4. Imagine being able to participate in your favorite activity with someone considered the best in the business.

There was no imagination when Tony White and Tracy Salmon ventured to Camdenton, Mo., and spent a few days with fishing legend Denny Brauer.

Brauer is a 15-time winner on the B.A.S.S. tournament trail and earned the B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year title in 1987 while having career winnings of over $3 million.

Brauer has won the Megabucks and Superstars Tournaments and has qualified for 18 Bassmaster Classics winning the 1998 championship the same year he was named the FLW Angler of the Year.

He is also the first fisherman featured on a Wheaties cereal box.

White is the Deputy Mayor of Madison County, and Salmon is a Lexington businessman who owns an insurance agency and Sparky's Pizzeria and Grill. They won the outing by submitting a winning bid in a silent auction.

The outing for White and Salmon was hardly their first together.

The pair go back to 1988 when they were students at UT Martin.

5. Lexington’s Jeff Griggs has always been an outdoorsman and the position he holds will ensure he stays there.

Griggs landed the one job he said has always been coveted in early May when he received a phone call from Gov. Phil Bredesen’s office to inform him he had been selected on the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Commission.

“What that meant was I would be commissioner over District 7 in West Tennessee,” Griggs said.

District 7 includes the counties of Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, Henderson, Henry and Perry.

“The governor was good enough to appoint me to the position,” Griggs said. “The appointment had to go through the (state) house and senate.”

Griggs said he works for the Beech River Watershed Development Authority (BRWDA) as maintenance supervisor.

A life-long resident of Henderson County, Griggs, 49, has always been active in the Lexington area.

9. The UT Martin bass team of Jordan Birch and Kevin Shorey placed 15th in the National Guard Forrest L. Wood College Fishing Regional Championship on Lake Monroe in Sanford, Fla.

The competition, one of five regional bass fishing tournaments held throughout the country, had 20 schools participating.

Birch and Shorey earned a spot in the regional after finishing fourth among 40 schools at the National Guard FLW College Fishing Tournament on May 2 at Santee Cooper John C. Land III Landing in Manning, S.C.

“I would have never guessed any sport like bass fishing would have become what it has become at the college level,” said Bud Grimes, UTM’s director of university relations. “Other universities around us are fielding teams and a colleague of mine at another university is well pleased, and they are getting a lot of attention.”

Parsons earns fall award

Kayla Parsons (center) of Buchanan recently earned the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for the fall semester. At left is Jennifer Champion, cooperating teacher from McKenzie High School, and at right is Robert Hartshorn, UT Martin professor of educational studies and university student teaching supervisor. Parsons was chosen for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. The award is given in memory of Carl Seale, who served UTM from 1971-92 in numerous capacities.
New meteorology concentration study program offered at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a new meteorology concentration that is the only program of its kind in the state.

Part of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, the meteorology program is designed to train students for a career in the atmospheric sciences and to supplement their training in geosciences.

“Successful students will be well positioned to enter graduate school to complete their professional meteorology training or to follow careers in the geosciences in which foundational knowledge in weather and climate is required,” said Dr. Mark Simpson, associate professor of geography.

Potential career fields include working as forecasters, broadcast meteorologists, research meteorologists, climatologists and meteorologists in the armed forces. Others are as consultants in forensics, agriculture, energy, manufacturing, commodities markets, environmental planning, emergency preparedness, transportation and teaching. Potential employers include private industry and consulting services, academia and federal government agencies.

The proposed concentration complements the existing concentrations in the geosciences as well as the existing programs in the new academic home in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

The meteorology concentration will give students a solid foundation by which they can pursue the discipline further.

“It is also worth noting that many universities are starting Bachelor of Science degrees in meteorology emphasizing forecasting. The market is being flooded with ‘forecasters’ and ‘storm chasers,’ but the training offered at UT Martin will allow students flexibility in career choices, thus enhancing marketability,” said Simpson.

“The program is flexible enough to allow students to be trained in other avenues of geosciences while being engaged in a rigorous study of the fundamentals of meteorology. For those students who wish to pursue forecasting as a career, the concentration will be thorough enough to prepare them for the top graduate programs.”

For more information about the meteorology program, contact the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources at 731-881-7260.

UT Martin student 1 of 20 in nation to serve as agricultural ambassador

Pam Bartholomew, of Decaturville, was the first UT Martin student chosen in 2005 as one of 10 students nationwide to serve in this capacity. Bartholomew was followed by Heather McLean, of Newbern, who served two terms, and Brittany Cole, of Atoka, who served last year.

Cody Norton and the other ambassadors will spend the next year promoting agricultural awareness to different local schools and community groups in their state. The ambassadors work to help their communities better understand the value and importance of agriculture and how it is a part of their daily lives.

To date, more than 1,300 presentations have been given to more than 62,000 people since the program began.

The ambassadors went through an application and interview process before being selected. For their year of service to the program, they will receive a $1,500 scholarship and the use of a digital camera, laptop and projector.

“Cody is one of our outstanding agriculture students,” said Dr. James Butler, professor of agricultural education. “He is always ready and eager to serve the FFA organization at the local, state and national levels.”

Cody Norton

Cody Norton, a senior agriculture business major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently was selected as one of 20 National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors. The selection is the fourth time a UT Martin has been selected as an ambassador.

Norton, of Columbia, will join students from Colorado State University, Purdue University, University of Missouri and others in the program to promote agricultural understanding and development.
Airee receives Merck Index

Among recipients were, from left, Dr. Joe Sam, Bethel University, McKenzie; Dr. Phillip H. Davis, UT Martin; Dr. Charles M. Baldwin, Union University, Jackson; Dr. Zhonghua Li and Dr. Larry Bigham, Western Kentucky Community and Technical College in Paducah, Kentucky; Dr. Harry B. Fannin, Kentucky Lake Section chair, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky; and Airee.

On behalf of the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society, Dr. S.K. Airee, right, KLS councillor and University of Tennessee at Martin professor of chemistry, received 150 copies of The Merck Index, which is an internationally recognized handbook of chemical, pharmaceutical and biomedical information. Each book is valued at approximately $125. During National Chemistry Week 2009, these manuals were presented to various chemistry departments in Northwest Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

Jackson Native Gets Energy Promotion

The Department of Energy announced today that it has named Mike Jacobs senior communications adviser to the assistant secretary of energy. The promotion is effective January 4.

A career federal civil servant, Jacobs will provide advice to senior management in the planning, preparation and implementation of program communication strategies; organize media events; and foster effective working relationship with intergovernmental organizations, special interest groups and the general public. Jacobs received a bachelor of science in 1977 from the University of Tennessee Martin and received UTM’s 1991 Outstanding Young Alumni Award. He performed graduate work at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville and Chattanooga) and the University of Findlay (Ohio). A native of Jackson, he resides in Alexandria, Va.
Chapter recruitment recognized

The University of Tennessee at Martin student members of American Chemical Society are pictured with Periodic Chart beach towels. ACS recognized the recruitment of new members by the UT Martin chapter, which now has 35 members. The chapter carries out numerous outreach public service and pedagogic activities. It has been awarded the Green Chapter every year since the award was established.

Pictured are, from left to right, seated, James K. Griffin, Lexington; Kayla A. Poindexter, Murfreesboro (chapter president); Ashish J. Patel, Columbia (treasurer); Elizabeth A. Abernathy, Pulaski; and Lepold M. Phiapalath, Memphis; standing, Marcelina A. Glover, Bartlett; Brittany A. Wyatt, Burns; Robert H. Mitchell, Ripley; Justin L. Jordan, Martin; Gilbert J. Forgya, Clarksville (secretary); JohnAnne J. Harris, Union City; Casey L. Turnage, Dyersburg; Kayla M. Baker, Troy (vice president); Thomas H. Hester III, Martin; and Jhalak V. Patel, Martin.

Newcomb graduates from UT-Martin

From Staff Reports
Brittany N. Newcomb, of Maryville, has graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Fall commencement was held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Ford Little, Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker.
January 6, 2010

UT Martin Fall 09 Dean's List

Nan Lamb
Reader Submitted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 6, 2010

Contact: Rita Mitchell, University Editor

Editors: Attached is a list of students who requested that your paper receive notification that they have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Each listing includes the student's name, hometown and honors.

UT MARTIN NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO FALL SEMESTER 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 2009 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

Courtney J. Abernathy, Clarksville, TN 37040, Highest Honors

Kristen L. Bailey, Clarksville, TN 37043, Highest Honors

Christopher Benne, Clarksville, TN 37042, High Honors

Alexis D. Bullock, Clarksville, TN 37040, High Honors

Andreas P. Bunjor, Clarksville, TN 37043, Highest Honors

Edward C. Burchett, Clarksville, TN 37043, Honors

Martina D. Conley, Clarksville, TN 37042, Highest Honors

Andrea L. Cote, Clarksville, TN 37040, High Honors

Joel D. Flowers, Clarksville, TN 37043, High Honors

Gilbert J. Forgays, Clarksville, TN 37042, High Honors

Bethaney J. Fuller, Clarksville, TN 37043, High Honors

Brandy R. Hardy, Clarksville, TN 37042, Honors

Christine J. Hassell, Clarksville, TN 37043, High Honors
Local students receive degrees

Several international students received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Scott James Gladstone from Adelaide, Australia; Melania Grozdanic Roy from Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dustin Delaine Ross from Quito, Ecuador; Harrison James Woodard from El Quiche, Guatemala; Stephan Bruwer from South Africa; Jun Young Choi, Sol Heo, Jong Yoon Kim, Chang-Suk Oh from Seoul, South Korea.

The students receiving graduate degrees were: Richard Ijeli from Lagos, Nigeria; Katsuyuki Kubota from Saitama, Japan, Yi-Ling Chen from Taiwan and Seok Pyo Yang from Seoul, South Korea.
Locals make UT-Martin dean's list

FOR THE HERALD • JANUARY 8, 2010

The University of Tennessee at Martin has recognized the academic achievements of its undergraduate students with the publication of the fall dean's list for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Andrea N. Adams, Burns, Highest Honors
Sarah M. Baggett, Burns, Honors
Patrick J. Bell, Burns, Highest Honors
Jeb E. Bishop, Burns, Highest Honors
John A. Brown, Burns, Highest Honors
Erin E. Larkins, Burns, Highest Honors
Cory G. Oliver, Burns, Honors
Lacy E. Pearce, Burns, Highest Honors
Krysten M. Reynolds, Burns, Highest Honors
Dawn J. Baxter, Charlotte, Highest Honors
Nathan T. Elliott, Charlotte, Highest Honors
Darren M. Fizer, Charlotte, Honors
Richard B. Mayberry, Charlotte, Honors
Savannah L. Smith, Charlotte, Highest Honors
Scott E. Bearden, Cumberland Furnace, Highest Honors
Thomas E. Biele, Cumberland Furnace, Highest Honors

Danial D. McCormick, Cumberland Furnace, High Honors
Joshua U. Wilson, Cumberland Furnace, High Honors
Anne M. Abt, Dickson, Highest Honors
Morgan B. Bowker, Dickson, High Honors
Mary K. Bradley, Dickson, High Honors
Bradley K. Carrier, Dickson, Honors
Jason D. Coffey, Dickson, High Honors
Heather M. Craig, Dickson, Highest Honors
Russell L. Dotson, Dickson, Highest Honors
Michael A. Johnson, Dickson, Honors
Kelsey L. Laxton, Dickson, Highest Honors
Jennifer N. Lynch, Dickson, Highest Honors
Phillip C. Masangil, Dickson, Highest Honors
Sara B. Ragan, Dickson, Honors
Kelsey Regan, Dickson, Highest Honors
Marissa A. Ritchison, Dickson, Honors
Leslie R. Salewsky, Dickson, Honors
Martin C. Sander, Dickson, Highest Honors
Abby R. Smith, Dickson, Highest Honors
Brittney N. Stanford, Dickson, Highest Honors
Joseph A. Strawser, Dickson, High Honors
Justin D. Sutton, Dickson, High Honors
Joshua A. Vaughn, Dickson, High Honors
Justin D. Darnell, Vanleer, Honors
Shelby L. Darnell, Vanleer, Highest Honors
Emily E. Jones, White Bluff, High Honors
UT Martin names Dean's List

THE DAILY NEWS JOURNAL

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Hope A. Rowell, Eagleville, TN 37060, High Honors
Samantha B. Crossno, LaVergne, TN 37086, Honors
Tatiana Moore, LaVergne, TN 37086, Honors
Kaitlin N. Chaffin, Murfreesboro, TN 37128, High Honors
Emily G. Collins, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, High Honors
Erin L. Creech, Murfreesboro, TN 37127, Highest Honors
Greer C. Gill, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Highest Honors
Trevor J. Hancock, Murfreesboro, TN 37127, Highest Honors
Mary L. Harrell, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Highest Honors
DRae K. Harris, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Highest Honors
Katelyn D. Hill, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Highest Honors
Erin E. Horton, Murfreesboro, TN 37128, Highest Honors
Rachel E. McKinney, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Honors
Jenifer L. Nicks, Murfreesboro, TN 37128, Honors
Ashley A. Strader, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, High Honors
Megan R. Williams, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Highest Honors
Yeng Xiong, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Honors

Jacob P. Anderson, Rockvale, TN 37153, High Honors
Kaylee A. Resha, Rockvale, TN 37153, Highest Honors

Jarod O. Saucedo, Smyrna, TN 37167, Highest Honors
Sheridan M. Smith, Smyrna, TN 37167, Honors
Allison R. Sprague, Smyrna, TN 37167, Highest Honors
Luke T. Sprague, Smyrna, TN 37167, High Honors
Lara A. Womack, Smyrna, TN 37167, High Honors

Local residents make dean's list

Brendan W. Lozupone of Hyattsville was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Lozupone made the dean's list with honors, meaning he had a grade point average that is between 3.2 and 3.49.
2009 Fall Dean’s list: University of Tennessee at Martin

By UT at Martin

Monday, January 11, 2010

Stacie J. Burchfield, Knoxville, TN 37920, High Honors

Janice F. Cate, Knoxville, TN 37912, Highest Honors

Nicole E. Digiovanni, Knoxville, TN 37934, Honors

Justin B. Ingle, Knoxville, TN 37920, Honors

Jeremy A. Johnson, Knoxville, TN 37922, High Honors

Christopher T. Kittle, Knoxville, TN 37931, Highest Honors

Michael H. Koszela, Knoxville, TN 37934, Highest Honors

Ty S. Nelson, Knoxville, TN 37934, High Honors

Aliana C. Norris, Knoxville, TN 37912, Honors

Nicholos C. Rakestraw, Knoxville, TN 37921, High Honors

Tiffany E. Smith, Knoxville, TN 37922, High Honors

Elizabethe J. Wouters, Knoxville, TN 37923, Highest Honors
Martin’s Davis featured in 2010 calendar

“I come from a competitive background, so having the goal of getting ready for the Senior Olympics provides a focus and motivation for me to get out and train throughout the year. And the best part is, every year the competition level seems to get better and better.”

- Phillip Davis, Martin

It’s that time of year again to purchase a Tennessee Senior Olympics calendar. This year, each calendar is in full color and remains $10, with proceeds going to the Tennessee Senior Olympics, an organization that promotes healthy lifestyles for seniors.

