UTM Amazon tour meeting scheduled

An informational meeting is planned soon for a University of Tennessee at Martin trip to the Amazon that will be led by Dr. Sue Byrd, professor of family and consumer sciences; Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries; and Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 5, in Room 258, Brehm Hall. Students participating will study rainforest flora and fauna, complete a jungle walk through the Amazon rainforest, sleep in hammocks on a riverboat throughout the Rio Negro and learn about the challenges faced by the Amazonian people.

The trip is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 4-12, 2010. Students participating will travel to Manaus, Brazil, and the Rio Negro River (within the Amazon). Participants must register for one of the following three-hour courses in fall 2009: FCS 470, NRM 230, or HLTH 485. Approximate cost for the trip will be $2,700 plus passport, visa, and immunization costs.

Graphic Design Showcase planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present its first Graphic Design Showcase. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 3, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on campus. The exhibition will feature the works of graphic design students from throughout the 2008-09 school year, and will continue through Feb. 13. It is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

ROBOTY SPEAKER

Steve Holt, with the UT Martin Information Technology Center, presented information to the Martin Rotary Club about “32-1/2 Things You Can Do With Google.” Holt told about the number of services the Google search engine provides, such as free e-mail, free maps, calendar, medical records, shopping, blogging, search for books, organize files, translate languages, create a Web site, use a calculator, get stock prices ... and much more.

AmSurg Names Phillip Clendenin Senior Vice President Corporate Services

Published: February 3, 2009

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Amsurg Corp. (NASDAQ: AMSG) today announced that Phillip A. Clendenin, age 44, has been named Senior Vice President, Corporate Services. Clendenin, who will join AmSurg in March 2009 and assume responsibilities presently held by retiring Senior Vice President, Royce Harrell, brings 20 years of healthcare management experience to AmSurg, most recently as Chief Executive Officer of the River Region Health System in Vicksburg, Mississippi for Community Health Systems. He previously held management positions with Triad Hospitals, HCA and National Medical Enterprises. Clendenin received his B.S. in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and holds a master's degree in health administration from Washington University School of Medicine.

"We're pleased to welcome Phillip to our senior management team," said Christopher A. Holden, AmSurg's President and Chief Executive Officer. "He has a distinguished record and reputation in health care system management. He is a strong advocate for physicians and clinical caregivers, and his experience and perspective will undoubtedly expand the breadth and depth of our leadership."

AmSurg Corp. acquires, develops and operates ambulatory surgery centers in partnership with physician practice groups throughout the United States. At September 30, 2008, AmSurg owned a majority interest in 76 continuing centers in operation and had three centers under development.

Source: AmSurg Corp.
Participate in Honor Band Symposium

Dyer Band students Cierra Curry (clarinet), Kathryn Cox (trumpet), Kaitlyn Kyle (tuba), Bethany Roberson (french horn), Rachel Sullivan (bari saxophone) and Logan Bates, Kelsey Hayes, and Mallarie Riffle (percussion) participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin 2007 Honor Band Symposium on January 24-26. Approximately 400 of the region’s finest wind and percussion students in grades 7-12 were selected to participate in this event, based upon band director nominations. Cierra, Kathryn, Kaitlyn, Bethany, and Rachel performed with the Junior High Honor Band at UTM. Logan, Kelsey and Mallarie were selected for the Junior High Percussion Honor Ensemble, an honor given only to those percussionists with the top eight audition scores. Logan placed fourth, Mallarie placed fifth, and Kelsey placed sixth chair overall out of 18 junior high age percussionists attending the clinic. The students are under the direction of Leah Jean Rollins, band director at Dyer Junior High School.

UTM Honor Band

Trenton Rosenwald Middle School Band eighth grade students participating in the UTM Honor Band Clinic held recently at Martin were: (left to right) Drew Butler, trumpet; Alex Hurst, trumpet; James Tildon Haynes, percussion and Dillon Quaranto, percussion. Leigh Boyce is TRMS Band director.
Milan residents in WestStar 2009 Class

Tara Bradford and Blake Brown, both of Gibson County, are among 29 members of the 2009 WestStar class. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Bradford is the executive vice president of the Milan Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the West Tennessee Retail Association and serves on various advisory boards with the Tennessee Small Business Development Centers, Milan Special Schools District and UT Research and Education Center at Milan. Bradford is a founding board member of the Gibson County Imagination Library and a graduate of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executive Institute.

"The most critical issue in West Tennessee is the low level of postsecondary education in our region. This issue causes great difficulty in recruiting high-tech industry into our communities. Regional efforts must be made to achieve higher educational attainment in order to increase the opportunities for job growth in our area," said Bradford. "My participation in WestStar will help me gain a better understanding of the successes and struggles from other communities in West Tennessee."

Brown is director of the University of Tennessee's Research and Education Center at Milan. He is a member of the Weed Science Society, the Southern Weed Science Society, the Research Center Administrators Society and serves on the Weed Control Recommendation Committee at UT Knoxville. He is a board member of the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum Association and also serves as secretary of the Tennessee State Support Committee for Cotton Incorporated.

"The most critical issue in West Tennessee is for our communities to focus on creating and maintaining jobs for our citizens that will allow West Tennessee to continue to be a good place in which to work, live and raise a family," said Brown. "My participation in WestStar will help me gain a great understanding of the challenges, issues and opportunities that are being experienced across West Tennessee."

Meeting set for Amazon travel-study

An informational meeting is planned soon for a University of Tennessee at Martin trip to the Amazon that will be led by Dr. Sue Byrd, professor of family and consumer sciences; Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries; and Scott Pum, lecturer on health and human performance.

The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 238 of Brehm Hall.

Students participating will study rainforest flora and fauna, complete a jungle walk through the Amazon rainforest, sleep in hammocks on a riverboat throughout the Rio Negro and learn about the challenges faced by the Amazonian people.

The trip is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 4-12, 2010. Students participating will travel to Manaus, Brazil, and the Rio Negro River (within the Amazon). Participants must register for one of the following three-hour courses in full 2009: FCS 470, NRM 230, or HLTH 485.

Approximate cost for the trip will be $2,700 plus passport, Visa and immunization costs. Student Government Association scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Dr. Byrd at sbyrd@utm.edu, Dr. Ray at bray@utm.edu or Pum at spum@utm.edu.

Kid College memories sought

"Kid College 25 — The Next Generation" is the theme for 2009 as the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrates the 25th year of providing fun and educational summer programs for children.

In observance of the anniversary Kid College, June 8-18, organizers are asking former Kid College students, parents, teachers and volunteers to submit a favorite Kid College memory by May 1.
THE ‘WRITE’ STUFF — Five West Tennessee teachers recently attended the National Writing Project (NWP) annual meeting in San Antonio. They included (from left, front) Jenny Brandon of Ripley Primary School, Nancy Warden of Eagleville High School, (back) Greg Barclay of South Fulton High School, Becky Hasselle of Mount Juliet High School and University of Tennessee at Martin West Tennessee Writing Project director Dr. David Carithers. The NWP annual meeting provides a setting for teacher-leaders from writing project sites around the country to learn from each other and become familiar with national trends and issues that affect the teaching of writing. The NWP is a professional development network that serves teachers of writing at all grade levels, primary through university, and in all subjects. The mission of the NWP is to improve student achievement by improving the teaching of writing and improving learning in the nation’s schools. The nearly 200 local sites that make up the NWP network are hosted by universities and colleges. Barclay and Ms. Warden also presented information about the inaugural Advanced Institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project to annual meeting participants. The Advanced Institute, a week-long gathering of teachers learning about and creating classroom inquiry projects, was held in July 2008.

Next recycling event is Feb. 7

UTM Recycles! will sponsor another community recycling event. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 7, at its new collection facility in the former National Guard Armory maintenance warehouse on Moody Street. Volunteers will staff the event to unload and sort the material.

Anyone who has not seen the new facility is invited to stop by and learn more about the new space and how the group is promoting recycling in the community, such as organizing a recycling competition among local Boy Scout dens. Hot chocolate and coffee will be served. Sign-in sheets will be available for volunteers needing documentation of community-service hours.

The following materials will be accepted Feb. 7 and are also accepted daily at the site: paper and cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastics of any kind, steel cans and other scrap metal, eye glasses, used clothing in good shape, cell phones, rechargeable batteries and ink cartridges. It is helpful if food and beverage containers are rinsed and all material is sorted beforehand. Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! include the University of Tennessee at Martin American Democracy Project, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Physical Plant, Sodexo and student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta, manager of custodial services, at 881-7640 or dkosta@utm.edu. To learn how to join UTM Recycles! and / or volunteer at the Feb. 7 event, contact Angie Mackewn, assistant professor of psychology, at 881-7370 or amackewn@utm.edu.

Phi Kappa Phi schedules lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet at 7 p.m., Feb. 10, Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture. This year’s Muriel Tomlinson lecture is Dr. David Barber, assistant professor of history. His presentation is titled “Poverty, Plenty and the World Economic Crisis.” The lecture is free and open to the public. Anna Clark, instructor of English and Phi Kappa Phi president, will preside.

The Muriel Tomlinson Lecture is an annual event honoring the memory of Dr. Tomlinson, a 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 14. For more information, contact Jenna Wright, assistant professor of English, at 881-7300.
Local residents named in 2009 WestStar class

Keith Carver, Melinda Goode, Andrea Hughes and Lisha Tuck, all of Weakley County, are among 29 members of the 2009 WestStar class. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Carver is assistant vice chancellor of development at UT Martin. Currently, he is the treasurer and board member of the Martin Soccer Association. He has served as past chairman of the board, treasurer and board member of the Children’s Center of Knoxville; served as a task force member and served on the fund-raising committee of the Secret Safe Place of Knoxville. He is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County. “The most critical issue in West Tennessee is education. A better-educated West Tennessee can help sustain business and industry in today’s changing economy,” said Carver. “My participation in WestStar will help me become more aware of the economic, cultural and educational opportunities in West Tennessee. I also will become familiar with the challenges facing our region and look forward to working with others in West Tennessee in finding solutions to these situations.”

Goode is program director of the Senior Community Service Employment Program at the Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency. She is a member of the Dresden Rotary and currently serves as sergeant at arms. In 2005, she was asked by Congressman John Tanner to serve as an alternate delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. She has served as an elected school board member for the Weakley County Board of Education and is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County. “The most critical issue in West Tennessee is the public school system and how it is being perceived in our region. My participation in WestStar will broaden my knowledge of the West Tennessee region as a whole and allow me to network with other community leaders who are making a difference in West Tennessee,” said Goode. Hughes is community bank president for First State Bank in Dresden. She serves on the board of trustees for Volunteer Community Hospital. She has served as past president and board member of the Dresden Rotary Club; has served on various committees for the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce; and served as past president of Babe Ruth Baseball League. She is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and is a volunteer for the Dresden Iris Festival. Hughes said the most critical issue in West Tennessee is the economy. Unemployment problems impact not only financial issues, but family units and the overall quality of life in communities. “My participation in WestStar will help me meet and network with other individuals across West Tennessee who are faced with the same challenges and opportunities,” she added. Tuck is the assistant director of development at UT Martin. She is a member or the Weakley County Democratic Women’s Club and a committee member for the UT Martin Legislative Internship Program. She has organized pageants and is a silent auction chair for the Tennessee Advancement Resources Council. “The most critical issue in West Tennessee is economic development. My participation in WestStar will help me meet others who share the same vision of making West Tennessee a better place in which to live and work,” said Tuck.
Three countians in new WestStar class

Tom Smith, Tim Townley and Terry VanEaton, all of Hardin County, are among 29 members of the 2009 WestStar class. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multicounty area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Smith is project manager for Savannah. He is a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Order of the Engineer. Recently, he was accepted as a Renaissance Committee Board director for the Savannah Main Street Program and is a graduate of Leadership Hardin County.

"A critical issue in West Tennessee is to promote economic development to allow our children the opportunity to return home, make a living and raise their families. At the same time, this development should be balanced so we do not lose our rural identity or heritage," said Smith.

"My participation in WestStar will allow me to gain access to a communication network of community leaders throughout West Tennessee. This access provides an invaluable tool for discussion of similar issues among individuals in addressing various community projects, programs and problems."

Townley is quality manager for Tri Matic Spring & Southern Plating, Inc., in Savannah. He is a senior member of the American Society of Quality; a member of Savannah's Main Street Program Design Committee; and is a graduate of Leadership Hardin County. He is also a TSSAA football official.

"The current economic situation that we are facing in our region and country is critical. My participation in WestStar will provide a better understanding of what true leadership means and how I can better serve my local area as well as West Tennessee," he said.

VanEaton is the assistant editor of The Courier. He is a member of the Savannah Rotary Club and co-founder of Waypoint Wireless, LLC. He has served as president of the Savannah Arts Commission and vice chairman of the Hardin County Library Board. He has won several awards for his journalism work and is a graduate of Leadership Hardin County.

"I feel the most critical issue in West Tennessee is the lack of technology in the region that could transform the area's economic future," said VanEaton.

"I hope my participation in WestStar will help me build a strong network of local leaders and professionals who focus on the development and improvement of West Tennessee."
Ricky Cox chosen teacher of the year by foundation

Ricky Cox, son of Carol Cox of Paris and the late Joe Cox, has been named the 2008 Kentucky Professor of the Year.

Cox was chosen by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

A chemistry professor at Murray State University, he was selected from nearly 300 top professors in the United States.

CASE used two preliminary panels of judges to select finalists. There were winners in 44 states, the District of Columbia and Guam.

Cox was chosen as the 2007 Kentucky Academy of Science Superlative Award winner for Outstanding College or University Teacher.

At MSU, he has been credited with establishing a program that helped more than 20 faculty members to use tablet-PCs to enhance student learning in small and large classes, along with field and clinical situations, according to a story in The Murray Ledger & Times.

A Henry County High School graduate, Cox earned his doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He holds a master's degree from MSU and a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Tennessee Band Director Takes Charge of USAAAMB

At the 2009 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, the second U.S. Army All-American Marching Band (USAAAMB) performed at halftime. When the band takes the field in San Antonio, Texas, in 2010, it will be under the leadership of a new director, Nola Jones.

Jones, director of bands at the University of Tennessee-Martin, is an internationally recognized marching band and drum corps adjudicator.

Her resume includes work as a visual effect judge for Drum Corps International Finals, Bands of America Finals, and Winter Guard International Finals.

Jones takes over from Bob Buckner of Western Carolina University, who served as director for the first two years of the band. Teaching Music asked Jones to discuss her selection as USAAAMB Director and Show Coordinator.

What was your reaction to being chosen director of the USAAAMB?
The USAAAMB is the highest honor high school marching musicians can obtain. To be selected to direct this very prestigious ensemble is perhaps the most exciting and humbling event I have experienced in my career.

I know you have been on the staff for the USAAAMB and were there in San Antonio for the 2009 band. Were you taking mental notes for 2010?

Oh yes! I already have a legal pad full of notes from conversations with Bob Buckner, this year’s director; the MENC staff, and the [USAAAMB producer] SportsLink staff.

Because there is so much to accomplish in such a short time during the week of the event, planning is crucial.

You have been a middle school and high school band director, so you know how to work with student musicians of that age-group. How does that differ, though, from the college students you also work with in your "day job"?

I have enjoyed teaching music at all ages and grade levels. Quite honestly, I find more commonalities than differences between the age-groups. While musical virtuosity and maturity may vary, the love of making great music transcends age.

I find more commonalities than differences between the age-groups. While musical virtuosity and maturity may vary, the love of making great music transcends age.
Phi Kappa Phi at UT Martin sets lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture.

This year's Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. David Barber, assistant professor of history. His presentation will be "Poverty, Plenty and the World Economic Crisis."

The lecture is free and open to the public. Anna Clark, instructor of English and Phi Kappa Phi president, will preside.

The Muriel Tomlinson Lecture is an annual event honoring the memory of Dr. Tomlinson, a Phi Kappa Phi member who died in 1976.

College's financial aid office sponsoring FAFSA Nights

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

The sessions are scheduled for 6-8 p.m. They will be held Feb. 24 at McNairy Central High School in Selmer and at the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building.

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

Participants need to take completed 2008 tax returns for both the student and parents, W2 forms from 2008 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.

Record enrollment continues at UTM

A record 7,152 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 6,711 students set in 2008 and is the 10th consecutive spring semester increase. The most recent figures resulted in spring semester records for total undergraduates and total full-time equivalent and full-time equivalent undergraduate students.

The 6.6 percent spring 2009 enrollment increase also follows a fall 2008 enrollment of 7,578 that set six all-time records in various categories. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the university's Office of Institutional Research.

"Enrollment growth is representative of increases in our undergraduate enrollment, both on campus and off campus, in our dual-enrollment students and in undergraduate and graduate online programs," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"A UT Martin education is a true value and I appreciate the confidence more and more students are demonstrating by choosing UT Martin. This level of excellence is a reflection of the hard work of our faculty and staff as well as the continued support of alumni and donors."

