GIFT — Dr. Robert and Ramona Smith supported UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program with a $250,000 deferred gift. Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, was a co-founder of WestStar and served as the program’s executive director from 1990 until his departure from UT Martin in 1999. Pictured with the Smiths is Charley Deal (left), WestStar executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations.

WestStar Leadership program receives $250,000 deferred gift

Dr. Robert and Ramona Smith of Franklin recently supported the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program with a $250,000 deferred gift. Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, was a co-founder of WestStar and served as the program’s executive director from 1990 until his departure from UT Martin in 1999.

“We strongly believe our communities and our region will respond to inspired leadership,” Smith said. “We see that the people involved with WestStar – whether as alums, trustees, friends or staff – are dedicated to improving West Tennessee, and we felt it was important to provide some tangible way to assure their work is made possible.”

WestStar was founded with the goal of bringing like-minded community and civic leaders together to focus on issues facing West Tennessee and to create a network of individuals to advocate for the resources needed to improve local communities. WestStar boasts 710 graduates since its inception and oversees three major leadership summits and two youth leadership summits annually, in addition to the seven-month leadership program. “The Smiths represent the very best in that they are choosing to support a unique, community-based program linking the university with stakeholders throughout the region. Doing so helps ensure the success and sustainability of WestStar as a premier leadership program,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

“The vision and foundation established by Dr. Smith and others has created this wonderful mechanism for economic development and social engagement across West Tennessee,” added Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. “This gift will allow us to address the changing regional landscape and continue to develop a premier leadership program recognized throughout the United States.” Deal and longtime program coordinator Virginia Grimes continue to direct the program, which is entering its 26th year.

Smith was recognized by Rakes in October 2014 as the recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for University Service, presented annually to an individual whose contributions enable the university to meet its mission of service to the region.
STUDENTS RECOGNIZED — Blake Graham of Lyles and Elizabeth Williams Greer, of Martin, each received the Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for the fall 2014 semester from the University of Tennessee at Martin at a reception that was held recently. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992 in numerous capacities. The recipients are chosen by the Education Student Services Selection Committee from students with a major in education/teacher licensure, who have been nominated for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Graham completed his student teaching in agricultural education at Dresden High School in Dresden. Greer, working toward her master of initial licensure degree in secondary biology, completed her student teaching at Croft Middle Design Center and Ravenwood High School in Nashville. Pictured with Graham (center) and Greer (right) is Staci H. Fuqua, coordinator of field placements for the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies.

International students earn degrees from UTM

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Cameroon — Pierre Gonhameu Mopo;
- China — Tian Meng Chen, Dongguang Li, Qiran Zhang;
- Honduras — Katherine I. Rodriguez;
- South Korea — Duk Soo Choi;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- China — Xinfan Huang;
- New Zealand — Alice Laing;
- Thailand — Voravit Honghiranrueng.
The first session will be held from Jan. 5 through March 2, and the second will be held from March 9 through April 27, according to a news release. All classes will meet on Mondays from noon to 1 p.m.

Instructor Kate Healy Dykes will guide students through a series of yoga poses and proper breathing techniques to help relieve many common conditions, including chronic sciatica, bulging discs, plantar fasciitis, knee pain and high blood pressure. Dykes has over 20 years of teaching experience.

Each session is $80. A 10 percent discount is available if students register for both sessions at once, the release said. Participants should bring a sticky mat to class; all other props will be provided.

For more information about the yoga sessions or to register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

Horseheads resident named to chancellor's honor roll at UT Martin

Tammi Jo A. Swearingen, of Horseheads, has been named to the chancellor's honor roll with highest honors at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

By Staff Reports
Posted Jan. 2, 2015 @ 1:00 pm
Updated Jan 2, 2015 at 3:13 PM

Tammi Jo A. Swearingen, of Horseheads, has been named to the chancellor's honor roll with highest honors at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the fall 2014 semester.

To be eligible for the chancellor's honor roll with highest honors recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit while achieving at least a 3.8 GPA.
Reading clinics to be offered for grades 2-12 at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer three reading clinic sessions on the UT Martin campus.

The sessions will be from Jan. 14 through Feb. 11, Feb. 12 through March 23 and March 24 through April 27, according to a news release.

Sessions may be scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m. twice per week. Students will meet for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

Students will participate in an intensive reading improvement course taught by experienced professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center, the release said.

The clinic is for students in grades two through 12 who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific phonics and comprehension levels and will be placed into a course of study designed to build skills and fill gaps in their reading abilities.

Each session is $100, plus a $25 workbook needed for the class.

For more information or to register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

See BRIEFS, Page B2

UT Martin Extended Campus to offer Aquafit classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer an Aquafit class from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, from Jan. 12 to Feb. 25 and from March 9 to April 22, on the UT Martin campus.

Each class is offered to students of all swimming levels, according to a news release. Aquafit is a low-impact fitness class to help build muscle, increase cardio fitness and improve flexibility.

Each session costs $35. For more information about Aquafit or to register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

Leslie Resident Named to Honor Roll at University of Tennessee

http://www.emissourian.com

Sheena B. Carroll, Leslie, has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin with High Honors.

To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll 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 Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.78) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Students gain legislative experience at TISL

Lane College and UT Martin sent several delegates to Nashville

The Jackson Sun

More than 40 colleges and universities, including Lane College and the University of Tennessee at Martin, sent students to the 45th General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Nov. 13-16, 2014, in Nashville.

TISL is an annual event that gives college students real-world experience with the workings of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Among the UT Martin delegation’s accomplishments were earning TISL’s Carlisle Award for the second time and having three of nine delegates elected to the TISL executive council, according to a news release.

The proceedings include debates and lobbying for bills among delegates. Bills that pass at TISL move to the actual Tennessee General Assembly for consideration, the release said. Laws about meningitis vaccinations and seat belts originated from TISL student bills. The experience also includes an appellate moot court that benefits students considering law school.

Lane College

Five Lane College students — Laquesha Johnson-Bridges, Brian Simmons, Barry Saxton, Stephanie Phillips and Kandace Walker — participated as lobbyists, senators, Supreme Court clerks and media representatives.

“Serving as clerk, I’ve become more knowledgeable about Supreme Court rules and regulations,” Johnson-Bridges said.

See TISL, Page B2
Continued from Page 81

said in a news release. Her duties included time management, keeping court order and handling court documents. After her experience, she has decided to attend TISL again next year as a state representative.

Simmons, a first-time TISL participant, raved about his experience serving as a senator. While some may find the nonstop committee meetings and constant legislative sessions to be overwhelming, he kept his composure. As president of the business fraternity Phi Beta Lambda, he plans to share his newfound knowledge with his fellow members.

Saxton, a reporter, had two articles published in the TISL Times, exceeding his goal for this year's assembly, the release said. His stories consisted of detailed coverage about the AMC3 trial competitions.

Having attended TISL in the past, Phillips was prepared for this year's assembly. As a lobbyist, she offered language to be included in proposed and pending bills, and courted legislators to intercede for her clients. Phillips and her firm were successful in their agenda by getting a bill passed that would transfer decisive power back to state school boards rather than federal school boards, the release said. She plans to return next year and would like to become an official TISL adviser.

Walker, another reporter, conducted her first live interview with Sen. Joseph Hicks. By serving as a member of the TISL media team, she gained hands-on experience working on and off camera.

Saxton and Walker will graduate in the spring, but Johnson-Bridges, Simmons and Phillips plan to return to TISL in the fall. The 46th General Assembly of TISL will be held Nov. 12-15, 2015.
TISL, so we really have to search out (participants)," Domanski said.  
Good candidates for TISL include students who are good speakers and are interested in politics or media. Current members conduct interviews with potential members. Membership records over the years are not exact, but recruiting appears effective because this year's 24-student delegation is possibly the largest ever from UT Martin, the release said.

Rikki Erwin, a freshman communications major from Brighton, brought home UT Martin's second-ever Carlisle Award, which recognizes effectiveness in a delegate's legislative chamber. Delegates who earn the award were effective speakers, successful in securing votes on legislation from other delegates, and placed motions strategically to either kill bills or bring them forward.

Domanski was named an outstanding senator, and the moot court team went to the semifinals for the first time in university history.

"On top of everything else, we had three of the nine executive council officers for the state come straight from UT Martin, which is something that hasn't been done in over a decade," he said.

Domanski sees many benefits of TISL membership, whether delegates are elected to office or simply participate in the proceedings.

"I think the best part about this experience is it's something that I want to do in my future," he said. "My final goal in my life is to become a U.S. senator, and even though this is on the state level, you really get a good understanding of how our Tennessee legislature works, and I think it's great to be able to get to meet people like (Tennessee) Secretary of State Tre Hargett."

The networking opportunities at TISL are invaluable, he added, and include "meeting people who are out there in the real world looking for internships and jobs on an everyday basis, which is a great opportunity for anyone at college."

The UT Martin delegation is already planning for 2015. Domanski will return as a delegate for his senior year, and TISL will continue to receive guidance from Dr. Chris Baxter, longtime TISL faculty adviser.
WestStar leadership program opens 26th session at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will welcome its 26th class Thursday on the UT Martin main campus with a two-day session focusing on agriculture and transportation in Obion andWeakley counties.

WestStar, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 710 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants.

Class members attend eight specially-designed two-day seminar programs from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee. Seminars are designed to address contemporary issues facing the region.

This year, Brownsville and Covington (Haywood and Tipton counties) will host a session on the fundamentals of economic development Jan. 29-30; Jackson (Madison County) will focus on health, welfare and social consequences Feb. 12-13; and Nashville will introduce participants to public policy issues with a visit to the Tennessee General Assembly on March 10-11.

Later in the spring, Ripley and Dyersburg (Lauderdale and Dyer counties) will emphasize the importance of education April 9-10; Gibson and Crockett counties will focus on energy, environment and technology April 23-24; and Paris (Henry County) will host a session on how to build partnerships to improve regional tourism May 21-22.

The final session will visit McNairy and Hardin counties to emphasize turning community strengths into assets for regional growth June 4-5. The course ends with a graduation event June 18 in Jackson.

WestStar not only conducts each WestStar class, but also offers annual leadership-development opportunities to the public. Among these are the African American Leadership Conference, the Working Women’s Conference and the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, in addition to assisting with youth leadership development. The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth years, provide leadership education experiences at UT Martin’s main campus.

For more information, contact the WestStar office at (731) 881-7298.

http://thesheridanpress.com/

Student News: UT Martin Names Local Student To Honor Roll

Staff Reports
Date Posted: January 6, 2015

SHERIDAN — The achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee-Martin have been recognized through the recent publication of the fall 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

Sheridan student Isaac W. Carrei was named to the roll with high honors.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, 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 also make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Several local students have been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll for the fall semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Those designated as having highest honors must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.8-4.0.

Students with high honors must take at least 12 credit hours of classes and earn a GPA of 3.5-3.79.

Students earning the honors designation must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.2-3.49.

Students earning the designation of highest honors include: Joshua Cambridge, Kayla Hargrove, Cody Marshall, Miranda Miller, Christopher Owen, Miranda Paschall, and Samuel Sulcer, all of Paris; Julian Shomette of Cottage Grove; Zachary Bell and Zachariah Carper, both of Henry; Buck Gore of Puryear; and Kenneth Frizzell of Springville.

Students earning the designation of high honors include: Justin Lagace, Michelle Lambert, Samantha Marshall, Brandi McDonald, Madison Moody, Amy Neumair, Jarred Presson, Dylan Roberts, Emilee Roberts and Brooklyn Spence all of Paris; Rachel Martin, Mansfield; Danielle Mason, McKenzie; and Blair Barber, Hannah Robin and Rachel Robison, all of Springville.

Students earning the designation of honors include: Mary Bell, Thomas Boman, Alyssa Guarino, Nathan Hart, Houston Howard, Caleh Knott, Madi Piggott, Morgan Todd and Stephanie Wray, all of Paris.

Clinton Phifer of Big Sandy; Kaitlin Byrd and Kaitlin Morgan, both of Buchanan; Drew Brown and Katelin Brown, both of Cottage Grove; Audrey Tazob, Henry; James Wilson of Puryear; and Morgan Swor of Springville.

Hunt, Sawyers named to UT Martin honor roll

http://ccheadliner.com

Ozark's Logan H. Hunt received highest honors and Brianna L. Sawyers received honors in the UT Martin chancellor's honor roll.

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

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2014 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll 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 chancellor’s honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.76) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Combined pageants scheduled for Jan. 31

Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will be crowned

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant at 7 p.m. on Jan. 31 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin main campus.

Young women between the ages of 17-24 who are U.S. citizens are encouraged to compete for scholarships and a chance to participate in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June. The winner of Miss Tennessee will advance to compete in the Miss America pageant later in the year.

Those competing for the title of Miss UT Martin must be current students at the university. Those seeking to become Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival must be residents of West Tennessee or be enrolled as a student in West Tennessee, but do not need to be UT Martin students. Contestants cannot be currently married, previously married or have children.

All contestants will participate in four categories: presentation and community achievement (interview), artistic expression (talent), presence and poise (evening gown), and lifestyle and fitness (swimsuit).

Scholarships are available for the winners and runners-up. The winner of the Miss UT Martin title will receive a $1,500 scholarship; the first runner-up will receive $500 and the second will receive $200. The winner of the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title will receive a $1,500 scholarship if she is a UT Martin student and a $500 scholarship if she is not.

New this year, the university will host a pageant boot camp at 9 a.m. on Jan. 10 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

“We wanted to host (the boot camp) to assist young women who have either never been in a pageant before or who haven’t competed in a long time and would like to brush up on their skills,” said Katie Smith, UT Martin student organizations coordinator. “We’ll specifically be working on walking and interview. We wanted our contestants to have a chance to work on these skills and practice before they have to appear before an audience.”

Those wishing to participate in the boot camp should RSVP to Katie Smith at ksmith209@utm.edu by Jan. 8. The application deadline for the pageant itself is Jan. 18.

For more information, contact Hollie Holt, the pageant’s executive director, at hholt@utm.edu, or follow the pageant on Facebook at www.facebook.com/missutm.
PORTFOLIO AWARD — David Weatherly, who graduated Dec. 13 from the University of Tennessee at Martin, was voted by his classmates to receive the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Award for fall semester. The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and William Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication managing the UT Martin TVA stock portfolio in conjunction with the TVA Investment Challenge. Sandra Murray, associate professor of education, is pictured with Weatherly following the presentation Dec. 3. TVA’s Investment Challenge is a partnership between TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management by allowing students to manage actual stock portfolios. Weatherly earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a major in finance. The lifelong Hickman, Ky., resident plans to work full time in the financial services industry while pursuing an MBA degree at UT Martin. Weatherly is president of the Fulton County Board of Levee Commissioners and Weatherly Farms Inc. He is serving his second term as mayor pro tem for the city of Hickman.
Stephen McBride, a junior agriculture business major from Beechgrove, was elected to serve as the southern region vice president for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization earlier this fall.

Delegates at the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Ky., elected McBride to represent the southern region of the country after he completed an eight-part interview process. The FFA executive team consists of six members selected from chapters across the United States.

According to the FFA, national officers commit to a year of service and travel more than 100,000 national and international miles to lead training conferences, form policies and interact with industry leaders, FFA members, state leaders and the public to promote agricultural education.

“This has been a dream of mine for many years, ever since I saw my first FFA executive team. It’s something I’ve always hoped I could do and I am honored to have this opportunity now,” McBride said.

McBride will take a leave of absence from UT Martin and spend this next year visiting local and state chapters across the country, spending about 300 nights away from home. He will also spend two weeks in Japan learning about that country’s agricultural education programs.

McBride continues a long family tradition of FFA leadership. His father, Mark, served as Tennessee Association state president in 1980-81 and his brother, Matthew, held the same position in 2006-07. Both are also UT Martin graduates.

There have been 13 national FFA officers from Tennessee, but McBride is the first from UT Martin.

“UT Martin is a great place for agricultural students to get plugged into whatever degree they want to be involved in and to get involved in collegiate FFA,” McBride said. The UT Martin chapter has seen many honors in the past few years as well. “(Success) just happens with having great people and great students that really are happy to be here and are happy to compete and represent their university,” McBride explained.

James Butler, a UT Martin agricultural education professor, was also honored by the organization earlier this past year. Butler was named a National VIP, the highest honor awarded by the organization, for his contributions to the FFA.

The National FFA Organization’s mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing leadership potential, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It currently provides these services to 610,240 student members from 7,665 local chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
MARTIN — Nathan Powers' journey through college ended Dec. 13 when he received a bachelor's degree in information systems during fall commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, his contributions to the university as a student worker will long be remembered and appreciated.

Powers, 26, filled a part-time student worker position in which he regularly inspected about 1,000 fire extinguishers and automated external defibrillators — a job that kept him on the move during his final two years in college and put his classroom knowledge to practical use. His hard work and ingenuity earned him the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award for fall semester.

The award, presented in November, included a plaque and $1,000 recognizing outstanding student worker performance. The award is named after the late Beth Maloan, director of budgeting and payroll at the time of her death in 2001 and a proponent of experience-based work opportunities for students.

