Robbins named director of public safety at University of Tennessee at Martin

Scott Robbins of Martin, a University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, has been named UT Martin's director of public safety, effective Tuesday.

Robbins was employed by the Martin Police Department for 16 years, most recently as captain of training/operations.

"The search (for a director of public safety) produced a very competitive pool of candidates," said Al Hooten, UT Martin's vice chancellor for finance and administration. "Scott's administrative background with the Martin Police Department prepared him for this position. He is well qualified to lead the university's department of public safety."

"I am extremely excited and honored to have been named director of public safety at UT Martin," Robbins said. "I have worked side by side with UT Martin public safety personnel for 16 years (as part of the Martin Police Department) and I know they are very professional."


He began service with the Martin Police Department as a dispatcher and patrol officer in 1990. He served as community relations officer from 1992-96 and then lieutenant of the patrol division from 1996-2002, when he assumed the captain's post. As a captain, he was responsible for compliance and training for all divisions, personnel, grants administration, oversight of daily operations and was the public relations officer and computerized voice stress analysis operator.

Robbins received the department's Medal of Valor in 2000 and an Outstanding Service Award in 1996.

He is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police, Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association, FBI National Academy Alumni Association, Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Officers Association, Martin Police Citizens Police Academy alumni group and is a Leadership Weakley County graduate.

Robbins' father, Guy Robbins, was longtime grounds manager at UT Martin prior to his retirement.

"UT Martin has always been a part of my life," Robbins said. "I can't wait to be part of the UT Martin family."

Chuck Doss joins investment staff of First Citizens Financial Plus

Chuck Doss has been added as an investment representative and manager of First Citizens Financial Plus's Union City office.

He will also be serving the Weakley County market, according to an announcement from Tommy Hopper, president of First Citizens Financial Plus.

"We are pleased that Chuck has made the decision to join the Financial Plus staff," Hopper said.

"His previous experience in the brokerage business and his close community ties make him a natural for the First Citizens Financial Plus team. Chuck is truly interested in the financial well being of the customers he serves and will continue his efforts to assist in meeting their financial goals."

Doss joins Financial Plus with experience in both financial planning/investments and insurance.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, a member of Union City Rotary Club and a member of the board of directors of the Obion County Community Concert Series.

He and his wife, Suzanne, have two daughters, Katy Lane and Gracie.

The Doss family attends Second Baptist Church in Union City.

Doss may be contacted by telephone at 886-1135 or by e-mail at cdoss@fcbrokerage.com.
Achievements

December 24, 2006

Lisa Vorras has accepted a position as a special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. She is a graduate of Houston High School and received a degree in criminal justice and psychology from the University of Dayton (Ohio) and a master's degree in criminal justice from Georgia State University in Atlanta. Vorras has been assigned to the GBI regional office in Atlanta.

Lakeland resident Constance Baugh Certon earned a master's degree in counseling and personal services from the University of Memphis on Dec. 18. She is a member of the American School Counselor Association and Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society. Certon is a school counselor at Millington Central High.

Outstanding Mississippi College students have been selected for inclusion in the 2006-07 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, a publication that is reserved for outstanding campus leaders. Among them are Lauren Elizabeth Goss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Goss of East Memphis and a biology medical sciences major; and Lauren Charis Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hodges of Lakeland and a public relations major.

Angel Cotton of Whitehaven, a graduating computer science and information systems major at the University of Memphis at Martin, was honored at the fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the school's department of computer science and information systems.

Derek Bowie, a 2005 graduate of Wooddale High School and son of Ida Bowie of Southwest Memphis, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Orange Mound resident Brian White, a University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduate, took the Order of the Engineer oath and was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony held prior to the fall commencement exercises.

Air Force Airman Bridgett L. Johnson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. She is the daughter of Andrea Johnson of Raleigh and a 2006 graduate of Craigmont High School.

Air National Guard Airman First Class Ryan D. Grant has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. He is the son of Wes Grant and Gloria Grant of Collierville and a 2005 graduate of Houston High School.

Air Force Airman First Class Erica R. Butts has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. She is the daughter of Ernie and Debra Butts of Southeast Memphis, and the granddaughter of Alma Lucille Butts of Southwest Memphis. She graduated in 2000 from Germantown High School.

Shefta Stevenson, the daughter of Earnest and Denise Stevenson of the Capleville community and a senior at Arkansas State University, was named to the 2007 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges by Dr. Rick Striping. She is a broadcast major in the College of Communications.

The University of Mississippi announced that area residents are among students who are candidates for degrees following the conclusion of the fall semester.

Candidates for advanced degrees include: Terrence D. Bittenum of Arlington, masters; Alexandra Leigh Hutton of Collierville, juris doctor; CaSheena Michelle Woofen of Cordova, masters; Lisa Taylor Jordan of Germantown, masters; Regina Boyd of Memphis, masters; James Christopher Harris of Memphis, masters, and Ida Bridge Steinberg of Memphis, masters.

Candidates for bachelor's degrees include:

BARTLETT -- Tara Colleen Strong

COLLIERVILLE: Jon Paul Braeshar, Megan Louise Clancy, Matthew Paul Gabriel, Brent Randal Hogue, James Ryan Jones and Tara Meire McLean

CORDOVA -- Evan Elliott Stenstrom

GERMANTOWN -- Jacob Harvey Booten, Jennifer Rae Romanow and Lyndsey Austin Williams

MEMPHIS -- Marquita Shavette Aldridge, Allison Nicole Barnes, Carl Jerome Bethley, Kymberly Nichole Cook, David Lewis Hailey, Elisa KaTina Hardaway, James Herbert Humphreys, Gigi Monique Palmertree and David Paul Verhine

MILLINGTON -- John Houston Hise
The World Beyond

Student Affiliates chapters provide a gateway into the professional community. The valuable skills that students learn will help them thrive when they leave school behind.

The Student Affiliates chapter at the University of Tennessee at Martin also places a premium on planning and organization. Students host a mini-meeting on behalf of area chapters, and participants present papers before an audience. Student Affiliates also host a Science Bowl for area high schools in which they administer a test prepared by faculty. And about 10 Student Affiliates attend the ACS national meetings each year and present posters detailing their activities.

"It teaches them responsibility," says S. K. Airee (ACS '58), the chapter adviser and a chemistry professor at the school. "They cannot take these things lightly." He says that these activities reinforce chemistry lessons his students learn in the classroom and give them some practical experience as well.

For example, his students sometimes apply for ACS grants, including the innovative activities grant. They first have to fill out an application and then must find a way to put their proposals into action. If their plans fail, the students "learn that the same objective can be accomplished in different ways," Airee says.

That's a valuable lesson because professional scientists encounter similar challenges every day. When Student Affiliates become professionals themselves, they'll already have experience setting goals, solving problems, and communicating their findings—all essential ingredients to success in chemistry.
Business consultant available at REED Center

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in January at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan. 11 and 9:30 a.m. - noon Jan. 18. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at (731) 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St. in Martin.

UTM among nation's best buys

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., in Rome, Ga.

In the listing notification released by Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president, he said that America’s 100 Best College Buys “identifies those schools providing the highest quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost.” This is the first time that UT Martin has received recognition in the IRE listing.

“UT Martin is among a very select group of colleges and universities in the nation that offers affordability and quality,” Lindsey said. “This is a rare combination that results only from a continuing effort from a dedicated administration, faculty, staff and student body.”

“We are pleased that UT Martin has earned this recognition,” said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. “Our faculty and staff continually find ways to provide a high-quality education to our students at a competitive cost. This listing rewards their efforts and assures students that they’re receiving a great education.”

The listing among America’s 100 Best College Buys is the third major recognition for UT Martin in the 2006-07 academic year. In August, UT Martin continued its top-tier ranking for master’s level public universities in the South in the 2007 edition of America’s Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report. UT Martin tied for 21st place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Also in August, The Princeton Review named UT Martin a “Best Southeastern College” for 2007.

UT Martin grads named

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton – Jody Clinton Warnble, Eric Brandon Horn;
- Humboldt – Justin Lee Brown, Jayne Denise Crawford, Megan Michelle Dickson, Patrick Wayne Bunch, Jacqueline Juannette Bonds, Tammy Dale Twyman;
- Medina – Justin Bret Chapman;
- Dyer – Kevin Lee Elliott, Jessica Joy Riley;
- Yorkville – Bryan Poole;
- Milan – Candace Morgan


Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyer – Kristina Starr Arnold;
- Milan – Donneka Masherielle Bradford;
- Bradford – Kelly Dawn Knott;

Dr. John D. Peterson, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

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Graduate luncheon held at UTM

Pictured from left are: Pam Fuqua, of Martin, and Dr. Joy Roach, assistant professor of information systems.

Pictured from left are: Brian White, of Martin, and Dr. Emery Gatherers, professor of computer science.

Graduating computer science and information systems majors at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently were honored at the fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Information Technology Services reorganized

Reorganization within the Division of Academic Affairs, effective January 1, will result in increased responsibilities for the Office of Information Technology Services and the promotion of several staff members. Shannon Burgin has been promoted to chief information officer and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. Also promoted were Terry Lewis, director of systems administration and security; Brenda Wright, director of applications development, administration and operations; Mike Abney, director of technical services and telecommunications; Susie Nanney, director of the computer store and digital printing services; and Steve Holt, director of the instructional technology center and Web services.

In addition to UT Martin, organizational changes are being reviewed for other University of Tennessee System IT units. Changes at UT Martin were necessary to more directly align with current IT structures within the UT System and other public institutions in Tennessee. In addition to title changes, duties involving expanded technology initiatives for the campus, UT System technology collaboration efforts and statewide initiatives have been added to the information technology services leadership.

"The increasingly important role of technology reflects our commitment to ensure we have the infrastructure and staff to remain competitive," said Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"We are very excited about and thankful for the promotions," said Burgin. "Our mission is to provide high-quality information technology and communications resources and services through shared resources, common infrastructure and functions in support of the academic and administrative activities of UT Martin. Without the skills and knowledge of the information technology services staff members, this would not be possible."
Petersen tells graduates value of college degree is lifetime investment

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, delivered the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, December 16. He placed graduates "squarely at the center of the future" as they received degrees and "set out to make the world a better place."

Petersen noted the exciting changes that class members have seen while at UT Martin. "There has been marked growth in the enrollment, new off-campus centers have opened to educate more Tennesseans. A new student recreation facility is in the works," he added. "And Nick Dunagan, who's been a fixture here, decided he's going to retire. Nick will hard be to replace, and the University of Tennessee will miss him.

"Each of you has certainly made your mark here, too, and I'm proud that I can be part of this ceremony to recognize you for all your hard work. Of course, I want to acknowledge all the families and friends, too. Your contributions made it all possible."

The president tied the students' achievements and future successes to that of the state of Tennessee and other places where they may locate after graduation.

"The value of a college degree is a lifetime investment," said Petersen. "Statistics say that - compared to those with a high school education - you will earn more and be healthier, and that you'll pass along those benefits to your children. You're also more likely to be engaged in your communities, and you'll contribute more fully to economic development whether you choose to live in the state or out of the state."

Petersen advised the graduates not to forget the values they learned growing up, to treat all people with dignity and respect and appreciate the contributions that their co-workers make to their success in the workplace. He suggested each graduate "keep an open mind, make an informed decision, but follow your heart." He also urged them to stay connected. "Family and friends are the substance we need to reinvigorate our spirit...keep connected and engaged in your work, and that will be easier to accomplish when you take time to connect with your surroundings."

Finally, Petersen said, "Understand that the road of life is going to have many potholes. How you deal with success will speak to your personality, but how you deal with adversity will speak to your integrity and your set of values."

"As you leave here today, you carry a lot of hopes with you - your own, your family's, and even your state's. You are the future. You will make our state and our world a better place to live and work."

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 44 Tennessee counties and 12 other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. The class also included students from Canada, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey. They join more than 33,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Also attending the ceremony were Dr. Gary Rogers, UT chief financial officer, and Dr. David Milhorn, UT vice president for research and economic development.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni. "There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree," said Dunagan. "Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpayers citizens."

"You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree," said Dunagan. "Be an advocate for higher education." He added, "When you arrived here as freshmen, we said 'get involved.' As you depart, my final words are 'get involved. Make a difference.'"

ACHIEVEMENTS

Several Tipton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement.

Earning their graduate degrees were Covington resident Kimberly Lynn Turner and Stephanie Ann Stewart of Burlison.

Receiving their undergraduate degrees were Patrick Lee Dixon and Matthew Lee Scott of Munford; William Rives Seay of Mason; and Ashley Rebecca Gregg and Clifton David Smith of Covington.
Wednesday's News Summary is ready for viewing at:
http://knxln.ips.utk.edu/prnews.nsf

User name - webnews
Password - utnews

Today's Headlines
Knoxnews: UT ministry worker loses entire family
Knoxnews: Connection construction, UT mentioned
Knoxnews: Will bass team catch on at UT?
Knoxnews: Sign of the times, UT expert quoted
Knoxnews: Vacancy light on, UT official quoted
Knoxnews: State's residents number 6 million, UT expert quoted
Tennessean: 6,000,000 now live in Tennessee, UT expert quoted
WPSD: UT Martin Listed Among America's 100 Best College Buys
Knoxnews: Future of ORNL research bright
Knoxnews: ORNL facility evacuated after lab incident
Knoxnews: ORNL building evacuated after reaction
Knoxnews: Secret nuclear find revealed, ORNL mentioned
Knoxnews: Study of polluted Y-12 site is expected to reap benefits, ORNL mentioned
Fox 13: ORNL department to Re-Open In March
Times News: UT may offer engineering degree at Kingsport higher education center
The Chattanoogan: WTCI Premieres New Series with an Insight on Local Issues, UT Dean mentioned
Chattanooga Times Free Press: 529 college plans made more attractive, UT expert quoted
Tennessean: Dad's deal may not nail Perry, UT prof. quoted
Tennessean: Farmers find profit in goats, UT expert quoted
Jacksonville.com: Developer cashing in on waterfront swapped by TVA before ban, UT expert quoted
The New York Times: Seals Don't Multitask, UT expert quoted
Trendy mind and body exercise add to workout regimens

It is the wonderful time of year again when we start making (and breaking) our New Year's resolutions. It isn't that we don't care or mean well, there are just so many things that get in the way. This year there are many new and exciting trends in fitness that may make it easier for us to start and maintain a fitness program. The American Council on Exercise has cited many trends for the upcoming year including more mind and body exercise, balance and functional training and more affordable and convenient personal training.

Mind and body exercise includes workouts such as pilates, tai chi and yoga. Many mind and body exercises are a combination of meditation, spiritualism and physical disciplines. They are a popular alternative for stress reduction as well as beneficial for increasing core strength, balance and posture. Sign up for a class at your local gym and treat yourself to a great hour of rejuvenation.

Functional fitness focuses on strength training and coordination. There is an increased amount of motivation to stick with this type of exercise since it helps to build up strength and endurance in everyday activities. It is easier for us to stick with a workout if it makes sense.

The need for diverse personal trainers is increasing. Older adults are learning the value of preserving muscle mass and flexibility. Many personal trainers are focusing on the needs of seniors such as arthritis, osteoporosis, balance issues, flexibility and better daily functioning. Alternatively, personal trainers are also able to work with children. The importance of exercise should be instilled in children at a young age. Exercise is not just something you do a month before your high school reunion or your brother's wedding. As parents, we need to be good role models and encourage our children to be active.

Time is valuable; therefore make the most of your workout. Don't spend two hours at the gym 'chatting' with people in between sets, unless you have that much free time. If you only have an hour, get in, workout, then go home! Although a personal trainer is an additional expense, he/she is worth it. After a couple of workouts you might be ready to be on your own, then you can treat yourself to follow up visits. It is best to learn the proper form and technique from the beginning so that you don't waste time retraining.

Variety is important. Change up your workouts, often! Running on the treadmill everyday can be boring as well as harmful from repetitive use of the same muscles. There are many types of cardiovascular workouts available, try a new one every other day.

Stay positive. It took a long time for the fat to creep on our bodies, and it will take longer for it to shed off. Try not to weigh yourself on a scale. Instead get your body fat tested or measure yourself. When you look at your 'special secret notebook' that has your waist, thigh etc. measurements in it, and you know that you dropped one inch from your waist in the past two weeks it is extremely rewarding.

Don't delay. After you close this magazine, go out and sign up for a class. There are many exciting varieties available all you have to do is attend. Be sure to make this the priority of your day, you will feel so much better after you have had your own personal new and trendy workout.

Dr. Laura Brown has been an assistant professor of pedagogy at the University of Tennessee at Martin for three years. She received her B.S. from UT Martin, her M.A. from Murray State University, and her doctorate from Union University. She teaches people to be physical education teachers. She's the mother of two children.
Adopting dog or cat from shelter gives you life-long companion

They are going back tomorrow. We had seven dogs and three cats. We were able to adopt seven of them, but the rest go back to the shelters tomorrow. At the University of Tennessee at Martin we have established a companion animal facility. The students, under the facilities manager and my direct supervision, have taken care of these animals for two months. We have vaccinated them, given them flea and tick prevention, heartworm prevention and taken care of their needs. They have blossomed, and now they are going back to the shelters. Please don’t get me wrong; the shelters are well managed and if they didn’t go back to them, they would have no place to go, but you still hate to see them go.

No matter how long I am a veterinarian, I guess it’s hard to get used to the fact that some people don’t care for animals like I do. They don’t take responsibility for their pets. They don’t get them spayed or neutered and the result is millions, not thousands, but millions of unwanted animals every year. So, since I have already written a three-part series on the holidays, I guess I’ll write another three-part series about spaying and neutering your pet and humane societies and shelters and the animals that people don’t want. I’ll start with one animal in particular and her story goes something like this:

In my first year of practice, a father and his two children brought in a two-month-old puppy they had found on the road. The family already had pets and with two small children, really didn’t have the time to take care of another pet, so they wanted us to take the puppy in. We had some extra room in the kennel, thought we could probably adopt her, so we decided to try. Every vet I know right now is probably cringing because let me make this point clear: If veterinarians took in all the unwanted animals that came to their clinics, they would not be able to stay open and operate. I know that may seem harsh, but it’s true.

Anyway, we took the puppy in and tried to adopt her. I took her home a couple of times, and she was sweet, but I was working long hours and didn’t think I needed a puppy. We called everyone we knew who might want her, but always, the answer was “no.” We had kept her several weeks, maybe even months, and decided no one was going to adopt her. The clinic couldn’t keep her forever, and we really didn’t think it was fair to her to keep her in a cage most of her life. So, someone had to make a hard decision, and I did. I told my technician to bring her up, and we would euthanize her.

I don’t think I’ll ever forget it. I was devastated to have to euthanize her, but no one wanted her, and we couldn’t continue to keep her at the clinic. Debbie, my technician brought her to the exam room. I had the shot ready. I inserted the needle into her leg, but I missed the vein. I rarely missed, and that puzzled me, but I redirected the needle to try again.

As I was redirecting the needle, I saw the pup move her head, so I looked up. I looked up because most of the time when a dog is trying to move their head during an injection, they are uncomfortable and might be trying to bite. With this particular pup, she wasn’t trying to bite. She was licking the tears from Debbie’s face as Debbie held her for me to euthanize. I removed the needle, and took the pup home that
day, I named her Lacy, and I have had her for 12 years.

I must admit that I don't often think of that day. As I am writing this article, she is lying with my husband in the recliner by the fire, and almost on cue, she whines, looks at me, and comes over and curls up by my side. Some may say that Lacy was very lucky that day, but I really believe I was the lucky one. I got to take home a stray, a dog no one wanted and frankly, 12 years later, I don't know what I would do without her.

**Dr. Janet Bailey** is a veterinarian and assistant professor of animal science with a B.S. from Freed-Hardeman University and a D.V.M. from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bailey, who is married to Jim 'Crow' Bailey, has three dogs, Lacy, Bedford and Kate. Lacy, the senior citizen, runs the household. Dr. Bailey was formerly in private practice at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic before moving to UT Martin in January 2005.

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**New University Police Chief Finds His Force Is On The Job**

Last Update: 1/2/2007 3:15:33 PM

Monday was Scott Robbins first day on the job as head of the Public Safety Department at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Robbins is a veteran police officer and previously served as a captain on the city force before being chosen chief by the university.

At the end of his first day at work, Robbins found a parking ticket on his windshield.

Robbins hadn't registered his personal vehicle with the university yet, so he didn't have a parking sticker.

He says he's glad to know his officers are vigilant.
Reed Center supported by advisory board’s expertise

A number of West Tennessee business leaders have been named to the recently established University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center advisory board.

The REED Center was established in August 2005 by several partners in the region to serve existing and prospective entrepreneurs and support economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee.

Board members include: Sherry Brown of Hornbeak, vice president, loan officer, First Citizens National Bank, Union City; Jim Bondurant of Union City, business development, First State Bank, Union City; Joe Exum of Martin, board of directors, Reelfoot Bank, Union City; Jim Blankenship of Humboldt, executive director, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Wheatley, Paris, executive director, of Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Goode, Dresden, area director, USDA Rural Development, Union City; and James Frakes of Portageville, Missouri, director, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), Dyersburg State Community College; Ron Acree of Humboldt, small business specialist, TSBDC, Jackson State Community College; and Cheri Childress of Milan, entrepreneur.

Brown has been employed by First Citizens National Bank for 27 years and serves as board member on several bank committees. She is a member of the Committee Walk of Hope/March of Dimes board and the Obion County Youth Leadership board.

Bondurant is a UT Martin December graduate. He owned and operated Bondurant Taxidermy Studio in Union City for 28 years. He is employed as First State Bank business development officer. He is a member and past president of Obion County Chamber of Commerce, Obion County Industrial Development Corporation board member and a member of Union City Rotary Club and First Baptist Church, Union City.

Exum graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science degree in general business management. Also a distinguished military graduate from the university’s Army ROTC program, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the armor branch and served as a tank platoon leader and acting company commander in Vietnam. After his military service, he received a Master of Arts degree in marketing at the University of Alabama. His work career involved serving as a loan officer with First Federal Savings and Loan Association in West Point, Georgia; divisional sales manager with Marion, Ill., Pepsi Cola; and senior vice president of Reelfoot Bank in Union City. For 23 years, he served as chairman of the board of Land Powell Fasteners in Martin. He and his partner sold Leland Powell in January, 2001. He is retired.

Exum has served as UT Martin Development Committee chairman, as a member of the University of Tennessee’s Development Council, Weakley County UT alumni chapter president, UT Martin Skyhawk Club president, UT Martin College of Business Advisory Board chairman and as a member of both Freed Harman and Lipscomb University development committees. He served 14 years on the advisory board of First Citizens National Bank in Union City, and for the last five years, he has been on the board of Reelfoot Bank, also in Union City. He is a former member of the City of Martin Industrial Board and was a Rotarian for more than 20 years. He has served as a Martin Church of Christ deacon for the last 15 years, and he chairs its Central American Missions effort. He and his wife, Vicki, have two daughters, Jennifer and Julie.

Blankenship is a Humboldt native. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with 26 years active duty. During his last assignment, he served on the U.S. Army staff at the Pentagon. Blankenship has five years of management in private business and six years as Humboldt Chamber of Commerce executive director. He is a graduate of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Institute and UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. He serves as president of the Jackson Tennessee Technology Center advisory board and participates on the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives board, Humboldt General Hospital advisory board and the Humboldt Rotary Club board. He is married with two children.

Wheatley serves as Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce executive director. She has been in her current position since 2001. Wheatley previously worked at the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of Union University, WestStar Leadership Program, U.S. Chamber Institute and the Southeast Tourism Society’s Marketing College.

Goode is a Crockett County native. He has been employed with the Department of Agriculture for almost 30 years. He is UDSA’s Rural Development area director in Union City. He and his wife, Melinda, have lived in Weakley County for the last 23 years. They have two sons, Garner and Crockett.

Acree serves as director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), which is located at Dyersburg State Community College. He is responsible for counseling with small business owners and entrepreneurial development programs for the small business community and overseeing the management and day-to-day operations of the TSBDC-Dyersburg State service to prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners. A former owner of several entrepreneurial enterprises, he also has a long tenure in Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee banking and financial institutions. For three years, he served as director of the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Acree has a master’s degree in adult education and business administration and a bachelor’s degree in management/marketing. He resides in Humboldt with his wife, Cindy. They are members of First Baptist Church, Humboldt. Acree is a member of the Humboldt Rotary Club, American Legion and Masonic Lodge, and he participates on the board of directors of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and serves as secretary to the West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board.
Children, a resident of Milan, received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at UT Martin and previously was the City of Milan Hospital director of social services, Gibson County Special School District teacher and coach from 1972-80 and principal from 1981-84. She also served as West Tennessee School for the Deaf director of student services. Since 1989, she has owned and operated 13 Subway restaurants. Presently, she owns nine, with two in development, throughout West Tennessee. She also owns CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

She was selected to receive National Franchise of the Year in 2000 from a field of more than 15,000 Subway restaurants. She is vice chair of the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs Advisory Board, and she is a member of the Milan Special School District Career Technical Advisory Board, Foundation Board, Tennessee Economic Council for Women, WestStar Board of Trustees and Speakers Bureau Board, Subway Franchise Advertising Board and Franchise Advertising Fund Trust Board.

The center, to be located in downtown Martin following renovation of office space, assists entrepreneurs with one-on-one consultations, interactive training programs and technical resources, encourages and supports new small-business ventures and promotes existing businesses.

The center's primary service area isWeakley, Henry, Carroll, Gibson and Obion counties. The center's secondary service area includes Benton, Crockett, Dyer and Lake counties. The population within a one-hour drive of the center is approximately 225,000.

Many potential small-business owners, while enthusiastic about a business idea, are not prepared to assess the business feasibility, develop a marketing plan or determine and secure working capital. This non-profit partnership will provide needed consultative services with volunteer financial-service professionals, trained small-business consultants and successful entrepreneurs.

The additional support provided through computer-based resources, seminars, workshops and ongoing assistance will prepare new entrepreneurs as they transition from a business idea to actual operation. This process includes preparing clients to enter into formal relationships with lenders, accountants, vendors and other stakeholders. Individualized services include assistance in preparing feasibility studies, business plans, financial projections, employee benefit plans and personal financial planning.

Center coordinator is Hollie Holt. Partners supporting the REED Center include: UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs, the Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise, the Dunagan Chair of Banking and community banks including First Citizens National Bank, First State Bank and Reelfoot Bank. Others are TLM Associates, Inc., Oldham Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education, Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (Jackson and Dyersburg), USDA Rural Development Services, regional businesses, regional Chambers of Commerce, city governments and other public and private organizations to provide innovative and ongoing training and consulting services.

The center currently is located at 920 University St., Martin, TN. The phone number is 731-587-REED(7333). Holt also may be contacted at hholt@utm.edu.

Local residents receive degrees from UTM

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton: Jody Clinton Wamble and Eric Brandon Horn;
- Humboldt: Justin Lee Brown, Jayme Denise Crawford, Megan Michelle Dickson, Patrick Wayne Bunch, Jacqueline Jeanette Bonds, and Tammy Dale Twyman;
- Medina: Justin Bret Chapman;
- Dyer: Kevin Lee Elliott and Jessica Joy Riffe;
- Yorkville: Bryan Poole;

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyer: Kristina Starr Arnold;
- Milan: Donnae Masherielle Bradford;
- Bradford: Kelly Dawn Knott;
- Yorkville: Jason C. Turner;
- Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is among America's 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., in Rome, Georgia.

In the listing notification released by Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president, he said that America's 100 Best College Buys "identifies those schools providing the highest quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost." This is the first time that UT Martin has received recognition in the IRE listing.

"UT Martin is among a very select group of colleges and universities in the nation that offers affordability and quality," Lindsey said. "This is a rare combination that results only from a continuing effort from a dedicated administration, faculty, staff and student body."

"We are pleased that UT Martin has earned this recognition," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. "Our faculty and staff continually find ways to provide a high-quality education to our students at a competitive cost. This listing rewards their efforts and assures students that they're receiving a great education."

The listing among America's 100 Best College Buys is the third major recognition for UT Martin in the 2006-07 academic year. In August, UT Martin continued its top-tier ranking for master's level public universities in the South in the 2007 edition of America's Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report. UT Martin tied for 21st place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor's and master's degrees.

Also in August, The Princeton Review named UT Martin a "Best Southeastern College" for 2007.
Choral ensembles, clarinet choir to tour beginning January 8

The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert of diverse engaging and exciting music as they tour throughout the Southeastern Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include the music of Aaron Copland, W.A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre, and Moses Hogan. The ensembles are led by Dr. Mark Simmons UT Martin, director of choral activities, and Dr. Amy Parks Simmons UT Martin, assistant professor of woodwind studies.

The UT Martin Department of Music has 100 students majoring in music with 13 full-time faculty members. The choral ensembles tour yearly and the January tour in 2007 will take them to Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Georgia, on January 8; First Baptist Church, Charleston, South Carolina, on January 9; First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on January 10; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo, South Carolina, on January 12; and Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, on January 13.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information call the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.


Other students in the performance are Matt Emison of Jackson, Sean Campbell of Atoka, Chris Buckner of Ripley, Kevin Ward of Halls, Jeremy Rhoads of Ripley, Ronnie Webb of Hollow Rock, Justin Brown of Dyersburg, Adam Laman of Trenton, Jonathan Byrd of Union City, Will Pattat of Brownsville, Joel Malin of South Fulton, Nathan Johnston of South Fulton, Jared Anderson of Hohenwald, Erin Dismuke of Cordova, Nicole Lamborn of Hendersonville, Calyn Evans of Trenton, Jenny Cooper of Camden, Jennifer Havener of Fort Montgomery New York, Emily Knight of Bartlett, Tiffani Martin of Big Sandy, Linzie Tedford of Memphis, and Crystal Crockett of Summertown.

Rounding out the concert members are Michael Nelson of Hendersonville, Sarah Bybee of Millington, Jenna Steer of Micanopy, Florida, Katy Patterson of Ripley, Erin Horton of Murfreesboro, Cari Beauchamp of Huntingdon, Karen Langdon of Jackson, Sarah Lemons of Brentwood, Ashley Shinn of Parsons, Kansas, Heather Burdette of Martin, Kimberly Kraft of Martin, Amanda Martin of Hillsboro, Lorrie Spencer of Cordova, Alicia Booher of Jackson, Matt Cook of Martin, Colt Lemons of Dyerburg, Chris Taylor of Ripley, Nathan Woods of Union City, Josh Gatlin of Union City, and Billy Schramm of Trenton.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT — Ben Neale, right, of Martin was among graduates at the recent University of Tennessee at Martin fall commencement ceremony. Neale received a master of science in agricultural operations management. With him is Dr. Richard Joost, left, professor of plant and soil science. Also pictured is Dr. Timothy Burcham, Gil Parker Chair of Excellence, professor of agricultural engineering and coordinator of the graduate program in agriculture.
Information technology service reorganized

Reorganization within the Division of Academic Affairs, effective Jan. 1, will result in increased responsibilities for the Office of Information Technology Services and the promotion of several staff members. Shannon Burgin has been promoted to chief information officer and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. Also promoted were Terry Lewis, director of systems administration and security; Brenda Wright, director of applications development, administration and operations; Mike Abney, director of technical services and telecommunications; Susie Nanney, director of the computer store and digital printing services; and Steve Holt, director of the instructional technology center and Web services.

In addition to UT Martin, organizational changes are being reviewed for other University of Tennessee System IT units. Changes at UT Martin were necessary to more directly align with current IT structures within the UT System and other public institutions in Tennessee. In addition to title changes, duties involving expanded technology initiatives for the campus, UT System technology collaboration efforts and statewide initiatives have been added to the information technology services leadership.

