, United Way of West Tennessee resource development director.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, December 5, 2006

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Petersen and his wife, Carol, are the parents of Melissa, a law student at UT, and Andrew, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut.

Chancellor Nick Dunagan will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the processional marshals will be Dr. John Schommer, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harris, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Dr. Jerald Ogg, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

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

WINS AWARD — Emily Davis of Kenton was the reserve cattle professional at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association.

21ST ANNUAL SANTA’S VILLAGE

Thursday through Sunday at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex and the University of Tennessee Martin. The event features live entertainment, games and rides, and more. Proceeds help distribute food and toys to service agencies in a nine-county area of West Tennessee.

'SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND'

5:45 p.m., today opening ceremony, 6 p.m. today and Friday; 11 a.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m., Sunday at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. Call 587-6784.
Tuesday's News Summary is ready for viewing at:
http://knxln.ips.utk.edu/prnews.nsf

User name - webnews
Password - utnews

Today's Headlines

The Pacer: Fall grads to hear UT president
Associated Press (Knoxnews, WTVF, Forbes): Ex-UT employee accused of stealing change
WVLT: UT Police Officer in Car Accident
WATE-TV: Off-duty UT police officer involved in early morning car crash
Medpage: USPSYCH: 'Katrina Brain' Pervasive After Hurricane, UTHSC Prof. quoted

If you have comments or forget your password or user name, call the University of Tennessee Public Relations Office at 865-974-2225, or e-mail us at utnews@tennessee.edu.

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Taking a winter adventure?  
Try the fun sport of snow skiing

Many people take summer vacations to warm, sandy destinations. A great alternative or addition to that is to plan a winter sport vacation. Winter sport vacations can be extremely rejuvenating during the stressful, yet joyful, time of year.

If you haven’t ever been downhill skiing, it is definitely something that needs to be included on your, ‘things to do before you die’ list. Skiing is a great activity that can be enjoyed by individuals from approximately age 3 and continue for the duration of your lifetime. Additionally, I have observed many people with a variety of physical disabilities, including visual impairment and paraplegia who were much better skiers than I might ever be.

Paoli Peaks ski area in Indiana is a popular winter destination since it is only 5-6 hours away. Paoli is a good place for beginners to go because it isn’t too big or overwhelming. First time skiers will gain the confidence of getting on and off the ski lift as well as other basic knowledge and skills that beginners need. Warning! Once you go to a big resort like Keystone or Vail in Colorado you will find it difficult to appreciate a small resort due to the drastic difference in elevation.

When participating in outdoor winter sports, it is important to dress in layers. Name brand items such as Black Diamond, Mountain Hardware, North Face and Columbia make quality items that are durable and appropriate for outdoor exercise. If you decide to take a winter adventure, it would be beneficial to seek advice from an expert at an outdoor store. It is also a good idea to pick up some power snacks while you are there, because you can keep them in your pocket for a quick afternoon pick me up. It isn’t uncommon to be so overwhelmed with excitement that sometimes you might forget to eat lunch.

Even though you are dressed appropriately, it does not guarantee that your body will not get cold. It is important to pay attention for signs of frostbite, especially in young children. Signs of frostbite may include loss of feeling and sensation in an extremity and a discolored, waxy skin appearance. Severe frostbite could include blisters and blue skin. It is important not to rub skin that has frostbite since it may cause damage to nerve endings; instead, warm the affected area slowly.

If you have never skied before, it is a very good idea to go to ski school. The teachers are very knowledgeable about the sport since they participate in it daily. Ski school sessions range from learning how to put on your skies and advance up in stages according to color; green is beginner, blue is intermediate, and black is advanced. If you advance extremely fast, then you can have double black diamond mogul lessons or fly to the top of an avalanche secured area, jump out of a helicopter and ski down the mountain in two feet of powder. I have yet to do that!

Having the opportunity to spend time in a ‘winter wonderland’ can be addicting since there are so many activities that are available that we are not generally able to participate in in West Tennessee. Some of these activities include sleigh rides, snowmobiling, ice skating, tubing, cross-country skiing, and everybody’s favorite playing in the snow. Snow play can include activities such as building a snow man, creating a fort, or a good old fashioned snowball fight. If you are lucky enough to have a winter vacation remember to dress warm, get lessons and play hard.

Dr. Laura Brown has been an assistant professor of pedagogy at the University of Tennessee at Martin for three years. She received her B.S. from UT Martin, her M.A. from Murray State University, and her doctorate from Union University. She teaches people to be physical education teachers. Pedagogist (I teach people to be physical education teachers). She’s the mother of two children.

Kids work out for St. Jude
Feeding your pet table food can break your heart later.

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Last month’s article dealt with the possible perils of Halloween for our pets. In pondering the months of November and December, I decided to do a three-part series on holidays and our pets. This will be my second installment on that theme, and we will be dealing with common problems that occur at Thanksgiving. Instead of the normal dos and don’ts I write about, I thought I would tell you a story. It goes something like this:

I had been in practice for three or four years and was on call the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Saturday night, I got a call from an elderly couple whose six-year-old house dog had been vomiting most of the day. I met them at the clinic. It was immediately obvious that they were very nice people and loved their pet dearly. I started asking questions as I was examining their dog.

‘Did you have a nice Thanksgiving?’ I asked.

‘We sure did. All of our family came and Momma fixed a wonderful dinner,’ he replied.

‘Did you feed any of your Thanksgiving dinner to the dog?’

‘Well, of course we did. He only eats table scraps. We’ve fed him what we eat all his life. He doesn’t even know what dog food is. We even made him his own plate for Thanksgiving this year.’

After further questioning, I learned that their dog had begun vomiting Friday night, and this had gotten progressively worse. On examining the dog, he was dehydrated, his stomach was tense and sore, and even though he was making his best effort to be friendly and happy, he felt awful. He was a beautiful little daschund mix with wonderful, expressive eyes. I started intravenous fluids, hospitalized him and did blood work. I knew what he had, but I wanted to know how bad off we were. It didn’t take me long to find out.

Even with the fluids, medication to stop the vomiting and diarrhea, and supportive care, he continued to get worse as the hours rolled on. I basically lived at the clinic that weekend. I had not yet lost a dog to pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas most commonly caused by feeding table food), and I wasn’t planning on him being my first. I kept in close contact with the clients. He started vomiting blood and having bloody diarrhea.

I did everything I could. I called the veterinarians that I worked with that had been in practice longer for any advice they might have. I poured over my textbooks to make sure I had done everything I could do. I had. It didn’t matter. He died.

I have no idea how many hundreds of dogs I have treated successfully for gastritis, enteritis, and pancreatitis (all those big words mean stomach or intestinal problems), before or since him, but every Thanksgiving, I remember him. I remember the owners and how happy they were that their beloved pet enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner so much that year. I remember him looking at me with those expressive big brown eyes for help. I remember how devastated they and I were that I couldn’t save him, and every time Lacy begs me for table food, I remember.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you remember too.

Dr. Janet Bailey is a veterinarian and assistant professor of animal science with a B.S. from Freed-Hardeman University and a D.V.M. from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bailey, who is married to Jim 'Crow' Bailey, has three dogs, Lacy, Bedford and Kate. Lacy, the senior citizen, runs the household. Dr. Bailey was formerly in private practice at the Huntington Animal Clinic before moving to UT Martin in January 2005.
Business consultant’s visits announced

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in December at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin, Tenn. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 14, and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 21.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED(7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237. For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.

Entertainment is hallmark of Santa’s Village

Performers in Martin, Tenn., are set to take the Santa’s Village stage, Dec. 7-10, providing 20 hours of continuous entertainment during the 22nd annual event. Among performers are those from throughout West Tennessee, Fulton, Murray, Missouri and Mississippi. They range in age from five-75.

Finalists from the Mid-South Youth Talent Show in Memphis, Tenn., the Tennessee Beta Club Convention in Nashville, Tenn., and overall winners of the Tennessee Soybean Festival and Iris Festival talent shows are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets and saxophones; the Praise Band, performing Christian and Christmas music; the Memory Makers, providing big band era music; and the High Variety vocalists.

This year’s “Santa’s Winter Wonderland” is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 7-8; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 9; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Reba Wade, of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin has volunteered as entertainment coordinator of Santa’s Village for 18 of the 22 years.

“This charity is one of the most important things I do every year,” said Wade. “I feel the entertainment brings cheer to the event and in scheduling the entertainers, I tell them to present cheerful, clean and meaningful music. I have always worked with a good bunch of people, who have been very understanding and cooperate in every way.” She added, “We all get an opportunity to use our talent for the good of others. We love doing it.”

Santa’s Village will feature new scenes, including Santa’s Ice Castle and a winter wonderland carousel. Also featured will be a display erected with 2007 canned foods, a giant Christmas tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8’ snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, cartoon characters and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa’s Village include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Peterson to deliver fall commencement at UTM

President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. John D. Peterson, will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ceremonies will be held at 11 a.m., Dec. 16, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tenn. Approximately 425 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Peterson became the 23rd president of the University of Tennessee on July 1, 2004. Prior to his appointment as president, he was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut for four years, and he served as dean of the College of Science and professor of chemistry at Wayne State University from 1994-2000. For three years, he was faculty member, head of chemistry and associate dean for research in the College of Sciences at Clemson University. He also served five years as assistant professor of chemistry at Kansas State University.

Peterson received a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a bachelor of science in chemistry from California State.

Chancellor Nick Dunagan will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession marshals will be Dr. John Schommer, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harriss, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooton, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Dr. Jerald Ogg, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

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

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, December 6, 2006

UTM students help with Santa’s Village

Channing Taylor, of Martin, a University of Tennessee at Martin freshman, gets ready to build a display of 2007 cans along with several other students as part of the Santa’s Village features this year. Taylor and a host of other UT Martin students are providing helping hands to make sure the winter wonderland is ready for visitors December 7. The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., December 7-8; 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., December 9; and 1-5 p.m., December 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., December 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Local student wins award at Little International Showmanship

Cassie Chapel

Cassie Chapel, of Greenfield, was the third-place sheep amateur at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattleman’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattleman’s Association.

Local student wins award at Little International Showmanship

Kody Owen

Kody Owen, of Gleason, was the fourth-place swine amateur at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattleman’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattleman’s Association.
Class project produces new welcome sign

Chase Elliott, senior communications major from South Fulton, was part of a class project group that produced a marketing campaign for the local Kiwanis Club last spring. Elliott developed the idea for a civic club sign, not only for the Kiwanis Club, but including the other local civic groups, as well. The result was a sign placed on U.S. 45 that can be seen by southbound traffic. The campaign was planned to eventually produce signs for each entrance to the city of Martin.

UT President to speak at Fall Commencement

President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. John D. Petersen, will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ceremonies will be held at 11:00 a.m., December 16, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. Approximately 425 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Petersen became the 23rd president of the University of Tennessee on July 1, 2004. Prior to his appointment as president, he was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut for four years, and he served as dean of the College of Science and professor of chemistry at Wayne State University from 1994-2000. For three years, he was faculty member, head of chemistry and associate dean for research in the College of Sciences at Clemson University. He also served five years as assistant professor of chemistry at Kansas State University.

Petersen received a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from California State.

During his first year with UT, Petersen made organizing his staff a priority, as reflected by the eight, new senior officers he selected. He focused on developing a strategic plan for the university during his second year in office, and his third year at UT began with his statewide campus tour to launch the new strategic plan.

Petersen and his wife, Carol, are the parents of Melissa, a law student at UT, and Andrew, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut.

Chancellor Nick DiGiglio will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, university of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession marshals will be Dr. John Schommer, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harris, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Dr. Jerold Ogg, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

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

UT Martin draws biofuels experts to conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a conference, "Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture," January 30, in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. The conference is expected to draw an audience of farmers, economic development directors and other business representatives. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Watkins Auditorium lobby, and the conference will begin with a welcome by Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

"Mid-South agriculture will play a vital role in meeting our future national energy needs," said Dr. Joey Melhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics. "The 'Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture' conference will be an excellent venue to focus on how agricultural producers, businesses and communities will be impacted by the emerging alternative fuels market."

Several speakers will discuss a variety of topics including "The U.S. Corn Industry Outlook," "Renewable Fuels and their Impacts on the Agriculture Sector and the Nation's Economy," "Distillers Grains and Animal Agriculture," "Quality Issues Related to Biofuels," and "Agriculture's Role in Meeting Our Energy Needs." Other topics will pertain to the economics of biofuels, alternative fuels and livestock, commercial biofuels and agro-based aspects of biofuels crops.

Speakers include Geoff Cooper from the National Corn Growers Association; Drs. Burt English and Daniel Ugarte from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Drs. Gary Bates, Don Tyler and Larry Steckel from the UT Extension; Diane Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels; and Nick Henderson from Commonwealth Agri-Energy.

The registration fee is $20 and includes conference materials and lunch. An online registration form for the conference is available at http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/anr/. For more information, contact Melhorn at 731-881-7257.
Santa’s Village to host 22nd annual event this week

The 22nd annual Santa’s Village, which gets underway this week, is bigger and better than ever. It offers something for everyone, from the young to the young at heart.

This year’s “Santa’s Winter Wonderland” is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 7-8; 9-11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 9; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Santa’s Village will feature new scenes, including Santa’s Ice Castle and a winter wonderland carousel. Also featured will be a display erected with 2007 canned foods, a giant Christmas tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8’ snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, cartoon characters and 54 arts and crafts booths. There will also be a holiday blimp flying over Santa’s Village to add to the festivities.

There will also be live entertainment, providing 20 hours of continuous entertainment during the 22nd annual event, including assorted vocalists performing Christian and Christmas music; Memory Makers, providing big band era music; and the High Variety vocalists. Musicians featured will include youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets and saxophones. There will also be performances by the Praise Band.

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa’s Village include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity.

Martin Parks and Recreation Department Director Dennis Suter stated that during the past six years, Santa’s Village has averaged 12,070 visitors annually. He added that donations have averaged $55,780. Suter also noted that the top five years in attendance and donations have occurred since 2000.

Over the past 21 years, Santa’s Village has collected $662,144

... Continued On Page 2

Carlton wins award at Little International Showmanship

Max Carlton, of Dresden, was the fourth-place cattle amateur at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association.

Max Carlton

... Continued from page 1

worth of food and toys, and 174,969 visits have been made to the community event.

Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,955, a record for the event, and 11,183 people attended, the fifth highest attendance rate. Also, nearly 12,000 pounds of food were collected last year. Approximately 1,900 families were assisted last year, thanks to everyone who makes Santa’s Village a reality. Santa’s Village doesn’t just happen. It is the result of many hours of planning, coordination and hard work. In addition to the work done by the Martin Parks and Recreation Department staff, as well as other volunteers, students in UT Martin’s agriculture and natural sciences classes donate approximately 1,000 hours each year for the setup and removal of Santa’s Village. This year, student athletes will conduct a canned food drive on campus and assist with collections in other areas. “It’s such a team effort. We’re so appreciative of all the folks who make this program possible,” said Suter.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
UT Martin instructor presented Tennessee Eagle Award

A University of Tennessee at Martin instructor of history, Brent Cox, recently received the Tennessee Eagle Award for "heroic contributions to Native Americans."