The 2009 spring enrollment set a spring semester record for undergraduate students, with 6,733, a 6.3 percent increase over spring 2008; undergraduate FTE, with 5,718, a 3.8 percent increase; and total FTE, with 5,935, a 4.3 percent increase over spring 2008. FTE is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students.

Also increasing over spring 2008 were the number of returning students, by 5.6 percent, and the number of dual-enrollment/concurrent enrollment students, by 29 percent.

Scientist, comedian to speak at meeting

Dr. Pete Ludovice, Georgia Tech professor, will be the guest speaker when the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society meets at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Feb. 16.

The meeting is hosted by the UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Ludovice's presentation, "Applied Molecular Modeling — Not Just for Video Games Anymore," will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 206 of Boling University Center, is free and open to the public.

Ludovice received bachelor of science and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois and MIT, respectively.

After postdoctoral studies at IBM, NASA and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zürich, he spent several years in the simulation software industry.

Later, he took a faculty position at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Georgia Tech professor by day and standup comedian by night, Ludovice also hosts a local radio show on science and technology called "Inside the Black Box."

His research interests include the application of molecular simulation to elucidating structure-property relationships in synthetic and biological macro-molecules.

Ludovice said he tries to bring humor to the classroom and some technology to the comedy club stage to prove that chemical science professionals "can be funny and not just funny-looking."
Farm Credit Services of Mid-America recently donated a trailer to the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for use by student organizations and judging teams in their travels. The donation is part of a regional stewardship program supported by Farm Credit through its "Support for Agriculture Program." The FCS board of directors annually allocates more than $1 million to agriculture programs that build leadership, encourage teamwork and provide educational advancement and support in rural America. Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is a $16 billion financial services cooperative serving more than 85,000 farmers, agribusinesses and rural residents in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee. Pictured with the new trailer are, from left, Tim Williams, FCS regional vice president; Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair; Dr. Philip Smartt, associate professor of natural resources management; Dr. Jimmy Butler, professor of agricultural education; Mike Johnson and Jerry McCullough, FCS financial services officers; Dr. Jim Byford, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean; and Dr. Clay Bailey, assistant professor of animal science. Johnson made the presentation to Gresham.

SEEING RED — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Business Affairs staff recently wore red to show their support in the campaign to teach women in the community about the risks of heart disease. The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association encouraged everyone to wear red Friday in order to raise awareness of women and heart disease. Among the participants were (from left, front) Lori Hutcherson, Laura Foltz, Phyllis Keller, (back) Karen Roberts, Marilyn Essary, Angela Page, Marsha Mitchell, Judy Kerley, Deborah Boyd and Shelia Williams.
Dyer County residents in WestStar '09 class

MARTIN, Tenn. - Judy Burns, Steve Guttery and Danny Watson, all of Dyer County, are among 29 members of the 2009 WestStar class. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Burns is the vice president and trust officer at First Citizens National Bank in Dyersburg. She is the accounting chair and serves on the board of the American Cancer Society for Dyer County Relay for Life; past chair and board member of the Tennessee Bankers Trust and Wealth Management; served six years on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of West Tennessee; served as chair of the budget committee for the Tennessee Workforce Development for Dyer County; serves as board member of the Dyersburg State College Alumni Association; is a member of the Dyer County Kiwanis; and has served on the board for the Dyer County Salvation Army. She is a graduate of Leadership Dyer County.

“The most critical issue in West Tennessee is the economic conditions faced by our country. West Tennessee must explore new avenues of business and industry in order to increase the prosperity and success of our community and its citizens. My participation in WestStar will enhance my leadership abilities and form relationships that will benefit my community,” said Burns.

Guttery is the director of downtown development/leadership at the Dyersburg Chamber of Commerce. He is president of the Dyer County Salvation Army. He is a member of the Dyersburg State Community College Alumni Association; is a member of the Dyersburg Historical Society; is secretary of the Main Street Dyersburg Board of Directors; and is a board member of the Dyersburg Leadership Alumni Association. He served as a charter member of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Photo Club. In 2007, he was presented with the Dyersburg State Community College Outstanding Alumni Award. “The most critical issue in West Tennessee is keeping educated young people in the region. My participation in WestStar will help me expand my networking skills and provide me with the opportunity to meet and get to know other West Tennessee leaders,” said Guttery.

Watson is the community bank president of First State Bank in Dyersburg. Currently, he is finance chairman of the Boy Scouts - Davy Crockett District and fund-raising chairman for Dyersburg State Community College for Dyer County. He was honored in 2009 as Dyersburg State Community College Outstanding Alumnus.

“The most critical issue in West Tennessee is higher education. This region has to have more highly trained individuals who are able to attract new industry and better jobs,” said Watson. “My participation in WestStar will be a valuable asset in developing my leadership capabilities. The program is also an excellent source of networking with business and civic leaders throughout West Tennessee with a common goal of building a better region.”

---The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn., Tuesday, February 10, 2009---

Meeting the maestro

Sarah Scott (second from left), a Henry County High School graduate who is now a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is among the UTM students meeting David Loebel (left), Memphis Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor. Loebel recently spoke at UTM on the topic “All About Mozart” as part of the Academic Speaker series. Others who were able to attend a seminar with Loebel were Jared Nobles (second from right) of Dyersburg and Samuel Lowe (right) of Bruceton.

---UT Martin photo---
UTM has record enrollment

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Administration of local anesthesia course for dental hygienists offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Dental Hygiene will offer a course on administration of local anesthesia for the dental hygienist. The course fulfills the Tennessee State Dental Practice Act requirement regarding certification for the administration of local anesthesia for the registered dental hygienist. The goal of this online course is to prepare the practicing dental hygienist to assist the dentist in alleviating and managing a patient’s dental pain and anxiety. The dental hygienist will be provided background knowledge in how nerve impulses are propagated and blocked and the mechanics of local anesthetic administration. The cost of the course will be $1,000. Participants must be licensed dental hygienists with a minimum of two years of continuous full-time practice employment within the past three years. A two-day face-to-face laboratory component will be included to prepare the students for certification in the administration of local anesthesia. Participants should bring a syringe, clinical jacket and safety glasses with them. All other supplies will be provided on site.

Dr. Bobby Collins and various dental hygiene faculty members, all certified in the administration of local anesthesia, will teach the course. Upon successful completion of this course, the director will submit a letter to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry (TBD). After a $50 fee and certification application are submitted, the TBD will issue a 90-day temporary permit to the dental hygienist, who must then complete 44 successful injections as prescribed by the TBD.

For direct didactic and clinical questions, contact Dr. Cassandra Holder-Ballard, UT Health Science Center associate professor and program director, at (901) 448-6230. For direct registration questions, contact Debbie Mount, ECCE director of non-degree programs, at 881-7082.
UTM ECCE March classes provide professional, personal development

Several professional and personal development courses are planned in March by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education. To register, call 881-7082.

Midday Yoga will be offered from 12:05-12:35 p.m., Mondays, March 16-April 20. The registration fee is $50, and the instructor is Ken Zimmerman, Yoga Alliance-registered yoga teacher. The class will be a combination of gentle bends and stretches as well as basic yoga poses. It is suitable for beginners or experienced practitioners. Come to class with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal), in bare feet, and in clothing that allows freedom of movement.

Digital Photography Part I – Camera Operation/Basic Photographic Skills is planned 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, March 3-24 with Tom Gallien as instructor. The registration fee is $75. This course is designed to make digital photography less intimidating. Proper photographic exposure, composition, and use of the camera’s histogram will be discussed. Participants should have a digital camera along with the camera’s instruction manual, if possible. A small notebook also would be helpful. Printed and emailed handouts will supplement the presentations. Even though this course is primarily for novice digital photographers, solutions and ideas for photographers with intermediate skills can also be discussed. E-mail evaluation and critiques of images will be used during the course. This introductory course is a springboard for the follow-up intermediate/advanced skills course. This course will be limited to four evenings, each class 2.5 hours in length. Gallien has more than 35 years of photographic experience including 10 years of digital camera use.

Yoga & You – Yoga Basics for Beginners will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m., Mondays, March 16-April 20, with a fee of $55. Instructor is Leslie LaChance, Yoga Alliance-registered yoga teacher. The course will introduce beginners to the basics of this ancient art, which promotes physical well being and mental and emotional clarity. LaChance will guide participants toward creating a personal practice that can aid strength, endurance and flexibility while it boosts energy. Participants will learn basic yoga poses, simple yoga flow sequences and breath awareness. Mentally, yoga can improve concentration, help deal more effectively with stress and benefit overall mood. Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal) and bare feet. Clothing should allow freedom of movement.

Yoga – Beginners Level 2 is planned from 5:30-7 p.m., March 17-April 21 with a fee of $55 and Zimmerman as instructor. This course will continue the basic principles introduced in Yoga and You. Focus will be placed on flowing sequences of poses (vinyasa yoga) as well as precision, alignment and movement. Zimmerman will help students who wish to establish or improve a personal practice or who are looking for a way to gain flexibility, increase energy, endurance and strength in a class situation. Classes are done with an empty stomach (at least two hours since a meal), bare feet and clothing that allows freedom of movement.

Beginner PC Class using Microsoft Windows will be taught by Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, from 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday and Thursday, March 24 and 26. The fee is $85. Participants will expand knowledge of using a computer, learn about the desktop, taskbar, control panel, administration tools, changing common settings, backups, My Documents folder, task manager and more. Also, there will be instruction about browsing the Internet, antivirus software, anti-spyware software, security updates and home networking.

Basics of eBay-Selling is a one-day class that will be offered from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., March 14, at UT Martin. The instructor is Olen Batchelor, eBay-trained education specialist. The fee is $75. A $19.95 optional book is available from the instructor. Learn to make a supplemental or full-time income. This multimedia course will include eBay University’s own training materials and will cover selling basics and beyond, including research, opening and using a Paypal account, improving listings with better descriptions and digital photography, security and post-sale activities such as billing and shipping.

A Pharmacy Technician Program is planned from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Henry County High School in Paris, April 7-May 26; Jackson State Community College, Jackson, March 24-May 12, and UT Martin Parsons Center, Parsons, March 24-May 12. The registration fee is $999 (textbooks and lab supplies included). This comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, intravenous flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

A EKG Technician Certification Program is planned from 6:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 23-May 11, at UT Martin and JSCC. The registration fee is $999 (textbooks included). This comprehensive 50-hour EKG Technician Certification Program prepares students to function as EKG Technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician–Electrocardiograph Technician exam and other national certification exams. This course will include practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography. Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs, including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the chest wall for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices.

A Phlebotomy Technician Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 23-May 27, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturdays, March 28, April 18, May 2 and May 16, (no class May 25), at JSCC. The registration fee is $1,599 (textbooks included). This 90-hour program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen handling and processing; and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. There is no externship rotation included with this program.
Wedding traditions topic of museum exhibit

If you have ever been married, are planning to be a groomsman or bridesmaid, or even been to a wedding as a guest, you have participated in one of the symbol-rich traditions in American culture. Ever wonder why a bride spends so much on a white wedding dress? Where wedding rings come from? Why wedding cakes are a stack of confections? The new exhibit at the University of Tennessee at Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum answers a few of those questions.

“Here Comes the Bride: Weddings in America” is a traveling exhibit produced by the Rogers Historical Museum. Its series of panels illustrate how various practices became custom and eventually part of the time-honored tradition.

The Gordon Museum at UT Martin is open at no cost to students, faculty and the public. It is accessible from the Special Collections reading area, just off the main lobby of the Paul Meek Library. It is open between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., weekdays, and may be open at other times by special arrangement with the curator. For more information, contact Richard Saunders, curator, at 881-7094.

ROOTS OF RHYTHM – Jackson, Huntington, Ripley and Martin middle school students attended the Roots of Rhythm presentation by Dr. Julie Hill, center, assistant professor of music, and the University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio. The presentation was in celebration of Black History Month and traces the migration of the slave rhythm through the slave trade. Live musical demonstrations were made with traditional instrumentation and arrangements to show the blending and evolution of rhythm in Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad, Senegal and the United States. In addition, students were provided supplemental information with regard to geography, language and history throughout the program. The UT Martin Percussion Studio plans to make this an annual event during Black History Month. For more information, contact Hill at jhill@utm.edu.
More Than $1 Million in Grants Aid Area Middle, High School Teacher Development

MARTIN - The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced the award of two Math Science Partnership grants to the University of Tennessee at Martin: Project Institutes of Chemistry and Physics (ICaP) and Project Mathematical Applications, Technology and Content for High School Education Standards (MATCHES). The MSP program awarded approximately $250,000 to each project per year for a combined total of more than $1 million to be spent on teacher professional development in West Tennessee over the next three years.

"UT Martin is proud of the working partnerships we have in place with school systems throughout the region, and we welcome opportunities such as these to provide vehicles for collaborative efforts," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Most importantly these programs will help an entire generation of students prepare for a world in which math and science are becoming increasingly critical."

Project ICaP represents a partnership between the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, along with school systems in Jackson County, Union City and Weakley County. During a three-year period, a total of 60 teachers, from grades 5-9, will receive instruction during summer institutes. The ICaP project director, Dr. Rosemary Effiong, associate professor of chemistry, said, "School systems in Huntingdon and Union City partnered with UT Martin on this project, and teachers from their districts will receive preference in the application process; teachers from other school districts are encouraged to apply. Participating teachers must make a three-year commitment to the project and will receive computers, calculators, training, materials and possibly graduate credit.

UT Martin has traditionally offered teacher professional development to West Tennessee teachers. "Once again, I am proud that the University of Tennessee at Martin is providing much needed professional development in math and sciences," said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "This is so critical with the new high school standards under the American Diploma Project and the requirements for more math and science for graduation."

For more information about either of these programs, contact Effiong at 731-881-7449 or Kolitsch at 731-881-7556.

Locals given scholarships to attend UT Martin

Ryan Davenport and Alex Hastings, both of Paris, have been given scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. Ryan is son of Robert and Sharon Head of Paris. He received a chancellor’s award. Alex is daughter of Kevin and Kim Ward of Paris. She received a dean’s scholarship. Both students will be freshmen this fall.
South Fulton graduate is UTM Chancellor's award recipient

An Obion County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2009-10 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Amanda Wall, daughter of Joe and Gina Wall of South Fulton, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor's Award and the Leaders-in-Residence Award. 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, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

MEETING THE MAESTRO – Maestro David Loebel, Memphis, Tenn. Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor, recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Academic Speaker Series. His topic was “All About Mozart,” and was followed by a performance of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, featuring works either by Mozart or inspired by the famed musician. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Loebel began as a pianist, but discovered a love for conducting while a student at Northwestern University, from which he received his degree. He served as assistant and then associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra before moving to St. Louis, where he served as associate principal conductor for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra from 1989 to 1999. At that time, he moved to Memphis. He has announced that the 2008-09 season will be his last in this position, and the Memphis Symphony is dedicating the season to him, as “The Perfect Ten: A Decade with David.” Prior to his presentation, Loebel met with students in a seminar setting. Pictured with him are, from left, Kristin Lax Hammill, Middleton sophomore; Kyle Greer, South Fulton sophomore; Aliana Norris, Knoxville freshman. (Photo submitted)
WestStar alumni meet
Gibson County WestStar alumni recently met at the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation office in Trenton. Among those attending the meeting were (front row, from left) Brenda Horner, USDA Rural Development; Pat Riley, Gibson County Utility District, WestStar trustee; Joy Wallsmit, retired alumna; Kathleen Smith, Volunteer Bank; Vince Coleman, Medina mayor; (back row) Marilyn Williamson, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce; Dotty Jones, Security Bank; Virginia Davidson, retired alumna; Linda Schrader, Ken Thorne, Northwest Tennessee Development District; Cheri Childress, BeCe Enterprises, Inc., WestStar trustee; Emily Sullivan, Gibson Electric Membership Corp.; Allyson Horner, Gibson County Utility District; Tony Burris, Trenton mayor; and Charley Deal, WestStar assistant director and University of Tennessee at Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations. Also, in attendance was Virginia Grimes (not pictured), coordinator of WestStar. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program.

Co-parenting class to be offered at UTM
The University of Tennessee Extension Service will offer a co-parenting class Feb. 27, from 9-1 p.m. at the Obion County Library Conference Room. The class is for parents who are filing for a divorce and have children under age 18. The cost of the class is $30 and must be made payable to UT prior to attending the class. Only one parent may attend per class. Register by calling 731-885-3742 or visit the office located on 302 South Third Street in Union City, Tenn. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Greenhill receives scholarship
Christian Greenhill is one of three Gibson County students awarded scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.
Christian Greenhill, daughter of Herbert and Sadonna Davis of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s 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.
Applications increase at UT Martin for 6th year

Applications for summer and fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 15-percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions.

