UT Martin Engineering Program reaccredited by ABET

Accreditation may come across as higher education jargon, but in layman's words it means a seal of approval and a statement of quality. When a program is accredited, it undergoes a stringent peer review process that ensures educational quality.

"The Department of Engineering in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin has achieved reaccreditation for its bachelor of science in engineering degree program by the recent actions of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC of ABET), Baltimore. The official notification of full accreditation was made in the fall."

"The continuing ABET accreditation is a testimony to the great faculty and leadership in the Department of Engineering," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan.

"This is obviously important to UT Martin, but equally important to the region. Our engineering graduates are highly sought after by area engineering-related businesses and corporations."

To achieve accreditation, engineering programs must satisfy the expectations of a wide range of quality standards related to educational quality, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process and achievement of program outcomes in the degree program. During the accreditation process, UT Martin was visited and evaluated by an expert evaluation team with members from both academia and industry.

"The purpose of accreditation is to ensure quality in academic programs," said Dr. Thomas Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We were fortunate to receive such a positive report."

Dr. Doug Sterrett, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean, added, "With the reaccreditation of the bachelor of science in engineering degree, current and future graduates are assured that they will be able to compete for positions in the regional, national and international job markets. Because they graduate from an ABET-accredited degree program, they will be eligible for professional engineering licensure in Tennessee."

Sterrett added, "I am very proud of the work performed by the engineering faculty and staff in achieving this significant indicator of the quality of our engineering program. Special thanks goes to Dr. Richard Helgeson, Department of Engineering chair, for his tireless and excellent work developing the self-study and ensuring that all processes related to the EC-2000 accreditation criteria were met."

Several events planned during Black History Month

The University of Tennessee at Martin 6th Civil Rights Conference will examine the impact of African-American leadership that shaped the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s in West Tennessee and the nation. The conference is slated for February 20-25, during Black History Month.

The showing of two films also will mark Black History Month at UT Martin. The events are sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs, Harold Conner Scholars and the Black Student Association. "Imitation of Life" (1959 version) will be shown February 7 and "The Constant Gardener," February 8. Both films begin at 7 p.m. in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center and are free and open to the public.

Finally, the Black Student Association will sponsor a blood drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., February 7-8, at Boling University Center.

For additional information about the films or blood drive, contact Teresa Woody, director, Office of Minority Affairs, at 731-587-7282 or twoody@utm.edu. For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, chair of the UT Martin Civil Rights planning committee, at 731-881-7472 or accarls@utm.edu.

UT Martin hosts 27th Annual Honor Band Symposium

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2006 Honor Band Symposium February 2-6. The symposium will be composed of 7th-12th grade band students. Concerts will be at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., February 4, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. They are free and open to the public.

Approximately 400 of the region's finest wind and percussion students have been invited to participate in the event. There will be two 11-12th grade bands, one 9-10th grade band, one 7-8th grade band and one 11-12th grade percussion ensemble.

"The students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the county. Frank Dubuy, who conducted at West Point, Southeastern Louisiana University and Hamilton High School, will conduct the 11-12th grade symphonic band. Other conductors include: Elya Kaye Lance, Mississippi State University; Jim Campbell, University of Kentucky; Jeff Phillips, Pope John Paul II High School; and Marsha Hartwein, Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet High School.

For more information, contact Sherry Adams, at 731-881-7402 or sadams@utm.edu.
Area activists recall her style, grit

By PETE WICKHAM
pwickham@jacksonsun.com

More than once in his life, Lane College President Wesley McClure has had the chance to see how tragedy tested the mettle of Coretta Scott King.

And he remembers that she could turn things around so quickly you never knew what hit you.

"You'd see her at a funeral," McClure said of King, who passed away Tuesday at age 78. "You'd ask if it brought up memories of what she had to go through (following husband Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder in 1968.) She'd ask right away how you were doing. Changed the subject. Turned things away from herself in an instant."

West Tennesseans on Tuesday noted the woman's style, and steel.

"A perfect example of Christian womanhood," said the Rev. Ben E. Cox Sr. of Jackson, a retired minister and one of the original freedom riders during the civil rights demonstrations of the 1950s and '60s Please see STYLE, 5A

McClure said, "It's tough, but doable, and God demands no less."

Shirlene Mercer will not, however, mourn the loss as a tragedy.

"We lost Rosa Parks in October, Coretta Scott King now. They were sick, they were hurting, and their time had come," she said. "It comes for us all."

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.
— Pete Wickham, 425-9668

Alpine culture travel-study planned for July 10-24

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study to the Alpine countries. The trip is scheduled for July 10-24. It can be used for an undergraduate, graduate or noncredit course.

Participants will visit the fairy-tale castle Neuschwanstein; the city of Oberammergau, famous for its passion plays and woodcarvers; the city of Salzburg, where "The Sound of Music" was filmed; Adolf Hitler's retreat at Kehlstein; a salt mine near Berchtesgaden; Innsbruck, the capital of the Habsburgs; the small country of Liechtenstein; Lauterbrunnen, a beautiful valley in Switzerland; Chateau de Chillon, immortalized in Byron's Poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon." and the impressive Matterhorn rising above Zermatt.

For more information, contact Stan Sieber, professor of history and coordinator of travel studies, by phone at 731-881-7467 or by e-mail at ssieber@utm.edu.

Style

Continued from cover

that brought the Kings to prominence.

"There was a style to her. A true Christian lady," Cox said, adding with decided disdain, "I wish some of these females I see on television ... would take a lesson from her.

"I was with Dr. King four times, and you could immediately tell the influence she had in his life," Cox said.

Like McClure, Shirlene Mercer was one of several Lane College students who led sit-in protests to desegregate city buses and lunch counters in Jackson in the 1960s.

She, too, admired the woman known as the first lady of the civil rights movement.

"She was pretty tough, but like the (Tammy Wynette) song says, you're going to stand by your man, you have to be iron," Mercer said. "You'd see it with other famous men. They always had a good woman behind them. Look at (former President) Ronald Reagan. His wife, Nancy, was always there."

In later years, Mercer said she appreciated "the fact that Mrs. King stayed in the house she'd bought 40 years ago with her husband. I can identify with that. My husband and I still live in the 'hood."

Margaret Savage of Jackson, a front-line veteran of the movement, said, "if he was the head of the family, she was the neck, a dynamic dy-

McClure said he once went so far as to suggest to Mrs. King "that I wondered if she wasn't stronger than he (her husband) was."

Alice-Catherine Carls, a history professor at University of Tennessee Martin, said King compares to another giant of the 20th century.

"Coretta Scott King was an Eleanor Roosevelt figure," Carls said. "She did tremendous work with her husband, and later on her own to keep his heritage and message alive."

Carls' colleague, David Barber, added, "She stood side-by-side with her husband during a period of tremendous pressure, and after his assassination stood up to continue his legacy. Obviously a woman of great courage."

Mannie Merry, another civil rights veteran from Jackson, called it "a God-given strength to take up where Martin left off ... and to raise those children."

Mrs. King will be remembered this morning at 11 during the kickoff to Black History Month at the J.F. Lane Health & Physical Education Complex, according to program director Richard Donnell.

McClure said he will touch on her legacy during his remarks at the monthly First Friday Forum downtown at First United Methodist Church.

"Just like she refused to dwell on the pain of the past, we need to look forward and bring all races, all men of good will, together,"
UT Martin Financial Aid Office sponsors FAFSA nights

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor three sessions in February on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The sessions are scheduled from 6:30-8:30 p.m. They will be held Feb. 20, at the UT Martin Technology Center in Ripley; Feb. 21, at McNairy Central High School; and Feb. 23, in Room 230AB, Boling University Center, UT Martin.

The workshop will provide assistance to fill out the FAFSA form online, answers to financial aid questions and information regarding the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship. Participants need to take completed 2005 tax returns for both the student and parents, W-2 forms from 2005 for both the student and parents and, if available, their Personal Identification Number (PIN) for electronic signature. To apply for a PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance at (731) 881-7040.

Business help offered

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 9. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

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

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are on-file, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333).

Admission applications increase at UT Martin

Applications for the fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 11 percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions. It is the third consecutive year that application numbers have increased. A recent report showed that by Jan. 1, 2006, 1,428 students had applied for admission to UT Martin, up from 1,280 by that date in 2005.

Students who plan to attend UT Martin and have not applied, should note that Feb. 1 is the deadline for scholarship applications.

"There's no doubt the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship program is playing a significant role in students choosing to attend UT Martin and stay in Tennessee," said Judy Rayburn, UT Martin director of admissions. "The new apartment-style housing also is very attractive to incoming freshmen," she added.

"The number of applications also has increased simply because UT Martin offers features and services students want," said Rayburn. "We think students tend to make their decisions based on a school's atmosphere. Students are looking for more personal attention. They are looking at the size of the university and the opportunity to be involved in campus activities," she added. "Students who choose UT Martin like the fact that their classes are going to be smaller and taught by faculty, not graduate students, and they like the fact that they will have access to those faculty members outside of class.

"We are building on two highly successful recruiting classes," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan. "In fact, preliminary reports show UT Martin had the largest percentage increase of any Tennessee public university last year. We were the only public four-year university to receive the maximum 100 points score on the THEC (Tennessee Higher Education Commission) performance funding measure."

He added, "We are becoming the university of choice for students and parents who want a great undergraduate education on a moderately sized campus in a safe environment.

For application information, visit the UT Martin admissions home page at www.utm.edu/admis.php or call 1-800-829-UTM1.
**ECCE offers horsemanship**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education and the Women's Equestrian Team will offer Beginning Horsemanship English/Western Riding Lessons. Individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship to include handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being. The instructors for the class are the UT Martin equestrian team coaches, Meghan Cunningham (Hunt) and Kristen McDonald (Western). To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 731-881-7273 or McDonald at 731-881-7261.

No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least 7 years of age to participate.

The cost is $35 per hour lesson. The lesson will include a half-hour riding time.

To register, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

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**Acree to offer advice**

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

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**Munkel succeeds father as UTM dining manager**

Chris Munkel, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America-Hyde Park and an employee of Sodexo since 1997, recently was named University of Tennessee at Martin manager of dining services, succeeding his father, Mike Munkel, who was manager for 14 years. The elder Munkel died in October.

"Chris is a very talented chef and in 2003, took third place in the National Culinary Cooking Challenge," sponsored by the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS)," said Rich Katzman, Sodexo district manager.

"I would like everyone to know that I am not here to fill my father's shoes," said Munkel. "UT Martin and the Martin community knew Mike Munkel for 14 years. I knew him my whole life. Knowing him that long, especially as your father, makes you realize you can never fill the shoes of a man that great. I will promise to always do my best to meet the expectations of the UT Martin students, faculty and staff while using my expertise to bring innovative ideas and keep UT Martin at the pinnacle of dining service programs." He added, "With that, I will use what my father has taught me to hopefully make a fraction of the impact Mike Munkel made on, what I am now proud to call my home, Martin, Tenn."

Munkel, who also has served as a Sodexo certified trainer, received his degree in culinary arts in 1993. He has served as executive chef at Arkansas State University, Georgia Tech University, Georgia State University, Carthage College and, most recently as regional executive chef responsible for culinary development within the Sodexo Campus Services Division.

Prior to attending the C.I.A., Munkel worked for Sodexo in the 1980s as an hourly team member. Before returning to Sodexo in 1997, he worked at several four- and five-star restaurants, including La Vielle Maison in Boca Raton, Fla., Stone Hill Inn in Hackensack, N.J., The Coach House in Lexington; and the Regatta in Cotuit, Mass.

"Sometimes in life you are lucky enough to end up in a place that embraces you and gives you more love than you could ever give back. That place for me is Martin, Tenn. I am lucky to be part of this community."
Summit to draw state's youth

For three days, Feb. 23-25, youth and adults involved in leadership programs throughout the state will converge on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin for the sixth annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit.

The event — sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the WestStar Leadership Program — will help participants hone their leadership skills.

Participants will attend sessions on team building, effective communication and presentation skills, chairing a meeting and cultural diversity. UT Martin student leaders and staff will lead the sessions.

The theme for the summit is "Make 'em Say Wow," a take-off on an upcoming book by Hallerin Hilton Hill, a radio talk show host, motivational speaker and trainer, who will speak at the summit.

"It is a fun theme, but it has a lot of strong emphasis on doing the right thing, being creative and serving your community," said David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs. "It's fun, it's interactive. Hopefully, they will walk away inspired to serve. We would encourage a lot of young people in our surrounding area to take part in it."

Hill, who lives in Knoxville, also is author of the book "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom." His mission is to inspire, inform and entertain.

He is also a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter. His song "Who Would Imagine a King" was recorded by Whitney Houston for the movie "The Preacher's Wife."

Alpine Culture travel study set

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study to the Alpine countries. The trip is scheduled for July 10-24. It can be used for an undergraduate, graduate or non-credit course.

Participants will visit the fairy-tale castle Neuschwanstein; the city of Oberammergau, famous for its passion plays and woodcarvers; the city of Salzburg, where "The Sound of Music" was filmed; Adolf Hitler's retreat at Kehlstein; a salt mine near Berchtesgaden; Innsbruck, the capital of the Habsburgs; the small country of Liechtenstein; Lauterbrunnen, a beautiful valley in Switzerland; Chateau de Chillon, immortalized in Byron's Poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon;" and the impressive Matterhorn rising above Zermatt.

For more information, contact Stan Sieber, professor of history and coordinator of travel studies, by phone at 881-7467 or by e-mail at ssieber@utm.edu.

Foreign film series continues at UTM

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin will continue its foreign film series at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

"The Sea Within" will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles.

"The Sea Within," or "El Mar Adentro," directed by Alejandro Amenabar, is the life story of Ramón Sampedro, who fought a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life with dignity. The film explores his relationships with two women: Julia, a lawyer who supports his cause, and Rosa, a local woman who wants to convince him that his life is worth living.

The series is funded by the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Student Activities Council. All films are free of charge and open to the public.

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The series is funded by the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Student Activities Council. All films are free of charge and open to the public.

AAUW speaker set

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will have a meeting featuring speaker Stacy Harris, UT Martin alum and a National Civil Rights Museum representative, at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 9, at The Boling University Center, Room 111, on the UTM campus. Her topic will be "Women's Role in the Civil Rights Movement."

The community is invited to come and participate in this session. For more information, contact Sue Byrd at 881-7103.
$13.9M project at UTM included in proposed budget

The College of Business and Public Affairs Phase II funds will be combined with a Phase I allocation to completely renovate the building’s HVAC system, and a communications tower on campus will be replaced. It serves WLJT-TV, WUTM radio station and hosts repeaters for campus police, physical plant operations and Weakley County Municipal Electric System communications systems.

“Phase II funding for the Business Administration HVAC project will allow us to upgrade the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning in a facility with currently poor operating systems. The replacement of the aged tower on campus will permit us to continue to provide quality services for our campus radio and television stations, as well as provide for general campus communications.”

Higher education projects and (See Page 2, Col. 3)

$13.9M...
(Continued from Page One) maintenance projects are awarded according to recommendations from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

“It’s good to finally be able to fund some of these projects that were deferred as we worked to stabilize the state’s budget for the past three years,” Bredesen said in a recent news release.

UTM alumnus enters ROTC Hall of Fame

Col. John C. ‘Chuck’ Harrison, of MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, was inducted into the University of Tennessee Martin ROTC Hall of Fame. His awards and decorations include: Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, MSM with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, ARCOM, AAM with one oak leaf cluster, Master Army Aviator Badge and Parachutist Badge. Harrison earned a bachelor of science in history from UT Martin in 1984. He served in the Tennessee National Guard while attending UT Martin, commissioned as a second lieutenant in the armor branch of the military. Congratulating him at the ceremony is Capt. Donny Hebel, left, assistant professor of military science.
McLeary’s switch comes as no shock to political scholars

By PETE WICKHAM
pwickham@jacksonsun.com

That Don McLeary is changing political labels from Democrat to Republican doesn’t surprise University of Tennessee Martin political science professor Richard Chesteen.

"Philosophically, he was already there," Chesteen said Friday as area political science scholars started to measure the effect of McLeary’s announcement on the region’s political landscape. "I always had the impression that, especially on tax and other issues, he was pretty conservative."

With the Republican advantage growing to 18-15 with McLeary’s move, political science professors also see tough times, and perhaps the end, ahead for Lt. Gov. John Wilder’s long reign as speaker of Tennessee’s upper house.

Sean Evans, of the political science department at Union University, said McLeary’s voting record shows that he has always been conservative.

“You look at McLeary’s voting record in 3½ years in areas like workers comp, tort reform and health care, it’s easy to see where he feels more comfortable with Republicans than Democrats,” he said.

Evans added that McLeary “is a conservative Democrat who sees the party moving further to the left.”

Evans’ colleague, Kevin Cooney, added, “it’s a trend we’ve seen for the past decade nationally but has come to this region, where more moderate Democrats find themselves increasingly marginalized within their own party, ... That might lead someone (like McLeary) to go where the weather is warmer.”

None of the trio anticipates the switch, which comes nine months before statewide elections, to cause McLeary much difficulty.

“Madison County is a pretty conservative place, especially if you look at the makeup of officeholders there,” Chesteen said. "Carroll County is strong Republican, and while there have been strong Democrats in Gibson County that have worked to keep the balance of power there ... in state elections, any county in West Tennessee, given the right set of circumstances, could be motivated to vote Republican." Evans said Republicans were having a hard time finding a strong opponent for McLeary.

“The district (Madison, Carroll and Gibson counties) has a slight Republican lean in the first place,” he said. "Don’s voted the way the business community generally wanted, and he’s in line with most of the conservative voters already. The Democrats might try and come up with someone to run against McLeary, but at this late date, it might be a very uphill climb.”

Evans said he had heard that the controversy surrounding the election of state Sen. Ophelia Ford, D-Memphis, to take her indicted brother John Ford’s seat, "had upset Don, especially the use of Democratic caucus money to help finance her lawsuit ... but I have the feeling this was brewing before that."

Cooney speculated whether last Sunday’s death of longtime Madison County Democratic power John T. Murphy “dIdn’t signal to McLeary that this might be the time to make the move.”

With the GOP holding a three-seat edge in the 33-member senate, it eventually will mean trouble for longtime Lt. Gov. John Wilder, Evans said.

“He (Wilder) got enough Republican votes to survive this last time,” Evans said. "I’m assuming they will not try to make a change during the middle of this legislature. But Republicans are anticipating picking up 1-2 seats in the fall, and if that happens, it’s a moot point. They will have enough votes to control the chamber.”

Chesteen added that he is sure McLeary “would like to make the transition without alienating more people (with a fast vote on Wilder) ... but John may be in trouble.”

Chesteen isn’t sure just how doctrinal a Republican Don McLeary might be.

“There’s a lot of human characteristics about him that will soften him on some of the issues involving the common man,” Chesteen said. “He’ll have his share of votes where he’ll agonize over voting with the Republican line.”

At the University of Memphis, political science professor Harry Mahood was surprised by McLeary’s move but said “there may be some leadership possibilities opening up with (longtime Germantown senator) Curtis Person ready to retire.”

Mahood knows Wilder is going to have to tread gently.

“He’s going to have to indulge in more across-the-aisle compromises and bargaining,” Mahood said, “and it would be smart for him to try and firm up relationships with other Democrats, and see if any others might be looking to jump ship.”

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.
— Pete Wickham, 425-9668

“You look at (state Sen. Don) McLeary’s voting record in 3½ years in areas like workers comp, tort reform and health care, it’s easy to see where he feels more comfortable with Republicans than Democrats.”

Sean Evans, of the political science department at Union University
Civil rights leadership is topic of conference at UT-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — The impact of African-American leadership that shaped the civil rights movement in west Tennessee and the nation in the 1960s will be examined during the sixth-annual Civil Rights Conference Feb. 20-23 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Among the conference participants will be Dr. Jesse Rhimes, the Bantaba dance group and Harriet Ann Buckley, keynote speaker Michael S. Harper, poet laureate of Rhode Island, will present various aspects of leadership through cultural endeavors.