The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

While Cox appreciates the honor, he credits UT Martin for making it possible and for drawing attention to issues facing Native Americans through many efforts such as the annual Civil Rights Conference and other programs that promote diversity.

"I am thankful to be honored, and UT Martin is a big reason why I received the award," said Cox.

"We all know of Brent's devotion to Native American issues and his numerous contributions to the community and to our university," said Dr. David Coffey, chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy and interim dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. "It is simply wonderful that he is being recognized as a champion of his people." Coffey added, "I believe this award also speaks to the broader commitment by members of the department to celebrate and promote diversity, cultural understanding and tolerance."

Cox's involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination.

He began as a adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999.

Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose four grandparents have Indian (mixed) lineage. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life. The lifestyle he learned from her at an early age resurfaced when he became an adult, and he continues to practice those teachings today.

"I follow the old ways. The main goal is to help everyone and deny yourself. A lot of people don't realize that's possible," said Cox. He explained the "old ways" as walking softly and not being prideful. Cox said many people wrongly consider those as passive characteristics. "Those are two things you don't normally see in society today," he said. The way of life also is explained as having a connection to the earth - "an understanding of what we're doing to the earth."

One of Cox's focuses has been the archaeological identification of Native American burial grounds and other sites of importance. And like others involved in civil rights issues, he said, "It's an ongoing thing."

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UT Martin tells a tale of three cities

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a travel-study program to eastern Canada, March 8-17. Students will visit Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City.

Students will first visit Montreal, a city that offers historic sites, ethnic neighborhoods and modern businesses and shopping districts. Among featured stops are the Jacques Cartier Square, China Town, Little Italy, the Notre Dame Basilica, the downtown underground shopping center and the "Royal Mount," from which students will have a view of the city's skyline.

Students will travel next to Ottawa, where they will visit the Parliament, the Canadian Supreme Court and Canada Foreign Affairs. The National Gallery of Canada, the Rideau Canal and the ByWard outdoor market are among other stops.

Quebec City will take students back to the 17th and 18th centuries with historic sites associated with Cartier, Champlain and the English conquest of Canada. Students will visit the Chateau Frontenac, the Quebec "National Assembly," the Ministry of International Relations and the Old City, which is set on a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

Cost is approximately $1,800 and includes round-trip flight, ground transportation in Canada and hotel room (double occupancy) for nine nights. Cost of meals is not included. In all three cities, students will have the chance to shop for souvenirs and experience authentic cuisine in Canadian, Quebec and ethnic restaurants.

For more information and/or an itinerary, call Dr. Paul Crapo, director of the Center for Global Studies and International Education, at 731-881-1023.
Entertainment is hallmark of Santa’s Village in Martin

Performers are set to take the Santa’s Village stage, December 7-10, providing 20 hours of continuous entertainment during the 22nd annual event. Among performers are those from throughout West Tennessee, Fulton and Murray, Kentucky, Missouri and Mississippi. They range in age from five to 75.

Finalists from the Mid-South Youth Talent Show in Memphis, the Tennessee Beta Club Convention in Nashville and overall winners of the Tennessee Soybean Festival and Iris Festival talent shows are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets and saxophones; Praise Band, performing Christian and Christmas music; Memory Makers, providing big band era music; and the High Variety vocalists.

This year’s “Santa's Winter Wonderland” is slated for 6 to 9 p.m., December 7 and 8; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., December 9; and 1 to 5 p.m., December 10. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., December 7. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Reba Wade of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin has volunteered as entertainment coordinator of Santa’s Village for 18 of the 22 years.

“This charity is one of the most important things I do every year,” said Wade. “I feel the entertainment brings cheer to the event and in scheduling the entertainers, I tell them to present cheerful, clean and meaningful music. I have always worked with a good bunch of people, who have been very understanding and cooperate in every way.” She added, “We all get an opportunity to use our talent for the good of others. We love doing it.”

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Service agencies receiving donations from Santa’s Village include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
UT Martin tells a tale of three cities

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a travel-study program to eastern Canada March 8-17.

Stops will include visits to Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City.

Students will first visit Montreal and will travel next to Ottawa.

Quebec City will take students back to the 17th and 18th centuries with historic sites associated with Cartier, Champlain and the English conquest of Canada. Students will visit the Chateau Frontenac, the Quebec "National Assembly," the Ministry of International Relations and the Old City, which is set on a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

Cost is about $1,800 and includes round-trip flight, ground transportation in Canada and hotel room (double occupancy) for nine nights. Cost of meals is not included. In all three cities, students will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs and experience authentic cuisine.

For more information and/or an itinerary, call Dr. Paul Crapo, director of the Center for Global Studies and International Education, at (731) 881-1023.

Biofuels experts to attend UT Martin conference

A "Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture" conference will be presented Jan. 30 in the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The conference is expected to draw an audience of farmers, economic development directors, and other business representatives.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Watkins Auditorium lobby and the conference will begin with a welcome by Jim Byford, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

"Mid-South agriculture will play a vital role in meeting our future national energy needs," said Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agriculture economics. "The 'Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture' conference will be an excellent venue to focus on how agricultural producers, businesses and communities will be impacted by the emerging alternative fuels market."

UTM to award degrees

MARTIN, Tenn. — Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, will deliver the address at the University of Tennessee at Martin's fall commencement at 11 a.m. Dec. 16 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Approximately 425 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Information: 731-881-7016.

Consultant plans visits

Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant Ron Acree will be available twice in December at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin.

He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday and 1-6 p.m. Dec. 21.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at (731) 587-REED (7333).

The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
McCALL WINS SHOWMANSHIP AWARD:

Adam McCall, of Trimble, was the grand champion cattle and grand champion professional overall at the Seventh Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattleman’s Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattleman’s Association.

UT Martin draws biofuels expert to conference

Agriculture and Applied Sciences. “Mid-South agriculture will play a vital role in meeting our future national energy needs,” said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics. “The ‘Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture’ conference will be an excellent venue to focus on how agricultural producers, businesses and communities will be impacted by the emerging alternative fuels market.”

Several speakers will discuss a variety of topics including “The U.S. Corn Industry Outlook,” “Renewable Fuels and their Impacts on the Agriculture Sector and the Nation’s Economy,” “Distillers Grains and Animal Agriculture,” “Quality Issues Related to Biofuels,” and “Agriculture’s Role in Meeting Our Energy Needs.” Other topics will pertain to the economics of biofuels, alternative fuels and livestock, commercial biofuels and agronomic aspects of biofuels crops.

Speakers include Geoff Cooper from the National Corn Growers Association; Drs. Burt English and Daniel Ugarte from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Drs. Gary Bates, Don Tyler and Larry Steckel from the UT Extension; Diane Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels; and Mick Henderson from Commonwealth Agri-Energy.

The registration fee is $20 and includes conference materials and lunch. A online registration form for the conference is available at http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/anr/. For more information, contact Mehlhorn at 731-881-7257.
Santa’s Village ready for opening today

Santa’s Village has come to be known as the barometer for which the true spirit of Christmas in Weakley County is measured, but long before the masterpiece is seen by the eyes of the public, the event starts from scratch, fashioned by the hands of countless volunteers including University of Tennessee at Martin students.

UT Martin students have been aiding in the building process of Santa’s Village for over 15 of its 22 years. “Dennis (Sutier) goes to each class for Dr. (Tom) Greer, Dr. (Joey) Melhorn and Richard Chadden and asks for the kids to sign up if they’re interested in helping in the construction of Santa’s Village,” Parks and Recreation secretary Charlotte Calderaro said.

“Roberta Peacock sets the theme every year and Dennis puts a staff member on it. The kids are told what to do from there.”

The students, which number between 80 on the low end to 120 on the high end according to Sutier, work from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and the regular staff members start work everyday at 7 a.m.

They will soon witness the fruits of their labor as the 22nd annual Santa’s Village is set to open this afternoon with a special opening ceremony set for 5:45 complete with the Westview Marching Band, Martin Elementary School Student Council, Boy Scout Troop No. 11 and, of course, Santa Claus himself.

Magical Mink’s Magic Show is set for 6:15 and it will be followed by “High Variety” Christmas Special at 7:30 featuring the talent of Tassie Renee, Rose Brawner, Michael Brewer, Lindsey Wade, Mary Katherine Maxey, Matt Newsom, Allie Baker, Linda Ramsey and Zach Rea.

This year’s Santa’s Village promises to offer yet again a wide variety of entertainment for its entire four-day duration courtesy of entertainment coordinator Reba Wade, organizers said. She has lined up 20 hours of vocal and instrumental performances by soloists, duets and groups.

Scheduled entertainment is as follows:

Dec. 8:
• 6 p.m. Rose Brawner and Michael Brewer
• 6:45 p.m. Brian McWherter and Tassie Renee
• 7:15 p.m. Zach Rea
• 7:50 p.m. Allie Baker, Zach Rea, Matt Newsom, Lindsey Wade, Mary Katherine Maxey and Aaronann Presley

Dec. 9:
• 11 a.m. Rachel Alley — piano
• 11:15 a.m. Becky Lee — piano
• 11:30 a.m. Blake Snider — banjo and Katie Snider — piano
• 12 noon Alexia Gomez
• 12:15 p.m. Libby Lowry
• 12:20 p.m. Nealey Wade
• 12:30 p.m. Lauren Lowry
• 12:45 p.m. Amber Vermillion
• 1 p.m. John and Elaine Knight — accordion and Carla Field — violin
• 1:30 p.m. Haley Perkins and Graham Perkins
• 2 p.m. Lindsay Wade
• 2:20 p.m. Mary Katherine Maxey
• 2:40 p.m. Zach Rea
• 3 p.m. Ashley Ary
• 3:20 p.m. Allie Baker
• 3:40 p.m. Matt Newsom
• 4 p.m. "The Memory Makers Band — music from the Big Band era"
• 4:45 p.m. Lindsey Wade

See Santa, Page 4

Choral ensemble to begin tour

The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn., choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse, engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the Southeastern Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan. The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin director of choral activities, and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of woodwind studies. Dr. Mark Simmons is also the choir director at First United Methodist Church in Fulton.

The UT Martin Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Jan. 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, S.C., on Jan. 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C., on Jan. 13. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Biofuels will assist state with energy needs

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a conference, "Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture," Jan. 30, in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tenn. The conference is expected to draw an audience of farmers, economic development directors and other business representatives. Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Watkins Auditorium lobby, and the conference will begin with a welcome by Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

"Mid-South agriculture will play a vital role in meeting our future national energy needs," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics. The "Biofuels: Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture" conference will be an excellent venue to focus on how agricultural producers, businesses and communities will be impacted by the emerging alternative fuels market.

Several speakers will discuss a variety of topics including "The U.S. Corn Industry Outlook," "Renewable Fuels and their Impacts on the Agriculture Sector and the Nation's Economy," "Distillers Grains and Animal Agriculture," "Quality Issues Related to Biofuels," and "Agriculture's Role in Meeting Our Energy Needs." Other topics will pertain to the economics of biofuels, alternative fuels and livestock, commercial biofuels and agronomic aspects of biofuels crops.

Speakers include Geoff Cooper from the National Corn Growers Association; Drs. Burt English and Daniel Ugarte from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Drs. Gary Bates, Don Tyler and Larry Steckel from the UT Extension; Diane Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels; and Mick Henderson from Commonwealth Agri-Energy.

The registration fee is $20 and includes conference materials and lunch. An online registration form for the conference is available at http://www.utm.edu/department/ncas/anr/. For more information, contact Mehlhorn at 731-881-7257.

History instructor receives award

A University of Tennessee at Martin instructor of history, Brent Cox, recently received the Tennessee Eagle Award for "heroic contributions to Native Americans."

The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

While Cox appreciates the honor, he credits UT Martin for making it possible and for drawing attention to issues facing Native Americans through many efforts such as the annual Civil Rights Conference and other programs that promote diversity.

"I am thankful to be honored, and UT Martin is a big reason why I received the award," said Cox.

"We all know of Brent's devotion to Native American issues and his numerous contributions to the community and to our university," said Dr. David Coffey, chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy and interim dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. "It is simply wonderful that he is being recognized as a champion of his people." Coffey added, "I believe this award also speaks to the broader commitment by members of the department to celebrate and promote diversity, cultural understanding and tolerance."

Cox's involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination. He began as an adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999.

Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose four grandparents have Indian (mixed) lineage. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life. The lifestyle he learned from her at an early age resurfaced when he became an adult, and he continues to practice those teachings today.

"I follow the old ways. The main goal is to help everyone and deny yourself. A lot of people don't realize that's possible," said Cox. He explained the "old ways" as walking softly and not being prideful. Cox said many people wrongly consider those as passive characteristics. "Those are two things you don't normally see in society today," he said. The way of life also is explained as having a connection to the earth - "an understanding of what we're doing to the earth."

One of Cox's focuses has been the archaeological identification of Native American burial grounds and other sites of importance. And like others involved in civil rights issues, he said, "It's an ongoing thing."
UTM offers Rhine River travel-study

The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn. has developed a travel-study trip that follows the central valley of the Rhine River. The trip, scheduled for May 13-27, will make stops in Bingen, Mainz, Bensheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg, and offers students the chance to sample local wines.

The trip begins on the eastern side of the river at Rudesheim, Germany, and goes south to Basel, Switzerland. The return trip down the Rhine River puts the group in eastern France following the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Participants will travel through quaint villages with stays in Colmar and Strasbourg. The group will always be immersed in the local culture by staying at local inns, dining on the local region cuisine and sampling local wines.

A river cruise from Boppard to St. Goarshausen will be one of the trip's highlights. Students will be surrounded by medieval castles, dark forests and vineyards. The Central Valley region reigns supreme for wine production. Nearly every town and village that shares the Rhine River is a major wine producer. Since Roman times, grapes and wine have been produced in the central valley.

For additional information and registration, contact Helmut Wenz, professor of geography, at 731-881-7438 or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 731-881-7467.

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STUDENT WINS — Sarah Holt of Union City was the reserve champion sheep professional at the 7th annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.
Santa's Village raises more than $52,000

For the fourth consecutive year, Martin's Santa's Village recorded more than $50,000 in donations of food items and toys — with the value placed at $52,140 this year.

Attendance was the third largest at 12,904.

The 22nd annual event last week and this past weekend at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 worth of food items or toys.

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

Martin Parks and Recreation director Dennis Suiter said early in the event's history he looked forward to Santa's Village topping 10,000 in attendance and $40,000 in donations. In recent years, the event consistently tops $50,000 in donations and 12,000 in attendance.

"I am very excited with this, (See Page 3, Col. 4)

UT Martin ensembles, choir to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse and engaging music as they tour throughout the U.S. Southeast Coastal region.