"While not all applications translate into enrollments, we are pleased to see a continued increase as a reflection of student interest in the quality of our academic offerings and campus programming," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "This is particularly significant considering our recent increase in academic standards."

This is the sixth consecutive year that application numbers have increased. A recent report showed that by Jan. 3, 2009, 2,131 students had applied for admission to UT Martin, up from 1,901 by that date in 2008. Also, there has been a 20-percent increase in housing applications this year.

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

"The number of applications has increased simply because UT Martin offers features and services students want," said Judy Rayburn, UT Martin director of the office of admissions. "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."

Rayburn said that in addition to strong programs, proximity to home, cost of attendance and apartment-style housing also are important considerations when students choose to apply to UT Martin.

“I am pleased to see the growing interest and value attributed to a UT Martin degree,” Rakes added. “Continuation of our ongoing planning involving on- and off-campus initiatives ensures that our students have access to a world-class education.”

For application information, visit the UT Martin admissions homepage at www.utm.edu/admis.php or call 1-800-829-UTM1.

WESTSTAR ALUMNI MEET – Gibson County WestStar alumni recently met at the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation office in Trenton. Among those attending the meeting were (from left, front row) Brenda Horner, USDA Rural Development; Pat Riley, Gibson County Utility District, WestStar trustee; Joy Wallsmith, retired alumna; Kathleen Smith, First State Bank; Vance Coleman, Medina mayor; (back row) Marilyn Williamson, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce; Dotty Jones, Security Bank; Virginia Davidson, retired alumna; Linda Schrader, Ken Thorne, Northwest Tennessee Development District; Chari Childress, BeCe Enterprises, Inc., WestStar Trustee; Emily Sullivan, Gibson Electric Membership Corp.; Allyson Hornor, Gibson County Utility District; Tony Burris, Trenton mayor; and Charley Deal, WestStar assistant director and University of Tennessee at Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations. Also, in attendance was Virginia Grimes (not pictured), coordinator of WestStar. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, WestStar is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program.
Fisher participates in national competition

By Patrick Hunter

Last Updated: 2:00 PM EST 2/11/09  Section: News
In an attempt to promote the benefits of recycling, St. John Fisher has begun to participate in the 2009 Recyclemania competition.

Kaitlin Daly, the resident director for Founders Hall and chair of the recycling committee on campus, helped to bring the event to Fisher. According to her, this is the second year that Fisher has participated in the competition.

"It motivates students and faculty [and it] draws attention to recycling," she said.

The event, which includes such New York colleges as the University of Rochester, Ithaca College, RIT, and Cornell, invites students to recycle as much paper and plastic as they can. The reward for doing so?

"Bragging rights," Daly said. "It's just a friendly competition."
Daly said that she has tried to get Nazareth College to try and join Recyclemania. However, that attempt has been unsuccessful.

The competition, which officially began on Jan. 18, was founded in 2001 by Ed Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University.

According to the Recyclemania website, they "decided that something had to be done to increase recycling in the residence and dining halls on their campuses."

Recyclemania lasts for 10 weeks, from Jan. 18 through March 28, and is a nationwide competition.

A variety of prominent colleges across the country are participating along with Fisher, such as Yale and Harvard.

In last year's competition, Kalamazoo College of Michigan ranked number one in the Grand Champion and Per Capita Classic categories.

Fisher finished 46th out of the 180 participant schools, recycling 22.5 pounds of waste per person on campus.

Out of 12 participating schools in New York State, Fisher was sixth.

The results for the 2009 competition are updated every Friday and are available on the Recyclemania website.

As of press time, The University of Tennessee-Martin is in the lead for the Grand Champion category and Davidson College of North Carolina is leading in the Per Capita Classic category.

The only local school to crack the top five in any category is the University of Rochester, currently fifth in the Targeted Material-Paper category.
So what can be recycled? The Recyclemania website has several answers for that, too. The list includes: "boxboard/chipboard, catalogs, hard and softbound books, junkmail, magazines, newspapers," and "numbers one through seven type cans and bottles."

The only things that won't be acceptable are: "appliances, computers, electronics, furniture, industrial plastics, scrap metal, or scrap wood."

Daly has one last piece of advice for recycling.

"Look at what you're throwing away," she advised students.

For more information, visit the recycling committee's website at http://home.sjfc.edu/green/ or Recyclemania's website at http://www.recyclemaniacs.org.

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**MEETING THE MAESTRO:** Maestro David Loebel, Memphis Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor, recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Academic Speaker Series. His topic was "All About Mozart," and was followed by a performance of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, featuring works either by Mozart or inspired by the famed musician. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Loebel began as a pianist, but discovered a love for conducting while a student at Northwestern University, from which he received his degree. He served as assistant and then associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra before moving to St. Louis, where he served as associate principal conductor for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra from 1989 to 1999. At that time, he moved to Memphis. He has announced that the 2008-09 season will be his last in this position, and the Memphis Symphony is dedicating the season to him, as "The Perfect Ten: A Decade with David." Prior to his presentation, Loebel met with students in a seminar setting. Pictured with him are, from left, Sarah Scott, Paris sophomore; Jared Nobles, Dyersburg junior; and Samuel Lowe, Bruceton freshman.
Examining ‘Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights’ focus of Ninth Annual Civil Rights Conference

“Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights” is the theme of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s ninth annual Civil Rights Conference slated for February 21-27.

The Rev. James Lawson, who led the successful struggle against segregation in Nashville, will offer the conference keynote address at 7 p.m., February 26, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling Hall. While at Vanderbilt University’s Divinity School, Lawson organized and trained students to challenge segregation in Nashville. Under his tutelage, the Civil Rights Movement made Nashville one of the first Southern cities in which segregation fell. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on visiting Nashville in 1960, proclaimed that, “I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community.” Lawson trained many future leaders of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, including Diane Nash, James Bevel, Marion Barry, Bernard Lafayette and John Lewis.

Opening ceremonies for the Civil Rights Conference will begin at 1 p.m., February 21, in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center, with “An Afternoon of Art and Spoken Word,” sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum. The conference continues the next day, February 22, with a 3 p.m. presentation of “I Am The Dream,” to be held at the Harvey Vick Center in the Municipal Building on Broadway in South Fulton, also sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum.

UT Martin’s chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists will sponsor a Black History Quiz Show, at 7 p.m., February 23, in Watkins Auditorium. Six teams representing campus fraternities, sororities and other groups will vie for the Black History Quiz Show crown.

Native American Civil Rights Day, February 24, will feature a presentation by Native American civil rights activist and musician, Bill Miller, at 7 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium. Miller is a two-time Grammy Award winner for best Native American music. He currently lives in Nashville, where he also maintains an art studio. Miller’s presentation will include some of his greatest hits, including the award-winning, “Reservation Road.”

A whole series of panels and events mark conference activities on February 25 and February 26. On February 25, UT Martin Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Phil Dane, will speak on the integration of college football at 10 a.m. in Room 204, Humanities Building. At noon, the Hortense Parrish Writing Center will sponsor a Black Writers’ Workshop in Room 209, Humanities Building.

From there, the program shifts to the Tennessee Room in the McCombs Center where, from 1 to 2 p.m., a representative from the gay rights organization, the Tennessee Equality Project, will address issues of civil rights and sexual orientation. From 2 to 3 p.m., South Fulton natives, Joyce Washington, Pete Algee and Robert Vanderford, will discuss the segregation and desegregation of the South Fulton school system. Wednesday’s events will conclude with a presentation by Dr. Al Jordan, a product of the segregated Rosenwald School in Trenton, discussing Civil Rights in the 21st Century.

Bobby Lovett will kick off the first of five events on Thursday with a talk, “Intro to Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights,” from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Lovett is a professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Tennessee State University and the foremost historian of the Civil Rights Movement in the state of Tennessee.

Next, panelists, Richard Saunders and Myles Wilson, will discuss “Segregation and Civil Rights in Fayette County, Tenn.” from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Saunders is a UT Martin associate professor of library science and museum curator. Wilson is Fayette County School System superintendent.

From 1-2:15 p.m., Leo Lillard, Mary Salynn McCollum and Diane Nash will lead a discussion on the “Tennessee Freedom Riders.” Although it is not well known, the Nashville student movement provided crucial leadership for the Freedom Rides, which challenged and defeated segregation in interstate bus travel and interstate bus facilities in 1960 and 1961. Lillard, McCollum and Nash participated in and led the Nashville freedom riders in this effort.

From 2:45-4 p.m., Vivian Morris and Curtis Morris will discuss “The Schools We Lost, the Schools We Are Seeking” in Gooch Hall. The Morrises are co-authors of “The Price They Paid: Desegregation in an African-American Community.” In their work, the Morrises follow one African-American community from school segregation to desegregation. The book contrasts the caring and nurturing African-American school with the hostile new environment in the new predominantly white American school.

The last event for the day will begin with a collegiate gospel choir program, at 7 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium. Following will be a keynote presentation by the Rev. Lawson. The Civil Rights Paper Competition winners will be recognized at this event.

On February 27, the conference will close with an evening of music and spoken word in Watkins Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. The UT Martin English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, will present a spoken word performance, followed by two UT Martin music majors, Joseph Sam and Stephen Hughes, presenting a musical composition on the Civil Rights Movement. At 7:15, the Memphis spoken word group, Brotha’s Keeper, will close out the event.

For information, complete schedule or reservations, call 731-881-7465 or e-mail Dr. David Barber, conference director, at dbarber@utm.edu. The conference schedule can be found at www.utm.edu/civilrights.
Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Four Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Jody Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Rachel Cotton, daughter of Tonya Burkeen of Sharon and David Cotton of Port St. Lucie, Florida, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
* Marlee Mason, daughter of Don and Brenda Mason of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship and the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
* Amber Nanney, daughter of Troy and Tina Nanney of Sharon, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
* Tyler Price, son of Martin and Deborah Price of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Award.

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.

MEETING THE MAESTRO — Maestro David Loebel (left), Memphis Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor, recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Academic Speaker Series. His topic was “All About Mozart,” which was followed by a performance of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, featuring works either by Mozart or inspired by the famed musician. Prior to his presentation, Loebel met with UT Martin students in a seminar setting, including freshman Sarah Powell (center) of Union City and freshman Andrea Adams of Dickson.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

UT Martin faculty to present recital

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will present a recital of modern chamber music at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. The program will include works by Gordon Jacob, Paul Hindemith, Francis Poulenc and Edison Denisov. The collaborating artists are Kenneth Douglas, clarinet; Delana Easley, piano; Dr. Kurt Gorman, trumpet; Dr. Tama Kott, bassoon; and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, clarinet.

This concert is part of the UT Martin Department of Music Faculty Series. It will be free and open to the public. For additional information contact Gorman, assistant professor of music, 881-7404 or kgorman@utm.edu.

UTM to host junior percussion recital

Daniel Vargason, a junior from Selmer, and Cory Bozard, a junior from Newbern, will perform a joint junior percussion recital at 7:30, Feb. 16, in the recital hall of the Fine Arts Building.

Bozard will be playing works by Philipp Glass and Nebojsa Zivkovic. Vargason will perform a piece titled “Waking Dreams" with the UT Martin percussion ensemble. The percussion recital will also premiere a new marimba work at UT Martin by Greek composer, Christos Hatzis. The work will feature marimba and Inuit throat singing on CD playback.

This concert will be free and open to the public. For additional information contact the Department of Music at 881-7402 or music@utm.edu.
UT Martin Has 10th Consecutive Record Spring Enrollment

MARTIN - A record 7,152 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 6,711 students set in 2008 and is the 10th consecutive spring semester increase. The most recent figures resulted in spring semester records for total undergraduates and total full-time equivalent and full-time equivalent undergraduate students.

The 6.6 percent spring 2009 enrollment increase also follows a fall 2008 enrollment of 7,758 that set six all-time records in various categories. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the university's Office of Institutional Research.

"Enrollment growth is representative of increases in our undergraduate enrollment, both on campus and off campus, in our dual-enrollment students and in undergraduate and graduate online programs," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"A UT Martin education is a true value, and I appreciate the confidence more and more students are demonstrating by choosing UT Martin. This level of excellence is a reflection of the hard work of our faculty and staff as well as the continued support of alumni and donors."

The 2009 spring enrollment set a spring semester record for undergraduate students, with 6,733, a 6.3 percent increase over spring 2008; undergraduate FTE, with 5,718, a 3.8 percent increase; and total FTE, with 5,935, a 4.3 percent increase over spring 2008. FTE is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students. Also increasing over spring 2008 were the number of returning students, by 6.6 percent, and the number of dual-enrollment/concurrent enrollment students, by 29 percent.

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Energy-related issues to be talked at forum

When we think about energy, we often think about the negatives — high gas prices, environmental challenges and national security issues. However, many communities are seeing there are ways to capitalize on economic opportunities related to energy.

The public is invited to join an open discussion on how to turn energy-related issues into a positive in the community. The forum — sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service — will be held Feb. 24 from 10 a.m.-noon in Room 111 of Boling University Center at UT Martin.

The forum is free.

Forum participants will be joining thousands of other Southerners who are holding similar conversations across the region, to develop strategies for energy-related economic development — from bio-energy to sustainable design to green-collar job development.

The community feedback will be used in presentations at Southern Growth’s 2009 annual conference and in developing Southern Growth’s 2009 Report on the Future of the South, a high-profile policy report that is shared with Southern governors and regional leaders in business and education.

Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank representing 13 Southern states that develops and advances visionary economic development policies. For more information on the Southern Growth Policies Board, visit www.southern.org.

For conference information, contact Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics, at (731) 881-7257 or mehlhorn@utm.edu; or Dr. Scott Parrott, assistant professor of agricultural economics, at (731) 881-7252 or sparrott@utm.edu.

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Ms. James among new WestStar trustees

Five area business people — including one from Union City — have been named to the WestStar board of trustees.

Serving three-year terms through 2011 on the board of trustees are Lee Ann James of Union City, Jeff Lewis of Lexington, Alan Hester of Dyersburg, Sharon Taylor-McKinney of Memphis and John Etheridge of Paris.

The new trustees join 11 other trustees in shaping the future of WestStar at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Celebrating its 20th year, WestStar serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership development program.

Ms. James is president of E.W. James and Sons, based in Union City.

Lewis and Hester were members of the 2003 WestStar class. Lewis is city president of First Bank in Lexington and Hester is Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer.

Ms. Taylor-McKinney serves on the WestStar African-American Leadership Conference Committee.

She is Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development business enterprise resource officer.

Etheridge is a member of the 1995 WestStar class, serves as chair of the WestStar Finance Development Committee.

He is Paris Board of Public Utilities general manager.

For more information about the WestStar program, contact Virginia Grimes, coordinator, at the University of Tennessee at Martin at (731) 881-7298.

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LEE ANN JAMES
Hart earns credential from AICPA

David Hart, a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, has recently been awarded the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The CFF credential, established in 2008 by the AICPA, is granted to qualified CPAs with considerable professional experience in financial forensics.

The credential combines specialized forensic accounting expertise with the core knowledge and skills that make CPAs among the most trusted business advisers. The CFF encompasses fundamental forensic accounting skills that CPA practitioners apply in a variety of service areas, including bankruptcy and insolvency, computer forensics, economic damages, family law, fraud investigations, litigation support, stakeholder disputes and valuations.

Hart met the requirements to earn the CFF credential, which include demonstrating significant business experience in the area of financial forensics as well as completing a minimum of 75 hours of life-long learning and education activities in the area of financial forensics. The CFF credential is granted exclusively to CPAs who are members in good standing of the AICPA, which binds them to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

CPAs who have earned the CFF credential must be recertified every three years to maintain their credential.

Hart has been with ATA since 1997. His practice focuses on business valuation, auditing, tax and client development. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In addition to being a CFF, Hart is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Valuation Analyst. He is a member of several professional organizations.

As an active member of the community, Hart is a member of UT Martin’s Skyhawk Club board of directors, the president and head coach for Tennessee Wings AAU Girls Basketball and a volunteer coach for the Westview High School girls’ basketball team in Martin. He and his family are active members of Martin First United Methodist Church, where Hart is the finance committee chairman.

Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs is one of the largest accounting and consulting firms in the Mid-South and was named the ninth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee in the Mid-South and was named the ninth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee by Business TN magazine.

WEAR RED — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Business Affairs staff wore red to show their support in the campaign to teach women in the community about the risks of heart disease. The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association encouraged everyone to wear red on Friday, Feb. 6, in order to raise awareness of women and heart disease. Participants included (kneeling, from left) Lori Hutcherson, Laura Foltz, Phyllis Keller; (standing, from left) Karen Roberts, Marilyn Essary, Angela Page, Marsha Mitchell, Judy Kerley, Deborah Boyd and Shelia Williams.
Civil Rights conference set for this weekend

“Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights” is the theme of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s ninth annual Civil Rights Conference slated for Feb. 21-27.