Filmmaker and author Rhimes will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at Watkins Auditorium in the Boline University Center. He will discuss the portrayal of African-Americans on and behind the silver screen as well as the historic and present-day contributions of African-American men and women to the motion-picture industry. Rhimes is the author of “Black Film/White Money” and “Black Utopia Monograph.”

Feb. 21 is Native American Day. The schedule features an exhibit, performances by the Tanasi Thunder Drum group and flutist J.J. Kent, who represents the Oglala band of the Lakota Indian Nation, and a speech by Susan Shown Harjo on “Native Americans and the Civil Rights Movement.”

Feb. 22 is African-American Heritage Day. An interactive workshop, “But I’m Not Prejudiced,” will take a look at how people handle diversity. It will be in Room 125 of the university center. At 4:30 p.m., in the university center cafeteria, an African-American dinner and program is planned, followed by the Bantaba Dance Company of Memphis performing at 8 p.m. in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

On Feb. 23, the conference will focus on “From West Tennessee to Shining Sea: African-American Leadership.” At 10 a.m., Dr. Cynthia Griggs Fleming, University of Tennessee Knoxville professor, will discuss “Black Leadership in the 21st Century.” At 11 a.m., Guy and Candie Carawan will speak about the Highlander Research and Education Center, a residential education and research organization based on a farm in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

A literary workshop by Harriet Ann Buckley is planned for 6 p.m. in Union City at the Obion County Public Library, sponsor of the event. Buckley, artist and storyteller, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Memphis Art Academy and works in various media.

Michael S. Harper, a Brown University professor, will be the featured speaker at 7:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. He will focus on using African-American poetry to teach African-American history.

On Friday, at 7 p.m., “Crash,” the movie that won two “Critic’s Choice” awards and the Screen Actors Guild motion picture cast performance award, will be shown in Watkins Auditorium.

Capping the week, a field trip is planned from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25 to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

At 1 p.m. at the Obion County Public Library, “Anansi Does the Impossible,” will be presented by Shovagon of Theatre Memphis. Students in grades K-6 and adults are encouraged to attend. Ashanti people of West Africa told stories of a trickster, Anansi, a spider of unusual talents.

For information about the conference, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carlis, conference coordinator, at 731-881-7472 or accarlis@utm.edu. Visit the conference Web site at http://www.utm.edu/staff/accarlis/civilrights.

Business consultant returning this week with advice

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday.

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The REED Center is located at 920 University St. in Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Bell, Sanders, Thompson chosen for WestStar

JOHN LEEPER
jleeper@statetn.gazette.com

Beth Bell, Jamey Sanders and Marc Thompson, all of Dyer County, are among 30 members of the 2006 WestStar class.

Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences. Among this year's class, there are chamber and economic development professionals, bankers, company chief executive officers, elected officials, city government personnel, business specialists and state employees.

Currently in its 17th year, WestStar program provides leadership development and training for selected participants. The program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin. It identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee.

Bell is the extension agent with the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service in Dyer County. She is the area coordinator for Dream Factory of Dyersburg Inc., an organization that provides "dreams" to critically and chronically ill children ages 3-18.

Thompson, vice president of the Dyer County National Guard 230 ASG family-support group, member of the National and Tennessee Associations of Family Consumer Sciences, an advisor for Dyer County programs, including the Dyerburg 4H Kiwanis Club, board member of the United Way and is a volunteer for the HOSTS Mentoring Program at the Dyerburg Intermediate School.

Sanders is vice president of Chocowton Transportation Co. in Dyerburg. He serves as a board member of the Associated General Contractors of America, a representative of United Way of West Tennessee, is a volunteer for Dream Factory of Dyerburg and has been a member of the Rotary Club of Dyerburg.

Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature speakers who focus on subjects that go hand in hand with leadership and community progress, issues such as education, community care, culture and resource development and leadership skills.

WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, February 6, 2006

Economic development group holds regional meeting

The Tennessee Industrial Development Council, a professional association for those involved in economic development, recently held a regional meeting at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The meeting was the first West Tennessee regional meeting of the statewide organization that for 39 years has promoted economic development initiatives and aided the professional development of its members.

"TIDC is strengthening all aspects of its economic development platform and will continue to provide more services, such as this meeting, to our members," current TIDC president Kyle Spurgeon said.

Spurgeon, vice president of customer service for Jackson Energy Authority and has had a long career in economic development.

"We have introduced regional meetings to address regional concerns and to allow our members easier access to updates on issues affecting economic development and professional development between statewide meetings," he said.

"The people at the forefront of bringing jobs to our communities in a global competition need this type of networking and reinforcement."

At the opening of the meeting, UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Nick Dunagan spoke on the topic of "Want a Great Job, Get a Great Education." He stressed the importance of education in recruiting new industry and the economic impact it has on West Tennessee.

Another UTM staff member participated in the program. Steve Holt, assistant director of UT Martin Information Technology Services, provided tips on how to utilize the latest technology to stay ahead of the game and how critical technology is as a key component of the infrastructures needed by today's large companies.

Three current economic development practitioners lent their insight to the program.

Allen Hester, certified chamber executive and CEO of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber, provided information on how to become a Certified Chamber Executive and the national Chamber Accreditation programs.

Paul LaGrange, assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, gave an overview of the issues before the state legislature this session that will affect economic development.

Melissa Rivers, director of Regionalism for the Memphis Regional Chamber, gave an update on the regional Workforce Analysis and Economic Target Identification study that is under way for a 52-county region that encompasses all of West Tennessee. The study will help transition the regional workforce for a skills-based economy and identify the most productive targets for economic developers to pursue.

The event was sponsored by the West Tennessee Industrial Association (WTIA), an economic development association representing electric power distributors in West Tennessee, and Forcum Lannom Contractors, Dyerburg-based commercial and industrial contractors.

Both WTIA and Forcum Lannom are long time members of TIDC.

Hollie Holt, West Tennessee director, who serves as the coordinator for the Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center, helped to plan and coordinate the regional meeting.

"We were extremely pleased with the turnout and level of participation for this meeting," she said. "Many West Tennessee Communities were represented and we even attracted some TIDC members from other regions."
African-American leadership is at the heart of Civil Rights Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin Sixth Annual Civil Rights Conference, Feb. 20-25, will examine the impact of African-American leadership that shaped the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s in West Tennessee and the nation.

As part of the conference, there will be an emphasis on cultural contributions, as literary and artistic creativity are important tools to shape leadership. Among participants in the conference will be Dr. Jesse Rhines, the Bantaba dance group and Harriet Ann Buckley. Thursday evening's keynote speaker, the Rhode Island Poet Laureate Michael S. Harper, will present various aspects of leadership through cultural endeavors.

The event will begin with Dr. Rhines, a filmmaker and author, who will speak at 7 p.m., Feb. 20, at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. Rhines will discuss the portrayal of African-Americans on and behind the silver screen as well as the historic and present-day contributions of African-American men and women to the motion picture industry. Rhines is the author of "Black Film/White Money" and "Black Utopia Monograph."

Feb. 21 is Native-American Day. A Native-American exhibit will open at 4 p.m. in the university center lobby. At 4:30 p.m., a Native-American dinner will be hosted in the cafeteria. The Tanasi Thunder Drum group will perform at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. At 6:30 p.m., also in Watkins Auditorium, J.J. Kent, flutist, will perform. Kent represents the Oglala band of the Lakota Indian Nation.

At 7 p.m., Suzan Shown Harjo will speak on "Native Americans and the Civil Rights Movement." Harjo is a poet, writer, lecturer, curator and policy advocate who has helped Native Americans recover more than one million acres of land and numerous sacred sites. She has developed key federal Indian laws since 1975, including the most important national policy advances in the modern era for the protection of Native-American cultures and arts. These laws include the 1996 Executive Order on Indian Sacred Sites, the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the 1989 National Museum of the American-Indian Act and the 1978 American-Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Feb. 22 is African-American Heritage Day. An interactive workshop, "But I'm Not Prejudiced," will take a look at how people handle diversity. Part of the UT Martin Wednesday Forum series, it will be in Room 125 of the university center. At 4:30 p.m., in the university center cafeteria, an African-American dinner and program is planned. It will be followed by the Bantaba Dance Company of Memphis that will perform at 8 p.m. in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse. The dance company focuses on educating and entertaining audiences about African culture and heritage.

On Feb. 23, the conference will focus on "From West Tennessee to Shining Sea: African-American Leadership." UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan will provide opening remarks at 9:30 a.m. in Watkins Auditorium. At 10 a.m., Dr. Cynthia Griggs-Fleming, University of Tennessee Knoxville professor, will discuss "Black Leadership in the 21st Century." Fleming is author of "Soon We Will Not Cry: The Liberation of Ruby Doris Smith Robinson," which received critical acclaim from both scholars and civil-rights activists. At 11 a.m., Guy and Candie Carawan will speak about the Highlander Research and Education Center, a residential education and research organization based on a farm in the foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains. The center has gathered workers, grassroots leaders, community organizers, educators and researchers to address the pressing social, environmental and economic problems facing the people of the South since 1932. Over the course of history, Highlander has played important roles in major political movements, including the Civil Rights Movement.

A luncheon will be hosted at 11:45 a.m. in Room 206 of the university center. Theotis Robinson Jr., University of Tennessee vice president for Equity and Diversity, is the keynote speaker. Robinson grew up in Knoxville, where he was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. His application to attend the University of Tennessee in 1960 led to integration of UT, when the board voted to change its policy, and he was the first of three African-Americans admitted. He was elected to Knoxville City Council in 1969 and, during his second term, was chosen by the U.S. State Department to travel to African countries as part of a 10-member delegation. He has been involved in Knoxville leadership initiatives and received numerous honors.

Presentations of 2006 Conference Honorees, 2005 winners of the UT Martin/Jackson Sun competition, the 2006 Helen Imani Beard Award, the National Panhellenic Council Rosa Parks Unity Award and the NPHC Rosa Parks Essay Award will be made at the luncheon.

The afternoon sessions will resume at 1 p.m. Feb. 23, in Watkins Auditorium with two panels of speakers. The first panel will address the "Impact of the Civil Rights Leadership on West Tennessee." Jocelyn Wurzburg and Rita Geier will speak. Wurzburg, a lawyer, is Memphis' first professional mediator. She has served on the Tennessee Commission for Human Rights and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, among other committees relating to struggles for equality. Geier, an executive counselor to the federal commissioner of the Social Security Administration, was an original plaintiff in the 1968 lawsuit filed because Tennessee failed to take an active role in desegregating its higher education institutions after its legal desegregation in 1956.

The second panel will speak on "The Douglas Community: A Leader in West Tennessee." Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson will moderate, and Carrie Darnell Powell and Wilma Turner Boyd will participate. Hopson, an author, founded Touched by Grace Professional Communications Ministry, specializing in diversity consulting and training. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Powell and Boyd and their parents helped integrate and desegregate Haywood County schools.
Through the action of these young women, others were inspired to get involved.

A literary workshop by Harriet Ann Buckley is planned at 6 p.m. in Union City at the Obion County Public Library, sponsor of the event. Buckley, artist and storyteller, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Memphis Art Academy and works in various media.

Michael S. Harper, a Brown University professor and author of 15 books, will be the featured speaker at 7:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. He will focus on using African-American poetry to teach African-American history. The session will feature "Use Trouble" as its basis.

On Friday, at 7 p.m., "Crash," the movie that won two "Critic's Choice" awards and the Screen Actors Guild motion picture cast performance award, will be shown in Watkins Auditorium. An opening discussion will be moderated by Dr. David Barber, UT Martin assistant professor of history. Sponsors are the UT Martin Departments of History and Philosophy, English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Capping the week of events, a field trip is planned from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Feb. 25, to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

At 1 p.m., at the Obion County Public Library, "Anansi Does the Impossible," will be presented by Showagon of Theatre Memphis. Students in grades K-6 and adults are encouraged to attend. Ashanti people of West Africa told stories of a trickster, Anansi, a spider of unusual talents.

For information about the conference, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, conference coordinator, at 881-7472 or accarls@utm.edu. Visit the conference Web site at www.utm.edu/staff/accarls/civilrights.

Sponsors include UT Martin, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., The Jackson Sun and the Obion County Public Library.

Photoshop class to be offered

Are you ready to see a difference in your digital images? Adobe's Photoshop Elements provides the tools that photographers need for both quick fixes and sophisticated image manipulation. The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education has a new online instructor-facilitated course, "Photoshop Elements 4.0 for the Digital Photographer," that will help you discover the secrets of this software package.

The course will be offered Feb. 15-April 7; March 15-May 5; April 19-June 9. The cost is $85.

Dr. Beverly Schulz, an experienced digital photographer and Photoshop user, designed the course to provide a simplified introduction to this complicated, yet highly popular, program. "I created the course for those who have no image-editing experience," said Schulz, who promises that the course will help each student go from novice to accomplished user. "Enjoyable lessons, fun assignments and practical exercises that lead to surprising results combine to provide my students a great feeling of accomplishment."

Schulz's students get hands-on experience using Photoshop Elements for a variety of tasks, including detecting and correcting common photo flaws, retouching colors and lighting to add visual appeal, changing the background of a photo, removing undesirable elements and adding text to a photo.

Schulz's course, "Photoshop Elements 4.0 for the Digital Photographer," can be taken online from the convenience of home or office at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course, part of a growing catalog of instructor-facilitated online courses, contact UT Martin's Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082. Visit the online instructor center at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinenoncreditcourses.php and click Non-Credit Online Courses.

ECCE offers acting courses

The Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) at the University of Tennessee at Martin is offering Introduction to Acting from 5-6:30 p.m. for adults on Tuesdays, Feb. 21-April 4, and at 5-6:30 p.m., for students, ages seven and older, on Thursdays, Feb. 23-April 6. There will be no classes on March 14 or 16. The fee is $45.

Christian Ashlar, a seven-year veteran of Vanguard Theatre and a member of theatre and English honor fraternities, will instruct the courses. Participants will learn to channel emotional states, past experiences and present-day knowledge into the creative therapeutic art of acting. A final project, an on-stage performance, will be performed for the public.

Introduction to Acting for adults will deal with complex ways of developing acting skills and learning to develop new ones. Participants will need to bring only those things that will be used as props.

Introduction to Acting for students also will deal with developing acting skills. Parents are required to stay with students younger than 10 and encouraged to stay with older students. Props will be required as the class works toward its goal.

Early registration is encouraged because of limited space. To register, call ECCE at 881-7082 or (800) 482-5199.

UT MARTIN FACULTY AND STUDENTS ATTEND CONFERENCE — Two faculty members and three students from the Communications Department at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently attended the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters annual conference in Nashville. The group participated in sessions on sales and marketing, Federal Communications Commission regulations and programming. Attending the conference were (from left) Bud Walters, chairman of the association; Richard Robinson and Rodney Freed, UT Martin communications broadcast faculty; Tori Shaw, UT Martin communications student; Deborah Tate, newly appointed Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Horbelt and Grant Pugh, UT Martin communications students.
GREEN STAR AWARD — The Physical Plant was one of the winners of the 2005 Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) Green Star Award. The Physical Plant received an Honor Award for University and College Grounds. Six colleges received an award during this banquet in recognition of outstanding grounds. The award was presented during the PGMS annual awards ceremonies, Nov. 5, in Orlando, Fla. The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence. The program complements other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction. Those attending the presentation were (from left) Tim Nipp, physical plant director; Tommy Ray, grounds supervisor; Floyd Collins, building and grounds supervisor; Mike Davis, projects and grounds coordinator; Terry Little, grounds supervisor; Kenneth Chappell, grounds foreman; Ronnie Travis, Joe Estes and Gary Gallimore, building and grounds service workers.

Phi Kappa Phi plans lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet at 7 p.m., Feb. 13, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture. This year’s Muriel Tomlinson lecturers are Teresa Collard, instructor of communications, and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Their presentation is titled “Gender Equity in Education.” The lecture is free and open to the public.

The Muriel Tomlinson Lecture is an annual event honoring the memory of Dr. Tomlinson, a loyal member of Phi Kappa Phi who died in 1976. A distinguished professor is chosen each year to give this lecture.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded more than 100 years ago and is America’s oldest all-discipline college honor society. It awards more than $700,000 each year to outstanding members for further academic study. UT Martin Outstanding Juniors and Seniors will be initiated into PKP on April 18. Dr. Jerald Ogg, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and president of Phi Kappa Phi, will preside at the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture.

For more information, contact Jenna Wright, instructor of English, at 881-7300.
UTM Hall Directors serve as state housing officers/representatives

MARTIN, Tenn. - Two University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Housing staff members continue to serve with the Tennessee Association of College and University Housing Officers (TACUHO). Jimmy Hubbard, director of Browning Hall, was selected as president-elect of the organization, and Terry Duncan, director of Ellington Hall, was re-elected as the West Tennessee area representative.

Hubbard, a native of McKenzie, began working at UT Martin in 2001 after leaving his position as Bethel College associate dean of students, director of career development and residential director. He received a bachelor's degree at Lambuth University and a master's degree at Bethel College. He has received recognition for his efforts in diversity awareness on the UT Martin campus as well as for his assistance with the Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law (TIP) program. He also serves on the Disciplinary Appeals Committee at UT Martin.

Duncan, a native of Lavinia, has been with the UT Martin Office of Housing since July 2003. He has received recognition for his support and involvement with the Young Scholars Academy and the Harold Conner Scholars program on the UT Martin campus. He received a bachelor's degree in organizational communication with a minor in youth agency administration from Murray State University and a master's degree in higher education with emphasis in student affairs administration from Loyola University Chicago. He is currently enrolled in the master's of science in education program at UT Martin with a major in teaching for initial licensure for elementary education.

Economic Development Group Holds First West Tennessee Regional Meeting

Tennessee Industrial Development Council, a professional association for those involved in economic development, held a regional meeting at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The January 19th meeting was the first West Tennessee regional meeting of the statewide organization that for 39 years has promoted economic development initiatives and aided the professional development of its members.

"TIDC is strengthening all aspects of its economic development platform and will continue to provide more services such as this meeting, to our members," said Kyle Spurgeon, current TIDC president. Spurgeon is Vice President of Customer Service for Jackson Energy Authority and has had a long career in economic development.

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Hollie Holt, West Tennessee Director, who serves as the Coordinator for the Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center, helped to plan and coordinate the regional meeting. "We were extremely pleased with the turnout and level of participating for this meeting. Many West Tennessee Communities were represented and we even attracted some TIDC members from other regions."

An East Tennessee regional TIDC meeting will be held January 25 in Knoxville. A Middle Tennessee regional meeting was held on December 7, 2005 in Manchester, TN.

Author to speak at UT Martin

H.W. Brands, best-selling author and professor of history at the University of Texas, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee Martin. His appearance is sponsored by the Honors Program, the Department of History and Philosophy and the Vertical Immersion Project. A reception follows the free lecture on "Benjamin Franklin and the Birth of American Identity." For more information, send an e-mail to damc@utm.edu, or call 881-7436.

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

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2005 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.

Those listed from Carroll County are:

Atwood: Pamela R. Nelson, Highest Honors; Rachael L. Slott, Honors; Ashley D. Townsend, High Honors.

Bruceton: Krystal F. Allen, High Honors; Josh B. Bailey, Highest Honors; Darin E. Cate, High Honors; Lance J. Fuhrman, Highest Honors; Keith L. Hodge, Highest Honors; Jesus E. Romero, Honors; Roderick C. Sturdivant, Highest Honors.

Buena Vista: William J. Hollowell, Highest Honors; Jenny M. Noles, Honors; Heather S. Overall, Honors; April A. Qualls, High Honors.

Cedar Grove: Jennifer M. Gateley, High Honors; Jill A. Loften, Honors.

Clarksville: Amanda A. Treblecock, High Honors.