"I was very honored (to receive the award)," Powers said. "It's very prestigious in my mind because I've always been taught to do the best job you can, no matter what you're doing."

Powers, who is from Possum Trot near Humboldt, attended Gibson County High School and played saxophone in the band. His parents, Clayton and Paula, taught him the importance of helping people and stirred his interest in emergency management. Paula is currently training and operations officer for the Gibson County Emergency Management Agency, where her volunteer work turned into a full-time position.

Powers' own volunteer experience with the county's EMA began at age 8.

"During natural disasters, I would help with storm spotting," Powers said. "I went to all those classes and learned how to do that."

He also earned his amateur radio license and voiced a nightly weather report from his home-based weather station.

"It was kind of funny hearing this little 8-year-old kid come over the radio to some of the guys," he recalled.

Powers' early experience prepared him for one of the region's most tragic weather events. In spring 2006, he decided to skip his senior marching band trip to Hawaii, so he was home when the April 2 tornado outbreak occurred in West Tennessee. Bradford and the surrounding area in Gibson County were among the hardest hit.

"As soon as it was clear
enough for us to get our equipment moving, we were there on the scene and just doing everything we could to help people," he said.

A few months later, Powers enrolled at UT Martin as an engineering student, but his career goals lacked direction — leading to a change in 2010 influenced by his emergency management background.

"I like building things, and the (engineering) theory just wasn’t as interesting to me as I thought it was going to be," he said. "So I left the university and went to work at Weakley County Emergency Management and Emergency 911 Center, and there I helped to upgrade their entire 911 system to get it next-gen 911 ready."

This part-time work opportunity led Powers to focus more clearly on his interests, and he returned to the university in fall 2012 to study information systems. Along with a fresh start in college came another work opportunity with the university's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Among his safety-related duties: A monthly inspection of more than 900 portable fire extinguishers and some 50 AEDs to ensure them to be in proper working order.

"I was basically given a list of all the equipment and where it was located, a set of keys and basic instructions on my responsibilities as far as what I was supposed to check," he explained.

"And I had to take care of managing my time all on my own and just make sure that everything was checked out each month per National Fire Protection Association specifications."

Not only did Powers accomplish these primary duties, but with programming assistance from Steve Lemond in the Office of Information Technology Services, he also helped to implement a tracking system for the monthly inspections. He considers this his biggest accomplishment, which was made possible by applying what he learned in an information systems course project.

"Before we were doing this all with pen and paper on a clipboard, and we moved this to the digital age using an iPad, bar codes and a database system set up over in the IT department," he said.

"... It cuts out a lot of the paperwork we had to do after we did our monthly checks."

Powers' supervisors were impressed with his achievements and said so when completing the Beth Maloan Award nomination form.

"Nathan Powers' abilities, initiatives, enthusiasm and support for our entire campus program allow him to stand out among his peers," wrote Doug Sliger, the university's emergency management coordinator and safety specialist. "Mr. Powers will continue to be a positive reflection on the University of Tennessee at Martin long after his graduation."

Nathan's wife, Emily, who is originally from Trenton, said that her husband "relished the challenge of making the system easier for whoever comes after him."

"He is just a hard worker in everything he does," she said. "He has a passion for making everything better and doing his best."

Next up for the couple is a move on faith to Nashville, where both will test the employment market. Emily, who completed a master's degree in family and consumer sciences from the university in 2013, will use her education and experience to work with children.

"Her passion is children and teaching children," Nathan said. He will seek a position "where my skills will allow me to continue to serve my community."

Lessons learned as a child still matter to Nathan Powers. He has never outgrown his desire to help others, and he knows that good things happen when you do your best.
UTM ranked among best in military education guide

Military Advanced Education has selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as a Top School in its “2015 MAE Guide to Colleges and Universities.”

The guide, now in its eighth year of publication, measures best practices in military and veteran education at more than 600 institutions nationwide.

The guide presents the results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies in place at private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year and two-year colleges of all types. This year, institutions were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services available to military personnel.

“We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers when advising service members about their educational opportunities,” said Kely Fodel, MAE’s editor. “We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year.”

The guide was published in the December issue of MAE and is also available online in a searchable database format.

“We want (service members) to make informed choices, so we are giving them access to all the survey questions and answers provided by the schools, as well as explanations about critical issues like activation and deployment policies, withdrawal policies, scholarship and financial aid information and important support information,” Fodel said.

Military Advanced Education serves education services officers and transition officers at every U.S. military installation, along with the service members they counsel.

Published 10 times each year, MAE’s editorial coverage includes exclusive interviews with military executive leadership, educators and members of Congress.

Article topics include best practices; career and transition spots; service member, school and program profiles; and periodic special reports.

KMI Media Group Inc. is the leading independent publisher of targeted information about military requirements, technologies and operations.

Serving as a unique forum for senior military and Department of Defense leadership, KMI focuses on distinct and essential communities within the defense market.

For more information or to view the online guide, visit www.mae-kmi.com.

Pageants, boot camp set at UTM

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For more information, contact Hollie Holt, the pageant’s executive director, at hholt@utm.edu or follow the pageant on Facebook at www.facebook.com/misstutm.
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**Bath Springs**

**Decaturville**

**Holladay**
- Highest Honors: Jessica M. King;

**Martin**
- Highest Honors: Kelsey B. McClure; Honors: Stacy T. Ray;

**Parsons**

**Scotts Hill**
- Highest Honors: Samantha B. Galbraith

**Sugar Tree**
- Highest Honors: Brandon M. Conrad, Nicolette J. Coto; Honors: Mark D. Hawkins

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

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll 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 chancellor’s honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Local students making the honor roll are: Humboldt - Bailey N. Alexander, honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, highest honors; Austin S. Koffman, honors; Isabella G. Linney, honors; Joshua M. Matthies, high honors; Kali R. McNeal, highest honors; Jonathan A. Rice, highest honors; Dustin C. Thacker, honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, honors; Joshua M. Young, high honors; Three Way - Lucas J. Mercker, highest honors; Medina - Anthony C. Brown, highest honors; Dylan Brown, honors; Bradley K. Duncan, honors; Heather L. Morris, high honors; Drake C. Owens, honors; Marshall W. Pearson, honors; Emily M. Poole, highest honors; Katy Reynolds, highest honors; Haley J. Rigsbee, honors; Caleb L. Ruyle, honors; Anna B. Santaniallo, highest honors; Kathryn L. Woods, high honors; Carl C. Yarbro, honors; Gibson - Cody C. Black, high honors; Hannah R. Houck, highest honors.

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UTM announces Fall 2014 Chancellor’s honorees

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Those listed included Terrence L. Bishop, Fulton, Honors; Aaron R. Burks, Fulton, High Honors; Casey D. Dowty, Fulton, Highest Honors; Ian D. Jameson, Fulton, High Honors; Jackson H. Jones, Fulton, High Honors; David A. Weatherly, Hickman, Highest Honors; Lacardia D. Walker, Martin, Tenn., Highest Honors; Morgan A. Wade, Water Valley, Honors; and Emily L. Mulcahy, Water Valley, Highest Honors.

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County graduate honored for campus safety work

Nathan Powers’ journey through college ended December 13 when he received a bachelor’s degree in information systems during fall commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, his contributions to the university as a student worker will long be remembered and appreciated.

Powers, 26, filled a part-time student worker position in which he regularly inspected about 1,000 fire extinguishers and automated external defibrillators—a job that kept him on the move during his final two years in college and put his classroom knowledge to practical use. His hard work and ingenuity earned him the Beth Malano Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award for fall semester.

The award, presented in November, included a plaque and $1,000 recognizing outstanding student worker performance. The award is named after the late Beth Malano, director of budgeting and payroll at the time of her death in 2001 and a proponent of experience-based work opportunities for students.

During natural disasters I would help with storm spotting,” Powers said. “I went to all those classes and learned how to do that.” He also earned his amateur radio license and voiced a nightly weather report from his home-based weather station. “It was kind of funny hearing his little eight-year-old kid come over the radio to some of the guys,” he recalled.

Powers’ early experience prepared him for one of the region’s most tragic weather events. In spring 2006, he decided to skip his senior marching band trip to Hawaii, so he was home when he April 2 tornado outbreak occurred in West Tennessee. Bradford and the surrounding area in Gibson County were among the hardest hit. “As soon as it was clear enough or us to get our equipment moving, we were there on the scene and just doing everything we could to help people,” he said.

A few months later, Powers enrolled at UT Martin as an engineering student, but his career goals lacked direction-leading to a change in 2010 influenced by his emergency management background. “I like building things, and the (engineering) theory just wasn’t as interesting to me as I thought it was going to be,” he said. “So, I left the university and went to work at Weakley County Emergency Management and Emergency 911 Center, and there I helped to upgrade their entire 911 system to get it next-gen 911 ready.”

This part-time work opportunity led Powers to focus more clearly on his interests, and he returned to the university in fall 2012 to study information systems. Along with a fresh start in college came another work opportunity with the university’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Among his safety-related duties: a monthly inspection of more than 900 portable fire extinguishers and some 50 AEDs to ensure them to be in proper working order.

“I was basically given a list of all the equipment and where it was located, a set of keys and basic instructions on my responsibilities as far as what I was supposed to check,” he explained. “And I had to take care of managing my time all on my own and just make sure that everything was checked out each month per National Fire Protection Association specifications.”

Not only did Powers accomplish these primary duties, but with programming assistance from Steve Lendon in the Office of Information Technology Services, he also helped to implement a tracking system for the monthly inspections. He considers this his biggest accomplishment, which was made possible by applying what he learned in an information systems course project.

“Before we were doing this all with pen and paper on a clipboard, and we moved this to the digital age using an iPad, bar codes and a database system set up over in the IT department,” he said. “It cuts out a lot of the paperwork we had to do after we did our monthly checks.”

Powers’ supervisors were impressed with his achievements and said so when completing the Beth Malano Award nomination form. “Nathan Powers’ abilities, initiative, enthusiasm and support for our entire campus program allow him to stand out among his peers,” wrote Doug Sliger, the university’s emergency management coordinator and safety specialist.

“Mr. Powers will continue to be a positive reflection on the University of Tennessee at Martin long after his graduation.”

Nathan’s wife, Emily, originally from Trenton, said that her husband “relished the challenge of making the system easier for whoever comes after him.”

“He is just a hard worker in everything he does,” she said. “He has a passion for making everything better and doing his best.”

Next up for the couple is a move on faith to Nashville, where both will test the employment market. Emily, who completed a master’s degree in family and consumer sciences from the university in 2013, will use her education and experience to work with children. “Her passion is children and teaching children,” Nathan said. He will seek a position where my skills will allow me to continue to serve my community.”

Lessons learned as a child still matter to Nathan Powers. He has never outgrown his desire to help others, and he knows that good things happen when you do your best.
UT Martin to host Miss UT Martin/Miss TN Soybean Festival Pageants

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant at 7 p.m., Jan. 31, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin main campus.

Young women between the ages of 17-24 who are U.S. citizens are encouraged to compete for scholarships and a chance to participate in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June. The winner of Miss Tennessee will advance to compete in the Miss America pageant later in the year.

Those competing for the title of Miss UT Martin must be current students at the university. Those seeking to become Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival must be residents of West Tennessee or be enrolled as a student in West Tennessee, but do not need to be UT Martin students. Contestants cannot be currently married, previously married or have children.

All contestants will participate in four categories: presentation and community achievement (interview), artistic expression (talent), presence and poise (evening gown), and lifestyle and fitness (swimsuit).

Scholarships are available for the winners and runners-up. The winner of the Miss UT Martin title will receive a $1,500 scholarship; the first runner-up will receive $500 and the second will receive $200. The winner of the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title will receive a $1,500 scholarship if she is a UT Martin student and a $500 scholarship if she is not.

New this year, the university will host a pageant boot camp at 9 a.m. Jan. 10, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

"We wanted to host (the boot camp) to assist young women who have either never been in a pageant before or who haven't competed in a long time and would like to brush up on their skills," said Katie Smith, UT Martin student organizations coordinator. "We'll specifically be working on walking and interview. We wanted our contestants to have a chance to work on these skills and practice before they have to appear before an audience."

Those wishing to participate in the boot camp should RSVP to Katie Smith at ksmit209@utm.edu by Jan. 8. The application deadline for the pageant itself is Jan. 18.

For more information, contact Hollie Holt, the pageant's executive director, at hholt@utm.edu, or follow the pageant on Facebook at www.facebook.com/missutm.
DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • JANUARY 7, 2015

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Dresden

Dukedom
Lisa M. Huestis

Gleason

Greenfield

Martin

McKenzie

Palmersville
Thomas G. Bell, and Christopher M. Davis.

Paris
Lora F. Phillips, and Lawrence E. Sims.

Sharon

South Fulton
Ryan C. Roark

Sugar Tree
Aaron M. White

Tiptonville
Stephen T. Mills.

Union City
Larbeth A. Bondurant

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WestStar Program Opens 26th Session

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will welcome its 26th class Jan. 8 on the UT Martin main campus with a two-day session focusing on agriculture and transportation in Obion and Weakley Counties.

WestStar, created in 1989, is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 710 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. Class members attend eight specially-designed two-day seminar programs from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee. Seminars are designed to address contemporary issues facing the region.

This year Brownsville and Covington (Haywood and Tipton counties) will host a session on the fundamentals of economic development Jan. 29-30; Jackson (Madison County) will focus on health, welfare and social consequences Feb. 12-13; and Nashville will introduce participants to public policy issues with a visit to the Tennessee General Assembly on March 10-11.

Later in the spring, Ripley and Dyersburg (Lauderdale and Dyer counties) will emphasize the importance of education April 9-10; Gibson and Crockett counties will focus on energy, environment and technology April 23-24; and Paris (Henry County) will host a session on how to build partnerships to improve regional tourism May 21-22. The final session will visit McNairy and Hardin counties to emphasize turning community strengths into assets for regional growth June 4-5. The course ends with a graduation event June 18 in Jackson.

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The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth years, provide leadership-education experiences at UT Martin’s main campus.

For more information, contact the WestStar office at 731-881-7298.

UT Martin is selected as Top School

“Military Advanced Education” has selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as a Top School in its “2015 MAE Guide to Colleges and Universities.” The guide, now in its eighth year of publication, measures best practices in military and veteran education at more than 600 institutions nationwide.

The guide presents the results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies in place at private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year and two-year colleges of all types. This year institutions were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services available to military personnel.

“We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers when advising service members about their educational opportunities,” said Kely Fodel, MAE’s editor. “We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year.”

The guide was published in the December issue of MAE, and is also available online in a searchable database format. “We want [service members] to make informed choices, so we are giving them access to all the survey questions and answers provided by the schools, as well as explanations about critical issues like activation and deployment policies, withdrawal policies, scholarship and financial aid information and important support information,” Fodel said.
Orren Ogg (center), receives a certificate from Don Doran recognizing Ogg's 2014-15 Tennessee Council of Cooperatives Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and an ex officio TCC board member, is also pictured.

Ogg Receives TN Council Scholarship

Orren Ogg, a UT Martin agriculture student from Martin, receives a certificate from Don Doran recognizing Ogg's 2014-15 Tennessee Council of Cooperatives Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. Doran represents the Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative on the TCC board. Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and an ex officio TCC board member, is also pictured. Recipients must be a junior agriculture major with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Jesi Ogg, Orren's sister and a December agriculture graduate, received last year's scholarship award. According to its website, the TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives.
Locals receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Kaitlin Christine Bray, Charley Elizabeth Lightfoot of Big Sandy; Jessica Leigh Banister, William Thomas Burrus, Todd Blake Collins, Ryan Travis Davis, Bridget Renee Duggan, Lela Fay Hill and Bethany Renee Wilson of Camden; Katelyn Mackenzie Arnold and Christopher Ryne Bivens of Holladay.

WestStar Classes To Begin Thursday

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Brownsville and Covington, January 29th-30th, will host a session on the fundamentals of economic development; Jackson, February 12th-13th, will focus on health, welfare and social consequences; and Nashville, March 10th-11th, will introduce participants to public policy issues with a visit to the Tennessee General Assembly; Ripley and Dyersburg, April 9th-10th, will emphasize the importance of education; Gibson and Crockett counties, April 23d-24th, will focus on energy, environment and technology; and Paris, May 21st-22nd, will host a session on how to build partnerships to improve regional tourism; and the final session will visit McNairy and Hardin counties, June 4th-5th, to emphasize turning community strengths into assets for regional growth. The course ends with a graduation event June 18th in Jackson.

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HELPING HANDS — Members of UT Martin’s Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, were among the many volunteers who helped pack food Tuesday for the Weakley County Backpack program. Charmelle, Ciara, Angelica, Adrian, Jada and Ciara gave freely of their time to the backpack program, which uses 100 percent of its donations to purchase and pack food for the county’s school-aged students.

SCHOLARSHIP — Orren Ogg (center), a UT Martin agriculture student from Martin, receives a certificate from Don Doran recognizing Ogg’s 2014-15 Tennessee Council of Cooperatives Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. Doran represents the Tennessee Electric Cooperative on the TCC board. Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and an ex officio TCC board member, is also pictured. Recipients must be a junior agriculture major with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Jesi Ogg, Orren’s sister and a December agriculture graduate, received last year’s scholarship award. According to its website, the TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives. The council sponsors six college scholarships for agricultural students from each of Tennessee’s four-year agriculture programs. The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives. Several scholarship recipients from the past currently serve in one of Tennessee’s cooperatives or in one of the state’s agriculture-related agencies that work with, support and help build cooperative businesses.

