Trayless cafeteria helps UT-Martin save money, environment

By Julie Koch
By Web Editor - Ethan Fife
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MARTIN, TN - Remember back in college, loading up the cafeteria tray and taking it to your table? Well, it's apparently becoming a thing of the past.

Just in time for the nation's Green Week, UT-Martin students are going trayless in their cafeterias. Mealtime is a busy time at the school. But before food fills the stomach it has to fill a plate. How students get that plate to the table is the new focus of the university. The move is an effort to save the school money and help the environment. Rather than load up a big tray, the idea is to get one plate at a time.

Dining Services Manager Charles Thomas says, "This way you'll get something fresh and appetizing at every meal."

Still, some around campus aren't quite fans of the plan. Senior basketball player Dominique Mpondo says he eats a lot and his tray served a good purpose.

"I can have everything on one tray the first time rather than getting up and getting something new" he says. "It's kind of hard to get used to, but I think we will."

On the other hand, freshman Chad Crewell thinks it might be a good idea. It might even help cut down on the dreaded "freshman 15."

"It keeps my portions down," Crewell says. "It makes me feel like I'm eating healthier and I guess it's better for the environment."

Being better for the environment is exactly why Charles Thomas says it is such a good idea.

"We're putting less chemicals in the system, using less electricity and power and definitely a lot less water," Thomas says.

The move also cuts down on waste. Statistics show the school used to produce nearly 1500 lbs of garbage a day. The new trayless system cuts that figure to right around 300 lbs.

School officials say this new system will save the university over 200 thousand dollars. That savings comes mostly from less soap and water used to wash the trays.

These changes are making the cafeteria one of the most efficient in the area. It's helping the environment and UT-Martin's wallet.
02/15 Persons interested in learning the basics of Adobe Illustrator can take advantage of a course at The University of Tennessee at Martin. A Brief Introduction to Adobe Illustrator will be offered from 2-3:30 p.m., Feb. 15. The instructor for the course is Kara Hooper, communications coordinator. The registration fee is $35. For more information or to register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.

03/12 The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT. Making Sense of the ACT- ACT Prep Course will be from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 20-March 13. The instructor is Ron Ramage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

‘Trayless’ dining at UTM to save money, enhance campus environmental efforts

A University of Tennessee at Martin dining services plan to go “trayless” is expected to save more than $165,000 a year in operational costs and enhance an environmentally-friendly atmosphere on campus.

The plan, which is effective Jan. 19 when students return for spring semester, was endorsed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Al Hooten.

New dish-cleaning equipment was installed during the holiday break. The move also is expected to curb food waste for additional overall savings.

“The existing dish machine had reached the end of its useful life,” said Hooten.

“Replacement of the aged equipment with current technology provided UT Martin the opportunity to initiate a change that not only offered us the ability to capture considerable operational savings but also added to our campus initiative to conserve resources.”

He added, “The new equipment will use significantly less water, and it will also operate with less chemicals, both of which are beneficial to the environment.”

The Skyhawk Dining Hall is “all-you-can-eat” for every meal, seven days a week. Dining officials do not anticipate altering the “all-you-can-eat” format as it has been well received by students.

“Prior to going to the trayless concept, students would take a tray and visit many of the different menu offerings in the cafeteria,” said Charles Thomas, manager of Sodexo dining services at UT Martin.

He noted that as students sat down to enjoy the meal, by the time they got to the second offering either they were full or the lunch period had ended.

“The menu offerings will still be available, and since the students will get the offerings when they are ready to be consumed, the offerings will maintain their quality in appearance and taste,” Thomas said. “This will be a benefit to going trayless.”

Thomas also noted that research has shown that when students use plates without trays the amount of food waste decreases by 25-30 percent per person. That is savings that can be returned to the university and used for other enhancements on campus.

UT Martin announces rec center opening

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, Feb. 3, will mark the opening of the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center.

The ceremony is set to begin at 11 a.m. at the center, located at 95 Mt. Pelia Road on campus.

Among those attending the ceremony will be Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, and Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, Dr. Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs, and Phillip Mesengill, Student Government Association president. Gina McClure, UT Martin director of campus recreation, will welcome guests attending the event.

For more information about the ceremony, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin offers CASTLE professional certification, licensing exams for students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Success Center Testing Center now offers CASTLE Worldwide exams to the public. CASTLE administers professional certification and licensing examinations for a wide variety of professional associations and government agencies. Many of the examinations are related to healthcare, business, safety professionals, design and engineering.

“We are excited that we can offer this testing service to the people in our region without having to drive to Jackson, Nashville, or Memphis,” said Sharon Robertson, Student Success Center assistant director. “We strive to provide the same professional testing services of large testing centers, but the personal touch of a small testing center.”

Specifically, the exams offered include: National Kitchen and Bath Association, Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer, Medical Representatives Certification Commission, Transportation Professional Certification Board, Certification Commission of the National Association of Medical Staff Services, American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses, Certified Licensing Professional, Regulatory Affairs Professional Society, California Council for Interior Design Certification, American Healthcare Radiology Administrators, Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board, American Council on Exercise and the National Interpreter Certification.

For more information and/or to register for an exam visit www.castle-worldwide.com or call the testing center at 731-881-7727.

Federal Reserve Bank Senior Vice President/Managing Officer Stackhouse to speak, Feb. 4

Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will speak on “From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System” at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 4. Stackhouse’s appearance in Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center, will be co-sponsored by Honors Programs, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science.

“Julie Stackhouse has more than 25 years of service in the Federal Reserve system. As senior vice president of the St. Louis branch, which governs the district which includes west Tennessee, she is a crucial contributor to the economic decision-making team for our area,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director.

“In these difficult and uncertain economic times, it will be interesting to hear her views on the causes of the current economic crisis and our progress towards recovery.”

Stackhouse received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Drake University and graduated from the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking.

She joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in 1980 as an examiner and worked her way through the system before being promoted to vice president of bank supervision and regulation in 1989.

In 1995, she left the Federal Reserve, moved to Minnesota and spent the next five years raising her children, while remaining active in volunteer work, including service as chair of the local Economic Development Commission and as a member of the Arts and Humanities Council.

In 2002, she moved to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as senior vice president of the bank supervision and regulation division.

She has numerous publications and presentations to her credit and is active in the community, serving as a trustee on the St. Louis Area Board of the Missouri Council on Economic Education and as president of the Gateway Chapter of the National Charity League.

“There is no more timely or relevant topic at this point in our political and economic history. Julie’s outstanding presentation style and her extensive knowledge of Federal Reserve practices and operations make this a ‘must see’ event for anyone wishing to learn more about the economic crisis and the challenges facing a sustained recovery,” said Dr. Tom Payne, Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science.

For more information, call McDonough at 731-881-7436.
UT Martin purchases AEDs to assist cardiac-arrest victims

Dr. Eric Walker hoped to make an impact as a first-year University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member. Little did he know that his idea to place Automated External Defibrillators around campus would become a reality and bring the life-saving devices to the university. Thanks to his suggestion, the devices, known as AEDs, are now installed and available at 12 campus buildings.

The American Red Cross defines defibrillation as “an electrical shock that may help the heart resume an effective rhythm for a person in cardiac arrest.” In cases of cardiac arrest, the Red Cross reports that AEDs are proven more effective in saving lives than CPR alone.

“The AED analyzes the patient and tells if a shock is necessary to restore heartbeat,” explained Ted Council, UT Martin safety officer, who leads the campus AED efforts.

“If you can push the button and turn it on, that’s all you need to do (after proper training). It (the AED) walks you through what to do.”

Walker, who teaches plant science, became interested in how many people either experience sudden cardiac arrest or have risk factors for this condition.

He searched the Internet and read all that he could about sudden cardiac arrest, the effect of delayed treatment, and the use of CPR alone or combined with defibrillation.

The abundance of evidence supporting AEDs convinced Walker that the devices would fill an important safety need at UT Martin.

He first contacted Council and then sent a detailed e-mail message outlining his idea to Dr. Jerry Gresham, interim dean for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. To his surprise, it wasn’t long before AEDs were being purchased; the units cost $919 each.

“I could not believe how fast everyone moved on this,” Walker said. “Really all I did was just write a letter and passed it to somebody who got things going.”

To date, 39 staff and faculty members, all university police officers and all Office of Campus Recreation student workers have completed AED and CPR training.

Charlie Rayburn, who teaches health and human performance and has conducted AED and CPR training for many years, provides the instruction.

“When the AEDs came out for public use, those of us that were teaching CPR and first aid had to go back and get re-trained on the use of the AED,” the UT Martin faculty member said. “About the same time period, new standards for giving CPR were also coming out, so we were able to get certified in both areas.”

While many on campus were previously certified in using AEDs and administering CPR, Rayburn has recently taught others who had no previous certification. He’s impressed with the enthusiasm that he’s seen for learning these life-saving measures.

“I am a true believer that everyone should know what to do in emergency situations,” he added. “Not only can you learn to help yourself, but you can help family members, friends, co-workers and even a perfect stranger.”

Walker believes that his vision to see AEDs in every campus building will someday happen.

He knows that a significant monetary cost is involved, but to Walker and many others, it’s a small price to pay in saving lives and making UT Martin a safer campus.

WTWP accepting applications to summer institute

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 18th annual invitational summer institute, May 8 and June 7-July 1, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline for application is April 16.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-16, from all subject areas, to apply for participation.

The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing and at a part of the ongoing professional community of W TWP teacher consultants. Graduate credits and a stipend are available.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive three hours of graduate credit that may be used as part of a master’s program in education at UT Martin, for recertiﬁcation, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master’s degree. Accepted participants will also receive a stipend this year for their time spent in professional development training with W TWP.

For more information about graduate studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at 731-881-7012 or laranl@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carithers at 731-881-7290 by phone, 731-881-7276 by fax or e-mail wtpw@utm.edu.

To download the informational and application materials, visit www.utm.edu/wtpw.
Wendell Alexander Realty signs Bynum to sales team

Wendell Alexander Realty is pleased to announce their new Affiliate Broker, Alex Bynum. Alex will be providing his professional expertise across Weakley Co. and much of West Tennessee. Alex is a 22 year old native of Dresden. He has just recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with an Ag. Business degree. “Alex has professional tact and young exuberance, that is why I knew he would be a perfect fit in our office,” says Principal Broker, Wendell Alexander.

“Growing up around real estate my whole life, I knew this was the career for me”, says Alex. “I have only been in the office for a couple of weeks and I can already tell there is a very professional style of real estate experience that sets them apart.” “I also look forward to helping people learn more about the great homes that Weakley Co. has to offer.”

Wendell Alexander Realty will be open Monday through Friday 8-5 at 8719 Highway 22 Dresden or call 731-364-5368. You can also call Alex Bynum to provide his professional expertise day or night at 731-819-6002.

Conference For Working Women slated Feb. 12

“Every Day is Game Day for Working Women” is the theme for the 12th annual Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Feb. 12, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boiling University Center Duncan Ballroom.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9 a.m.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee. Whether you are an assistant, an executive, a manager, or an elected official or the chief executive officer of a company, this conference is for you.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, UT Extension Director, UT Extension Services, WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference.

The opening speaker will be Carla Peaks, the director of education for West Tennessee Healthcare in Jackson. Her speech, “Being in the Huddle: Office Teamwork,” is set for 9:15-10 a.m.

From 10-11 a.m., there will be a panel discussion titled “Changing Your Game Strategy.” The panel moderator, Judy Renshaw, is Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce senior vice president and a graduate of the 1992 WestStar class. Panel members include: the Rev. Robin Kimbrough, Mary Beard, Tracy Simmons and Lori Hendon.

Michelle Weatherford, president of LEARN Consulting in Atoka, will be the speaker before lunch. Her speech, “Touchdown: Scoring for Yourself-Happiness and Being Less Stressed,” is slated for 11:15 a.m.-noon.

Lunch will be served from noon-1 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference.

The speakers and their topics after lunch include from 1-1:45 p.m., “Keeping Your Playing Field Green?”, by Carol Reese, ornamental horticulture specialist for UT Extension Service.

From 1:45-2:15 p.m., Leah Gray, director of human resources from Jackson State Community College and graduate of WestStar 2009, will present her speech titled, “Locker Room Blues: Declutter and Organize Your Life.”

The deadline to register is Feb. 5. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utk.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.
Online repository features UT Martin works

Academic works authored by UT Martin graduates and faculty have a worldwide audience, thanks to an online resource established in January 2008 by the Paul Meek Library's Corbitt Special Collections. Known as an "institutional repository," Internet browser hits for Scholarship@UT Martin exceed 4,200 since July 1, 2009, and continue to grow.

Nobody is more pleased than Richard Saunders, the university's special collections librarian and university archivist.

Several years back, Saunders had the idea of giving university-authored academic works a virtual home.

In 2005, he received an advertisement for commercial institutional repository software that would manage online document storage and delivery.

Although the software was impressive, the five-figure annual subscription charge was prohibitive.

The library staff looked for other options, seeking software that was open-source or inexpensive to use. Jim Nance, systems librarian, computer-science student John Britton and Saunders discovered a product called EPrints.

"EPrints is an open-source, open-archive database developed at the University of Southampton in Great Britain," Saunders said.

"It was written by a bunch of computer-science students who just simply have the idea that research needs to be available publicly."

The program was adapted for use in the library service pages, and the digital world opened for UT Martin scholarly works.

Saunders said about 600 open-archives repositories exist around the world, with UT Martin's repository about in the middle in terms of size.

He added that there are approximately another 1,000 databases on commercial platforms similar to what UT Martin is using but which carry considerable operating costs.

"They're slicker. They have a little more customizability, but they're a whale of a lot more expensive, so we struck a balance between cost and effectiveness," he said.

"And, as we have used this, we are absolutely certain that we came down on the right side of things, both for the taxpayers of Tennessee and for the type of scholarship that the campus has generated over the last years."

The software works like a library catalogue. From the front page, searchers may use keyword, title, author and subject functions to locate material directly.

The site also indexes in search engines like Google and ask.com, making the contents accessible across the globe.

Once a record is located, a link to an electronic file allows users to download a digital copy directly to their computers.

"Master's theses and projects are demonstrations of academic competence," Saunders said. "But, they rarely get used after they are produced, mostly because they are accessible only at the student's institution. Traffic on Scholarship@UT Martin shows how valuable master's-level research can be to the world."

As of Jan. 1 this year, 338 full-text files were accessible in the online repository. In the past year, that small number has accounted for more than 5,000 file downloads to researchers in 133 countries across the globe.

"That sort of activity suggests UTM students produce research of real value," Sanders said. Graduate students in education and agriculture wrote a majority of the 280 UT Martin master's theses available on the site.

"Still the single most downloaded item on the whole database is a 30-year-old master's thesis on Tennessee teacher-tenure policy," he said.

The next step is capturing master's projects, followed by University Scholars papers, which are academic works produced by undergraduate students in the University Scholars Program. Faculty members are encouraged to contribute their own work, he said.

Besides the search feature, the site includes a "Paper of the Day," randomly chosen by the software.

"It's just a way to remind people that there is real research here," he said. "It's not just a site with a number on it. There's something to take a look at."

So far, Saunders is pleased with what Scholarship@UT Martin has accomplished. "Number one, it's always good to have a digital presence out in the world. That was a big driving force," he said, adding, "What the software does is put UTM as a research institution into an international context," he said. "We have a presence now."

To find the repository, point a browser to http://scholarship.utm.edu.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Alica Diane Austin; Amanda Jane Armstrong; April Denise Bell; Alexander Jennings Bynum; Max Devon Carlton; Krista Sudath Cody; Sunni Christine Jackson; Myron Moore Klutts; Stephanie Faye Naish; Kayla René Peeler; Kayla Olivia Rendon; Gregory Adam Shobe; Jean Tiffany Lewellen Wainscott;
- Gleason – Pamela Marie Bell; Jordan A. Billingsley; Slayton Drew Gearin; Kody Teeter Owen; Robin Renee Ricketts; Joshua Eric Wiseman;
- Greenfield – Christina Rene Brock; Alan D. Franklin; Kelly Alexis Stewart;
- Martin – Kassi Lee Abney; Joseph S. Anderson; Jill Amanda Barber; David Parker Barrington; Kyle Herron Brooks; Hannah Shea Burcham; Ryan M. Byrd; Aaron Jotham Caldwell; Clarice Nichole Callison; Lindsey Russell Cates; Kristy Barrett Crawford; Brittnay Michelle Dane; Olivia Maria Daniel; Bernhardt Tyler Dotson III; Page Nicole Edwards; Derek O’Ryan Ezell; Sierra J. Ezell; Kirk Austin Foley; Rachel Sandefor Fortner; Ashley Nicole Harding; Angela Kay Harris; Sarah Rachelle Hunter; Tiffany Anne Hurt; Leslie Ann Johnson; Lindsey Beth Kennedy; Stephen E. Little; Kramr Lee Nance; Brandon H. Pate; Jason B. Quick; Ross A. Ratkowski; Karli Elaine Smith; Brandy Nicole Spenderlo; Redelle J. Stewart; Regina Faye VanCleave; Mallory K. Williams.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dukedom – Matthew Dacus;
- Gleason – Roxanne Crider;
- Martin – Bethany Adams; Luis Ferrer; Staci Fuqua; Patricia Gonowski; Christine Tesla-Hayden; Jason James; Judy McMorries; Stephanie Ruszkowski; Burton Rutledge; Joseph Scarano; Becky Smith;
- Palmersville – Nelda Rachels;
- Sharon – Milton Buchanan.

Ford Little, Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.

Adams receives UTM Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship

Melissa Adams, a sophomore from Martin who is majoring in family and consumer sciences, is the recipient of the 2009-2010 Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The late Ray Michael Barnes attended UT Martin and majored in early childhood development. He also was a director of the UT Martin collegiate choir. He participated in several community events that were designed to enhance social awareness and served as a minister of music at Morning Star Baptist Church in Humboldt. He believed in empowering others, so the Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship was established by a family member to assist and empower those who are working toward improving the lives of youth. The scholarship was first awarded in 2007-2008.

Travel-study trip to London/Paris planned

University of Tennessee at Martin travel-study trip to London and Paris is planned May 17-27. As part of this tour, participants will visit historical sites in England and France, explore cultures, the arts and sciences for each country by visiting museums, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. In Paris, the trip will include visiting the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Versailles. The group will also explore health care in these countries.

The approximate cost is $3,250. Group leaders are Ruby Black, professor of nursing, and Linda Luther, assistant professor of nursing. They may be contacted at rblack@ut.utm.edu, 731-881-7133; and lluther@utm.edu, 731-514-5018.
Vision Award received

The Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently received the Vision Award from the Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for its outstanding work with children and families. The Healthy Start Vision is to help prevent child abuse and neglect by helping families build strong trusting family relationships, promote healthy childhood growth and development and positive parent-child interaction. High emphasis is placed on education for parents to stay in school and reach their highest potential.