The Rev. James Lawson, who led the successful struggle against segregation in Nashville, will offer the conference keynote address at 7 p.m., Feb. 26, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. While at Vanderbilt University’s Divinity School, Lawson organized and trained students to challenge segregation in Nashville.

Under his tutelage, the Civil Rights Movement made Nashville one of the first Southern cities in which segregation fell.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on visiting Nashville in 1960, proclaimed that, “I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community.”

Lawson trained many future leaders of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, including Diane Nash, James Bevel, Marion Barry, Bernard Lafayette and John Lewis.

Opening ceremonies for the Civil Rights Conference will begin at 1 p.m., Feb. 21, in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Centre, with “An Afternoon of Art and Spoken Word,” sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum.

The conference continues the next day, Feb. 22, with a 3 p.m. presentation of “I Am The Dream,” to be held at the Harvey Vick Center in the Municipal Building on Broadway in South Fulton, also sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum.

UT Martin’s chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists will sponsor a Black History Quiz Show, at 7 p.m., Feb. 23, in Watkins Auditorium.

Six teams representing campus fraternities, sororities and other groups will vie for the Black History Quiz Show crown.

Native American Civil Rights Day, Feb. 24, will feature a presentation by Native American civil rights activist and musician, Bill Miller, at 7 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium. Miller is a two-time Grammy Award winner for best Native American music.

He currently lives in Nashville, where he also maintains an art studio. Miller’s presentation will include some of his greatest hits, including the award-winning, “Reservation Road.”

A whole series of panels and events mark conference activities on Feb. 25 and Feb. 26. On Feb. 25, UT Martin Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Phil Dane, will speak on the integration of college football at 10 a.m., in Room 204, Humanities Building.

At noon, the Hortense Parrish Writing Center will sponsor a Black Writers’ Workshop in Room 209, Humanities Building.

From there, the program shifts to the Tennessee Room in the McCombs Center where, from 1 to 2 p.m., a representative from the gay rights organization, the Tennessee Equality Project, will address issues of civil rights and sexual orientation.

From 2 to 3 p.m., South Fulton natives, Joyce Washington, Pete Algee and Robert Vanderford, will discuss the segregation and desegregation of the South Fulton school system.

Wednesday’s events will conclude with a presentation by Dr. Al Jordon, a product of the segregated Rosenwald School in Trenton, discussing Civil Rights in the 21st Century.

Bobby Lovett will kick off the first of five events on Thursday with a talk, “Intro to Tennessee Segregation and Civil Rights,” from 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Lovett is a professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Tennessee State University and the foremost historian of the Civil Rights Movement in the state of Tennessee.

Next, panelists, Richard Saunders and Myles Wilson, will discuss “Segregation and Civil Rights in Fayette County, Tenn.” From 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Saunders is a UT Martin associate professor of library science and museum curator. Wilson is Fayette County School System superintendent.

From 1-2:15 p.m., Leo Lillard, Mary Salynn McCollum and Diane Nash will lead a discussion on the “Tennessee Freedom Riders.”

Although it is not well known, the Nashville student movement provided crucial leadership for the Freedom Rides, which challenged and defeated segregation in interstate bus travel and interstate bus facilities in 1960 and 1961.

Lillard, McCollum and Nash participated in and led the Nashville freedom riders in this effort.

From 2:45-4 p.m., Vivian Morris and Curtis Morris will discuss “The Schools We Lost, the Schools We Are Seeking” in Gooch Hall.

The Morrices are co-authors of “The Price They Paid: Desegregation in an African-American Community.”

In their work, the Morrices follow one African-American community from school segregation to desegregation.

The book contrasts the caring and nurturing African-American school with the hostile new environment in the new predominantly white American school.

The last event for the day will begin with a collegiate gospel choir program, at 7 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium.

Following will be a keynote presentation by the Rev. Lawson.

The Civil Rights Paper Competition winners will be recognized at this event.

On Feb. 27, the conference will close with an evening of music and spoken word in Watkins Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The UT Martin English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, will present a spoken word performance, followed by two UT Martin music majors, Joseph Brown and Stephen Hughes, presenting a musical composition on the Civil Rights Movement.

At 7:15, the Memphis spoken word group, Brotha’s Keeper, will close out the event.

For information, complete schedule or reservations, call 731-881-7465 or e-mail Dr. David Barber, conference director, at dbarber@utm.edu.

The conference schedule can be found at www.utm.edu/civil-rights.
Local students receive scholarships to UTM

Four Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- Rachel Cotten, daughter of Tonya Burken of Sharon and David Cotten of Port St. Lucie, Fla., will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Marlee Mason, daughter of Donnie and Brenda Mason of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship and the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
- Amber Nanney, daughter of Troy and Tina Nanney of Sharon, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Tyler Price, son of Martin and Deborah Price of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Award.

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, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

Hart earns financial forensics certification

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As an active member of the community, Hart is a member of UT Martin’s Skyhawk Club board of directors, the president and head coach for Tennessee Wings AAU Girls Basketball, and a volunteer coach for the Westview High School girls’ basketball team. He and his family are active members of First United Methodist Church, where Hart is the finance committee chairman.

Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs is one of the largest accounting and consulting firms in the Mid-South and was named the ninth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee by Business TN Magazine. Founded in 1946, ATA offers a comprehensive array of tax, audit, accounting, consulting and wealth management services and is a member of the BDO Seidman Alliance. Firm offices are located in Dyersburg, Fulton, Henderson, Jackson, Martin, McKenzie, Milan, Paris, Trenton and Union City.

For more information, call Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs at 731.598.5145 or visit www.atacpa.net.
'Business of Southern Energy: Making Choices For Your Community'

When we think about energy, we often think about the negatives - high gas prices, environmental challenges and national security issues. However, many communities are seeing that there are ways to capitalize on economic opportunities related to energy.

The public is invited to join an open discussion on how to turn energy-related uses into a positive in the community. The forum is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, February 24, in Room 111 Boling University Center at UT Martin. The forum is free.

Forum participants will be joining thousands of other Southerners, who are holding similar conversations across the region, to develop strategies for energy-related economic development, from bio-energy to sustainable design to green-collar job development.

The community feedback will be used in presentations at Southern Growth's 2009 annual conference, and in developing Southern Growth's 2009 Report on the Future of the South, a high-profile policy report that is shared with Southern governors and regional leaders in business and education.

Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank representing 13 Southern states that develops and advances visionary economic development policies. For more information on the Southern Growth Policies Board, visit www.southern.org. For conference information, contact Dr. Joey Melhorn, professor of agricultural economics, 731-881-7257/melhorn@utm.edu, or Dr. Scott Parrott, assistant professor of agricultural economics, 731-881-7252/sparrott@utm.edu.

Legislative Breakfast – Sen. Roy Herron, standing, and Rep. Mark Maddox, left, were among speakers at the recent legislative breakfast sponsored by Weakley County Economic Development Board, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and Tennessee Valley Authority at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Also pictured are Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick and Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore.

Local officials, public receive economic development, legislative update

A recent legislative breakfast at the University of Tennessee at Martin attracted approximately 145 local officials and business leaders to hear updates about issues being discussed during the 106th Tennessee General Assembly and activities related to economic development in northwest Tennessee.

Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore moderated the discussion that included presentations by 24th District State Sen. Roy Herron and 76th District State Rep. Mark Maddox. Also speaking were Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Board CEO/President; Jimmy Westbrook, WCED board member; and Chuck Gray, Tennessee Valley Authority, Gleason.

Also attending the breakfast, sponsored by Weakley County Economic Development Board, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and TVA, were UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Weakley County Chamber of Commerce Director, Barbara Virgin, along with city and county officials and industrial development representatives from throughout the region.

Price, WCED Board president, gave an update about industrial recruitment and commercial development efforts. His report included the upcoming designation by West Tennessee Industrial Association as a county with a Deal Ready industrial site, the number of prospects that have been generated because the county has an available spec building (in Martin) and potential funding for site preparation at a second spec building site location in Dresden.

Westbrook highlighted several “shovel-ready” projects that potentially meet criteria for federal economic stimulus package money, including the deceleration lane for the Weakley County Municipal Electric System site on Highway 22, extension of Everett Stewart Airport runway and access road, and Martin spec building and Dresden spec building site access roads.

Gray touched on TVA’s Gleason Combustion Turbine Plant expansion, which will nearly double capacity. Groundbreaking is tentatively planned in the fall.

Both Herron and Maddox focused their remarks on education as the foundation of economic development, and their support of several projects highlighted as important to the region.
Weakley County residents in WestStar 2009 Class

Keith Carver, Melinda Goode, Andrea Hughes and Lisha Tuck, all of Weakley County, are among 29 members of the 2009 WestStar class. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 15 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Carver is assistant vice chancellor of development at UT Martin. Currently, he is the treasurer and board member of the Martin Soccer Association.

Goode is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County. "The most critical issue in West Tennessee is the public school system and how it is being perceived in our region. My participation in WestStar will broaden my knowledge of the West Tennessee region as a whole and allow me to network with other community leaders who are making a difference in West Tennessee," said Goode.

Hughes is community bank president for First State Bank in Dresden. She serves on the board of trustees for Volunteer Community Hospital. She has served as past president and board member of the Dresden Kiwanis Club and served as a task force member and served on the board of directors of the Martin Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a volunteer for the Dresden Iris Festival.

"The most critical issue in West Tennessee is the economy. Unemployment problems impact not only financial issues, but family units and the overall quality of life in communities. My participation in WestStar will help me meet and network with other individuals across West Tennessee who are facing with the same challenges and opportunities," she added.

Tuck is the assistant director of development at UT Martin. She is a member of the Weakley County Democratic Women's Club and a committee member for the UT Martin Legislative Internship Program. She has organized pageants and is a silent auction chair for the Tennessee Advancement Resources Council.

"The most critical issue in West Tennessee is economic development. My participation in WestStar will help me meet others who share the same vision of making West Tennessee a better place in which to live and work," said Tuck.
Conference for Working Women slated February 27

“The Balancing Act of Juggling Life’s Many Roles” is the theme of the 11th Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m., February 27, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program, First State Bank and Gibson County Utility District, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee. Whether you are an assistant, an executive, in management, an elected official or the chief executive officer of a company, this conference is for you.

Some of the speakers and their topics include:
* Ann Hams, Bethel College economic consultant, “You Got To Know When To Hold ‘Em, Know When To Fold ‘Em - The Economic Crisis,”
* Dr. Kimberly Thornberry, Union University vice president for student services and dean of students, “I Feel The Earth Move Under My Feet - What Do I Do Now?”
* Deborah Varallo, owner, Varallo Public Relations, Nashville, “You Make Me Wanna Shout - But I Can’t Because That’s Not Professional,” and
* Brian Smith, owner, Sideline Physical Therapy & Fitness Center, “Twist & Shout - Without Hurting.”

David Belote, WestStar executive director, will welcome the group and Mary Kate Ridgeway, UT extension director, Henry County, WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference.

Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference.

The deadline to register is February 20. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utm.edu. If registering via email, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants. The fee is $35 per person/$60 for two and includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Make checks payable to WestStar. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

Agreement makes JSCC to UT Martin social work degree seamless transfer

Officials from Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin recently met to sign an articulation agreement between the two schools. The agreement, effective immediately, will be utilized by students from Jackson State transferring to UT Martin to complete a bachelor’s degree in social work.

An articulation agreement ensures a seamless transfer of credits from one institution to another. Students majoring in social work at Jackson State will be able to transfer to UT Martin without losing time or credits.

“This agreement will allow students to complete the associate’s degree at Jackson State in two years and continue on to UT Martin for the next two years and graduate with a bachelor’s degree in social work,” said Dr. Bruce Blanding, president of Jackson State Community College. “The students are accomplishing their goals in a timely manner and the community benefits from having an increased number of quality professionals working in the field—that’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

“We are again pleased to partner with JSCC to better assist students who want to enter the social work field. Students will have a smoother transition to UT Martin,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “We cooperate in many ways with JSCC, and this is another example of both UT Martin and JSCC striving to meet the needs of area students.”

Jackson State Community College has similar agreements with UT Martin in agriculture and education.

For more information on the social work program at Jackson State, call Dr. Nell Senter, assistant professor, at 424-3520 x394. For more information about the social work program at UT Martin, call the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, at 731-881-7520.
Administration of local anesthesia course for dental hygienists offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Dental Hygiene will offer a course on administration of local anesthesia for the dental hygienist. The course fulfills the Tennessee State Dental Practice Act requirement regarding certification for the administration of local anesthesia for the registered dental hygienist. The goal of this online course is to prepare the practicing dental hygienist to assist the dentist in alleviating and managing a patient’s dental pain and anxiety. The dental hygienist will be provided background knowledge in how nerve impulses are propagated and blocked and the mechanics of local anesthetic administration.

The cost of the course will be $1,000. Participants must be licensed dental hygienists with a minimum of two years of continuous full-time practice employment within the past three years. A two-day face-to-face laboratory component will be included to prepare the students for certification in the administration of local anesthesia. Participants should bring a syringe, clinical jacket and safety glasses with them. All other supplies will be provided on site.

Dr. Bobby Collins and various dental hygiene faculty members, all certified in the administration of local anesthesia, will teach the course. Upon successful completion of this course, the director will submit a letter to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry (TBOD). After a $50 fee and certification application are submitted, the TBOD will issue a 90-day temporary permit to the dental hygienist, who must then complete 44 successful injections as prescribed by the TBOD.

For direct didactic and clinical questions, contact Dr. Cassandra Holder-Ballard, UT Health Science Center associate professor and program director, at 901-448-6230. For direct registration questions, contact Debbie Mount, ECCE director of non-degree programs, at 731-881-7082.

Chemical science professional to speak at UT Martin

Dr. Pete Ludovice, Georgia Tech professor, will be the guest speaker when the Kentucke Lake Section of the American Chemical Society meets at the University of Tennessee at Martin on February 16. The meeting is hosted by the UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Ludovice’s presentation, “Applied Molecular Modeling - Not Just for Video Games Anymore,” is slated for 7:00 p.m., in Room 206, Boling University Center, is free and open to the public.

Ludovice received bachelor of science and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois and MIT respectively. After post-doctoral studies at IBM, NASA and the Eidenossiche Technische Hochschule in Zurich, he spent several years in the simulation software industry. Later, he took a faculty position at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Georgia Tech professor by day and standup comedian by night, Ludovice also hosts a local radio show on science and technology called “Inside the Black Box.” His research interests include the application of molecular simulation to elucidating structure-property relationships in synthetic and biological macromolecules. Ludovice said he tries to bring humor to the classroom and some technology to the comedy club stage to prove that chemical science professionals “can be funny and not just funny-looking.”

Wedding traditions topic of museum exhibit

If you have ever been married, are planning to be a groomsman or bridesmaid, or even been to a wedding as a guest, you have participated in one of the symbol-rich traditions in American culture. Ever wonder why a bride spends so much on a white wedding dress? Where wedding rings come from? Why wedding cakes are a stack of confections? The new exhibit at the University of Tennessee at Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum answers a few of those questions. “Here Comes the Bride: Weddings in America” is a traveling exhibit produced by the Rogers Historical Museum. Its series of panels illustrates how various practices became custom and eventually part of the time-honored tradition.

The Gordon Museum at UT Martin is open at no cost to students, faculty and the public. It is accessible from the Special Collections reading area, just off the main lobby of the Paul Meek Library. It is open between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., weekdays, and may be open at other times by special arrangement with the curator.

For more information, contact Richard Saunders, at 731-881-7094.
Conference at UTM examines civil rights

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., upon visiting Nashville in 1960, proclaimed, "I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community." Lawson trained many future leaders of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, including Diane Nash, James Bevel, Marion Barry, Bernard Lafayette and John Lewis.

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For more information, a complete schedule or reservations, call (731) 881-7405 or e-mail Dr. David Barber, conference director, at dbarber@utm.edu. The conference schedule can be found online at www.utm.edu/civilrights.
Elam family legacy grows as giver to UC, UT Martin

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Messenger Sports Editor

Kathleen Elam hasn’t dropped the ball.
Instead, she’s taken it and run with it.

Perhaps the best of sports metaphors details how Mrs. Elam — the widow of local attorney and noted civic leader Col. Tom Elam — has continued her generous contributions to both Union City High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin since her husband’s death almost 11 years ago.

Mrs. Elam’s total monetary gifts to the athletic programs and other charitable causes at both UCHS and UTM during that time is just short of $4 million, according to Union City accountant Al Creswell, a friend of the Elam family and the executor of the finances of their estate.

“She doesn’t necessarily like it publicized, but Mrs. Kathleen’s legacy in this community is huge,” he said. “Over the last 10 years or so, the true scope of what she’s done for the children of Union City and the student-athletes of UT Martin is unknown by most people.

“The Elam family’s legacy of support and financial generosity has not only continued through Mrs. Elam but, in some ways, it has surpassed many of the great things it did previously.”