The calendar, sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, consists of 15 featured Olympians from across the state. Each month highlights an athlete competing for medals in sports ranging from swimming to track and field. Each page includes a photo of an athlete along with his or her inspiring quote.

“We’re very excited to again be able to sell these calendars, which not only helps us raise awareness of the Games but also raise funds to support them,” said Christine Dewbre, executive director for the Tennessee Senior Olympics.

“And this year’s calendars are in full color so you can see these amazing senior athletes at their very vivid and vibrant best.”

The calendar promotes a senior Olympian from a different city in Tennessee each month.

Phillip Davis of Martin is featured for the month of April. His competition events are running and cycling.

According to Davis, “I come from a competitive background, so having the goal of getting ready for the Senior Olympics provides a focus and motivation for me to get out and train throughout the year. And the best part is, the competition level seems to get better and better.”

“We’re proud to once again support the Tennessee Senior Olympics with this important fundraiser,” said Sharon Dicorato, manager of community programs for BlueCross’ senior care division.

“To see these athletes commit to setting goals and pushing themselves in healthy competition, as well as having fun doing it, is what the Tennessee Senior Olympics is all about.”

The 2010 calendars can be purchased online by going to <http://www.tnseniорolympics.com> and clicking the “shop” link or by sending a check for $10 to: Tennessee Senior Olympics, PO Box 2030, Columbia, Tenn. 38402.

The Tennessee Senior Olympics began in 1981 with a mission that has continued for over 25 years: to promote healthy lifestyles for senior adults through fitness, sports and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee offers its clients peace of mind through affordable solutions for health and healing, life and living. Founded in 1945, the Chattanooga-based company is focused on reinventing the health plan for both its three million Tennessee-based members as well as consumers across the country. Through its personal health advocacy approach, BlueCross is developing patient-centric products and services that positively impact affordability, patient safety and quality.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Inc. is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. For more information, visit the company’s Web site at www.bcbs.com.

See Davis, Page 12

DAVIS

FROM PAGE 1

an active involvement in life. The Senior Olympics encourages older adults to stay active, and gives them a reason to renew past skills or learn new ones. For more information, visit www.tnseniорolympics.com.

AGE IS ONLY A NUMBER – Phillip Davis of Martin has been physically active for much of his life. Combine that with his competitive streak and it makes for an interesting Senior Olympics. Davis is featured in the Blue Cross Blue Shield TN 2010 fund raiser calendar.
UT Martin names local students to Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2009 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Lisa A. Brandon, Bradford, Honors; Allison N. Cash, Bradford, Honors; Jeffrey Connell, Bradford, Highest Honors; Corey C. Crocker, Bradford, Honors; Jessika B. Derry, Bradford, High Honors; Daniel H. Morris, Bradford, Highest Honors; Derek W. Proudfoot, Bradford, Highest Honors; Jacquelyn M. Steele, Bradford, High Honors; Lori R. Wood, Bradford, High Honors; Joshua R. Hefner, Idlewild, Highest Honors; Charli M. Crone, Medina, Highest Honors; Lisa N. Detrain, Medina, Highest Honors; Tyler A. Ford, Medina, High Honors; Whitney L. Foster, Medina, Highest Honors; Tyler R. Hawk, Medina, High Honors; Haley A. Howell, Medina, High Honors; Christina E. Johnson, Medina, High Honors; Dustin P. Kenton, Medina, High Honors; Britannia M. Quinn, Medina, Highest Honors; Lauren H. Rogers, Medina, Honors; Melody P. Sain, Medina, Honors; Starla E. Scott, Medina, High Honors; Melissa D. Totty, Medina, High Honors; Shelby L. Totty, Medina, Highest Honors; Cassandra L. Vincent, Medina, Honors; Jesse N. Winchester, Medina, Highest Honors; Meera Yogesh, Medina, High Honors; Austin D. Alred, Milan, Highest Honors; Bryce E. Appleton, Milan, Highest Honors; Hudson T. Beard, Milan, Honors; Tyler B. Bodiford, Milan, Honors; Raymond F. Brake, Milan, Honors; Byron B. Burns, Milan, Highest Honors; Natasha M. Davidson, Milan, Honors; Candy P. Farley, Milan, Highest Honors; Robert M. Fly, Milan, Honors; Zach Ford, Milan, High Honors; Adria L. Greer, Milan, Honors; Alan J. Greve, Milan, Honors; Daniel K. Laird, Milan, High Honors; Tiffany B. Matheny, Milan, High Honors; Christopher S. McGill, Milan, High Honors; Rachel R. McMinn, Milan, High Honors; Christopher D. Mitchell, Milan, Highest Honors; Latonya K. Murriel, Milan, Honors; Ashley M. Niven, Milan, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Parker, Milan, Honors; Sara H. Phifer, Milan, Highest Honors; James S. Postoak, Milan, High Honors; Joshua L. Postoak, Milan, Honors; Amber N. Replogle, Milan, High Honors; Ross F. Smith, Milan, Highest Honors; Anna L. Thompson, Milan, High Honors; Casey J. Ward, Milan, Honors.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bradford - Michael Drew Gibson
- Medina - Jackie L. Bettie, Caroline Elise Harber
- Milan - Tyler Bo Bodiford, Kristan Star Burnett, James Matthew Canada, Patricia Heidi Davis, Jacob Graves Flippin, Charles Matthew Jetton, Timothy Denton Meece, Ashley Michelle Niven, Drury Clay Sanders.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Medina - Jennifer Cherry, David Mallard, Wayne Sheehan
- Milan - Cheryl Lambert

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

The Tennessee School Counselor Association awards Traci Tate, School Counselor at Medina Elementary School with Elementary School Counselor of the Year.

Medina, TN, January 4, 2010: Tennessee School Counselor Association awarded Traci Tate, School Counselor at Medina Elementary School, with its 2009 Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award during its annual recognition luncheon on November 23, 2009, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The purpose of these awards is to recognize counselors for outstanding service and achievements. Selections were made by the TSCA awards committee based on three areas of eligibility and three areas for recognition. The committee evaluates all materials submitted by fellow counselors, principals and directors of programs. The criteria for the award are listed below:

- The nominee must be currently employed as a full-time counselor and have completed three (3) consecutive years of counseling service.
- The nominee must be a current member of TSCA.
- The nominee must hold a Masters Degree or equivalent in Guidance and Counseling and be certified by the State of Tennessee.
- The nominee should possess the personal qualities thought to be desirable in a counselor.
- The nominee must have provided leadership and innovation in their guidance services, demonstrated involvement in professional counseling associations, and performed service to the school or community.
- The activities or accomplishments recognized must have taken place within five (5) years prior to the date of presentation.

Mrs. Tate has been the school counselor for Medina Elementary School with Gibson County Special School District for the past three years. Before coming to Medina, she was the school counselor at Sigall Middle School and teacher at Humboldt High School with Humboldt City School System. She is currently serving as President of Martha Polk Counseling Association Chapter of Tennessee Council.

Traci Tate

New agent hired at Extension office

The Obion County office of the University of Tennessee Extension Service has hired a new agent.

Charles Adam McCall lives in Martin. He grew up in Dyer County, where he was a 2005 graduate of Dyer County High School in Newbern.

He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a master's degree in agriculture production and natural resources from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He was selected into the Student Intern Program for the Beef Industry National Convention in 2009.

While at UT Martin, he was assistant manager in the agricultural pavilion, where he helped organize and plan events for workers to accomplish before equine events, rodeos and livestock shows. He has also worked as a sleep technician at Sleep Lab of Union City.

He has served as intern with the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative and in the Dyer County Executive's office.

McCall served as president of the American International Junior Charolais Association in 2007-08. He previously served the group as treasurer from 2006-07 and was on the association board from 2003-08. He was president of the Tennessee Junior Charolais Association from 2004-07 after serving as vice president from 2002-04. He received that group's Futurity Award in 2002 and 2003.

He was on the freshman council for the UTM Student Government Association from 2005-06 and the election committee from 2006-07. He was on the Student Cattlemen Association of UTM 2005-09, serving as president 2008-09.

He was also a member of the National Cattlemen Beef Association 2007-09; the Collegiate Block and Bridge Club 2005-09, serving as assistant show chairman 2008-09; Collegiate FFA 2005-09, serving as reporter 2006-07; Collegiate 4-H Club 2005-09; Young Farmers and Ranchers 2005-09; Dyer County Cattlemen's Association; Tennessee Cattlemen's Association; and National FFA Alumni.

McCall has also volunteered in the community at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen and for Relay for Life.
Band, percussion symposium slated

The 31st annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band and Percussion Symposium will be held Jan. 21-23. More than 200 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend the event. All rehearsals will be held on campus at the Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium. For more information about the event, contact Dr. Nola Jones, assistant professor of music, at (731) 881-7402 or by e-mail at njones@utm.edu.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee

UT Martin fall Dean’s List includes many local students

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

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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 include:
- Forte Alexander, honors
- Ashley B. Baldwin, high honors
- Irene R. Barnes, highest honors
- Megan A. Bussell, honors
- Connie P. Combs, high honors
- Holly L. Hooper, honors
- Heather M. Morton, honors
- Ashley L. Smith, high honors
- Heather R. Stover, high honors
- Justin M. Strood, honors
- Kenton A. Chris, honors
- Mary A. Dye, honors
- Amanda J. Nichols, high honors
- Tessa M. Childress, honors
- David W. Cochran, honors
- Jacob L. Edelman, honors
- Mary T. Edwards, honors
- Candace M. Elgin, honors
- Tina M. Forbes, high honors
- David C. Holmstrom, highest honors
- Ryan S. McMackin, high honors
- Brandon L. Ramey, high honors
- Mary Helen Hepler, highest honors
- Brandy L. Raines, honors
- Madeline L. Harris, honors
- Ashion J. McCrea, honors
- Julie S. Phillips, honors
- Lakin M. Shewan, high honors
- Megan N. Tucker, highest honors
- South Fulton: Joshua L. Potts, highest honors
- Christina M. Allen, honors
- Kimberly L. Batts, highest honors
- Kelly B. Crawford, honors
- Jessica K. Curtis, high honors
- Tanaka L. Dickerson, honors
- Charles S. Elledge, honors
- Andrew P. Greer, high honors
- Kyle D. Greer, highest honors
- Tammy G. Malroy, highest honors
- Melissa L. McCarty, highest honors
- Holly R. McClanahan, high honors
- Elizabeth H. McManus, honors
- Andrew H. Moore, highest honors
- Anna M. Serri, honors
- William B. Sisson, highest honors
- Benjamin D. Tucker, honors
- Cherrissa C. Vinson, honors
- Armanda J. Wall, highest honors
- Laura A. Williams, honors
- Judy Wu, highest honors
- Troy: Delaina D. Cary, honors
- Karla M. Cox, high honors
- Sabrina D. Daniels, highest honors
- Reuben W. Kendall, highest honors
- J. Michael Keys, honors
- Stephanie L. Lovett, high honors
- Ashley M. Moore, honors
- Justin D. Prequist, highest honors
- Kristen E. Ward, highest honors
- Joshua G. Williams, honors
- Hugh L. Zellar, highest honors
- Unicoi City: Shari A. Armour, high honors
- Elizabeth A. Barnes, high honors
- Felicia A. Bath, honors
- Denise M. Bell, highest honors
- Stephanie A. Bing, honors
- Kathy A. Boddie, honors
- Sloan M. Bradbury, honors
- Alysa A. Brock, highest honors
- Bradley A. Bugg, high honors
- Brandon D. Burke, high honors
- Kyle H. Byass, highest honors
- Jonathan W. Byrd, highest honors
- Luz E. Carrillo, honors
- Colin S. Cherry, honors
- Dana A. Coleman, honors
- Beatrix S. Cropper, honors
- Dustin M. Crowell, honors
- James B. Cripe, honors
- Elora L. Davis, honors
- Latoya A. Davis, honors
- Matthew L. Davis, highest honors
- Kimberly R. Dillou, honors
- Kyle M. Dovin, honors
- Lisa A. Downey, honors
- Bethany D. Elam, honors
- Felicia C. Elam, highest honors
- Julia M. Elledge, honors
- Tremayne A. Emerson, honors
- Adam M. Gammons, honors
- Ian E. Garrigan, honors
- Sara B. Gilliam, high honors
- Aceli D. Glenn, highest honors
- Thomas E. Gossett, highest honors
- Cameron P. Grisham, high honors
- Sarah E. Guy, honors
- Bailey L. Hagan, honors
- Patrick R. Hall, honors
- Jennifer D. Harper, honors
- Andrew J. Henderson, honors
- Bradley T. Henderson, highest honors
- Christopher D. Hendrix, honors
- Lindsey B. Hughes, highest honors
- Henry D. Hutchins, honors
- Jessica R. Ibele, honors
- Aury S. Kangale, honors
- Andrew S. Keathley, highest honors
- Amy N. Kendall, honors
- Julianne M. Lawson, honors
- Michael D. Lackridge, highest honors
- Robin J. Long, honors
- Mallory Miller, honors
- William A. Millsaps, honors
- Ander M. Moore, honors
- Jessica J. Napier, honors
- Jeffrey H. Nichols, honors
- Andrew B. Nipp, honors
- Johnathan C. Nolan, honors
- Jon-Erik T. Jacob, honors
- Chuck R. Parks, highest honors
- Nicholas A. Piazza, highest honors
- Shannon Pink, honors
- Melissa A. Pollock, honors
- Kate L. Potter, honors
- Mark J. Potter, honors
- Sarah A. Powell, honors
- Kathryn T. Ramsey, honors
- Jonathan E. Reynolds, highest honors
- Anne W. Satterwhite, honors
- Ashley M. Sherwood, honors
- Jacob H. Shumate, honors
- Laura M. Silva, high honors
- Graham S. Smith, honors
- Trevor R. Smith, honors
- Terry S. Smyth, honors
- Amy E. Sparkman, honors
- Joseph C. Speed, honors
- James W. Stewart, highest honors
- Ashley L. Tinkles, honors
- Chelsea J. Thomas, honors
- Menta M. Thompson, honors
- Meredith L. Thompson, honors
- Rachel E. Tripplet, honors
- Katelin A. Turner, honors
- Ashley L. Wallace, honors
- Labria J. Ward, honors
- Mark A. Warren, honors
- William P. Wester, honors
- John-David O. Wheeler, honors
- Abbey C. Wilkes, honors
- Lauren A. Williamson, honors
- Ben M. Woods, highest honors
- Hailey L. Woodward, honors
- Johnathan B. Wright, highest honors
- Sarah E. Wright, highest honors
- Corey A. Youree, honors
- Fulton: Anna B. Cox, honors
- Amanda M. Howell, high honors
- Robert E. Lee, honors
- Brian A. McMillin, honors
- Nicholas S. Moon, highest honors
- Michael E. Pate, honors
- Natalie L. Rushing, honors
- and David F. Whitesell, honors.
Several Obion County and Fulton 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 campus.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were:
- Kenton — Ryan Steven Bowlin.
- South Fulton — Charity Nicole Conner, Jaclyn Elizabeth Cook, Brandon M. Culver, Brooke Devonee Harris, Anthony Michael Reynolds, Michael Shane Snow and Laura Allison Williams.
- Troy — Stephanie Lynn Lovett and Graham Sanders Smith.
- Fulton — Kenya Tanu Boyer, Nicholas Scott Moon, Heather Michell Pfeiffer and Rachel Jean Wynn.