Hollonville: Amanda E. Clark, Highest Honors.

Huntingdon: Brent R. Bowker, High Honors; Joshua M. Boyd, Highest Honors; Tonya L. Brown, High Honors; Laura A. Bunn, Honors; Mary V. Bybee, High Honors; Casey E. Dempsey, Highest Honors; Joshua F. Edwards, Highest Honors; Christopher M. McCaslin, High Honors; Tiffany D. McCaslin, Highest Honors; Lauren F. Murbaugh, Honors; Mark D. Newsome, High Honors; Lesley A. Noles, Highest Honors; Leah B. Partridge, High Honors; Stephanie L. Partridge, Honors; Keris D. Patton, High Honors; Rosemary E. Radford, Highest Honors; Candace N. Renfro, High Honors; April C. Riley, Highest Honors; Cody W. Roberts, Honors; Jacob A. Smothers, High Honors; Jennifer R. Taylor, Honors; Corren M. Tippitt, Honors; William D. White, High Honors.

Lavinia: Kelly A. Duncan, High Honors.

McKenzie: Celia A. Allen, High Honors; Jessica S. Betts, High Honors; Mallory B. Brandon, Highest Honors; Jeffrey R. Bunn, High Honors; Sheilla G. Deaton, Highest Honors; Ryan A. Drewry, High Honors; Kelly D. Fowler, High Honors; John C. French, High Honors; Christopher R. Garner, Honors; Melody A. Hopper, Honors; Jessica L. Johnson, High Honors; John C. Johnsonius, Honors; Christy R. Lowe, Honors; Crystal R. Mann, Highest Honors; Benjamin C. Martin, Highest Honors; Samuel H. McDaniel, Highest Honors; Jasmine M. McMackins, High Honors; Bryan M. Merrick, Highest Honors; Sherry L. Moore, Highest Honors; Carol R. Perritt, Highest Honors; Harold L. Russell, Highest Honors; Julie A. Shell, High Honors; Joanna K. Smith, High Honors; Mark T. Smith, High Honors; Heather L. Weirs, Honors.

McLemoresville: Adrienne B. Bracknell, Highest Honors.

Trezevant: Brandt S. Argo, Highest Honors; Anna K. Moore, High Honors; Mary N. Wadley, Honors; Christina L. Williamson, Honors; Marcus R. Williamson, Honors.

Yuma: Wesley O. Smith, High Honors.

Acting Courses for Students and Adults Offered at Martin

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Gibson County students include:

- Trenton: Dana C. Carpenter, Highest Honors; Kevin L. Depke, High Honors; Jonathan L. Dodd, Highest Honors; Kelly J. Dunagan, Honors; Chelsey L. Elliott, High Honors; Mark W. Fairless, Honors; Sunni J. Ferguson, Highest Honors; Grant W. Gates, Honors; Candace R. Gibson, Honors; Morgan A. Greenaw, High Honors; Kevin S. Hopper, Highest Honors; Eric B. Horne, High Honors; Anessa L. Inman, Honors; Diana L. Jones, High Honors; Jeri L. Jones, Honors; Julia M. Manning, Highest Honors; Perry F. Reeves, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. Sanders, High Honors; Nicholas T. Scott, High Honors; Amy M. Shivers, Honors; John H. Smith, Highest Honors; and Christopher P. Vaughn, High Honors.

- Bradford: Xavier T. Alexander, Honors; Nina M. Bane, High Honors; Kendra R. Cole, Honors; Bethany S. Hodges, Highest Honors; Ashley L. Horne, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Jones, High Honors; Jenny L. Linnom, Highest Honors; Theresa A. Oliver, Highest Honors; Danielle K. Page, Highest Honors; William J. Pratt, Honors; Lori D. Rinks, Honors; John T. Summers, High Honors; and Erin C. White, Honors.

- Dyer: Rachel S. Coleman, Highest Honors; Drew P. Duncan, Highest Honors; Patrick M. Fulwood, Honors; Melissa A. George, Honors; Leslie K. Harwell, High Honors; Jennifer R. Jennings, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Johnson, Honors; Christopher M. Lownsdale, High Honors; James D. McCurdy, Highest Honors; John M. Mistic, High Honors; Emily B. Parks, High Honors; Jessica J. Riffle, Honors; Stuart N. Shaw, Honors; Jessica J. Sims, Highest Honors; Leigunna M. Sims, High Honors; Joseph H. Tucker, High Honors; Chase A. Wimbler, Highest Honors; and Randall L. Winslow, High Honors.

- Gibson: Derrick R. Casey, High Honors, and Ashley M. Lynn, Highest Honors.

- Humboldt: Emily B. Arnold, Honors; Jeremy M. Brown, Highest Honors; Justin L. Brown, High Honors; Rebecca M. Byrer, Honors; Jonathan A. Coble, Highest Honors; Michael P. Corder, High Honors; Jayme D. Crawford, Honors; Daniel S. DeHaan, Highest Honors; Jason M. Dement, High Honors; Megan M. Dickson, Highest Honors; Miriam L. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Hunter W. Hamilton, Highest Honors; Leo W. McCormick, Highest Honors; Julia E. McKnight, Honors; Dulan D. Murphy, Honors; Kelli J. Porter, Honors; Alfredo Ramirez, Honors; Ashley M. Shelton, Highest Honors; Jody L. Stokes, Highest Honors; Jennifer N. Thomas, Highest Honors, Phillip M. Tyler, Honors; and Lucireta F. Westmoreland, Highest Honors.

- Medina: Justin B. Chapman, High Honors; Gabrielle N. Toone, Honors; and Steven D. Torrance, High Honors.

- Milan: Patrick R. Barnes, Highest Honors; Raymond F. Brake, Highest Honors; Brittany L. Brough, Honors; Andrea F. Bynum, Honors; Megan L. Carmichael, Honors; Richard W. Cody, Honors; Jennifer N. Cody, Highest Honors; Justin S. Condron, Highest Honors; Russ N. Deloach, High Honors; Jenny L. Dodson, Highest Honors; John B. Dunn, Highest Honors; Weston W. Gentry, High Honors; Rachel L. Hazlewood, High Honors; Jonathan R. Huddspeth, High Honors; John Hyde, Honors; Benny L. Johnson, Highest Honors; Lindy M. Johnson, Highest Honors; Brian L. Jones, Honors; Ashley N. Knut, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Mathis, Honors; Amber L. McGuire, Honors; Amber N. McCarty, Honors; Zachary A. McMinn, Highest Honors; Amanda M. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Ashley M. Niven, Honors; Megan A. Pope, Highest Honors; John L. Presson, Honors; Amanda L. Reeves, Highest Honors; Judith R. Robbins, Honors; Bryan G. Sandor, Highest Honors; Savannah L. Sellers, Highest Honors; Mitchell W. Sims, Highest Honors; Marilyn G. Stewart, Highest Honors; Rachel D. Szopinski, High Honors; Jennifer L. Timmons, Highest Honors; Anastasia Umanets, Highest Honors; Brian J. Wheeler, Highest Honors; Tara F. Woodard, Honors; and William P. York, Highest Honors.

- Rutherford: Ashley A. Oliver, Honors; Stephen G. Petty, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Phillips, Honors; and Rebecca L. Whitworth, Highest Honors.

- Yorkville: Brittnie C. Belton, Honors, and Jacquelyn A. Ladd, Honors.

Author slated to speak

H.W. Brands, best-selling author and professor of history at the University of Texas, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

His appearance is sponsored by the Honors Programs, the Department of History and Philosophy and the Vertical Immersion Project.

The lecture will end with a brief question and answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

Brands is the author of 16 books and dozens of articles and is the associate editor of "Presidential Studies Quarterly." His 2000 book, "The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin," was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and was a New York Times best seller.

He will speak on "Benjamin Franklin and the Birth of American Identity."

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The Academic Speaker Series annually brings distinguished scholars, writers and performers to the UT Martin campus. All lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact McDonough by e-mail at danmc@utm.edu or by telephone at (731) 881-7436.
UTM engineering program reaccredited by ABET

Accreditation may come across as higher education jargon, but in layman’s words it means a seal of approval and a statement of quality. When a program is accredited, it undergoes a stringent peer review process that ensures educational quality.

The Department of Engineering in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin has achieved reaccreditation for its bachelor of science in engineering degree program by the recent actions of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC of ABET) in Baltimore. The official notification of full accreditation was made in the fall.

"The continuing ABET accreditation is a testimony to the great faculty and leadership in the Department of Engineering," UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan said. "This is obviously important to UT Martin, but equally important to the region. Our engineering graduates are highly sought after by area engineering-related businesses and corporations."

To achieve accreditation, engineering programs must satisfy the expectations of a wide range of quality standards relating to educational quality, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process and achievement of program outcomes in the degree program. During the accreditation process, UT Martin was visited and evaluated by an expert evaluation team with members from both academia and industry.

"The purpose of accreditation is to ensure quality in academic programs," said Dr. Thomas Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We were fortunate to receive such a positive report."

Dr. Doug Sterrett, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, added, "With the reaccreditation of the bachelor of science in engineering degree, current and future graduates are assured that they will be able to compete for positions in the regional, national and international job markets. Because they graduate from an ABET-accredited degree program, they will be eligible for professional engineering licensure in Tennessee.

"I am very proud of the work performed by the engineering faculty and staff in achieving this significant indicator of the quality of our engineering program. Special thanks goes to Dr. Richard Helgeson, Department of Engineering chair, for his tireless and excellent work developing the self-study and ensuring that all processes related to the EC-2000 accreditation criteria were met."

Acting class available for adults, students

The Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) at the University of Tennessee at Martin is offering "Introduction to Acting" for adults 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 21-April 4 and for students ages seven and older 5-6:30 p.m. Thursdays from Feb. 23-April 6.

There will be no classes on March 14 or 16.

The fee is $45.

Christian Ashlar, a seven-year veteran of Vanguard Theatre and a member of theatre and English honor fraternities, will instruct the courses. Participants will learn to channel emotional states, past experiences and present-day knowledge into the creative therapeutic art of acting.

A final project, an on-stage performance, will be performed for the public.

"Introduction to Acting" for adults will deal with developing acting skills. Parents are required to stay with students under age 10 and are encouraged to stay with older students. Props will be required as the class works toward its goal.

Early registration is encouraged because of limited space. To register, call the ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or 1-800-482-5199.

Five Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

They include Edd Carr III, son of Edd Carr Jr. of Vienna, Ga., and Willa Carr of Union City, who received the Dean’s Scholarship and who will be a freshman; Tiana Harris, daughter of Belinda and Reginald Gregory of South Fulton and the late Thomas Harris, who received the Chancellor’s Award and who will be a freshman; Holly Hopper, daughter of Terry and Connie Hopper of Hornbeak, who received the Chancellor’s Award and who will be a freshman; Laura Hopper, daughter of Charles and Angela Hopper of Hornbeak, who received the Dean’s Scholarship and who will be a freshman; and Amy Kendall, daughter of Robert and Colette Kendall of Union City, who received the Chancellor’s Award and who will be a freshman.
Owens receives NASA grant

A South Fulton High School and UT Martin Space Institute graduate is one of two University of Tennessee students to receive NASA Space Grants of more than $40,000, Callie Taylor, coordinator of student affairs, has confirmed.

Ashley Owens of Martin, a master's degree student in mechanical engineering, and Daniel Lehman, a doctoral candidate in aerospace engineering from Watertown, S.D., received the grants.

"These are prestigious fellowships that cover tuition and educational expenses as well as travel, equipment, and other costs associated with their projects," Taylor said.

Lehman's grant includes a personal stipend of $18,816, which can increase during his course of study, and a stipend of $16,934 is included in Owens' grant.

Owens is involved in the testing of a General Electric J-85 afterburning turbojet engine. Owens' focus is analyzing the chemistry of the jet exhaust, and her work is supervised by her major professor, Dr. Roy Schulz. Her parents are Phil and Dawn Owens of Martin.

Dr. Alfonso Pujol, UTSI professor of electrical engineering, is UT's representative and UTSI's director of the Space Grant Consortium, which is affiliated with five Tennessee universities.

"We are very proud of these students," said Dr. John E. Caruthers, UTSI associate vice president and UTSI's chief operating officer. "In the last 12 years, 18 other of our graduate students have received NASA Space Grants."

Best-selling author to speak at UTM

H.W. Brands, best selling author and professor of history at the University of Texas, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 9, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance is sponsored by the Honors Programs, the Department of History and Philosophy and the Vertical Immersion Project. The lecture will end with a brief question and answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

Brands is the author of 16 books and dozens of articles and is the associate editor of "Presidential Studies Quarterly." His 2000 book, "The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin" was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and a "New York Times" best seller. He will speak on "Benjamin Franklin and the Birth of American Identity."

"In January 2006, we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the quintessential Founding Father whose wide breadth of interests covered the entire spectrum from business, communications, and science to philosophy, politics and diplomacy," said Dr. Dan McDonough, coordinator of the series. "We are pleased to host one of the nation's finest historians to explain how Franklin contributed to the birth of a uniquely American identity and how he remains relevant today."

The Academic Speaker Series annually brings distinguished scholars, writers and performers to the UT Martin campus. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact McDonough at danmc@utm.edu or 731-881-7436.
Acting courses for students and adults offered by ECCE

The Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) at the University of Tennessee at Martin is offering "Introduction to Acting" for adults, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays, February 21-April 4, and for students, ages seven and older, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on Thursdays, February 23-April 6. There will be no classes on March 14 or 16. The fee is $45.

Christian Ashlar, a seven-year veteran of Vanguard Theatre and a member of theatre and English honor fraternities, will instruct the courses. Participants will learn to channel emotional states, past experiences and present-day knowledge into the creative therapeutic art of acting. A final project, an on-stage performance, will be performed for the public.

"Introduction to Acting" for students also will deal with complex ways of developing acting skills and learning to develop new ones. Participants will need to bring only those things that will be used as props.

"Introduction to Acting" for adults will deal with complex ways of developing acting skills and learning to develop new ones. Participants will need to bring only those things that will be used as props.

Weakley County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2006-2007 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Valerie Huery, daughter of Vishneta Huery of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Channer African-American 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.

UT Martin offering six-week ballroom dance class

The University of the Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a six-week ballroom dance class. Classes will be held from 7:30-8:15 p.m., on Mondays, February 27-April 10, at the Obion County Senior Citizen Center, 622 S. Depot St., Union City. There will be no class on March 13. The fee is $60 per person or $110 per couple. Fran and Richard Robinson will instruct the class.

The class is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba and the cha-cha-cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes, no tennis shoes or rubber soles. A partner is not required.

Space is limited, and advance registration is required. To register, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.
Quebec City, Saint John among attractions of travel-study program

The University of Tennessee at Martin has developed a travel-study program to Eastern Canada, slated for May 15-29.

Participants will visit the capital, Ottawa, then go to Montreal, one of North America’s most dynamic cities, and Quebec City, a walled city with a distinct European flavor overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Other points of interest include Fredericton and Saint John, the oldest city in Canada, and the “Acadian” country, settled by French colonists four centuries ago.

The cost of the travel-study program is $2,500, which includes all transportation, double-occupancy hotels, admissions to all planned activities and a daily buffet breakfast.

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Crapo, director of the Center for Global Studies and International Education, at 731-881-1023 or pcrapo@utm.edu.

Best-selling author to speak

H.W. Brands, best selling author and professor of history at the University of Texas, will speak at 7:30 p.m., tonight, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance is sponsored by the Honors Programs, Department of History and Philosophy and the Vertical Immersion Project. The lecture will end with a brief question and answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

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UT Martin awarded more than $150,000 for improving Teacher Quality Program

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded $152,473 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for two grants for its Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Program. Formerly the Eisenhower Teacher Quality Program, the ITQ is designed to provide funding for professional development for classroom teachers to improve teaching and learning.

Dr. Cahit Erkal, associate professor of physics, will direct the “Activity-based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute for Middle and Junior-High School Teachers: Year Four.” Judy Cleek, instructor for international programs, will serve as project director of the “Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic (TECH) Students.”

Erkal will provide a series of workshops over a five-day period that will focus on physics, astronomy and earth science. The objectives of the Year Four institute are to provide support for science education in the form of hands-on and technology-based teacher training, to model a teaching practice that integrates mathematical skills with science and to establish an informal forum to exchange ideas and share experiences among West Tennessee middle school and junior high science teachers. A data acquisition system will be introduced through the activities. An addition to the Year Four institute is the inclusion of a research component, which will allow the teacher participants to experience firsthand exposure to current ongoing research using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on electrocardiograms.

Cleck will direct the activities of the TECH Project to deliver intensive professional opportunities for K-8 teachers from rural West Tennessee. These opportunities will incorporate training in the integration of technology into instructional methods that will improve the learning and academic achievement of the limited-English-proficient Hispanic student. TECH is a collaborative effort of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the Modern Foreign Languages Department and International Programs at UT Martin and four partnering school districts.

“As we see the growing population of school-age children for whom English is a second language, our classroom teachers must learn how to Communicate with parents as well as the students,” said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences dean.

TECH will provide teachers with a rich background in basic Spanish for teachers, English as a Second Language (ESL) methodology and Hispanic culture, all of which will equip them to serve students from this cultural group more effectively. The participants will create technologically driven units that will combine pedagogical principles of ESL standards with the content standards for the subjects they teach.

“With increasing numbers of Hispanic students entering the public schools in our region, public school teachers recognize the need to learn about who the students from this culture group really are and what social, cultural and academic needs they have,” said Cleek.
UTM student set to publish his first epic novel

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

Watch out Nicholas Sparks! Beware Margaret Mitchell!
A promising young writer from the University of Tennessee at Martin is set to begin creeping up the best seller lists to take his place among the greats.

With a book coming out this fall that has taken on the flavor of a historical love story, Stephen Outten is hoping to etch his name in the hearts and minds of book lovers and literature appreciators everywhere.

A self-proclaimed “Air Force brat,” Outten began his collegiate career at the University of Alabama, but transferred to UT Martin, largely to be with his girlfriend, Holly.

Now living in Union City and commuting to the campus, Outten has grown to appreciate the advantages and intricacies of attending a smaller university.

“There is lot more attention paid to detail, here,” Outten explained, “You are more than just a number.”

Outten is a junior English major and works at the Hortense Parrish Writing Center.

“I love the atmosphere. They do a lot to promote an atmosphere of creativity,” he said.

As an English major, it seemed only natural that Outten would one day pick up a pen and attempt to dive headfirst into the task of writing a book. The only question that remained was when he would actually choose to begin the endeavor.

“I am one who tends to start something and then lose interest,” Outten admitted.

“In the summer of 2004, I wrote 10 pages and then stopped. My girlfriend read it, though, and encouraged me to keep going, so I picked it up again in 2005 and wrote it in the summer of 2005. I finished the book the day before last fall semester started.”

“Writing the book is only half the battle,” Outten explained.

In reality, it is just the tip of the iceberg. Getting the effort published is certainly a horse of a different color.

Outten spent the first six weeks after he finished the story just editing and publishing his finished manuscript. There was still the query letters and synopses to be written and the custom tailoring of them to meet the specifications of each publisher.

With help from Nelda Rechels and Beth Walker in the writing center, Outten sent off his story to several agents and played the inevitable waiting game.

Around Thanksgiving, Outten suddenly had something enormous to be thankful for, though, as Publish America requested to see his entire manuscript. Liking what they saw, they gave Outten the sign he’d been looking for and that every aspiring writer dreams of — a gigantic thumbs up.

Now, in his second full semester at UT Martin, Outten will officially be able to call himself a novelist this fall when his book is released.

Entitled “The Shadows Whisper,” Outten shared that the book will be primarily a love story with some elements of suspense.

“It will be along the lines of Nicholas Sparks. He loves to tell a good love story. It will be closer to Nicholas Sparks as opposed to a genre romance. I haven’t written anything like it. It will be a refreshing love story,” Outten remarked.