Pictured left to right are (back row): Shanna Via and Lalania Hilliard, family support coordinators; (front row): Debbie Walden, family assessment worker/supervisor; Diana Luther, program director/state trainer; and Ang O'Brien, director of grant programs at UT Martin.
Retirement reception honors Linda Davis

The University of Tennessee at Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences recently hosted a retirement reception for Linda Davis, center, Administrative Specialist, in honor of her 41 years of service. Among those attending the reception were UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan and his wife, Cindy.

Phi Kappa Phi plans Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet at 7:00 p.m., February 9, Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture. This year's Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. Christopher Hill, assistant professor of English. His presentation is titled "I cannot keep decorum: A Renaissance Rhetoric of Strife." The lecture is free and open to the public. Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin Chancellor 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 13. For more information, contact Mary Carpenter, UT Martin Paul Meek Library director, at 731-881-7070 or mary.carpenter@utm.edu.

Visit from the Fed

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She will be speaking at the University of Tennessee Martin at 7:30 p.m. today.

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Stackhouse will speak in the university's Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

For more information, call (731) 881-7436.
Life-saving AEDs added at UT Martin

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Thanks to his suggestion, the devices, known as AEDs, are now installed and available at 12 campus buildings. The American Red Cross defines defibrillation as "an electrical shock that may help the heart resume an effective rhythm for a person in cardiac arrest." In cases of cardiac arrest, the Red Cross reports that AEDs are proven more effective in saving lives than CPR alone.

"The AED analyzes the patient and tells if a shock is necessary to restore heartbeat," said Ted Council, UT Martin safety officer, who leads the campus AED efforts. "If you can push the button and turn it on, that's all you need to do (after proper training). It (the AED) walks you through what to do."

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"I could not believe how fast everyone moved on this," Walker said. "Really all I did was just write a letter and passed it to somebody who got things going."

To date, 39 staff and faculty members, all university police officers and all Office of Campus Recreation student workers have completed AED and CPR training. Charlie Rayburn, who teaches health and human performance and has conducted AED and CPR training for many years, provides the instruction.

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"I am a true believer that everyone should know what to do in emergency situations," he added. "Not only can you learn to help yourself, but you can help family members, friends, coworkers and even a perfect stranger."

Walker believes that his vision to see AEDs in every campus building will someday happen. He knows that a significant monetary cost is involved, but to Walker and many others, it's a small price to pay in saving lives and making UT Martin a safer campus.

EARNED COLLEGE DEGREE — Niki Ogden of Woodland Mills recently graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. At graduation, she was joined by her husband, Chris, and their daughter, Blythe.

STATE GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Rushing earns degree from UTM

Steven Rushing, son of Coy and Jean Rushing, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 19 with a bachelor degree in criminal justice.
Lifestyles:

Virginia Kruckeberg, second from right, is pictured with her sixth-grade class at Carachipampa Christian School in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The class was comprised of four Americans, one Canadian, one Australian and five Bolivians. Courtesy photos.

I thought about what an exciting life that would be while I would be doing a job that felt really worthwhile and meaningful.

I attended the University of Tennessee at Martin from 2003-2007, majoring in elementary education K-6. During that time, I took trips to Peru, Kenya and Ethiopia. After college, I got a job immediately teaching fourth grade at Gleason School in Gleason, Tenn. I loved Gleason and everything about the school, but I was ready to branch out a little since Gleason was so close to Martin, where I had lived the last four years.

I searched for a job in Tennessee, including Maury County. At the end of the summer while I was still jobless, I decided to try a different route. I found a school in South America in desperate need for an elementary teacher, and they were starting school in one week. That’s how I came to be the sixth-grade teacher for the 2008-2009 school year at Carachipampa Christian School in Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America.

ZCA grad shares experiences of teaching in Bolivia

EDITOR’S NOTE: Virginia Kruckeberg shares her experience of teaching a sixth-grade class during the 2008-2009 school year at Carachipampa Christian School in Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America.

By VIRGINIA KRUCKEBERG

I grew up in Williamsport, attended Zion Christian Academy and Zion Presbyterian Church.

In high school, I participated in a short-term mission trip to Peru. I was certain at that time that I wanted to be a teacher. When I returned home, I became interested in teaching out of the country for a year or two after I graduated from college.

Virginia wandering through the narrow streets of Cuzco, Peru.

CCS is a K-12 school made up of a unique mixture of missionary and Bolivian kids, totaling about 150 students. Teachers from all parts of the world come to teach there as missionary teachers, living solely on money that has been offered as gifts for their support. The school is an international school where only English is spoken in class with the exception of Spanish classes, which all students have three times a week. I taught all subjects to my students, even art and PE at times because of the lack of teachers for these classes. I only had 13 students in my sixth-grade class.

The best part about my year in Bolivia was the friends I made. I did not know anyone in Bolivia, so I went on a leap of faith that I would find people with whom I could really connect and build strong friendships. My prayer for good friends was answered with three other teachers, two from the states and one from Australia. They are what I miss most about my South American life. I also miss the city where I was living. The laid-back way of life, the interesting and special kinds of Bolivian foods, the friendly greeting of the Bolivians and the struggles to communicate, the markets and busy streets, the nearly certain sunshine part of the year and the dark rain clouds another part of the year, the dodgy public transportation and the unbelievable Andes are some of the things I will never forget about Bolivia.

The hardest part was learning to properly teach sixth-graders. I was on crutches for five weeks at the end of the school year after breaking bones in my foot and leg. That made the last few months extremely difficult, but I did my best to cling onto my last few weeks living as a South American.
I am so thankful that I had this opportunity to go, was able to raise the support to go, and that God placed in me a desire for serving Him and desire for adventure so strong that I would even consider doing something so seemingly bizarre for a small-town girl who had never called anywhere but Tennessee "home."

Virginia Kruckeberg currently teaches fourth grade at Zion Christian Academy. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Kruckeberg of Williamsport.

Virginia, left, is pictured with friends during fall break of the 2008-2009 school year on a visit to the Salt Flats of Uyuni, Bolivia.

**UTM Student Recreation Center opens**

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, February 3, will mark the opening of the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center. The ceremony is set to begin at 11 a.m., at the center, located at 95 Mt. Pelia Road on campus.

For more information about the ceremony, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

**Vision Award**

The Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently received the Vision Award from the Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for its outstanding work with children and families. The Healthy Start Vision is to help prevent child abuse and neglect by helping families build strong trusting family relationships, promote healthy childhood growth and development and positive parent-child interaction. High emphasis is placed on education for parents to stay in school and reach their highest potential. Pictured are (front row, from left) Debbie Walden, family assessment worker/supervisor; Diana Luther, program director/state trainer; and Ang O'Brien, director of grant programs at UT Martin; (back row, from left) Shanna Via and Leliana Hilliard, family support coordinators.

The Gazette, Trenton, Tennessee

Wednesday, February 3, 2010
UTM purchases AEDS to help assist cardiac-arrest victims

Dr. Eric Walker hoped to make an impact as a first-year University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member. Little did he know that his idea to place Automated External Defibrillators around campus would become a reality and bring the life-saving devices to the university.

Thanks to his suggestion, the devices, known as AEDs, are now installed and available at 12 campus buildings. The American Red Cross defines defibrillation as “an electrical shock that may help the heart resume an effective rhythm for a person in cardiac arrest.” In cases of cardiac arrest, the Red Cross reports that AEDs are proven more effective in saving lives than CPR alone.

“The AED analyzes the patient and tells if a shock is necessary to restore heartbeat,” explained Ted Council, UT Martin safety officer, who leads the campus AED efforts. “If you can push the button and turn it on, that’s all you need to do (after proper training). It (the AED) walks you through what to do.”

Walker, who teaches plant science, became interested in how many people either experience sudden cardiac arrest or have risk factors for this condition. He searched the Internet and read all that he could about sudden cardiac arrest, the effect of delayed treatment, and the use of CPR alone or combined with defibrillation. The abundance of evidence supporting AEDs convinced Walker that the devices would fill an important safety need at UT Martin.

He first contacted Council and then sent a detailed e-mail message outlining his idea to Dr. Jerry Gresham, interim dean for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. To his surprise, it wasn’t long before AEDs were being purchased; the units cost $919 each. “I could not believe how fast everyone moved on this,” Walker said. “Really all I did was just write a letter and passed it to somebody who got things going.”

To date, 39 staff and faculty members, all university police officers and all Office of Campus Recreation student workers have completed AED and CPR training. Charlie Rayburn, who teaches health and human performance and has conducted AED and CPR training for many years, provides the instruction.

“When the AEDs came out for public use, those of us who were teaching CPR and first aid had to go back and get re-trained on the use of the AED,” the UT Martin faculty member said. “About the same time period, new standards for giving CPR were also coming out, so we were able to get certified in both areas.”

While many on campus were previously certified in using AEDs and administering CPR, Rayburn has recently taught others who had no previous certification. He’s impressed with the enthusiasm that he’s seen for learning these life-saving measures. “I am a true believer that everyone should know what to do in emergency situations,” he added. “Not only can you learn to help yourself, but you can help family members, friends, co-workers and even a perfect stranger.”

Walker believes that his vision to see AEDs in every campus building will someday happen. He knows that a significant monetary cost is involved, but to Walker and many others, it’s a small price to pay in saving lives and making UT Martin a safer campus.

UT Martin names local students to fall dean’s list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2010 dean’s lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

Humboldt students are: Suzanne R. Bell, high honors; Christopher W. Brackeen, high honors; Courtney S. Brackeen, honors; Jeremy M. Brown, high honors; Andrew J. Castleman, highest honors; Garrett W. Causey, honors; Kiara S. Champion, highest honors; Donald B. Denton, honors; Jennifer L. Denton, high honors; Tamika S. Donaldson, high honors; Robert L. Fish, highest honors; Kayla C. Fox, high honors; Stephanie M. Fox, highest honors; Holly K. Gillespie, high honors; Rachel L. Hall, highest honors; Erin M. Jackson, highest honors; Jennie E. Jackson, honors; Britney L. Joynor, highest honors; Jordan R. King, honors; Adam S. Laman, high honors;
MARTIN, Tenn., Feb. 3, 2010 - STUDENT RECREATION CENTER OPENS - The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center was officially opened today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the facility. Pictured front row, from left, are Brittany McGruder, Erin Chambers, Student Government Association past presidents; Phillip Masengill, SGA president; Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Gina McClure, Office of Campus Recreation director; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; & Dr. Jan Simek, UT Martin interim president; Dr. Nick Duragan, chancellor emeritus; Dr. Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; Lane Lyle, of Lyle Cook Martin Architects; Tim Nipp, physical plant director; second row, Jenna Wright, Faculty Senate president; Randy Brundige, Martin mayor; Houston Patrick, Weakley County mayor; Curt Pierce and Scott Fleming, of Fleming Associates; Mark White, A-1K Construction; Howard Carmen, UT Facilities Planning project engineer; Marshall Duncan, of Lyle Cook Martin Architects; and Jim Pasquetto, A-1K Construction. (Photo submitted)

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER INTEGRAL PART OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

MARTIN, Tenn. - It's a recreation center for students and funded by students, so who better to know first-hand its benefits than students? Bryan Panovec and Rachel Lester also have the advantage of their experiences as student employees of the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Campus Recreation. They have worked and "worked out" for several years at campus facilities.

The new $16.5 million, 96,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center was officially opened Wednesday at 95 Mt. Pella Rd. on campus with University of Tennessee Interim President Jan Simek and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes among those participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"It's important for students to take advantage of the new facility because it is theirs," said Panovec, an Austin, Texas, senior history and political science double major. "There is something for everyone in the facility." As a student who used the previous recreational facilities at least five times a week and has maintained that schedule in the new facility, Panovec has enjoyed the weight room the most so far. "But I also love seeing so many students use the SRC and hearing them speaking to each other about how awesome the SRC truly is."

Lester, a Martin junior nursing major, thinks the new fitness center and basketball courts are the best features. "I've always played sports and have been active ... I feel less stressed and better about myself after a good workout or a game of basketball." She added, "I love to do cardio. The computerized monitors each cardio machine has allow you to plan and save each workout
you do."

Panovec said having the new center on campus "is what this campus needed to compete with other schools across the state. This will have a significant effect on visiting students, with the opportunity to help increase enrollment." Lester agreed and added, "...I think it helps out with offering more places and things to do."

Gina McClure, Office of Campus Recreation director, credits students for making the center a reality and points to the much-needed space as a means to have consistent recreational time without competing for time and space with classes and athletics. "This is something that we have not been able to provide before because of the multiple users and uses of the Elam Center." While the Elam Center will still be utilized, the recreational programming that is possible in the new center includes fitness classes and special events such as game nights, a variety of tournaments and "other things we haven’t thought of yet. We have the space and time to explore a multitude of things."

"Facilities like this are really important for universities," said Simek, who added that a university today has a responsibility for the health and well being of its community, students, faculty and staff. Simek said another reason these facilities are important, is because students pay attention to the environment in which they are going to go to school. "And, if you really want to attract the best and brightest students to your institution, you have to have facilities for them that are going to give them the context in which they feel they’re going to learn the best. This is not simply an exercise facility, not simply a place for students to enjoy themselves. Facilities like this are integral. You should all be very proud of what you’ve done here."

"The modern recreational facility is a welcome addition to multiple playing fields, swimming pool and many other recreational sites our students enjoy on a daily basis," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Student use during our trial period has been brisk, and all those involved from planning, construction, and now actual management have been vital to the completion of this facility. Our student affairs staff has moved quickly but carefully in phasing in various activities throughout the center."

The new facility includes: four basketball courts that can convert into volleyball and badminton courts, walking/jogging balcony, three racquetball courts, fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, classroom, multipurpose and aerobics room, locker rooms, equipment checkout space and office suite. It also has two lobbies, which provide additional leisure recreational opportunities - pool, foosball and air hockey.

The center was built primarily for students, as student fees are the funding source. Other potential users include faculty, staff, retirees and families of UT Martin students and employees, who will pay a fee for use of the facility.

Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, and Fleming Associates of Memphis, served as project architects in a joint venture, and A&K Construction Co., of Paducah, Ky., built the center.

BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE POWERPOINT COURSE OFFERED AT UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a beginner and intermediate class using Microsoft PowerPoint from 9 a.m. - noon, Feb. 23 and 25. The instructor for the course is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The registration fee is $85.

Beginners to intermediates can learn how to create effective presentations. Participants will learn how to add text, notes, graphics, templates, custom animations, transition and how to edit a slide show. Students will also work with PowerPoint 2007, Vista and many more tools and tips. Participants will be able to easily create a professional presentation and enjoy the process.

To register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
UT MARTIN PURCHASES AEDs TO ASSIST CARDIAC-ARREST VICTIMS

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TRAVEL-STUDY TRIP TO LONDON/PARIS PLANNED

MARTIN, Tenn. - University of Tennessee at Martin travel-study trip to London and Paris is planned May 17-27. As part of this tour, participants will visit historical sites in England and France, explore cultures, the arts and sciences for each country by visiting museums, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. In Paris, the trip will include visiting the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Versailles. The group will also explore health care in these countries.

The approximate cost is $3,250. Group leaders are Ruby Black, professor of nursing, and Linda Luther, assistant professor of nursing. They may be contacted at rblack@ut.m.edu, 731-881-7133; and l Luther@ut.m.edu, 731-514-5018.
Federal Reserve Bank senior vice president/managing officer to speak, Feb. 4

MARTIN, Tenn. - Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will speak on "From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System" at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 4. Stackhouse’s appearance in Watkins Auditorium, Boiling University Center, will be co-sponsored by Honors Programs, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science.

“Julie Stackhouse has more than 25 years of service in the Federal Reserve system. As senior vice president of the St. Louis branch, which governs the district which includes west Tennessee, she is a crucial contributor to the economic decision-making team for our area,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director. “In these difficult and uncertain economic times, it will be interesting to hear her views on the causes of the current economic crisis and our progress towards recovery.”

Stackhouse received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Drake University and graduated from the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking. She joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in 1980 as an examiner and worked her way through the system before being promoted to vice president of bank supervision and regulation in 1989. In 1995, she left the Federal Reserve, moved to Minnesota and spent the next five years raising her children, while remaining active in volunteer work, including service as chair of the local Economic Development Commission and as a member of the Arts and Humanities Council. In 2000, she returned to the Federal Reserve system, and served as vice president and managing officer of risk management for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. In 2002, she moved to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as senior vice president of the bank supervision and regulation division.

She has numerous publications and presentations to her credit and is active in the community, serving as a trustee on the St. Louis Area Board of the Missouri Council on Economic Education and as president of the Gateway Chapter of the National Charity League.

“There is no more timely or relevant topic at this point in our political and economic history. Julie’s outstanding presentation style and her extensive knowledge of Federal Reserve practices and operations make this a ‘must see’ event for anyone wishing to learn more about the economic crisis and the challenges facing a sustained recovery,” said Dr. Tom Payne, Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science.

For more information, call McDonough at 731-881-7436.

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**ACT PREP COURSE OFFERED AT UT MARTIN**

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT. Making Sense of the ACT—ACT Prep Course will be from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 20-March 13. The instructor is Ron Ramage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book.

Making the highest score you can on the ACT Test really makes sense and dollars these days. This course will help you plan your strategy to make the highest score you are able on the ACT Test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should bring the book to the first class meeting. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 713-881-7760. Register early; the class limit is 20.
ONLINE REPOSITORY FEATURES UT MARTIN ACADEMIC WORKS

MARTIN, Tenn. — Academic works authored by UT Martin graduates and faculty have a worldwide audience, thanks to an online resource established in January 2008 by the Paul Meek Library’s Corbit Special Collections. Known as an “institutional repository,” Internet browser hits for Scholarship@UT Martin exceeded 4,200 since July 1, 2009, and continue to grow. Nobody is more pleased than Richard Saunders, the university’s special collections librarian and university archivist.

Several years back, Saunders had the idea of giving university-authored academic works a virtual home. In 2005, he received an advertisement for commercial institutional repository software that would manage online document storage and delivery. Although the software was impressive, the five-figure annual subscription charge was prohibitive.

The library staff looked for other options, seeking software that was open-source or inexpensive to use. Jim Nance, systems librarian, computer-science student John Britton and Saunders discovered a product called EPrints. “EPrints is an open-source, open-archiving database developed at the University of Southampton in Great Britain,” Saunders said. “It was written by a bunch of computer-science students who just simply have the idea that research needs to be available publicly.” The program was adapted for use in the library service pages, and the digital world opened for UT Martin scholarly works.

Saunders said about 600 open-archives repositories exist around the world, with UT Martin’s repository about in the middle in terms of size. He added that there are approximately another 1,000 databases on commercial platforms similar to what UT Martin is using but which carry considerable operating costs. “They’re slicker. They have a little more customizability, but they’re a whale of a lot more expensive, so we struck a balance between cost and effectiveness,” he said. “And, as we have used this, we are absolutely certain that we came down on the right side of things, both for the taxpayers of Tennessee and for the type of scholarship that the campus has produced over the last years.”

