Larry Armstrong Honored as 2008 TWRA Wildlife Biologist of the Year

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NASHVILLE -- Larry Armstrong has been honored by being named the 2008 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Armstrong was presented the award at the November meeting of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission in Nashville at the TWRA Region II Ray Bell Office Building.

Armstrong, a resident of Troy, serves TWRA as a Region I Wildlife Manager. He plays a lead role in the management of more than 22,000 acres of TWRA's public lands in northwest Tennessee, with an emphasis on wetlands habitat and waterfowl management, along with the great diversity of other species that rely on this important habitat type.

A 16-year employee of TWRA, Armstrong served nine years as a wildlife officer and the last seven as a wildlife manager. He currently operates three wildlife management areas and three wildlife refuges in the area.

Armstrong was referred to at his award presentation as "a professional whose tireless efforts continue to improve the habitat for West Tennessee's wildlife species," by Gary Myers, TWRA Executive Director.

Among his accomplishments, Armstrong developed a sandhill crane habitat that has attracted and holds several thousand migrating cranes annually. This development is unique in this region of Tennessee. He has also helped create habitat for migrating spring and fall shorebirds.

In addition, he has combined moist-soil management techniques with agricultural rice growing practices to create a diverse waterfowl habitat that produces high seed yield annually. He has helped provide more than 16,000 waterfowl opportunities annually in a quality managed bottomland hardwood area. Armstrong has also maximized the number of roads and walking trails available to the public to allow the opportunity to observe and photograph wildlife.

The Area 12 Wildlife Officer of the Year in 1996, he was a member of the TWRA Scuba team and TWRA Swift Water Recovery team from 1995-99. The team worked law enforcement and river rescue during the 1996 Olympic Games on the Ocoee River in the white water events.

Armstrong conducts educational programs throughout the year to various student groups on a variety topics, ranging from elementary to college level classes. He has worked with the University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society Chapter and is involved with research on deer movement at Bean Switch Refuge. He also was involved in the TWRA Eastern Wild Turkey Restoration Project.

Armstrong is a graduate of Obion Country Central High School and UT Martin.

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(Photo above)

Obion County resident Larry Armstrong (right) receives the award for being named 2008 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Biologist of the Year from Gary Myers, TWRA Executive Director. Armstrong is a TWRA's Region I Wildlife Manager and plays a lead role in the management of more than 22,000 acres of TWRA's public lands in the area.
**Business consultant to be available**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting. The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 11.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at (731) 587-REED (7333).

The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St. in Martin.

For more information about services offered by the REED Center, visit the Web site www.utm.edu/reed.

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**Concealed weapons permit class planned for Jan. 17**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a concealed weapons permit class from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 17. The goal of this course is to provide education in the fundamentals of handgun safety. Students will be taught how to use, clean and store handguns. State certified handgun instructor, John Ayer, will also cover legal liabilities, firing range participation, course review and testing.

The handgun safety course will consist of two separate but interrelated sessions of classroom and firing range instruction in a one-day, eight-hour course. Upon course completion, each student will take a written examination and handgun firing qualification test. A minimum of 70 percent must be achieved on each section to successfully pass the concealed weapons course. After successful completion, students will be able to apply for a concealed weapons permit from the State of Tennessee.

The registration fee is $95. Each student should take a pen, pencil and paper to class, as well as a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses and hearing protection for firing range instruction. Students should also provide a pistol-cleaning kit in class. No one under the age of 21 is allowed to enroll in this course.

To register, contact ECCE at 881-7082 or go online to www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

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**Santa's Village receives technical help from local MTD Products employee**

Don Box, who has been employed with MTD Products, Inc., in Martin for 23 years, will help with Santa’s Village this year as he has done for the past 16 years. Box lends his expertise to the annual event helping to set up the MTD model train display.

“It’s about 140 hours of hard work, making sure it all goes together and hoping it runs after moving it,” said Box.

“It brings the community closer together,” Box said of Santa’s Village. It allows people to help someone that they may or may not know with donations of canned goods and toys.” He added that the event also brings visitors to Martin, which is good for area businesses.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the 24th annual Santa’s Village will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths.

Twenty hours of continuous entertainment highlighting regional talent and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“Knowing that I am helping the families that need help at a very special time of year has benefited me. It has allowed me to meet and know some very good people that otherwise I would not have known,” said Box. “The looks I see on the kids’ faces, when they are looking at the train display, or just running around Santa’s Village is worth the work. The compliments that I have received about the hard work I have put into the display are appreciated. I have benefited in special ways.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Christmas around the world planned for Santa's Village

Santa's Village will celebrate its 24th year of operation, Dec. 11-14, and continue to provide donations of food and toys to agencies that distribute the proceeds to area residents who need them. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sound, and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the event will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm, will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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“This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in surrounding areas,” said Brian Moore, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director, which coordinates the event each year. In the previous 23 years, Santa’s Village has collected $774,969 worth of food and toys and attracted 200,710 visitors to the community event.

Last year, the value of the donations reached $60,685 and 12,837 people attended.

Moore expressed thanks to sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year. “I know a lot of the time, we get the credit, but other departments of the city, including public works, the police department, and the fire department – have all done things to make this happen. It’s the same thing with the university,” said Moore.

He stated other agencies and people in the community also take part in making the program a success.

At the annual kickoff luncheon, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes spoke about the country’s economic times, but Brundige added, “Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmas time.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Entertainers share talent to help Santa’s Village

Performers who will take the stage during Santa’s Village to provide 20 hours of continuous entertainment at the 24th annual event, include winners and finalists in several area talent contests. The December 12-13 lineup also features entertainers from a five-state area. Finalists from the Memphis Mid-South Youth Talent Show and the Kentucky Opry Talent Contest, as well as winners of the Soybean Festival Talent Show and the Dresden Iris Festival Talent Show are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Friday night, there will be karaoke from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Following karaoke will be Kenny Presley performing with his band. Saturday, from 8-9 p.m., is family time.

This year’s Santa’s Village theme is “Christmas Around the World.” It is slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. 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 20 of the 24 years.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include:

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Churches for Charity and the Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

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

Choir, ensemble to perform Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s wind ensemble and choir will present a joint concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on campus. The concert will feature a joint performance of Randall Thompson’s “Testament of Freedom” and Malcolm Arnold’s “Four Scottish Dances.”

Dr. Nola Jones, UT Martin director of bands and assistant professor of music, invites the public to attend. The concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Jones at (731) 881-7403.
UTM student selected for NASA research project

A University of Tennessee at Martin engineering student, Bradley Gregg, of Union City, Tenn., has been selected for a NASA Undergraduate Research Project, a 15-week internship at one of the 10 NASA centers.

The NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project, or USRP, offers internship opportunities for undergraduate science and engineering students at all 10 NASA centers and additional partner facilities. These mentor-guided internships provide hands-on, real-life, career-related experiences that challenge, inspire, and provide practical application that complements and expands upon students' academic education.

Gregg, a junior, will participate in a spring internship at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. He is a 4.0 grade-point-average engineering major with a concentration in mechanical engineering.

Gregg plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in aerospace engineering following graduation in May 2010.

Covington mayor Dr. David Gordon set to speak at fall commencement

Covington Mayor Dr. David Gordon will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m. Dec. 13 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

About 450 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Gordon became mayor in 2005 and served on the Tipton County Commission from 2002-06. He is a member of the Covington Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southwest Tennessee Economic Development Authority board, Tennessee Municipal League board and is West Tennessee Mayors Association vice president.

He also is a member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board and a member of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association.

Gordon is a 2002 WestStar Leadership graduate, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award and serves on the WestStar Board of Trustees. He served on the UT Martin Development Committee from 2002-06, including 2004-05 as chair.

Gordon received a bachelor's degree from UT Martin, where four generations of his family have attended, and graduated in the first class of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. He began private practice in Covington in 1979.

He and his wife, Ruth Weeks Gordon, have three children, Cory, Jane and Carly.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Hartshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer and the processionals marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Richard Joost, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

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

Professor on campus as part of exchange

Kazutaka Tanaka, professor of English at Hiroasaki University in Japan, is at the University of Tennessee at Martin, participating in an ongoing visiting professor exchange program.

UT Martin and Hiroasaki University have maintained a sister-university relationship for more than 20 years.

Tanaka is a graduate of Tsukuba University with a master of arts in English literature.

After graduating, Tanaka taught as an assistant professor at Tsukuba until 1990, when he began teaching at Hiroasaki University in the Humanities Department. He now teaches both English literature and English language.

Tanaka’s primary area of interest is Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers.

While at UT Martin, Tanaka has been doing research on Shakespearean and Renaissance drama and giving a series of presentations on his work to the Department of English faculty and students.

“I want to teach English language and literature as effectively as possible,” Tanaka said. “I want my students to be very good at speaking, reading and writing the English language, and I want to communicate the excellence of Shakespeare’s drama to Japanese students.”

Tanaka admitted this is not an easy task and added, “The language of Shakespeare is difficult for Japanese students to understand, so it's necessary for them to use a special dictionary of Shakespearean language and vocabulary to understand the meaning of the words.”

Tanaka also is scheduled to make a presentation during International Education Week in late November on teaching English using Shakespeare.

Tanaka has written more than 20 articles on Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers and has two books to his credit. They include “A Japanese Translation of Robert Alter’s The Pleasures of Reading in an Ideological Age” and “A Japanese Translation of Erwin Chargaff’s Serious Questions: An ABC of Skeptical Reflections.”

Tanaka is here through the end of the fall semester with his wife, Yumi; daughter, Shiori; and son, Yuta.
Performers who will take the stage during Santa's Village to provide 20 hours of continuous entertainment at the 24th annual event, include winners and finalists in several area talent contests. The Dec. 12-13 lineup also features entertainers from a five-state area. They range in age from 4-70.

Finalists from the Memphis Mid-South Youth Talent Show and the Kentucky Opry Talent Contest, as well as winners of the Soybean Festival Talent Show and the Dresden Iris Festival Talent Show are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets, bells and piano. On Dec. 12, there will be karaoke from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Following karaoke will be Kenny Presley performing with his band. Dec. 13, from 8-9 p.m., is family time when families can sing together.

This year's Santa's Village theme is "Christmas Around the World." It is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 11. 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 20 of the 24 years.

"This is the most important thing I do all year," said Wade. "We have a lot of fun doing this. We enjoy it."

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

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UTM commencement
set for December 13

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Gordon became mayor in 2005 and served on the Tipton County Commission from 2002-2006. He is a member of the Covington Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southwest Tennessee Economic Development Authority board, Tennessee Municipal League board and is West Tennessee Mayors Association vice president. He also is a member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board and a member of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association.

Gordon is a 2002 WestStar Leadership graduate, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award and serves on the WestStar Board of Trustees. He served on the UT Martin Development Committee from 2002-2006, including 2004-05 as chair.

Gordon received a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin, where four generations of his family have attended, and graduated in the first class of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. He began private practice in Covington in 1979. He and his wife, Ruth Weeks Gordon, have three children, Cory, Jane and Carly.

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

From Paris to Amazon,
UT Martin has variety of travel-study programs planned

From Paris to the Amazon, Lisbon to South Korea, European Alps to Washington, D.C., the University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education will offer 15 travel-study programs in 2009.

Trips begin in February and March with a study program titled “Abraham Lincoln at 200: Words, Will & Wisdom” to Springfield, Illinois, February 26-March 1 and to Washington, D.C., March 9-15. Dr. Michelle Merwin, Department of Psychology interim chair, and Tim Hacker, English instructor, will lead both trips.

On March 4-16, two trips are planned to Paris and London. One will be led by Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, and Stan Sieber, professor of history, and the other by Dr. Tom Payne, Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair.

A list of other trip dates, destinations and department faculty leaders includes: March 5-14, Lisbon, Portugal/Madrid, Spain, Drs. Lucia Florido and Randall Garza (modern foreign languages); March 7-12, Washington, D.C. (Holocaust), Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (history and philosophy); May 10-16, Washington, D.C., Drs. Paula Gale, Michael Gibson and Jeff Rogers (agriculture and natural resources/geology, geography and physics); May 10-23, Germany, Dr. Chuck Hammond (modern foreign languages); May 11-21, South Korea, Dr. J.C. Kim (health and human performance); May 15-26, Greece, Dr. Nathan Howard (history and philosophy); May 18-31, New England/Atlantic Canada, Drs. Charles Bradshaw and David Creelman (English); May 23-31, Mediterranean Cruise, Mike Sudzum and Lorrie Jackson (community); July 6-20, European Alps, Stan Sieber (history and philosophy); August 10-15, Washington, D.C., Darrell Simmons (criminal justice); December 2009, Amazon, Dr. Sue Byrd, Scott Pun and Dr. Bradley Ray (family consumer sciences/health and human performance/agriculture and natural resources).

For more information, visit the Web site, at www.utm.edu/departments/globalstudies, or call the center at 731-881-1017.
UT Martin site of 24th annual Santa’s Village

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

Santa’s Village will celebrate its 24th year of operation, December 11-14. The Christmas winter wonderland, which will be held inside the Ned R. McWherter Agricultural Pavilion at the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves the dual purpose of providing a place for families to come and enjoy the festivities of the season by furnishing the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, while simultaneously providing donations of food and toys for the less fortunate.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14, the event will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme offering scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train displays, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm, will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Martin Parks & Recreation Program Director Kim Kirby said, “The theme for Santa’s Village is ‘Christmas Around the World.’” She added there are 12 different pods planned, and the giant Christmas tree will be decorated a little bit differently this year. Kirby also noted the opening ceremony features Santa Claus.

C.E. Weldon Library Director Roberta Peacock described some of the decorations at this year’s event saying, “We’re going to have different pods set up representing different countries that shows the traditions of each of these countries. The countries are: England, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Italy, China, Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.”

Reba Wade of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin, entertainment coordinator for Santa’s Village, said, “We have 20 hours of entertainment planned, with lots of local groups. We’ve got a lot of instruments - piano, guitar, accordions, trumpets, banjos, oboes, bells, and all different kinds of instruments that will be making music.” In addition to Christmas music, she stated there would be songs made famous by Miley Cyrus who plays Hannah Montana, singer Britney Young, The Beach Boys, and several Disney songs. There will also be songs from “The Wizard of Oz,” the musical “Grease,” and other types of music. “There will be something for everybody,” Wade said. “There will be family time, where mothers and daddies will sing with their children. There will also be karaoke.” She added performers would be from Martin, Dresden, Greenfield, Sharon, Gleason, Union City, Paris, Huntington, and Jackson.

Local service agencies, which will place the donations of food and toys from those attending this year’s Santa’s Village into the hands of needy families, are: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers, Department of Children Services, and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Last year, We Care Ministries alone assisted over 700 children and youth and 115 senior adults.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors, workers, and other supporters that make Santa’s Village possible include: the University Plaza Association, Hamilton-Ryker, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source, Martin Kiwanis Club, WCMT’s Canned Caravan, the Dresden Enterprise, Weakly County Press, the Elementary School Council, and Westview High School.

In the previous 23 years, Santa’s Village has collected $774,969 worth of food and toys and attracted 200,710 visitors to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $60,685 and 12,837 people attended.

“This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in surrounding areas,” said Brian Moore, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director, who coordinates the event each year.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige said, “Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmas time.”

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said, “We are in hard times, and our businesses and everybody is up against the same barrier. For the folks who are doing without, it’s even tougher. The volunteers are what make it happen. That’s really the American spirit that will pull us through this. In spite of what the rest of the world is doing around us, this is a chance for us to take care of our own. And that’s what it’s about.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
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West re-elected to national board

Dr. Joan K. West

Dr. Joan K. West, director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, recently was re-elected to the Grants Resource Center (GRC) Advisory Board in Washington, D.C. Serving a two-year term on the board, West joins eight other advisory board members from U.S. colleges and universities in supporting the GRC, a component of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). AASCU represents more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems of higher education throughout the U.S. and its territories. The GRC supports the realization of institutional goals and program development initiatives through timely and detailed information on funding opportunities, personalized support to meet specific campus needs and promotion of networking among sponsored programs professionals.

West is one of two representatives of public, four-year institutions of higher education with a full-time enrollment between 5,000 and 10,000 students. In her capacity as director, West is UT Martin’s chief research officer. Since her arrival at the university, external funding has increased from $2.6 million per year to almost $8 million annually, and indirect cost recovery has increased an average of 400 percent.

She is an adjunct graduate lecturer in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and has served on several UT System committees and task forces. In 2004, she was awarded the Outstanding Administrative Award by the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education for her contributions to the university. West has authored and/or co-authored numerous papers and made presentations at state and national conferences and workshops. She is a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, American Educational Research Association and Mid-South Educational Research Association. She also served on the Carl Perkins Child Advocacy Group Advisory Board for Weakley and Obion counties from 2004 to 2008.

"These are exciting and challenging times in the world of grant-seeking," said West. "We do not secure external funding alone. Being a member of the GRC Advisory Board has and will continue to enable me to participate in the growth of colleagues in research officers and programs directors from all the AASCU member institutions. This opportunity will continue to allow me to mentor others who may be just starting their careers in the external funding environment."

Gregg headed to NASA

A University of Tennessee at Martin engineering student, Bradley Gregg, of Union City, has been selected for a NASA Undergraduate Research Project, a 15-week internship at one of the 10 NASA centers. The NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project, or USRP, offers internship opportunities for undergraduate science and engineering students at all 10 NASA centers and additional partner facilities. These mentor-guided internships provide hands-on, real-life, career-related experiences that challenge, inspire, and provide practical application that complements and expands upon students' academic education.

Gregg, a junior, will participate in a spring internship at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. He is a 4.0 grade-point-average engineering major with a concentration in mechanical engineering. Gregg plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in aerospace engineering following graduation in May 2010.

"It's been a dream of mine to work for NASA for quite some time now. Hopefully, this will help me get into a good graduate program and eventually lead me back to work for NASA."
Katelin Turner is Miss UT Martin; Hannah-Wade Powell is Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival

Hannah-Wade Powell, of Alamo, second from left, won the 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Amber-Rose Haywood, of Nashville, left; and second runner-up was Jennifer McCullough, of Brighton, right. Powell was crowned by Elizabeth Looney, of Eads, second from right, 2008 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Katelin Turner, of Union City, second from left, was crowned 2009 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. Angela Kee, of Humboldt, left, was first runner-up, and Courtney Cockrell, of McLeomoresville, right, was second runner-up. Jordan Cole, of Martin, second from right, 2008 Miss UT Martin, crowned Turner.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Amber-Rose Haywood, of Nashville, a music business major at Belmont University, was first runner-up, and Jennifer McCullough, of Brighton, a chemistry major at the University of Memphis, was second runner-up. Ellen Carrington, Miss Tennessee 2008, was hostess for the evening. Carrington and Looney entertained the audience with vocal selections. Kimberly Craddock and Hollie Holt, both of Martin, directed the pageant. Craddock and Holt succeeded Lynn Gibson, of Martin, who was recognized during the evening for her service as past pageant director.

“I am excited about working with our two new titleholders. This is my first year as director, and I am excited about the experience of mentoring these girls and preparing them for the Miss Tennessee pageant,” Craddock said.

“We had a great group of girls compete tonight,” Holt added. “Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about.”
Covington Mayor, Alum, to speak at Fall Commencement

Dr. David Gordon
Covington Mayor Dr. David Gordon will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11 a.m., December 13, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Approximately 450 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Gordon became mayor in 2005 and served on the Tipton County Commission from 2002-2006. He is a member of the Covington Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southwest Tennessee Economic Development Authority board, Tennessee Municipal League board and is a member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board and a member of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. Gordon is a 2002 WestStar Leadership graduate, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award and serves on the WestStar Board of Trustees. He served on the UT Martin Development Committee from 2002-2006, including 2004-05 as chair.