“I love historical stories and love stories. I wanted to blend Nicholas Sparks and history. Hopefully, I have written something new and refreshing that many people haven’t read yet.”

To other aspiring writers, Outten offered simple yet powerful advice.

“You have to make yourself do it. The hardest part of writing a long work is just doing it,” Outten said. “Some days, you feel more creative and more inspired than others and sometimes you end up keeping the material you didn’t think you’d keep.”

“Don’t think of it as a process you have to finish. Don’t worry about the number of pages or the genre. Writing a good book is like watching a good movie. Enjoy it. That’s the fun of writing.”

Outten is already beginning to plan out his book signings.

That spells out trouble for all the veteran writers. They must now be on the lookout for the Air Force Brat from UT Martin who is looking to take the world of publication by storm.
Youth Leadership Summit to draw participants

For three days, Feb. 23-25, youth and adults involved in leadership programs throughout the state will converge on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin for the sixth annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit. The event, sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the WestStar Leadership Program, will help participants hone their leadership skills.

Participants will attend sessions on team building, effective communication and presentation skills, leading a meeting and cultural diversity. UT Martin student leaders and staff will lead the sessions.

The theme for the summit is “Make ‘em Say Wow,” a take-off on an upcoming book by Hallerin Hilton Hill, a radio talk show host, motivational speaker and trainer, who will speak at the summit.

“It is a fun theme, but it has a lot of strong emphasis on doing the right thing, being creative and serving your community,” said David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs. “It’s fun, it’s interactive. Hopefully, they will walk away inspired to serve. We would encourage a lot of young people in our surrounding area to take part in it.”

Hill, who lives in Knoxville, also is author of the book, “The Seven Pillars of Wisdom.” His mission is to inspire, inform and entertain. He is a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter. His song, “Who Would Imagine a King,” was recorded by Whitney Houston for the movie, “The Preacher’s Wife.”

He is a graduate of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., where he studied communications. He is the CEO and founder of Wisdom House—a multimedia company focused on inspiring people around the world to grow in wisdom.

Check-in for the summit is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m., on Feb. 23, in the lobby of McCord Residence Hall. The summit will officially begin at 6 p.m., Feb. 23, and will conclude just before lunch on Feb. 25.

Registration information and application for the summit can be found on the Web at www.utm.edu/youthleadershipsummit. The fee is $75 per person. The fee covers lodging, meals, campus entertainment, materials and a T-shirt. Participants are encouraged to reserve space no later than Feb. 15.

The summit is open to high school sophomores, juniors or seniors involved in their local leadership programs, or student government, alumni, board members, leadership directors or volunteers involved with youth leadership. All activities will be chaperoned by a UT Martin staff member or student leader.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs at 881-7710.

SAACS OFFICER TO RECOUNT EXPERIENCES AS EXCHANGE STUDENT IN GERMANY — The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) is sponsoring a presentation by a former officer, Emily C. Bethart, about her experiences as an exchange student in Germany. The presentation will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 9, in Room 317 of the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. Bethart, a senior chemistry major, left in July 2005 as the first exchange student from the chemistry department to Technischen Universitat in Braunschweig, Germany, for a five-month exchange. She worked her “praktikum” with Dr. Ulrich Engelhardt, the food chemist in the Lebensmittelchemie Institute, creating a standard definition for tea typing. She also enjoyed her German classes. After graduation in May 2006 at UT Martin, Bethart plans to return to Germany to work on her master’s degree in preparation for teaching chemistry and English at the Hochschule level in Germany.
Two all-time records set

Fifth consecutive record enrollment

A record 6,225 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the fifth consecutive period UT Martin has enrolled a record number of students. The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 5,811 students set in spring 2005. The spring figures resulted in two all-time records for graduate student and dual credit/concurrent student enrollment.

The 7 percent spring enrollment increase also is the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state, based on available preliminary figures. That follows a fall 2005 enrollment of 6,484, the largest ever at the university and the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the University’s Office of Institutional Research.

“This good news follows two recent positive reports from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission – one that noted UT Martin’s THEC Performance Funding score of 100 points was the highest of any four-year public institution,” said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan. The performance funding score rates institutional performance on selected measures of effectiveness.

“Even more significant is the analysis of the most recent Enrolled Student Survey which showed that UT Martin had the highest student satisfaction level of any four-year public institution in Tennessee,” he added.

The 2006 spring enrollment set an all-time record for graduate students, with 565, topping the previous record of 542 graduate students enrolled in fall 2005. The 2006 spring graduate student count is a 20.7 percent increase over the spring 2005 count of 468.

Also an all-time record was dual credit/concurrent enrollment at 468, besting the previous record of 356 set in fall 2005. The spring 2006 enrollment is a 33 percent increase over the spring 2005 figure of 353.

Spring 2006 undergraduate enrollment is 5,660, up 5.9 percent from spring 2005 enrollment of 5,343.

The full-time equivalency figure for spring 2006 is 5,443, a 4.4 percent increase over the spring 2005 number of 5,215. FTE is the total number of student-credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students.

“This record spring semester enrollment is an example of the teamwork we are experiencing at UT Martin,” said Dunagan. “We value the trust we’ve been given by the thousands of students and parents from all over the world.”

Phi Sigma Kappa renaissance is underway

Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity at the University of Tennessee at Martin is undergoing a renaissance, both internally and externally. Not only are there plans to renovate the existing fraternity house, located at 102 Hurt St., but the chapter’s membership is starting to grow, as well. Phi Sigma Kappa was the first social fraternity on the UT Martin campus, obtaining its charter May 14, 1960. The Tau Teton Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa recently held its first alumni association meeting at UT Martin. UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan welcomed the group and offered his assistance to the association’s plan to “restart” the fraternity.

The local chapter will be governed by the newly formed alumni association. The association officers, along with the current actives, are laying the groundwork to rebuild the fraternal brotherhood. More than 45 years of accumulated traditions and brotherly bonds lie within. The goal of the new administration is to instill these traditions and ideals into the hearts and minds of the new generation of Phi Sigma Kappa brothers. The new initiatives will be the life and future of the fraternity, living and sharing the cardinal principles of brotherhood, scholarship and character.

The fraternity house is undergoing extensive renovations to the main floor and the upstairs living area. The infamous “pit” will be repainted. The resident brothers and house guests will be protected from the threat of fire by a fully automatic sprinkler system and fire alarm system.

The brothers are in the process of actively recruiting members and gearing up for spring rush. Once initiated, the new brothers will be placed in leadership positions by next fall.

“This will be a huge responsibility; thus the enormous effort to hand pick the new associate members,” said Mike Mitchell, alumni association president. “There is no such thing as a “cookie cutter” Phi Sig. These brothers are from all walks of life and all backgrounds.”
UT Martin sets enrollment records

A record 6,225 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin, marking the fifth consecutive period UT Martin has enrolled a record number of students.

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(See Page 2, Col. 3)

EARNINGS HIS DEGREE — The Rev. Larry Glenn, (at right) pastor of Love and Truth Church in Union City, recently earned his degree in sociology, with a minor in psychology, from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presented his diploma, with honors, at the December graduation exercises. Glenn, who is 53, completed his college work in three years. He and his wife, Judy, are foster parents with Youth Villages of Dyersburg and have welcomed more than 100 foster children into their home.

Workshops on science, Hispanic students

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received more than $150,000 to offer free summer workshops to middle and junior high school teachers and K-8 teachers who work with Hispanic students. UT Martin’s Improving Teacher Quality Program received two grants totaling $12,473 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, according to a press release.

Dr. Cahit Erkal, associate professor of physics, will direct the “Activity-based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers: Year Four.” Judy Cleek, instructor for international programs, will direct the “Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic (TECH) Students.”

Erkal will hold workshops for five days on physics, astronomy and earth science. The goal is to provide hands-on and technology-based training, to integrate mathematical skills with science and to establish an informal forum for teachers to exchange ideas. A research component will expose teachers to ongoing research using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on electrocardiograms. Teachers will be given instructional tools to take back to their classrooms.

Meanwhile, each K-8 teacher participating in the TECH project will receive a laptop computer. Their workshop will integrate technology into instructional methods to improve the learning of limited-English-proficient Hispanic students.

What to know

■ Middle and junior high school science teachers who are interested in the summer program should e-mail Dr. Cahit Erkal at cerkal@utm.edu.
■ The TECH program is for K-8 teachers who work with Hispanic students. Teachers should apply in pairs from the same school. E-mail Judy Cleek at jcleek@utm.edu.
Monday's News Summary is ready for viewing at:

User name - webnews
Password - utnews

Today's Headlines

Knoxville News Sentinel: Does UT subsidize sports?
The Register: According to His Holiness the Pope, science and religion are compatible, UT event mentioned
Maryville Daily Times: Professor collects genetic material of trees threatened by exotic pests, UT expert comments
The New York Sun: What Would William Jennings Bryan Do? UT expert quoted
Knoxville News Sentinel: Magnet-school makeover, UT institute referenced
Knoxville News Sentinel: Fischer adds new job title, UT-Battelle partnership referenced
Tennessean: Get finances in order before you think about buying, UT expert quoted
Leaf-Chronicle: Parents spring into action over fall break proposal, UT study referenced
Commercial Appeal: Let 'Pedometer Walking' help set pace, UT expert mentioned
Jackson Sun: UTM program receives grants for workshops to benefit Hispanic students

If you have comments or forget your password or user name, call the University of Tennessee Public Relations Office at 865-974-2225, or e-mail us at utnews@tennessee.edu.
If you know someone who would like to receive the daily UT news summary, they can subscribe by sending an e-mail to: "listserv@listserv.utk.edu" with this message in the subject line and body of the text: subscribe newssumm

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Did You Know?

Marisa Burgener, ACS Office of Community Activities

Elected officials make decisions that affect your life and your community. Many of the decisions they make require an understanding of science and technology. One way to foster informed decision-making is to improve the communication between your section and your elected officials. This allows you to build a working relationship with them which can be mutually beneficial.

A second reason for involving government officials is that their participation in your community outreach celebration increases and influences media coverage and public perceptions about the importance of your outreach events.

The sections with members in Tennessee have been fostering their relationship with one of their elected officials, the governor, for the past three years. The outreach effort is the result of a conversation held between two ACS members, Dr. S.K. Airee and Dr. Maurice Smith during a national meeting.

What has resulted is an annual gubernatorial proclamation for National Chemistry Week (NCW) each year, and a visit by the state’s NCW coordinators to the governor for a group photo. This has become a successful partnership and looks like it will be a tradition in Tennessee for years to come. “It was hardest to get started and to make the arrangements the first year,” stated S.K. “Once that initial contact was made, and the ice was broken there has been smooth sailing and each year they have built on the successes of past years.”

If one of your section’s goals is to become more involved with local officials like the sections in Tennessee, there are resources available to help you. Guaranteed to Succeed is an online coordinator resource that can help guide you through the process. The first step to do something similar in your area is to contact the official. Make sure they know you are a local section member and not a lobbyist. Check the time slot or time slots you are looking to have events with the official’s calendar before solidifying your plans.

Send an invitation and reference the phone call. By gathering and including facts about the role that the chemical industry plays in your area, sharing the performance of students in science and scientific competitions and mentioning any significant annual outreach held by your section can underscore the significance of your invitation for involvement. Be sure to mention the scope of the event and the benefits of participation, such as the media being invited and the occasion being an opportunity to highlight the official’s commitment to science and/or education. If possible, include press clippings from the year before.

Follow up with the official or the scheduler about three days after the invitation should have arrived. It may take more than one attempt to find out if the official will be able to attend. Some may like to
lead off the event.

Send the official copies of the publicity before the activity as well as after and do not forget to thank them with a letter.

There are, of course, many additional ways beyond NCW events for you and your chemistry colleagues to become involved in government affairs. An important resource for you is the website of the ACS Office of Legislative and Government Affairs (OLGA) (chemistry.org/government) where you will find many suggestions and contacts.

Generally, the higher an official's office, the more invitations he or she receives. The focus should be on invitations to state and federal officials. OLGA staff members can help to identify them and facilitate their attendance. OLGA staff stay very involved and are knowledgeable about issues that are of interest to the section, such as education or environmental protection. Chemical demonstrations, hands-on activities, and student presentations are more likely than lectures or tours to draw an official.

You greatly increase the likelihood of the official's participation if you involve someone that already has a relationship with the official's office. Examples are campaign volunteers, major contributors, lobbyists from local companies, and section members who may know the official through the chamber of commerce, religious organizations, or similar groups.

See Guaranteed to Succeed 2006 edition's Appendix 2: Templates for National Chemistry Week and Appendix 4: Templates for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day for sample proclamations to be issued by government officials.

If you have not yet tried reaching out to government officials, why not start this year by inviting an elected official to an event related to Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, and build on your success there with an event for National Chemistry Week? You never know what great things can happen until you try.

To see info from the Tennessee outreach efforts, visit http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairee/acs/ncsnw.htm.

*Photo Credit: Chief State Photographer Jed DeKalb*
A dad's expert take on cell phones:

Steve Holt, professor at University of Tennessee Martin, teaches introduction to computers and is also the Webmaster for the university and assistant director of technology. But he is an additional expert as the father of four kids, ages 12, 9, 8 and 5.

'My kids are begging for cell phones. They say that all their friends have them and it's not fair that they don't,' Holt said. 'But my wife and I have refrained from getting them their own.'

Safety is the one thing he's been trying to come to grips with, he added, because it's a valid point. 'It would be beneficial to be able to reach them any time we need to, to be quite honest.'

The problem is that some of his kids are very responsible and some aren't. 'I guess all parents deal with that issue that if you give something to one, how do you deal with the other child who isn't responsible.'

He likes the idea of the Verizon LG Migo phone with only four numbers programmed in for emergencies. 'That is truly what I think a kid's cell phone ought to be - there only if the kids need it. They can call by pressing one button, but it can't get out of hand.'

With incoming freshmen, he's dealing with students who are taking exams and text-messaging friends at the same time -not cheating - but making lunch dates.

'Over 50 percent of my students tell me they send at least 100 text messages a day, while they're eating, driving, walking across campus, in class - constantly. It's a habit with them. It's just a part of their lifestyle and they don't know any different.'

His greatest concern? 'They all know how to chat, how to blog, how to e-mail, hotmail, Yahoo, how to text message, how to download MP3 files, how to surf a Web page - but they don't know how to write. I can't emphasize enough what a huge detriment it is for this to be totally ingrained in their lifestyle. It's critical that they acquire better communication skills.'

The results of all this instant technology is that attention spans are shorter and college professors are having to adapt to their students' new learning styles.

As for his own family, he said, 'We're not having to show our kids anything. My 5-year-old learned how to use the computer when he was 2 because he watched me. He knows about a mouse and a CD. It's infused in their lives.'

Holt said he knows that having a cell phone is a way to provide his children an opportunity to learn and 'we have to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their responsibility.'

'When I get them a cell phone plan, I'm going to put safeguards in there to protect myself. We have to accept where we're going with this and be able to deal with the consequences.

You give them this technology and - surprise - they're going to use it.'

- Jacque Hillman, 425-9679
MILAN GRAD ATTENDS CONFERENCE
UT Martin faculty, students attend conference - Two faculty members and three students from the Communications Department at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently attended the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters annual conference in Nashville. The group participated in sessions on sales and marketing, Federal Communications Commission regulations and programming. Pictured, from left, are Bud Walters, chairman of the association; Richard Robinson and Rodney Freed, UT Martin communications broadcast faculty; Tori Shaw, UT Martin communications student; Deborah Tate, newly appointed Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Horbelt and Milan graduate Grant Pugh, UT Martin communications students.

UTM announces record spring enrollment
A record 6,225 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the fifth consecutive period UT Martin has enrolled a record number of students. The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 5,811 students set in spring 2005. The spring figures resulted in two all-time records for graduate student and dual credit/concurrent student enrollment.

The 7 percent spring enrollment increase also is the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state, based on available preliminary figures. That follows a fall 2005 enrollment of 6,484, the largest ever at the university and the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the University's Office of Institutional Research.

"This good news follows two recent positive reports from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission - one that noted UT Martin's THEC Performance Funding score of 100 points was the highest of any four-year public institution," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan. The performance funding score rates institutional performance on selected measures of effectiveness.

UTM plans travel study to Washington
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study to the Washington, D.C. area, May 14-20. Undergraduate credit hours may be earned for the program. The fee is $625.

The tour group will visit the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian. The group also will visit the Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials. The tour will stop at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Charlestown, Va.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Chestean, professor of political science, at 731-881-7473 or rchestean@utm.edu; Lt. Darrell Simmons, at 731-881-7784 or dsimmons@utm.edu; or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 731-881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu.
UT Martin Awarded More than $150,000 for Improving Teacher Quality Program

Martin, Tenn.- The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded $152,473 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for two grants for its Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Program. Formerly the Eisenhower Teacher Quality Program, the ITQ is designed to provide funding for professional development for classroom teachers to improve teaching and learning.

Dr. Cahit Erkal, associate professor of physics, will direct the “Activity-based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute for Middle and Junior-High School Teachers: Year Four.” Judy Cleek, instructor for international programs, will serve as project director of the “Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic (TECH) Students.”

Erkal will provide a series of workshops over a five-day period that will focus on physics, astronomy, and earth science. The objectives of the Year Four institute are to provide support for science education in the form of hands-on and technology-based teacher training, to model a teaching practice that integrates mathematical skills with science and to establish an informal forum to exchange ideas and share experiences among West Tennessee middle school and junior high science teachers. A data acquisition system will be introduced through the activities. An addition to the Year Four institute is the inclusion of a research component, which will allow the teacher candidates to experience first-hand exposure to current ongoing research using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on electrocardiograms.

Cleek will direct the activities of the TECH Project to deliver intensive professional opportunities for K-8 teachers from rural West Tennessee. These opportunities will incorporate training in the integration of technology into instructional methods that will improve the learning and academic achievement of the limited-English-proficient Hispanic student. TECH is a collaborative effort of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the Modern Foreign Languages Department and International Programs at UT Martin and four partnering school districts.

“As we see the growing population of school-age children for whom English is a second language, our classroom teachers must learn how to communicate with parents as well as the students,” said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences dean.

TECH will provide teachers with a rich background in basic Spanish for teachers, English as a Second Language (ESL) methodology and Hispanic culture, all of which will equip them to serve students from this cultural group more effectively. The participants will create technologically driven units that will combine pedagogical principles of ESL standards with the content standards for the subjects they teach.

“With increasing numbers of Hispanic students entering the public schools in our region, public school teachers recognize the need to learn about who the students from this culture group really are and what social, cultural and academic needs they have,” said Cleek.

Students present art exhibit at UTM
University of Tennessee at Martin students, Katie Hausauer, of Clarksville, Jordyn Jurjak, of Guthrie, Ky., and Joe Tucker, of Dyer, will be featured in a two-week art exhibition beginning Feb. 14, in the Gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The exhibitions may be viewed at any time. Hausauer and Tucker are graphic design majors. Jurjak is an art education major. All are seniors.

Women’s changing roles is focus of FWC presentation
The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women’s Club will host a luncheon at 11:30 a.m., March 7, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center, in observance of Women’s History Month. Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and fashion merchandising, will be the guest speaker at 12:15 p.m. Her topic is “We’ve Come a Long Way: A Historical Look at Women’s Changing Roles from the Home to the Workplace.” Tickets are $10 and can be purchased from board members, at the University Center information desk and at the Apple Barrel in Martin. For free child care, call Annie Schommer at 588-0794 by March 4. For other information, contact Penny Moser at 588-5766.

Senior clarinet recital slated
University of Tennessee at Martin senior Amber Summers will perform on the clarinet at 3 p.m., Feb. 19, in the recital hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The recital will feature “Sonata for Clarinet and Piano,” by Leonard Bernstein, “Four Short Pieces,” by Howard Ferguson, and “Fish Phase,” by John Steinmetz.