'Military Advanced Education' taps UT Martin as a top school

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"Military Advanced Education" serves education services officers and transition officers at every U.S. military installation, along with the service members they counsel. Published 10 times each year, MAE’s editorial coverage includes exclusive interviews with military executive leadership, educators and members of Congress. Article topics include best practices; career and transition spotlights; service member, school and program profiles; and periodic special reports. KMI Media Group, Inc., is the leading independent publisher of targeted information about military requirements, technologies and operations. Serving as a unique forum for senior military and Department of Defense leadership, KMI focuses on distinct and essential communities within the defense market.

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http://www.independentnews.com/

Education Achievements

posted Thursday, January 8, 2015 12:00 am

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**Adamsville**
- Brandy N. Willingham, Adamsville, High Honors
- Esthelee M. Wright, Adamsville, Honors

**Bethel Springs**
- Elizabeth P. Becne, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
- Karrie A. Duncan, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
- Bryanna M. Huggins, Bethel Springs, High Honors
- Clayton D. Isbell, Bethel Springs, High Honors
- Ashley C. Jolly, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Robin Chelsea M. Kiestler, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
- Christopher A. Lambert, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Julie D. Lawson, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Courtney B. Lobb, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Jennifer S. Naillon, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Cassandra N. Rogers, Bethel Springs, High Honors
- Clairessa M. Taylor, Bethel Springs, Honors
- Darryl W. Weatherford, Bethel Springs, Honors

**Michie**
- Shelbie L. Fowler, Michie, Honors
- Jacob C. Littlejohn, Michie, Highest Honors

**Pocahontas**
- Danielle R. Fuller, Pocahontas, Honors

**Ramer**
- Emily L. Haendel, Ramer, Highest Honors
- Ashley A. Hollingsworth, Ramer, Highest Honors
- Allie E. Rhodes, Ramer, Honors
- Dylan C. Richard, Ramer, Honors
- Audrey D. Roy, Ramer, Honors
- Mallory L. Stutts, Ramer, High Honors
- Hannah L. Wagoner, Ramer, High Honors

**Selmer**
- Zachary P. Blakely, Selmer, High Honors
- Darby C. Boyd, Selmer, Highest Honors
- Brady H. Dancer, Selmer, Honors
- Callie A. Forman, Selmer, High Honors
- Hannah D. Godfrey, Highest Honors
- Brooklyn P. Holland, Selmer, Highest Honors
- Elizabeth B. Holland, Selmer, Highest Honors
- Kelsey L. Hutson, Selmer, Honors
- Meredith N. Jaggars, Selmer, Honors
- Julie A. Johnson, Selmer, Honors
- Morgan E. Kinchen, Selmer, Honors
- Jennifer L. King, Selmer, Highest Honors
- Joseph R. Landreth, Selmer, High Honors
- Jami L. Miller, Selmer, Highest Honors
- Amber S. Nixon, Selmer, High Honors
- Charles M. Rankin, Selmer, High Honors
- Lauren E. Reed, Selmer, High Honors

**Stantonville**
- Anna M. Cooper, Stantonville, Honors
- Isaiah R. Killingsworth, Stantonville, Highest Honors
- Isaac Lynn, Stantonville, High Honors
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- Steven B. White, Stantonville, Honors

See UT MARTIN, Pg. 10
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UT MARTIN TO HOST ANNUAL COMBINED MISS UT MARTIN/MISS TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL PAGEANT JAN. 31; BOOT CAMP JAN. 10

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FALL SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

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Twania Walker, Alamo, TN 38001-0092, Highest Honors
Kaley J. Blankenship, Beech Bluff, TN 38313-9300, Highest Honors
Kristen N. Welch, Beech Bluff, TN 38313-9163, High Honors
Madison L. Lewis, Denmark, TN 38391-1895, Honors
Charleesskii T. Transou, Denmark, TN 38391-1822, Honors
Bree A. Buckholtz, Humboldt, TN 38343-8512, Highest Honors
Mari P. Buss, Humboldt, TN 38343-8104, Honors
Kaela P. Grooms, Humboldt, TN 38343-8511, High Honors
Victoria S. Perry, Humboldt, TN 38343-8576, High Honors
Amro D. Abu Jaber, Jackson, TN 38305-6916, Honors
Audrey L. Akin, Jackson, TN 38305-1713, High Honors
Ashley L. Beard, Jackson, TN 38301-3526, Honors
Julian G. Beard, Jackson, TN 38305-2313, Honors
Michael S. Birmingham, Jackson, TN 38305-7863, High Honors
Doris K. Bobbitt, Jackson, TN 38305-4372, High Honors
Gabrielle R. Bouie, Jackson, TN 38305-8751, Honors
Kaitlyn C. Bryant, Jackson, TN 38301-3326, Highest Honors
Rachel C. Bunce, Jackson, TN 38305-9175, High Honors
Janisha S. Buntyn, Jackson, TN 38305-2069, Honors
Christopher D. Carmichael, Jackson, TN 38305-3809, High Honors
Michelle Q. Chen, Jackson, TN 38305-8611, High Honors
Benjamin I. Davenport, Jackson, TN 38305-9651, Highest Honors
Luke W. Davenport, Jackson, TN 38305-9651, Highest Honors
Heather N. Davis, Jackson, TN 38301-4606, High Honors
Kelli M. Dear, Jackson, TN 38305-6628, Highest Honors
Morgan R. Diamond, Jackson, TN 38305-7320, High Honors
William T. Diamond, Jackson, TN 38305-7320, High Honors
James L. Dollahite, Jackson, TN 38305-2327, High Honors
William R. Dunnavant, Jackson, TN 38305-1715, High Honors
John R. Englert, Jackson, TN 38301-5627, High Honors
Travis W. Estes, Jackson, TN 38305-3304, Honors
Ciera E. Fielding, Jackson, TN 38301-1931, High Honors
Emily E. Gilbertson, Jackson, TN 38305-6217, High Honors
Hannah N. Golden, Jackson, TN 38305-8826, High Honors
Katlyn M. Griffis, Jackson, TN 38301-7466, High Honors
Carly P. Hill, Jackson, TN 38305-0319, Highest Honors
Lauren H. Hinton, Jackson, TN 38305-6650, Honors
Breanna J. Holt, Jackson, TN 38305-2313, High Honors
Kendall K. Jackson, Jackson, TN 38305-6464, High Honors
Lina A. Khalafalla, Jackson, TN 38305-5913, Highest Honors
Rebecka S. Killough, Jackson, TN 38305-9261, High Honors
Victória I. Lansdale, Jackson, TN 38305-5919, Highest Honors
Margaret W. Lawrence, Jackson, TN 38305-1912, High Honors
Katelyn E. Long, Jackson, TN 38301-1969, Highest Honors
Taylor J. Mansfield, Jackson, TN 38305-9380, High Honors
Gary Martinez, Jackson, TN 38305-3649, Honors
Melissa M. Massey-Galmsley, Jackson, TN 38305-8551, Honors
Rachel N. McBroom, Jackson, TN 38305-3828, Highest Honors
Jacob L. Miller, Jackson, TN 38305-1501, High Honors
Alexander L. Molbert, Jackson, TN 38305-9571, Honors
Lauren A. Moore, Jackson, TN 38305-8751, High Honors
Tarason L. Moore, Jackson, TN 38305-5635, Highest Honors
Erika G. Murillo, Jackson, TN 38305-7231, High Honors
Kasumi Nakajima, Jackson, TN 38305-1587, Highest Honors
Courtney G. Pearson, Jackson, TN 38305-8035, High Honors
Matthew R. Poborsky, Jackson, TN 38305-2104, High Honors
Sharon Rayder, Jackson, TN 38305-9235, Honors
Amber E. Rea, Jackson, TN 38305-1936, Honors
Jacob L. Reeves, Jackson, TN 38305-1738, Highest Honors
Andrea M. Richardson, Jackson, TN 38301-7870, High Honors
Alana B. Riley, Jackson, TN 38305-9257, Highest Honors
Megan R. Riley, Jackson, TN 38301-7809, Highest Honors
Katherine I. Rodriguez, Jackson, TN 38305-3424, Honors
Anna E. Ross, Jackson, TN 38305-6699, Honors
Mareb H. Saleh, Jackson, TN 38301-7641, Highest Honors
Cassie J. Sheets, Jackson, TN 38301-3443, Honors
Justin Short, Jackson, TN 38305-6607, Honors
Daniel A. Springer, Jackson, TN 38301-7431, High Honors
Darius T. Taylor, Jackson, TN 38305-1816, High Honors
Lauren E. Thomas, Jackson, TN 38301-2401, Highest Honors
Caleb S. Tubbs, Jackson, TN 38305-1676, Honors
Alexandria M. Warmath, Jackson, TN 38305-1545, High Honors
Aeriel Watkins, Jackson, TN 38305-9550, Honors
May B. Wheeler, Jackson, TN 38305-9427, Highest Honors
Kathelene M. White, Jackson, TN 38305-8832, High Honors
Krista B. Wood, Jackson, TN 38301-9090, Highest Honors
Elizabeth A. Wright, Jackson, TN 38305-7557, Honors
Hannah E. Beckerink, Medina, TN 38355-6870, Highest Honors
Hunter E. Harris, Medina, TN 38355-8649, High Honors
Logan J. Helton, Medina, TN 38355-8764, Highest Honors
Tiffany A. Hammers, Medon, TN 38356-9137, High Honors
Phillip T. Lindsey, Medon, TN 38356-8934, High Honors
Kaleb J. Richardson, Medon, TN 38356-8130, High Honors
Colten H. Taylor, Medon, TN 38356-8101, Highest Honors
Abby L. Williams, Medon, TN 38356-9188, Highest Honors
Emily M. Elston, Mercer, TN 38392-7520, Honors
Megan A. Elston, Mercer, TN 38392-0074, High Honors
Hunter K. Jordan, Mercer, TN 38392-7212, High Honors
Austin T. Robinson, Mercer, TN 38392-7708, Honors
Michael W. Hutcherson, Oakfield, TN 38362-9712, Highest Honors
Zachary R. McMackins, Oakfield, TN 38362-9773, High Honors

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

A local student was left off information sent to The Paris Post-Intelligencer by the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2014 fall chancellor's honor roll. Jade A. Younger from Paris earned the designation of highest honors during the fall semester. This designation indicates that Younger earned a GPA of 3.8 or above on a 4.0 grading scale. Other students earning spots on the honor roll were listed in an article published in the Jan. 6 issue of The P-I.

Davis earns degree from University of Tennessee at Martin

Caroline Brandt Davis of Manteno recently received a degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall 2014 commencement ceremonies.

Education Notebook for South Mississippi

January 10, 2015

Favre graduates from UT Martin

Dylan DeWayne Favre of Kiln was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Terry graduates from UT Martin

D’Adrian Terry of Moss Point was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.
Award-winning author to speak at UT Martin

Shonda Buchanan, an award-winning poet, author and editor, will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 as a special guest in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series. The lecture will be held in the Paul Meek Library on the main UT Martin campus and is free and open to the public.

Buchanan, an assistant professor in the Department of English at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., will give a talk titled “Evidence of Smoke: Using Poetry to Explore Black Indian Heritage and Inheritance.”

A widely published author, Buchanan is also an Eloise Klein-Healy Scholarship recipient, a Sundance Institute fellow and a PEN Center Emerging Voices fellow. Her work focuses on culture, women, bi-raciality and identity, African-American and American Indian narratives.

Her first collection of poetry – “Who’s Afraid of Black Indians?” – was published in 2012 by Poetica Publishing and explores the complexities of bi-raciality and the intersection between blacks and Native Americans.

Buchanan holds both a bachelor’s and a Master of Arts from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Calif., and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She is currently working on a book about black Indians and the migration trail, an anthology of Virginia poets, two books of poetry and a novel.

“We are pleased to have such an accomplished poet, writer and teacher visit our campus, and we are looking forward to a fascinating talk,” said Dr. Charles Julian, Paul Meek Library director.

While in Martin, Buchanan will meet with several university classes and with students at Martin Middle School.

The event is co-sponsored by Dr. Anne Meek, UT Martin Honors Programs, Friends of Paul Meek Library, the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, and the UT Martin Office of Development.

For more information, contact the Paul Meek Library at 881-7060.

UTM’s MBA ranks in Top-20 best online programs

U.S. News and World Report ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online MBA degree program as one of the top-20 online programs nationally.

UT Martin is ranked No. 18 on this year’s list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities, and is the highest-ranked program in Tennessee. U.S. News evaluated 223 programs nationwide for the report.

“We are very proud of this recognition,” said Dr. Kevin Hammond, UT Martin professor of marketing and MBA coordinator. “The high quality, affordability and associated value indicated by a high ranking are recognized by prospective students, employers and others across the country.”

The rankings are based on five general categories: student engagement; admissions selectivity; peer reputation; faculty credentials and training; and student services and technology. U.S. News surveyed students, faculty and administrators at regionally accredited public, private and for-profit institutions across the country, asking them not only to evaluate their own programs, but also those at other area institutions.

Other factors considered include graduation and retention rates, applicant test scores, number of terminal degree faculty and student indebtedness.

The UT Martin program is accredited by the Association to Advance Colle-
UT Martin MBA one of Best Online Programs

by Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

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The UT Martin program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at 731-881-7208 or bagrad@utm.edu.
U.S. News ranks UT Martin MBA in Top 20 Best Online Programs

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McBride To Serve As FFA Vice President

Stephen McBride, a junior agriculture business major from Beechgrove, Tenn., was elected to serve as the southern region vice president for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization earlier this fall.

Delegates at the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Ky., elected McBride to represent the southern region of the country after he completed an eight-part interview process. The FFA executive team consists of six members selected from chapters across the United States.

According to the FFA, national officers commit to a year of service and travel more than 100,000 national and international miles to lead training conferences, form policies and interact with industry leaders, FFA members, state leaders and the public to promote agricultural education.

“This has been a dream of mine for many years, ever since I saw my first FFA executive team. It's something I've always hoped I could do and I am honored to have this opportunity now," McBride said.

McBride will take a leave of absence from UT Martin and spend this next year visiting local and state chapters across the country, spending about 300 nights away from home. He will also spend two weeks in Japan learning about that country's agricultural education programs.

McBride continues a long family tradition of FFA leadership. His father, Mark, served as Tennessee Association state president in 1980-81 and his brother, Matthew, held the same position in 2006-07. Both are also UT Martin graduates.

There have been 13 national FFA officers from Tennessee, but McBride is the first from UT Martin.

“UT Martin is a great place for agricultural students to get plugged into whatever degree they want to be involved in and to get involved in collegiate FFA,” McBride said.

The UT Martin chapter has seen many honors in the past few years as well. “(Success) just happens with having great people and great students that really are happy to be here and are happy to compete and represent their university,” McBride explained.

James Butler, a UT Martin agricultural education professor, was also honored by the organization earlier this past year. Butler was named a National VIP, the highest honor awarded by the organization, for his contributions to the FFA.

The National FFA Organization's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing leadership potential, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It currently provides these services to 610,240 student members from 7,663 local chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
PADUCAH, Ky. (1/14/15) — McCracken County resident Gail Bachuss has been named director of the Trio Student Support Services office at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. http://surfky.com/

Bachuss, formerly the assistant director and counselor in the Trio office for 12 years, succeeds longtime director John Krupansky who retired in 2014.

"I am have spent my life working to help students of all ages reach their goals and potential, and I couldn't be more proud of the student successes I've seen over my career," said Bachuss. "Being named the director of Trio allows me to continue to fulfill my passion of making a real difference in the lives of our students at WKCTC."

A federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Trio Student Support Services provides assistance to selected students to improve their academic skills, establish goals, and earn a college degree. Individualized tutoring in general education classes and transfer assistance to four-year universities are featured Trio services.

At WKCTC, Trio is located in the Anderson Technical Building, Room 126 and all services to members are free.

Bachuss earned a bachelor's degree in home economics and early childhood education from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1975 and a master's degree in education in guidance and counseling from Murray State University in 1998. She also earned an Early Care and Education Trainer's credential from the University of Kentucky in 2011.

Also a 1973 graduate of Paducah Community College, one of the founding institutions of West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Bachuss knows first-hand how attending community college can benefit students.

"I couldn't have chosen a better place to begin going to college," said Bachuss. "The cost was more affordable for me and the help of faculty and staff really helped me feel confident and become a successful student throughout college. And that's another reason I'm so proud to work at WKCTC, it so important to give back."

UT Martin’s online MBA ranked among the best

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Talking college

From left, Emily Sparks, admissions counselor from the University of Tennessee at Martin, talks to Adrienne Michael and her daughter, Patience Michael, a fifth-grader at Paris Elementary School, during Tuesday's college and career readiness night at Inman Middle School.