Gordon received a bachelor's degree from UT Martin, where four generations of his family have attended, and graduated in the first class of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. He began private practice in Covington in 1979. He and his wife, Ruth Weeks Gordon, have three children, Cory, Jane and Carly.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Hartshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association, Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Richard Joost, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

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

Recycling event held

A community recycling event was sponsored November 15 by UTM Recycles! at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event also marked the grand opening of the group's new collection facility at the former National Guard Armory on Moody Street. Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! included the American Democracy Project, the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the UT Martin Physical Plant, Sodexo, and campus student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affairs of the American Chemical Society. Area residents can still recycle at the facility from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta at 881-7640 or email dkosta@utm.edu.

UT Martin Choir Presents

The University of Tennessee at Martin's wind ensemble and choir will present a joint concert at 7:30 p.m., December 4, in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. The concert will feature a joint performance of Randall Thompson's "Testament of Freedom." Composed in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, the work is a setting of four passages from Jefferson's writings. Other musical compositions to be performed include Vittorio Giannini's "Fantasia for Band" and Malcolm Arnold's "Four Scottish Dances." Dr. Nola Jones, UT Martin director of bands and assistant professor of music, invites the public to attend adding, "Dr. Mark Simmons, director of choral studies, and I have longed for the opportunity for our students to perform a significant work set for choir and wind ensemble. We feel that the community will leave this concert uplifted by the quality of the music and the quality of its performance." This concert will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jones at 731-881-7403.
Entertainers share talent to benefit Santa’s Village cause

Performers who will take the stage during Santa’s Village to provide 20 hours of continuous entertainment at the 24th annual event, include winners and finalists in several area talent contests. The December 12-13 line-up also features entertainers from a five-state area. They range in age from 4-70.

Finalists from the Memphis Mid-South Youth Talent Show and the Kentucky Opry Talent Contest, as well as winners of the Soybean Festival Talent Show and the Dresden Iris Festival Talent Show are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets, bells and piano. Friday night, there will be karaoke from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Following karaoke will be Kenny Presley performing with his band. Saturday, from 8-9 p.m., it is family time when families can sing together.

This year’s Santa’s Village theme is “Christmas Around the World.” It is slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. 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 20 of the 24 years. “This is the most important thing I do all year,” said Wade. “We have a lot of fun doing this. We enjoy it.”

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

Santa’s Village gets technical help from local MTD Products employee

Don Box, who has been employed with MTD Products, Inc., in Martin for 23 years, will help with Santa’s Village this year as he has done for the past 16 years. Box lends his expertise to the annual event helping to set up the MTD model train display.

“It’s about 140 hours of hard work, making sure it all goes together and hoping it runs after moving it,” said Box.

“It brings the community closer together,” Box said of Santa’s Village. It allows people to help someone that they may or may not know with donations of canned goods and toys. He added that the event also brings visitors to Martin, which is good for area businesses.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14, the 24th annual Santa’s Village will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries.

Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment highlighting regional talent and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“Knowing that I am helping the families that need help at a very special time of year has benefited me. It has allowed me to meet and know some very good people that otherwise I would not have known,” said Box. “The looks I see on the kids’ faces, when they are looking at the train display, or just running around Santa’s Village is worth the work. The compliments that I have received about the hard work I have put into the display are appreciated. I have benefited in special ways.”

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Fall commencement scheduled, students head home for holidays

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Gordon became mayor in 2005 and served on the Tipton County Commission from 2002-2006. He is a member of the Covington Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southwest Tennessee Economic Development Authority board, Tennessee Municipal League board and is West Tennessee Mayors Association vice president. He also is a member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board and a member of the Tennessee Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Richard Joost, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement.

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

Photo by University of Tennessee at Martin student Brent Harris.

Fall
From Page 1
Veterinary Medical Association. Gordon is a 2002 WestStar Leadership graduate, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award and serves on the WestStar Board of Trustees. He served on the UT Martin Development Committee from 2002-2006, including 2004-05 as chair.

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UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Harshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association
Paris resident Dunagan preaches earthquake preparation

(Paris resident Stan Dunagan, an assistant professor of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was recently featured in an article for the university’s alumni Campus Scene magazine. The following is a reprint of that article.)

MARTIN — The view from Fish Gap Hill in Obion County offers a postcard-like perspective of the upper Reelfoot Lake basin. The lake rests quietly near the Mississippi River among acres of farmland that spread across western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee. The bluff overlooks the eastern-most portion of the Mississippi River floodplain.

Hidden beneath the surface of this tranquil setting is the power to alter life in this region in a way not witnessed in modern times. A series of earthquakes in 1811-1812 formed Reelfoot Lake and changed the region’s landscape.

Left for current and future generations to consider is, “Could it happen again?”

Experts agree that it’s not so much a question if such an event will happen, but when. And when a major earthquake occurs in the eastern United States, likely in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, preparation will determine how the region fares in the quake’s aftermath. That’s the message of Stan Dunagan, UT Martin assistant professor of geology.

Dr. Dunagan sometimes takes students to Fish Gap Hill where he not only teaches but also shows them about earthquakes. On this clear August day, he explains where portions of the bluff gave way under the rolling force of the quake.

Back in his geology classroom, he uses simple illustrations to explain a complex set of actions that lead to earthquakes. In summary, rocks are under pressure, and if enough pressure or force is applied, they will eventually crack, much like bending a pencil, he says. He demonstrates to his classes by showing that you can apply force and bend the pencil — apply enough force, and the pencil will crack.

“Similarly, rocks act that way when enough force is placed on them. Just like that pencil will break, the rocks will eventually break,” he said. “And when you have rocks break, they release energy, and that break, that release of energy — that’s your earthquake.”

The good news is that earthquakes come in all different sizes. A recent example is a magnitude 5.2 earthquake that occurred in the early morning hours of April 18 in southern Illinois. The quake was felt in several states, including Tennessee, and was considered moderate, he said. The epicenter was actually located in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and caused relatively little damage. The quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake were probably in the 7.7 range, so fortunately, the “big ones” don’t happen as often.

But, earthquakes are occurring, whether people feel them or not. In fact, Dunagan said, the New Madrid Seismic Zone, that includes West Tennessee, has the greatest amount of seismic activity and the greatest potential for large quakes in the eastern United States.

“Interestingly, East Tennessee is second (the East Tennessee Seismic Zone),” he said. “Now, they don’t have big earthquakes, but they have lots of very small earthquakes, magnitude typically less than 2.0, but there are lots of faults in East Tennessee.”

To support his point, he referred to the U.S. Geological Survey website, www.usgs.gov, that recorded 25 earthquakes from March to July 2008 in East Tennessee, a fact probably surprising to many. Based on history and available geologic information, Middle Tennessee residents can rest the easiest with the smallest probability of a large-magnitude quake.

Of greater concern is that West Tennessee, more than any area of the state, faces significant consequences from a large-magnitude quake.

“Geologists view the New Madrid Seismic Zone as one that’s low probability but high consequences,” Dunagan said. “In other words, if there is an earthquake, there is a chance that it could be a big one.”

The U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Memphis maintain the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the Memphis campus. The center has released numbers for the probability of an earthquake measuring 7.7, which is comparable to the 1811-1812 quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake.

“If you have a magnitude 7.7, the probability of an earthquake of that magnitude occurring over the next fifty years is seven to ten percent,” Dunagan said. “Now, the good news is that that probability is a little lower today than what we might have been talking about ten to fifteen years ago, largely because there’s been a little bit more research.”

As for the location of greatest damage if such a quake occurred, Dunagan said that it depends. He drew the shape of the New Madrid Seismic Zone as a crooked S shape that encompasses an area from the Missouri Bootheel and Western Kentucky winding south to Memphis.

The scope of damage will be determined by where the earthquake occurs along the fault, he said, adding, “And it’s certainly possible that it occurs along faults that we already have identified, but there may be additional faults that we’re not aware of that it could occur along.

“Memphis is certainly a major concern among various municipal entities, because it’s the largest city in this area and for the important transportation routes that run through that area.”

Highlighting the concern, he noted that Memphis, Light, Gas and Water — in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the Army Corps of Engineers and University of Memphis researchers — recently traveled along the Mississippi River performing seismic surveys to locate faults and to assess the seismic potential.

But, persons in major seismic zones aren’t the only ones who should be concerned about major earthquakes.

“Most of West Tennessee, if there’s a large earthquake, will have significant damage,” he said, adding, “There’s lots of soft, sandy sediment beneath us. That blesses us with great high-quality water resources, but in terms of earthquakes, that’s not where you want to be.”
The important work of monitoring seismic activity is largely coordinated through the U.S. Geological Survey and through several consortiums. UT Martin, which has a seismic station, is part of a larger seismic network that includes St. Louis University and the University of Memphis center.

Another project called EarthScope aims to gradually move GPS and seismic stations across the country to better understand the earth's structure in a way that might help better identify the potential for earthquake hazards. To date, almost 700 seismic and more than 900 GPS instruments have been deployed starting in the western United States and Alaska, Dunagan said. He added that portable instruments should be moved into Tennessee beginning in 2011 for West Tennessee and 2012 for Middle and East Tennessee.

While history might help to identify a pattern that could predict a major quake, Dunagan suggests “not to get bogged down” with these details. “There will be an earthquake one day, and the question is, ‘Are you prepared when it happens?’ And, there are lots of things that you can do to get prepared and to really mitigate any potential losses that there might be, whether it's injuries, loss of life or property losses,” he added.

While Dunagan said that many Tennesseans would cite a tornado or flood as the most likely natural event or hazard to occur, preparations for these calamities work equally well for earthquake preparedness. Such steps are keys to short and long-term survival following a catastrophic earthquake.

His core recommendations include: have a family emergency plan, have supplies available (water, food, medication), know how to turn off utilities and have a communication plan. Specifically for earthquakes, he’s a big proponent of earthquake insurance.

He also recommends that people secure appliances, bookshelves and large furniture.

“Most injuries are not due to shaking. Most injuries are due to things hitting people and falling on people in an earthquake,” he said. “Everyone can take an L-bracket and screw it to a piece of furniture and back into the wall. If someone has a gas appliance, it needs to be secured.”

For people building new homes, they might do well to consider some steps that his family took in constructing their new home near Paris. He had corner bracing added when the house was being framed, as well as some additional horizontal blocking and bracing. He also had the top wooden structure bolted to the basement in multiple places.

“The last thing you want, if you have some serious shaking, is one part of your house go one way and the other go the other direction. And if it’s not firmly tied on, that will certainly occur,” he said.

Such preparations seem far removed as visitors take in the scenery from atop Fish Gap Hill. However, this panoramic view of Reelfoot Lake reminds visitors what happened when the earth shook in the early 1800s. Stan Dunagan's advice offers a sobering reminder to be prepared when the earth shakes again.

Stan Dunagan of Paris stands in County while teaching students the Fish Gap Hill area in Obion about earthquakes.
County student receives scholarship to attend UTM

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

Nicole Jones, of Martin, daughter of Leroy and Susan Hale, is a freshman. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.

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

Students experience legislative process

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students gaining experience in the state legislature. Three students, Sara Stewart, a senior political science major from Pocahontas; Jennie Brooks, a senior political science major from Martin; and Tianda Harris, a junior marketing major from Martin, will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during spring. UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

In recent years, UT Martin interns have served in key positions with, among others, the offices of the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house. While each year UT Martin’s interns see the legislative process, the experience for this year’s interns will take on added historical significance as they watch control of both the state house and senate handed over to the Republican Party for the first time in more than 100 years.

Stewart is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, the UT Martin Democrats Club, the Political Science Club and UT Martin Recycles. She hopes to pursue a government career in environmental law. Brooks is active in the Student Government Association, the Peer Enabling Program and in her sorority. Harris wants to pursue a career in international law. All three plan to attend law school after graduation.

This year, UT Martin also had four students serving as officers on committees in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature’s (TISL) mock legislature. Candace Dean, a senior political science major from Martin, served as chairman of the Conservation and Environment Committee. John Johnson, a sophomore political science major from Mt. Juliet, served as secretary of the Higher Education Committee. Christie Rushing, a junior political science major from Humboldt, served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Angelia Stinnett, a senior political science major from Jackson, served as vice chairman of the Overflow Committee. UT Martin regularly participated in the TISL in the 1990’s, but is in its first year of participation since it was revived a few years ago.

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, assistant professor of political science, at 881-7367.
State budget cuts to impact UT Martin

Sabrina Bates and Sara Reid
Staff Reporters

The budget crisis that has hit the state of Tennessee has trickled down to impact higher education as deans met with faculty members on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus on Thursday for a series of emotionally charged informative sessions.

Deans from each of the five colleges on UTM's campus were working last week to determine the best ways to trim down the university's budget at the request of Gov. Phil Bredesen.

The governor announced state sales tax revenues had diminished significantly this year and as a result, programs are slated to lose money, including higher education.

"We have proposed that we are going to protect people and programs. We have done that and no one in this college is losing a job any time soon," Dr. David Coffey, interim dean for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, said to the crowd of anxious faculty members on Thursday afternoon.

Coffey announced the deans of each college on campus were charged with creating proposals that would help save budget money for the university. Initially, Coffey reported, a proposal was placed before the deans to eliminate a college on campus.

"Taking a college just didn’t make sense. That wasn’t going to get us where we needed to go and it would only eliminate two positions," Coffey said.

As he described how a restructuring would impact the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Coffey stressed that other colleges on the campus were having a similar conversation.

He informed faculty members that departments would move into other colleges while some departments would be combined to distribute them “more equitably” throughout the university.

"Any time you break up a family, it’s not pleasant. But we feel very strong about this proposal," Coffey said, adding the "restructuring" was just that — a proposal.

Faculty members became emotional when Coffey announced part of the proposal would be to move the Department of Communications to the College of Business and Global Affairs.

"The college of business comes out ahead on this decision. What was once perhaps the weakest college on campus will become the strongest now," Coffey commented.

Communications Prof. Teresa Collard asked what were the logical arguments for moving the department of communications out of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

"It came down to numbers. We needed to bulk up that college and this decision made sense in terms of majors for that college because of the Public Relations concentration. Some things were more of a fit for that college," Coffey answered.

Coffey added by making the move to a different college on campus, the Department of Communications would have more resources to grow.

"This is right now, a proposal. We will take written suggestions through Dec. 12 and meet again to finalize a plan. We need to do this as soon as we can because these changes would have to be in place by July 1, 2009. The part of the reality is the bottom line. This was a way to do it without people losing jobs, programs and majors did not get cut," Dr. Lynn Alexander, Interim Dean for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, reiterated Coffey's comments to faculty members.

"There will be a lot of concerns. We have agonized over this decision," Coffey added.

"I don’t want what we say to diminish how difficult this was for you two. I applaud you for the spirit of trying to save jobs," Dr. Robert Nanney, communications professor, commented during the meeting.

Ultimately, the changes would eliminate a little more than $200,000 from the university’s budget within the first year of implementation. The restructuring would move or eliminate at least 30 faculty positions.

Coffey said with a large number of secretaries looking to retire this summer, secretaries displaced by the restructuring would have a chance to move into the slots of the retiring personnel.

"We don’t lose people. We don’t lose programs. We maintain academic integrity and strengthen our position," Coffey added.

Similar staff meetings occurred Thursday afternoon on campus announcing the idea to "restructure" academic affairs at the university.

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, faced a classroom full of worried, curious and confused faces in Gooch Hall this past Thursday afternoon and combated the negative feelings swirling around in the room with an air of confidence and a mindset of motivation.

"Our goal is to preserve positions as much as possible," she emphasized.
With the University of Tennessee at Martin’s council of deans’ recent proposal of reducing the number of colleges, Hall emphasized the great need to keep the focus on preserving the culture on campus as it “connects the colleges.”

“Right now, we’re down to bare bones, but we can’t really be. We have to keep the students,” she remarked.

The 15 percent cut to the budget for the ‘09-‘10 academic year will take effect on July 1, 2009. The proposal to make changes in the academic colleges stemmed from a decision made by the Board of Deans at UT Martin.

“Those changes, explaining the faculty better. The logistics of this have not been dealt with yet, but they will be dealt with in the spring semester. The proposal saves about $207,000 long-term annually. It’s more efficient to combine than erase the colleges,” Hall explained.

“The task force brought the recommendation to the chancellor who took it to the staff and then it was divided out to whatever area was involved. It went to the dean’s council with limited time and here we are at 4 p.m. ready to discuss the proposal.”

Hall reiterated Chancellor Tom Rakes’ comment that nothing was a done deal. When asked to describe a worst-case scenario, Hall admitted, “start cutting programs and laying off people.”

“The UT system covers a lot of territory. At least we’re trying to do something. We’re going to come out of this,” Hall said.

“The main thing is are you doing things that make sense and are logical and long term? I like to think we are looking at long term.”

In answering questions relating to possibly capping enrollment and cutting adjunct professors, Hall admitted, “Capping enrollment has been brought up, but it doesn’t go anywhere for now. Our budget for adjuncts for spring is considerably reduced, but we’re monitoring it closely.”

“Your job is to handle the curriculum and teach,” she stressed. “You had a chance for feedback on this so you can’t say you had not a chance to speak up. A decision will be made before the holidays. Florida is already laying off people. This is minor compared to what it could be.”

When asked what the greatest impact to the students will be, Hall replied, “The majors will not be eliminated. The departments might just be located in different colleges.”

Hall reminded the faculty and staff that now is the time for advocacy, the time to contact legislators.

“K-12 is not getting cuts. The governor himself said, ‘It’s bad for you,’ referring to higher education,” she said.

These changes come at a time of uncertainty as Bredesen warned of a possible 15 percent budget cut in turn leaving a $3 to $4.6 million decrease in state funding.

As a result of the faculty meetings, proposed changes at the UTM campus include:

- Eliminating the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics and moving Geosciences to the renamed Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Geosciences.
- The Department of Engineering would gain Physics courses and faculty members.
- Moving Political Science from the College of Business back to the College of Humanities and Fine Arts under the Department of History.
- The Office of University Studies, including the B.U.S. (Bachelor of University Studies) degree will fall under the umbrella of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.
- The Department of Modern Foreign Languages will be merged with the English Department to make a new Department of Languages and Literature.

While last week’s announcements focused on academic affairs within the university, UT Martin University Relations Director Bud Grimes said UT athletics are also under consideration for budget cuts.

The proposals will be finalized later this month as Rakes reviews the ideas for academic restructuring.

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**LEADERSHIP TRAINING** - University of Tennessee at Martin students Tianda Harris, South Fulton, and Austin Cardosi, Germantown, recently met with Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton (center) to discuss the dynamics of the greater Shelby County area leadership, as well as present and future challenges facing the area. Harris is a junior marketing major from Martin, and Cardosi is a junior finance major from Germantown. Both are leadership minors.
Programming team finishes second

Two teams of students from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Computer Science and Information Systems recently participated in the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) regional programming contest at Murray State University. The team comprised of Adam Corum, Dresden; Brian Hawks, Union City; and Jacob Robertson, Sardis; finished second in the 11-team competition at the Murray site by solving three problems. A second team, John Britton, Martin; Alfredo Ramirez, Humboldt; and Ryan Hart, Memphis; solved two problems. Both teams were coached by Bob Bradley, instructor of computer science. The ACM regional programming contest is part of a worldwide competition. The November contest involved 132 teams in the United States from the Midwest and upper South. Among participating schools at the Murray site were Western Kentucky University, Evansville University, Freed Hardeman University and Murray State.

NEW ROTARY MEMBER — Dr. Margaret Toston (left), vice chancellor of Student Affairs at UT Martin, recently joined the Martin Rotary Club. Jim Byford is her sponsoring Rotarian.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING — University of Tennessee at Martin students, Tianda Harris, South Fulton, and Austin Cardosi, Germantown, Tenn. recently met with Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, center, to discuss the dynamics of the greater Shelby County area leadership, as well as present and future challenges facing the area. Harris is a junior marketing major from Martin and Cardosi, a junior finance major from Germantown. Both are leadership minors. (Photo submitted)
Santa's Village marks 24th year of being true Santa's helper

Santa's Village will celebrate its 24th year of being a true Santa's helper 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.

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The ACM regional programming contest is part of a worldwide competition. The November contest involved 132 teams in the U.S. from the Midwest and Upper South.