“The increasingly important role of technology reflects our commitment to ensure we have the infrastructure and staff to remain competitive,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “We are very excited about and thankful for the promotions,” said Burgin. “Our mission is to provide high-quality information technology and communications resources and services through shared resources, common infrastructure and functions in support of the academic and administrative activities of UT Martin. Without the skills and knowledge of the information technology services staff members, this would not be possible.”

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:


- Gleason – Janie Odell Dillard, Joshua Eli Carey, Kristi Renae Jarrett;
- Dresden – Brenda Gale Jordan Mason, Amanda Nichole Young, Linda Michelle Farmer, Crystal Leann Oliver, Robert Wayne Browning, Ryan Hunter Searce.

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Wendy Luan Lofton, Lauren Allison Oldham, Patrick Morgan Nesbitt;
- Palermville – Allen Cochran Barge;
- Gleason – Trista Aundrea Perritt;

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.
CHILDRESS TAKES ORDER OF THE ENGINEER OATH — University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to spring commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Among those taking the oath was Katie Childress of Martin. Making the presentation were Dr. Richard Helgeson, left, Department of Engineering chair, and Dr. Doug Sterrett, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences Dean.

UT Martin honors international students with degrees in fall

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Turkey — Emrullah Guclu;
- Taiwan — Wen-Hui Huang, Pet Min Hsu;
- Korea — Yuhoon Song, Eugene Yong Sik Youn, Tae Yoon Shim, Je Seon Kwak;
- Japan — Keisuke Shimasaki, Risa Yoshimura;
- Thailand — Chinnapong Saicholpitak;
- Germany — Keely Lynne Gaylord.

Among international students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Korea — Sue Kyoungh Kim;
- Japan — Takafumi Yanagihara;
- Taiwan — I-Ju Chen; Jung-Ren Shie;
- Turkey — Feyyaz Yazar.

Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

January 5, 2007

The Herald-Chronicle

UT Martin Names Locals On Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2006 Dean’s List.

Sarah L. West of Winchester made the Dean’s List with Honors.

Mary K. Bradley of Estill Springs made the Dean’s List with Honors.

James M. Hawkins of Sewanee made the Dean’s List with Honors.

Audrey L. Welch of Winchester made the Dean’s List with High Honors.

To be eligible for Dean’s List recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
MARTIN, TENN. An ag-finance blend

Conference grows by leaps and bounds in its 5-year history

Banking.

"It combines agriculture and my area, which is finance; the growth of the conference is a testimony to its value," he said.

"We began very small with a group of bankers and broadened it out to include other lenders - FSA, Farm Credit and other service providers. From there we took it to another level to include the customers. That is when it really took a leap forward.

In addition to the outstanding program, the conference provides time for lenders to mingle with, and work with, their customers. A lot of time is built in for that. Also, keynote speaker Dr. Dave Kohl brings a great deal to the table, both from an academic and a practical standpoint. He has something to say to both the lenders and the producers and, as a producer himself, he brings added credibility.

This year the conference included the dimension of the farm bill panel. That panel of experts drew more folks to the conference. The farm bill is something everyone, not just those directly involved in agriculture, should find of interest. This conference is the fifth that UT has held.

"The numbers ran around 40 in the first year, then we went to 65 in the second year, and in the third year we grew to about 90," Payne said.

"Last year we were at 135 and this year we have 220.

Among those attending were representatives both from the line production side as well as top management. There were many presidents and vice-presidents from Farm Credit, FSA and the banking community. The people in leadership recognize how important business development is and see from a business maintenance standpoint the value of customer service, Payne pointed out.

When asked what aspects of agricultural finance were most critical, Payne stressed the importance of cash flow.

"Cash flow from operations will be crucial to
sustainability in the next 2 to 3 years,” Payne said. “Some have made profits on land, but it’s the cash flow from operations that is the true measure of a successful operation.”

He also said the globalization aspect has really, literally hit home.

“Farming is on the front end of that.

“Farming is on the leading edge of the heightened competition brought on by global markets,” he said. “As a person in finance, I think the global view has been neglected too long by policy makers. There are experts and advocates for the farming community and for agriculture, who have not, for the most part, considered globalization in terms of broader policy issues.

“I think there are a lot of people in the country who still don’t understand how important agriculture is and how fundamental it will continue to be to successful world trade negotiations,” Payne noted. “We have to understand that what goes on at the WTO and the Doha round is going to affect us in this next farm bill. We really have to pay attention to the global market, and that is the main focus of this conference.”

Payne also commented on the future of agriculture and transitioning of ownership to the next generation.

“How you plan for that is one thing that Dr. Kohl is focused on continually,” he said. “Even though Dave (Kohl) brings us something fresh every year, he always gets back to family. Agriculture is something near and dear to us, not only as a business, but as a family enterprise.”

Included in the day’s activities was a panel discussion on the next farm bill. On the panel were Daryll Ray, professor of ag economics at the University of Tennessee; Gary Adams, vice-president of Economic and Policy Analysis, National Cotton Council of America; and Bob Young, chief economist for America farm Bureau Federation.

The University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated the accomplishments of its fall graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk on campus. Ashley Branch of Germantown and Andy Reed of Memphis joined classmates at the event.

Online veterinary assistant course available

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE), through Education To Go, is offering “Become a Veterinary Assistant III: Practical Skills,” an online non-degree class.

Dr. Jeff Grognet, a practicing veterinarian and instructor of the course, recently launched the third installment of this online education series that helps students learn practical skills they need to become veterinary assistants or educated pet owners.

The first course in Grognet’s three-part series introduces students to the world of veterinary medicine. The second course focuses on canine reproduction, and the latest installment covers practical skills. Students will join Grognet and other animal lovers for a tour through the many duties that a veterinary assistant typically performs.

Through instruction and demonstration, students will learn how to safely restrain an animal for blood tests, urine collection and injections. Then they’ll find out how to obtain blood samples, which needles to use for which patient, where the best anatomical sites for collecting blood are located and how to catheterize a bladder. Grognet also will review the basics of blood and urine interpretation so students will understand how veterinarians diagnose various conditions.

Grognet said pet owners can also benefit from the class.

The course may be taken online from the convenience of home or office any time day or night. For more information, visit the online instruction center at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and click “Education To Go.”
Private beginning horsemanship riding lessons offered through college

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering private beginning English/Western horsemanship riding lessons. The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches.

To schedule a lesson, contact Cunningham at 731-881-7273 or McDonald at 731-881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provided. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least 7 to participate.

Professional school counselor honored

Elaine Seymour was selected as the Tennessee Elementary School Counselor of the Year for 2006-2007 by the Tennessee School Counseling Association at their annual conference held in late November in Chattanooga. She was earlier selected as the Elementary School Counselor of the Year for the Martha Polk Chapter of the Tennessee Counseling Association. The Martha Polk Chapter covers all of West Tennessee but the Memphis area.

Seymour has been active in the TCA since she became a professional school counselor. She has been employed by the Weakly County Board of Education for nearly 36 years. She presently serves as the professional school counselor for Sharon and Gleason Schools.

Elaine lives in Martin with her husband, Jerome Seymour, and their daughter, Elana. All of the family are graduates of University of Tennessee Martin. Elaine is the daughter of Charles and Betty Roberts, formerly of Dresden, and now of Mayfield, Ky.

School in Martin plans financial aid seminar

Westview High School will present a financial aid seminar for seniors and parents at 5:15 p.m. Jan. 16 at Westview High School Theater.

Sandy Neal, director of student financial aid at the University of Tennessee Martin, will present a program on financial aid for students attending any postsecondary program. Financial aid forms will be distributed and explained. Students and parents who plan to apply for scholarships, internships, loans or financial aid of any kind should attend.

Call 587-4202, ext. 205.

STUDENT TAKES ORDER OF THE ENGINEER OATH

UT Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to spring commencement. Among those taking the oath and receiving a ring and certificate was Fong-An Kan of Taiwan. Making the presentation were Dr. Richard Helgeson, left, Department of Engineering chair, and Dr. Doug Sterrett, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean.
BRADY RECEIVES CARL SEALE STUDENT TEACHER AWARD — The recipient of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for fall semester 2006 is Lindsay Brady, of Jackson, a University School of Jackson graduate. Brady is the wife of Jeremy Brady and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Batean, of Jackson. Brady graduated Saturday with a bachelor of science in education, human learning K-8. She served as a student teacher at Union City Middle School, Dan Boykin, principal; and Dresden Elementary School, Mike Laughrey, principal. She was nominated by Mary Newton, UT Martin supervisor; Beverly Dones, mentor teacher at Union City Middle School; and Betsy Robinson, mentor teacher at Dresden Elementary School. 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 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship 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. The presentation of the award was made at the recent student teacher recognition reception held at the Bowling University Center on the UT Martin campus. Pictured (from left) are Lindsay Brady, Carl Seale Student Teaching Award recipient; Betsy Robinson, mentor teacher from Dresden Elementary School; and Beverly Dones, mentor teacher from Union City Middle School.

MEMORIAL AWARD ESTABLISHED — The Jodi Woods Memorial Award recently was established at the UTM in memory of the late Jodi Woods, a special education major, who died June 24. The award will be given each semester to one graduating special education major who excels in student teaching by including and building self-esteem in students with special needs. The award was established to typify the warm and caring demeanor that Woods exemplified. Beth Conway, of Lexington, is the fall semester recipient of the award. The funds from the award are given to assist the graduating teacher in stocking his/her new classroom. Pictured (from left) are Beth Conway, Jodi Woods Memorial Award recipient, and Dr. Crystal Whittow, instructor of special education at UT Martin.

Financial aid seminar planned
Westview High School will present a financial aid seminar for seniors and their parents at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Westview High School Theater. Ms. Sandy Neal, director of financial aid at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will be presenting a program on financial aid for students attending any post-secondary program. Financial aid forms will be distributed and explained. Students and parents who plan to apply for scholarships, workshops, loans or financial aid of any kind should attend.
Private riding lessons offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering private beginning English/Western horsemanship riding lessons.

The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches.

To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 881-7273 or McDonald at 881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provided. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least 7 years of age to participate.

RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS FROM UTM — Melissa Dixon, left, of Bolivar, and Kerry Roman, of Union City, accept Paul and Martha Meek Awards presented at the recent commencement exercises at the UT Martin. Dr. Jerald Ogg, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, presented the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UTM. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Dixon, who received a bachelor of arts degree, served as Panhellenic recruitment chair; was the National Panhellenic Council student conference coordinator for Tennessee in 2005-06, was a Public Relations Student Society of America member, and has accepted an internship with CAMPUSPEAK in Colorado in 2007 as conference coordinator. Roman, who received a bachelor of science degree, served as Panhellenic recruitment chair in 2005, Panhellenic president chair in 2006, Undergraduate Alumni Council member in 2005-06, and served on several university search committees.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn., Tuesday, January 9, 2007

UTM recognizes countians on fall list

Thirty-seven Henry Countians have been recognized on the fall 2006 semester dean’s list at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Students on the list with highest honors earned a grade-point average from 3.8-4.0; with high honors, 3.5-3.79; and with honors, 3.2-3.49. They completed at least 12 semester hours, pass-fail courses not included.

Local students included on the list are:

Highest honors — Allison M. Holden, Thomas J. Kinsland, Joanna L. Robbins, Zachary K. Shoults and Jacob B. Wilson, all of Paris; Jade N. Stearnes of Buchanan; Gabrielle J. Lorbiecki of Como; Emily E. Fuqua of Cottage Grove; and Katherine A. Stagg of Puryear.


Honors — Sarah E. Allbritten, Teresa G. Byrd, Lauren N. Dunning, Rachel R. Shoults and Brandon T. Wimberley, all of Paris; Jannie L. Harding of Buchanan; Michael A. Killion and Justin R. Morton, both of Cottage Grove; Summer D. Gladwin of Henry; Jennifer D. Ray of Mansfield; Timothy L. Allen of Puryear; and Mary Beth French, Jonathan B. Routon and Brittray L. Wiles, all of Springville.
UT Martin names local dean’s list

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2006 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

**Bradford:**

Emily M. Tanner, High Honors
Cassandra L. Vincent, Highest Honors
Jesse N. Winchester, Highest Honors
Jessica E. Winchester, Highest Honors

**Milan:**

Katharine E. Appleton, High Honors
Nicolas C. Appleton, Highest Honors

**Gibson:**

Patrick R. Barnes, Honors
Raymond F. Brake, High Honors
Richard W. Coday, Honors
Jennifer N. Cody, Highest Honors
Justin S. Condon, High Honors

**Medina:**

Russ N. Deloach, High Honors
James W. Edwards, High Honors
James E. Ferguson, Honors
Branden C. Garcia, Honors
Candace M. Garmany, High Honors

**Sims:**

Howell S. Holmes, Highest Honors
John Hyde, Honors
Benny L. Johnson, Honors
Brian L. Jones, Honors
Hunter L. Jones, High Honors
Daniel O. LeMasters, Honors
Jessica L. Mangrum, High Honors

**McMinn:**

Tiffany B. Matheny, Honors
Jessica L. Mathis, Honors
Amber L. McCaig, Honors
Christopher S. McGill, Honors
Rachel R. McMinn, Highest Honors

**Moffitt:**

Zachary A. McMinn, Honors
Amanda M. Mitchell, Highest Honors
Pamela W. Moore, Highest Honors
Cassy E. Morris, Honors
Ashley N. Murphree, High Honors
Ashley M. Niven, Highest Honors
Sara H. Phifer, Honors
Megan A. Pope, High Honors
Grant T. Pugh, Highest Honors
Amanda L. Reeves, High Honors
Stephanie L. Riddle, Highest Honors
Judith R. Robbins, Highest Honors
Adam J. Sandor, Honors
Mitchell W. Sims, High Honors
Marilyn G. Stewart, Highest Honors
Anastasia Umanets, Highest Honors
Jeffery F. Wadding, High Honors
Angela R. Winstead, Honors

**Proud Graduates:** Scott Holmes and Candace Garmany were two of several Milan students to graduate from UT Martin on December 16. Candace received a degree in Business Administration and Scott a degree in Biology with Highest Honors.
Business consultant available twice in January at Martin's Reed Center

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in January at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 11, and 9:30 a.m.-noon, Jan. 18.

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

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7335). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237.

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

Local students earn UTM honors

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall dean's lists.

Local students with high honors include Dustin C. Graham of Fayetteville, Robert L. Hearnberger of Fayetteville, Martha L. Warren of Kelso and Laura S. Murdock of Petersburg.

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

Graduates

Eric Brandon Horne, 22, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on Saturday, December 16. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with an emphasis in History. He is the son of Jim and Donna Horne and has a sister, Carol Anne, 13. He is the grandson of Lorraine Claybrook, Bruce and Mollie Hinton and Carolyn Horne.

Present scholarship

Last week, Debbie Grant was the recipient of a $500 scholarship awarded by the Gibson County Retired Teachers Association. Grant, a Trenton resident, will use the scholarship in her pursuit of certification in education at The University of Tennessee at Martin. Gibson County Retired Teachers Association representatives Ronnie Parks, scholarship committee chairman, and Sandra Crim, president, present the check. To donate to the scholarship fund, contact Sandra Crim at 519 South College Street, Trenton TN 38382.
Local students named to UT Martin Dean’s List

Several students from Obion County and Fulton, Ky., have been named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Dean’s List recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students in UT Martin’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

The honorees from Obion County and Fulton, listed by hometown, include:

- Hornbeak — Tina M. Adams, highest honors; Laura L. Hooper, high honors; Holly L. Hopper, high honors; Jonathon W. Johnson, high honors; Brandon W. Orr, high honors; and Demanda G. Whitmore, highest honors.

- Kenton — Laura J. Asbridge, highest honors; Leena D. Ashbridge, high honors; Laurel G. Childs, high honors; Abby K. Clanton, high honors; Ellen M. Crum, honors; Emily C. Davis, highest honors; Bethany L. Dunn, high honors; Julie M. Farrar, honors; Jessica J. Francis, high honors; Benjamin W. Holloman, high honors; Melissa S. Johnson, high honors; Kimberly N. Moore, high honors; Kelia P. Paxhall, honors; Ronald B. Poole, honors; Robert F. Somervell, honors; and Joseph T. Williams, highest honors.

- Obion — Danan A. Coleman, honors; Lauren I. Fultz, honors; Bradi L. Fuzzell, honors; Michelle L. Hurst, high honors; Jon B. Kendall, high honors; Valery Lewis, highest honors; Candice L. Manning, highest honors; and Donald J. Qualls, highest honors.

- Rives — Sydni D. Arnold, honors; John K. Bay, honors; Joseph C. Caldwell, highest honors; Dustin L. Hickerson, highest honors; Sarah L. Holt, honors; Megan L. McCullough, honors; Jennifer D. McWherter, highest honors; Allison M. Thetford, highest honors; and Zachary T. Ward, high honors.

- South Fulton — Emily L. Clark, high honors; Amy K. Collins, highest honors; Brittany N. Cox, high honors; Kelly R. Crawford, highest honors; Thomas W. Fulcher, honors; Hunter O. Galloway, honors; Tandi A. Harris, high honors; Quintin L. Haskins, high honors; Ascenith A. Luker, highest honors; S. Linn L. McClain, high honors; Jessica L. McKinney, highest honors; Jamie I. Morris, honors; Charles E. Mulcahy, high honors; Edward A. Phipps, highest honors; Tara L. Rudolph, honors; Rachel N. Sanders, high honors; Benjamin H. Taylor, honors; Elizabeth C. Watts, honors; Kevin D. Whitten, honors; and Janet L. Zoellner, highest honors.

- Troy — Zachary S. Buckland, honors; Adrienne N. Calhoun, high honors; Laura Beth Griffin, highest honors; Natalie E. Grossner, highest honors; Brittany J. Hutchison, highest honors; Emily R. Kendall, highest honors; Brian E. Kissel, highest honors; Ashley M. Moore, honors; Bethany A. Palmer, highest honors; Tarrah L. Reed, highest honors; Hope A. Roberts, highest honors; Bryan A. Scott, honors; Ashleigh C. Short, honors; Kelly M. Whitson, highest honors; and Wesley R. Yates, highest honors.

- Union City — Whitney B. Angel, highest honors; Melanie R. Baggett, highest honors; Tyler W. Barker, highest honors; Jared G. Barnes, highest honors; Jeremy J. Bell, highest honors; Alyssa A. Brock, honors; Shannon L. Brown, highest honors; Ryan A. Burke, honors; Jonathan L. Byrd, highest honors; Kristin M. Chandler, high honors; Ryan C. Chandler, high honors; Matthew L. Clark, highest honors; Concha V. Cochran, highest honors; Emillou F. Covington, honors; Jennifer L. Crittenden, high honors; Dustin S. Crowell, highest honors; April Counsell, highest honors; Matthew L. Davis, highest honors; Trent C. Duncan, highest honors; Lucas G. Durall, high honors; Mollie K. Durall, highest honors; Jennifer L. Durham, highest honors; Dana Elliott, honors; Kristina L. Elmore, highest honors; Garrett S. Flannery, honors; Sara V. Fowler, highest honors; Lisa L. Glass, high honors; Thomas E. Gossett, highest honors; Rebecca R. Gray, highest honors; Bradley J. Gregg, highest honors; Brandi L. Grisham, highest honors; Benjamin D. Hager, honors; Tyler L. Hargrove, honors; Brian D. Hawkes, high honors; Stephanie N. Hayslett, high honors; Randall L. Huff, honors; Jon L. Jorge, high honors; Katie M. Krathley, highest honors; James M. Kendall, highest honors; Chance L. Kirk, highest honors; Letitia R. Lavender, highest honors; Daniel J. Lawrence, honors; Julianne M. Lawson, honors; Jorge L. Leal, honors; Lacinda J. Legate, honors; Kristy M. Long, highest honors; Matthew A. Lynch, highest honors; Joshua M. Mathenia, highest honors; Amy L. McKinnis, honors; Mary B. McManus, high honors; Mallory S. Morris, high honors; Valerie D. Mounce, high honors; Peter J. Newton, high honors; Hilary R. Norrid, highest honors; Stephen M. Outten, high honors; Jason R. Page, highest honors; Don D. Parks, honors; Ron F. Parks, high honors; Holly A. Perry, honors; James L. Rambo, honors; Ashley A. Reeves, honors; Lindsey N. Reid, highest honors; Sara A. Rieger, high honors; Ashley R. Roberts, highest honors; Kirk Z. Ross, honors; Tyler M. Sherwood, high honors; Kelsey C. Sigman, highest honors; Courtni L. Slove, high honors; Brandon C. Smith, honors; Craig L. Smith, honors; Graham S. Smith, highest honors; Meagen B. Smith, highest honors; Kelli L. Stephenson, highest honors; Justin D. Stokes, high honors; Franklin T. Storey, honors; Micaela M. Tabarez, honors; William B. Taylor, high honors; Brittany R. Thompson, highest honors; Meredith L. Thompson, high honors; R.B. Tolar, highest honors; Jason B. Vissering, high honors; Lindsay J. Wallace, honors; Alicia D. White, highest honors; Heather M. White, highest honors; and Amy V. Young, honors.

- Fulton — Casey A. Cullin, highest honors; Karen C. Dean, honors; James T. Defreece, high honors; Misty M. Elliott, honors; Virginia L. Murphy, honors; Bradley M. Nanney, highest honors; Yevgeniy L. Radetsky, highest honors; Natalie L. Rushing, high honors; Jordan F. Tinkle, highest honors; David A. Wynn, high honors; and Rachel J. Wynn, high honors.
Microsoft Word course set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a Microsoft Word course Tuesday and Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The course teaches students the features of Word, including a format painter, cut, paste, search, replace, rulers, tabs, bulleted lists, columns, styles, sections, headers and footers, backups, as well as how to create folders, work with multiple documents and share data between documents and applications.

Students will learn to use tables and mail merge to simplify work. Graphics and drawing tools also will be discussed along with many hints and tips to make work efficient and fun.

Shannon Burgin, UT Martin chief information officer and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, will be the instructor. The fee is $110.

For more information, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.

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Riding classes to be offered by UT-Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering private beginning English/Western horsemanship riding lessons.

The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment and riding English/Western and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches.

To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 731-881-7273 or McDonald at 731-881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time.

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UT-Martin Dean's list honorees announced

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2006 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UT Martin, a student must have at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean's list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

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

Among those listed from Fulton are: Casey A. Cufin, highest honors; Karen C. Dean, honors; James T. Defreece, high honors; Misty M. Elliott, honors; Virginia L. Murphy, highest honors; Bradley M. Nalley, highest honors; Yevgeniy L. Radeskij, highest honors; Natalie L. Rushing, high honors; Jordan F. Tinkle, highest honors; David A. Wynn, high honors; Rachel J. Wynn, high honors.

Students listed from Hickman included: Brandy D. Whitten, high honors; Mitchell L. Williamson, high honors.

South Fulton residents listed included: Emily L. Clark, high honors; Amy K. Collins, highest honors; Brittany N. Cox, high honors; Kelly R. Crawford, highest honors; Thomas W. Fulcher, honors; Hunter O. Galloway, honors; Tianda V. Harris, high honors; Quintin L. Haskins, high honors; Ascenith A. Luker, highest honors; S. Linn L. McClain, high honors; Jessica L. McKinney, highest honors; Jamie L. Morris, honors; Charles E. Mulcahy, high honors; Edward A. Phipps, highest honors; Tara L. Rudolph, honors; Rachel N. Sanders, high honors; Benjamin H. Taylor, honors; Elizabeth C. Watts, honors; Kevin D. Whitten, honors; Janet L. Zoellner, highest honors.
Microsoft Word course scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a Microsoft Word course, from 9 a.m.-noon, Jan. 16 and 18.

The course teaches students the features of Word, including format painter, cut, paste, search, replace, rulers, tabs, bulleted lists, columns, styles, sections, headers and footers, backups, as well as how to create folders, work with multiple documents and share data between documents and applications.

Shannon Burgin, UT Martin chief information officer and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, will be the instructor. The fee is $110.

Festival of Choirs is free at The Dixie

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center, Home of the Hal Holbrook Theatre, will host "Festival of Choirs" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27, in Huntington. This event will feature choirs from West Tennessee colleges and universities. Each choir will perform two songs. All will unite as a mass choir to perform "Choose Something Like a Star" by Randall Thompson. This piece will be conducted by Dr. Mark Simmons, director of choral activities at University of Tennessee Martin.

"Festival of Choirs," produced by the West Tennessee Higher Education Consortium, is free, but tickets are required. Tickets will be available beginning Jan. 22 at The Dixie. For tickets, visit or call The Dixie Box Office during the regular hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Phone reservations will be accepted at 586-1000, but tickets will be held — none will be mailed.

Schools participating in "Festival of Choirs" include: Bethel College, University of Tennessee Martin, Union University, Lander University, Jackson State Community College, Freed-Hardeman University, Dyersburg State Community College and University of Memphis.

UTM announces fall dean's list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2006 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the dean's list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

- Dyersburg — Jerry C. Alexander (highest honors), Dana E. Archer (honors), Lauren M. Binkley (honors), Marti K. Blair (high honors), Gregory W. Bontrager (highest honors), Justin M. Brown (honors), Jean A. Cook (high honors), Julia A. Cooper (highest honors), Nikk D. Dean (honors), Emily A. Eassay (high honors), Brandon J. Estes (honors), Amber N. Eudaly (honors), Jeffrey C. Ford (honors), Kelly L. Ford (high honors), Christine N. Freeman (honors), Scott M. Freeman (highest honors), Kelly S. Frye (high honors), Marissa D. Goodwin (high honors), Stephanie L. Hamilton (honors), Kendra N. Hanlon (highest honors), Kimberly Hardin (high honors), Amanda L. Hunter (high honors), Jonathan V. Kolwiek (highest honors), Roxie T. Lewis (high honors), Megan B.

Madden (highest honors), Deana D. Newsome (high honors), Christopher W. Nichols (highest honors), Lacey N. North (high honors), Vicky M. Pierce (high honors), Gerald D. Prince (highest honors), Jennifer A. Pyle (high honors), Lauren E. Rogers (highest honors), Daniel C. Rose (high honors), Krista L. Roser (highest honors), Denise J. Schoon (honors), Melissa R. Singleton (highest honors), Candace Y. Smith (high honors), Shawn D. Smith (high honors), Hillary A. Throgmorton (highest honors), Ruby V. Walton (high honors), Stuart S. Watson (honors), Jessica E. Willis (highest honors), Elaine N. Wilson (high honors), and Jason R. Wootley (high honors).

- Finley — Jennifer K. Bowles (highest honors).

- Newbern — Chance M. Barr (high honors), Charles A. Brenton (honors), Lynsey L. Butler (high honors), Callie Dawn T. Coats (high honors), Amy L. Evans (high honors), Jared T. Glendowne (high honors), Pamela O. Holland (highest honors), Jodi A. Keeling (highest honors), Megan E. Lewis (highest honors), Heather K. McLean (high honors), Dustin K. Parker (high honors), Jessica C. Prater (high honors), Drew T. Sebey (high honors), Kimberly A. Scott (high honors), Hunter J. Smith (honors) and Cori B. Sutton (highest honors).

- Tripple — Daniel C. Adams (honors), Clinton T. Burr (highest honors), Ross E. Pope (high honors) and John C. Young (high honors).
Residents receive degrees from UTM

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

UT president Dr. John D. Peterson was the keynote speaker.

UTM Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Finley - Jennifer Kay Bowles.
- Newbern - Bart Wade Ferguson and Pamela O. Holland.
- Trimble - John Christopher Young.

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyersburg - Marti Kay Evelyn Cook.
- Newbern - Kelly Ann Tively and Joey Lane Harrison.

UTM breaks ground in Ripley

University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center director Youlanda Jones stands with Chancellor Nick Dunagan at the groundbreaking Friday of the university's new education center, to be located on Washington Street, in Ripley.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, January 10, 2007

Private beginning horsemanship riding lessons offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering private beginning English/Western horsemanship riding lessons.

The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including: handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches.

To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 731-881-7273 or McDonald at 731-881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provided. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least seven years of age to participate.

Improve digital photos with online course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a new, online course "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer."

Are digital photos not measuring up? Adobe's Photoshop Elements 5.0 provides the tools needed for quick fixes and detailed enhancement. A new online course, "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer," will help. In this highly interactive six-week online course, participants will discover the basics of a software application specifically designed for photo enthusiasts. Created for those with no image-editing experience, this class will take participants from novices to accomplished user.

Instructor Dr. Beverly Schulz, an experienced digital photographer and Photoshop Elements user, helps her students experience the simplified process of editing images on the computer, correcting flaws, enhancing the final product, creating simple art projects, preparing images for e-mail and the Web, organizing images and learning the tools.

"Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office, at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at www.ed2go.com/utmecce.
Veterinary assistant course offered online

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) through Education To Go is offering "Become a Veterinary Assistant III: Practical Skills" online, non-degree class.

Dr. Jeff Groenet, a practicing veterinarian and instructor of the course, recently launched the third installment of this online education series that helps students learn the practical skills they need to become veterinary assistants or educated pet owners.

The first course in Groenet's three-part series introduces students to the world of veterinary medicine. The second course focuses on canine reproduction, and the latest installment covers practical skills. Students will join Groenet and other animal lovers for a tour through the many duties that a veterinary assistant typically performs.

Through instruction and demonstration, students will learn how to safely restrain an animal for blood tests, urine collection, and injections. Then, they'll find out how to obtain blood samples, which needles to use for which patient, where the best anatomical sites for collecting blood are located and how to catheterize a bladder. Groenet also will review the basics of blood and urine interpretation so students will understand how veterinarians diagnose various conditions.

"As a practicing veterinarian, I find that an educated veterinary assistant is indispensable," explains Groenet. "I depend on them to conduct many procedures as well as assisting in the surgical suite." Groenet adds that pet owners can benefit from this information, too.

Students will gain a thorough understanding of examination room procedures, including disinfecting, preparing and taking a patient's temperature, pulse and respiration. Other handy skills Groenet will cover include expressing anal glands, toothbrushing, cleaning ears, giving medication, establishing the sex of a young kitten, puppy or bunny, determining age and trimming nails.

Throughout the course, students will benefit from videos that demonstrate many of these procedures and techniques, as well as state-of-the-art interactive graphics.

"Become a Veterinary Assistant III: Practical Skills" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office, and at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the UT Martin online instruction center at http://www.utk.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php then click "Education To Go."

Museum explores WWII

The University of Tennessee at Martin University Museum will present a varied and colorful collection of World War II-era sheet music covers from Jan. 8-Feb. 16.

"Songs of the Patriot" takes viewers back in time to the American wartime fronts at home and abroad during World War II through the cover art and lyrics of popular sheet music from 1940 to 1945.

The exhibit, on loan from private collector, Gary Hollingsworth, Orlando, Fla., explores how music publishers, songwriters and cover artists expressed a range of American wartime feelings from anti-war statements to rallying support for troops overseas. It also explores the booming sheet music industry, printing and chromolithography, and the significance of piano playing as a form of home entertainment.

Back covers of sheet music were used to spread messages, "For Victory, Buy United States War Bonds." By the end of these campaign drives, eight out of 13 Americans had helped underwrite the cost of the war by investing in debt bonds totaling more than $185 billion.

University Museum hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and by special arrangement. For more information, call 881-7464.

Improve digital photos online

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Firm hired to seek UT Martin chancellor

The firm of Baker Parker Global Executive Search, of Atlanta, Ga., has been employed to assist with the search for a University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor to succeed Dr. Nick Dunagan.

In September, Dunagan announced his plans to retire in June 2007 with 34 years of service at UT Martin.