UTM Parsons Center holds food drive

UTM students at the Parsons Center are givers according to the Decatur County Coordinated School Health officials. The students recently held a non-perishable food drive to support the Decatur County Backpack Program and the Shepherds Fund. The students at UTM donated over 900 non-perishable items to help feed the needy in Decatur County.
K-State announces new Grain Science and Industry Department head

By Katie Allen, K-State Research and Extension | 0 comments

The College of Agriculture at Kansas State University has announced Gordon Smith as the new head of the Department of Grain Science and Industry. Smith will also direct the International Grains Program Institute, located in Manhattan. He will begin his official appointment Feb. 9.

"Dr. Smith brings stature and prudent leadership, and a wealth of ideas, energy and experience to the position," said John Floros, dean of K-State's College of Agriculture. "I am looking forward to working with him as he settles into his new role and as he provides visionary leadership for our Department of Grain Science and Industry."

Smith brings a wealth of industry and academic experience to K-State. Prior to this new role, he worked nine years as vice president and research fellow for ConAgra Foods' research, quality and innovation team in Omaha, Nebraska. He has also worked in research and development for Sara Lee Foods in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Jimmy Dean Foods, a division of Sara Lee, in Memphis, Tennessee.

"My career has focused on translating science into meaningful products for consumers," Smith said. "I believe educational excellence is rooted in great teaching in conjunction with motivated students and faculty. Cutting-edge research can expose students to current science, and our students, faculty and staff have an opportunity to impact the world through interacting with the industries we serve."

In his new role, Smith said he hopes to continue the great tradition of the Department of Grain Science and Industry at K-State while striving to make the department even more relevant to students, the industry and consumers of grain products. The diversity of the department, he said, is a key advantage that can be further leveraged to address critical challenges.

Many academic institutions, specifically land-grant universities, have worked with Smith in some capacity in the last three decades. Just in the last eight years, Smith served in multiple roles such as adjunct professor, doctoral advisory committee member, program advisory board member and guest lecturer for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Purdue University, Clemson University, Iowa State University and the University of Minnesota.

Smith received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He completed a master's degree in organic chemistry and doctorate in food science from Texas A&M University.

At a food science scholar, Smith has authored or co-authored published research involving food product creation, food product testing and shelf-life stability. This research has appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including but not limited to the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry, Journal of Food Science, Meat Science, Annals of Applied Biology, Applied and Environmental Microbiology and Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition.

Smith also has served as a co-author on food science book chapters and has developed or co-developed nearly 20 patents or patent-pending technologies in food manufacturing. He has traveled to present his research throughout the United States and globally to places such as the U.K., Belgium, Germany and India.

Among the professional societies in which Smith belongs are the American Chemical Society, Institute of Food Technologists and American Meat Science Association. He is also a member of Phi Tau Sigma, a food science honor society and Gamma Sigma Delta, an agricultural honor society.

In the private industry sector, Smith has been recognized for business critical patents, consumer and business impact, product development, innovation and...
LOCAL ARTIST DREW DIVILBISS TO EXHIBIT ARTWORK FOR SALE AT UT MARTIN JACKSON CENTER

MARTIN, Tenn. -- The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host an art exhibition titled "Hello Goodbye Reality" featuring local artist Drew Divilbiss, Jan. 15, from 5-8 p.m.

Divilbiss was born in Jackson and received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Mississippi State University. He has displayed his artwork across the country and in Europe over the past decade.

All the artwork displayed at the Jackson Center will be for sale, with 50 percent of the profits donated to Autism Tennessee. "Hello Goodbye Reality" is an exhibition of small paintings reflecting culture within a young developing country.

The event is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is located at 3031 U.S. Hwy 45 Bypass in Jackson.

For more information on the exhibition, contact the Jackson Center at 731-425-9277. To view examples of Divilbiss's work, visit his online portfolio at www.drewdivilbiss.com.
City, university to launch Town & Gown program

STRONG LEADERSHIP — Martin Mayor Randy Brundige (left) and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes are the “driving force” behind the launching of a local Town & Gown program, according to Brad Thompson, the city’s community development director, and Lisha Tuck, the university’s associate director of advancement services.

Advisory committee will hold inaugural meeting on Jan. 22

By BRAD GASKINS
editor@wcpnews.com

Representatives from the City of Martin and UT Martin have worked together for the last year to lay the foundation for a Town & Gown program aimed at strengthening their current partnership.

Brad Thompson, Martin’s community development director, has led the city’s efforts. Lisha Tuck, UT Martin’s associate director of advancement services, has led the university’s efforts.

“We have been researching and educating ourselves to lay the foundation for a credible program,” Thompson said.

“I think we are all on the same page,” Tuck added. “It may not happen overnight, but this program has the potential to absolutely change the way you see Martin.”

For now, Thompson and Tuck said it’s time to turn the project over to an advisory committee.

“We are ready to have a meeting,” Thompson said. “It’s taken us a year to get ready.”

The advisory committee will meet Jan. 22 and consist of no more than 12 members. It will be comprised of city officials, UT Martin staff and faculty, a UT Martin student and members of the city’s business community.

Thompson and Tuck will talk to the committee about other Town & Gown programs, share their research, generate ideas for mission and vision statements and begin to develop the program. Essentially, they’re turning the project over to the committee.

“It’s not the city’s program,” Thompson said. “It’s not the university’s program. It’s the people’s program.”

From the city’s perspective, the idea for the program arose about a year ago as Martin Mayor Randy-Brundige and Thompson were driving home from a business trip in Nashville. They exited Interstate 40 at Parkers Crossroads — exit 108 — and noticed as they drove along Highway 22 that there were signs alerting motorists that they were heading the right direction toward UT Martin. The signs continued all the way to the city limits and stopped.

SEE MARTIN, PAGE 10
"When you drive into the city limits of Martin, you should know the University of Tennessee at Martin is here. I am excited about the possibilities."

- Lisha Tuck, UT Martin, associate director of advancement services

"Dr. Rakes has been very supportive of our efforts," Tuck added. "Brad Thompson and Mayor Brundige have been excellent to work with."

Thompson added, "The possibilities are limitless at what Town & Gown can achieve and I look forward to seeing the mission and vision our advisory board sets forth. We have some influential and talented folks involved and we'll announce the committee soon."

Tuck said the university has much to offer the citizens of Martin, from athletics to fine arts programs to providing internships to local businesses. "The possibilities are endless," she said. The university wants city residents in the campus bookstore, eating Sodexo's Sunday brunches, attending theater productions and sitting in the stands cheering UT Martin's athletic teams.

"I am proud to live in Martin and I am proud to be an alumnus of the University of Tennessee at Martin," she said. "It just seems to me we all could do a better job embracing both. When visitors happen through Martin, we want them to know we are here. Maybe they'll stay for a while."

The Martin Business Association will play a vital role in the program.

"MBA wants to be a leader in the program," Thompson said. "All of the businesses thus far that have agreed to serve on our advisory committee are all MBA members. MBA has some exciting things planned for 2015 that directly line up with what we're expecting from the Town & Gown program."

Thompson noted that something as seemingly small as hanging UT Martin banners on the light poles along the streets has extended campus lines throughout town. "Before those banners went up, if we had prospective students or parents or visitors in town, they would never have known that there was a four-year Tennessee system university right here in Martin," he said.

Tuck added, "When you drive into the city limits of Martin, you should know the University of Tennessee at Martin is here. I am excited about the possibilities."

None of which, Thompson and Tuck said, would be possible without the leadership and direction of Brundige and Rakes.

"Those two men are the driving force of Town & Gown," Thompson said. "Without their full support, this project would not even be possible. I want to thank them for allowing us to move forward with the Town & Gown project and for their continued support and leadership."
Tom Hendrix:

‘Don’t bury your God-given potential in a cemetery’

‘WORTH THE DRIVE’ — Tom Hendrix speaks to the Martin Rotary Club on Jan. 8. He shared some of his life experiences, which are detailed at length in his new book “Worth the Drive: The Journey of My Life.”

By BRAD GASKINS
editor@wcpnews.com

Mr. Henco’ shares life lessons in new book
‘Worth the Drive: The Journey of My Life’

Tom Hendrix rolled into town 60 years ago thinking he had his future all figured out. The two-step plan seemed simple enough:
Major in agriculture.
Get a good job teaching agriculture.

“Nothing wrong with that,” Hendrix said last week when he spoke to the Martin Rotary Club. “I was ready for my college experience. But on this campus, the experiences that I had turned my life upside down and headed me in a completely different direction.”

Instead of teaching agriculture, Hendrix became a nationally recognized entrepreneur. He founded two nationally recognized companies — NASCO and Henco — and dabbled in numerous other business ventures, ranging from operating a hog farm to starting the largest peach orchard in Tennessee.

He created the Chair of Excellence for Free Enterprise at UT Martin. It was the first chair of excellence in the UT system to be endowed for $1 million.

He opened Henco Furniture Store in the Selmer Industrial Park in 1996 at age 65. “It’s worth the drive,” he assured customers in TV ads that earned him even more national recognition.

He did it all with a strong belief in servant leadership and the free enterprise system, which is detailed extensively in his new book “Worth the Drive: The Journey of My Life.”

Speaking to the Martin Rotary Club, Hendrix, now 83, said he learned the value of hard work growing up on the family farm in McNairy County, where his mother cooked supper on a wood stove and made and mended clothes with a pedal sewing machine. “I can see her arms going up and down, the old dasher churning the buttermilk and butter for the family,” Hendrix recalled.

His father had a third grade education. “But he was smarter than that,” Hendrix said. “He had some benchmark ideas that he was determined to get across to us so that we could live a successful life.”

SEE HENDRIX, PAGE 10
Heard that some boys from campus were selling Bibles in the summer and making more than 50 cents an hour. He decided to sign up for the new business venture and met “one of the most wonderful people in my lifetime.”

It was Dortch Oldham. “He was successful by any measure,” Hendrix said of the Nashville businessman. “The day I met Dortch, I realized that I had met a giant of a man.”

Hendrix paraphrased Oldham’s message to him on that day: “Tom, you and I need to form a partnership. I want you to learn how to sell Bibles so that you can have the money to get back on campus and pay the bills.”

Oldham then looked at Hendrix and said, in all seriousness, “Tom, I don’t want you digging in the dirt.”

Oldham instructed Hendrix to visualize people as a best friend or next-door neighbor and treat them as such. Oldham told Hendrix, “I want you to master the art of making this Bible come alive in their minds so they can see the value of having it in their homes to teach their children for a better life. I want you to get good at that.”

That was just the short-term goal.

Oldham told Hendrix he was a “young man under construction.” Oldham said his long-term goal was to inspire Hendrix to develop his God-given potential and acquire a successful mindset of a high achiever.

“I cannot tell you how that motivated me, to work with a guy with that kind of value system,” Hendrix recalled.

“He completely changed my life.”

As a novice Bible salesman, Hendrix knocked on doors from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. He talked to doctors, lawyers, preachers, teachers, farmers and factory workers. Some were nice. Others weren’t. Behind every door was another lesson in communication and human nature. “I learned a lot more doing that than feeding those hogs here on the UT campus,” he said.

He came back to campus with more than $2,000, almost double what he needed to pay tuition and living expenses. Oldham told Hendrix to get a handful of guys ready for work the following summer. Hendrix would get commission from their sales.

“I had already began to get this successful mindset that Dortch talked about, so I set out to hire 26 of the best peo-
people I could find on this campus for the following year," he said. "I was learning how to interview, hire, motivate and furnish leadership so those guys could come back to college with money in their pockets to pay the bills. I felt good about that."

Hendrix would gather his salesmen every Sunday from 1-4 p.m. to teach them how to sell Bibles. "I'm not sure I'd mastered the art of selling at that point, but we went on to have a very successful year," he said.

Hendrix married his wife, Sherry, during his senior year. If she was his first love, studying for success was his second. "I wanted to know more about this successful mindset," he said, adding that by now he was sold on the free enterprise system.

"The free enterprise system as I see it is a free people exchanging their services with one another in competition to see who could do the best job," he said. "The people in the community are the judges of this. If they don't like your service, they will eliminate you from the pack. With American people, there's a built-in pruning device that prunes off those that fail to serve. To me, that is people power at its best. That is freedom at its best."

He read books about high achievers, such as Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller and Thomas Edison, among many others.

"There was a common thread that ran through those people," he said. "They were all on a mission of service that they felt so strongly about that they were willing to give their life."

Hendrix left UT Martin on a mission to create a business and practice servant leadership with his employees, as Oldham had done with him. He said he wanted to inspire his employees to become the people they ought to become.

"Don't bury your God-given potential in the cemetery at the end of the day," he would tell them.

It wasn't until age 65 that Hendrix decided to go into the furniture business.

"I wanted to build a furniture store in the Selmer Industrial Park that would be the talk of the country," he said. "I wanted families to come here from six states. When they walked in the front door, I wanted them to say, 'Wow, what a place' - so much fun, the kids would cry when they had to go home."

Hendrix went to Jackson to place some advertising. The advertising representative asked if potential customers would be able to find the store. A thought popped into Hendrix's mind: "Selmer - it's worth the drive." Hendrix promised himself never to end a commercial without saying those words, which random people he'd pass on the streets - from Memphis to New York - would often repeat to him.

Not the life he'd planned all those years ago, when UT Martin changed everything.

"That's what happens a lot of times on this campus," he said.

Hendrix never had a business course but said he's learned a few basic principles through the years.

"I've learned along the way that life is an extra dose of common sense," he said. "It's having empathy for people."

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Class to be held

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the UT-Martin REED Center will offer Advanced QuickBooks. The advanced class will be held from 9 a.m.-noon on Jan. 20 at the UT-Martin REED Center, located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin. Computers will be provided.

Quickbooks has been the leading accounting software for the small businesses for many years due to its powerful, yet user-friendly features. In the advanced class, topics covered will include multiple currencies, customizing forms, memorizing reports and estimating and progress billing.

The fee is $35, paid at the time of registration. To reserve a spot, contact Andy Fuqua at the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or by email at reed@utm.edu. Class is limited to the first 10 participants.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Butler returns to Medina

Former UTM player shares her secrets of success after a year of pro ball

By Brandon Shields
bjshields@jacksonsun.com

MEDINA — In 2000, Sue Butler moved her family, including 8-year-old daughter Heather Butler, from Minnesota to West Tennessee, where Heather played her first basketball at Medina Elementary School.

Heather parlayed that experience into a stellar high school career and a pair of state championships at Gibson County High School. She added four Ohio Valley Conference championships and NCAA tournament appearances at Tennessee Martin before playing professional ball in the WNBA and Poland last year.

On Friday, 23-year-old Heather returned with her mother to where it all started at Medina Elementary and shared.

MORE ONLINE
Go to jacksonsun.com to view a photo gallery and video of Butler talking about her first year of professional basketball.

See BUTLER, Page B2

Former University of Tennessee Martin women's basketball star and WNBA player Heather Butler chats with students in one of the Medina Elementary School physical education classes Friday, after speaking to the students of her former elementary school at an assembly.
butler

Continued from Page B1

with current students how she made her dream of playing in the WNBA come true.

"Do any of you have dreams or want to be something when you grow up?" Butler asked the group of young Hornet students. "Well, when someone asked me when I was your age what I wanted to be when I grew up, it was to be a WNBA player, and that dream came true for me last year."
The 5-foot-5 Butler signed a one-year contract with San Antonio and played with that club before playing in Poland in the fall.

Her recipe for dream realization is simple.

"First, you've got to believe in yourself and have a good attitude," Butler said. "I'm kind of small, but I had to be confident in myself that I could do well in college basketball.

"You've got to work hard at it, and that's easier said than done."

Butler then had a question for the students.

"Who all here likes going to school?" Butler asked. A few students raised their hands.

"I didn't like going to school, but I had to do well in class or else I would've never been able to play college basketball," she said.

"You've got to be obedient to your parents and teachers and others older than you who know what's best for you," Butler said. "You've also got to be the best that you can be. At my height, I couldn't compare myself to everybody else. I had to be the best me, and you need to do the same thing. Be the best you. Can you do that for me?"
The group responded with a loud shout of app-

and in Poland has helped her grow her game, and she is spending the off-season trying to improve. "We're still praying I get invited to a training camp somewhere around the league this year and sign on with somebody like I did last year," Butler said. "The one thing I learned from WNBA play is, as good and disciplined as everybody was in the OVC, everybody is big and fast and strong and can move the ball well in the WNBA.

"So I'm taking a step back in the off-season to see what I need to do to match that and work on that."

Brandon Shields, 425-9751
Breakfast celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

MMS principal Nate Holmes honored with The Harold Conner/City of Martin Award

By BRAD GASKINS editor@wcpnews.com

Hundreds of community members gathered Monday morning at the University of Tennessee at Martin for a breakfast honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

The third annual breakfast, a joint effort of UT Martin's Black Student Association and the City of Martin, was held in the University Center ballroom.

"Once again we have come together to celebrate the life of Dr. King," said Martin al-derman David Belote, who emceed the event. "Dr. King was a true American leader who gave his absolute best and gave all of himself to his Lord and to others and with joy and triumph loved his neighbor. He did these things with utmost compassion, with an unyielding faith and with the highest levels of character and integrity."

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Kache M. Brooks, treasurer of the Black Student Association, gave opening remarks.