The numbers — or more accurately dollars and cents totals — shed considerable light on Creswell’s claim and Mrs. Elam’s magnanimity.

She has given $330,000 in all to the Union City Schools Foundation. Among those gifts was a $30,000 contributor to the construction of the UCHS multi-purpose turf building, where the football, baseball and softball programs hold various workouts. There have also been donations of $20,000 for weights and weight room flooring, overall athletic improvement and identical funds that have gone directly to the football program.

Easily the largest of Mrs. Elam’s gifts to the UCSF was a $150,000 contribution to Elam Stadium — shared by both Union City High School and the UC Greyhounds of the summertime Kitty League Baseball League. Overall stadium improvements, a state-of-the-art scoreboard, fencing and other general upgrades have benefited from those monies.

She also gave $40,000 to the Union City Magnet School.

“Mrs. Elam’s generosity has been invaluable and has allowed us to continue to be a premier school system — both athletically and academically,” Union City Director of Schools Gary Houston said of the family’s multiple contributions locally.

“Her financial support is well-known within the athletic field realm, but her gift to the magnet school to help get it off the ground was a great boost as well.

“We have been very blessed by her contributions.”

Though her late husband, Col. Tom, was widely-known for his role in the University of Tennessee athletics as a member of the UT Athletics Board and Board of Trustees and charity to the university, both he and Mrs. Kathleen had and have an equal love for the UT Martin campus and have been more than good to its worthwhile projects.

Their $1 million donation to UTM in 1996 prior to Mr. Elam’s death, coincided with the university’s naming the physical education building that houses the basketball program and campus recreation department in their honor, the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

“I know a lot of people know of Colonel Tom’s history with ‘big’ UT, but his focus really changed later in life to UTM,” Creswell claimed. “He really developed a love for the campus and what was going on there, something Mrs. Kathleen always had. She’s continued to be so good to the university in the years since his death.”

Creswell’s record show Mrs. Elam has given in excess of $2.1 million to various programs since 1999.

The football program has received the bulk of that money — over $1.9M — that included a $560,000 challenge gift as a start to what was ultimately constructed as the Bob Carroll Football Building that houses the entire program in the south end of Graham Stadium. The eventual price tag of the facility was $2 million, and Creswell estimated that 85 percent of the privately-raised money to pay for the project came from Obion County.

Most insiders say that the facility saved the program from becoming a non-scholarship sport at the school, a goal of a previous administrative regime.

“I have no doubt, if not for Mrs. Elam’s initial donation and continued commitment to the Bob Carroll Building project, we’d have essentially dropped football or be playing club football or some type of non-scholarship,” Creswell said. “I feel fairly safe in saying that very few people in Martin have any idea of the magnitude of her gifts to UTM and that community.”

Local athletics and their respective fields, courts and buildings have not been the only beneficiaries of Mrs. Elam’s kindness either.

She gave $1 million to the Obion County Public Library, another $250,000 to the ATO fraternity at UTM in its annual Push for St. Jude and a scholarship endowment and $111,000 to the Lebonheur Children’s Hospital. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee were the recipient, too, of $107,500, while Union City’s Masquerade Theatre got $57,750 from Mrs. Elam.

“For essentially 10 years now, Mrs. Elam has been so benevolent to so many projects where young people are involved in our communities in Union City and Martin,” Creswell noted. “Athletics and their facilities have certainly benefited, but her kindness and generosity has reached so many other deserving needs as well.

“Her commitment to UT Martin has been phenomenal. She’s truly believed in some people and several of the things going on there, and that we need to do everything we can to make it an attractive option for our young people to stay in our communities.”

UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes was gracious while speaking of Ms. Elam’s financial gifts.

“We are very fortunate to have the level of support that the Elam family has provided,” the university head since 2007 told The Messenger. “The types of gifts they have provided are most important, especially given our budget crisis of recent times.

“The family has given to mainly athletic endeavors, but they’ve supported many other viable projects on our campus, like the nursing program. With their generous gifts, we’ve been able to continue to provide many opportunities for students on our campus.”

Sports editor Mike Hutchens can be contacted by e-mail at mhutch@ucmessenger.com.
**UTM Financial Aid office sponsors FAFSA nights**

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor two sessions in February on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The sessions are scheduled from 6-8 p.m. They will be held Feb. 24, at McNairy Central High School in Selmer and at the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building.

The workshop will provide assistance in filling out the FAFSA form online, answers to financial aid questions and information regarding the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship. Participants need to take completed 2008 tax returns for both the student and parents, W2 forms from 2008 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 881-7040.

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**Senior art exhibition open until Feb. 26**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is hosting another in its series of senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year. The art exhibition will represent the works of Daniel Rose, visual art emphasis student from Dyersburg; Jeremy Bell, a visual art emphasis student from Union City, and Sherry Moore, a visual art emphasis student from McKenzie. The exhibition is titled “Two Guys and a Married Lady.” The exhibit will begin with an opening reception, slated from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 17, on the campus of UT Martin in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building. The exhibition will continue through Feb. 26 and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.
Civil Rights Conference turns eye on Tennessee

Ninth annual conference at UTM begins today, runs through Friday

The Jackson Sun

"Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights" is the theme of the University of Tennessee Martin's ninth annual Civil Rights Conference. The Rev. James Lawson, who led the struggle against segregation in Nashville, brings the conference keynote address at 7 p.m. Thursday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, according to a news release. While at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, Lawson organized and trained students to challenge segregation. The civil rights movement made Nashville one of the first Southern cities in which segregation fell. Lawson trained future leaders of the movement, including Diane Nash, James Bevel, Marion Barry, Bernard Lafayette, and James Forman.

Opening ceremonies begin at 1 p.m. today in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center, with "An Afternoon of Art and Spoken Word," sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum. The conference continues at 3 p.m. Sunday with a presentation of "I Am the Dream" at the Harvey V. W. Center in the Municipal Building on Broadway in South Fulton, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Community Forum.

UT Martin's chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists will sponsor a Black History Quiz Show at 7 p.m. Monday in Watkins Auditorium. Teams will represent campus fraternities, sororities and other groups.

Native American Civil Rights Day on Tuesday will feature Native American civil rights activist and musician Bill Miller at 7 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. Miller is a two-time Grammy Award winner for best Native American music.

On Wednesday, UTM director of intercollegiate athletics Phil Dane will speak on the integration of college athletics. At noon, the Hortense Parrish Writing Center will sponsor a Black Writers' Workshop in Room 209 of the Humanities Building.

The program then shifts to the Tennessee Room in the McCombs Center where, from 1 to 2 p.m., a representative from gay rights organizations the Tennessee Equality Project will address issues of civil rights and sexual orientation.

From 2 to 3 p.m., South Fulton natives Joyce Washington, Pete Algée and Robert Vanderford will discuss the segregation and desegregation of the South Fulton school system.

Wednesday's events will conclude with a presentation by Dr. Al Jordon, a product of the segregated Rosewald School in Trenton, discussing civil rights in the 21st century.

Bobby Lovett will talk Thursday about an "Intro to Tennessee in Segregation and Civil Rights" from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Lovett is a professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Tennessee State University and the foremost historian of the civil rights movement in the state of Tennessee, the release said.

Next, panelists Richard Saunders and Myles Wilson will discuss "Segregation and Civil Rights in Fayette County" from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saunders is a UTM associate professor of library science and museum curator. Wilson is Fayette County school superintendent.

From 1 to 2:15 p.m., Leo Lillard, Mary Salynn McCollem and Dinne Nash will lead a discussion on the Tennessee Freedom Riders.

From 2:45 to 4 p.m., Vivian Morris and Curtis Morris will discuss "The Schools We Lost, the Schools We Are Seeking" in Gooch Hall. The Morrises are co-authors of "The Price They Paid: Desegregation in an African-American Community."

A collegiate gospel choir program is at 7 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. Following will be a keynote presentation by the Rev. Lawson. The Civil Rights Paper Competition winners will be recognized.

On Friday, the final program will be held in Watkins Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. The UTM English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, will present a spoken-word performance, followed by two music majors, Joseph Sam and Stephen Hughes, presenting a musical composition on the civil rights movement. At 7:15 p.m., the Memphis spoken-word group Brotha's Keeper will close out the event.

For more information or reservations, call (731) 881-7465, or e-mail David Bar, conference director, at dbbber@utm.edu. The conference schedule can be found on the Internet at www.utm.edu/civilrights.

UT Martin awarded partnership grants

The Tennessee Department of Education announced the award of two Math Science Partnership grants to the University of Tennessee Martin: Project Institutes of Chemistry and Physics; and Project Mathematical Applications, Technology and Content for High School Education Standards. The MSP program awarded approximately $250,000 to each project per year for a total of more than $1 million to be spent on teacher professional development in West Tennessee over the next three years.

Project Effiong MATCHES targets mathematics teachers in grades 7 to 12 and will be led by Stephanie Koltisch and Desiree McCullough, associate professors of mathematics. School systems in Huntingdon and Union City partnered with UT Martin on this project, and teachers from their districts will receive preference in the application process; teachers from other school districts are encouraged to apply. Participating teachers must make a three-year commitment to the project and will receive computers, calculators, training materials and, possibly, graduate credit.

Call Effiong at (731) 881-7449 or Koltisch at (731) 881-7356.
UTM sponsors energy forum

When we think about energy, we often think about the negatives — high gas prices, environmental challenges and national security issues. However, many communities are seeing that there are ways to capitalize on economic opportunities related to energy.

The public is invited to join an open discussion on how to turn energy-related issues into a positive in the community. The forum is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, from 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 24, in Room 111, Boling University Center at UT Martin. The forum is free.

Forum participants will be joining thousands of other Southerners, who are holding similar conversations across the region, to develop strategies for energy-related economic development, from bio-energy to sustainable design to green-collar job development.

The community feedback will be used in presentations at Southern Growth's 2009 annual conference, and in developing Southern Growth's 2009 Report on the Future of the South, a high-profile policy report that is shared with Southern governors and regional leaders in business and education.

Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank representing 13 Southern states that develops and advances visionary economic development policies. For more information on the Southern Growth Policies Board, visit www.southern.org.

For conference information, contact Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics, 881-7257 / mehlhorn@utm.edu, or Dr. Scott Parrott, assistant professor of agricultural economics, 881-7252 / parrott@utm.edu.

Sandy Neel, University of Tennessee Martin Student Financial Assistance director, was elected as president of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators for 2010-11. She will serve as president-elect for 2009-10. She also will serve as a National Association of Financial Aid Administrators Board voting member.

Submitted photo

DMS YOUNG WRITERS: Students participating in DMS Plus 1/ITP program recently spent a Saturday at UT Martin writing at the Young Writer's Clubhouse. The theme was "Writing with Food! Yum!" The students were engaged in creative writing activities. The Young Writers' Clubhouse is a series of writing experiences for students in grades 3-8, such as Writing workshops, mini-lessons on content and editing strategies, writing response groups, and one-to-one conferences with West Tennessee Writing Project Teachers. The final clubhouse will take place on April 18, 2009 at the UT Martin, Ripley Center with the theme "April Adventures!" Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen. For additional information about the Young Writers' Clubhouse or WTWP, see the WTWP Website: www.utm.edu/wtwp or e-mail Brittan Sutherland, Clubhouse program director: sutherlandb@k12tn.net.
Calhoun joins Nashville law firm

Colin Brett Calhoun, a 2000 honors graduate of South Fulton High School, has joined the law firm of Sobel, Poss & Moore, PLLC, in Nashville as an associate attorney.

He is the son of Robert and Suzanne Calhoun of South Fulton.

While attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, Calhoun was very active in many organizations and associations and received many honors, including being elected to Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest and largest collegiate honor society dedicated to the recognition and promotion of academic excellence in all disciplines. He was also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Kappa Alpha Order and was the recipient of the Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award.

Calhoun graduated summa cum laude from UT Martin in 2004.

His track record of excellence continued into his time at the Nashville School of Law, where he was one of four students chosen to serve as a school representative in the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court for the 2007-08 academic year. He was ranked 14th out of 112 fellow students and graduated in the top 13 percent of his class. In May 2008, he was conferred a doctor of jurisprudence degree.

In July 2008, Calhoun successfully passed the Tennessee Bar Examination on his first attempt. In November, he was sworn in by the Tennessee Supreme Court and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar.

As an associate attorney, Calhoun’s practice with Sobel, Poss & Moore focuses on estate planning and administration, federal income, estate and gift taxation, state and local taxation, commercial law, business organization and dissolution, shareholder derivative litigation, complex civil litigation and indigent criminal representation.

Sobel, Poss & Moore was founded by former members of the Finch & McBroom law practice and boasts decades of experience and a practice area surrounding Middle Tennessee and beyond. The firm offers legal services across a variety of practice areas including personal injury, business law, criminal defense, domestic relations and estate planning.

-Martin, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is hosting another in its series of senior art-exhibition offerings for the 2008-2009 school year. The art exhibition will represent the works of Daniel Rose, visual art emphasis student from Dyersburg; Jeremy Bell, a visual art emphasis student from Union; and Sherry Moore, a visual art emphasis student from McKenzie. The exhibition is titled "Two Guys and a Married Lady." The exhibition will continue through Feb. 28 and will be free and open to the public.

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

Local Student Receives Who's Who Honor at UT Martin

Christy Lowe of McKenzie recently received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin Who's Who Award Ceremony. The Who's Who Award is one of the most prestigious honors given to students who have proven strength and character in academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service. The award process was established in 1934 and is conferred by more than 1,900 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Pictured with Lowe is Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor.
Ozment Receives Who's Who Honor at UT Martin

Kent Ozment of McKenzie recently received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin Who's Who Award Ceremony. The Who's Who Award is one of the most prestigious honors given to students who have proven strength and character in academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service. The award process was established in 1954 and is conferred by more than 1,900 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Pictured with Ozment is Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor.

Agreement makes JSCC to UT Martin social work degree seamless transfer

MARTIN, Tenn. — Officials from Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin recently met to sign an articulation agreement between the two schools. The agreement, effective immediately, will be utilized by students from Jackson State transferring to UT Martin to complete a bachelor's degree in social work.

An articulation agreement ensures a seamless transfer of credits from one institution to another. Students majoring in social work at Jackson State will be able to transfer to UT Martin without losing time or credits.

"This agreement will allow a student to complete an associate's degree at Jackson State in two years and continue on to UT Martin for the next two years and graduate with a bachelor's degree in social work," said Dr. Bruce Blanding, president of Jackson State Community College. "The students are accomplishing their goals in a timely manner and the community benefits from having an increased number of qualified professionals working in the field — that's a win-win situation for everyone."

"We are again pleased to partner with JSCC to better assist students who want to enter the social work field. Students will have a smoother transition to UT Martin," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "We cooperate in many ways with JSCC, and this is another example of both UT Martin and JSCC striving to meet the needs of area students."

Hastings receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Henry County student with Milan roots has been awarded a scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Alex Hastings, daughter of Kevin and Kim Ward of Paris, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship. Hastings is the granddaughter of Jim and Pat Ward of Milan.

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, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
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Jackson State Community College has similar agreements with UT Martin in agriculture and education.

For more information on the social work program at Jackson State, call Dr. Neil Senter, assistant professor, at (731) 424-3520, ext. 394. For more information about the social work program at UT Martin, call the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, at 881-7520.

Faculty Women’s Club plans luncheon

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women’s Club will have its Women’s History Month luncheon at 11:30 a.m., March 3, in Room 206BC, Boling University Center. Billie Kennett, Registered Nurse, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner, will speak about the history of nurse practitioners, current responsibilities, upcoming changes in healthcare and other topics. The event is open to the public.

Tickets for the luncheon are $10 and may be purchased by Feb. 27 at the University Center Information Desk, Vicki’s Designer Touch, or contact Linda Luther, 587-7147, lluther@utm.edu; Carla Field, 587-3522; or Penny Moser, 588-5766, pennymoser@hotmail.com.

Reservations for free child care can be made by calling Annie Schommer, 588-0794, by Feb. 28.

Fundraiser to benefit UT Martin athletics and Make-A-Wish

A meal to benefit UT Martin athletics and the Make-A-Wish Foundation will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in Skyhawk Arena. The event, sponsored by Chi Omega Sorority, will be held during the Ohio Valley Conference basketball doubleheader featuring the Skyhawks and Eastern Kentucky University.

The all-you-care-to-eat meal, prepared by Sodexo, will feature pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, hash browns and beverages, all for $7. Tickets for the meal can be purchased at courtside, with the women’s game starting at 5:30, followed by the men’s game at 7:30. For information, call Heather Grossner, Chi Omega president, (731) 446-6345, or Terrill Orton, Chi Omega member and event organizer, (931) 996-9179.
Five new members join WestStar Board of Trustees

Five area business people have been named to the WestStar Board of Trustees. Serving three-year terms through 2011 are Jeff Lewis, Lexington; Alan Hester, Dyersburg; Sharon Taylor-McKinney, Memphis; Lee Ann James, Union City; and John Etheridge, Paris.