The software works like a library catalogue. From the front page, searchers may use keyword, title, author and subject functions to locate material directly. The site also indexes in search engines like Google and

ask.com, making the contents accessible across the globe. Once a record is located, a link to an electronic file allows users to download a digital copy directly to their computers.

“Master’s theses and projects are demonstrations of academic competence,” Saunders said. “But, they rarely get used after they are produced, mostly because they are accessible only at the student’s institution. Traffic on Scholarship@UT Martin shows how valuable master’s-level research can be to the world.”

As of Jan. 1 this year, 338 full-text files were accessible in the online repository. In the past year, that small number has accounted for more than 5,000 file downloads to researchers in 133 countries across the globe. “That sort of activity suggests UTM students produce research of real value,” Sanders said. Graduate students in education and agriculture wrote a majority of the 280 UT Martin master’s theses available on the site.

“Still the single most downloaded item on the whole database is a 30-year-old master’s thesis on Tennessee teacher-tenure policy,” he said. The next step is capturing master’s projects, followed by University Scholars papers, which are academic works produced by undergraduate students in the University Scholars Program. Faculty members are encouraged to contribute their own work, he said.

Besides the search feature, the site includes a “Paper of the Day,” randomly chosen by the software. “It’s just a way to remind people that there is real research here,” he said. “It’s not just a site with a number on it. There’s something to take a look at.”

So far, Saunders is pleased with what Scholarship@UT Martin has accomplished. “Number one, it’s always good to have a digital presence out in the world. That was a big driving force,” he said, adding, “What the software does is put UTM as a research institution into an international context,” he said. “We have a presence now.”

To find the repository, point a browser to http://scholarship.utm.edu.
ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR COURSE OFFERED FEB. 15

MARTIN, Tenn. - Persons interested in learning the basics of Adobe Illustrator can take advantage of a course at The University of Tennessee at Martin. A Brief Introduction to Adobe Illustrator will be offered from 2-3:30 p.m., Feb. 15. The instructor for the course is Kara Hooper, communications coordinator. The registration fee is $35.

Adobe Illustrator is the leading vector-graphics program in design but is not completely user-friendly. The benefit to vector-based graphics is that they can be used at any size, unlike pixel-based graphics, such as photographs. If you have ever wanted to explore making logos, creating your own clip art or working in a graphics environment, Adobe Illustrator is a good place to start. This session will cover the basics of how Illustrator works, what to do within the program and what practices to avoid.

For more information or to register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.

WTWP accepting institute applications

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 18th annual invitational summer institute May 8 and June 7-7July 1 on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Deadline for application is April 16.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers from grades K-16, from all subject areas, to apply for participation.

The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing and a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teacher consultants. Graduate credits and a stipend are available.

"Recent studies have shown that students taught by teachers who have attended National Writing Project summer institutes perform better in all measured attributes of writing than their peers," said Dr. David Carathers, UT Martin assistant professor of English and WTWP director. "Combining more writing and better writing instruction in all content areas helps students understand material better while boosting overall test scores.

"After the WTWP summer institute, teachers return to their schools with new ideas on improving writing instruction that they can share with colleagues in a variety of ways," he added.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive three hours of graduate credit that may be used as part of a master's program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master's degree. Accepted participants will also receive a stipend this year for their time spent in professional development training with WTWP. Tuition, books and stipends are covered by grants from the National Writing Project.

For more information about graduate studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at (731) 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carathers by phone at (731) 881-7290, by fax at (731) 881-7276 or by e-mail at wtpw@utm.edu.
Online repository features
UT Martin academic works

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UT Martin hosts grand opening of new state-of-the-art rec center

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"I've always played sports and have been active ... I feel less stressed and better about myself after a good workout or a game of basketball." She added, "I love to do cardio. The computerized monitors each cardio machine has allow you to plan and save each workout you do."

Panovec said having the new center on campus "is what this campus needed to compete with other schools across the state. This will have a significant effect on visiting students, with the opportunity to help increase enrollment."

Lester agreed and added, "I think it helps out with offering more places and things to do."

Gina McClure, Office of Campus Recreation di-
Phi Kappa Phi sets Tuesday lecture

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

This year’s Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. Christopher Hill, assistant professor of English. His presentation is titled “I cannot keep decorum personne: A Renaissance Rhetoric of Strife.”

The lecture is free and open to the public. Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin Chancellor 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 13.

For more information about the lecture, contact Mary Carpenter, UT Martin Paul Meek Library director, by telephone at (731) 881-7070 or by e-mail at mary.carpenter@utm.edu.
February 5, 2010

Top juniors honored for academic achievement

By STANLEY DUNLAP
sdunlap@jacksun.com

The top high school juniors in Madison County were recognized Thursday for their academic achievement during a ceremony at The Jackson Country Club.

The Tennessee Leaders of Tomorrow banquet was sponsored by the Madison County UT Alumni Chapter of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association. The event was attended by the top 10 juniors at eight public and private schools.

Thursday’s event was a chance to thank the students for what they’ve done in the classroom and tell them to not let up in their senior year, said Charley Deal with University of Tennessee Martin Academic Affairs.

In some cases, students may cruise through their senior year and harm their grade point average, he said. The 80 students at Thursday night’s banquet have shown a strong initiative that’s crucial to Tennessee’s success.

"We (also) want them to stay in state," he said. "We don't want the brain drain to kick in and have them not staying here (after high school)."

Halle Priester said there is a sense of accomplishment anytime she learns something new at school. The University School of Jackson pupil is still deciding what she’ll major in for college.

"I'll find a new job and think that'll be fun and then the next thing comes along," Priester said. "It's always scary to think about leaving your parents and that comfort zone, but it'll be exciting to meet new people."

Jackson Central-Merry student Kiara Hunter volunteers at a dental clinic at JCM and hopes to receive a college scholarship to study the profession.

She was surprised when she found out about the banquet.

"I've always had straight A's and had good conduct in school, but I haven't had anything like this done for me before," Hunter said.

Trinity Christian Academy’s Rachel Taylor said support from home has influenced her appreciation for hard work.

"My parents taught me to always do my best in everything I do whether it's school or sports or anything," she said.

- Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668
Arnold Center agent Phil Kemp knows time is right to retire and hit the road

By PHILIP LORENZ AEDC Public Affairs

As a high school student, Phil Kemp loved history and envisioned pursuing an educational career. He wanted to be a schoolteacher.

Kemp, who is a special agent for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) Federal Investigative Services at Arnold Center, is hanging up his badge at the end of January after enjoying a career spanning 32 years, with 21 of them at Arnold Air Force Base.

As an investigator with OPM, he is the individual who conducts background investigations to determine whether an employee at AEDC is trustworthy to have access to classified information.

For Kemp, this often involves driving long distances to conduct interviews with the prospective employee’s friends, neighbors, classmates, fellow college students and former employers and coworkers. He also investigates DOD contractors and other government agencies.

So, how did a young man with plans to go into teaching get into law enforcement?

Kemp said his interest in that profession began when he was young.

“You have to understand, I grew up in Adamsville, Tenn., the home of Buford Pusser,” he said. “You might recall that movie ‘Walking Tall,’ based on his life.”

However, another event also helped to push Kemp in the direction of a career in law enforcement.

“I had a friend who was a cop,” he said, recalling an event that took place when Kemp was a senior in high school.

“It’s kind of a funny story,” he said. “My friend was married to the chief of police’s daughter. So, daddy-in-law had to find him a job, so, he made him a cop. I was sitting in town one cold night. My friend was sitting there watching the traffic — he was in a patrol car and I was in mine. There was a car that came through town and ran a red light and nearly caused a wreck. My friend ran them down and they (people in the car) were drunk and all wanted to fight. So, I helped my friend and that sort of stuck in my blood.”

However, by the time Kemp was considering college, he realized that teaching didn’t pay well and his father wanted his son to consider engineering as a career.

“My dad was one of the Oak Ridgers,” Kemp said. “He was a millwright, he and my grandpa both. They were taking apart a lot of the stuff they had used to build the atomic bombs. They were taking that apart and refurbishing stuff.”

Kemp lived in the Oak Ridge area until about 1959 when his family moved to Adamsville.

He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and started taking classes that would have lead to a degree in electrical engineering. Before long, Kemp realized engineering wasn’t for him and he finally pursued an undergraduate degree in criminal justice, graduating in 1977. Later, he received his master’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Troy University at Montgomery, Ala.

His first real paying job in law enforcement was as a dispatcher for the Adamsville Police Department and then the McNairy County Sheriff’s Department. Later, he was a police officer for Sharon, Tenn., for about a year, and then a police dispatcher for the city of Martin. This was followed by a six-month stint with the fire department.
"Then I went to work for TVA's Public Safety Service," he said. "This was his first federal job. Then I found out about the Defense Investigative Service in 1982. A guy I worked with was former Air Force and he knew about them."

Kemp met the man who had conducted the background investigation on his friend, who had been hired by the Defense Investigative Service.

"I talked to the guy that did the background investigation and I applied and got a job six months later," he said. "You went through a four-week school and somebody was always with you for six months of on-the-job training."

Kemp, who first came to AEDC on a part-time basis in 1988 before it turned into a full-time position in 1994, has enjoyed his job. He said all too often, good people have something in their past that requires investigating. He said it is important to be fair and thorough in conducting a background investigation.

However, Kemp also said he didn't hesitate to flag someone for a criminal investigation if that was warranted.

When he first began working as a background investigator, the agency was called the Defense Investigative Service and by 1997, it became the Defense Security Service.

Kemp said he is proud of his career as a special agent with OPM's Federal Investigative Services.

"I believe it is very important to the safety of our country," he said.

Kemp and his wife Mary Ann live in the Fayetteville area and especially enjoy camping with friends.

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Camping in the Smokies
Mary Ann and Phil Kemp took a camping trip to the Great Smoky Mountains in October of 2008. Camping is one of the outdoor activities they enjoy and will have more time for now that Phil is retiring from his job at Arnold Center. —Photo Provided
Chris Bridges Joins Nature Conservancy in Tennessee as Program Director

Forester to Lead West Tennessee Program

Nashville, TN — February 8, 2010 — Chris Bridges has joined the staff of The Nature Conservancy as West Tennessee Program Director. He will be based in Sardis, Tennessee, his hometown.

A former Environmental Specialist for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in Jackson, Bridges brings experience in water-quality, stormwater control, conservation planning and forestry. He has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an M.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University.

"Chris has already hit the ground running," said Gina Hancock, associate state director for The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee. "He is well-acquainted with the agencies and people that are key partners in our conservation work. He knows the West Tennessee region well, and he knows its conservation challenges. We're very pleased to have Chris Bridges on our team."

Bridges grew up on a family farm in Sardis. "That led to a close connection to the land," he said. "My previous experience living and working in West Tennessee will help me make connections and work with people from a variety of backgrounds — government agencies, conservation organizations, loggers, farmers.

"I'll be working with agencies and private landowners to implement conservation practices in support of the restoration of the West Tennessee landscape. More specifically, I'll be working on reforestation planning, riverbank restoration and wildlife habitat conservation. In addition, I'm available for community groups looking for guidance on conservation issues."

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RETIREMENT RECEPTION — The University of Tennessee at Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences recently hosted a retirement reception for Linda Davis, center, administrative specialist, in honor of her 41 years of service. Among those attending the reception were UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan and his wife, Cathy.
Weakley County residents in WestStar 2010 class

Jerald Ogg and Barbara Virgin, of Weakley County, are among 32 members of the 2010 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 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Ogg is the vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is a member of the Weakley County Advisory Board for Lifeline Blood Services. He previously served as president of the Martin Parent-Teacher Organization and coached 16 girls softball teams over a 12-year period.

On June 30, 2009, Ogg retired with the rank of colonel from the U.S. Air Force, where he was an officer in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

He has received the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award and the UT Martin Outstanding Educator Award along with several honors from the U.S. Air Force.

He is a graduate and a facilitator for the University of Tennessee Leadership Institute. “Participating in WestStar will allow me to gain a greater appreciation of the economic challenges facing our region, particularly in health care,” said Ogg.

Virgin is the executive director of the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce. She is also the program director for both Leadership Weakley County and First State Youth Leadership Weakley County.

Virgin is the Weakley County compliance director for the Governor’s Three Star Program, a member of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, the Weakley County Health Council, Education Foundation and the West Tennessee Drug Alliance program. She serves on the steering committees for the Adult Education Center Advisory Board, the Weakley and Obion County Drug Court Program and Local P-16/Tennessee Scholars Program.

She is chair of the education advisory committee and involved with the Weakley County Reading Railroad. Some of Virgin’s honors include certification and charter membership in the West Tennessee Master Gardener program and completion of Leadership Obion County program.

“WestStar will personally advance my leadership abilities; therefore, professionally improving the leadership programs in Weakley County,” said Virgin.

Travel-study trip to London, Paris planned

UT Martin travel-study trip to London and Paris is planned May 17-27. Participants will visit historical sites in England and France, explore cultures, the arts and sciences for each country by visiting museums, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. In Paris, the trip will include visiting the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Versailles. The group will also explore health care in these countries.

The approximate cost is $3,250. Group leaders are Ruby Black, professor of nursing, and Linda Luther, assistant professor of nursing. They may be contacted at rblack@utm.edu, 731-881-7133; and lluther@utm.edu, 731-541-5018.

Trivia night set

Show your smarts and raise money for cancer research!

UT Martin’s Relay for Life Team is hosting a fun trivia night complete with video and music clips! A fun evening for all...raising money to fight cancer!

Join the fun at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Teams consist of 6 to 8 players and cost is only $5 per player. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.

There will be refreshments to purchase so bring some spare change and help raise money for a wonderful cause!

To sign up a team call at 731-881-7078 before 4 p.m. and ask for Cindy.

Adobe Illustrator course offered Feb. 15

Persons interested in learning the basics of Adobe Illustrator can take advantage of a course at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

A Brief Introduction to Adobe Illustrator will be offered from 2-3:30 p.m., Feb. 15. The instructor for the course is Kara Hooper, communications coordinator. The registration fee is $35.

Adobe Illustrator is the leading vector graphics program in design but is not completely user-friendly.

The benefit to vector-based graphics is that they can be used at any size, unlike pixel-based graphics, such as photographs. If you have ever wanted to explore making logos, creating your own clip art or working in a graphics environment, Adobe Illustrator is a good place to start.

This session will cover the basics of how Illustrator works, what to do within the program and what practices to avoid.

For more information or to register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
RETIREMENT RECEPTION — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Institutional Research and Planning recently hosted a retirement reception for April Baker, research coordinator, in the Chancellor's Conference Room in honor of her 20 years of service. She retired Jan. 29. Among those attending the reception were, Chancellor Tom Rakes, and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Phi Kappa Phi plans Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet at 7 p.m., Feb. 9, Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture.

This year's Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. Christopher Hill, assistant professor of English. His presentation is titled "I cannot keep decorum personae: A Renaissance Rhetoric of Strife."

The lecture is free and open to the public. Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin Chancellor 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 15.

For more information, contact Mary Carpenter, UT Martin Paul Meek Library director, at 731-881-7070 or mary.carpenter@utm.edu.

SPEAKER TALKS ON EARTHQUAKE — Dr. Mark Simpson, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently addressed the Martin Kiwanis Club about the effects and ramifications of the Haitian Earthquake. His presentation titled, "Haiti at a Glance," explored the long term effects of the earthquake on the citizens of Haiti. Haiti is extremely vulnerable due to its global position. Located in both an earthquake and hurricane prone area of the Caribbean, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere has again been devastated by the forces of nature. For more information about the Martin Kiwanis Club, go to www.martinkiwanisclub.org. Kiwanis is a global organization dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.
General Civil Mediation Training Course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS) is offering a General Civil Mediation Training Course. Sessions will be Feb. 22-26, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or April 26-30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at UT Martin.

The instructor is Raymond L. Stevenson, general civil case mediator for the Consultant and Mediation Institute. The cost is $1,275, which includes training materials.

While the course will deal to some extent with interpersonal conflict resolution in its skill-building segments, it will primarily focus on the resolution of conflict between individuals versus companies or agencies and interdependent groups or units. Specifically emphasized will be the skills required, such as communication, creative problem solving and facilitation and the basic processes used, such as negotiation, conciliation, and mediation, in conflict resolution.

The participants will examine the current theory in conflict resolution – legal, ethical and emotional issues that are common in disputes – and the format by which employment disputes are resolved.

This course is approved by the Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission.

To register for a workshop, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082 or visit the Web at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php. For additional information, contact: Stevenson at 731-571-4408.

Adams receives UT Martin Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship

Melissa Adams, a sophomore from Martin who is majoring in family and consumer sciences, is the recipient of the 2009-2010 Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The late Ray Michael Barnes attended UT Martin and majored in early childhood development. He also was a director of the UT Martin collegiate choir. He participated in several community events that were designed to enhance social awareness and served as a minister of music at Morning Star Baptist Church in Humboldt.

He believed in empowering others, so the Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship was established by a family member to assist and empower those who are working toward improving the lives of youth.

The scholarship was first awarded in 2007-08.

Miller to Perform at UT-M

MARTIN - As part of the annual Civil Rights Conference and Native American Day, Bill Miller will speak and perform at 6:30 p.m. on February 23 in Watkins Auditorium (Boling University Center) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Miller, a Munsee Mohican, won his third Grammy on Jan. 31, 2010 for best Native American Song. Among his many achievements are being the flute player in the movie "Pocahontas," writing three songs on Faith Hill's new CD, winning three Grammy Awards, Maestro in the Israeli Symphony, and being one of the most noted artist, flute player, guitarist, singer and songwriter among Native Americans. In this return performance at UT-M, Bill Miller will captivate the audience and his music and artwork will be for sale at the event.

Doors open at 5:50 p.m. with Elizabeth Cox, a UT-M dual enrollment student from Milan High School, performing a selection of original music. Miller performs at 6:30 p.m. The event is free to the public.
MEDINA'S GILLEY ENROLLS IN WESTSTAR

MARTIN – Kim Gilley, of Medina, is among 32 members of the 2010 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 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Gilley is the city recorder for the City of Medina. She is currently involved with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Tennessee Association Municipal Clerks and Recorders. Gilley has been a board of trustee member with the West Tennessee Hearing and Speech Center, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Medina Baseball and Softball Association. She is a Leadership Gibson County graduate and has received certification in U.S. Homeland Security.

"PARTICIPATING IN WESTSTAR WILL ENABLE ME TO WORK WITH MY PEERS TOWARD THE COMMON GOAL OF BETTER SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND REGION," SAID GILLEY.

FREE CONCERT – Bill Miller, Munsee Mohican, Native American Musician and Speaker will perform a free concert on Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin. The performance is part of the UTM Civil Rights Conference-Native American Day. Miller is the winner of three Grammy Awards, and was the flute player in the movie, "Pocahontas".
Ray participates in 2010 WestStar Class

Stephanie Ray is among 32 members of the 2010 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 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Ray is the director of human services for MascoBath in Adamsville. She is a board member of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce, McNairy County Development Center and the McNairy County United Way. She is also on the education committee for Habitat for Humanity. Ray’s honors include the DECA Award for partnership with the Board of Education and a human resources professional recognition.