"This event has grown each and every year," Brundige said. "When we first started it, it was very small. Now, we've nearly outgrown this room. This is a very important thing to do for our community."

"This is the largest group we have ever had," Rakes said. "It's an opportunity to renew our vision and keep an eye on what's going on. We need to overflow this place. It's a great day to be here as we celebrate Dr. King and his family."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Dr. Danny Donaldson delivered one of two keynote speeches Monday at the third annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast, which is a joint effort between UT Martin's Black Student Association and the City of Martin.

Donaldson, the second keynote speaker, graduated from Westview High School in 1994 and from UT Martin in 1999 with a degree in music education. He graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 2005. He co-owns The Eye Care Center of Martin. He also serves as a pianist at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Humboldt and is the secretary and past president of the Martin Lions Club.

"I feel like Dr. King would want us to work on that bond as we push forward through life."

"We're not where Dr. King wants us to be," he continued, "but we're moving in the right direction and that's what it's all about. We can't fix the world. All we can fix is Martin and Weakley County and West Tennessee. That's what our charge is. I challenge you to find that connection."

I feel like Dr. King would want us to work on that bond as we push forward through life."

MLK FROM PAGE 1

"We have set aside this morning," Brooks added, "to pay homage and give recognition to a man who removed barriers and placed his life on the line by doing so."

Dr. Randy Cooper, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Martin, provided the invocation.

Pastor Orrin A. Cowley of McCabe United Methodist Church provided music during the breakfast. UT Martin's gospel choir also performed under the direction of Mykia Campbell.

Keynote speakers were Constance M. Bonds and Dr. Danny Donaldson.

Bonds graduated from UT Martin in December and was a Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award recipient. She served as president of the Black Student Association from 2009-2012 and was involved in numerous other university and community groups.

"It is indeed a great honor and pleasure to stand before you today to deliver words of encouragement and remembrance of an inspiring man - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," she said.

Bonds encouraged all in attendance "to strive for excellence, even when you are hardest hit."

"Each trial and tribulation that you face is meant to make you stronger and produce greatness in you," she continued. "The obstacles of life will rub against you to create a well polished individual. Without adversity or pressure, you cannot be put into the wonderfully made diamond you are destined to be."

She encouraged everyone to follow King's example.

"Dr. King actively followed his dream. We must imitate him with the same ambition and drive," she said. "Let his life and purpose motivate us and be a guiding light in our future endeavors."
Local songwriter releases new album

Larry Holder, a songwriter from Martin, has released his second album titled "Til Pondering Turns to Praise."

The album includes 11 songs, all originals, written or co-written by Holder. One of the songs, "Love Has a Name," was co-written with Rick Founds, the composer of the well-known worship song "Lord I Lift Your Name on High." Another song, "The Ballad of the Cross," also features a guitar solo performed by local musician Craig Ingram.

Holder's first album, "Til Jesus Is All," was released 14 years ago. "I didn't think it would take me this long to produce a second album," Holder said, "but in a way I'm glad, because it includes a couple of songs that were written fairly recently, which helped shape the overall focus of this recording project, including the title track."

In the meantime, Holder has been publishing songs on the internet one at a time, now totalling about 100 songs.

The new album includes several songs that have been shared via his website, larryholdermusic.org, over a span of years going back to 1997.

The sixth track, "The Ballad of the Cross," was written in 1997 and was one of Holder's first internet collaborations with Elton Smith of Plano, Texas. "The Ballad of the Cross" was especially fun to record, Holder said, and turned into a song running over six and a half minutes thanks to an extended guitar outtro. The final track, "Romans 8:38," was written during Holder's freshman year at UT Martin in early 1978. "This song was later arranged into a choir anthem entitled 'Our Song of Victory,' but I wanted to go back to the basics and make it a more personal, 'altar-centric song,'" he said.

The album is intended to be an encouragement to Christians, and to take them through a musical and spiritual journey, as the title track emphasizes, from pondering the challenges of life, to praising the Lord for His eternal love and support along the way.

"One of the things that initially threw me off track was the untimely death of Randy Lackey, who helped engineer my first album," Holder said. "God alone knows why these things happen, but one day in heaven it will all make sense. This album is dedicated to his memory."

In addition to writing Christian music, Holder has written several other songs, including "The Days the Earth Would Not Stand Still" in 2011 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquakes, which produced Reelfoot Lake. That song was included in a Memphis PBS documentary that received national distribution. Holder also co-wrote "There's Nothing Like the Bean," which became the theme song of the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival. Several of Holder's songs have been broadcast locally on WCMT, including a few like "Everything I Know in Life I Learned from Chris and Paul" and "I've Died and Gone to Starbucks," which were introduced live on WCMT during its morning radio show.

Holder performs locally as a bass player with the praise band at First Baptist Church and with the Ryman Shadows, a bluegrass group which recently was broadcast on WLIT for a segment of the locally-produced "Gospel Showcase.

Holder's CD is available through his website, larryholdermusic.org. There are plans to later also distribute it online through ReverbNation.com, which will enable the songs to be found on iTunes, Spotify and other download and streaming services.

"It is my sincere hope that these songs will be a blessing and encouragement to fellow believers as we share in this journey of faith," Holder said.
Awards and recognition

Martin Middle School principal Nate Holmes was honored with the Harold Conner/City of Martin Award.

Holmes is regarded as one of the top running backs in UT Martin football history. He was named to the 1971 All-American team and rushed for 2,005 yards throughout his career, including 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns in his junior and senior seasons. "He was UTM's most valuable back for three years and was the team's co-captain as a senior," Brundige said. Holmes signed as a free agent with the Miami Dolphins in 1972.

"He moved back to Martin and has been a tremendous leader in the Weakley County Schools system and the community," Brundige said. "He truly leads with a vision and leads with a purpose."

Holmes said he wanted to thank everyone who was involved in selecting him as the award recipient.

"I appreciate everything that has happened to me since I've been in Martin," Holmes added. "There are so many people here today who I love and they really have made me what I am." He said receiving the award is even more special for two reasons: First, it was presented on a day set aside to honor Dr. King. Second, it is named after his father-in-law, Harold Conner.

"I want to thank everyone who came today on my behalf," added Holmes, who has been Martin Middle's principal for 25 years.

Anthony Prewitt represented the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and presented the Alpha Award to two recipients: Kameron Echols and Natalie Dickerson-Boyd.

Prewitt also presented the Golden Brother Award to Dr. Harold Conner for 50-plus years of membership and service to Alpha Phi Alpha.

Brooks presented the Black Student Association Torch Award to Dr. Daphne Henderson, a professor of social work at UT Martin.
TORCH AWARD — Dr. Daphne Henderson (right) accepts the Black Student Association’s Torch Award from Kache M. Brooks, treasurer of the Black Student Association.

ALPHA AWARDS — Anthony Prewitt (left) presented Alpha awards to Kameron Echols and Natalie Dickerson-Boyd on behalf of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.
NEW OFFICERS — The UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society named new officers for the 2015 year at an election held Dec. 3. The chapter recently won a commendable rating and a Green Chapter Award from the national society, and leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards. Pictured are (seated, from left) Kristan McCrillis, of Bradford, secretary; Drake Williams, of Paris, vice-president; Layla Gargus, of Martin, president; Benjamin Ide, of Dover, treasurer; (standing, from left): executive committee members William Kuenziger, of Germantown; Michaela Short, of Hendersonville; Dwight Johnson II, of Brownsville; Krysten Harris, of Union City, 2014 president; and Vincent Cote, of Big Rock.

UT Martin SMACS chapter wins national awards and names new officers for 2015

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) recently won a commendable rating from the Society Committee on Chemical Education and a Green Chapter Award from the Green Chemistry Institute of the American Chemical Society for the 2013-14 academic year. The UT Martin chapter leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards, having received one every year since the award's inception in 2001. The chapter has recently been involved with the high school science bowl and hosted the Undergraduate Program of the 66th Southeast Region of the American Chemical Society meeting in Nashville. The program included 344 undergraduate research paper presentations; a lecture by Dr. Albert Wiley from Oak Ridge National Laboratory; a "chemagic" show by Dr. Al Hazari from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; "demomania" presentations by five universities, including UT Martin; a networking luncheon and the College Chemistry Bowl.

UT Martin SMACS plans to host a chemistry merit badge clinic for local Boy Scouts on Feb. 14. The chapter also named new officers for 2015 at an election held Dec. 3. The new officers are Layla Gargus, of Martin, president; Drake Williams, of Paris, vice president; Kristan McCrillis, of Bradford, secretary; and Ben Ide, of Dover, treasurer.
The Martin Business Association leaps into 2015 with an energetic group of newly elected officers and board members. The January meeting showed promise with the highest meeting attendance on record and a new agenda filled with businesses building activities and events. The officers were sworn in by Martin alderman David Sudberry on Jan. 13.

Brad Thompson, Martin’s community development director, will serve as president with Christy Williams of Regions Bank serving as vice president. Lynette Wagster of the Weakley County Press has been named Secretary and Carla Vowell will act as treasurer.

Board members include Jeff Capps of First State Bank, Alan Cary of Cary Insurance Group, Monica Reese of WLJT-TV, Keith Cursey of MTD, Julie Donaldson of Christian Wee-Learn, Nicole Kincade of Twin Oaks Technology and Carmen Wagster of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Martin Business Association is dedicated to its members and has planned a wide variety of new meeting opportunities for its members. “Lunch and Learns” will be one of the new options along with a few regular morning meetings. The purpose of the “Lunch and Learns” will be to help members have a greater understanding about the mobile application, maximizing a business presence online, fraud protection and much more. MBA members will also have the opportunity to attend business after hours events hosted around Martin.

MBA members may also notice a new and improved update to the website and mobile application in coming weeks. The growing traffic to the MBA website and mobile application are positive signs for future growth and improvement.

The Martin Business Association members will also play a vital role in the beauty of Martin. New pole banners representing each proud MBA members are to be hung by the end of January. The loyalty and pride that each MBA member shows in the Martin community is sure to shine in 2015. The new officers have a vision of achievement and have planned to help Martin continue to make its mark on West Tennessee and rely on the founding principles of building and supporting within our local business community.

For more information about the Martin Business Association or on how to join please visit the website at www.martinbusinessassociation.com or like them on Facebook for weekly updates.
45 YEARS OF SERVICE — University colleagues and friends gathered Dec. 18 in the Holland McCombs Center to honor Sandra Brackett (seated, center) for 45 years of service in the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Academic Records. She officially retired Dec. 31. Brackett, of Sharon, began in the office as a student worker and continued in that role until she earned her degree. She became a fulltime staff member in July 1969 following her graduation. Attending the reception were (standing, from left) Tonia Cox, Patsy Potts, Janice Parham, Sandy Holland, Dr. Brandy Cartmell, Emily Knudsen (retired staff member), Cheryl Branon, Ann Kelly (retired staff member), Teresa Erwin; (seated, from left) LeAnne Perry, Brackett and Cherie Edwards.
SMACS OFFICERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society recently named new officers for 2015. The chapter also recently won a commendable rating and a Green Chapter Award from the national society and leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards. Among the leaders are (from left, seated) Kristan McCrillis of Bradford, secretary; Drake Williams of Paris, vice president; Layla Gargus of Martin, president; Benjamin Ide of Dover, treasurer; and (standing) executive committee members William Kuenzinger of Germantown, Michaela Short of Hendersonville, Dwight Johnson II of Brownsville, Krysten Harris of Union City, who was 2014 president, and Vincent Cote of Big Rock.
UT Martin master’s program receives full approval status

The Tennessee Department of Education recently elevated the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online master’s degree program in educational leadership to full approval status after it met or exceeded expectations on all review indicators.

Students wishing to earn a master of science degree in education, with a major in educational leadership, must have already received a bachelor’s degree, hold a valid teaching license and have a minimum of three years of successful work experience in the education field.

Obtaining a master’s degree allows candidates to complete licensure requirements for an instructional leadership license-beginner (ILL-B).

The master’s degree program includes a three-hour course in models of instruction, curriculum development and advanced teaching; 27 hours of leadership concentration coursework; and a three-hour course in clinical supervision.

All coursework for the program is accessible online.

Teachers who already hold master’s degrees but wish to pursue the additional endorsement in educational leadership must meet the university’s requirements for conditional or non-conditional admission and complete 24 hours of coursework.

All students wishing to be recommended for the ILL-B must also pass the Educational Testing Service’s Praxis school leadership series, “School Leaders Licensure Assessment.”

A final portfolio project is also required.

Obtaining an ILL-B is vital for those who wish to pursue careers as school principals, assistant principals or supervisors of instruction.

This approval follows the university’s receiving Tennessee’s only U.S. Department of Education teacher education grant in 2014, which totaled $3.3 million.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is accredited by the Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

UT Martin’s education curriculum is approved by the Tennessee State Board of Education and accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Teacher Preparation (CAEP).

“Worth the Drive; The Story of My Life”
Tom Hendrix to speak at Reed Center January 22-23

Tom Hendrix, for whom the University of Tennessee at Martin Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise is named, will speak to two university classes and appear at the REED Center on Jan. 23. He will also be signing copies of his autobiography, “Worth the Drive; The Journey of my Life,” on Jan. 22 from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

Hendrix graduated from UT Martin in 1959 with a degree in agriculture. He has since become known as “Mr. Henco” for his advertising work with Henco Furniture in Selmer. He is a successful entrepreneur and founded two national companies before opening Henco Furniture with his wife, Sherry, in 1996.

His book will be available in the university bookstore for public purchase.
Freire assesses UTM after one year

Coaches, finances among topics

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

For a little over an hour Tuesday afternoon in a meeting room at the Elam Center, UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire answered questions from reporters and discussed numerous aspects of the school's athletic program.

Freire arrived in Martin just over one year ago, so the meeting felt a little like a State of the Union for the school's athletic department (without a speech or standing ovations, anyway).

Asked to grade his performance over 2014, Freire suggested a "B," saying he regretted having to push the football stadium renovation back a second time and he's disappointed with modest ticket sales and attendance for football and basketball games.

He said he's proud of the personnel decisions he made, most prominent being Heath Schroyer's hiring to coach men's basketball in place of Jason James and Rick Robinson's arrival to coach baseball in place of interim Brad Goss after Bubba Cates was moved to a teaching position in the summer of 2013.

He elected to retain volleyball coach Darrin McClure, whose teams (unlike men's basketball and baseball under their previous coaches) have excelled academically and had a good team culture and are only struggling to win.

He said the school also studied the 24 FCS football teams that made the playoffs to learn what correlations coach Jason Simpson and the Skyhawks could and adopt. (Several top teams, it turned out, had quarterbacks who were transfers from FBS schools.)

Freire said the football program has overperformed based on its resources, but Skyhawk fans are still eager for a conference championship after the last one in 2006.

"People have said that to me: Julio, just by being here there seems to be more pressure," Freire said. "I won't apologize for that. I think our student-athletes deserve that."

Part of Freire's motivation to meet with the media seemed to be to clear up what he said is an untrue rumor that resources are being driven away from the football program to be used for men's basketball.

(Schroyer's salary is $210,000, fifth-most in the conference and more than double what James made.)

"Multiple people have stated in public that the football scholarship budget has been reduced and that the football operational budget has been reduced," Freire said. "You can call or walk across the street and talk to Jason [Simpson] and ask him point blank: Since Julio got here, has your operational or scholarship budget been reduced? And the answer is absolutely not."

Still, Freire said his biggest challenge has concerned finances. He said the school makes more from corporate advertising than before, but Northwest Tennessee's small population limits the potential pool of money from donors. UTM's operating budget is 11th in the conference, ahead of only football-less Southeastern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Freire said Ohio Valley Conference athletic directors will meet with commissioner Beth DeBauke in a couple weeks to discuss "full cost of attendance," a practice being proposed by the five most prominent NCAA conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC) which would allow schools to spend more money to cover athletes' expenses.

Freire said through preliminary conversations with OVC ADs, the consensus seems to be to either not do it at all or agree to do it for the same sports, thus not giving one school a significant advantage in recruiting a particular sport.

"Probably the common theme was that we should be united as a conference," Freire said. "We should offer no additional money toward full cost or we should all do it in the same number of sports, in the same area—which makes sense as a conference."

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
http://www.cannoncourier.com/

Young receives highest honors at UTM

Posted: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:12 am

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Receiving highest honors was Melvin H. Young, Woodbury.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll 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 Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

The McNaury County News

Thursday, January 22, 2015

U.S. News ranks UT Martin MBA in Top-20 Best Online Programs

U.S. News and World Report ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online MBA degree program as one of the top-20 online programs nationally.

UT Martin is ranked #18 on this year's list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities, and is the highest-ranked program in Tennessee. U.S. News evaluated 223 programs nationwide for the report.

"We are very proud of this recognition," said Dr. Kevin Hammond, UT Martin professor of marketing and MBA coordinator. "The high quality, affordability and associated value indicated by a high ranking are recognized by prospective students, employers and others across the country."

The rankings are based on five general categories: student engagement; admissions selectivity; peer reputation; faculty credentials and training; and student services and technology.

U.S. News surveyed students, faculty and administrators at regionally accredited public, private and for-profit institutions across the country, asking them not only to evaluate their own programs, but also those at other area institutions.

