Brandon Neil Bringie, a junior agricultural education major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was among 21 students in the nation selected to serve as National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors. Bringie, of Munford, joins students from several other universities in the program to promote agricultural understanding and development. Ambassadors promote agricultural awareness to different local school and community groups in their state. They receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector.

UT Martin hosts lead renovator training course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a certified lead renovator course that complies with the Environmental Protection Agency's "Renovation, Repair and Paint" rule.

The course is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 15 at UT Martin. There will be a one-hour lunch break. The $250 fee includes the textbook, certified renovator certificate from the National Center for Healthy Housing and EPA materials.

The eight-hour course will begin with "Why should I be concerned about lead paint?"

Other topics include regulations, tasks before beginning work, containing dust during work, cleaning activities and checking work, recordkeeping and training non-certified renovation workers.

This class meets EPA and Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements. Successful completion earns EPA Certified Renovator status for five years.

Students will learn what EPA and HUD require of certified firms and renovators and how to work in a lead-safe manner while complying with the EPA RRP Rule.

The EPA began enforcing the lead paint law, known as the RRP Rule, on Oct. 1. Anyone who renovates, repairs or paints any building built before 1978 must comply with the rule.

Violators can be fined up to $37,500 per day. NCHH is the EPA-authorized training provider for the course. The instructor will be H. Dale Fortner.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

Area students make dean's list at UT Martin

The Daily Times - Area students make dean's list at UT Martin

Area students make dean's list at UT Martin

From Staff Reports

Theresa L. Gray and Jason D. Leventritt, both of Maryville, have made the dean's list at the University of Tennessee at Martin for fall 2010 semester.

To be eligible, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Gray made the list with high honors, with a grade point average of 3.5 through 3.79. Leventritt made highest honors, earning a 3.8 through 4.0.
Eagle tours begin Tuesday at Reelfoot

Sunday, January 2, 2011
Dyersburg State Gazette
The new year symbolizes more than a fresh start. It also signals the beginning of the eagle-watching season at Reelfoot Lake.

Reelfoot Lake State Park plans to kick off its eagle tours on Tuesday, Jerry Hall, the park’s interpretive specialist, said. Buses will leave the park’s visitor center at 10 a.m. every day through the end of February.

While the tour focuses on eagles, participants often see a number of bird species, including hawks, vultures, ducks, geese and songbirds. Naturalists join each tour to describe the lake’s earth-shaking past and its current status.

Tours typically stop at places where eagles are commonly seen, and naturalists set up spotting scopes to allow visitors a closer look. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars, too.

Tours cost $5 a person and reservations must be made by calling (731) 253-9652.

In addition to the tours, the park staff provides bird-of-prey programs at 7 p.m. every Saturday night from Jan. 11 through Feb. 26. The programs at the visitor center are free, but donations are always welcome.

One exception to the Saturday night programs will occur on Feb. 5, when John Stokes will bring a bird-of-prey program to the visitor center. Stokes works with Save Our American Raptors-South, a non-profit birds of prey environmental education organization. He provides bird-of-prey programs at schools and state parks year-round and offers the Rock City Raptors Birds of Prey Show near Chattanooga from May through September. Several of his injured raptors have been trained to fly over the audience.

At one time, Stokes was in charge of the raptor rehabilitation program at the Memphis Zoo. He later joined the American Eagle Foundation, where he had the opportunity to take a one-winged eagle flying again. He and Osceola shared a hang glider. Their flight was filmed for a special on the Disney Channel in 1996 and a video clip is available on the Internet at osceolabaldeagle.com.

Stokes’ appearance on Feb. 5 is one of several special activities scheduled during the seventh annual Reelfoot Lake Eagle Festival. The three-day festival, which begins Feb. 4, includes eagle and waterfowl tours, an art contest, photography contest, art and craft vendors, a silent auction, storytelling and free tote bags for the first 100 families who register.

All activities are based at the Reelfoot Lake State Park visitor center on Highways 21/22 across from Boyette’s restaurant.

The schedule is as follows.

Friday, Feb. 4
* 4 p.m. - Registration begins at the Reelfoot Lake Tourism Council booth. Free tote bags will be given to the first 100 families.
* 4-9 p.m. - Vendors are open for business in Ellington Hall at the visitors center.

Saturday, Feb. 6
* 4-9 p.m. - Entries for the art and photography contests may be turned in today or before 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at the tourism council booth. The entry fee is $5.
* 7 p.m. - An official welcome will be extended to all festival goers in the visitor center.
* 7:30 p.m. - A slide show will highlight nature, wildlife and history.

Saturday, Feb. 6
* 6 a.m. - A free sunrise photography walk begins at the visitor center.
* 9 a.m. - Registration resumes at the tourism council booth.
* 9 a.m.-9 p.m. - Art and craft vendors will be open in Ellington Hall.
* 10 a.m. - Eagle and waterfowl tours by bus or van depart from the visitor center. Tickets are $5 a person. Reservations may be made by calling (731) 253-9652.
* 10 a.m. - Deadline for entries in the art and photograph contests.
* 10 a.m. - Silent auction begins. The auction closes at 5 p.m.
* Noon - A storytelling session with an eagle mascot will be held.
* 1 p.m. - Eagle and waterfowl tours by bus or van depart from the visitor center. Tickets are $5 a person. Reservations may be made by calling (731) 253-9652.

* 6 p.m. - Winners of the art and photography contests and the silent auction will be announced.

* 7 p.m. - John Stokes of Save Our American Raptors-South will provide a free birds of prey program. Raptors will be allowed to fly over the audience.

Sunday, Feb. 6

* 9 a.m.-3 p.m. - Art and craft vendors will be open in Ellington Hall.

* 10 a.m. - Eagle and waterfowl tours by bus or van depart from the visitor center. Tickets are $5 a person. Reservations may be made by calling (731) 253-9652.

For more information about the festival or lodging information, contact the Reelfoot Lake Tourism Council by calling (731) 253-2007, e-mailing visit@reelfoottourism.com or visiting the Web site: www.reelfoottourism.com.

In addition to the tourism council, sponsors include the University of Tennessee at Martin Reelfoot Lake Research and Teaching Center, Reelfoot Lake State Park, Eagle 97.3 and numerous businesses in Tiptonville, Samburg, Union City and Dyersburg.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES FROM UT MARTIN

Rita Mitchell • Reader Submitted • January 3, 2011

Several Montgomery 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:
Clarksville Scott E. Bearden; Matthew Ryan Jenkins; Katie Elizabeth Hein; Clayton Nave Larson; Kalisha R. Bingham-Marshall; Cara Nicole Shock; Woodlawn Eric Allen Hersh.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
Clarksville Nathan Bailey Stamper; Thomas Andrew Littleton.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL | TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011

Jeremy Cain (left) of Covington and Kyle Bond of Huntingdon get ready for commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18. Each received a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
Virtualization | News

U Tennessee at Martin Looks To Cut IT Costs with Desktop Virtualization

- By Dian Schaffhauser
- 01/04/11

The University of Tennessee at Martin has started rolling out desktop virtualization to provide its 8,000 students and staff members access to their desktops, files, and network resources from multiple locations and computing devices on campus. The university began the initiative, which was first surfaced in a 2005 technology plan, by deploying Citrix XenDesktop to deliver Windows desktops and applications on 45 computers in three campus locations. XenDesktop allows IT to bundle the operating system, applications, and user profiles, store them centrally, and then deliver a specific desktop image to a user.

Citrix said the university would next implement the software on 900 computers in labs and department offices.

Eventually, U Tennessee Martin intends to provide virtual applications and desktops to all university- and student-owned personal devices. It will offer users up to 30 applications through XenApp, as an integrated feature of XenDesktop. XenApp allows the enterprise to store an application in a central location and deliver it to the user on request in a form optimized for the user device.

In some cases the university will only make the latest software available through the virtual environment. For example, the university is only delivering Office 2010 on lab computers through the Citrix environment.

"We want to make applications available to students in the way they want to access them—in university housing, off campus, via mobile phones, however and wherever they want. We plan to offer them everything that Citrix delivers," said Shannon Burgin, university CIO.

The university said the full deployment was expected to lower desktop computing costs by 40 percent through simplified centralized management and a reduced hardware refresh rate.

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2 Bedford students make UT-Martin dean’s lists

T-G STAFF REPORT

MARTIN — The outstanding academic achievements of two undergraduate students from Bedford County at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2010 dean’s lists.

The two students are Gregory L. Barton of Normandy, with high honors and Amy B. Chicoine of Shelbyville with honors.

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).
Jamie Leigh Page graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall commencement ceremony with a bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is the daughter of Darrell and Freda Page of Henry and the granddaughter of Gene and Sue Page and the late J.B. and Violet Spicer.

Brandon Neil Bringle, a junior agricultural education major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was among 21 students in the nation selected to serve as National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors. Bringle, of Munford, joins students from several other universities in the program to promote agricultural understanding and development. Ambassadors promote agricultural awareness to different local school and community groups in their state. They receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector.

Several local 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 included Margaret Anne Hickman, Chad Alan Hollingsworth, Kristen Alyce Greer, and Bryant Quainta Nall, all of South Fulton; Anna Beth Cox and Casey A. Curlin, both of Fulton; Jenah B. Blalock of Water Valley; Rachel Lynn Costello of Hickman; Katie Marie Keathley, Shanon K. Pink, James Herbert Moore, Hollie Suzanne Holman, Matthew Brown Morrison, Matthew Fulton; James Lynn Rambo Jr, Constance Marie Staten Bargery, Melissa Sinclair Blackwell, Pamela Johnson Kangelas, Elizabeth Donnell Mooney, Nathan Woods, all of Union City; and Monty Van Rogers and Kelly Marie Stinson, both of Mayfield.

Gregory Raines, Kevin Allen Tuscan, Pamela Kathleen Luker, Karyn Stephens Hill, Kyle Mathew Bailey, and Terry Scott Smyth, all of Union City, Tenn. The students receiving graduate degrees included Ashley Ann Wilbanks, South
Carnegie Foundation cites Belmont, Lipscomb, TSU for community engagement

By William Williams
Created 01/05/2011 - 12:19pm
Staff reports

The Stanford, Calif.-based Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Belmont, Lipscomb and Tennessee State universities for its 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

The three Nashville universities are among 115 U.S. colleges and universities to be named, with the University of Tennessee at Martin the only other Tennessee-based school on the list. Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification recognizes colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement.

In order to be selected, institutions had to provide descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement.

Tim Stewart, Belmont University director of student learning, said the designation is gratifying and, as much so, will allow BU to benefit from the "structure provided by the application process to help us assess where we are in our efforts to engage the community and to reflect on ways to improve those efforts."

Of the 115 colleges and universities selected nationwide, 66 are public institutions and 49 are private. The schools represent campuses in 34 states.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center supporting transformations in American education.
OSU names Professor of the Year

Oklahoma State University’s Steve Dameron has been named the 2010 Oklahoma Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

"Dr. Dameron is very much deserving of this national recognition, which honors the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country, those who excel at teaching and providing a positive influence in the lives and eventual careers of students," said Robert L. Whitson, vice president, dean and director of OSU’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Dameron was chosen for official recognition as one of 38 state award recipients, selected from more than 300 top professors in the United States. A professor of animal science, he is renowned for his ability to explain technical, complex materials in an easily understood manner.

"Steve teaches a global perspective using numerous real-world applications, integrating and weaving information and ideas together into a broader, practical picture," said Ron Kemsinger, head of the OSU Department of Animal Science. "His effective use of special projects, papers and case studies helps students develop the ability to find and seek information and develop strategic thinking skills, as well as integrate and apply information in a problem-solving context. He is truly outstanding."

Since joining the OSU faculty in 1988, Dameron has developed and taught courses ranging from an introduction to animal science and agricultural animals of the world to agro-ecosystems, the basis of life, principals of nutrition, pet and companion animal management, livestock feeding and canoe handling and training, including distance education classes that serve several hundred students from across the country and around the world.

As an educational author, his book "Introduction to Animal Science: Global, Biological, Social and Industry Perspectives" is one of the most widely used animal science texts in the world. It is currently in its fourth edition, and is accompanied by web-based teaching and learning tools.

He advises approximately 100 animal science students each year and has served as faculty adviser to Agricultural Student Council, University Crew Club, Alpha Gamma Rho, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate Dressage Team and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences during his time at OSU.

"Steve has been outstanding as the department’s teaching coordinator, providing the insightful leadership so vital to ensuring our teaching programs are providing the best educational experience possible for students," Kemsinger said.

Dameron was honored as a 2010 recipient of the division’s prestigious Swayne’s Distinguished Professor Award earlier this semester. During his career, he has received more than 20 teaching and advising awards from the likes of OSU, the University of Hawaii, the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, the National Academic Advising Association, the Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta honor fraternities and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture organization.

Dameron earned his bachelor’s degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1975. He earned his master’s degree in animal nutrition-management and doctoral degree in animal nutrition from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1978 and 1982, respectively.

CASE launched the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program in 1981. That same year, the Carnegie Foundation began hosting the final round of judging, and in 1982, became the primary sponsor.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is the nation’s third-oldest nonprofit foundation, founded in 1905 by Andrew Carnegie.

CASE is among the largest international associations of educational institutions, serving nearly 3,400 universities, colleges, schools and related organizations in 59 countries.
Local residents among grads at University of TN at Martin

Several residents of Obion County and neighboring Fulton County, Ky., 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 campus.

Among the students who received undergraduate degrees were:
- Hornbeak — Ashleigh Paige Roberson
- Kenton — Benjamin W. Hollomon and Laurel Grace Childs
- Obion — Amber Marie Moore and Brandy Leigh Rainey
- South Fulton — Margaret Anne Hickman, Chad Alan Hollingsworth, Kristen Alyce Greer and Bryant Qalanta Nall
- Troy — Wesley Russell Yates, James Franklin Key and Christopher Chase Sowell
- Union City — Katie Marie Keathley, Shandon K. Pink, James Herbert Moore, Hollie Suzanne Holman, Matthew Brown Morrison, Matthew Gregory Raines, Kevin Allen Tuscan, Pamela Kathleen Luker, Karyn Stephens Hill, Kyle Mathew Bailey and Terry Scott Smyth
- Fulton — Anna Beth Cox and Casey A. Culin
- Hickman, Ky. — Rachel Lynn Costello
- Students who received graduate degrees included:
- Kenton — Laura Pitts
- South Fulton — Ashley Ann Wilbanks

Carnegie selects UTM for classification

The Carnegie Foundation recently selected the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

The campus is one of 115 institutions that will now be added to the Community Engagement Classification, bringing the national total to 311. UT Martin will then be among the top 10 percent in the nation so classified for its community engagement.

The classification for Community Engagement is an elective classification, meaning it is based on voluntary participation by institutions. Whereas the foundation's all-inclusive classifications involve secondary analysis of existing national data sources available for all institutions, elective classifications involve additional data collection and documentation, with substantial effort invested by participating institutions. Elective classifications enable the foundation's classification system to recognize important aspects of institutional mission and action that are not represented in the national data.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.

UT Martin associate professor honored

Dr. Lionel Crews, University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of physics, recently received the Piero Award from the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers for his contributions to the teaching of earth science in Tennessee.

The award was presented at the area National Science Teachers Association meeting in the Tennessee Science Teachers Association awards luncheon at the Oryland Hotel in Nashville.

Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, 2001 Piero Award recipient and TEST higher education adviser, made the presentation.

Crews has been active in the teaching of earth science over the past decade. He has been involved in two grant programs, Revitalizing Earth Science Education in Tennessee and the Institute for Middle Grade Educators in Science, and has made numerous presentations at National Science Teachers Association and Tennessee Science Teachers Association conferences. He also makes regular school visits to do presentations on astronomy in the classroom, as well as helps local teachers host a "star party" for observing the night sky.

He recently completed an astronomical observatory at UT Martin and plans to allow teachers to use it for experiential learning, as well as student research projects.

Piero is the nickname for the official state fossil of Tennessee, Pterotrignia (Scabrotitrigonia) Thoracica.

The UT Martin Geo-Club received the award in 1999.
By KEVIN BOWDEN
Staff Reporter

Capt. Bly and Sunny are ready to greet visitors to Reelfoot Lake. So are Red, Peg, Hooters and Ozzie.

During this, the first of the two busiest months of the year at Reelfoot Lake, they are the welcoming committee.

The aforementioned names belong to the eagles, owls, hawk and osprey at the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center.

Capt. Bly could be considered the patriarch of the avian family. He was named for Blytheville in northeast Arkansas, where he was shot in 1989. Capt. Bly has been living behind the visitors center ever since.

He is joined there by Sunny, who injured his wing when he flew into a power line.

Each of the injured birds at the visitors center has a story ... and a personality. And David Haggard knows them all.

His official, and long, title is West Tennessee regional interpretive specialist with the Tennessee State Parks. Unofficially, Haggard is one of the most knowledgeable ambassadors at Reelfoot Lake.

It was Haggard who worked with a group of about 25 wildlife biology students from Japan a few weeks ago.

"People just don't realize that we get people from all over the world," Haggard said.

He estimates that between 50,000 and 70,000 people will visit Reelfoot Lake between now and the end of February. In an average year, Haggard said there will be visitors representing all 50 states and from 30 to 50 countries.

On weekends through February, students from the University of Tennessee at Martin volunteer to bring out some of the birds and reptiles to let visitors handle them. The state park staff also offers wildlife programs every Friday night and eagle tours are offered daily at 10 a.m. through February.

For more information about Reelfoot Lake, contact the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center at (731) 253-9652.

OUT-OF-STATERS — This group of tourists got the rare chance to get an up-close look at a mature American Bald Eagle during a trip to Reelfoot Lake last week. The Michigan residents were the guest of Nancy Hazel (center) of Tennessee. Checking out the eagle from inside the raptor cage at Reelfoot Lake were (from left) Rick Wintergerst, Lisa Ignasiak, Ms. Hazel, Kandie Hines and James Little. The eagle, nicknamed Capt. Bly, put on quite a show for his audience.
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE — The Visitors Center at Reelfoot Lake has a variety of crawling and winged creatures for visitors to experience. During a visit to the visitors center last week, 8-year-old Mary Beth Bailey of Guy, Ark., and her friend Christine Bailey of Little Rock, Ark., got the chance to hold and pet Luna the screech owl, under the watchful eye of Tennessee State Parks regional interpretive specialist David Haggard. The small owl is one of two injured owls that call the visitors center their home. Both birds are used to human contact. The Arkansas visitors enjoyed an afternoon checking out the wildlife and the scenery at Reelfoot Lake. The months of January and February are two of the busiest months of the year for tourism at Reelfoot Lake, with an estimated 50,000-70,000 visitors expected at the lake, according to Haggard. On weekends, students from the University of Tennessee at Martin volunteer at the visitors center, and bring out some of the animals for visitors to handle. In addition to the wildlife housed inside the visitors center, there are also several raptor cages set up behind the facility.