She says that participating in WestStar will help her to gain knowledge and skills to assist in furthering McNairy County and West Tennessee in the areas of economic development, leadership strategies, education and innovation.

Bliss to perform in concert series at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host Dr. Andrew M. Bliss, lecturer of music, to perform a solo percussion recital at 3:00 p.m., February 21, in Campbell Auditorium of Holt Humanities Building.

As a performing artist, Bliss has extensive experience in a wide variety of musical ensembles and genres, while specializing in contemporary solo and chamber performance. He has been a featured artist at the SEAMUS National Conference, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, the College Music Society’s International Conference in Croatia and at multiple Percussive Arts Society international conventions.

The concert will feature solo percussion works by some of the leading composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including David Lang and Iannis Xenakis. The program will also feature “Olana”, by Kyle Gann, a vibraphone solo that Bliss commissioned and premiered in 2008. Finally, the program will end with “Mudra”, by Bob Becker, a snare drum solo with percussion quartet that will feature four students from UT Martin’s percussion studio, directed by Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of percussion. The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7401 or bcoker@utm.edu.

Luscombe to perform at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host the Concert Series performance by Greg Luscombe at 8:00 p.m., February 15, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Luscombe has served as assistant professor of music at the University of Mississippi since 2008. He has also served as the principal trombonist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra since the 1989-1990 season. Luscombe has a Master of Arts degree in music from the University of Akron.

As a performer, Luscombe has been featured various times as a soloist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. He also has soloed with other orchestras and various concert bands. He has been a member of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, The Canton Symphony Orchestra, The Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Luscombe is also active in freelance work outside of the orchestral world and performs on the euphonium and the bass trumpet. He will be performing works by Martin, Reich, Besozzi, Castcreto and others.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7401 or bcoker@utm.edu.
Student Recreation Center integral part of University community

It's a recreation center for students and funded by students, so who better to know first-hand its benefits than students? Bryan Panovec and Rachel Lester also have the advantage of their experiences as student employees of the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Campus Recreation. They have worked and "worked out" for several years at campus facilities.

The new $16.5 million, 96,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center was officially opened today at 95 Mt. Pelia Rd. on campus with University of Tennessee Interim President Jan Simek and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes among those participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"It's important for students to take advantage of the new facility because it is theirs," said Panovec, an Austin, Texas, senior history and political science double major. "There is something for everyone in the facility. As a student who used the previous recreational facilities at least five times a week and has maintained that schedule in the new facility, Panovec has enjoyed the weight room the most so far. "But I also love seeing so many students use the SRC and hearing them speaking to each other about how awesome the SRC truly is."

Lester, a Martin junior nursing major, thinks the new fitness center and basketball courts are the best features. "I've always played sports and have been active ... I feel less stressed and better about myself after a good workout or a game of basketball." She added, "I love to do cardio. The computerized monitors each cardio machine has allows you to plan and save each workout you do."

Panovec said having the new center on campus "is what this campus needed to compete with other schools across the state. This will have a significant effect on visiting students, with the opportunity to help increase enrollment." Lester agreed and added, "... I think it helps out with offering more places and things to do."

Gina McClure, Office of Campus Recreation director, credits students for making the center a reality and points to the much-needed space as a means to have consistent recreational time without competing for time and space with classes and athletics. "This is something that we have not been able to provide before because of the multiple users and uses of the Elam Center." While the Elam Center will still be utilized, the recreational programming that is possible in the new center includes fitness classes and special events such as game nights, a variety of tournaments and "other things we haven't thought of yet. We have the space and time to explore a multitude of things."

"Facilities like this are really important for universities," said Simek, who added that a university today has a responsibility for the health and well being of its community, students, faculty and staff. Simek said another reason these facilities are important, is because students pay attention to the environment in which they are going to go to school. "And, if you really want to attract the best and brightest students to your institution, you have to have facilities for them that are going to give them the context in which they feel they're going to learn the best. This is not simply an exercise facility, not simply a place for students to enjoy themselves. Facilities like this are integral. You should all be very proud of what you've done here."

"The modern recreational facility is a welcome addition to multiple playing fields, swimming pool and many other recreational sites our students enjoy on a daily basis," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Student use during our trial period has been brisk, and all those involved from planning, construction, and now actual management have been vital to the completion of this facility. Our student affairs staff has moved quickly but carefully in phasing in various activities throughout the center."

The new facility includes: four basketball courts that can convert into volleyball and badminton courts, walking/jogging balcony, three racquetball courts, fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, classroom, multipurpose and acrobats room, locker rooms, equipment checkout space and office suite. It also has two lobbies, which provide additional leisure recreational opportunities - pool, foosball and air hockey.

The center was built primarily for students, as student fees are the funding source. Other potential users include faculty, staff, retirees and families of UT Martin students and employees, who will pay a fee for use of the facility.

Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, and Fleming Associates of Memphis, served as project architects in a joint venture, and A&K Construction Co., of Paducah, Kentucky, built the center.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center was officially opened recently with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the facility. Pictured front row, from left, are Brittany McGruder, Erin Chambers, Student Government Association past presidents; Phillip Masengill, SGA president; Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Gina McClure, Office of Campus Recreation director; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Jan Simek, UT interim president; Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus; Al Houten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; Lane Lyle, of Lyle Cook Martin Architects; Tim Nipp, physical plant director; second row, Jenna Wright, Faculty Senate president; Randy Brundige, Martin mayor; Houston Patrick, Weakley County Mayor; Curt Pierce and Scott Fleming, of Fleming Associates; Mark White, A&K Construction; Howard Carmen, UT Facilities Planning project engineer; Marshall Duncan, of Lyle Cook Martin Architects; and Jim Fassioito, A&K Construction.

http://www.northfulton.com/Articles-c-2010-02-07-181959.114...

The University of Tennessee at Martin

Madeline A. Brown, of Alpharetta, made the University of Tennessee at Martin Fall 2009 Dean's list in the with Highest Honors.
Weakley County residents in WestStar 2010 Class

Jerald Ogg and Barbara Virgin, of Weakley County, are among 32 members of the 2010 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 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

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"Participating in WestStar will allow me to gain a greater appreciation of the economic challenges facing our region, particularly in health care," said Ogg.

Virgin is the executive director of the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce. She is also the program director for both Leadership Weakley County and First State Youth Leadership Weakley County. Virgin is the Weakley County compliance director for the Governor's Three Star Program, a member of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, the Weakley County Health Council, Education Foundation and the West Tennessee Drug Alliance program. She serves on the steering committees for the Adult Education Center Advisory Board, the Weakley and Obion County Drug Court Program and Local P-16/Tennessee Scholars Program. She is chairman of the education advisory committee and involved with the Weakley County Reading Railroad. Some of Virgin's honors include certification and charter membership in the West Tennessee Master Gardener program and completion of Leadership Obion County program.

"WestStar will personally advance my leadership abilities, therefore, professionally improving the leadership programs in Weakley County," said Virgin.

Adams receives UTM scholarship

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The late Ray Michael Barnes attended UT Martin and majored in early childhood development. He also was a director of the UT Martin collegiate choir. He participated in several community events that were designed to enhance social awareness and served as a minister of music at Morning Star Baptist Church in Humboldt. He believed in empowering others, so the Ray Michael Barnes Scholarship was established by a family member to assist and empower those who are working toward improving the lives of youth. The scholarship was first awarded in 2007-08.
Kappa Alpha Psi helps children to learn

Children at McCabe First United Methodist Church in Martin were presented educational materials January 26 by UT Martin’s Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Among the children receiving books and other educational items were (standing, left to right): Luckey Davis, Bradason Lawson, Cortez Kennedy and Allie Abbott; (seated) Kalijah King, Tanya Ward, Shymia Crosby, Adam Crosby, Charolette Turner, Tomas Reynolds and Chris Davis; (standing) Javion Goins, Kylan Vonner and Tommy Reynolds. Fraternity members present were (standing, left to right) Michael Lockridge of Union City, Christopher Craig of Covington and Darius Irvin of Memphis. Also present was Rev. Jimmy Carter (standing), the church’s pastor.

Local leaders to gather for legislative update

For a third year in a row, area leaders will gather on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus early Friday morning to discuss economic development within Weakley County.

The Weakley County Legislative Breakfast is a joint effort between The REED Center and the Weakley County Economic Development office to bring together legislators and their constituents.

This year’s slate of speakers includes State Sen. Roy Herron; State Rep. Mark Maddox; Ned Ray McWherter and 2010 gubernatorial candidates Kim McMillan, Bill Gibbons, Jim Kyle and a representative from Bill Haslam’s campaign.


Weakley County Judge Tommy Moore will serve as master of ceremonies at the event.

Local legislators will offer a glimpse of state legislation impacting Weakley County as well as a review of current projects in place throughout the county. Approximately 200 people will be in attendance at the breakfast.
Cole announces candidacy for Gibson County mayor

Lynn Cole, 55, a lifelong Gibson County resident and Trenton businessman, formally announces his candidacy for Gibson County mayor subject to the May 5 Democratic Primary.

Cole, a 1972 graduate of Peabody High School and a graduate of the University of Tennessee Martin in 1976, has served six years as Gibson County commissioner representing District 10. Presently he is serving on the EMS Committee, Ethics Committee and Courthouse Restoration Committee.

Involved with the formation of the Northwest Gibson County YMCA since its conception, he served as chairman of the Building Task Force of the new facility and chairman of the Board of Directors and has been a member of the YMCA of Jackson Regional Board of Directors.

Cole has served on the Trenton Special School District Board of Trustees, past president of the Peabody Athletic Booster Club (two years), former director of Trenton Girls Softball League (four years), and past citizen member of the city of Trenton Park Board (four years).

For 19 years he was vice president of Phelan Company, Inc., a general construction contracting firm, 10 years as president and CEO of Petrocover, Inc. a specialty petroleum construction contractor.

Over a 29-year period, he was responsible for design, fabrication and site installation of over 2,000 fuel island canopy roof system projects shipped to 28 states.

The past three years Cole has been a Tennessee Department of Health licensed hearing consultant, representing Miracle Ear in West Tennessee. He has also maintained farming interests in the Moore’s Chapel community the past 32 years.

He is the son of Ralph and Jean Cole and is married to the former Suzanne Crocker of Bradford. They have four children: Ashley Cole, Katie Gibson Spelling, Samantha Cole, and Corbin Gibson, and one grandson, Cole Patrick Hogan. They worship at Trenton First Presbyterian Church where he serves as an elder and is chairman of the Property Committee.

“I have a heart for public service and the county mayor should indeed be a servant of the people, guarding their interests while preparing for the future,” Cole said.

“My broad range of prior service to the community, along with an extensive business experience background, enables me with the proven leadership and people skills to be an effective and progressive county mayor,” he said.

“Gibson County is a wonderful place to call home. I humbly request your vote and support as we together strive to make our county all it can and should be, for us and the generations to come,” he added.

Local concert series to include trombonist

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host the Concert Series performance by Greg Luscombe at 8 p.m. Monday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Luscombe has served as assistant professor of music at the University of Mississippi since 2008. He has also served as the principal trombonist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra since the 1989-90 season.

Luscombe has a master of arts degree in music from the University of Akron. As a performer, he has been featured various times as a soloist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. He also has soloed with other orchestras and various concert bands. He has been a member of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, The Canton Symphony Orchestra, The Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Luscombe is also active in freelance work outside of the orchestral world and performs on the euphonium and the bass trumpet.

He will be performing works by Martin, Reiche, Besozzi, Casterede and others during the UT Martin concert.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at (731) 881-7401 or bcoker@utm.edu.
Native American musician to perform at UT Martin

As part of the annual Civil Rights Conference and Native American Day, Bill Miller will speak and perform at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in Watkins Auditorium (Boling University Center) at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Miller, a Munsee Mohican, won his third Grammy on Jan. 31 for Best Native American Song.

Among his many achievements are being the flute player in the movie “Pocahontas,” writing three songs on Faith Hill’s new CD, winning three Grammy Awards, serving as maestro in the Israeli Symphony and being a noted artist, flute player, guitarist, singer and songwriter among Native Americans. His many fans are stars on the country music, folk music and rock music circuits.

Appearing for an encore at UTM, Miller will captivate the audience and his music and artwork will be for sale at the event, a spokesman said.

The doors will open at 5:50 p.m., with Elizabeth Cox, an UT Martin dual enrollment student from Milan High School, performing a selection of original music prior to Miller’s performance at 6:30. The event is free to the public.

For more information, contact Brent Cox by e-mail at bcx@utm.edu.

BILL MILLER

SMACS officers

RITA MITCHELL • READER SUBMITTED • FEBRUARY 11, 2010

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) recently elected officers for 2010; Seated left to right are Ashish J. Patel of Columbia, treasurer; Kayla A. Poindexter of Murfreesboro, president; Kayla M. Baker of Troy, vice president; Gilbert J. Forgays of Clarksville, secretary; standing, members of the executive committee, Dahlia M. Haddad of Martin, Lee A. Elliott of Martin, James K. Griffin of Lexington, and Jhialak V. Patel of Martin.

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Rodeo Injury Propels Bullrider into College Coaching Career

Education key to Chad Phipps finding new opportunity in the sport he loves

By Mary-Glnn Smith

No one seems to know the importance of a college education better than University of West Alabama (UWA) rodeo coach Chad Phipps.

Dalton, GA, native always felt sure he would make a living doing just what he had done for years: rodeoing. Phipps grew up in a rodeo family and spent his childhood surrounded by every aspect of the sport.

"My dad has been in rodeo his whole life and I have been around horses and in rodeos since I was born; I grew up rodeoing," Phipps said. "I got on my first calf when I was just five years old." Phipps soon moved on from riding calves to getting on bucking bulls. He spent his years growing up roping and riding; pretty much doing anything that had to do with the sport of rodeo.

He competed in rodeos all throughout high school and, when it came time for graduation, was offered a rodeo scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin. He took the scholarship and became part of the Skyhawk Wrangler Rodeo Team, where he was named the team’s MVP in 2001 and 2002.

Phipps took home the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association’s (PRCA) award for Rookie of the Year in bull riding in the Southeastern Circuit. The next year, he won the prestigious title of PRCA Southeastern Circuit Champion Bull Rider and was also runner-up for the all-around title. To be eligible for the title of All-Around Champion, cowboys must win money in at least two different rodeo events. Phipps competed professionally in saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down calf roping, and bull riding; every event but bareback riding. By winning the title, Phipps qualified for the 2002 Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo (DNCFR) in Pocatello, Idaho.

Phipps was a living-earning career in the sport he had been a part of for so many years and had his eyes set on making the National Finals Rodeo and winning a world title. But in the dangerous sport of rodeo, no one is ever certain of the future.

In 2002, Phipps was riding at the top of his game: when a bull stepped on him, ending his career as a professional bull rider.

"A bull stepped on my riding arm and broke my humerus," Phipps explained about the injury. "It crushed the bone into 15 little pieces. I had to have a plate and 16 screws put in my arm. It ended my career because my arm couldn’t take it anymore."

The injury may have kept him from competing in bull riding, but nothing could keep Phipps away from the sport he loved.

Two years ago, Phipps moved to Livingston to take over the position of head coach of the UWA rodeo team.

"I have always known there was nothing else I wanted to do," Phipps said about his involvement with rodeo.

"I never imagined I would have a real job (not rodeoing) that had to do with rodeo," said Phipps, who knows that without his college education, a job as coach would have never been possible. "But I do and I love my job."

UWA established a rodeo team 12 years ago.

"They have had highs and they have had lows," Phipps explained about the history of the rodeo program at UWA.

The women’s rodeo team has won the region championship five times and the men’s team has finished second in the region three times.

UWA competes in the Ozark region, which is the largest region out of the 11 regions making up the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). The region consists of 15 schools and nearly 400 individual competitors.

"The Ozark region goes up to Michigan State to Missouri Valley College and down through Arkansas and Mississippi and everywhere east," Phipps said.

In 2009, both the women’s and men’s teams finished in the number five spot in the region.

The rodeo team competes in ten college rodeos a year, five in the spring and five in the fall. The home rodeos for UWA are held at the Don C. Hines Rodeo Complex in Livingston.

Like the PRCA, college rodeo consists of the same traditional rodeo events: bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, calf roping, saddle bronc riding, women’s barrel racing and bull riding. But in college rodeos, the women are offered two more events: goat tying and bareback riding; some women also compete in team roping.

"College rodeo, for people who don’t know, is just like college football or college baseball," Phipps explained. "But it is not sanctioned through the NCAA, so college rodeo participants can compete professionally and in college rodeos too."

One cowboy, who competes in both college and professional rodeos, is steer wrestler Ace Campbell of Robertsdale.

"Ace has won probably $40,000 in 2009 in professional and amateur events," Phipps said. "He just won the Duval’s bulldoggin in Checotah, OK. He beat all the top 100 steer wrestlers in the world... he won $16,000 out there."

Campbell is currently ranked number one in the PRCA Southeastern standings in the steer wrestling. He sits atop the all-around standings as well. Campbell also competes in the Professional Cowboy’s Association (PCA) rodeos and is ranked second in the steer wrestling.

Saddle bronc rider Justin Caylor of Andalusia competed in Casper, WY against the top cowboys from across the nation at the 2009 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR).

"He (Caylor) had a little tough luck out there at the CNFR," Phipps said. "But he is currently ranked second in the PRCA Southeastern Circuit and has been in the top 5 in the world."

Many alumni of the UWA rodeo team have gone on to win big in professional rodeos across the country. One of them is Philadelphia, MS, bull rider Chance Smart, who graduated from UWA in 2009. Since college, Smart has qualified for the NFR in Las Vegas twice and was runner-up to the world championship title last year. Smart has won over $100,000 in his professional rodeo career.

"We have a bunch of alumni here who have moved on and done really good," Phipps said.

"Jake Littlefield went to school here and now he is on television every week riding in the CBR (Championship Bull Riding)," he continued. "He rides bulls really well and has gone on to bigger and better things from college."

In 2008, UWA had 16 members on the rodeo team. In 2009, Coach Phipps has done a lot of work to recruit strong team members and looked to build the team up to 20-25 members.

"On the recruiting side of things, I get a lot of tips from people I know," Phipps explained. "I go all over to recruit or sometimes they will contact me if they want to be a part of the team here at UWA."

"Our goal here is first and foremost to get an education. I stress the importance of getting a good education because I know from my career-ending injury, that happened just out of the blue, if I hadn’t had my college degree then I wouldn’t have gotten a good job like I have now."

"We want to get people on the team who want to win, but the main goal here is to get an education. I can give some scholarships, but not everybody can get one, there is a limited amount of money available for scholarships. But you can get on the rodeo team as long as you have competed in rodeo before."

Members of the rodeo team not only work hard to win in competition but also raise money to benefit the rodeo program and hopefully one day be able to offer more scholarships to incoming cowboys and cowgirls.

"This rodeo team has a lot of community support," Phipps said. "But we don’t have a very big budget, so we have to do a lot of fundraising to support our team."