"Chancellor Dunagan has had a long and successful career at UT Martin, and finding his successor is challenging, but under his leadership, the Martin campus has thrived and is a highly desirable position in the academic community," said University of Tennessee President Dr. John Petersen. "I am certain there will be a strong field of good candidates eager for the opportunity to lead the continuation of UT Martin's momentum and success. I am grateful to Nick for the job he has done in establishing this environment and look forward to the search process."

Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs and chair of the search advisory committee, said, "I look forward to working with Baker Parker, which has a rich tradition of supporting these kinds of searches all over the country. It is ultimately our committee's responsibility, not the firm's, to forward recommendations to Dr. Petersen. Since the firm will help us spread the word about this incredible opportunity, it should enhance our chances of attracting the quality candidates we seek."

As part of the selection process, advertisements for the chancellor's position have been placed.

The committee will begin review of applicants in March; its goal is to conduct campus interviews in early April and forward the recommendation of finalists to Petersen shortly thereafter.

-- DUNAGAN

UT Martin

From Page 1

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Shannon Burgin, UT Martin chief information officer and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, will be the instructor. The fee is $110.

For more information, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Dresden High sets financial seminar

Dresden High School will be hosting a Financial Aid Seminar at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, in the Little Theater at the school.

Mrs. P.K. Kelley, school counselor, and a representative from the Financial Aid Office at The University of Tennessee at Martin will be conducting the meeting. The meeting will cover scholarships, grants, loans and work study. Information on the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program as well as information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be discussed.

The information presented will be applicable for students planning to attend any college or technical school.

All seniors and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Parents of students in grades 9-11 may also attend. If you have any questions concerning the meeting, contact Mrs. Kelley at Dresden High School at 364-2949.

Atlanta firm to assist with search for new UT Martin chancellor

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(See Page 6, Col. 4)
Biofuels conference planned

KATHY KRONE
kkrone@stategazette.com

The nation’s quest for alternative fuels could have a significant impact on West Tennessee, regional agricultural officials believe.

Local farmers already grow crops that could be used to create biofuels. Soybeans are processed and combined with diesel fuel to create biodiesel. Corn is turned into ethanol, which can be blended with gasoline. Switchgrass, one of the native warm-season grasses recommended for West Tennessee dove fields, also may be used to make ethanol.

“Biofuels certainly have the ability to impact Tennessee agriculture and rural communities,” said Dr. Joey Meilborn, an associate professor of agricultural economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin. “Plants will provide a boost into rural economies through employees and the increased tax base. The agriculture community would certainly benefit from stronger demand for agricultural products (particularly corn and soybeans), which the state produces a great deal of.”

Just what kind of impact local farmers, businesses and communities can expect will be explored during a special conference Jan. 30 in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

The “Biofuels Opportunities for Tennessee Agriculture” conference begins at 8 a.m. and adjourns at 4 p.m.

Several speakers will discuss a variety of topics including:

- The U.S. Corn Industry Outlook.

- Renewable Fuels and their Impacts on the Agriculture Sector and the Nation’s Economy.
- Distillers Grains and Animal Agriculture.
- Quality Issues Related to Biofuels.
- Agriculture’s Role in Meeting Our Energy Needs.

Other topics will pertain to the economics of biofuels, alternative fuels and livestock, commercial biofuels and agronomic aspects of biofuels crops.

Speakers include Geoff Cooper from the National Corn Growers Association; Drs. Burt English and Daniel Ugarte from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Drs. Gary Bates, Don Tyler and Larry Steckel from the UT Extension; Diane Mulloy, president of Milagro Biofuels; and Mick Henderson from Commonwealth Agri-Energy.

The $20 registration fee includes conference materials and lunch.

An online registration form for the conference is available at http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/any/. For more information, call Meilborn at (731) 681-7257.

Several companies have already announced plans to establish biofuel processing plants in this region.

Ethanol Grain Processors in Obion began its dirt work on Dec. 22 and hopes to begin construction within three to four months, said Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the UTM College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and a member of Ethanol Grain Processors’ board of governors. Construction is expected to take 1.5 years and, at that rate, the plant could be producing ethanol by the third quarter of 2008.

Reelfoot Ethanol has applied for air-pollution permits needed to construct an ethanol plant at Cates Landing in Lake County. A public hearing was held Oct. 5, but the permit has not yet been issued. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation determined that the application was incomplete and has asked the Kansas City company to provide additional information, TDEC Deputy Communications Director Tisha Calabrese-Benton said.

Bluegrass BioEnergy has announced plans to build an ethanol plant in Fulton, Ky., and Hickman, Ky., announced recently that it is establishing “Energy Island” with hopes that Earth Biofuels of Dallas, Texas, will establish a biodiesel plant there.

Byford isn’t worried about the competition. He said the concentration of ethanol plants in a general area usually benefits everyone. He compared it to one restaurant on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere. The restaurant might get enough visitors to stay in business, but it is more likely to prosper if visitation to the area increases. Establishing additional restaurants would make the area a destination for hungry people. The same is true for ethanol plants, he said.

Getting started isn’t easy, he said. The idea of producing biofuels on a large scale is still a relatively new idea in the United States. Entrepreneurs are navigating through uncertainties and some fast-talking, get-rich-quick propositions.

For a while, Byford said, everyone thought ethanol plants were going to make tremendous amounts of money. Wall Street wanted to invest and schemes surfaced.

“The craze brought in people who were better at talking than taking action,” Byford said. That has subsided now.

“We finally have done it, but it is incredible the obstacles we have overcome,” he said.

Ethanol is expected to play a key role in reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign oil and to reduce smog. Byford said the Energy Act of 2005 states that the nation should be burning 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol by 2012, which is only five years away.

“Compared to what we’re producing and what we’re using now, that’s twice as much,” he said.

Ethanol is also expected to replace MTBE, a fuel additive that lowered exhaust emissions and is now being phased out because it contaminates groundwater. Byford said 14.3 billion gallons of ethanol will be needed to replace the MTBE.

Even if we used all of the corn that is currently exported or used for livestock feed, America could produce 15 billion gallons of ethanol.

“We can replace MTBE with what we grow, but the goal is to burn more,” Byford said, referring to the energy act. “To produce more
ethanol, we have to get another source.”

The other source is cellulose. Byford said anything that has a plant origin could be considered cellulose, but switchgrass, wood pulp, waste corn stalks and possibly waste paper are the most often-cited sources. Turning these substances into ethanol is a bit more complicated than using corn.

During the ethanol-making process, the starch in corn is converted into sugar and then into ethanol. Cellulose must first be broken down into hemicellulose.

“Then, organisms are needed to break the cellulose down into hemicellulose. “We’re three to five years out of having that all worked out,” he said. “We’re on our way, but it is very slow and tedious process. It’s going to take a lot of patience to get where we want to go.”

Brazil did it. The South American country decided 30 years ago to become energy independent and leaders made energy a priority. Now, they’re turning sugar cane into ethanol.

If the United States wants to truly become energy independent, Byford said, it needs to develop a plan and stick with it.

“For the first time in my career, we seem to be doing that,” he said.

## LC native in line for Giants job

By MIKE HUTCHENS

Messenger Sports Editor

A home-grown rural West Tennessee product may soon take a big bite out of the Big Apple.

Former Lake County High School football star and University of Tennessee at Martin standout player and assistant coach Jerry Reese is reportedly the leading candidate to be named the new general manager of the New York Giants.

The official announcement of Reese’s hiring is expected as early as next week, according to Mike Garafolo of the Newark, N.J. Star-Ledger, who told The Messenger Thursday he was “relatively certain” of the move after speaking with a high-ranking National Football League executive familiar with the matter.

The meteoric journey from his humble roots in tiny Tiptonville to a position atop one of the NFL’s most storied franchises in the league’s largest city — if it indeed occurs — would make Reese just the third black general manager in the professional football ranks.

The 42-year-old Reese currently serves as the Giants’ director of player personnel. He began his tenure with the club in 1993 as a college scout, then moved into a full-time front-office job four years later, first serving as assistant director of pro personnel before being promoted to his current post in May of 2002.

Several news outlets and Web sites in the New York and New Jersey area are also reporting Reese is the No. 1 candidate for the position to replace retiring Ernie Accorsi, who is actually still under contract until Monday.

Giants team president John Mara has been quoted as saying a new GM won’t be named until next week at the earliest and said in a conference call earlier this week, “We have not named a new general manager. We still have a little more work to do and some more discussions that we have to have before we reach the final decision.”

Reese has been the in-house favorite for the position and a rising hot commodity in NFL circles the past several years. He interviewed for the general manager position with the Miami Dolphins following the 2003-04 season, and reportedly impressed owner Wayne Huizenga immensely.

So valued is Reese, in fact, that the Giants had refused to allow him to interview with other teams for a lateral position, permitting him only to speak to clubs with GM openings.

Reese was an all-state quarterback//defensive back in high school and led Lake County to the first of its two state championships in 1980. He followed that up with a stellar career at Tennessee-Martin, first as a player when he was an all conference pick while playing in the then-Pacer secondary and a fearless punt returner.

His playing career over, Reese then served as a graduate assistant, then as the secondary and assistant head coach at his college alma mater before taking the scouting job with the Giants.

New York had reportedly targeted New England Patriots vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli for their general manager job, but the two-time winner of The Sporting News’ George Young NFL Executive of the Year award turned down a request to interview for the Giants’ job.

Team vice president of player evaluation Chris Mara, assistant general manager Kevin Abrams and director of pro personnel Dave Gettleman all are also said to be in-house candidates for the post and have been interviewed. So, too, was former Texans GM Charlie Casserly.

Reportedly, an announcement regarding Reese’s promotion was first planned for this week, then delayed while head coach Tom Coughlin’s future was determined.

The embattled Coughlin was given a one-year extension Wednesday, surprising many who’d predicted his demise and firing after the Giants had limped into the playoffs by losing six of their final eight games and making a quick first-round postseason exit amid widespread reports of team discord.

Sports editor Mike Hutchens can be contacted by e-mail at mhutch@uc messenger.com.
Obion ethanol plant directors greet new investors in $160 million project

CHRIS RIMEL
crimel@obiongauntlet.com

OBION - As earthmovers scrape topsoil from land two miles northeast of here for the Ethanol Grain Products fuel plant, board members on Wednesday met with officers of the Irish renewable energy company representing the new majority shareholders.

The $160 million initial public offering is closing in January. The escrow fund holding $20 million in local shareholder equity will be broken on Jan. 23.

"This is a major milestone," said EGP chief executive officer James K. Patterson. "We are very pleased to be at this point."

Ethanol Grain Processors board members Baxter Sanders, Tom Wade, Dr. Jim Byford, and James K. Patterson stand with Bloverda chief executive John Mullins, Bloverda development director Kevin Lynch, EGP secretary Mike Miller, NTR chief operating officer Michael King and Bloverda North American development director in the shadow of Ohio Grain elevators on Wednesday during the group's first meeting.
Continued from Page 1

University of Tennessee at Martin agriculture school dean Dr. James Byford, an early EGP investor who proposed the idea in 2004, said he will be thrilled when the plant begins operations, "but the pinnacle is not production. It's getting the project funding, and here we are."

Bioverda is the Irish concern that will operate the plant. Company chief executive John Mullins said the $40 million investment continues a track record in Europe and North America of successful renewable energy projects, from windmills to an ethanol plant in Bluffton, Ind., similar to the Obion plan.

"We're looking to be an enterprise here for the next 20, 30 years," he said. "We're not here just for the plant. We're looking at affecting a six-county perspective for years to come, not just economically, but in socio-economics and agronomy."

Bioverda is a venture between Irish roadbuilder NTR and billionaire Richard Branson's Virgin empire. NTR Chief Operating Officer Michael King said the two became partners over a shared vision of renewable energy.

Bioverda will supply the management and operations experience, he said; Virgin will provide financing. The financing from an instrument called BVV.

"We will be shareholders with the legacy board," said King, referring to the initial board of directors slate of six officers.

Patterson said the composition of the new board has not been determined.

Mullins said the ethanol plant "will increase the level of corn planting. There are hundreds of tons of corn rolling right past us [on Illinois Central tracks] down to the south coast. We can use that."

The plant will need up to 3.5 million bushels of corn annually, a figure near to half 2006 corn production in Obion, Lake, Weakley, Gibson, Dyer counties in Tennessee and Fulton, Hickman and Graves counties in Kentucky - to produce the amount of ethanol for the plant.

A feasibility study for a biodiesel plant based on soybeans - soya, to the Irish - is scheduled to be considered by the board, with construction to start if approved by the end of 2007. The $70 million biodiesel plant will be located on the EGP ethanol property, Mullins said.

"There is a real opportunity here," said Mullins. "And its not only for the location near rail and a new road. It's the Mississippi River nearby."

The plant will be successful, said Mullins, because "it is a security matter. It's not only a climate change value, it's a real economic value driven by security of fuel supply."

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Course for science teachers offered through UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to offer "Teaching Science: Grades 4-6."

No matter whether teachers are new to teaching or have years of experience under their belt, they'll benefit from the information and teaching methods presented by Holly Trimble in her new online course, "Teaching Science: Grades 4-6."

Through this course, teachers will understand the nature of science and learn about some of the people who discovered scientific principles now taken for granted. Trimble will thoroughly explain the scientific method and provide step-by-step examples of experiments. She even includes checklists and worksheets teachers can print, modify and use in their own classrooms.

Students of the course will learn effective teaching methods and how they can use them when teaching science. They'll also learn about learning and organizational tools, how to help students write great research papers and how to keep the emotional climate in the classroom positive. Trimble will present foundational content in the different disciplines of science, so teachers also will grasp some of the most essential principles that govern the world.

Trimble devotes an entire lesson to helping students construct and interpret graphs, an important skill for standardized testing. Science fairs will never seem difficult again after teachers finish the course. Trimble provides templates and checklists that make hosting a science fair manageable for both teachers and their students. All through the course, Trimble includes practical, concrete examples so teachers will get the maximum benefit from the instruction.

"Teaching Science: Grades 4-6" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office and at any time of the day or night. The fee for the course is $85.

For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and click on "Education To Go."

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, January 12, 2007
Photoshop training

MARTIN, Tenn. — Experienced digital photographer and Photoshop Elements user Dr. Beverly Schulz will be the instructor for the "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer" class being offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Cost is $85 for the six-week class that can be started anytime. Students will learn the process of editing images on a computer, correcting flaws, enhancing the final product, creating simple art projects, preparing images for e-mail and the Web, and learning the tools.

Information: www.ed2go.com/utmecke.

New VP coming to JEA's water, wastewater works

Jackson Energy Authority recently made two announcements regarding their Water and Wastewater Divisions in the company.

Truman Murray, senior vice president of the departments, will retire from the company the end of January after 38 years of service to JEA.

Steve Raper will be the new senior VP of the Water and Wastewater Divisions, effective Feb. 1.

Raper has held a variety of leadership positions during his 19 years at JEA. He has served as a project engineer and superintendent for the Water and Wastewater Divisions, the manager of purchasing and stores and distribution, and vice president of Customer Service. He is currently the vice president of Business Development.

Newbern grad now TSSAA Hall of Famer

Dyer County High School principal Peggy Dodds (left) and athletic director Lynn Garner (right) presented a plaque to Jerry Carpenter for 39 years of service to local schools as a TSSAA official. Carpenter, a 1962 Newbern High School graduate and athlete, was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame in March 2006. He has officiated 51 state football playoff games as well as 35 years' worth of basketball tournaments. Over the past 26 years he has served as commissioner and assigning officer for TSSAA. He is currently the golf coach at UT-Martin.
A number of West Tennessee business leaders have been named to the recently-established University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center advisory board.

The REED Center was established in August 2005 by several partners in the region to serve existing and prospective entrepreneurs and support economic development in rural northwest Tennessee.

Board members include Sherry Brown of Hornbeak, vice president and loan officer for First Citizens National Bank in Union City; Jim Bondurant of Union City, who is in business development for First State Bank in Union City; Joe Exum of Martin, a member of the board of directors of Reelfoot Bank in Union City; Jim Blankenship of Humboldt, executive director of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Wheatley of Paris, executive director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Goode of Dresden, area director of USDA Rural Development in Union City; Dr. Jamie Frakes of Portageville, Mo., director for the Tennessee Small Business Development Center of Dyersburg State Community College; Ron Acree of Humboldt, small business specialist for the Tennessee Small Business Development Center of Jackson State Community College; and Cheri Childress of Milan, an entrepreneur.

Ms. Brown has been employed by First Citizens National Bank for 27 years and serves as board member on several bank committees.

She is a member of the Committee Walk of Hope/March of Dimes board and the Obion County Youth Leadership board.

Bondurant is a December graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin. He owned and operated Bondurant Taxidermy Studio in Union City for 28 years and is now employed as First State Bank business development officer.

He is a member and past president of Obion County Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Obion County Industrial Development Corp. and a member of Union City Rotary Club and First Baptist Church of Union City.

Exum graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor of science degree in general business management. Also a distinguished military graduate from the University's Army ROTC program, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the armor branch and served as a tank platoon leader and acting company commander in Vietnam.

After his military service, he received a master of arts degree in marketing from the University of Alabama. His work career involved serving as a loan officer with First Federal Savings and Loan Association in West Point, Ga., divisional sales manager with Pepsi Cola in Marion, Ill., and senior vice president of Reelfoot Bank in Union City.

For 23 years, he served as chairman of the board of Leland Powell Fasteners in Martin.

He and his son sold Leland Powell in January 2001 and he is retired.

Exum has served as UT Martin Development Committee chairman, as a member of the University of Tennessee's Development Council, Weakley County UT alumni chapter president, UT Martin Skyhawk Club president, UT Martin College of Business Advisory Board chairman and as a member of both Freed-Hardeman and Lipscomb University development committees. He served 14 years on the advisory board of First Citizens National Bank in Union City and for the last five years has been on the board of Reelfoot Bank, also in Union City.

He is a former member of the City of Martin Industrial Board and was a Rotarian for more than 20 years. He has served as a Martin Church of Christ deacon for the last 15 years and he chairs its Central American mission effort. He and his wife, Vicki, have two daughters, Jennifer and Julie.

Blankenship, a Humboldt native, received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with 26 years of active duty. During his last assignment, he served on the U.S. Army staff at the Pentagon.

Blankenship has five years of management in private business and six years as Humboldt Chamber of Commerce executive director. He is a graduate of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Institute and UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. He serves as president of the Jackson Tennessee Technology Center advisory board and participates on the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives board, Humboldt General Hospital advisory board and the Humboldt Rotary Club board.

He is married with two children.

Ms. Wheatley serves as Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce executive director. She has been in her current position since 2001 and previously worked at the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce.

She is a graduate of Union University, WestStar Leadership Program, U.S. Chamber Institute and the Southeast Tourism Society's Marketing College.

Goode is a Crockett County native and has been employed with the Department of Agriculture for almost 30 years. He is USDA's Rural Development area director in Union City.

He and his wife, Melinda, have lived in Weakley County for the last 23 years. They have two sons, Garner and Crockett.

Frakes serves as the director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), which is located at Dyersburg State Community College. He is responsible for counseling with small business owners and entrepreneurs, developing practical training programs for the small business community and overseeing the management and day-to-day operations of the TSBDC-Dyersburg State service center.

He has 12 years of experience in higher education and is serving in his eighth year as director of the TSBDC-Dyersburg service center. He has prior business experience and is also certified to provide a variety of training programs to businesses and industry.

Frakes earned a doctoral degree in higher and adult education from the University of Memphis in 2005. He holds a master of science degree in public administration from Southeast Missouri State University and a bachelor of arts degree from Arkansas State University.

Acree, an Oklahoma native, is a small business specialist with the TSBDC through Jackson State Community College. Working with the chambers of commerce and economic development centers in 14 West Tennessee counties, he provides business counseling assistance to prospective entrepreneurs and existing small business owners.

Former owner of several entrepreneurial enterprises, he also has a long tenure in Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee banking and financial institutions. For three years, he served as director of the Tourism Promotion and Marketing Division of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.
Acree has a master's degree in adult education and business administration and a bachelor's degree in management/marketing.

He resides in Humboldt with his wife, Cindy. They are members of First Baptist Church of Humboldt.

Acree is a member of the Humboldt Rotary Club, American Legion and Masonic Lodge, a member of the board of directors of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and secretary to the West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board.

Ms. Childress, a resident of Milan, received bachelor of science and master of science degrees from UT Martin and previously was the City of Milan hospital director of social services, Gibson County Special School District teacher and coach from 1972-80 and a principal from 1981-84.

She also served as West Tennessee School for the Deaf director of student services. Since 1989, she has owned and operated 13 Subway restaurants. Presently, she owns nine, with two in development, throughout West Tennessee. She also owns CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

She was selected to receive National Franchise of the Year in 2000 from a field of more than 15,000 Subway restaurants.

Ms. Childress is vice chair of the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs Advisory Board and is a member of the Milan Special School District Career Technical Advisory Board, Foundation Board, Tennessee Economic Council for Women, WestStar Board of Trustees and Speakers Bureau Board, Subway Franchise Advertising Board and Franchise Advertising Fund Trust Board.

REED Center, to be located in downtown Martin following the renovation of office space, assists entrepreneurs with one-on-one consultations, interactive training programs and technical resources; encourages and supports new small-business ventures; and promotes existing businesses.

The center's primary service area is Weakley, Obion, Henry, Carroll and Gibson counties. The center's secondary service area includes Lake, Benton, Crockett and Dyer counties.

The population within a one-hour drive of the center is about 225,000.

Many potential small-business owners, while enthusiastic about a business idea, are not prepared to assess the business feasibility, develop a marketing plan or determine and secure working capital.

This non-profit partnership will provide needed consultations with volunteer financial professionals, trained small-business consultants and successful entrepreneurs.

The additional support provided through computer-based resources, seminars, workshops and ongoing assistance will prepare new entrepreneurs as they transition from a business idea to actual operation.

This process includes preparing clients to enter into formal relationships with lenders, accountants, vendors and other stakeholders. Individualized services include assistance in preparing feasibility studies, business plans, financial projections, employee benefit plans and personal financial planning.

The center coordinator is Hollie Holt.

Partners supporting the REED Center include the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs, the Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise, the Dunagan Chair of Banking and community banks that include First Citizens National Bank, First State Bank and Reelfoot Bank.

Others are TLM Associates Inc., Oldham Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education, Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (Jackson and Dyersburg), USDA Rural Development Services, regional business offices, regional Chambers of Commerce, city governments and other public and private organizations to provide innovative and ongoing training and consulting services, a spokesman said.

The REED Center is currently located at 920 University St. in Martin. The telephone number is (731) 587-REED (7333).

Ms. Holt may also be contacted by e-mail at hholt@utm.edu.
Jerry Reese introduced as Giants GM

Last Updated: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 | 7:15 PM ET

The New York Giants promoted Jerry Reese to the position of general manager on Tuesday, making him only the third black GM in NFL history.

The others are Ozzie Newsome of the Baltimore Ravens and Rick Smith of the Houston Texans.

Reese, 43, was formally introduced as GM and senior vice-president during a Tuesday media conference at Giants Stadium.

"Doug Williams e-mailed me this morning," Reese said, referring to the first black quarterback to start in the Super Bowl and win most valuable player honours.

"And Doug said, 'Jerry, I was just looking at my old tape from the Super Bowl,' and he said, 'You know what? It was all worthwhile just to see you in that spot this morning, I'm really proud of you.'

"It's my time to kind of keep the dream alive, because it's very important to me. I don't take it lightly."

When Reese's name surfaced last month, Indianapolis Colts head coach coach Tony Dungy commented: "That is great. Just to have an African-American mentioned that way is great."

That said, there are several black executives around the NFL, notably Ray Anderson, who is the league's senior vice-president of football operations, and Rod Graves, senior vice-president of football operations for the Arizona Cardinals.

'Time to carry the torch': Reese

"It was absolutely perfect timing for this to happen," he said. "I don't mean to sound cliché, but I really feel it's my time to carry the torch.

"There are many people who went before me who really suffered through this process and now it's my time. I'm going to be successful, I have to be successful on a lot of levels."

Reese, New York's director of player personnel the last four seasons, was favoured to replace Ernie Accorsi, who served as GM for nine seasons before retiring.

"Change is not always necessary just for change's sake," Giants co-owner and treasurer Jonathan Tisch said. "Today, we are able to continue the continuity that is embedded in this organization."

Reese joined the Giants as a scout in 1994 and, as player personnel director, oversaw all aspects of college scouting and had the bulk of the responsibility for the NFL draft.

Reese also spent three years as assistant director of pro personnel for the Giants.

"[Jerry] has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills, intelligence, confidence, a superior work ethic and an outstanding ability to evaluate players," Giants co-owner and president John Mara said. "Jerry earned this position the old-fashioned way — through hard work and dedication, being promoted through the ranks, and demonstrating a unique set of skills that caused us to take notice of him very early on."

With files from the Associated Press

UTM names local students to fall semester dean’s list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2006 dean’s lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

**Dresden:** Amanda M. Allen, Honors; Gary D. Anderson, Highest Honors; Zachary O. Baker, High Honors; Carol P. Barker, Highest Honors; Jarrod T. Bonar, Honors; Robert W. Browning, Highest Honors; Kristin C. Copeland, Highest Honors; Adam S. Corun, Highest Honors; Cristy L. Crain, High Honors; Bethany N. Dane, Honors; Justin N. Davidson, Highest Honors; Christina P. Dillard, Honors; John T. Eaves, Honors; Boyd J. Erwin, Highest Honors; Tiphanie M. Erwin, High Honors; Linda M. Farmer, Highest Honors; Adelicia B. Hamilton, High Honors; LeaAnn Hayes, Honors; Jessica L. Houston, High Honors; Justin A. Hutcheson, Honors; Sunni C. Jackson, Honors; Clint B. Jolley, High Honors; Katie L. Kelley, High Honors; Lance S. Legons, Honors; Ashley R. Mansfield, Honors; Rebecca L. McCullery, Honors; Emily S. Moon, High Honors; Joseph S. Musser, Honors; Shonna R. Parker, Honors; Scarlett L. Reynolds, High Honors; Gregory A. Shobe, High Honors; Rachel A. Stout, Highest Honors; Krista S. Suddath, Honors; Matthew A. Thomas, Honors; Andrea E. Wade, High Honors; Amanda N. Young, High Honors; Matthew T. Dacus, Highest Honors; Heather L. Allen, Honors; Lacy D. Arnold, High Honors; Justin B. Bowles, High Honors; Joshua E. Carey, Highest Honors; Ian O. Dillard, High Honors; James R. Erickson, High Honors; Tiffany B. Felts, Honors; Dustin R. Frazier, Highest Honors; Carrie C. Joynor, High Honors; Crystal L. Oliver, Highest Honors; Maylon G. Price, High Honors; Kristyn D. Roberts, High Honors; Lesley M. Sawyers, High Honors; Kristi R. Todd, Honors; Monica D. Collins, Highest Honors; Adam G. Dowland, High Honors; Chelsey P. Engler, Honors; Shelley C. Featherston, Highest Honors; Jerri A. Lewis, Highest Honors; Michael C. Maggard, Highest Honors; Nicci R. McElrath, Honors; Robert L. McCall, Honors; Susan L. Newhill, Honors; Alyse A. Page, High Honors; Jenny B. Stout, Honors; Lori K. Teague, High Honors; Jennifer K. Tharp, Honors; Anna M. Waddell, Highest Honors; Abdullah Abdullah, High Honors; Kassl L. Abney, Highest Honors; Alesha M. Adams, Honors; Lacey E. Adkins, Honors; Hassain Al Mansoor, Honors; Sadiq Alhwaidhi, High Honors; Joseph S. Anderson, High Honors; Gustavo A. Anzola, Honors; Shannon M. Ary, Highest Honors; Zona J. Ascenso, Highest Honors; Gary A. Ashlock, Honors; Nicole M. Bacon, Honors; Dustin M. Burner, High Honors; Brandon N. Beck, Highest Honors; Christopher N. Bell, Highest Honors; Jackie C. Bell, Honors; Julie A. Bell, Honors; Lanna D. Bell, Highest Honors; Michelle C. Brasel, High Honors; Jessica K. Breeden, Highest Honors; Mary E. Brewer, High Honors; Pamela K. Bridges, High Honors; John S. Britton, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, Martin, TN 38237, Highest Honors; Kyle H. Brooks, High Honors; Amy B. Brundige, Highest Honors; Hannah S. Burcham, High Honors; Heather N. Burdette, Honors; Rodney S. Campbell, High Honors; Candy R. Cannon, High Honors; Robert B. Capps, Honors; Christopher M. Cates, High Honors; Scott O. Chadwick, Honors; Andrew K. Childress, High Honors; Daniel N. Cochran, Highest Honors; Matthew R. Cook, Honors; Reecia M. Cooper, Highest Honors; Charles Covington, High Honors; Darren N. Crawford, High Honors; Kyle J. Crowe, High Honors; Richelle L. Daniels, Honors; Miranda C. Dammel, Honors; Phillip L. Dammel, Highest Honors; Cory S. Davis, High Honors; Jason C. Davis, Highest Honors; Selena E. DeSantis, High Honors; Cheryl L. Deyeso, High Honors; Misty L. Dunlap, High Honors; Justin E. Easterwood, Highest Honors; James C. Easterwood, Highest Honors; Andrew C. Evans, High Honors; Sherron E. Finney, Highest Honors; Mason T. Floyd, Honors; Kimberly D. Foley, Highest Honors; Samuel R. Freeman, High Honors; Tiffany M. Gay, Honors; Jessica E. Gill, Highest Honors; Lacie E. Glover, Highest Honors; Mark H. Gobble, Honors; Morgan A. Greenhow, Honors; Joshua S. Greer, High Honors; Becky J. Griggs, Highest Honors; Matthew H. Grimm, Honors; Anderson M. Guy, High Honors; Europe L. Hall, High Honors; Cassandra L. Hamilton, Honors; Justin S. Hanson, Honors; Alex K. Harrison, Honors; Ryan S. Harrison, Highest Honors; Bethany N. Hazelwood, Highest Honors; Minta L. Hazzard, Highest Honors; Laura L. Hensley, Honors; Sarah Hensley, Honors; Thomas H. Hester, Highest Honors; Camille L. Higgs, Honors; Rebecca K. Hinds, Highest Honors; JoAnna R. Hite, Honors; Lindsay A. Holder, Highest Honors; Amelia D. Holtzen, High Honors; Stephanie C. Holmes, High Honors; Carah L. Hooten, Highest Honors; Bethany L. Hummer, Highest Honors; Emily A. Hunt, High Honors; Michael A. Hutsell, High Honors; Bethany L. Ivy, Honors; Jaime A. Jones, Honors; Tiffany L. Jones, High Honors; Dae Hyun Kang, Highest Honors; Kellie S. Keen, Honors; James M. Kempton, Honors; Young Bong Kim, High Honors; Amelia S. Kosta, High Honors; Kimberly S. Kraft, High Honors; Clair E. Kraft, Honors; Chanda D. Lammers, Highest Honors; Douglas B. Landrum, Highest Honors; Marlena D. Landry, High Honors; Kimberly J. Laster, Honors; Laura J. Leahy, Honors; Brady S. Legens, Highest Honors; John M. Livingston, Honors; Lucia Lopez, Highest Honors; Joshua D. Manning, Highest Honors; Rickey L. Mask, Honors; M. Allison B. Maxey, Honors; Adam J. McCammon, Honors; Jeffrey D. McDaniel, Honors; Joshua W. McDaniel, Highest Honors; Virginia L. McFarland, High Honors; Sara M. McIntosh, Highest Honors; Judy R. McMorris, High Honors; Brent M. Menz, Honors; Ashley N. Michael, Highest Honors; Jason C. Middleton, Highest Honors; Choung Hong Min, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Mitchell, Honors; Robert H. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Sara A. Mitchell, High Honors; James C. Mobbs, High Honors; James H. Moore, Highest Honors; Nicholas H. Moore, Honors; Michael L. Musser, Honors; Ibra Ndoye, Highest Honors; Andrew K. Nielsen, High Honors; Jana E. Ogg, High Honors; Michelle D. Owen, Honors; Benjamin Z. Parham, Highest Honors; Rachel L. Payne, High Honors; Aaron R. Perry, Highest Honors; Heather M. Peterson, Honors; Candace J. Pittman, High Honors; Allison C. Price, High Honors; Justin B. Powell, Highest Honors; Joshua D. Rainey, Highest Honors; Russell A. Ratakowski, Honors; Christopher T. Rea, Honors; Nathaniel T. Reinhard, Honors; Jonathan D. Richwine, Highest Honors; Nancy J. Riley, Highest Honors; Charles
Communications skills course offered to women

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a course, “Speak Up So That People Will Listen: Communication Skills for Women,” from 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 23 and 25.