Among participating schools at the Murray site were Western Kentucky University, Evansville University, Freed-Hardeman University and Murray State, a spokesman said.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING — University of Tennessee at Martin students Tianda Harris of South Fulton and Austin Cardosi (right) of Germantown recently met with Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton to discuss the dynamics of the greater Shelby County area leadership, as well as present and future challenges facing the area. Ms. Harris is a junior marketing major and Cardosi is a junior finance major. Both are leadership minors at UT Martin.
South Fulton student among several observing the legislative process

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students gaining experience in the state legislature.

Three students — Tianda Harris, a junior marketing major from South Fulton; Sara Stewart, a senior political science major from Pocahontas; and Jennie Brooks, a senior political science major from Martin — will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during the spring.

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

In recent years, UT Martin interns have served in key positions with, among others, the offices of the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House. While each year UT Martin’s interns see the legislative process, the experience for this year’s interns will take on added historical significance as they watch control of both the state House and Senate handed over to the Republican Party for the first time in more than 100 years.

Ms. Harris wants to pursue a career in international law. All three students plan to attend law school after graduation.

This year, UT Martin also had four students serving as officers on committees in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature’s (TISL) mock legislature. Candace Dean, a senior political science major from Martin, served as chairman of the Conservation and Environment Committee; John Johnson, a sophomore political science major from Mt. Juliet, served as secretary of the Higher Education Committee; Christie Rushing, a junior political science major from Humboldt, served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee; and Angelia Stinnett, a senior political science major from Jackson, served as vice chairman of the Overflow Committee.

UT Martin participated in the TISL in the 1990s and is in its first year since it was revised.

Programming team finishes second in programming contest

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Toston joins Rotary Club

Dr. Margaret Toston, Vice Chancellor of UTM Student Affairs, was recently inducted in the Martin Rotary Club. She is seen here with Sponsoring Rotarian, Jim Byford.
UT Martin students experience legislative process

The University of Tennessee at Martin has several students gaining experience in the state legislature. Three students, Sara Stewart, a senior political science major from Pocahontas; Jennie Brooks, a senior political science major from Martin; and Tianda Harris, a junior marketing major from Martin, will serve as interns in the state legislature in Nashville during spring. UT Martin has participated in the state legislative internship program every year since it began in 1973.

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Stewart is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, the UT Martin Democrats Club, the Political Science Club and UT Martin Recycles. She hopes to pursue a government career in environmental law. Brooks is active in the Student Government Association, the Peer Enabling Program and in her sorority. Harris wants to pursue a career in international law. All three plan to attend law school after graduation.

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

Weakley County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Nicole Jones, of Martin, daughter of Leroy and Susan Hale, is a freshman. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.

UT Martin closed January 2 in addition to New Year's Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin will be closed, January 2, with staff and 12-month faculty to report a day of annual leave, personal leave, or compensatory time (previously banked overtime worked) for the day. This will allow UT Martin to save on energy costs by keeping most buildings at a lower temperature than on a normal workday following the holiday closing, January 1, for New Year's Day.

Certain departments perform services that UT Martin must provide on January 2. Employees who perform those services should report the time they work in place of leave for the period worked. Examples of services that must be provided that day include for example: police protection, heating and other weather-related services, student housing, animal care and services associated with athletic teams.

The university will reopen January 5.
Dresden M.S. football practice field
dedicated to Coach Ron Lewellen

By David Fisher  
Staff Reporter

During an assembly at Dresden Middle School Monday, December 8, 2008, cheerleaders and football players unveiled a sign naming the school's practice football field the "Lewellen Practice Field" in honor of the late Ron L. Lewellen, a former Dresden High School principal, teacher and football coach.

Family members and friends of the family were called to the school, but were not told what the event was about, until the sign was unveiled, and were obviously moved by the gesture. Among those present were Ron's widow, Emily; his son, David; along with his wife, Amy; Ron's daughter, Jean Wainscott; his sister, Vicky Phillips and her husband, Jim; Ron's five grandchildren - Jay and Ceyce Wainscott, Megan Scarbrough, and Will and Mabry Lewellen; and his nephew, James Phillips, with his son, Bo Phillips, all of Dresden.

After the students were seated and all guests had arrived, DMS Principal Pam Harris turned the microphone over to DMS Booster Club member and cheerleading mom, Stacey Greer, who delivered the dedication speech.

At this time, cheerleaders C.J. Greer and Taylor McAlpin, and football players Ryne Vinson and Austin Maxey were asked to come forward to unveil the sign.

"Today is a day of remembrance for past and present students," Greer said. "When you lose someone, you find sometimes it seems the world is spinning out of control, and some days you are just covered with precious memories that you want to share with everyone. This is what the loss of Coach Ron left us with. And we are still making memories each day through David Lewellen, who has chosen to follow in his father's footsteps."

"The cheerleaders and football players of Dresden Middle School wanted to do something special for you, David, and your father. When you lose someone as special as Coach Ron, it is really hard to find something that is special enough to fit such an honorable man as your father. To all of us that knew Coach Ron, his passion was football. When you hear football players speak of him, it is always with respect and the stories are always wonderful lessons to hear."

"To live his life as full as Coach Lewellen did and to have touched as many lives as he touched, the DMS cheerleaders and football players never want it to be forgotten," Greer said. "Therefore, we have named the practice field 'The Lewellen Practice Field' in memory of Coach Ron Lewellen, and it is in honor of his son, David Lewellen. May we all strive to touch someone's life as you and your father have ours."

As Greer concluded her speech, the audience of students, teachers, administrators and special guests gave a resounding applause in respect for the late Ron Lewellen and his family.

Greer stated before the dedication could take place, the naming of the practice football field "The Lewellen Practice Field" had to be approved by the Weakley County School Board.

She said the money for the sign was raised through private donations, which were collected by DMS cheerleaders and football players, and DMS Booster Club members.

Greer stated the secret could not have been kept without the help of Scott and Debbie Moran, who hid the sign in their garage for two months prior to the unveiling.

Coach Lewellen was a former football coach, principal and was a State Farm Insurance Agent at the time of his death on September 16, 2008. He was a former school board member, past president of Dresden Rotary Club, member of the UTM Chest of the Gridiron, member of the UTM Football Hall of Fame, served on the UTM Alumni Council, was drafted in the 7th round by the Oakland Raiders, and was retired from the Tennessee Army National Guard.
UTM students participate in leadership training

University of Tennessee at Martin students, Tianda Harris, South Fulton, and Austin Cardosi, Germantown, recently met with Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, center, to discuss the dynamics of the greater Shelby County area leadership, as well as present and future challenges facing the area. Harris is a junior marketing major from Martin and Cardosi, a junior finance major from Germantown. Both are leadership minors.

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UTM commencement planned December 13

Covington Mayor Dr. David Gordon will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11 a.m., December 13, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Approximately 450 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Gordon became mayor in 2005 and served on the Tipton County Commission from 2002-2006. He is a member of the Covington Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southwest Tennessee Economic Development Authority board, Tennessee Municipal League board and is West Tennessee Mayors Association vice president. He also is a member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce board and a member of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. Gordon is a 2002 WestStar Leadership graduate, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award and serves on the WestStar Board of Trustees. He served on the UT Martin Development Committee from 2002-2006, including 2004-05 as chair.

Gordon received a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin, where four generations of his family have attended, and graduated in the first class of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. He began private practice in Covington in 1979. He and his wife, Ruth Weeks Gordon, have three children, Cory, Jane and Carly.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Robert Harshorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer; and the processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Richard Joost, Faculty Senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

A reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following the commencement ceremony.
UTM earns third listing among best college buys

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. This marks the third consecutive year that the university has earned the IRE designation.

“Once again, the results of our annual national college survey prove that the University of Tennessee at Martin continues to provide students the highest quality educational environment at the very lowest possible cost,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president.

Lindsey said that colleges and universities across the country are challenged by rising costs. But, he noted that the efforts of UT Martin administration, faculty and staff “assure that students cannot find a better educational opportunity at a lower cost within or outside of Tennessee.”

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said that the university is committed to containing costs while providing a high-quality education. “We’re pleased with this designation, especially knowing that many families struggle with paying for college,” he said. “In these tough budget times, we’re looking hard for ways to maintain quality at a reasonable cost.”


State schools cut their budgets

By TAJUANA CHERISHER
cherisher@jacksonsun.com

Officials at the University of Tennessee Martin, Jackson State Community College and Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson said they are working on plans to scale back their budgets in response to a 10 percent to 15 percent reduction in state funding for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

The budget cuts will affect Tennessee Board of Regents’ universities and colleges and the five-campus, 43,000-student University of Tennessee system.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has asked each state department to revise budgets in light of an $800 million shortfall this year. He anticipates cutting about $150 million from the state’s $1.2 billion higher education budget.

The University of Tennessee system expects to absorb at least $48 million of that, and the remainder will come from

Budget

Continued from cover

the Tennessee Board of Regents system, which includes six universities, 13 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers.

At Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson, Director Don Williams said the cut would equal about $421,000 of his campus’s state appropriations.

“We have to cut 15 percent, then that’s going to affect our programs,” Williams said.

One area that will be affected is Tech Foundations, which is a program that helps adults learn math, reading and writing skills. Williams said the program will end this month.

But he said the center would enroll students in adult education classes offered at the school that are paid for by a grant through the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

With the latest possible reduction of 15 percent, Blanding said the school has two options — increase revenue and/or decrease costs.

Jackson State spokeswoman Heather Kennedy said officials still are working on a plan and specific decisions regarding what programs, if any, would be affected had not yet been made.

At the University of Tennessee Martin, Chancellor Thomas Rakes said a campus-wide task force will consider several options to deal with the reductions in funding.

“We’re looking at offering fewer sections of a course, but providing more online course offerings,” Rakes said. “We could also change our summer schedule or implement an abbreviated term.”

Rakes said the university would make “strategic cuts” and not cut programs or services across the board.

At the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, UT Martin eliminated some offices and held vacant positions open, he said.

To reduce energy expenses, Rakes said, the university’s energy plan mandates that the thermostat in each building be set at 78 degrees in the winter and 75 degrees in the summer.

“We’re also looking at alternative teaching schedules,” he said. “A four-day week is possible.”

The state appropriation is 40 percent of UT Martin’s $70 million budget, he said.

Rakes said he believes even with the changes facing the campus, the school still is an attractive option for students and employees.

“We’re very good at what we do,” Rakes said. “We’ve got a loyal staff and faculty, and you kind of pull together and address the issues. We will see the other side, but we have no idea of when this is going to get better.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.

— Tajuana Cheshier, 425-9643
**Santa's Village celebrates 24th year**

The 24th annual Santa's Village is gearing up for December 11-14, 2008, at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex, on the campus of UT Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the event will carry out the "Christmas Around the World" theme in scenes of holiday festivities from 10 different countries.

Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children's inflatables and 54 shopping booths.

Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm, will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $3 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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

In the previous 23 years, Santa's Village has collected $774,969 worth of food and toys and attracted 200,710 visitors to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $60,685 and 12,837 people attended.

Organizers this year are hoping to break last year's numbers and set new records in helping the disadvantaged during the holiday season. Workers from the sponsors have been working for several weeks to design this year's Santa's Village and the theme is Christmas Around the World.

**Santa From Page 1**

year's theme in the pavilion and are expecting large crowds.

The Martin Parks and Recreations Department, C.E. Weldon Public Library and the University of Tennessee at Martin sponsor the village.

Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source. All proceeds from Santa's Village will go to help less fortunate families.

For more information, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 587-6784.
Social services overseer to take charge full time

Date: 12/11/2008
Media Contact: Times-Picayune - Online
View Attachment: 

BATON ROUGE -- Interim Department of Social Services Secretary Kristy Nichols, who assumed her post amid hurricane-centered chaos that doomed her predecessor, will be named permanent secretary of the agency, Gov. Bobby Jindal's chief of staff said Tuesday.

Timmy Teepell said Nichols' permanent status will take effect Monday, three months after she took over from Ann Williamson, who resigned. 'She's done a great job, going through a complete post-storm review,' Teepell said, referring to Nichols' ongoing assessment of the troubled agency's operations and management, including its role in providing shelters for hurricane evacuees.

Nichols said she appreciates Jindal's vote of confidence and called the job an 'opportunity to continue fundamental reforms' at the agency that administers most of the federal and state social welfare programs for Louisiana residents, in addition to its emergency response responsibilities.

The department has a $1 billion annual budget and more than 5,000 employees, with offices in each parish.

Nichols took the interim post Sept. 15, the same day that Williamson departed under intense criticism of the department's handling of state-run hurricane evacuation shelters and a post-storm disaster food stamp program in the wake of Hurricane Gustav. Evacuees at several shelters went days without adequate shower facilities, while the initially disorganized food stamp distribution resulted in long lines around the state.

Since coming to the agency from Jindal's health-care policy staff, Nichols has directed a complete review of the agency's management, personnel and operations, with a 'performance audit' to be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Nichols said her long-term priority for the agency is improving the technology and business model to streamline the delivery of services, both for routine programs and in emergency situations.

Since her arrival, several top executives have left the agency, including Deputy Secretary Terry Ricks, chief budget officer Eddie Ashworth and Assistant Secretary Marketa Garner Gautreau.

Gautreau directed the Office of Community Services that oversees child-protection programs and the state's foster-care and adoption system. The office has drawn criticism because of problems at the state's 67 group homes from abused and neglected children.

Nichols said the agency is monitoring all of those homes, with particular attention given to 13 that were found this year to be in violation of state safety standards.

Nichols also has directed a rewrite of the state's sheltering protocol, with a final plan for future hurricane seasons due in the coming weeks. She has promised expanded staffing levels, better communications with other state agencies and more family-friendly, personalized accommodations at the largest shelters for residents who depend on public transportation to evacuate.

On emergency food stamps, Nichols has promised an overhaul, including taking advantage of planned technology upgrades to make the process more automated and faster for applicants.

Nichols, who has a bachelor's of administration in business from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's in communication from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, is paid $129,995 annually. She also receives use of a state vehicle.

Her appointment is subject to confirmation by the Louisiana Senate the next time the Legislature convenes. The 2009 regular session begins in late April.
Hundreds of families feel stress of area job cuts

By DAN MORRIS
dmorris@jacksonsun.com

Good insurance and great friends helped Brian and Lisa Bond recover after their home was demolished by a tornado on Feb. 5.

They bought another house in July after the shock and sense of loss had diminished. The couple looked forward to celebrating the holidays with new decorations and a renewed spirit.

Then Brian, 41, learned in late October that his job as a manufacturing engineer at Whirlpool in Jackson would end within a year. More than 500 will be laid off at the plant, where Brian has worked 16 years.

“We’ve been bummied out over the tornado, and we’re bummied out over the job situation,” Brian said. “It bothered me pretty bad for a few days after we were told about our jobs. A lot of good people are in that plant. It’s one of the better places I’ve worked. But a lot of them are a lot worse off than me, so I don’t want anybody feeling sorry for us. We’ve really been blessed, and we’ll find another job.”

That will be a challenge in the current economic climate. Seemingly every day there is more bad news locally and nationally about job cuts, foreclosures and unemployment. In what is supposed to be one of the happiest times of the year, many are losing their jobs and are worried more about utility bills and mortgage payments than buying Christmas gifts.

The nation lost 533,000 jobs in November, the largest monthly job loss in 34 years. The unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent, the highest since October 1993. Across West Tennessee, unemployment has spiked, too, in some cases reaching double digits.

Cora Estes, 43, of Brownsville usually has her Christmas shopping done by November. This year, every dime goes toward paying for her home mortgage, utilities and gasoline.

“I don’t have extra money to spend on Christmas,” she said.

That’s because her job with the state ended in mid-September. After 14 years, she accepted a buyout because she felt certain her position as a nutrition educator at the Haywood County Health Department would be eliminated in January.

“We heard rumors there were going to be layoffs,” she said. “I received a package in the mail from the state. At the top of one page it showed the number of nutrition educators employed by the state. That was 27. Then it said the number of positions that were being eliminated was 27.

“I asked everybody I could about it, and no one could tell me anything. I finally decided, ‘If I don’t take the buyout, I’m going to be out of a job and drawing unemployment. And I can’t live on unemployment.’

Estes, who has a bachelor’s degree from Tennessee State University in home economics, food and nutrition, thought she would be able to land a decent-paying, full-time job in no time. It hasn’t happened.

“It’s really frustrating,” she said. “I didn’t think it would be this hard since I had my degree. I’ve had to use the buyout money just to pay bills. And I find myself willing to accept any job just to have some spending money.”

Estes earned about $32,000 annually with the state. Her present job working with children pays less than half that amount, she said.

She has decided to return to college in January, earn a master’s degree and become a teacher. The state’s buyout plan provides almost $11,000 for college tuition, she said.

Estes is a divorced mother of three. The next two years will be difficult because her two youngest children are twins, who will graduate from high school next spring and enter college or trade school.

“It’s going to be rough,” she said. And the holidays make life even more stressful.

“The kids don’t expect a big Christmas,” she said. “We’re making sure we can pay for senior pictures and all the things that come with graduation.”

Stressed out

Almost half of Americans are “increasingly stressed about their ability to provide for their family’s basic needs,” according to a recent survey by the American Psychological Association.

Eighty percent said the economy is a significant cause of stress, up from 66 percent in April.

And the holidays add to the anxiety.

“Historically, around the holidays, it’s a time of increased stress,” said Susan Buckelew, an associate professor in the department of psychology at the University of Tennessee Martin. She has a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed psychologist.

“It’s probably more tricky this year because this has been a year of economic downturn, and it’s affecting a lot of people,” she said. “So as we approach the holidays this year, we have the additional stress people may be experiencing because of financial conditions.”

That is true in towns throughout West Tennessee.

“There is a tremendous amount of concern here in Milan,” said Robert Lambert, pulpit minister at the Milan Church of Christ. “Even if your job is not threatened, our small businesses have seen a slowdown. In social settings I’ve heard a great deal of talk about the economy. The big thing bothering people is the government’s seemingly open-check policy on the bailouts. That angers people.”
Several plants have closed in the Milan and Gibson County area, and as many as 400 layoffs are expected at the Milan Army Ammunition plant, which employs about 650.

Rick and Darre Fisher of Milan are employed at the plant and expect to be out of work within a year.

"Right now nobody knows," Rick said. "They said the line will run a year, but that could change any day." Rick is a mechanic. He said he has been laid off three times in four years at the plant. Darre is in her fourth year on an assembly line. Before quitting to raise her children in 1993, she worked at the plant 10 years and was never laid off.

"The news is hitting her a lot harder than it is me," Rick said. "With both of us working at the same place, we're beginning to get tighter on our budget."

He praises Darre's ability to stretch a dollar at the grocery store.

"She can get a week's worth of groceries for what some people spend in one night eating out," he said.

"That's good because I like to eat," Darre said news of the layoffs hit her hard.

"It made me sick at my stomach," she said. "I do all the worrying in the family. I know God will take care of us, but you can't help but worry. If I could find another job today, I'd take it. I don't want to wait until everybody is laid off and everybody is looking for a job."

With two children still at home, Rick said he plans to provide a good Christmas despite the economic trouble. "We'll cut back a little bit, but I'm not going to let the situation worry me too much," he said. "There's too much stress involved in worrying. I figure the man upstairs will take care of me one way or another."

**Leaning on faith**

Patrick McGill, pastor of Poplar Heights Baptist Church in Jackson, believes the economic crisis could strengthen the faith of believers, especially at Christmas.

"Living in the times we live in it's kind of hard not to see the unease in people's lives," he said. "This is an incredible opportunity for the church to help one another."

A tight budget could lead believers to focus more on the true meaning of Christmas, he said.

"That would be a positive result," he said.

Brian Bond, who expects to lose his job at Whirlpool, and his family is a good example.

The Bonds are already more secure than many facing layoffs because Lisa still has a job with benefits. She has taught in the Madison County school system 14 years, the last 13 with third-graders. She wants to continue teaching in Jackson, and Brian doesn't want to leave.

"We moved here in 1989, and we certainly hope it's the Lord's will for us to stay in Jackson," Brian said. "This community was great to us through the tornado experience, and this is our home now."