Summers is a music education major from Memphis. The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of music, at 881-7413 or asimmons@utm.edu.
**Foreign Film Series presents ‘Crash’**

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Student Activities Council at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present “Crash,” starring Matt Dillon, as part of its Spring 2006 Foreign Film Series. The film will be shown at 7 p.m., Feb. 24, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

“Crash” is a provocative, unflinching look at the complexities of racial tolerance in contemporary America. Driving headlong into the diverse melting pot of post-9/11 Los Angeles, this urban drama tracks the volatile intersections of a multi-ethnic cast of characters’ struggles to overcome their fears as they careen in and out of one another’s lives. The film is directed by Paul Haggis and is shown as part of UT Martin’s Civil Rights Conference. It is co-sponsored by the Departments of History and Philosophy and English. Admission is free. All films are open to the public. For more information, call 881-7420.

**UT Martin plans travel study to Washington D.C.**

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study to the Washington, D.C. area, May 14-20. Undergraduate credit hours may be earned for the program. The fee is $625.

The tour group will visit the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian. The group also will visit the Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials. The tour will stop at Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, in Charlottesville, Va.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Chesteen, professor of political science, at 881-7473 or rcheeste@utm.edu; Lt. Darrell Simmons, at 881-7784 or dsimmons@utm.edu; or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu.

**Endorsement in Pre-K-3 is focus of institute**

The Department of Educational Studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin will assist currently licensed public school teachers seeking an additional endorsement in Pre-K-3 by offering eight hours credit during the upcoming summer school session. The special institute, designed for licensed teachers, will be held first summer session, June 5-July 7, 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. This intensive three-week institute is limited to 25 participants.

Teachers will register for ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Learning Across the Content Areas: Language Arts and Social Studies (two hours), ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Learning Across the Content Areas: Math and Science (two hours), ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Early Development (two hours), and ELED 490 Creativity and Play (two hours). The institute will be taught by Dr. Ginny Esch, assistant professor of education, and Dr. Kathy Evans, associate professor of education.

For additional information, contact Dr. Brenda Gulledge, chair, Department of Educational Studies, 881-7193.

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For additional information, contact Dr. Brenda Gulledge, chair, Department of Educational Studies, 881-7193.

**Myers receives UTM scholarship**

A Dyer County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2006-07 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Matthew Myers, the son of Michael and Linda Myers of Newbern, is a sophomore engineering major. He received the Bratton Foundation Award.

**Additional endorsement in Pre-K-3 focus of institute**

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Special awards to be presented during Civil Rights Conference

Several special awards will be presented during the upcoming sixth annual Civil Rights Conference luncheon at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The conference is slated for Monday through Feb. 25, with the luncheon to be held at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 23 in Room 206 of Boling University Center.

This year’s honorees include:
- Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor, who began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development.
- He currently serves as executive director of WestStar, the university’s regional leadership program for West Tennessee.
- He is a member of the Martin Economic Development Council, the Seven-State Delta Regional Leadership Commission and two national committees addressing student issues for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.
- Theois Robinson Jr., University of Tennessee vice president for Equity and Diversity, who grew up in Knoxville, where he was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- His application to attend the University of Tennessee in 1960 led to the integration of UT when the board voted to change its policy and he was the first of three African-Americans admitted. He was elected to the Knoxville City Council in 1969 and, during his second term, was chosen by the U.S. State Department to travel to African countries as part of a 10-member delegation. He has been involved in Knoxville leadership initiatives and received numerous honors.
- Guy and Candie Carawan, who founded and manage the Highlander Research and Education Center, a residential education and research organization based on a farm in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The center has gathered work,

ers, grassroots leaders, community organizers, educators and researchers to address the pressing social, environmental and economic problems facing the South since 1932. Highlander has played important roles in major political movements, including the Civil Rights Movement.
- Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg, a retired attorney, who is Memphis’ first professional mediator.

She has served on the Tennessee Commission for Human Rights, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and many other committees relating to struggles for equality. During the Memphis sanitation strike in 1968, she was instrumental in organizing African-American and Jewish women in support of the sanitation workers’ rights.
- Rita S. Geier, an executive counselor to the federal commissioner of the Social Security Administration, who was an original plaintiff in the 1968 lawsuit filed to prompt Tennessee to take an active role in desegregating higher education institutions.

She has served as assistant director for commercial litigation with the Legal Services Corporation at the Department of Justice and general counsel for the Appalachian Regional Commission. She supervised issues related to federal loan guaranty, Medicare and Medicaid fraud and legal services delivery to low-income people.
- Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, a communications associate professor at the University of Memphis, who is the author of several books on Haywood County.

She founded Touch by Grace Professional Communications Ministry specializing in diversity consulting and training.
- Carrie Darnell Powell and her parents, who helped integrate facilities and desegregate Haywood County schools in the late 1950s and early 1960s.
- Betty R. Douglas, who served as secretary to the Civil and Welfare League in Stanton for many years and was involved in struggles for equality.
- Michael S. Harper, who is University professor and professor of English at Brown University. He was the first Rhode Island poet laureate, a term he held 1978-93.

He has published 15 books of poetry and several CDs of his own poems, is the recipient of several poetry awards and is the editor of two anthologies of African-American poetry. In 1990, he received the Robert Hayden Poetry Award from the United Negro College Fund and has received several honorary doctorates. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1995. In 1997, he received the Claiborne Pell Award for excellence in the arts.
- The Rev. Freddie J. Powell, who was a minister for 37 years in Stanton.

He was involved in the Haywood County Civic and Welfare League and marched in 1959 to obtain the right for African-American citizens of Haywood County to vote. He built 47 houses for residents of Stanton and started a medical clinic there.
- Hatrye Thomas Yarbrough, a graduate of Lane College, Fisk University and Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, who taught elementary school in Covington for 18 years before serving for 25 years as high school librarian in the Tipton County School System.

She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association and is serving on Tipton County’s Habitat for Humanity board of directors.

For details about the conference, visit the Web site at http://www.utm.edu/staff/accals/civil-rights.
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For more information, contact Dr. Richard Cheesten, professor of political science, 731-881-7473 or rehestee@utm.edu; Lt. Darrell Simmons, 731-881-7784 or dsimmons@utm.edu; or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, 731-881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu.

EARN GRANTS — Dan Lehman (second from left) of Watertown, S.D., and Ashley Owens (second from right) of Martin, a graduate of South Fulton High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin, are recipients of NASA Space Grants of more than $40,000. With them in front of the University of Tennessee Space Institute's lobby are their professors, Dr. Basil Antar (left) and Dr. Roy J. Schultz.

SFHS, UT Martin graduate recipient of NASA grant

A South Fulton High School and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate is one of two University of Tennessee Space Institute graduate students to receive NASA Space Grants of more than $40,000.

Ashley Owens of Martin, a master's degree student in mechanical engineering, and Daniel Lehman, a doctoral candidate in aerospace engineering from Watertown, S.D., received the grants, according to Callie Taylor, coordinator of student affairs.

"These are prestigious fellowships that cover tuition and educational expenses as well as travel, equipment and other costs associated with their projects," Ms. Taylor said.

Lehman's grant includes a personal stipend of $18,816, which can increase during his course of study, and a stipend of $16,934 is included in Ms. Owens' grant. Ms. Owens is involved in the testing of a General Electric J-85 afterburning turbojet engine.

Her focus is analyzing the chemistry of the jet exhaust and her work is supervised by her major professor, Dr. Roy Schultz.

Her parents are Phil and Dawn Owens of Martin.

Dr. Alfonso Pujol, UT Martin professor of electrical engineering, is UT's representative and UT Martin's director of the Space Grant Consortium, which is affiliated with five Tennessee universities.

"We are very proud of these students," said Dr. John E. Caruthers, UT associate vice president and UT Martin's chief operating officer. "In the last 12 years, 18 other of our graduate students have received NASA Space Grants."
Canadian academic to assist with implementation of new UT Martin minor; present lecture

Dr. Robert MacKinnon, dean, Humanities and Arts, University of New Brunswick at Saint John, Canada, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin to assist with the implementation of UT Martin's new minor in Canadian studies.

As part of his visit, he will deliver a lecture on "The Industrial City in Transition" - Saint John, New Brunswick, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., February 15, in the Norman Campbell Humanities Auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public.

A geographer by training, MacKinnon taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland, the University of British Columbia (Vancouver), and the University College of the Cariboo (Kamloops, British Columbia), before assuming his current post at the University of New Brunswick Saint John.

He has lectured and published on a wide range of rural and urban issues impacting the regional economies of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He has been particularly interested in studying quality of life indicators for small cities and their cultural future. His current research focuses on urban and economic change in Saint John, a historic port city on the Atlantic coast of New Brunswick, which has been pursuing major urban renewal projects since the mid-1960s to offset the decline of its traditional economic base in shipping and shipbuilding.

"Dr. MacKinnon is an engaging, dynamic speaker, and the findings of his research on Saint John should have direct applications to many small cities in our state and region, which are also working through difficult periods of economic revitalization," said Dr. Paul Crapo, director of UT Martin's Center for Global Studies and International Education.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Geography, Geology and Physics and the Center for Global Studies and International Education.

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‘Winning Customers Through Service’ is ECCE seminar topic

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has scheduled Fred Landiss to present a customer-service seminar from 9-11 a.m., March 22, on the UT Martin campus.

Landiss's presentation is "Winning Customers Through Service...does your business need an 'Extreme Makeover'?" The veteran banker, humorist and customer service advocate will share the story of his bank’s transformation from a $24 million "fixer-upper" into a half billion dollar "showplace" and the role customer service played in the re-model. Does service count? You bet your tool belt it does.

Landiss is senior vice president and director of marketing and public relations at Farmers and Merchants Bank, Clarksville.

The registration fee is $45 per person; $35 per person for six or more from the same company. Advance registration is required. Contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

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UT Martin Foreign Film Series presents "Crash" on February 24

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Student Activities Council at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present "Crash," starring Matt Dillon, as part of its Spring 2006 Foreign Film Series. The film will be shown at 7:00 p.m., February 24, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

"Crash" is a provocative, unflinching look at the complexities of racial tolerance in contemporary America. Driving headlong into the diverse melting pot of post-9/11 Los Angeles, this urban drama tracks the volatile intersections of a multi-ethnic cast of characters' struggles to overcome their fears as they careen in and out of one another's lives. The film is directed by Paul Haggis and is shown as part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference. It is co-sponsored by the Departments of History and Philosophy and English.

Admission is free. All films are open to the public. For more information, call 731-881-7420.
Tuesday's News Summary is ready for viewing at:
http://knxln.ips.utk.edu/prnews.nsf

User name - webnews
Password - utnews

Today's Headlines

Fuel Cell Work: UT chemist wins grant to improve hydrogen fuel cell technology
Oak Ridger: UT chemist wins grant to improve hydrogen fuel cell technology
Knoxville News Sentinel: When one good man believes, UT supporter remembered
The Pacer: UTM ranks first among state schools in student satisfaction
Associated Press: UT professor trying to save eastern forests from exotic pests
Associated Press: Latest arrested in Tennessee Waltz becomes first to go to trial, UT expert comments
Tablet PC: Spinach, Bacteria and Methanol Batteries for Your Tablet PC, UT mentioned
Radio Free Europe: Oppressive Regimes Test Western Companies' Ethics, UT mentioned
Commercial Appeal: Germantown delays ethics policy, UT expert comments
Christian Science Monitor: Global warming, UT expert quoted
Asheville-Citizen Times: College student one of many making blogging pay, UT expert referenced
Nashville Business Journal: CSG to upgrade telecom at LifeWay, UT mentioned

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

If you know someone who would like to receive the daily UT news summary, they can subscribe by sending an e-mail to: "listserv@listserv.utk.edu" with this message in the subject line and body of the text: subscribe newssumm

Subscribe to an RSS feed of UT news headlines at http://www.utk.edu/news/utnews.xml
MATHCOUNTS — The eight students attending the state competition from the University of Tennessee at Martin site are (from left) Noah Towe, Anthony Simonutti, Joseph Hailey, Tim Bergman, Kwame Nuako, Rachel Coleman, Marianela D’Aprile and Mark Maloney.

Students win Upper West Tennessee MathCount competition

A team of middle school “Mathletes” from Martin Middle School won the recent Upper West Tennessee MathCounts Competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Members of the Martin Middle School team are Marianela D’Aprile, Rachel Coleman, Kwame Nuako and Mark Maloney.

The top individual was Marianela D’Aprile from Martin Middle School. Taking other top positions were Tim Bergman - second, Rachel Coleman - third, Kwame Nuako - fourth, Mark Maloney - fifth, Joseph Hailey - sixth, Anthony Simonutti - seventh, and Noah Towe - eighth. Bergman, Coleman, Nuako, Maloney, Hailey and Towe are from Martin Middle School, Simonutti is from St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson.

The top four individuals not on the winning team will make up the Upper West Tennessee MathCounts Chapter’s second team. The individuals winning positions on the second team were Anthony Simonutti (St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson), Tim Bergman, Joseph Hailey and Noah Towe (Martin Middle School).

These teams will advance to the state competition, March 18, in Nashville. The top four individuals from the state competition will represent Tennessee at the national competition in May, in Washington, D.C.

The second team was St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson. Coaches of these teams are Martin Middle School - Casey Webb and St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson - Ann Keyl.

Celebrating its 23rd anniversary, MathCounts is a nationwide math coaching and competition program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. More than six million students across the United States have participated in the MathCounts program. The Upper West Tennessee program is sponsored by the Mathematics Teachers of Tennessee - Northwest and UT Martin. MathCounts’ founding sponsors are the CNA Foundation, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. National sponsors also include Dow Chemical Co. Foundation, General Motors Foundation, Lockheed Martin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NEC Foundation of America, Texas Instruments Incorporated and 3M Foundation.

The next competition at UT Martin will be Feb. 3, 2007. For more information, contact: Dr. Desireé A. McCullough, UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 424 Humanities Building, Martin, TN 38238; 881-7362 or e-mail: desireem@utm.edu.

University of Tennessee at Martin students Virgil Ware of Martin, Michael Piazza of Union City and Bradley Sartain of Stanton will be featured in a two-week art exhibition beginning at 5 p.m. Feb. 28 in the Gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

The exhibition may be viewed at any time.

Ware is an art studio major and both Piazza and Sartain are graphic design majors.

All three of them are seniors at UT Martin.

Women’s changing roles featured

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women’s Club will host a luncheon 11:30 a.m. March 7 in Room 206 of Boling University Center in observance of Women’s History Month.

Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and fashion merchandising, will be the guest speaker at 12:15 p.m. Her topic is “We’ve Come a Long Way: A Historical Look at Women’s Changing Roles from the Home to the Workplace.”

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased from board members, at the University Center information desk and at the Apple Barrel in Martin.

For free child care, call Annie Schommer at (731) 588-0794 by March 4. For other information, contact Penny Moser at (731) 588-5766.
Dance ensemble's annual concert to feature special performances

The University of Tennessee at Martin dance ensemble will present its annual concert at 8 p.m. March 8-9 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults.

The performance will feature Allison Greene of Pittsburgh, Pa., who will present an original ballet piece and will dance a solo choreographed by Claudia Morris, UT Martin assistant professor of dance and director of the dance ensemble.

The program will also feature a special appearance by 12 dance students from Hillcrest High School in Memphis.

Ms. Greene will teach a multi-level open master class in ballet and contemporary techniques from 4-5:45 p.m. March 8. The class, in the Elam Center dance studio, is open to anyone over the age of 12. The cost is $5.

Ms. Greene received her dance training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, North Carolina School of the Arts, Chautauqua Summer Dance and the Cleveland School of Ballet. She has danced with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Ballet International of New Mexico and Buffalo City Ballet.

She is a member of the Pittsburgh-based modern dance company Labco and has been a guest dancer with Gia Cacalano Improvisational Dance, Tom Downing, H20, Pennsylvania Dance Theatre and the Southwest Ballet. Since 1994, she has taught in several schools of dance throughout the Pittsburgh region.

In her work as a therapist for children with autism, she teaches from her personally designed program of movement classes for children with special needs. This program, "Climb," has been incorporated into the curriculum of two dance schools and has been presented at numerous special education institutions throughout Pittsburgh.

For more information, contact Ms. Morris by telephone at (731) 881-7335 or by e-mail at cmorris@utm.edu.

UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre to stage multi-play production

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Vanguard Theatre has a multi-play event planned for its spring production.

From Feb. 23-26, four short plays by contemporary playwright Christopher Durang will be presented in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The plays belong to a larger work of Durang’s called “Durang/Durang.”

They range in length from a few minutes to just over an hour and will be presented in two acts.

All of the offerings in this production are comedies. They parody the theatre or satirize modern life.

Opening the bill will be a play titled “Mrs. Sorken.” The one-woman scene features Melanie Hollis, theatre assistant in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. The character of Mrs. Sorken acts as a hostess for the evening and, in her own jumbled way, attempts to inform the audience about some of the roots of theatre.

Ms. Hollis will also serve as director of the second play, “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls.” This play parodies the Tennessee Williams play “The Glass Menagerie.” A parody closely imitates an existing work. One example in this play is that instead of looking for a gentleman caller for her daughter, Laura, as she does in the Williams play, Amanda is looking for a feminine caller for her son, Lawrence, who collects cocktail stirrers. Kim Gibson of Fayetteville performs the part of Amanda and Ron Peckham of Martin is Lawrence. Adrien Eubank of Crossville and Eric Danz of Martin play the feminine caller and Amanda’s son, Tom, respectively.

Finishing the first act will be Durang’s parody of “Medea,” co-written with Wendy Wasserstein. In the role of Medea will be Natalie Horbel of Memphis and in the role of her unfaithful husband, Jason, will be Dusty Stringer of Martin. The women of the Greek chorus are Jessica Estliner of Newport and Tori Shaw and Jessica Sims, both of Dyer. Appearing as the messenger will be James Baker of Middleton. Stephanie Dowell of Nashville will be the deity ex machine, an angel who brings a happy ending.

The second act of the evening’s entertainment will be “Beyond Therapy.” This is a satire on modern relationships and dependence on therapy to solve problems that might otherwise take care of themselves. Prudence answers a personal ad from the paper and meets Bruce at a restaurant. Comedy ensues with glasses of water flying, phone calls from an irate mother and Snoopy offering advice. Appearing as Prudence and Bruce, respectively, will be Jennifer Baumgardner of McKenzie and Will Cook of Martin. Allyson Truly of Memphis and Anderson Nichols of Union City will play the psychiatrists. Bob will be played by Brandon Douglas of Jackson. Tony Liberty of Millington plays Andrew, the waiter at the restaurant. Ken Zimmerman directs this play, as well as “Medea” and “Mrs. Sorken.”

Curtain times are 8 p.m. There will be a matinee at 3 p.m. Feb. 25. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults.

The box office will be open from noon-5 p.m. daily starting Monday. It will re-open two hours before curtain.

Reservations by telephone may be made by calling (731) 881-7090.
Popularity of cheerleading leads to increase in injuries

Watching student athletes perform is a proud moment for parents, peers, and athletic supporters. We can tell by the determination in their faces that they are trying their best. Of course to be good, athletes must practice until their movements, plays and routines are natural and can be done in their sleep. Unfortunately as the amount of practice increases, there is often an increase in the potential for injury.

The January 2006 issue of Pediatrics had an interesting article regarding cheerleading injuries. Cheerleading is a very popular sport that can involve a large number of participants. According to Pediatrics (2006) during 2002, there were 3.5 million cheerleading participants, which is an 18 percent increase since 1990. Due to the increase in popularity, there has also been an increase in injuries. Shields and Smith (2006) studied cheerleading injuries in the United States over a 13-year period. They reported that there was a 110 percent increase in injuries occurring in children between the ages of 5 to 18 years between the years 1990 and 2002.