This interactive workshop will help women gain a better understanding of how to communicate assertively. Women will determine if they communicate passively, assertively or aggressively, and they will learn to turn resistance into cooperation, give feedback in a positive way, set and maintain reasonable limits and learn to remain calm when angry.

Dr. Michelle Santiago, UT Martin counseling center staff psychologist, will be the instructor. The registration fee is $35.

To register for a non-degree class, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082. Payment for the courses may be made by credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover) or check.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD — Martin City Lodge No. 551 F&M awarded an annual scholarship for 2006 to Matthew B. Morrison (center), a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in music education. He is in the drum line with the marching band and plays the saxophone in the concert band. Presenting the award is treasurer Joe W. Adcock (left) and Worshipful Master Oscar W. Vickers (right).
Gibson named Educator of the Year

Dr. Michael Gibson, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of geology, recently was named Distinguished Educator of the Year for 2006 by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association.

Gibson, an overall award winner, joins four other award recipients designated as Distinguished Science teachers at the elementary, middle, secondary and higher education divisions. They were chosen from hundreds of science teachers across Tennessee as outstanding and exemplary teachers in the discipline. They have demonstrated a positive impact on the lives of their students by mastering their teaching skills.

Gibson’s award is his second from TSTA, having been named Distinguished Science Teacher for 2003 in the higher education division.

Gibson received a B.S. degree from the College of William and Mary in 1979, a master's degree from Auburn University in 1983 and a doctorate from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1988. He has been a UT Martin professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics since 1988. Previously, he was a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Geological Sciences at UT Knoxville. He also served as an instructor in the Department of Geology at Auburn.

“My teaching interests are directed primarily toward two groups: university-level students and K-12 teachers, but I have recently expanded to include high school students directly,” said Gibson. “I consider myself a geologist/paleontologist and focus my courses on field experiences. Students better grasp concepts and develop stronger self-motivation to learn when they are part of the learning process itself.”

“I prefer to use real geologic situations and settings for my students to study. I like them to work on a current project that I have whenever possible,” Gibson said. “I also allow students to pursue their own interests. This approach has been successful for me at UT Martin because the small size of our program allows me to develop a personal relationship with each student. I can work closely with a student to maximize his/her classroom and field experiences to both fill in weak areas and better hone strengths.”

Gibson also uses his students as undergraduate collaborators for research and now has student-participation projects in Tennessee, Alabama, Japan, Mexico and Belize.

Gibson considers the K-12 teaching community the foundation for earth stewardship and provides teachers with methods to incorporate geology in their curricula to demonstrate the relevance of geology. “I devote a significant portion of my educational efforts to help teachers become geology conscious,” Gibson said.

Since 1990, Gibson has worked as a higher education adviser to the earth science teachers in the state, helping to increase the number of earth science certifications in the state and increase the number of geology courses taught in high schools from four in 1990 to 22 in 2000.

“Geology is an applied science that relies on learning by practicing and combines the principles of the other sciences, along with other disciplines – mathematics, history, art, literature – to produce the actual working earth,” said Gibson. “Geology is the ultimate history, thus I consider myself a historian of the distant past.”

Gibson’s current research projects include the following: paleoecology, depositional environments and biotic interactions of Devonian strata of West Tennessee; Cretaceous Coo Creek Formation; Pennsylvanian Morris Shale in Alabama; plant fossils from the Eocene clay deposits of West Tennessee; History of Tennessee Geology and Earth Science Education in Tennessee; and Geology of Belize, Central America.

Other recognitions of Gibson’s efforts through the years include the Tennessee Earth Science Teaching Ptero Award in 2001. He was a UT Martin Featured Scholar and received the Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Award in 1998; and was selected for the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher Scholar Award in 1993-96. Gibson received the UT Knoxville Department of Geology Incentive Award in 1988; UT Knoxville Chancellor’s Citation for Professional Promise in 1987; the University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Lab Science Alliance “Super” Research Fellowship for Academic Excellence in 1985-1986; and the Cordin Fellowship Award for Academic Excellence in 1984-1985.

Carp concert set for Jan. 21

The music of University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of music, Gilbert Carp, will be performed at a Jan. 21 concert in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

Aptly named “The Music of Gilbert Carp,” the 3 p.m. concert will feature selections of Carp that date as early as 1949. Among the selections and performers will be “Adagio” for flute, clarinet and percussion; Rachel Brann, UT Martin student, Union City; Erin Dismuke, UT Martin student, Cordova; Clint Roberts, Tipton, Calif.; and Sarah Roberts, UT Martin student, Martin; “Betsy’s Recitative and Aria” from “The Tennessee Witch” and “Songs for Children,” Jennifer Cook, lecturer of educational studies, and Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music; Laid-Back from “Three Descriptive Sketches for Trumpet or Saxophone,” Dr. Kurt Gorman, assistant professor of music; “Music I Heard with You,” Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music, and Delana Easley, music specialist; and “Suite for Flute, Clarinet and Piano,” Harriss, Dr. Amy Simmons, assistant professor of music, and Easley.
Continued from Page 1

Reese joined the Giants in December 1994, where he scouted talent across the country before he was promoted to assistant director of personnel in 1999. He held the assistant director position until 2002, when Reese was named director of personnel, a position he held until receiving the latest promotion to vice president, general manager this morning.

Reese is replacing longtime figure in the Giants organization Ernie Accorsi, who retired on Monday after serving as general manager for the last nine years and endorsed Reese as his replacement. The Giants weren't the only NFL team interested in acquiring Reese's services he was also a candidate to replace Floyd Reese with the Tennessee Titans.

Reese's mother, Ozella Garland of Tiptonville, couldn't be more proud of her son's accomplishments.

"I am just so very very proud of Jerry," said Garland. "I am very happy for his success, but more than anything I give God the glory. I feel like He would not place him in this position if he couldn't handle it."

Reese had a storied high school career at Lake County, playing in the state semifinals as a safety in 1978, the finals in 1979 as a quarterback-safety, and guiding the Falcons to the state championship and a perfect 14-0 record in 1980.

Cliff Sturdivant, Reese's former coach at Lake County, said he is not surprised by Reese's success.

"I am just extremely proud of him," said Sturdivant, currently serving as the director of the Northwest Tennessee Educational Field Service Office at UT Martin. "It just shows you good things come to people that work hard and continue to strive to succeed in life."

"His willingness to work hard is why he is where he is at today," said Sturdivant. "He wasn't the biggest player in size, but he worked harder than anybody and had more heart than you could ever imagine."

After graduating from Lake County Reese went on to play four years at UT Martin for the then-Pacers, returning punts and as a safety on defense, earning All-Gulf South Conference honors in 1984 and being named team MVP.

As his playing career ended, Reese pursued and received his master's degree and became a graduate assistant for the UT Martin football team. Reese eventually became the assistant head coach before accepting the scouting position with the Giants in 1994.

Reese developed a name for being able to recruit talented players at UT Martin, which helped build a reputation that grew when he joined the Giants organization.

An example of Reese's ability to seek out talent came in the 2003 NFL draft, when New York selected Troy State's Osi Umenyiora. While Reese knew the move would benefit the Giants, he was about the only believer at the time.

"I had to fight hard for him (Umenyiora) because he was from a small college and the media just killed me for it," said Reese. "I went to the press conference and told everybody we weren't apologizing for taking a good football player; I don't care where he comes from."

Reese evidently knew what he was doing after Umenyiora was selected to the Pro Bowl in Honolulu after he recorded 14.5 sacks in 2005.

Tiptonville mayor Danny Cook holds Reese in high regard as not only an athlete, but as a genuine good man. "I am just overjoyed for Jerry. He is a fine young man that I have known for some time and he is an outstanding person, and he is an outstanding representative of Lake County," said Cook.

"He is proof that even though you may come from a small town, you can achieve great things. I am so happy for him and his family and he would be an asset to any organization."

Reese and his wife, the former Gwen Moore of Brighton, who he met at Martin, have two children, Jasmyne Danielle and Jerry III. The family resides in New Jersey.
In this October 1980 file photo, Lake County quarterback Jerry Reese and Shelby Smith ride the shoulders of teammates and fans pointing to the sky moments after Lake County defeated Meigs County 20-6 to claim the Class A state championship. Lake County ended the storybook season a perfect 14-0.
ECCE Youth-oriented Classes Tap into Special Interests

MARTIN - Youth can get involved in acting, horsemanship or prepare for the ACT exam with three courses offered soon by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE).

The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches. To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 731-881-7273 or McDonald at 731-881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provided. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least seven years of age to participate.

"ACT Help!" will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, February 3-24 with a course fee of $45. The class limit is 15 students.

In this class, high school juniors and seniors will learn test-taking skills, practice the ACT and review the mathematics section completely. Higher scores mean going to the college of choice and possible scholarship money. Students will use the Real ACT Prep Guide. Cost of the text is not included in the fees, and students are responsible for having the book at the first class meeting. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Bookstore phone number is 731-881-7780.

"Young Writers' Clubhouse," a series of writing experiences for third through eighth graders, is slated for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., February 10 and April 21. The fee is $30 per session and includes writing notebook and pen. Participants will have a day full of superb stories, fantasy fairy tales and whimsical writing. The day will include writing workshops, mini-lessons on content and editing strategies, writing response groups, and one-to-one conferences with West Tennessee Writing Project Teachers.

"Introduction to Acting," for ages 13 and older, is planned for 5-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 6-March 13. Christian Ashlar is the instructor, and the fee is $45. This class is meant to help participants discover the actor within. They will learn to channel emotional states, past experiences and present-day knowledge into the creative, sometimes exciting and often therapeutic art of acting. Also, students will learn complex ways to develop acting skills.

For more information about these and other non-degree courses, contact ECCE at 1-800-462-9199 or 731-881-7082.

Deadline is February 23 for WTWP Invitational Summer Institute

MARTIN - Deadline for the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) annual invitational summer institute is February 23. The institute will be May 19 and June 4-28 (Monday-Thursday), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation.

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

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be approved for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit which may be used as part of a master's program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master's degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

"Our summer institute participants enjoy the immediate benefits of new approaches to teaching and learning that they can use in their classrooms as well as the longer term rewards of growing as writers, teachers and researchers," said Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin assistant professor of English and WTWP associate director.

For more information about Graduate Studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at (731) 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carithers at (731) 881-7289 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 881-7276 by fax or e-mail wtwp@utm.edu. To download the informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP website at www.utm.edu/ wtwp.

UTM honor choir set Feb. 3

MARTIN, Tenn. - High school students from across the state will participate in Honor Choir, a two-day event sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music. This year's event will feature an honor choir of 75 students and a 165-member festival choir. Both groups will be under the direction of UT Martin faculty and will perform a concert at 2 p.m., Feb. 3, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. The concert is open to the public. Admission is $4 and $2 for students and seniors.

For more information, contact Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

The Mirror Exchange, Tuesday, January 16, 2007

UTM Montage Concert set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music's annual Montage Concert will be at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.
Giants' Reese Reaches Top of a Long, Steady Climb

By JOHN BRANCH
Published: January 16, 2007

A boy from a poor, rural corner of Tennessee, who never played professional football, has grown up to become the leader of the Giants' football operations.

The Giants promoted Jerry Reese, 43, to senior vice president and general manager, replacing Ernie Accorsi, who is retiring. Reese spent most of the past five years as the team's director of player personnel, overseeing college scouting and drafts.

Reese, a native of Tiptonville, Tenn., will be one of three African-American general managers in the N.F.L., joining Ozzie Newsome of the Baltimore Ravens and Rick Smith of the Houston Texans. Newsome was the league's first black general manager, in 2002, though other African-Americans hold top-level positions in personnel departments.

The Giants confirmed the move late yesterday, which was officially Accorsi's last day with the team. They scheduled a news conference for today to introduce Reese.

The promotion is the apex of a steady climb for Reese, a former defensive back and assistant coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In 1994, he accepted a largely anonymous job as a field scout for the Giants.

That was the year that Accorsi joined the Giants as an assistant general manager. Accorsi was elevated to general manager in 1998, and Reese was promoted to a job at the team's headquarters in 1999. Reese became an assistant in the pro personnel department, which evaluates professional players, mostly potential free agents.

Accorsi promoted Reese to director of player personnel on May 1, 2002. And when Accorsi decided to retire, he told the team's owners that Reese should be his replacement.

After interviewing at least four other candidates, the Giants' president, John Mara, and treasurer, Jonathan Tisch, whose families share ownership of the Giants, agreed.

In searching for Accorsi's successor, the Giants interviewed four internal candidates and at least one external one. Besides Reese, they interviewed the assistant general manager Kevin Abrams; the director of pro personnel Dave Gettleman; the vice president for player evaluation Chris Mara (John Mara's brother); and the former Redskins and Texans general manager Charley Casserly.

They had hoped to talk to Scott Pioli, the Patriots' vice president for player personnel, but Pioli declined an interview.

Reese is often credited for seeing the potential of defensive end Osi Umenyiora, a little-known college player at Troy State whom the Giants drafted in the second round of the 2003 draft. Umenyiora had 14½ sacks in 2005 and was named to the Pro Bowl.
Giants' Reese Reaches Top of a Long, Steady Climb - New York Times

Reese inherits a team that appeared, just months ago, well positioned to challenge for championships in the coming years. But the Giants, under Coach Tom Coughlin, finished 8-8 and lost in the first round of the playoffs to the Philadelphia Eagles. In losing seven of their last nine games, the Giants generated unexpected questions about the overall quality of their team.

The Giants decided last week to retain Coughlin, and extended his contract through 2008. That decision was complicated to some degree by the delay in naming a replacement for Accorsi. Coughlin will report to Reese, who will have a huge say in whether Coughlin coaches beyond next season, viewed as a make-or-break year in his tenure.

The late-season skid raised sudden questions about the quality of the roster, too. Running back Tiki Barber retired, and a defense that was overhauled last off-season needs further patching, particularly at cornerback and linebacker.

The Giants have the 20th selection in April's draft, and they are believed to have enough wiggle room under the N.F.L.'s salary cap to be competitive participants in the free-agent market. Accorsi, wanting to position the Giants for the future, was vigilant about signing players to long-term contracts before he retired. The highest-profile veterans who remain unsigned are center Shaun O'Hara and kicker Jay Feely.

Beyond the three African-American general managers — Reese, Newsome and Smith — other African-Americans who currently hold upper-level personnel positions include the Arizona Cardinals' vice president for football operations, Rod Graves; and James Harris of the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tony Softli of the St. Louis Rams, who each hold the title of vice president for player personnel.

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Music of Gilbert Carp performed in January 21 concert

The music of University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of music, Gilbert Carp, will be performed at a January 21 concert in Harriet Fütten Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. Aptly named "The Music of Gilbert Carp," the 3:00 p.m. concert will feature selections of Carp that date as early as 1949. Among the selections and performers will be "Adagio" for flute, clarinet and percussion, Rachel Brann, UT Martin student, Union City, Erin Dismuke, UT Martin student, Cordova, Clint Roberts, Tipton, California, and Sarah Roberts, UT Martin student, Martin; "Betsy's Recitative and Aria" from "The Tennessee Witch" and "Songs for Children," Jennifer Cook, lecturer of educational studies, and Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music; Laid-Back from "Three Descriptive Sketches for Trumpet or Saxophone," Dr. Kurt Gorman, assistant professor of music; "Music I Heard with You," Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music, and Delana Easley, music specialist; and "Suite for Flute, Clarinet and Piano," Harriss, Dr. Amy Simmons, assistant professor of music, and Easley.

Carp, who joined the UT Martin faculty in 1969 and retired in 1996, was composer-in-residence. He taught theory, composition and woodwinds. He received a bachelor's in music at Louisiana State University; a master's in music at Converse College; and did doctoral studies at Florida State University.

Get active with Pilates, ballroom dance, art

Would you like to get active or pursue a new hobby this year? "Ballroom Dance I," "Pilates Beginners' Matwork," "Pottery on the Wheel" and "One-Strobe Painted Scrapbook Cover" will be offered in February and March by the University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education.

"Ballroom Dance I" is planned from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 8. The fee is $60 per single/$110 per couple and instructors will be Fran and Richard Robinson.

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

"Ballroom Dance II" is scheduled for March 22-April 20.

"Pilates Beginners' Matwork" will be offered from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 5 through March 12 and from 7 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, Feb. 5 through March 10. The fee is $55. The class provides an integrated workout for the body and mind, according to a press release. Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels, the matwork teaches that the body is the finest and only tool necessary for achieving physical fitness. Nationally certified through National Exercise Trainers Association, Carol Himman will demonstrate the basics to this form of body conditioning. Classes are done with an empty stomach and without shoes.

"Pottery on the Wheel" is slated from 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 6 through Feb. 27, with Clint Riley as the instructor. Course fee is $55. This is an opportunity to learn how to make bowls, cups and pitchers on the potter's wheel. No experience is necessary. There will be a supply fee of $20 (estimated) to be paid to the instructor.

Charlie Boyd is the instructor for "One-Strobe Painted Scrapbook Cover," which will be offered from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Feb. 24. The fee is $55. Participants can take vacation and holiday pictures, one-stroke acrylic brushes (dark green handle) and paint a cover on a three-ring binder scrapbook to display them. Also needed will be a 3/4 Flat, No. 12 Flat, No. 2 Script Liner and a Scruffy. For anyone who does not have these brushes, or is unable to find them in a store. Boyd will have some available for purchase at the time of the class. A $20 supply fee is to be paid to the instructor at the time of the class. The fee includes scrapbook, palette fee and miscellaneous supplies.

Call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.
For new GM, what a trip!

From poor start in Tenn., his road takes rich turn
BY GARY NIEVES
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Jerry Reese's hometown of Tiptonville, tucked away in the northwest corner of Tennessee, is so small even his mother jokes about it.

One side of a street sign says "Welcome," Orella Garland says, "and the other side says, "Come Back and Visit."

It's been an amazing journey for Reese, from the small and overcrowded two-bedroom house in Tipton St. to the spacious general manager's office at Giants Stadium. It has been huge news back in Tiptonville, and the town is celebrating its hometown hero.

Garland even knows the exact time her son called Monday morning with the good news.

"I looked at the caller ID," she says.

It was 11:52 when she picked up the phone and heard her oldest son's voice.

"Momma, I got it," he said.

"Thank God," she replied.

Orella Garland raised her son by herself until he was 12 and she married Clarence Garland, a man Jerry Reese considers his father.

His mother says Reese does not know his biological father.

Reese is the first African-American to hold the position of general manager for a New York football team and joins Baltimore's Cozze Newsome and Houston's Rick Smith as the only black GMs in the NFL.

"It's a big move for a young black man from the south," Orella Garland says. "Jerry is just 43 years old. It's a giant move for a young black man, especially from this area."

Doug Williams, the only black quarterback to win the Super Bowl, E-mailed Reese yesterday to say he was proud of him.

"I really feel it's my time to carry the torch," Reese says.

Reese was officially introduced as the successor to Ernie Accorsi at a news conference yesterday. He has been the Giants' director of player personnel since 2002, after joining the organization as a scout in 1994, hired by the late GM George Young.

We came from modest roots, but had never been one to shy away from tough work and long hours. When he was just 8, he began spending his summers 75 miles away in Parsons, Tenn., working on his great-grandfather's 300-acre farm and in his slaughterhouse.

"Jerry learned to slaughter hogs, whatever he had there to slaughter," Orella Garland says. "My grandfather taught him how to do it, when and how to do it. Jerry and my daughter Jackie went to spend the summer with my grandparents until somewhere in their high school age."

Friends say he didn't talk much about his days working in the slaughterhouse because he didn't like it too much. "I was right out there in the mix at the slaughterhouse," Reese says. "I could do it all. In the summer, I would mow lawns. That's how we did it back then."

There were seven kids in the two-bedroom house on Tipton St. When the Mississippi River would overflow, the front yard would flood, and the family, which moved out only 12 years ago, had to lay out blocks to get to the street.

As word spread around the town last week that Reese was going to be named the Giants' GM, a teacher in a neighboring high school told her students, "If Jerry Reese from Lake County (High School) can do it, then you can, too."

That night, Sherilli Armstrong, who played wide receiver on the Lake County team that Reese quarterbacked to the state championship their senior year, took his daughter and her boyfriend by the house where Reese grew up just to show them where he lived.

Reese played quarterback, punted, kicked extra points and was an all-state safety at Lake County.

After they lost in the state finals their junior year, Armstrong remembers Reese telling the team, "We're not ending our careers like that."

The next season, Reese, a lefty quarterback, hooked up with Armstrong for two touchdowns as they beat Meigs County for the title. "They still remember at Lake County," Armstrong says. "Jerry has come a long way."

Now, Armstrong jokes that he'd like Reese to throw a little business his way. "I'm a banker," Armstrong says. "I told Jerry when he gets his new job, I need a deposit out of him. He hasn't E-mailed me back."

"Of course he came from a rather poor background," his high school coach, Cliff Sturdivant, was saying yesterday, "as a lot of the kids in that particular county and school system did. At a young age he exhibited leadership skills. As far as from an athletic standpoint, he was talented in skill but small in stature. But he probably possessed more of the intangible characteristics - desire, the willingness to work and do things right, he really excelled in those areas that always seemed to come forward in tough situations, situations when leaders step forward."

Sturdivant says he is a "little amazed" at what Reese has accomplished because of where he came from. "The major industry down there is the regional prison," he says. "I think his dad worked at a state park and his mom worked at the prison. It's just a low economic area. A lot of farmland. It borders the Mississippi River and the state of Kentucky."

I don't know what the average income would be, but I sure would rank that at the bottom of all the counties in the state of Tennessee."

Reese went on to play at the University of Tennessee at Martin and twice made the All-South Conference team as a free safety. He later coached there before joining the Giants' scouting department.

"One of the finest young men I ever met," says Bill Kaier, the assistant athletic director at Tennessee-Martin. "He's got an intangible personality. If a person doesn't like Jerry Reese, he needs to look in the mirror and take a close look at himself because he doesn't like himself."

What kind of player was he? "Pound for pound, he's the toughest little football player I've ever seen and I've seen a bunch of them," Kaier says. "He couldn't have been more than 150 pounds when he got here. He played free safety for us and, unfortunately, he was the leading tackler. One spring game, we had a young wide receiver from here in Martin and Jerry hit him so hard I thought I killed him - and he knocked himself out, too. That's just the way he played. He played all-out."

Kaiser recalls how Jeremiah Davis "came here from New Jersey as our linebacker coach about '97 and he was here when we won the championship in 98, then he left here. He ended up as a scout for the Giants, and they called Jerry one day and said, "We heard about all your success in the South.""

Reese, who was by then the assistant head coach, was likely in line to be the head coach. He was close to Davis. When Reese was a grad assistant, he used to sleep on Davis' couch. Davis convinced him to join the Giants. "It turned out he couldn't have had a better deal," Kaier says. "I wish he would..."
come back here and be the head coach someday."

All seven of Ozzie Garlan's children went to college and they all have good jobs today. "It's just one of those stories that you don't see very often," Kaler says. "He's come from about as humble beginnings as a person could come from and it's worked for him. They didn't hand it to him. He's earned it."

Reese has run the Giants' draft room for years, even though Accorsi had the final say. Now that final say belongs to Reese.

"I've had the opportunity to observe Jerry's work firsthand throughout his time here, and he has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills, intelligence, confidence, a superior work ethic and an outstanding ability to evaluate players," Giants co-owner John Mara said. "Jerry earned this position the old-fashioned way: through hard work and dedication, being promoted through the ranks, and demonstrating a unique set of skills that caused us to take notice of him very early on."

Armstrong's advice: If you work with Reese, you better want to win. "He is driven to win," he says. "Anybody in that group who doesn't want to win better find somewhere else to go."

**The Reese file**

**Age:** 43

**Hometown:** Tiptonville, Tenn.

**Who is he?** The first black GM in Giants history, Reese has been running Big Blue's war room on draft day since 2003. A former scout, he was lured away from a budding coaching career at Tennessee-Martin by an old friend.

**Resume:** Hired as a Giants scout on Dec. 15, 1994. In spring of '99 he became the Giants' assistant director of personnel. On May 1, 2002 he was promoted to director of player personnel.

**Famous call:** Made a passionate plea in 2003 for the Giants to draft unheralded DE Celid Umehunya with their second-round pick. He won the fight, and Umehunya has had 28-1/2 sacks in four years.

**Why he was hired:** "He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone in this organization from the first day he walked in the door, and we are very excited about his ability to lead our team in the future."

*Co-owner John Mara*

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**DARING TO DREAM —** Guest speaker Dr. Jerry Wayne Woods (third from left) used a colorful cloth and other props as he gave the biblical account of Joseph during a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon at midday Monday at the Pontotoc Community Center in downtown Fulton. Among those who visited with him afterward were (from left) Fulton High School sophomore Clif Banks, a United Church of the Living God member who played the keyboard during the program; 6-year-old Devontae Alexander; and Union City High School junior Keith Anderson, a Brooks Chapel C.M.E. Church member who played saxophone for the lunch program. Woods is an associate professor and coordinator of online advising at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The luncheon was one of the special events planned in the Twin Cities of Fulton and South Fulton for the annual observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday designated in memory of the late civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner. Monday evening, a unity memorial march traveled from Bennie Gordon Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Fulton to nearby Bells Chapel C.M.E. Church, where a memorial service was held.
It's official: Reese named Giants GM

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Messenger Sports Editor

Appropriately enough, Jerry Reese officially became just the third black general manager in the National Football League on Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday.

It was symbolic of his tireless work ethic and his determination that landed him the 'New York Giants' job that Reese was in the office answering his own phone while several employees in the organization took the holiday off.

'I've got a lot on the table, and I want to hit the ground running,' Reese told The Messenger Monday, while playing secretary and taking a brief break from his new duties to reflect on his humble journey from rural West Tennessee — and Lake County in particular — to the Big Apple and the big time.

'I am so blessed, and it's so fitting and makes it even more special for me that this opportunity comes on Martin Luther King Day. So many African-American people paid the price and paved the way for someone like me to have this chance. Given where I've come from and my roots in Tiptonville, it truly is the American dream.'

Reese joins Ozzie Newsome of the Baltimore Ravens and Rick Smith of the Houston Texans as the only black NFL general managers, with Newsome the first African-American to attain that position in 2002.

A prep star at Lake County High School, a small-college standout and eventual Hall of Famer at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the 43-year old Reese was to be officially introduced as the Giants' GM, senior vice president and leader of the storied franchise's front office at a mid-morning press conference today.

Generally considered the frontrunner for the job when it became apparent the organization would promote an in-house candidate to replace the retiring Ernie Accorsi, Reese was officially offered and accepted the position Monday afternoon.

'It's really been chaotic around here the last few days with all the speculation, but they've let me know I'm their leader and I'm ready to lead,' the new Giants' boss added, after agreeing to a four-year contract.

Reese's unlikely climb to the pinnacle of professional football operations started when he quit his job as the secondary and assistant head coach at UT Martin to join the Giants as

Giants...

(Continued from Page One)

a largely undistinguished scout in 1994. Four years later, he moved into a full-time front office job and to New York as director of pro personnel before then stepping up and into a capacity of director of player personnel — a position that he held prior to Monday.

He certainly didn't plan his current standing nor being a social statement as a minority among the professional football ranks.

"When (Giants scout) Jeremiah (Davis) first approached me about taking the scouting job, I told him I wanted no part of it," Reese laughed while recalling his initial thoughts of the prospects of leaving rural West Tennessee. "I told him I was making $35,000 a year as a young black assistant coach at UTM and I didn't want to go anywhere."

He has, though, and in fairy tale fashion.

From working in his great grandfather's slaughterhouse as a young boy, to chopping cotton and cutting grass in graveyards, the principles of hard work and resolve have long served as the base for his professional drive and unquestionable character.

One of nine family members living in a two-bedroom home at one time, he had multiple other jobs and responsibilities as a youth and often handed over the majority of any money he made to help with the bills.

"To see it written and to read it, it's chilling to sit back and think about where I came from and where I am now," Reese said. "God is good. And I've been especially fortunate to be in his favor."

Apparently, the Giants' organization holds him in pretty high regard, too.

Sports editor Mike Hutchens may be contacted at mhutch@ucmessenger.com.

Reese picked as Giants' new GM

Former UTM player takes over in New York

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants hired Jerry Reese as their general manager Monday, making him only the third black GM in NFL history.

Reese, who served as the team's director of player personnel the last four years, was considered the favorite among the Giants' in-house candidates to replace Ernie Accorsi, who held the post for nine seasons before retiring.

The 43-year-old Reese will formally be introduced as general manager and senior vice president at a news conference Tuesday morning, the team said on its Web site.

A graduate of Tennessee Martin, Reese first joined the Giants' scouting department in 1994 after working on the coaching staff at his alma mater.

As the Giants' player personnel director, he oversaw all aspects of college scouting and had most of the responsibility for the draft. Reese previously served as assistant director of pro personnel for three years.
Teaching Science: Grades 4-6’ is ECCE offering

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to offer “Teaching Science: Grades 4-6.”

No matter whether you’re new to teaching or have years of experience under your belt, you’ll benefit from the information and teaching methods presented by Holly Trimble, in her new online course, “Teaching Science: Grades 4-6.”

Through this course, teachers will understand the nature of science and learn about some of the people who discovered scientific principles now taken for granted. Trimble will thoroughly explain the scientific method and provide step-by-step examples of experiments. She even includes checklists and worksheets that teachers can print, modify and use in their own classrooms.

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Trimble devotes an entire lesson to helping students construct and interpret graphs, an important skill for standardized testing. Science fairs will never seem difficult again after teachers finish with the course. Trimble provides templates and checklists through the course. Trimble includes practical, concrete examples so teachers will get the maximum benefit from the instruction.

“Teaching Science: Grades 4-6” can be taken online from the convenience of home or office, and at any time of the day or night. The fee for the course is $85. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinematerials.php. Click Education To Go.

WestStar Corporate sponsors recognized

WestStar Leadership program corporate sponsors were recognized at a December board meeting. Among sponsors honored and those representing them, was, second from left, Joe Brasher, of Sharon, First State community bank president. Brasher serves on the WestStar board of trustees and was a member of the first class in 1990. In its 18th year, UT Martin’s WestStar program provides leadership development and training for selected participants. The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills. WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county. He is pictured with David Belote, left, University of Tennessee at Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, and WestStar executive director, and Dr. Nick Dunagan, right, UT Martin chancellor.
History comes alive at UT Martin

Participants in a University of Tennessee at Martin three-year American history program, funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant, recently met on campus to continue their work. The participants have learned how to integrate technology into teaching American history and social studies. The intensive professional development experience will culminate in a June 18-22 Summer Showcase, which will allow participants to present their technologically driven instructional units to 300 teachers in a five-state area. Teachers interested in attending the showcase, may contact Dr. Bonnie Daniel, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts senior research associate, at 731-881-7097 or bdaniel@utm.edu.