He marvels over the events that led to his family's safety the night of the tornado. Normally they would have remained at home, but they kept getting calls from friends Laura and Butch Glover to come to their house, which has a basement. Each time Brian declined.

Finally, the Grovers' daughter, Ally, who played on a youth softball team Brian coached, called to invite the Bonds to celebrate her birthday. The Grovers were cutting the cake in the basement, just to be safe.

"I'm hard-headed," Brian said. "But when Ally called, I said, 'Let's load up. They're not going to let us alone until we go over there.'"

A half hour later, the Bonds' house on Addison Cove in North Jackson was gone.

"I still get cold chills thinking about it," Brian said.

Within 30 minutes after the tornado, about 15 people were at the Bonds' property, offering help. The next day about 50 people, many who did not know the Bonds, came to help salvage anything left scattered across the yard, which wasn't much.

"It was pretty overwhelming there for a few days," Brian said. "But the help was incredible. I just couldn't believe it."

Brian is considering returning to school to earn a master's degree and teach.

"We definitely have tightened up the budget," he said. "I'm not going to say we're completely prepared for this, but we're in pretty good shape for the short run."

The Bonds have two children - Amanda, 13, and Garrett, 8. The day after layoffs were announced at Whirlpool, Garrett, who plays baseball at area parks, crawled onto his dad's lap, put his arms around his neck and said, "I know what you can do. They are always looking for help in the concessions stand."

Lisa has already cut corners with the budget, almost literally.

"She is armed with scissors when she gets the Sunday paper," Brian said.

"I clip the coupons," Lisa said. "If you really watch, you can save. And we're cutting back on eating out." To get the best buys for Christmas, Lisa was at Walmart at 4:45 the morning after Thanksgiving.

"I followed a lady to her car and helped her unload so I could get her buggy," she said. "You can find bargains. You just have to get out and fight the rest of the town for them."

The Bonds say the key to staying upbeat through the economic crunch is to count your blessings.

"Look at what you have to be thankful for," Lisa said.

"We all have our health, and that's big," Brian said. "We very easily could have been in that house when the tornado hit. We know we're very blessed."

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.

— Dan Morris, 423-9756

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10 Tips for coping with job loss

- Be honest about your emotions. Deal with anger and fear.
- Apply for unemployment insurance benefits and contact local employment agencies for information.
- Find ways to stay positive. Exercise, volunteer, use up nervous energy. Look ahead.
- Set daily goals. Take a walk, go to the library.
- Establish a job search schedule. Get up, get dressed, interview, make calls, search the Internet.
- Check into new career possibilities or possibly continuing your education.
- Update your résumé to reflect strengths and accomplishments.
- Network. Let everybody know you're job hunting.
- Keep busy. Don't isolate yourself.
- Pursue the hobby you never had time for before.

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10 Tips to help cut holiday expenses

- Make a budget before shopping and stick to it.
- Use cash. Note credit.
- Give homemade gifts such as cookies, candy, bread or gift baskets/totes.
- Skip the Christmas cards or send e-mail cards.
- Skip expensive wrap, be creative. Use fabric, kids art, craft paper, etc.
- Give fewer gifts.
- Re-gift.
- Shop second-hand. Check garage sales, flea markets and thrift stores. Check Web sites such as eBay.
- Shop around. Bargain hunt.
- Cut travel plans.
School systems to study alternate calendar usage

By HEATHER BRYANT
P-I Asst. News Editor

The Henry County School System and the Paris Special School District will each be forming five-member committees to study the possibility of having an alternate school calendar in which schools would be in a cycle of nine weeks in-session and two weeks out.

Rick Kriesky, county director of schools, told the Henry County Board of Education during its Thursday meeting that each committee will include a superintendent, principal, teacher, parent, and student. The committees will study the pros and cons of the alternate schedule by consulting teachers, parents, and students.

The alternate schedule would mean students would have two-week breaks in the fall, Christmas, and the spring.

Kriesky said schools in Dickson County and Dyer County are on this alternate schedule.

"There are many benefits as students can be out for that first week and the second week can be used for credit recovery or for field trips so as not to take away from instructional time," he said. "There are drawbacks to this type of calendar also."

"I am excited about it. Whether we change or we don't change, I am very excited about looking at the prospect of it," he said.

Kriesky said the HCS and the PSSD Supri, Mike Brown, have already met to discuss the school calendar and said they always consult their teachers every year to get feedback on the calendars. He said the two systems try to make their calendars as similar as possible.

Earlier in the meeting, the board approved a Henry County High School veterinary science course to be offered for dual college credit at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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SCHOOLS

"Apparently that number was just pulled out of the air," said Reimold. "I felt like it was unethical and unprofessional... We are a large system and we have a lot of opportunities in our system for our students."

She said students are combined from all schools in Paris and the county when they come to Grove and HCHS.

"They put aside their prejudices and we see the best in them," she said. "It just hurts when comments are made like that. I would hope all adults could put aside preconceived notions. I am proud of both systems, but I am especially proud of Henry County High School."
‘Focus on the things you can change,’ psychologist advises

By DAN MORRIS
dmorris@jacksontn.com

Patricia Marshall understands what many hard-working folks face this holiday season.

In 1998, when her daughter was 4, she went through a divorce and was laid off from her seven-year job at the Murray plant in Jackson.

She was 34 and uncertain what to do. Marshall, a 1982 graduate of South Side High School, decided education was the answer. So she set her course toward a college degree.

For the last eight years she has worked two jobs, scheduled classes when she could and taken care of her daughter.

In May, at age 44, she will earn a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Union University.

“I’m really, really proud,” Marshall said. “Knowing I can see the end is the best Christmas present I could have.”

Determination and wise choices about money are key elements in succeeding during tough economic times. Professional counselors also say it’s important to concentrate on the positive and find ways not to focus on the bad news.

Proper attitude

Marshall took a difficult situation and turned it into a challenge. That type of outlook is a key to success during difficult times, said Susan Buckelew, associate professor of psychology at the University of Tennessee Martin. She has a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed psychologist.

“Trying to see your situation as a challenge instead of a threat can make a difference in how one responds,” Buckelew said. “It’s important for people to have a sense of hope about the future ... Attempt to grow from the experience.”

Buckelew said it’s a good idea to change stations on the television and avoid being bombarded by negative economic news. That only adds to your stress level.

“Some people respond to stress in healthy ways, like exercising more,” she said. “But often times we sort of slide into potentially bad habits, like overeating, not getting enough sleep, drinking. So it’s important to recognize how you commonly respond to stress, what works for you and what doesn’t.”

If your basic needs are being met, such as food, clothing and shelter, Buckelew said, it is important not to allow yourself to worry about the economy.

“Worry alone is not going to do anything,” she said. “It may even increase the likelihood of getting physically ill and increase the likelihood of depression. Worry alone is not productive.”

“If you have enough to get by on, focus on the things you can change, the things you can do to help yourself, the things that can help you feel happy, like focusing on your relationships and doing things for other people,” she said. “These are things that are ultimately going to help a person more than sitting and watching the news and worrying about things they can’t change.”

Donald Bagwell, 60, of Huntingdon agrees. He is on disability and has several medical issues. He grew up in poverty and said he was abused as a child. Life remains difficult for him and his wife. But he sees others in worse shape.

“I see a tremendous amount of people out here suffering,” he said. “Even if you don’t have much at all, you can always offer the other fellow a smile or a word of encouragement.”

Father Thomas Kirk of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Jackson points to faith as a healer in tough times.

“This is a spiritual opportunity for the church,” he said. “Raising the level of faith does result from crisis and struggles. We need as a church to reaffirm that and help others.”

“Trying to see your situation as a challenge instead of a threat can make a difference in how one responds. It’s important for people to have a sense of hope about the future ... Attempt to grow from the experience.”

Susan Buckelew, an associate professor in the department of psychology at UT Martin
USJ attends Science Bowl

The University of Jackson was second runner-up in the 29th annual High School Science Bowl at the University of Tennessee Martin. A total of 109 students from 11 schools participated and took the written test. Eight schools participated in the afternoon bowl games. From left, first row: Jane Ramer (teacher), Nirali Mehta, Neel Patel, Kenny Oshiro, Angad Singh Bindra, Leo Oshiro, Agnes Oshiro and Malea Mullins (teacher); back row: Christy Lowe (UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society), Katherine Anne Glover, Hannah Lifsey, Ann Marie Graham, Rachel Kirkendol, David Taylor, Matthew Giampupa, Judy Sanderson (teacher), Connor Gilroy (highest overall score, highest score in biology and chemistry) and Jonathan Mitchell (SAACS).

Hannah-Wade Powell of Alamo (second from left), won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. First runner-up was Amber-Rose Haywood of Nashville (left), second runner-up was Jennifer McCullough of Brighton. Powell was crowned by the previous title holder, Elizabeth Looney of Eads (second from right).

UTM schedule told
The University of Tennessee at Martin will be closed Jan. 2, with staff and 12-month faculty to report a day of annual leave, personal leave or compensatory time (previously banked overtime worked) for the day.
This will allow UT Martin to save on energy costs by keeping most buildings at a lower temperature than on a normal workday following the holiday closing Jan. 1 for New Year’s Day.
Certain departments perform services that UT Martin must provide on Jan. 2. Employees who perform those services should report the time they work in place of leave for the period worked. Examples of services that must be provided that day include police protection, heating and other weather-related services, student housing, animal care and services associated with athletic teams.
The university will reopen Jan. 5.
Nashville Star contestant graduates from UT Martin

Alyson Gilbert-Harms seldom passes up an opportunity to be on stage. A performance obligation kept the Nashville Star finalist from walking across UT Martin's commencement stage Dec. 13 to accept her diploma.

But with her final exams behind her and degree in hand, the future is filled with possibilities, including Alyson's dream to succeed in the music business.

Better known by her stage name, Alyson Gilbert, the 29-year-old performer burst on the national scene in June when she became a finalist on Nashville Star, the country music talent-search show.

Although disappointed that she didn't win, the "peaks and valleys" experience gave her a new perspective on the entertainment industry and her own priorities.

Born in Texas and raised in Crookston, Minn., Alyson attended two years at Minnesota State University Moorhead where she studied vocal performance. She developed vocal nodules, was forced to undergo voice therapy and dropped out of school.

She met her husband, Brian, and eventually relocated to Jackson, where he had taken a job with the Black & Decker Corp. Besides the opportunity for Brian, the move to Tennessee also brought her closer to Nashville and the music business.

With a music career always in the picture, she returned to school to pursue a degree that involved animals. "Martin was perfect, because it was within driving distance of my home and had the animal science degree that I was looking to pursue," she said.

Alyson's academic pursuits nudged her out of her comfort zone in that she wasn't raised on a farm and had no experience being around large animals.

She smiled as she remembered the university's hands-on approach to teaching animal science making her much more comfortable with "the big guys" such as cattle and other livestock.

A multiple dog-and-cat owner, she admits to being "obsessed with animals" but added, "I consider myself real fortunate (because) I have two really strong passions in my life - animals and music - and I know that some people don't ever have one. So, I feel real blessed to have those two things in my life."

Establishing a comfort zone for performing also didn't come easily, although she was raised in a musically inclined family.

She began singing in church with her mom when she was eight years old, and she progressed to singing in high school choir and local competitions. She also competed in pageants, which became an unwanted focus of her Nashville Star experience.

"Where I grew up, if you wanted to get up on stage and perform, your options were limited, and pageants gave you an opportunity to get up and get comfortable in front of an audience. ... For me, I had horrible stage fright when I was young, and that really actually helped me get over that," she said.

In later years, her pageant successes included winning the Miss St. Paul title and finishing twice in the top-10 in the late 1990s for Miss Minnesota.

Alyson's years of performing and obvious singing talent prompted people to encourage her to audition for one of the national talent-search shows. She resisted at first, wanting to "make it on my own like everybody else did."

After attempting several avenues to showcase her talent, some more successful than others, Alyson finally decided to give Nashville Star a try.

She and a friend took a video camera around the Martin campus showing some of the things Alyson did in her academic major, thinking that a singer who also studied animal science might be an attention-getting combination.

"I sent in a tape, and they called me and told me that I made it to the national finals just from the tape, so I didn't have to audition again," she said.

The national audition, held in Austin, Texas, earned her a spot in the competition's top 50. She then went to Nashville to audition for the celebrity judges and there learned that she was a top-10 finalist out of 45,000 auditions.

"It's not at the American Idol level, but it was still a fair amount of people," she said.

The Nashville Star experience produced its share of highs and lows. She said meeting the other contestants is among her best memories of the competition. "They were all very, very talented musicians and artists, and I think that none of us really, unfortunately, were able to showcase what we really do on the show," she said. "I don't know that that's necessarily a fault of the show. I just think we just didn't get to."

She added, "I made some friendships that I never would have made. I learned so many things from each of them, and, in fact, I still have relationships with a lot of them."

Alyson said that being away from family and friends was the hardest part of the experience, which made dealing with the stress very difficult.

Finalists were allowed no cell phones, no e-mail and no outside communication during the show. Another difficult aspect of the experience was being portrayed as a "pageant girl" because of her previous pageant success.

"Not to say that that is a bad thing," she said.

"I know many talented, amazing girls who paid their way through college doing pageants."

For Alyson, though, the label left her feeling misrepresented under the national spotlight.

On the plus side, Alyson will especially remember celebrity judge Jeffrey Steele, a highly successful songwriter, and Melissa Lawson, the eventual Nashville Star winner.

During the show, Alyson said the celebrity judges had to point out
out flaws in the contestants’ performances, “but he (Steele) really went out of his way to come up to us after and make sure that he told us personally the things he liked, too.”

He also offered encouragement to those who were voted off the show.

“I really thought that that was exceptional to see in somebody who’s obtained that status in the industry...” she added.

Lawson, besides becoming the newest Nashville Star winner, was also a memorable contestant because of her five young sons who received their share of attention during the series. “She (Lawson) just stands out to me as somebody who’s very driven, and she has a strong faith in God and faith in herself,” Alyson said.

“And I thought that that was really great that she never wavered in her faith that she would win it, and I think maybe that’s why she won. She just didn’t let the pressure get to her, and that’s something I admire a lot.”

In the lessons-learned category from her experience, Alyson said “that you have to be true to yourself no matter what anybody says.”

She added, “I really walked away reaffirming to myself that I am who I am, and I need to be who I am no matter what. And you can take peoples’ opinions with a grain of salt, but at the end of the day, you have to go to bed at night knowing that you’ve been your best self, and that’s what that show taught me.”

The show also made her think about performing at the next level and whether she really wants to continue pursuing this goal. “I still want to be a performer and an artist. At what capacity, I haven’t decided yet.”

She paused and added, “Actually the school experience and the Nashville Star experience blended together (and) kind of changed some of my path a little bit.”

For now, she’s taking a break from a highly planned life and following her mom’s advice to “let go, let God” and see what develops.

In terms of using her college degree, she’s recently taken a job with the Jackson-Madison County Humane Society, which follows her passion for animal welfare.

“While it’s not the biggest, high-paying job I could ever have gotten, I think it’s going to bring me a lot of self satisfaction, doing something that I love,” she said.

Graduate and veterinary school are also options, “But I do know that I will use my degree to make the lives of animals better,” she said.

“At what capacity - (I’m) not a 100 percent sure, but I know that’s why I got the degree.”

Still, her performing dream is alive and well, but she knows that factors beyond her control will influence where she lands. “It’s all about timing, and luck, luck, luck, luck,” she said, and added, “I think it’s just being at the right place at the right time. Everybody says that, but it is, and knowing the right people. Unfortunately, the music industry is not completely talent based.”

She’s met musicians who are, in her opinion, more talented than some well-known artists heard on the radio, but they’ll likely never make it in the business because of timing or lack of connections, she said.

Given her experiences, Alyson’s advice to aspiring performers comes in two parts. First, she says to “go for it.” She then added, “My only other advice would be absolutely do not change who you are, because you will get completely lost if you do.”

Professional-level singing talent and a hard-earned college degree have this Minnesota native ready to pursue her passions at the next level.

The curtain on the stage continues to open a little wider for Alyson Gilbert-Harms. (You can learn more about Alyson and hear her music on the Web at alysongilbert.com.)
$5,000 raised for CDS

Through hard work and many long hours by The University of Tennessee at Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Council and their advisor Danielle Fabianich, and Community Development Services - a nonprofit, community-based organization serving adults with developmental disabilities in Weakley, Obion, Henry, Carrol and Lake Counties - a first-time fundraising campaign recently raised nearly $5,000 to support 140 individuals in the northwestern Tennessee area.

The process started on the football field, as CDS began the rookie fundraising campaign dubbed “Touchdowns for Telethon,” as all proceeds would be presented at the 52nd Annual Lions Club/ WPSD-TV Local 6 Telethon of Stars in early November.

The basic objective was to ask people to pledge a certain amount of money for every touchdown the UT Martin Skyhawk football team scored during their October schedule, which spanned four games.

In addition, fans could donate a flat rate, and would have an opportunity to donate money at UT Martin volleyball and soccer home games. The donors were asked to turn in their pledge cards by Oct. 1, just in time for the Homecoming football game against Tennessee State at Hardy M. Graham Stadium on Oct. 4.

Once the pledge cards were in, CDS had received a total of $191 in pledges per touchdown, and $860 in flat donations.

UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson and the prolific Skyhawk offense did their part by scoring 16 touchdowns throughout the month, which led to $3,056 being raised. After the flat donations were added, the total was brought to $3,916.

“We at CDS were excited about this amount, as it exceeded our unwritten goal of $3,000 for this first-time fundraiser,” said Heather Scarano, Communications and Development Coordinator for CDS.

“But Danelle and the SAAC were not ready to stop at that amount. Because of their enthusiasm and energy, the SAAC raised an additional $1,000 passing the bucket for CDS, with over $400 of that raised at the Homecoming football game alone. So our first Touchdowns for Telethon fundraiser brought in nearly $5,000.”

CDS representatives were on-hand at The Telethon of Stars, which was held on Nov. 8-9 at the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center in Paducah, Ky., and was broadcast live throughout the night on WPSD-TV Local 6.

The annual Telethon of Stars features four organizations from four different states that benefit from the money raised through the Telethon, with CDS chosen as the organization that represents Tennessee. All the money raised in Tennessee

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CDS

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go back to CDS, and in February, CDS will learn exactly how much money it raised through Telethon fundraisers and individual donations.

The money raised through Touchdowns for Telethon will go to help support the 140 individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services from CDS.

The money will also help to offset the transportation costs of the individuals who come to the Martin CDS center, as CDS provides transportation even from the outer edges of its five-county service area.

At the CDS operating center in Martin, adults come and participate in social and learning activities, as well as a sheltered workshop - CDS Industries - which is located in the Martin Industrial Park.

In addition, CDS provides support for nearly 60 individuals who work in competitive employment in the community, and they also run five group homes and four supported living homes.

The SAAC, which features two different student-athletes from each sport at UT Martin, worked hard to earn every last dollar to successfully implement the groundwork that Scarano and Fabianich devised.

“Without the SAAC, this would not have been possible,” Scarano said.

“They were our hands and feet on the UT Martin campus, collecting pledge cards and cash. The student-athletes we worked with were so kind to our clients and at the football games they interacted and seemed to sincerely enjoy hanging out with our clients. We are so grateful to Danelle and the entire SAAC.”

“CDS was an absolutely amazing organization to work with throughout the entire process,” Fabianich said.

“We continued our strong relationship with CDS and we genuinely made a difference - which is the one of the most valuable things anyone can strive for.”

If you missed the chance to donate the first time around, you too can still make a difference. Donations are still being accepted to the Telethon through the end of January.

For more information on the Telethon itself, visit www.telethonofofstars.org.
Gordon urges graduates to help others achieve

Dr. David Gordon, alumnus and Covington mayor, stood behind the podium during Saturday’s commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin and told fall graduates, “UT Martin feels like home.”