They join 11 other trustees in shaping the future of WestStar at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Celebrating its 20th year, WestStar serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership development program.

Etheridge, a member of the 1995 WestStar class, serves as chair of the WestStar Finance Development Committee. Hester is the Paris Board of Public Utilities general manager. Lewis and Hester were members of the 2003 class. Lewis is city president of First Bank in Lexington, Etheridge is as Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer. Taylor-McKinney serves on the WestStar African-American Leadership Conference Committee. She is Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development business enterprise resource officer. James is E.W. James and Sons president.

For more information about WestStar, contact Virginia Grimes, coordinator, at 881-7298.

Workshops focus on steps businesses can take to survive economic downturn

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center have announced they will provide two training sessions in Weakley County for small businesses in the surrounding area.

"Business Survival in Tough Economic Times." "The free training event is designed to address a wide range of steps business owners can take to preserve cash and maintain business operations during the present national economic recession. It is critical for all businesses to fully explore all possible measures to offset reductions in cash flow and bottom line," said Patrick Geho, Tennessee Small Business Development Center state executive director.

"Small business is critical to Tennessee's economic wellbeing," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "While recent research indicates Tennessee enjoys a comparative advantage over other southeastern states in respect to small-business growth, we must continue to take steps to assist small businesses, especially in these tough economic times. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center's work is an important part of our efforts to provide our small businesses with tools to help them succeed."

"I believe this is a very timely and much needed training series, and I am excited that we can provide this free service when discretionary money is in very short supply," said Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator. "Weakley County's December unemployment was at 9.6 percent, up 2.8 percent above 2006 when it averaged 6.8 percent. In December, the U.S. unemployment stood at 7.2 percent, while Tennessee unemployment stood at 7.9 percent, and these numbers have increased since that time."

Two sessions are being offered to accommodate small-business owner's schedules. The first session will be offered in partnership with the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce from 5-6:30 p.m., March 12, at the chamber office in downtown Dresden. The alternative session will be held at the REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St., in downtown Martin, from noon-1:30 p.m., March 26.

To register for either session, go to www.utm.edu/reed or call the REED Center at 587-7333. Seating is limited.
Building a dialogue on healthcare reform

Sabrina Bates
Chief Staff Writer

The vision behind the push for education across the state began with a marriage of a high young voter turnout and advocates for health care accountability.

"After I worked abroad and returned home I realized that the car I was driving was better insured than I was," Brent Parton said during an interview. Parton works under the umbrella of SHOUT America, a non-profit organization that was created to educate young people about health care reform and the long-term effects of a costly health care system presently plaguing the country.

Parton joined Landon Gibbs on a state-wide tour that began on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Their goal is to research the escalating costs of the health care system and inform the public.

"We are really worried about the state of health care and the future of young people," Gibbs commented.

Gibbs added that one out of six people in the nation lack health care. Thirty percent of those without health care are between the ages of 18 to 24.

"The young people will be left paying the bill. An average family of four will have to pay an additional half a million dollars in taxes just to cover the Medicare debt," Gibbs added.

"The problem is very pronounced. We want to communicate to young people and start building a dialogue so there becomes an eye of sustainabil- ity," Parton said.

At only ages 24 and 26, Gibbs and Parton said the issue of health care reform hits close to home as they look to a future where health care costs become insurmountable while they become a portion of the population left holding the note.

"This is the biggest long-term issue facing this country. If the rising cost is not abated, more people will be without health insurance. It is an uncarrying burden," Gibbs said.

See Healthcare, Page 4

The voice behind SHOUT America witnessed a large unprecedented young voter turn-out when Pres. Barack Obama was elected.

"What we wonder is will their voices be heard after inauguration," Gibbs added.

Many states have looked toward an emphasis on wellness as part of their health care system.

"It's less expensive to have people stay healthy than it is to fix them," Parton added.

While neither would divulge health care proposals being considered by Congress right now, they both said health care reform is necessary to help control rising costs.

Gibbs said proposals for health care reform is a step in right direction, but the key is how to control the rising costs of health care.

"What good is accessibility if it's not affordable," Parton stated.

Both sides of the political spectrum are seemingly on board to address flaws within the current health care system of the nation.

"It's more of an ethical issue than a political issue. We all know whether we are Republican or Democrat that the issue of health care is universal," Gibbs said.

According to SHOUTAmerica.com, every minute, nearly 5 more Americans lose their health insurance.

"Uninsured Americans are often the face of America's healthcare challenges as they are the most visible failing of the American system - the failure to provide all US citizens with access to affordable healthcare. Although, there are two deeper issues within the unfortunate truth that tens of millions of Americans do not have access to basic healthcare: the first being the root cause of such a large uninsured population; the next being just who these 47 million plus Americans really are.

"It is simple to focus on the uninsured as the paramount problem in American healthcare, but in fact so many uninsured Americans are in actuality a symptom of healthcare's rising cost. Without a concern for first containing the cost of healthcare, the realization of universal healthcare in the United States is destined to remain elusive."

When the number of uninsured in this country is broken down in simple terms, "the population of uninsured Americans is greater than the entire populations of Australia, Greece, Sweden and Ireland combined."

SHOUT America also cites, "One of the great problems within American healthcare is the lack of attention and resources devoted to preventative care, or regular check-ups and screenings, which can play a large role in the prevention of costly conditions and their treatments down the road."

The team of health care advocates said it is not necessarily the responsibility of health insurance companies and providers to emphasize preventative care, but also the responsibility of the individual to lead a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about the state-wide educational push for health care reform and figures about the current health care system, visit www.SHOUTAmerica.com.
Shout America — Representatives with the non-profit vocal organization SHOUT America London Gibbs (seated) and Brent Parton paid a visit to the University of Tennessee at Martin recently on a state-wide campaign to inform young voters about the burden of rising health care costs.

Library to host Dr. Seuss party

The UT Martin division of the Student Tennessee Education Association is sponsoring a birthday party for Dr. Seuss from 3:30-5 p.m. Monday, March 2, at the C. E. Weldon Public Library. The party will include cake, games, door prizes, Dr. Seuss stories and face painting.

Elam's generous gifts showered down upon her Skyhawk 'family'

By Mike Hutchens
Special to The Press

Through her generous gifts and those of her late husband Col. Tom Elam before his death, Kathleen Elam has long treated the University of Tennessee at Martin like extended family.

An advisory group comprised of those closest to the 95-year-old Elam is in place to continue the management of how her financial kindness will be administered both now and in the future.

The charge to that committee, according to one member, is to be consistent with those projects that the Elam Estate has shown benevolence to previously.

"By and large, the gifts made each year to the various projects and organizations are consistent with the way Ms. Elam's estate will ultimately be disposed of," explained Union City accountant and Elam family executor of finances Al Creswell.

Creswell is a vital part of a committee in place to oversee such continued actions concerning the Elam estate. He's joined by Elam's nephew, Hunter Mountjoy, Mountjoy's sister and Elam's niece, Betty Smith, and Mountjoy's daughter, Becky Brown to make up the family portion of the group.

Local banker Jack Parker and Union City attorney and state representative Judy Barker are part of the committee also.

"Essentially, we just oversee the fulfilling of her wishes while she's still here," Creswell said.

The group meets once a year — in December — and ultimately decides how Elam's monetary kindness will be dispersed.

Since her husband's death in March of 1998, Elam has given nearly $4 million to UT Martin, the Union City Schools Foundation and other worthy causes in the immediate area. More than $2 million of that has gone to the athletic programs at UTM, with UCSF the recipient of more than $300,000 that has gone basically for sports projects for local youths.

Elam's magnanimity has also touched other non-athletic causes, including $1 million to the Obion County Public Library and another quarter-million dollar gift to the ATO Push for St. Jude and a scholarship endowment for that fraternity on the UT Martin campus.

Both Lebonheur Children's Hospital and the Northwest Tennessee Boys and Girls Club have received monies totaling more than $100,000 from Elam.

"This area was home to Tom and Kathleen and there were some things near and dear to their hearts," said Mountjoy, a resident of Halls who attended UT Martin for two years. "This group is in place for a reason and the philosophy of it is to continue to fulfill their wishes in supporting those projects."

Editor's note: Mike Hutchens is the sports editor at the Union City Messenger and can be contacted by e-mail at mhutch@ucmesseenger.com.
Breaking down the barriers

Sara Reid
Staff Writer
Gertie Johnson remembers like it was yesterday when a certain railroad worker threw down pieces of ice to her when the train came through Fulton. He was, in a way, a hero to the 10-year-old, but much more than that, his small act of kindness was proof that a caring attitude and an understanding heart can break any barrier of difficulty.

This past Saturday, Johnson and Percy Lee met again at an event at the University of Tennessee at Martin and joined a room full of people seeking to spread the same message nearly 40 years later.

To kick off the annual Civil Rights conference in recognition of African American History Month, the Ken-Tenn Community Forum sponsored an event entitled “An Afternoon of Art and Spoken Word.” The event, held at the Holland McCombs Center on the UT Martin campus, featured artwork from the gallery of Linda Thompson of Oakland, Calif., a spoken word performance by Mario Coleman of Nashville, commentary by Dr. Brian Clardy of Murray State University, an African American winning essay reading from the Union City Boys and Girls Club and vocal music performances by local area performers. 

The next day, Sunday, a special program focusing on a tribute to African American railroad workers of West Tennessee and Western Kentucky was held at the Harvey Vick Center in South Fulton.

“The Ken-Tenn Community Forum is only a few months old. We wanted to do something for African American history month, so we decided to do this today. We’re doing it to try to bring more culture to the area and more awareness of it to the community,” Joyce Washington, chairperson of the Ken-Tenn Community Forum explained. “The program we have that focuses on African American railroad workers focuses on the workers out of the Fulton Railroad station. This form of employment helped to provide a middle-class living for them. We want to acknowledge them and their contributions to the community.”

“Our group meets once a month in the housing authority’s community centers. We want to promote self-awareness, self-improvement and be non-partisan. We held a voter registration drive and registered 50-75 people to vote. We’re not a black organization. We want to be multi-racial. We want to bring about an awareness of culture and an understanding of opinions and voices,” she added.

Art gallery owner Linda Thompson flew from California to be a part of the historical event. Washington once purchased her paintings and Thompson, who’s been in the business since 1980, sells paintings from a variety of artists from all over the country including open and limited edition prints.

“I pick the pieces I like,” she admitted. “I’ll order anything, but I’ll display only what I like. This wasn’t something I planned. I worked at a tutoring center in California and went to a UC Berkeley alumni event and fell in love with the work of Brenda Joy Smith. She did children prints. I sent her a newsletter from the center and ended up touring the country with her on a fund raiser. I sold her work only for eight years and didn’t plan on this. I am an ‘artaholic.’”

On the other side of the room sat Pete Algee, an artist in his own right. He worked with the railroad for 31 years.

“T worked in management, as a brakeman, as a supervisor and as a conductor. It started out with inner prejudice, but it later changed. Some people wouldn’t work with us because we were black, but people got smarter. I started at Fulton and came back to it. I started at one position and moved up the ladder and it made a difference. I wouldn’t trade it for anything else,” he admitted.

Percy Lee stood close by with Gertie Johnson. For 30 years, he worked as a cook in the dining car. He survived an accident in Lawrence, Kan and was told he would not survive after suffering 13 broken ribs, collapsed lungs, a damaged liver and a broken right leg and left arm, but he pulled through and lived to reunite with Johnson.

“We had to ice the cars up,” he explained. “To keep produce and meat from spoiling, we put ice in the top of the cars and occasionally we’d throw the ice down for the people to use.”

Bishop T.D. Morris of the Ken-Tenn Community Forum summed up the day by referring to the event as “the beginning of enlightenment in the community.”

“This is about seeking to enrich ourselves before we try to enlighten someone else. It’s easy to criticize before you know the real story,” Morris stressed. “People look and pass judgment and pass right on by never knowing if they aren’t having the same done to them. None of us is invisible. Someone is always watching.”
‘Fuddy Meers’ to be performed by Vanguard Theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “Fuddy Meers,” at 8 p.m., Feb. 26, on the main stage in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. Additional performances will be at 8 p.m., Feb. 27-28, and 3 p.m., March 1.

Written by David Lindsey-Abaire, this 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright is making a name for himself as one of theatre’s great talents. The play consists of many absurdly zany situations, beginning when a woman, Claire, suffering from amnesia, has her life suddenly take an “Alice’s looking glass”-like turn through an alarmingly bizarre day. Other characters include a masked man who limps, lisps, is deaf in one ear and blind in one eye, a foul-mouthed puppet, Clair’s mother who has had a stroke that left her aphasic (her attempt to say “funny mirrors” provides the play’s title) and a trigger-happy lady cop. Theatre goers are advised that the play contains adult language and content.

This will be the last production in the Harriet Fulton Theatre before renovation, and Vanguard Theatre will be moving it out in style with the Vanguard Theatre Last Dance, No Surrender Soiree, a special alumni celebration and William Snyder Tribute Performance at 10 p.m., Feb. 28, at The Lindell in downtown Martin following that night’s performance. Tickets for the event are $30 per person. UT Martin cast members include: Anne Albrecht, of Memphis; Matthew M. Cannon, of Martin; Ian Gray, of Memphis; Justin Hunt, of Martin; Matthew Maitland, of Bradford; Erica C. Miller, of Camden; and Kara Saldana, of Nashville. Stage manager is Lizzy Wouters, of Knoxville. Ken Zimmerman will direct the production.

The box office hours are from noon to 5 p.m. and two hours before performances. Tickets for the play are $5 for students and children and $10 for adults. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7090.

KINDNESS – Gertie Johnson remembers a time 40 years ago when Percy Lee (right) became a hero to her after he gave her a small, yet significant, gift. They met again over the weekend.

STATE GAZETTE | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

UTM Collegiate FFA named top state chapter for fifth consecutive year

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin Collegiate FFA chapter was named top collegiate chapter in the state for the fifth consecutive year at the recent Tennessee FFA Alumni State Convention at Montgomery Bell State Park.

UTM Collegiate competition team winners were: Heather McLean, of Newbern, agricultural professions; Laura Campbell, of Spring Hill, agricultural production; and Neil Bringle, of Ripley, prepared speaking. Bringle and Doug Giles, of Franklin, each received a $500 scholarship from the FFA Foundation.

Dr. James N. Butler Jr., professor of agricultural education, is UT Martin Collegiate FFA adviser.
Kathleen Elam continues legacy of her husband

Mike Hutchens
Special to The Press

Kathleen Elam hasn’t dropped the ball. Instead, she’s taken it and run with it.

Perhaps the best of sports metaphors details of how Elam — the widow of local attorney and noted civic leader Col. Tom Elam — has continued her generous contributions to the University of Tennessee at Martin since her husband’s death almost 11 years ago.

Elam’s total monetary gifts to the athletic programs and other charitable causes at UTM during that time is just over $2.1 million, according to Union City accountant Al Creswell, a friend of the Elam family and the executor of the finances of their estate.

“She doesn’t necessarily like it publicized, but Ms. Kathleen’s legacy in this community is huge,” he said. “Over the last 10 years or so, the true scope of what she’s done for the student-athletes of UT Martin and the university head since 2007 told The Messenger. “The types of gifts they have provided are most important, especially given our budget crisis of recent times.

“Her family has given to mainly athletic endeavors, but they’ve supported many other viable projects on our campus, like the nursing program. With their generous gifts, we’ve been able to continue to provide many opportunities for students on our campus.”

Creswell’s record shows Elam has given in excess of $2.1 million to various programs since 1999.

The football program has received the bulk of that money — over $1.9M — that included a $560,000 challenge gift as a start to what was ultimately constructed as the Bob Carroll Football Building that houses the entire program in the south end of Graham Stadium. The eventual price tag of the facility was $2 million, and Creswell estimated that 85 percent of the privately-raised money to pay for the project came from Obion County.

Most insiders say that the facility saved the program from becoming a non-scholarship sport at the school, a goal of a previous administrative regime.

“I have no doubt, if not for Mrs. Elam’s initial donation and continued commitment to the Bob Carroll Building project, we’d have essentially dropped football or be playing club football or some type of non-scholarship,” Creswell said.

“I feel fairly safe in saying that very few people in Martin have any idea of the magnitude of her gifts to UTM and that community.”

Since 1999, Elam has given $87,500 to the UT Martin basketball programs, $70,000 to the baseball and softball programs, $20,000 to Hall of Fame improvements and another $20,000 to the nursing program.

Local athletics and their respective fields, courts and buildings have not been the only beneficiaries of Elam’s kindness either.