The students who received graduate degrees included:
- Obion — Michelle Hurst.
- Rives — Shannon McWherter.
- South Fulton — Patsy Potts.
- Troy — George Leake II.
- Union City — Tasha Bell, James Bennett, Lance Morgan and Bethany Lane “Laney” (Caudie) Rogers, Amanda Saladin and Brian Saladin.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Institute of Civic Engagement is sponsoring several events in honor and remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Events will begin at noon Jan. 20 with an “I Have a Dream” speech re-enactment at the University Center Plaza.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a memorial service at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Following the service, the event will be a 7:30 p.m. march which will begin at the church and continue until participants reach Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center on campus.

The Institute for Civic Engagement will close the evening at 8 with the showing of the film “Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk” in Watkins Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit online at www.mlkday.gov for more information about Monday’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and to find local volunteer opportunities.

For more information, contact the Institute for Civic Engagement at (731) 587-5124.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2009 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

**Dresden** - Keely E. Adams with honors, Amanda J. Armstrong with honors, Allicia D. Atchley with highest honors, Misty E. Atwood with highest honors, Jessica K. Blevins with highest honors, Crystal E. Brown with highest honors, Alexander J. Bynum with honors, Hannah M. Case with honors, Joseph J. Crawford with honors, E. Crawford with honors, Sherlie L. Crowell with high honors, Betheny N. Danc with high honors, Lacey M. Darden with high honors, Stacy L. Darden with high honors, Justin B. Hattler with highest honors, Lacie C. Kelley with honors, Jennifer L. Kemp with highest honors, Leah R. Kerassidis with honors, Sarah A. McAlpin with high honors, Emily S. Moon with high honors, Jeremy M. Moss with high honors, Charles R. Nichols with honors, Mario J. Panaia with honors, Shonna R. Parker with highest honors, Allison L. Paschal with highest honors, Kayla R. Peeler with honors, Meagan H. Pittman with highest honors, Lucy M. Redmond with highest honors, Kayla O. Rendon with honors, Scarlett L. Reynolds with honors, Brandi L. Sanford with honors, Brandon N. Speedwell with honors, Anthony B. Stoker with honors, Matthew A. Thomas with high honors, Jean T. Wainscott with highest honors, James B. Whaley with high honors, Brandon K. Williams with honors, Kailya F. Woodfruff with honors.

**Dukedom** - Jennifer M. Manfield with high honors, Brada J. Taylor with honors.

**Gleason** - Lacy D. Arnold with high honors, Colin D. Bennett with high honors, Sadie M. Cook with high honors, Caleb L. Coopes with high honors, Amanda C. Davis with highest honors, Christine E. Herndon with high honors, Tessa R. Kyle with high honors, Regina L. Lowry with honors, Jessica D. McKinney with honors, Graham J. Oliver with honors, Evan J. Orr with honors. Kody T. Owen with high honors, Maylon Price with highest honors, Katie L. Snider with high honors, Lacie A. Trevathan with high honors, James A. Verdel with highest honors.

**Greenfield** - Jennifer M. Bethel with highest honors, Barbara A. Bridgewater with highest honors, Christina R. Brock with highest honors, Kristina E. Caudle with high honors, Cassie R. Chapel with highest honors, Arlene V. Cooper with high honors, Timothy M. Duhart with honors, Tarren P. Hatcher with highest honors, Jennifer M. Harrell with highest honors, Jamie M. Knott with high honors, Angie J. Land with honors, Nicholl M. McAllister with high honors, Clint A. Mealer with high honors, Dee A. Mitchell with highest honors, Kelsey L. Parks with highest honors, Joshua D. Reiger with high honors, Kelly A. Stewart with highest honors, Anna M. Usey with highest honors.

**Martin** - Kassi L. Abney with highest honors, Melissa J. Adams with highest honors, Ashley S. Albritton with highest honors, Mustafa Alibrahim with honors, Amanda K. Allen with high honors, Fahad A. Almutairi with honors, Areesh J. Alsabough with highest honors, Ahmed Alwassi with highest honors, Joseph S. Anderson with highest honors, Annika S. Avent with highest honors, Matthew L. Bane with honors, Derek R. Barney with highest honors, Chelsea R. Bates with honors, Lara A. Beal with high honors, Megan L. Beard with highest honors, Amanda L. Bell with honors, Emily A. Belote with high honors, Ashlee J. Bixler with high honors, Lindsey B. Blankenship with honors, Darla A. Bondar with highest honors, Matthew D. Borden with highest honors, John W. Boyd with high honors, Sylvester Boyd with highest honors, Pamela K. Bridges with highest honors, Alison D. Bridges with honors, Sarah E. Brummet with highest honors, Kevin E. Burdette with highest honors, Christopher M. Burress with honors, Lauren N. Burress with highest honors, Diedre E. Butler with honors, Ryan M. Boyd with highest honors, Jennifer L. Calbou with highest honors, Megan N. Cartwell with honors, Joseph H. Castleman with honors, Lindsay R. Cates with highest honors, Kayla A. Cazanave with highest honors, Scott E. Coleman with highest honors, Staci L. Comor with highest honors, Karen C. Cook with highest honors, Cory S. Davis with honors, Rachel N. Dennis with honors, Jennifer L. Deveo with highest honors, Jordan P. Dorch with honors, Jeanette B. Doupis with honors, Misty L. Dunlap with highest honors, Natalie E. Dunning with honors, James W. Edwards with honors, Spencer C. Edwards with highest honors, James C. Edmond with highest honors, Matthew D. Elliot with honors, Kerrin A. Ellinger with honors, Adam P. Nelson with honor, Marcy B. Netherly with highest honors, Ashley N. Newton with highest honors, Rebecca J. Norton with highest honors, Shanna D. Olds with high honors, Paul E. Orr with highest honors, Misty M. Osborne with high honors, Audrey E. Osment with honors, Emily O. Osment with honors, Kent A. Pankratz with honors, Allison Page with honors, Alexander W. Parham with highest honors, Brett A. Parham with highest honors, Brandon H. Pate with highest honors, Punam Patel with honors, Kelia W. Wheel with highest honors, Daniel J. Peck with honors, Ronald C. Peckham with highest honors, Suzanne M. Peckham with highest honors, William T. Price with highest honors, Ross A. Ratafskoven with honors, Angela D. Reddick with highest honors, Sarah E. Redding with highest honors, Amy L. Roberts with high honors, Michael P. Schaeffer with high honors, Jamie L. Schult with honors, Jeremy S. Sexton with honors, Caitlin E. Simpson with highest honors, Kayla B. Simpson with high honors, Nikki D. Smith with high honors, Shesbie M. Smith with high honors, Gloria M. Soder with honors, Heather M. Sowell with highest honors, Rachel G. Stephens with high honors, Sara B. Stewart with high honors, Taylor P. Stover with honors, Emily T. Stottsberry with honors, Stacie D. Swaminathan with honors, Jordan L. Swaim with highest honors, Lauren E. Taylor with honors, Spencer C. Taylor with highest honors, Christine L. Toops with honors, Ashley M. Totty with highest honors, Kyle A. Trowbridge with honors, Jordan K. Unger with highest honors, Marissa M. Tucker with high honors, Kristen L. Tucker with honors, Tyler R. Turner with honors, Carly R. Unger with honors, Brandi A. Long with honors, Chelsea L. Lykins with highest honors, Chadwick Lyons with highest honors, Matthew A. Maitland with highest honors, Joshua D. Manning with highest honors, Toney D. Martin with highest honors, Bradley D. Mathis with highest honors, Steve R. McAlister with high honors, Kristin D. McCloud with high honors, Jeffrey D. McDaniel with honors, Katherine A. McKeel with honors, Jon W. Meacham with high honors, James W. Melton with honors, Jessica E. Miles with honors, Eric J. Miller with high honors, Kevin L. Milka with highest honors, Winston R. Minchew with honors, Robert H. Mitchell with highest honors, Sara A. Mitchell with high honors, Harrison F. Moore with high honors, Nicholas H. Moore with high honors, Kayla K. Nett with high honors, Ezra F. Nance with high honors, Adam P. Nelson with honors, Marcy B. Netherly with highest honors, Ashley N. Newton with highest honors, Rebecca J. Norton with highest honors, Shanna D. Olds with high honors, Paul E. Orr with highest honors, Misty M. Osborne with high honors, Audrey E. Osment with honors, Emily O. Osment with honors, Kend A. Pankratz with honors, Allison Page with honors, Alexander W. Parham with highest honors, Brett A. Parham with highest honors, Brandon H. Pate with highest honors, Punam Patel with honors, Kelia W. Wheel with highest honors, Daniel J. Peck with honors, Ronald C. Peckham with highest honors, Suzanne M. Peckham with highest honors, William T. Price with highest honors, Ross A. Ratafskoven with honors, Angela D. Reddick with highest honors, Sarah E. Redding with highest honors, Amy L. Roberts with high honors, Michael P. Schaeffer with high honors, Jamie L. Schult with honors, Jeremy S. Sexton with honors, Caitlin E. Simpson with highest honors, Kayla B. Simpson with high honors, Nikki D. Smith with high honors, Shesbie M. Smith with high honors, Gloria M. Soder with honors, Heather M. Sowell with highest honors, Rachel G. Stephens with high honors, Sara B. Stewart with high honors, Taylor P. Stover with honors, Emily T. Stottsberry with honors, Stacie D. Swaminathan with honors, Jordan L. Swaim with highest honors, Lauren E. Taylor with honors, Spencer C. Taylor with highest honors, Christine L. Toops with honors, Ashley M. Totty with highest honors, Kyle A. Trowbridge with honors, Jordan K. Unger with highest honors, Marissa M. Tucker with high honors, Kristen L. Tucker with honors, Tyler R. Turner with honors, Carly R. Unger with honors, Brandi A. Long with honors, Chelsea L. Lykins with highest honors, Chadwick Lyons with highest honors, Matthew A. Maitland with highest honors, Joshua D. Manning with highest honors, Toney D. Martin with highest honors, Bradley D. Mathis with highest honors, Steve R. McAlister with high honors, Kristin D. McCloud with high honors, Jeffrey D. McDaniel with honors, Katherine A. McKeel with honors, Jon W. Meacham with high honors, James W. Melton with honors, Jessica E. Miles with honors, Eric J. Miller with high honors, Kevin L. Milka with highest honors, Winston R. Minchew with honors, Robert H. Mitchell with highest honors, Sara A. Mitchell with high honors, Harrison F. Moore with high honors, Nicholas H. Moore with high honors, Kayla K. Nett with high honors, Ezra F. Nance with high honors, Adam P. Nelson with honors, Marcy B. Netherly with highest honors, Ashley N. Newton with highest honors, Rebecca J. Norton with highest honors, Shanna D. Olds with high honors, Paul E. 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Grant funds UT Martin program for adults seeking second career in teaching

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a $500,000 Transition to Teaching award from the Tennessee Department of Education to attract college graduates into the teaching profession with an accelerated path to licensure. Applicants are currently being sought for the summer program from designated districts throughout the state.

The program recruits participants who already have a bachelor’s degree in a field outside of education, but who seek a teaching license in mathematics, science, special education, foreign language, or English language learner (ELL). It provides 15 hours of instruction in an online format.

“My mentor and the Transition to Teaching program have helped me develop as a teacher. I was amazed at all of the assistance that I received from T2T,” said Samantha Mitchell, who participated in the program in Memphis City Schools.

Once accepted into the program, participants serve as teacher of record in a participating school and receive full salary. Because participants are hired on a transitional license to work in an identified high-needs public school, they are assigned a mentor to work with, and they also receive additional professional development. Participants receive $5,000 in tuition to apply towards the cost of five graduate courses.

The program requires that participants teach in an identified high-needs Tennessee public school for three years, maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA, achieve a satisfactory score on the appropriate PRAXIS test, work with their assigned mentor and complete professional development on effective classroom management. Participants who do not complete their commitments are obligated to repay the tuition.

This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Education. For more information, contact Hollianne Carver, program coordinator, at 731-881-7686 or hcarver@utm.edu or visit www.TN2T.com.

UT Martin offers Castle Professional Certification, Licensing Exams

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

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

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

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

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Institute of Civic Engagement is sponsoring several events in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Events will begin at noon, January 20, with an “I Have a Dream” speech re-enactment at the University Center Plaza. At 6:30 p.m., there will be a memorial service at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Following the service will be a march at 7:30 p.m., which will begin at the church and continue until participants reach Watkins Auditorium, in Boling University Center on campus. The Institute for Civic Engagement will close the evening at 8 p.m., with the film “Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk” in Watkins Auditorium. The events are free and open to the public.

Visit www.mlkday.gov for more information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, January 18, and to find volunteer opportunities in your area.

For more information, contact the Institute for Civic Engagement at 731-881-7524.