The UWA rodeo team puts on a rodeo every fall and hosts a bull riding in the spring. These two events serve as the team’s main fundraisers.

"We are currently working on having a round robin team roping every Sunday afternoon during the summer to help raise money," said Phipps. "We are also looking to do some 4-H shows on some Saturday afternoons to try and get the kids in the community involved."

Phipps works closely with the members of his team everyday to make sure the UWA rodeo team is the best it can be and competes at the top of their game.

"We try keeping a positive attitude, we have rodeo meetings every week and go over positive thinking handouts," Phipps explained. "We go over a lot of things that teach you to win in your head because rodeo is way more mental then it is physical. When you learn the head games and you get them down pat, the physical part comes easy."

Phipps is excited about this year for the UWA rodeo team and expects for them to come out on top of the competition.

"We have a good team," Phipps said. "Not only a good team that can win the region, but even have a good shot at a national championship next year. We have several kids who compete in their event at top levels at the professional level."

Winning is important to Coach Phipps and the entire UWA rodeo team, no doubt, but education remains the number one focus.

"When you are here on the UWA rodeo team, you are here to get an education," Phipps stated. "And secondly you are here to win at rodeo. We have got a group of winners here."

Mary-Glinn Smith is an AFC intern.
Opéra singer returns to roots

By BILL McCUTCHEON
P-I Staff Writer

"Well, it's OK if you want to major in music and voice at UTM," Bob Collins told his daughter, Nancy, as she prepared to leave for college, "just as long as it's not some of that opera stuff."

Now, Collins is glad his daughter ignored him.

"I love opera now," he said with a smile, "but then I like most other kinds of music as well."

Just 10 years ago, Nancy Collins Wise was one of the featured soloists—singing an operatic aria—during the Grand Opening Gala of the Krider Performing Arts Center here.

Dad still lives here in Paris, as does her brother, Dan, and his wife Jeanette. Her mom, Anne, passed away in 1998 but Nancy recalls her memories of sitting in her mother's lap when she was two. "We'd read nursery rhymes, making up tunes for them," she recalls.

"I sang my first solo as a seven-year-old at First Christian Church," Wise recalls, "and I loved not only how it made me feel but how it touched others."

She says many people through the years gave her encouragement and training. "Hannah Crosser encouraged me at a very early age and Bettye Godfrey was my elementary school music teacher," she says, "and, of course, Linda Sykes was choral director at Henry County High School when I was in the Madrigals."

The 1977 HCIS graduate was also in the Tennessee All-State Chorus from 1974-77. She studied voice at UTM where Marilyn Jewett, director of the UTM Opera Theater, introduced her to opera and soon had her singing in their opera productions.

"My first aria was 'O mio babbo caro,' as Lauretta in 'Giacomo Schicchi,'" she says, "where I sang alongside another Parisian, David Williams."

She also was cast as Mimi in "La Boheme," Marguerite in "Faust," Lucy in "The Telephone," and Serpina in "La Serva Padrona."

In this photo provided by the Houston Grand Opera Company, Nancy Collins Wise is seen in performance.

Her senior year at UTM, she was selected the winner of the state National Association of Teachers of Singing competition and was a finalist in the Norman Treigle Opera Scholarship competition at Cincinnati Conservatory.

Following her graduation from UTM, Nancy began her soprano apprenticeship with the Southern Opera Theater in Memphis, performing the roles of Susanna in "The Marriage of Figaro," Isabelle/Madeline in "The Face on the Barroom Floor," Titania in "The Silver Fox," and Madeline in "The Pirates of Penzance."

In 1982 and 1983, she auditioned for the National Metropolitan Opera competition and was selected both years as a district winner and finalist in the regional competition.

After moving to Houston, she studied voice with Elena Nikolaidou, the renowned vocal instructor for the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and with Lois Alba, a legendary opera singer in Europe as well as this country.

She sang in more than 50 opera productions with the Houston Grand Opera, including several world premiere operas including "Nixon in China," which was performed in Houston and at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. While in Houston, she has performed on stage with many notables including Placido Domingo, Eva Marton, Samuel Ramey, Susan Graham and Renee Fleming.

Also while in Houston, she was the main character in a dinner theater entitled "The Sounds of Music." She also enjoyed being a vocal instructor and coach with her most rewarding experience preparing the students of the Post Oak Montessori School for the children's opera "The Burning Rice Fields."

Now back in Memphis, Nancy is a vocal instructor and coach. She has been a soloist with The Memphis Knights, the Memphis Jazz Orchestra and the Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble.

Now, she's to be in Paris more often—offering voice lessons each weekend at the Lee Academy for the Arts. Classes began this past Saturday with three students, with another registered since, so there are still openings with some Sunday afternoon classes as well.

Classes are being scheduled from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each Saturday. The cost is $120 a month for half-hour lessons each week or $20 a lesson. Extended lesson times are also available.

To schedule a class or for more information, call 642-3411 and leave a message or e-mail winston@compu.net.

Nancy Collins Wise is now offering voice lessons on weekends at the Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris. Limited openings are available.
Walker assumes role of clerk and master

KATHY KRONE
kkrone@stategazette.com

Steve Walker traded a part-time role in public service for a full-time job in public service.

He resigned as a county commissioner, effective Jan. 31, and was sworn in the following day as the Dyer County Clerk and Master. He replaces John Hoff, who retired Dec. 31 after serving in that capacity for more than 15 years.

The clerk and master keeps records for chancery and juvenile courts. The chancellor — in this case, Chancellor Tony Childress — appoints the clerk and master.

Walker, 54, said he’s still getting oriented to his new position, but he believes his experience in accounting and management will serve the county well.

Walker graduated from Dyersburg High School in 1976, attended Dyersburg State Community College and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in accounting from the University of Memphis in 2009 and worked as a financial services representative with MetLife of Dyersburg.

Walker was elected in 2006 as one of two county commissioners for District I, which covers the Hurricane Hill area.

He said he decided to get involved in public service after several people he admired passed away. He said he’d spent most of his life working for manufacturing companies, two of which had gone out of business. He said most companies take care of their employees when they’re making money, but the employees are the first to feel the crunch when the businesses stumble. He decided that he wanted a job that did more to help people.

“This might take my public service to a new level,” he said, referring to the new job.

Walker, a board member at Finley Pentecostal Church, said he also has become more involved in ministry work. He took a missions trip to the slums of Mumbai, India, in 2006, and visited churches between in Punjab, India, in 2008, two weeks after the Mumbai bombing.

Walker also is a member of the local American Red Cross board, is a member of the Crisis Intervention Team of West Tennessee and served last year on the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce board.

Walker and his wife, Gena, a seventh-grade math teacher at Dyersburg Middle School, have three grown children and a one-month-old granddaughter. His parents are Wendell and Joyce Walker of Dyersburg.

County Commissioner Connie Apple Evans, also of District I, is expected to nominate someone to fill Walker’s unexpired term on Tuesday night. The commission is scheduled to meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the upstairs courtroom in the Dyer County Courthouse. All county commissioners face re-election in August.

Field day set at UTM

The latest in precision-farming technology will be covered Tuesday during a Precision Farming Field Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event starts at 9 a.m. in the university’s West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion and is sponsored by Tennessee Tractor LLC and UT Martin.

The field day classes will cover topics such as toolbars and planters, variable rate applications and autosteer systems. Also available will be field demonstrations and ride-and-drive activities. The public is invited, and there is no admission charge. Lunch will be served.

For more information, contact Robert Marbury at (731) 695-8780.
SEJC announces Best of the South Contest winners at annual convention

The Southeast Journalism Conference named Carlton Purvis, a journalism student at East Carolina University, the 2009 Journalist of the Year and named Melinda Shelton, a faculty member at Xavier University of Louisiana, as its Journalism Educator of the Year, at its annual convention in Hammond, La., Feb. 13, 2010. Purvis was selected from among 10 students nominated by faculty advisers and peers for the award from 32 schools eligible to submit nominees. Shelton was nominated by fellow faculty in the conference and chosen by a selection committee comprised of former recipients of the award.

In addition to the top two awards, 126 students were ranked in 24 categories as being among the Best of the South in the SEJC’s annual journalism awards competition. The SEJC competition is open to the organization’s member schools from the states recognized in its constitution as eligible for entry. This year’s competition included 330 eligible entries from 32 member schools. Judges for the competition came from states outside the SEJC’s member region and included 22 journalism professionals from newspapers, broadcast outlets and magazines across the country.

The purpose of the SEJC Contest is to function as a journalism teaching tool as well as a competition. All entries are given a rating, and judges are encouraged to provide comments and professional advice. The ratings and commentaries are given to the faculty delegates to give to all of their students who enter, regardless of whether their entry won top recognition. A comprehensive list of this year’s winners is attached.

2009 Best of the South Winners

News Reporter
1. Sarah Cure, University of Mississippi
2. Samantha Horn, Louisiana Tech University
3. Megan Mosher, Southeastern Louisiana University
4. Drew Taylor, University of Alabama
5. Erin Carson, Belmont University
6. Hannah Twillman, Vanderbilt University
7. Diane Pantaleo, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
8. David Royal, Northwestern State University
9. Charlie McIntosh, University of Tennessee-Martin
10. Alex McDaniel, University of Mississippi

College Newspaper
1. The Auburn Plainsman, Auburn University
2. The Emory Wheel, Emory University
3. The Daily Mississippian, University of Mississippi
4. The Crimson White, University of Alabama
5. Kaleidoscope, UAB
6. Cardinal & Cream, Union University
7. The Pacer, University of Tennessee at Martin
8. The Vanderbilt Hustler, Vanderbilt University
9. The Voyager, The University of West Florida
10. The Tech Talk, Louisiana Tech University

Sports Writer
1. Jason Galloway, University of Alabama
2. Joseph Russell, University of Memphis
3. Alex Brown, Union University
4. David Rutz, Vanderbilt University
5. Tyler Cleveland, University of Southern Mississippi
6. Spencer White, University of Alabama
7. Pierce Greenberg, Belmont University
8. Josh Weiss, University of Tennessee at Martin

Advertising Staff Member
1. Jennifer DeYeso, University of Tennessee at Martin
2. Carol Ann Autry, Samford University
3. Ashley Dees, University of Mississippi
4. Andrew Hardee, University of Louisiana-Monroe
5. Johnson Cooke, Mississippi State University

Radio Journalist
1. Kalup Phillips, Arkansas State University
2. Benita Evans, University of Tennessee at Martin
3. Lauren Womack, Samford University
4. The Pacer, University of Tennessee at Martin
5. KSLU, Southeastern Louisiana University
6. WUMS, University of Mississippi
Tracy taps long-time politico as campaign manager

Posted: Monday, February 15, 2010 2:38 pm

State Sen. Jim Tracy announced Monday that veteran political operative Mike McCrady would be serving as campaign manager in his race for Congress.

“Mike has a great strategic mind and is an expert on grassroots campaigning. He was my first choice for the job,” said Tracy. “I saw first-hand, during the Pat Marsh victory, how Mike works and I knew I wanted him on our team.”

McCrady is a graduate of Lambuth University and holds a degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice. He has over a decade experience in local, state, and federal campaigns in Tennessee and Florida. McCrady is well known with conservatives for running the 2008 campaign to elect Lt. Col. Allen West to Florida’s 22nd Congressional district.

In September, McCrady stepped in and ran the successful campaign of Pat Marsh in the House District 62 special election. The 15 point victory for Marsh was a historic win, making it the first time a Republican had won District 62 in decades.

"I had the chance to get to know Sen. Tracy while working on Repr. Pat Marsh’s campaign," McCrady said. "I have seen how hard Sen. Tracy is willing to work to fight for conservative principles. He is going to make a great congressman and a champion for taking our government back to the basics."

Tracy is small business owner, former teacher and coach, and former TSSAA & NCAA basketball referee. He has been married to his wife, Trena, for 33 years, and they have three sons. Jim and Trena live in Shelbyville and attend Fairlane Church of Christ, where Jim is an active member and Deacon. Jim is a 1978 graduate of The University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in Agriculture Education.
Local leaders offer legislative update

Sabrina Bates
News Editor

It is an annual event that brings together county and state leadership in an effort to discuss challenges and achievements in Weakley County.

The tone of the 2010 Legislative Breakfast held Friday on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and sponsored by the REED Center and Weakley County Chamber of Commerce was quite similar to the two years prior as State Sen. Roy Herron and State Rep. Mark Maddox addressed the good with the bad to a room full of nearly 200 people that day.

“We have never seen anything like this,” Herron remarked as he explained how low sales tax revenues and record unemployment numbers have plagued the state legislature as they look at budget cuts once again.

Herron said Weakley County has a more than 13 percent unemployment rate and numbers across the state have been in the double digits for 20 consecutive years.

COUNTY AND STATE – County Commissioner John Salmon (left) spoke with State Sen. Roy Herron after the legislative breakfast held Friday on the UT Martin campus.

UPDATE
From Page 1

“Within one year, this state has lost 90 percent of its automotive jobs. The numbers are bad, but the human reality for some is much worse,” Herron noted.

As he talked about the trickle-down effect from a family losing just one job in its household, Herron said he was optimistic the economy will take a turn for the better.

The state senator then cited the top 10 reasons he feels Weakley County can prosper –

1. University of Tennessee at Martin
   “The University serves as an economic engine for this region. The days of strong back jobs are gone, but the strong mind jobs are here,” Herron added.
2. Port at Cates Landing
3. Herron said I-69 and I-169 projects are moving forward.
4. Everett-Stewart Regional Airport
   The state senator said the regional airport shows a good working relationship between Weakley and Obion counties.
5. Megasite in Haywood County
6. Highway 79
   “Looking to our east, this highway is being converted to a four-lane highway, which is beneficial for us to be the suppliers of companies located along that four-lane highway,” Herron added.
7. Education reforms that place emphasis on math and science curriculum
8. Worker’s compensation reforms across the state have caused insurance premiums to go down, according to Herron.
9. Broadband legislation
   “Because of the broadband Internet push across the state, our children can have access to the finest libraries in the world,” Herron said.
10. Tennessee’s Business Climate
    Maddox reiterated Herron’s list of achievements and added the progress being made toward education reform across the state is actually a push for economic development.

“For more photos from the event, see Page 5.

“While the media has said we in the legislature have spent two weeks talking about education reform, we have actually been talking about economic development. Education is about economic development,” Maddox commented.

The state representative said it was also time for the legislature to look at small business tax relief to help create jobs across the state.

Former UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan asked how far-reaching the state budget cuts were.

Herron responded that it is still too early to tell; the full implications of budget cuts remain to be seen.
UT Martin Annual Civil Rights Conference: ‘Civil Rights In The Age Of Obama’

Civil Rights legend, Dr. Bob Moses, will keynote the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 10th annual Civil Rights Conference, “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama,” slated for Feb. 20-26.

Moses will speak at 7 p.m., Feb. 25, in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center. The UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir will perform before his address.

Three-time Grammy Award-winning musician, Bill Miller, will highlight Native American Civil Rights Day at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 23, in Watkins Auditorium.

The Civil Rights Conference will open with African American History Month activities, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 20, in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center. A special event honoring African American domestic workers, also sponsored by Ken-Tenn, will be held from 3-5 p.m., Feb. 21, at the Harvey Vick Center in the South Fulton Municipal Building.

Two events will highlight Feb. 22 activities: a student rally for social justice, at noon in the plaza between the university center and Paul Meek Library, and a Black History Month Quiz Bowl in Watkins Auditorium at 7 p.m., sponsored by UT Martin’s National Association of Black Journalists chapter.

On Feb. 23, in addition to Bill Miller’s talk and performance, Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, UT Martin senior Karen Adams and other student participants will discuss “How the Lies of History Have Tarnished Our Moral Values,” from 1-3 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium.

On Feb. 24, Brooke Haycock, playwright and actor, will perform from 1-3 p.m., Feb. 24, in Watkins Auditorium. Her one-woman shows have been used to spark dialogue and focus energies around some of the most pressing and emotionally charged issues in American education today.

A series of events mark conference activities on the conference’s main day, Feb. 25, taking place in Watkins Auditorium. From 9:30-10:45 a.m., Dr. Cynthia Fleming, UT Knoxville professor of history, will speak about “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama.”

From 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Chude Allen and Karen Trusty will lead a discussion on “White Privilege and White Activism in the Struggle for Black Freedom.”

From 1-2:15 p.m., Dr. Vivian Carter, associate professor of sociology at Tuskegee University, will speak about “Racial Disparities in Health Care.”

Carter is currently a member of the Service Core for the Tuskegee National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care.

From 2:30-3:45 p.m., Joyce Washington, T.D. Morris and Pete Algee will discuss “Local Civil Rights History: Fulton and South Fulton.” Washington, Morris and Algee all attended a segregated school in South Fulton during the fifties and early sixties and were part of the pioneering generation of black students integrating previously all-white schools.

The conference will close at 7 p.m., Feb. 26, in Watkins Auditorium with a documentary film, “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?”

For more information, call 731-881-7465 or e-mail Barber, at dbarber@utm.edu. The conference schedule can be found at www.utm.edu/civilrights or on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=info&ref=mf&gid=92875165374.

STACKHOUSE MEETS WITH LOCAL STUDENT – Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, recently was part of the Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her topic was “From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System.” Meeting with Stackhouse prior to her presentation is Jeremy Johnson, senior accounting and finance major from Martin.
KAPPA ALPHA PSI HELPS CHILDREN TO LEARN – Children at McCabe First United Methodist Church in Martin were presented educational materials Jan. 26 by UT Martin's Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Among the children receiving books and other educational items were (standing, from left) Luckey Davis, Bradason Lawson, Cortez Kennedy and Allie Abbott; (seated) Kalijah King, Tanya Ward, Shymia Crosby, Adam Crosby, Charollette Turner, Tomas Reynolds and Chris Davis; (standing) Javion Goins, Kylan Vonner and Tommy Reynolds. Fraternity members present were (standing, from left) Michael Lockridge of Union City, Christopher Craig of Covington and Darius Irvin of Memphis. Also present was Rev. Jimmy Carter (standing), the church's pastor.

Precision Farming Field Day set for Feb. 16

The latest in precision-farming technology will be covered, Tuesday, Feb. 16, during a Precision Farming Field Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event starts at 9 a.m. in the university's West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion and is sponsored by Tennessee Tractor LLC and UT Martin.

The field day classes will cover topics such as toolbars and planters, variable rate applications and auto-steer systems.

Contact Robert Marbury, 731-695-8780, for additional information.
NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS – The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) recently elected officers for 2010: They are (seated, from left) Ashish J. Patel of Columbia, treasurer; Kayla A. Poindexter of Murfreesboro, president; Kayla M. Baker of Troy, vice president; Gilbert J. Forays of Clarksville, secretary; (standing), members of the executive committee, Dahlia M. Haddad of Martin, Lee A. Elliott of Martin, James K. Griffin of Lexington, and Jhalak V. Patel of Martin.