Carnegie selects UTM for classification
Posted: Wednesday, January 5, 2011 11:50 am

The Messenger 01.05.11

The Carnegie Foundation recently selected the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2010 Community Engagement Classification. The campus is one of 115 institutions that will now be added to the Community Engagement Classification, bringing the national total to 311. UT Martin will then be among the top 10 percent in the nation so classified for its community engagement.

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Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.
READY FOR VISITORS — David Haggard is very comfortable handling most of the animals housed at the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center. A naturalist with the Tennessee State Parks, Haggard holds up one of the small owls kept in a cage behind the visitors center. All of the winged wildlife housed at the visitors center have injuries that keep them from being able to survive in the wild. There are also several snakes on display at the visitors center. On weekends, there are volunteers from the University of Tennessee at Martin who will bring the birds and snakes out for visitors to handle. Cages at the visitors center house injured owls, ospreys, hawks and eagles. This is one of the busiest times of the year for Reelfoot Lake, which will host an estimated 50,000-70,000 visitors through the end of February.

Memphis Photos

Jeremy Cain (left) of Covington and Kyle Bond of Huntington get ready for commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18. Each received a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
SQUAWKING — His name is Capt. Bly and he is one of two mature American Bald Eagles housed in a raptor cage behind the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center. The name is a shortened version of Blytheville, the city in northwest Arkansas where he was rescued after being shot in 1989. The eagle has some aerial mobility inside the cage but would not be able to survive in the wild.

EAGLE EYE — Capt. Bly strikes a majestic pose as he keeps a close eye on visitors to the raptor cage he calls home. The cage is located behind the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center off Highway 22, just west of Samburg. Capt. Bly shares his living space with another mature American Bald Eagle, Sunny, who injured his wing when he flew into a power line.

**West 10 Newspapers**

**Bartlett collegiate among legislative delegation**

The University of Tennessee at Martin's nine-member delegation, which includes Bartlett resident Jamie Arnett, was voted best House delegation at the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature's 41st General Assembly on Nov. 10-21. There were approximately 260 students representing 37 Tennessee colleges and universities in attendance. This was the third year for UT Martin's delegation to participate.

UT Martin lead delegate Allison Jones said claiming best House delegation "meant that we had the most people speak up and debate, and we were just really excited about winning that award."

TISL, sponsored by an alumni board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee. The top bills passed by the student legislature will be sent to the Tennessee State Legislature for consideration.

Alumni of the collegiate mock legislative program, where the state's constitut law originated, includes Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lilienthal; current state senators, Mike Faulk, Doug Overby and Ray Harris; Senate chief clerk Russell Humphrey; and current representatives Mike Kernell and Ron Lollar.
Pageant deadline nears

Plans are under way for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women ages 17-24 who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm. Deadline to register is Jan. 14 and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Hollie Holt, 406 South Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at (731) 587-3355 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.

Reading Clinic sessions offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and UT Martin Reading Center are offering three spring reading clinic sessions for students grade 2-12. The sessions run from January 24-February 17, February 21-March 24, and April 4-28. There will be no classes the week of March 14. The registration fee is $125, including a workbook.

The course, led by Dr. Beverly Hearn, UT Martin Reading Center director, is for students who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting. Students can choose either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Times available: 3:00-3:50 p.m., 4:00-4:50 p.m., 5:00-5:50 p.m., 6:00-6:50 p.m. or 7:00-7:50 p.m.

To register, please call ECOS at 731-881-7082.
Curlin completes experiential learning to enhance college degree

Casey Curlin completed an internship at The Washington Times during her senior year, and said it's that type of experiential learning that enhances a college education.

The University of Tennessee at Martin communications major from Fulton, Kentucky, graduated December 18 and also received the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award, the only award presented during commencement.

In addition to the internship, Curlin combined her college coursework with experience serving as executive editor of The Pacer, the UT Martin student newspaper, and other roles on campus to maximize her career opportunities.

“I decided to become a communications major after my freshman year when I took Frank Leach’s English 111 course,” said Curlin. “With his instruction and support I learned that I had a talent for writing and that I enjoyed it. I realized I wanted to pursue a career that involved writing and found that communications was a perfect fit.”

In addition to her communications professors and coursework, Curlin thinks that courses and professors outside her major helped her become well rounded. “My English, philosophy and political science professors, in particular, have greatly broadened my scope on different world views. This new level of understanding and way of thinking have not only opened my mind to the endless possibilities of learning, but also helped me become more of an unbiased thinker. Unbiased thinking is an important part of a career in journalism.”

The Pacer editor’s position also contributed to her preparation for a career. “At the Pacer, we really get the skills we need to enter the workplace, and actually The Times was really impressed with my resume because I’ve had so much experience.”

Curlin said the thing about the Pacer is that the staff gets to learn and practice all the aspects of newspaper production, such as writing and reporting, layout and design, photos and posting content online. “Those are the skills you have to have to really get a job in this field.”

One of the high points of her college career was winning the feature-writing contest at the Southeast Journalism Conference in 2008, but she really considers all the time spent at the Pacer as a bonus. “I just can't describe how much I appreciate the opportunities it has offered me...”

Capping her college journalism career with The Times internship cemented the fact that a career that focuses on writing was the best choice. She was accepted into an internship program called the “Fund for American Studies.” As part of the program, Curlin got to choose from a list of internships. “The Washington Times was a national newspaper so I thought that would give me some good experience.”

Curlin was treated as a staffer, not an intern. “I wrote mainly for the nation section and a few politics and culture stories,” she said. “I was in the office a lot, mostly on the phone constantly. It’s really hectic sometimes. I might have three or four hours to get a story done, and so I was immediately on the phone getting sources, trying to get in touch with people.”

Among her stories was one on police brutality and how the more commonplace existence of video recorders today, particularly on cell phones, is changing the playing field in regard to police conduct. “That was a really interesting one.”

Another was a story about Blockbuster, how it was having financial problems and how brick and mortar video stores are not able to keep up with companies such as Netflix and downloadable movies on the Internet.

Living and working in Washington also offers the possibility of meeting and interviewing some interesting people, she said. “One that I thought was really cool was Ron Steinman. He’s a documentary filmmaker. He was nominated for five Emmys, written and produced documentaries for A&E, Discovery Channel, History Channel and TLC.”

She also met Christo, an artist, and interviewed the 2009 Miss Black USA Shayna Rudd. “I did a story on a book series that she’s working on, and that was really cool.”

As a recent graduate, Curlin is keeping her options open. She’d like to enter the workforce, but also is interested in other internship opportunities and graduate school.

“I can see myself staying in the journalism business. I wouldn’t mind trying out magazines, but I’m keeping an open mind for positions that I feel could use my skills to contribute to the betterment of society in some way.” She added, “I think the people skills and writing skills I have developed could be assets across a variety of platforms.”

What’s her advice for communications students? “Don’t let all your education come from the classroom.” She added that courses provide a base of the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. “You have to develop this knowledge yourself by practicing in real-world environments. Communications simply has to be learned through experience. The opportunities to gain that experience are available; you just have to work for them.”

Casey Curlin
UT Martin chosen for community engagement

The Carnegie Foundation recently selected the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

The campus is one of 115 institutions that will now be added to the Community Engagement Classification, bringing the national total to 311.

UT Martin will then be among the top 10 percent in the nation so classified for its community engagement.

“Our Institute for Civic Engagement leadership team worked tirelessly to document the many outside-of-the-classroom activities in which our faculty and students are participating, and this is a great way to begin 2011,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“UT Martin has a long tradition of preparing its graduates for lives of leadership and service, and it’s gratifying to be recognized for that by an organization with the rich history of The Carnegie Foundation.”

The classification for Community Engagement is an elective classification, meaning it is based on voluntary participation by institutions.

Whereas the foundation’s all-inclusive classifications involve secondary analysis of existing national data sources available for all institutions, elective classifications involve additional data collection and documentation, with substantial effort invested by participating institutions.

Elective classifications enable the foundation’s classification system to recognize important aspects of institutional mission and action that are not represented in the national data.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress,

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.

Deadline to enter pageant is swiftly approaching

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee.

The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missonline. Deadline to register is Jan. 14, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Hollie Holt, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.
Local and international students 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 - Scarlett Leigh Reynolds; Allison Lynn Paschall; Misty Lorraine Dunlap; Max Devon Carlton; April Denise Bell; Derrick Eugene Hansen; Kyle Michael Parham; William J. Pittman; Benjamin Jason Vowell; Brittany Shannon Morton; Joseph Eugene Crawford; Stephen Douglas Shopper;
- Dukedom - Brittany Dawn Scott;
- Gleason - Joshua Blake Verdell; Adam Tyler Bennett; William Bradley Maddox; Lacy Dionne Arnold;
- Greenfield - Rickey Lynn Mask; Tracy Jo King;
- Martin - Chandra Michelle Blackburn; Katherine A. West; Lauren Elizabeth Wilson; Adam Samuel White; Lauren Elizabeth Taylor; Ashley Marie Byrd; Kayla Renee Evans; Victor O'Brian Fulton; Europe Lucree Hall; Jordan Wilson Howell;
- Jake Edward Todd; Lynsey D. Sinclair; Matthew L. Bane; Samqui'a LaShonda Sheddick; Jason Andrew Evans; Mary E. Brewer; Maci Wren Mount; Andrew Christopher Lykins;
- Sharon - Monica Tharpe Whorton; David Chadwick Connell; Jennifer Eddlemon; Christopher Lee Cooper.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dresden - Glinda Ruth Wilson;
- Gleason - Tara Newsom Hughes;
- Greenfield - Blake Anthony White; Sherr A. Puckett;
- Martin - Douglas Young Snider; Abdulla Ismael Alsaqer; Kyle Herron Brooks; Katherine Elizabeth Edwards; Kendrick Rafael Edwards; Laura Jayne Leaby; Stephen Edward Rush; Kay Hearn Stagg; Ryan Neil Stover; Joseph Benjamin Travis; Deborah Ann Abel; Christopher Cates.

Several international 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:
- Ligny-en-Barrois, France - Justine L. Malinrgey;
- Dakar, Senegal - Samba Laobe Diop;
- Sahlat, Saudi Arabia - Ahmed M. AlYousif;
- Ilsan, South Korea - Do-Hae Lee;
- Seoul, South Korea - Sung Ho Yoon;
- Middlesbrough, England - Jenni Kate Duffy;
- Freetown, Sierra-Leone - Festus Kamara;
- Hyogoken, Japan - Yasushi Watanabe;
- Madrid, Spain - Tiffani Kelly Warner.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Kaohsiung, Taiwan - Ju-Ting Chang;
- Moscow, Russia - Andrei Yesipov;
- Gwangju, South Korea - Kyungwook Min;
- Bangkok, Thailand - Pattarin Ngaecharnokul; Chaowit Pradubsriphet;
- Daegu, South Korea - Kyong A. Lee.

TENNESSEAN.COM

By Lea Ann Overstreet • THE TENNESSEAN
January 7, 2011

Several Davidson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin's fall commencement.
UT Martin names local 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).

Students named to the dean's lists include:

Matthew R. Gilmer, Hillsboro, High Honors;
Gregory L. Barton, Normandy, High Honors;
Cherice F. Martin, Manchester, High Honors;
Caitlin C. Moore, Manchester, Honors;
Joshua O. White, Manchester, Honors;
Janine D. Brown, Tullahoma, Honors;
Jason L. Chittum, Tullahoma, Highest Honors;
Chelsea E. Jones, Tullahoma, Highest Honors;
Forrester M. Wall, Tullahoma, Highest Honors.

Memphis Photos

Jeremy Cain (left) of Covington and Kyle Bond of Huntington get ready for commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18. Each received a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
Daniel Wilson (center) of Bartlett was recently commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was a fall graduate, earning a computer science degree. With him are his parents, Sherry Lynn and Rufus Wilson.

Kalynn Hightower (middle) of Arlington is the fall semester recipient of the Jodi Woods Memorial Award, established at the University of Tennessee at Martin in memory of Woods, a special education major, who died June 24, 2006. The award is given each semester to one graduating special education major who excels in student teaching by including and building self-esteem in students with special needs. The award was established to typify the warm and caring demeanor that Woods exemplified. Funds from the award are given to assist the graduating teacher in stocking his or her new classroom. Dr. Crystal Whittow (left), associate professor of special education, and Dr. Kathy Evans (right), university supervisor, congratulated Hightower on the award.
Historian: Civil War issues still affect economy

By Shelia Byrd • The Associated Press • January 8, 2011

JACKSON, Miss. -- Historian Timothy Smith says the growing list of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is important in Mississippi because knowledge about the conflict helps explain the state's current condition.

Smith, a Carrollton, Miss., native and a professor at the University of Tennessee-Martin, participated in a program Friday focusing on the state's decision to secede from the Union on Jan. 9, 1861. The ramifications of that decision still linger, he said.

"Obviously, the racial issues in Mississippi are extremely important. In the last couple of decades that's gotten a lot better," Smith said. "The economic devastation -- Mississippi is still considered one of the poorest in the nation. All of that goes back to literally sweeping the economy out from under the state.

"The economy at that time was based almost 100 percent on slave labor and slave agriculture. When you just remove that lock, stock and barrel it's going to cause disruption in the economy," he said.

The event, sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, was held in the Mississippi House chamber of the Old Capitol Museum -- the exact location where delegates voted to secede. George Rable, a professor at the University of Alabama, also spoke at the program.

About 150 were gathered as actor Ray McFarland re-enacted the speech given by John Wood, one of the original delegates. Wood, who was a slave owner, had warned the delegation of businessmen, planters, lawyers and slave owners against secession. The convention opened on Jan. 7, 1861. The Ordinance of Secession was passed on Jan. 9, but it wasn't signed until Jan. 15.

Smith speculated many of the delegates later regretted secession. He read the words of one of them, Wiley P. Harris, who remarked "the conviction came over me that we had made a sad mistake." Harris' comments came after the Union defeated Confederate troops at Vicksburg, taking control of the Mississippi River in 1863.

Mississippi is among at least 21 states that have formed commissions or initiatives to commemorate the anniversary of America's war with itself, according to the Washington-based Civil War Preservation Trust. Some states will hold conferences, and local and private organizations have plans for events and functions.

On Saturday, the Vicksburg National Military Park will observe Mississippi's secession with the reading of the Ordinance of Secession and other documents, as well as a re-enactment of the firing on the commercial steamboat "A.O. Tyler" from the bluffs of Vicksburg in 1861. Mississippi officials believed the Tyler and other riverboats were carrying Union troops and munitions.

Smith said the Civil War should be commemorated, but not necessarily celebrated.

"I think commemoration is very important. I think interpretation is very important. Beyond that, lifting these folks up as demagogues ... that they were the greatest that ever happened, and we should do it again, certainly, I wouldn't go that far," he said.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011

Two Shelby County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Senior James Buchanan, son of James and Marchetta Buchanan of Raleigh, received the Dorothy Norton Scholarship.

Tanesha Davis, granddaughter of Blanche Hardy of Memphis, is a sophomore. She received the Eddie Hammond Jr. Memorial Scholarship.
College Clan

Graduates

Ryan DeMoss, of Erie, graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Dec. 17 with a master's of arts in English.

Jared Spaniol graduated magna cum laude from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell in December with a master's degree in plastics engineering. He earned a bachelor's degree in plastics engineering technology in 2009 from Penn State Behrend.

Spaniol is the son of Paul and Cindy Spaniol, of Millcreek Township.

Tessa Grace Staab, of Erie, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 18.


UT Martin announces graduates, fall dean's list

Sixteen Henry Countians received degrees and 74 students made the fall 2010 semester dean's list at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Receiving graduate degrees during the fall commencement were Christie Lynn Safin and Christie Elkins Wimberley, both of Paris.

Undergraduate degrees were handed out to:

- Lisa A. Salmon, Thomas William Stoker, Micah Sutton Miller, Justin Douglas Rawls, Brandon Thomas Wimberley, Brittny Nicole Cacciolli, Jake Andrew Vanderburg, Mason Andrew Hinton and Chad Tyler Blanton, all of Paris;
- Jade Nicole Stearnes of Buchanan; Stefanie Carmen Manning of Cottage Grove; Sarah Jane Mooney and Jamie Leigh Page, both of Henry; and Autumn Rain Sullivan of Puryear.

Dean's list students at UTM are listed with highest honors, high honors and honors.

Those with highest honors earned a semester grade-point average between 3.8 and 4.0; with high honors, 3.5-3.79; and with honors, 3.2-3.49.

Named with highest honors:


From Cottage Grove — David N. Horton and Thomas C. Hunt.


From Puryear — Chelsey R. Lassiter and Sarah J. Mooney.

From Springfield — Kimberly L. Ballard and Sarah M. Milam.

Named with high honors:


From Cottage Grove — Autumn E. Arnold.

From Henry — Katherine E. Dicus.

From Puryear — Candace M. Lewis.

From Springfield — Rachel R. Robison and Jessica R. Swor.

Named with honors:


From Cottage Grove — Stephanie C. Manning and Rebecca L. West.

From Springfield — Pamela J. Corbin, Daniel K. Frame, Brittany L. Haep and Zachary C. Hatcher.
Education is key factor in economic development

January 10, 2011

The Regional Economic Development Initiative presented its state legislative agenda to several state House representatives last week in Jackson. We would like to add a hearty “Amen” to much of what the group presented, particularly its focus on education.

REDI is administered by the Southwest Tennessee Development District, which is based in Jackson. It takes in 12 counties in West Tennessee. The program has several prongs, but its centerpiece is a relatively new college access program designed to help high school children navigate the path to college.

Education is critical to the future of West Tennessee and is tightly linked to economic development. That didn’t used to be the case. Not long ago, someone could graduate high school, get a good-paying job at a local textile mill and be set for life. Those jobs are largely gone, and our state has been slow to react in the resulting change needed in our education system.

West Tennessee must have an educated and technologically savvy work force as it seeks economic development. The educational system must not only be maintained but expanded for that to happen. That expansion must take in the likes of the Tennessee Technology Center, Jackson State Community College, UT Martin and other institutions.

State legislators will have some difficult choices to make as they return to Nashville this year. They will deal with a hefty budget shortfall and the loss of one-time stimulus revenue that propped things up last year.