UTM Honor Band and Percussion Symposium January 21-23

The 31st annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band and Percussion Symposium will be held January 21-23. More than 200 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend this event. All rehearsals will be held on campus at the Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building. Concerts will be held on January 23 in the Union City Civic Auditorium.
UT Martin recognizes local students named to Dean's List

From STAFF REPORTS

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2009 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for dean's list recognition at UT Martin, a student must have taken at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and have 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. Below is a list of local honorees:

• Adamsville
  Sara M. Shelton, Highest Honors
  Tyler R. Alexander, High Honors
  Crystal M. Austin, Highest Honors
  Joshua A. Boswell, Highest Honors
  Jennifer P. Burks, High Honors
  Lauren E. Finley, Honors
  Blake J. Gibbs, Highest Honors
  Julie S. Gibbs, Highest Honors
  Melissa T. Hester, Highest Honors
  Ashley R. Humphrey, Honors
  Shayna L. Johnson, Highest Honors
  Jessie L. Litaker, Highest Honors
  Amber M. Looney, Highest Honors
  Jonathan K. McDaniel, High Honors
  Kendra A. Patterson, High Honors
  Nathan C. Reagan, Highest Honors
  Ronnica D. Ricketts, Honors
  Elisabeth J. Thompson, Highest Honors
  Autumn M. Waller, Highest Honors
  Cody M. Williams, Honors
  • Bethel Springs
  Tommie J. Burleson, Honors
  Ashton L. Forsythe, Highest Honors
  Jessica L. Goodrum, Highest Honors
  Randal H. Graves, Highest Honors
  Christopher C. Murray, Honors
  Lance L. Narowetz, High Honors
  Tiffany M. Russell, Highest Honors
  Bradley C. Skelton, Honors
  Sherry A. Taylor, High Honors
  Holly R. Vetter, High Honors
  Bryson C. Wilbanks, Highest Honors
  Finger
  Shannon D. Johnson, High Honors
  • Guys
  Lauralee B. Brown, Honors
  • Micheie
  Cody A. Butler, Highest Honors
  Brian J. Fullwood, Highest Honors
  Leigh R. Glenn, Highest Honors
  Adam Z. Jones, Highest Honors
  Sherra L. McKinney, High Honors
  Audrey D. Reed, High Honors
  Braeuna S. Surratt, High Honors
  • Milledgeville
  Courtney A. Weatherford, High Honors
  • Rame
  Brandon K. Hamm, Highest Honors
  Anita C. Nichols, Highest Honors
  Angela M. Nixon, Highest Honors
  Robert B. Reeder, High Honors
  James T. Smith, Honors
  • Selmer
  Kevin C. Binger, High Honors
  Jacqueline E. Boyd, Honors
  Maria C. Brooks, Honors
  Justin M. Broke, Highest Honors
  David M. Duncan, Highest Honors
  Lacy J. Elam, Highest Honors
  Ashley L. Ervin, Highest Honors
  April J. Essary, Highest Honors
  Megan R. Evans, Highest Honors
  Serena J. Evans, High Honors
  Edward M. Finch, Highest Honors
  Callie A. Forman, Highest Honors
  Alisas J. Gann, Highest Honors
  Marquetta L. Gant, Honors
  Dustin M. Gibbs, Honors
  Amy N. Goodman, Highest Honors
  Allison O. Goodrum, High Honors
  Tiffany B. Gray, High Honors
  Leilani K. Hansen, Highest Honors
  Selina M. Hill, Highest Honors
  Charlie R. Horton, High Honors
  Jeremy G. Hurst, High Honors
  Elizabeth N. Johnson, High Honors
  Alice M. Jones, High Honors
  Taylor K. Jones, High Honors
  Matthew T. Kennedy, Highest Honors
  Christina N. Kilburn, High Honors
  Corrie N. Linton, High Honors
  Sammie R. Linton, Honors
  Brandy L. McClain, High Honors
  Katie J. McClain, Highest Honors
  Elizabeth A. McLean, High Honors
  Billy A. Patterson, High-Honors
  John B. Pickle, High Honors
  Cierra A. Rhodes, Highest Honors
  Samantha G. Rowland, Highest Honors
  Sara R. Rowland, High Honors
  Nicole M. Steppa, High Honors
  Sandra K. Thompson, High Honors
  Daniel S. Vargason, Highest Honors
  Amanda J. Whitaker, Highest Honors
  Brittany J. Whitten, High Honors
  Toni L. Whitten, Honors
  Daniel L. Wolford, High Honors
  • Stantonville
  Aaron J. Baker, High Honors
  Brent R. Drobina, Highest Honors
  Gerry L. Hamm, Highest Honors
  Justin L. Jones, High Honors
  Aaron L. Killingsworth, Highest Honors
  Jennifer L. Taylor, High Honors
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton: Chasity Renee Fields, Tanner Allen Hensley, Rebecca Forrest Taylor, Deidre Rochelle Jackson, Ashley Ann Barber Turner, and Christopher Paul Vaughn;
- Bradford: Michael Drew Gibson;
- Dyer: Kimberly Joe Thompson;
- Humboldt: Tamika Sherri Donaldson, Jeremy Hunter Patterson, and Jeb Hunter Williams;
- Medina: Jackie L. Bettie and Caroline Elise Harber;
- Milan: Tyler Bo Bodiford, Kristan Star Burnett, James Matthew Canada, Patricia Heidi Davis, Jacob Graves Flippin, Charles Matthew Jetton, Timothy Denton Meece, Ashley Michelle Niven, and Drury Clay Sanders.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyer: Benjamin Rudy;
- Humboldt: Beth Bunton;
- Medina: Jennifer Cherry, David Mallard, and Wayne Sheehan;
- Milan: Cheryl Lambert, Ford Little, Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.

Child Advocate of the Year Award

Diana Luther, program director for the Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin and state trainer for other Healthy Start Programs located across Tennessee, recently received the Child Advocate of the Year Award. It was presented for her outstanding leadership and guidance for the advancement of early childhood education across Northwest Tennessee and the state. Pictured, left to right, are Jennifer Heart, Northwest Council on Children and Youth president; Luther; and Dana Cobb, Northwest Tennessee Council on Children and Youth regional coordinator.
UTM high school art exhibition set Jan. 19-22

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor the eighth annual High School Art Exhibition, January 19-22, in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

More than 100 creative young artists, representing high schools from all over northwest Tennessee, will display art that is the "latest in what is greatest" presented for the UT Martin campus and community. High school student artwork will be juried by the visual and theatre arts faculty with Best of Show and first, second, and third place awards presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced on January 22, during the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts sixth annual College Art Day celebration.

Students from the following schools are among participants:

- Waverly Central High School
- Gibson County High School
- Obion Central County High School
- Dyersburg High School
- Humboldt High School
- Union City High School
- and University School of Jackson.

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

For more information, contact Doug Cook at 731-881-7400 or dcook@utm.edu.

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PIKES DONATE TO READING RAILROAD – The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin recently donated $5,000 to the Weakley County Reading Railroad. The Pikes raise money each year for the local organization during its "Pike Fights." On Hand presenting and accepting the donation were (from left, front) Reading Railroad board members Sue Lasky and Roberta Peacock; Pi Kappa Alpha President Matt Crick; Reading Railroad board members Lynette Wagster, Sharye Hendrix and Michelle Siler; (second row, from left) Will East, Logan Taylor, Alex Campbell, Micheal Goodrum, Matt Wierman, Matt Chappell and Hunter Vincent; (third row, from left) Patrick Cayson, Chris Burress, John Awad and Roe Hughes, (fourth row, from left) Daniel Istavanko, Drew Vernon, Andrew Oseman, John Hancock and Reading Railroad Board President Johnny Vincent.
UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall Semester 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 2010 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

Ryan P. Dinwiddie, Brownsville, TN 38012, Highest Honors
Kyle I. Eubanks, Brownsville, TN 38012, High Honors
Anna C. Evans, Brownsville, TN 38012, Honors
Jennifer L. Fergie, Brownsville, TN 38012, Honors
Maggie M. Gardner, Brownsville, TN 38012, High Honors
Christian K. Hayes, Brownsville, TN 38012, Honors
Shaquana N. Leonard, Brownsville, TN 38012, High Honors
Jaclyn D. Pillow, Brownsville, TN 38012, High Honors
Amanda A. Trotter, Brownsville, TN 38012, Highest Honors
Dana M. Hendrix, Stanton, TN 38069, Honors
Kenneth W. Motley, Stanton, TN 38069, Honors
Mitchell E. Poke, Stanton, TN 38069, Honors

'A QUIET DIGNITY: PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE RURAL SOUTH 1970-2006'
A photo exhibit by Earl Warren Jr. Reception will be 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 26 on the second floor of Paul Meek Library at University of Tennessee Martin. Exhibit runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call 881-7409.

UTM offers help for future teachers

Those people considering becoming a public school teacher could get a little help from the University of Tennessee Martin.

The university has received a $500,000 state grant to help those people with bachelor degrees outside the field of education get a state license in a needed area of teaching, said Hollianne Carver, program coordinator.

The "Transition to Teaching" program pays $5,000 to those qualified people who go back to school to get a state teaching license in the fields of mathematics, science, special education, foreign language or English language learners.

Qualified candidates must agree to work in these fields and also in schools designated by the state as "area of need" regions, Carver said, where finding teachers is especially difficult.

Those accepted to the program will receive 15 hours of instruction and a teaching mentor. Candidates must find their own teaching positions in one of the schools within the designated state regions. They must work at least three years after receiving their certificate or they are required to repay $5,000, Carver said.

Once accepted into the program, candidates are teachers of record for their class and receive pay and benefits. All the course work is online. To obtain the certificate, candidates must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA, achieve a satisfactory score on the state licensing test and work with their assigned mentor to complete professional development on effective classroom management. Applications for the program need to be submitted by April 15.

Starting pay for teachers varies by county throughout the state.

For more information, call Carver at (731) 881-7686, e-mail hcarver@utm.edu or visit www.TN2T.com.
Educator is science teacher of year

By STANLEY DUNLAP
sdunlap@jacksonsun.com

A roundtable of experts discussed the economy and ways to create long-term stability Thursday at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson.

The panel took part in the Rural Jobs and Economic Growth Roundtable, co-hosted by USDA’s Rural Development and the Farm Service Agency.

The roundtable included bankers, government officials and economic development leaders, among others. They bounced around ideas on how to better tie education, labor and economic development together.

West Tennessee county mayors discussed the job losses their residents have faced as double-digit unemployment rates continue to plague the region. The housing market, auto retailers and suppliers of those industries have been among the hardest hit, they said.

Hardeman County Mayor Willie Spencer said a business that had been building a $30 million expansion ended up laying off people because of the economic downturn.

“We’re pretty much stable (now) and hoping to see not any additional layoffs,” he said.

Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris said the demand for jobs has been most steady in the health care industry.

In Madison County, some job losses have been supplemented, such as the shutdown of Whirlpool and the subsequent purchase of its facility by Carlisle Tire and Wheel, said Mark Chandler, manager of the Tennessee Career Center at Jackson.

A positive sign is the push for green technology, he said. "I know some of our technical and community colleges are doing courses geared toward green jobs," Chandler said.

Another area that’s bright for the future is medical equipment supply, said Andrea Temple, economic development specialist with the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service.

"I see West Tennessee moving more toward service-sector jobs to take care of the baby boomer market," Temple said.

Jim Blankenship, assistant director of the West Tennessee Industrial Association, said he is cautiously optimistic about the prospects of business sectors throughout the area.

"Factories-based jobs are seeing a slowdown, but there is some turnaround."

"I think what we’ve seen is (The West Tennessee Retail Alliance) report from this past holiday season was that sales were a little higher than expected," Blankenship said.

Skilled trade jobs such as welding and plumbing are likely to see more opportunities to expand to West Tennessee, said James Neely, commissioner with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Educators said high enrollment figures lead to concerns with funding and having enough space for students.

University of Tennessee Martin students are finding jobs for the most part, but areas such as nursing and engineering have enrolled the maximum number of students the school can serve now, said Chancellor Tom Rakes.

A pilot program in a few Tennessee cities is allowing people to receive training in technology-based skills, said Paul Van Hoesen, director and CEO of cTechnology, a nonprofit organization based in Brentwood. "We’ve got a mindset now in this region where people are open to what it takes on a number of levels," Van Hoesen said.

Training is being offered ranging from more simple computer job tasks, to working in a virtual call center to computer programming. A key is getting employers to move to Tennessee for the new workforce, Van Hoesen said.

— Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668
FROM THE NEXUS GROUP

The Nexus Group, the strategic data, network and consulting services provider headquartered in Nashville, today announced Steven Brugman has been appointed president and CEO.

Brugman joined Nexus in October as the company's chief operating officer. He previously served 14 years with Oracle Corporation, during which time he rose to vice president and general manager for strategic-accounts consulting.

In addition, Robert England has been appointed Nexus' chief financial officer. England is a Nexus co-owner and board member, as well as a veteran of HCA executive ranks.

Brugman said in a release issued by Nexus today, "Alongside our customers, Nexus is moving forward in an environment that demands a sharp sense of purpose and full dedication to excellence. We recognize this same environment affords the Nashville business community every reason to celebrate new and growing Nashville ventures, strengthened by Nashville's strong presence in healthcare, finance, logistics and digital entertainment."

Brugman added, "Our customers, like forward-looking businesses nationwide, are stepping-up their efforts to protect and leverage business knowledge and the data, connectivity and applications that are essential to business operations and relationships. As America returns to work, this translates into greater emphasis on contributing to the bottom line, and that's a priority we know, very well."

Brugman, 43, served in a variety of roles with Oracle, 1995-2009, and earlier served as a divisional marketing representative and financial analyst with John Deere Company. He earned his MBA at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, in 1995; and, earned his bachelor's in business at Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Neb., in 1989.

England, 51, served as an HCA executive for 26 years. Among his HCA positions were CFO of HCA Physician Services, and CEO of the Psychiatric Hospital at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Also during his HCA career, England held senior roles in hospital operations, physician recruitment and compensation and preferred-provider networks. In addition to his continuing entrepreneurial interests in healthcare, real estate and insurance services, England has been a co-owner of Nexus since 1997. He holds an active CPA and earned his bachelor's in accounting at the University of Tennessee at Martin, in 1981.

In 2009, Nexus established new headquarters and consolidated its services in a 19,000-square-foot secure data center in Davidson County.

Prior to that move, Nexus maintained its headquarters and its Nashville Regional Exchange Point (NREP) facility in separate quarters on Nashville's West End Avenue. Nexus maintains additional data-center capacity in both Memphis and in the Knoxville area.

Privately held Nexus Group provides data-center and network services, as well as the Internet connectivity that has been among the company's core offerings since the company's founding in 1995 by Ken Russell and former CEO Jerry Dunlap.

Dunlap remains a Nexus owner, and Russell remains an owner and a vice president within Nexus operations.

Russell also maintains his ownership and development interest in closely allied Nashville-based Zoe Creative Services, a full-serve high-definition video-production, post-production and animation-services provider.
**Nexus Group has new CEO, CFO**

*Nashville Business Journal* - by *April Wortham*, Staff Writer

Nashville-based technology firm **The Nexus Group** has appointed a former **Oracle Corp.** executive as president and CEO.

Steven Brugman, 43, served as Oracle's vice president for strategic-accounts consulting before joining Nexus in October as chief operating officer. He takes over for longtime CEO and Nexus co-founder Jerry Dunlap, who remains a Nexus owner, the company said in a news release.

Concurrent with Brugman’s appointment, Nexus also named board member and co-owner Robert England to the newly created position of chief financial officer.

England, 51, served as an executive at Nashville-based hospital giant **HCA Inc.** for 26 years, where he held such roles as CFO of physician services. He is also a former CEO of **Vanderbilt University Medical Center**'s psychiatric hospital.

The appointments, which took effect Jan. 8, are a sign of Nexus' "big plans" going forward, Brugman told the *Nashville Business Journal*.

"Given Robert’s background and my own, we really feel that we can grow this company pretty significantly," he said. "We’re positioned very well, and we’ve spent a good bit of time working on a strategic plan. Now, with the board’s direction, we feel like we’re poised to executing on some of these plans."

Founded in 1995 as ISDN-Net, Nexus is the state’s oldest and largest independent Internet service provider.

The privately held company currently serves almost 10,000 businesses, institutions and residences across Tennessee and has revenues of almost $6 million per year.

In 2009, Nexus established a new headquarters and consolidated its services in a 19,000-square-foot secure data center in Davidson County. Nexus maintains additional data center capacity in Memphis and Knoxville.
'Every Day is Game Day for Working Women' is Feb. 12

conference for Working Women slated for Feb. 12

MARTIN - 'Every Day is Game Day for Working Women' is the theme for the 12th annual Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Feb. 12, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boiling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charity Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30 -9 a.m.