Other factors considered include graduation and retention rates, applicant test scores, number of terminal degree faculty and student indebtedness.

The UT Martin program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at 731-881-7208 or grad@utm.edu.
UT Martin announces new 'Advantage' scholarship

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Jan 22, 2015 at 7:01 PM CST
(Story Updated: Jan 22, 2015 at 7:51 PM CST)

MARTIN, Tenn. -- The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced a new plan to go along with Tennessee Promise legislation and highlight the advantages of four-year colleges.

The UT Martin Advantage plan, announced this week, includes a new scholarship for students who enter the university their freshman year and continue to meet HOPE Scholarship requirements.

Qualifying students will be eligible to begin receiving the scholarship their sophomore year starting with the fall 2015 semester.

The initiative also includes a website to show prospective students the long-term advantages of attending a four-year university, according to the release.

UT Martin students headed to Super Bowl

By Mallory Cooke
By mcooke@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Jan 22, 2015 at 2:42 PM CST
(Story Updated: Jan 22, 2015 at 7:09 PM CST)

MARTIN, Tenn. -- A handful of West Tennessee students prepare to head to the Super Bowl. The group will see first hand what it takes to host one of the biggest sporting events.

"Knowing I'm going to be a part of it, it's an incredible feeling," Ross Landreth, a senior, said.

Landreth and five other University of Tennessee at Martin students will travel to Arizona to work Sunday's Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

"I'm still in shock that I'm actually going, and not many people that are in their 20s can say I'm going to the Super Bowl," Landreth said. "I'm going to be a part of it."

Students will work hospitality events for both games. "Assisting players when they get to the stadium, getting them where they need to be," Courtney Caton, a sophomore, said.

Assistant Professor of Sport Business Dexter Davis will lead the group. The university said this marks his 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students. "This is the largest single day sporting event in the world, and they get an opportunity to see how that works," Davis said.

Students had to submit a resume and cover letter and meet GPA requirements to go. Davis said part of what they are doing is get students in the workforce. "The NFL brand is invaluable on people's resumes," he said.

Some could consider it the opportunity of a lifetime. "It's been on my bucket list," Jamison Matney, a senior, said. "I never thought I'd go as a student."

It is an opportunity Landreth thinks could lead to bigger things. "Anytime you can have your name associated with the NFL it opens doors, and I hope that it will," he said.

The group leaves for Arizona on Friday.

Davis said students and the university paid for a portion of the trip. Students are paid to take part in the internship.
Henry County woman heads back to Super Bowl

Like the Seattle Seahawks, Rachel Robison will be going to the Super Bowl for the second straight year.

Robison, a Henry County woman who is a senior marketing major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will be joining five other UTM students who will travel to Phoenix for the Feb. 1 game between Seattle and the New England Patriots.

Robison is the only one of the group who also had the chance to go to the Super Bowl last year when the Seahawks played the Denver Broncos in the metro New York area.

Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sports business at UTM, will be going to his 10th Super Bowl.

The student group is also going to be working and learning at the Pro Bowl, the NFL's All-Star game that is in Phoenix this Sunday.

At the Pro Bowl, they will be involved in coordinating pregame events, fan activities and postgame hospitality.

At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events.

Students also will assist with the postgame event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented.

The group will leave Friday and return Feb. 3. During their time in Phoenix, they also will be assisting the local organizing committee prepare for the Super Bowl, as well as meeting with members of the staff of the National Hockey League's Arizona Coyotes; touring the Salt Lick Fields complex, a spring training facility for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies baseball teams; taking a trail ride on Camelback Mountain and attending the Phoenix Suns vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA game the Monday after the Super Bowl.

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Davis treats the process like a job application because involvement with the NFL opens doors only the NFL can open.

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Last year's team worked as customer service staff members during the game.

Robison, the daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison of Buchanan, graduated from Henry County High School in 2010.
Troy resident, fellow UTM students headed to Pro Bowl, Super Bowl

Ian McGrew, a senior sport business major from Troy, will join five other students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s sport business program to work hospitality events at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

A 2006 graduate of Obion County Central High School, McGrew is the son of Ken McGrew of Union City and Greg and Janice Orr of Troy.

Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business, will lead the UT Martin group. This is his 10th Super Bowl and the second for students.

Students will not be in the stands eating popcorn, however.

At the Pro Bowl, they will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality.

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“The Super Bowl is one of the most influential events of the year, especially when it comes to advertising,” said Courtney Caton, a sophomore from Huntingdon. “As a marketing major, I am intrigued by all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the advertising and production of such a large event. I am most excited about making connections with possible employers about internships or a career.”

The other students attending are Ms. Caton; Ross Landreth, a senior from Selmer; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville; and Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua.

Ms. Caton, Ms. Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors. Ms. Robison is the only student from this year’s team to have also attended last year’s Super Bowl with Davis.

“The hands-on involvement that I received from last year’s Super Bowl was enlightening. I think that going back for a second time I will be able to receive a more in-depth understanding of the event planning side of things,” Ms. Robison said.

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By KEVIN WEAKS

Messenger Sports

Julio Freire went in different directions to fill needs in men's basketball and baseball.

He hopes they lead to the same destination.

The UT Martin athletic director celebrated his first year on the job by sitting down with several area media members, including The Weakley County Press, for a free range Q&A session Tuesday afternoon.

With no topic off the table and most of the meeting on the record, Freire addressed the events that dominated his whirlwind first year. Those two sports dominated the session, and Freire didn't hold back on what change was needed and what he expects to see.

While there is an obvious wait-and-see period with all new regimes, Freire already likes what he’s seen in men’s basketball and baseball and has been witness to several cultural changes in both.

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FREIRE ERA

The Messenger sat down with UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire on the occasion of his first year on the job.
TODAY: Making changes in men’s basketball and baseball.
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The men’s basketball and baseball programs required an immediate change at the top. So, men’s basketball head coach Jason James was replaced by Heath Schroyer and the baseball post once held by Bubba Cates is now in the hands of Rick Robinson.

Basketball was failing, literally, in all three of areas Freire emphasizes — academics, athletics and social. Wins were few and far between (James’ career record was 37-117 overall and 15-69 in the OVC), academics were so bad that the program is currently under APR Level 2 sanctions from the NCAA and some players in the program were not meeting personal standards.

"As much as I respect Jason James as a person, I’m telling you that it was not working out for our university, our department and our student-athletes," the AD said. "Academically, athletically and socially, it wasn’t working."

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Paying for a quality coach was Freire’s biggest challenge. Finding someone who could do a better job than James had done for the same salary simply was not an option.

"I went to the chancellor and said things are really bad academically, athletically and socially in men’s basketball, and I have no inclination of recommending to you that we change coaches if we’re going to continue to live at the bottom of this conference from a salary perspective," Freire said of his discussions with chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes. "We were dead last. I told him that for $95,000, I can’t be certain I can find somebody who will do any better. So, he asked what I had in mind, and I wanted to look into the top third of the conference. Third at that time was $198,000, and that was at Morehead State. Today, Heath is fifth, compared to fourth when he came in. I felt for that kind of money, I could find the right candidate. We had four finalists. Of the four, the lowest was making $225,000, and I had a few convinced to come here for $200,000. That’s why we went to that level."

Looking to kill the rumors and behind-the-back talk that has swirled within the community since the hire, Freire made clear that the football budget was not drained to pay for basketball.

"As far as football, when I decided to pay a basketball coach $200,000, the honeymoon at UT Martin ended," he said. "A lot of people erroneously jumped to the conclusion that the delta of that funding was going to come from football. And, some people stated that in public. That couldn’t be further from the truth, and I think it’s unfortunate. Multiple people have stated in public that the football scholarship budget has been reduced and that the football operational budget has been reduced. You can ask (head coach) Jason (Simpson) point-blank if the operational and scholarship budgets have been reduced, and the answer is absolutely not. You can see the numbers are greater this year than last year, which were greater than the year before that."

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Taking a different approach in searching for a new baseball coach, Freire looked to the NCAA Division II ranks.

In Robinson, he believes he has found the right fit. So, the challenge for Robinson was to do a complete make-over of the program.

"I told Rick the first thing he needed was a complete change in the culture," Freire said. "Almost everything about that program needed to be changed because there was — and I think it’s a four-letter word — mediocrity in the program. It was socially acceptable to just get by. That’s not what intercollegiate athletics is about. Change the culture and then put about a plan to get us to Jackson (OVC Tournament)."

The 33-player roster includes 14 newcomers. Robinson has already upgraded the academics as 28 have a 3.0 or better GPA, given the team some ownership in the program by having players paint the outfields wall and has already dished out punishment for a disciplinary matter that went beyond the athletic department standards.

Robinson has a 699-281 career head coaching record with no losing seasons in 17 years. Freire wouldn’t be surprised if that streak remains intact.

"He’s never had a losing season, and UT Martin’s never had a winning season since joining the OVC," he said. "I don’t bet, but if I had to, I wouldn’t bet against him."
UT Martin announces Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll 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 Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

From Big Sandy: Kenneth D. Gaston, Highest Honors; Amanda M. Kuenzle, Highest Honors; Charley E. Lightfoot, Highest Honors; Bradley J. Moss, High Honors, and Autumn M. Ratliff, High Honors.

From Camden: Makensie R. Bawcum, Highest Honors; Montana R. Bawcum, High Honors; Tiffani Bell, High Honors; Alyx K. Burris, Honors; Steven E. Coleman, High Honors; Ryan T. Davis, Highest Honors; Rachel J. Fischer, Honors; Crystal R. Floyd, High Honors; Lindsey M. Hargrove, Honors; Stacy L. Horton, Honors; Landon Lockridge, Honors; Mary B. Markham, Honors; Jamie M. Muller, Honors; Kyle R. Myrick, Highest Honors; Kristin N. Ragon, Honors; Ashby J. Reed, Highest Honors; Ryleigh D. Taylor, High Honors; Joshua C. Terry, High Honors; Meagan N. Walker, High Honors; Tiffany N. Walker, High Honors; William M. Ward, Honors; Shane A. Webb, Honors; Alex S. Wells, High Honors; and Victoria N. Young, Highest Honors.

From Eva: Deven N. Wilson, Highest Honors.

From Holladay: Kristina M. Arnold, High Honors; Jessica L. Bannister, High Honors; Ryne Bivens, High Honors; Holly N. Cannady, High Honors; Elijah S. Carpenter, Highest Honors; Heather M. Coleman, Highest Honors; Taylor J. Douglas, Highest Honors; Amber M. Martin-Robinson, Highest Honors; Brancy J. Patton, Honors; James W. Secoy, Highest Honors; and Stephen J. Stinson, High Honors.

‘UT Martin Advantage’ Initiative

UT Martin announced a new initiative Tuesday called the “UT Martin Advantage” to complement the recently-enacted Tennessee Promise legislation.

A major component of the UT Martin Advantage plan is the introduction of a new scholarship. Students who enter the university in their freshman year and continue to meet requirements for the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship will be eligible to receive the UT Martin Advantage Scholarship beginning in their sophomore year. This will take effect beginning in the fall 2015 semester.

The initiative also includes the launch of a new website built to show prospective students the long-term advantages of attending a four-year university and participating in the total collegiate experience.

At UT Martin, students have access to award-winning faculty members; hands-on learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom; international travel study opportunities; and a variety of campus activities and organizations often not present on community college campuses.

“We believe that many students benefit from attending a four-year university,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “The UT Martin Advantage Scholarship provides more students with the opportunity to pursue the total collegiate experience.”

For more information, visit the new website at http://www.utm.edu/advantage/.
Jackson State plans to open satellite campus in Dresden

By BRAD GASKINS  
editor@wcpnews.com

Jackson State Community College will open a satellite campus at the Weakley County Adult Learning Center in Dresden, a Jackson State official told The Press late Wednesday afternoon.

"We're all on board," said John McCommon, Jackson State's coordinator of marketing and public relations. "It all happened quickly. The biggest thing we have to do now is draft a memorandum of understanding. That needs to be done."

McCommon said the satellite campus would allow Jackson State to serve students throughout northwest Tennessee.

Weakley County Schools director Randy Frazier said the satellite campus would provide more opportunities for Weakley County students.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said he knew about the discussions but as of late Wednesday afternoon had "not been contacted directly by any city or county elected official about the arrangement." The Weakley County Schools system started the process by contacted Jackson State about a satellite campus.

"Back before Christmas in conversations with some of our high school counselors, we were concerned with the Tennessee Promise and our students having access to a junior college in a setting that would make it feasible for them to attend," Frazier said. "We had the idea of reaching out to Jackson State and seeing what they might be able to offer us."

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act of 2014 offers two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2015.

Frazier said that's excellent news for many Weakley County students who, like a lot of students in other counties across the state, may not be ready to enter a four-year program directly from high school. Those students, he said, need associate's degrees, more educational background and knowledge that could be transferred to more technical settings.

Frazier met with Jackson State president Bruce Blanding just before Christmas. Frazier met last Friday with other Jackson State representatives, including vice president of academic affairs Larry Bailey, vice president of student services Bobby Smith and director of high school initiatives Andrea Winchester, who works with dual enrollment students.

Jackson State officials and Frazier stressed that the Dresden campus would also serve students in Carroll, Henry and Obion counties and that decisions would be made with all northwest Tennessee students in mind, not just those from Weakley County.

"The northern most counties in West Tennessee don't have easy access to a junior college," Frazier said. "We also feel like it's a situation where some of the kids who aren't ready for a four-year college can go to junior college for a couple of years and get it paid for through the Tennessee Promise and then be eligible for a four-year school like UT Martin, or wherever they may want to go. We feel like it opens the door for more opportunities for post-secondary education."

The Weakley County Adult Learning Center currently has a couple of Tennessee Technology School classes meeting there and also handles some K-12 functions.

"We've got some rooms that are open and available," Frazier said. "Our hopes are in August to be able to start the fall semester and offer a full-fledged course offering for a student to come in and be a full-time freshman."

Some of these course offerings will be taught via the internet through Jackson State's main campus. "We may have a setting where five different students are taking five different classes in the computer lab," Frazier said.

Face-to-face courses, with instructors physically in the classroom, would be offered probably most every day, with some possibly being offered in the evenings to accommodate various student needs, Frazier said.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 2
SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

McComon, the Jackson State official, said JSCC’s main contribution would be providing instruction for the courses.

Another meeting has been set for Feb. 5, when officials will discuss what classes might be offered and what types of staffing may be needed. In planning those issues, McComon noted that the needs of surrounding counties—not just Weakley County—would be considered. An open house at the satellite campus could be held as early as March.

Jackson State currently has three satellite campuses—Humboldt, Lexington and Savannah. McComon said counties in northwest Tennessee are part of Jackson’s State’s 14-county coverage area. “We know it’s a long way from there to here,” he said. “We know that there’s a need. We’re just happy that we’re able to provide it.”

Added Frazier, “The more opportunities we have for folks to get a post-secondary education, the better off we will be.” He acknowledged some might argue UT Martin already offers those opportunities. “But every student doesn’t qualify (for UT Martin),” he continued. “Every student doesn’t want a four-year degree. You’ve got to meet the needs of those other students.”

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum said he is “extremely excited” about the Dresden satellite campus. “Workforce development is the No. 1 factor in economic development,” he told The Press. “With the implantation of the Tennessee Promise, now not only students in Weakley County but all of northwest Tennessee will have the opportunity to receive a free two-year degree in their backyard.”

“The students of Weakley County should consider themselves fortunate to be able to have access to an array of educational opportunities in Weakley County through programs offered by Tennessee College of Applied Technologies, Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin,” Bynum continued. “I especially want to recognize and commend Director Frazier for the work that he did in seeing a need and implanting a solution. Because of his work, it is my hope that Weakley County will be a leader in Tennessee with a quality and educated workforce.”

UT Martin Chancellor Rakes told The Press that he was aware of discussions between Jackson State and others, having been informed by Frazier. “To date, we have not been formally contacted by officials from Jackson State Community College or the Tennessee Higher Education Commission,” Rakes said.

Frazier spoke about the satellite campus Tuesday night at a Weakley County Chamber of Commerce meeting. “The announcement (Tuesday) evening is the first public acknowledgment concerning JSCE in Weakley County,” Rakes said.

The Press asked Rakes what impact, if any, a Jackson State satellite campus in Dresden would have on UT Martin? What impact would it have on enrollment numbers?

“I believe these two questions are related. There is no definitive answer to either question, as I have not been contacted directly by any city or county elected official about the arrangement,” Rakes said. “I think it is best to leave the specifics to those most directly involved to share their assessment of need in our area. I have not seen any survey or data to reflect the initiative for a JSCE center. As a practice, UT Martin does not open center locations without a documented need in a particular location.”

“Keep in mind,” Rakes told The Press on Wednesday, “that the new UT Martin Advantage, along with available financial aid programs, will enable eligible students to attend UT Martin without losing any HOPE scholarship funds.”