Wow! Reading this was scary. Therefore, I went and discussed the article with Fran Spears. Fran is the coach of the Martin Middle School cheerleaders and the winners of four national championships. Fran said that in Tennessee, cheerleading is not a sanctioned sport, which means there is not a set season nor are there rules about the number of hours that can be practiced per week. Cheerleading generally occurs 10 months of the year. Many squads take off the months of February and July.

The Pediatrics article suggested that there are not any uniform requirements regarding safety standards for cheerleading coaches. Therefore, if you have a child who is interested in cheerleading, or any sport, it is important that you check out the qualifications of the coach. According to Coach Spears, many summer cheerleading camps offer certification tests for coaches; however, many schools do not attend camps because the cost is approximately $225 per participant.

The increase in injury may have something to do with rookie coaches, but that is not the sole issue. There has been an increase in the degree of difficulty of stunts and tumbling in the past. However, this year the Universal Cheerleader Association (UCA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) have both implemented rule changes. The degree of difficulty has been reduced in order to help prevent the number of injuries. It is important to note that All-Star cheerleading is open from restrictions. All-Stars are not associated with school cheering - they are based on competitive cheering.

Accidents are going to happen no matter what you do. However, as a parent it is important that you keep your child's best interest at heart. Coach Spears' words of wisdom are to check out the program and the facility. Be sure that the practice equipment is safe. You should look for quality mats, and an adequate practice location. Remember, you are not a "cooler" person because your child is a cheerleader/varsity athlete, you are just naturally cool because you are a parent!


Dr. Laura Brown has been an assistant professor of pedagogy at the University of Tennessee at Martin for three years. She received her B.S. from UT Martin, her M.A. from Murray State University, and her doctorate from Union University. She teaches people to be physical education teachers. She is the mother of two children.
If you 'heart' your pets, you won't neglect heartworm prevention

My husband and I recently moved into our new house over the Christmas holiday. During the move, our three dogs were due their heartworm prevention, and in all the excitement, I forgot (yes, veterinarians forget sometimes, too). I did remember just a couple of days later, so no harm was done. Why was it important that I remembered their heartworm prevention, even in January, and what could have happened if I hadn't remembered at all?

Heartworms are worms that live in the heart and blood vessels of the lungs in dogs and sometimes cats. These worms can cause a lot of problems such as a constant hacking cough, being tired after exercise, and finally, heart, liver and kidney failure in your pet.

There are two scary things about heartworms. First, dogs that have heartworms may not show any signs at all until their health has been severely compromised. In practice, the majority of dogs that I diagnosed with heartworms were at the clinic for a regular check-up, not for signs of heartworm disease. Second, heartworms are carried from dog to dog by the mosquito. The mosquito bites an infected dog, collects some 'baby' heartworms, and after a couple of weeks, passes them on to another dog. In West Tennessee, we have no lack of mosquitoes, and with our moderate winter temperatures, we have to worry about heartworms year round - even in January.

The good news is that there are several different types of prescription tablets or topical treatments that help prevent heartworms. Heartworm preventions work very well, are easy to administer, and also help with several other types of parasites your pet could have. Your veterinarian can help you and your family decide which prevention is best for your pet. There is also a treatment available for dogs that have heartworms, but keeping your pet on heartworm prevention is usually more cost efficient, safer and easier on you and your pet.

Dr. Janet Bailey is a veterinarian and assistant professor of animal science with a B.S. from Freed-Hardeman University and a D.V.M. from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bailey, who is married to Jim 'Crow' Bailey, has three dogs Lacy, Bedford and Kate. Lacy, the senior citizen, runs the household. Dr. Bailey was formerly in private practice at the Huntington Animal Clinic before moving to UT Martin in January 2008.
St. Jude's speaker lectures at UTM-Ripley

Dr. Cheryl L. Cox, RN, PhD, an associate faculty member in the Department of Nursing Research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, was guest lecturer at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ripley Center on Feb. 7.

Cox spoke to about 30 nurses who are currently enrolled in the RN-BSN program at the UT Martin's Ripley and Jackson centers. The instructors for these programs, Ethel Spitney and Laura Farhat, were also in attendance.

"We were truly honored to have Dr. Cox speak to our students," said Youlanda Jones, the director of the UTM Martin Ripley Center.

Cox is widely known for her many publications and her affiliation with nursing research and epidemiology at St. Jude. She spoke to the group about one of the healthcare models "The Interaction Model of Client Health Behavior." She also spoke on another article she published, "A Model of Health Behavior to Guide Studies of Childhood Cancer Survivors," which can be found in Volume 30, Number 5, 2006 edition of the Oncology Nursing Forum publication.
UTM event highlights black leadership

The Jackson Sun

This week’s sixth annual Civil Rights Conference at the University of Tennessee Martin will examine the impact of African-American leadership that shaped the civil rights movement in the 1960s in West Tennessee and the nation.

The conference, which runs today through Saturday, will emphasize how cultural contributions in literary and artistic creativity are important tools to shape leadership, according to a UTM news release.

Among participants in the conference will be Dr. Jesse Rhines, the Bantaba dance group and Harriet Ann Buckley. Thursday evening's keynote speaker is the first Rhode Island Poet Laureate, Michael S. Harper, who will present various aspects of leadership through cultural endeavors.

The event will begin with Rhines, a filmmaker and author, who will speak at 7 p.m. today at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

Rhines will discuss the portrayal of blacks on and behind the silver screen as well as the historic and present-day contributions of black men and women to the motion picture industry. Rhines is the author of “Black Film/White Money” and “Black Utopia Monograph.”

Other conference highlights include a Native American day on Tuesday featuring a full slate of events, followed by African-American heritage day on Wednesday.

Other notable speakers on Thursday include Rita Geier, an executive counselor to the federal commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Geier was an original plaintiff in the 1968 lawsuit filed because Tennessee failed to take an active role in desegregating its higher education institutions after its legal desegregation in 1956.

Also Thursday, presentations will be made at a luncheon for 2006 Conference Honorees, 2005 winners of the UTM/Jackson Sun essay competition, the 2006 Jo Helen Imani Beard Award, the National Panhellenic Council Rosa Parks Unity Award and the NPHC Rosa Parks Essay Award.

Capping the week of events, a field trip is planned from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.

For more information

- For information about the conference, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carlisle, conference coordinator, at 881-7472 or accarisle@utm.edu. Or visit www.utm.edu/Staff/accarisle/civilrights

Historical writing workshop offered at Tennessee-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — A historical writing workshop for writers of family histories, genealogy and community and county histories is scheduled for April 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Workshop leaders are David Coffey, associate professor of history, Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English, and Terry Bolden of Trenton. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Bob Carroll Football Building. Lunch is provided.

March 24 is the registration deadline. Fees are $30 for the public, $15 for students, and $25 for Tennessee Writers Alliance members. To register, send name, address and fee to Writing Workshop, P.O. Box 231, Martin, TN 38237.

Sponsors are the school's English department, the West Tennessee Writing Project and the writers alliance.

Information: Bill Ahlschwede at billahls@utm.edu or 881-587-7300.
Youth Leadership Summit
Upcoming at UT Martin

For three days, Feb. 23-25, youth and adults involved in leadership programs throughout the state will converge on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin for the sixth annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit.

The event, sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the WestStar Leadership Program, will help participants hone their leadership skills.

Participants will attend sessions on team building, effective communication and presentation skills, chairing a meeting and cultural diversity. UT Martin student leaders and staff will lead the sessions.

The theme for the summit is Make ‘em Say Wow, a takeoff on an upcoming book by Hallerin Hilton Hill, a radio talk show host, motivational speaker and trainer, who will speak at the summit.

“It is a fun theme, but it has a lot of strong emphasis on doing the right thing, being creative and serving your community,” said David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

“It’s fun, it’s interactive. Hopefully, they will walk away inspired to serve. We would encourage a lot of young people in our surrounding area to take part in it.”

Hill, who lives in Knoxville, also is author of the book, The Seven Pillars of Wisdom. His mission is to inspire, inform and entertain.

He is a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter. His song, “Who Would Imagine a King,” was recorded by Whitney Houston for the movie, “The Preacher’s Wife.”

He is a graduate of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., where he studied communications.

He is the CEO and founder of Wisdom House—a multimedia company focused on inspiring people around the world to grow in wisdom.

Check-in for the summit is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m., on Feb. 23, in the lobby of McCord Residence Hall.

The summit will officially begin at 6 p.m., Feb. 23, and will conclude just before lunch on Feb. 25.

Registration information and application for the summit can be found on the Web at www.utm.edu/youthleadershipsummit.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs at (731) 881-7710.

Vanguard Theatre presents short plays

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Vanguard Theatre has a multi-play event planned for its spring production. From Feb. 23-26, four short plays by contemporary playwright Christopher Durang will be presented in the Harriet Fulton Theater of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The plays belong to a larger work of Durang’s called “Durang/Durang.” They range in length from a few minutes to just over an hour and will be presented in two acts.

All of the offerings in this production are comedies. They parody the theater or satirize modern life. Opening the bill will be a play titled “Mrs. Sorken.” The one-woman scene features Melanie Hollis, theater assistant in the Department of Visual and Theater Arts. The character of Mrs. Sorken acts as a hostage for the evening and, in her own jumbled way, attempts to inform the audience about some of the roots of theater.

Hollis also will serve as director of the second play, “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls.” This play parodies the Tennessee Williams play, “The Glass Menagerie.” A parody closely imitates an existing work. One example in this play is that instead of looking for a gentleman caller for her daughter, Laura, as she does in the Williams play, Amanda is looking for a feminine caller for her son, Lawrence, who collects cocktail stirrers. Kim Gibson, of Fayetteville, performs the part of Amanda and Ron Peckham, of Martin, is Lawrence. Adrien Eubank, of Crossville, and Eric Danz, of Martin, play the feminine caller and Amanda’s son, Tom, respectively.

Finishing the first act will be Durang’s parody of “Medea,” co-written with Wendy Wasserstein. In the role of Medea will be Natalie Horbelt, of Memphis, and in the role of her unfaithful husband, Jason, will be Dusty Stringer, of Martin. The women of the Greek chorus are Jessica Eslinger, of Newport, Tori Shaw and Jessica Sims, both of Dyer. Appearing as the messenger will be James Baker, of Middleton. Stephanie Dowell, of Nashville, will be the deus ex machina, an angel who brings a happy ending.

The second act of the evening’s entertainment will be “Beyond Therapy.” This is a satire on modern relationships and dependence on therapy to solve problems that might otherwise take care of themselves. Prudence answers a personal ad from the paper and meets Bruce at a restaurant. Comedy ensues with glasses of water flying, phone calls from an irate mother and Snoopo offering advice. Appearing as Prudence and Bruce, respectively, will be Jennifer Baumgardner, of McKenzie, and Will Cook, of Martin. Allyson Trulay, of Memphis, and Anderson Nichols, of Union City, will play the psychiatrists. Bob will be played by Brandon Douglas, of Jackson. Tony Liberty, of Millington, plays the waiter at the restaurant. Andrew. Ken Zimmerman directs this play as well as “Medea” and “Mrs. Sorken.”

Curtain times are at 8 p.m. There will be a matinee at 3 p.m., Feb. 25. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults. The box office will be open from noon-5 p.m., daily, starting Feb. 20. It will re-open two hours before curtain. Phone reservations may be made by calling 731-881-7090.
Tuesday's News Summary is ready for viewing at:
http://knxln.ips.utk.edu/prnews.nsf

User name - webnews
Password - utnews

Today's Headlines

Knoxville News Sentinel: Tennessee, Kentucky join race to build research lab on border
WBIR-TV: Kentucky, Tennessee join effort to get Homeland Security research lab
Lexington Herald-Leader: Kentucky, Tennessee make bid for $450 million research lab
Lexington Herald-Leader: Kentucky, Tennessee vie for bioterrorism lab
Knoxville News Sentinel: What do we think about our schools? UT research cited
Knoxville News Sentinel: Not-so-foreign language, UT's dual degree program helps engineering students
speak marketing lingo
Knoxville News Sentinel: Churchill professor and UT expert offers course at downtown library
Tennessean: UT exhibit explores joining of cultures by evolution of 'hillbilly' instrument
UT's Daily Beacon: UT's 10-year-old I-House looks at past and future visions
UT's Daily Beacon: Rules control network use at UT

→ The Pacer: Vice chancellor search nearing next phase, UT official comments

→ The Pacer: Conference set to honor local, regional icons, UT officials recognized

UT's Daily Beacon: Football ticket prices to rise for UT fans
Lexington Herald-Leader: UK loses black students to U of L, UT mentioned
Knoxville News Sentinel: 'Season' arrives for UT men's hoops
Chattanooga Times-Free Press: Former UTC players seeking NCAA eligibility
Commercial Appeal: Achievements, UT expert recognized
New Kera: Action of 'strept' bacteria is determined, UT experts mentioned
Memphis Daily News: Delta Dental Fills Last of UT Donation
Commercial Appeal: Coping with cancer, UT expert mentioned
Knoxville News Sentinel: Young writers invited to UT institute March 4

If you have comments or forget your password or user name, call the University of Tennessee Public Relations Office at 865-974-2225, or e-mail us at utnews@utk.edu.
If you know someone who would like to receive the daily UT news summary, they can subscribe by sending an e-mail to: listserv@listserv.utk.edu "with this message in the subject line and body of the text: subscribe newssumm

Subscribe to an RSS feed of UT news headlines at http://www.utk.edu/news/utnews.xml
Writers Alliance sponsors workshop

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English, the West Tennessee Writing Project and the Tennessee Writers Alliance is sponsoring a writing workshop, "Writing, Researching, Writing." The workshop is from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., April 1, in the Bob Carroll Football Building on the campus of UT Martin. It is designed for writers dealing with family histories, genealogy, and community and county histories based on research. David Coffey, UT Martin associate professor of history, Terri Bolden of Trenton, and Margrethe Ahlschwede, UT Martin professor of English, will lead the workshop. Morning coffee will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch is included.

Coffey is the author of the book, "Sheridan's Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Year of the Civil War," published in 2005. He teaches courses in U.S., military and Latin American history. A civil war historian, he knows his way around the back rooms of libraries, archives, dusty letters and diaries. He will share his experiences doing historical research to help workshop participants develop strategies for finding relevant information and maintaining a paper trail for documentation.

Bolden will share her experiences about tracking her grandfather through World War I. Her research and writing won the 2005 Jo Helen Imani Beard Award for Best Paper in Civil Rights History at the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Bolden is a 2005 UT Martin graduate and lives in Trenton, Tenn.

Ahlschwede will lead off the workshop with a warm-up writing exercise designed to include the personal in research writing.

Pre-registration is requested prior to March 24. Registration (including morning coffee and lunch) is $30; TWA members, $25; Students $15. To register, send name, address, and fee to Writing Workshop, P.O. Box 251, Martin, Tenn. 38237

For more information, contact Bill Ahlschwede, 131H Humanities, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238; e-mail at bilahls@utm.edu; or phone 881-587-7300.

Houghton, Trio to perform at UTM

The Caixa Percussion Trio, composed of Julie Davila, Amy Smith and Julie Hill, University of Tennessee at Martin director of percussion, and drummer, Steve Houghton, will perform in a joint concert at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 27, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The group will perform a newly commissioned work for drumset and percussion trio, "Neophilia," by Michael Aukofer. Other works for a multitude of percussion instruments will be performed in the one-hour concert.

In addition, Houghton will present a master class from noon-1 p.m. in Room 235 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

The master class and the concert are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Julie Hill at 881-7418.

Ballroom dance class is back

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer a second, five-week ballroom dance class. Classes will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Fridays, March 3-April 7, at the Obion County Senior Citizens Center, 622 S. Depot St., Union City. There will be no class on March 24. The fee is $60 per person or $110 per couple. Fran and Richard Robinson will instruct the class.

The class is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba and the Cha-Cha-Cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required.

Space in the class is limited, and advance registration is required. To register, call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

UT MARTIN STUDENTS ATTEND JOURNALISM CONFERENCE — University of Tennessee at Martin students, James Baker, left, and Kevin Teets, right, recently attended a journalism conference in Oklahoma City titled "Covering Crises: From Terrorist Attacks to Natural Disasters," sponsored by The Fund for American Studies. At the conference, these students met with reporters from numerous media outlets across the country, including those from "In Opinion," "National Journal," and "The Oklahoman," to discuss the role of a reporter in a crisis situation. They also attended a session facilitated by Center for Media and Public Affairs President Bob Litchter, center. Baker and Teets are both reporters for the student newspaper at UT Martin, The Pacer.
Spanish offered for medical professionals

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering "Spanish for Medical Professionals." Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m., March 21-April 25, at UT Martin. The fee is $85, including the cost of the textbook.

This course will prepare participants to conduct patient medical history interviews, perform physical examinations and give medical instructions to Spanish-speaking patients. The textbook, "Medical Spanish," by Gail L. Bongiovanni, M.D., is designed to teach users how to construct questions and elicit yes or no answers from patients.

The course includes an introduction to the Spanish language, grammar and pronunciation. Participants will receive full vocabularies and formats to talk to patients about their medical, social and family history, past medical history, instructions for physical examination and general treatment and follow-up.

The instructors for the class are Itzel Espitia Nappo and Dr. Daniel Nappo. Itzel Espitia Nappo is a native Mexican with experience in teaching, who also understands the challenges of learning another language. Dr. Daniel Nappo is an assistant professor of Spanish at UT Martin.

Persons successfully completing the course will receive 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). To register for the course, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Nutrition seminar set at UTM

"Nutrition Pathway to Better Health in Selected Conditions" is a seminar offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE). It is slated from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., March 3, in Watkins Auditorium, in the Boling University Center on campus.

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium will offer up-to-date research findings and practical information for participants when dealing with nutrition and various health conditions. Information on the development of educational materials and changes made in the guidelines for better health also will be presented during this one-day seminar.

Attendance at the entire workshop carries six Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits. CEUs and a certificate of completion from UT Martin will be awarded at the conclusion of the program. This workshop conforms to guidelines for CEUs.

Registration fee is $25. This fee includes refreshments at breaks and lunch. To register, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

County student receives scholarship to attend UTM

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2006 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Valerie Huery, daughter of Vischenia Huery of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner African-American 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 call 881-7040; out-of-state residents should call (800) 829-UTM1.

Foreign film series slated at UT Martin

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Student Activities Council at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present "Crash," starring Matt Dillon, as part of its Spring 2006 Foreign Film Series. The film will be shown at 7 p.m., Feb. 24, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

"Crash" is a provocative, unflinching look at the complexities of racial tolerance in contemporary America. Driving dead-end into the diverse melting pot of post-9/11 Los Angeles, this urban drama tracks the volatile intersections of a multi-ethnic cast of characters' struggles to overcome their fears as they careen in and out of one another's lives.

The film is directed by Paul Haggis and is shown as part of UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference. It is co-sponsored by the Departments of History and Philosophy and English.

Admission is free. All films are open to the public. For more information, call 731-881-7420.
GREEN STAR HONOR AWARD — The Physical Plant was one of the winners of the 2005 Professional Grounds Management Society Green Star Award. The Physical Plant received an Honor Award for University and College Grounds. Six colleges received an award during this banquet in recognition of outstanding grounds. The award was presented during the PGMS annual awards ceremonies in Orlando, Fla. The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence. The program complements other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction. Members of the staff include (from left) Tim Nipp, physical plant director; Tommy Ray, grounds supervisor; Floyd Collins, building and grounds servicer; Mike Davis, projects and grounds coordinator; Terry Little, grounds supervisor; Kenneth Chappell, grounds foreman; Ronnie Travis, Joe Estes and Gary Gallimore, building and grounds servicers.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, February 22, 2006

Spanish for Medical Professionals course offered by UT Martin ECCE

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering "Spanish for Medical Professionals." Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m., March 21-April 25, at UT Martin. The fee is $85, including the cost of the textbook.

This course will prepare participants by conducting patient medical history interviews, perform physical examinations and give medical instructions to Spanish-speaking patients. The textbook, "Medical Spanish," by Gail L. Borgiovanni, M.D., is designed to teach users how to construct questions and elicit yes or no answers from patients.