Cuts will have to be made, but they must not be made at the expense of education. That would be incredibly shortsighted and damage our state’s ability to grow. Cuts to education would be even more devastating considering our system is already under-funded. Jackson State, for instance, has been hamstrung for years by a lack of capital money from the state.

As REDI has called for, the state must find ways to support efforts to develop an educated work force, from pre-kindergarten funding, to help for college-access programs, to support for our state’s many forms of higher education and technology training.

All of this goes hand in hand with the push to develop the West Tennessee megasite in Haywood County, another priority for REDI and for us. The best options for developing that property will involve companies that will require a well-educated work force. We don’t stack up very well in that category right now.

That can, and must, change. State legislators must recognize that need and show the vision to meet it as they head into 2011.

Memphis Photos

Daniel Wilson (center) of Bartlett was recently commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was a fall graduate, earning a computer science degree. With him are his parents, Sherry Lynn and Rufa Wilson.
Conference for Working Women Slated Feb. 11
By WestStar Staff

MARTIN, TN - Participants attending the 13th annual Conference for Working Women will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy, how office ergonomics work, the difference between depressed and depression, how Google can increase workplace productivity and receive wardrobe and makeup advice.

The conference is set for 8:30 am-2:30 pm Feb. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Dial, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following continental breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9 am.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program and Tom E. Hendre Choir of Excellence in Free Enterprise at UT Martin, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee. Whether you are an assistant, an executive, a manager, 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 and WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference. The opening speaker will be Dr. Dainy Harrison, of Jefferson City, Carson Newman College vice president of advancement. Her presentation, "Running Out of Time: Creating Your Own Legacy," is set for 9:15-10 am. Her career in higher education fundraising span 26 years including six different institutions and raising more than $100 million to meet the needs of the students he has served.

He is a frequent speaker in a variety of venues such as: CASE International conferences, Planned Giving Councils across the Southeast, colleges, high schools and churches. He has been published in CASE Currents magazine, International Journal of Philanthropy (Vanderbilt) and the Alumni and Development Report. Recently, he initiated a project that brought his friends and family together to produce an original album, "Legacy Road," which featured 20 songs recorded in Nashville. The album has raised more than $20,000 toward the needs of children in Nicaragua. He speaks about how we all can leave a legacy in the lives of those around us by living a life of meaning and purpose.

At 10 am, Dr. Todd Sherman, UT Martin health and human performance professor, will present "Think Time." Sherman received his Bachelor of Arts in physical education from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Master of Science in physical education: sports administration from Eastern Kentucky University and his Doctorate of Arts in Exercise Science from Middle Tennessee State University. Prior to his 10 years of teaching in higher education, Sherman managed a hospital-based rehabilitation/wellness facility. During his five years of clinical experience, Sherman has worked with patients with cardiac, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord, diabetes, obesity and orthopedic issues. As an educator, Sherman has taught at North Carolina A&T State University, Oxford College of Emory University and is now in his first year at UT Martin. His teaching responsibilities include exercise physiology, exercise testing and prescription, and special populations. His research interests include pediatric exercise science/wellness, testing and exercise prescription.

Dr. Laura Melaro will present "Depression: Second's Count – Be Knowledgeable" at 11 am. Melaro has resided all of her life and has practiced for 22 years in the West Tennessee area. She graduated with a bachelor's and master's in nursing science and a doctorate in nursing practice in 1985, 1988 and 2006, respectively. Her doctoral focus was in family psychiatric practice, an emphasis on the severity and persistently mentally ill and terminal health. Melaro began her career in 1985 as a registered nurse in emergency and critical care services and advanced to establish a private practice from 1989 to 1999 as a family nurse practitioner in Henderson.

While juggling family and career, opportunities arose that led to a pursuit of employment in the community mental health setting from 1999 to the present. As an American Nurses Credentialing Center board certified Family and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, she divides her time between private psychiatric practice at Melaro Behavioral Consultants, Inc., in Henderson, inpatient psychiatric and alcohol/drug treatment at Pathways in Jackson, and clinical and academic teaching/supervision for numerous Tennessee universities.

Michelle Weatherford, president of LEARN Consulting in Aiken, will be the speaker before lunch. Her speech, "Touchdowns: Scoring for Yourself - Happiness and Being Less Stressed," is slated for 11:15 am-noon.

At 12:30 pm, beauty consultants will present "Before and After," providing makeup tips. This will be followed at 1 pm by "It's GOOGLE Time," presented by Steve Holt. Holt provides consulting on Web design, e-commerce, social media, leadership and marketing. He is also actively involved in speaking on those topics at conferences around the country. During the past 12 years, he has helped numerous local governments, economic and community development agencies, non-profits, banks and small business entities develop media and services to reach their constituents and markets. Since 1999, he has been the UT Martin director of the Instructional Technology Center and West Services, and he has also taught computer science and economics at UT Martin for 11 years. Through the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, he has provided training and consulting throughout West Tennessee to chamber of commerce and economic development professionals. He has a Masters of Business Administration from UT Martin.

Finally, Julie Burke, Milan Chamber of Commerce director and executive vice president, and a CME Designer clothing independent consultant, will present "Fashions For You." Burke graduated in December 2003 from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. Since graduating from UT Martin, she has lived in all three geographical regions of Tennessess, with the last 11 years being in Knoxve. She was appointed early this year to the Milan Chamber of Commerce post and moved back to her hometown.

The deadline to register is Feb. 1. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, 8640 University Boulevard, MS-321, Martin, TN 38238. If you have questions, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at 731-681-7268.

Waste Management World

Martin Luther King Day of Service Planned
Targeted News Service
January 10, 2011

The University of Tennessee at Martin issued the following news release:

The University of Tennessee at Martin Institute for Civic Engagement and UT Martin RecycleUS! are hosting the national Martin Luther King Day of Service on Jan. 17. UT Martin students, organizations, staff, faculty, administrators and members of the Martin community are invited to participate in a Martin community and campus cleanup. There will be an event the first week of April in remembrance of the 43rd anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination.

From 9 a.m. - noon or 1 - 4 p.m., volunteers will have the opportunity to pick up recyclables and trash or help sort recyclables at the UT/Euro/Martin Recycling Facility on Moody Street. All participants should meet at the recycling facility. Gloves, bags and bottles of water will be provided.

Participants are encouraged to bring a camera and send UT Martin to recycleUS! a copy of the photos taken. The first 20 volunteers will receive a MLK Day of Service sweatshirt or T-shirt.

For more information on the commemoration of Dr. King, visit http://link.resinfo.gov. For more information on the cleanup day, contact recyc(us)um.edu. Dr. Angie MacKewn at 731-681-7270 or Dr. Heidi Hume at 731-681-7280.
UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall Semester Dean’s List

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

ATWOOD: Xavier M. Cunningham, Honors; Jennifer Gibson, Honors; Cory Q. Hall, High Honors; Melanie C. Hickerson, Highest Honors; Kelsey J. McAlexander, Highest Honors; Tiffany L. Simmons, Highest Honors.

BRUCETON: Bethany L. Allen, High Honors; Alan J. Dupree, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Harris, Honors; Allison P. McGuire, High Honors.

CEDAR GROVE: Lindsey A. Bell, Honors; Hillary M. Gause, Honors.

CLARKSVILLE: Erin D. Grant, Honors; Amanda C. Steele, Honors.

HOLLOW ROCK: Lindsey M. Anderson, Highest Honors; Patrick A. Bishop, Highest Honors; Tiffany L. Cathey, Highest Honors; Logan R. King, Highest Honors; Allison J. Simmons, High Honors; Emily A. Ulnerich, Highest Honors.

HUNTINGDON: Diana L. Aldayturriaga, Highest Honors; Jacob T. Allen, High Honors; John C. Anderson, Highest Honors; Russell T. Anderson, High Honors; Kyle A. Bond, Highest Honors; Courtney P. Cockrill, Honors; Derek A. Collins, Honors; Brett H. Cross, High Honors; Jessica J. Davis, Honors; Whitney L. De Priest, High Honors; Benjamin A. Dempsey, Honors; Jacob F. Edwards, High Honors; Robert E. Eskew, High Honors; Troy D. Garrison, Highest Honors; Daniel M. Guinn, High Honors; Joshua R. Gurley, Honors; Valerie C. Hatch, High Honors; Jennifer L. Johnson, High Honors; Derek R. Kelley, Highest Honors; Colin L. Laman, High Honors; Jeremy R. McGuesten, High Honors; Katie E. O’Malley, Highest Honors; Hillary B. Peterson, High Honors; Jeanne M. Prince, High Honors; Jamie M. Pritchard, High Honors; Jessica L. Pritchard, Highest Honors; Cody C. Rainey, High Honors; Katelyn A. Roberts, Honors; Matt T. Simpson, High Honors; Lea E. Stokes, High Honors; Rebecca A. Stokes, High Honors.

MCKENZIE: Bethany M. Aden, Honors; Kimberly L. Baskin, Honors; Josi K. Carlton, Honors; Rachel L. Chandler, High Honors; Michelle N. Davis, High Honors; Christopher A. Eaton, High Honors; Colton L. Eaton, Highest Honors; Ryan A. French, High Honors; Clinton D. Hoard, High Honors; Paul T. Horton, High Honors; Benjamin R. Kee, High Honors; Catherine A. Little, Honors; Britton A. McCann, High Honors; Linley H. McClain, Highest Honors; Allison D. Owen, Honors; Lauren E. Perritt, Highest Honors; Justin J. Petersen, High Honors; Janna N. Pratt, Honors; Sierra R. Reeves, Highest Honors; Travis R. Russell, High Honors; Lauren E. Scott, Highest Honors; Jillian L. Stafford, Highest Honors; Andrew C. Webb, Honors.

MCMORESVILLE: Anna K. Kelly, Highest Honors.

WESTPORT: Cody A. Jacobs, High Honors.


Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Atwood - Jennifer Gibson; Bruceton - Lindsey Marie Anderson; Emily Anne Ulnerich; Bethany Lynn Allen; Cedar Grove - Matthew Cole Stanford; Huntingdon - Whitney Lynne De Priest; Justin Brandon Johns; Dustin Alan Tucker; Patrick A. Bishop; Braden A. Maddox; Kyle Andrew Bond; McKenzie - Kelsey Christopher Schweitzer; Jenny Lyn Perkins; Benjamin Volker Winkler; Justin Josiah Petering; Dorothea Renee Hobson; Paul Thomas Horton; Jessica Richter Locke; Joseph Adickess Sam, Jr.; McMoresville - Anna K. Kelly; Trezevant - Emily Kathryn Giddens.

The student receiving a graduate degree was: McKenzie - Monica Tara Rollins.

Making Tracks

JANUARY 11, 2011

Academic Honors
Six Erin residents have made the Dean’s List for the fall semester at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Chelsea Cary and Ashlyn Fussell earned “highest honors” with grade-point averages of 3.8 to 4.0. Laken Black and Jessica Patz earned “high honors” at 3.5 to 3.79, and Christopher McClain and Kayla Meyer earned “honors” at 3.2 to 3.49.
**Dean's List**

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduates students at the University of Tennessee Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2010 Dean's Lists.

- From Dover: Kimmie C. Balkcom with honors, Michael L. Barnett with honors, Jessica L. Boren with honors, Jordan R. Crain with highest honors, Sara R. Engelman with honors, Blaine G. Shamp with highest honors and Rachel L. Wallace with honors.
- From Indian Mound: Regina C. Emery with honors and Brittany L. Houck with honors.

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

**Students receive degrees**

Three Stewart County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee Martin during the fall commencement held in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. They were Christopher Lyn Austin, Michael Lee Barnett Jr. and Julia Jeanette Watters, all of Dover.
Local students recognized on Dean’s List at UT Martin

A number of Obion County students are among the undergraduates whose outstanding academic achievements have been honored with the publication of the fall Dean’s Lists at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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).

The local Dean’s List honorees, listed by hometown, include:

- Hornbeak — Drue R. Barnes, highest honors; Jacob R. Bloodworth, honors; Casey C. Fox, high honors; Amber N. Hall, high honors; Brandi L. Ray, highest honors; Ashley P. Robertson, highest honors; Rachel M. Robertson, honors; Natalie L. Seals, honors; and Justin M. Sullivan, high honors.

- Kenton — Kerry D. Duck, honors; Candace M. Elgin, highest honors; Tina M. Forbes, high honors; Felecia C. Henderson, highest honors; Jordan B. Jones, high honors; Lauren N. Roberts, high honors; Katie Sanders, high honors; Sheila F. Scott, highest honors; and Mallory C. Walker, high honors.

- Obion — Andrew P. Berry, high honors; and Mary Helen Hepler, highest honors.

- River — Debra J. Barker, high honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, honors; Jenna A. Land, honors; Brittany N. Lyell, high honors; Spencer D. Minyard, honors; Emily F. Ray, honors; Emily A. Taylor, honors; and Bliss A. Ward, highest honors.

- South Fulton — Dustin T. Allen, high honors; Kimberly L. Batts, highest honors; Katherine R. Cross, high honors; Ashley N. Cuffin, highest honors; Samuel C. Curtis, honors; Tamika L. Dickerson, honors; Dorothy D. Fife, highest honors; Bradley J. Gregg, highest honors; Kyle D. Greer, highest honors; Levi E. Griffith, honors; Rebecca M. Gregan, honors; Cotton T. Harris, honors; Margaret A. Helman, highest honors; Deshara E. Huggins, honors; Kassie L. Hughes, highest honors; Kyle A. Jackson, high honors; Melissa R. Jackson, high honors; Allison T. Jones, highest honors; Lauren M. Joyner, high honors; Melissa L. McCartney, honors; Holly R. McClanahan, honors; Jon W. Meacham, honors; Joshua W. Nolen, honors; Robbin A. Peoples, highest honors; Kristen L. Phillips, honors; Joshua L. Puts, highest honors; Sheena R. Sanders, highest honors; Dishelia L. Settlers, honors; Bethany M. Seratt, high honors; William B. Sisson, highest honors; Jonathan W. Smith, highest honors; Cherissa C. Vinson, honors; Amanda J. Wall, highest honors; and Jing Yu, highest honors.

- Troy — Kayla M. Baker, high honors; Delaina D. Carly, high honors; Selena R. Davis, high honors; Keather W. Kendall, highest honors; Cory A. Larter, high honors; Kaitlyn E. O’Keeley, honors; Jamie G. Pardee, high honors; Justin D. Piresett, high honors; Matthew G. Robertson, high honors; Jordan R. Smith, high honors; Katelin A. Turner, high honors; Kristen E. Ward, honors; Wesley R. Yates, highest honors; and Hope L. Zeller, honors.

- Union City — Emma C. Adams, honors; Sharlia N. Armour, honors; William H. Arnold, honors; Elizabeth A. Barnes, highest honors; Rance D. Barnes, high honors; Denise N. Bell, highest honors; Stephanie A. Blang, honors; Chelsea E. Boyd, high honors; Sloane R. Bradberry, highest honors; Russell A. Brown, high honors; Mona L. Bush, honors; Kyle H. Byrnes, honors; Eld W. Carr, honors; Jerrie C. Carrington, honors; Laken B.Clinton, highest honors; Bethany C. Cross, honors; Mary A. Crews, high honors; Beatrice S. Cropper, highest honors; Chelsie H. Darnell, honors; Latoya A. Davis, honors; Kylee E. Doss, honors; William M. Downey, highest honors; Mollie K. Durrall, highest honors; Megan N. Eaken, honors; brent M. Edwards, high honors; Lucas J. Floyd, honors; Sarah L. Foraker, high honors; Adam M. Gammons, highest honors; Ian E. Garrigan, highest honors; Emily E. Garrity, high honors; Jennifer A. Gillbert, high honors; James W. Godd, high honors; Cameron T. Graham, high honors; Bradley J. Gregg, highest honors; Larry B. Greer, highest honors; Kailey J. Hagan, honors; Mark C. Hall, honors; Jon T. Hamil, honors; Katie J. Hawks, high honors; Bradley T. Henderson, highest honors; Kayson D. Hill, highest honors; Courtney L. House, high honors; Dana R. Howard, honors; Andrew S. Kraehley, highest honors; Katie M. Kraehley, highest honors; Tracy J. King, high honors; Sherrill M. Langford, highest honors; Shanna M. Lemons, high honors; Rebekah J. Lewis, high honors; Tiffany R. Logan, honors; Joan A. Lopez, high honors; Carl A. Lowrance, honors; Craig E. McCall, highest honors; Mallory A. Martin, high honors; Ashley G. Meadows, highest honors; Jordan P. Miller, honors; Mallory Miller, high honors; Winston R. Minchew, high honors; Amber M. Moore, high honors; Kristin R. Moss, high honors; Lydia A. Mudd, honors; Molly J. Napier, highest honors; Johnathan C. Nolen, honors; Casey L. Norris, honors; Justin R. Owens, high honors; Allison Page, honors; Shelley M. Parsons, honors; Ian R. Payne, highest honors; Nicholas A. Piazza, honors; Melissa A. Pollock, high honors; Mark J. Potter, high honors; Matthew G. Raines, high honors; Alexandra N. Rapp, high honors; Jonathan E. Reay, high honors; Alyssa D. Riden, honors; Amanda J. Ridley, honors; April M. Ring, honors; Brittany J. Robertson, highest honors; Nicholas A. Robertson, honors; John A. Rogers, high honors; Michael G. Ruddy, highest honors; Brennan L. Scott, highest honors; Candace F. Seeger, honors; Joseph B. Shelton, high honors; Laura M. Silva, high honors; Chelsea L. Smith, high honors; Kristie L. Smith, high honors; Whitney D. Smith, high honors; Terry S. Smith, honors; Amy E. Sparkman, honors; Andrew J. Speed, high honors; joseph C. Speed, high honors; Kellie L. Stephenson, high honors; Hunter W. Steward, high honors; Samantha D. Stores, honors; Hannah S. Swift, honors; William B. Tanner, high honors; Travis A. Taylor, high honors; Kandice L. Terrell, honors; Rachel E. Trippelt, honors; Sarah C. Trippelt, high honors; Laura E. Vickrey, high honors; Jennifer A. Villa, highest honors; Amanda A. Walker, high honors; William Philip Wesner, high honors; John David O. Wheeler, honors; Kyle D. Williams, highest honors; Ben M. Woods, highest honors; Johnathan B. Wright, highest honors; and Sarah E. Wright, highest honors.
KY school districts’ program reaches ‘PEAK’ with award

The Kentucky School Boards Association recently presented officials with the Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation and Fulton Independent, Carlisle County, Fulton County and Hickman County schools the Public Education Achieves in Kentucky (PEAK) Award.