“UT Martin offers a full range of academic programs and services that are unmatched in our region,” Rakes continued. “We believe the UT brand provides a clear reflection of the rigor and preparation that our students deserve.”
ONE YEAR LATER

FAST START — Julio Freire speaks to UT Martin supporters after he was hired as the school's athletic director last year. Freire has been on the job for a year and has made numerous personnel changes in that span, bringing in new coaches for men's basketball and baseball among those moves.
Coaching positions quick fix for Freire

By KEVIN WEAKS
Press Sports

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“When I got here, there were five sports that were performing at or near the bottom of the conference, and I will say under-performing,” he said. “As a general rule, I feel that if our programs are performing somewhere around the middle of the conference, it’s probably comparable to their resources at hand. There’s a direct correlation to resources at hand and competitive success. Honestly, a majority of our programs outperform their resources, and that starts with women’s basketball and it continues down through the women’s tennis program, the golf program, softball. Those groups are outperforming their resources. They’re performing in the top two, three or four in the conference.”

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UTM students head to the Super Bowl

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

MARTIN, TN - Six lucky college students were on their way to Arizona Friday to help with the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl. They're part of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Sports Business Program. Assistant Professor of Sports Business Dexter Davis said this is a great experience for students to network and make themselves more marketable in the workforce. This will be his tenth year, but his second taking UTM Sports Business students to the Super Bowl.

He said kickoff never gets old.

"It sends chills up your body when you're there and then kickoff happens and all the flash bulbs start going off and the roar of the crowd," Davis said.

Davis said the students help manage player appearances and hospitality events with former players.

"If a guy needs a new sharpie, you've got to give him the sharpie. If he needs more pictures to sign, grab him the pictures," Davis said.

Courtney Caton said she hopes this experience will help her find a job.

"I'm looking forward to seeing all the behind the scenes work that goes into putting on such a huge production," Caton said.

Sophomore Dakota Shane said being able to work and network at the Super Bowl is a dream come true.

"On a scale as large as the Super Bowl, there's no telling how many job opportunities will open up for me because of this," Shane said.

The students will also be helping at the Super Bowl's post game event where people who have paid an extra fee get to go onto the field after the trophy has been handed out.

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UT Martin students work hospitality at Pro Bowl, Super Bowl

The Jackson Sun

MARTIN — Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's sport business program will work hospitality events at the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz, according to a news release.

Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business, will lead the group. This is Davis' 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students, the release said.

At the Pro Bowl, students will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events, the release said. Students will also assist with the post-game event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented.

The group left Friday and will return Feb. 3. During their time in Phoenix, they will also be assisting the local organizing committee prepare for the Super Bowl, as well as meeting with members of the Phoenix Coyotes staff; touring the Salt Lick Fields complex, a spring training facility for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies; taking a trail ride on Camelback Mountain and attending the Phoenix Suns vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA game Monday after the Super Bowl, the release said.

Students interested in participating this year were required to submit a cover letter and resume to Davis, as well as complete a formal interview with him, before being selected. Davis treats the process like a job application because involvement with the NFL opens doors only the NFL can open, the re-
Students
Continued from Page B1

lease said.

“Anytime you are able to put a brand like the NFL next to your name, it garner attention. With some hard work and a little luck, I will be able to use this experience as a platform for a long, successful career in the football industry,” said Ian McGrew, in the news release. He is a senior from Troy.

“The Super Bowl is one of the most influential events of the year, especially when it comes to advertising,” said Courtney Caton in the news release. Caton is a sophomore from Huntingdon. “As a marketing major, I am intrigued by all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the advertising and production of such a large event. I am most excited about making connections with possible employers about internships or a career.”

The other students attending are Ross Landreth, a senior from Selmer; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville; and Dakotta Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors, the release said.

Robison is the only student from this year’s team to have also attended last year’s Super Bowl with Davis. “The hands-on involvement that I received from last year’s Super Bowl was enlightening. I think that going back for a second time I will be able to receive a more in-depth understanding of the event planning side of things,” she said in the news release. Last year’s team worked as customer service staff members during the game. For more information, contact Davis at (731) 881-7369 or by email at ddavis78@utm.edu.

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http://www.tennessean.com/

Teacher development key to Nashville's math switch

Jason Gonzales, jagonzales@tennessean.com

In a small classroom dedicated to professional development, three Metro Schools educators pore over numerous textbooks that could become the base of the district's new math curriculum.

The consortium discusses each book’s merit and runs through every teaching scenario during the Friday meetings. The group’s analysis of pros and cons about each book will help inform a nine-member committee, which will ultimately decide in April the textbooks high school students use in the 2015-16 school year.

“The hard part is none of them are perfect,” said Andrew Strong, a lead middle school math coach, who acts as a resource for teachers.

A routine textbook selection occurs every six years with a list of state-approved books. But the selection intensified after Wednesday’s announcement that high schools will change the way they teach algebra and geometry. In place of Algebra I, II and geometry is integrated math, a blend of the courses that is expected to better connect math to the real world.

The rollout of the new courses will involve a careful selection of books and curriculum to meet state standards, and weeks, if not months, of teacher professional development. Metro Nashville Public Schools will work with various universities and its partner county, Putnam County Schools, to guide the process.

Yet it's not the strength of the books that is key. It is how well prepared teachers are to instruct from the text that will determine the transition, said Ilana Horn, associate professor in Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College.

“(Curriculum) isn't an appliance that you can plug in,” she said. “Curriculum is only as good or bad as how it ends up getting used.”
A familiar name

While Metro had the opportunity to keep the same curriculum, it opted to change in light of the textbook selection year and the 2010 switch to Tennessee Standards, the state’s much-debated version of Common Core. And with the new TNReady testing expected to begin next year, it was the right time for the district, said Jill Petty, director of secondary curriculum and instruction.

High school algebra and geometry will still be taught, but the concepts will be introduced simultaneously so they link to each other.

“Even the concepts that can be addressed in algebraic and geometric terms are taught at different times,” said Jessica Slayton, Metro’s lead math coach.

Throughout the United States, K-8 and college students are taught integrated math. But algebra and geometry concepts are separated in Metro high schools. Integration, an internationally recognized practice, is one of four options recommended in the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The others are traditional (what students are taught right now in Metro) and two compacted options.

“If you look at curricula in the last 20 years, there are fantastic examples that do a good job and there are some that look like your same old math curricula,” Horn said.

Creating the right approach is where the district’s partners come into play. Once the books are selected, Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee at Martin will help guide how to create curriculum from the books. Putnam County Schools, which has used integrated math at high schools for three years, will offer lessons learned.

And the trio at the table — Strong, Petty and Slayton — and 66 districtwide high school coaches will help create classroom lessons and draw in outside resources for teachers.

Enough time?

Horn said the clock to ensure teachers are ready is ticking. The district won’t have books selected until April.

“We know it might be painful,” Petty said. “But we are going to support them to the fullest.”

Yet even with all the plans for teacher development, which includes summer seminars, increased collaboration among teachers and extra planning hours, some lessons will be learned on the fly, said Sharon Anderson, curriculum supervisor for Putnam County Schools. At times it still feels new to her teachers, she said.

“The most difficult part of the implementation (for teachers) has been their transition from being specialists in Algebra I, geometry or Algebra II to becoming math generalists in order to teach the integrated courses effectively,” she said.

Putnam County’s kids have reacted well to the changes, Anderson said, but qualitative data is still being collected.

Metro Schools, on the other hand, has a long way to go. Along with selecting the textbooks, there are many unknowns.

“Metro has not yet adopted a particular curriculum or adopted an approach to integrated math,” Vanderbilt’s Horn said. “Until then, I will hold my judgment.”
Reelfoot Bank promotes Michelle Bing to senior VP

Michelle Bing has been named senior vice president at Reelfoot Bank, where she has worked since August 1995.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in economics after graduating from Obion County Central High School in 1995.

Mrs. Bing is a graduate from the Tennessee Bankers Association Southeastern School of Banking as well as the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending.

She and her husband, Eric, live in Troy with their 6-year-old son, Luke.

Mrs. Bing is very active in the community, currently serving on the Obion County Joint Economic Development Council, the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Tennessee board of directors, the Adult Leadership Obion County board of directors and the United Way of Obion County board of directors.

She is also a member of the Union City J’Cettes.

http://news5live.com/

1/26/2015

UTM students head to the Super Bowl

MARTIN, TN -

Six lucky college students were on their way to Arizona Friday to help with the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl. They’re part of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Sports Business Program. Assistant Professor of Sports Business Dexter Davis said this is a great experience for students to network and make themselves more marketable in the workforce. This will be his tenth year, but his second taking UTM Sports Business students to the Super Bowl.

He said kick-off never gets old.

"It sends chills up your body when you’re there and then kick-off happens and all the flash bulbs start going off and the roar of the crowd,” Davis said.

Davis said the students help manage player appearances and hospitality events with former players.

"If a guy needs a new sharpie, you’ve got to give him the sharpie. If he needs more pictures to sign, grab him the pictures,” Davis said.

Courtney Caton said she hopes this experience will help her find a job.

"I’m looking forward to seeing all the behind the scenes work that goes into putting on such a huge production," Caton said.

Sophomore Dakota Shane said being able to work and network at the Super Bowl is a dream come true.

"On a scale as large as the Super Bowl, there’s no telling how many job opportunities will open up for me because of this,” Shane said.

The students will also be helping at the Super Bowl’s post game event where people who have paid an extra fee get to go onto the field after the trophy has been handed out.
McKenzie FFA Attends Annual UTM Horse Judging Clinic

MARTIN (January 15) — The McKenzie FFA recently participated in the annual UTM Horse Judging Clinic, held at the Ned R. McWherter Ag Pavilion on the campus of UTM. Students took part in training for the upcoming West Tennessee Horse Judging Career Development Event. The career development event is Tuesday, January 27 at UTM. The contest covers classes in western pleasure, halter mares, hunter under saddle, and geldings. The students are asked to place horses and riders based on their performance and to defend their placings.

http://bullctintimesnews.com/

UT MARTIN NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO FALL SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

Kayla N. Marcum, of Bolivar, was named to UT Martin chancellor's honor roll for the fall semester.
McKenzie High School Band students and alumni were well represented at the annual UT-Martin Honor Band Festival held last week. Over 700 applicants from across west, middle, and east Tennessee applied with only 200 being selected. Of those 200, the following McKenzie High School band students were selected with impressive results: Annias Haney received 4th Chair Wind Ensemble, Logan Priestley received 1st Chair Euphonium and Josh Keenan received 1st chair Tuba. Both Josh and Logan were a part of the symphonic band. Mason Wallace received 4th chair 9-10 grade band (concert). MHS Alumni were also represented. Mr. Keith Breeden, director of the McKenzie High School Band, was pleased to see four of his students, two of whom are music teachers and two who are pursuing careers in music. Ben Martin is the assistant director of bands at Liberty Tech School in Jackson. He was recently selected as the Educator of the Week on WBBJ-TV. Joey Sam is the director at Lakewood Middle School in Henry County. UT-Martin students of music Michael Keenan and Tommy Sam also enjoyed the Honor Band Festival and meeting up with MHS alumni.
UT Martin students work hospitality at Pro Bowl, Super Bowl

Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's sport business program will work hospitality events at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business, will lead the group. This is Davis’ 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students.

Students will not be in the stands eating popcorn, however. At the Pro Bowl, they will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events. Students will also assist with the post-game event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented.

The group left Friday and will return Feb. 5. During their time in Phoenix, they will also be assisting the local organizing committee prepare for the Super Bowl, as well as meeting with members of the Phoenix Coyotes staff; touring the Salt Lick Fields complex, a spring training facility for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies; taking a trail ride on Camelback Mountain and attending the Phoenix Suns vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA game Monday after the Super Bowl.

Students interested in participating this year were required to submit a cover letter and resume to Davis, as well as complete a formal interview with him, before being selected. Davis treats the process like a job application because involvement with the NFL opens doors only the NFL can open. 

SEE NFL, PAGE 10

NFL FROM PAGE 1

"Anytime you are able to put a brand like the NFL next to your name, it garners attention. With some hard work and a little luck, I will be able to use this experience as a platform for a long, successful career in the football industry," said Ian McGrew, a senior from Troy.

"The Super Bowl is one of the most influential events of the year, especially when it comes to advertising," said Courtney Caton, a sophomore from Huntingdon. "As a marketing major, I am intrigued by all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the advertising and production of such a large event. I am most excited about making connections with possible employers about internships or a career."

The other students attending are Ross Landreth, a senior from Selmer; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; Rachel Robison, a senior from Springsville; and Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors.

Robison is the only student from this year's team to have also attended last year's Super Bowl with Davis. "The hands-on involvement that I received from last year's Super Bowl was enlightening. I think that going back for a second time I will be able to receive a more in-depth understanding of the event planning side of things," she said. Last year's team worked as customer service staff members during the game.
HOSPITALITY HELP — Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s sport business program will work hospitality events at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business, will lead the group. This is Davis’ 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students. At the Pro Bowl, students will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events. Students will also assist with the post-game event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented. Pictured are (from left) Courtney Caton, a sophomore from Huntingdon; Ross Landreth, a senior from Selmer; Ian McGrew, a senior from Troy; Davis; Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; and Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors.
Skyhawks fly to Pro Bowl, Super Bowl
UT Martin students, including MCHS Grad, work hospitality for NFL Post-Season

By Christen Coulon and Ethan Huggins
Staff Writers

Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's sport business program, including a 2009 McNairy Central graduate from Selmer, will work hospitality events at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

Ross Landreth, a UTM senior from Selmer with join his fellow Skyhawks at the big games as they participate in several activities related to their major. The group will be lead by Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business. This is Davis' 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students.

Landreth and his fellow students will not be in the stands eating popcorn, however. At the Pro Bowl, they will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events.

Students will also assist with the post-game event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented.

The group will left last Friday and plan to return Feb. 3. During their time in Phoenix, they will also be assisting the local organizing committee prepare for the Super Bowl, as well as meeting with members of the Phoenix Coyotes staff; touring the Salt Lick Fields complex, a spring training facility for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies; taking a trail ride on Camelback Mountain and attending the Phoenix Suns vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA game Monday after the Super Bowl.

Students interested in participating this year were required to submit a cover letter and resume to Davis, as well as complete a formal interview with him, before being selected. Davis treats the process like a job application because involvement with the NFL opens doors only the NFL can open.

"I'm still in shock that I'm actually going, not many people can say they've been apart of a Super Bowl," Landreth said. "I'm thankful for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to seeing the aspects of what it takes to make a mega sporting event take place, and knowing I'm playing a small role in that process is an incredible feeling."

Landreth said that he know the experience he will gain at the games will certainly benefit him as he continues to pursue opportunities in sports business.

"I had the opportunity to help with a student project with the athletic program selling basketball season ticket packages," Landreth said. "I found that interesting. The majority of jobs within the sports industry involve marketing and sales to some degree, and I think (this experience) presents the best way to obtaining employment in the sports industry."

The other students attending are Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville; and Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors.

For more information, contact Davis at 731-881-7369 or by email at ddavis78@utm.edu.
Sandra Brackett retires with 45 years of service

University colleagues and friends gathered December 18 in the Holland McCombs Center to honor Sandra Brackett for 45 years of service in the UT Martin Office of Academic Records.

Brackett officially retired December 31, 2014.

Brackett, of Sharon, began in the office as a student worker and continued in that role until she earned her degree.

She became a fulltime staff member in July 1969 following her graduation.

Attending the reception were (standing, l to r) Tonia Cox, Patsy Potts, Janice Parham, Sandy Holland, Dr. Brandy Cartmell, Emily Knudsen (retired staff member), Cheryl Branon, Ann Kelly (retired staff member) and Teresa Erwin; (seated, l to r) LeAnne Perry, Brackett and Cherie Edwards.

http://www.thedailytimes.com/

Local students make honor roll at UT Martin

Students from Blount County have made the honor chancellor's honor rolls for the fall 2014 semester at the University of Tennessee, Martin. Samantha Beal, of Maryville, made high honors, and Leah Kaseymeyer, also of Maryville, made highest honors. Megan B. Richards, of Walland, made highest honors.

To be eligible for chancellor's honor roll recognition, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the honor roll with honors with a 3.2 through 3.49 grade point average, high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Jennifer Horbelt, UT Martin alumna and co-anchor of WPSD Local 6 news in Paducah, Kentucky, is the keynote speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 17th annual Working Women’s Conference. She will speak on “Reconstructing Your Life.” The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., February 6, in the Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom on the main campus. Registration is $40 per person and participants must be enrolled by February 1. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and all activities.

Horbelt began her WPSD career while a student at UT Martin and worked her way up from intern to reporter to evening anchor. She covered several high-profile local trials as well as the 2009 winter storm. In 2011 she moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to anchor at NBC affiliate KOAA News 5 and took part in the coverage of several massive wildfires, the Aurora theater shooting, the Denver Broncos’ Super Bowl appearance and President Obama’s 2012 campaign. She received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award during UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming celebration. This year’s conference theme is “Women Under Construction: Building Career, Family and Communities.” Sessions will focus on building personal and professional relationships, physical fitness and emotional strength.

The conference schedule is as follows:
- 8:30 a.m.: registration and continental breakfast;
- 9: welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director;
- 10: “Constructing Your Family Tree,” Stephanie Taylor, W.G. Rhea Public Library;
- 10:45: break;
- 11:45: lunch;
- 1 p.m.: “Building a Firm Foundation,” Loral Underwood, personal trainer;
- 1:45: “Building Spirits,” Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin assistant professor of communications.

Registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis and seating is limited. Register online at http://www.utmforever.com/wc2015 or contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at vgrimes@utm.edu or by phone at 731-881-7298. The UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program in partnership with the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise makes the Working Women’s Conference possible.

NEW OFFICERS — The UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society named new officers for the 2015 year at an election held December 3. The chapter recently won a commendable rating and a Green Chapter Award from the national society, and leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards. Pictured are (seated, from left) Kristan McCrillis of Bradford, secretary; Drake Williams of Paris, vice-president; Layla Gargus of Martin, president; Benjamin Ide of Dover, treasurer; (standing) executive committee members William Kuehnzinger of Germantown; Michaela Short of Hendersonville; Dwight Johnson, II of Brownsville; Krysten Harris of Union City, 2014 president; and Vincent Cote of Big Rock.
UT Martin Announces “UT Martin Advantage” Initiative

The University of Tennessee at Martin announced a new initiative Jan. 20 called the “UT Martin Advantage” to complement the recently-enacted Tennessee Promise legislation.

A major component of the UT Martin Advantage plan is the introduction of a new scholarship. Students who enter the university in their freshman year and continue to meet requirements for the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship will be eligible to receive the UT Martin Advantage Scholarship beginning in their sophomore year. This will take effect beginning in the fall 2015 semester.

The initiative also includes the launch of a new website built to show prospective students the long-term advantages of attending a four-year university and participating in the total collegiate experience.

At UT Martin, students have access to award-winning faculty members; hands-on learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom; international travel study opportunities; and a variety of campus activities and organizations often not present on community college campuses.

“We believe that many students benefit from attending a four-year university,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “The UT Martin Advantage Scholarship provides more students with the opportunity to pursue the total collegiate experience.”

For more information, visit the new website at http://www.utm.edu/advantage/.

Landreth heads to Super Bowl

Ross Landreth, pictured second from left, a senior sport business major from Selmer, will join five other students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's sport business program to work hospitality events at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport business, will lead the
Landreth From pg. 1

group. This is Davis’ 10th Super Bowl and the second for UT Martin students.

Students will not be in the stands eating popcorn, however. At the Super Bowl, they will be involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, students will likely work with Davis, who helps manage player appearances at the event. This includes assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events. Students will also assist with the post-game event, where visitors who have paid an extra fee are allowed to go onto the field after the trophy has been presented.

The group left Jan. 23 and return Feb. 3. During their time in Phoenix, they will also be assisting the local organizing committee prepare for the Super Bowl, as well as meeting with members of the Phoenix Coyotes staff; touring the Salt Lake Fields complex, a spring training facility for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies; taking a trail ride on Camelback Mountain and attending the Phoenix Suns vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA game Monday after the Super Bowl.

Students interested in participating this year were required to submit a cover letter and resume to Davis, as well as complete a formal interview with him, before being selected. Davis treats the process like a job application because involvement with the NFL opens doors only the NFL can open.

"Anytime you are able to put a brand like the NFL next to your name, it garners attention. With some hard work and a little luck, I will be able to use this experience as a platform for a long, successful career in the football industry," said Ian McGrew, a senior from Troy.

"The Super Bowl is one of the most influential events of the year, especially when it comes to advertising," said Courtney Caton, a sophomore from Huntingdon. "As a marketing major, I am intrigued by all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the advertising and production of such a large event. I am most excited about making connections with possible employers about internships or a career.

The other students attending are Caton; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; McGrew; Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville; and Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors.

Robison is the only student from this year’s team to have also attended last year’s Super Bowl with Davis. "The hands on involvement that I received from last year’s Super Bowl was enlightening. I think that going back for a second time I will be able to receive a more in-depth understanding of the event planning side of things," she said. Last year’s team worked as customer service staff members during the game.

For more information, contact Davis at 731-881-7369 or by email at ddavis78@utm.edu.
Muriel Tomlinson lecture to focus on history of United States-Iranian relations

Dr. Richard Garlitz, associate professor of history and philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present Phi Kappa Phi’s 2015 Muriel Tomlinson lecture at 7 p.m. on Feb. 10 in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main UT Martin campus.

Garlitz will present a lecture titled, “Friends Like These: The Legacy of the 1953 Coup on United States-Iranian Relations.” His research examines the roles that American colleges and universities played in international development during the first two decades of the Cold War, especially as part of the U.S. government-sponsored Point Four Program. Garlitz presents the accounts of technical advisors from three American universities who worked in Iran during the coup. Their understanding of events, both during the early 1950s and over subsequent decades, sheds light on how Americans understood relations between those two countries that culminated in the Iranian Revolution, the onset of the Islamic Republic and the highly adversarial state of contemporary United States-Iranian relations.

Garlitz completed undergraduate work in history and English at Purdue University. He received a master’s degree in history from Ball State University and a Ph.D. in history from Ohio University. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 2008 and teaches courses on American foreign relations, the Middle East and world history. He is co-editor of “Teaching America to the World and the World to America: Education and Foreign Relations since 1870,” published by Palgrave Macmillan, and anticipates the release of his book, “A Mission for Development: Utah Universities, the Point Four Program and United States-Iranian Relations,” in 2017.

The Muriel Tomlinson lecture is presented each spring semester in honor of Dr. Muriel Tomlinson, a UT Martin faculty member and chair of the Department of Modern and Foreign Languages from 1959-76. Tomlinson created the campus language laboratory and was a supporter of the ideals of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971. Students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success are honored with membership each year. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Becky Cox, associate professor of educational studies, at 881-7134 or by email at beckyc@utm.edu.

Master’s program in educational leadership gets approval from state

The Tennessee Department of Education recently elevated the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online master’s degree program in educational leadership to full approval status after the program met or exceeded expectations on all review indicators.

Students wishing to earn a Master of Science in Education, with a major in educational leadership, must have already received a bachelor’s degree, hold a valid teaching license and have a minimum of three years of successful work experience in the education field. Obtaining a master’s degree allows candidates to complete licensure requirements for an instructional leadership license—beginner (ILL-B).

The master’s degree program includes a three-hour course in models of instruction, curriculum development and advanced teaching; 27 hours of leadership concentration coursework; and a three-hour course in clinical supervision. All coursework is accessible online.

Teachers who already hold master’s degrees but wish to pursue the additional endorsement in educational leadership must meet the university’s requirements for conditional or non-conditional admission and complete 24 hours of coursework.

All students wishing to be recommended for the ILL-B must also pass the Educational Testing Service’s Praxis school leadership series, “School Leaders Licensure Assessment.” A final portfolio project is also required. Obtaining an ILL-B is vital for those who wish to pursue careers as school principals, assistant principals or supervisors of instruction.

This approval follows the university’s receiving Tennessee’s only U.S. Department of Education teacher education grant in 2014, which totaled $3.3 million.

For more information, contact the Department of Educational Studies at 881-7128 or email Kristy Crawford, coordinator, at kcrawford@utm.edu.
Yeargin to serve on TCA’s board of directors

The Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association said it is pleased to welcome Jay Yeargin of Greenfield to its board of directors.

Yeargin was born and raised on his family’s farm. While attending school at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he met his wife, Alice Ann.

After the two had graduated and were married, they went back to the farm that Yeargin’s grandfather had started. Today, they have a commercial herd of both Polled Herefords and Angus cattle and farm corn, wheat and soybeans. They are expecting their first child in April.

Yeargin is passionate about the cattle business and is excited now be on the TCA board of directors. “I think that young farmers need to be more involved in leadership roles to better agriculture as a whole,” Yeargin said. “While fulfilling my role, I hope to bring new ideas to the table and continue to share success strategies with other farmers.”

Yeargin joins other at-large members and nine district vice presidents on the TCA board. These cattlemen and women represent the state of Tennessee and are put in place to help direct policy that affects the state’s cattlemen and women.

“We are excited to have Jay on the board,” TCA president Gary Daniel said. “He will provide a youthful perspective and will help us represent the voices of all cattle producers.”

TCA was founded in 1985 and has nearly 6,800 members from across the state.

The organization works to provide the cattlemen of Tennessee with an organization through which they may function collectively to protect their interests and work toward the solution of cattle industry problems and to build the necessary goodwill that will bring both governmental esteem and recognition to the industry.

SCIENCE BOWL — Ten students from Westview High School participated in the 2014 High School Science Bowl at UT Martin this past November. Selam Getaneh made the team’s top score. Noah King, Emilee Yott and Jared York scored above-average in biology and Kyle Holley finished above-average in chemistry. The competition, sponsored by the UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society, included a written test and a television-style quiz bowl. A total of 54 students from five high schools participated in the event. Pictured are (front row, from left) Krishna Patel and Christy Lee, UT Martin SMACS officers; Taylor Yott; Gerardo Paláfox; Getaneh; Kennedy Basham; Kaitlin Blake; Kim Simmons, Westview teacher; Stephanie Gourley, UT Martin SMACS officer; and Dr. S. K. Airee, UT Martin SMACS advisor and associate professor of physics; (back row) Jessica Hightower, Westview teacher; York; Dylan McClanahan; Parker Beal; Holley and King.
Jennifer Horbelt, UT Martin alumna and co-anchor of WPSD Local 6 news in Paducah, Kentucky, is the keynote speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 17th annual Working Women’s Conference.

She will speak on “Reconstructing Your Life.” The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Feb. 6, in the Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom on the main campus. Registration is $40 per person and participants must be enrolled by Feb. 1. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and all activities.

Horbelt began her WPSD career while a student at UT Martin and worked her way up from intern to reporter to evening anchor. She covered several high-profile local trials as well as the 2009 winter storm. In 2011 she moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., to anchor at NBC affiliate KOAA News 5 and took part in the coverage of several massive wildfires, the Aurora theater shooting, the Denver Broncos’ Super Bowl appearance and President Obama’s 2012 campaign. She received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award during UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming celebration.

This year’s conference theme is “Women Under Construction: Building Career, Family and Communities.” Sessions will focus on building personal and professional relationships, physical fitness and emotional strength.

The conference schedule is as follows:
• 8:30 a.m. – Registration and continental breakfast
• 9 – Welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director
• 9:15 – Keynote Speaker – “Reconstructing your Life,” Jennifer Horbelt
• 10 – “Constructing Your Family Tree,” Stephanie Tayloe, W.G. Rhea Public Library
• 10:45 – Break
• 11 – “Building Relationships, Influence and Impact,” Alissa DeWitt, founder, executive coach and consultant; Executive Impact
• 11:45 – Lunch
• 1 p.m. – “Building a Firm Foundation,” Local Underwood, personal trainer
• 1:45 – “Building Spirits,” Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin assistant professor of communications

Registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis and seating is limited. Register online at http://www.utm-forever.com/wc2015 or contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at vgrimes@utm.edu or by phone at 881-7298.

The UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program in partnership with the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise makes the Working Women’s Conference possible.
Foust joins local Bank board

Two employees have recently been promoted by Commercial Bank and a former employee has been named to the board of directors.

Kay Foust, who recently retired as an active employee of the bank, has been appointed to the company board of directors. Meanwhile, Andy Collins has been named community president and Clint Davis has become senior vice president of human resources, marketing and compliance.

Foust, who began working at Commercial Bank in 1972, served many roles in the community. She plans to enjoy her retirement with family, church and continued community involvement.

Collins joined the bank in 2005. He has served in multiple leadership roles within the organization and has more than 19 years of experience in the banking industry.

He is active in the Lakeway Kiwanis Club, at First Baptist Church and in various other civic and community activities.

Davis and his wife, Leigh Ann, and their two sons live in Paris.

"We are pleased to have Andy in this leadership position in Paris," said Mott Ford, vice chairman and chief executive officer. "He has proven to be a tremendous asset to our bank and the Henry County community.

"Kay Foust's dedication to Commercial Bank for the past forty years has been exceptional. We are fortunate to have Kay join our board of directors.

"Clint Davis has also been an important part of our success in Henry County over the past fifteen years. I look forward to his continued contributions in his new position."
Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's sports business program are working hospitality events with their sports management professor at both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona this weekend. On Sounds Good, Kate Lochte speaks with Dr. Dexter Davis about how he works with the NFL to arrange for the students to help and explains what the students experience while they're there.

While working at Alfred State college SUNY and Niagara University, Dr. Davis wanted a way to differentiate from other sports management programs and initially sought to take students to help during Spring Training for a week. So he contacted every Major League Baseball team and ended up in Jupiter, Florida on the training grounds of the Cardinals and Marlins. While there, he made contact with a person affiliated with the Miami Dolphins who was seeking volunteers for the Super Bowl in Miami. He took some students down and they did a great job working 18 hour days with whatever was needed. NFL On Location liked the professionalism of his students. This group contacts local organizing groups during the Super Bowl and other events and pairs them with volunteer groups like Dr. Davis' class.

He says they've been in Phoenix since last Friday, initially helping with the Pro Bowl, which isn't quite as exotic or extravagant as the Super Bowl, but their primary job was acting as way-finders for people looking for hospitality events. Last Monday, NFL On Location said they were short people at the NFL Experience in the fan zone, where people go to check out sponsor booths and members of the media set up. Dr. Davis says as an educational experience, he wants his students to learn that there is a whole year or more of preparation that goes into events like this and that these things don't just come together instantly. That the business side of an industry like the NFL, Super Bowl is a major production, likening it to a Broadway show with rehearsals and practice.

The students also got to be tourists, too. On one of the days off, they toured the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies spring training facility along with some other sight-seeing. -- He says they'll spend another day working the NFL experience before managing the Super Bowl. They'll help manage player appearances, escorting them through security into the stadium while they interact with fans, before escorting them away. He says each student had to go through an FBI clearance to enter and exit the stadium. Once the hospitality events are over, the students get to hang out in the stadium during the Super Bowl and after the game, they'll help fans into the field for the post game experience and help them to their hospitality venues.

Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor sport management at UTM, has worked hospitality for NFL on location at the Super Bowl for a decade. This is the second year he's also brought students to work with him. Six UTM students are with Davis in Glendale, Arizona working both the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl to learn about the hospitality business that goes with professional sports events.
Houghton native turns Super Bowl into classroom

By Chris Brooks
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Wellsville, N.Y.

GLENDALE, AZ — It’s just 48 hours from Super Bowl XLIX, where the Patriots and Seahawks will do battle in the desert with New England looking for its fourth title — its first in over a decade — and Seattle looking to repeat as the defending champs for the first time since those same Patriots did it in 2004.

In attendance this year along with tens of thousands of fans is Houghton native Dexter Davis, now a professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Formerly a professor at Niagara University and a Houghton College graduate, Davis is now the Assistant Professor of Sports Business at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Davis and six of his students left last Friday and went on a trip of a lifetime to be a part of one of the biggest events atop every sports nut’s bucket list: A trip to the big game.

It’s a business trip for Davis and his students, who will receive an inside look at what goes on behind the scenes, beyond the scope captured by the television cameras.

“We already worked the Pro Bowl last Sunday and we’re involved with the NFL’s on location program,” he said. “Our students provided help managing on Pro Bowl Sunday. There are current players and half of former teams that do meet and greets and I help manage that process, and my students help with that as well to get players from different venues.

“We’re also involved in the postgame process, to get back to the hospitality area after the game,” added Davis. “They actually go out on the game field after they present the trophy, to experience what’s like on the field.”

Davis, a former soccer coach at Jamestown Community College and Alfred State, is no stranger to the Super Bowl. This is his 10th year taking in the big spectacle that is the Super Bowl. This is his second year going with UT.

The preparation that goes into one of the largest events in the world is the educational part of the experience, he said.

“The biggest thing is how the largest events in the world happens, that’s the educational thing,” he said. “Not just the game, but the preparation. We were in downtown Phoenix, and the students saw how they set up Super Bowl Boulevard. Sponsors come in and set up station there. They’ve been out to the stadium and saw what it looks like. And on Pro Bowl Sunday, they had the opportunity to be a part of the process of how to bring the people to the stadium. They get to see what you don’t see on television from an educational point of view.”

Both teams had their send-offs last weekend in Foxboro and Seattle, and the hype for the big game has not slowed up one bit. Just as you would expect, Glendale is going nuts over the big game, Davis said.

“It’s absolutely crazy down here,” he said. “Downtown is crazy, the traffic is packed. It’s something you would expect for a big event like this. The eyes of the American sports world are on Phoenix.”

His schedule has consisted of sightseeing sports facilities, including on Media Day, tours of the Spring Training facilities of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies, and also general sightseeing of the Phoenix and Glendale metro area.

It all started for Davis with a trip to Jupiter, Florida and a meeting with a representative of the Miami Dolphins.

“I’ve been doing this for a long time, and actually when I left Alfred for Niagara, I took students to Jupiter, Florida and we saw the St. Louis Cardinals and Florida Marlins Spring Training facilities,” said Davis. “In the process, I met a young woman who worked for the Miami Dolphins, and she encouraged me to bring students down to Miami. And that was how it all started for me.”

After the Super Bowl, Davis hopes that his students will never forget this experience of a lifetime.

“They’ll have some cool stories after the Super Bowl, and some interactions with the players,” he said. “The kids will learn that it’s more than watching the players play and grabbing autographs with fans, but more of an inside look at it.”