ACT prep course available at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT. Making Sense of the ACT-ACT Prep Course will be from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 20-March 13. The instructor is Ron Ramage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book. Making the highest score possible on the ACT Test makes sense and dollars these days. This course will help students plan strategy to make a high score on the ACT Test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should bring the book to the first class meeting.

The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 713-881-7760. Register early; the class limit is 20.
UTM Civil Rights conference set

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an annual Civil Rights Conference during the month of February.

A schedule of events includes:
- Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. – Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum, African American History Month Celebration, Tennessee Room, Holland McCombs Building
- Feb. 21, 3-5 p.m., Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Community Forum, African American History Month Celebration, Harvey Vick Center, South Fulton
- Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. – Bill Miller, Grammy Award-winning musician, Native American Civil Rights Day
- Feb. 25, 9:30-10:45 a.m. – Civil Rights in the Age of Obama, Dr. Cynthia Griggs Fleming, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 11 a.m. – White Privilege and White Activism in the struggle for Black Freedom, Chude Allen and Karen Trusty
- 1-2:15 p.m. – Racial Disparities in Health Care, Dr. Vivian Carter, Tuskegee University
- 2:30-3:45 p.m. – Local Civil Rights History: Fulton and South Fulton, Joyce Washington, T.D. Morris and Pete Algee
- Feb. 24, 1-3 p.m. – Brooke Haycock, One-woman performance on contemporary issues in education and civil rights, UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir, Introduction of speaker by Cynthia Griggs Fleming
- Feb. 26, 7 p.m. – Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? Documentary Movie

ACADEMIC SPEAKER – Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Mo., was recently part of the Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her topic was “From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System.” Meeting with Stackhouse prior to her presentation are Jennifer Garbina, left, a sophomore biology major from Bismarck, N.D.; Donielle Hubbard, freshman economics major from Memphis, Tenn.; and Melissa McCartney, freshman nursing major from South Fulton. (Photo submitted)
HEALTH PRESENTATION – Dr. Victoria Seng presented a PowerPoint presentation to Fulton Independent School students from Brad Rozzell’s Health and PE classes during the week of Feb. 1. She discussed reproduction, pregnancy, child development, and STD’s. Dr. Seng is the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Graduate Studies in Nursing at the University of Tennessee, Martin. (Photo submitted)

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, February 17, 2010

UT Martin student investment team rewarded in difficult year

Each semester students in the College of Business and Global Affairs manage a stock portfolio by participating in the Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge program. The program is an innovative and unique partnership between TVA and 24 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management. The challenge gives students enrolled in the Finance 411 class hands-on experience in stock analysis and in managing the TVA stock portfolio.

The TVA Investment Challenge Program is completing its 12th year. UT Martin has participated in the program since its inception in 1998 and recently was informed the university will receive a performance award for 2009, with an annual return on investments of 28 percent compared to the S&P 500 composite index return of 26 percent. Additionally, UT Martin is in sixth place in the three-year performance category with an annual return of -2 percent (versus the S&P return of -5.6 percent).

As part of the program, UT Martin finance students actively manage TVA funds by designing long-term investment strategies, placing trades and providing performance reports to TVA. UT Martin students are guided by Drs. Mahmoud Haddad and Arnold Redman, professors of finance. The students, as portfolio managers, learn how to manage real money and meet professional portfolio managers’ fiduciary responsibilities. They are held to similar guidelines as TVA’s professional money managers.

“Our classes did an excellent job in what began as a very, very difficult market,” said Redman. “Dr. Haddad and I are proud of the serious and professional efforts our student managers made in earning an above-market return for our client. And to make things better, for the previous three years, we have continued to outperform the S&P and the average return of the Investment Challenge Program while remaining among the top 10 performers in the program.”

Speaking of the performance award, Haddad said, “The award is an acknowledgment of our student’s level of practical financial markets familiarity, as well as hands-on participation in financial investment and portfolio management.”

The TVA Board created the Investment Challenge Program in 1998 to diversify the management of its Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund and give Tennessee Valley students experience in managing a stock portfolio. Originally, 19 universities received investment funds of $100,000 each, for a total of $1.9 million. The program has expanded to include 24 universities, and the funds total approximately $10 million.
UTM 10th Annual Civil Rights Conference -
‘Civil Rights in the Age of Obama’

Civil Rights legend, Dr. Bob Moses, will keynote the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 10th annual Civil Rights Conference, “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama,” slated for February 20-23.

“Bob Moses was the lead organizer for the Civil Rights Movement in the most segregated state of the union, Mississippi, during the most turbulent period in the movement’s history, 1960-1965,” said Dr. David Barber, conference coordinator and UT Martin professor of history. “Moses himself was beaten and threatened repeatedly in Mississippi, and a number of people who worked to free the new blacks were murdered in cold blood, including Herbert Lee, murdered by a Mississippi state senator, and 1964’s Freedom Summer civil rights murder victims, Andrew Schwerner, Mickey Goodman, and James Chaney,” Barber added. “Yet despite the extraordinary level of violence, there was a movement, and Moses unflinchingly led black Mississippians in the struggle for voting rights and freedom.”

Moses will speak at 7:00 p.m., February 25, in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center. The UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir will perform before his address.

Three-time Grammy Award-winning musician, Bill Miller, will highlight Native American Civil Rights Day at 6:30 p.m., February 23, in Watkins Auditorium. Miller is back for his second time as Native American keynote. UT Martin junior Chasity Roberson described Miller’s performance last year as “simply amazing, an experience you will never forget.” The doors open at 5:50 p.m., with Elizabeth Cox, UT Martin dual-enrollment student, performing an original piece of music.

The Civil Rights Conference will open with African American History Month activities, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., February 20, in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center. A special event honoring African American domestic workers, also sponsored by Ken-Tenn, will be held from 3:00-8:00 p.m., February 21, at the Harvey Vick Center in the South Fulton Municipal Building.

Two events will highlight February 22 activities: a student rally for social justice, at noon in the plaza between the university center and Paul Meck Library, and a Black History Month Quiz Bowl in Watkins Auditorium at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by UT Martin’s National Association of Black Journalists chapter.

On February 23, in addition to Bill Miller’s talk and performance, Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, UT Martin senior Karen Adams and other student participants will discuss “How the Lies of History Have Tarnished Our Moral Values,” from 1-3 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium.

On February 24, Brooke Haycock, playwright and actor, will perform from 1:00-3:00 p.m., February 24, in Watkins Auditorium. With a background in student organizing, her one-woman show has been used to spark dialogue and focus energies around some of the most pressing and emotionally charged issues in American education today.

A series of events mark conference activities on the conference’s main day, February 25, taking place in Watkins Auditorium. From 9:30-10:45 a.m., Dr. Cynthia Fleming, UT Knoxville professor of history, will speak about “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama.” She is the author of the recently published “Yes We Can? From King’s Dream to Obama’s Promise,” which has received critical acclaim from both scholars and civil rights activists.

From 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Chade Allen and Karen Trusty will lead a discussion on “White Privilege and White Activism in the Struggle for Black Freedom.” Allen was one of the earliest organizers of women’s liberation movement. She taught anti-racism workshops for both women’s liberation groups and the YWCA. She is also a published author. Trusty was an exchange student at Spelman College in 1963 and became active in the sit-in movement in Atlanta. She produced a film, “In Rareified Air,” which documents her story.

Moses was awarded a Martin Luther King “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the World Arts Foundation.

From 1:00-2:15 p.m., Dr. Vivian Carter, associate professor of sociology at Tuskegee University, will speak about “Racial Disparities in Health Care.” Carter is currently a member of the Service Core for the Tuskegee National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, which seeks to promote equity and justice in health and health care. She is also vice president for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Research Network in Health Care and Health Disparities.

From 2:30-3:45 p.m., Joyce Washington, T.D. Morris and Pete Algee will discuss “Local Civil Rights History: Fulton and South Fulton.” Washington, Morris and Algee all attended a segregated school in South Fulton during the fifties and early sixties and were part of the pioneering generation of black students integrating previously all-white schools.

“Their stories remind us of a very recent past of segregation and discrimination and the meaning that segregation had for the lives of black people and white people right here in western Tennessee,” said Barber.

The conference will close at 7:00 p.m., February 26, in Watkins Auditorium with a documentary film, “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” The film explores racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health.

For more information, complete schedule or reservations, call 731-881-7465 or e-mail Barber, dbarber@utm.edu. The conference schedule and a file of the schedule can be found at www.utm.edu/civilrights.

Local students earn UT Martin degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees are:

Humboldt:
- Tamika Sherri Donaldson
- Jeremy Hunter Williams
- Jackie L. Brittie
- Jennifer Cherry
- Beth Bunton
- David Mallard
- Wayne Sheehan

Medina:
- Jackie L. Brittie
- Jennifer Cherry

Humboldt: Tamika Sherri Donaldson; Jeremy Hunter Williams;
Medina: Jackie L.Brittie, Caroline Elise Harber;
Humboldt: Beth Bunton;
Medina: Jennifer Cherry;
David Mallard; Wayne Sheehan.
Kim Gilley of Gibson County is among 32 members of the 2010 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 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Gilley is the city recorder for the City of Medina. She is currently involved with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Tennessee Association Municipal Clerks and Recorders. Gilley has been a board of trustee member with the West Tennessee Hearing and Speech Center, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Medina Baseball and Softball Association. She is a Leadership Gibson County graduate and has received certification in U.S. Homeland Security.

"Participating in WestStar will enable me to work with my peers toward the common goal of better serving our community and region," Gilley said.

LTC James D. Gregory was promoted to Colonel February 1 in a ceremony at the headquarters United States Central Command at Mac Dill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. Major General Kenneth S. Dowd, the director of logistics for the United States Central Command, officiated the ceremony. Colonel Gregory was pinned by Major General Dowd and his wife, Cinzia, and their sons, Nicholas, Alessandro, Cristian and Calvin, were present. Also attending the ceremony were his mother, Shirley Gregory, his brother, Sam Gregory, and wife, Tracey, and Aunt Jean Mathews.

Colonel Gregory graduated from Peabody High School in Trenton in 1983 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering technology from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a Master of Science degree in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology.

Colonel Gregory has served in the United States Army for 22 years.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT. Making Sense of the ACT- ACT Prep Course will be from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, February 20-March 13. The instructor is Ron Ramage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book.

Making the highest score you can on the ACT Test really makes sense and dollars these days. This course will help you plan your strategy to make the highest score you are able on the ACT Test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should bring the book to the first class meeting. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 713-881-7760. Register early; the class limit is 20.

Stackhouse is Academic Speaker

Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, recently was part of the Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her topic was "From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System." Meeting with Stackhouse prior to her presentation are Kristi Mendez, left, junior accounting and finance major from McKenzie; and Caitlin Simpson, a sophomore psychology major from Martin.
Online repository features
UT Martin academic works

Academic works authored by UT Martin graduates and faculty have a worldwide audience, thanks to an online resource established in January 2008 by the Paul Meek Library’s Corbit Special Collections. Known as an “institutional repository,” Internet browser hits for Scholarship@UT Martin exceed 4,200 since July 1, 2009, and continue to grow. Nobody is more pleased than Richard Saunders, the university’s special collections librarian and university archivist.

Several years back, Saunders had the idea of giving university-authored academic works a virtual home. In 2005, he received an advertisement for commercial institutional repository software that would manage online document storage and delivery. Although the software was impressive, the five-figure annual subscription charge was prohibitive.

The library staff looked for other options, seeking software that was open-source or inexpensive to use. Jim Nance, systems librarian, computer-science student John Britton and Saunders discovered a product called EPrints. “EPrints is an open-source, open-archive database developed at the University of Southampton in Great Britain,” Saunders said. “It was written by a bunch of computer-science students who just simply have the idea that research needs to be available publicly.” The program was adapted for use in the library service pages, and the digital world opened for UT Martin scholarly works.

Saunders said about 600 open-archives repositories exist around the world, with UT Martin’s repository about in the middle in terms of size. He added that there are approximately another 1,000 databases on commercial platforms similar to what UT Martin is using but which carry considerable operating costs. “They’re slicker. They have a little more customizability, but they’re a whale of a lot more expensive, so we struck a balance between cost and effectiveness,” he said.

“And, as we have used this, we are absolutely certain that we came down on the right side of things, both for the taxpayers of Tennessee and for the type of scholarship that the campus has generated over the last years.”

The software works like a library catalogue. From the front page, researchers may use keyword, title, author and subject functions to locate material directly. The site also indexes in search engines like Google and ask.com, making the contents accessible across the globe. Once a record is located, a link to an electronic file allows users to download a digital copy directly to their computers.

“Master’s theses and projects are demonstrations of academic competence,” Saunders said. “But, they rarely get used after they are produced, mostly because they are accessible only at the student’s institution. Traffic on Scholarship@UT Martin shows how valuable master’s-level research can be to the world.”

As of January 1 this year, 338 full-text files were accessible in the online repository. In the past year, that small number has accounted for more than 5,000 file downloads to researchers in 133 countries across the globe. “That sort of activity suggests UTM students produce research of real value,” Saunders said. Graduate students in education and agriculture wrote a majority of the 280 UT Martin master’s theses available on the site. “Still the single most downloaded item on the whole database is a 30-year-old master’s thesis on Tennessee teacher-tenure policy,” he said. The next step is capturing master’s projects, followed by University Scholars papers, which are academic works produced by undergraduate students in the University Scholars Program. Faculty members are encouraged to contribute their own work, he said.

Besides the search feature, the site includes a “Paper of the Day,” randomly chosen by the software. “It’s just a way to remind people that there is real research here,” he said. “It’s not just a site with a number on it. There’s something to take a look at.”

So far, Saunders is pleased with what Scholarship@UT Martin has accomplished. “Number one, it’s always good to have a digital presence out in the world. That was a big driving force,” he said, adding, “What the software does is put UTM as a research institution into an international context,” he said. “We have a presence now.”

To find the repository, point a browser to http://scholarship.utm.edu.
Recital set for Sunday at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host Dr. Andrew M. Bliss, lecturer of music, to perform a solo percussion recital at 3 p.m. Sunday in Campbell Auditorium of Holm Humanities Building.

As a performing artist, Bliss has extensive experience in a wide variety of musical ensembles and genres, while specializing in contemporary solo and chamber performances.

He has been a featured artist at the SEAMUS National Conference, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, the College Music Society’s International Conference in Croatia and at multiple Percussive Arts Society international conventions.

The recital will feature solo percussion works by some of the leading composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including David Lang and Iannis Xenakis.

The program will also feature “Olana” by Kyle Gann, a vibraphone solo that Bliss commissioned and premiered in 2008.

The program will end with “Mudra” by Bob Becker, a snare drum solo with percussion quartet that will feature four students from UT Martin’s percussion studio, directed by Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of percussion.

The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Bliss at (731) 881-7414 or by email at abliss1@utm.edu.

Civil Rights Conference scheduled at UT Martin

Civil Rights legend Dr. Bob Moses will keynote the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 10th annual Civil Rights Conference, “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama,” Saturday through Feb. 26.

“Bob Moses was the lead organizer for the civil rights movement in the most segregated state of the union, Mississippi, during the most turbulent period in the movement’s history, 1960-1965,” said Dr. David Barber, conference coordinator and UT Martin professor of history.

“Moses himself was beaten and threatened repeatedly in Mississippi, and a number of people with whom he worked were murdered in cold blood, including Herbert Lee, murdered by a Mississippi state senator, and 1964’s Freedom Summer civil rights murder victims Andrew Schwerner, Mickey Goodman and James Chaney,” Barber added.

“Yet despite the extraordinary level of violence leveled against the movement, Moses unfailingly led black Mississippians in the struggle for voting rights and freedom.”

Moses will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center. The UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir will perform before his address.

Grammy Award-winning musician Bill Miller will highlight Native American Civil Rights Day at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with Elizabeth Cox, UT Martin dual-enrollment student, performing an original piece of music.

The Civil Rights Conference will open with African American History Month activities, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center.

A special event honoring African-American domestic workers, also sponsored by Ken-Tenn, will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sunday at the Harvey O. Vick Community Room in the South Fulton Municipal Building.

Two events will highlight Monday’s activities: a student rally for social justice at noon in the plaza between the university center and Paul Meek Library and a Black History Month Quiz Bowl in Watkins Auditorium at 7 p.m., sponsored by UT Martin’s National Association of Black Journalists chapter.

Tuesday, in addition to Miller’s talk and performance, Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, UT Martin senior Karen Adams and other student participants will discuss “How the Lies of History Have Tarnished Our Moral Values” from 1-3 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

On Feb. 24, Brooke Haycock, playwright and actor, will perform from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 24 in Watkins Auditorium.

A series of events will mark conference activities on the conference’s main day, Feb. 25, taking place in Watkins Auditorium. From 9:30-10:45 a.m., Dr. Cynthia Fleming, UT Knoxville professor of history, will speak about “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama.” She is the author of the recently published “Yes We Can? From King’s Dream to Obama’s Promise.”

From 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Chude Allen and Karen Trusty will lead a discussion on “White Privilege and White Activism in the Struggle for Black Freedom.” Allen was one of the earliest organizers of the women’s liberation movement. Ms. Trusty was an exchange student at Spelman College in 1963 and became active in the sit-in movement in Atlanta.

She produced a film, “In Rarest Air,” which documents her story. She was recently awarded a Martin Luther King “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the World Arts Foundation.

From 1-2:15 p.m., Dr. Vivian Carter, associate professor of sociology at Tuskegee University, will speak about “Racial Disparities in Health Care.” She is a member of the Service Core for the Tuskegee National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care.

From 2:30-3:45 p.m., Joyce Washington, T.D. Morris and Pete Algee will discuss “Local Civil Rights History: Fulton and South Fulton.”

Ms. Washington, Morris and Algee all attended a segregated school in South Fulton during the 1950s and early ‘60s and were part of the pioneering generation of black students integrating previously all-white schools.

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Rudolph hopes education fund brings graduates back to area

BY JOHN WRIGHT
jwright@paduahsun.com

FULTON, Ky. — Fulton City High School alumnus Jeff Campbell had a simple message for the senior class of his alma mater Wednesday afternoon.
“Tell your parents that a man and his wife are going to help pay for your education.”

Jeff Campbell
Fulton City High alumnus

fellow Fulton City alumnus Robbie Rudolph and wife Lisa, who announced the launching of the Four Rivers Schol-
RUDOLPH: Officials hope program improves future of river counties

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Fulton-Hickman County Economic Development District, which encompasses the two least-growing counties in Kentucky the past 10 years. Fulton has lost 12 percent of its population in that time, while Hickman lost 6 percent.

"From an economic development standpoint, this is a major plus," Crittendon said. "This is just an outstanding thing, and it's going to give a lot of students the chance to get the training they need to have jobs, which is the biggest thing we're needing right now."

Fulton Mayor Dan Voegeli emphasized the county's 14 percent unemployment rate, highest in the commonwealth.

"When I first heard this, I said to myself, 'Robbie Rudolph is our hero,'" Voegeli said. "We need this badly here."