It should. Four generations of Gordon’s family have attended the institution: beginning with his grandmother, who road horseback to Hall-Moody Institute (UT Martin predecessor) to get a teaching certificate. His father attended junior college here before transferring to the Knoxville campus. Gordon, his siblings, including J. Houston Gordon, Covington attorney and former University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member; nephews and cousins attended UT Martin. Now, his oldest daughter, Jane, is a student.

Gordon congratulated graduates and their friends and family members who have supported them. “No one gets to this day without the help of others,” he said, before quickly turning his remarks to the future.

“While today represents an important milestone in your life, it is important to ask yourself what is my next goal?” Gordon, who was in the first graduating class of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, reminded them about the value of their education. “As we celebrate your graduation, you may be feeling a little bit apprehensive. Your education at UT Martin has prepared you well to meet life’s challenges.”

Gordon then suggested that, with an education, comes responsibility — a responsibility to help others achieve. He recounted a true story illustrating why the graduates should use their education and abilities to make the world a better place.

Several years ago, Gordon had the opportunity to take two Covington grade-school children to a Memphis Grizzlies basketball game. When they turned on Mud Island Road, en route to the game, he heard the children ask, “What’s that?” when they saw the Mississippi River.

“Our society often criticizes kids like this when they do not do well in school, are not successful in life and maybe end up in trouble,” he said. “What I would say to the critics is this. How can we as a society expect kids … to succeed in this world if the totality of their universe does not reach a mere 19 miles so that they had experienced the Mississippi River — the largest river in North America? Who knows what else they had not experienced?” He added, “There are children like this in every community, town and city throughout Tennessee and the nation.

“The degree that you are about to receive is a tremendous accomplishment. I hope that as you start the next phase of life, you will quickly look for ways to share the blessing of an education. Wherever home is now or will be in the future, whether in Tennessee or somewhere else, as recent college graduates, you are uniquely positioned to influence and encourage middle school and high school students to go on to seek a college degree.”

Closing, Gordon urged graduates to “live life with passion and compassion” and added, “Remember, it is not enough to do the right thing. Do the right thing the right way.”

Today’s graduates represented 42 Tennessee counties, states of Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia, and countries of Canada, Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan.

Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Bonnie Yegidis, UT vice president for academic affairs and student success; Sylvia Davis, UT vice president for strategic planning and operations; and Dr. Katie High, UT chief of staff.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises and conferred degrees. “Graduates, we are proud of you. You can be proud of your UT degree,” said Rakes. “Your potential for success has increased significantly.”

Annual Science Bowl held

Westview High School participated in the recent 29th annual High School Science Bowl hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A total of 109 students from 11 schools participated and took the written test. Eight schools participated in the afternoon bowl games. Pictured are, from left, first row: Tamika Sanchez, Krishna Patel, Chantia Brown, Ezra Nance, Tony Tang, Robert Davis, Dominique Poutop and Julie Reddick; back row: Casey Unger (UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society), Jessica Hightower (teacher), Mariana D'Aprire, Molly Willis, Mark Maloney, Brandt Gibson, Timothy Bergman, Abrahm Haddad, Cory Sandefur, Saumil Patel, Sydney McClure, Jesi Ogg, Kim Simmons (teacher) and Leopold Phiyapalah (SAACS).
Santa’s Village a winter wonderland of fun

Families gaze at the many colorful Christmas displays in the Enchanted Forrest at this year’s Santa’s Village. Donations of food, money and toys from visitors will help make Christmas a little brighter this year for needy families this holiday season.

Santa’s Village offers families a winter wonderland of excitement each year, with numerous colorful scenery and light displays, games for the youngsters, live entertainment, arts and crafts of all kinds, and concessions. The donations of food, money and toys raised by the annual event go local charities which distribute these items to the less fortunate.

Amber Vermillion, 16, of Union City entertains visitors to Santa’s Village with a holiday song. She is the daughter of Melinda Vermillion and the late Eric Vermillion.

Mhrissa Rodriguez, 9, is getting her face painted at Santa’s Village. She is the daughter of Lisa Rodriguez.
Michele Powers, 8, feeds a sheep at the Santa's Village Petting Zoo. She is the daughter of Patrick and Jackie Powers of Dresden.

'The Great Britain Christmas' depicts 19th century carolers.

Martin Parks & Recreation Director Brian Moore (standing), along with Sarah Taylor and Bradley Borneman, welcome visitors to Santa's Village at the information booth over the weekend.

Children view animated penguins and a polar bear singing a Christmas carols in the Enchanted Forrest.

Vocalist Whitley Souterland performs before a crowd of visitors to this year's Santa's Village at UT Martin's Agriculture Pavilion.
A manger scene depicting the birth of Jesus Christ was one of many Christmas scenes displayed at Santa’s Village.

A collection of inflatable cartoon characters provides a whimsical display for delighted area youngsters.

A sketch artist draws a portrait of a young lady at the 24th annual Santa’s Village.

A snowman and colorfully decorated house is one of many scenes at Santa’s Village.

“A Mexican Christmas” is the theme of this colorful display.
Santa’s Village provides festive winter wonderland of fun for area families

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

It was another banner year for Santa’s Village, held inside the Ned R. McWherter Agricultural Pavilion at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The winter wonderland serves the dual purpose of providing a place for families to come and enjoy the festivities of the season by furnishing the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, while simultaneously providing donations of food and toys for the less fortunate.

Food donations at Santa’s Village set a record with a value of $46,839.77. Attendance at the four-day event was 12,767, fifth largest in Santa’s Village history. “Due to the economic times, we are pleased to see the record setting value of food since the number of families being reached is also at its highest. The toy value is currently being finalized and we hope to have that figure by the first of next week,” said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

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

Santa’s Village provides festive . . .

... Continued from page 1

and continuous entertainment. Admission to the event was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

In keeping with the theme, “Christmas Around the World,” this year’s event featured scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. They are: Africa, Australia, China, England, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

The focal point of the holiday display was the giant blue Christmas tree located in the center of the pavilion.

Visitors enjoyed the MTD model train display, wagon rides, children’s inflatables, an animal petting farm, 20 hours of continuous entertainment highlighting regional talent, scores of shopping booths, and delicious concessions.

Live entertainment for Santa’s Village, coordinated by Reba Wade of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin, included solo artists and vocal groups across a wide spectrum of musical genres from Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Huntington, Jackson, Martin, Sharon, Union City, and Paris. In addition to Christmas music, there were also songs made famous by Miley Cyrus who plays Hannah Montana, singer Brittany Young, The Beach Boys, and several Disney songs. There were also songs from “The Wizard of Oz,” the musical “Grease.”

Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan. WCMT reported it also had a record setting year by bringing in 15,600 cans goods.

“On behalf of the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our appreciation to the volunteers who implement Santa’s Village and the visitors who have donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas,” said Moore.

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

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source and McDonald’s.
Weapons permit class planned at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a concealed weapons permit class from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 17.

The goal of this course is to provide education in the fundamentals of handgun safety. Students will be taught how to use, clean and store handguns.

State-certified handgun instructor John Ayer will also cover legal liabilities, firing range participation, course review and testing.

The course will consist of two separate but interrelated sessions of classroom and firing range instruction in a one-day eight-hour course. Upon completion, each student will take a written examination and handgun firing qualification test. A minimum of 70 percent must be achieved on each section to successfully pass the concealed weapons course.

The registration fee is $95. Each student should bring a pen, pencil and paper, a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses, hearing protection for firing range instruction and a pistol-cleaning kit.

To register, contact ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or go online to www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.
Corum honored at Graduate Luncheon

Graduating computer science and information systems majors at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently were honored at the fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. Pictured from left are Dr. James Clark, chair of Department of Computer Sciences and Information Systems, and Adam Corum, of Dresden.

Hankins receives UT-Martin Scholarship

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the first Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship to Ginny Hankins of Ripley. Hankins is the daughter of Paul and Lisa Hankins of Ripley. Lisa Hankins is an alumnus of WestStar, class of 2000.

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

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

More than 15 travel-studies to be offered during 2009

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education will offer 15 travel-study programs in 2009.

Trips begin in February and March with “Abraham Lincoln at 200: Words, Will & Wisdom” to Springfield, Ill., Feb. 26-March 1 and to Washington, D.C., March 9-15. Dr. Michelle Merwin, Department of Psychology interim chair, and Tim Hacker, English instructor, will lead both.

Trips to Paris and London March 4-16 will be led by Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, and Stan Sieber, professor of history; and Dr. Tom Payne, Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair, respectively.

Other trip dates, destinations and department faculty leaders include March 5-14, Lisbon, Portugal/Madrid, Spain, Drs. Lucia Florido and Randall Garza (modern foreign languages); March 7-12, Washington, D.C., (Holocaust), Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (history and philosophy); May 10-16, Washington, D.C., Drs. Paula Gale, Michael Gibson and Jeff Rogers (agriculture and natural resources/forestry, geography and physics); May 10-23, Germany, Dr. Chuck Hammond (modern foreign languages); May 11-21, South Korea, Dr. J.C. Kim (health and human performance); May 15-26, Greece, Dr. Nathan Howard (history and philosophy); May 18-31, New England/Atlantic Canada, Drs. Charles Bradshaw and David Creegan (English); May 23-31, Mediterranean Cruise, Mike Sudzum and Lorrie Jackson (community); July 6-20, European Alps, Stan Sieber (history and philosophy); Aug. 10-15, Washington, D.C., Darrell Simmons (criminal justice); and December 2009, Amazon, Dr. Sue Byrd, Scott Pun and Dr. Bradley Ray (family consumer sciences/health and human performance/agriculture and natural resources).
SANTA'S VILLAGE

The sights and sounds of the 24th annual Santa's Village have come to an end. 12,767 visitors were in attendance.

This year’s participants enjoyed “Christmas Around the World,” the inflatable activities, visits with Santa, model train display, petting farm, live entertainment, wagon rides, giant decorated Christmas tree and all the other lights, decorations and activities of the event. The value of food donations was $46,839.77. Toy value will be forthcoming as soon as it is finalized.

This event has become a huge production. It takes tremendous effort to create the festive Christmas wonderland. We are so appreciative for the following:

MONETARY SPONSORS: University Plaza of Tennessee, LP; Volunteer Community Hospital; First State; MTD Products, Inc.; Southern Source; Hamilton Ryker; Tyson Foods Inc.; McDonald’s;

EVENT DISPLAY/ACTIVITY COORDINATORS: MTD Products; PAICO-Bert Dyer; The Petting Place; Heath Restaurant; WCMT/WCDZ Radio Stations; Magical Mink’s; Phillip and Calvin Elder; Donaldson Brothers; Pepsi Mid-America;

VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS: Mr. Shadden and Dr. Mehlihorn students; Westview Anchor Club; John Taylor; Martin Kiwanis Club; UTM Rodeo Team; John Luthie; Jerri Thomsen; Westview Jobs for Tennessee Graduates; Martin Optimist Club; Union City Jaycees/Jayettes; Westview National Honor Society; Westview Key Club; Martin Lion’s Club; Brenna Burris; Donald Parham and the Ag. Pavilion Staff; Cub Scout Pack No. 37; Phillip Johnson; UTM's Gamma Beta Phi; Pat Sanders; Jeana Mills; Mary Jean Hall; Joe Lozaro; Mason Borneman; Brett Covington; Jonathan Yoesel and Maggie Self;

SUPPORT PERSONNEL: WCMES; UTM Maintenance Department; Tim Nipp; Weakley County Farmers Coop; UTM Public Safety; Martin Police Department; Joey and Nicky Liliker; Busy Bob; Public Works Dept.; Billy Gene Wagster; Mayor Randy Brandighe; Chancellor Tom Rakes; Tim Barrington and crew; Bea Doster; Martin Senior Adult Center;

PUBLICITY/PROMOTION: UTM Public Relations Office; Bud Grimes; Rita Mitchell; WCMT/WCDZ Radio Stations; Weakley County Press; Dresden Enterprise; Froggy 103.7; WENK/WTJP; KYTN/WQAK;

SERVICE AGENCIES: We Care; Chimes for Charity; Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council; Obion County Red Cross; Santa's Helpers; Tennessee Department of Children's Services; Weakley County Head Start Parent Association;

ENTERTAINMENT: Westview Band; Mike Tucker; Joe Farmer; Martin Elementary Student Council; Nakia White; Boy Scout Troop No. 11; Phil Davis; Magical Mink; Rose Brawner; Michael Brewer; Tabitha Dawson; Lindsey Wade; Carla Lee; Christy Lee; Brian McWherter; Zach Rea; Linda Ramsey; Tara Elam; Whitley Southerland; Kayla Clanton; Jonathan McDowell; Tassie' Renee; Amber Vermillion; Becky Lee; Darla Mallory; Karson Scott; Jordan Lybrook; Kiley Wright; Reed Rushing; Claire Capps; Erin Mallory; Hayden Smith; Isabella Dawson; Selena McBride; Mary Kate Jones; Hannah Laster; Maddie Walters; Joy Jones; Ed and Elaine Knight; Carla Field; Mary Katherine Maxey and Family; Maggie Blackwell; Kyle Day; Jim, Michelle and Emma Feiser; Sara Beavers; Alex Butler; Chelsea Breeden; James White; Janice White; Lana Lee; Ronnie Wade and especially Mrs. Reba Wade.

On behalf of the staff of our department, the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion and the C.E. Weldon Public Library, we wish you a merry Christmas and thank you for your gift of caring!

Midday yoga begins Jan. 20

Midday yoga is planned in January by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education. Classes are slated for 12:05-12:55 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 20-Feb. 24. The registration fee is $30. Instructor will be Ken Zimmerman, Yoga Alliance registered yoga teacher. Each class of the six-week session will combine gentle bends and stretches with basic yoga poses. The class is suitable for beginners or experienced practitioners. Participants should go to class with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal). Classes are done in bare feet, and clothing should allow freedom of movement—shorts or tights.

For more information or to register, call ECCE at 881-7082.

LOCAL GRADUATE — Jamie Adams (second from right) of Union City paused with her family prior to Saturday's commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She was joined by (from left) her son, Matthew; her husband, Jason; and her daughter, Audrey. She graduated with a master's degree in education.
Covington mayor urges grads to help others

Dr. David Gordon, alumnus and Covington mayor, stood behind the podium during Saturday's commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin and told fall graduates, "UT Martin feels like home."

It should. Four generations of Gordon's family have attended the institution, beginning with his grandmother, who road horseback to Hall-Moody Institute (UT Martin's predecessor) to get a teaching certificate.

His father attended junior college at Martin before transferring to the Knoxville campus.

Gordon and his siblings — including J. Houston Gordon, Covington attorney and former University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member — and nephews and cousins attended UT Martin.

Now, his oldest daughter, Jane, is a student.

Gordon congratulated graduates and their friends and family members who have supported them.

"No one gets to this day without the help of others," he said before quickly turning his remarks to the future.

"While today represents an important milestone in your life, it is important to ask yourself "What is my next goal?" he said.

Gordon, who was in the first graduating class of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, reminded them about the value of their education.

"As we celebrate your graduation, you may be feeling a little bit apprehensive. Your education at UT Martin has prepared you well to meet life's challenges," he said.

Gordon then suggested that with an education comes responsibility — a responsibility to help others achieve. He recounted a true story illustrating why the graduates should use their education and abilities to make the world a better place.

Several years ago, Gordon had the opportunity to take two Covington grade-school children to a Memphis Grizzlies basketball game. When they turned on Mud Island Road en route to the game, he heard the children ask, "What's that?" when they saw the Mississippi River.

"Our society often criticizes kids like this when they do not do well in school, are not successful in life and maybe end up in trouble," he said. "What I would say to the critics is this: How can we, as a society, expect kids to succeed in this world if the totality of their universe does not reach a mere 19 miles so that they had experienced the Mississippi River — the largest river in North America? Who knows what else they had not experienced?

"There are children like this in every community, town and city throughout Tennessee and the nation," he said.

"The degree that you are about to receive is a tremendous accomplishment. I hope that as you start the next phase of life, you will quickly look for ways to share the blessing of an education. Wherever home is now or will be in the future, whether in Tennessee or somewhere else, as recent college graduates, you are uniquely positioned to influence and encourage middle school and high school students to go on to seek a college degree."

In closing, Gordon urged graduates to "live life with passion and compassion" and added, "Remember, it is not enough to do the right thing. Do the right thing the right way."

The graduates represented 42 Tennessee counties, as well as Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Canada, Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan.

Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Bonnie Yegidis, UT vice president for academic affairs and student success; Sylvia Davis, UT vice president for strategic planning and operations; and Dr. Katie High, UT chief of staff.

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

"Graduates, we are proud of you. You can be proud of your UT degree," Rakes said. "Your potential for success has increased significantly."
Memphis University School was first runner-up in the recent 29th annual High School Science Bowl hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Team members at the competition are (front, from left) Mark Sorensen and Nicholas Rouse; (middle) Christy Lowe of UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, Josh Feler, Joe Hoffsmmer and Howard Choi; (back) Harrison Rea, Anand Patel, Rahul Kumar, Colin Thomas, Aaditya Malhotra, teacher Michael Schwartz and Ashish Patel (SAACS).

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

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

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

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

ATWOOD: Jeremy M. Caldwell, Honors; Jackie R. Hallford, High Honors; James R. Hallford, Honors.

BRUCKTON: Bethany L. Allen, High Honors; Allison P. McGuire, Honors; Samantha N. Stepp, Honors.


CLARKSVILLE: Amanda A. Trebilcock, Highest Honors.

HOLLOW ROCK: Lindsey M. Anderson, Highest Honors; Patrick A. Bishop, Highest Honors; Jennifer K. Brooks, High Honors; Tiffany L. Cathey, Highest Honors; Amanda E. Clark, High Honors; Whitney K. Owens, Highest Honors; Debbie R. Pardue, Honors; Emily A. Ulrich, High Honors.

HUNTINGDON: Ashley E. Anderson, Highest Honors; Dana M. Anderson, High Honors; Russell T. Anderson, High Honors; Timothy E. Bond, Highest Honors; Laura A. Bunn, Honors; Jessica L. Carlton, Highest Honors; Kelley A. Carter, High Honors; Courtney P. Cockrell, High Honors; Whitney L. DePriest, Honors; Cayce E. Dempsey, High Honors; Clint A. Everett, Honors; Jill S. Foster, High Honors; Troy D. Garrison, Highest Honors; Valerie C. Hatch, Highest Honors; Kerry D. Hunt, Honors; Justin B. Johns, Highest Honors; Colin L. Laman, Honors; Braden A. Maddox, Honors; Jeremy R. McQuesten, Highest Honors; Cassidy B. Morgan, Highest Honors; Maril L. Moody, Highest Honors; Johnathan A. Parish, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Pritchard, Highest Honors; Jennifer D. Ray, Highest Honors; Cody C. Rainey, Highest Honors; Kristina M. Reisinger, Honors; Megan B. Sellers, High Honors; William C. Spellings, High Honors; Lea E. Stokes, Highest Honors; Jacob R. Todd, High Honors; Dustin A. Tucker, Highest Honors; Shelley R. Tucker, Honors; Lauren F. Weatherford, Highest Honors.


MCKENZIE: Bethany M. Aden, Highest Honors; Amanda M. Allen, Highest Honors; Audra L. Barham, High Honors; Julie C. Bennett, High Honors; Jonathan K. Brawner, High Honors; Erica L. Brockwell, Honors; Derek J. Carr, High Honors; Rachel L. Chandler, Honors; Laken B. Comer, High Honors; Michael D. Deaton, High Honors; Samantha G. Doster, Highest Honors; Brigitte N. Eubank, Highest Honors; Elaine C. Haw, Highest Honors; Karen C. McCaleb, High Honors; Samuel H. McDaniel, Highest Honors; Sherry L. Moore, Highest Honors; Almee Niles, High Honors; Carol R. Perritt, High Honors; Lauren E. Perritt, Highest Honors; Justin J. Petersen, Highest Honors; Angela V. Ramsey, High Honors; Douglas C. Rich, Honors; Amanda L. Rogers, Honors; Harold L. Russell, Highest Honors; Travis R. Russell, Highest Honors; Kelsey C. Schweitzer, High Honors; Lauren E. Scott, High Honors; Kelly D. Simmons, Honors; Eryn G. Sneed, High Honors.