The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin director of choral activities and choir director at First United Methodist Church in Fulton; and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UT Martin choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Jan. 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, S.C., on Jan. 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C., on Jan. 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. and are free of charge and open to the public.

CONCERT TOUR — The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse, engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the Southeast Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan. The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin director of choral activities, and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UT Martin Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Jan. 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, S.C., on Jan. 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C., on Jan. 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Department of Music at 881-7402.

Santa's... (Continued from Page One)

huge growth," he said. "Everything's looking so good."

Suiter pointed to a main donation that gets Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools is always a welcome contribution. WCMT and visitors donated a total of 31,400 food items to Santa's Village this year.

"There were more toys donated this year," he said. "We pretty well know the food will come in at a good rate each year, but with the number of children the designated service agencies reach, we were very pleased to see the level of toys donated increase."

Suiter said he and his staff noted what seemed like more compliments this year about the appearance and layout of Santa's Village as an overall holiday event.

"Our number one goal is to bring in as many donations as possible, but we also want to provide an event that visitors of all ages and interests will enjoy," he said. "When you hear those comments after 22 years of planning and carrying out Santa's Village, that's one of the best compliments we and the sponsors can receive."
Santa's Village 2006

Participating in the year's Santa's Village were (clockwise) Linda Ramsey, who provided entertainment; Aleea Davis of Dresden feeds the bunnies; Mary Katherine and Allison Maxey, mother, daughter duo, provides singing entertainment and Johnathan Kough and Makyla Gattis pose for a picture.
‘TIS THE SEASON — Parker Livingston, 2, of Dresden (above) stops to take in the Christmas tree display with his mom Destiny, at the 22nd Annual Santa's Village held at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ag Pavilion on Saturday. One-year-old Andrew Marlon White (far left) of Martin is busy checking out the MTD train set-up with his dad Donald Saturday morning at Santa’s Village. Amy Koon of Martin lends a helping hand to a friend by taking the children to participate in the wonderment of Santa’s Village. She is seen holding four-year-old Faith Hooper with Faith’s brother Kaleb at their side. The two youngsters are from Trenton. The event, hosted by Martin Parks and Rec is an effort to collect monetary donations, food and toys for underprivileged families in the Weakley County area. The only admission requested is that of a $5 donation of toys, money or canned goods. This year’s event will help participants with WE CARE Ministries of Martin, Santa’s Helpers of Dresden, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development District, Chimes for Charity and the Obion County Chapter of the American Red Cross.
UTM hosts trip to explore the Rhine

The University of Tennessee at Martin has developed a travel-study trip that follows the central valley of the Rhine River. The trip, scheduled for May 13-27, will make stops in Bingen, Mainz, Bensheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg, and offers students the chance to sample local wines.

The trip begins on the eastern side of the river at Rudesheim, Germany, and goes south to Basel, Switzerland. The return trip down the Rhine River puts the group in eastern France following the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Participants will travel through quaint villages with stays in Colmar and Strasbourg. The group will always be immersed in the local culture by staying at local inns, dining on the local region cuisine and sampling local wines.

A river cruise from Boppard to St. Goshhausen will be one of the trip’s highlights. Students will be surrounded by medieval castles, dark forests and vineyards.

The Central Valley region reigns supreme for wine production. Nearly every town and village that shares the Rhine River is a major wine producer. Since Roman times, grapes and wine have been produced in the Central Valley.

For additional information and registration, contact Helmut Wenz, professor of geography, at 881-7438 or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 881-7467.
TOYLAND — Hwang's Martial Arts Academy gets into the giving spirit by presenting the 22nd Annual Santa's Village with a truckload of new toys. Pictured with the toys are (from left) owner & chief instructor Billy Powell, Santa and Jeff Lybrook.

HE'S THE MAN WITH ALL THE TOYS — Two-year-old Felicity Tuck of Union City gives Santa her wish list for Christmas at the 22nd Annual Santa's Village held at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ag Pavilion. Santa's Village is a yearly event that helps raise money, toys and food for those less fortunate during the holiday season in Weakley County. The event includes Christmas decorations, inflatables, a train display, local talent and a petting zoo.
WLJT-TV/DT, CHANNEL 11 STAFF DONATES TO WE CARE MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS — WLJT-TV/DT, Channel 11 staff members proudly present a cash donation to the We Care Ministries Christmas Stockings project coordinated by Sodexo Dining Services, the Undergraduate Alumni Council, UTM Greek Life and the Martin Kiwanis Club.

As the Christmas holiday approached the staff of WLJT and Ms. Dilday decided to pool their funds and help make Christmas brighter for children served through the We Care Ministries Christmas Stockings project rather than exchange gifts amongst themselves. The Christmas Stocking project has been a UT Martin campus related project for many years — once proudly conducted by the late Mike Munkel.

Mr. Hinman stated “Being involved in the community is important to all of us. Several members of the WLJT staff serve on committees and boards such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Tennessee Soybean Festival and the C.E. Weldon Library. This was another way that all of us, who are so blessed, could help our neighbors this Christmas.”

Pictured (from left) are Monica Shumake, WLJT Director of Finance & Administration; Coco Boone, Sodexo Marketing Coordinator; Chris Munkel, Sodexo General Manager; Dave Hinman, WLJT General Manager; Charley Deal, Treasurer of Martin Kiwanis Club; and, Sandra Dilday, UT Martin Maintenance Center Employee.
Local fraternity gives the gift of reading

CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS — Members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity threw a party for area children last Friday night at the Student Life Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. Area children who came to the party were given refreshments and gifts, but most importantly, were offered the opportunity to sign up for the Reading Railroad program, a local project that seeks to put a book a month into the hands of children from birth to five years of age in Weakley County and across the state.

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

It's an often repeated phrase that "Christmas is for the kids" and, for the past two years, a local fraternity, by throwing a Christmas party all in the name of spreading fun while promoting literacy, is seeking to prove just that.

The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin held a Christmas party this past Thursday night at the Student Life Center. The fraternity had a higher purpose.

The group offered more than Christmas presents, but the gift of reading to area children from birth to five years of age through the Reading Railroad program.

The program, an offshoot of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, delivers a book a month to the mailbox of any child who

See Pikes, Page 4

Pikes

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has signed up to take advantage of its convenience.

Pi Kappa Alpha members C.W. West, Jacob Crowe and Rusty Young were responsible for coming up with the idea last year for the party.

"All of our philanthropic efforts go toward the Reading Railroad," Young said.

"This part also gives us a great chance to meet and greet the children of the community. Children from birth to five years of age have the opportunity to sign up for the Reading Railroad program," he added.

At the party, children were given their choice of toys and provided a buffet of refreshments plus a visit from the jolly old elf himself — Santa.

Each county in the state has a reading program similar to the Reading Railroad.

To find out more information, contact a local library or members of the Pike fraternity.

"The decorations were done by the people from Santa's Village and we certainly appreciate their help," Pi Kappa Alpha president Tyler Hayes said. "This is always a great event and we appreciate everyone's help in making it great."
Santa’s Village celebrates 22nd season

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

The sights, sounds and smells associated with the holiday season were all present at the 22nd annual Santa’s Village, which was held Thursday through Sunday at the McWherter Agricultural Pavilion located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Large numbers of visitors turned out for the four-day event to enjoy the many attractions that the winter wonderland had to offer, which included: amazing Christmas scenery, light holiday entertainment, Santa’s Ice... Continued On Page 2

These youngsters are seen having a conversation with a talking snowman during their visit to Santa’s Village.

Santa’s Village...

...Continued from page 1

Castle, a winter wonderland carousel, horse-drawn wagon rides, miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an eight-foot diameter snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, cartoon characters, a holiday blimp flying over Santa’s Village, a giant Christmas tree, a Christmas display of a giant snowman erected with 2007 canned foods (donated for the needy), photos with Santa, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Local talent provided light entertainment during the event, including assorted vocalists performing Christian and Christmas music; Memory Makers, providing big band era music; and the High Variety vocalists. Musicians featured included youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets and saxophones. There were also performances by the Praise Band.

According to Martin Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Sutter, there were approximately 12,904 visitors at this year’s Santa’s Village, which was the third largest turnout in its history. He also stated that there was approximately $52,140 worth of donated food and toys collected to benefit those less fortunate during this Christmas holiday season, which is the sixth largest amount ever collected at the event. Sutter noted that this is the fourth consecutive year to top the $50,000 mark. Additionally, there were 31,400 food items donated at the event.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission was a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa’s Village include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity.

Over the past 22 years, Santa’s Village has collected $714,284 worth of food and toys, and 187,873 visits have been made to the community event.

Approximately 1,000 families were assisted last year, thanks to everyone who makes Santa’s Village a reality.

Santa’s Village doesn’t just happen. It is the result of many hours of planning, coordination and hard work. In addition to the work done by the Martin Parks and Recreation Department staff, as well as other volunteers, students in UT Martin’s agriculture and natural sciences classes donate approximately 1,000 hours each year for the setup and removal of Santa’s Village.

This year, student athletes conducted a canned food drive on campus and assisted with collections in other areas. “It’s such a team effort. We’re so appreciative of all the folks who make this program possible,” said Sutter.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Santa and his helpers, who are juniors at Westview High School, welcome visitors to this year's Santa's Village. They are pictured with the children of Barbara and Kelly Evans of Martin (L to R): Emily Belote holding baby Nicholas W. Evans, Melissa Adams, Nathan D. Evans, Michael B. Evans (front), Jackson D. Evans, and Magen Pate. (See additional photos on page 11 & 12.)

The train shuttle carries visitors from the parking lot to the entrance of the UT Martin Ag Pavilion which housed Santa's Village.

A small child wonders at the sparkling Christmas display depicting Santa's reindeer on the roof of a house on Christmas Eve.
Visitors to this year's Santa's Village are seen taking in the sights at the annual attraction. The large, bouncy toys were a major source of fun for youngsters who turned out for the event, as were the many other attractions at the winter wonderland.

Vendors hawk their wares at this sports-themed booth.

The MTD Train display provided an awe-inspiring sight, complete with trains meandering through the expertly crafted scenery of towns, forests, towns and other natural wonders.
Large numbers of visitors at the 22nd annual Santa's Village held at the Ned R. McWherter Agriculture Pavilion on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin accompany children waiting to take their turn on one of the giant bouncy toys at the event. Note the giant Christmas tree in the background.

This giant snowman was created through the careful stacking of different colored cans. The donation of non-perishable food items and toys for Santa's Village benefits those less fortunate.
A group of area youngsters peek inside of Santa's Workshop, which was a popular backdrop for visitors to take family photos.

A group of youngster, accompanied by adults, take a walk through the enchanted forest, as they pass by Santa's Train Depot.

Choral ensembles, clarinet choir to tour

The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse, engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the southeastern Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre, and Moses Hogan. The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin director of choral activities, and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UT Martin Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Georgia, on January 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, South Carolina, on January 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on January 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, South Carolina, on January 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, on January 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Robbins named UT Martin Director of Public Safety

Scott Robbins, a University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, has been named UT Martin director of public safety, effective January 2. Robbins, of Martin, was employed by the Martin Police Department for 16 years, most recently as captain, training/operations.

"The search produced a very competitive pool of candidates," said Al Hosten, vice chancellor for finance and administration. "Scott's administrative background with the Martin Police Department prepared him for this position. He is well qualified to lead the university's department of public safety."

"I am extremely excited and honored to have been named director of public safety at UT Martin," said Robbins. "I have worked side by side with UT Martin public safety personnel for 16 years (as part of the Martin Police Department), and I know they are very professional." Robbins received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1992 from UT Martin. He graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1991 and the FBI National Academy 206th Session in 1992. Also, he completed Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development and Computerized Voice Stress Analysis Operator training courses.

He began service with the Martin Police Department as a dispatcher and patrol officer in 1990. He served as community relations officer from 1992-96 and the lieutenant-patrol division from 1996-2002, when he assumed the captain's post. As a captain, he was responsible for compliance and training for all divisions, personnel, grants administration, oversight of daily operations, and was the public relations officer and computerized voice stress analysis operator.

UT Martin hosts trip to explore the Rhine

The University of Tennessee at Martin has developed a travel-study trip that follows the central valley of the Rhine River. The trip, scheduled for May 13-27, will make stops in Bingen, Mainz, Bensheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg, and offers students the chance to sample local wines.

The trip begins on the eastern side of the river at Rudesheim, Germany, and goes south to Basal, Switzerland. The return trip down the Rhine River puts the group in eastern France following the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Participants will travel through quaint villages with stays in Colmar and Strasbourg. The group will always be immersed in the local culture by staying at local inns, dining on the local region cuisine and sampling local wines.

A river cruise from Boppard to St. Goarshausen will be one of the trip's highlights. Students will be surrounded by medieval castles, dark forests and vineyards.

The Central Valley region reigns supreme for wine production. Nearly every town and village that shares the Rhine River is a major win producer. Since Roman times, grapes and wine have been produced in the central valley.

For additional information and registration, contact Helmut Wenz, professor of geography, at 731-881-7438 or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 731-881-7467.

UTM Senior Walk

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently celebrated the accomplishments of its fall graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk, hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse. More than 150 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. Linda Farmer, left, of Dresden, joined classmates at the event. She is pictured with Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.
UT Martin students present donation to United Way

Loretta McDonald and Maggie Hodges, both public relations majors at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently presented the Weakley County United Way with a $125 donation on behalf of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). The donation was presented at a monthly meeting held by the volunteer board of directors of the Weakley County United Way. Among those present to accept the donation were, from left, front row: Shelly Bowers, with Weakley County Municipal Electric System; Susie German, Weakley County chair; Janet Elliot, MTD campaign chair; Loretta McDonald, PRSSA treasurer; and Maggie Hodges, PRSSA events chair; back row: Richard Guthrie, Heartland Fasteners; Frank Gibson, Parker’s Inn; Betty Baker, We Care Ministries; Danyelle Rendón, Hamilton-Bryker; and Steve Vantrease, UT Martin United Way representative. Not pictured is Jennifer Woods, United Way of West Tennessee resource development director.

Instructor honored with Tennessee Eagle Award

A University of Tennessee Martin instructor of history, Brent Cox, received the Tennessee Eagle Award for "heroic contributions to Native Americans." The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

Cox's involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination. He began as an adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999.

Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose four grandparents have Indian (mixed) lineage. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life.

"I follow the old ways. The main goal is to help everyone and deny yourself. A lot of people don't realize that's possible," said Cox. He explained the "old ways" as walking softly and not being prideful. Cox said many people wrongly consider those as passive characteristics.

One of Cox's focuses has been the archaeological identification of Native American burial grounds and other sites of importance.
Robbins named UTM public safety director

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Robbins was employed by the Martin Police Department for 16 years, most recently as captain, training/operations.

“The search produced a very competitive pool of candidates,” Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration, said.

“Scott’s administrative background with the Martin Police Department prepared him for this position. He is well qualified to lead the university’s department of public safety.”

“I am extremely excited and honored to have been named director of public safety at UT,” Robbins said.