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

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

The opening speaker will be Carla Peaks, the director of education for West Tennessee Healthcare in Jackson. Her speech, "Being in the Huddle: Office Teamwork," is set for 9:15-10 a.m. From 10:15-11 a.m., there will be a panel discussion titled "Changing Your Game Strategy." The panel moderator, Judy Renshaw, is Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce senior vice president and a graduate of the 1992 WestStar class. Panel members include the Rev. Robin Kimbrough, member of the Legal Counsel for Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Mary Beard, co-founder of Wilson Living Magazine and business consultant; Tracy Simmons, director of Carl Perkins Exchange Center of Gibson County; and Lori Hendon, director of the Carl Perkins Exchange Center of Weakley County.

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

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

The speakers and their topics after lunch include from 1-1:45 p.m., "Keeping Your Playing Field Green," by Carol Reese, ornamental horticulture specialist for UT Extension Service. From 1:45-2:15 p.m., Leah Gray, director of human resources from Jackson State Community College and graduate of WestStar 2009, will present her speech titled, "Locker Room Blues: Declutter and Organize Your Life."

The deadline to register is Feb. 5. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to (731) 881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utm.edu. If registering via email, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants. The fee is $35 per person/$60 for two and includescontinental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator at (731) 881-7298.

UT Martin's 'trayless' dining to cut costs, help environment

 Posted: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 11:23 am

The Messenger 01.19.10

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

The plan, which went into effect today when students returned for spring semester, was endorsed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Al Hooten. New dish-cleaning equipment was installed during the holiday break. The move also is expected to curb food waste for additional overall savings.

"The existing dish machine had reached the end of its useful life," Hooten said. "Replacement of the aged equipment with current technology provided UT Martin the opportunity to initiate a change that not only offered us the ability to capture considerable operational savings but also added to our campus initiative to conserve resources.

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

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

"Prior to going to the trayless concept, students would take a tray and visit many of the different menu offerings in the cafeteria," said Charles Thomas, manager of Sodexo dining services at UT Martin. He noted that as students sat down to enjoy the meal, by the time they got to the second offering, either they were full or the lunch period had ended.

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

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

FAFSA sessions planned

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor three sessions on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Sessions are set for 6-8 p.m. They will be held Tuesday at McNairy Central High School in Selmer; Jan. 27 at the UT Martin Ripley Center; and Feb. 4 at the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, Martin.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance at (731) 881-7040.

Clarissa Hayes of Union City is among the University of Tennessee at Martin students currently profiled on the home page of the university’s Web site, www.utm.edu.

She is the daughter of Mark and Kristie Hayes of Union City.

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Legins named partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold

Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs is constantly growing and improving the way it does business. To continue providing the highest level of customer service, the firm is pleased to announce that Tommy Legins has been named partner.

"Tommy has been an asset to Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs since he joined the firm in 2007," said Alfred H. Creswell, CPA, chief managing officer for Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC.

"He has an excellent reputation in the community and has worked hard to develop his skills as an accountant and leader. We are proud to welcome him as a partner and look forward to a bright future together," Legins has been with ATA since 2007 and has been in public accounting since 1990. His practice will focus on tax, QuickBooks consulting and small businesses.

He earned his BSBA in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin. In addition to being a Certified Public Accountant, Legins has earned the Certified Valuation Analyst accreditation from NACVA. He is a member of the TSCPA and AICPA.

As an active member of the community, Legins is the past president of the Martin Rotary Club, the treasurer for the Housing Corporation for the Tennessee Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the treasurer and board member for the Martin Business Association and an advisory board member for the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Martin where he serves on the finance committee. He and his wife, Camille, have a son, Spencer.

"During my career with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, I have experienced a company that works hard for its clients," said Legins.

"The focus on customer service and professional excellence is what makes ATA such a great company. I am honored to be named partner. I am especially glad to have this opportunity in my hometown."

Founded in 1946, ATA offers a comprehensive array of tax, audit, accounting, consulting and wealth management services and is a member of the BDO Seidman Alliance.

It has 16 partners and 135 employees in its eleven offices. Firm offices are located in Dyersburg, Fulton (Ky.), Henderson, Jackson, Martin, McKenzie, Milan, Murray (Ky.), Paris, Trenton and Union City.

January 19, 2010

'Every Day is Game Day for Working Women' is Feb. 12

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The following article was published in the January edition of the Campus Scene, the official publication for Alumni of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

By Rita Mitchell, UT Martin Campus Scene

Willie and Waylon may have cautioned, 'Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys', but for Milan's Stephen Pemberton, the life of a cowboy couldn't have been better.

Stephen (UTM '96) has not only made a career of riding, roping and entertaining, he's recently parlayed his talent into production manager at the original Dixie Stampede, a modern-day wildwest show. It is owned by Dolly Parton and located just outside her theme park, Dollywood, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

"When I was about 10, I started performing Roman riding, which is standing on two horses, and trick roping, and that's pretty much been my career path all along. That's how I paid my way through college," he said. "When I came to work for the Dixie Stampede in '96, that's what I was doing. I was hired as a performer."

Stephen, a 1987 graduate of Milan High School, is the son of Jackie and Suzy Pemberton of Milan.

Stephen continued performing until about a year and a half ago when he was named manager. "If you come to Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge, I'm responsible for anything you see entertainment-wise from the time you walk into the building until you leave...all the performers, costuming, the horses, lights, it's all on my head."

Stephen seems to be a good fit for Dixie Stampede, he said, and would like to advance with the company. "I'm getting to do everything I'm trained to do." As production manager, he said the biggest challenge is dealing with performers and keeping them happy. That includes 60+ people and 45 horses. "Every day, everybody (people and horses) comes in in a different mood."

FAMILY AFFAIR - Stephen and Loretta Pemberton and their two sons, Cy, left, and Seth, enjoy performing trick riding stunts as a family. Stephen, a 1987 MHS grad, is the executive producer of the Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge.
On a typical day, he arrives at work and prepares a show board lining up the day’s acts. “If you come to a show, what you watch is like a puzzle.” He said performers’ jobs and acts differ day to day based on the available cast. “On any given day, we try to put the best show together. We do a little over 600 shows a year.”

Through the years, he has met a host of well-known entertainers, not the least of whom is Parton. “I’ve been around her when there’s nobody around, when she’s killing time. You don’t have to talk to her. She’ll just start talking to you.”

Performing was always his strong suit, but now he only steps under the lights at Dixie Stampede if he’s needed. “Every once in a while, if we’re short-handed, I’ll jump in an act or two. I just turned 40, and it seems to get a little harder on my body. I still trick rope a lot, that’s about it.”

This from a man who has a true showman’s spirit. In his early years when he perfected some death-defying acts, he knew there was going to be entertainment value no matter how it turned out. Stephen said he would try to polish his act as much as possible to eliminate hazards, because when people paid to see him perform, they wanted to see a good show. “There was one trick I used to do where, as the horse jumped over a jump, I did a complete flip and landed back up in the saddle on it. There was probably a 75 percent rate of return on that. So that was going to be a big wreck. I tried to put my level of tricks up where if I did have a wreck or a mishap, it was still going to be a good show either way.”

Early on, Stephen also jumped a car with a team of horses as part of his act. “I’d get thrown off or under them and (Cont. on pg. 3)

Ride ‘em cowboy... (cont. from page 1)

dragged. When I was in my 20s, I took a pretty rough toll on my body just trying things and doing different tricks. I’ve been run over and trampled,” he said. “I didn’t really have any traumatic injuries. I had a couple of knee surgeries, just little things like that. I was pretty blessed over the years.”

Stephen also thought he was blessed when he met a cowgirl, Loretta, a trick rider, who was performing at a Boston rodeo in the early 1990s. Loretta comes from a rodeo family in rural New York. Loretta still performs at Dixie Stampede. “We’d been in the rodeo business, so there was really nothing else that I would rather have done,” she said. “I don’t know how long I’ll be able to trick ride. It really depends on my body and, I guess, who wants to see an old lady hanging off the side of a horse?”

The couple married in 1996. When he and Loretta performed in the early years, they traveled somewhere every week. They now have two cowboys of their own, Cy, 12, and Seth, 9, who seems to have inherited their parents’ talent. Stephen said Cy is naturally talented. “In two or three aspects of crafts that he does, the roping, the guns and whips, he can pick it up and be very entertaining, and the crowd really loves him.”

But he is not interested in practicing, Stephen said. Seth, on the other hand, is really into it all the time. You’ll catch him around the house just spinning a rope or out in the yard playing with his whip.”

Stephen still contracts for enough shows outside of the Dixie Stampede so the family can travel and perform together.

“It’s kind of like our little vacation, but at the same time, we’re getting to perform and do what the kids enjoy. Now, we might do it six to 10 times a year.”

Stephen had already logged many miles performing by the time he graduated from Milan. He immediately enrolled at UT Martin, but then took what he calls a "hiatus" to continue to perform. He returned to Martin in 1993 and graduated in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in natural resources management.

“I was working shows at the same time I was going to school (college) and really did not have time to do anything,” he said. “A lot of my friends were on the rodeo team. With the rodeo team, it’s all competition in events, and they’re competing with each other. With what I do, people hire me on a contract to come perform at their show. I was not competing against anyone. I was the entertainment, more like a circus act, in between the events.”

Stephen credits a number of his professors for being accommodating with his schedule. “I would have to miss a lot of Friday classes because a typical rodeo would be a Friday night and Saturday night and sometimes Sunday afternoon.”

Even though he is not working in his field, having a degree has been important to him. “I think a lot of employers look at that as the person at least took the initiative to take the time to get the degree, that they had to discipline themselves to do that.”

Maybe ‘mamas’ should reconsider.
UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall Semester Dean’s List

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

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

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

ATWOOD: Jeremy M. Caldwell, Honors; Jennifer Gibson, High Honors; James R. Halford, Honors; Melanie C. Hickerson, High Honors; Jay A. Lusk, High Honors; Tiffany L. Simmons, Honors.

BRUCETON: Bethany L. Allen, Highest Honors; Alan J. Dupree, Highest Honors; Whitney N. Higdon, High Honors; Mason R. Pinson, Honors; Samantha N. Stepp, Honors.

CEDAR GROVE: Hillary M. Gause, Honors; Daniel R. Istvanko, Highest Honors.

CLARKSVILLE: Amanda A. Trebilcock, High Honors.

HOLLOW ROCK: Lindsey M. Anderson, High Honors; Patrick A. Bishop, Honors; Jennifer K. Brooks, Highest Honors; Tiffany L. Cathey, Highest Honors; Debbie R. Partain, High Honors; Allison J. Simmons, Honors; Amanda L. Sneed, High Honors; Emily A. Ulmerich, Honors.

HUNTINGDON: Diana L. Aldayturriaga; High Honors; Ashley E. Anderson, High Honors; Dana M. Anderson, Highest Honors; John C. Anderson, Honors; Russell T. Anderson, High Honors; Kyle A. Bond, High Honors; Jessica L. Carlton, Honors; Courtney P. Cockrell, Honors; Derek A. Collins, Honors; Whitney L. DePriest, Highest Honors; Morgan L. Fields, High Honors; Troy D. Garrison, Highest Honors; Valerie C. Hatch, Honors; Haly N. Haynes, High Honors; Courtney M. Henson, Honors; Gerry R. Hilliard, High Honors; Derek R. Kelley, High Honors; Julie M. Kelley, High Honors; Colin L. Laman, Highest Honors; Braden A. Maddox, Honors; Jeremy R. McQueen, Honors; Victoria B. McQueen, High Honors; Katie E. O’Malley, Highest Honors; William C. Peery, Honors; Jessica L. Pritchard, High Honors; Cody C. Rainey, Highest Honors; Jennifer D. Ray, Highest Honors; Kristina M. Reisinger, High Honors; Katelyn A. Roberts, Honors; Lea E. Stokes, Honors; Brittney N. Sutton, High Honors; Jacob R. Todd, High Honors; Dustin A. Tucker, Highest Honors.

LAVINIA: Thomas B. Coleman, Honors.

MCKENZIE: Pamela M. Bell, Highest Honors; Derek J. Carr, Honors; Kellie L. Chalk, Honors; Rachel L. Chandler, Highest Honors; Samantha G. Doster, Highest Honors; Ryan A. French, Highest Honors; Elaine C. Haw, Highest Honors; Mason A. Hinton, Honors; Clinton D. Hoard, Highest Honors; Kristin N. Hughes, High Honors; Chelsea M. Mathenla, Highest Honors; Almee N. Noles, High Honors; Lauren E. Perritt, Highest Honors; Justin J. PETERING, Highest Honors; Sierra R. Reeves, Highest Honors; Brooke A. Ridley, High Honors; Amanda L. Rogers, High Honors; Travis R. Russell, Highest Honors; Kelsey C. Schweitzer, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Scott, Highest Honors; Vickie Sinis, Honors; Eryn G. Snead, Highest Honors; Jillian L. Taylor, Honors; Joe W. Walker, Honors; Andrew C. Webb, Honors; Heather L. Weirs, Honors.

MCLEMORESVILLE: Anna K. Kelly, Highest Honors.

TREZEVANT: Tessa A. Burnine, High Honors.

WESTPORT: Christine M. Craftchick, Honors; Johnathan D. Jackson, High Honors; Cody A. Jacobs, Highest Honors.

YUMA: Angela P. Bledsoe, Honors; Amanda C. Steele, Highest Honors.

Students named to Dean’s List

Several Houston County students are being named on the dean’s list at the University of Tennessee-Martin. Those receiving the honor include Laken M. Black with Highest Honors, Chelsea B. Cary with Highest Honors, Ashlyn J. Fussell with Highest Honors, Kayla L. Meyer with Honors, Jessica L. Pake with High Honors, Katie L. Selph with Honors, Daniel E. Pergo with High Honors, Crystal Selph with Highest Honors, Kayla L. Parker with Honors.

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Houston Co. student graduates from UT

Schantzy Jakon Spears, a Houston County resident, was 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 in December.
Technology, “Green Jobs” Spotlighted at USDA Jobs Roundtable in Tennessee

With unemployment rates above ten percent across the region, families and businesses in West Tennessee are especially hard hit by the economic downturn. Last Thursday, business and other community leaders met federal, state and local economic development officials at the University of Tennessee Extension Experiment Station in Jackson to discuss what can be done to speed recovery and create long-term economic stability across the state.

Mark Chandler of the Tennessee Career Center in Jackson presented an overview of economic conditions. Of the 13 Local Workforce Investment Areas in Tennessee, the three that cover rural West Tennessee continue to have the highest average unemployment rates, in excess of 13 percent. Though most sectors have been impacted by the downturn, manufacturing, construction and trade, transportation and utilities have all suffered declines of 23 percent or more during the last year. The one bright spot has been educational and health services, which increased by 6.9 percent statewide.

Dr. Jack Laser of Jackson State Community College then presented an overview of business development opportunities for which West Tennessee is geographically or otherwise well positioned to take advantage. The discussion that followed built on his foundation citing the region’s proximity to a large number of major manufacturing plants. Goodyear, Unilever, Carlisle and Proctor and Gamble, and several locally owned food production companies are already expanding or rehiring. State Economic and community Development Assistant Commissioner Rick Meredith made the point that in Tennessee 92 percent of jobs are with small businesses.