The award presentation was made at the Fulton Independent gymnasium following a demonstration of the districts' winning program.

The PEAK Award was established in 1997 by the KSBA board of directors to bring about greater attention to noteworthy efforts by public schools aimed specifically at enhancing the learning skills of students and to promote the positive impact of public elementary and secondary education in the state.

The Four Rivers Scholarship Foundation began two years ago to provide students in these four school districts with financial assistance, career counseling and ACT preparation to help them become successful adults and to promote economic growth in the region.

Since then, the program has grown and provides career exploration and counseling beginning in middle school, sponsors an annual Christmas book giveaway for students in kindergarten through fourth grade, holds annual career fairs with a local focus and offers dual-credit courses to students to provide a head start on college. In its two years, the program has given away more than 1,000 books, held two annual career fairs and awarded 50 scholarships to students who otherwise might not have been able to overcome financial barriers to continue their education.

Of the 400 juniors and seniors in the four districts, 198 of them are currently taking a total of 970 dual-credit hours, with an annual savings of future post-secondary costs to parents of $97,000. The dual credits are offered in partnership with Murray (Ky.) State University, West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Mid-Continent College and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Upon KSBA's visit to Fulton Independent, Bill Scott, KSBA executive director said, "In an era of shrinking resources, at both the state and federal level, the Four Rivers Scholarship Program is an example of how a region can forge its own solution to a major challenge."

Delmar Mahan, KSBA president, added, "The Four Rivers Scholarship Program is one of the most stirring presentations I have had the opportunity to be at since I've been president."

"I see it as a benchmark for other school systems to use as a model because it is so inclusive, not only in the number of students, but in their ages, serving students of all ages," said Allen Kennedy, a member of the KSBA board of directors.

Ronnie Holmes, a member of the KSBA board of directors, added, "It was just amazing to see all four school districts come together and do all of that work for their students."

“The program was established to build a highly-qualified workforce in Western Kentucky in order to attract industry,” said Robbie Rudolph, a 1973 Fulton Independent graduate involved in the foundation. “Every child can have the opportunity to receive a post-secondary education and not be denied based on the lack of funding, but can pursue an associate’s or bachelor’s degree from a university or trade school.”

Fulton Independent superintendent Dianne Owen said, "I believe the recognition of KSBA awarding our four small districts the PEAK Award will show our students they are fortunate to be able to be a part of the Four Rivers Scholarship Program and to have Mr. Rudolph, the foundation, the colleges, the businesses and the communities giving them the opportunity to get a jump start on post secondary training. Seeing the excitement for the program build among the students and seeing the result of the program in changed lives is the true 'PEAK' of the program."

Dennis Bledsoe, superintendent at Fulton County, said the program prepares students for college or careers, while Kenny Wilson, superintendent at Hickman County, said the program assists students through everyone's combined efforts. Keith Shoulers, superintendent at Carlisle County Schools, said the program assists students in developing the career skills required for jobs in Western Kentucky.

Wendell Benningfield, assistant superintendent for Fulton Independent Schools, serves as director of the scholarship foundation.

“We have 50 students on scholarships from the four school districts,” Benningfield said. "Each student's progress is tracked to make sure they are successful academically. The goal is to ensure they not only begin a post-secondary program, but remain on track to completion.”
Local students named to UTM Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 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 campus and caring professors.

Those honored include: Casey A. Cirlin, Fulton, high honors; Courtney J. Hamrick, Fulton, honors; Taylor A. Jackson, Fulton, honors; Robert E. Lee, Fulton, high honors; James D. Lucy, Fulton, high honors; Anna B. McCoy, Fulton, high honors; Michael E. Pate, Fulton, high honors; Amanda L. Tharp, Fulton, honors; Justin E. Totty, Fulton, honors; David F. Whitesell, Fulton, highest honors.

From South Fulton, students named to the UTM dean’s list include: Dustin T. Allen, high honors; Kimberly L. Baits, highest honors; Katherine R. Bivens, highest honors; Ashley N. Cirlin, highest honors; Samuel C. Curtis, honors; Tanika L. Dickerson, honors; Dorothy D. Fiedler, highest honors; Kyle D. Greer, highest honors; Levi E. Griffith, honors; Rebecca M. Grogan, honors; Colton T. Harris, honors; Margaret A. Hickman, honors; Deidra E. Huggins, honors; Kassie L. Hughes, highest honors; Kyle A. Jackson, high honors; Melissa R. Jackson, high honors; Allison T. Jones, highest honors; Lauren M. Joyner, high honors; Melissa L. McClanahan, honors; Jon W. Meacham, honors; Joshua W. Nolen, honors; Robbie A. Peoples, highest honors; Kristen L. Phillips, honors; Shelia R. Sanders, high honors; Disheka L. Sellers, honors; Bethany M. Seratt, high honors; William B. Sisson, highest honors; Jonathan W. Smith, highest honors; Cherish C. Vinyon, honors; Amanda J. Wall, highest honors; and Jing Yu, highest honors.

Time management seminar set

A seminar planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and Tennessee Small Business Development Center will employers and employees make the most of their business time.

The seminar is slated for noon-2 p.m., Jan. 19, in the South Fulton Municipal Complex, Harvey Vick Room. It is offered in partnership with the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce. The cost is $10, and lunch will be provided. Seating is limited.

Registration is required by Jan. 14. Go to www.tsbdc.org or call 731-479-7029 or 731-587-7333.

University of Tennessee Martin (UT Martin)
554 University St, Martin, TN 38238
Venue Phone: 731-881-7000

Friday, Jan. 14
Saturday, Jan. 29

display more showtimes...

The deadline to enter the pageant is Jan. 14. Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer. The combined pageant is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students. The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm. Deadline to register is Jan. 14, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Hollie Holt, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237. General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID. For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.
Civil War in Gibson Co. to be topic

What are the various roles this county played in the War Between the States? Gibson County in West Tennessee is one of many counties that are home to historic Civil War sites. Gibson County’s role in the Civil War will be discussed for the local Univ. of Tennessee Alumni Chapter Tuesday, January 25 at a dinner event in Trenton starting at 6:30 p.m.

Milan native Brent Cox, a UT Martin graduate of 1994 and currently professor of U.S. History at the Univ. of Tenn. Martin will discuss the Civil War in West Tennessee with an emphasis on Gibson County.

The Dutch treat dinner program will be held at Majestic Steak House, 2050 Highway 45 Bypass in Trenton. People planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Jan. 21.

For more information and reservation forms contact Ken White at 731-885-2305 and 731-414-9584.

CIVIL WAR PROGRAM
Milan native, Brent Cox, a professor of U.S. History at the University of Tenn. Martin, will present a program on the Civil War in West Tennessee and Gibson Co. Jan. 25 in Trenton. The program at the Majestic Steak House begins at 6:30 p.m. and is hosted by the Univ. of Tenn. Alumni Chapter.
**J.C. Bowman Named New Executive Director Of Professional Educators Of Tennessee**

posted January 14, 2011

John C. "J.C." Bowman has been selected as the new Executive Director of Professional Educators of Tennessee, replacing Walter Jewell. Mr. Jewell is retiring, but will continue working with the organization.

Dr. Bowman joins PET after serving as Executive Director of EPIC Global Management, an internationally focused think tank that works with faith and community groups. A former public school teacher, Dr. Bowman formerly served as Director of the Center for Education Innovation at Florida State University, in addition to previously serving as Director of the Florida Department of Education Choice Office. Prior to this position, Dr. Bowman served as Chief Policy Analyst of the Education Policy Unit for Florida Governor Jeb Bush. During his tenure in the Bush administration, the state completed an ambitious school code rewrite.

Dr. Bowman is a Marine Corps veteran, and his academic background includes attending Lee University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education (Social Sciences, emphasis in History) and Trevecca Nazarene University where he attained his Master of Education (Administration and Supervision). He has also completed further coursework in Special Education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the University of Tennessee at Martin. His doctoral degree is from Emanuel Baptist University. Dr. Bowman and his wife Bethany have two grown daughters, two sons-in-law and two grandchildren.

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**UT Martin to Honor First African-American Students**

By AP

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring a yearlong celebration honoring the first African-American undergraduate students to attend the university. In the fall of 1963, African-American students enrolled at UT Martin and opened the doors for others by gaining admittance and beginning classes.

This yearlong celebration will feature special events, speakers and other programs for members of the campus and surrounding communities to honor all students and other individuals involved in the desegregation of the university.

The university will recognize the many accomplishments of African-American students during the past 50 years, honoring their triumphs and struggles. As part of the observance, the university will look forward to the future and achievements of enrolled African-American students and the community.

For more information and the calendar of events, contact Dr. Annie C. Jones, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at 731-688-7085.

Submitted by UT Martin University Relations.

Published 06:00 AM, Saturday Jan. 15, 2011
Updated 05:16 PM, Friday Jan. 14, 2011
Virtual job search

Internet has been game changer for employment

BY STANLEY DUNLAP
SDUNLAP@JACKSONSUN.COM
— Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668
· January 16, 2011

In the virtual job market of the 21st century, checking the classified advertisements and mailing in a resume has largely been replaced by the instantaneous exchange of information between job seekers and employers via the Internet.

While job seekers have newer avenues for finding a position, they also face a broader pool of competition. Job experts say that technology and the current job market means people must stay up-to-date and understand the resources that are available.

From e-mail to zip drives, employees are able to access and upload resumes to Internet sites such as jobs.com and careerbuilder.com and send them out across the globe.

"Obviously technology has changed considerably and it’s had an impact on the job market," said Mark Chandler, director of the Tennessee Career Center at Jackson. "A lot of companies require now that an applicant apply online. For somebody in today’s job market, if you don’t have basic computer skills you’re already facing a barrier."

While online job postings allow people to more easily find job openings, it also means candidates are going against a larger pool of applicants.

One way to have your resume stand out from others when posting them online is using key terms such as "improved, increased and decreased," according to John D. Overby, chairman of the Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Overby said some employers will filter out the resumes that don’t include those terms, or others that indicate job applicants have a track record for success.

"They’re looking for results," he said. "The people they want to hire are people who’ve been there, done that and the people who can help achieve the results.

"Get your resume out there as soon as you decide you want to look for a job and prepare it for the particular company you’re applying for," Overby said. Also websites such as LinkedIn have become popular for people to use to network and find out about job opportunities.

Chandler said he doesn’t have first hand knowledge of companies and prospective employees using social networking sites such as Facebook to interact, but some businesses use them as a background check.

People must be cautious about what they post on the Internet because a picture of binge drinking at a party could take them out of the running for a job.

"You may portray yourself as one thing to the employer and when they see your picture posted on Facebook it may paint a different picture that’s less than flattering," Chandler said.

Marjorie Sparks spent the last eight years of a 17-year mechanical engineering career with the same company before being laid off in 2010.

"It’s an eye-opening experience how the job market has changed from when I first entered," said the 41-year-old Jackson resident. "I’ve been able to adapt better than some others my age since I have kids who are into using computers all the time."

Sparks said because of family she is mostly applying for jobs around West Tennessee.

"If there is that perfect job someplace else then I’d strongly think about moving there even if it means uprooting from a place I love," she said.

Part of the job hunting process, especially in rural communities, is "how much mobility will you be willing to have to find these jobs," Overby said.

Besides resume building and job interview tips, business majors at UT-Martin are also taught how to search the Web for jobs. The UT-Martin job placement office has mostly become electronically based, Overby said.

The Tennessee Career Center offers tools that assist people with resumes, places to search for positions and interviewing. There are still employers whom the Career Center works with that accept paper applications, although electronic application over the Internet is more common.
Besides the electronic format is the type of jobs that require resumes are different. In the past mainly senior level or other professional level positions required them, Chandler said.

"Now, really, a good resume is a good tool for any type of job you're looking for," he said.

Technology has expanded the horizon of how people look for jobs, but it goes back to the same basic principles, Chandler said.

"The employer wants to know what skills you possess, the amount of experience you have, and what kind of ability you bring to the table for that job," he said. "It's important that you sell yourself in a positive manner."

Pam Long sits at a computer at the Tennessee Career Center in Jackson on Thursday in search of a new full-time job (KENNETH CUMMINGS / The Jackson Sun)

STUDENT NEWS

UT Martin to celebrate first black students

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee Martin is sponsoring a yearlong celebration honoring the first African-American undergraduate students to attend the university.

African-American students began classes at UT Martin in the fall of 1961, according to a news release. The celebration will feature special events, speakers and other programs giving the school and community the opportunity to honor everyone involved in the desegregation of the university.

The university will recognize the accomplishments of African-American students during the past 50 years, honoring their triumphs and struggles, the release said.

For more information or to get a calendar of events, call Dr. Annie C. Jones, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at (731) 881-7282.

Steven Moore and Gabriel Givens sit at computers at

THE JACKSON SUN • SUNDAY, JAN. 16, 2011

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Vowell added to staff at Commercial Bank

Commercial Bank and Trust has announced the addition of a new vice president in the bank’s Union City operations.

Jeff Vowell, formerly South Fulton’s city manager, has joined Commercial Bank and Trust with a focus on commercial lending.

“We are very excited about being able to bring someone with Jeff’s knowledge, background and community commitment into our banking family. We know he will serve our clients well and be a great addition to our team,” Commercial Bank and Trust President Jack Parker said.

Vowell has experience in individual and business banking and has been looking for an opportunity to get back in the banking industry.

“I am very excited to get back in the financial sector and use my background as a base to best serve our customers,” Vowell said. “Commercial Bank and Trust has a great reputation and I am proud to join an organization that I respect. I know I will be working in an environment that puts the customers first and that will have the resources to allow me to provide the best service to those customers.”

Vowell received a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in economics and finance from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He continued his education and received his master of business administration from the University of Kansas with a concentration in finance.

Jamie Page Receives Degree at UT-Martin

Jamie Leigh Page graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall commencement ceremony with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

She is the daughter of Darryl and Freida Page of Henry and the granddaughter of Gene and Sue Page and the late J.B. and Violet Spicer.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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 were:
- Bradford — Amy Marie Jones; Tyler Michael Arrington; Allison Nicole Cash; Jessika Blair Derry;
- Gibson — Richard Joseph Henson;
- Medina — Meera Yogesh; Alecia Kay Hendrix; Amanda Kaye Thompson;
- Milan — Natasha Marie Davidson; Andrew C. Floyd; Sarah Elizabeth Parker; Adam Philip Nelson; Eric J. Coleman; Robert McGregor Fly; John Boyd Browning; Ginger D. Smith; Zachary David Ford.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Medina — Jessica Strickland;
- Milan — Kimberly K. Riggs.
UT Martin names local students to 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).

**Bradford**- Allison N. Cash, Highest Honors; Jeffrey Connell, Honors; Matthew D. Frazier, Honors; Clayton A. Hampton, Honors; Courtney B. Jackson, Honors; Amy M. Jones, High Honors; Jessica B. London, Highest Honors; Jordan R. McDee, Honors; Daniel H. Morris, Highest Honors; Derek W. Proudfit, Highest Honors; Ryan R. Rinks, High Honors; Joseph E. Wing, High Honors; Nathan H. Wright, Honors; **Gibson**- Cody F.; Houck, High Honors; **Idlewild**- Joshua R. Heffner, Honors; **Medina**- Kimberly A. Boswell, Honors; Katherine E. Bryant, High Honors; Elyse B. Cole, Honors; Charli M. Crone, Highest Honors; Lisa N. Detrain, High Honors; Meredith L. Dunn, Highest Honors; Elba K. Fidalgo, High Honors; Tyler A. Ford, Honors; Whitney L. Foster, Highest Honors; Tyler R. Hawk, Highest Honors; Kelly G. Kennedy, Highest Honors; Lauren H. Rogers, Honors; Secky D. Scott, High Honors; Starla E. Scott, Honors; Shelby L. Tutty, High Honors; Matthew T. Williams, Highest Honors; Jesse N. Winchester, High Honors; Meera Yogesh, Highest Honors; **Gibson**- Austin D. Alfred, Highest Honors; Bryce E. Appleton, High Honors; Elise T. Arnold, Highest Honors; Joseph W. Austin, High Honors; Amanda B. Broach, High Honors; Heather Butler, Highest Honors; Jonathan W. Cavender, High Honors; Eric J. Coleman, Highest Honors; Holly A. Crews, Honors; Robert M. Fly, Highest Honors; Chelsea A. Gibson, Highest Honors; Brandon A. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Perica J. Glenn, Honors; Aubrey A. Grover, Honors; Adria L. Greer, Honors; Jonah D. Harrwell, High Honors; Daniel R. Istvanko, Highest Honors; Autumn R. Jackson, High Honors; Timothy L. Jackson, Highest Honors; Tara B. Mangrum, Highest Honors; Tiffany B. Matheny, High Honors; Paul F. Owens, Highest Honors; Mary K. Pannell, Highest Honors; John M. Parks, High Honors; Amber N. Replogle, High Honors; Sarah K. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Benton Rimmer, Highest Honors; Simon M. Saputo, Highest Honors; Ashley M. Smith, High Honors; Ross F. Smith, Honors; Zachary A. Sutton, Honors; Anna L. Thompson, Honors; Caleb J. Thorne, Honors; Andrew R. Wallace, High Honors.

Civil War in Gibson Co. to be topic for UT Alumni

Gibson County’s role in the Civil War will be discussed for the local Univ. of Tennessee Alumni Chapter Tuesday, January 25 at a dinner event in Trenton starting at 6:30 p.m.

Milan native Brent Cox, a UT Martin graduate of 1994 and currently professor of U.S. History at the Univ. of Tenn. Martin will discuss the Civil War in West Tennessee with an emphasis on Gibson County.

The Dutch treat dinner program will be held at Majestic Steak House, 2050 Highway 45 Bypass in Trenton. The restaurant’s menu includes a variety of pizzas and sub sandwiches.

People planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Jan. 21.

For more information and reservation forms contact Ken White at 731-885-2305 and 731-414-9584.
Conference for Working Women set in February

Participants attending the 13th annual Conference for Working Women will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy, how office ergonomics work, the difference between depression and depression, how Google can increase workplace productivity and receive wardrobe and makeup advice.

The conference is set for 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Feb. 11, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following continental breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9 a.m.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program and Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at UT Martin, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee. Whether you are an assistant manager, an executive, an assistant manager or the chief executive officer of a company, this conference is for you.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, UT extension director, UT Extension Services and WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference. The opening speaker will be Dr. Danny Nicholson, of Jefferson City, Carson Newman College vice president of advancement.