MCLEMORESVILLE: Anna K. Kelly, High Honors.

TREVEZANT: Mary N. Wadley, Highest Honors; Christina L. Williamson, High Honors.

WESTPORT: Christine M. Craftick, Highest Honors.

YUMA: Kerri B. Foster, Highest Honors; Amanda C. Steele, Honors.
Could it happen again?

Reelfoot lies in wait over earthquake zone

By BUD GRIMES
Special to The Messenger

The view from Fish Gap Hill in Obion County offers a postcard-like perspective of the upper Reelfoot Lake basin. The lake rests quietly near the Mississippi River among acres of farmland that spread across western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee.

The bluff overlooks the eastern-most portion of the Mississippi River floodplain. Hidden beneath the surface of this tranquil setting is the power to alter life in this region in a way not witnessed in modern times. A series of earthquakes in 1811-12 formed Reelfoot Lake and changed the region's landscape. Left for current and future generations to consider is, "Could it happen again?"

Experts agree that it's not so much a question if such an event will happen, but when. And when a major earthquake occurs in the eastern United States, likely in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, preparation will determine how the region fares in the quake's aftermath. That's the message of Dr. Stan Dunagan, assistant professor of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dunagan sometimes takes students to Fish Gap Hill, where he not only teaches but also shows them about earthquakes. On a clear day earlier this year, he explained where portions of the bluff gave way under the rolling force of the quakes. Back in his geology classroom, he uses simple illustrations to explain a complex set of actions that lead to earthquakes. In summary, rocks are under pressure, and if enough pressure or force is applied, they will eventually crack, much like bending a pencil, he said. He demonstrates to his classes by showing that you can apply force and bend the pencil — apply enough force, and the pencil will crack.

"Similarly, rocks act that way when enough force is placed on them. Just like that pencil will break, the rocks will eventually break," he said. "And when they have rocks break, they release energy, and that break, that (See Page 6, Col. 1)"

Earthquake...
(Continued from Page One)
release of energy — that's your earthquake."

The good news is that earthquakes come in all different sizes. A recent example is a magnitude 5.2 earthquake that occurred in the early morning hours of April 18 in Southern Illinois. The quake was felt in several states, including West Tennessee, and was considered moderate, he said. The epicenter was actually located in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and caused relatively little damage. The quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake were probably in the 7.7 range, so fortunately, the "big ones" don't happen as often.

But, earthquakes are occurring, whether people feel them or not. In fact, Dunagan said, the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which includes West Tennessee, has the greatest amount of seismic activity and the greatest potential for large quakes in the eastern United States. "Interestingly, East Tennessee is second (the East Tennessee Seismic Zone), he said. "Now, they don't have big earthquakes, but they have lots of very small earthquakes, magnitude typically less than 2.0, but there are lots of faults in East Tennessee.

To support his point, he referred to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site (http://www.usgs.gov/) that recorded 25 earthquakes from March to July in East Tennessee, a fact probably surprising to many. Based on history and available geologic information, Middle Tennessee residents can rest the easiest with the smallest probability of a large-magnitude quake.

Of greater concern is that West Tennessee, more than any area of the state, faces significant consequences from a large-magnitude quake.

"Geologists view the New Madrid Seismic Zone as one that's low probability but high consequences," Dunagan said. "In other words, if there is an earthquake, there is a chance that it could be a big one."

The U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Memphis maintain the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the Memphis campus. The center has released numbers for the probability of an earthquake measuring 7.7, which is comparable to the 1811-12 quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake.

"If you have a magnitude 7.7, the probability of an earthquake of that magnitude occurring over the next 50 years is 7 to 10 percent," Dunagan said. "Now, the good news is that that probability is a little lower today than what we might have been talking about 10 to 15 years ago, largely because there's been a little bit more research."

As for the location of greatest damage if such a quake occurred, Dunagan said that it depends. He drew the shape of the New Madrid Seismic Zone as a crooked "S" shape that encompasses an area from the Missouri Bootheel and western Kentucky winding south to Memphis. The scope of damage will be determined by where the earthquake occurs along the fault, he said, adding, "And it's certainly possible that it occurs along faults that we already have identified, but there may be additional faults that we're not aware of that it could occur along."

"Memphis is certainly a major concern among various municipal entities, because it's the largest city in this area and for the important transportation routes that run through that area."

Highlighting the concern, he noted that Memphis, Light, Gas and Water — in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the Army Corps of Engineers and University of Memphis researchers — recently traveled along the Mississippi River performing seismic surveys to locate faults and to assess the seismic potential.

But, residents in major seismic zones aren't the only ones who should be concerned about major earthquakes.

"Most of West Tennessee, if there's a large earthquake, will have significant damage," he said. "There's lots of soft, sandy sediment beneath us. That blesses us with great high-quality water resources, but in terms of earthquakes, that's not where you want to be."

The important work of monitoring seismic activity is largely coordinated through the U.S. Geological Survey and through several consortia. UT Martin, which has a seismic station, is part of a larger seismic network that includes St. Louis University and the University of Memphis center.

Another project called EarthScope aims to gradually move GPS and seismic stations across the country to better understand the earth's structure in a way that might help better identify the potential for earthquake hazards. To date, almost 700 seismic and more than 900 GPS instruments have been deployed starting in the western United States and Alaska, Dunagan said. He added that portable instruments should be moved into Tennessee beginning in 2011 for West Tennessee and 2012 for Middle and East Tennessee.

While history might help to identify a pattern that could predict a major quake, Dunagan suggests "not to get bogged down," with these details.

"There will be an earthquake one day, and the question is, 'Are you prepared when it happens?' And, there are lots of things that you can do to get prepared and to really mitigate any potential losses that there might be, whether it's injuries, loss of life or property losses," he added.

While Dunagan said that many Tennesseans would cite a tornado or flood as the most likely natural event or hazard to occur, preparations for these
calamities work equally well for earthquake preparedness. Such steps are keys to short and long-term survival following a catastrophic earthquake. His core recommendations include: have a family emergency plan, have supplies available (water, food, medication), know how to turn off utilities and have a communication plan. Specifically for earthquakes, he’s a big proponent of earthquake insurance.

He also recommended that people secure appliances, bookshelves and large furniture. “Most injuries are not due to shaking. Most injuries are due to things hitting people and falling on people in an earthquake,” he said. “Everyone can take an I-bracket and screw it to a piece of furniture and back into the wall. If someone has a gas appliance, it needs to be secured.”

For people building new homes, they might do well to consider some steps that his family took in constructing their new home near Paris. He had corner bracing added when the house was being framed, as well as some additional horizontal blocking and bracing. He also had the top wooden structure bolted to the basement in multiple places. “The last thing you want, if you have some serious shaking, is one part of your house go one way and the other go the other direction. And if it’s not firmly tied on, that will certainly occur,” he said.

Such preparations seem far removed as visitors take in the scenery atop Fish Gap Hill. However, this panoramic view of Reelfoot Lake reminds visitors what happened when the earth shook in the early 1800s. Stan Dunagan’s advice offers a sobering reminder to be prepared when the earth shakes again.

Editor’s note: Bud Grimes is director of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Santa’s Village sets record for donations

Food donations at the recent 24th annual Santa’s Village event at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin set a record with a value of $46,839.77.

Attendance at the four-day event was 12,767 — the fifth largest in the event’s history.

“Due to the economic times, we are pleased to see the record-setting value of food since the number of families being reached is also at its highest. The toy value is currently being finalized and we hope to have that figure by the first of next week,” Martin Parks and Recreation Department director Brian Moore said.

Co-sponsored by Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, 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.

Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan.

WCMT also reported a record-setting year by bringing in 15,600 canned goods.

On behalf of the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who implement Santa’s Village and the visitors who have donated food and toys to help people in need.

(See Page 6, Col. 6)

Dresden Enterprise, Dresden, Tennessee, December 24, 2008

UT Martin earns third listing among America’s 100 best college buys

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. This marks the third consecutive year that the university has earned the IRE designation.

“Once again, the results of our annual national college survey prove that the University of Tennessee at Martin continues to provide students the highest quality educational environment at the very lowest possible cost,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said that the university is committed to containing costs while providing a high-quality education. “We’re pleased with this designation, especially knowing that many families struggle with paying for college,” he said. “In these tough budget times, we’re looking hard for ways to maintain quality at a reasonable cost.”

The listing among America’s 100 Best College Buys is UT Martin’s third major recognition for the current academic year. Earlier, UT Martin continued its top-tier ranking for southern master’s institutions in the 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report. Also, The Princeton Review named UT Martin a Best Southeastern College for 2009.

(Continued from Page One) the area have a good Christmas,” Moore said.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at 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, Santa’s Helpers and the Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source and McDonald’s.
Gordon urges graduates to help others achieve

Dr. David Gordon, alumnus and Covington mayor, stood behind the podium during Saturday’s commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin and told fall graduates, “UT Martin feels like home.”

It should. Four generations of Gordon’s family have attended the institution beginning with his grandmother, who rode horseback to Hall-Moody Institute (UT Martin predecessor) to get a teaching certificate. His father attended junior college here before transferring to the Knoxville campus. Gordon, his siblings, including J. Houston Gordon, Covington attorney and former University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member, nephews and cousins attended UT Martin. Now, his oldest daughter, Jane, is a student.

Gordon congratulated graduates and their friends and family members who have supported them. “No one gets to this day without the help of others,” he said, before quickly turning his remarks to the future.

“While today represents an important milestone in your life, it is important to ask yourself what is my next goal?” Gordon, who was in the first graduating class of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, reminded them about the value of their education. “As we celebrate your graduation, you may be feeling a bit apprehensive. Your education at UT Martin has prepared you well to meet life’s challenges.”

Gordon then suggested that, with an education, comes responsibility - a responsibility to help others achieve. He recounted a true story illustrating why the graduates should use their education and abilities to make the world a better place.

Several years ago, Gordon had the opportunity to take two Covington grade-school children to a Memphis Grizzlies basketball game. When they turned on Mud Island Road, en route to the game, he heard the children ask, “What’s that?” when they saw the Mississippi River.

“Our society often criticizes kids like this when they do not do well in school, are not successful in life and maybe end up in trouble,” he said. “What I would say to the critics is this. How can we as a society expect kids ... to succeed in this world if the totality of their universe does not reach a mere 19 miles so that they had experienced the Mississippi River - the largest river in North America? Who knows what else they had not experienced?” He added, “There are children like this in every community, town and city throughout Tennessee and the nation. The degree that you are about to receive is a tremendous accomplishment. I hope that as you start the next phase of life, you will quickly look for ways to share the blessing of an education. Wherever home is now or will be in the future, whether in Tennessee or somewhere else, as recent college graduates, you are uniquely positioned to influence and encourage middle school and high school students to go on to seek a college degree.”

Closing, Gordon urged graduates to “live life with passion and compassion” and added, “Remember, it is not enough to do the right thing. Do the right thing the right way.”

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Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Bonnie Yegidis, UT vice president for academic affairs and student success; Sylvia Davis, UT vice president for strategic planning and operations; and Dr. Katie High, UT chief of staff.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises and conferred degrees. “Graduates, we are proud of you. You can be proud of your UT degree,” said Rakes. “Your potential for success has increased significantly.”

Fundraising campaign reports nearly $5,000 raised in donations for CDS

Through a fundraising campaign dubbed ‘Touchdowns for Telethon’ members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Council and their advisor Danielle Fabianich, recently joined with Community Development Services (CDS) in raising $3,916 to support 140 individuals in the northwestern Tennessee area. CDS is a nonprofit, community-based organization serving adults with developmental disabilities in Weakley, Obion, Henry, Carroll and Lake counties. Funds raised for the charitable organization during the fundraising event were presented at the 52nd Annual Lions Club/WPSD-TV Local 6 Telethon of Stars in early November. Those who missed the chance to donate to CDS can still make a difference. Donations are still being accepted to the Telethon through the end of January. For more information on the Telethon itself, visit www.telethonofstars.org.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester Dean’s List

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

Students achieving Dean’s List recognition this semester include:


**Dukedam** - Amy L. Bailey with High Honors, Charles V. Bailey with Honors, Heather N. Yarbrough with Highest Honors.


**Greenfield** - Clint A. Ary with Highest Honors, Jennifer M. Bethel with Honors, Barbara B. Bridgewater with Highest Honors, Christina R. Brock with High Honors, Cassie R. Chapel with Honors, David A. Dilday with Highest Honors, Chealsey P. Engler with High Honors, Tiffany B. Frazier with Honors, Derek A. Galely with Honors, Taren P. Hatcher with High Honors, Kristan D. Jennings with Highest Honors, Clayton J. King with Honors, Jamie M. Knott with Honors, Angie J. Land with Honors, Nicol R. Mclister with High Honors, Robert L. McColl with Highest Honors, Alivia R. McDaniel with High Honors, Clint A. Mcelroy with Honors, Emily L. Medlin with Honors, Dee A. Mitchell with Highest Honors, James H. Moore with Honors, Jacob W. Pentecost with Honors, Kelsey L. Potts with Highest Honors, Sherri A. Puckett with Highest Honors, Kelly A. Stewart with High Honors, Anna M. Usery with High Honors, Samantha E. Wills with High Honors.


**Honors** - Christopher M. Cates with High Honors, Lindsey R. Cates with Honors, Whitney D. Cates with Highest Honors, Charles R. Cavin with Honors, Kayla A. Cazeneuve with Highest Honors, Santos Cedeno with Highest Honors, Frederec M. Claiborne with High Honors, Alexsis J. Cole with Highest Honors, Matthew R. Cook with Highest Honors, Elizabeth S. Culver with Highest Honors, Steven W. Dalton with Honors, Cory S. Davis with High Honors, Jennifer L. Deveso with High Honors, Michael L. Dobson with Honors, Misty L. Dunlap with Highest Honors, James C. Eisterhold with High Honors, Lee A. Elliott with High Honors, Sarah E. Ellis with Honors, Corney M. Erickson with Highest Honors, Kayla R. Evans with Honors, Sierra E. Ezell with High Honors, Bryant J. Fisher with Honors, Kirk A. Foley with Honors, Alyssa N. Folk with High Honors, Mary E. Forman with Honors, Christopher T. Fowler with High Honors, Jeffrey M. Freeman with Honors, Kevin J. Freeman with Honors, Amy P. Gardner with Highest Honors, Joshua E. Gattlin with Honors, Kelsey J. Gibson with Highest Honors, Elizabeth E. Gipson with Highest Honors, Victor S. Gosser with High Honors, Joshua S. Greer with Highest Honors, Randall Z. Gregory with Honors, Amy V. Hall with High Honors, Grant R. Harper with High Honors, Angela K. Harris with High Honors, Walter R. Harris with Highest Honors, Jackie W. Haube with High Honors, Jennifer R. Havener with Highest Honors, James M. Hawkins with High Honors, Casey M. Henson with Honors, Thomas H. Hester with Honors, Heath L. Higgins with Highest Honors, Kayla B. High with Highest Honors, Rachel C. Hill with Highest Honors, Rebecca K. Hinds with Highest Honors, Margaret A. Hinson with Highest Honors, Brittany P. Hoback with Honors, Katie J. Holland with High Honors, Lacey M. Howard with Honors, Raymond J. Howard with Honors, Justin C. Hunt with High Honors, Sarah R. Hunter with Highest Honors, James D. Hutchins with Honors, Derek H. Ivy with Honors, Chandra M. Jacobs with Honors.
Santa’s Village receives record number of food & toy donations

The 24th annual Santa’s Village has brought in a huge help to the less fortunate of the surrounding area. Attendance at the four-day event was 12,767 people, the fifth largest turnout in Santa’s Village history.

The total value of food donated was $46,840, while the total toy donations were valued at $14,125. This amounts to a total donation for 2008 of $60,965.

Martin Parks and Recreation Department Program Director Kim Kirby said, “Due to the economic times of today, I feel Santa's Village held true in people trying to help people.”

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

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source and McDonalds.
Students tapped for Dean's list

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

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

Those listed include: Chase M. Braun, Fulton, Honors; Casey A. Curlin, Fulton, High Honors; James D. Lucy, Fulton, Honors; Nicholas S. Moon, Fulton, Honors; Heather M. Pfleuger, Fulton, Highest Honors; Natalie L. Rushing, High Honors; Rachel J. Wynn, Fulton, Honors; Roger A. Dunn, Hickman, High Honors; Beth L. McClure, Hickman, High Honors; Brandy D. Whitten, Hickman, Highest Honors; Melissa E. Swift, Water Valley, Highest Honors; Joshua L. Potts, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Kimberly L. Batt, South Fulton, Honors; Chasity N. Comer, South Fulton, High Honors; Brandon M. Culver, South Fulton, Honors; Tanika L. Dickerson, South Fulton, High Honors; Charles S. Ellegood, South Fulton, Honors; Kady E. Elliott, South Fulton, Honors; James W. Faulkner, South Fulton, High Honors; Dustin M. Fowler, South Fulton, Honors; Kyle D. Greer, South Fulton, High Honors; Megan E. Grubb, South Fulton, High Honors; Tianda V. Harris, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Ami N. Hewlett, South Fulton, Honors; Margaret A. Hickman, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Brandi A. Hutchens, South Fulton, High Honors; Allison T. Jones, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Tammy G. Malray, South Fulton, Honors; Cristin S. Maloney, South Fulton, Honors; Melissa A. Manuel, South Fulton, Honors; Delana J. McDaniel, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Jessica L. McKinney, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Andrew H. Moore, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Zachary K. Nabors, South Fulton, Honors; Richard W. Nipp, South Fulton, Honors; Robbie A. Peoples, South Fulton, High Honors; Nikki L. Pergande, South Fulton, Honors; Derrick W. Rachels, South Fulton, High Honors; Jonathan W. Smith, South Fulton, High Honors; Laura A. Williams, South Fulton, Honors.

Local students on UTM dean’s list

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

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

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

From Humboldt are: Charity L. Allen, honors; Brittany N. Brunum, highest honors; Andrew J. Castleman, highest honors; Kayla C. Crook, honors; Jennifer L. Denton, high honors; Cody A. Fowler, high honors; Stephanie M. Foxx, honors; James A. Gilkey, honors; Erin M. Jackson, highest honors; Jennie E. Jackson, honors; Crystal L. Knight, highest honors; Adam S. Laman, honors; Megan M. Latimer, high honors; Joseph T. Lindsey, honors; Alexis R. Luckey, high honors; William P. Luckey, highest honors; Bradley D. Matthews, highest honors; Tucker D. Phillips, honors; Karn C. Powell, highest honors; Megan M. Rowan, high honors; Anthony R. Rushing, high honors; Christie K. Rushing, highest honors; Kara V. Salyers, high honors; Michael S. Schoonover, high honors; Jody L. Stokes, highest honors; Jeb H. Williams, highest honors.

From Medina are: Brooke A. Betten, high honors; Elyse B. Cole, high honors; Charli M. Crane, high honors; Lisa N. Detrain, high honors; Jessica L. Erickson, highest honors; Jacob G. Flippin, honors; Whitney L. Foster, honors; Caroline E. Harber, high honors; Christina E. Johnson, highest honors; Lucas R. Jones, highest honors; Dustin P. Kenton, high honors; Cody L. Marbury.
Generosity hits record numbers at Santa's Village

Participants to Santa's Village this year came out in record numbers as a record number of donations were collected at the event.

Food donations at the recent 24th annual Santa's Village event at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin set a record with a value of $46,839.77. Attendance at the four-day event was 12,767, fifth largest in Santa's Village history.

"Due to the economic times, we are pleased to see the record-setting value of food since the number of families being reached is also at its highest. The toy value is currently being finalized, and we hope to have that figure by the first of next week," said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director.

Co-sponsored by 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.

Santa's Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County churches, via the WCMT van on campus. WCMT also reported a record-setting year by bringing in 15,600 canned goods.