Santa’s Village once again breaks record

For the fourth consecutive year, Santa’s Village recorded more than $50,000 in donations of food items and toys with the value placed this year at $52,140. Attendance was the third largest with 12,904 people turning out for the holiday event.

The 22nd annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Those attending brought a donation of $5 worth of food items or toys and even cash.

Martin Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Suiter said early in the event’s history he looked forward to Santa’s Village topping 10,000 in attendance and $40,000 in donations. In recent years, the event consistently tops $50,000 in donations and 12,000 in attendance. “I am very excited with this huge growth,” he said.

“Everything’s looking so good.”

Suiter pointed to a main donation that gets Santa’s Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools is always a welcome contribution. WCMT and visitors donated a total of 31,400 food items to Santa’s Village this year.

“There were more toys donated this year,” he said. “We pretty well know the food will come in at a good rate each year, but with the number of children the designated service agencies reach, we were very pleased to see the level of toys donated increase.”

Suiter said he and his staff noted what seemed like more compliments this year about the appearance and layout of Santa’s Village as an overall holiday event. “Our No.1 goal is to bring in as many donations as possible, but we also want to provide an event that visitors of all ages and interests will enjoy.”

He added, “When you hear those comments after 22 years of planning and carrying out Santa’s Village, that’s one of the best compliments we and the sponsors can receive.

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Robbins

From Page 1

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Robbins received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in 1992 from UT Martin.


Also, he completed Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Development and Computerized Voice Stress Analysis Operator training courses.

He began service with the Martin Police Department as a dispatcher and patrol officer in 1990.

He served as community relations officer from 1992-96 and then lieutenant-patrol division from 1996-2002, when he assumed the captain’s post.

As a captain, he was responsible for compliance and training for all divisions, personnel, grants administration, oversight of daily operations and was the public relations officer and computerized voice stress analysis operator.

Robbins received the department’s Medal of Valor in 2000 and an Outstanding Service Award in 1996.

He is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police, Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association, FBI National Academy Alumni Association, Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Officer’s Association, Martin Police Citizen’s Police Academy Alumni group and is a Leadership Weakley County graduate.

Robbins’ father, Guy Robbins, longtime grounds manager, retired from UT Martin.

“UT Martin has always been a part of my life,” he said.

“I can’t wait to be part of the UT Martin family.”
University of Tennessee at Martin plans two new centers

By RUSSELL INGLE
Staff Writer

Plans by the University of Tennessee at Martin to establish two new off-campus centers in Lauderdale and Decatur counties recently gained the approval of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

“ar the board actions are an endorsement of UT Martin’s efforts to enhance academic standards, expand the reach of educational offerings and to provide on-campus students a first-class recreation facility,” Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor, said.

“We appreciate the board’s support and look forward to implementing these positive new initiatives.”

Following the board’s action, final approval of two off-campus centers now moves to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. UT Martin proposes to establish two off-campus education centers, one in Ripley (Lauderdale County) by fall 2007 and another in Parsons (Decatur County) by fall 2008.

UT Martin established an education center in Selmer (McNairy County) in 2001. Since that time, the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer has experienced significant growth on a yearly basis. The center also is supported by local government in providing facilities and by individuals and businesses, generating considerable development money for the center and its growing programs. This December, twenty students enrolled through the McNairy Center will graduate.

The two new centers will be modified after the McNairy Center in staffing, facilities, offerings, higher education committee guidelines, university development and policies and procedures.

UT Martin to host trip to northern Spain

Dr. Daniel Nappo, interim chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will guide students on a travel-study trip to northern Spain March 7-19.

The trip will include visits to Madrid, Zaragoza and Barcelona.

Madrid, the Spanish capital with nearly 5.5 million people, will offer students the opportunity to visit world-class museums and various historical sites. Some of the featured sites include the Prado Museum, home of the largest Velázquez and Goya public collections in the world; the Reina Sofia Museum, home of Picasso’s masterpiece, “Guernica”; the medieval city of Toledo; the Roman aqueduct of Segovia; and a Sunday bullfight in Las Ventas, the legendary “plaza de toros” of Spain.

Students will stay one day and one night in Zaragoza, where they will visit the famous Palace of the Aljafería. Roundout the trip in Barcelona, participants will visit the Picasso Museum, stroll down las Ramblas and experience the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, Spain’s most celebrated and mysterious architect. Additional Barcelona highlights include a visit to the Montserrat monastery, which is nestled in the mountains and offers students a breathtaking view of the countryside of Catalunya.

In all three cities, students will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs and experience a variety of Spanish cuisine and culture.

The cost of the trip is $2,500 and includes round-trip air fare from Memphis to Amsterdam to Madrid and from Barcelona to Amsterdam to Memphis; round-trip bus service from Martin to Memphis; 11 nights of hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy); hotel service charges and taxes (VAT); transportation in Spain on trains and chartered buses; admission to all events including the bullfight; daily buffet breakfast; and a farewell dinner in Barcelona.

UT Martin credits in Spanish, strategic management and business policy, and/or business administration international study will be available to qualified participants. For more information or to see an itinerary, contact Nappo at (731) 881-7420 or (731) 881-7428.
Trip features central valley of the Rhine

The University of Tennessee at Martin has developed a travel-study trip that follows the central valley of the Rhine River.

The trip, scheduled for May 13-27, 2007, will make stops in Bingen, Mainz, Bensheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg and offers students the chance to sample local wines.

The trip begins on the eastern side of the river at Rudesheim, Germany, and goes south to Basel, Switzerland. The return trip down the Rhine River puts the group in eastern France following the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Participants will travel through quaint villages with stays in Colmar and Strasbourg. The group will always be immersed in the local culture by staying at local inns, dining on the local region cuisine and sampling local wines.

A river cruise from Boppard to St. Goarshausen will be one of the trip's highlights. Students will be surrounded by medieval castles, dark forests and vineyards.

The Central Valley region reigns supreme for wine production. Nearly every town and village that shares the Rhine River is a major wine producer. Since Roman times, grapes and wine have been produced in the central valley.

For additional information and registration, contact Helmut Wenz, professor of geography, at (731) 881-7438 or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at (731) 881-7467.

Participants in a three-year American history program at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently met on campus to continue their work. In the U.S. Department of Education-funded program, they have learned how to integrate technology into teaching American history and social studies. The intensive professional development experience will culminate in a June 18-22 Summer Showcase, which will allow participants to present their technologically driven instructional units to 300 teachers in a five-state area. Teachers interested in attending the showcase, may contact Dr. Bonnie Daniel, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts senior research associate, at 731-881-7097 or bdaniel@utm.edu. Participants are (from left, front row) Karen Rey of Newbern; Tammy Mann of Newbern; Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin professor of history; Jane Vickers of Trezevant; (second row) Kathy Johnson of Newbern; Mollie Vann of Lavinia; Regina Jones of Tiptonville; Rose Alkshawli of Newbern; Jimmy Stone of Jackson; (third row) Jackie Wester of Millan; Darla Hyman of Dyersburg; Chastity Joyce of Ripley; and (fourth row) Blair Chadwick of Martin.
Participants in a three-year American history program at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently met on campus to continue their work. In the U.S. Department of Education-funded program, they have learned how to integrate technology into teaching American history and social studies. The intensive professional development experience will culminate in a June 18-22 Summer Showcase, which will allow participants to present their technologically driven instructional units to 300 teachers in a five-state area. Teachers interested in attending the showcase, may contact Dr. Bonnie Daniel, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts senior research associate, at 731-881-7097 or bdaniel@utm.edu. Participants are (from left, front row) Blair Crenshaw of Dyersburg; Ginger Goldsby of Dyersburg; Kim Hamilton-Dilden of Jackson; Cindy Tatum of Milan; Dr. David Barber, UT Martin assistant professor of history; and (back row) Torrie Heathcott-Dodds of Newbern; Tres Goldsby of Bella; and Patrick Nesbitt of Dresden.

Online courses offer chance to win laptop

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to offer a variety of online courses to the public. To celebrate its one millionth enrollment, UT Martin’s online course provider, Ed2Go, is giving a laptop computer to the one millionth student who enrolls in an online course.

Among popular courses offered by UT Martin are “Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003,” “Introduction to Microsoft Access,” “Creating Web Pages,” “Speed Spanish” and “Accounting Fundamentals.”

UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education offers assistance to any student interested in beginning an online course. New sections of every course in this catalog will begin Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16.

All courses run for six weeks and include a two-week grace period at the end. Courses are project-oriented and include lessons, quizzes, hands-on assignments, discussion areas, supplementary links and more.

Students may complete any of these courses entirely from home or office and at any time of the day or night.

For a complete list of online courses, visit http://www.ed2go.com/utmecce. All courses require Internet access, e-mail, Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some courses may have additional requirements.
TDA, UT Martin partner to improve cattle health with mobile unit

On hand for the unveiling of a mobile, high-tech trailer that will be managed by the University of Tennessee at Martin for the purpose of demonstrating proper cattle handling and health practices were, from left, Rep. Stratton Bone Jr., House Agriculture Committee vice chair; Sen. Jim Tracy, UT Martin Agriculture and Applied Sciences Advisory Council member; Sen. Roy Herron; Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens; and Rep. Gene Davidson, House Agriculture Committee chair.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

State Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens and University of Tennessee at Martin officials announced a new partnership for improving cattle management and health in West Tennessee.

The partnership was marked with the unveiling of a mobile, high-tech trailer that will be managed by the university for the purpose of demonstrating proper cattle handling and health practices. The MobilCattleDoc™ is a 24-foot long, 8-foot tall trailer that can be pulled to virtually any location and is equipped with a hydraulic chute and other equipment for safely and efficiently handling and holding cattle.

"This mobile cattle handling unit will be an important tool for educating and demonstrating proper cattle management and care," said Givens. "By helping producers understand and practice better management techniques, we can help improve the quality, add value and increase the marketability of Tennessee cattle. We're proud to partner with UT Martin to deliver this service to West Tennessee cattle producers."

"The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UT Martin is proud to have the opportunity to partner with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to make this unit available for teaching and demonstrations in our region of the state," said Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Agriculture Department chair.

"The unit will be used in animal health and livestock management classes at UT Martin, and we also are pleased to be able to assist the Tennessee Extension Service in providing timely training to beef producers of our region by delivering and setting the unit up for their educational programs."

The mobile cattle-handling trailer was funded by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture from the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP), which was established in 2005 by Gov. Phil Bredesen and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly. The aim of the TAEP is to help improve animal health and cattle production, and to encourage farm diversification in Tennessee. The $47,000 specially designed...
TDA, UT Martin partner

University of Tennessee President Dr. John Petersen delivered the fall commencement address Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin, placing graduates "squarely at the center of the future" as they received degrees and "set out to make the world a better place."

Petersen noted the exciting changes class members have seen while at UT Martin.

"There has been marked growth in the enrollment. New off-campus centers have opened to educate more Tennesseans. A new student recreation facility is in the works," he said. "And Nick Dunagan, who's been a fixture here, decided he's going to retire. Nick will be hard to replace and the University of Tennessee will miss him."

"Each of you has certainly made your mark here, too, and I'm proud that I can be part of this ceremony to recognize you all for your hard work. Of course, I want to acknowledge all the families and friends, too."

Your contributions made it all possible."

The president tied the students' achievements and future successes to that of the State of Tennessee and other places where they may locate after graduation.

"The value of a college degree is a lifetime investment," Petersen said. "Statistics say that — compared to those with a high school education — you will earn more and be healthier, and that you'll pass along those benefits to your children. You're also more likely to be engaged in your communities and you'll contribute more fully to economic development whether you choose to live in the state or out of the state."

Petersen advised the graduates not to forget the values they learned growing up, to treat all people with dignity and respect and to appreciate the contributions that their co-workers make to their success in the workplace.

He suggested each graduate "keep an open mind, make an informed decision, but follow your heart."

"Family and friends are the sustenance we need to reinvigorate our spirits. Keep connected and engaged in your work and that will be easier to accomplish when you take time to connect with your surroundings," he said.

Finally, Petersen said, "I understand that the road of life is going to have many potholes. How you deal with success will speak to your personality, but how you deal with adversity will speak to your integrity and your set of values."

"As you leave here today, you carry a lot of hopes with you — your own, your family's and even your state's. You are the future. You will make our state and our world a better place to live and work."

UT Martin Chancellor Nick (See Page 6, Col. 2)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and Walters State Community College.

Cattle and calves are the largest generator of farm income in Tennessee, accounting for about $500 million annually in farm cash receipts according to the Tennessee Field Office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

For more information about the high-tech trailer, contact the UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources at 731-881-7260. 

UT...

(Continued from Page One)

Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 44 Tennessee counties and 12 other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas. The class also included students from Canada, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. They join more than 33,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Gary Rogers, UT chief financial officer, and Dr. David Millhorn, UT vice president for research and economic development.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni.

"There are five things to help us be an even better university and, thus, enhance the value of your degree," Dunagan said. "Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And, finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpaying citizens."

"You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree," he added. "Be an advocate for higher education."

 "When you arrived here as freshmen, we said 'get involved.' As you depart, my final words are 'get involved. Make a difference.'"
Biofuel plants will feed demand for corn, soybeans

Area farmers expected to get more for their crops

BY ANDY ASHBY

The advent of biodiesel and ethanol plants in Memphis and West Tennessee could generate a new source of revenue for area farmers.

Last year, the state produced 620,000 acres of corn and 1.18 million acres of soybeans, with the majority of that grown in West Tennessee, according to the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

Those numbers could go up as biodiesel plants’ demand for soybeans and ethanol plants’ demand for corn grows.

In West Tennessee, there has been a sudden growth in biodiesel and ethanol plants.

Milagro Biofuels of Memphis opened in October and can produce 5 million gallons of soy-based biodiesel each year.

Memphis Biofuels opened a biodiesel production facility at 2227 Deadrick on Nov. 30. It will have an initial production capacity of 50 million gallons each year, which could be increased to 100 million gallons.

The Industrial Development Board recently approved a nine-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes incentive for Mean Green Biofuels to build a facility at 2727 Riverport Road. It will have an initial production capacity of 10 million gallons of biodiesel and 5 million gallons of ethanol, methanol and/or biomass-derived synthetic diesel. IDB also approved a 10-year PILOT incentive for Berggruen Tennessee Biofuels LLC to build a $175 million ethanol plant at Rivergate Industrial Port in Memphis, which would produce 186 million gallons of ethanol per year.

“The impact on the farm community as a whole is incredible,” says Diane Miller Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels of Memphis. “They have an entirely new market for their product, and it’s a market that is willing to pay a lot of money for it.”

One obstacle for soybean farmers is the state’s lack of a crusher, which is used to extract the oil from the bean. Distillers use the soybean oil, not the actual bean, to produce biodiesel. The beans are sent out of state to be crushed. To change this, Tennessee appropriated $1 million in the last budget for incentives to draw a crusher to the state. It’s a high priority with the state Department of Agriculture and Gov. Phil Bredesen’s office, according to Mulloy.

“It would be huge,” she says. “We would have the farmers, the crusher and the producers in one area, and a river to distribute product.”