Participants and their schools are (from left, front row): Karen Rey, Newbern; Tammy Mann, Newbern; Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin professor of history; Jane Vickers, Trezevant; (second row): Kathy Johnson, Newbern; Mollie Yann, Lavinia; Regina Jones, Tiptonville; Rose Alkashawi, Newbern; Jimmy Stone, Jackson; (third row): Jackie Wester, Milan; Darla Hyman, Dyersburg; Chastity Joyce, Ripley; and (fourth row): Blair Chadwick, Martin.

Participants are (from left, front row): Blair Crenshaw, Dyersburg; Ginger Goldsby, Dyersburg; Kim Hamilton-Dilden, Jackson; Cindy Tatum, Milan; Dr. David Barber, UT Martin assistant professor of history; (back row): Tracey Hardnett-Dodd, Newbern; Tony Goldsby, Bells; and Patricia Martin, Dresden.
Beginning Microsoft Access, 'Spanish for Everyone' among February courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer "Beginning Microsoft Access" from 9:00 a.m.-noon, February 13 and 15, and "Spanish for Everyone" from 6:00-8:00 p.m., February 6-27.

"Beginning Microsoft Access" instructor will be Shannon Burgin, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief information officer. The fee is $150. Participants will learn to design and create a database, what relational databases can do and will receive instruction about design, tables and relationships. They will edit data, sort and filter and learn how queries can give answers. Finally, participants will create quick forms for data entry and reports that can be customized to individual needs.

"Spanish for Everyone" instructor will be Ron Ramage. The fee is $55. It is increasingly useful in today's world to know a few words of Spanish. The class will help students brush up on previous language skills and provide some useful words and phrases.

For more information, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

Veterinary Assistant course offered by UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has launched "Become a Veterinary Assistant III: Practical Skills" online, non-degree class.

Dr. Jeff Grognet, a practicing veterinarian and instructor of the course, recently launched the third installment of this online education series that helps students learn the practical skills they need to become veterinary assistants or educated pet owners.

The first course in Grognet's three-part series introduces students to the world of veterinary medicine. The second course focuses on canine reproduction, and the latest installment covers practical skills. Students will join Grognet and other animal lovers for a tour through the many duties that a veterinary assistant typically performs.

Through instruction and demonstration, students will learn how to safely restrain an animal for blood tests, urine collection and injections. Then they'll find out how to obtain blood samples, which needles to use for which patient, where the best anatomical sites for collecting blood are located and how to catheterize a bladder.

Grognet also will review the basics of blood and urine interpretation so students will understand how veterinarians diagnose various conditions.

"As a practicing veterinarian, I find that an educated veterinary assistant is indispensable," explains Grognet. "I depend on them to conduct many procedures as well as assisting in the surgical suite." Grognet adds that pet owners can benefit from this information, too.

Students will gain a thorough understanding of examination room procedures, including disinfecting, prepping and taking a patient's temperature, pulse and respiration. Other handy skills Grognet will cover include expressing anal glands, bathing, cleaning ears, giving medication, establishing the sex of a young kitten, puppy or bunny, determining age and trimming nails.

Throughout the course, students will benefit from videos that demonstrate many of these procedures and techniques, as well as state-of-the-art interactive graphics.

"Become a Veterinary Assistant III: Practical Skills" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office, and at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the UT Martin online instruction center at http://www.utk.edu/departmentss/ecce/onlinecourses.php then click "Education To Go."
Communication skills topic of January workshop

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a course, “Speak Up So That People Will Listen: Communication Skills for Women,” from 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 23 and 25.

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Dr. Michelle Santiago, UT Martin counseling center staff psychologist, will be the instructor. The registration fee is $35.

To register for a non-degree class, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

Payment for the courses may be made by credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover) or check.

Montage concert to be staged in Harriet Fulton Theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music’s annual Montage Concert will be at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 29, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. The concert has a fast-paced format that features a variety of performances by students and faculty. There will be performances by soloists, chamber groups and large ensembles. The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

Microsoft beginners’ class set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer “Beginning Microsoft Access” from 9 a.m.-noon, Feb. 13 and 15, and “Spanish for Everyone” from 6-8 p.m., Feb. 6-27.

“Beginning Microsoft Access” instructor will be Shannon Burgin, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief information officer.

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For more information, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

High school vocalists will compete at UTM

High school students from across the state will participate in Honor Choir, a two-day event sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music. This year’s event will feature an honor choir of 75 students and a 165-member festival choir. Both groups will be under the direction of UT Martin faculty and will perform a concert at 2 p.m., Feb. 3, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. The concert is open to the public.

Admission is $4 and $2 for students and seniors.

For more information, contact Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

Martin professor’s music featured Jan. 21

The music of University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of music, Gilbert Carp, will be performed at a Jan. 21 concert in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

Aptly named “The Music of Gilbert Carp,” the 3 p.m. concert will feature selections of Carp that date as early as 1949. Among the selections and performers will be “Adagio” for flute, clarinet and percussion, Rachel Brann, UT Martin student; Union City, Erin Dismuke, UT Martin student; Covington, Clint Roberts, Tipton, Calif.; and Sarah Roberts, UT Martin student, Martin; “Betsy’s Recitative and Aria” from “The Tennessee Witch” and “Songs for Children,” Jennifer Cook, lecturer of educational studies, and Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music; and “Laid-Back” from “Three Descriptive Sketches for Trumpet or Saxophone.” Dr. Kurt Gorman, assistant professor of music; “Music I Heard with You,” Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music, and Delana Easley, music specialist; and “Suite for Flute, Clarinet and Piano,” Harriss, Dr. Amy Simmons, assistant professor of music, and Easley.

Carp, who joined the UT Martin faculty in 1969 and retired in 1996, was composer in residence. He taught theory, composition and woodwinds. He received a bachelor’s in music at Louisiana State University; a master’s in music at Converse College; and did doctoral studies at Florida State University.
Reese’s promotion to vice-president, general manager brings elation to sister, former teammates

MIKE SMITH
msmith@stategazette.com

With the announcement Tuesday morning of Tiptonville native Jerry Reese’s promotion to vice-president and general manager of the NFL’s New York Giants, a family as well as members of the local community gathered to celebrate.

Reese’s latest promotion is simply icing on the cake for the former Lake County standout according to his sister, Sandra Lanier, a teacher at Dyersburg High School. “Our family is very proud of him. He already had a nice position with the Giants organization and we all thought that was just the greatest thing,” said Lanier. “It is kind of surreal for us to see our brother in the paper, on the Internet, or even on television in that type of position because really he is making history.”

A couple of Reese’s former teammates at Lake County say the success he is having now is a reflection of the person they knew more than 25 years ago. Sherrill Armstrong, a former teammate and close friend now serving as executive vice-president and chief credit officer at First Citizens National Bank, has known Reese as long as he can remember and is proud of his accomplishments. “What I really remember about Jerry was that he was so competitive and he really wanted to win,” said Armstrong. “He was going to be around people that wanted to win and he was going to lead them to win.”

During the state championship game in 1980, which the Lake County Falcons won, Armstrong caught a couple of touchdown passes from Reese, something he still remembers. “I will always remember that game and those two touchdown catches I had. It was funny, the year before we were juniors, we lost in the state finals and I will never forget Jerry looking over at me and saying we weren’t going to end our careers like that. He just did what it took to win.”

Though their relationship now is one of e-mails and phone calls here and there, Armstrong still has the highest respect for the Giants new vice-president and general manager. “He was an outstanding athlete and a good friend. I wish him the best and I really believe he will succeed. He will have people around him that want to win or he won’t have them around for very long,” added Armstrong.

Another former friend and teammate is Jeff Beasley, owner of Beasley Chiropractic in Dyersburg. Beasley remembers Reese as being a great person too, not only to play with on the football field, but to just hang out with in Lake County during their youthful years. “He was a leader on the football field that’s for sure, but more than that he was just a super person to be around,” said Beasley.

While Reese has made his way in life with hard work and determination, Beasley says it’s just a reflection on his family. “His whole family is made up of hard workers and Jerry always led by example. We worked all summer long together, we all hung out together, and we were just really close friends that ran around together off of the football field,” said Beasley.

Beasley said he always knew Reese would be successful in whatever he chose to do with his life. “I knew he was going to be a success. He just had that about him, but I didn’t know he would be sitting in the position he is right now. I bet Jerry would tell you himself now that he is surprised himself.”

Reese was successful on the football field in Lake County, he was successful as a coach at UTM, and for the last 12 years he has worked to make a name for himself in the New York Giants organization. Now, the man most remember as a leader in the small community of Tiptonville will lead another team, but this time it will be under the bright lights of New York City.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR CONCERT

High school students from across the state will participate in Honor Choir, a two-day event sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Music. This year’s event will feature an honor choir of 75 students and a 165-member festival choir. Both groups will be under the direction of UT Martin faculty and will perform a concert at 2 p.m., Feb. 3, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The concert is open to the public. Admission: $4 and $2 for students and seniors.

Young Writer’s Clubhouse at UTM

The second in the Saturday Young Writers’ Clubhouse series, for third through eighth grade students, will be offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project at the University of Tennessee Martin. The meeting is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of University of Tennessee Martin. February’s Clubhouse will explore different types of poetry.

Each student should take a sack lunch and drink. Children may take snacks for the morning break. Registration deadline is Feb. 3. Parents may register children for the February clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse, April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

The Dec. 9 Young Writers’ Clubhouse was a day filled with music, laughter and writing. The middle school group listened to a variety of music, and made music journals and collages. The elementary group started off with a writing and moving activity. They listened to different types of music and wrote about the scenes they imagined taking place.

Visit www.utm.edu/wtrp or send an e-mail to Brittan Sutherland, clubhouse program director, at sutherlandb@k12tn.net. Check out http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/youthwriting/writingreg.php for online registration.
Achieving His Goal, Reese Gazes Even Higher

By JOHN BRANCH
Published: January 17, 2007

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., Jan. 16 — Jerry Reese, standing on a raised platform and sandwiched between bright spotlights and a backdrop of Giants logos, laughed when he considered just how it was that he got here.

He grew up in poverty in western Tennessee, the oldest of eight children, raised mostly by a single mother in a two-bedroom house. He was a good football player at a small college program, but never played professionally. Twelve years ago, he was an assistant coach for that university, Tennessee-Martin.

Now, at 43, Reese is the third African-American to earn the title of N.F.L. general manager. He was introduced Tuesday as senior vice president and general manager of the Giants. He wore a suit and a smile and spoke with a mix of determination and ease. And when he was asked if the whole thing felt real, he laughed and called it a "fairy tale."

"If you guys knew where I'd come from — Steve Tisch would write a movie about it, to be honest," Reese said, referring to the Giants' co-owner, who is also a movie producer. "I just come from meager beginnings."

In Reese's mind, the script gets more unbelievable from here. According to his wife, he would someday like to be the commissioner of the N.F.L.

In the shadows next to the stage Tuesday stood Reese's wife of 18 years, Gwen, and their two children, Jasmyn, 14, and J. R., 10. They are the people who know Reese best, from all angles. They screamed and cried together when the phone rang at about noon Monday and Jerry Reese said, "I got it."

Twelve hours later, after meetings and a dinner in Manhattan with the personnel department, Reese returned to his New Jersey home.

"When he became a scout of the Giants," Gwen Reese said, referring to December 1994, "he said, 'I would like to be the general manager.' That was his goal. I said to him last night: 'Wow, you reached your goal. This is what you wanted to accomplish. What's next?'"

She giggled.

"He has something in mind already, but ..." she said.

Prodded gently, she let slip her husband's long-range plan.

"Sign his name on the footballs, I'll say that," she said.
The notion that Jerry Reese could become commissioner of the N.F.L. might be preposterous if not for the journey he has already made. Many other African-Americans who have risen to high-level jobs in the N.F.L., and other major sports, were players, given the inherent advantages of connections and name recognition.

Gwen Reese has seen the far more anonymous diligence of Jerry Reese since dating him at Tennessee-Martin. She is three years younger, and was finishing college when he was an assistant coach there.

"He called me over to the football office and said, 'I have something for you,'" she said Tuesday. "I went over, and it was an engagement ring. He was like: 'Here put this on. I've got to go to practice.'"

She laughed. Of the things the two share, the most obvious is a comfortable laugh.

"We got married the next year," she said. "Our honeymoon we spent recruiting college players in Biloxi, Miss. So he still owes me a honeymoon. After 18 years, I still didn't get it yet."

Jerry Reese expected to someday be the coach at Tennessee-Martin, where he was inducted into the college's hall of fame for his exploits as an all-conference safety. Those plans changed when Jeremiah Davis, a former Tennessee-Martin assistant and a Giants scout since 1988, recommended Reese for a scouting job with the Giants in 1994.

Reese blanched. Davis persisted.

It spun Reese's life in a different direction. In 1999, he took his family to New Jersey, far from the relatives who still live in western Tennessee, to become an assistant in the team's pro personnel department. In 2002, he was named director of player personnel, overseeing college scouting and the N.F.L. draft.

The Giants, particularly the exiting general manager Ernie Accorsi, saw a rising star. Tuesday, it seemed, did not mark the top of the arc.

Reese has wholly embraced the notion of being a trailblazer among African-Americans. He said he was grateful for those who provided openings deep into the executive offices of the N.F.L. He said he expected many more would follow through a gap he planned to widen.

"Only because I'm going to be successful," Reese said. "Only because of that reason. This is a show-me business. I can't come in here and win three games every year for four years and expect African-Americans to be advanced. I don't take that lightly, that I'm a torchbearer. Not being cliché with that, but I am a torchbearer to keep the drive alive. There are many African-Americans coming along behind me saying, 'Man, look at Jerry.'"

For now, there is no place Reese would rather be. He said he believed the Giants, who finished 8-8 this season and lost in the first round of the playoffs, were not far from being Super Bowl champions. He acknowledged that the Giants had "hot spots" on the roster that needed to be addressed but declined to name them.

He pledged his support to quarterback Eli Manning and Coach Tom Coughlin; each heads into his fourth season having performed below expectations.

"Obviously it's not where we want it to be," Reese said of Manning's progress. "We want him to be a Pro Bowl guy that can lead us into the Super Bowl."
The decision to retain Coughlin was made by the owners last week, before Reese was promoted. He will now decide Coughlin’s future. “We’re going to support him 100 percent,” Reese said as Coughlin stood nearby. “Tom is our coach and we want him to be here for a long time.”

The situation that Reese inherits has no obstacles tougher than the ones he has already overcome. As Reese was introduced, his wife and children beamed, representing dozens of friends and family members centered in western Tennessee.

“There’s been a lot of praying going on, trying to get me into this seat,” Reese said.

And there will be a lot of praying. From people Reese knows and many he does not, to see where he takes it from here.

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**Improve digital photos with online course**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a new, online course “Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer.”

Are digital photos not measuring up? Adobe’s Photoshop Elements 5.0 provides the tools needed for quick fixes and detailed enhancement. A new online course, “Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer,” will help. In this highly interactive six-week online course, participants will discover the basics of a software application specifically designed for photo enthusiasts. Created for those with no image-editing experience, this class will take participants from novice to accomplished user.

Instructor Dr. Beverly Schulz, an experienced digital photographer and Photoshop Elements user, helps her students experience the simplified process of editing images on the computer, correcting flaws, enhancing the final product, creating simple art projects, preparing images for e-mail and the Web, organizing images and learning the tools.

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**Communication skills course offered to women**

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Dr. Michelle Santiago, UT Martin counseling center staff psychologist, will be the instructor. The registration fee is $35.

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Achieving His Goal, Reese Gazes Even Higher - New York Times


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The Gazette, Trenton, Tennessee

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‘Teaching Science: Grades 4-6’ is ECCE Offering

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Students of the course will learn effective teaching methods and how they can use them when teaching science. They’ll also learn about learning and organizational tools, how to help students write great research papers and how to keep the emotional climate in the classroom positive. Trimble will present foundational content in the different disciplines of science, so teachers also will grasp some of the most essential principles that govern the world.

Trimble devotes an entire lesson to helping students construct and interpret graphs, an important skill for standardized testing. Science fairs will never seem difficult again after teachers finish the course. Trimble provides templates and checklists that make hosting a science fair manageable for both teachers and their students. All through the course, Trimble includes practical, concrete examples so teachers will get the maximum benefit from the instruction.

For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php

Deadline is Feb. 23 for WTWP Invitational Summer Institute

Martin, TN - Deadline for the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) annual invitational summer institute is Feb. 23. The institute will be May 19 and June 4-28 (Monday-Thursday), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation. The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing, and a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teacher consultants.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit which may be used as part of a master’s program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, or for hours above a master’s degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

“Our summer institute participants enjoy the immediate benefits of new approaches to teaching and learning that they can use in their classrooms as well as the longer term rewards of growing as writers, teachers and researchers,” said Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin assistant professor of English and WTWP associate director.

For more information about Graduate Studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at (731) 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carithers at (731) 881-7289 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 881-7276 by fax or e-mail wtwp@utm.edu. To download the informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP website at www.utm.edu/wtwp.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, January 19, 2007

Carp music featured in concert

The music of University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of music Gilbert Carp will be performed at a concert Sunday afternoon in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

Aptly named “The Music of Gilbert Carp,” the 3 p.m. concert will feature selections of Carp that date as early as 1949.

Among the performers will be UT Martin student Rachel Brann of Union City and UT Martin music specialist Delana Easley of Union City.

Carp, who joined the UT Martin faculty in 1969 and retired in 1996, was composer-in-residence. He taught theory, composition and woodwinds. He received a bachelor’s in music at Louisiana State University, a master’s in music at Converse College and did doctoral studies at Florida State University.
UTM grad joins ranks of NFL elite

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Special to the Press

Appropriately enough, Jerry Reese officially became just the third black general manager in the National Football League on Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday.

It was symbolic of his tireless work ethic and his determination that landed him the New York Giants' job that Reese was in the office answering his own phone while several employees in the organization took the holiday off.

"I've got a lot on the table, and I want to hit the ground running." Reese told The Messenger Monday, while playing secretary and taking a brief break from his new duties to reflect on his humble journey from rural West Tennessee — and Lake County in particular — to the Big Apple and the big time.

"I am so blessed, and it's so fitting and makes it even more special for me that this opportunity comes on Martin Luther King Day. So many African-American people paid the price and paved the way for someone like me to have this chance. Given where I've come from and my roots in Tiptonville, it truly is the American dream."

Reese joins Ozzie Newsome of the Baltimore Ravens and Rick Smith of the Houston Texans as the only black NFL general managers, with Newsome the first African-American to attain that position in 2002.

A prep star at Lake County High School, a small-college standout and eventual Hall of Famer at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the 43-year old Reese was to be officially introduced as the Giants' GM, senior vice president and leader of the storied franchise's front office at a mid-morning press conference Tuesday.

Generally considered the frontrunner for the job when it became apparent the organization would promote an in-house candidate to replace the retiring Ernie Accorsi, Reese was officially offered and accepted the position Monday afternoon.

"It's really been chaotic around here the last few days with all the speculation, but they've let me know I'm their leader and I'm ready to lead," the new Giants' boss added, after agreeing to a four-year contract.

Reese's unlikely climb to the pinnacle of professional football operations started when he quit his job as the secondary and assistant head coach at UT Martin to join the Giants as a largely undistinguished scout in 1994.

Four years later, he moved into a full-time front office job and to New York as director of pro personnel before then stepping up and into a capacity of director of player personnel — a position that he held prior to Monday.

He certainly didn't plan his current standing nor being a social statement as a minority among the professional football ranks.

See Reese, Page 4
Reese’s roots run deep in NW Tennessee

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

In a press conference held Tuesday in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Lake County native Jerry Reese became just the third African-American in NFL history to hold the position of general manager and senior vice president of the New York Giants, but even with all the historical implications of the announcement, the news came as no surprise to a few people in Reese’s life including a long time assistant athletic director at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Col. Bill Kaler had become familiar with Reese long before he entered the world of the National Football League.

He knew him as a promising high school All American quarterback for the Lake County Falcons who led his team to a state championship, a standout college player for UT Martin and finally, on another level, as an assistant coach for the college, so Reese’s jump into the top office position for the Giants came as no great shock for UT Martin’s assistant A.D. of the compliance office.

“I’ve been in the army and I’ve often heard the phrase, ‘When things get rough and it’s tough, know who’s in the foxhole with you.’ I want him (Reese) in the foxhole with me,” Kaler admitted. “He truly has a magnetic personality. He’s super friendly and intelligent and he has a fine family.”

“He’s one of the toughest football players I’ve ever seen,”

Real estate law course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to provide real estate law as an online course.

Anyone interested in real estate law, can now learn the essentials, including everything from investments to foreclosures, in a new instructor-facilitated course offered entirely over the Internet.

“Real Estate Law” can be taken online from the convenience of home or office at any time of the day or night. The registration fee is $85. For more information about this course — part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated courses — visit the online instruction center at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlineneedless.php. Click Education To Go.

February courses offered at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer “Beginning Microsoft Access” from 9 a.m. - noon, Feb. 13 and 15, and “Spanish for Everyone” from 6-8 p.m., Feb. 6-27.

“Beginning Microsoft Access” instructor will be Shannon Burgin, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief information officer. The fee is $150.

Participants will learn to design and create a database, what relational databases can do and will receive instruction about design, tables and relationships. They will edit data, sort and filter and learn how queries can give answers. Finally, participants will create quick forms for data entry and reports that can be customized to individual needs.

“Spanish for Everyone” instructor will be Ron Ramage. The fee is $55. It is increasingly useful in today’s world to know a few words of Spanish. The class will help students brush up on previous language skills and provide some useful words and phrases.

For more information, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.
Young Writers’ Clubhouse series continues at UTM

The second in the Saturday Young Writers’ Clubhouse series for third- through eighth-grade students is offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin and meets 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 10, in the Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of UT Martin.

February’s Clubhouse will explore different types of poetry.

The Dec. 9 Young Writers’ Clubhouse was a day filled with music, laughter and lots of writing. The middle school group listened to a variety of music, created music journals and collages. The elementary group started off with an activity that had them writing and moving. Later, they listened to different types of music and wrote about the scenes they imagined taking place.

Registration deadline for the Feb. 10 clubhouse is Feb. 3. Parents may register children for the February clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse, April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

Each student should take a sack lunch and drink. Children may take snacks for the morning break.

For more information about the Young Writers’ Clubhouse or WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/wtp or e-mail Brittan Sutherland, clubhouse program director, sutherlandb@k12tn.net. Online registration: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/youthwriting/writinggreg.php.

UTM hosts annual Band Symposium

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2007 Honor Band Symposium on Jan. 25-27. The symposium will be composed of seventh- through 12th-grade band students. Concerts will begin at 1 p.m., Jan. 27, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. They are free and open to the public.

Approximately 400 of the region’s finest wind and percussion students have been invited to participate in the event. There will be three high school bands, one seventh/eighth grade band, a seventh/eighth grade percussion ensemble and an 11th/12th grade percussion ensemble.

The students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the country. Conductors include Dr. Daniel Schmidt of Northern Arizona University, professor Steven D. Davis of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Andy Sanders of Sothaven, Mass., and Jennifer Hamilton of Flagstaff, Ariz. Dr. Michael Gould of the University of Michigan will conduct the high school percussion ensemble and Benjamin Martin, UT Martin alumnus, will conduct the junior high percussion ensemble.

For more information, contact Sherry Adams, at 881-7402 or sadams@utm.edu.
Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned

Kara Waddell, center, of Mason, won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held in November at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Jeri Anthony, left, of Selmer, and second runner-up was Tara Martchek, right, of Munford. Waddell is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee Martin; Anthony, a Jackson State Community College sophomore; and Martchek, a University of Memphis sophomore. Waddell was crowned by Holly Buchanan, 2006 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Ahlschwede first faculty member in speaker series

Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English and recipient of the 2006 Cunningham Award at the University of Tennessee Martin, will deliver an address, "Write Anyway," at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 at Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center. Her presentation is part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series, sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English. Ahlschwede will sign her chapbook, "Three Stories and a Poem," available for purchase.

"We in honors programs applaud the decision of Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to include a member of the UT Martin faculty on the academic speakers program, as this will allow another forum for our faculty to demonstrate the quality of research and creative endeavor that is a feature of our university," said Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors programs director.
Applications increase at UT Martin

Applications for summer and fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 10 percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions.

The ACT scores of students applying also increased to an average of 22.32, up from 21.71 last year.

This is the fourth consecutive year that application numbers have increased. A recent report showed that by Jan. 1, 2007, 1,809 students had applied for admission to UT-Martin, up from 1,644 by that date in 2006.

Also, there has been a 9 percent increase in housing applications this year.

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

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

"The number of applications also has increased simply because UT-Martin offers features and services students want. We think students tend to make their decisions based on a school's atmosphere. Students are looking for more personal attention. They are looking at the size of the university and the opportunity to be involved in campus activities.

"Students who choose UT-Martin like the fact that their classes are going to be smaller and taught by faculty, not graduate students, and the fact that they will have access to those faculty members outside of class," she said.

Ms. Rayburn said proximity to home and cost of tuition also are important considerations when students choose to apply to UT-Martin.

"It is my sincere belief that more and more students and parents are understanding the economic and quality of life values associated with a university degree," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT-Martin chancellor. "UT-Martin represents an excellent place for a high-quality education in a safe environment at a reasonable cost that values teaching and interaction with students. Our caring faculty and staff are doing great work, and students and parents are taking notice."

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

Real Estate Law
Course Offered Online

MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to provide real estate law as an online course.

Anyone interested in real estate law, can now learn the essentials, including everything from investments to foreclosures, in a new instructor-facilitated course offered entirely over the Internet.

Students of "Real Estate Law," a new six-week online course, will receive a foundation in real estate practice and investment, as well as a deeper appreciation for the impact that real estate law has on nearly every aspect of their lives. The course will explain topics such as foreclosure, real estate investing, landlord-tenant law, as well as many other topics, providing students with hands-on applications and examples to show them how to use this knowledge in a day-to-day real estate practice.

Course instructor, Neal Bevans, is a veteran lawyer with extensive experience as a real estate title examiner, investor and real property attorney. By mixing explanation of legal theory with specific and practical examples, the instructor draws a balance between legal philosophy and legal practice.

"Understanding real property law forms the basis of a general understanding of all law," said Bevans. "If you're a paralegal, achieving a solid mastery of real estate concepts can make you more desirable to potential employers."

Bevans' course isn't just for legal professionals. "If you've ever thought about buying, selling or renting a home, this course is also for you," said Bevans, who promises that the material will be down to earth and often entertaining. "You'll soon see just how fascinating a topic real property law can be."

"Real Estate Law" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office at any time of the day or night. The registration fee is $85. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php. Click Education To Go.
Window closes for investing in ethanol plant

By JOHN BRANNON
Messenger Staff Reporter

For two years, true believers beat the bushes for investors with deep pockets to invest in an ethanol plant near Obion. Today the door closes.

Work is already underway on the $160 million facility. Its business name is “Ethanol Grain Processors.”

Obion Mayor Patsy Barker said City Hall has been getting calls from construction people looking for a place to rent. “We made a list of people who have rental property in Obion. It has names and phone numbers. We give that out,” she said.

Mrs. Barker said such inquiries are initial signs of increased commercial activity. “More people coming to town, buying gas, doing business in Obion. This ethanol plant will be good for the Town of Obion and northwest Tennessee,” she said.

Jim Patterson, EGP chief executive officer, declined comment.

Dr. Jim Byford of Martin, a member of the eight-member EGP board of directors, said the financial process of investing in the plant ends at close of business today. “And when that happens, there will be a reconstitution of the board. It will be increased to 11 members,” he said.

Byford, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is himself an investor. “I started out with a very small amount,” he said.

“We started in October 2004. Initially, I was going to put in a little bit just as a vote of confidence. But as time went on, I began to see this thing was going to be a pretty good investment. So I invested some more and later invested more.”

By close of business today, EGP will have reached its goal of attracting $160 million in investments, Byford asserts. “That’s a lot of money,” he said.

“It includes operating capital, money to build the plant.”

The builder, Fagan Inc. of Minnesota, is the contractor.

“It includes money for the dirt work,” Byford said. “We have a contract with Coffey Construction (of Fulton) to do the dirt work. They are moving the dirt right now.”

There is also money for lawyers, a consultant and general operating needs.

“It’s enough money to carry us and get a plant (in place) where you can turn on a spigot and get ethanol out. It’ll take us that far,” Byford said.

To make it happen, the EGP board “brought in some major investors” such as Virgin Fuels and Virgin Airlines of the United Kingdom and Bioverda of Ireland. “They merged to form a company called Virgin Bioverda. The goal of the company is to put ethanol plants in the United States and soy-diesel plants in the United States and Germany,” Byford said.

Bioverda is a subsidiary of MTR, a company based in Ireland that Byford said has been in existence since 1978. “They are the largest renewable energy company in the world,” Byford said. “They became interested in our project because we got started early enough that we are now first on Fagan’s list. Fagan is the largest builder of ethanol plants in the country.”

(See Page 2, Col. 5)

Window...

(Continued from Page One)

Byford said the target date for the plant to be operational is mid-2008 and that it is projected to produce 100 million gallons of ethanol a year.

Is there a market for that much ethanol?

“Absolutely. We could sell everything we produce,” Byford said. “The Energy Act of 2005 requires that by 2012, the nation must use 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol. We are producing (only) 4.6 billion gallons. Why did the energy act do that? For several reasons. But one is most urgent. In the 1990s a law was passed requiring a 10-percent additive to gasoline. It was an oxidation agent, and it was added to reduce air pollution, make gasoline burn better and reduce the stuff going into the air.

“Well, in the last year or so, they found it causes groundwater contamination. They are trying as fast as they can to phase it out, and the only substitute for that oxidation agent in gasoline at 10 percent is ethanol.”

America imports 60 percent of its crude oil needs. Last year it used 143 billion gallons of gasoline. Ten percent of that is 14.3 billion gallons.

“All the plants we’ve got can produce only 4.6 billion gallons of ethanol. But more plants are projected for construction. Iowa, for example, proposes a network of 55 plants. “They don’t plan to export any corn,” he said.

What is the annual corn production of northwest Tennessee? Will it be enough to support a new ethanol plant and perhaps one or two more?

“I can answer that another way,” Byford said. “We are going to need 38 billion bushels of corn a year. That’s half the production in a radius of 75 miles of the Town of Obion. In that 75-mile radius, we produce about 76 million bushels.”

Getting to this point — securing investors and proceeding with construction — has not been easy, he added. There have been challenges. But then, every plant ever built has had challenges.

“Hungry,” he said. “And here at UT Martin, enrollment is up. We’ve got the healthiest situation here that we’ve had since 1961 when I was a student here. UT Martin has prospered under (chancellor) Dr. Nick Dunagan’s leadership.

“I’ve been busy and I’ve been blessed.”
Ahlschwede to be academic speaker

Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English and recipient of the 2006 Cunningham Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will deliver an address, "Write Anyway," at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Her presentation is part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English. Ahlschwede will sign her chapbook, "Three Stories and a Poem," which will be available for purchase following the talk.

"We in honors programs applaud the decision of Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to include a member of the UT Martin faculty on the academic speakers program, as this will allow another forum for our faculty to demonstrate the quality of research and creative endeavor that is a feature of our university," said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors programs director.