FAMILY AFFAIR — Hunter Mountjoy (left) and his grandson, Cody Glover, admire a photo of Col. Tom and Kathleen Elam. Mountjoy is the nephew of the late Col. Elam and a member of an advisory board that now oversees Elam’s financial gifts to local projects. She has given nearly $4 million to the Union City Schools Foundation and UT Martin since her husband’s death nearly 11 years ago.
More than $1 million in grants aid area middle, high school teacher development

The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced the award of two Math Science Partnership grants to the University of Tennessee at Martin: Project Institutes of Chemistry and Physics (ICaP) and Project Mathematical Applications, Technology and Content for High School Education Standards (MATCHES). The MSP program awarded approximately $250,000 to each project per year for a combined total of more than $1 million to be spent on teacher professional development in West Tennessee over the next three years.

"UT Martin is proud of the working partnerships we have in place with school systems throughout the region, and we welcome opportunities such as these to provide vehicles for collaborative efforts," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Most importantly, these programs will help an entire generation of students prepare for a world in which math and science are becoming increasingly critical."

Project ICaP represents a partnership between the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, along with school systems in Jackson/Madison County, Union City and Weakley County. During a three-year period, a total of 60 teachers, from grades 5-9 will receive instruction during summer institutes from Dr. Rosemary Effiong, associate professor of chemistry, Dr. Lionel Crews, assistant professor of physics, and Dr. Patricia Hewitt, professor of educational studies. ICaP will offer physical science content knowledge and modeling-guided inquiry instructional methods designed to address the new curriculum standards for science.

According to Effiong, ICaP project director, "...an academically well-prepared faculty is one of the essential components to success in teaching. By using the skills and knowledge that are gained in ICaP, participants will help their students to understand and explore scientific concepts as well as challenge them (students) to inquire and seek answers through scientific investigations."

Project MATCHES targets mathematics teachers in grades 7-12 and will be led by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch and Dr. Desiree McCullough, associate professors of mathematics. Content of the summer institutes will focus on problem solving, geometry, probability, data analysis, algebra and applications in the context of Tennessee curriculum standards.

"This is a rare opportunity for meaningful professional development that incorporates technology, training and classroom activities," said Kolitsch, who recently completed a three-year math grant that targeted middle school teachers. "We hope to strengthen classroom teaching on the high school level by empowering teachers with new ideas for capturing the students’ attention."

School systems in Huntingdon and Union City partnered with UT Martin on this project, and teachers from their districts will receive preference in the application process; teachers from other school districts are encouraged to apply. Participating teachers must make a three-year commitment to the project and will receive computers, calculators, training, materials and, possibly, graduate credit.

UT Martin has traditionally offered teacher professional development to West Tennessee teachers. "Once again, I am proud that the University of Tennessee at Martin is providing much needed professional development in math and sciences," said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "This is so critical with the new high school standards under the American Diploma Project and the requirements for more math and science for graduation."

For more information about either of these programs, contact Effiong at 881-7449 or Kolitsch at 881-7356.
‘Fuddy Meers’ is Vanguard production

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “Fuddy Meers,” at 8:00 p.m., February 26, on the main stage in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. Additional performances will be at 8:00 p.m., February 27-28, and 3:00 p.m., March 1. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, this 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright is making a move for himself as one of theatre’s great talents. The play consists of many absurdly zany situations, beginning when a woman, Claire, suffering from amnesia, has her life suddenly take an “Alice’s looking glass”-like turn through an alarming bizarre day. Other characters include a masked man who limps, lisps, is deaf in one ear and blind in one eye, a foul-mouthed puppet. Clair’s mother who has had a stroke that left her aphasic (her attempt to say “funny mirrors” provides the play’s title) and a trigger-happy lady cop. Theatre goers are advised that the play contains adult language and content.

This will be the last production in the Harriet Fulton Theatre before renovation, and Vanguard Theatre will be moving it out in style with the Vanguard Theatre Last Dance, No Surrender Soiree, a special alumni celebration and William Snyder Tribute Performance at 10:00 p.m., February 28, at The Lindell in downtown Martin following that night’s performance. Tickets for the event are $30 per person.

UT Martin cast members include: Anne Albrecht, of Memphis; Matthew M. Cannon, of Martin; Ian Gray, of Memphis; Justin Hunt, of Martin; Matthew Maitland, of Bradford; Erica C. Miller, of Camden; and Kara Saldana, of Nashville. State manager is Lizzy Wouters, of Knoxville. Ken Zimmerman will direct the production.

The box office will open at noon on February 23. Operation hours are from noon to 5:00 p.m. and two hours before performances. Tickets for the play are $5 for students and children and $10 for adults. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7090.

Roots of Rhythm at UT Martin

Jackson, Huntingdon, Ripley and Martin middle school students attended the Roots of Rhythm presentation by Dr. Julie Hill, center, assistant professor of music, and the University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio. The presentation was in celebration of Black History Month and traces the migration of the clave rhythm through the slave trade. Live musical demonstrations were made with traditional instrumentation and arrangements to show the blending and evolution of rhythm in Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad, Senegal and the United States. In addition, students were provided supplemental information with regard to geography, language and history throughout the program. The UT Martin Percussion Studio plans to make this an annual event during Black History Month. For more information, contact Hill at jhill@utm.edu.

Bell, Hinojosa featured in senior art exhibition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host another in its senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-2009 school year with an art exhibition representing the works of Nicole Bell, an art education emphasis student from Franklin, and Angie Hinojosa, a visual art studio emphasis student from Union City. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., March 3, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of UT Martin. The exhibition will continue through March 14. It will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Weakley County child care facility obtains Gold Sneaker Award

Pictured at the presentation of the Gold Sneaker award are, from left, Tonda Emerson, Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral interim coordinator; Sharye Hendrix, childcare specialist; Alisha Parkins, Pierce’s Pooh Bears owner and director; and Gretchen Beauchamp, childcare specialist.

Tonda Emerson, Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral interim coordinator, has announced that Pierce’s Pooh Bears, in Gleason, has completed the requirements and earned the Gold Sneaker award.

The Gold Sneaker Initiative is a collaboration among the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Child Care Resource and Referral and funded through a grant from the National Governors Association through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The initiative was developed to enhance policy related to physical activity and nutrition within licensed childcare facilities across Tennessee.

By enacting such policies, Alisha Parkins, Pierce’s Pooh Bears owner and director, earned the award. She received a certificate from Gov. Phil Bredesen and Gold Sneaker window stickers to signify her achievement. Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral presented Parkins with a gold sneaker tennis show to display in her childcare facility.

The Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral serves childcare providers and parents of children with disabilities and all children in the counties of Benton, Carroll, Henry, Lake, Dyer, Obion, Gibson, Crockett and Weakley. The agency provides the Gold Sneaker training to interested facilities. Gretchen Beauchamp, childcare specialist, provided Parkins’ training. Beauchamp explained the importance of the new policy change and how to incorporate them in the classroom. She provided the tools and resources for Pierce’s Pooh Bears staff to implement.

Childhood obesity is on the rise in Tennessee. Behavioral factors that contribute to being overweight, obesity, and even diabetes can be addressed from the beginning of a young child’s life. According to research, health habits are learned and developed at a young age, with most habits being formed during adolescence. After adolescence, habits are hard to change as we see with adults. This initiative instills good habits at an early age but must be guided and implemented by adults. Because so many children attend childcare facilities, it is an opportunity for childcare teachers to be involved in the Gold Sneaker Initiative.

The Gold Sneaker Initiative is one of the many ways the Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral helps child care providers fight obesity with the children in their care. The Child Care Resource and Referral is a grant program within the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Child and Family Grant Programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Child Care Resource and Referral is located at 204 Hannings Lane. The goal of CCR&R is to improve the quality of child care for all children in the nine counties it serves.

Parkins is presently participating in two other programs provided by CCR&R, Provider Self-Assessment Mentoring (PSAM) and Strengthening Families. The PSAM program provides childcare directors with individualized assistance through training and hands-on support that connects to day-to-day experiences with children. Sharye Hendrix, childcare specialist, is assisting her in the PSAM initiative. Strengthening Families is a strategy to promote healthy families, engage parents in leadership roles, assist child development and prevent child abuse and neglect. Strengthening Families brings together early childhood caregivers and educators, parents, child welfare and human service agencies and other professionals who care about Tennessee’s families.

Julie Donaldson, Signal Centers parenting liaison, is assisting her with Strengthening Families.

Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To contact the agency, call 731-881-7868 or toll-free at 1-877-424-6080.

Local student receives Who’s Who honor at UT Martin

Suni Jackson, of Dresden, recently received the Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin Who’s Who Award Ceremony. The Who’s Who Award is one of the most prestigious honors given to students who have proven strength and character in academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service. The award process was established in 1934 and is conferred by more than 1,900 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Pictured with Jackson is Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor.
Five new members join WestStar Board of Trustees

Five area business people have been named to the WestStar Board of Trustees. Serving three-year terms through 2011 are Jeff Lewis, Lexington; Alan Hester, Dyersburg; Sharon Taylor-McKinney, Memphis; Lee Ann James, Union City; and John Etheridge, Paris.

They join 11 other trustees in shaping the future of WestStar at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Celebrating its 20th year, WestStar serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership development program.

Etheridge, a member of the 1995 WestStar class, serves as chair of the WestStar Finance Development Committee. He is Paris Board of Public Utilities general manager. Lewis and Hester were members of the 2003 class. Lewis is city president of First Bank in Lexington. Hester is Dyer County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer.

Taylor-McKinney serves on the WestStar African-American Leadership Conference Committee. She is Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development business enterprise resource officer. James is E.W. James and Sons president.

For more information about WestStar, contact Virginia Grimes, coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

AMA Insurance Group announces new agent

AMA Insurance Group, L.L.C., a full service independent insurance agency, announces the appointment of Donna Newsom as an insurance producer/agent for the Gleason office.

Newsom brings to AMA Insurance Group, L.L.C. over nine years of combined professional experience in the banking/financial services and insurance industry.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Donna’s experience and training to join our agency," said Ron Arnold, agency principal. "She will bring the agency a successful track record of great service and technical expertise."

Donna lives in Martin and has for 11 years. She graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor's Degree in business/marketing. She is married to Bryan Newsom and they have two children, Jack-Bailey, 6, and Connor, 2.
Workshops focus on steps businesses can take to survive economic downturn

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center have announced they will provide two training sessions in Weakley County for small businesses in the surrounding area titled "Business Survival in Tough Economic Times."

"The free training event is designed to address a wide range of steps business owners can take to preserve cash and maintain business operations during the present national economic recession. It is critical for all businesses to fully explore all possible measures to offset reductions in cash flow and bottom line," said Patrick Geho, Tennessee Small Business Development Center state executive director.

"Small business is critical to Tennessee's economic well-being," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "While recent research indicates Tennessee enjoys a comparative advantage over other southeastern states in respect to small-business growth, we must continue to take steps to assist small businesses, especially in these tough economic times. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center's work is an important part of our efforts to provide our small businesses with tools to help them succeed."

"I believe this is a very timely and much needed training series, and I am excited that we can provide this free service when discretionary money is in very short supply," said Hollie Holl, REED Center coordinator. "Weakley County's December unemployment was at 9.6 percent, up 2.8 percent above 2006 when it averaged 6.8 percent. In December, the U.S. unemployment stood at 7.2 percent, while Tennessee unemployment stood at 7.9 percent, and these numbers have increased since that time."

Two sessions are being offered to accommodate small-business owner's schedules. The first session will be offered in partnership with the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., March 12, at the chamber office in downtown Dresden. The alternative session will be held at the REED Center at 400 S. Lindell St.

March 6 marks annual Nutrition Seminar at UTM

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium, offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, is slated from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., March 6, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

The symposium is a one-day seminar to inform participants of up-to-date research findings and information on various nutrition topics as well as new strategies for counseling in the health field.

This program is sponsored by private gift funds. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. From 8:30-9:30 a.m., Ashley Moore, dietetic intern, will present "Bigger Isn't Always Better: Portion Sizes in Relation to Childhood Obesity." From 9:00-11:00 a.m., Deb Simon, Tennessee Department of Education Northwest Region school nutrition consultant, will present "Initiatives to Promote Wellness." Lunch is planned from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

From 12:45-1:45 p.m., Gay Walker, Apria Healthcare enter- tal dietitian, will present "On the Go and No IV Pole: The New Era for People on Long-Term Tube Feeding." From 1:45-2:45 p.m., Dawne Dameron-Belote, Rehab America speech/language pathologist, will present "Swallowing and Food Consistencies from the Speech Language Pathologists Perspective."

The program will close with Kerri Carmack, Lauderdale County Schools school nutrition director, will present "Nutrition and Childhood Obesity: An Overview of the CDR Weight Management Certificate Program."

The UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is the program provider. The program coordinator is Lori H. Littleton, MS, RD, director, Dietetic Internship Program, assistant professor, nutrition and food systems management.

This workshop conforms to guidelines for continuing education units (CEUs). Attendance at the entire workshop carries 6 CEUs. CEUs and a certificate of completion from The University of Tennessee at Martin will be awarded at the conclusion of the program. The registration fee is $25 per person and includes material handouts, refreshment breaks and lunch.

To register, call ECCE at 731-881-7082 or go to http://www.utk.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

REED Center to provide class on Do's and Don'ts of Customer Service

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center is providing an informative session for employees to learn the do's and don'ts of customer service. The class will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m., March 10, at the Municipal Complex, Broadway, South Fulton.

Jamie Frakes, director of Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC) at Dyer County Community College, will teach the class. The course will be free, and is sponsored by the REED Center and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce.

To reserve a spot, contact the REED Center at 731-587-7333, or register online at www.utk.edu/reed.
UTM record enrollment

A record 7,152 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 6,711 students set in 2008 and is the 10th consecutive spring semester increase. The most recent figures resulted in spring semester records for total undergraduates and total full-time equivalent undergraduate students.

The 6.6 percent spring 2009 enrollment increase also follows a fall 2008 enrollment of 7,578 that set six all-time records in various categories. All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the university's Office of Institutional Research.

"Enrollment growth is representative of increases in our undergraduate enrollment, both on campus and off campus, in our dual-enrollment students and in undergraduate and graduate online programs," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "A UT Martin education is a true value, and I appreciate the confidence more and more students are demonstrating by choosing UT Martin. This level of excellence is a reflection of the hard work of our faculty and staff as well as the continued support of alumni and donors.'

The 2009 spring enrollment set a spring semester record for undergraduate students, with 6,733, a 6.3 percent increase over spring 2008; undergraduate FTE, with 5,718, a 3.8 percent increase; and total FTE, with 5,935, a 4.3 percent increase over spring 2008. FTE is the total number of student credit hours divided by 13 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students. Also increasing over spring 2008 were the number of returning students, by 5.6 percent, and the number of dual-enrollment/concurrent enrollment students, by 29 percent.

More than $1 million in grants aid area middle, high school teacher development

The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced the award of two Math Science Partnership grants to the University of Tennessee at Martin: Project Institutes of Chemistry and Physics (ICaP) and Project Mathematical Applications, Technology and Content for High School Education Standards (MATCHES). The MSP program awarded approximately $250,000 to each project per year for a combined total of more than $1 million to be spent on teacher professional development in West Tennessee over the next three years.

"UT Martin is proud of the working partnerships we have in place with school systems throughout the region, and we welcome opportunities such as these to provide vehicles for collaborative efforts," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Most importantly, these programs will help an entire generation of students prepare for a world in which math and science are becoming increasingly critical."

Project ICaP represents a partnership between the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, along with school systems in Jackson/Madison County, Union City and Weakley County. During a three-year period, a total of 60 teachers, from grades 5-9 will receive instruction during summer institutes from Dr. Rosemary Effiong, associate professor of chemistry, Dr. Lionel Crews, assistant professor of physics, and Dr. Patricia Hewitt, professor of educational studies. ICaP will offer physical science content knowledge and modeling-guided inquiry instructional methods designed to address the new curriculum standards for science.

According to Effiong, ICaP project director, "Some academically well-prepared faculty is one of the essential components to success in teaching. By using the skills and knowledge that are gained in ICaP, participants will help their students to understand and explore scientific concepts as well as challenge them (students) to inquire and seek answers through scientific investigations."

Project MATCHES targets mathematics teachers in grades 7-12 and will be led by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch and Dr. Deseire McCullough, associate professors of mathematics. Content of the summer institutes will focus on problem solving, geometry, probability, data analysis, algebra and applications in the context of Tennessee curriculum standards.

"This is a rare opportunity for meaningful professional development that incorporates technology, training and classroom activities," said Kolitsch, who recently completed a three-year math grant that targeted middle school teachers. "We hope to strengthen classroom teaching on the high school level by empowering teachers with new ideas for capturing the students' attention."

School systems in Huntingdon and Union City partnered with UT Martin on this project, and teachers from their districts will receive preference in the application process; teachers from other school districts are encouraged to apply. Participating teachers must make a three-year commitment to the project and will receive computers, calculators, training, materials and, possibly, graduate credit.