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

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

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source and McDonalds.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester dean's list

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

Dyersburg - Codie L. Anderson (High Honors), Rachael L. Anderson (High Honors), Alayna M. Barnhill (Highest Honors), Lauren M. Binkley (High Honors), Mari K. Blair (High Honors), Justin M. Brown (Highest Honors), Matthew C. Burgess (High Honors), Sara M. Coleman (Highest Honors), Simon Cook (Highest Honors), Heather L. Copeland (Honors), Michael J. Davis (Highest Honors), Becky S. Dykes (Highest Honors), Brandon J. Estes (Highest Honors), Hugh T. Forsythe (High Honors), Justin K. Golden (Honors), Emily D. Greene (Highest Honors), Stephen K. Greene (High Honors), Mia Hartzog (High Honors), Laura B. Hayes (Highest Honors), Laura A. Heathcott (High Honors), JoAnna E. Henderson (Highest Honors), Pamela L. Hudson (Highest Honors), Alana M. Huffman (Honors), Stephanie N. Kissell (Highest Honors), Jonathan V. Kolwyck (Highest Honors), Jenista D. Magness (Honors), Elizabeth R. McAndrew (Honors), All E. McBride (High Honors), Meredith J. McBride (Highest Honors), Emily G. Moody (High Honors), Courteny C. Moore (Honors), Amanda J. Nichols (High Honors), Christopher W. Nichols (Highest Honors), Priscilla R. Norman (Honors), Lauren E. Parker (Honors), Alison M. Petty (High Honors), Richard A. Pike (High Honors), Daniel C. Rose (Highest Honors), Kayla J. Rumer (Highest Honors), Brandon D. Smith (Honors), Shawn P. Smith (Honors), Shawn D. Smith (Honors), Samuel E. Stephens (Highest Honors), Lisa E. Tarr (High Honors), Scekyll M. Tickel (Honors), Cnannah R. Tipton (High Honors), Rhiannon M. Triplet (Honors), Louis C. Walker (Highest Honors), Stuart S. Watson (Honors), Gatlin L. Willis (High Honors) and Laurence G. Winters (Honors).

Newbern - Jerry-Dale Bartee (Honors), Courtney L. Burton (Honors), Adam D. Clark (Highest Honors), Niki D. Dean (Highest Honors), Ashley M. Durbin (High Honors), Kelly M. Eisenberger (Honors), Jeremy D. Fair (High Honors), Mary L. Goodwin (Honors), Jonathan K. Jetton (Honors), Adam T. Johnson (High Honors), Amber S. Lamb (Honors), Megan E. Lewis (Highest Honors), Heather K. McLean (Highest Honors), Angela R. Murray (Highest Honors), Renee A. Murray (High Honors), Joshua T. Ozment (High Honors), Dustin K. Parker (Honors), Anita F. Renshaw (Highest Honors), Brittany J. Smith (Highest Honors), Tony J. Vandyke (Highest Honors), Kelly L. Wheeler (High Honors), Samuel L. White (Honors) and Andrew R. Zarecor (High Honors).

Ridgely - Karen M. Paschall (Highest Honors), Traylor - Justin W. Pope (Honors).

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WestStar Leadership Scholarship given

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the first Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship to Ginny Hanks of Ripley. Hanks is the daughter of Paul and Lisa Hanks of Ripley. Lisa Hanks is an alumnus of WestStar, class of 2000. Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, was one of the founders of the WestStar Leadership Program. The scholarship was established in his honor to be awarded to a WestStar alumnus dependent who is enrolled at UT Martin. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a student who has proven leadership skills and/or displays leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who have displayed a high level of academic achievement and who have a proven record of community/university involvement. To be considered for this scholarship, students must apply to the WestStar Leadership Office. The WestStar Board of Trustees selected the recipient of this scholarship at its annual December board meeting.

Fund established at UTM in memory of Steve Rogers

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Development has established a memorial fund for Steve Rogers, former director of the Paul Meek Library. Memorials will be utilized to design a reading nook for UT Martin students, faculty and staff in the university library.

To make a donation, write a check to UT Martin and earmark it for Library Development Fund in Memory of Steve Rogers. Mail the check to UT Martin, Office of Development, 328 Administration Building, Martin TN 38238.

Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Atwood - Breanna Paige Banks;
- Hollow Rock - Whitney Kai Owens;
- Huntingdon - Crystal Sade Fuller, Johnathan Adam Parish, Mary Ryan Roberts, Corren Matthew Tippit, Shelby Renee Tucker;
- McKenzie - Clinton Kyle Manns, Ricky Stephen Mathis, Samuel Howard McDaniel, Harold Lee Russell II;
- Trezevant - Donald Andrew Bokovi Jr.

Receiving a graduate degree was:
- McKenzie - Paul Thomas Carroll.

Dr. David Gordon, Covington mayor, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.
Reelfoot lies in wait over earthquake zone

Bud Grimes
Special to the Press

The view from Fish Gap Hill in Obion County offers a postcard-like perspective of the upper Reelfoot Lake basin. The lake rests quietly near the Mississippi River among acres of farmland that spread across western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee.

The bluff overlooks the eastern-most portion of the Mississippi River floodplain. Hidden beneath the surface of this tranquil setting is the power to alter life in this region in a way not witnessed in modern times.

A series of earthquakes in 1811-12 formed Reelfoot Lake and changed the region’s landscape. Left for current and future generations to consider is, “Could it happen again?”

Experts agree that it’s not so much a question if such an event will happen, but when. And when a major earthquake occurs in the eastern United States, likely in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, preparation will determine how the region fares in the quake’s aftermath.

That’s the message of Dr. Stan Dunagan, assistant professor of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dunagan sometimes takes students to Fish Gap Hill, where he not only teaches but also shows them about earthquakes.

On a clear day earlier this year, he explained where portions of the bluff gave way under the rolling force of the quakes.

Back in his geology classroom, he uses simple illustrations to explain a complex set of actions that lead to earthquakes.

In summary, rocks are under pressure, and if enough pressure or force is applied, they will eventually crack, much like bending a pencil, he said.

He demonstrates to his classes by showing that you can apply force and bend the pencil — apply enough force, and the pencil will crack.

“Similarly, rocks act that way when enough force is placed on them. Just like that pencil will break, the rocks will eventually break,” he said. “And when you have rocks break, they release energy, and that break, that release of energy — that’s your earthquake.”

The good news is that earthquakes come in all different sizes. A recent example is a magnitude 5.2 earthquake that occurred in the early morning hours of April 18 in Southern Illinois.

The quake was felt in several states, including West Tennessee, and was considered moderate, he said. The epicenter was actually located in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and caused relatively little damage.

The quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake were probably in the 7.7 range, so fortunately, the “big ones” don’t happen as often. But, earthquakes are occurring, and can rest the easiest with the smallest probability of a large-magnitude quake.

Of greater concern is that West Tennessee, more than any area of the state, faces significant consequences from a large-magnitude quake.

“Geologists view the New Madrid Seismic Zone as one that’s low probability but high consequences,” Dunagan said. “In other words, if there is an earthquake, there is a chance that it could be a big one.”

The U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Memphis maintain the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the Memphis campus.

The center has released numbers for the probability of an earthquake measuring 7.7, which is comparable to the 1811-12 quakes that formed Reelfoot Lake.

“I’d say, if you have a magnitude 7.7, the probability of an earthquake of that magnitude occurring over the next 50 years is 7 to 10 percent,” Dunagan said.

“Now, the good news is that that probability is a little lower today than what we might have been talking about 10 to 15 years ago, largely because there’s been a little bit more research.”

As far as the location of greatest damage if such a quake occurred, Dunagan said that it depends. He drew the shape of the New Madrid Seismic Zone as a crooked “S” shape that encompasses an area from the Missouri Bootheel and western Kentucky winding south to Memphis.

The scope of damage will be determined by where the earthquake occurs along the fault, he said, adding, “And it’s certainly possible that it occurs along faults that we already have identified, but there may be additional faults that we’re not aware of that it could occur along.”
Reelfoot

“Memphis is certainly a major concern among various municipal entities, because it’s the largest city in this area and for the important transportation routes that run through that area.”

Highlighting the concern, he noted that Memphis, Light, Gas and Water — in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the Army Corps of Engineers and University of Memphis researchers — recently traveled along the Mississippi River performing seismic surveys to locate faults and to assess the seismic potential.

But, residents in major seismic zones aren’t the only ones who should be concerned about major earthquakes.

“Most of West Tennessee, if there’s a large earthquake, will have significant damage,” he said.

“There’s lots of soft, sandy sediment beneath us. That blesses us with great high-quality water resources but, in terms of earthquakes, that’s not where you want to be.”

The important work of monitoring seismic activity is largely coordinated through the U.S. Geological Survey and through several consortiums. UT Martin, which has a seismic station, is part of a larger seismic network that includes St. Louis University and the University of Memphis center.

Another project called EarthScope aims to gradually move GPS and seismic stations across the country to better understand the earth’s structure in a way that might help better identify the potential for earthquake hazards.

To date, almost 700 seismic and more than 900 GPS instruments have been deployed starting in the western United States and Alaska, Dunagan said.

He added that portable instruments should be moved into Tennessee beginning in 2011 for West Tennessee and 2012 for Middle and East Tennessee.

While history might help to identify a pattern that could predict a major quake, Dunagan suggests “not to get bogged down” with these details.

“There will be an earthquake one day, and the question is, ‘Are you prepared when it happens?’ And, there are lots of things that you can do to get prepared and to really mitigate any potential losses that there might be, whether it’s injuries, loss of life or property losses,” he added.

While Dunagan said that many Tennesseans would cite a tornado or flood as the most likely natural event or hazard to occur, preparations for these calamities work equally well for earthquake preparedness.

Such steps are keys to short and long-term survival following a catastrophic earthquake.

His core recommendations include: have a family emergency plan, have supplies available (water, food, medication), know how to turn off utilities and have a communication plan.

Specifically for earthquakes, he’s a big proponent of earthquake insurance.

He also recommended that people secure appliances, bookshelves and large furniture.

“Most injuries are not due to shaking. Most injuries are due to things hitting people and falling on people in an earthquake,” he said.

“Everyone can take an L-bracket and screw it to a piece of furniture and back into the wall. If someone has a gas appliance, it needs to be secured.”

For people building new homes, they might do well to consider some steps that his family took in constructing their new home near Paris. He had corner bracing added when the house was being framed, as well as some additional horizontal blocking and bracing.

He also had the top wooden structure bolted to the basement in multiple places.

“The last thing you want, if you have some serious shaking, is one part of your house go one way and the other go the other direction. And if it’s not firmly tied on, that will certainly occur,” he said.

Such preparations seem far removed as visitors take in the scenery from atop Fish Gap Hill.

However, this panoramic view of Reelfoot Lake reminds visitors what happened when the earth shook in the early 1800s. Stan Dunagan’s advice offers a sobering reminder to be prepared when the earth shakes again.

Editor’s note: Bud Grimes is director of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Mirror-Exchange, Tuesday, December 30, 2008

UT MARTIN CADET COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANT — Candy Rose Cannon, of Milan, was recently commissioned into the United States Army as second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She was a fall graduate of UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

UT MARTIN CADET COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANT — Nathan Bishop Browning, of Milan, 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’s degree in criminal justice.
Area students lend helping hands in Louisiana disaster region

New Orleans, La. - Students from five Baptist Collegiate Ministry campuses in West Tennessee partnered to bring hope and peace at Christmas to families in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area over winter break. A team of 31 spent Dec. 13 - 18 in the Avondale suburb of New Orleans doing disaster relief work.

Students and campus ministers representing the following campuses partnered on the Mission Trip: Dyersburg State Community College, Jackson State Community College, University of Tennessee at Martin, University of Memphis, and University of Tennessee Health Sciences in Memphis.

"I loved the partnership and the spirit of cooperation and devotion that happened as a result of different campuses coming together. Students with different gifts and abilities gave a week of their winter break to meet the various needs of First Baptist Avondale," said Jeff Jones, BCM Director at University of Memphis. "We worked hard and experienced God in our ministry. The kingdom of God was exhibited as we worked toward something from which we wouldn't directly benefit, yet we knew that we were helping that church to focus on reaching their community."

First Baptist Avondale was the host church for the mission team, providing housing and materials. The teams worked on two homes for families connected with the church, as well as provided labor for renovations to the church main facility and annex.

The church had been almost restored to original condition since being seriously damaged by hurricane Katrina, when this past fall's Hurricane Gustav hit the church and surrounding community hard. The pastor, Rev. Marc Daniels reported that Gustav did as much damage, if not more, to the facility than Katrina.

“We had several mission teams come down and help us get on our feet following Katrina ...and now Gustav has set us back again,” Daniels said. “But thanks to the mission teams that keep coming down to help us, we’re about to get back up and running. It’s amazing how much work these students have gotten done this week. God has blessed us tremendously; the church has grown substantially this past year in spite of the hurricane."

The students were broken into teams doing construction, painting, stripping and re-waxing floors, installing replacement lighting and ceiling tiles, cleaning and re-organizing, and landscaping work. Teams were assigned to work on both the two homes and the church property.

The students were also able to minister to people in the community during the week.

On the last night, students and members of the church went around the community singing Christmas carols and visiting shut-ins.

Morgan Owen, BCM Director at UT-M said, “It’s been great to see a connection take place among the BCM students in West TN. The relationship within the BCM family makes this ministry encouraging and unique. It was amazing to see how God placed people in the exact place of service where they are gifted. As we continue to build this partnership, I’m excited to see what direction it will take in the years to come.”

Owen also made note that God’s grace is sufficient for all of our needs, and being involved in a missions project such as this helps us keep things in perspective.

“I took a team of 3 guys to help a local family whose home caught fire during Hurricane Gustav. When we walked in the home we saw the fire damage mainly confined to the kitchen. Our group helped with some of the painting needs. During that brief time I was humbled by my selfish thoughts from just days earlier when I was thinking how much Christmas shopping I had to do upon returning home. Yet, there I stood in the home of a family who was struggling to grasp just what Christmas would be like this year. God brings us to reality at times and challenges us to see what really is important in life,” he said.

“These students are blessed with a variety of talents and are anxious to use their talents to serve the needs of others,” said Stan Cavness, BCM Director at Dyersburg State Community College and project leader for the Mission Trip. "It's exciting to know that we have all these students who are using the talents that God has given them, and preparing themselves to be leaders in our churches and communities in just a few years. They represented their campuses and their home state well in Louisiana.

The West TN BCM group is already talking with First Baptist Avondale about taking an evangelistic team down during winter break 2009 that could include a health fair for senior adults in the area.

“Partnering with other west TN BCM’s for this trip was a great idea. The students and I loved meeting and working with each other. I am already looking forward to next year’s partnership trip,” said Amanda Lamberth, Interim BCM Director at UTHS.

The students and grants from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief and the Dyer Baptist Association funded the Mission Trip. Finley Baptist Church provided a bus and driver, James “Bunny” Bailey, for transportation.
HELPING HANDS — A team of 31 students and Baptist Collegiate Ministry Directors went to the Gulf Coast to provide disaster relief work on homes and a church building during their Winter Break. Those who offered a show of hope included, (back, from left) Stan Cavness - Dyersburg State Community College; Clint Mealor - University of Tennessee at Martin; Justin Lee - University of Memphis; Zach Webb - UTM; Eric Wilson - UTM; Rachel Reagan - UTM; Matt Jenkins - UTM; Scott McGill - UTM; Matt Oestreich - DSCC; Wyatt Kemp - DSCC; Chris White - DSCC; Randy McDonald - UTM; James “Bunny” Bailey - Finley Baptist Church; (middle, from left) Amanda Lambeth - University of Tennessee Health Sciences of Memphis; Megan Keller - UTM; Hannah Phelps - U of M; Erica Davis - U of M; Katie Evans - UTM; Candace Cox - U of M; Brittany Lawson - DSCC; Jennifer “Daisy” Eveler - U of M; Jonathan Cisco - U of M; and Brad Winter - UTM. Front row - left to right: Morgan Owen - UTM; Ashley Newton - UTM; Tyler Baggett - UTM; John “Ben” Zawacki - Jackson State Community College; Johnnie Mack Stephens - DSCC; Jonathan Gentry - U of M; Caleb Jones and Jeff Jones - U of M.

Santa’s Village nets record donations

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Santa’s Village gets off to a good start each year with food provided by Weakley County schools, via the WCMT can caravan. WCMT also reported a record-setting year by bringing in 15,600 canned goods.

“On behalf of the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and the University of Tennessee at Martin, we once again would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who implemented Santa’s Village and the visitors who have donated food and toys to help people in the area have a good Christmas,” said Moore.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Chimes for Charity and the Department of Children’s Services. Co-sponsors for the event include Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital, Southern Source and McDonalds.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2008 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

**Campus:** Ahmed Alyousif, High Honors; Jonathan Awwad, Honors; Sarah E. Brunstad, Highest Honors; Stephan Brewer, High Honors; David E. Chambless, Highest Honors; Nuala K. Deans, High Honors; Joshua B. Dye, Highest Honors; Sol Heo, Highest Honors; Ernestine Koornhof, Highest Honors; Sara Leavy, Highest Honors; Tareq J. Mayahi, Honors; Andrey V. Yesipov, Highest Honors;

**Dresden:** Keely E. Adams, Highest Honors; Michael S. Adams, Highest Honors; Anne E. Alford, Highest Honors; Zachary O. Baker, Highest Honors; Jennifer T. Beaty, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Belote, Honors; Jarrod T. Bonar, Honors; William E. Boyd, Honors; George N. Browning, High Honors; Alexander J. Bynum, Honors; Albany D. Cianfarani, Honors; Kristin N. Copeland, Highest Honors; Adam S. Corum, High Honors; Alex V. Crowell, Highest Honors; Bethany N. Dane, Honors; Lacey M. Darden, Honors; Stacey L. Darden, High Honors; Ryan L. Delaney, High Honors; Christina P. Dilday, High Honors; Jake H. Doster, High Honors; Brittany E. Dugger, Highest Honors; David E. Dunn, High Honors; Wendy D. Elliott, Highest Honors; Boyd J. Erwin, Highest Honors; Benita J. Evans, High Honors; Cynthia J. Farrar, Honors; Mancel C. Fincher, Highest Honors; Carolyn E. Hagen, Highest Honors; Justin B. Hatler, High Honors; Bonnie A. Hickman, Highest Honors; Joshua L. Houston, Highest Honors; Sunni C. Jackson, Highest Honors; Lacie C. Kelley, Honors; Leah R. Kerassidis, Honors; Kurtiss T. Lamb, Highest Honors; Kristin D. Lassiter, High Honors; James C. Levister, Honors; Sarah A. McAlpin, High Honors; Emily S. Moon, Highest Honors; Jeremy M. Moss, Highest Honors; Jessica M. Neiser, Highest Honors; Charles R. Nichols, High Honors; Shonna R. Parker, High Honors; Allison L. Paschall, Honors; Kayla R. Peeler, Honors; Cody W. Perkins, Highest Honors; Jack A. Pflueger, Honors; Scarlett L. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Brandi L. Sanford, Honors; Gregory A. Shobe, Honors; Brandy N. Spendlove, Honors; Abbey B. Stoker, Highest Honors; Krista S. Suddath, High Honors; Matthew A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Evan M. Trevalathan, Honors; Andrew F. Wade, Highest Honors; Joseph S. Winstead, Honors; Meera Yogesh, Highest Honors;

**Dukedom:** Amy L. Bailey, Honors; Charles V. Bailey, Honors; Heather N. Yarboro, Highest Honors; Petersburg; G. Finch, High Honors; Andrew R. Francisco, High Honors; Tessa R. Kyle, Honors; Leah N. Maboe, Honors; Jill A. Mitchell, High Honors; Graham J. Oliver, Highest Honors; Kody T. Owen, Honors; Raylon G. Price, High Honors; Kristin D. Roberts, Highest Honors; Lacie A. Trevathan, High Honors; Joshua B. Verdel, Highest Honors; Joshua E. Wiseman, Honors;