Rudolph said: "I believe with the four-laning of Ky. 80 that goes through the Land Between the Lakes and connects to Mayfield, along with the coming of Interstate 69 that will go through our area in the future, we have fertile ground for companies to establish companies here. This program will give these kids a chance to be ready for that and be able to stay here."

Contact John Wright, a Paducah Sun photographer/staff writer, at 270-575-8694.

Jeff Campbell, a Fulton City High School graduate and former chief information officer for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway company, talks to students at his alma mater Wednesday. Campbell and Dr. Victoria Seng (left), associate vice chancellor at the University of Tennessee-Martin, were attending the announcement of the Four Rivers Scholarship Program.

And selfishly," he told Fulton eighth-graders and seniors, "I want you to come back to Fulton. I want you to bring this area back to where it was in the glory days of the 1950s and '60s. And we're going to work with you every step of the way so you can help do that. "But here is the most important thing: You have to want it."

One person hoping the students will act accordingly is Eddie Crittendon, executive director for the Fulton-Hickman County Economic Development District, who sees the program as a vehicle to help an area struggling economically.

It is a passion for Rudolph, former Kentucky secretary of the executive cabinet under Gov. Ernie Fletcher, in that he sees the program as a vehicle to help an area struggling economically.

Jarvis Doleman, Lawrence, was named to the dean's list with honors for the fall 2009 semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin, by earning a grade-point average between 3.2 and 3.49.
Civil rights legend to speak at UTM

Conference runs today through Friday

The Jackson Sun

Civil rights legend Bob Moses will keynote the University of Tennessee Martin's 10th annual Civil Rights Conference that begins today. The conference, titled "Civil Rights in the Age of Obama," runs through Friday, according to a news release.

Moses, who was a civil rights organizer in Mississippi in the early 1960s, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center. The UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir will perform before his address, the release said.

The conference will open with African American History Month activities, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, in the Tennessee Room at the McCombs Center.

A special event honoring black domestic workers, also sponsored by Ken-Tenn, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Harvey Vick Center in the South Fulton Municipal Building.

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Brooke Haycock, a playwright and actor, will perform from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in Watkins Auditorium. A series of events in Watkins Auditorium will mark conference activities on the main day Thursday. From 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Cynthia Fleming, UT Knoxville professor of history, will speak about "Civil Rights in the Age of Obama."

From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Chudé Allen and Karen Trusty will lead a discussion on "White Privilege and White Activism in the Struggle for Black Freedom."

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From 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., Joyce Washington, T.D. Morris and Pete Algee will discuss "Local Civil Rights History: Fulton and South Fulton."

Washington, Morris and Algee all attended a segregated school in South Fulton during the 1950s and early '60s and were part of the pioneering generation of black students integrating previously all-white schools.

The conference will close at 7 p.m. Friday in Watkins Auditorium with a documentary film, "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" The film explores racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health.
Editorial

INVESTING
Local scholarship efforts open doors to higher ed

The Paducah Rotary Club has accomplished an impressive feat. In the midst of an anemic economy, the club met its goal of raising a half million dollars for its community scholarship program.

That $500,000 includes $250,000 of public funds — McCracken County and the city of Paducah have agreed to put up $125,000 each annually until 2014 — for the scholarship program, with the other half raised annually by the Rotary Club from private sources.

The program ensures that every graduate of a public or private high school in McCracken County will qualify for two years — up to 60 credit hours — of free tuition at West Kentucky Community and Technical College if they meet modest minimum requirements that include maintaining a 2.5 GPA. The first class to receive the scholarships will be this year's eighth-graders.

Backers of the scholarship program have an even loftier long-term goal of raising $12 million as an endowment to fund the effort well beyond 2014.

Granted, to some extent the program will use tax money to fund scholarships for students who could pay for courses themselves. But the benefits of providing an education to students who could not otherwise afford it outweigh that concern. WKCTC President Barbara Veazey estimates that the scholarships will increase the number of local high school graduates who enter college by 20 percent.

The high cost of post-secondary education prevents many from enrolling and forces others to drop out before earning degrees. The
Paducah Rotary Club's Dwane Tucker, who spearheaded the scholarship program, said 159 (27 percent) of the 584 graduates of local high schools — Paducah Tilghman, Heath, Lone Oak, Reidland, St. Mary's and Community Christian — in 2007 did not enter college. And among the 181 who enrolled in community college classes, fewer than two-thirds returned for the second year of their two-year degree programs. That’s a disturbing statistic.

The Rotary scholarship program could be a big part of the solution.

The scholarship program Robbie and Lisa Rudolph are funding is a different sort of public/private partnership. The private part is the money the Rudolphs are donating to create the Four Rivers Scholarship Program for graduates of the four high schools in Fulton, Carlisle and Hickman counties, and the technical school in Graves County. The public part is, well, receiving the scholarship money.

That’s not entirely true. Four institutions of higher learning (three publicly funded) — WKCTC, Murray State University, Mid-Continent University and UT-Martin — are partnering with the Rudolphs and the school districts by setting up dual credit courses, online courses and college prep classes; sponsoring college visits; and working with high school students beginning in their sophomore year to keep them on track for college.

The school districts also have responsibilities as part of the program, including arranging visits at area technical schools for 8th graders and cooperating with the colleges in arranging on-campus visits.

The scholarships, the first of which will be awarded this May, will cover tuition and other unmet expenses after students have applied for other grants and scholarships. The program will pay tuition, books, fees “and even gas money if that is determined to be a barrier to going to college,” said Robbie Rudolph. The scholarships are also available to non-traditional students who either want to return to finish their post-secondary education or to enter college for the first time.

Rudolph, a highly successful business owner who graduated from Fulton City High School, said his reason for funding the scholarships is “selfish.” Citing population losses in the Mississippi River counties, he told students at his alma mater Wednesday, “I want you to bring this area back to where it was in the glory days of the 1950s and ‘60s. And we’re going to work with you every step of the way so you can help do that.”

Investments like these could help make it happen.
Professor to provide insight into the mind of Lincoln

Dr. Michelle Merwin, University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of psychology and recipient of the UT Martin 2009 Cunningham Award, will present "Lincoln's Destiny and Will: The Writings of Rollo May Visible in the Life of the Great Emancipator" at 7:30 p.m. March 4, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

"We welcome Dr. Merwin, an accomplished psychologist, who will provide some insight into the mind of that most fascinating of presidents, Abraham Lincoln — most notably the question of whether Lincoln suffered from depression and how his sufferings may have contributed to his work in the presidency," said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Program director.

Dr. Merwin received bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Michigan State University. She served as a National Institute of Health Research Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan before joining the UT Martin faculty in 1999.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Dr. Merwin has experience working in the psychological field, having served as a neuropsychologicalpsychometrist in Colorado Springs and as a cognitive remediation therapist in both Colorado Springs and in East Lansing, Mich.


She has made presentations to numerous professional meetings including the American Psychological Association, Southeastern Psychological Association, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Annual Conference on Undergraduate Teaching of Psychology.

Dr. Merwin has also compiled a solid record of service, including her work as Department of Psychology interim chair from 2007-09 and a term as UT Martin Honors Council chair.

"I am honored to discuss two men whose work and intellect I admire most, Abraham Lincoln and psychologist Rollo May," Dr. Merwin said. "Many of us are familiar with Lincoln as our 16th president, but few of us fully appreciate his lifelong struggle with depression. Even fewer know about his exertion of will to create meaning in his life. And perhaps none of us will fully comprehend how his confrontation of 'destiny' preserved his life and this nation's life. I look forward to sharing Lincoln's greatness made visible through the psychology of Rollo May."

The event at UT Martin is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

Women's History Month luncheon to be held March 1 at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women's Club will host its Women's History Month luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 1 in Room 206BC of Boling University Center.

Featured speaker Dr. Anne Meek, daughter of former UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Paul Meek and Martha Meek, will reflect on her early years in Martin in her speech, "Playing Second Fiddle: Martha Meek's Legacy of Love."

Dr. Meek is past chair of the UT Martin Development Committee and an education consultant in Norfolk, Va.

Another opportunity to hear Dr. Meek on March 1 will follow at 2 p.m. in Paul Meek Library, where she will host a book reading and signing. She will read from two of her short stories, which were recently published in the anthology "In Good Company," Volume 7.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase. The events are open to the public.

Tickets for the luncheon are $11 each and may be purchased by Feb. 24 at the University Center Information Desk or Vicki's Designer Touch in downtown Martin.

In addition, tickets are available by contacting Georgia Baskett at gbasket@utm.edu; Carla Field at (731) 587-3522 or carlaf@charter.net; or Penny Moser at (731) 588-5766 or pennymoser@hotmail.com.

Reservations for free child care can be made by calling Annie Schommer at (731) 588-0794 by Wednesday.
'BANK' ON IT — Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, visited with Michael Hagan, president and CEO of Reelfoot Bank in Union City when she was recently part of the Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her topic was "From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System." (See related photo, Page 7.)

STACKHOUSE SPEAKS — As part of the Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Julie Stackhouse (second from left), senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, recently spoke on the topic "From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System." Meeting with her prior to her presentation were (from left) Jennifer Garbina, a sophomore biology major from Bismarck, N.D.; Donielle Hubbard, a freshman economics major from Memphis; and Melissa McCartney, a freshman nursing major from South Fulton. (See related photo, Page 5.)

Travel-study to London, Paris slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin will take a travel-study trip to London and Paris May 17-27.

As part of this tour, participants will visit historical sites in England and France, explore cultures, the arts and sciences for each country by visiting museums, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London.

In Paris, the trip will include visiting the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Versailles. The group will also explore health care in these countries.

The approximate cost is $3,250.

Group leaders are Ruby Black, professor of nursing, and Linda Luther, assistant professor of nursing. They may be contacted at rblack@utm.edu or (731) 881-7133; and lluther@utm.edu or (731) 514-5018.
Herron sees silver linings ahead

By BILL McCUTCHEON
P-J Staff Writer

"These are certainly challenging times, but I strongly believe better days are coming," State Senator and congressional candidate Roy Herron told a roomful this morning at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Herron said state sales tax receipts have declined now for 20 consecutive months and that's causing unprecedented pressure on state lawmakers to balance the budget. "We're not like those in Washington — we're required to live within our means here in Tennessee."

Herron said he believes Henry Countians have 10 good reasons to be hopeful about the future.

"First, Highway Seventy-Nine, right outside this building, will continue to be important. Already four-laned from Paris to Kentucky Lake, it will soon be four-laned all the way to Clarksville," Herron said.

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"First, Highway Seventy-Nine, right outside this building, will continue to be important. Already four-laned from Paris to Kentucky Lake, it will soon be four-laned all the way to Clarksville," Herron said. "Good jobs used to rely on strong backs," he said, "now, more and more, good jobs need strong minds. It's almost mandatory today for most any job to require computer skills."

Herron said the proposed port in Lake County, though it's on a different river, will prove to be important even here in Henry County.

"I believe we'll see at least three-thousand good paying jobs come out of that," he said. His fifth reason to be hopeful is the education reform just passed in the legislature's special session.

"We've got to get it right in K through Twelve, if we want to make a long-term difference overall."

The expansion of the Union City Airport and addition of air services from there should be important to all of northwest Tennessee, Herron said. Seventh on his list of hopeful signs is that Tennessee is listed in the top five for favorable business climate.

Herron

Continued from Page 1

Herron said it's time those in Washington focused less on party affiliation and more on the future obligations of the country. "We used to have elections just every couple of years," he said, "and now it's nonstop. Partisanship has gotten out-of-hand and it's time we stopped it."

Herron also said it's time we did better in math and science in our schools. "Right now, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has as many engineering graduates from other countries as from the USA," Herron said, "and I think Tennessee Tech at Cookeville has more."

Several business journals. "Taxes are another strong point for our state," he said, "especially when compared to other states. We are among the least-taxed of the fifty states."

Recent reforms in workers' compensation laws have helped us. "We also have great local leadership and, most of all, we have great people," he said.

The ever-increasing federal deficit should scare everybody. "If you're not scared," he said, "you just haven't been paying attention."
Cold weather gave area farmers chance to study precision farming

MARTIN — The temperature hovered around freezing. There was snow on the ground. But inside the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion area farmers were already planning for greener, warmer days.

More than 200 farmers attended the Precision Farming Field Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin to learn about the latest technology, methods and equipment to help them make the most of their efforts.

“Precision Farming is an ever-changing industry,” said John Chester of Martin, the 2008 Excellence in Agriculture Award from the National Farm Bureau Federation. “If we don’t stay on top of the new technology and new equipment, our operations will suffer.” Chester said a day in the dead of winter provides the perfect time to “learn new concepts and make sure we’re applying the technologies we’re currently using correctly.” It also provided a break from paperwork and equipment maintenance.

The event was sponsored by Tennessee Tractor LLC and UT Martin, covering topics such as toolbars and planters, variable rate applications and autosteer systems.

Danny Marbury, chief officer and one of the owners of Tennessee Tractor, headquartered in Alamo, said the first clinic at UT Martin was well attended despite the weather. He added that it was just one of the many clinics or schools the company sponsors to help farmers improve their operations. “We’ve got a lot of educational classes for the farmers. They touch on everything from software to hardware.”

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin professor of agricultural economics, conducted one of the sessions at the field day and noted that efficiency is the key. “If we look over the last 40 years, input prices for farmers have grown each year continually while prices received for farmers struggle to keep pace.” He said it becomes important for farmers to be more efficient. “So what precision ag can do is it can allow them to save money and be more efficient and not spread fertilizer, chemical and seed anywhere they don’t need to.

“Precision Farming is being able to manage information in a timely and efficient manner. It is everything from variable rate technology that allows you to put different seed rates out at different levels, it includes managing technology, yield mapping and any kind of technology that allows you to put resources and inputs where you want them, not just a broadcast method.”

Kirk Dixon and Kyle Dixon of Fulton attended the field day mainly to consider global positioning systems. Kyle Dixon has more than 10 years of farming joining his father, who has 40-plus years. “I’m just trying to learn something new to help in the future — primarily the GPS technology.” His father echoed that was their focus and added, “We’re already using it some.” Field day was a time to “decide how much money to spend (on a GPS) or ‘if’ to spend.”

Also attending the field day was David Sublette of Fulton. A UT Martin alumnus, he owns Interactive Software Systems, so he understands the computer aspects of farming very well. Noting he is a “part-time” farmer with a small operation, he likes to see the new products. His hope is that the field day will showcase something he’s had his eye on — just better and cheaper. He attends a field day every year to see what’s available and “can I afford it yet.”

Following lunch, there were three ride-and-drive demonstrations in the pavilion parking lot before farmers headed home for more cold-weather tasks before spring.

FIELD DAY — Among those attending the Precision Farming Field Day this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin were (from left) Kyle Dixon, Kirk Dixon and David Sublette, all of Fulton.
The University of Tennessee at Martin and Jackson State Community College have partnered to offer a variety of health care professional training programs.

Available to both working adults interested in a new career and current health care professionals, these programs will help students prepare for the numerous jobs available to health care staff and professionals.

The programs will be offered on the Jackson State Community College campus in Jackson. Advance registration is required.

The EKG Technician Certification Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 22–June 10.

The registration fee is $999 with textbooks included.

This comprehensive 50-hour 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 important 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.

The Phlebotomy Technician Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 16–June 15.

The registration fee is $1,599 with 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 handing, practice and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods.

There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.

The Medical Billing and Coding Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 22–June 2. The registration fee is $1,499, including textbooks.

This combined 70-hour billing and coding course offers the skills needed to solve insurance billing problems, how to manually file claims, complete common insurance forms, trace delinquent claims and use generic forms to streamline billing procedures.

The course covers the following areas: Current Procedural Terminology (introduction, guidelines, evaluation and management), specialty fields (such as surgery, radiology and laboratory), ICD-9 (introduction and guidelines) and basic claims processes for medical insurance and third party reimbursements.

Students will learn how to find the service and code using manuals. After obtaining the suggested practical work experience (6 months to 2 years), students who complete this course could be qualified to sit for the American Academy of Professional Coders Certified Professional Coder Exam, the American Health Information Management Association Certified Coding Associate exam and/or other national certification exams.

The Pharmacy Technician Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 23–May 11.

The registration fee is $999 with 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’s exam.

Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings while working 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.

To register, please call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081. Register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.
Kelsey Schweitzer Receives Collegiate Who’s Who Honor

Kelsey Schweitzer has been named as a Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for the 2009-10 academic year, according to David Taylor, coordinator for student organizations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Kelsey, son of Jan Brake of McKenzie and the late Rick Schweitzer, is a senior at UTM, majoring in accounting. He is a 2007 honor graduate of McKenzie High School.

From UTM’s enrollment of some 8,100 students, Kelsey is among 91 students to receive this prestigious award. In recognition of their outstanding achievement, a ceremony for honorees and families was Sunday, February 21 at the Campus Student Life Center.

Recipients are honored based on having excelled in the classroom, provided leadership to the campus community through involvement in extracurricular activities, and have contributed to the spirit and well being of the campus and the university community.
Rudolph launches scholarship program at FHS

Fulton Independent Superintendent Dianne Owen introduced Robbie Rudolph, a 1973 graduate of Fulton Independent High School, to current eighth and 12th grade classes Feb. 17.

Rudolph discussed the creation and launch of the Four Rivers Scholarship Program, which he and his wife Lisa Rudolph co-founded, at all four participating districts.

The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for students in the four river school districts who need financial assistance and support to pursue post secondary college or vocational and occupational training and to promote economic growth and development in Western Kentucky, according to Rudolph.

The four river school districts of Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, and Fulton Independent have created the Four Rivers Consortium to promote ways to share services and programs to provide expanded opportunities for students.

The districts have established partnerships with the two Area Technical Centers, Fulton County Area Technical Center and Mayfield/Graves County Area Technical Center and four regional colleges, West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Murray State University, Mid-Continent University, and the University of Tennessee Martin.

These partnerships have been formed to meet the post-secondary needs of students and provide college advisors to assist in financial aid and career planning with the goal of student completion of a post secondary degree.

The events concluded with a reception at the Fulton Independent Board of Education attended by representatives from the participating districts, universities, foundation members, as well as local and regional community members and leaders.

Scholarships will be awarded to the 2009-10 qualifying senior graduates.

Fulton High School alumnus Robbie Rudolph spoke to eighth and 12th grade students about the Four Rivers Scholarship program he and his wife recently launched. (Photo submitted)

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Percussion performance scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin World Percussion Ensemble will be performing “The Roots of Rhythm—Celebrating Black History Month,” with shows at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Thursday in Campbell Auditorium of Holt Humanities Building.

The UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble performs regularly for schools and communities with their presentation, “The Roots of Rhythm.”

Seating is limited.

The presentation provides an engaging multi-sensory performance, encouraging students to observe how differing societies are formed and interact through music.