UT Martin has traditionally offered teacher professional development to West Tennessee teachers. "Once again, I am proud that the University of Tennessee at Martin is providing much needed professional development in math and sciences," said Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "This is so critical with the new high school standards under the American Diploma Project and the requirements for more math and science for graduation."

For more information about either of these programs, contact Effiong at 731-881-7449 or Kolitsch at 731-881-7356.
Fuddy Meers’ staged by Vanguard

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “Fuddy Meers” at 8 p.m. Thursday on the main stage in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building.

Additional performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The play was written by David Lindsay-Abaire, a 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. It consists of many absurdly zany situations, beginning when a woman, Claire, suffering from amnesia, has her life suddenly take an “Alien’s looking glass”-like turn through an alarmingly bizarre day. Other characters include a masked man who limps, lisps, is deaf in one ear and blind in one eye; a foul-mouthed puppet; Clair’s mother, who has had a stroke that left her aphasic (her attempt to say “funny mirrors” provides the play’s title); and a trigger-happy lady cop.

Theatre goers should be advised the play contains adult language and content.

This will be the last production in the Harriet Fulton Theatre before renovation and Vanguard Theatre will be moving it out in style with the Vanguard Theatre Last Dance, No Surrender Soiree, a special alumni celebration and William Snyder Tribute Performance at 10 p.m. Saturday at The Lindell in downtown Martin following that night’s performance. Tickets for the event are $30 per person.

UT Martin cast members include Justin Hunt and Matthew M. Cannon, both of Martin; Anne Albrecht and Ian Gray, both of Memphis; Matthew Maitland of Bradford; Erica C. Miller of Camden; and Kara Saldana of Nashville. Stage manager is Lizzy Wouters of Knoxville.

Ken Zimmerman will direct the production.

The box office is open noon to 5 p.m. and two hours before performances. Tickets for the play are $5 for students and children and $10 for adults.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7090.

Local students featured in senior art exhibits

Angie Hinojosa, a visual art studio emphasis student from Union City, will be featured in a senior exhibition Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UT Martin’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host another in its senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year with an art exhibition representing the works of both Ms. Hinojosa and Nicole Bell, an art education emphasis student from Franklin.

The exhibition will begin with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of UT Martin.

The exhibition will continue through March 14. It will be free and open to the public.

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

Faculty Women’s Club plans annual luncheon

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women’s Club will have its Women’s History Month luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Room 206BC of Boling University Center.

Billie Kennett, a registered nurse and certified registered nurse practitioner, will speak about the history of nurse practitioners, current issues, ongoing changes in healthcare and other topics. The event is open to the public.

Tickets for the luncheon are $10 each and may be purchased by Friday at the University Center information desk or at Vicki’s Designer Touch in Martin; or by contacting Linda Luther at (731) 587-7147 or lluther@utm.edu, Carla Field at 587-3522 or Penny Moser at (731) 588-5766 or pennymoser@hotmail.com. Reservations for free child care can be made by calling Annie Schommer at 588-0794 by Saturday.
JSCC, UT Martin partner to offer seamless transfer

Officials from Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin recently met to sign an articulation agreement between the two schools. The agreement, effective immediately, will be utilized by students from Jackson State transferring to UT Martin to complete a bachelor's degree in social work.

An articulation agreement ensures a seamless transfer of credits from one institution to another. Students majoring in social work at Jackson State will be able to transfer to UT Martin without losing time or credits.

"This agreement will allow a student to complete an associate's degree at Jackson State in two years and continue on to UT Martin for the next two years and graduate with a bachelor's degree in social work," said Dr. Bruce Blanding, president of Jackson State Community College. "The students are accomplishing their goals in a timely manner and the community benefits from having an increased number of quality professionals working in the field — that's a win-win situation for everyone."

UT Martin, JSCC sign credit deal

Officials from Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee Martin met recently to sign an articulation agreement between the two schools. An articulation agreement ensures a seamless transfer of credits from one institution to another. Students majoring in social work at Jackson State will be able to transfer to UT Martin without losing time or credits.

"This agreement will allow a student to complete an associate's degree at Jackson State in two years and continue on to UT Martin for the next two years and graduate with a bachelor's degree in social work," said Bruce Blanding, president of JSCC.

Jackson State Community College has similar agreements with UT Martin in agriculture and education.

For more information on the social work programs, call Nell Senter at JSCC, 424-3520, ext. 394, or UT Martin at (731) 881-7520.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn.

Etheridge on WestStar board

John Etheridge of Paris has been named to the WestStar board of trustees, to serve a three-year term through 2011. He was named along with four other West Tennesseans to the board, which helps shape the future of the WestStar program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WestStar serves the 21 counties in West Tennessee and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership development program.

Etheridge, who is general manager of the Paris Board of Public Utilities, serves as chairman of the WestStar Finance Development Committee.

He was a member of the 1995 WestStar training class.
Brinkley living his life's dream with UTM radio

By DAVID THOMAS
dgthomas@jacksonsun.com

A basketball and football broadcaster at UT Martin for 10 years, Chris Brinkley has what he calls the best seat in the house in the school's Elam Center or wherever the Skyhawks play for that matter.

"It's as if I've ridden in the back seat of the car," Brinkley said. "I'm finally riding in the front seat, and that makes it even better."

And that is saying a lot for someone who has been along for the ride for a long time.

"This year has been the renaissance of sports at UT Martin and the media outside the West Tennessee area, even locally is following the program. I'm so proud of UTM, it is all coming to fruition," Brinkley said.

Brinkley, 35, did not have to travel far to reach where he is at the moment.

In fact, Brinkley, who is originally from Martin, could have used a bicycle or walked.

"I started working at (radio station) WCMT (FM 101.3) in Martin as a sophomore when I was in high school," Brinkley said. "And in 1991, I started (broadcasting) games with Paul Tinkle."

Tinkle is the president and general manager of Thunderbolt Broadcasting in Martin.

Brinkley, who is employed at UT Martin as a communications coordinator, said he works a part-time shift, about 30 hours a week at WCMT, where he starts the day at 6 a.m.

He and Tinkle combine for "Good Times in the Morning with Chris and Paul," and he continues his shift until noon.

Brinkley graduated from UT Martin after picking up his high school diploma at Westview High School.

Brinkley enrolled at UT Martin a second time after dropping out of college two years after he finished high school.

"I had a syndicated radio show out of my bedroom in my house," Brinkley said. "I was on 48 stations, but when the radio stations went to compact discs it was expensive at the time. I was doing the program on a digital format, but not large enough to have a national sponsor."

Please see BRINKLEY, 4D

Chris Brinkley, left, and Tom Britt look on at a UT Martin basketball game while conducting the radio broadcast for the Skyhawks.
So it was time for Brinkley to head back to school where he majored in communications.

Brinkley said he is living a dream, but circumstances led him to his position as UTM's play-by-play man.

"I took over for Bill Haney," Brinkley said. "Bill was in bad health in 1999, and I took over for him in 2000. I was Bill's color commentator on Bill's final broadcast."

Brinkley did inherit Haney's color commentator, Tom Britt.

"I grew up listening to Bill and Tom," Brinkley said. "I don't want to make (Tom) sound old, but I was listening to him when I was 7 (years old)."

That is the same age of Brinkley's son, Grayson.

"When I started work at (WCMT) I was pushing buttons for Tom and Bill," Brinkley said.

Brinkley said knowing Britt helped make his transition into play-by-play easier.

"You know Tom," Brinkley said. "He put me at ease. Some people said I was his equal, but I'm not. Tom is good on the air, better off, a role model for me."

Britt said Brinkley was very comfortable making his transition.

"Chris is just a great talent," Britt said. "When I do color on the men's games I sometimes find myself listening to him. He has a great knack for calling games."

Living on the same road he was raised on, Brinkley said he is living a dream come true.

"I am so passionate about sports," Brinkley said. "I watched as a fan and now to live it. It's exciting to watch. It's the greatest job in the world. I'm paid to get in, and I watch for free."

"The toughest part of my job is riding in a car for eight hours. Everything else is a breeze."

Brinkley said the atmosphere is changing on campus at the Elam Center where he is seeing new fans at every home game.

"In the past, I knew 80 percent of the fans by name," Brinkley said. "The future is very bright, and people are catching on to what's going on."

But it is the present that Brinkley wants to talk about.

"(UT) Martin is finally getting respect since we moved to (Division One) basketball," Brinkley said. "It is difficult to recruit. People are shocked and surprised to see the talent we have on this team."

Brinkley insists UTM is not a one-man team, but the one man people come to see is Lester Hudson, even when the Skyhawks are on the road.

"We were playing Samford at Birmingham, and someone drove 200 miles to have Lester autograph a basketball," Brinkley said. "At Jacksonville State, fans taunted him during the women's game, and that fascinated me."

Brinkley is fascinated in the turnaround of the overall UTM athletics program.

"I give UTM's director of athletics Phil Dane a lot of credit," Brinkley said. "Each program has gotten better — Bret Campbell (men's basketball) and Jason (Simpson) with the football program."

Britt believes that Brinkley could take his talents to another level if he wanted.

But for now, Brinkley is happy to take a road well traveled.

"I'm thrilled, every second of it," Brinkley said. "It was a dream come true to broadcast sports at this level and still call West Tennessee home."

— David Thomas, 425-9637
Gleason child care facility wins state award

GOLD SNEAKER — Pictured at the presentation of the Gold Sneaker award are, from left, Tonda Emerson, Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral interim coordinator; Sharye Hendrix, childcare specialist; Alisha Parkins, Pierce’s Pooh Bears owner and director; and Gretchen Beauchamp, childcare specialist.

Tonda Emerson, Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral interim coordinator, has announced that Pierce’s Pooh Bear, in Gleason, has completed the requirements and earned the Gold Sneaker award in Tennessee.

The Gold Sneaker Initiative is a collaboration among the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Child Care Resource and Referral and funded through a grant from the National Governors Association through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The initiative was developed to enhance policy related to physical activity and nutrition within licensed childcare facilities across Tennessee. By enacting such policies, Alisha Parkins, Pierce’s Pooh Bears owner and director, earned the award.

She received a certificate from Gov. Phil Bredesen and Gold Sneaker window stickers to signify her achievement. Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral presented Parkins with a gold sneaker tennis shoe to display in her childcare facility.

See Award, Page 4
Award
From Page 1

Resource and Referral serves childcare providers and parents of children with disabilities and all children in the counties of Benton, Carroll, Henry, Lake, Dyer, Obion, Gibson, Crockett and Weakley. The agency provides the Gold Sneaker training to interested facilities. Gretchen Beauchamp, childcare specialist, provided Parkins’ training. Beauchamp explained the importance of the new policy change and how to incorporate them in the classroom. She provided the tools and resources for Pierce’s Pooh Bears staff to implement.

Childhood obesity is on the rise in Tennessee. Behavioral factors that contribute to being overweight, obesity, and even diabetes can be addressed from the beginning of a young child’s life.

According to research, health habits are learned and developed at a young age, with most habits being formed during adolescence. After adolescence, habits are hard to change as we see with adults. This initiative instills good habits at an early age but must be guided and implemented by adults. Because so many children attend childcare facilities, it is an opportunity for childcare teachers to be involved in the Gold Sneaker Initiative.

The Gold Sneaker Initiative is one of the many ways the Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral helps child care providers fight obesity with the children in their care.

The Child Care Resource and Referral is a grant program within the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Child and Family Grant Programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Child Care Resource and Referral is located at 204 Hanning Lane. The goal of CCR&R is to improve the quality of child care for all children in the nine counties it serves.

Parkins is presently participating in two other programs provided by CCR&R, Provider Self-Assessment Mentoring (PSAM) and Strengthening Families.

The PSAM program provides childcare directors with individualized assistance through training and hands-on support that connects to day-to-day experiences with children. Sharye Hendrix, childcare specialist, is assisting her in the PSAM initiative.

Strengthening Families is a strategy to promote healthy families, engage parents in leadership roles, assist child development and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Strengthening Families brings together early childhood caregivers and educators, parents, child welfare and human service agencies and other professionals who care about Tennessee’s families.

Julie Donaldson, Signal Centers parenting liaison, is assisting her with Strengthening Families.

Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral business hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. To contact the agency, call 731-881-7868 or toll free, 1-877-424-6080.

Business consultant to be at REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center offers aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners one-on-one consulting each month. The center also offers approximately 20 small-business seminars each year for little or no cost to assist area business people in a variety of decisions.

The next opportunity to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., March 12.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

REED Center to hold March 10 class on customer service

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center is providing an informative session for employees to learn the dos and don’ ts of customer service. The class will be from 6-8 p.m., March 10, at the Municipal Complex, Broadway, South Fulton.

Jamie Frakes, director of Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC) at Dyersburg State Community College, will teach the class. The course will be free, and is sponsored by the REED Center and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce.

To reserve a spot, contact the REED Center at 587-7333, or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.

Senior art exhibit begins March 3

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host another in its senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year with an art exhibition representing the works of Nicole Bell, an art education emphasis student from Franklin, and Angie Hinojosa, a visual art studio emphasis student from Union City. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, from 5-7 p.m., March 3, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of UT Martin.

The exhibition will continue through March 14. It will be free and open to the public.

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

Rotary Speaker

Dennis Kosta with UT Martin’s Recycling Program spoke to Martin Rotary Club this week about recycling in the city and the importance of keeping the environment clean.
UT trustees study plans to offset cuts to system

BY JOAN GARRETT
JGARRETT@TIMESFREEPRESS.COM

MEMPHIS — Leaders in the University of Tennessee system should stop playing to the voters by vowing to keep college tuition low and make decisions that bring long-term help to the state's universities, one school president said Thursday.

"Our tuition level is still one of the biggest bargains in the South," UT-Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. "Sometimes the college and leadership has to make a decision that will help in the long run instead of playing to a voter, playing to a constituency. We are losing ground in Tennessee. We are going to lose faculty, and we are going to lose administrators."

Mr. Rakes made the comments Thursday during meetings of the UT board of trustees, which is spending several days reviewing plans to offset massive cuts to the UT system, which included tuition increases, stopping endowment payments and trimming academic programs.

Trustees also reviewed the plans to cut jobs on UT See TRUSTEES, Page A9

A group of about 20 people from the Workers Interfaith Network and the Campus United Workers gathered outside the board meeting for a prayer vigil and demonstration against job cuts.

Forty academic programs across the UT system are being reviewed for possible cancellation, Dr. Petersen said. However, final decisions on program cuts will not be made until the board's June meeting.

Trustee Andrea Loughry suggested that some of the most popular majors charge higher tuition than other, less-popular ones. Dr. Petersen said that is something that should be looked into.

While some people have said that the recently passed federal stimulus bill, which could provide $500 million for higher education in Tennessee over the next two years, will relieve some financial cuts, Dr. Petersen said stimulus aid is only a quick fix and deep cuts still are needed.

"We have been hurt more than K-12, and hopefully, in two or three years, we can come up with some more recurring money for higher education," said Doug Horne, chairman of the efficiency and effectiveness committee. "We can all hope and dream about that."

Earnings from the UT endowment fund were down 30 percent this year. If markets continue to decline, UT may need to consider, for the first time, suspending endowment payments, said Charles M. Peccololo, vice president and treasurer at UT.

"Most of the carnage occurred during the past six months in the capital markets," he said. "This impacts what our departments and colleges can distribute for scholarships."

As part of the budget cuts, the UT Institute of Agriculture is being forced to cut $2.6 million from extension offices across the state. Of the 700 full-time workers employed with the state's extension agency, 250 are eligible for early retirement.

There are dozens of extension agents in the Chattanooga area, said Joseph A. DiPietro, vice president for agriculture at UT. The early retirement program, which allows employees over the age of 50 to retire, gives those who leave an opportunity to come back to work part time for one year. However, they may not be kept as part-time employees more than one year, Mr. DiPietro said.

"We will lose some valuable people," he said.

Some trustees voiced concerns about losing agricultural services for the state and cutting employees who already are poorly paid.

"Some of the extension agents are paid so poorly that they qualify for food stamps," Trustee Charles Wharton said.

To make up some of that financial plunge, leaders at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga are pushing for the board to approve a 9 percent tuition increase, and officials with UT-Martin are asking for a 7 percent increase.

However, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has recommended only a 7 percent increase for UT's smaller campuses and a 9 percent tuition increase at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

UT board Vice Chairman Jim Murphy said campus chancellors need to find a way to justify their request for a higher tuition increase because Gov. Phil Bredesen and the Legislature want to keep tuition low.

He also said asking for a higher tuition increase could discourage the Legislature from increasing state appropriations.

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JOB CUTS ACROSS THE SYSTEM

**UT**
- Total positions lost — 326
- Filled positions lost — 204

**UT Health Science Center**
- Total positions lost — 200
- Filled positions lost — 200

**2010 PROPOSED REDUCTIONS**
- Instruction — $20.6 million
- Research — $4.2 million
- Public service — $4.3 million
- Academic support — $9.7 million
- Student services — $2.1 million

Source: UT budget documents