His presentation, "Running Out of Time: Creating Your Own Legacy," is set for 9:15-10 a.m. His career in higher education fundraising spans 26 years including six different institutions and raising more than $100 million to meet the needs of the students he has served. He is a frequent speaker in a variety of venues such as: CASE International conferences, Planned.

SEE REPORT, PAGE 4

FROM PAGE 1

Giving Councils across the Southeast, colleges, high schools and churches.

He has been published in CASE Currents magazine, International Journal of Philanthropy (Vanderbilt) and the Alumni and Development Report.

Recently, he initiated a project that brought his friends and family together to produce an original album, "Legacy Road," which featured 20 songs recorded in Nashville.

The album has raised more than $20,000 toward the needs of children in Nicaragua. He speaks about how we all can leave a legacy in the lives of those around us by living a life of meaning and purpose.

At 10 a.m., Dr. Todd Sherman, UT Martin health and human performance professor, will present "Desk Time."

Sherman received his Bachelor of Arts in physical education from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Master of Science in physical education: sports administration from Eastern Kentucky University and his Doctorate of Arts in Exercise Science from Middle Tennessee State University.

Prior to his 10 years of teaching in higher education, Sherman managed a hospital-based rehabilitation/wellness facility.

During his five years of clinical experience, Sherman has worked with patients with cardiac, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord, diabetes, obesity and orthopedic issues.

As an educator, Sherman has taught at North Carolina A&T State University, Oxford College of Emory University and is now in his first year at UT Martin.

His teaching responsibilities include exercise physiology, exercise testing and prescription, and special populations.

His research interests include pediatric exercise science/wellness, testing and exercise prescription.

Dr. Laura Melaro will present "Depression: Seconds Count - Be Knowledgeable" at 11 a.m. Melaro has resided all of her life and has practiced for 22 years in the West Tennessee area.

She graduated with a bachelor’s and master’s in nursing science and a doctorate in nursing practice in 1985, 1989 and 2008, respectively.

Her doctoral focus was in family psychiatric practice, with an emphasis on the severely and persistently mentally ill and telemental health.

Melaro began her career in 1985 as a registered nurse in emergency and critical care venues and advanced to establish a private practice from 1989 to 1999 as a family nurse practitioner in Henderson. While juggling family and career, opportunities arose that led to a pursuit of employment in the community mental health setting from 1999 to the present.

As an American Nurses Credentialing Center board certified Family and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, she divides her time between private psychiatric practice at Melaro Behavioral Consultants, Inc., in Henderson, inpatient psychiatric and alcohol/drug treatment at Pathways in Jackson, and clinical and academic teaching/supervision for numerous Tennessee universities.

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.

At 12:30 p.m., beauty consultants will present "Before and After," providing makeup tips.

This will be followed at 1 p.m. by "It's GOOGLE Time," presented by Steve Holt.

Holt provides consulting on Web design, e-commerce, social media, leadership and marketing. He also is actively involved in speaking on those topics at conferences around the country.

During the past 12 years, he has helped numerous local governments, economic and community development agencies, non-profits, banks and small business entities develop media and services to reach their constituents and markets.

Since 1999, he has been the UT Martin director of the Instructional Technology Center and Web Services, and he has also taught computer science and economics at UT Martin for 11 years.
Through the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, he has provided training and consulting throughout West Tennessee to chamber of commerce and economic development professionals.

He has a Master's of Business Administration from UT Martin.

Finally, Julie Burke, Milan Chamber of Commerce director and executive vice president, and a CAH Business Consulting independent consultant, will present "Fashion Time."

Burke graduated in December of 1993 from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

Since graduating from UT Martin, she has lived in all three geographical regions of Tennessee, with the last 11 years being in Knoxville.

She was appointed earlier this year to the Milan Chamber of Commerce post and moved back to her hometown.

The deadline to register is Feb. 4. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utm.edu.

If registering via email, include name, business, complete address and phone number.

If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants.

Credit cards are accepted. Also, participants can register online at www.utm.edu/weststar.

The fee is $35 per person/$60 for two and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar.

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

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**Greenfield native awarded doctorate**

Matthew Bethel, originally of Greenfield, received his Ph.D. in Engineering and Applied Sciences concentrating in Environmental Science at the University of New Orleans (UNO) on Aug. 5, 2010. His dissertation research involved the integration of geospatial technology, scientific field data relating to coastal wetland loss, and the traditional ecological knowledge of an indigenous coastal Louisiana community to develop new information tools for the enhancement of coastal restoration decision support processes. He recently participated in the commencement ceremony for this degree held at UNO on Dec. 17, 2010. Matthew graduated from Greenfield High School, received a Bachelor of Science in Geography from The University of Tennessee at Martin, and a Master of Science in Geoscience from Murray State University. After gaining his Master's degree, he began his career as an Image Analyst and Project Manager for the Institute for Technology Development at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. In 2006, he took a position with the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans (UNO-PIES) as a Research Project Manager, and began work on his doctorate there. Dr. Bethel is currently employed at UNO as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist with UNO-PIES.

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**SBA workshop in Martin on Thursday**

The Small Business Development Center will host a loan workshop enabling entrepreneurs and small business owners to apply for SBA-backed loans on the spot. The Community Express and Patriot Express Loan Workshop is set for 10 a.m.-noon, Jan. 20, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. The workshop will be presented by Superior Financial Group, SBA lender.

Several lenders are participating in SBA's Community Express loan program, including U.S. Bank, Business Loan Express, Innovative Bank and Superior Financial Group. All entrepreneurs - men and women, students, retirees, current small business owners - are invited to attend the free workshop.

"Superior Financial Group is offering SBA guaranteed small business loans for $5,000, $10,000, $15,000 to $25,000 - in $2,500 increments - with no financial statements or collateral required," said Sue Malone, workshop presenter and a representative of Superior. The loans are payable over a 10-year period, and there is no prepayment penalty.

There are some restrictions on obtaining these loans, according to Malone. Persons with a criminal history, or anyone who has defaulted on a government loan, such as a student loan, are not eligible. "And, nonprofit organizations are not eligible, either," added Malone.

Anyone interested in applying for a small business loan at the workshops should provide a clear photocopy of identification or driver's license, evidence of citizenship or legal resident status, their federal tax ID number and business checkbook if they are in business and want to get a loan to expand.

For more information, contact the SBDC at the REED Center, 406 Lindell St., Martin, at 731-587-7333. To learn more about SBA loan programs, visit the SBA website, www.sba.gov/tn, or contact the Tennessee District Office, 615-736-5881. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center network provides free counseling to entrepreneurs and small business owners and operates statewide to assist the small business community.
Vowell joins Commercial Bank

Commercial Bank and Trust announces the addition of a new Vice President in the bank's Union City operations. Jeff Vowell, formerly South Fulton's City Manager, has joined Commercial Bank and Trust with a focus on commercial lending. Jack Parker, President of Commercial Bank and Trust, welcomed Vowell to the team saying, "We are very excited about being able to bring someone with Jeff's knowledge, background and community commitment into our banking family. We know he will serve our clients well and be a great addition to our team." Vowell has experience in individual and business banking and has been looking for an opportunity to get back in the banking industry.

"I am very excited to get back in the financial sector and use my background as a base to best serve our customers." said Vowell.

"Commercial Bank and Trust has a great reputation and I am proud to join an organization that I respect. I know I will be working in an environment that puts the customers first and that will have the resources to allow me to provide the best service to those customers."

Vowell received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in economics and finance from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He continued his education and received his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Kansas with a concentration in finance.

Vowell is actively involved in the West Tennessee area, serving on the Board of Directors of both the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and the Fulton Country Club.

He has also served the community through his service on the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce and the Twin Cities Ambulance Service Board of Directors. He currently resides in South Fulton with his wife, Thea, step daughter Carly Reams and five month old son Jackson. Commercial Bank and Trust was chartered in 1877. The bank has operations in Memphis, Paris, Union City and Jackson. Mott Ford is the Chief Executive Officer of Commercial Bank and Trust.

In Union City the bank has offices at 127 South First St. and 815 East Reelfoot Ave.

REED Center offers business advice

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-5 p.m., Jan. 27, at the Obion County Industrial Training Center.

Markin recently joined the TSBDTC after spending five years in the financial industry, and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Obion County Chamber of Commerce at 731-885-0211 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333.

For additional services offered by TSBDTC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

University of Tennessee

MARTIN, Tenn. - James Sheppard of Polo earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall commencement.

Each week, The Stewart Houston Times celebrates the positives in our communities.

"Hats Off" from the Times to:

- Dover residents Christopher Austin, Michael Barnett Jr. and Julia Wathers upon receiving their degrees from the University of Tennessee Martin.
Former chancellor to be honored with literary event

A former University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor will be honored with an event Feb. 7 that will bring to campus two nationally published authors who have family ties to the campus.

The late Paul Meek's birthday will be marked by friends of Paul Meek Library at 4:30 p.m. in Holt Humanities Building Norman Campbell Lecture Hall.

Dr. Anne Meek, Meek's daughter, will open the event with remarks about her father and will introduce siblings and authors Susan Rebecca White and Lauren Myracle, who are the granddaughters of the late Dr. Norman Campbell.

The authors' presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a reception. The public is invited to attend.

"The Meek Library faculty and staff are absolutely delighted that our Friends of the Library organization is sponsoring this exciting event and hope this can grow into an annual literary occasion," said Mary Carpenter, library director.

Meek was chancellor from 1934-67. A native of Martin, he spent four years in Knoxville, with a brief tour in the U.S. Army in 1918 before graduating with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. He returned to Knoxville in 1933 to earn a master of science degree in education. He was offered the position as executive officer of the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin that year.

In 1962, he was given the title of vice president of the University of Tennessee and chancellor of the Martin Branch. Just prior to his retirement in 1967, Meek was present when Gov. Buford Ellington signed the document changing the college name to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In retirement, Dr. Meek witnessed the creation of the Paul and Martha Meek Scholarship Fund and the naming of the campus' first library building in his honor.

Ms. Myracle, of Ft. Collins, Colo., is an author of books for "tweens" and teens. Her titles include "Luv Ya Bunches," "Violet in Bloom," "Eleven," "Twelve" and "Thirteen," among others. Several have appeared on the New York Times Best Seller list and "Thirteen" was a 2009 Children's Choice Award winner. She gave the keynote address at the American Library Association Rally in the summer of 2010 and was honored by the National Coalition Against Censorship in its annual celebration of free speech in New York in November.

Ms. White, who writes adult fiction, was a finalist for the 2009 Townsend Prize for fiction with "Bound South" and had the Target Book Club featured book for April 2010 with "Soft Place to Land." A resident of Atlanta and Reno, Nev., she taught creative writing at Emory University and is featured in the February 2011 Vanity Fair, along with eight other female Atlanta authors.

"These events are a great opportunity for us to see the continuing legacy of two of our founding families, the Meeks and the Campbells," said Lynn Alexander, president of the Friends of Paul Meek Library. "We are looking forward to celebrating our achievements together.

For more information, contact Mary Carpenter at (731) 881-7070.

Students' artwork displayed at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is sponsoring the eighth annual High School Art Exhibition through Friday in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

More than 100 creative young artists, representing high schools from all over northwest Tennessee, will display art that is the "latest in what is greatest" presented for the UT Martin campus and community.

High school student artwork will be juried by the visual and theatre arts faculty with Best of Show and first, second and third-place awards presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced Friday during the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts sixth annual College Art Day celebration.

Students from the following schools are among exhibition participants: Gibson County High School, Obion County Central High School, University School of Jackson, Chester County High School and Martin Westview High School.

College Art Day is a popular student outreach sponsored by visual and theatre arts featuring art workshops, food and fun for the benefit of area high school students interested in the visual arts. More than 130 students participated last year from various high schools throughout northwest Tennessee.

For more information, contact Doug Cook, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts chair, at (731) 881-7400.

University recognizes African-Americans

The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring a year-long celebration honoring the first African-American undergraduate students to attend the university.

In the fall of 1961, African-American students enrolled at UT Martin and opened the doors for others by gaining admittance and beginning classes.

This year-long celebration will feature special events, speakers and other programs for members of the campus and surrounding communities to honor all students and other individuals involved in the desegregation of the university.

The university will recognize the many accomplishments of African-American students during the past 50 years, honoring their triumphs and struggles. As part of the observance, the university will look forward to the future and achievements of enrolled African-American students and the community.

For more information and the calendar of events, contact Dr. Annie C. Jones, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at (731) 881-7282.
Honor Band to perform next week

The 32nd annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band will be held Jan. 27-29.

More than 200 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend the event.

All rehearsals will be held on campus at Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building.

Concerts will be held at 3 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Union City Civic Auditorium. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public.

South Korea travel-study scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a spring travel study to South Korea on May 18-27.

The trip is open to the public.

Participants will visit the 1988 Seoul Olympic and 2002 FIFA World Cup Main Stadiums, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) areas and the two largest cities in South Korea, Seoul and Busan, as part of the trip.

The cost will be about $2,500 per person and the deadline for the $300 deposit is Feb. 7.

Three hours credit is offered to UT Martin students who enroll in the spring in sport management 485. UT Martin students can apply for scholarships for the trip.

For more information on the travel study, contact trip leader J.C. Kim, assistant professor of sport management, at (731) 881-7667 or by e-mail at jkim@utm.edu; or the Center for International Education at (731) 881-1023.

Teachers Invited to Writing Project’s Summer Pgm.

By WestKyStar Staff

MARTIN, TN - The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 13th annual invitational summer institute, May 7 and June 6-June 10, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline for application is April 15.

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 a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teacher consultants. Participants earn 6 hours of graduate credit in English from UT Martin.

"I can honestly say that never have I enjoyed any seminar or professional development session as much as the West Tennessee Writing Project," said Dana Credle, sixth grade social studies teacher at Ridgmont Elementary School in Gibson County and 2010 summer institute participant. "I have gained the amount of knowledge I have in just four weeks. I have been teaching demonstrations that are absolutely amazing, unique, and can be adapted to almost every grade in one way or another."

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six 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. Tuition and books are covered by grants from the National Writing Project.

"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 Canteries, UT Martin associate professor of English and WTWP director, explaining the benefits of the summer institute. "Combining more writing and better writing instruction in all content areas helps students understand material better while boosting overall test scores." He added, "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."

In addition to sharing effective teaching strategies that include writing components, participants in the institute practice their own writing in a variety of genres in a small group workshop format. "I haven't gotten so much enjoyment out of writing in such a long time," said 2010 participant Kambria Whitley of Crockett Middle School in Memphis. "I have gone from feeling inadequate and lacking in the teaching of writing to being energized and ready to embrace the wonder of it."

Although the focus is on writing, the institute is open to teachers of all subjects. According to Canteries, "teachers who have participated in the institute teach a variety of subjects, including math and science, and they all find the program worthwhile."

For more information about graduate studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at 731-881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. To download the Summer Institute informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP Web site at www.utm.edu/wttp.

For more information about the institute or WTWP, contact Canteries at wtwp@utm.edu or call 731-881-7259.
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:
- Dukedom - Brittany Dawn Scott
- Gleason - Joshua Blake Verdell, Adam Tyler Bennett, William Bradley Maddox, Lacy Dionne Arnold
- Greenfield - Rickey Lynn Mask, Tracy Jo King
- Martin - Chandra Michelle Blackburn, Katherine A. West, Lauren Elizabeth Wilson, Adam Samuel White, Lauren Elizabeth Taylor, Ashley Marie Byrd, Kayla Renee Evans, Victor O'Brian Fulton, Europe Lucree Hall, Jordan Wilson Howell, Jake Edward Todd, Lynsey D. Sinclair, Matthew L. Bane, Samqui'a LaShonda Sherrick, Jason Andrew Evans, Mary E. Brewer, Maci Wren Mount, Andrew Christopher Lykins
- Sharons - Monica Tharpe Whorton, David Chadwick Connell, Jennifer Eddlemon, Christopher Lee Cooper

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dresden - Glinda Ruth Wilson
- Gleason - Tara Newsom Hughes
- Greenfield - Blake Anthony White, Sherri A. Puckett

UTM High School Art Exhibition, College Art Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor the eighth annual High School Art Exhibition, January 18-21, in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

More than 100 creative young artists, representing high schools from all over northwest Tennessee, will display art that is the "jewel in what is greatest" presented for the UT Martin campus and community. High school student artwork will be juried by the visual and theatre arts faculty with Best of Show and first-, second-, and third-place awards presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced on January 21, during the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts sixth annual College Art Day celebration.

Students from the following schools are among exhibition participants: Gibson County High School, Obion County Central High School, University School of Jackson, Chester County High School and Martin Westview High School.

College Art Day is a popular student outreach sponsored by visual and theatre arts featuring art workshops, food and fun for the benefit of area high school students interested in the visual arts. More than 130 students participated last year from various high schools throughout northwest Tennessee.

For more information, contact Dr. Armie C. Jones, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at 731-881-7282.

UT Martin Honor Band and Percussion Symposium slated

The 32nd annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band will be held January 27-29. More than 200 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend the event. All rehearsals will be held on campus at Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building. Concerts will be held at 3:00 p.m. on January 29 in the Union City Civic Auditorium. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Dr. Nola Jones, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7402 or njones@utm.edu.
Barker takes helm at Humboldt Higher Education Center

BY DANNY WADE

A familiar face is back in town and has taken a leadership position in one of Humboldt's most prestigious organizations. Lisa Barker is the new director of the Humboldt Higher Education Center.

Barker will oversee administration functions and day-to-day operations of the center. HHEC has been without a director since Matt McLean left last year.

Dr. Bruce Blanding, president of Jackson State Community College, made the announcement last week. JSCC is the lead institution at HHEC.

“...My duties here include recruiting, getting our name out, advising, registrations, scheduling, budgeting, security—I do it all,” Barker said.

The center not only offers courses through Jackson State but also classes with UT Martin, University of Memphis and the Tennessee Technology Center of Jackson. JSCC offers approximately 20 classes with 140 students, some on campus, some distance learning. TTC offers nursing, business and general trade courses. UT Martin has a pharmacy tech program and U of M offers three courses.

Barker said she is also in charge of the dual credit programs that work in cooperation with area high schools. Students at Humboldt High School, South Gibson County High School, Gibson County High School, Milan High School, Crockett County High School and Carroll County High School can earn both high school and college credits through these courses. Barker says she hopes to grow these programs even more.

Even though December 14 was her first day on the job, she has hit the ground running. After two weeks off during the winter break, she has been training at the Jackson campus as well as here at the Humboldt campus.