With a number of new “green” companies having recently announced expansion in Tennessee, there was lively discussion about where USDA and local leaders can help develop the regional workforce to create a business environment that attracts and nurtures these “jobs of the future.” In addition to the Mega-Site and Solar Farm under development in Haywood County, Paul Van Hoesen of cTechnology.com explained initiatives helping connect rural workers with technology jobs. The company’s first “Digital-Factory,” shared space with the resources needed to support technology workers, just opened in Perry County and has already started connecting workers with skilled jobs across the country.

UT Martin’s Chancellor Tom Rakes also announced the university is launching a new initiative to ensure that every graduate, regardless of major, meets an advanced standard of technological literacy.

The event was co-hosted by USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode and USDA Farm Service Agency State Exec. Director Gene Davidson. The standing room only crowd included State commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development James Neeley, representatives for the state’s congressional delegation, business owners, private and non-profit lenders, farmers, regional economic developers, chamber leaders and nine county and city Mayors. State legislators were unable to attend due to the special session underway in Nashville, but several have asked for a copy of the report to be written summarizing the input from participants.

Input is still being received in writing from attendees and many who were not able to attend. The results will be compiled and made available for everyone interested online next week at www.nrcre.lsva.usda/TN.

To learn more, go to the Rural Development and FSA Job Roundtables Schedule, and the News Release, “USDA to Host Roundtable on Jobs, Economic Growth”

Submitted by: David Glasgow
Communications Director
USDA Rural Development - Tennessee State office
UT Martin’s ‘trayless’ dining to cut costs, help environment

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

The plan, which went into effect today when students returned for spring semester, was endorsed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Al Hooten.

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

"The existing dish machine had reached the end of its useful life," Hooten said. "Replacement of the aged equipment with current technology provided UT Martin the opportunity to initiate a change that not only offered us the ability to capture considerable operational savings but also added to our campus initiative to conserve resources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wendell Alexander Realty signs Alex Bynum to their sales team

Wendell Alexander Realty is pleased to announce their new Affiliate Broker, Alex Bynum. Alex will be providing his professional expertise across Weakley Co. and much of West Tennessee.

Alex is a 22-year-old native of Dresden. He has just recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with an Ag Business degree. "Alex has professional tact and young exuberance, that is why I knew he would be a perfect fit in our office," says Principal Broker, Wendell Alexander.

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

You can also call Alex Bynum to provide his professional expertise day or night at 731-819-6002.
Conference for working women slated February 12

“Every Day is Game Day for Working Women” is the theme for the 12th annual Conference for Working Women, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., February 12, at the University of Tennessee Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30 to 9 a.m.

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

Mary Kate Ridgeway, UT Extension director, UT Extension Service, WestStar class of 2001, will lead the conference. The opening speaker will be Carla Peaks, the director of education for West Tennessee Healthcare in Jackson. Her speech, “Being in the Huddle: Office Teamwork,” is set for 9:15 to 10 a.m. From 10 to 11 a.m., there will be a panel discussion titled “Changing Your Game Strategy.” The panel moderator, Judy Renshaw, is Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce senior vice president and a graduate of the 1992 WestStar class. Panel members include: the Rev. Robin Kimbrough, member of the Legal Counsel for Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Mary Beard, co-founder of Wilson Living Magazine and business consultant; Tracy Simmons, director of Carl Perkins Exchange Center of Gibson County; and Lori Hendon, director of Carl Perkins Exchange Center of Weakley County.

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

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

The speakers and their topics after lunch include from 1 to 1:45 p.m., “Keeping Your Playing Field Green?” by Carol Reese, ornamental horticulture specialist for UT Extension Service. From 1:45 to 2:15 p.m., Leah Gray, director of human resources from Jackson State Community College and graduate of WestStar 2009, will present her speech titled, “Locke Room Blues: Declutter and Organize Your Life.”

The deadline to register is February 5. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utm.edu. If registering via email, include name, business, complete address and phone number. If registering for two people, make sure to include all information on both registrants. The fee is $35 per person/$60 for two and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar.

Area students among UTM degree recipients

Several area 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 from South Fulton receiving undergraduate degrees were: Chasity Nicole Conner, Jaclyn Elizabeth Cook, Brandon M. Culver, Brooke Devone Harris, Anthony Michael Reynolds, Michael Shane Snow, and Laura Allison Williams; and from Fulton: Kenya Tamu Boyer, Nicholas Scott Moon, Heather Michell Pfeuger, Rachel Jean Wynn; Roger Allen Dunn of Hickman received an undergraduate degree.

Those receiving undergraduate degrees from Union City, Tenn. were: Martha Corina Arenivas; Jon Reed Autry; Jeremy J. Bell; Kathy Ann Boddie; Alyssa Ann Brock; William Lucian Burnett; Thomas Everett Elam IV; Bradi Leanne Fuzzell; Joseph Scott Gilliam Jr.; Thomas Edward Gossett II; Kayla John/Anne Harris; Brian David Hawks; Brittany A. Hudson; Thomas G. Jackson; Aury Slaught Kangelos; Jenna Marie Kinsey; Chance Landon Kirk; Ed Laster; Michael Durale Lockridge; Adrienne Nicole Calloum Ogden; Kathryn Temperance Ramsey; Megan Leigh Russell; Brandon Thomas; Menta M. Thompson; Meredith Leigh Thompson; Abbey Catherine Wilkes.

Patsy Potts of South Fulton received a graduate degree, as well as, from Union City, Tenn.: Tasha Bell, James Bennett, Lance Morgan, Bethany Rogers, Amanda Saladin, and Brian Saladin.

Several out of state residents were among students who received degrees from UTM during the recent fall commencement held in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Students from Fulton included: Kenya Tamu Boyer, Nicholas Scott Moon, Heather Michell Pfeuger; Rachel Jean Wynn; and from Hickman: Roger Allen Dunn.

Linda Hutson of Fulton received a graduate degree.

Ford Little, Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.
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Tommy Legins named partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs

Tommy Legins since he joined the firm in 2007," said Alfred H. Creswell, CPA, chief managing officer for Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC. "He has an excellent reputation in the community and has worked hard to develop his skills as an accountant and leader. We are proud to welcome him as partner and look forward to a bright future together."

Legins has been with ATA since 2007 and has been in public accounting since 1990. His practice will focus on tax, QuickBooks consulting and small businesses. He earned his BSBA in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin. In addition to being a Certified Public Accountant, Legins has earned the Certified Valuation Analyst accreditation from NACVA. He is a member of the TSCPA and AICPA.

As an active member of the community, Legins is the past president of the Martin Rotary Club, the treasurer for the Housing Corporation for the Tennessee Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the treasurer and board member for the Martin Business Association and an advisory board member for the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Martin where he serves on the finance committee. He and his wife, Camille, have a son, Spencer.

"During my career with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, I have experienced a company that works hard for its clients," said Legins. "The focus on customer service and professional excellence is what makes ATA such a great company. I am honored to be named partner. I am especially glad to have this opportunity in my hometown."
‘Trayless’ dining saves UTM money

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

The plan, which is effective January 19 when students return for spring semester, was endorsed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration AI Hooten. New dish-cleaning equipment was installed during the holiday break. The move also is expected to curb food waste for additional overall savings.

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

University of Tennessee-Martin announces Fall 2009 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 2009 Dean's Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

The Dean's List includes:

- Anna B. Cox, Fulton, Honors
- Amanda M. Howell, Fulton, High Honors
- Robert E. Lee, Fulton, Honors
- Richard A. McMillin, Fulton, Honors
- Nicholas S. Moon, Fulton, Highest Honors
- Michael E. Pate, Fulton, Honors
- Natalie L. Rushing, Fulton, Highest Honors
- David F. Whitesell, Fulton, High Honors
- Joshua L. Potts, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Christina M. Allen, South Fulton, Honors
- Kimberly L. Batts, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Kelly R. Crawford, South Fulton, Honors
- Jessica K. Curtis, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Tanika L. Dickerson, South Fulton, Honors
- Charles S. Ellegood, South Fulton, TN 38257, Honors
- Andrew P. Greer, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Kyle D. Greer, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Tianda V. Harris, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Margaret A. Hickman, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Kyle A. Jackson, South Fulton, Honors
- Allison T. Jones, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Tammy G. Malray, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Melissa L. McCarthy, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Holly R. McClanahan, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Holden R. McConnell, South Fulton, Honors
- Andrew H. Moore, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Anna M. Seratt, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- William B. Sisson, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Jacqueline D. Tuck, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Cherissa C. Vinson, South Fulton, Honors
- Amanda J. Wall, South Fulton, Highest Honors
- Laura A. Williams, South Fulton, Honors
- Jing Yu, South Fulton, Highest Honors
January 21, 2010

College presidents: Bredesen's plan is good

By TAJUANA CHESHIER
tcheshier@jaccsonsun.com

Area college presidents said Wednesday the focus of Gov. Phil Bredesen's higher education bill is on target for helping more Tennessee students graduate.

Jackson State Community College President Bruce Blanding said 95 percent of what the bill does is positive for public higher education.

"I'm delighted that the governor is focusing on community colleges," Blanding said. "He's recognized the need to standardize throughout the state to make articulation and transfer (between schools) easier."

The higher education bill is part of a special session called by Bredesen. He wants the state to fund public colleges and universities based on graduation rates instead of on enrollment.

The bill also includes measures to spur more dual enrollment, delegate remedial course work to two-year schools and create a statewide transfer program between community colleges and four-year schools.

Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, R-Jackson, said Wednesday night the bill had come out of the education committee and was on its way to the budget subcommittee.

"Once they're done with the bill, it will then come to us on the Finance, Ways and Means Committee," Eldridge said. "The House floor could vote on it Thursday afternoon, but nothing is final yet."

A proposal to change the higher education funding formula will go before the full Senate today and may also be taken up by the full House, according to The Associated Press.

Members of the higher education community said they are keeping a close watch on changes to the bill.

"It's a move in the right direction to increase accountability, increasing graduation rates," said Thomas Rakes, chancellor of the University of Tennessee Martin. "We think the legislature is on the right track."

Rakes said UTM's enrollment has increased 25 percent in the last five to six years and that the university provides programs to help students with their academics and encourage completion.

"You become as supportive and as helpful as you can with improved advising," Rakes said. "We provide tutorials in the writing and math centers. It's readily available for them."

Part of Bredesen's plan involves developing a master plan that increases education attainment at all levels including public universities, community colleges and technology centers.

Don Williams is the director of the Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson. He said the initiatives
have very little impact on the technology centers.

"The governor's plan addresses graduation and completion rates at community colleges and universities," Williams said. "We already have high completion rates. We're exceeding our goals."

In a related issue, officials are discussing how to sustain the Hope Scholarship fund, though it is not part of the governor's higher education proposal.

The fund is supported with lottery money and offers a base $4,000 portable scholarship for students to use at either a public or private four-year Tennessee university, according to the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association Web site.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Richard Rhoda has suggested increasing the community college Hope grant from $2,000 to $3,000 by reducing the freshman and sophomore grant at four-year schools from $4,000 to $3,000.

Lambuth University President Bill Seymour said reduction in Hope Scholarship money would impact private schools.

"That presents an issue for four-year colleges, and I think that could be a negative impact," Seymour said. "It takes away the incentive for students to attend a four-year school."

Seymour said the lottery scholarship has been successful in keeping students in Tennessee and that an equitable distribution of the money should remain.

"But I see many excellent items in the plan, including strengthening community colleges and developing curriculum that makes it easier for students to transfer to four-year universities," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

- Tajuana Cheshier,

425-9643
UT Martin announces county graduates, dean’s list

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced that 18 Henry Countians received degrees and 71 were named on the fall 2009 dean’s list at the school.

During the fall commencement ceremony:
Gabrielle Lorbicki of Como received a graduate degree.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were:
From Buchanan — Kayla Renae Parsons.

From Cottage Grove — Rachel Kay Pasehall and Joshua D. Manning.
From Henry — Emma Darlene Bishop.
Ford Little, a Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.
On the fall dean’s list those who earned a grade-point average of 3.5-4.0 on a 4.0 scale were named with highest honors; 3.5-3.79, with high honors; and 3.2-3.49, with honors.

Named with highest honors are:
From Buchanan — Kayla R. Parsons.
From Cottage Grove — David N. Horton and Cristine L. Manning.
From Henry — Jason S. Conger, Summer D. Gladwin and Samantha J. Perry.
From Mansfield — Rachel N. Martin.
From Puryear — Candace M. Lewis.
From Springville — Holley M. Mason and Lacy L. Wade.

Named with high honors are:
From Cottage Grove — Autumn E. Arnold and Thomas C. Hunt.
From Puryear — Sarah J. Mooney.
From Springville — Ricky L. French, Erik N. Grogan, Sarah M. Milam, Jessica R. Swor and Amy Whitaker.

Named with honors are:
From Buchanan — Richard I. Ellison.
From Cottage Grove — Brandon R. Doyle and Rachel A. Wheatley.
From Henry — Dustin G. McClure and Jamie L. Page.
From Mansfield — Amanda G. Watson.
From Puryear — Chelsey R. Lassiter and Autumn R. Sullivan.
From Springville — Jonathan B. Routon and Ashley R. Tyndall.
Photographer Morris looking for the ‘unusual’
by Deidre Wilson
4 days ago | 408 views | 1 up | 4 down | 46

Steve Morris doesn’t want to step on anyone’s toes, but he might want to take their picture.

Some of Morris’s photography has been featured for the past few months at the Welcome Center. Although his work is not to come down this week, those interested might still be able to see his work at Frame-it Arts and Gifts in Lafayette.

“I don’t want to infringe on anyone,” he said. “There’s people in towns that are trying to make a living in photography. I don’t want to be a threat to anybody. I’d just like to have some supplemental income, and I’d like to do something that’s different. You know, something that’s unusual.”

Morris was born in Florence, Alabama, but only three days after he was born, he came back to Tennessee with his parents. He was raised in New Johnsonville and attended high school in Waverly. After high school, he began his college education at U.T. Martin and completed his degree in Sociology at Memphis State.

“I ended up in Macon County when they were building the nuclear plant in Hartsville. I came up and went back to vocational school to learn to weld so I became a certified welder and worked out there until they closed it down. Then I met Linda, who was raised here, married her, and moved to Lafayette.

“I’ve always been into photography, actually, looking back. I was asked that question before. I can remember being very young and stealing my mom’s camera and going out to the lake and taking pictures. I’m always the one that bugs everybody at get-togethers. You know, everybody’s going, ‘Leave me alone! Don’t take my picture!’ So, I’ve always taken pictures.”

Once Morris decided to take his photography to the next level, he decided to abandon his Kodak point-and-shoot camera for a digital single-lens reflex Nikon D200 camera.

“I stepped up from a D200 to a D700 and bought a lot of studio equipment. I actually have a small studio in the back of the house. Right now, I mostly just do things at people’s request.”

Morris won awards for his work in last year’s Art in Bloom art exhibition, partly because of a request.

“I guess that was kind of where this all started because Gay Chamberlain kind of pushed me and said, ‘You need to enter some of this.’”

After his struggles as a budding photographer, Morris seems eager to make things easier for other up-and-coming local photographers.