Memphis isn’t the only city getting into the biofuels game. Obion, Tenn., is working to bring a $158 million ethanol plant to West Tennessee. The plant could produce 100 million gallons of ethanol annually.

“When it’s built, it will be an additional market for folks growing corn. For that reason, we’re really supportive of the biodiesel industry,” says Joe Pearson, a director of commodity activities with the Columbia, Tenn.-based Tennessee Farm Bureau.

As demand for corn and soybeans rises, so too would the price. That would make it more desirable to farmers, according to Joey Meilhorn, associate professor of agricultural economics at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

“Farmers make their decision on this year’s prices and the projections for next year,” Meilhorn says. “If there are high corn prices, we’re going to see more.”

The U.S. will produce 4.5 billion gallons of biofuels in 2006, but the USDA projects that will rise to 16 billion gallons in 2016. Meilhorn and other biofuel experts will meet at the University of Tennessee-Martin on Jan. 30 to discuss the future of the industry.

“It’s going to increase rural America by bringing jobs and dollars to the area because you’ll locate plants where the agriculture is,” Meilhorn says.

aashby@bizjournals.com | 259-1732
Age didn’t stop Scates from getting degree

Age might stop some people from pursuing a college degree, but don’t tell that to Sue Scates. The 88-year-old Marion, Ark., resident crossed the stage with the more than 400 graduates during the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Saturday.

“When I began this process, I was not sure I would ever complete it, but here I am and, even at my age, I accomplished it,” said Scates. “I considered not walking in graduation, but my family and co-workers encouraged me to be a part of this ceremony because they were all proud of me. So I decided to walk.”

Scates, who received a bachelor of university studies degree via UT Martin’s New College online degree program, has been employed at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis since 1986, holding several different positions within the Office of Human Resources. Currently, she is responsible for the retirement programs, the Educational Assistance Program (that helped her achieve her goal) and for assisting employees with questions regarding policy and procedures.

After graduating from North Miami (Fla.) High School in 1956, she attended Florida Christian College, Temple Terrace, Fla., for one semester, taking secretarial courses. Like many other women of her generation, post-secondary education was put aside when she married and raised three daughters, Emily Barnes and Ramona Pierce, both of Marion; and Twyla Sherland, Cleveland, Ga. Additional education was also hampered by the distance she lived from the nearest college campus.

Later, when Scates took a job at Hinds Junior College, Raymond, Miss., she became involved in a campus choral group. Through that pursuit, she was encouraged to reenter college and use the education benefits afforded by the state to college employees.

“I began by taking general required courses until I moved to McGehee, Ark., in 1974,” she said. After moving to Memphis, she completed an associate degree in accounting in 1990 at the State Technical Institute, again taking advantage of the educational assistance program as an employee of UT Health Science Center.

“Two things prompted me to pursue a degree. I was talking to a lady who works at a community college in West Memphis about their positions at the college, and she informed me that they never hired anyone at their college without a degree,” she said. “I had been thinking about trying the New College Program, since it was all online ..., but had put it off till this comment was made, and I thought, … I don’t have a degree, but my experience has made me just as smart.”

Another selling point was the fact that UT would pay for her classes up to nine hours per semester.

Scates will not say that it was all easy for her. When she began at New College, she lacked 59 undergraduate hours. “I found out in a couple of my classes that it was more difficult to learn and retain scientific terms, chemicals and biological information.” She added, “Even though it takes a certain determination to remain committed to this type of program, ... the structure of the program being online was very beneficial to me. I never had to drive to campus. I could do my homework, research, etc., from my home at whatever time of day or night I wanted to.”

She added, “I know this was the reason I have completed this degree. It would never have happened any other way.”

In many cases, her challenges in the program were offset by Dawn Sallee, New College staff member, who assisted her in numerous ways. “She was definitely one of the best parts of the program,” Scates said. She also received guidance and encouragement from Dr. Andrew Schopp, UT Martin adjunct instructor; Dr. Tommy Cates, director of online and university studies; Dr. Stan Dunagan, former assistant director of online and university studies; and Beth Edwards, online university studies adviser.

It took Scates three years or nine semesters to complete 50 hours of classes. The remaining nine hours were obtained by taking a class on portfolio development, completing the portfolio and submitting the portfolio for life experience credit. The committee, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, determined she would receive nine hours in communications.

As she prepared to participate in commencement, Scates said several thoughts came to mind and focused on the people who encouraged and assisted her in the process. “One thing that kept me going at one or two points was that my cousin told me how proud he was of me and how he bragged on me to everyone,” she said. “It is amazing to me how sometimes the least little thing that is said seems insignificant to those who are expressing it and yet it creates a lasting memory. I treasure each thought expressed by my family and co-workers that encouraged me to finish this degree program by walking in the graduation ceremony.”

Attending the ceremony were her three daughters, a son-in-law, grandchildren, that special...
Vanderburg and Martin to tour with UT Martin music groups in January

Chad Vanderburg of Paris and Tiffani Martin of Big Sandy are among musicians from the University of Tennessee at Martin who will be touring in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia during January.


The music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan will be featured.

The ensembles are led by Mark Simmons, UTM director of choral activities and Amy Parks Simmons, UTM assistant professor of woodwind studies.

Santa's Village Nets $52,140 in Donations

MARTIN - For the fourth consecutive year, Santa's Village recorded more than $50,000 in donations of food items and toys with the value placed this year at $52,140. Attendance was the third largest at 12,904.

The 22nd annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.F. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Sulter said early in the event's history he looked forward to Santa's Village topping 10,000 in attendance and $40,000 in donations. In recent years, the event consistently tops $50,000 in donations and 12,000 in attendance. "I am very excited with this huge growth," he said. "Everything's looking so good."

Sulter pointed to a main donation that gets Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by the WCMT can caravan that tapers Weakley County schools is always a welcome contribution. WCMT and visitors donated a total of 31,400 food items to Santa's Village this year.

"There were more toys donated this year," he said. "We pretty well know the food will come in at a good rate each year, but with the number of children the designated service agencies reach, we were very pleased to see the level of toys donated increase."

Sulter said he and his staff noted what seemed like more compliments this year about the appearance and layout of Santa's Village as an overall holiday event. "Our number-one goal is to bring in as many donations as possible, but we also want to provide an event that visitors of all ages and interests will enjoy," he added. "When you hear those comments after 22 years of planning and carrying out Santa's Village, that's one of the best compliments we and the sponsors can receive."

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa's Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity.

Senior Walk

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently celebrated the accomplishments of its fall graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk, hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse. More than 150 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. Nick Flippen, left, of McKenzie, joined classmates at the event. He is pictured with Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College and Business and Public Affairs.
Reed Center supported by advisory board's expertise

A number of West Tennessee business leaders have been named to the recently established University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center advisory board.

The REED Center was established in August 2005 by several partners in the region to serve existing and prospective entrepreneurs and support economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee.

Board members include: Sherry Brown, of Hornbeck, vice president, loan officer, First Citizens National Bank, Union City; Jim Bondurant, of Union City, business development, First State Bank, Union City; Joe Exum, of Martin, board of directors, Reelfoot Bank, Union City; Jim Blankenship, of Humboldt, executive director, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Wheatley, Paris, executive director, of Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Goode, Dresden, area director, USDA Rural Development, Union City; Jamie Frakes, of Portageville, Mo., director, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), Dyersburg State Community College; Ron Acree, of Humboldt, small business specialist, TSBDC, Jackson State Community College; and Cheri Childress, of Milan, entrepreneur.

Brown has been employed by First Citizens National Bank for 27 years and serves as board member on several bank committees. She is a member of the Committee Walk of Hope/March of Dimes board and the Obion County Youth Leadership board.

Bondurant is a UT Martin December graduate. He owned and operated Bondurant Taxidermy Studio in Union City for 28 years. He is employed as First State Bank business develop-

Exum graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor of science degree in general business management. Also a distinguished military graduate from the university's Army ROTC program, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the armor branch and served as a tank platoon leader and acting company commander in Vietnam. After his military service, he received a master of arts degree in marketing at the University of Alabama. His work career involved serving as a loan officer with First Federal Savings and Loan Association in West Point, Ga.; divisional sales manager with Marion, Ill., Pepsi Cola; and senior vice president of Reelfoot Bank in Union City.

During his last assignment, he served on the U.S. Army staff at the Pentagon. Blankenship has five years of management in private business and six years as Humboldt Chamber of Commerce executive director. He is a graduate of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Institute and UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. He serves as president of the Jackson Tennessee Technology Center advisory board and participates on the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives board, Humboldt General Hospital advisory board and the Humboldt Rotary Club board. He is married with two children.

Wheatley serves as Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce executive director. She has been in her current position since 2001. Wheatley previously worked at the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce.

She is a graduate of Union University, WestStar Leadership Program, U.S. Chamber Institute and the Northeast Tourism Society’s Marketing College.

Goode is a Crockett County native. He has been employed with the Department of Agriculture for almost 30 years. He is USDA’s Rural Development area director in Union City. He and his wife, Melinda, have lived in Weakley County for the last 23 years. They have two sons, Garner and Crockett.

Frakes serves as the director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), which is located at Dyersburg State Community College. He is responsible for counseling with small business owners and entrepreneurs, developing practical training programs for the small business community and overseeing the management and day-to-day operations of the TSBDC-Dyersburg State service center. Dr. Frakes has 12
years experience in higher education. He is serving in his eighth year as director of the TSBDC-Dyersburg service center. Frakes has prior business experience and is also certified to provide a variety of training programs to businesses and industry.

Frakes earned a doctoral degree in higher and adult education from the University of Memphis in 2005. He holds a master of science degree in public administration from Southeast Missouri State University and a bachelor of arts degree from Arkansas State University.

Acree, an Oklahoma native, is a small business specialist with the TSBDC through Jackson State Community College. Working with the chambers of commerce and economic development centers in 14 West Tennessee counties, Acree provides business counseling assistance to prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners. A former owner of several entrepreneurial enterprises, he also has a long tenure in Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee banking and financial institutions. For three years, he served as director of the School for the Deaf director of student services. Since 1989, she has owned and operated 13 Subway restaurants. Presently, she owns nine, with two in development, throughout West Tennessee. She also owns CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

She was selected to receive National Franchisee of the Year in 2000 from a field of more than 15,000 Subway restaurants. She is vice chair of the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs Advisory Board, and she is a member of the Milan Special School District Career Technical Advisory Board, Foundation Board Tennessee Economic Council for Women, WestStar Board of Trustees and Speakers Bureau Board, Subway Franchise Advertising Board and Franchise Advertising Fund Trust Board.

The center, to be located in downtown Martin following renovation of office space, assists entrepreneurs with one-on-one consultations, interactive training programs and technical resources, encourages and supports new small-business ventures and promotes existing businesses.

The center's primary service area is Weakley, Henry, Carroll, Gibson and Obion counties. The center's secondary service area includes Benton, Crockett, Dyer and Lake counties. The population within a one-hour drive of the center is approximately 225,000.

Many potential small-business owners, while enthusiastic about a business idea, are not prepared to assess the business feasibility, develop a marketing plan or determine and secure working capital. This non-profit partnership will provide needed consultations with volunteer financial-services professionals, trained small-business consultants and successful entrepreneurs.

The additional support provided through computer-based resources, seminars, workshops and ongoing assistance will prepare new entrepreneurs as they transition from a business idea to actual operation. This process includes preparing clients to enter into formal relationships with lenders, accountants, vendors and other stakeholders. Individualized services include assistance in preparing feasibility studies, business plans, financial projections, employee benefit plans and personal financial planning.

Center coordinator is Hollie Holt.

Partners supporting the REED Center include: UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs, the Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise, the Dunagan Chair of Banking and community banks including First Citizens National Bank, First State Bank and Reelfoot Bank. Others are TLM Associates, Inc., Oldham Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education, Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (Jackson and Dyersburg), USDA Rural Development Services, regional businesses, regional Chambers of Commerce, city governments and other public and private organizations to provide innovative and ongoing training and consulting services.

The center currently is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. The phone number is 587-REED (7333). Holt also may be contacted at hholt@utm.edu.

Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Acree has a master's degree in adult education and business administration and a bachelor's degree in management/marketing. He resides in Humboldt with his wife, Cindy. They are members of First Baptist Church, Humboldt. Acree is a member of the Humboldt Rotary Club, American Legion and Masonic Lodge, and he participates on the board of directors of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and serves as secretary to the West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board.

Childress, a resident of Milan, received bachelor's degrees in science and master of science degrees at UT Martin and formerly was the City of Milan Hospital director of social services, Gibson County Special School District teacher and coach from 1972-80 and principal from 1981-84. She also served as West Tennessee

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**STATE GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2006**

**UTM choral ensembles, clarinet choir to tour**

The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse, engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the Southeastern Coastal region of the United States.

Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan.

The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UTM director of choral activities and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UTM assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UTM Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly. The January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 8, First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 9, First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Jan. 10, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, S.C., on Jan. 12 and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C., on Jan. 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public.

UTM students in the performance from this area include:

- Dyersburg — Cori Sutton, Justin Brown and Colt Lemons.
- Halls — Lauren Bivens and Kevin Ward.
- Trenton — Adam Laman, Calyn Evans and Billy Scharmann.

For more information, call the Department of Music at 731-681-7462.
MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse, engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the Southeastern Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan. The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin director of choral activities, and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UT Martin Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on January 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., on January 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on January 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, S.C., on January 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C., on January 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

UT Martin students in the performance include Rosalyn Lake of Millington; Sarah Jenkins of Cordova; Brandly Cochran of Dresden; Chad Vanderburg of Paris; Brittany McGruder of Culleeville; Meagan Bing of Union City; Megan Beam of Gadsden, Ala.; Sara McLenmore of Jackson; Jeannie Pritchett of Pleasant View; Erika Neal of Memphis; Jackie Taylor of Somerville; Cori Sutton of Dyersburg; Erin Smith of Munford; Lauren Bi- dens of Halls; Megan Hannah of Memphis; Latasha Thomas of Humboldt; Cara Thomas of Martin; Asha Moody of Pulaski; and Tony Ison of Jackson.

Other students in the performance are Matt Emerson of Jackson; Sean Campbell of Atoka; Chris Buckner of Ripley; Kevin Ward of Halls; Jeremy Rhoads of Ripley; Ronnie Webb of Hollow Rock; Justin Brown of Dyersburg; Adam Laman of Trenton; Jonathan Byrd of Union City; Will Pattat of Brownsville; Joel Malin of South Fulton; Nathan Johnston of South Fulton; Jared Anderson of Hohenwald; Erin Dismuke of Cordova; Nicole Lamborn of Hendersonville; Calyn Evans of Trenton; Jenny Cooper of Camden; Jennifer Havener of Fort Montgomery, N.Y.; Emily Knight of Bartlett; Tiffany Martin of Big Sandy; Linzie Tedford of Memphis; and Crystal Crockett of Summertown.