“I had a lot to learn,” she admits. “Janet Reasons and Tony Kail have been a big help.” Reasons is the learning center specialist at HHEC and Kail is in charge of the library. Both have a good report with the students, Barker said.

Barker brings five years of experience to take on the tasks at hand. Prior to moving back to Humboldt, she worked with Westwood College in Atlanta, Ga. and with the University of Atlanta. She also worked for an online high school in Atlanta. At each of these schools recruiting, financial aid, advising and registrations were all part of her job description.

Barker graduated from Humboldt High School in the 90s. She received her B.S. degree in Health and Human Performance from UT Martin. Barker earned her Masters degree in Health and Physical Education from North Carolina A&T. After college she moved to Atlanta and began her career in education.

“I'm glad to be back home,” Barker said. “Everyone has been amazingly supportive and very nice.”
Local residents receive degrees from the University of Tennessee Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees are:
- Humboldt - Ethan Davis Vasquez; Mark Jerry Shepherd; Regina Lynn Meadows; Tucker Dwaine Phillips; Diane L. Bell;
- Medina - Meera Yogesh;
- Alecia Kay Hendrix;
- Amanda Kaye Thompson;
- Gibson - Richard Joseph Henson;
- Brittany Nicole Bramum;
- Medina - Nicholas B. Latimer;
- Medina - Jessica Strickland;

Bowman named PET executive director

John Bowman of Cleveland will replace Walter Jewell as executive director of Professional Educators of Tennessee.

Jewell is retiring, but will continue working with the organization.

Bowman joins PET after serving as executive director of EPPC Global Management, an internationally focused think tank that works with faith and community groups.

He is a former public school teacher and served as director of the Center for Education Innovation at Florida State University. Prior to that, Bowman was director of the Florida Department of Education Choice Office and chief policy analyst of the Education Policy Unit for Gov. Jeb Bush. During his tenure in the Bush administration, the state completed an ambitious school code rewrite.

Bowman is a Marine Corps veteran who was meritoriously promoted twice in the line of duty. He also served in the Tennessee National Guard and the Army Reserve.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Lee University, master of education in administration and supervision from Tennessee Technological University and completed further coursework in special education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the University of Tennessee Martin. He earned a doctoral degree from Emmanuel Baptist University.

He and his wife, Bethany, have two grown daughters, two sons-in-law and two grandchildren.

Professional Educators of Tennessee is the preeminent educator association in Tennessee for making a positive difference in the lives of educators and the lives of schoolchildren. As professionals, its members are committed to supporting quality public education; and the professional rights and obligations of the education community.

Working in partnership with parents, business, community and government, PET provides the programs and services that enable educators and schoolchildren to achieve their highest potential.
The following undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were named to 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:

From Arlington - Cecelia E. Allen, honors; James G. Allen, highest honors; Justin J. Barnes, high honors; Freeman Brown, high honors; Chelsea L. Cross, high honors; William H. Edwards, honors; Ashley L. Farrell, high honors; Amanda M. Fotner, high honors; Kelsey R. Fortner, honors; Julie M. Gray, high honors; Shalynn M. Helton, high honors; Kaylann A. Hightower, highest honors; Shelby L. Hopkins, honors; Ethan L. Kish, honors; Kathleen A. McCullough, high honors; Marianna G. Morris, honors; Bianca R. Powell, honors; Rachel A. Riales, honors; Jamie K. Schuh, high honors; Lauren E. Smith, honors; Amber C. Thompson, highest honors; Kristi A. Werkhoven, high honors; Joshua N. Wilson, high honors; Bartlett - Kathryn H. Eley, highest honors; Dexter M. Fields, honors; Bailey M. Jackson, highest honors; Sarah K. Saunders, honors; Holly A. Bopp, honors; Jimel M. Fossett, honors; Nicole D. Mosley, highest honors; Neil B. Allen, high honors; Elizabeth E. Baucke, highest honors; Jason F. Bennett, highest honors; Horace W. Drennan, honors; Joseph C. Fish, high honors; Joshua R. Furr, highest honors; Ian A. Gray, honors; Celeste S. Johnson, honors; Kelly L. Lovelace, honors; Patricia D. Skinner, honors; Mallory A. Smith, highest honors; Collierville - Marleigh N. Aureli, honors; Morgan D. Benefiel, high honors; Sarah K. Bowers, honors; Arden T. Brannon, highest honors; Lauren G. Briggs, high honors; David H. Britcliffe, honors; Matthew D. Brooks, highest honors; Bethany L. Burken, honors; Alex C. Darling, honors; Charlotte D. Davis, high honors; Erin N. Douglas, high honors; Kelsey L. Gaither, high honors; Nancy L. Hendren, highest honors; Mary-Katherine Hill, high honors; John M. Huffman, honors; Lindsey S. Joy, highest honors; Brittany A. Kasprack, highest honors; Jacob H. Martin, honors; Nateela Q. McGhee, highest honors; Cody S. Miller, honors; Payne R. Mink, highest honors; Joseph A. Moore, highest honors; Jenna N. Richmond, high honors; Matthew W. Robinson, honors; Devlin V. Smith, high honors; Jessica L. Stone, high honors; Katherine G. Sutherland, high honors; Tricia L. Tate, high honors; Martha E. Ward, honors; Jessica D. Wootton, high honors; Cordova - Allie G. Avery, honors; Michael F. Bruss, highest honors; Emily M. Cates, honors; Joseph M. Cook, high honors; James K. Gillespie, high honors; Janet D. McClora, high honors; Maria L. Pirani, highest honors; Shelby J. Scott, honors; Destiny M. Worley, honors; Xiaoli Zhou, high honors; Kendrick Brooks, high honors; Carol Chan, highest honors; Rachel N. Dunphy, highest honors; Andrew S. Flanniken, honors; Laura C. McFall, honors; Hamilton L. Moore, high honors; Victoria N. Morgan, high honors; Ryan A. Morrow, honors; Justine J. Steele, high honors; Ernest C. Vann, high honors; Eads - Pat J. Clark, high honors; Amanda R. Daniel, high honors; Victoria P. Efird, highest honors; Chad W. Holmes, highest honors; Jamie L. Presley, honors.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at (731) 514-3556 or by e-mail at hholt@utm.edu.

To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours for credit and achieve a 3.2 (B) GPA 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).
Women's conference planned at UTM

Participants attending the 13th annual Conference for Working Women will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy, how office ergonomics work, the difference between depressed and depression and how Google can increase workplace productivity and will receive wardrobe and makeup advice.

The conference is set for 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Buling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Registration and continental breakfast are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The conference is sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program and Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at UTM.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, UT extension director and a member of the 2001 WestStar class, will lead the conference.

The opening speaker will be Dr. Danny Nicholson of Jefferson City, Carson Newman College's vice president of advancement.

His presentation, "Running out of Time: Creating Your Own Legacy," is set for 9:15-10 a.m.

His career in higher education fundraising spans 26 years.

Recently, Dr. Nicholson initiated a project that brought his friends and family together to produce an original album, "Legacy Road," which raised more than $20,000 for children in Nicaragua.

At 10, Dr. Todd Sherman, professor of health and human performance at UTM, will present "Desk Time."

Dr. Laura Melaro will present "Depression: Seconds Count - Be Knowledgeable" at 11 a.m.

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-noon.

At 12:30, beauty consultants will present "Before and Alter," providing makeup tips.

The beauty session will be followed at 1 by "It's GOOGLE Time," presented by Steve Holt.

The final session, "Fashion Time," will feature Julie Burke, a clothing consultant.

The deadline to register for the conference is Feb. 4.

For more information about the conference, or to register, contact WestStar Coordinator Virginia Grimes at (731) 881-7298 or e-mail her at vgrimes@utm.edu.

Participants can also register online at www.utm.edu/weststar.

There is a $35 per person fee to attend the conference, and the cost is $60 for two. The registration fee covers a continental breakfast and lunch.

Miss University of Tennessee at Martin
Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival is Jan. 29

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID. For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at bholt@utm.edu.
Groundbreaking at UTM Fine Arts bldg. set

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Fine Arts Building Phase I renovation and addition project at the University of Tennessee at Martin that will more than double the space has been set for Feb. 1.

A reception and ceremony are planned for 11 a.m. in Paul Meek Library before the groundbreaking at the site. Among those speaking during the ceremony will be UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jerald Ogg.

The $13 million project will place all of the university's fine arts programs in one building.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing 54,702 square foot building as well as approximately 60,000 square feet of additional space.

The final building footprint will increase to the north, south and east by See UTM, Page 4

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a total of almost 25,000 square feet and is scheduled to be completed in time for fall semester 2012.

The building is specifically designed to meet the needs of the Departments of Music and Visual and Theatre Arts, including more than 35 office spaces, 23 practice rooms, three rehearsal halls, two lecture halls, 12 large and specialized studios, five classrooms, computer labs, band library, chamber music room, art display areas and storage space.

Special acoustical consideration has been given to the sound-sensitive areas as well as technology advances for lighting and sound.

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

Making music: UC band director helps lead US Army All-American Marching Band

Postdate: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:33 pm

John D. Easley, director of bands at Union City High School, was recently selected as one of eight directors from across the country to be on staff with the 2011 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. The band is comprised of seniors in high schools from throughout the continental United States.

After a very involved audition process, 125 musicians were selected for the band and then banded to San Antonio for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

The band members arrived on Sunday night and spent four days of intense 10-12 hour rehearsals to prepare a complete half-time show for the bowl game on Jan. 8.

"This is the fourth year for the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, a project designed by the Music Educators National Conference in conjunction with the U.S. Army. A group of MENC officers and Commander and Conductor Col. Thomas Palmieri from the U.S. Army Field Band got together and decided to honor high school senior musicians like the same as the senior All-American football players and, thus, the All-American band was born," Easley says.

The event is sponsored by the U.S. Army and selected individuals are sent to San Antonio for an all expense paid week and a wonderful musical experience.

Easley says it was an outstanding honor for him to be selected as a director of the band. He was one of only two high school directors selected, with the remaining staff members all college band directors.

"It was a really great opportunity for me to be a part of this event. The students were incredible to work with and the staff made it possible for me to bring back some very new innovative techniques to use with my band at home. I want to personally thank Director of Schools Gary Houson and UCHS principal Wes Kennedy for allowing me the opportunity to do this. It was really neat to stand on the field at the Alamodome and have my name and Union City High School announced."

Easley noted that after his experience with this program, he is going to encourage some of his 2012 seniors to apply for the audition process.

"I think this thing is better than being on staff with this event would be to have one of my students at UC High be a member of this prestigious group."

Easley has been associated with the Union City band program for the past 25 years. A graduate of Union City High School, he began his tenure as assistant director of bands with long-time band master and his mentor, Marion Rother. He has spent the last 16 years as director of bands. During his service, the Golden Toros Marching Band has enjoyed great success, including being named five-time state Marching Champions; five-time finalist at the prestigious Mid-South State University Marching Band Festival; seven-time Class AAA State Champions at Bands of America Nationals in Atlanta, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Mummy, Ky., and Murfreesboro; and six-time Regional Finalist at Bands of America Regionals.

Sought after as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the southeastern United States, the UCHS director of bands has had the opportunity to work on the concert podium with the likes of Frank Ticheli, Jack Delaney, Samuel Hazo, Danny Schmidt and the late Fredrick Flemmi, all of whom are well-known conductors and/or composers.

Easley is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and is married to musician and pianist Debbie Easley. They have three children, all of whom are, or have been, students at UCHS and have been active in the band program. Benjamin, a graduate conducting student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas; Rebecca, a freshman vocal music education major at MTSU; and Andrew, a junior at UCHS.

Palmieri was appointed commander and conductor of the U.S. Army Field Band of Washington, D.C., in September 2007. Prior to this, he served as commandant of the U.S. Army School of Music, responsible for the training of Army Band soldiers, commissioned officers, warrant officers and commissioned officers for the Army's 180 bands worldwide. His previous assignments include commander of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus, executive officer to the adjutant general of the Army and the Department of the Army Staff Band, executive officer, overseeing band activities for all active, reserve and National Guard bands. Earlier assignments included conducting and staff positions in Army bands around the world, including service with The U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C. Additionally, he supervised musical support for the 1989, 1993 and 2001 Presidential Inaugural celebrations.

Palmieri holds a bachelor of music degree, magna cum laude, in Applied Music from the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, N.Y., and was selected to receive the Carolina Award in 2010, presented each year to an alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated outstanding lifetime professional achievement. He also has earned a master of fine arts degree in music from Trump University in Kirkville, Mo., and a master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College. A member of the Army War College Association, he also belongs to the Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association.

He is former director of the Rochester International Tattoo and former principal director of music for the Virginia International Tattoo. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Durham Biscuit Band, which won the Honors Section of the North American championships in 1996. His professional affiliations include the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, the North American Drum Band Association, of which he is past president and an honorary lifetime member, and the National Band Association.

Palmieri has received numerous military honors, including two awards of the Legion of Merit and seven appointments to the Meritorious Service Medal. He was the first Army Band Officer to earn both the parachutist and Air Assault Badges. He also earned a combat patch for service in El Salvador.

His wife, Shirley, is a retired Army Medical Corps officer, and his daughter, Gabrielle, is a ballet dancer and instructor in Los Angeles.

Published in The Messenger 1.24.11
Student safety subject at meeting

Sabrina Bates  
News Editor

It’s safety versus convenience.

Those were the words used by City of Martin Planning Committee Chairman Ricky Witherspoon to describe the issue of the potential partial road closure of Mt. Pelia Road as requested by the University of Tennessee at Martin during a meeting held Monday evening at Martin’s city hall.

The request made by UT Martin’s Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Al Hooten was not an easy one to honor for the committee as a motion to deny the road closure request was met with an across-the-board vote of approval.

The proposal made by the county’s largest employer derived from an issue of pedestrian student safety on campus. With a new recreation center in place, the number of students utilizing the new facility has grown to nearly 1,000 each day, according to Hooten.

The potential hazard, Hooten announced, came from the number of students crossing Mt. Pelia Road to get to the recreation center.

Recent studies have shown that 45 percent of the traffic on Mt. Pelia Road from University Street is non-university related, according to Hooten. The other 55 percent of traffic is university-related. Hooten said the proposal would still allow a regress for high-traffic events on campus as pavers would be put in the place of the portion of the closed city street.

Two planning committee members who also sit as elected officials on the board of mayor of aldermen for the City of Martin noted that their constituents were against the idea of closing that portion of Mt. Pelia Road for the university’s use. Johnny Tuck and Randy Edwards admitted that people in their wards were not in favor of the proposal.

Witherspoon reminded planning committee members that it was their responsibility to make a recommendation to the board of mayor and aldermen and the issue would still be sent to the board, with or without the planning committee’s blessing.

“We need to look at the physical aspects of this issue, not the emotional ones. Hannings Lane needs to match up and we need to make a recommendation for the physical aspects,“ Witherspoon noted.

While the issue has the blessings of the Student Government Association, business owners on Kennedy Drive expressed their disapproval of closing the road in the form of a petition offered by Dr. Greg Moore at the meeting.

“Public safety is a concern, not just on campus, but throughout the city of Martin," Moore commented. The petition contained 110 signatures of patients, health care workers and small business owners in the hospital region.

According to Moore, those signatures represented 11 health care-related businesses in that region who apparently feared an economic recourse for their business if the city were to close the portion of Mt. Pelia Road that divides a part of the UTM campus.

“There is a history of the UT Martin working with the city in the past for road closures. Our concern is working with the city to mitigate the risk to our students," Hooten said noting the city had closed a portion of Hurt Street and granted the university Pat Head Summitt Drive in the past.

Hooten also reported a $3.3 million lighting project.
SAFETY
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ect under way to light the walking trail near the recreation center as well as a proposed softball/baseball complex that sits on the same side of the road as the recreation center.

Planning committee member Ken Kirkland recommended traffic stop lights for pedestrian students. Hooten responded that crosswalk traffic averages 280 students each hour. A question of how emergency response vehicles would cope with a potential closure was brought before the committee. According to a letter from the Weakley County Ambulance Service, it had no objections to the closure. Pertaining to the Martin Fire Department, it was noted that a closure could reduce response time by approximately one minute.

"The biggest thing that I see is contending with businesses people on Hannings Lane and Kennedy Drive and getting public opinion on this issue," planning committee member Chet Alexander remarked.

Witherspoon agreed that the issue needed to be addressed by a larger forum of people to garner public opinion instead of a decision being made by a handful of people.

Even without the blessing of the planning committee, the decision to close a portion of Mt. Pelia Road to Hannings Lane will be presented to the City of Martin's board of mayor and aldermen.

The board must consider the issue in the form of an ordinance, which requires board approval once before a public hearing is held on the issue. If the ordinance passes on its first reading, a public hearing will be scheduled and the ordinance must be approved on a second reading before it can be granted. A date has not been set for the first reading of the issue.

UTM provided grant for teacher development

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin $75,000 for an Improving Teacher Quality Grant for Project Reading to Increase Comprehension in Academics (RICA).

This is the second year of funding for the project, coordinated by Dr. Beverly Hearn, associate professor of education.

Project RICA provides professional development for middle and high school teachers. Twenty-four teachers will be chosen to participate this spring and summer in sessions that focus on the new core curriculum, using classroom libraries and methods for more effective teaching of reading and writing within the content area classrooms: science, social studies and mathematics.

"Results from the first year of the project demonstrated a 63.1 percent improvement in teachers' knowledge of reading strategies for their students," said Hearn.

In addition to the professional development, participants will select their own classroom library materials valued at $1,000 to provide additional reading materials to be used in developing their reading and writing activities. Participating teachers will also receive an iPad and be trained in its use. The iPads will be used to access enrichment materials via electronic libraries and the Web.

"UT Martin has a tradition of providing professional development through the ITQ program," said Dr. Beth Quick, Department of Educational Studies chair. "In our rural area, the availability of high-quality professional development is very important for our educators."

See Teacher, Page 4

GRANT
FROM PAGE 1

cators. For Dr. Hearn to receive a second year of funding speaks to the success of the first year of Project RICA."

Although UT Martin partnered with Crockett County Schools in developing the proposal, school teachers from other area districts are also eligible to apply.

For more information about participation, interested teachers should contact Hearn at bhearn@utm.edu or 731-881-7197.

Miss UTM, Soybean pageant Jan. 29

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

Tickets at the door are $15. UT Martin student tickets are $10 at the door. For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at 731-514-3556 or by e-mail at hholt@utm.edu.
David Jordan is in the Chatroom

By Lance Coleman

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Age: 55

Family: Married to Pam Jordan, who is with the Knoxville Utilities Board. They have two children, Lori Molter and Chris King.