Brazilian, African, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Cuban ensembles also perform on traditional instruments during the program, demonstrating the migration of rhythm through slave trade.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of percussion, at (731) 881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.
Top 10 students announced at Peabody High School

The Top 10 students in the Class of 2010 at Peabody High School have been announced. They include:

Rebecca Smith, daughter of John and Tammy Smith, is ranked second in her class with an average of 98.87, a 4.0 GPA and a 29 composite ACT score.

Rebecca has been a member of the Beta Club, Science Club, Spanish Club, Art Club, Junior Rotary, FCA, and Pep Club throughout her years at Peabody. She served as program chairman of the Spanish Club and has been on the Gold Honor Roll every nine weeks. She is also a four-year member of the Peabody Band of Gold, where she played the flute and she was also in the front ensemble her junior and senior years during marching season. Rebecca has taken piano for three years as well.

She was recently selected as an Outstanding Senior by her teachers. She is a member of the Follis Chapel United Methodist Church. Rebecca is currently enrolled in a dual-credit college English course at Dyersburg State Community College and is planning to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall and major in chemistry.

Zachary McCoy, grandson of Donna and Carlos McCoy, Sr., is ranked third in his class with an average of 98.85 and a 4.0 GPA. Zachary has received an Academic Letter all four years of high school. He has been a member of the Pep Club, Beta Club, the Science Club, the Spanish Club (serving as president his junior year), and the Upward Bound program. Zachary was selected for the senior superlative of “Most Opinionated,” which he feels is most fitting. Zachary also participated in the Teen Trendsetters last year, where he volunteered to read to young children. He has participated in the Peabody Band of Gold and has served as first chair of the percussion section. He is currently the percussion captain. He has participated in the Marching Band, the Concert Band, the Pep Band, as well as the Jazz Band at Peabody. He has participated in the UTM Solo and Ensemble event four years and received superior ratings each time. Zachary is currently serving as principal percussionist in the Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra, an orchestra he has been a member of for four years. He was selected as the Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winner for the 2009-10 season, which enabled him to perform his concerto piece in a concert as soloist with the youth orchestra in the December 2009 concert. He has attended the Jackson Symphony Summer Music Camp three times. He has been chosen for the All-West Band clinic five times and the All-West Band and Orchestra accomplishments and chair placements, along with being chosen for the All State Band twice and the All State Orchestra totaling three (the maximum possible). He has attended the UTM Honor Band Clinic four times, each of which ranking in the highest ensemble possible, and twice ranking the highest chair. In the summer of 2008, he was chosen to attend the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Arts, at MTSU. At the Governor’s School, he served as principal percussionist. Last summer he was one five percussionists selected to attend an internationally-acclaimed music festival, the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, at the University of the South, Sewanee. Zachary performed in the three different orchestras at the festival as well as the percussion ensemble. He has been selected to attend again this year. Zachary plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, studying under Dr. Julie Hill, and major in music with an emphasis on conducting. He aspires to become a professional orchestral conductor.

Catherine Anne Cole, daughter of Gerald and Cheryl Cole, is ranked seventh in her class with an average of 98.17 and a 4.0 cumulative GPA. She has recently been selected by the teachers at Peabody as an Outstanding Senior. She has been a member of the Beta, Science, Pep, Art and Spanish Clubs. She was elected as class officer, serving as class treasurer her freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years. She has also been a member of Junior Rotary and served as class representative for four years. She has been on the Gold Honor Roll for each semester the last four years, receiving an Academic Letter each year. She was recently named in the Who’s Who Among All-American Scholars for the 2009-10 school year. Catherine is a graduate of the Gibson County Youth Leadership Conference and the National Leadership Training Summit. Catherine is a four-year member of the Peabody Band of Gold, where she served as band officer for the Front Ensemble her senior year. She is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton and participates in the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship activities. She is currently enrolled at Dyersburg State Community College in a dual credit English program and plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall and major in chemistry and pursue a degree in pharmacology.
Matthew Norvell, son of John and Linda Norvell, is ranked eighth in his class with an average of 98.05 and a 4.0 GPA. Matthew has been a member of the Beta Club and Science Club for the past three years and Annual Staff for one year. He has also been a member of the Junior Rotary for one year. Matthew has been a trombone player in the Peabody Band of Gold and Pep Band for four years and the Jazz Band for the past two years. He has received an academic letter for the past four years. Matthew attends the Trenton Church of Christ where he is involved in the Lads-to-Leaders Program and Bible Bowl. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall with an undecided major at this time.

Niki Lynn Hensley, daughter of Rick and Rita Hensley, is ranked ninth in her class out of 108 students. She has an average of 97.75, a 4.0 GPA, and a 24 on her ACT. Niki has been a member of the Pep Club, Beta Club, Science Club, Junior Rotary, FCA, Spanish Club and Art Club throughout her years at Peabody. She served as secretary of both the Beta and Science Club her senior year. Niki has also been elected class president for all four years. She has received an Academic Letter each year of high school and has been on the Gold Honor Roll for four consecutive years. She has been a basketball cheerleader for four years and has held the position of captain for two years. Niki has cheered for the football squad for three years and has been the co-captain of the squad her senior year. She has played on the Lady Tide softball team since her freshman year and received the Best Offensive Award her junior year. Niki was recently selected as an Outstanding Senior by her teachers and "Most Spirited" by her classmates. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Trenton, and is involved in many youth activities. She will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall of 2010. This spring she will be trying out for the Martin Skyhawk Cheerleading Squad.

Ashley Helen Neisler, daughter of Jeff and Amanda Neisler, is ranked tenth in her class with a 97.54 average and a 3.97 GPA. She was recently selected as an Outstanding Senior by her teachers. Ashley has been a member of the Future Farmers of America for four years and has attended many career development events. She served as the chapter reporter her junior year and is currently serving as the chapter president. She received a Junior Leadership Award at the end of her junior year for being the most active junior in the Peabody FFA Chapter. Ashley was also one of the four students from her chapter who helped bring home the title of runner-up in the State Dairy Judging Contest in Nashville in 2009. She has also shown a lamb in Martin and at the Gibson County Fair for the past three years. She has been a member of the Beta Club, Junior Rotary, Pep Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Science Club. Additionally, she has been an Academic Letterman all four years of her high school career. During her junior year, she joined the Teen Trendsetters Mentoring Program to help elementary students with their reading skills. Ashley is a member of the Davidson Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church and serves as an assistant pianist. She is enrolled at Dyersburg State Community College in dual-credit English and plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Ashley's career plans are undecided, but she wants to focus on the medical and agricultural fields.

UT Martin Sees Record Spring Enrollment
Chris Taylor (2010-02-25)
MARTIN, TN (WKMS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin is seeing a record number of students enrolled at the school this spring. The school indicates nearly 7,700 students are enrolled in classes this semester, up by more than 500 over last year. Chancellor Tom Rakes says the growth comes from undergraduate and online enrollment. This is UT Martin's 11th consecutive record-breaking Spring semester enrollment.
Stevens, Conn to present art exhibitions

Court Square Arts and Antiques in Trenton is beginning a series of exhibits featuring member artists. The first two artists to show are Tuva Stevens and Beth Conn. The event will take place February 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

After having a career as an art and drama teacher for 34 years at Milan High School, Stephens has had more time to pursue her passion of art. She recently received Outstanding Watercolor from Fine Art Studio Online Art Competition from 560 entries across the U.S. She was the featured artist in Informed Collector that described her work as “True to life watercolor paintings that depict real people with great depth of character” that was sent to 4000 art collectors. Also one of her works was accepted in the 33rd SWS (Southern Watercolor Society) Exhibition to be held in Madisonville, Kentucky, in April. Cheng Khee Chee, juror, selected 95 paintings from 379 entries received from 19 states.

Stephens has won numerous awards across the state and is an active member of several art organizations: GCVAA Gibson County, JAA (Jackson Art Association), MGAL (Memphis-Germantown Art League), (Gold Star Status), TNWS (Tennessee Watercolor Society), SWS, Southern Expressions/Bolivar, MAL (Middleton Art League), and Parson’s Peavine Art Council. Her work was accepted into the TNWS Exhibitions in 2006 Customs House Museum in Clarksville and 2008 The Emporium in Knoxville. She is the current secretary of TNWS and is on the slate to be the next President 2010-2012 in Chattanooga in May at the 32nd Exhibition. Her work can be seen on her website: TuvaStephens.com.

Other honors include GCVAA Artist of the Year in 2002, 2006, Tennessee Arts Academy Honor Roll for Teachers of the Arts, Educator of the Year 2000, and S.T.A.R Teacher 2009.

Conn, a photographer from Rutherford, first became interested in art at the age of four. She continued to paint with watercolor throughout her school years and became interested in photography along with her mother, Barbara Conn. Beth later earned a scholarship to the Memphis College of Art in photography and watercolor.

While in the US Army Beth used her photography in painting murals. She was stationed at the time in Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Reception to open senior exhibition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host an art exhibition representing the works of Stephanie Sandoval, an art education emphasis student from Ripley, and Christina McMillion, a visual art studio emphasis student from Union City.

The exhibition will begin with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library.

Exhibitions sponsored by the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will be located in the Paul Meek Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations. Call the Paul Meek Library at (731) 881-7060 for information concerning standard and special library hours of operation.

The exhibition will continue through March 19. The event will be free and open to the public.
UT Martin reports record enrollment

A record 7,692 students are enrolled for spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The enrollment tops the previous spring semester high of 7,152 students set in 2009 and is the 11th 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 7.6 percent spring 2010 enrollment increase also follows a fall 2009 enrollment of 8,101 that set seven 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 and in undergraduate and graduate online programs,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said.

“OUr faculty and staff continue to work hard providing high-quality education and student-centric services. We are blessed to experience these levels of interest and by the ever-increasing achievement of students.”

The 2010 spring enrollment set a spring semester record for undergraduate students with 7,217, a 7.2 percent increase over spring 2009; undergraduate FTE with 6,109, a 6.8 percent increase; and total FTE with 6,351, a 7 percent increase over spring 2009. FTE is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students.

Also increasing over spring 2009 was the number of returning students, by 6.8 percent.

Trustees mull tuition increases for courses at Knoxville campus

MARTIN (AP) — The University of Tennessee’s Board of Trustees is considering tuition increases for some courses at the UT Knoxville campus.

At a two-day winter board meeting in Martin, trustees will discuss a proposal for increases at the colleges of business, nursing and engineering.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reports the proposal calls for students to pay an extra $50 per credit hour for undergraduate business courses, $90 per credit hour for upper-division nursing courses and $45 per credit hour for graduate and undergraduate engineering courses.

The colleges could be forced to cut enrollment without the funds. The plan will go before the full board for approval Friday.

Information from: The Knoxville News Sentinel
http://www.knoxnews.com

Stanton-Weirsdale's John LeTellier named Marion's top teacher

By Joe Callahan
Staff writer

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Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary's music teacher John Joseph LeTellier Jr. -- known for his dedication to music, his students and God -- was named the county's top teacher at the 20th annual Golden Apple Awards.
LeTellier was named to the honor at about 9 p.m. Friday inside the West Port High auditorium off S.W. 80th Avenue. He is Stanton-Weirsdale’s first finalist and, of course, first winner. He seemed overwhelmed by the honor.

“I’m deeply honored,” said LeTellier, who unseated 2008-09 winner Frank Evans of Forest High. “And very humbled.”

About 20 minutes before he was named, LeTellier stepped out in his tuxedo, with tails, and remembered his original dream of becoming a concert pianist. He admitted that one of his last career choices was becoming a school teacher when he decided to move his family out of New York and seek full-time employment.

“God,” he said of his prayer at the time, “I will do anything but to teach music at an elementary school.”

And, of course, that’s where he ended up.

On his first day teaching music, he felt “a little like Arnold Schwarzenegger in Kindergarten Cop,” said LeTellier, a 13-year veteran -- with nearly three in Marion County -- who has since fallen in love with teaching.

Before the event, the West Port Jazz Band performed in the auditorium courtyard while the nominees, along with their family and friends, chatted and devoured hors d’oeuvres.

Just after 7 p.m., the West Port High Performing Arts Players, who attend the school’s Marion County Center of Arts magnet program, kicked off the event with their rendition of “Celebration,” a hit song by Kool in the Gang back in 1981.

It has been two decades now that the Public Education Foundation of Marion County has held the Golden Apple event, honoring the top veteran public teacher with four or more years of experience.

Executive Director Carole Savage was pleased with Friday night’s turnout, “especially since it was so cool.” Temperatures were in the upper 40s as the teachers were arriving Friday.

School District spokesman Kevin Christian and Barbara Fitos -- Marion County Commission chairwoman -- introduced the 48 veteran and 44 rookie nominees during the event.

LeTellier was chosen from a list of five finalists.

Besides LeTellier, other finalists were David Burrage at Belleview Middle School, Cynthia Denise Gray at Belleview-Santos Elementary, RaeAnna Fox Kramer of North Marion High, and William Marcus Lockley of North Marion Middle.

Two weeks ago, officials honored the 2009-10 Rookie of the Year — Saddlemoor Elementary kindergarten teacher Cecilia Carbello.

Carbello also spoke at Friday’s event.

One student, Eric David, walked slowly to the microphone, stepped up on a box and, in a shy voice, introduced Carbello.

“She’s the best teacher I have ever had,” he said to ooohs and ahhhs of the audience just before Carbello addressed the audience.

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows,” Carbello said, quoting late journalist and author Sydney J. Harris.

Each school faculty chose a veteran and rookie nominee. A foundation panel chose 20 veteran teachers to interview. Of those, 10 were observed in the classroom and five were chosen finalists.

LeTellier graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in piano performance from University of Tennessee at Martin in 1995. He attended prestigious The Juilliard School, studying advanced studies in accompanying.
'Third American Revolution'

Civil rights activist speaks at UTM

By STANLEY DUNLAP
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MARTIN — A civil rights activist who led voting projects in Mississippi described the trials and tribulations of the civil rights movement as a third American Revolution Thursday during a speech at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Bob Moses was the keynote speaker at UTM’s 10th annual Civil Rights Conference. During the early 1960’s Moses played an integral part in the struggle of blacks fighting for voting rights in Mississippi.

"The sit-ins that swept the nation marked the political awakening of the baby boomer generation," Moses said.

"(The civil rights movement) benefited all Americans by expanding the rights of citizenship and advancing the idea of equality.

"Out of that ragtag band with little money, no obvious power, painfully little federal (help), and the (South) out to get them … is one of the greatest stories in American History," he said.

Moses spoke Thursday night at Watkins Auditorium for this year’s seven-day conference, titled “Civil Rights in the Age of Obama.”

Moses came to Mississippi as an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1960, and in 1961 established a voter registration project.

He continued to push for civil rights despite being repeatedly beaten and arrested for his stances. He helped organize the Mississippi Summer Project and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party — large-scale initiatives that challenged racism.

UTM Professor Henry Parker said that when Moses was 26 years old, only five percent of the 400,000 blacks eligible to vote were voting in Mississippi. Today, the state has the highest number of black elected officials in the country, he said.

Moses discussed the progress that began to be made in 1960 by Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and other groups.

"… It accelerated the velocity of delta sharecroppers into the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement," said Moses, who is the founder and organizer of the Algebra Project, which focuses on mathematical literacy for children in America.

Parker said it’s hard to understand the spirit of a
Moses
Continued from cover

person like Moses who worked through perilous situations.

"The values (Moses) subscribes to are the ones who say there is a higher order of things," Parker said. "To live by that higher order, one must risk their reputation, their jobs and their life."

UTM junior Shatara Mosley said the diverse group of students drawn to this week's events has been inspiring.

"After reading about the things (Moses) has been through, I wanted to come and hear him speak," Mosley said.

— Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668

10 WSH students earn merit list spots

BY RITA MITCHELL
Special to My Life

White Station High School was one of 10 schools that participated in the 30th annual High School Science Bowl, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society.

Jo Booth received the highest score among the students of White Station High School and made the merit list in the biology, chemistry and physics categories. Students who also made the merit list for biology were Natasha Parekh, S.A. Patel and Anh Vo. Those named to the merit list for chemistry were Ben Finan, Dustin Le and Natasha Parekh. And, students named to the merit list for physics were Carlos Barksdale, Dustin Le and Ben Finan.

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

At the the 30th annual High School Science Bowl, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, were White Station High School teacher Crystal Davis, Carlos Barksdale, Jo Booth, Ben Finan, Seojung Kang and Zain Kinnare; Dustin Le, Jonathan Lin, Natasha Parekh, Shivam A. Patel, Anh Vo, James Griffin, Kayla Poindeaster and Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry.
Cold Weather Gave Area Farmers Chance To Study Precision Farming

Martin, Tenn.

The temperature hovered around freezing. There was snow on the ground. But inside the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion area farmers were already planning for greener, warmer days.

More than 200 farmers attended the Precision Farming Field Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin to learn about the latest technology, methods and equipment to help them make the most of their efforts.

"Agriculture is an ever-changing industry," said John Chester, of Martin, the 2008 Excellence in Agriculture Award from the National Farm Bureau Federation. "If we don't stay on top of the new technology and new equipment, our operations will suffer." Chester said a day in the dead of winter provides the perfect time to "learn new concepts and make sure we're applying the technologies we're currently using correctly." It also provided a break from paperwork and equipment maintenance.

The event was sponsored by Tennessee Tractor LLC and UT Martin, covering topics such as toolbars and planters, variable rate applications and autosteer systems.

Danny Marbury, chief officer and one of the owners of Tennessee Tractor, headquartered in Alamo, said the first clinic at UT Martin was well attended despite the weather. He added that is was just one of the many clinics or schools the company sponsors to help farmers improve their operations. "We've got a lot of educational classes for the farmers. They touch on everything from software to hardware."

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin professor of agricultural economics, conducted one of the sessions at the field day and noted that efficiency is the key. "If we look over the last 40 years, input prices for farmers have grown each year continually while prices received for farmers struggle to keep pace." He said it becomes important for farmers to be more efficient. "So what precision ag can do is allow us to save money and be more efficient and not spread fertilizer, chemical and seed anywhere they don't need to."

"Precision Farming is being able to manage information in a timely and efficient manner. It is everything from variable rate technology that allows you to put different seed rates out at different levels, it includes managing technology, yield mapping and any kind of technology that allows you to put resources and inputs where you want them, not just a broadcast method."

Kirk and Kyle Dixon of Fulton attended the field day mainly to consider global positioning systems. Kyle has more than 10 years of farming joining his father, who has 40 plus years. "I'm just trying to learn something new to help in the future - primarily the GPS technology." His father echoed that was their focus and added, We're already using it some. Field day was a time to "decide how much money to spend (on a GPS) or 'if' to spend."

Also attending the Feb. 16 field day was David Sublette, of Fulton. A UT Martin alumnus, he owns Interactive Software Systems, so he understands the computer aspects of farming very well. Noting he is a "part-time" farmer with a small operation, he likes to see the new products. His hope is that the field day will showcase something he's had his eye on - just better and cheaper. He attends a field day every year to see what's available and "can I afford it yet."

Following lunch, there were three ride-and-drive demonstrations in the pavilion parking lot before farmers headed home for more cold weather tasks before spring.