The course includes an introduction to the Spanish language, grammar and pronunciation. Participants will receive full vocabularies and formats to talk to patients about their social and family history, past medical history, instructions for physical examination and general treatment and follow-up.

The instructors for the class are Itzel Espitia Nappo and Dr. Daniel Nappo. Itzel Espitia Nappo is a native Mexican with experience in teaching, who also understands the challenges of learning another language. Dr. Daniel Nappo is an assistant professor of Spanish at UT Martin.

Persons successfully completing the course will receive 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). To register for the course, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

Women's changing roles focus of Faculty Women's Club presentation

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women's Club will host a luncheon at 11:30 a.m., March 7, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center, in observance of Women's History Month. Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and fashion merchandising, will be the guest speaker at 12:15 p.m. Her topic is "We've Come a Long Way: A Historical Look at Women's Changing Roles from the Home to the Workplace."

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased from board members, at the University Center information desk and at the Apple Barrel in Martin. For free child care, call Annie Schommer at 588-0794 by March 4. For other information, contact Penny Moser at 588-5766.
McKenzie High School Concert Band: Joey Sam, 1st Chair Alto Sax; Jillian Maynard, 1st Chair Euphonium; Jessica Maynard, 1st Chair Tuba; Mallory Nutting, 7th Chair Clarinet; Felicia McSavage, 7th Chair Flute; Aaron Hoskins, 7th Chair Alto Sax; Dallas Baker, 22nd Chair Trumpet

McKenzie Students Selected for UTM Honor Band

The 2006 UTM Honor Band Festival was held February 2-4 on the campus of UTM. Selected musicians representing approximately 40 schools from across the state auditioned for choir placement upon arrival. Afterwards, the students rehearsed long hours with well-known conductors preparing for a public concert, which was held Saturday, February 4. The following MMS/MHS students were selected and received strong results.

McKenzie Middle School: Tommy Sam, 5th Chair Percussion

Spanish class to be offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering “Spanish for Medical Professionals.”

Classes will be held Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. March 21 to April 25 at UT Martin. The fee is $85, including the cost of the textbook.

The course will prepare participants to conduct patient medical history interviews, perform physical examinations and give medical instructions to Spanish-speaking patients. The textbook, "Medical Spanish," by Gail L. Bongiovanni, M.D., is designed to teach users how to construct questions and elicit yes or no answers from patients.

The course includes an introduction to the Spanish language, grammar and pronunciation. Participants will receive full vocabularies and formats to talk to patients about their social and family history, past medical history, instructions for physical examination and general treatment and follow-up.

The instructors for the class are Itzel Espitia Nappo and Dr. Daniel Nappo. Itzel Espitia Nappo is a native Mexican with experience in teaching who also understands the challenges of learning another language. Dr. Daniel Nappo is an assistant professor of Spanish at UT Martin.

Anyone who successfully completes the course will receive 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). To register, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

‘ACT Help!’ available to high school students

High school juniors and seniors can register now to take the “ACT Help!” course offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) on Saturdays from March 3-25.

The course, with a limit of 15 students, will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Obion County Public Library in Union City. The instructor is Ron Ramage and the fee is $45.

To register, call the ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

In this class, participants will learn test-taking skills, practice the ACT and review the mathematics section completely. Higher scores may mean going to the college of choice and, possibly, scholarship money.

Students will use "The Real ACT Prep Guide." Cost of the text is not included in the fees and participants are responsible for having the book at the first class meeting. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore.
Nutrition seminar set for March by UT Martin’s Office of ECCE

“Nutrition Pathway to Better Health in Selected Conditions” is a seminar offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE). It is slated for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 3 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on campus.

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium will offer up-to-date research findings and practical information for participants when dealing with nutrition and various health conditions. Information on the development of educational materials and changes made in the guidelines for better health also will be presented during this one-day seminar.

This program is sponsored by private gift funds. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Lori Littleton, MS, RD, will speak at 8:30 a.m. Her lecture is titled “A Comparison of Old and New Guidelines for Better Health.” At 9 a.m., graduate student Gay Walker, BS, will speak on “A Comparison of the Knowledge Level of Renal and Non-Renal Registered Dieticians in Nutrition Assessment and Therapy for Patients with Kidney Disease.” At 9:30 a.m., Inasema Roldan, BS, dietetic intern, will present “Developing Nutrition Education Materials for the Hispanic Population.” At 10 a.m., Keri Spann, BS, dietetic intern, will present “Nutrition and Aging.” A 15-minute break will be taken following her presentation.

At 10:45 a.m., Carol Harrah Siple, RD, LDN, of Harrah and Associates Consulting of Nashville, will give the keynote address, “What Do You Do For a Pain in the Butt? An Interdisciplinary Approach to Wound Healing.”

A lunch break will be taken from 12-1 p.m. After lunch, Siple will resume her presentation until 2:30 p.m. A break is scheduled from 2:30-2:45 p.m. At 2:45, Sharon Blackwell, MS, RD, CNSD, LDN, of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, will present “Electrolytes, Labs: What Does It All Mean?”

The UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is the program provider. Littleton is the program coordinator and also is the director of the Dietetic Internship Program and an assistant professor of family and consumer sciences at UT Martin.

Attendance at the entire workshop carries six Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits. CEUs and a certificate of completion from UT Martin will be awarded at the conclusion of the program. This workshop conforms to guidelines for CEUs.

Registration fee is $25. This fee includes refreshments at breaks and lunch. To register, contact the ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, February 22, 2006

Five-week ballroom dance class back by popular demand

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer a second, five-week ballroom dance class. Classes will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Fridays, March 3-April 7, at the Obion County Senior Citizens Center, 622 S. Depot St., Union City. There will be no class on March 24. The fee is $60 per person or $110 per couple. Fran and Richard Robinson will instruct the class.

The class is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba and the Cha-Cha-Cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required.

Space in the class is limited, and advance registration is required. To register, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

Institute focuses on endorsement

The Department of Educational Studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin will assist currently licensed public school teachers seeking an additional endorsement in Pre-K-3 by offering eight hours credit during the summer school session.

The special institute designed for licensed teachers, will be held first summer session, June 5-July 7, from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. This intensive three-week institute is limited to 25 participants.

Teachers will register for ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Learning Across the Content Areas: Language Arts and Social Studies (two hours), ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Learning Across the Content Areas: Math and Science (two hours), ELED 490 Workshop in Education: Early Development (two hours) and ELED 490 Creativity and Play (two hours).

For more information, contact Dr. Brenda Gulle, chair of the Department of Educational Studies, at (731) 881-7193.

UTM plans Washington travel study

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study to the Washington, D.C. area, May 14-20.

Undergraduate credit hours may be earned for the program. The fee is $625.

The group will visit the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian.

The group will visit the Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials and will stop at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Charlottesville, Va.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Chestee, professor of political science, at (731) 881-7473 or rchestee@utm.edu; Lt. Darrell Simmons, at (731) 881-7784 or dsimmons@utm.edu; or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at (731) 881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu.
Students win Upper West Tennessee MathCounts Competition

The eight students attending the state competition from the University of Tennessee at Martin site are, left to right, Noah Towe, Anthony Simonutti, Joseph Hailey, Tim Bergman, Kwame Nuako, Rachel Coleman, Marianela D’Aprile and Mark Maloney.

A team of middle school “Mathletes” from Martin Middle School won the recent Upper West Tennessee MathCounts Competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Members of the Martin Middle School team are Marianela D’Aprile, Rachel Coleman, Kwame Nuako and Mark Maloney.

The top individual was Marianela D’Aprile from Martin Middle School. Taking other top positions were Tim Bergman - second, Rachel Coleman - third, Kwame Nuako - fourth, Mark Maloney - fifth, Joseph Hailey - sixth, Anthony Simonutti - seventh, and Noah Towe - eighth. Bergman, Coleman, Nuako, Maloney, Hailey and Towe are from Martin Middle School, Simonutti is from St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson.

The top four individuals not on the winning team will make up the Upper West Tennessee MathCounts Chapter’s second team. The individuals winning positions on the second team were Anthony Simonutti (St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson), Tim Bergman, Joseph Hailey and Noah Towe (Martin Middle School).

These teams will advance to the state competition, March 18, in Nashville. The top four individuals from the state competition will represent Tennessee at the national competition in May, in Washington, D.C.

The second team was St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson. Coaches of these teams are Martin Middle School - Casey Webb and St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson - Ann Keyl.

Celebrating its 23rd Anniversary, MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide math coaching and competition program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. More than six million students across the U.S. have participated in the MATHCOUNTS program. The Upper West Tennessee program is sponsored by the Mathematics Teachers of Tennessee - Northwest and UT Martin. MATHCOUNTS’ founding sponsors are the CNA Foundation, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. National sponsors also include Dow Chemical Company Foundation, General Motors Foundation, Lockheed Martin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NEC Foundation of America, Texas Instruments Incorporated and 3M Foundation.

The next competition at UT Martin will be February 3, 2007. For more information, contact: Dr. Desiree A. McCullough, UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 424 Humanities Building, Martin, Tenn. 38238; 731-881-7362 or e-mail: desiree@utm.edu.

ACT Help! is ECCE offering for March

High school juniors and seniors can register now to take the ACT Prep course offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) on Saturdays, March 3-25. The course, with a limit of 15 students, will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Obion County Public Library in Union City. The instructor is Ron Ramage, and the fee is $45. To register, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7062.

In this class participants will learn test-taking skills, practice the ACT and review the mathematics section completely. Higher scores may mean going to the college of choice, and possibly, scholarship money.

Students will use “The Real ACT Prep Guide.” Cost of the text is not included in the fees, and participants are responsible for having the book at the first class meeting. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Call the bookstore at 731-881-7760.
UT Martin students attend journalism conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin students, James Baker, left, and Kevin Teets, right, recently attended a journalism conference in Oklahoma City titled “Covering Crises: From Terrorist Attacks to Natural Disasters,” sponsored by The Fund for American Studies. At the conference, these students met with reporters from numerous media outlets across the country, including those from “In Opinion,” “National Journal” and “The Oklahoman,” to discuss the role of a reporter in a crisis situation. They also attended a session facilitated by Center for Media and Public Affairs President Bob Lit chter, center. Baker and Teets are both reporters for the student newspaper at UT Martin, The Pacer.

Vanguard Theatre presents short plays from “Durang/Durang”

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Vanguard Theatre has a multi-play event planned for its spring production. From February 23-26, four short plays by contemporary playwright Christopher Durang, will be presented in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The plays belong to a larger work of Durang’s called “Durang/Durang.” They range in length from a few minutes to just over an hour and will be presented in two acts.

All of the offerings in this production are comedies. They parody the theatre or satirize modern life. Opening the bill will be a play titled “Mrs. Sorken.” The one-woman scene features Melanie Hollis, assistant director at the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. The character of Mrs. Sorken acts as a hostess for the evening and, in her own jumbled way, attempts to inform the audience about some of the roots of theatre.

Hollis also will serve as director of the second play, “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls.” This play parodies the Tennessee Williams play, “Glass Menagerie.” A parody closely imitates an existing work. One example in this play is that instead of looking for a gentleman caller for her daughter, Laura, as she does in the Williams play, Amanda is looking for a feminine caller for her son, Lawrence, who collects cocktail stirrers. Kim Gibson, of Fayetteville, performs the part of Amanda and Ron Peckham, of Martin, is Lawrence. Adrienne Eubanks, of Crossville, and Eric Danz, of Martin, play the feminine caller and Amanda’s son, Tom, respectively.

Finishing the first act will be Durang’s parody of “Medea,” co-written with Wendy Wasserstein. In the role of Medea will be Natalie Horbelt of Memphis, and in the role of her unhappy husband, Jason, will be Dusty Stringer, of Martin. The women of the Greek chorus are Jessica Eshline, of Newport, Tori Shaw and Jessica Sims, both of Dyer. Appearing as the messenger will be James Baker, of Middleton, Stephanie Dowell of Nashville, will be the duse ex machina, an angel who brings a happy ending.

The second act of the evening’s entertainment will be “Beyond Therapy.” This is a satire on modern relationships and dependence on therapy to solve problems that might otherwise be taken care of by themselves. Prudence answers a personal ad from the phone and meets Bruce at a restaurant. Comedy ensues with glasses of water flying, phone calls from an irate mother and Snoopy offering advice. Appearing as Prudence and Bruce respectively, will be Jennifer Bauman, of McKenzie, and Will Cook of Martin. Allyson Truly, of Memphis, and Anderson Nichols, of Union City, will play the psychiatrists. Bob will be played by Brandon Douglas, of Jackson. Tony Liberty, of Millington, plays the wailer at the restaurant, Andrew. Ken Zimmerman directs this play as well as “Medea” and “Mrs. Sorken.”

Dance ensemble annual concert features Allison Greene

The University of Tennessee at Martin dance ensemble will present its annual concert at 8 p.m., March 8-9, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults.

The performance will feature Allison Greene of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who will present an original ballet piece and will dance a solo choreographed by Claudia Morris, UT Martin assistant professor of dance and director of the dance ensemble. The March 8 program also will feature a special appearance by 12 dance students from Hillcrest High School in Memphis, under the direction of Taurus Hines.

Greene will teach a multi-level open master class in ballet and contemporary techniques from 4.5-45 p.m., March 8. The class, in the Elam Center dance studio, is open to anyone over the age of 12. The cost is $5.

Greene received her dance training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, North Carolina School of the Arts, Chautauqua Summer Dance and the Cleveland School of Ballet. She has danced with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Ballet International of New Mexico and Buffalo City Ballet. She is a member of the Pittsburgh-based modern dance company, Labeco. She has been a guest dancer with Gia Cacalano Improvisational Dance, Tom Downing, H20, Pennsylvania Dance Theatre and the Southwest Ballet. Since 1994, she has taught in several schools of dance throughout the Pittsburgh region. In her work as a therapist for children with autism, she teaches from her personally designed program of movement classes for children with special needs. This program, “Climb,” has been incorporated into the curricula of two dance schools and has been presented at numerous special education institutions throughout Pittsburgh.

For more information, contact Morris at 731-881-7335 or cmorris@utm.edu.
Sixth UT Martin Youth Leadership Summit to draw participants from across state

For three days, February 23-25, youth and adults involved in leadership programs throughout the state will converge on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin for the sixth annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit. The event, sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the WestStar Leadership Program, will help participants hone their leadership skills. Participants will attend sessions on team building, effective communication and presentation skills, chairing a meeting and cultural diversity. UT Martin student leaders and staff will lead the sessions.

“Make ‘em Say Wow,” a takeoff on an upcoming book by Hallerin Hilton Hill, a radio talk show host, motivational speaker and trainer, who will speak at the summit.

“It is a fun theme, but it has a lot of strong emphasis on doing the right thing, being creative and serving your community,” said David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs. “It’s fun, it’s interactive. Hopefully, they will walk away inspired to serve. We would encourage a lot of young people in our surrounding area to take part in it.”

Hill, who lives in Knoxville, also is author of the book, “The Seven Pillars of Wisdom.” His mission is to inspire, inform and entertain. He is a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter. His song, “Who Would Imagine a King,” was recorded by Whitney Houston for the movie, “The Preacher’s Wife.” He is a graduate of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, where he studied communications. He is the CEO and founder of Wisdom House - a multimedia company focused on inspiring people around the world to grow in wisdom.

Check-in for the summit is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m., on February 23, in the lobby of McCord Residence Hall. The summit will officially begin at 6 p.m., February 23, and will conclude just before lunch on February 25.

Registration information and application for the summit can be found on the Web at www.utm.edu/youthleadershipsummit. The fee is $75 per person. The fee covers lodging, meals, campus entertainment, materials and a t-shirt. Participants are encouraged to reserve space no later than February 15.

The summit is open to high school sophomores, juniors or seniors involved in their local leadership programs or student government, alumni, board members, leadership directors or volunteers involved with youth leadership. All activities will be chaperoned by a UT Martin staff member or student leader.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs at 731-881-7710.

Locals receive Green Star Honor Award

The Physical Plant was one of the winners of the 2005 Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) Green Star Award. The Physical Plant received an Honor Award for University and College Grounds. Six colleges received an award during this banquet in recognition of outstanding grounds. The award was presented during the PGMS annual awards ceremonies, November 5, in Orlando, Florida. The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence. The program complements other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction. Pictured (from left) are: Tim Nipp of Union City, physical plant director; Tommy Ray of Martin, grounds supervisor; Floyd Collins of Martin, building and grounds supervisor; Mike Davis of Martin, projects and grounds coordinator; Terry Little of Union City, grounds supervisor; Kenneth Chappell of Martin, grounds foreman; Ronnie Travis of Martin, Joe Estes of Martin and Gary Gallimore of Dresden, building and grounds servicers.
Tennessee Writers Alliance sponsors Historical Writing Workshop

David Coffey

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English, the West Tennessee Writing Project and the Tennessee Writers Alliance is sponsoring a writing workshop, "Writing, Researching, Writing." The workshop is from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., April 1, in the Bob Carroll Football Building on the campus of UT Martin. It is designed for writers dealing with family histories, genealogy, and community and county histories based on research. David Coffey, UT Martin associate professor of history, Terri Bolden of Trenton, and Margrette Ahlswede, UT Martin professor of English, will lead the workshop. Morning coffee will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch is included.

Coffey is the author of the book, "Sheridan's Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Year of the Civil War," published in 2005. He teaches courses in U.S. military and Latin American history. A civil war historian, he knows his way around the back rooms of libraries, archives, dusty letters and diaries. He will share his experiences doing historical research to help workshop participants develop strategies for finding relevant information and maintaining a paper trail for documentation.

Bolden will share her experiences about tracking her grandfather through World War I. Her research and writing won the 2005 Jo Helen Iman Beard Award for Best Paper in Civil Rights History at the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Bolden is a 2005 UT Martin graduate and lives in Trenton.

Governor's proposed budget include $13.9 million for Fine and Performing

Funds for renovation and expansion of the Fine and Performing Arts Building and two additional allocations at the University of Tennessee at Martin are among capital projects proposed in Gov. Phil Bredesen's budget for the next fiscal year.

The budget includes $13.9 million for the Fine and Performing Arts Building; $2.3 million earmarked for a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrade at the College of Business and Public Affairs building; and $800,000 to replace a communications tower on campus.

The $354.6 million capital appropriations budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 calls for a state appropriation of $61.8 million, with a remainder in federal appropriations and state bonds.

"We're appreciative to Gov. Bredesen for including this important facility in his budget," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan, about the Fine and Performing Arts Building project. "This is especially good news and timely with the music department accreditation team's visit this week to UT Martin. With our increased enrollment, capital projects such as the fine arts project, the HVAC upgrade and the tower replacement, will help us to better serve our students and the region."

"The remodel and expansion of the Fine and Performing Arts Building has been a priority of the university for many years, and we are grateful that the project is being proposed for funding," said Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration. "The project will remodel the facility and provide needed space for relocation of all fine arts programs into a central location."

"We were extremely pleased to see the fine arts renovation in the governor's proposed budget," said Dr. Jerald Ogg Jr., College of Humanities and Fine Arts dean. "The Visual and Theatre Arts and Music programs have experienced tremendous growth over the last few years, and we are looking forward to showcasing a facility that will allow us to better serve both our students and the regional arts audiences we regularly host."

"These are exciting times for UT Martin and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts," Ogg added. "We appreciate the governor's support of our mission."

Ahlswede will lead off the workshop with a warm-up writing exercise designed to include the personal in research writing.

Pre-registration is requested prior to March 24. Registration (including morning coffee and lunch) is $30. TWA members, $25. Students $15. To register, send name, address, and fee to Writing Workshop, P.O. Box 251, Martin, TN 38237.

For more information, contact Bill Ahlswede, 131H Humanities, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238; e-mail at billahls@utm.edu; or phone 881-587-7300.