“It’s really amazing. I’ve thought about this. There’s really not a good source for photography information around here at all. I really struggled trying to figure out what I needed to do because, you know, I’ve got this brand new, great camera, and I could take better pictures with a Kodak, you know, a little point-and-shoot thing that I could with this one. And I’m going, ‘Well, this was stupid. That was not a good move,’

“It crossed my mind two or three times that maybe we should start some kind of a photography club in Macon County, see if there’s any interest in that. Just this week, I’ve had a couple of calls from people who wanted to know where to buy stuff and what kind of camera to buy. Like I said, there’s no sources for this.”

In his quest to create unique works, Morris is unable to fix on a particular subject that interests him the most, although he admits that his photographs of his family are his favorite, even if they may not be his best ones.

“If I see a turtle on a log, and I happen to like it, I’ll photograph it. Of course, I do a lot of people. I do landscapes and Macro.”

Macro photography is when an object is photographed close-up.

“It always amazed me, you know, if you were walking in a field and you find a little flower, a little teeny-tiny thing you can hardly see, but you pick it up, and it’s just gorgeous. But it’s so small you can’t see it. There’s a lot of things like that that you really don’t see how intricate and pretty it is until you blow it up and get a real tight shot on it.”
By Carol Parkins & Beth Scarborough, MHS counselors

Jackson State Community College is offering an ACT Prep course on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. beginning on March 9. Cost is $175. Call 425-2627 to register by March 1.

Final exams for the Winter Trimester will be Feb. 18 and 19.

The Cancer Care Center invites seniors to apply for their 2010 College Scholarship Application. To apply, seniors must have at least a 2.5 gpa, 19 ACT score, and must complete a short answer question about how cancer has affected their life. See Ms. Parkins for an application. Deadline is March 19.

Union University is again offering African American and Minority Scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. See Ms. Parkins for an application. Deadline is March 15.

Jackson State Community College is offering the Foundation Scholarship and the Academic Service Scholarship. See Ms. Parkins for information and an application. Deadline is March 15.

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation is offering scholarships. Go to www.TN.gov/collegesays to apply online.

ACT wants juniors and seniors to “tap into their creativity and possibly qualify for a scholarship” by entering the ACT Post-er Concept Test. Students are to design a poster that encourages other students to attend college and take the ACT. Go to www.actstudent.org/postercontest for an official entry form and rules. Entries must be postmarked on or between Oct. 19, 2009, and January 30, 2010.

Milan High School has a new ACT prep program that is free! It’s ACT Online Prep and can be accessed anywhere students have internet. See Ms. Parkins, Ms. Scarborough, or Mr. Jones for a username and password.

Bethel University invites seniors who have at least a 3.25 grade point average and a 24 on the ACT to enter the Hendrix Scholarship Competition to be held Feb. 19 & 20, 2010. Winners receive full tuition, room and board. Appy at www.bethe-lu.edu/admissions/hendrix_app. Deadline is Feb. 15.

A recruiter from UTM will be in the cafeteria during lunch on Feb. 3.

Transcript requests should be made in writing in the notebook in the guidance office.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT-MHS seniors and parents gathered for a Financial Aid presentation on Jan. 15. Approximately 125 people attended the presentation given by Kerri Smith, Financial Aid representative from UTM. The National Guard provided a light supper. Computer labs were open after the meeting for parents to start their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be filed on or before February 15 if possible. For more information, go to www.TN.GOV/COLLEGEPays or contact Carol Parkins, Milan High School Senior Counselor.
FFA National Officers visit UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin was included in the recent West Tennessee tour by the National FFA officer team. While on campus, the team met with agriculture and natural resources faculty, toured the farm campus and the diagnostic lab. Pictured from left, are faculty members, Drs. Tim Burcham, Joey Mehlhorn, Jerry Gresham, Philip Smartt, Jimmy Butler and Jason Roberts. Officers are, from left, Levy Randolph, president; Chelsea Doss, Southern Region vice president; Bethany Bohnenblust, secretary; Alex Henry, Eastern Region vice president; Randa Braune, Western Region vice president; and Chase Rose, Central Region vice president.

Tipton Sax Quartet and Drums performing February 2

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host the Tipton Saxophone Quartet and Drums concert series performance at 7:30 p.m., February 2, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

The Tiptons are an internationally touring ensemble and are celebrating the release of their eighth CD, “Laws of Motion.” With a repertoire that range from New Orleans “second-line” to jazz, Afro-Cuban to Balkan, the Tiptons create some of the wildest sounds ever to come out of a sax quartet. Their dynamic, playful concerts feature high-energy interaction between members and a range that touches on soulful music from around the world. The Tiptons have appeared at venues, music festivals and have taught workshops worldwide.

For more information, contact Dr. Amy Simmons, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7413 or asmmons@utm.edu. To learn more about the quartet, visit the Tiptons online at www.tiptonsaxquartet.com.

Richard Robinson (left), UTM Communications Professor, and Jan Byars (right), Regions Mortgage, were recently inducted into the Martin Rotary Club.
‘Trayless’ dining to save money, enhance campus environmental efforts

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

The plan, which is effective January 19 when students return for spring semester, was endorsed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Al Hooten. New dish-cleaning equipment was installed during the holiday break. The move also is expected to curb food waste for additional overall savings.

“The existing dish machine had reached the end of its useful life,” said Hooten. “Replacement of the aged equipment with current technology provided UT Martin the opportunity to initiate a change that not only offered us the ability to capture considerable operational savings but also added to our campus initiative to conserve resources.” He added, “The new equipment will use significantly less water, and it will also operate with less chemicals, both of which are beneficial to the environment.”

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

“Prior to going to the trayless concept, students would take a tray and visit many of the different menu offerings in the cafeteria,” said Charles Thomas, manager of Sodexo dining services at UT Martin. He noted that as students sat down to enjoy the meal, by the time they got to the second offering either they were full or the lunch period had ended. “The menu offerings will still be available, and since the students will get the offerings when they are ready to be consumed, the offerings will maintain their quality in appearance and taste,” Thomas said. “This will be a benefit to going trayless.”

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

$43 million Campaign for Tennessee check to be presented to UT Martin January 30

The University of Tennessee at Martin campaign steering committee will present a $43 million check to Chancellor Tom Rakes, January 30, at a Skyhawk men’s basketball game. The check represents the amount raised by UT Martin as part of the University of Tennessee’s Campaign for Tennessee officially launched in April 2008.

UT Martin was the first UT System campus to meet its campaign goal - first $25 million - and then the $40 million mark. The campus also achieved 54 percent participation in its Family Campaign, doubling the percentage of faculty/staff participation. The family campaign included current, former and retired UT Martin employees.

“I am proud of the UT Martin campus and community for reaching their campaign goal so quickly and for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by alumni, friends, faculty, staff and former employees,” said Interim UT President Jan Simek. “UT Martin is a special place, and it provides a great educational experience for students and a very valuable resource for research and economic development in West Tennessee. That is reflected in the fact everyone at UT Martin continues working on the Campaign even after exceeding the campus’ goal.”

“UT Martin has a number of exciting priorities that The Campaign for Tennessee will make realities,” said Rakes. Areas of emphasis include student aid, faculty retention and development, international initiatives, an honors-enrichment fund and increased research opportunities, all of which are critical to attracting and retaining top students and faculty to UT Martin. Specific goals also include expanding internship, leadership, digital literacy and service-learning opportunities. Rakes added, “Campus security and facilities expansion will continue to be vital components, as well.

“Known for real-world, experiential learning, UT Martin is taking its outstanding academic and athletic programs to new levels of distinction and national prominence,” said Rakes. “Increased emphasis is being placed on student access and success through off-campus centers, global studies opportunities and evolving online learning offerings.” He added, “The university is collaborating with community, business and industry leaders to provide ‘capacity-building’ growth opportunities in areas such as agriculture, biofuels, health care, education, technology and the arts.”

“The ultimate success of this effort is the result of generosity and involvement of many generous alumni and friends throughout the region,” said Len Solomons, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement. “This campaign is the most ambitious fund-raising effort in UT and UT Martin’s history, and there are still many needs to be met before the campaign officially concludes in 2011. Unrestricted annual support is increasingly important as state support for higher education continues to decline.”

Solomons commended the UT Martin campaign steering committee members for their leadership to make reaching the goal a reality. Members include the following: J. Houston Gordon and Jim Ayers, honorary chairs; Dr. Lew Dougherty and Ray Smith, co-chairs; Bill Blankenship, Crawford Gallimore, Charlie Moore, Dr. Ron Kirkland, Dr. Margaret Perry, Newell and Bettie Graham; and Family Campaign co-chairs, Betty Smith, Bettye Giles, Dr. Jerald Ogg and Charley Deal.
The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will host the 18th annual invitational summer institute, May 8 and June 7-17, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline for application is April 16.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-16, from all subject areas, to apply for participation. The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing and a part of the ongoing professional community of WTWP teachers. Graduate credits and a stipend are available.

"Recent studies have shown that students taught by teachers who have attended National Writing Project summer institutes perform better in all measured attributes of writing than their peers," said Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin assistant professor of English and WTWP director, explaining the benefits of the summer institute. "Combining more writing and better writing instruction in all content areas helps students understand material better while boosting overall test scores." He added, "After the WTWP summer institute, teachers return to their schools with new ideas on improving writing instruction that they can share with colleagues in a variety of ways."

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. Teachers receive three hours of graduate credit that may be used as part of a master's program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master's degree. Accepted participants will also receive a stipend this year, for their time spent in professional development training with WTWP. Tuition, books and stipends are covered by grants from the National Writing Project. "The Writing Project has been an enlightening experience for me," said Carole McCullough, Dyersburg Middle School teacher and participant in the 2009 summer institute. "I have learned numerous practical writing activities for my classroom."

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 731-881-7290 by phone, 731-881-7276 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.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a beginner and intermediate PowerPoint course using Microsoft PowerPoint from 9:00 a.m. to noon, February 23 and 25. The instructor for the course is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The registration fee is $85.

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

To register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.

Local school counselor awarded

Traci Tate

Tennessee School Counselor Association awarded Traci Tate, School Counselor at Medina Elementary School, who is a native of Dresden, with its 2009 Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award during its annual recognitions luncheon on November 23, 2009, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The purpose of these awards is to recognize counselors for outstanding service and achievements. Selections were made by the TSCA awards committee based on three areas of eligibility and three areas for recognition. The committee evaluates all materials submitted by fellow counselors, principals and/or directors of programs.

Mrs. Tate has been the school counselor for Medina Elementary School with Gibson County Special School District for the past three years. Before coming to Medina, she was the school counselor at Stigall Middle School and teacher at Humboldt High School with Humboldt City School System. She is currently serving as President of Martha Polk Counseling Association Chapter of Tennessee Counseling Association and Treasurer of the Tennessee School Counselor Association. Mrs. Tate has also served as treasurer and president elect for the Martha Polk Counseling Association. She is a member of the Humboldt Junior Auxiliary, Inc. and Medina First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Tate is a 1990 graduate from Dresden High School, 1994 graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a BS in Education, and 2004 graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a MS in Education with a focus on school counseling.

She lives in Humboldt with her husband, Bill and two children, Mary Nichole and Marshall. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Geneva Wright of Dresden.
ACT Prep Course offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT. Making Sense of the ACT-ACT Prep Course will be from 9:00 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, February 20-March 13. The instructor is Ron Rameage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book.

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

Scholarship recipients at UT Martin

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Preston Frazier, son of Randy and Terry Frazier of Gleason, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

* Sara Olds, daughter of Scotty and Vickie Olds of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

UTM Financial Aid Office sponsors FAFSA Nights

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor three sessions on how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The sessions are scheduled from 6-8 p.m. They will be held January 27, at the UT Martin Ripley Center in Ripley, and February 4, at the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, Martin.

The workshop will provide assistance in filling out the FAFSA form online, answers to financial aid questions and information regarding the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship. Participants need to take completed 2009 tax returns for both the student and parents, W2 forms from 2009 for both the student and parents, and, if available, their Social Security Number (SSN) for electronic signature. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance at 731-881-7040.

Warren photography to be exhibited

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor an exhibition of works by award-winning photographer Earl Warren Jr., titled "A Quiet Dignity: Photography from the Rural South 1970-2008."

The exhibition opened Jan. 26 with a reception featuring the artist, in the exhibition space on the second floor of Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus. Art exhibitions are currently housed in the Paul Meeks Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations.

Earl Warren Jr. was born in Clinton, and graduated from Hickman County High School. He attended Murray State University, majoring in biology and math.

His career included 11 years as a photojournalist with the Tallahassee Democrat in Florida, director of photography for the state of Tennessee, media director at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., and he accompanied former Gov. Lamar Alexander on a 38-state cross-country trip in his bid for a presidential nomination.

This exhibition is sponsored in conjunction with the UT Martin campuswide annual Civil Rights Conference. The exhibition will run through Feb. 26.

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

From STAFF REPORTS

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2009 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

- Adamsville
  - Sara M. Shelton, Highest Honors
  - Tyler R. Alexander, High Honors
  - Crystal M. Austin, Highest Honors
  - Joshua A. Boswell, Highest Honors
  - Jennifer P. Burks, High Honors
  - Lauren E. Finley, Honors
  - Blake J. Gibbs, Highest Honors
  - Julie S. Gibbs, Highest Honors
  - Melissa T. Hester, Highest Honors
  - Ashley R. Humphrey, Honors
  - Shayna L. Johnson, Highest Honors
  - Jessie L. Litaker, Highest Honors
  - Amber M. Looney, Highest Honors
  - Jonathan K. McDaniel, High Honors
  - Kendra A. Patterson, High Honors
  - Nathan C. Reagan, Highest Honors
  - Ronnica D. Ricketts, High Honors
  - Elisabeth J. Thompson, Highest Honors
  - Autumn M. Waller, Highest Honors
  - Cody M. Williams, Honors
  - Bethel Springs
    - Tommie J. Burleson, Honors
  - Ashton L. Forsythe, Highest Honors
  - Jessica L. Goodrum, Highest Honors
  - Randal H. Graves, Highest Honors
  - Christopher C. Murray, Honors
  - Lance L. Narowetz, High Honors
  - Tiffany M. Russell, Highest Honors
  - Bradley C. Skelton, Honors
  - Sherry A. Taylor, High Honors
  - Holly R. Vetter, High Honors
  - Bryson C. Wilbanks, Highest Honors
  - Finger
    - Shannon D. Johnson, High Honors
  - Guys
    - Lauralee B. Brown, Honors
  - Michelle
    - Cody A. Butler, Highest Honors
    - Brian J. Fulwood, Highest Honors
    - Leigh R. Glenn, Highest Honors
    - Adam Z. Jones, Highest Honors
    - Sherra L. McKinney, Highest Honors
    - Audrey D. Reed, High Honors
    - Breanna S. Surratt, High Honors
    - Milledgeville
      - Courtney A. Weatherford, High Honors
    - Rame
      - Brandon K. Hamm, Highest Honors
      - Anita C. Nichols, Highest Honors
      - Angela M. Nixon, Highest Honors
      - Robert B. Reeder, High Honors
      - James T. Smith, Honors