Rounding out the concert members are Michael Nelson of Hendersonville; Sarah Bybee of Millington; Jenna Storer of McAnopy, Fla.; Katy Patterson of Ripley; Erin Horton of Murfreesboro; Carl Beauchamp of Huntington; Karen Langdon of Jackson; Sarah Lemons of Brentwood; Ashley Shinn of Parsons, Kan.; Heather Burdette of Martin; Kimberly Kraft of Martin; Amanda Martin of Hillsboro; Lorrie Spencer of Cordova; Alicia Booher of Jackson; Matt Cook of Martin; Colt Lemons of Dyersburg; Chris Taylor of Ripley; Nathan Woods of Union City; Josh Gatlin of Union City; and Billy Scharmann of Trenton.
Attendance at Santa’s Village grows fourth year running

For the fourth consecutive year, Santa’s Village recorded more than $50,000 in donations of food items and toys with the value placed this year at $52,140. Attendance was the third largest at 12,904.

The 22nd annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn. was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

Suiter said early in the event’s history he looked forward to Santa’s Village topping 10,000 in attendance and $40,000 in donations. In recent years, the event consistently tops $50,000 in donations and 12,000 in attendance. “I am very excited with this huge growth,” he said. “Everything’s looking so good.”

“There were more toys donated this year,” he said. “We pretty well know the food will come in at a good rate each year, but with the number of children the designated service agencies reach, we were very pleased to see the level of toys donated increase.

Suiter said he and his staff noted what seemed like more compliments this year about the appearance and layout of Santa’s Village as an overall holiday event. “Our number-one goal is to bring in as many donations as possible, but we also want to provide an event that visitors of all ages and interests will enjoy.”

One millionth UTM student to receive lap-top

The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn. continues to offer a variety of online courses to the public. To celebrate its one millionth enrollment, UT Martin’s online course provider, Ed2Go, is giving a laptop computer to the one millionth student who enrolls in an online course.

Among popular courses offered by UT Martin are “Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003,” “Introduction to Microsoft Access,” “Creating Web Pages,” “Speed Spanish” and “Accounting Fundamentals.” UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education offers assistance to any student interested in beginning an online course. New sections of every course in this catalog will begin Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16.

All courses run for six weeks and include a two-week grace period at the end. Courses are project-oriented and include lessons, quizzes, hands-on assignments, discussion areas, supplementary links and more. Students may complete any of these courses entirely from home or office and at any time of the day or night.

For a complete list of online courses, visit http://www.ed2go.com/utmecece. All courses require Internet access, e-mail, Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some courses may have additional requirements.
Alyson Harms, of Jackson, a University of Tennessee Martin junior, helped put the finishing touches on a 'candy' house at Santa's Village. Harms, an animal science major, was among UT Martin students readying the winter wonderland for visitors earlier this month. Co-sponsors were Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission was a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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RECEIVE AWARDS — Melissa Dixon (left) of Bolivar and Kerry Roman (right) of Union City recently accepted Paul and Martha Meek Awards that were presented at fall commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Jerold Ogg, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, presented the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Ms. Dixon, who received a bachelor of arts degree, served as Panhellenic recruitment chair, was the National Panhellenic Council student conference coordinator for Tennessee in 2005-06, was a Public Relations Student Society of America member and has accepted an internship with CAMPUSPEAK in Colorado in 2007 as conference coordinator. Ms. Roman, who received a bachelor of science degree, served as Panhellenic recruitment chair in 2005, Panhellenic president chair in 2006, Undergraduate Alumni Council member in 2005-06 and on several university search committees.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, December 20, 2006

Carey graduates Cum Laude

Josh Carey, son of J.C. and Angie Carey and husband of Jenni Carey, graduated last Saturday, December 16, Cum Laude in Business Administration from UTM. He has been accepted into the graduate school program at ETSU in hospital and public health administration. Jenni will continue her degree in family and consumer science at ETSU as well.

Josh Carey
UT Martin awarded grants for improving teacher quality

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded two general competition Improving Teacher Quality grants totaling $167,000 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Dr. Cindt Erkal, associate professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics, will direct the activities associated with the Activity-Based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute: Year 5.

The Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic Students (TECHII) Project will be under the direction of Judy Cleek, instructor of International Programs.

Several faculty from the Department of Educational Studies and the Department of Modern Foreign Languages also will play major roles in both of these grants.

The Activity-Based-Year Five offers a series of workshops over a five-day period in the summer of 2007 for middle and junior high school science teachers of West Tennessee. Topics will focus on the middle/junior high curriculum in the areas of physics, astronomy and earth science. Appropriate technology in the classroom and laboratory, as well as a data acquisition system, will be introduced through the activities. A research component will allow participants to experience first hand the identification of heart problems using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on EKGs.

All of the activities will meet the requirements of the newly drafted Tennessee middle school science curriculum framework for physical sciences. Each participant will receive a "teacher kit" with one of every item needed to perform all of the demonstrations and activities of the workshop.

The TECH II Project will serve as an intensive professional development opportunity for 18 K-8 teachers from school systems of Obion County, Union City, Bells City and Crockett County. The project also will help form networks focused on the effective use of technology as an instructional tool to create and enhanced learning opportunities for Hispanic students in the mainstream K-8 classroom.

TECH II is built upon the effectiveness of TECH I to meet the continued need for this type of professional development for rural West Tennessee school systems.

Cleek noted that "with increasing Hispanic enrollments in West Tennessee schools, mainstream teachers' roles are being stretched beyond their preparation and training. When our mainstream teachers become better equipped to meet the needs of the Hispanic students, the result is higher academic achievement, and this translates into a win-win situation for education in Tennessee."

The Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) State Grants represent the largest federal initiative for using professional development to improve teaching and learning.

As a federal program, ITQ operates under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Professional development opportunities offered through the ITQ grants are aligned with the state's curriculum framework objectives. Eligible subject areas under this program include mathematics, science, social studies, English/language arts, foreign languages (including English as a Second Language), or related arts, as well as two special categories: reading and special education.

Santa's Village nets $52,140 in donations

For the fourth consecutive year, Santa's Village recorded more than $50,000 in donations of food items and toys with the value placed this year at $52,140. Attendance was the third largest at 12,904.

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Suits said early in the event's history he looked forward to Santa's Village topping 10,000 in attendance and $40,000 in donations. In recent years, the event consistently topped $50,000 in donations and 12,000 in attendance. "I am very excited with this huge growth," he said. "Everything's looking so good."

Suits pointed to a main donation that gets Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools is always a welcome contribution. WCMT and visitors donated a total of 31,400 food items to Santa's Village this year.

"There were more toys donated this year," he said. "We pretty well know the food will come in at a good rate each year, but with the number of children the designated service agencies reach, we were very pleased to see the level of toys donated increase."

Suits said he and his staff noted what seemed like more compliments this year about the appearance and layout of Santa's Village as an overall holiday event. "Our number-one goal is to bring in as many donations as possible, but we also want to provide an event that visitors of all ages and interests will enjoy."

He added, "When you hear those comments after 22 years of planning and carrying out Santa's Village, that's one of the best compliments we've ever received."

Service agencies receiving donations from Santa's Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity.
From Page 1

your heart." He also urged them to stay connected.

"Family and friends are the sustenance we need to reinvigorate our spirits ... keep connected and engaged in your work, and that will be easier to accomplish when you take time to connect with your surroundings."

Finally, Petersen said, "Understand that the road of life is going to have many potholes. How you deal with success will speak to your personality, but how you deal with adversity will speak to your integrity and your set of values.

"As you leave here today, you carry a lot of hopes with you - your own, your family's and even your state's. You are the future. You will make our state and our world a better place to live and work."

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 44 Tennessee counties and 12 other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

The class also included students from Canada, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. They join more than 33,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni. "There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree," said Dunagan.

"Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpaying citizens.

"You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree," said Dunagan.

"Be an advocate for higher education."

He added, "When you arrived here as freshmen, we said 'get involved.' As you depart, my final words are 'get involved. Make a difference.'"

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Petersen says to strive after graduation

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, delivered the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dec. 16. He placed graduates "squarely at the center of the future" as they received degrees and "set out to make the world a better place."

Petersen noted the exciting changes that class members have seen while at UT Martin. "There has been marked growth in the enrollment; new off-campus centers have opened to educate more Tennesseans. A new student recreation facility is in the works," he said.

"And Nick Dunagan, who's been a fixture here, decided he's going to retire. Nick will be hard to replace, and the University of Tennessee will miss him.

"Each of you has certainly made your mark here, too, and I'm proud that I can be part of this ceremony to recognize you for all your hard work. Of course, I want to acknowledge all the families and friends, too. Your contributions made it all possible."

The president tied the students' achievements and future successes to that of the state of Tennessee and other places where they may locate after graduation.

"The value of a college degree is a lifetime investment," said Petersen.

"Statistics say that compared to those with a high school education - you will earn more and be healthier, and that you'll pass along those benefits to your children. You're also more likely to be engaged in your communities, and you'll contribute more fully to economic development whether you choose to live in the state or out of the state."

Petersen advised the graduates not to forget the values they learned growing up, to treat all people with dignity and respect and appreciate the contributions that their co-workers make to their success in the workplace. He suggested each graduate "keep an open mind, make an informed decision, but follow

Six locals receive degrees at UTM commencement

Six Henry Countians received degrees during the recent fall commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Earning bachelor's degrees were Katherine Addair Staggis, Allison Michelle Holden, David Lynn French, Nicki J. Parris and Megan Danielle Drye, all of Paris.

Heather A. Bastyr of Paris earned a graduate degree.

John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker.
IT LOOKS LIKE CHRISTMAS – The University of Tennessee at Martin's grounds crew constructed a winter wonderland in front of Chancellor Nick Dunagan's residence on campus. With unseasonable temperatures this past week, the display provides a hint of winter during Weakley County's recent balmy weather.

Angel Cotton of Whitehaven, a graduating computer science and information systems major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored at the fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the school's department of computer science and information systems.

Orange Mound resident Brian White, a University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduate, took the Order of the Engineer oath and was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony held prior to the fall commencement exercises.
UT Martin Listed Among America's 100 Best College Buys

Last Update: 12/21/2006 5:14:07 PM

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., in Rome, Ga.

In the listing notification released by Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president, he said that America's 100 Best College Buys “identifies those schools providing the highest quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost.” This is the first time that UT Martin has received recognition in the IRE listing.

“UT Martin is among a very select group of colleges and universities in the nation that offers affordability and quality,” Lindsey said. “This is a rare combination that results only from a continuing effort from a dedicated administration, faculty, staff and student body.”

“We are pleased that UT Martin has earned this recognition,” said Dr. Nick Dungan, UT Martin chancellor. “Our faculty and staff continually find ways to provide a high-quality education to our students at a competitive cost. This listing rewards their efforts and assures students that they’re receiving a great education.”

The listing among America’s 100 Best College Buys is the third major recognition for UT Martin in the 2006-07 academic year. In August, UT Martin continued its top-tier ranking for master’s level public universities in the South in the 2007 edition of America’s Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report. UT Martin tied for 21st place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Also in August, The Princeton Review named UT Martin a “Best Southeastern College” for 2007.
During Ole Miss' Christmas break, other out-of-towners replace students in Oxford.

**BY ERROL CASTENS**
Daily Journal Oxford Bureau

OXFORD - Classrooms are closed, and bars are quieter. Lines are shorter, and dining out no longer means reserving a table.

With most University of Mississippi students gone for their long holiday break, Oxford looks at a lot like Christmas.

But unlike the crowds that swarm over every square inch of Oxford on football weekends or the droves of students who bring both energy and aggravation to townfolk, visitors come at a slower pace, with perhaps a lesser agenda, during one of the quietest times in the city's year.

**Showing friends the town**

Dr. Neil Graves, who teaches English at the University of Tennessee at Martin, brought his friend and fellow faculty member Dr. Amy Yeung to spend the day in Oxford.

"I did a doctorate here in the '70s, so I have a history with the school," Graves said on the balcony at Square Books. "This is coming back home. Amy's a friend and hadn't seen the town."

Phillip Gordon, an Ole Miss graduate instructor and Graves' former student, acted as their tour guide, including a stop at Faulkner's grave. Because it was daytime, the group skipped leaving the traditional midnight offering of a bottle of Jack Daniel's bourbon on the grave.

"Believe me - I have [left it] many times before," Gordon said.

Slade Lewis, floor manager for Square Books, said many of the store's shoppers during the Christmas break visit Oxford on similar day trips.

"We see more out-of-town people who come to Oxford for shopping," he said. "There's a lot of people who come from a 60-mile radius."

Although the Square was full Wednesday afternoon, it wasn't its usual over-full.

"The folks who are here now seem to be happier, because they can find parking," Lewis said.
Petersen Addresses Graduates At U. T. Martin

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Petersen noted the exciting changes that class members have seen while at UT Martin. "There has been marked growth in the enrollment; new off-campus centers have opened to educate more Tennesseans. A new student recreation facility is in the works," he said. "And Nick Dunagan, who's been a fixture here, decided he's going to retire. Nick will be hard to replace, and the University of Tennessee will miss him.

"Each of you has certainly made your mark here, too, and I'm proud that I can be part of this ceremony to recognize you for all your hard work. Of course, I want to acknowledge all the families and friends, too. Your contributions made it all possible."

The president tied the students' achievements and future successes to that of the state of Tennessee and other places where they may locate after graduation.

UT Martin Cadet Commissioned as Second Lieutenant

Jose Romero of Brueton was recently commissioned into the United States Army as second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was a fall graduate of UT Martin with a bachelor of arts degree. Pictured with him are his parents, Jaime and Rosa Romero, Brueton.

UT Martin names director of new Parsons Center

Residents of Decatur County and the surrounding area soon will have the opportunity to earn college credits and degrees at the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center. Jason Rushing, Decatur County native, will serve as the center's first director.

The UT Martin Parsons Center is the fourth UT Martin extended campus location, and construction of the facility is scheduled to be completed by fall 2008. In the interim, UT Martin will begin offering classes in Parsons in January 2007 to build a student base for the center.

"It is indeed an honor to have been selected as the director of the UT Martin Parsons Center. I have always had a strong interest in the field of higher education and feel that the position in Parsons will not only allow me to work with the wonderful faculty, staff and students at UT Martin but also will be an opportunity to provide a service to my community," said Rushing.

Rushing completed a bachelor of science degree in education at UT Martin in May 2004, as well as earning a certification in history and government and taking additional courses in accounting, finance and economics. He earned his master's of business administration from Union University in August.

Prior to his position as the director of the UT Martin Parsons Center, Rushing worked as a loan officer and member service representative at the Leaders Credit Union. His work history also includes the position of UT Martin's chancellor's staff assistant.
UT Martin Awarded Two Improving Teacher Quality Grants Totaling $167,000

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Childress named to business advisory board

A number of West Tennessee business leaders have been named to the recently established University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center advisory board, including one from Milan.

The REED Center was established in August 2005 by several partners in the region to serve existing and prospective entrepreneurs and support economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee.