"We could ask for no finer individual to begin this new tradition than Margrethe Ahlschwede, who combines a dedication to her

Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede

university and its students that makes her worthy of the highest honors that the university can bestow." McDonough added. "For years, both in the classroom and the West Tennessee Writing Project, Dr. Ahlschwede has displayed these talents. Anyone interested in good writing and how to become a good writer will wish to attend this lecture."

Born in Denmark, Ahlschwede lived most of her life in Nebraska. She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska with a double major in home economics and journalism, before earning a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina and a master of arts and doctorate in English from the University of Nebraska. In addition to her teaching, Ahlschwede served eight years on the Lincoln (Nebraska) City Council.

A gifted writer, she has numerous publications to her credit, with short stories appearing in journals including the "South Dakota Review," "Tampa Review" and "Seattle Review"; poems in "Zone 3" and "Prairie Schooner" and essays on teaching in "Writing on the Edge," the Voice of the National Writing Project.

In addition to the Cunningham Award, Ahlschwede has received other awards and honors since her arrival at UT Martin in 1992. Among these are the University of Tennessee National Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award and selection as the Hardy M. Graham Distinguished Professor of English during 2000-02.
Travel-study program in Alpine culture slated for July 9-23

Only a few seats are left for the University of Tennessee at Martin's 25th annual travel-study program to the Alpine area of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, July 9-23.

Among the highlights of the travel-study program will be the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein; Oberamergau, world-famous for its passion plays and woodcarvers; Salzburg, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and where "The Sound of Music" was filmed; Hitler's retreat at Kehlstein; a visit to a salt mine near Berchtesgaden; Innsbruck, the alpine capital of the Habsburgs; the small country of Liechtenstein; Lauterbrunnen Valley, Switzerland's most beautiful valley; Chateau de Chillon, immortalized in Byron's poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon" and the Matterhorn rising above Zermatt.

Estimated travel cost is $3,000 per person, which includes the fare for round trip by bus from Martin to Memphis; round-trip airfare from Memphis to Zurich, Switzerland; transfers between the airports and hotels; all transportation, while in Germany, Austria and Switzerland; admissions to all scheduled events; 14 nights of hotel accommodations based on double occupancy and a daily buffet breakfast.

For complete information on the Alpine travel-study program contact: Stan Sieber, professor of history and philosophy, at 881-7467, or e-mail: ssieber@utm.edu.

Ballroom dance among classes offered

The holidays are over. Time to follow up on those New Year's resolutions to get active or pursue a new hobby.

"Ballroom Dance I," "Pilates Beginners' Matwork," "Pottery on the Wheel" and "One-Stroke Painted Scrapbook Cover" will be offered in February and March by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE).

"Ballroom Dance I" is planned from 7:8-30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 8, 14, 22, and March 1, 8. The fee is $60 per single/$110 per couple and instructors will be Fran and Richard Robinson. This five-week course is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba and the Cha-Cha-Cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required.

"Ballroom Dance II" is scheduled for March 22-April 20.

"Pilates Beginners' Matwork" will be offered from 6:15-7:15 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 5-March 12 and from 7-8 a.m., Saturdays, Feb. 3-March 10. The fee is $55. The class provides an integrated workout for the body and mind. Once only available to celebrities and professional athletes, Pilates is now available to everyone. Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels, the matwork teaches that the body is the finest and only tool necessary for achieving physical fitness.

Nationally certified through National Exercise Trainers Association, Carol Hinnman will demonstrate the basics to this form of body conditioning. Classes are done with an empty stomach and without shoes.

"Pottery on the Wheel" is slated from 6:9 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 6, 27, with Clint Riley as the instructor. Course fee is $55. This is an opportunity to learn how to make bowls, cups and pitchers on the potter's wheel. No experience is necessary. There will be a supply fee of $20 (estimated) to be paid to the instructor.

Charlie Boyd is the instructor for "One Stroke Painted Scrapbook Cover" that will be offered from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Feb. 24. The fee is $55. Participants can take vacation and holiday pictures, one-stroke acrylic brushes (dark green handle) and paint a cover on a three-ring binder scrapbook to display them. Also needed will be a 3/4 Flat, #12 Flat, #2 Script Liner and a Scruffy. Anyone who does not have these brushes, or is unable to find them in a store, Boyd will have some available for purchase at the time of the class. A $20 supply fee is to be paid to instructor at the time of the class. The fee includes scrapbook, palette fee and miscellaneous supplies.

For more information about these and other non-degree courses, contact ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.
Steelers’ hire has a Tiger past

Tomlin’s potential spotted in Memphis in ’96

BY PHIL STUKENBORG
stukenberg@commercialappeal.com

Former University of Memphis football coach Rip Scherer, quarterbacks coach for the Cleveland Browns, remembers recruiting a young Mike Tomlin in the mid-1990s to join him at the U of M.

He wanted Tomlin, a former receiver at William & Mary, to be a graduate assistant. Tomlin, a young assistant at Virginia Military Institute, wanted to begin law school.

“He was going to get out of coaching,” Scherer said by phone Monday. “I told him: ‘If you stay in coaching, you’ll be in the NFL by the time you’re 30.’ I never thought he’d be a head coach in the NFL by the time he was 34.”

Tomlin, a graduate assistant for the U of M in 1996, a former Arkansas State assistant under Joe Hollis in the late 1990s and an NFL assistant at Tampa Bay and Minnesota, was named head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers on Monday, replacing Bill Cowher. Tomlin, who spent this season as a first-year defensive coordinator at Minnesota, signed a four-year deal that will pay him $2.5 million annually.

Word that Tomlin had succeeded Cowher didn’t surprise those who remembered him from his brief stint at the U of M.

“"You knew he was going to be successful," said U of M director of football operations John Flowers, who held the same position in ’96. "He was a people person, and he communicated really well. You'd tell him something once, and it was done."

"And he had such energy on the field. He worked as a graduate assistant like he was a full-time assistant. You knew he was going to get hired (full-time) real soon because of his personality and his knowledge of the game."

Flowers called the development "incredible" and said: "He's a great guy. I'm really happy for him."

Tomlin came to the U of M several seasons after starring as a wide receiver at William & Mary. When he graduated in 1994, he left as the program's career leader in touchdown receptions (20) and average yards per reception (20.2). He ranked fourth in career receiving yardage (2,046).

R.C. Johnson was in his first year as Tiger athletic director when Tomlin was added to the staff. Johnson, a former college football assistant and frequent visitor to the Tiger football office, said Tomlin was not the typical GA.

“"He was a sharp young man," Johnson said. "He was one of the guys I'd met when I got here. So many (assistants) go through here through the years that if you can remember one specifically, that tells you something. You remembered him."

At Memphis, Tomlin worked on the same staff with Steelers linebackers coach Keith Butler, a former Tiger standout who also worked on the same staff with Tomlin at Arkansas State in the late ’90s.

Tiger offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner also worked with Tomlin at Arkansas State during the same period and played a role in getting Tomlin on the Indians staff after he'd served a brief stint at UT-Martin.

In the NFL, Tomlin spent five years at Tampa Bay before leaving the Bucs last year to become the Vikings' defensive coordinator.

"It's a great break for him," Scherer said. "He had star power written all over him from the first time I met him. He just had a commanding presence about him. He's smart. He has good people skills and a good work ethic."

Scherer first got to know Tomlin when Scherer was the head coach at James Madison University and Tomlin was a William & Mary receiver. Because of their friendship, Scherer said he was in constant contact with Tomlin throughout the days leading to Tomlin's hiring.

"Like I said, I just thought he had everything to rise fast,"

Scherer said. "I didn't realize he'd get his first NFL job at 26 or 27. "But I just knew once he got be a coordinator in the NFL, it wasn't going to be long before he'd become a head coach."

— Phil Stukenberg: 529-2543

WHO IS MIKE TOMLIN?

New job: The 34-year-old on Monday was named head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He's just the third head coach the organization has hired since 1969.

Old jobs: Tomlin was a graduate assistant at the University of Memphis in 1996. He also coached at Arkansas State and Tennessee-Martin.

Mike Tomlin addresses the media after being named the Steelers' head coach. Rip Scherer expected Tomlin to earn a spot in the NFL quickly, but was amazed he made head coach so fast.

Andrew Rush Associated Press
HISTORY COMES ALIVE — Participants in a University of Tennessee at Martin three-year American history program, funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant, recently met on campus to continue their work. The participants have learned how to integrate technology into teaching American history and social studies. The intensive professional development experience will culminate in a June 18-22 Summer Showcase, which will allow participants to present their technology-driven instructional units to 300 teachers in a five-state area. Teachers interested in attending the showcase, may contact Dr. Bonnie Daniel, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, at 881-7097 or bdaniel@utm.edu. Participants and their schools are (front, from left) Karen Ray, Newbern; Tammy Mann, Newbern; Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin professor of history; Jane Vickers, Trezevant; (second row) Kathy Johnson, Newbern; Mallie Vann, Lavonia; Regina Jones, Tiptonville; Rose Alkshawi, Newbern; Jimmy Stone, Jackson; (third row) Jackie Wester, Milan; Darla Hyman, Dyersburg; Chastity Joyce, Ripley; and (fourth row) Blair Chadwick, Martin.

ECCE: It’s time to get busy

The holidays are over. Time to follow up on those New Year’s resolutions to get active or pursue a new hobby. “Ballroom Dance I,” “Pilates Beginners’ Matwork,” “Pottery on the Wheel” and “One-Stroke Painted Scrapbook Cover” will be offered in February and March by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE).

“Ballroom Dance I” is planned from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8, 14, 22, and March 1, 8. The fee is $60 per single/$110 per couple and instructors will be Fran and Richard Robinson. This five-week course is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Dances covered include the swing, waltz, fox trot, rumba and the Cha-Cha-Cha. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required.

“Ballroom Dance II” is scheduled for March 22-April 20.

“Pilates Beginners’ Matwork” will be offered from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 5-March 12 and from 7-8 a.m. Saturdays, Feb. 3-March 10. The fee is $55. The class provides an integrated workout for the body and mind. Once only available to celebrities and professional athletes, Pilates is now available to everyone. Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels, the mat work teaches that the body is the finest and only tool necessary for achieving physical fitness. Nationally certified through National Exercise Trainers Association, Carol Hinman will demonstrate the basics to this form of body conditioning. Classes are done with an empty stomach and without shoes.

“Pottery on the Wheel” is slated from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 6-27, with Clint Riley as the instructor.

Course fee is $55. This is an opportunity to learn how to make bowls, cups and pitchers on the potter’s wheel. No experience is necessary. There will be a supply fee of $20 (estimated) to be paid to the instructor.

For more information about these and other non-degree courses, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Another UT Martin tie for NFL community

Last week, in an unprecedented move, the New York Giants upgraded the status of former UT Martin player and assistant coach Jerry Reese from director of personnel to general manager and vice president, making him only the third African-American general manager in NFL history.

This week another former UT Martin football staff member saw himself hired on to lead a pack of Super Bowl ring-bearing gridiron players.

What most of the country now knows is that the Super Bowl XL champion Pittsburgh Steelers have just hired a new head coach to replace 15-year Steelers veteran Bill Cowher, but what even more of the country doesn’t know is that for the second straight week, an African-American with UTM ties is taking another leadership spot in the NFL.

In a press conference Monday afternoon, former Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin was selected to fill the shoes of Cowher. The 34-year-old Tomlin, who served for one year as an assistant coach at UT Martin under Jim Marshall in 1997, is the first African-American head coach the Steelers have had in the franchise’s 74-year history and only the 16th head coach the team has ever hired.

Tomlin, a native of Hampton Va., played wide receiver at William and Mary and coached at VMI, Memphis, UT Martin, Arkansas State and Cincinnati. He broke into the NFL as an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.
Ahlschwede first speaker in series

Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English and recipient of the 2006 Cunningham Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will deliver an address, “Write Anyway,” at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boiling University Center. Her presentation is part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English. Ahlschwede will sign her chapbook, “Three Stories and a Poem,” which will be available for purchase following the talk.

“We in honors programs applaud the decision of Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to include a member of the UT Martin faculty on the academic speakers program, as this will allow another forum for our faculty to demonstrate the quality of research and creative endeavor that is a feature of our university,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors programs director.

“We could ask for no finer individual to begin this new tradition than Margrethe Ahlschwede, who combines a dedication to her craft with a dedication to the university and its students that makes her worthy of the highest honors that the university can bestow,” McDonough added. “For years, both in the classroom and the West Tennessee Writing Project, Dr. Ahlschwede has displayed these talents. Anyone interested in good writing and how to become a good writer will wish to attend this lecture.”

Born in Denmark, Ahlschwede lived most of her life in Nebraska. She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska with a double major in home economics and journalism, before earning a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina and a master of arts and doctorate in English from the University of Nebraska. In addition to teaching, Ahlschwede served eight years on the Lincoln (Nebraska) City Council.

A gifted writer, she has numerous publications to her credit, with short stories appearing in journals including the “South Dakota Review,” “Tampa Review” and “Seattle Review”; poems in “Zone 3” and “Prairie Schooner” and essays on teaching in “Writing on the Edge,” the Voice of the National Writing Project.

In addition to the Cunningham Award, Ahlschwede has received other awards and honors since her arrival at UT Martin in 1992. Among these are the University of Tennessee National Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award and selection as the Hardy M. Graham Distinguished Professor of English during 2000-02.

Young writers to meet at UTM Feb. 10

The second in the Saturday Young Writers’ Clubhouse series for third through eighth grade students is offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin and meets 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 10, in the Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of UT Martin.

February’s Clubhouse will explore different types of poetry.

Each student should take a sack lunch and drinks. Children may take snacks for the morning break.

Registration deadline for the Feb. 10 clubhouse is Feb. 3. Parents may register children for the February clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse, April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

For more information about the Young Writers’ Clubhouse or WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/wtwp

UTM hosts honor band symposium

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2007 Honor Band Symposium on Jan. 25-27. The symposium will be composed of 7th-12th grade band students. Concerts will begin at 1 p.m., Jan. 27, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. They are free and open to the public.

Approximately 400 of the region’s finest wind and percussion students have been invited to participate in the event. There will be three high school bands, one 7-8th grade band, a 7-8th grade percussion ensemble and an 11-12th grade percussion ensemble.

The students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the country. Conductors include Dr. Daniel Schmidt of Northern Arizona University, professor Steven D. Davis of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Andy Sanders of Southaven, Miss., and Jennifer Hamilton of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Dr. Michael Gould of the University of Michigan will conduct the high school percussion ensemble and Benjamin Martin, UT Martin alumnus, will conduct the junior high percussion ensemble.

For more information, contact Sherry Adams, at 731-881-7402 or sadams@utm.edu.
UTM’s travel study program in Alpine

Only a few seats are left for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 25th annual travel-study program to the Alpine area of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, July 9-23.

Among the highlights of the travel-study program will be the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein; Oberammergau, world-famous for its passion plays and woodcarvers; Salzburg, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and where “The Sound of Music” was filmed; Hitler’s retreat at Kehlstein; a visit to a salt mine near Berchtesgaden; Innsbruck, the alpine capital of the Habsburgs; the small country of Liechtenstein; Lauterbrunnen Valley, Switzerland’s most beautiful valley; Chateau de Chillon, immortalized in Byron’s poem, “The Prisoner of Chillon” and the Matterhorn rising above Zermatt.

Estimated travel cost is $3,000 per person, which includes the fare for round trip by bus from Martin to Memphis; round-trip airfare from Memphis to Zurich, Switzerland; transfers between the airports and hotels; all transportation while in Germany, Austria and Switzerland; admissions to all scheduled events; 14 nights of hotel accommodations based on double occupancy and a daily buffet breakfast.

For complete information on the Alpine travel-study program contact: Stan Sieber, professor of history and philosophy, at 731 881-7467, or e-mail: ssieber@utm.edu.

Sen. Finney names Ragan as his assistant

Matt Ragan, a Gibson County native and a 2001 graduate of Humboldt High School, has been named administrative assistant to incoming District 27 State Senator Lowe Finney, Finney has announced. Ragan will manage day-to-day operations of Finney’s office in Nashville.

“Matt is a hard worker, great with people, and enjoys serving his community through politics. He has proven himself as a leader in our community and will be very instrumental in helping me represent West Tennessee families,” Finney said. “Matt has had a rural West Tennessee upbringing that has instilled in him the values that are important to families in Carroll, Gibson, and Madison counties. I am glad that Matt agreed to join us and put those values to work to improve our district and state.”

Ragan, 24, previously served as the West Tennessee Field Representative for the 2006 Bredesen for Governor Campaign. He graduated from UT-Martin in December of 2005 with dual degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice. A member of Humboldt First Baptist Church, Ragan is the son of Kenneth and Teresa Hill and the late Steve Ragan. He has two brothers, Clint and Adam Ragan.

Finney was sworn in on January 9 as state senator for Carroll, Gibson, and Madison counties.

Newly elected State Senator Lowe Finney, D-Jackson, was appointed to several senate committees last Friday. Finney is now a member of the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and Government Operations Committee. Finney will also hold vice-chair on the State and Local Government Committee.

“I am very pleased to be a part of such excellent committees,” said Finney, a major supporter of environmental causes and high ethical standards in the legislature. “I will work with Democrats and Republicans to do what is best for the district.

Area residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees are:

- Humboldt – Justin Lee Brown, Jayme Denise Crawford, Megan Michelle Dickson, Patrick Wayne Bunch, Jacqueline Juannette Bonds, Tammy Dale Twyman
- Medina – Justin Bret Chapman
- Dr. John D. Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided and conferred degrees.
UTM ag dean: Future of ethanol use bright

By JOHN BRANNON
Messenger Staff Reporter

Can you use ethanol in your car?

"Any engine can burn 10 percent of it without any change. Any engine. Your lawn-mower, your car," said Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Web site, www.ethanol.com, states:

- Ethanol is a form of alcohol often produced from corn or sugar cane and has a higher octane rating than gasoline. Like other alcohols, ethanol can be used as a fuel in gasoline engines. Ethanol is blended with gasoline and used in cars with little or no modification of the engine.
- Ethanol is usually blended with gasoline in various proportions. The form that's being promoted by General Motors and other automakers is called "E85," which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

But E85 can be found only in a few states in the Midwest. "Right now, ethanol is in short supply, so the price is up," Byford said. "Eventually, when we get everything stabilized and enough plants in place, we think it'll be cheaper than gasoline. It'll be market-driven rather than there being an oligarchy like the Middle East. We are dependent on the Middle East, not only for supply of crude oil, but also the price. We cannot control the price. We pay whatever they ask.

"But when we're producing our own ethanol, it will be market driven and operate on the principle of supply and demand." Ethanol is a fuel that comes from agricultural crops such as corn, barley, wheat, even trees and grasses. Unlike fossil fuels such as petroleum, these are renewable resources.

- Ethanol produced from corn reduces emissions that contribute to global warming by as much as 20 percent. Ethanol made from trees and grasses can cut those emissions by as much as 80 percent.
- "Gasohol" is a mixture of about 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline and will run in an unmodified car. "In fact, when you fuel up at a gas station in many U.S. states, this is exactly what you're buying," the Web site states.

Byford said a University of Minnesota study shows that cars and trucks as old as the 1980s can burn up to 30 percent ethanol without any problems.

As a member of the Ethanol Grain Processors board of directors, Byford is helping manage the construction of a $160 million plant near Obion that is projected to produce 100 million gallons of ethanol a year. To do so, it will need 38 million bushels of corn a year, about half the corn grown in a radius of 75 miles of Obion.

Farmers will be able to sell their corn to the plant, and when you help farmers, you help the entire rural community, according to Byford.

(See Page 18, Col. 5)

UTM... (Continued from Page One)

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ing to Byford.

He asserted that farming has become an endangered way of life, and it's taken the rural communities with it.

"And that bothers me," he said. "One of the strengths of America is that mid-America has its rural communities. Those rural communities thrive when agriculture thrives. They suffer when agriculture suffers.

"I've been maintaining for a long time that one of the best ways for farmers to get out of the hole they're in is to start adding value to their raw products. Theoretically, if a farmer owns a piece of the ethanol plant, they not only get profit from what they sell, they also get added value from the ethanol that comes out of that.

"If a farmer sells cucumbers, he gets 'X' price. If he processes the cucumbers into pickles, which some are doing, he gets 'Y' plus 'X' plus 'Y.' He gets added value for his product."

UTM hosts 28th Annual Honor Band Symposium

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2007 Honor Band Symposium on January 25-27. The symposium will be composed of seventh-12th grade band students. Concerts will begin at 1 p.m., January 27, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. They are free and open to the public.

Approximately 400 of the region's finest wind and percussion students have been invited to participate in the event. There will be three high school bands, one seventh-eighth grade band, a seventh-eighth grade percussion ensemble and an 11th-12th grade percussion ensemble.

The students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the country. Conductors include Dr. Daniel Schmidt of Northern Arizona University, professor Steven D. Davis of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Andy Sanders of Southaven, Mississippi, and
Series for young writers to continue at UT Martin

The second in the Saturday Young Writers' Clubhouse series for third- through eighth-grade students is being offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

It meets 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of UT Martin. and drink. Children may bring snacks for their taking break.

Registration deadline for the Feb. 10 clubhouse is Feb. 3. Parents may register children for the February clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

For more information about the Young Writers' Clubhouse or WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/utwp or e-mail Brittain Sutherland, clubhouse program director, at sutherlandb@k12tn.net. Online registration is available at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/ youthwriting/writingreg.php.

Applications increase for fourth consecutive year at UT Martin; ACT scores up

Applications for summer and fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 10 percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions. The ACT scores of students applying also increased to an average of 22.32, up from 21.71 last year.

This is the fourth consecutive year that application numbers have increased. A recent report showed that by Jan. 1, 2007, 1,969 students had applied for admission to UT Martin, up from 1,464 by that date in 2006. Also, there has been a 9 percent increase in housing applications this year.

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

"There's no doubt the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship program is playing a significant role in students choosing to attend UT Martin and stay in Tennessee," said Judy Rayburn, UT Martin director of admissions.

"The new apartment-style housing also is very attractive to incoming freshmen," she added.

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

Rayburn said proximity to home and cost of tuition also are important considerations when students choose to apply to UT Martin.

"It is my sincere belief that more and more students and parents are understanding the economic and quality of life values associated with a university degree," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. "UT Martin represents an excellent place for a high-quality education in a safe environment at a reasonable cost that values teaching and interaction with students. Our caring faculty and staff are doing great work, and students and parents are taking notice."

For application information, visit the UT Martin admissions home page at www.utm.edu/ admissions or call 1-800-829-UTMI.
Former UT-Martin players, coaches enjoy big week

By Jason Peevyhouse
Sports Editor

It was a good week for a pair of former UT-Martin gridiron players as well as a former assistant coach. On Jan. 16, Former UT-Martin assistant football coach and player Jerry Reese was named the senior vice president and general manager of the New York Giants in the National Football League. Five days later, former UT-Martin and Ohio Valley Conference defensive back Fred Thomas started in Sunday's NFC Championship for the New Orleans Saints. The following day, former UTM assistant coach finalized a deal to become the head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers - the team's third head coach in the last 38 years.

Reese has worked for the Giants since December 1994. He most recently served as the Giants' director of player personnel for the past four years.

"Not to sound clichéd, but I really feel like it's my time to carry the torch," Reese said. "Many people went before me who suffered through this process, and now it's my time. I'm looking forward to this challenge."

Reese succeeds Ernie Accorsi, who retired Monday after serving the past nine seasons as the Giants' general manager.

"If you were to map out a blue print for how to prepare for this position, Jerry Reese would have written it," Accorsi said Tuesday morning during the formal press conference to introduce Reese. "A graduate assistant at UT-Martin, an assistant coach at UT-Martin, an assistant head coach at UT-Martin, a road scout, an assistant pro player director, a player personnel director... his record. Everything he has done he has done well. Those are the audits. It just proves the world will step aside and make a way for someone who is dedicated and talented."

Reese played football at UT-Martin from 1981-84, establishing himself as one of the top defensive backs in school history. He earned the reputation of being one of the hardest hitters in the Gulf South Conference, despite playing at 160 pounds. He was named to the second team All-GSC Decade team for the 1980s as selected by administrators and representatives from across the league's region. He led the GSC in interceptions as a sophomore and was a two-time All-GSC selection. He is tied for fourth on the UT-Martin list with 12 career interceptions.

Following his playing days, Reese stayed with the UT-Martin football program as a student coach, graduate assistant and full-time coach. He was named assistant head coach in 1993. His 13-year association with UT-Martin ended in 1994 when he was named a professional scout for the New York Giants.

Reese was inducted into the UT-Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

"We felt that Jerry was the right man at the right time in the right place," said John Mara, the Giants' president and chief executive officer.

"I've had the opportunity to observe Jerry's work firsthand throughout his time here, and he has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills, intelligence, confidence, a superior work ethic and an outstanding ability to evaluate players. Jerry earned this position the old-fashioned way: through hard work and dedication, being promoted through the ranks, and demonstrating a unique set of skills that caused us to take notice of him very early on."

"He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone in this organization from the first day he walked in the door and we are very excited about his ability to lead our team in the future."

Reese is the third African-American general manager in NFL history, joining Baltimore's Ozzie Newsome and Houston's Rick Smith.

Thomas (5-9, 185, CB) is an 11-year NFL veteran. He has started 62 games since 2001 and has been among the Saints' most consistent and productive defenders.

Thomas led the Saints in passes defensed each season from 2001-03 as well as in 2005. He was named to Sports Illustrated's 2002 All-Pro team and he was recognized by his teammates as the recipient of the 2002 Ed Block Courage Award for playing most of the year with a cast on his left hand.

Thomas was an All-OVC Conference first team selection in 1995.

Thomas recorded 69 tackles and had four interceptions, three of which came in the first half against Tennessee State.

He was drafted in the second round by the Seattle Seahawks in 1995 and was later signed by the Saints in 2000.

Most recently Tomlin served as the defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings.

Tomlin's defense in Minnesota was the best in the NFL against the run in 2006, allowing just 61.6 yards per game, but tied with Cincinnati for last against the pass, allowing 233.8 yards per game through the air.

Tomlin, the team's third coach in 38 years, was hired on the same day two black coaches made the Super Bowl for the first time: Lovie Smith in Chicago and Tony Dungy in Indianapolis.

Tomlin, from Hampton, Va., was a wide receiver at William & Mary, where he caught 20 touchdowns passes during his career. He later coached at VMI, Memphis, UT-Martin, Arkansas State and Cincinnati before being hired as a Tampa Bay assistant.

Tomlin served as an assistant coach at UT-Martin for Jim Marshall during the 1997 season.
Gibson named TSTA Distinguished Educator of the Year

by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association.

Gibson, an overall award winner, joins four other award recipients designated as Distinguished Science teachers at the elementary, middle, secondary, and higher education divisions.

They were chosen from hundreds of science teachers across Tennessee as outstanding and exemplary teachers in the discipline. They have demonstrated a positive impact on the lives of their students by mastering their teaching skills.

Gibson's award is his second from TSTA, having been named Distinguished Science Teacher for 2003 in the higher education division.

Gibson received a B.S. degree from the College of William and Mary in 1979, a master's degree from Auburn University in 1983 and a doctorate from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1988. He has been a UT Martin professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Physics since 1988. Previously, he was a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Geological Sciences at UT Knoxville. He also served as an instructor in the Department of Geology at Auburn.

"My teaching interests are directed primarily toward two groups: university-level students and K-12 teachers, but I have recently expanded to include high school students directly," said Gibson. "I consider myself a geologist/paleontologist and focus my courses on field experience. Students better grasp concepts and develop stronger self-motivation to learn when they are part of the learning process itself."

"I prefer to use real geologic situations and settings for my students to study. I like them to work on a current project that I have whenever possible," Gibson said. "I also allow students to pursue their own interests. This approach has been successful for me at UT Martin because the small size of our program allows me to develop a personal relationship with each student. I can work closely with a student to maximize his/her classroom and field experiences to both fill in weak areas and better hone strengths."

Gibson also uses his students as undergraduate collaborators for research and now has student-participation projects in Tennessee, Alabama, Japan, Mexico and Belize.

Gibson considers the K-12 teaching community the foundation for earth stewardship and provides teachers with methods to incorporate geology in their curricula to demonstrate the relevance of geology. "I devote a significant portion of my educational efforts to help teachers become geology conscious," Gibson said.

Since 1990, Gibson has worked as a higher education adviser to the earth science teachers in the state, helping to increase the number of earth science certifications in the state and increase the number of geology courses taught in high schools from four in 1990 to 22 in 2000.

"Geology is an applied science that relies on learning by practicing and combines the principles of the other sciences, along with the disciplines - mathematics, history, art, literature - to produce the actual working earth," said Gibson. "Geology is the ultimate history, thus I consider myself a historian of the distant past."

Gibson's current research projects include the following: paleoecology, depositional environments and biotic interactions of Devonian strata of West Tennessee; Cretaceous Coo Creek Formation; Pennsylvania Morris Shale in Alabama; plant fossils from the Focene clay deposits of West Tennessee, History of Tennessee Geology and Earth Science Education in Tennessee; and Geology of Belize, Central America.

Other recognitions of Gibson's efforts through the years include the Tennessee Earth Science Teaching Ptero Award in 2001. He was a UT Martin Featured Scholar and received the Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Award in 1998; and was selected for the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher Scholar Award in 1995-96. Gibson received the UT Knoxville Department of Geology Incentive Award in 1988; UT Knoxville Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise in 1987; the University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Lab Science Alliance "Super" Research Fellowship for Academic Excellence in 1985-1986; and the Cardin Fellowship Award for Academic Excellence in 1984-1985.

"BALLROOM DANCE I"
7 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 8, 14, 22, and March 1, 8 at UT Martin. Fee: $60 per single or $110 per couple and instructors will be Fran and Richard Robinson. This five-week course is designed for participants to learn the basics of ballroom dancing. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and smooth-soled shoes (no tennis shoes or rubber soles). A partner is not required. "Ballroom Dance II" is scheduled for March 22-April 20.

MONTAGE CONCERT
7:30 p.m. Monday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The concert has a fast-paced format that features a variety of performances by students and faculty. There will be performances by soloists, chamber groups and large ensembles. The concert is free and open to the public.

Get Out! • Jan. 25, 2007
Travel-study program in Alpine culture July 9-23

Only a few seats are left for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 25th annual travel-study program to the Alpine area of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, July 9-23.

Among the highlights of the travel-study program will be the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein; Oberammergau, world-famous for its passion plays and woodcarvers; Salzburg, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe; and where “The Sound of Music” was filmed; Hitler’s retreat at Kehlstein; a visit to a salt mine near Berchtesgaden; Innsbruck, the alpine capital of the Habsburgs; the small country of Liechtenstein; Lauterbrunnen Valley, Switzerland’s most beautiful valley; Chateau de Chillon, immortalized in Byron’s poem, “The Prisoner of Chillon” and the Matterhorn rising above Zermatt.

Estimated travel cost is $3,000 per person, which includes the fare for round trip by bus from Martin to Memphis; round-trip airfare from Memphis to Zurich, Switzerland; transfers between the airports and hotels; all transportation while in Germany, Austria and Switzerland; admissions to all scheduled events; 14 nights of hotel accommodations based on double occupancy and a daily buffet breakfast.

For complete information on the Alpine travel-study program, contact: Stan Sieber, professor of history and philosophy, at 731-881-7467, or e-mail: ssieber@utm.edu.

Young Writers’ Clubhouse series continues at UT Martin

The second in the Saturday Young Writers’ Clubhouse series for third through eighth grade students is offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin and meets 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., February 10, in the Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of UT Martin.