The College of Business and Public Affairs Phase II funds will be combined with a Phase I allocation to completely renovate the building's HVAC system, and a communications tower on campus will be replaced. It serves WLIT-TV, WUTM radio station and hosts repeaters for campus police, physical plant operations and Weakley County Municipal Electric System communications systems.

"We are very excited about the possibility of funding of several major maintenance projects on campus," said Hooten. "Phase II funding for the Business Administration HVAC project will allow us to upgrade the heating, ventilation and air conditioning in a facility with currently poor operating systems. The replacement of the aged tower on campus will permit us to continue to provide quality services for our campus radio and television stations, as well as provide for general campus communications."

Higher education projects and maintenance projects are awarded according to recommendations from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

"It's good to finally be able to fund some of these projects that were deferred as we worked to stabilize the state's budget for the past three years," Bredesen said in a news release distributed January 30.
**Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity underway**

Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity at the University of Tennessee at Martin is undergoing a renaissance, both internally and externally. Not only are there plans to renovate the existing fraternity house, located at 102 Hurt St., but the chapter brotherhood and membership are starting over, as well. Phi Sigma Kappa was the first social fraternity on the UT Martin campus, obtaining its charter May 14, 1960. The Tau Tetraton Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa recently held its first alumni association meeting at UT Martin. UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan welcomed the group and offered his assistance to the association’s plan to “restart” the fraternity.

The local chapter will be governed by the newly formed alumni association. The association officers, along with the current actives, are laying the groundwork to rebuild the fraternal brotherhood. More than 45 years of accumulated tradition and brotherly bonds lie within. The goal of the new administration is to instill these traditions and ideals into the hearts and minds of the new generation of Phi Sigma Kappa brothers. The new initiatives will be the life and future of the fraternity, living and sharing the cardinal principles of brotherhood, scholarship and character.

The fraternity house is undergoing extensive renovations to the main floor and the upstairs living area. The infamous “pit” will be repainted. The resident brothers and houseguests will be protected from the threat of fire by a fully automatic sprinkler system and fire alarm system.

The brothers are in the process of actively recruiting members and gearing up for Spring rush. Once initiated, the new brothers will be placed in leadership positions by next fall.

“This will be a huge responsibility; thus the enormous effort to hand pick the new associate members,” said Mike Mitchell, alumni association president. “There is no such thing as a “cookie cutter” Phi Sig. These brothers are from all walks of life and all backgrounds.”

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**UT Martin awarded more than $150,000 for improving Teacher Quality Program**

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded $152,473 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for two grants for its Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Program. Formerly the Eisenhower Teacher Quality Program, the ITQ is designed to provide funding for professional development for classroom teachers to improve teaching and learning.

Dr. Cahir Erkwal, associate professor of physics, will direct the “Activity-Based Physics and Astronomy Summer Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers: Year Four.” Judy Cleck, instructor for international programs, will serve as project director for the “Technology Enhanced Curriculum for Hispanic (TECH) Students.”

Erkwal will provide a series of workshops over a five-day period that will focus on physics, astronomy and earth science. The objectives of the Year Four institute are to provide support for science education in the form of hands-on and technology-based teacher training, to model a teaching practice that integrates mathematical skills with science and to establish an informal forum to exchange ideas and share experiences among West Tennessee middle school and junior high science teachers. A data acquisition system will be introduced through the activities. An addition to the Year Four institute is the inclusion of a research component, which will allow the teacher participants to experience first-hand exposure to current ongoing research using signal analysis, physics and mathematics on electrocardiograms.

Cleck will direct the activities of the TECH Project to deliver intensive professional opportunities for K-8 teachers from rural West Tennessee. These opportunities will incorporate a training in the integration of technology into instructional methods that will improve the learning and academic achievement of the limited-English-proficient Hispanic student. TECH is a collaborative effort of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the Modern Foreign Languages Department and International Programs at UT Martin and four partnering school districts.

“As we see the growing population of school-age children for whom English is a second language, our classroom teachers must learn how to communicate with parents as well as the students,” said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences dean.

TECH will provide teachers with a rich background in basic Spanish for teachers, English as a Second Language (ESL) methodology and Hispanic culture, all of which will equip them to serve students from this cultural group more effectively. The participants will create technologically driven units that will combine pedagogical principles of ESL standards with the content standards for the subjects they teach.

With increasing numbers of Hispanic students entering the public schools in our region, public school teachers recognize the need to learn about who the students from this culture group really are and what social, cultural and academic needs they have,” said Cleck.

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**South Fulton, UTM grad gets NASA space grant**

A South Fulton High School and UT Martin graduate is one of two University of Tennessee Space Institute graduate students to receive NASA Space Grants of more than $40,000. Callie Taylor, coordinator of student affairs, has confirmed.

Ashley Owens of Martin, a master’s degree student in mechanical engineering, and Daniel Lehman, a doctoral candidate in aerospace engineering from Watertown, S.D., received the grants.

“Such are prestigious fellowships that cover tuition and educational expenses as well as travel, equipment and other costs associated with their projects,” Taylor said. Lehman’s grant includes a personal stipend of $18,816, which can increase during his course of study, and a stipend of $16,934 is included in Owens’ grant.

Owens is involved in the testing of a General Electric J-85 afterburning turbojet engine. Owens’ focus is analyzing the chemistry of the jet exhaust, and her work is supervised by her major professor, Dr. Roy Schulz. Her parents are Phil and Dawn Owens of Martin.

Dr. Alfonso Pujol, UTSI professor of electrical engineering, is UT’s representative and UTSI’s director of the Space Grant Consortium, which is affiliated with five Tennessee universities.

“We are very proud of these students,” said Dr. John E. Caruthers, UT associate vice president and UTSI’s chief operating officer. “In the last 12 years, 18 other of our graduate students have received NASA Space Grants.”
UT Martin has fifth consecutive record enrollment; two all-time records set

A record 6,225 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the fifth consecutive period UT Martin has enrolled a record number of students. The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 5,811 students set in spring 2005. The spring figures resulted in two all-time records for graduate student and dual credit concurrent student enrollment.

The 7 percent spring enrollment increase also is the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state, based on available preliminary figures. That follows a fall 2005 enrollment of 6,484, the largest ever at the university and the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the University’s Office of Institutional Research.

“This good news follows two recent positive reports from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission - one that noted UT Martin’s THEC Performance Funding score of 100 points was the highest of any four-year public institution,” said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan. The performance funding score rates institutional performance on selected measures of effectiveness. “Even more significant is the analysis of the most recent Enrolled Student Survey which show that UT Martin had the highest student satisfaction level of any four-year institution in Tennessee,” he added.

The 2006 spring enrollment set an all-time record for graduate students, with 565, topping the previous record of 542 graduate students enrolled in fall 2005. The 2006 spring graduate student enrollment is a 20.7 percent increase over the spring 2005 count of 468. Also an all-time record was dual credit concurrent enrollment of 468, besting the previous record of 356 set in fall 2005. The 2006 enrollment is a 33 percent increase over the spring 2005 figure of 353.

Spring 2006 undergraduate enrollment is 5,660, up 5.9 percent from spring 2005 enrollment of 5,343. The full-time equivalency figure for spring 2006 is 5,443, a 4.4 percent increase over the spring 2005 number of 5,215. FTE is the total number of student-credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students.

“This record spring semester enrollment is an example of the teamwork we are experiencing at UT Martin,” said Dunagan. “We value the trust we’ve been given by the thousands of students and parents from all over the world.”

Consultant to be at Reed Center

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., March 9. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs. This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED(5733). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, TN 38237. For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.

Dance ensemble to feature Greene

The University of Tennessee at Martin dance ensemble will present its annual concert at 8 p.m., March 8-9, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults. The performance will feature Allison Greene of Pittsburgh, Pa., who will present an original ballet piece and will dance a solo choreographed by Claudia Morris, UT Martin assistant professor of dance and director of the dance ensemble. The March 8 program also will feature a special appearance by 12 dance students from Hillcrest High School in Memphis, under the direction of Taurus Hines. Greene will teach a multi-level open master class in ballet and contemporary techniques from 4-5:45 p.m., March 8. The class, in the Elam Center dance studio, is open to anyone older than the age of 12. The cost is $5. Greene received her dance training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, North Carolina School of the Arts, Chautauqua Summer Dance and the Cleveland School of Ballet. She has danced with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Ballet International of New Mexico and Buffalo City Ballet. She is a member of the Pittsburgh-based modern dance company, Labco. She has been a guest dancer with Gia Caicalano Improvisational Dance, Tom Downing, H20, Pennsylvania Dance Theatre and the Southwest Ballet. Since 1994, she has taught in several schools of dance throughout the Pittsburgh region. In her work as a therapist for children with autism, she teaches from her personally designed program of movement classes for children with special needs. This program, “Climb,” has been incorporated into the curricula of two dance schools and has been presented at numerous special education institutions throughout Pittsburgh.

For more information, contact Morris at 881-7335 or cmorris@utm.edu.
Ballroom dance class back by popular demand

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer a second five-week ballroom dance class. Classes will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays from March 3-April 7 at the Obion County Senior Citizens Center, located at 622 South Depot St. in Union City. There will be no class on March 24.

The fee is $60 per person or $110 per couple. Fran and Richard Robinson will instruct.

The class is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba, and cha-cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required.

Space in the class is limited and advance registration is required. To register, call the ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

WestStar founder to headline conference

Dr. Robert M. Smith, president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and one of the founders of the WestStar Leadership Program, will be the luncheon keynote speaker for the 5th Annual West Tennessee Economic Development Conference.

The event is slated for March 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center, with registration to begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program to start at 9 a.m. The conference will end at 1:30 p.m.

The cost is $35 per person.

Also on the program will be William Hearn, director of Global Location Strategies for CH2M Hill, formerly Lockwood Greene. He will speak at 9:15 a.m.

Elected officials, community leaders, chamber executives, industrial development board members and individuals interested in learning how to develop their rural communities are invited to attend. The program is sponsored in part by UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

"WestStar is very pleased to again join forces with the West Tennessee Industrial Association and USDA-Rural Development to bring this conference to West Tennessee," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan, who also serves as executive director of WestStar. "Economic development is a topic that all community leaders think about daily. "We are especially excited to have Bob Smith back in West Tennessee for this event. Bob is a great speaker and knows the importance of leadership in helping build communities."

The conference will include a panel discussion at 10:45 a.m. featuring Bill Shuff, Middle Tennessee Industrial Association; Heidi Smith, Tennessee Valley Authority general manager/marketing development and field operations; Charlie Griffin, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development director of project management; and Robert Barnes, Giles County economic development coordinator. The topic will be "How to Work With a Prospect."

Smith became the 15th president of Slippery Rock University in May 2004. From 1987-99, he was UT Martin dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. He is a nationally-recognized specialist in executive leadership development.

He is the only Kansas to have been selected as a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Fellow. In 1999, the Community Leadership Association awarded him his Preceptor Award and the governor of Tennessee presented him the Tennessee Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in community revitalization. That same year, he was honored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for his commitment to rural economic development.

Hearn has conducted site selection service for a broad cross section of manufacturing, distribution, headquarters, technology and call center operations. Past clients have included FedEx, Prudential, Bell Labs, Infinion Technologies, Corning, AT&T Solutions and others. He has also worked in the area of research park development and recently completed a statewide Strategic Industry Study for Georgia.

In 1997, he began his career as an industrial trainee at IBM-Germany. He joined GBS in 2005 and formerly was with a national real estate firm, where he managed a similar practice.

Registration checks should be made payable to the West Tennessee Economic Summit and sent to the West Tennessee Industrial Association, 26 Conrad Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

For more information about the conference, call the association at (731) 668-4300 or WestStar at (731) 881-7298.
UT Martin students manage quite well

University of Tennessee at Martin finance students won first prize in the 2005 TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) Investment Challenge, which included competition with 24 other schools. The TVA provides cash awards to the top three universities in the Investment Challenge that earn the highest return for each calendar year. UT Martin had the highest returns, managing a stock portfolio valued at $890,000 at the end of 2005.

For the year of 2005, UT Martin students earned a 20.22 percent return on their investments. The finance program will receive a first-prize award of $15,000 for the student efforts. The University of Alabama at Huntsville placed second with an annual return of 16.55 percent and the University of Kentucky earned third place with a return of 16.49 percent.

The Investment Challenge program as a whole returned 6.5 percent versus 4.9 percent for the S&P 500 for 2005. This makes six out of seven years that the Investment Challenge program has beaten the S&P 500.

The TVA’s Investment Challenge is an innovative and unique partnership between TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management. The challenge gives teams of students hands-on experience managing TVA stock portfolios.

Students actively manage TVA funds by designing long-term investment strategies, placing trades and providing performance reports to TVA. UT Martin students were guided by Dr. Mahmoud Haddad and Dr. Arnold Redman, both professors of finance. The students learn how to manage real money and meet all the requirements. They are held to similar guidelines as TVA’s professional money managers.

"Our students last year obviously did a superior job in managing our portfolio, with a current value around $725,000," Redman said.

Dr. Thomas Payne, UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, added, "The challenge in itself provides excellent hands-on, real-world experience for the students."

The TVA board created the Investment Challenge Program in 1998 to diversify the management of its Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund and give Tennessee Valley students experience in managing a stock portfolio. Originally, 19 universities received investment funds of $100,000 each, for a total of $1.9 million. The program has expanded to include 25 universities and the funds total about $10 million.

ECCE Computer Courses offered

Microsoft Word, personal computer and Internet basics are part of the March offerings of the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE). To register, call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

- Microsoft Word will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 7 and 9. The instructor is Shannon Burgin, UT Martin director of Information Technology Services. The fee is $115. Participants will learn the features of Word, including working with multiple documents, format painter, cut, paste, search, replace, rulers, tabs, bulleted lists, columns, styles, sections, headers and footers and backups. Creating folders, sharing data between documents and applications, using tables and mail merge to simplify work also will be covered. Burgin will include hints and tips.

- Personal Computer Basics is planned from 9 a.m.-noon, March 15. The instructor will be Larry Holder, database administrator/IT administrator III, and the cost will be $55. Students will learn the essentials about how a PC works and some helpful skills for using Windows. If you're just starting out and want to build your confidence, this one's for you! All ages welcome. Hands-on practice. Internet Basics, taught the same afternoon, is also recommended, for a "complete" learning experience.

- Internet Basics will be offered from 1-4 p.m., March 15 with Holder as instructor. The cost is $55. The Web can be both wonderful and confusing. Learn some helpful tips that will make the use of the Internet for surfing and e-mail a more enjoyable experience. All ages are welcome. There will be time for hands-on practice.

UTM presents foreign film series

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Student Activities Council at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present "Comedian Harmonists," a German film, at 7 p.m., March 3, at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The film is the fourth in the Foreign Film Series for spring.

"Comedian Harmonists" tells the story of a famous all-male German sextet, five vocalists and a piano player. The film traces the short and tragic history of the singers, from the day they first met in 1927 to the day in 1934 when the Nazis banned the group because three of them were Jewish. Joseph Vilsmaier directed the film. Charles Hammond, UT Martin assistant professor of German, will introduce the film.

The series is funded by the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Student Activities Council. All films are free and open to the public.
UT Martin hosts United Way in Weakley County Appreciation Day

Two of the leading organizations in Weakley County came together recently when University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Athletics hosted United Way in Weakley County Appreciation Day.

Throughout the basketball game against Eastern Illinois, Skyhawks fans were given a chance to learn more about United Way.

UTM public relations students interviewed business representatives that support United Way and local agencies who benefit from the local investments. Among those interviewed were Mark Maloney, Fechheimer/Martin Manufacturing; Steve Westenhofer, Volunteer Community Hospital; Bobby German, First State Bank and Bettye Giles, CDS.

Between the men’s and women’s games, Steve Vantruese, United Way’s board member, announced the winner of the lawn tractor donated by MTD.

Scott Gaylord, a Parker Hannifin employee, was selected in a random drawing of all people who pledge one hour’s pay per month in their company’s United Way campaign or made a one-time gift of $120 or more. Margaret Taylor, a Parker Hannifin employee, also won an electric grill donated by WCMES, and Michael Reynolds, an MTD employee, won a Ryobi blower donated by MTD.

“We’re proud to present United Way Appreciation Night,” said Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor of UT Martin.

“It is always fun and exciting opportunity for people to learn about how United Way changes lives in this community. I encourage more businesses and organizations to join us in supporting and saluting United Way.”

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United Way

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Way in Weakley County.”

“We started donating the lawn tractor several years ago to spotlight United Way and its importance to this community,” said Steve Baker of MTD.

“It has also been a way for us to recognize those who give so generously to our United Way. When each of us give a little, our whole community benefits with United Way, and that makes our community a better place to live and work.”

“This is a great way to start the year,” said Gaylord.

“Of course, I didn’t expect to win the mower. I give to United Way because it’s the right thing to do. Right now, I’m helping my friends and neighbors, but tomorrow it could be me and my family. You just never know what the future holds, and knowing help is there makes all the difference in the world. I’d like to thank MTD for supporting our local United Way and making this giveaway possible.”

He added.

Weakley County companies that have given to United Way this year include Advance Specialties Company, BellSouth, City of Martin, CDS, E.W. James & Sons, Fechheimer/Martin Manufacturing, First State Bank, Frontier, Greenball Corp., Greenfield Banking Company, HealthSouth/Cane Creek, Heartland Fasteners, IPCO Systems North America, Martin Housing Authority, Martin Realty Group, MTD Products, Parker Hannifin, Regions Bank, Spain Brothers Milling Company, UT Martin, Vaughan Brothers Hardware, Volunteer Community Hospital, Volunteer Distributing, Wal-Mart, We Care Ministries, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, Weakley County Employees, Weakley County Farm Bureau, Weakley County Municipal Electric Systems and Weakley County Board of Education.

Local United Way volunteers work hard every spring deciding how to invest the money raised in Weakley County’s fall campaign.

They research the needs of the community and evaluate available programs.

After hundreds of hours, they decide how to invest local gifts in seven impact areas that address the needs of this community.

The impact areas include believing in youth, building stronger communities, caring for senior adults, empowering people with disabilities, encouraging self-sufficiency, ensuring good health and strengthening families.

United Way of West Tennessee is a local, volunteer-driven organization that helps strengthen the communities it serves.

Through United Way, individual pledges and payroll deduction campaigns are combined to create a fund that supports health and human service programs and agencies serving the area.

The organization serves Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Henderson, Haywood, Crockett, Hardeman, Madison, McNairy and Weakley counties.
Take ACT Help! class at UT Martin

High school juniors and seniors can register now to take the ACT Help! course offered by the University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended and Continuing Education on Saturdays, Fridays, and through March 25.

The course, with a fee of $15, will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Obion County Public Library in Union City.

The instructor is Ron Ramage, and the fee is $45. To register, call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

In this class, participants will learn test-taking skills, practice the ACT and review the mathematics section completely. Higher scores may mean going to the college of choice, and possibly, scholarship money.

Students will use "The Real ACT Prep Guide," cost of the text is not included in the fees, and participants are responsible for having the book at the first class meeting.

The book may be purchased at the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Call the bookstore at (731) 881-7760.

Business Consultant Returns with Advice March 9

MARTIN, Tenn. - Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 9. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

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

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

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tennessee 38237.

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

Online Courses Provided by Education to Go

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) offers a variety of online career certificate programs and courses that are provided by Education To Go and Gatlin Education Services.

Courses are available in the following subject areas: healthcare, business, construction/automotive technology, Internet design and technical programs, networking and CompTIA Certification Prep; Microsoft Certification Prep and video game design and development.

These programs are affordable and provide a great value. They are comprehensive and self-contained. That means participants can learn everything they need to know to start a new career or advance an existing one, in the comfort of home.

For complete course descriptions, prices and registration information, visit the Online Instructor Center at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php. For more information, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.
UTM Students Manage Real Money, Win First-Place TVA Investment Challenge Award

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