Occupation: Corporate controller with Clayton Homes, Inc.

As immediate past president of the Blount County Education Foundation, David Jordan said the most rewarding and gratifying part of volunteering is helping the teachers.

"That is the best part of being involved in the education foundation - taking a school a check or a box full of stuff," he says. "The teachers are so appreciative of anything we do. It's not a whole lot of money, but it helps a lot."

Jordan grew up in Bruceton, Tenn., in West Tennessee near Jackson.

"It is a two-stoplight town in Carroll County. My dad owned a grocery store in town, and I worked there. The town was known for a HIS Clothes factory that made Chic jeans, and I worked there, too, in the summers," he says.

After he graduated from Hollow Rock Bruceton Central High School, a K-12 school with 275 students, Jordan attended the University of Tennessee at Martin for two years before he went to work at the Illinois Terminal Railroad as a conductor.

"It was a unique experience. I was a conductor. We weren't a passenger service, so I didn't wear a little hat," he quips.

Jordan left there in 1980, moved to Knoxville and enrolled at the University of Tennessee, graduating in 1985.

While at UT, he worked at Valley Fidelity Bank during the day and went to school at night. In the spring of 1983, he went to Clayton Homes and was named corporate controller in 2001.

When Kevin Clayton asked him to get involved in the company's philanthropic activities, Jordan joined the board of the Blount County Education Foundation. "We decided several years ago that education in the community was going to be Clayton's
focus," he says.

The foundation is a good experience and very hands on, Jordan says. "We’re a working board. If it gets done, we have to do it."

Jordan says he and his wife love to travel. "Those low-cost airlines have been great. You can jump down to Florida, and we like to do that," he says. Also high on the list for free time is spending time with the grandchildren, Tyler and Drew Molter and Morgan King.

Here is David Jordan:

What is your favorite quote from television or a movie?

"Sometimes you just have to let art.... flow over you," Nick, as played by William Hurt, from "The Big Chill."

What are you guilty of?

"Let’s just say it’s a good thing being unorganized is not criminal activity."

What are you reading currently?

"Stacy Schiff’s biography of Cleopatra. It is interesting to learn about the city of Alexandria and what it was like and how Cleopatra was a true monarch. She wasn’t Elizabeth Taylor. It is fascinating."

Other than your parents, who has had the biggest influence on your life and why?

"I have been lucky to have been exposed to some good people that have helped me. My wife has had the most influence on my adult life."

What is your passion?

"My family. They are what I love the most."

What was your most embarrassing moment?

"I was playing guitar in a church program when I was about 15, and I got off on the wrong key. It was awful."

What are the top three things on your bucket list?

"Visit all 50 states (we’ve got six left); see Italy; and see the Pyramids."

What is one word others often use to describe you and why?

"One hopes it is smart or funny, but it’s probably big. I’m 6-foot-3 inches tall and 265"
If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

"A little more hair would be nice."

What is your favorite material possession?

"My grandfather's pocket watch. He got it in 1910, and my mom gave it to me before she passed away."

With whom, living or dead, would you most like to have a long lunch?

"My mother, Mavis Jordan. She died in 1986 and never lived to see me graduate from college. If it couldn't be her, then John Lennon. He is my age and was an influential artist in my life. I enjoy all his music and think he was an interesting cat."

If you could go back in time for a week, what time period or year would you visit?

"Ancient Rome at the height of its power - around 200 A.D.. I think it is fascinating that 2,000 years ago there were great engineers and builders. It would probably stink to high heaven, but I'd like to see what it looked like and what was going on. It would be fascinating for a while, and then you'd have to run for your life."

What is the best present you ever received in a box?

"I got a pair of walkie-talkies when I was about 10."

What is the best advice your mother ever gave you?

"Stand up for yourself and never, ever, hit a girl."

Do you Myspace, Facebook or Twitter?

"Facebook, to keep up with high school friends and family around the country."

What's the worst job you have ever had?

"Helping paint the flyover ramp from I-275 to I-40 east in downtown Knoxville when I was in college," he says. "I had to strain the paint before it went through the sprayer. My fingernails were blue for months."

What was your favorite Saturday morning cartoon and why?

"Bugs Bunny. He's a very cool wabbit."

What irritates you?

"The current state of the U.S. Tax Code. It is an outrage we are required by our government to put up with that."
What's one place in Blount County everyone should visit?

"Boys and Girls Club or anywhere that serves kids that need our help."

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself at 18?

"Buy General Electric and Microsoft and short Enron and Global Crossing."

What is your greatest fear?

"That some terrorist organization will get possession of a nuclear weapon and use it."

I still can't quite get the hang of...

"Dancing."

If you could do one impulsive thing, what would it be?

"Jump out of an airplane... with a parachute, of course."

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Groundbreaking at UTM Fine Arts bldg set on NWTNTODAY.COM

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A reception and ceremony are planned for 11 a.m. in Paul Meek Library before the groundbreaking at the site. Among those speaking during the ceremony will be University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jerald Ogg.

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The final building footprint will increase to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet and is scheduled to be completed in time for fall semester 2012.

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

wep 1/25/11
Conference For Working Women February 11

Participants attending the 13th annual Conference for Working Women will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy, how office ergonomics work, the difference between depressed and depression, how Google can increase workplace productivity and receive wardrobe and makeup advice.

The conference is set for 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., February 11, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following continental breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9 a.m.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program and Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at UT Martin, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee. Whether you are an assistant, an executive, a manager, 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 and WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference. The opening speaker will be Dr. Danny Nicholson, of Jefferson City, Carson Newman College vice president of advancement. His presentation, "Running Out of Time: Creating Your Own Legacy," is set for 9:15-10 a.m. His career in higher education fundraising spans 26 years including six different institutions and raising more than $100 million to meet the needs of the students he has served. He is a frequent speaker in a variety of venues such as: CASE International conferences, Planned Giving Councils across the Southeast, colleges, high schools and churches. He has been published in CASE Currents magazine, International Journal of Philanthropy (Vanderbilt) and the Alumni and Development Report. Recently, he initiated a project that brought his friends and family together to produce an original album, "Legacy Road," which featured 20 songs recorded in Nashville. The album has raised more than $20,000 toward the needs of children in Nicaragua. He speaks about how we all can leave a legacy in the lives of those around us by living a life of meaning and purpose.

At 10 a.m., Dr. Todd Sherman, UT Martin health and human performance professor, will present "Desk Time." Sherman received his Bachelor of Arts in physical education from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Master of Science in physical education: sports administration from Eastern Kentucky University and his Doctorate of Arts in Exercise Science from Middle Tennessee State University. Prior to his 10 years of teaching in higher education, Sherman managed a hospital-based rehabilitation/wellness facility. During his five years of clinical experience, Sherman has worked with patients with cardiac, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord, diabetes, obesity and orthopedic issues. As an educator, Sherman has taught at North Carolina A&T State University, Oxford College of Emory University and is now in his first year at UT Martin. His teaching responsibilities include exercise physiology, exercise testing and prescription, and special populations. His research interests include pediatric exercise science/wellness, testing and exercise prescription.

Dr. Laura Melaro will present "Depression: Seconds Count - Be Knowledgeable," at 11 a.m. Melaro has residency all of her life and has practiced for 22 years in the West Tennessee area. She graduated with a bachelor’s and master’s in nursing science and a doctorate in nursing practice in 1985, 1989 and 2008, respectively. Her doctoral focus was in family psychiatric practice, with an emphasis on the severely and persistently mentally ill and telemental health. Melaro began her career in 1985 as a registered nurse in emergency and critical care venues and advanced to establish a private practice from 1989 to 1999 as a family nurse practitioner in Henderson. While juggling family and career, opportunities arose that led to a pursuit of employment in the community mental health setting from 1999 to the present. As an American Nurses Credentialing Center board certified Family and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, she divides her time between private psychiatric practice at Melaro Behavioral Consultants, Inc., in Henderson, inpatient psychiatric and alcohol/drug treatment at Pathways in Jackson, and clinical and academic teaching/supervision for numerous Tennessee universities.

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. At 12:30 p.m., beauty consultants will present "Before and After," providing makeup tips.

This will be followed at 1 p.m. by "It's GOOGLE Time," presented by Steve Holt. Holt provides consulting on Web design, e-commerce, social media, leadership and marketing. He also is actively involved in speaking on those topics at conferences around the country. During the past 12 years, he has helped numerous local governments, economic and community development agencies, non-profits, banks and small business entities develop media and services to reach their constituents and markets. Since 1999, he has been the UT Martin director of the Instructional Technology Center and Web Services, and he has also taught computer science and economics at UT Martin for 11 years. Through the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, he has provided training and consulting throughout West Tennessee to chamber of commerce and economic development professionals. He has a Master's of Business Administration from UT Martin.

Finally, Julie Burke, Milan Chamber of Commerce director and executive vice president, and a CABI Designer clothing independent consultant, will present "Fashion Time." Burke graduated in December of 1993 from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. Since graduating from UT Martin, she has lived in all three geographical regions of Tennessee, with the last 11 years being in Knoxville. She was appointed earlier this year to the Milan Chamber of Commerce post and moved back to her hometown.

The deadline to register is February 4. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgirmes@utm.edu. If registering via email, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants. Credit cards are accepted. Also, participants can register online at www.utm.edu/weststar. The fee is $35 per person/$60 for two and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 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 3.8 (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).

**Dresden** - James T. Adkins, Highest Honors; Lisa C. Baskette, Highest Honors; Jennifer T. Beatty, High Honors; Britton L. Bullock, Honors; Justin L. Cochran, Honors; Alex V. Crowell, Highest Honors; Stacey L. Darden, High Honors; Justin N. Davidson, Highest Honors; Breanna M. Dubrueil, High Honors; Orrin T. Eaves, Highest Honors; April D. Edenfield, Honors; Lacey M. Ellis, High Honors; Eric A. Evans, High Honors; Shannon E. Fisher, High Honors; Mercy M. Ford, High Honors; Erica E. Glisson, Honors; Derrick E. Hansen, Highest Honors; Tiffany D. Harrison, High Honors; Justin B. Hatler, High Honors; Bonnie A. Hickman, Honors; Amanda L. Jones, Honors; Joshua J. Justice, High Honors; Adam M. Kail, Honors; Lacie C. Kelley, Honors; Kara Kidwell, High Honors; Brandi A. Long, High Honors; Sarah A. McAlpin, High Honors; Kristi A. Mendez, Honors; Emily S. Moon, Highest Honors; Brittany S. Morton, Highest Honors; Alayna S. Owens, High Honors; Shonna R. Parker, Honors; Allison L. Paschall, Highest Honors; Cody W. Perkins, Highest Honors; Colleen E. Perkins, Honors; Jessica M. Phelps, Highest Honors; Ronald E. Phillips, High Honors; William J. Pittman, High Honors; Vanessa D. Purdown-Smith, Highest Honors; Adam L. Redick, Honors; Jeffrey D. Reid, Honors; Scarlett L. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Hilerie D. Rickman, High Honors; Zachary C. Smith, Honors; Amy L. Spence, High Honors; Dana D. Stanfill, Highest Honors; Abbey B. Stoker, High Honors; Precious E. Turbeville, High Honors; Danielle M. Wilkerson, High Honors; Brandon K. Williams, Honors.

**Dukedom** - Amy L. Bailey, High Honors; Joshua S. Pittle, Highest Honors.

**Glenoak** - Lacy D. Arnold, Highest Honors; Melanie R. Brady-Hay, Highest Honors; Megan R. Crider, Honors; Preston D. Frazier, Honors; Jessica D. McKinney, Highest Honors; Leah N. Melballe, Honors; Riley E. Moran, High Honors; Spencer K. Morse, Highest Honors; Evan T. Orr, High Honors; Billy E. Reeves, Highest Honors; Erica B. Scott, Highest Honors; Katie S. Snider, Highest Honors; Elizabeth D. Terrell, Highest Honors; Stacy W. Thompson, Honors; James A. Verdel, Honors.

**Greenfield** - Jennifer M. Bethel, Highest Honors; Dakota R. Betts, High Honors; Brittany L. Blackburn, Honors; Rhianne E. Caudle, Highest Honors; Cassie R. Chapel, Highest Honors; Eric M. Davidson, Highest Honors; Lisa K. Franklin, Honors; Derek A. Galey, High Honors; Devera K. Galey, Highest Honors; Christian J. Hall, High Honors; Taren P. Hatcher, Highest Honors; Kristan D. Jennings, Highest Honors; Jamie M. Knott, Highest Honors; Barbara A. Manning, High Honors; Allister R. McAllister, Honors; Katelin B. McCall, High Honors; Clint A. Mealer, Honors; Natalie L. Medling, High Honors; Kelsey L. Potts, Honors; Allison E. Puckett, Highest Honors; Mallory K. Robinson, Highest Honors; Brandi M. Rogers, Honors; Kandi N. Sawyer, High Honors; Stephanie J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Anna M. Ussery, Honors.

**Martin** - Megan B. Ables, Highest Honors; Emily A. Adams, Highest Honors; Melissa J. Adams, Highest Honors; Mustafa A. Alhumusi, Honors; Fahad A. Almutairi, Honors; Ali Almutawa, Highest Honors; Arej H. Alsabouni, Highest Honors; Nabil I. Almuhamed, Honors; Olivia G. Baltz, Highest Honors; Matthew L. Bane, Highest Honors; Derek R. Barner, Honors; Magen L. Beard, High Honors; Amy L. Belote, High Honors; Lintey B. Blankeship, High Honors; David A. Goggis, Highest Honors; Jason J. Booker, Highest Honors; Matthew D. Borden, Honors; Judy L. Bowers, High Honors; Sylvester Boyd, Highest Honors; Lauren A. Brelend, High Honors; Samantha L. Bridges, Highest Honors; Scott R. Bridges, Highest Honors; Tara L. Brown, High Honors; Charles A. Brutk, Honors; Sarah E. Brunell, High Honors; Kala M. Christensen, Honors; Allison M. Clayton, Honors; Justin K. Cobb, Honors; Scott E. Coleman, Highest Honors; Michelle A. Cooper, Highest Honors; Adrian Costea, Honors; Timothy L. Cox, Honors; Brittany M. Crecce, Honors; Amanda L. Crowe, Honors; Gregory R. Curnel, Honors; Marsha E. Daniel, Honors; Jeffrey S. Davis, High Honors; Judy K. Davis, High Honors; Jennifer L. Deveso, Honors; Timothy M. Dehart, Highest Honors; Jonathan H. Dodds, Highest Honors; Taylor N. Dodson, High Honors; Melissa C. Dortich, Honors; Lauren B. Dowdy, Honors; Nicole E. Drake, Highest Honors; Misty L. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Natalie E. Dunning, High Honors; Kristi L. Edwards, High Honors; Amber E. Elliott, Honors; Kevin L. Elliott, Highest Honors; Lee A. Elliott, Honors; Jessica L. Erickson, Honors; Shareigha D. Figueroa, Honors; Edward M. Finch, High Honors; Brittany L. Forther, Honors; Christopher T. Fowler, Highest Honors; Anna E. Frederick, Honors; Victor O. Fulton, Honors; Abbie M. Fuqua, High Honors; Travis W. Garner, High Honors; Hayley B. Garrett, High Honors; Jodie L. Garrett, Honors; Brandt M. Gibson, High Honors; Richard E. Gibson, Honors; Everett B. Griffin, High Honors; Robin L. Griffin, High Honors; Ashley A. Grimes, Highest Honors; Laura N. Gullatt, Highest Honors; Chris Gundlaffe, Highest Honors; Brandi L. Gwaltney, Highest Honors; Dahlia M. Haddad, High Honors; Carolyn E. Hagen, Honors; Cynthia A. Hahn, Highest Honors; Joseph S. Hailey, High Honors; Europe L. Hall, Highest Honors; Sequia L. Hamer, High Honors; Anthony D. Hamilton, High Honors; Toby W. Hammond, Honors; Thomas W. Hansen, Honors; Grant R. Harper, Kevin D. Harris, High Honors; Jacob P. Hart, High Honors; Daniel C. Hay, Honors; Casey L. Hazelwood, Honors; Brittany M. Henderson, Highest Honors; Kenneth J. Hepler, High Honors; Heather L. Higgs, Highest Honors; Katie J. Holland, Honors; Michael C. Horn, High Honors; Jordan W. Howell, Honors; Lenetra R. Humphrey, High Honors; Justin C. Hunt, Highest Honors; James D. Hutchins, Highest Honors; Justin B. Ingle, High Honors; Alex M. Jackson, Highest Honors; Chandra M. Jacobs, High Honors; Michael A. Jeter, Highest Honors; Stephen K. Johnson, Honors; Laquita R. Jones, Honors; Frank W. Karien, High Honors; James M. Kemp, Highest Honors; Austin L. Kendall, Honors; Leah R. Kerassidis, Honors; Kasey T. Kessler, Honors; Kyeongmee Kim, Highest Honors; Jake R. King, Highest Honors; Paige L. King, Honors; Patrick J. Kincaid, Highest Honors; Sierra L. Kirk, Highest Honors; Rachel L. Kirkendoll, Highest Honors; Joshua S. Lemons, Honors; Sydney L. Lowry, Honors; Pamela K. Luker, Highest Honors; Jay A. Lusk, High Honors; Matthew A. Maitland, High Honors; Loren K. Mallari, Honors; Chase G.
Manley, High Honors; Melissa A. Manuel, High Honors; Joshua S. Marker, Honors; Ashley N. Martin, High Honors; Eliana Martinez, Honors; Rickey L. Mask, Highest Honors; Steve R. McAaster, High Honors; Kristin D. McCloud, High Honors; Katherine A. McKeel, Highest Honors; Zachary T. Meadows, Honors; Matthew W. Melton, Honors; Jessica E. Miles, Highest Honors; Erica C. Miller, Highest Honors; LaQuita M. Moore, High Honors; Maci W. Mount, High Honors; Whitney B. Mount, High Honors; Michael L. Musser, Highest Honors; Ezra F. Nance, Highest Honors; Adam P. Nelson, Highest Honors; Marcy B. Nethery, High Honors; Rebecca J. Norton, Highest Honors; Amy B. Olds, High Honors; Emily Osment, High Honors; Alex Parham, Highest Honors; Zalak V. Patel, High Honors; Jonalee S. Payne, Highest Honors; Rebekah L. Payne, Honors; Suzanne M. Peckham, High Honors; Steven L. Pitts, High Honors; Allison C. Price, Highest Honors; William T. Price, Highest Honors; Jason B. Quick, Highest Honors; Alfredo Ramirez; Angela D. Reddick, Highest Honors; Julie M. Reddick, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Redding, Highest Honors; Kimberly S. Redmond, High Honors; Nathaniel D. Rinehart, Honors; Amy L. Roberts, Highest Honors; Jeremy L. Robertson, Honors; Lauren B. Robertson, High Honors; Catherine L. Robinson, Highest Honors; Devin E. Rotger, High Honors; Caitlin E. Simpson, Highest Honors; Kayla B. Simpson, Highest Honors; Lynsey D. Sinclair, Highest Honors; Ashante L. Smith, Honors; James V. Smith, Honors; Brent J. Smolen, High Honors; Whiteley B. Southerland, Honors; Heather M. Statler, Honors; David M. Stepp, Honors; Rory D. Stutzman, Highest Honors; Grace A. Swaim, Highest Honors; Lisa L. Swaim, Highest Honors; Madison A. Tate, Honors; Christopher K. Taylor, High Honors; Joseph M. Thomas, Honors; Jessica K. Thornton, Highest Honors; Delina K. Tillman, High Honors; Cnannah R. Tipton, High Honors; Ashley M. Toty, Highest Honors; Shanna A. Trichler, Highest Honors; Shane M. Turbeville, Honors; Carly R. Unger, Highest Honors; Mary K. Unger, High Honors; Robert C. Unger, Highest Honors; Calista E. Vaughn, Highest Honors; Laura K. Vaughn, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Wade, Honors; Lindsey R. Wade, Honors; Zachary H. Ward, Highest Honors; Hillary J. Watson, High Honors; Stanton T. Watson, Highest Honors; Katherine A. West, High Honors; Matthew T. White, High Honors; Cory A. Wilcox, Highest Honors; Kelsey P. Wiley, High Honors; Elizabeth A. Williams, High Honors; Lauren E. Wilson, Highest Honors; Libbi A. Wilson, High Honors; Brad E. Winter, High Honors; Breanne Wright, Highest Honors; Michael S. Yandell, Highest Honors; Natasha M. Yap, Honors; Palmsville-Jannie E. Reed, High Honors; Eric L. Smith, Honors; Crockett D. Stephens, Highest Honors; Paris - Roe N. Hughes, High Honors; Sharon - Chadwick M. Brewer, Honors; Kevin E. Edge, High Honors; Matthew L. Fitzgerald, Highest Honors; Brittany L. Gilbert, Highest Honors; Kayla L. Heisler, Honors; Andrey B. Ingle, Honors; Derek T. Johnson, High Honors; Tonya E. Jordan, Highest Honors; Erika C. Klotts, High Honors; Kayla B. White, Honors; Krystal A. Wood, High Honors.