February’s Clubhouse will explore different types of poetry.

The December 9 Young Writers’ Clubhouse was a day filled with music, laughter and lots of writing. The middle school group listened to a variety of music, created music journals, and collages. The elementary group started off with an activity that had them writing and moving. Later, they listened to different types of music and wrote about the scenes they imagined taking place.

Each student should take a sack lunch and drink. Children may take snacks for the morning break.

Registration deadline for the February 10 clubhouse is February 3. Parents may register children for the February Clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse, April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

For more information about the Young Writers’ Clubhouse or WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/wtwp or e-mail Brittan Sutherland, clubhouse program director; sutherlandb@k12tn.net. Online registration: http://www.utm.edu/departments/cece/youngwriting/writingreg.php.

Conference for Working Women

“The Balance Act of Juggling Life’s Many Roles” is the theme of the ninth annual Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., February 20, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and David Belote, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9:00 a.m.

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

Some of the speakers and their topics include:
* Melody Zucker, counselor, Lambuth University, “Emotional Intelligence,” 9:15-10:00 a.m.;
* Dr. W. Keith Williams, obstetrician and gynecologist, the Jackson Clinic North, “Women’s Health Issues,” 10:15-11:00 a.m.;
* Dr. Nell Gufflett, professor of accounting, finance and economics, UT Martin, “Financial Freedom”
* Anita Battershill McCallum, Anita’s Travel, Jackson, “Travel With Confidence,” 12:15-1:00 p.m.;
* Beth A. Hamil, program director, Leadership Knoxville, “Colors of Personality Profile,” 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, family and consumer science agent, UT Extension Services, WestStar Class of 2001, will lead the conference.

Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference.

The deadline to register is February 14. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 320 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or e-mailed to vgrimse@utm.edu. If registering via e-mail, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants.

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

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, at 731-881-7298.
Real estate law course offered online

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to provide real estate law as an online course.

Anyone interested in real estate law, can now learn the essentials, including everything from investments to foreclosures, in a new instructor-facilitated course offered entirely over the Internet.

Students of "Real Estate Law," a new six-week online course, will receive a foundation in real estate practice and investment as well as a deeper appreciation for the impact that real estate law has on nearly every aspect of their lives. The course will explain topics such as foreclosure, real estate investing, landlord-tenant law, as well as many other topics, providing students with hands-on applications and examples to show them how to use this knowledge in a day-to-day real estate practice.

Course instructor, Neal Bevans, is a veteran lawyer with extensive experience as a real estate title examiner, investor and real property attorney. By mixing explanation of legal theory with specific and practical examples, the instructor draws a balance between legal philosophy and legal practice.

"Understanding real property law forms the basis of a general understanding of all law," said Bevans. "If you're a paralegal, achieving a solid mastery of real estate concepts can make you more desirable to potential employers."

Bevans' course isn't just for legal professionals. "If you've ever thought about buying, selling, or renting a home, this course is also for you," said Bevans, who promises that the material will be "down to earth and often entertaining. You'll soon see just how fascinating a topic real property law can be."

"Real Estate Law" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office at any time of the day or night. The registration fee is $85. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at www.utk.edu/departments/ecce/onlinenewcourses.php. Click Education To Go.

Applications Increase For 4th Consecutive Year At UT Martin

ACT SCORES UP

Martin, Tenn. - Applications for summer and fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 10 percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions. The ACT scores of students applying also increased to an average of 22.32, up from 21.71 last year.

This is the fourth consecutive year that application numbers have increased. A recent report showed that by Jan. 1, 2007, 1,809 students had applied for admission to UT Martin, up from 1,644 by that date in 2006. Also, there has been a 9 percent increase in housing applications this year.

Students who plan to attend UT Martin and have not applied should note that Feb. 1 is the deadline for scholarship applications. "There's no doubt the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship program is playing a significant role in students choosing to attend UT Martin and stay in Tennessee," said Judy Rayburn, UT Martin director of admissions. "The new apartment-style housing also is very attractive to incoming freshmen," she added.

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

Rayburn said proximity to home and cost of tuition also are important considerations when students choose to apply to UT Martin. "It is my sincere belief that more and more students and parents are understanding the economic and quality of life values associated with a university degree," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. "UT Martin represents an excellent place for a high-quality education in a safe environment at a reasonable cost that values teaching and interaction with students. Our caring faculty and staff are doing great work, and students and parents are taking notice."

For application information, visit the UT Martin admissions home page at www.utk.edu/admissions.php or call 1-800-829-UTM1.
**Former UT Martin asst. coach to head Steelers**

By SARA REID  
Staff Writer

For University of Tennessee at Martin football history has just repeated itself.  
**Last week, in an unprecedented move,** the New York Giants upgraded the status of former UT Martin player and assistant coach Jerry Reese from director of personnel to general manager and vice president making him only the third African-American general manager in National Football League history.

This week another former UT Martin football staff member saw himself hired on to lead a pack of Super Bowl ring-bearing gridiron players.

What most of the country now knows is that the Super Bowl XL champion Pittsburgh Steelers have just hired a new head coach to replace 15-year Steelers veteran Bill Cowher, but what even more of the country doesn’t know is that for the second straight week, an African-American with UT Martin ties is taking another position of leadership in the NFL.

In a press conference held this past Monday afternoon, former Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin was selected to fill the shoes of outgoing Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Cowher. The 34-year-old Tomlin, who served for one year as an assistant coach at UT Martin under Jim Marshall in 1997, is the first African-American head coach the Steelers have had in the franchise’s 74-year history and only the 16th head coach the team has ever hired.

But, if Tomlin was feeling any pressure in leading the talent-laden Steelers back to the promised land, he remained cool and confident during the press conference.

"It is a great honor to be a part of one of the most storied franchises in all of professional sports,” he said.

“We are coming to grips with what that means, but we are having fun. We intend to make no bold predictions about what we are going to do. What we are going to do is promise to have a first-class blue collar work ethic in how we approach our business.”

Tomlin, a native of Hampton, Va., played wide receiver at William and Mary and coached at VMI, Memphis, UT Martin, Arkansas State and Cincinnati.

He broke into the NFL as an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and was then hired on as defensive coordinator for the Vikings, a title he took very seriously, leading the Vikes to the number one rush defense in the NFL in 2006 only allowing 61.1 yards per gain.

It is precisely this defensive mentality that Tomlin hopes to bring back to Pittsburgh, a team whose “Iron Curtain” defense was once the gem of the NFL.

“A fundamentalist football team that wins by attrition, that is mentally and physically tough,” Tomlin said of his plans for the Steelers.

"Of course, it is no secret in the National Football League that in order to win you have to stop the run and you have to run the ball effectively. I think to be general that is what our football team will be about. I promise that I’m going to be blue-collared in how I go about this business, thoughtful in terms of the decisions that we make. We’re going to work extremely hard. We’re going to work smart.”

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**Tomlin is former Skyhawks’ assistant**

Former University of Tennessee at Martin assistant coach Mike Tomlin was named the 16th head coach of the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers Monday.

Most recently Tomlin served as the defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings.

Tomlin’s defense in Minnesota was the best in the NFL against the run in 2006, allowing just 61.6 yards per game, but tied with Cincinnati for last against the pass, allowing 238.6 yards per game through the air.

Tomlin, from Hampton, Va., was a wide receiver at William & Mary, where he caught 20 touchdown passes during his career. He later coached at VMI, Memphis, Tennessee-Martin, Arkansas State and Cincinnati before being hired as a Tampa Bay assistant.

Tomlin served as an assistant coach at Tennessee-Martin for Jim Marshall during the 1997 season.
A hidden gem in Martin

Skyhawks’ ties are showing up in the NFL

By PAUL KUHARSKY
The Tennessean

Only a handful of the most coveted jobs in football came free after the 2006 NFL season.

The Dolphins, Steelers, Raiders, Falcons and Cardinals needed new head coaches and the Cowboys are now looking for one. The Giants had an open general manager job and the Titans still do.

Of those eight spots, two, remarkably, have been filled by men with connections to the University of Tennessee Martin, located 62 miles north of Jackson.

The Giants’ new GM, Jerry Reese, played and coached there.

New Steeler coach Mike Tomlin made a very brief stop there early in his coaching career, leaving another job in a matter of weeks.

“That means a great deal especially coming on the heels of us having a conference championship in football and going to the playoffs,” UT Martin Director of Athletics Phil Dane said. “That news coupled with these kinds of things happening just gives more credibility to the program at all levels.”

The Skyhawks went 9-3 in 2006, winning a share of the Ohio Valley Conference championship and earning the conference’s automatic bid to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, where they lost a first-round game at Southern Illinois.

It was just the 12th winning season for UT Martin, a program that began play in 1952.

High profile

Reese is the school’s most high-profile football alum.

He was team MVP as a senior in 1984, has been inducted into the school’s hall of fame and still holds the team record for most punt returns in a game — seven in win over Fort Valley State in 1982.

Once Reese finished playing, he immediately turned to coaching and was a student assistant and then a graduate assistant before he became the secondary coach in 1988. In 1993 he was promoted to assistant head coach and moved to work with the receivers.

The Giants plucked him to work in their scouting department after Martin’s 1994 season and he steadily rose through the ranks until the team took the recommendation of retiring GM Ernie Accorsi and appointed Reese as his replacement.

A matter of weeks

Tomlin’s experience at UT was hardly as distinguished.

He was only at the school for a matter of weeks, according to one. That stretch came early in 1997 between jobs at Memphis, where he was a graduate assistant in 1996, and Arkansas State, where he coached receivers and then defensive backs in 1997 and 1998.

Dane, the AD for seven years and an administrator at the school for 27 years, said he was happy nevertheless that Tomlin has left a line about UT Martin in his biography.

“Tomlin’s experience at UT was hardly as distinguished,” Dane said. “It’s nice that he chose to show us in his resume.”

NFL connections

UTM lists 27 players from its program who have played in the NFL, five of them drafted — most recently cornerback Fred Thomas, a second-round pick by Seattle in 1996 who played for New Orleans in last weekend’s NFC Championship Game.

In 1988 four Skyhawks were drafted, something UTM’s media guide says was believed to be a first for a school that didn’t play Division I. Martin moved from Division II to Division I-AA in 1992, joining the OVC.

Two assistant coaches who were on Bill Parcells’ staff in Dallas had coached at UT Martin, safeties coach Mike MacIntyre and defensive line coach Kacy Rodgers.

Paul Randolph, who played at Martin, just followed coach Todd Graham from Rice to Tulsa, where he will be Graham’s offensive coordinator. Todd Berry, a one-time UT Martin assistant, has held head coaching jobs at Army and Illinois State. He coached quarterbacks at the University of Miami in 2006 and is now offensive coordinator at UNLV.

Now with the big new titles for Reese and Tomlin, second-year coach Jason Simpson and his staff have a couple new selling points for the program.

“It’s always one of the marquee sections of any school’s media guide to talk about your alumni who are in the pros (or Division I) whether they are playing or coaching,” Dane said. “So I think it’s huge.”

Money issues

Former UTM coach Matt Griffin said Tomlin doesn’t qualify as much of a selling point for UT Martin since he was there so briefly.

But Reese’s success story is one the school could and should use to its advantage, he said.

“That’s a guy I’d use,” he said. “He’s played there and coached there,” said Griffin, now at Murray State. “I think that was his only stop before he got into scouting and now he’s general manager.

“...I think that next question is how people (at Martin) act internally with this stuff and where do they take it? Do they want to take it to the next level? That’s not a question for me to answer. But that level is winning consistently. I think they can, I think you can anywhere. But you have to be funded to do so.”

Dane said a recent ESPN.com article that said Martin’s athletic department budget ranked as the lowest for a Division I school in the country was not rock solid.

“I’ve tried to get a hold of (the writer) and correct him on the data that he was citing,” Dane said. “I cannot validate or invalidate that, because to do it you’d have to do a manual tabulation using the Department of Education’s information, that was his source of information.

“It would not be a surprise to me that we’re one of the lowest, because we’re one of the lowest enrollment universities that fields a scholarship football program. Any school with 7,000 students — and there aren’t many out there unless they’re private institutions — are going to be at low end of the range.”
UT Martin's museum explores sentiments of wartime nation

The University of Tennessee at Martin University Museum is presenting a varied, colorful collection of World War II-era sheet music covers through Feb. 16.

"Songs of the Patriot" takes viewers back in time to the American wartime fronts at home and abroad during World War II through the cover art and lyrics of popular sheet music from 1940 to 1945.

The exhibit, on loan from private collector Gary Hollingsworth of Orlando, Fla., explores how music publishers, songwriters and cover artists expressed a range of American wartime feelings from anti-war statements to rallying support for troops overseas. It also explores the booming sheet music industry, printing and chromolithography, and the significance of piano playing as home entertainment.

Wartime songs captured snapshots of various American attitudes. Themes ranged from pacifism and neutrality at the beginning of the war, to aggression towards the Axis powers, to the hope of loved ones returning home safely. Sheet music covers were the perfect medium for visually interpreting songs that could be serious, sentimental or even comical. Whether driven by personal feelings or meeting the demand of the huge music-buying public, these composers and artists were part of a thriving business in which great sums of money were being earned by the music publishing industry.

After the widespread success of songs during World War I, such as "Over There" and "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary," the U.S. government had recognized the power of music during wartime. Historically, the role of music often took on greater importance during trying times because of its ability to reach all levels of American society.

In the spirit of patriotism, the government created a constructive propaganda, using striking graphic images and songs to steer the nation's collective mind to boost morale and garner support for the war.

Music was a perfect propaganda medium and had become a refined tool by World War II. In 1942, the War Department's Bureau of Public Relations published a pamphlet, "Music in the National Effort," providing suggestions for communities to use music to keep spirits high for citizens and departing soldiers.

President Franklin Roosevelt called upon the entertainment industry and its celebrities to help rouse patriotism and mobilize the American people. Unique to World War II, the federal government commissioned and published songs and even officially sponsored song writing contests.

Home-front efforts were to play an important role in victory. Citizens were called upon to conserve resources, to take on factory jobs producing goods for the military and to help pay for the war. The Treasury Department used songs and sheet music covers in its campaign to promote the buying of war bonds and stamps. Lyrics urged Americans to, "Scrape up the most you can ... buy a share of freedom today" or "Everyone can help to win the war ... let's begin investing in the things our country's fighting for."

Covers often had small U.S. Department of the Treasury logos encouraging Americans to "Buy War Bonds and Stamps for Victory." A "V" for victory symbol and "Minuteman at Concord" figure were typical.

Even the back covers of sheet music were used to spread messages, "For Victory, Buy United States War Bonds." By the end of these campaign drives, eight out of 13 Americans had helped underwrite the cost of the war by investing in debt bonds totaling more than $185 billion.

As a World War II song proclaims, "Millions of voices are ringing, singing as we march along. We did it before and we can do it again." These kinds of messages were able to spread from home to home through the united voices of a nation.

University Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or by special arrangement. For more information, call (731) 881-7464.

4A/The Jackson Sun

Monday, January 29, 2007

MONTAGE CONCERT

7:30 p.m., today in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The concert has a fast-paced format that features a variety of performances by students and faculty. There will be performances by soloists, chamber groups and large ensembles. The concert is free and open to the public.
POWER

West Tennessee also has had dibs on the House speaker’s office down the hall for 30 of the last 36 years. Ned McWherter of Dresden held it from 1973 to 1987, and Naifeh has since 1991. He was just re-elected to a ninth two-year term.

Of the six governors since 1971, four were from West Tennessee and served 24 years — McWherter, Ray Blanton from Adamsville, and Winfield Dunn and Don Sundquist from Memphis. Gov. Phil Bredesen is from Nashville.

And of the nine state attorneys general who served at least two years each since 1971, five were from West Tennessee and served 26 years. The last three were from the Memphis metro area: Mike Cody, Charles Burson and Paul Summers, who held the office consecutively from 1984 to 2006. Atty. Gen. Robert Cooper, a Nashville lawyer who grew up in Chattanooga, took office last fall.

There are several reasons for the decline, including slow population growth, and declines, in West Tennessee; the rise of Republican power in the legislature; and changing alliances among legislative Democrats.

When the Democrats held big majorities in both houses, the Rural West Tennessee Democratic Caucus especially dominated the House. The West Tennesseans dined and plotted together as a cohesive political bloc, and elected members to top leadership posts.

“The older segment of the legislature that made up the Rural West Tennessee Democratic Caucus, which was the powerhouse, is losing its membership,” said Richard Chesser, political science professor at the University of Tennessee, Martin. “In the Senate now, there’s Republican control that’s come about because of suburban growth.

“The long-range consequence of this is going to be particularly in the budget process — the distribution of highway funds, for example. Rural legislators have been able to control the formula for the distribution of that. I think after the next census, the rural hold on the purse-strings will disappear.”

Chesser and political analyst Mark Rogers, who consults for Tennessee Republican candidates, agree that the region’s power decline is largely a result of its slower population growth.

“From 2000 through 2005, only three counties in West Tennessee grew at the state average of 4.8 percent or better. Several counties actually lost population,” Rogers said. “In contrast, almost every county in Middle Tennessee saw some growth, with the booming counties ringing Nashville growing by 9 percent and 21 percent. Four of Nashville’s ring counties have populations of more than 100,000; one exceeds 200,000.

“As West Tennessee loses population, it loses seats in the House and Senate, and with fewer seats, it loses more power,” Rogers said.

But the declines may bring more pain at the expense of rural West Tennessee than Metro Memphis. While the metro area lost Wilder as speaker, it picked up Sen. Mark Norris, R-Collierville, as majority leader.


“Some of the offices, West Tennessee no longer holds; but West Tennessee will again in the future,” said Norris, who has considered a race for governor.

“I think the sands are merely shifting. The positions have moved around a bit but we’re represented in new ways and perhaps better ways. We had Sen. Kyle serve with distinction as a leader and now there are two of us. I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

— Richard Locker: (615) 255-4923
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URL: http://www.commercialappeal.com/mca/local/article/0,2845,MCA_25340_5312631,00.html

**West Tennessee: not power central**

Long a force in Nashville, Memphis area doesn't have the numbers

By Richard Locker
Contact
January 29, 2007

NASHVILLE -- Just over four years ago, Tennessee's governor, the speakers of the House and Senate and the state attorney general all hailed from Memphis and its neighboring counties. Last fall, three of them still did.

Today, only one does: House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh of Covington.

After nearly four decades of political domination, West Tennessee's grip on power in the state capital is slipping while Middle and East Tennessee grab more of it, political analysts say.

The numbers illustrate it. If you take the 36 years since 1971 -- when officials elected in the pivotal 1970 elections took office -- and multiply it by the four top state offices, West Tennesseans occupied those offices for 116 of the 144 collective years, even though the region was the smallest of the state's three grand divisions.

The longest serving of them was Sen. John Wilder of Somerville, who was the Senate speaker for 36 consecutive years before losing the post this month to Sen. Ron Ramsey, an East Tennessean from Blountville.

West Tennessee also has had dibs on the House speaker's office down the hall for 30 of the last 36 years. Ned McWherter of Dresden held it from 1973 to 1987, and Naifeh has since 1991. He was just re-elected to a ninth two-year term.

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Hamilton-Ryker official to lead Tennessee Chamber's board

Crawford Gallimore, chief manager and financial officer of the Hamilton-Ryker Group in Martin, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

His term as the chamber's chief elected officer was effective Jan. 1 and he will receive the gavel Feb. 28 at an annual meeting and reception, according to The Business Insider, published by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Gallimore, who has served on the executive committee of the chamber as both chairman-elect and treasurer, received a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin. In 1972, he joined Wayne McCreight in establishing the Hamilton-Ryker Company.

He is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity and a certified personnel consultant. He is the immediate past chairman of the board of directors for Volunteer Community Hospital and serves on the Dean's Advisory Council of the College of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee.

The remaining elected Tennessee Chamber board of director officers are Darrell Carpenter, chairman-elect, superintendent of the Utilities Division of Tennessee Operations and director of Worldwide Utilities for Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport; and Charles T. Floyd, treasurer, vice president and plant manager at Weyerhaeuser Paper Mill in Kingsport.

Remaining board members include Philip Ball, general manager of W.R. Grace & Co. in Chattanooga; Dennis Alpert, senior manager of public affairs for Tennessee Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in Lebanon; Darlene Marsh, an attorney with Burr & Forman LLP in Nashville; Kent Carter, director of human resources for Marvin Windows & Doors in Ripley; Susan Drew, general manager of Quebeco World-Dyersburg in Dyersburg; Lacy Upchurch, president of Health, Safety and Environment for Cooper Standard Automotive in Surgoinsville; Dr. Jim Burton, dean of the College of Business Administration for Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and Andy Hall, director of Community Affairs for Wellmont Health System in Kingsport.

The chamber promotes and protects the state's business climate through a wide variety of efforts. In addition, the chamber is involved in federal and state legislation and regulations, human resources, taxation, the environment, health care and other issues that affect the state's business community.

The chamber's membership represents more than 1,000 members across Tennessee from all facets of business and industry. For more information about the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, visit the chamber's Web site at www.tnchamber.org.

ECCE offers teaching science class

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has partnered with Education To Go to offer "Teaching Science: Grades 4-6."

No matter whether you're new to teaching or have years of experience under your belt, you'll benefit from the information and teaching methods presented by Holly Trimble, in her new online course, "Teaching Science: Grades 4-6."

Through this course, teachers will understand the nature of science and learn about some of the people who discovered scientific principles now taken for granted. Trimble will thoroughly explain the scientific method and provide step-by-step examples of experiments. She even includes checklists and worksheets teachers can print, modify and use in their own classrooms.

Students of the course will learn effective teaching methods and how they can use them when teaching science. They'll also learn about learning and organizational tools, how to help students write great research papers and how to keep the emotional climate in the classroom positive. Trimble will present foundational content in the different disciplines of science, so teachers also will grasp some of the most essential principles that govern the world.

Trimble devotes an entire lesson to helping students construct and interpret graphs, an important skill for standardized testing. Science fairs will never seem difficult again after teachers finish the course. Trimble provides templates and checklists that make hosting a science fair manageable for both teachers and their students. All through the course, Trimble includes practical, concrete examples so teachers will get the maximum benefit from the instruction.

"Teaching Science: Grades 4-6" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office, and at any time of the day or night. The fee for the course is $85. For more information about this course — part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses — visit the online instruction center at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php, and click: Education To Go.
‘Real World’ stars in Martin

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

When a person graduates from college and leaves campus life behind, he or she is most often said to have entered “the real world,” but last week, two members of “The Real World” television show came to pay a visit to an apartment complex just off the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

“The Real World,” an MTV-based reality show that places a wide variety of people from all walks of life together to live and traces their interaction from day to day for viewers all over the country to watch, filmed two seasons in Boston and San Diego.

Syrus Yarbrough from “The Real World” Boston and Randy Barry from “The Real World” San Diego came to Martin Place Apartments last Thursday as part of the Special Interest Entertainment Reality Road Trip, a 40-city trip intended to be an informal meet and greet for college students for the purpose of social interaction with celebrities.

“We love to come to every

MTV MEETS MARTIN — Two participants from MTV’s “The Real World” came to Martin to meet and greet students from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Producer Matt McCoy (left) chats with Randy Barry of “The Real World” San Diego and Syrus Yarbrough of “The Real World” Boston before meeting with residents of Martin Place Apartments. The meet and greet was part of a 14-city tour in promotion of the Special Interest Entertainment Reality Road Trip.

Real World

From Page 1

small town,” tour producer Matt McCoy admitted.

“We’re always happy to see the people. In a big city, everyone has been desensitized.”

As students filtered into the Martin Place Clubhouse to meet the stars and pick up some pizza along the way, Yarbrough, a casting director, clothing line owner and music producer, admitted that being on “The Real World” was “wild, but you get used to it.”

“It’s really like being in a fish tank and everyone is watching you. It’s quite the experience and it’s therapeutic. Everyday you’re critiqued and any of your insecurities will be exposed,” he said.

Yarbrough commented that after the show, every member of the cast is offered psychiatric sessions because there are breakdowns.

As a casting director, Yarbrough has been in charge of casting 30 different shows including “Road Rules,” “Fear Factor,” “The Flavor of Love” and “Joe Millionaire.”

Ironically enough, the San Diego native was cast on “The Real World” Boston and Barry, a Boston native, was cast on “The Real World” San Diego.

“The opportunity to travel was the biggest part of the show,” Barry said. “It was a special experience. It’s an educational process. You watch someone you think you know and that person can evolve and become something else.”

“You cast stereotypes because the more stereotypes you can hit, the more people can relate to the show.” Yarbrough admitted.

“I’ll admit, it’s not the best or the most positive show, but it really is a good learning experience. You must look at it objectively, but it really is one big party.”

The tour next planned to stop in Jackson and would next head to Cape Girardeau, Mo. before finishing up at Legends Place in Lawrence, Kan.
Financial aid office sponsors help
The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor three sessions in February on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The sessions will be held Feb. 5, in Room 206, Boling University Center, UT Martin; Feb. 8, at the UT Martin Technology Center in Ripley; and Feb. 22, at McNairy Central High School.

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

UTM faculty to hold first series event
Two professors at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be highlighted in the first UT Martin Department of Music faculty series event for the semester, slated for 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. Julie Hill and Amy Simmons, assistant professors of music, will perform solo and chamber works for clarinet and percussion in the upcoming faculty recital. Works on the program include: "Corker," by Libby Larson; "Blue Rondo ala Turk," by Brubeck; "Tango Suite," by Piazzolla and others. Those in attendance will experience surprises in instrumentation and theatrics.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 881-7402.

'FORENSICS: CSI WILDLIFE' PRESENTED — Michael Stockdale, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Forensic Laboratory supervisor and senior wildlife forensic and analytical specialist, will present a program, "Forensics: CSI Wildlife," at 7 p.m., Feb. 1, in Room 318, Johnson EPS Building, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Stockdale also teaches forensic science and conducts research at UT Martin. The program is sponsored by UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS). It is free and open to public.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM — In December, Dr. Jeremy Kolwinska, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Music, spent 10 days at Hiroasaki University, Hiroasaki, Japan, as an exchange professor. Kolwinska was the 20th UT Martin professor to participate in an official exchange program between the two universities. During the visit, he performed a solo recital, accompanied by Kiyoshi Asano, left, professor of piano at Hiroasaki University. He also gave a lecture on 18th century trombone playing and presented two master classes with brass students at Hiroasaki University and the Aomori Trombone Ensemble. Mikio Wada, right, is professor of trombone at Hiroasaki University.
ECCE Youth-oriented classes tap into special interests

Youth can get involved in acting, horsemanship or prepare for the ACT exam with three courses offered soon by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE).

The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches. To schedule a lesson(s), contact Cunningham at 881-7273 or McDonald at 881-7261.

The fee is $35 for an hour lesson, and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provided. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least 7 years of age to participate.

"ACT Help!" will be offered from 9:30 a.m. - noon Saturdays, Feb. 3-24, with a course fee of $45. The class limit is 15 students. In this class, high school juniors and seniors will learn test-taking skills, practice the ACT and review the mathematics section completely. Higher scores mean going to the college of choice and possible scholarship money. Students will use The Real ACT Prep Guide. Cost of the text is not included in the fees, and students are responsible for having the book at the first class meeting. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Bookstore phone number is 881-7760.

"Young Writers' Clubhouse," a series of writing experiences for third- through eighth-graders is slated for 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feb. 10 and April 21. The fee is $30 per session and includes writing notebook and pen. Participants will have a day full of superb stories, fantastic fairy tales and whimsical writing. The day will include writing workshops, mini-lessons on content and editing strategies, writing response groups, and one-to-one conferences with West Tennessee Writing Project Teachers. "Introduction to Acting," for ages 13 and older, is planned for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 6 - March 13. Christian Ashlar is the instructor, and the fee is $45. This class is meant to help participants discover the actor within. They will learn to channel emotional states, past experiences and present-day knowledge into the creative, sometimes exciting and often therapeutic art of acting. Also, students will learn complex ways to develop acting skills.

For more information about these and other non-degree courses, contact ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Civil Rights conference is planned

"The Legacy of a Decade of Civil Rights Acts and Actions, 1957-1968" is the theme of the University of Tennessee at Martin 7th annual Civil Rights Conference. The conference, slated Feb. 26-March 3, during Black History Month, will examine the impact of African-American leadership that shaped the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s in West Tennessee and the nation.

As part of the conference, an African-American dinner will be hosted in the Boling University Center cafeteria at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 28, featuring the Boys and Girls Choir of Union City. Julian Bond, Civil Rights leader, will be the keynote speaker at 7:30 p.m., March 1, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Also slated during Black History Month, NAACP campus members will attend "Legislative Day on the Hill" in Nashville on Feb. 13. On Feb. 24, the Office of Minority Affairs and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority will cosponsor a Black History Month program in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center.

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

Writing institute announced

Deadline for the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) annual invitational summer institute is Feb. 23. The institute will be May 19 and June 4-28 (Monday-Thursday), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation.

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

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit which may be used as part of a master's program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master's degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

For more information about Graduate Studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carithers at 881-7289 or 881-7300 by phone or 881-7276 by fax or e-mail wtwp@utm.edu. To download the informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP Web site at www.utm.edu/WTWP.
NEW SAACS OFFICERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) recently elected officers for the calendar year 2007. Officers are (seated, from left) secretary Megan N. Malin of Holladay, vice president Christy R. Lowe of McKenzie, president Robert H. Mitchell of Ripley, treasurer Kayla A. Poindexter of Murfreesboro; (standing, from left) members of the executive committee Shuntaro Tsutiyama of Jackson, Chad R. Waters of Camden, and Alan Farrington-Hess of Jackson. Not pictured is executive committee member Charles H. Mitchell of Cookeville. UT Martin SAACS chapter has been recognized as Outstanding Chapter and Green Chemistry chapter for more years than any other of 900-plus chapters in the nation.

UT Martin hosts ninth annual conference for working women

"The Balancing Act of Juggling Life's Many Roles" is the theme of the ninth annual Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 20, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and David Belote, West Star executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

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

Some of the speakers and their topics include:
- Melody Zuker, counselor, Lambuth University, "Emotional Intelligence," 9:15-10 a.m.;
- Dr. W. Keith Williams, obstetrician and gynecologist, the Jackson Clinic North, "Women's Health Issues," 10:15-11 a.m.;
- Dr. Nell Gullet, professor of accounting, finance and economics, UT Martin, "Financial Freedom — Mama's Mad Money," 11-11:45 a.m.;
- Anita Battershell McCollum, Anita’s Travel, Jackson, “Travel ... With Confidence,” 12:15-1 p.m.;
- Beth A. Hamil, program director, Leadership Knoxville, "Colors of Personality Profile," 1-1:45 p.m.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, family and consumer science agent, UT Extension Services, WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference.

Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference.

The deadline to register is Feb. 14. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 320 Administration Building, faxed to 881-7019 or e-mailed to vgrimes@utm.edu. If registering via e-mail, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants.

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

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, at 881-7298.
UTM hosts leadership summit

Student leaders from across the state soon will arrive at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 7th annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit. The event, slated for Feb. 22-24, will help students hone and demonstrate their leadership skills.

Bill Cordes, a nationally-recognized motivational speaker, is this year's keynote speaker. The conference theme is "You Only Get Out What You Put In," or "YOYOWYP!!"

The event is sponsored by the UTM Student Government Assoc., the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the Office of Student Affairs.

High school sophomores, juniors or seniors involved with a local leadership program or student government, as well as alumni, board members, leadership directors and volunteers involved with youth leadership, are invited to participate.