Board members include: Sherry Brown, of Hornbeak, vice president, loan officer, First Citizens National Bank, Union City; Jim Bondurant, of Union City, business development, First State Bank, Union City; Joe Exum, of Martin, board of directors, Reelfoot Bank, Union City; Jim Blankenship, of Humboldt, executive director, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Wheatley, Paris, executive director, of Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Goode, Dresden, area director, USDA Rural Development, Union City; Jamie Frakes, of Portageville, Mo., director, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), Dyersburg State Community College; Ron Acree, of Humboldt, small business specialist, TSBDC, Jackson State Community College; and Cheri Childress, of Milan, entrepreneur.

Blankenship is a Humboldt native. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with 26 years of active duty. During his last assignment, he served on the U.S. Army staff at the Pentagon. Blankenship has five years of management in private business and six years as Humboldt Chamber of Commerce executive director.

He is a graduate of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Institute and UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. He serves as president of the Jackson Tennessee Technology Center advisory board and participates on the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executive board, Humboldt General Hospital advisory board and the Humboldt Rotary Club board. He is married with two children.

Acree, an Oklahoma native, is a small business specialist with the TSBDC through Jackson State Community College. Working with the chambers of commerce and economic development centers in 14 West Tennessee counties, Acree provides business counseling assistance to prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners. A former owner of several entrepreneurial enterprises, he also has a long tenure in Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee banking and financial institutions.

For three years, he served as director of the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Acree has a master's degree in adult education and business administration and a bachelor's degree in management/marketing. He resides in Humboldt with his wife, Cindy. They are members of First Baptist Church, Humboldt. Acree is a member of the Humboldt Rotary Club, American Legion and Masonic Lodge, and he participates on the board of directors of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and serves as secretary to the West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board.

Childress, a resident of Milan, received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at UT Martin and previously was the City of Milan Hospital director of social services, Gibson County Special School District teacher and coach from 1972-80 and principal from 1981-84. She also served as West Tennessee School for the Deaf director of student services. Since 1989, she has owned and operated 13 Subway restaurants. Presently, she owns nine, with two in development, throughout West Tennessee. She also owns CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

She was selected to receive National Franchisee of the Year in 2000 from a field of more than 13,000 Subway restaurants. She is vice chair of the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs Advisory Board, and she is a member of the Milan Special School District Career Technical Advisory Board, Foundation Board Tennessee Economic Council for Women.
UT Martin
grads named

MARTIN, Tenn. – Twenty-one Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton - Jody Clinton Wamble, Eric Brandon Horn
- Humboldt - Justin Lee Brown, Jayme Denise Crawford, Megan Michelle Dickson, Patrick Wayne Bunch, Jacqueline Juannette Bonds, Tammy Dale Twymon
- Medina - Justin Bret Chapman
- Dyere - Kevin Lee Elliott, Jessica Joy Riffe
- Yorkville - Bryan Poole
- Milan - Candace Morgan Garmany, Ashley Nicole Knight, Scott Alan Beasley, Rachel Denise Jones, Marilyn G. Stewart, Hunter Lynn Jones, Howell S. Holmes Jr, Laura Ann Brown, Victoria Lynn Hughes, David Arthur Orman, Robert Tyler McManus

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyer - Kristina Starr Arnold
- Milan - Donnka Masheriele Bradford
- Bradford - Kelly Dawn Knott
- Yorkville - Jason C. Turner

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

Former Martin man awarded Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force who, while serving with the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded.

Maj. Stephen P. Harris was recently awarded the Purple Heart in a ceremony held at Fort Riley, Kansas. Harris' Purple Heart was received as a result of his vehicle running over a buried land mine while returning from a raid with an Iraqi Special Police Commando battalion May 2005 in Samarra, Iraq; in the heart of the Sunni Triangle.

As the Commander of a Special Police Transition Team, Harris led an Iraqi Special Police Commando battalion on more than 400 raids and traded fire with insurgents on 13 occasions. Of historic proportion is his participation in the planning and execution of both the October 2005 Referendum and December 2005 National Elections, the first ever democratic elections in Iraq, by coordinating the security of 38 polling sites that ensured a safe and secure environment for the Iraqi voters.

"I'm honored," Harris said in reference to receiving the medal. "It speaks highly of the training that we go through before we undertake a mission of this magnitude. The grace of God and this training are the reasons that we survived so many encounters."

"Nobody ever says, 'Gee, I hope I get a Purple Heart,'" Harris said while speaking to the battalion assembly that day. "It just isn't something we strive for. It is a much cherished award," he continued, "presented to those who have made a great sacrifice on behalf of our nation. There's not much more you can ask of a Soldier than to meet the conditions for which the Purple Heart is awarded."

Harris, a native of Martin, began his military career in 1982 when he enlisted in the Army as a 13B (cannon crewman). After completing basic training, 13B Advanced Individual Training and Airborne School, Harris served with the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82d Airborne Division attaining the rank of Sergeant.

After receiving his commission and graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin, Harris again entered active duty and completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Okla. Upon completion of the Basic Course, he was again stationed with the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, NC this time with the 1st Battalion serving as Company Fire Support Officer, Firing Battery Executive Officer and Battalion Intelligence Officer. Following completion of the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course in May 1996, Harris arrived at Fort Riley where he served as the Battalion Maintenance Officer and the Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery for the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3d Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley, Kansas.

From 1999 until 2004, Harris served in various positions training, evaluating and mobilizing Reserve Component Soldiers in both 1st and 5th Armies.

From March 2005 until March 2006, Harris served in Iraq as the Commander for a Special Police Transition Team.

Harris is currently the Operations Officer for the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3d Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Harris is the son of Jackie and the late Paul R. Harris of Martin. He is married to the former Diana Ray of Fulton, Ky, and they have a 12-year old son, Zachary.

See Harris, Page 4
UTM nets grant to improve teacher quality

The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn. has been awarded two general competition Improving Teacher Quality grants totaling $167,000 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Dr. Cahit Erkal, associate professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics, will direct the activities associated with the Activity-Based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute: Year 5. The Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic Students (TECHI) Project will be under the direction of Judy Cleek, instructor, International Programs. Several faculty from the Department of Educational Studies and the Department of Modern Foreign Languages also will play major roles in both of these grants.

The Activity Based - Year Five offers a series of workshops over a five-day period in the summer of 2007 for 20 middle and junior high school science teachers of West Tennessee. Topics will focus on the middle/junior high curriculum in the areas of physics, astronomy and earth science. Appropriate technology in the classroom and laboratory, as well as a data acquisition system, will be introduced through the activities. A research component will allow participants to experience first hand the identification of heart problems using the effective use of technology signal analysis, physics and mathematics on EKGs. All of the activities will meet the requirements of the newly drafted Tennessee middle school science curriculum framework for physical sciences. Each participant will receive a "teacher kit" with one of every item needed to perform all of the demonstrations and activities of the workshop.

The TECH II Project will serve as an intensive professional development opportunity for 18 K-8 teachers from school systems of Bells City, Crockett County, Obion County and Union City. The project also will help form networks focused on as an instructional tool to create new and enhanced learning opportunities for Hispanic students in the mainstream K-8 classroom. TECH II is built upon the effectiveness of TECH I to meet the continued need for this type of professional development for rural West Tennessee school systems. Cleek noted that "with increasing Hispanic enrollments in West Tennessee schools, mainstream teachers' roles are being stretched beyond their preparation and training. When our mainstream teachers become better equipped to meet the needs of the Hispanic students, the result is higher academic achievement, and this translates into a win-win situation for education in Tennessee."

The Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) State Grants represent the largest federal initiative for using professional development to improve teaching and learning. As a federal program, ITQ operates under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Professional development opportunities offered through the ITQ grants are aligned with the state's curriculum framework objectives. Eligible subject areas under this program include mathematics, science, social studies, English/language arts, foreign languages (including English as a Second Language), or related arts, as well as two special categories: reading and special education.

Local UTM students claim undergraduate degrees

Fourteen local Kentucky and Tennessee 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 in Martin, Tenn.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
• South Fulton – Charles Earl Mulcahy, Amy Kathryn Collins, Anthony Michael Reynolds, Rachel Nell Sanders, and Joel Don Malin;
• Fulton – Virginia Lynn Murphy, Reid Vaughn Morgan, Bradley McBride Nanney, and Linda Ruth Hutson;
• Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
  • Hickman – Charyl A. Craddock, and Jerri Ellen Murphy;
  • Fulton – Steven John Spadacino;
  • South Fulton – Samantha Leigh Herman Ownby, and Jennifer Leigh Faulkner.

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.
Dr. Peterson delivers commencement address

Dr. John Peterson, University of Tennessee president, delivered the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn., Dec. 16. He placed graduates “squarely at the center of the future” as they received degrees and “set out to make the world a better place.”

Peterson noted the exciting changes that class members have seen while at UT Martin. “There has been marked growth in the enrollment; new off-campus centers have opened to educate more Tennesseans. A new student recreation facility is in the works,” he said. “And Nick Dunagan, who’s been a fixture here, decided he’s going to retire. Nick will be hard to replace, and the University of Tennessee will miss him.”

“Each of you has certainly made your mark here, too, and I’m proud that I can be part of this ceremony to recognize you for all your hard work. Of course, I want to acknowledge all the families and friends, too. Your contributions made it all possible.”

The president tied the students’ achievements and future successes to that of the state of Tennessee and other places where they may locate after graduation.

“The value of a college degree is a lifetime investment,” said Peterson. “Statistics say that – compared to those with a high school education – you will earn more and be healthier, and that you’ll pass along those benefits to your children. You’re also more likely to be engaged in your communities, and you’ll contribute more fully to economic development whether you choose to live in the state or out of the state.

As you leave here today, you carry a lot of hopes with you – your own, your family’s, and even your state’s. You are the future. You will make our state and our world a better place to live and work.”

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 44 Tennessee counties and 12 other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas. The class also included students from Canada, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. They join more than 33,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Gary Rogers, UT chief financial officer, and Dr. David Millhorn, UT vice president for research and economic development.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni. “There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree,” said Dunagan. “Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpayers citizens.

“You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree,” said Dunagan. “Be an advocate for higher education.” He added, “When you arrived here as freshmen, we said ‘get involved.’ As you depart, my final words are ‘get involved. Make a difference.’

UT-Martin is among America’s best college buys

The University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn., is listed among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., in Rome, Ga.

In the listing notification released by Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president, he said that America’s 100 Best College Buys “identifies those schools providing the highest quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost.” This is the first time that UT Martin has received recognition in the IRE listing.

“UT Martin is among a very select group of colleges and universities in the nation that offers affordability and quality,” Lindsey said. “This is a rare combination that results only from a continuing effort from a dedicated administration, faculty, staff and student body.”

“We are pleased that UT Martin has earned this recognition,” said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. “Our faculty and staff continually find ways to provide a high-quality education to our students at a competitive cost. This listing rewards their efforts and assures students that they’re receiving a great education.”

The listing among America’s 100 Best College Buys is the third major recognition for UT Martin in the 2006-07 academic year. In August, UT Martin continued its top-tier ranking for master’s level public universities in the South in the 2007 edition of America’s Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report. UT Martin tied for 21st place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Also in August, The Princeton Review named UT Martin a “Best Southeastern College” for 2007.
Small business representative to visit Martin

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in January at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin, Tenn. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 11, and 9:30 a.m.-noon, Jan. 18.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-7333. The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.

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UT Martin awarded two Improving Teacher Quality grants totaling $167,000

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded two general competition Improving Teacher Quality grants totaling $167,000 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Dr. Cahit Erkal, associate professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics, will direct the activities associated with the Activity-Based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute: Year 5. The Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic Students (TECHII) Project will be under the direction of Judy Cleek, instructor, International Programs.

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A research component will allow participants to experience first hand the identification of heart problems using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on EKGs. All of the activities will meet the requirements of the newly drafted Tennessee middle school science curriculum framework for physical sciences. Each participant will receive a "teacher kit" with one of every item needed to perform all of the demonstrations and activities of the workshop.

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Dresden man retires following extensive military career

A Dresden man, who served his country in various theaters of operation around the globe during his distinguished military career, can now relax and enjoy the holidays with his family with the knowledge that he has done his best to help protect the freedoms he holds so dear as an American citizen.

Retired Colonel Stephen J. Warrilow, TC, USA and his wife Jane Warrilow of Dresden were honored during his retirement ceremony at the 3rd Transportation Command Element Headquarters in Anniston, Alabama on September 10, 2006.

Steve was recognized at the ceremony for 36 years of military service, spanning a 40-year period, that included active duty during the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm), and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit with a certificate of appreciation from President George W. Bush. Jane was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from General Peter J. Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff for her unfailing support and understanding to help Steve make lasting contributions to the nation.

The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. The Legion of Merit is one of only two United States decorations issued as a neck order (the other being the Medal of Honor).

Steve was also inducted in the Army Transportation Corps Regimental Association’s Ancient Military Order of Saint Christopher for service and contributions to the transportation community from 1983 - 2006.

Steve’s military career began in 1966, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, and served in supply and communications units in Arizona, Colorado, Bermuda, and Florida through 1970.

After his honorable discharge from the USAF Reserves in 1972, he and Jane moved to Dresden and enrolled in undergraduate studies at The University of Tennessee at Martin. Following his graduation with a BS in Business Administration in 1976, he enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the following year was commissioned as an Armor 2nd Lieutenant, and served as a Mortar, Truck, and Tank Platoon Leader, Transportation Officer, Executive Officer, and an Officer Candidate School (OCS) TAC Officer with various Guard units across Tennessee. Between 1986 and 1991 he commanded both the 1175th Quartermaster Company of Pulaski, Tennessee and the 1174th Transportation Company (MTP) of Dresden, Tennessee which deployed and was assigned to 1st Infantry Division “Big Red One” for the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

As a result of the performance of the men and women of Dresden unit during the Gulf War it was recommended for a Meritorious Unit Citation, however, the tour was 45 days short of the award criteria requirements. The unit’s Operations Section coordinated the platoon missions which totaled nearly 900,000 truck miles, while transporting over 13.5 million gallons of various bulk petroleum products, 1.5 million gallons of bulk water, 756 short tons of cargo, and four trailers of Iraqi POW’s over primarily open terrain or improved desert trails. During just one of the 1st ID moves, from FAA Kuwait to FAA Huey in Iraq, the Dresden unit transported 645,000 gallons of petroleum, over 90,000 truck miles in a 36-hour period, with only 46 trucks and tankers.
Transferring to the US Army Reserve in 1991, Steve served in a number of 87th Division Observer/Controller assignments, with readiness evaluation and training support units in Jackson and Camp Shelby, Mississippi and Birmingham, Alabama through 2002, including Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander of the 3/346th Regiment. The battalion was composed of 36 Active (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) officers and 94 noncommissioned officers organized in 10 Observer, Controller, and Trainer (OCT) teams, responsible for providing quality training support and evaluation for over 70 RC units to enhance their overall combat readiness.