**Greenfield:** Clint A. Ary, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Bethel, Honors; Barbara A. Bridgewater, Highest Honors; Christina R. Brock, Highest Honors; Cassie R. Chapel, Honors; David A. Dillard, Highest Honors; Christy P. Engler, High Honors; Tiffany B. Frazier, Honors; Derek A. Galey, Honors; Taren P. Hatcher, Highest Honors; Kristan D. Jennings, Highest Honors; Clayton J. King, Honors; Jamie M. Knott, Honors; Angie J. Land, Honors; Nicci R. McAlister, Highest Honors; Robert L. McCull, Highest Honors; Alivia R. McDaniel, High Honors; Clint A. Mealer, Honors; Emily L. Medding, Honors; Dee A. Mitchell, Highest Honors; James H. Moore, Honors; Jacob W. Penicost, Honors; Kelsey L. Potts, Highest Honors; Sherri A. Puckett, Honors; Kelly A. Stewart, High Honors; Anna M. Usery, High Honors; Samantha E. Wills, High Honors; honored; Martin:** Kassi L. Abney, Highest Honors; Melissa J. Adams, Highest Honors; Dustin T. Allen, Honors; Fahad A. Almutairi, Honors; Ali Almutawa, Highest Honors; Roberto G. Alvarez, Honors; Joseph S. Anderson, High Honors; Rachel A. Aubuchon, High Honors; Kevin P. Bannon, Honors; Jessica S. Betts, Highest Honors; Lindsey B. Blankenship, High Honors; Alyssa B. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Darla A. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Sylvester Boyd, High Honors; Christina M. Brasher, Highest Honors; Edward L. Brasher, Highest Honors; Jessica K. Breeden, Highest Honors; Charles E. Brewer, Highest Honors; Mary E. Brewer, Honors; Kayla J. Brockwell, Honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, Highest Honors; Kyle H. Brooks, High Honors; Philip L. Brooks, Honors; Kevin E. Burdette, Highest Honors; Justin D. Burtilson, Lauren N. Burress, Highest Honors; Alexander T. Campbell, High Honors; Clarinda M. Cannon, Highest Honors; Leslie A. Cannon, High Honors; Christopher M. Cates, High Honors; Lindsey R. Cates, Honors; Whitney D. Cates, High Honors; Charles R. Cavin, Honors; Kayla A. Cazenave, Highest Honors; Santis Cedeno, Highest Honors; Frederec M. Claiborne, High Honors; Alexis J. Cole, High Honors; Matthew R. Cook, Highest Honors; Elizabeth S. Culver, Highest Honors; Steven W. Dalton, Honors; Cory S. Davis, High Honors; Jennifer L. DeYeso, High Honors; Michael L. Dobson, Honors; Misty L. Dunlap, Highest Honors; James C. Eisterhoff, High Honors; Lee A. Elliott, High Honors; Sarah E. Ellis, Honors; Cortney M. Erickson, Highest Honors; Kayla R. Evans, Honors; Sierra J. Ezell, Highest Honors; Bryant J. Fisher, Honors; Kirk A. Foley, Honors; Alyssa N. Folk, High Honors; Mary E. Fortner, High Honors; Christopher T. Fowler, High Honors; Jeff M. Freeman, Honors; Kevin J. Freeman, Honors; Amy P. Gardner,
Highest Honors; Joshua E. Gatlin, Honors; Kesley J. Gibson, High Honors; Elizabeth E. Gipson, Highest Honors; Victor S. Gosser, High Honors; Joshua S. Greer, Highest Honors; Randall Z. Gregory, Honors; Amy V. Hall, High Honors; Grant R. Harper, High Honors; Angela K. Harris, High Honors; Walter R. Harris, Highest Honors; Jackie W. Haushe, High Honors; Jennifer R. Havener, Highest Honors; James M. Hawkins, High Honors; Casey M. Henson, Honors; Thomas H. Hester, Honors; Heather L. Higgs, Highest Honors; Kayla B. High, High Honors; Rachel C. Hill, Highest Honors; Rebecca K. Hinds, Highest Honors; Margaret A. Hinson, Highest Honors; Brittany P. Hoboek, Honors; Katie J. Holland, High Honors; Lacey M. Howard, Honors; Raymond J. Howard, Honors; Justin C. Hunt, High Honors; Sarah R. Hunter, Highest Honors; James D. Hutchins, Honors; Derek H. Ivy, Honors; Chandra M. Jacobs, Honors; Seong Yeop Jeong, Highest Honors; Mark C. Johnson, Honors; Robert L. Kelley, High Honors; James M. Kempton, Honors; Ashton D. Kendall, Honors; Lindsey B. Kennedy, Honors; Jake R. King, Honors; Alisse K. Kirk, Honors; Kimberly J. Laster, Highest Honors; Laura J. Leahy, Highest Honors; Becky L. Lee, High Honors; Brady S. Legens, Highest Honors; Joshua S. Lemons, High Honors; Willie P. Lemons, High Honors; Mingyingzi Liu, High Honors; Nikita M. Louis, Highest Honors; Loren K. Mallari, Honors; Lorie K. Mallari, Honors; Joshua D. Manning, Honors; Jeffery D. McDaniel, Honors; Rebecca A. McDonald, Honors; Katherine A. McKeel, Highest Honors; James S. Melton, High Honors; Monica M. Melton, Honors; Jessica E. Miles, High Honors; Erica C. Miller, High Honors; Robert H. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Sara A. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Harrison F. Moore, Honors; Rachel A. Morgan, High Honors; Michael L. Musser, Highest Honors; Paul E. Orr, Highest Honors; Fabiano Ndkumassabo, High Honors; Sarah E. Norr, Highest Honors; Audrey E. Osment, Highest Honors; Kent A. Ozmont, Honors; Brandon H. Pate, High Honors; Magen N. Pate, High Honors; Punam Patel, High Honors; Jonalee S. Payne, High Honors; Ronald C. Peckham, Highest Honors; Suzanne M. Peckham, Higher Honors; John J. Perugini, High Honors; Griffin M. Pochopek, Honors; Joshua D. Rainey, Highest Honors; Ross A. Ratkowski, Honors; Angela D. Reddick, High Honors; Nathaniel T. Reinhardt, High Honors; John L. Richardson, Honors; Jonathan D. Richwine, Highest Honors; Rachel Sandefur, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. Sanders, Highest Honors; Stephanie B. Sandoval, Honors; Eric W. Seavers, High Honors; Stuart N. Shaw, High Honors; Caitlin E. Simpson, High Honors; Lynsey D. Sinclair, High Honors; Brent J. Smolen, Highest Honors; Douglas Y. Snyder, High Honors; Rachel G. Stephens, High Honors; Sara B. Stewart, Honors; Michael B. Stigall, Honors; Angela M. Stinnett, Honors; Rex H. Stoker, Honors; Emily E. Stooksberry, High Honors; Nicole M. Stout, Highest Honors; Madison L. Sturgeon, High Honors; Nicole T. Sudberry, Highest Honors; Krista N. Swafford, High Honors; Christopher K. Taylor, High Honors; Cara M. Thomas, High Honors; Kourtney L. Thomas, Honors; Ashley B. Thompson, Honors; Candace E. Thweatt, Highest Honors; Ashley M. Totty, Highest Honors; Elizabeth M. Tucker, Honors; Elizabeth G. Unger, High Honors; Mary K. Unger, High Honors; Robert C. Unger, Highest Honors; Courtney N. Vallee, Honors; Laura K. Vaughn, Honors; Hunter T. Vincent, Highest Honors; Matthew H. Waggner, Honors; Emily D. Wall, High Honors; Shannon M. Wall, High Honors; Bethany A. Walters, Honors; Nathaniel J. Walters, Highest Honors; Nicholas R. Walters, Honors; Christina L. Warford, Honors; Hillary J. Watson, High Honors; Carter W. West, High Honors; Katherine A. West, Highest Honors; Blake A. White, Honors; Dustin T. White, High Honors; Cory A. Wilcox, Honors; Harlin G. Wilkin, High Honors; Rachel E. Wilkinson, High Honors; Elizabeth A. Williams, High Honors; Mallory K. Williams, Highest Honors; Brandon M. Wilson, Honors; Charles E. Wilson, High Honors; Christopher W. Wilson, High Honors; Eric C. Wilson, Highest Honors; Kelly L. Wilson, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Wilson, Highest Honors; Wallis A. Wimbish, Honors; Brad E. Winter, High Honors; Lauren P. Witherspoon, High Honors; Megan L. Witherspoon, High Honors; Michael S. Yandell, High Honors; Wesley R. Yates, High Honors; Christopher R. Zumbach, High Honors; Palermesville: Christopher C. Leo, Highest Honors; Marla A. Rook, Highest Honors; Sharon: Crystal J. Autry, Honors; Austin T. Blanton, Honors; Amber N. Carson, High Honors; Jessica D. Dallosta, High Honors; Olivia M. Daniel, Honors; Kevin E. Edge, High Honors; Barbara P. Ferrell, Highest Honors; Matthew L. Fitzgerald, Highest Honors; Brittany L. Gilbert, High Honors; Cassie M. Hickey, Honors; Christopher R. Johnson, High Honors; Derek T. Johnson, Honors; Tonya E. Jordan, Honors; Erika C. Klutts, Honors; Kimberly A. Thomas, Honors; UT Martin graduates include locals. Linn McClain, Jessica Leigh McKinney and Richard W. Nipp, all of South Fulton, were among several students receiving 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. Also graduating were David A. Wynn of Fulton, Brandy D. Whitten of Hickman, and Kory Anthony Naranjo of Clinton.
Local students are named to UTM Fall Dean’s List

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

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Included are:

• Trenton: Clark H. Allen, High Honors; Clinton B. Allen, High Honors; Mark R. Ashburn, Honors; Micah A. Barnes, Honors; Hannah L. Cates, Highest Honors; Haleigh E. Cole, Honors; Jenni L. Crossnau, High Honors; Benjamin L. Dodd, High Honors; Corbin C. Gibson, Highest Honors; Laci N. Guffey, Honors; Tanner A. Hensley, Honors; Kevin S. Hopper, Highest Honors; Anessa L. Inman, Highest Honors; Lauren N. Jewell, Honors; Kellie L. Joyner, Honors; Brandi N. Martz, Highest Honors; Stephanie S. Morris, High Honors; Jennifer A. Reeves, Honors; Jessica C. Richardson, High Honors; Kristin K. Rodamaker, Highest Honors; Emily J. Rogers, Highest Honors; Nicholas T. Scott, Highest Honors; Rebecca F. Taylor, Highest Honors; Pavel Tesar, Honors; Katherine P. Thompson, Honors; Christopher P. Vaughn, High Honors; Rachel A. Ward, Highest Honors; Kelly R. Weickler, High Honors; Jared H. Whitney, High Honors; and Cydney L. Williams, Highest Honors.

• Eaton: Kimberly Corthell, Honors.

• Bradford: Xavier T. Alexander, High Honors; Allison N. Cash, Honors; Alsten R. Cates, Honors; Jessika B. Derry, High Honors; Jennifer K. Dethloff, Highest Honors; Clinton D. Hamton, High Honors; Amy M. Jones, High Honors; Brittany N. Moore, Highest Honors; Daniel H. Morris, Highest Honors; Derek W. Proudt, Honors; and Tabitha R. Wendt, Highest Honors.

• Dyer: Joshua T. Adams, Highest Honors; Matthew E. Bobbitt, Honors; Melissa D. Carson, Highest Honors; Matthew R. Coleman, Honors; Joseph N. Dye, Honors; Joseph A. Fulwood, High Honors; Elizabeth A. McCurdy, Highest Honors; Emily B. Parks, Highest Honors; Katherine L. Parks, High Honors; Leannah M. Sims, High Honors; Sean T. Stephens, Honors; Aimee G. Thompson, Highest Honors; Kimberly J. Thompson, Highest Honors; Noelle B. Turner, Honors; and Emily R. Worrell, Honors.

• Rutherford: Jacob A. Abbott, Honors; Travis R. Baird, Honors; Kimbra N. Ratliff, Highest Honors; and Mallory C. Walker, Highest Honors.

• Yorkville: Jacquelyn A. Ladd, Highest Honors; Gary B. Mulhins, Honors; and Ryan J. Pope, Honors.

• Idledwild: Joshua R. Hefner, High Honors.

• Kenton: Laurel G. Childs, Honors; Curtis W. Cochran, High Honors; Jessica D. Dvorak, Honors; Jacob L. Eddlemon, Honors; Jessica J. Francis, High Honors; Bethany L. Griffis, Highest Honors; David C. Holomon, Highest Honors; Ryan S. McEachin, Honors; Brittany C. Parker, High Honors; James P. Roden, High Honors; and Laura M. Silva, Highest Honors.

• Humboldt: Charity L. Allen, Honors; Brittany N. Branch, Highest Honors; Andrew J. Castleman, Highest Honors; Kayla C. Crook, Honors; Jennifer L. Denton, High Honors; Cody A. Fowler, High Honors; Stephanie M. Foxx, Honors; James A. Gilkey, Honors; Erin M. Jackson, Highest Honors; Jennie E. Jackson, Honors; Crystal L. Knight, Highest Honors; Adam S. Laman, Honors; Megan M. Latimer, High Honors; Joseph T. Lindsey, Honors; Alexis R. Luckey, High Honors; William P. Luckey, Highest Honors; Bradley D. Matthews, Highest Honors; Tucker D. Phillips, Honors; Kara C. Powell, Highest Honors; Megan M. Rowan, High Honors; Anthony R. Rushing, High Honors; Christie K. Rushing, Highest Honors; Kara V. Salyers, High Honors; Michael S. Schoonover, High Honors; Jody L. Stokes, Highest Honors; and Jef H. Williams, Highest Honors.

• Medina: Brooke A. Bettie, High Honors; Elyse B. Cole, High Honors; Charlie M. Crone, High Honors; Lisa N. Detrain, High Honors; Jessica L. Erickson, Highest Honors; Jacob G. Flippin, Honors; Whitney L. Foster, Honors; Caroline E. Harber, High Honors; Christina E. Johnson, Highest Honors; Lucas R. Jones, Highest Honors; Dustin P. Kenton, High Honors; Cody L. Marbury, Michael G. Nance, High Honors; Brianna M. Quinn, High Honors; Melody P. Sain, Honors; Jacob H. Whitman, High Honors; and Jesse N. Winchester, Highest Honors.

• Milan: Bryce E. Appleton, Highest Honors; Elise T. Arnold, Highest Honors; William T. Barbour, Honors; Amanda Bratcher, High Honors; Byron B. Burns, High Honors; Eric J. Coleman, Honors; Natasha M. Davidson, Honors; Brandon T. Dowdy, Honors; James W. Edwards, Honors; Jack H. Fields, High Honors; Zach Ford, Honors; Whitney E. Garner, Honors; Amanda K. Hall, Highest Honors; Benny L. Johnson, Honors; Hilary G. Keen, High Honors; Jay A. Lusk, Honors; Lindsay N. Mathis, Highest Honors; Christopher S. McGill, Highest Honors; Alan J. Greve, High Honors; Haley C. Miller, Honors; Latoyna K. Murriel, High Honors; Adam P. Nelson, Honors; Ashley M. Niven, Highest Honors; Sara H. Phifer, High Honors; Amanda D. Reeves, Highest Honors; Stephen T. Sanderson, Highest Honors; Ashley R. Shinn, High Honors; Courtney N. Sullivan, Highest Honors; John W. Szopinski, Honors; and Jenna L. Wallace, High Honors.
UTM offers a variety of travel-study programs

From Paris to the Amazon, Lisbon to South Korea, European Alps to Washington, D.C., the University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education will offer 15 travel-study programs in 2009.

Trips begin in February and March with a study program titled "Abraham Lincoln at 200: Words, Will & Wisdom" to Springfield, Ill., February 26-March 1 and to Washington, D.C., March 9-15. Dr. Michelle Merwin, Department of Psychology interim chair, and Tim Hacker, English instructor, will lead both trips.

On March 4-16, two trips are planned to Paris and London. One will be led by Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, and Stan Sieber, professor of history, and the other by Dr. Tom Payne, Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair.

A list of other trip dates, destinations and department faculty leaders includes: March 5-14, Lisbon, Portugal/Madrid, Spain; Drs. Lucia Florido and Randall Garza (modern foreign languages); March 7-12, Washington, D.C. (Holocaust); Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (history and philosophy); May 10-16, Washington, D.C., Drs. Paula Gale, Michael Gibson and Jeff Rogers (agriculture and natural resources/geology, geography and physics); May 10-23, Germany, Dr. Chuck Hammond (modern foreign languages); May 11-21, South Korea, Dr. J.C. Kim (health and human performance); May 15-26, Greece, Dr. Nathan Howard (history and philosophy); May 18-31, New England/Atlantic Canada, Drs. Charles Bradshaw and David Creeelman (English); May 23-31, Mediterranean Cruise, Mike Sudzum and Lorrie Jackson (community); July 6-20, European Alps, Stan Sieber (history and philosophy); Aug. 10-15, Washington, D.C., Darrell Simmons (criminal justice); December 2009, Amazon, Dr. Sue Byrd, Scott Pun and Dr. Bradley Ray (family consumer sciences/health and human performance/agriculture and natural resources).

For more information, visit the Web site, at www.utm.edu/departments/globalstudies, or call the center at 731-881-1017.

Local UTM graduates

Marla Rook, left, of Dresden, and Brandy Whitten, of Hickman, Kentucky, wait to line up with University of Tennessee at Martin fall graduates at the December 13 commencement ceremony. Commencement speaker was Dr. David Gordon, Covington mayor and UT Martin alumnus. Chancellor Tom Rakes conferred degrees.

Webster takes Order of the Engineering oath

University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to fall 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 Darryl Webster, of Martin. Making the presentation were, Dr. Doug Sterrett, left, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean, and Ed Wheeler, professor of engineering, right.
BONDURANT RECEIVES AWARD — Courtney Snider Bondurant (center) of Martin was one of two recipients of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for the Fall 2008 semester. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971-92 in numerous capacities. The recipients are chosen by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Selection Committee from students with a major in education/teacher licensure who have been nominated for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. The presentation of the award was made at the recent student teacher recognition reception held at the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. Ms. Bondurant was joined by Nancy Baldridge (left), adjunct professor of educational studies and university student teacher supervisor, and Catherine Nailing, cooperating teacher from Lake Road Elementary School. Not pictured is Amanda Reeves Sims of Milan, who also received the award.

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

The students who received undergraduate degrees, listed by hometown, included:
- Elbridge — Donald Joshua Qualls;
- Hornbeak — Shara Shantae Flowers;
- Kenton — Bethany Lynn Griggs;
- Rives — Joseph Christopher Caldwell;
- South Fulton — Linn McClain, Jessica Leigh McKinney and Richard W. Nipp;
- Troy — Kevin O'Neal Jones.

Amanda Rachel Morrow and Tarrah Lee Reed;
- Union City — Ryan S. Angel, Shannon Lea Brown, Perry Benjamin Burnett, Allan Bradley Carman, Amanda Kay Carr, Tyler Lee Shelton Hargrove, Whitney J. Hyde, Derek Hammond Ivy, Lacinda Jan Legate, Mary Beth McManus, Hilary R. Norrid, Don David Parks, Ashley Ann Reeves, Sara Anne Rieger, Kristi Leigh Roberson, Kelly Laine Wheeler and Cory Lynn Workman; and
- Hickman, Ky. — Brandy D. Whitten.

Among the students who received graduate degrees from UT Martin, also listed by hometown, were:
- Rives — Allison Faith Robinson Palmer;
- Troy — Nancy Lee Johnson and Jon Wesley Kerr;
- Union City — Jamie Lynn Adams, Laura Jackson Castro, Lindsay Morgan Graham, Tara Boren Rushton and Thomas John York; and
- Fulton — David A. Wynn.
WAITING TO GRADUATE — Brandi Martz (left) of Trenton and Bethany Griggs of Kenton waited to line up with University of Tennessee at Martin fall graduates at the recent commencement ceremony. They each received a bachelor of science degree in education from UT Martin, a spokesman said.