The registration fee is $75 per participant and covers meals, campus lodging and entertainment, materials and a T-shirt. Each student also will receive a book written by Cordes. Lodging will be in Clement Hall. Pillows, blankets and linens will be provided. Meals include dinner on Feb. 22, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Feb. 23 and lunch on Feb. 24.

Registration information and applications can be obtained at http://www.utm.edu/organizations/youthsummit/. The deadline is Feb. 12. Applications may be mailed to UTM Martin, Office of Student Affairs, 223 Administration Building. Checks should be made payable to UTM Martin.

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

Working Women Conference at UTM

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

UT Trustees plan meeting at UT Martin

The executive and compensation committee of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet in Knoxville Thursday, Feb. 1.

The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. EST in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center on the Knoxville campus.

The principal purpose of the meeting is to plan for the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for March 6-7 in Martin, Tenn. The committee also will consider President John Petersen's recommendation for a new executive vice president replacing Dr. Jack Britt, who has announced his retirement, and the president's recommendation to add the title senior vice president to the position of chief financial officer.

A complete agenda and supporting materials are available upon request.
West Tennessee loses power grip on ‘Hill’ after nearly 40 years

MEMPHIS (AP) — After nearly four decades of political domination, West Tennessee’s powerful grip on Capitol Hill has loosened and Middle and East Tennessee have taken hold, analysts say.

Less than five years ago, Gov. Don Sundquist, the speakers of the House and Senate and the state attorney general all hailed from Memphis and its neighboring counties.

Now, House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh of Covington is the only one remaining.

Analysts cite several reasons for West Tennessee’s decline, such as the rise of Republican power in the Legislature, but the biggest influence is slow population growth.

“From 2000 through 2005, only three counties in West Tennessee grew at the state average of 4.8 percent or better. Several counties actually lost population,” said Mark Rogers, who consults for Tennessee Republican candidates.

“In contrast, almost every county in Middle Tennessee saw some growth,” Rogers said, with the booming counties around Nashville growing between 9 percent and 21 percent.

“As West Tennessee loses population, it loses seats in the House and Senate, and with fewer seats, it loses more power,” Rogers said.

Numbers illustrate the change. If you take the 36 years since 1971 — when officials elected in the pivotal 1970 elections took office — and multiply that by the four top state offices, West Tennesseans occupied those offices for 116 of the 144 collective years, even though the region was the smallest of the state’s three grand divisions.

The longest serving was Sen. John Wilder of Somerville, who was the Senate speaker for 36 consecutive years before losing the post earlier this month to Sen. Ron Ramsey, an East Tennessean from Blountville.

West Tennessee also had dibs on the House speaker’s office for 30 of the last 36 years. Ned McWherter of Dresden held it from 1973 to 1987, and Naifeh has since 1991. He was just re-elected to a ninth two-year term.

Of the six governors since 1971, four were from West Tennessee and served 24 years: McWherter, Ray Blanton from Adamsville, and Winfield Dunn and Don Sundquist from Memphis.

Current Gov. Phil Bredesen is from Nashville.

Of the nine state attorneys general who served at least two years each since 1971, five were from West Tennessee and served 26 years. The last three were from the Memphis metro area.

Mike Cody, Charles Burson and Paul Summers, who held the office consecutively from 1984 to 2006.

Attorney General Robert Cooper, a Nashville lawyer who grew up in Chattanooga, took office last fall.

Richard Chesten, political science professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, said he expects the power changeover to affect the budget process, “particularly in … the distribution of highway funds, for example.”

Nevertheless, Sen. Mark Norris, a Collierville Republican who was recently elected majority leader, said West Tennessee will regain offices.

“I think the sands are merely shifting,” said Norris, who joins Sen. Jim Kyle, a Memphis Democrat and current Democratic leader. “The positions have moved around a bit but we’re represented in new ways and perhaps better ways. We had Sen. Kyle serve with distinction as a leader and now there are two of us. I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

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UT Martin Hosts 9th Annual Conference for Working Women

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Exchange program at UT Martin

In December, Dr. Jeremy Kolwinska, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Music at UT Martin, spent 10 days at Hiroasaki University, Hiroasaki, Japan, as an exchange professor. Kolwinska was the 20th UT Martin professor to participate in an official exchange program between the two universities. During the visit, he performed a solo recital, accompanied by Kiyoshi Asano, left, professor of piano at Hiroasaki University. He also gave a lecture on 18th Century trombone playing and presented two masterclasses with brass students at Hiroasaki University and the Aomori Trombone Ensemble. Mikio Wada, right, is professor of trombone at Hiroasaki University.
Area high schools are invited to send teams to the 27th Annual Science Bowl at the University of Tennessee at Martin and can register for the March 3 event by email or phone. The registration deadline is February 20.

The science bowl is sponsored by the UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS). For the written test covering biology, chemistry, and general science, there is no limit on the number of students each school may enter. Each test will have 25 questions from each of the three categories.

From the written test, eight schools will be chosen for the afternoon bowl competition based on comparing the average total score of two of each school’s highest scoring students. The rules are similar to the former TV show, “The G.E. College Bowl.”

Each game is 20 minutes long with as many segments as possible in that time. A segment is composed of a toss-up question and a category question. The first team to answer the toss-up question correctly, dealing with biology or chemistry, will receive points and gain the right to choose from one of three categories; chemistry, biology or physics. If the first team answers the toss-up question incorrectly, the other team has a chance to answer the question. If that team cannot answer it, the procedure begins again and continues until the question is answered correctly.

Toss-up questions are worth five points, and team members are not permitted to confer on these questions. Category questions are worth 10 points. Team members are allowed to confer on these, but the team captain must give the final answer.

While students are taking the written test, teachers may participate in a mini-workshop on green chemistry. Students and teachers will be entertained with demonstrations and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the importance of green chemistry while the tests are being graded. Champions and runners-up will receive trophies for their schools and medals for team members.

Four to five students (from West Tennessee region for Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society) scoring high on the chemistry portion of the written test will be invited to take the national examination (to be administered in Martin in April) for selection to participate in the International Chemistry Olympiad (to be held in Moscow on July 15).

The results from last year’s bowl are available online at http://www.utm.edu/staff/skai/2011bowl. To register for the science bowl, email skai@utm.edu or call 731-881-7450.

‘Forensics: CSI Wildlife’ presented by Stockdale, February 1

Michael Stockdale, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Forensic Laboratory supervisor and senior wildlife forensic and analytical specialist, will present a program, “Forensics: CSI Wildlife,” at 7:00 p.m., February 1, in Room 318, Johnson EPS Building, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Stockdale also teaches forensic science and conducts research at UT Martin.

The program is sponsored by UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS). It is free and open to the public.
“Romance Writing Secrets” is online course

“Romance Writing Secrets” is the latest in a series of online courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) and Education To Go.

Do you have a love story within you that you’re just aching to tell? Or maybe you know how lucrative the romance writing market can be and you’ve realized that romance novels offer you your greatest opportunity to succeed as a writer. Either way, you’ll discover everything you need to know about writing and publishing a romance novel in the new online course, “Romance Writing Secrets.”

Taught by award-winning romance novelist, Lori Wilde, this new writing course will show you how to create compelling characters, how to identify timeless themes that sell and how to find the subgenre that’s perfect for you.

Wilde is the author of 39 published romance novels. Her books have been translated into 17 languages, and her work has appeared in Cosmopolitan, Redbook and Quick and Simple magazines. She is a four-time nominee for Romantic Times Reviewers’ Choice Award, and she is a former finalist for the RITA award from the Romance Writers of America. Several of her books have appeared on the Waldenbooks bestseller list.

Romance novels generate $1.2 billion in annual sales, eclipsing all the competition and showing no sign of stopping. More than 54 percent of all popular paperback fiction sold is in the romance genre.

“Romance Writing Secrets” can be taken online from the convenience of your own home or office and at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course - part of a growing catalog of more than 300 other instructor-facilitated online courses - visit the online instruction center at www.utk.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php or call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199.

UT Martin hosts Leadership Summit for high school students

Student leaders from across the state soon will arrive at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the seventh annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit. The event, slated for February 22-24, will help students hone and demonstrate their leadership skills.

Bill Cordes, a nationally-recognized motivational speaker, is this year’s keynote speaker. The conference theme is “You Only Get Out What You Put In.” or “YOGOWYP!”

The event is sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the Office of Student Affairs.

High school sophomores, juniors or seniors involved with a local leadership program or student government, as well as alumni, board members, leadership directors and volunteers involved with youth leadership, are invited to participate.

The dress code is casual, and participants should dress warmly and bring one semi-formal change of clothes for a dinner reception. A luau-themed mixer will be hosted Friday night.

The registration fee is $75 per participant and covers meals, campus lodging and entertainment, materials and a t-shirt. Each student also will receive a book written by Cordes. Lodging will be in Clement Hall. Pillows, blankets and linens will be provided. Meals include dinner on February 22, breakfast, lunch and dinner on February 23 and brunch on February 24.

Registration information and applications can be obtained at http://www.utk.edu/organizations/youthsummit/. The deadline is February 12. Applications may be mailed to UT Martin, Office of Student Affairs, 223 Administration Building.

Business consultant’s February visits to REED Center announced

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be available twice in February at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center in Martin. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., February 8, and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., February 15.

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

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

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University Street, Martin.

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

7th Civil Rights Conference, program and trip planned during Black History Month

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Also slated during Black History Month, NAACP campus members will attend “Legislative Day on the Hill” in Nashville on February 13. On February 24, the Office of Minority Affairs and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority will cosponsor a Black History Month program in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center.

For more information, contact Teresa Woody, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at 731-587-7282, or twoody@utk.edu. For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, chair of the UT Martin Civil Rights planning committee, at 731-881-7472 or acarls@utk.edu.
February 5 marks first UT Martin Faculty Series event

Two professors at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be highlighted in the first UT Martin Department of Music faculty series event for the semester, slated for 7:30 p.m., February 5, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts building on the UT Martin campus.

Drs. Julie Hill and Amy Simmons, assistant professors of music, will perform solo and chamber works for clarinet and percussion in the upcoming faculty recital. Works on the program include: Corker, by Libby Larson; Blue Rondo ala Turk, by Brubeck; Tango Suite, by Piazzolla and others. Those in attendance will experience surprises in instrumentation and theatrics.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

Senior Graphic Design majors to display work at UT Martin

Three seniors at the University of Tennessee at Martin will display their work during an opening reception for their senior exhibitions, 5-7 p.m., February 13, in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. The exhibitions will run through February 23 and are free and open to the public.

Josh Breeden of Martin, Rebecca Whitworth, of Rutherford, and Mark Shelton, of Chattanooga, are senior graphic design emphasis students. Graphic design seniors must exhibit art work representative of their cumulative efforts while undertaking the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program at UT Martin.

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

Ahlschwede first faculty member in UTM academic speaker series

Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English and recipient of the 2006 Cunningham Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will deliver an address, “Write Anyway,” at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Her presentation is part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English.

Ahlschwede will sign her book, “The Three Stories and a Poem,” which will be available for purchase following the talk.

“We in honors programs applaud the decision of Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to include a member of the UT Martin faculty on the academic speakers program, as this will allow another forum for our faculty to demonstrate the quality of research and creative endeavor that is a feature of our university,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors programs director.

“We could ask for no finer individual to begin this new tradition than Margrethe Ahlschwede, who combines a dedication to her craft with a dedication to the university and its students that makes her worthy of the highest honors that the university can bestow,” McDonough added.

“...because she is an example of someone who has truly dedicated her life to the arts and to the university community,” McDonough added.

Ahlschwede will also read from her book, “The Three Stories and a Poem,” which will be available for purchase following the talk.

“We in honors programs applaud the decision of Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to include a member of the UT Martin faculty on the academic speakers program, as this will allow another forum for our faculty to demonstrate the quality of research and creative endeavor that is a feature of our university,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors programs director.

“We could ask for no finer individual to begin this new tradition than Margrethe Ahlschwede, who combines a dedication to her craft with a dedication to the university and its students that makes her worthy of the highest honors that the university can bestow,” McDonough added.

“For years, both in the classroom and the West Tennessee Writing Project, Dr. Ahlschwede has displayed these talents. Anyone interested in good writing and how to become a good writer will wish to attend this lecture.”

Born in Denmark, Ahlschwede lived most of her life in Nebraska. She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska with a double major in home economics and journalism, before earning a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina and a master of arts and doctorate in English from the University of Nebraska.

In addition to her teaching, Ahlschwede served as director of the Lincoln (Neb.) City Council. A gifted writer, she has numerous publications to her credit, with short stories appearing in journals including the “South Dakota Review,” “Tampa Review” and “Seattle Review”; poems in “Zone 3” and “Prairie Schooner”; and essays on teaching in "Writing on the Edge," the Voice of the National Writing Project.

In addition to the Cunningham Award, Ahlschwede has received other awards and honors since her arrival at UT Martin in 1992. Among these are the University of Tennessee National Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award and selection as the Hardin M. Graham Distinguished Professor of English during 2000-02.
Ethanol plant board grows to 11 members, including foreigners

By JOHN BRANNON
Messenger Staff Reporter

After undergoing reorganization last week, the Board of Governors of the $160 million ethanol plant to be built near Obion was increased from eight to 11 members.

Reorganization was affected after Ethanol Grain Processors, as the plant is known, closed on its $62.3 million initial public offering of its stock units. EGP sold 31.1 million units at $2 per unit. EGP also announced closing on $95 million senior secured debt financing.

During the two years EGP offered its stock, the company was governed by an eight-member board. Friday, EGP chief executive officer Jap C. Patterson of Nashville announced the reorganization.

Five seats on the board are domestic, six are foreign. In this context, "domestic" means U.S. citizens, "foreign" means foreign nationals.

The five domestics are:
- Patterson
- Dr. Jim Byford of Martin, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin. Byford also serves as board secretary.
- William H. "Bill" Latimer III of Union City.
- Mike Miller of Obion, manager of Obion Grain Company, and an Obion council member.
- Tom Wade Jr. of Union City, owner of Wade Gin Co. in Kenton, Dyer Grain, and Cono Grain Co. Wade is half owner of Yorkville Gin Co. and one-third owner of Farmers Grain and Warehouse in Humboldt.

The six foreign nationals are unidentified in a press release distributed by Patterson over the weekend. "I don't have permission to release those names," he said. "I had the names in the initial draft, but they asked me to take them out. They don't want those people subject to receiving a press release.

Therefore, when Virginia Bioverda invested $40 million in the EGP plant, and the $40 million is the majority of stock purchased, it incurred the right to appoint or "select" the majority of EGP's board of governors.

"I haven't figured out exactly what their stock holding is, but it's more than 50 percent," Patterson said.

How much local money?

The local investors who were selected for membership on the EGP board of governors are mum about how much they invested in the $160 million plant.

Wade said the money he invested was done in his name, not on behalf of Kenton Grain Company or any of his other businesses.

"It's a matter of privacy. It's a pretty good bit, though," he said.

Majority rules

Patterson said EGP's prospectus, a public document which was prepared to attract prospective investors, is an appendix to EGP's operating agreement.

"That agreement provides that if there is a majority investor for the stock itself, then that majority investor has the right to appoint a majority of the seats on the board," he said.

How much did Bioverda invest in the Obion ethanol plant?

Local officials won't speculate. However, a recent guest editorial by billionaire Richard Branson of England in Newsweek Magazine reveals it.

"So far we have made two biofuels investments—in Cilion of California for $75 million, and EGP of Tennessee for $40 million—but there are a lot more to come," Branson states. "With the world population growing fast and traveling more, the need to move quickly on these projects is urgent."

On Jan. 16, Branson announced the formation of a joint venture company, Branson's Virgin Fuels partnered with NTR plc's (public limited company) Bioverda to form Virginia Bioverda, or VBV, a limited liability corporation "to exploit opportunities in the biofuels sector with particular focus on US-based ethanol."

NTR plc is described as "a leading developer in renewable energy and sustainable waste management.""

In 2006, the company announced a revised corporate strategy which will involve the capital investment of three billion Euro-dollars over the next five years in its core businesses: Airtricity, Greenstar and Bioverda. The company employs 1,100 people and has an annual turnover in excess of 460 million Euro-dollars. NTR has operations in Ireland, United Kingdom (England), Germany and the United States, according to a press release.

Wade is optimistic about his investment. The plant, he said, is going to be a real boon to this area, not only to the agricultural community but also to the economy of Obion County.

"It will bring people in from outside this area," he said. "Most likely, it will be people with experience in ethanol production." The peripheral effects will be felt in housing, groceries and the tax base.

"It will run 24-7, at least three shifts," he said. "It's going to be a fairly major employer—well-paid jobs, substantial salaries. These people will have to be well versed in the jobs they do, because there's a lot at stake. It'll be a real boon."

Miller, likewise, declined to divulge how much Obion Grain Co. invested in the plant.

"I'd rather not do that. We are just glad to be a part of it," he said. "It will be good for the whole agriculture economy in this part of the country."

Nor did Byford reveal the extent of his investment. He said he invested "a little at first," then invested more, and later, still more.
WTWP summer institute planned

Deadline for the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) annual invitational summer institute is Feb. 23. The institute will be May 19 and June 4-28 (Monday-Thursday), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers from grades K-12 from all subject areas to apply for participation. The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing, as well as a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teacher consultants. All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit, which may be used as part of a master's degree program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, or points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master's degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation. "Our summer institute participants enjoy the immediate benefits of new approaches to teaching and learning that they can use in their classrooms as well as the longer term rewards of growing as writers, teachers and researchers," said Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin assistant professor of English and WTWP associate director. For more information about Graduate Studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant by telephone at (731) 881-701 or by e-mail at larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, contact Carithers by telephone at (731) 881-7289 or (731) 881-7300, by fax at (731) 881-7276 or by e-mail at wtwp@utm.edu. To download the informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP Web site at www.utm.edu/wtwp.

Photoshop Elements to be offered online

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a new, online course "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer." Adobe's Photoshop Elements 5.0 provides the tools needed for quick fixes and detailed enhancement. A new online course, "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer," will help. In this highly interactive six-week online course, participants will discover the basics of a software application specifically designed for photo enthusiasts. Created for those with no image-editing experience, this class will take participants from novice to accomplished user. Instructor Dr. Beverly Schulz, an experienced digital photographer and Photoshop Elements user, helps her students experience the simplified process of editing images on the computer, correcting flaws, enhancing the final product, creating simple art projects, preparing images for e-mail and the Web, organizing images and learning the tools. "Photoshop Elements 5.0 for the Digital Photographer" can be taken online from the convenience of home or office at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course, visit the online instruction center at www.ed2go.com/utmecece <http://www.ed2go.com/utmecece>.

Honor choir concert set for Saturday

High school students from across the state will participate in Honor Choir, a two-day event sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music. This year's event will feature an honor choir of 75 students and a 165-member festival choir. Both groups will be under the direction of UT Martin faculty and will perform a concert at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. The concert is open to the public. Admission is $4, with students and seniors to be admitted for $2. For more information, contact Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, by telephone at (731) 881-7412 or by e-mail at marks@utm.edu.

Horsemanship riding lessons offered locally

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering private beginning English/Western horsemanship riding lessons. The individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western/English and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being. The instructors are Meghan Cunningham (hunt) and Kristen McDonald (western), both of whom are UT Martin equestrian team coaches. To schedule a lesson, contact Ms. Cunningham at (731) 881-7273 or Ms. McDonald at (731) 881-7261. The fee is $35 for an hour lesson and students will receive a half-hour riding time. Students must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Riding helmets will be required and provide. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least seven years of age to participate.
UT Martin to host women’s program

“The Balancing Act of Juggling Life’s Many Roles” is the theme of the ninth annual Conference for Working Women, set for 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 20 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boiling University Center Duncan Ballroom.

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and David Belote, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program, the conference is designed to appeal to all working women in West Tennessee — whether they are an assistant, an executive, in management, an elected official or the chief executive officer of a company.

Some of the speakers and their topics will include:
- Melody Zuker, a counselor at Lambuth University, “Emotional Intelligence,” 9:15-10 a.m.
- Dr. W. Keith Williams, an obstetrician and gynecologist at the Jackson Clinic North, “Women’s Health Issues,” 10:15-11 a.m.
- Anita Battershell McCollum of Anita’s Travel in Jackson, “Travel With Confidence,” 12:15-1 p.m.
- Beth A. Hamil, program director of Leadership Knoxville, “Colors of Personality Profile,” 1-1:45 p.m.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, family and consumer science agent with UT Extension Services and a member of the WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference.

Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference.

The deadline to register is Feb. 14. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 320 Administration Building, faxed to (731) 881-7019; or e-mailed to vgrimse@utm.edu. If registering via e-mail, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants.

The fee is $35 per person, or $60 for two, and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and networking. Checks should be made payable to WestStar.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, at (731) 881-7298.

UTM to host summit

Student leaders from across the state soon will arrive at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the seventh annual Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit. The event, slated for Feb. 22-24, will help students hone and demonstrate their leadership skills.

Bill Cordes, a nationally-recognized motivational speaker, is this year’s keynote speaker. The conference theme is “You Only Get Out What You Put In,” or “YOLOWYP!!”

The event is sponsored by the UT Martin Student Government Association, the Leadership Education Application Discovery (LEAD) Academy and the Office of Student Affairs.

High school sophomores, juniors or seniors involved with a local leadership program or student government, as well as alumni, board members, leadership directors and volunteers involved with youth leadership, are invited to participate.

The dress code is casual, and participants should dress warmly and bring one semi-formal change of clothes for a dinner reception. A luau-themed mixer will be hosted Friday night.

The registration fee is $75 per participant and covers meals, campus lodging and entertainment, materials and a T-shirt. Each student also will receive a book written by Cordes. Lodging will be in Clement Hall. Pillows, blankets and linens will be provided. Meals include dinner on Feb. 22, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Feb. 23 and brunch on Feb. 24.

Registration information and applications can be obtained at http://www.utm.edu/organizations/youthsummit/. The deadline is Feb. 12. Applications may be mailed to UT Martin, Office of Student Affairs, 223 Administration Building. Checks should be made payable to UT Martin.

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

UTM applications increase; ACT scores up

Applications for summer and fall admission at the University of Tennessee at Martin have increased by 10 percent over the same period last year, according to the office of admissions. The ACT scores of students applying also increased to an average of 22.32, up from 21.71 last year.

This is the fourth consecutive year that application numbers have increased.

A recent report showed that by January 1, 1,809 students had applied for admission to UT Martin, up from 1,644 by that date in 2006. Also, there has been a nine percent increase in housing applications this year.

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

“The new apartment-style housing also is very attractive to incoming freshmen,” he added.

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

Rayburn said proximity to home and cost of tuition also are important considerations when students choose to apply to UT Martin.

“It is my sincere belief that more and more students and parents are understanding the economic and quality of life values associated with a university degree” said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. “UT Martin represents an excellent place for a high-quality education in a safe environment at a reasonable cost that values teaching and interaction with students. Our caring faculty and staff are doing great work, and students and parents are taking notice.”

For application information, visit the UT Martin admissions home page at www.utm.edu/admis.php or call 1-800-829-UTMI.
Local students named to UTM Dean’s Lists

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2006 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Included are:

- Trenton: Lana C. Carpenter, High Honors; Jenni L. Crossnoe, Highest Honors; Kerrie J. Crossnoe, High Honors; Kevin L. Depke, High Honors; Mark W. Fairless, Honors; Candace R. Gibson, Highest Honors; Amanda R. Hilliard, High Honors; Kevin S. Hopper, Highest Honors; Eric B. Horne, Highest Honors; Anessa L. Inman, Highest Honors; Jennifer R. Kirk, Honors; Matthew A. Maitland, High Honors; Brandi N. Martz, Honors; Megan N. Petty, Highest Honors; Kristin K. Rodemaker, Honors; Emily J. Rogers, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. Sanders, Highest Honors; William A. Schramm, Honors; Hunter C. Smith, Honors; John H. Smith, Highest Honors; Edward C. Sturgeon, Highest Honors; Rebecca F. Taylor, Highest Honors; and Christopher P. Vaughn, Honors.

- Bradford: Xavier T. Alexander, High Honors; Nina M. Bane, High Honors; Lisa A. Brandon, High Honors; Kendra R. Cole, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Hall, High Honors; Shanna R. McCartney, Honors; William J. Pratt, Honors; Lori D. Rinks, Highest Honors; John T. Summers, Highest Honors; Deidre A. Veasey, Honors; and Tabitha R. Wendt, Highest Honors.

- Dyersburg: Kelly H. Barron, High Honors; Rachel S. Coleman, Highest Honors; Joseph N. Dye, High Honors; Joshua B. Dye, High Honors; Joseph A. Fulwood, Highest Honors; Patrick M. Fulwood, Highest Honors; Kelcie J. N. Hadden, High Honors; Leslie K. Harwell, High Honors; Betty S. Jewell, High Honors; Ashlee N. Johnson, Honors; Dylan C. Joyce, Honors; Christopher M. Lownsdale, High Honors; John M. Mistic, High Honors; Melinda J. Mistic, Honors; Natasha L. Nichols, High Honors; Emily B. Parks, Highest Honors; Jessica J. Riffe, Highest Honors; Jessica J. Sims, High Honors; Leighanna M. Sims, Honors; and Chase A. Wimberley, Highest Honors.

- Rutherford: Jacob A. Abbott, Highest Honors; Stephen G. Petty, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Phillips, Honors; Rachel L. Ward, Honors; and Rebecca L. Whitworth, Highest Honors.

- Yorkville: Brittnie C. Belton, Honors; Jacqueline A. Ladd, Highest Honors; Katherine E. Ladd, Highest Honors; and Gary B. Mullins, Honors.

- Kenton: Laura J. Ashbee, Highest Honors; Leena D. Ashbee, High Honors; Laurel G. Childs, High Honors; Abby K. Clanton, Honors; Eliza M. Crum, Honors; Emily C. Davis, Highest Honors; Bethany L. Dunn, High Honors; Julie M. Farrar, Honors; Jessica J. Francis, High Honors; Benjamin W. Hollomon, High Honors; Melissa S. Johnson, High Honors; Kimberly N. Moore, High Honors; Kelia P. Pachall, Honors; Ronald B. Poole, Honors; Robert F. Somerville, Honors; and Joseph T. Williams, Highest Honors.

- Medina: Jackie L. Bettie, Honors; Cory J. Bozard, Highest Honors; Justin B. Chapman, Highest Honors; Jacob G. Flippin, High Honors; Brianna M. Quinn, Highest Honors; Emily M. Tanner, High Honors; Cassandra L. Vincent, Highest Honors; Jesse N. Winchester, Highest Honors; and Jessica E. Winchester, Highest Honors.

- Gibson: Derrick R. Casey, Highest Honors; Humboldt: Anna C. Barker, Highest Honors; Jeremy M. Brown, Honors; Jonathan A. Coble, Highest Honors; Jayne D. Crawford, Highest Honors; Daniel S. DeHaan, Honors; Megan M. Dickson, Highest Honors; Miriam L. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Hunter W. Hamilton, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Knight, Highest Honors; Nicholas B. Latimer, Highest Honors; Alexis R. Luckey, High Honors; Alfredo Ramirez, High Honors; Joshua H. Richardson, High Honors; Desiree D. Rinks, High Honors; Christie K. Rushing, High Honors; Michael S. Schoonover, Honors; Jody L. Stokes, Highest Honors; Jeb H. Williams, Highest Honors; Steven M. Winfrey, High Honors.

- Milan: Katharine E. Appleton, High Honors; Nicolas C. Appleton, Highest Honors; Patrick R. Barnes, Honors; Raymond F. Brake, High Honors; Richard W. Coday, Honors; Jennifer N. Cody, Highest Honors; Justin S. Condron, High Honors; and Russ N. Deloach, High Honors.

- James W. Edwards, High Honors; James E. Ferguson, Honors; Brandon C. Garcia, Honors; Candace M. Garmany, High Honors; Howard S. Holmes, Highest Honors; John Hyde, Honors; Benny L. Johnson, Honors; Brian L. Jones, Honors; Hunter L. Jones, High Honors; Daniel O. LeMasters, Honors; Jessica L. Mangrum, High Honors; Tiffany B. Matheny, Honors; Jessica L. Mathis, Honors; Amber L. McClain, Honors; Christopher S. McColl, Honors; Rachel R. McCrackin, Highest Honors; Zachary A. McMath, Honors; Amanda M. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Pamela W. Moore, Highest Honors; Casey E. Morris, Honors; Ashley N. Murphee, High Honors; Ashley M. Niven, Highest Honors; Sara H. Pifer, Honors; Megan A. Pope, High Honors; Grant Pugh, Highest Honors; Amanda L. Reeves, High Honors; Stephanie L. Riddle, Highest Honors; Judith R. Robbins, Highest Honors; Adam J. Sandor, Honors; Mitchell W. Sims, High Honors; Marilyn G. Stewart, Highest Honors; Anastasia Umanets, Highest Honors; Jeffrey F. Wadding, High Honors; and Angela R. Winstead, Honors.

- Newbern: Kimberly A. Scott, Highest Honors.

Senior graphic design majors to display work

Three seniors at the University of Tennessee at Martin will display their work during an opening reception for their senior exhibitions, 5-7 p.m., February 13, in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. The exhibitions will run through February 23 and are free and open to the public.

Josh Breeden of Martin, Rebecca Whitworth of Rutherford, and Mark Shelton of Chattanooga are senior graphic design emphasis students. Graphic design seniors must exhibit artwork representative of their cumulative efforts while undertaking the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program at UT Martin.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
UTM hosts leadership summit for high school students

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

Young Writers' Clubhouse series continues at UTM

The second in the Saturday Young Writers' Clubhouse series for third through eighth grade students is offered by the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin and meets 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., February 10, in the Cecil M. and Royce A. Gooch Hall on the campus of UT Martin.

The December 9 Young Writers' Clubhouse was a day filled with music, laughter and lots of writing. The middle school group listened to a variety of music, created music journals, and called a large article from activity that had them writing and moving. Later, they listened to different types of music and wrote about the scenes they imagined taking place.

Each student should take a sack lunch and drink. Children may take snacks for the morning break.

Registration deadline for the February 10 clubhouse is February 3. Parents may register children for the February clubhouse, as well as the final spring clubhouse, April 21. Each session is $30, which includes a writing notebook and pen.

For more information about the Young Writers' Clubhouse or WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/wtp or e-mail Brittan Sutherland, clubhouse program director: sutherlandbdk@12tm.net. Online registration: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/youthwriting/writingreg.php.

UT Martin plans travel-study trip to Rhine River

The University of Tennessee at Martin has developed a travel-study trip that follows the central valley of the Rhine River. The trip, scheduled for May 13-27, will make stops in Bingen, Mainz, Bensheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg, and offers students the chance to sample local wines.

The trip begins on the eastern side of the river at Rudesheim, Germany, and goes south to Basel, Switzerland. The return trip down the Rhine River puts the group in eastern France following the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. Participants will travel through quaint villages with stops in Colmar and Strasbourg. The group will always be immersed in the local culture by staying at local inns, dining on the local region cuisine and sampling local wines.

For additional information and registration, contact Helmut Wenz, professor of geography, at 731-881-7438 or Stan Sieber, coordinator of travel studies, at 731-881-7467.

Music department series slated

Two professors at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be highlighted in the first UT Martin Department of Music faculty series event for the semester, slated for 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

Drs. Julie Hill and Amy Simmons, assistant professors of music, will perform solo and chamber works for clarinet and percussion in the upcoming faculty recital. Works on the program include: Corker, by Libby Larson; Blue Rondo ala Turk, by Brubeck; Tango Suite, by Piazzolla and others. Those in attendance will experience surprises in instrumentation and theatricals.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

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