Steve transferred to the 3rd Transportation Movement Control Agency (TAMC) in 2002, and deployed in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM from February 2003 through November 2004. Serving as Battle Captain the unit provided oversight of the Reception, Staging and Onward Movement of over 250,000 deploying troops and over 144,000 short tons of equipment and supplies into the Iraq Theater of operations. Later, as Chief, Highway Regulation Division (HRD), during the height of the war in Iraq, the HRD tracked and closed out over 21,000 convoys traveling throughout Kuwait and Iraq. In December 2003 the HRD integrated with Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) Director of Operational Movements and Distribution and C4 Transportation Division and assisted in development, coordination, publishing, and distribution of plans, orders, and concepts of operations (CONOPS) with Multi-National Coalition - Iraq (MNC-I) C4 Transportation Division to maximize efficient employment of available intra-theater common user land transport (CULT) assets, supporting OIF-1/II and II/III force rotations and sustainment of forces in contact.

In his last assignment, from April 2005 through June 2006, as Deputy Commander, 3rd Transportation Command Element (TCE), Deputy Commander, a transportation headquarters in Anniston, Alabama responsible for multiple operations and movement control, and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations for the deployable 43d TRANSCOM (Provisional) he coordinated staff action to execute training, provide guidance and oversight to war-traced transportation units, and provide trained and ready soldiers for enduring transportation missions in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and other operations worldwide.

The impressive list of various awards and decorations presented to Steve over the years include the following:
- Legion of Merit
- Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters
- Army Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters
- Army Achievement Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters
- Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars
- Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
- Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

In his civilian career, Steve has worked for the US Department of Agriculture since 1985, and currently works as a Resident Agent with responsibilities across Tennessee.

Steve and Jane's have two children. Their daughter, Ronda, and her husband, Mike Johnson, live in Medina with their son Steven Michael; while their son, Jamie Warrilow, and his wife, Erin, live in Dresden with their daughter Emma Grace.

Retired Colonel Stephen J. Warrilow (right) of Dresden is seen being inducted into the Army Transportation Corps Regimental Association's Ancient Military Order of Saint Christopher for service and contributions to the transportation community from 1983 - 2006. He has also received many other medals during his long and productive military career.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Forty-one 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:

* Dresden - Brenda Gale Jordan Mason, Amanda Nicole Young, Linda Michelle Farmer, Crystal Leann Oliver, Robert Wayne Browning, Ryan Hunter Saccare;
* Gleason - Janie Odell Dillard, Joshua Eli Carey, Kristi Renee Jarrett;

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:

* Dresden - Wendy Luan Lofton, Lauren Allison Oldham, Patrick Morgan Nesbit;
* Gleason - Trista Aundrea Perritt;
* Martin - Michael Eugene Humphreys, Christina Shalaine Phipps, William Andrew Hart, Siti Aksoz;
* Palmersville - Allen Cochran Barge.

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

Community outreach at UT Martin

Travis Livingston, left, of Murfreesboro, Carrie Joyner, of Gleason, and Justin Martin, of Memphis, members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Athletic Training Society (UTMATS) are pictured with toys purchased as part of a holiday project. Prior to leaving for the holidays, students from UTMATS spent $400 at a local store purchasing toys for We Care Ministries in Martin. The toys were distributed to families who are in need this Christmas season. This is the third year that UTMATS has been able to help We Care with its community outreach program, and the members are proud to be able to make a difference in the lives of others.

Online courses offer students chance to win laptop

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to offer a variety of online courses to the public. To celebrate its one millionth enrollment, UT Martin's online course provider, Ed2Go, is giving a laptop computer to the one millionth student who enrolls in an online course.

Among popular courses offered by UT Martin are “Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003,” “Introduction to Microsoft Access,” “Creating Web Pages,” “Speed Spanish,” and “Accounting Fundamentals.” UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education offers assistance to any student interested in beginning an online course. New sections of every course in this catalog will begin January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16.

All courses run for six weeks and include a two-week grace period at the end. Courses are project-oriented and include lessons, quizzes, hands-on assignments, discussion areas, supplementary links and more. Students may complete any of these courses entirely from home or office and at any time of the day or night.

For a complete list of online courses, visit http://www.ed2go.com/utmecce. All courses require Internet access, e-mail, Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some courses may have additional requirements.

Business consultant’s January visits to REED Center announced

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in January at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. January 11, and 9:30 a.m.-noon, January 18.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University Street in Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Piercey takes oath

University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to spring commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Among those taking the oath and receiving a ring and certificate was Andrew Piercey of Trenton. Making the presentation were Dr. Richard Helgeson (left), Department of Engineering chair, and Dr. Doug Sterrett, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean.

Business Consultant’s January Visits To Reed Center Announced

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For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
ECCE offers variety of online classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin, Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE), in partnership with Gatlin Education Services (GES), offers online open enrollment programs designed to provide the skills necessary to acquire professional-level positions for many in-demand occupations.

The programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field, who work to provide class participants with an effective Web-based learning experience. Instructors/mentors are actively involved in participants’ online learning experience. They respond to any questions or concerns and encourage and motivate students to succeed.

Each program includes a set of lessons and evaluations; grades are a combination of the instructor/mentor’s evaluation of a student’s work and computer-graded tests.

Certificate programs are available in the healthcare field: dental assistant, medical coding, pharmacy technician, veterinary assistant and others. In the field of business, courses include: certified bookkeeper, certified financial planner, certified global business professionals, paralegal, lean mastery, Six Sigma Blackbelt, Six Sigma Greenbelt and more. Other fields include the following: construction-automotive technology, Internet, design and technical programs, networking and CompTIA certification programs, Microsoft certification training programs and video game design and development programs.

To view a complete list of ECCE online, non-degree programs and program descriptions, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php or call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

Online courses offer students chance to win a laptop; new classes begin Jan. 17

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to offer a variety of online courses to the public. To celebrate its one millionth enrollment, UT Martin’s online course provider, Ed2Go, is giving a laptop computer to the one millionth student who enrolls in an online course.

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For a complete list of online courses, visit http://www.ed2go.com/utmcece. All courses require Internet access, e-mail, Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some courses may have additional requirements.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bethel Springs – Jamie Lee Lowrance;
- Stantonville – Logan Clay Watson;
- Adamsville – Tiffany Mollena Cima, Janet R. Hughes, Meredith R. Smith;
- Finger – Summer Renee Plunk.

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Adamsville - Roxanne Rose Gray, Deborah Ross Harbin;
- Selmer - Gloria D. Brush;
- Bethel Springs – Carole Price Kennedy.

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.
Graduates and administrators alike celebrated the recent K-6 Education graduation. Present for the celebration were (left to right) Tiffany Cima, Brittany Howard, Scarlett McLin, Summer Plunk, Amanda White, Charlene Foster, Janet Hughes, Ashley Horton, Sara Forsyth, Joyce Swan, UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer Education Instructor and Advisor, Dr. Mary L. Hall, Dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at UTM and Dr. Thomas Rakes (back row), Provost and Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs.

By RUSSELL INGLE  
Staff Writer

UT Martin's McNairy Campus is celebrating a first for the local center. In the fall of 2004, the local campus began offering undergraduate and graduate education classes to those interested in a career in the education industry.

The new program was aimed at teachers that wanted to advance their studies as well as those who had a desire to move into the education field. Nine students completed the program and will be able to be licensed as educators in the state of Tennessee.

The local campus celebrated the accomplishment by hosting a reception for the students last Thursday night. UT Martin/McNairy Campus Director, Deidra Beene was very excited for the students and their future prospects.

"This was so special," said Beene. "These students have been student teaching in area schools this fall and will hopefully find jobs in local school systems."

Beene credited the success of the program to Joyce Swan, Student Advisor and Education Program Director at the center. Swan joined the local facility August 1, 2004, at the outset of the program. Swan, who had previously been an instructor at UT Martin's main campus in Martin, was excited to bring the program to McNairy County.

"Myself and others talked to various administrators about bringing this program to Selmer," said Swan. "By being a satellite facility, we have the ability to serve not only McNairy County but surrounding counties and towns as well.

In addition to the excitement generated by the recent graduation of the K-6 education program students and eight BUS graduates, the local campus continues to experience growth. According to Beene, the center has grown to more than 220 students attending both day and night classes. The center offers two full UT 4-year degrees; Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) and the education K-6 degree.

"We have served students ranging from 16 years of age to 75 years of age," said Beene. "There is no need for students to drive long distances to obtain their four-year degree."

Those interested in any of UT Martin's programs should contact the local facility by calling 645-1636 or visit them at 1269 Tennessee Avenue in Spring classes begin on Tuesday, January 16th, 2007.

See UT MARTIN, Page 2A
Local students among grads

Twenty-five Obion County students are among those who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker for the commencement. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

Among the students receiving graduate degrees were:
- South Fulton — Jennifer Leigh Faulkner and Samantha Leigh Herman Owby;
- Union City — Marjorie Puanani Nicks, Emily Denise Gidcumb and Elizabeth Anne Jenkins.

Among those receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Hornbeak — Demanda Gail Whitmore;
- Kenton — Joseph Thomas Williams and Laura Jill Ashbride;
- South Fulton — Charles Earl Mulcahy, Amy Kathryn Collins, Anthony Michael Reynolds, Rachel Neil Sanders and Joel Don Malin;
- Troy — Corey Lane Jones and Hope Anne Roberts;
- Union City — Heather Michelle White, Jason Ray Page, Jason Benjamin Vissering, Tina Marie Adams, Kerry Amy Roman, Ashley Rai Roberts, Joshua M. Mathenia, Lindsay Jo Wallace, Brandon Heath Latta and Javarris JaDawn Shamon.

Among the Kentucky students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Fulton — Steven John Spadafino;
- Hickman — Charyl A. Craddock and Jerri Ellen Murphy.

The Kentucky students receiving undergraduate degrees included:
- Fulton — Virginia Lynn Murphy, Reid Vaughn Morgan, Bradley McBride Nanney and Linda Ruth Hutson.

Jennifer Leigh Faulkner of South Fulton recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a master of science degree in educational guidance and counseling.

She received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from UT-Martin in 1999 and is currently teaching language arts at Lake Road Elementary School near Union City.

Courses offer students chance to win laptop

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to offer a variety of online courses to the public. To celebrate its one millionth enrollment, UT Martin's online course provider, Ed2Go, is giving a laptop computer to the one millionth student who enrolls in an online course.

Among popular courses offered by UT Martin are Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003, Introduction to Microsoft Access, Creating Web Pages, Speed Spanish and Accounting Fundamentals. UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education offers assistance to any student interested in beginning an online course. New sections of every course in this catalog will begin Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16.

All courses run for six weeks and include a two-week grace period at the end. Courses are project-oriented and include lessons, quizzes, hands-on assignments, discussion areas, supplementary links and more. Students may complete any of these courses entirely from home or office and at any time of the day or night.

For a complete list of online courses, visit http://www.ed2go.com/utmecce. All courses require Internet access, e-mail, Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some courses may have additional requirements.

Consultant to visit REED Center

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in January at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 11, and 9:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 18.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping.

Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED(7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Sue Scates, 68, of Marion, recently graduated from the University of Tennessee, Martin. Scates, who works at the UT Health and Science Center is pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan.

Degree in hand at age 68
Marion resident collects diploma from UT Martin

By RITA MITCHELL
Special to My Life

Age might stop some people from pursuing a college degree, but don't tell that to Sue Scates.

The 69-year-old Marion, Ark., resident crossed the stage with the more than 400 graduates during the University of Tennessee at Martin commencement Dec. 16.

"When I began this process, I was not sure I would ever complete it, but here I am and, even at my age, I accomplished it," said Scates. "I considered not walking in graduation, but my family and co-workers encouraged me to be a part of this ceremony because they were all proud of me. So I decided to walk."

Scates, who received a bachelor of university studies degree via UT Martin’s New College online degree program, has been employed at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis since 1986, holding several different positions within the Office of Human Resources.

Currently, she is responsible for the retirement programs, the educational assistance program (that helped her achieve her goal) and for assisting employees with questions regarding policy and procedures.

After graduating from North Miami (Fla.) High School in 1956, she attended Florida Christian College, Temple Terrace, Fla., for one semester, taking secretarial courses.

Like so many other women of her generation, post-secondary education was put aside when she married and raised three daughters, Emily Barnes and Ramona Pierce, both of Marion, and Twyla Sherland of Cleveland, Ga. Additional education also was hampered by the distance she lived from the nearest college campus.

Later, when Scates took a job at Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Miss., she became involved in a campus choral group. Through that pursuit, she was encouraged to re-enter college and use the education benefits afforded by the state to college employees.

"I began by taking general required courses until I moved to McGehee, Ark., in 1974." Scates said. After moving to Memphis, she completed an associate degree in accounting in 1990 at the State Technical Institute, again taking advantage of the educational assistance program as an employee of UT Health Science Center.

"Two things prompted me to pursue a degree. I was talking to a lady who works at a community college in West Memphis about their positions at the college, and she informed me that they never hired anyone at their college without a degree," she said. "I had been thinking about trying the New College program, since it was all online ... but had put it off till this comment was made, and I thought, '... I don't have a degree, but my experience has made me just as smart.'"

Another selling point was the fact that UT would pay for her classes up to nine hours per semester.

Scates will not say that it was all easy for her. When she began at New College, she lacked 59 undergraduate hours.

"I found out in a couple of my classes that it was more difficult to learn and retain scientific terms, chemicals and biological information," Scates added. "Even though it takes a certain determination to remain committed to this type of program ... the structure of the program being online was very beneficial to me. I never had to drive to campus. I could do my homework, research, etc., from my home at whatever time of day or night I wanted to. I know this was the reason I have completed this degree. It would never have happened any other way."

In many cases, her challenges in the program were offset by Dawn Sallee, New College staff member, who assisted her in numerous ways.

"She was definitely one of the best parts of the program," Scates said speaking of Sallee. She also received guidance and encouragement from Dr. Andrew Schopp, UT Martin adjunct instructor; Dr. Tommy Cates, director of online and university studies; Dr. Stan Dunagan, former assistant director of online and university studies; and Beth Edwards, online university studies adviser.

It took Scates three years or nine semesters to complete 50 hours of classes.

As she prepared to participate in commencement, Scates said several thoughts came to mind and focused on the people who encouraged and assisted her in the process.

"One thing that kept me going at one or two points was that my cousin told me how proud he was of me and how he bragged on me to everyone," she said. "It is amazing to me how sometimes the least little thing that is said seems insignificant to those who are expressing it and yet it creates a lasting memory. I treasure each thought expressed by my family and co-workers that encouraged me to finish this degree program by walking in the graduation ceremony."

Attending the ceremony were her three daughters, a son-in-law, grandchildren, that special cousin, Dwight Lanham, and others.

"I wish my mom and dad could have been present, but they are no longer with us. They adopted me when I was nine months old and raised me in a wonderful Christian home. Dad always told me that I could do anything that I set my mind to and was willing to work for. In this instance, he was right."

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

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SUE SCATES
recent college graduate