Miss UTM/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant January 29

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., January 29, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID. For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, January 26, 2011

DR. JOHN CLENDEMIN

Dr. John Clendenin was elected to his seat on the Union City Board of Education as a representative of Ward 5 in November and recently began his four-year term.

He and his wife, Pam, have three children who attend Union City schools. Hailey is a student at Union City High School, Brandley attends Union City Middle School and Wade attends Union City Elementary School. Dr. Clendenin is a Union City graduate himself, a member of the class of 1985.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University (See Page 10, Col. 1)
Former Chancellor’s birthday marked with literary event

A former University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor will be honored with an event on February 7 that will bring to campus two nationally published authors, who have family ties to the campus.

The late Paul Meek’s birthday will be marked by the Friends of Paul Meek Library at 4:30 p.m. in Holt Humanities Building Norman Campbell Lecture Hall. Dr. Anne Meek, Meek’s daughter, will open the event with remarks about her father and introduce siblings and authors, Susan Rebecca White and Lauren Myracle, who are granddaughters of the late Dr. Norman Campbell. The authors’ presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a reception. The public is invited to attend.

“The Meek Library faculty and staff are absolutely delighted that our Friends of the Library organization is sponsoring this exciting event and hope this can grow into an annual literary occasion,” said Mary Carpenter, library director.

Meek was chancellor from 1934-67. A native of Martin, he spent four years in Knoxville, with a brief tour in the United States Army in 1918, before graduating with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. He returned to Knoxville in 1933 to earn a Master of Science degree in education. He was offered the position as executive officer of the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin that year. In 1962, he was given the title of vice president of the University of Tennessee and chancellor of the Martin Branch. Just prior to his retirement in 1967, Meek was present when Gov. Buford Ellington signed the document changing the college name to “The University of Tennessee at Martin.”

In retirement, Dr. Meek witnessed the creation of the Paul and Martha Meek Scholarship Fund and the naming of the campus’ first library building in his honor.

Myracle, of Ft. Collins, Colorado, is the author of books for “tweens” and teens. Her titles include “Luv Ya Bunches,” “Violet In Bloom,” “Eleven,” “Twelve” and “Thirteen,” among others. Several have appeared on the New York Times Best Seller list and “Thirteen” was a 2009 Children’s Choice Award winner. She gave the keynote address at the American Library Association Rally in the summer of 2010 and was honored by the National Coalition Against Censorship at its annual celebration of free speech in New York in November.

White, who writes adult fiction, was a finalist for the 2009 Townsend Prize for fiction with “Bound South” and had the Target Book Club featured book for April 2010 with “Soft Place to Land.” A resident of Atlanta, Georgia, and Reno, Nevada, she taught creative writing at Emory University and is featured in the February 2011 Vanity Fair along with eight other female Atlanta authors.

“These events are a great opportunity for us to see the continuing legacy of two of our founding families, the Meeks and the Campbells,” said Lynn Alexander, president of the Friends of Paul Meek Library. “We are looking forward to celebrating our achievements together.”

For more information, contact Carpenter at 731-881-7070.

WTWP accepting applications

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 19th annual invitational summer institute May 7 and June 6-30 on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Deadline for application is April 15.

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 W TWP teacher consultants. Participants earn six hours of graduate credit in English from UT Martin. They can honestly say that never have they enjoyed a seminar or professional development session as much as the West Tennessee Writing Project,” said Dana Craddock, sixth-grade social studies teacher at Ridgemont Elementary School in Obion County and 2010 summer institute participant.

Tanna Page, eighth-grade language arts teacher at Camden Junior High, added, “Never in my wildest imagination would I have thought I would have gained the amount of knowledge I have in just four weeks. I have seen teaching demonstrations that are absolutely amazing, unique and can be adapted to almost every grade in one way or another.”

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six 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. Tuition and books are covered by grants from the National Writing Project.

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 Carithers, UT Martin associate professor of English and W TWP director, explaining the benefits of the summer institute. “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.

In addition to sharing effective teaching strategies that include writing components, participants in the institute practice their own writing in a variety of genres in a small group workshop format. “I haven’t gotten so much enjoyment out of writing in such a long time,” said 2010 participant Kamilah Whiteley of Craigmont Middle School in Memphis.

For more information about graduate studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at (731) 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu.

To download the Summer Institute informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP website at www.utm.edu/wtp. For more information about the institute or WTWP, contact Carithers at wtp@utm.edu or call (731) 881-7290.
Brazilian music lecture planned at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet 7 p.m. Feb. 8 in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture.

This year’s Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music. Her presentation is titled “The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Escola Dida.”

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Brian Johnson, lecturer of psychology 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 April 5.

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

Groundbreaking ceremony slated

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Fine Arts Building Phase 1 renovation and addition project at the University of Tennessee at Martin — which will more than double the space — has been set for Tuesday.

A reception and ceremony are planned for 11 a.m. in Paul Meek Library before the groundbreaking at the site.

Among those speaking will be University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jerald Ogg.

The $13 million project will place all of the university’s fine arts programs in one building. The project consists of the renovation of the existing 54,702 square foot building as well as about 60,000 square feet of additional space, a spokesman said.

Phi Kappa Phi plans Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet 7 p.m., Feb. 8, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center, for the Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture. This year’s Muriel Tomlinson lecturer is Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music. Her presentation is titled “The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Escola Dida.”

The lecture is free and open to the public. Brian Johnson, lecturer of psychology and Phi Kappa Phi president, will preside.
UTM offers on-line reading endorsements

Reading is the foundation for learning every subject, and educators know that success in reading makes academic success easier to attain.

A University of Tennessee at Martin online reading specialist program offers a convenient alternative for educators who want to learn as much as possible about teaching reading.

Ashley Ragon, a 9th grade English/Reading in the Content Area teacher at Liberty Technology Magnet High School in Jackson and also a tutor, "jumped at the chance to learn more about reading."

And, as an alumna and former graduate teaching assistant in the UT Martin Reading Center, Ragon was very familiar with Dr. Beverly Hearn, online reading specialist program director. "The biggest benefit of the program has been the knowledge of the reading process and skills and strategies that I use daily with my students," said Ragon.

"With the reading specialist endorsement, I plan to continue to teach English and reading in an intermediate, middle or high school setting. Having the endorsement will open my range of teaching possibilities from just secondary English."

Ragon is among the first students who will receive the endorsement.

Hearn said some educators received their training before new reading techniques were developed and want to update their skills and others would like to work with their peers as a reading coach to help increase reading achievement and teach satisfaction in their own schools.

Still other experienced teachers are ready for a change and would like to work exclusively with struggling readers.

"Whichever goal you have in mind, it is true that when we help students gain strong skills and a love for reading, we can truly help them change their lives," said Hearn.

The reading specialist program can be taken as a stand-alone endorsement, or the reading block can be integrated into the Master of Science in Education—Interdisciplinary.

Print Materials for Adolescents and Adults.

All coursework conforms to the most current International Reading Association Standards and is designed to address the Reading Specialist Praxis III test, which is required for the additional endorsement.

For more information about the program, contact Hearn at bhearn@utm.edu or 731-881-7197.

Ut Martin gets $75K grant for teacher program

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has awarded the University of Tennessee Martin $75,000 for an Improving Teacher Quality Grant, according to a news release. This is the second year of funding for the Project Reading to Improve Comprehension in Academics, which is coordinated by Beverly Hearn, associate professor of education.

Project RICA provides professional development for middle- and high-school teachers, the release said. Twenty-four teachers will be chosen to participate in spring and summer sessions that focus on the new core curriculum, using classroom libraries and methods for more effective teaching of reading and writing within the content area classrooms — science, social studies, and mathematics.

"Results from the first year of the project demonstrated a 63.1 percent improvement in teachers' knowledge of reading strategies for their students," Hearn said in the release.

Participating teachers will choose classroom library materials valued at $1,000 to be used in developing their reading and writing activities. They also will receive an iPad and be trained in its use. The iPads will be used to access enrichment materials via electronic libraries and the Internet.

UT Martin worked with Crockett County Schools to develop the proposal, but teachers from other districts are also eligible to apply. For more information, teachers should contact Hearn at bhearn@utm.edu or (731) 881-7197.
Expert: More snow may be 'new normal'

UT Martin meteorologist says research shows changing weather patterns

BY MARIANN MARTIN
MMARTIN10@JACKSONSUN.COM
— Mariann Martin, 425-9782

· January 27, 2011

Brave the crowds at the grocery story to buy supplies. Check school cancellations. Scrape snow from the car. Drive slowly on roads made treacherous with slushy snow and black ice.

On Wednesday, many West Tennesseans followed an increasingly routine checklist as they dug their way out of the third snowfall in less than three weeks and the fifth measurable snowfall this winter.

A local meteorologist who has studied climate change for more than a decade says the frequent snowfalls and cold temperatures may become the new normal for the area.

"We are seeing the circulation patterns changing and those patterns intensifying," said Todd Albert, assistant professor of meteorology at the University of Tennessee Martin. "Cold air from the Arctic is penetrating deeper south."

Albert, who heads up the meteorology department at Martin, has done field research in the Arctic for 10 years and also has traveled to Peru, Greenland and many parts of the United States to study climate change.

Albert believes melting ice in the Arctic has noticeably changed weather patterns across the country in recent years.

Arctic sea ice has melted in significant amounts since about 2005, with a huge collapse of ice in 2007, Albert said, and ice has melted at a much faster rate than scientists expected.

In 2003, predictions were that the Arctic would be ice free during the summertime by 2080. Some scientists now expect it to be ice free during the summer by 2014, Albert said.

As the ice melts, he said, more heat is exchanged between the ocean and the atmosphere, with the warmer ocean that has been capped with ice in the past releasing heat into the atmosphere.

The warmer air in the Arctic causes two things, Albert said. First it has changed weather patterns and jets streams that influence most of the weather in the United States. The cold jet streams are pushing farther south, while warm air moves farther north than it has in the past.

"One of my students has compared it to leaving a freezer door open," Albert said. "The freezer is warmer, but the rest of the room cools off. There are days it is colder in Orlando than in Fairbanks. You see snow in Florida and melting snow in Greenland."

The second thing that happens is changes in precipitation. Average precipitation amounts may not change that much in Tennessee, but Albert expects there to be fewer rainfalls with more intensity and an increase in the amount of rainfall, resulting in floods and droughts.

According to National Weather Service records for the last five years, this winter is the first time Jackson has had five measurable snowfalls amounts in such a short time, with a total of more than 6 inches.

Andy Snezak, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Memphis, said snow is difficult to forecast and it is not possible to know if West Tennessee may see more snow this winter.

A ruler shows the depth of snow in downtown Jackson on Wednesday morning. (AARON HARDIN/The Jackson Sun)
Long-term forecasts for February and March call for average temperatures with above normal precipitation, Sneizak said.

The next chance for snow in the forecast is for Monday night and Tuesday and depends on how fast the temperatures fall as rain moves through the area.

"There is a lot of variability when you are predicting snow," Sneizak said.

Both 2009 and 2010 saw large snowfall amounts, with more than 14 inches falling in three snowfalls in 2009 and 12 inches from four snowfalls in early 2010.

"This may be what the new normal is," Albert said. "I'm not an alarmist — I'm not saying we are all going to die. But what we are seeing is beyond anything climatologists predicted. The climate system doesn't behave in a linear fashion — what happens has a cascading effect. It's like knocking over dominoes."

There were two measurable snowfalls each year in 2006, 2007 and 2008 with less than 5 inches of snow falling each year.

The National Weather Service in Memphis does not have daily snowfall records online for more than five years. Older records are not readily available, staff in Memphis said.

William Brantley, a Southeast Jackson cooperative observer for the weather service, has recorded snowfall amounts in Jackson since 1994.

According to his records, most winters from 1994 to 2005 had one or two snowfalls averaging several inches. Several winters did not see any measurable snowfall.

Records obtained from the West Tennessee Agricultural Research and Education Center from 2003 to 2007 show similar numbers.

Albert said the recent activity doesn't mean that West Tennessee will see more snow every year, and changes may come more slowly in the next few years.

"Weather tends to come in pulses," he said. "One year is more extreme, and the next year may be more normal. But it wouldn't be unexpected."

The $13 million project will place all of the fine arts programs in one building, according to a news release. The existing 54,702-square-foot building will be renovated and approximately 60,000 square feet of space will be added, the release said. The work is scheduled to be completed by fall 2012.

The building is designed to meet the needs of the Departments of Music and Visual and Theatre Arts. It will include more than 35 office spaces, 23 practice rooms, three rehearsal halls, two lecture halls, 12 large and specialized studios, five classrooms, computer labs, band library, chamber music room, art display areas and storage space, the release said.

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
UT Martin receives $75,000 THEC award to offer teachers professional development for reading

MARTIN, Tenn. – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin $75,000 for an Improving Teacher Quality Grant for Project Reading to Increase Comprehension in Academics (RICA). This is the second year of funding for the project, coordinated by Dr. Beverly Hearn, associate professor of education.

Project RICA provides professional development for middle and high school teachers. Twenty-four teachers will be chosen to participate this spring and summer in sessions that focus on the new core curriculum, using classroom libraries and methods for more effective teaching of reading and writing within the content area classrooms: science, social studies and mathematics.

"Results from the first year of the project demonstrated a 63.1 percent improvement in teachers' knowledge of reading strategies for their students," said Hearn.

In addition to the professional development, participants will select their own classroom library materials valued at $1,000 to provide additional reading materials to be used in developing their reading and writing activities. Participating teachers will also receive an iPad and be trained in its use. The iPads will be used to access enrichment materials via electronic libraries and the Web.

"UT Martin has a tradition of providing professional development through the ITQ program," said Dr. Beth Quick, Department of Educational Studies chair. "In our rural area, the availability of high-quality professional development is very important for our educators. For Dr. Hearn to receive a second year of funding speaks to the success of the first year of Project RICA."

Although UT Martin partnered with Crockett County Schools in developing the proposal, school teachers from other area districts are also eligible to apply. For more information about participation, interested teachers should contact Hearn at bhearn@utm.edu or 731-881-7197.
WTWP accepting applications to invitational summer institute

MARTIN, Tenn. – The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 19th annual invitational summer institute, May 7 and June 6-June 30, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline for application is April 15.

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 a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teacher consultants. Participants earn six hours of graduate credit in English from UT Martin.

“I can honestly say that never have I enjoyed any seminar or professional development session as much as the West Tennessee Writing Project,” said Dana Craddock, sixth grade social studies teacher at Ridgemont Elementary School in Obion County and 2010 summer institute participant. Tiana Page, eighth grade language arts teacher at Camden Junior High, added, “never in my wildest imagination would I have thought I would have gained the amount of knowledge I have in just four weeks. I have seen teaching demonstrations that are absolutely amazing, unique, and can be adapted to almost every grade in one way or another.”
All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six 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. Tuition and books are covered by grants from the National Writing Project.

"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 Carithers, UT Martin associate professor of English and WTWP director, explaining the benefits of the summer institute. "Combining more writing and better writing instruction in all content areas helps students understand material better while boosting overall test scores." He added, "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."

In addition to sharing effective teaching strategies that include writing components, participants in the institute practice their own writing in a variety of genres in a small group workshop format. "I haven't gotten so much enjoyment out of writing in such a long time," said 2010 participant Kamilah Whitley of Craigmont Middle School in Memphis. Cindy Taylor of Finley Elementary School added, "I have gone from feeling inadequate and lacking in the teaching of writing to being energized and ready to embrace the wonder of it."

Although the focus is on writing, the institute is open to teachers of all subjects. According to Carithers, "teachers who have participated in the institute teach a variety of subjects, including math and science, and they all find the program worthwhile."
For more information about graduate studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at 731-881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. To download the Summer Institute informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP Web site at www.utm.edu/wtpw. For more information about the institute or WTWP, contact Carithers at wtpw@utm.edu or call 731-881-7290.