- Selmer
  - Kevin C. Binger, High Honors
  - Jacqueline E. Boyd, Honors
  - Maria C. Brooks, Honors
  - Justin M. Droke, Highest Honors
  - David M. Duncan, Highest Honors
  - Lacy J. Elam, Highest Honors
  - Ashley L. Ervin, Highest Honors
  - April J. Essary, Highest Honors
  - Megan R. Evans, Highest Honors
  - Sarena J. Evans, High Honors
  - Edward M. Finch, Highest Honors
  - Callie A. Forman, Highest Honors
  - Alisa J. Gann, Highest Honors
  - Marqueta L. Gant, Honors
  - Dusty M. Gibbs, Honors
  - Amy N. Goodman, Highest Honors
  - Allison O. Goodrum, High Honors
  - Tiffany B. Gray, High Honors
  - Leilani K. Hansen, High Honors
  - Selina M. Hill, Highest Honors
  - Charlie R. Horton, High Honors
  - Jeremy G. Hurst, High Honors
  - Elizabeth N. Johnson, High Honors
  - Alice M. Jones, High Honors
  - Taylor K. Jones, High Honors
  - Matthew T. Kennedy, Highest Honors
  - Christina N. Kilburn, High Honors

- Corrie N. Linton, High Honors
- Sammie R. Linton, Honors
- Brandy L. McClain, High Honors
- Katie J. McClain, Highest Honors
- Elizabeth A. McLean, Highest Honors
- Billy A. Patterson, High Honors
- John B. Pickle, High Honors
- Ciera A. Rhodes, Highest Honors
- Samantha G. Rowland, Highest Honors
- Sarah R. Rowland, High Honors
- Nicole M. Stoppa, High Honors
- Sandra K. Thompson, High Honors

- Daniel S. Vargas, Highest Honors
- Amanda J. Whitaker, Highest Honors
- Brittany J. Whitten, High Honors
- Toni L. Whitten, Honors
- Daniel L. Wolford, High Honors
- Stantonville
  - Aaron J. Baker, High Honors
  - Brent R. Drobina, Highest Honors
  - Gerry L. Hamm, Highest Honors
  - Justin L. Jones, High Honors
  - Aaron L. Killingsworth, Highest Honors
  - Jennifer L. Taylor, High Honors
Concert to feature sax and drums

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host the Tipton Saxophone Quartet and Drums concert series performance at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. The Tiptons are an international touring ensemble and are celebrating the release of their eighth CD, "Laws of Motion.

With a repertoire that ranges from New Orleans "second-line" to jazz, Afro-Cuban to Balkan, the Tiptons create some of the wildest sounds ever to come out of a sax quartet. Their dynamic, playful concerts feature high-energy interaction between members and a range that touches on soulful music from around the world.

The Tiptons have appeared at venues, music festivals and have taught workshops worldwide.

OUR TOWN — The Dixie Players will present "Our Town" Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon. Among the cast members are (kneeling) Ryan Ormandy, (standing, from left) Brent Harris, Mandy Coleman, Jade Johnson, John Caterina, Jena lyn Caterina, Brian Johnson and Bobby Crockett.

Martin residents to perform at the Dixie

Several Martin residents will be performing in the production of "Our Town" at the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon Saturday.

The Dixie Players will present the show at 2 and 7 p.m.

Brent Harris and Jade Johnson, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Brian Johnson, a member of the UT staff, are pivotal characters in the production. Johnson portrays Simon Stimson, the music director whose personal demons lead to his demise. He also plays the role of Professor Willard, who knows a lot about the town. Harris portrays George Gibbs and Ms. Johnson appears in the role of Emily Webb. They are the characters whose lives the play follows. This is the first time these actors have performed at "The Dixie".

The play "Our Town," written by Thornton Wilder, is often heralded as the "great American drama" and it made the fictitious Grover's Corners, N.H., an internationally famous address. Now, more than 70 years after it was written, it is claimed that "Our Town" is performed somewhere in the world every night.

"Our Town" is Anytown U.S.A. Audiences will undoubtedly recognize themselves in the characters, attitudes and events depicted in this play," says Cindy West, the chairman of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at UT, who is directing this production.

The three acts follow first, then a dinner at the school, followed by the end of the play. Tickets prices are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors ages 65 and older and $5 for children younger than 12 years old. For more information, call The Dixie at (731) 986-2100 or visit online at www.Dixiepae.net.
Federal Reserve Bank VP to speak Feb. 4 at UT Martin

Julie Stackhouse, senior vice president and managing officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will speak on “From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System” at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4.

Her appearance in Watkins Auditorium, located in the Boling University Center, will be co-sponsored by Honors Programs, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science.

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

Ms. Stackhouse received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Drake University and graduated from the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking. She joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in 1980 as an examiner and worked her way through the system before being promoted to vice president of bank supervision and regulation in 1989.

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

In 2000, she returned to the Federal Reserve system and served as vice president and managing officer of risk management for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. In 2002, she moved to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as senior vice president of the bank supervision and regulation division.

She has numerous publications and presentations to her credit and is active in the community.

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

AGENCY OF THE YEAR — The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth recently presented the 2009 Agency of the Year Award to the Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin for its outstanding work in creating a positive difference in the lives of families and children in Northwest Tennessee. Among those recognized were (front row, from left) Megan Duncan, family support coordinator; Lydia New, family support coordinator; Diana Luther, program director/state trainer; Shanna Via, family support coordinator; (back row) Ang O'Brien, director of Grant Programs; Lalania Hilliard, family support coordinator; and Debbie Walden, family assessment worker/Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start supervisor. Not pictured is Wanda Hall, family support coordinator.
Mediation training available

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS) is offering a General Civil Mediation Training Course. Sessions will be Monday through Feb. 5 and Feb. 8-12 from 6-10 p.m.; Feb. 22-26 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; or April 26-30 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at UT Martin. The instructor will be Raymond L. Stevenson, general civil case mediator for the Consultant and Mediation Institute. The cost is $1,275, which includes training materials.

While the course will deal to some extent with interpersonal conflict resolution in its skill-building segments, it will primarily focus on the resolution of conflict between individuals versus companies or agencies and interdependent groups or units. Specifically emphasized will be the skills required in conflict resolution.

The participants will examine the current theory in conflict resolution — legal, ethical and emotional issues that are common in disputes — and the format by which employment disputes are resolved. This course is approved by the Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission.

To register for a workshop, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or visit on the Web at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ceco/norcredit registration.php.

UT Martin to receive $43M ‘Campaign’ funds

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Class Reports, Jan. 30

Richard Drewry of Martin received the Chancellor’s Award of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Agency of the Year
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Adobe Illustrator basics course offered Feb. 15
Persons interested in learning the basics of Adobe Illustrator can take advantage of a course at The University of Tennessee at Martin. A Brief Introduction to Adobe Illustrator will be offered from 2 to 3:30 p.m., February 15. The instructor for the course is Kara Hooper, communications coordinator. The registration fee is $35.

Adobe Illustrator is the leading vector-graphics program in design but is not completely user-friendly. The benefit to vector-based graphics is that they can be used at any size, unlike pixel-based graphics, such as photographs. If you have ever wanted to explore making logos, creating your own clip art or working in a graphics environment, Adobe Illustrator is a good place to start.

Of how Illustrator works, what to do within the program and what practices to avoid.

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

WSIL-TV 3 ABC
WEATHER RELATED Closings and Cancellations CLICK HERE

Civil Rights Conference for African American Heritage Month: An Afternoon of Art & Spoken Word
Start Date: 2/20/10 10:00 AM
End Date: 2/20/10 5:00 PM
Location: University of Tennessee at Martin, TN, McComb Center, The Tennessee Room
Phone: 731-881-7465
Email: dbarber@utm.edu
The final interview for the director of schools position in the Henry County School System featured a hometown favorite. John T. Hinson Jr. interviewed Wednesday night with the Henry County Board of Education.

In a rousing show of support, almost 100 friends, family, colleagues and all-around supporters crammed into the front room of the Grove Tower building, spilling out into the hallway in an effort to listen to Hinson's answers to the interview questions.

The board will meet at noon Tuesday at the same location to discuss the candidates interviewed.

While all of the candidates interviewed were asked identical questions based on 10 criteria, Hinson's interview seemed just a bit different because of his familiarity with Henry County, and especially because of his familiarity with the board.

Many candidates discussed years of experience in a variety of school systems as a strength. While some schools of thought would indicate an outside hire would bring the best combination of experience and new ideas to the school system, Hinson offers something that other candidates can't: 36 years of experience in the Henry County School System.

He told the board that he has operated with large budgets before, even getting some experience with the schoolwide budget as interim director this year.

Hinson pointed to several new hires in key leadership positions across the school system during the past year, including a new business manager, maintenance supervisor and a new principal.

"That's a lot of new people in key leadership positions," Hinson said. "I think I can be a support to them in their jobs with my experience."

He said he has an empowering leadership style, and would give new employees advice when they needed it or if they asked for it, but would still give enough freedom to let them do their jobs the best they can.

Hinson would like to be around to give advice to new employees or to talk to concerned members of the public. He told the board how he prefers to do his paperwork early in the morning or late in the afternoon so that he could be available to people during the day, if a need arose.

Where many candidates shared their philosophy on different portions of education and related some past experiences, Hinson reiterated some of his many accomplishments in Henry County while also discussing some of his philosophies.

Served as interim director

When former Director of Schools Rick Kriesky resigned effective last June 30, Hinson was named Interim director of schools, and filled the position until he applied for the director spot full-time at the beginning of December.
"I live here. My life is here. My hopes and dreams are here," Hinson said during his interview.

He has worked for the Henry County School System in some way his entire career, and has lived in Henry County his entire life.

In 1969, he was part of the last class to graduate from Buchanan High School before it consolidated into Henry County High School. He joked that he was among the top 10 in his class of 21.

After earning a bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1973, Hinson began working as a teacher and coach at Springville School.

He earned his master's degree in education administration and supervision from UT Martin in 1976, and became principal of Springville School that year.

In 1979 he became principal of Henry County High School and served in that capacity until 1996, when he moved into his current position as assistant director of schools.

He earned 30 hours above his master's degree from Memphis State University in 1991.

After struggling with several health issues in the past, Hinson decided not to apply for the director position the first time around. But after the board decided to re-open the application process, Hinson threw his hat in the ring.

"I still feel productive," Hinson said. "I still feel like I have something I can offer and I feel good. I want to be your director."

Friendly with PSSD

Hinson told the board he would like to improve relations with the Paris Special School District if he was chosen as director.

He said that by increasing cooperation between the systems, both systems could serve the community better. By working together on several events, the systems could have similar textbooks, similar courses and similar calendars, which would benefit the community by offering more continuity to families with children in both systems.

"I know the people that work for PSSD," Hinson said. "And while I don't agree with everything they do, I celebrate when I see them do well because I've been in a position to know that their kids are coming to us eventually, so we better hope they do well."

He told the board he felt the best way to help students be as productive as possible was to keep them safe and happy.

"I think that people in all walks of life are more productive when they feel safe and when they feel happy," Hinson said. "So it becomes important then that you have good teachers and good students who want to achieve at their highest level."

Some of Hinson's achievements as principal of HCHS include developing a weighted grade-point-average system to encourage smart students to take harder courses, installing dual enrollment courses for high school and college credit, bringing in AP courses for college credit and installing block schedules.

He also worked to improve the school while he was principal, opening the D wing of HCHS, and improving the facility across the board.

Hinson and his wife, Bonnie, have been married 37 years and have one son, John Thomas Hinson III. The youngest Hinson is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, studying to be an English teacher. When he graduates, he will be the 14th member of his family to be an educator, something Hinson said he is very proud of.

Although most of his time is tied up in work and family life, Hinson still finds some time to read, play his guitar, shoot trap with his son or work on one of his two Angus cattle farms.

Hinson told the board that when his career draws to a close he wants to get away from all the distractions of life, walk by himself on his farm and ask himself, "Did I make a difference?"

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Lauren Conley, daughter of Bill and Rene Conley of Memphis, has received the Chancellor's Award, a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. She will be a freshman in the fall.
Hostess Princess pageant scheduled Saturday night

A large crowd is expected Saturday night at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris when the first major event connected to the World’s Biggest Fish Fry for this year, the Hostess Princess pageant, is conducted.

Fifteen young ladies from Henry County have entered the contest, sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Jaycees. The pageant begins at 7 p.m.

The pageant is for girls between ages 16 and 18 as of April 1. The girl who is chosen as princess, along with her four maids, will help the Jaycees promote the Fish Fry for the next three months, serving as the faces of the annual event.

Contestants for the Hostess Princess title this year include:

• Samantha Lindley, 17, daughter of Bill and Melissa Lindley of Paris.
  She is a senior at HCHS. Her hobbies include playing soccer, taking road trips and playing with her dog Wallie.
  She wants to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she plans to major in biology and pursue a career in the medical field.

• Holley Marie Stearnes, 18, daughter of Mike and Pam Stearnes of Buchanan.
  She is a UT Martin freshman who likes reading, acting, modeling, choreographing dances, running and horseback riding.
  She hopes to become a physical therapist upon graduation from college.

• Rikkilynn Moody, 17, daughter of Rick and Lisa Moody of Paris.
  A senior at HCHS, her hobbies include playing soccer, bowling and spending time with family and friends.
  She wants to attend UT Martin and study optometry.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MARTIN COMMENCEMENT
Dec. 19, Martin

Leah Faulkner, left, Sam Stephens, Nadine Breece, Joseph Howard and Joseph Anderson.
UT Martin celebrates fundraising

Committee will give $43 million check to chancellor

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee Martin campaign steering committee is scheduled to present a $43 million check to Chancellor Tom Rakes today at a Skyhawk men’s basketball game. The check represents the amount raised by UT Martin as part of the University of Tennessee’s Campaign for Tennessee, which began in April 2008, according to a news release.

UT Martin was the first UT system campus to meet its campaign goals — first $25 million — and then the $40 million mark, the release said.

The campus also achieved 54 percent participation in its family campaign, doubling the percentage of faculty/staff participation. The family campaign included current, former and retired UT Martin employees.

“I am proud of the UT Martin campus and community for reaching their campaign goal so quickly and for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by alumni, friends, faculty, staff and former employees,” Interim UT President Jan Simek said in the release. “UT Martin is a special place, and it provides a great educational experience for students and a very valuable resource for research and economic development in West Tennessee. That is reflected in the fact everyone at UT Martin continues working on the campaign even after exceeding the campus’ goal.”

Rakes said, “UT Martin has a number of exciting priorities that the Campaign for Tennessee will make realities.”

Areas of emphasis include student aid, faculty retention and development, international initiatives, an honors enrichment fund and increased research opportunities, all of which are critical to attracting and retaining top students and faculty, the release said. Specific goals also include expanding internship, leadership, digital-literacy and service-learning opportunities. Campus security and facilities expansion will continue to be vital components, Rakes said.

“The ultimate success of this effort is the result of generosity and involvement of many generous alumni and friends throughout the region,” said Len Solomons, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement.

“This campaign is the most ambitious fundraising effort in UT and UT Martin’s history, and there are still many needs to be met before the campaign officially concludes in 2011. Unrestricted annual support is increasingly important as state support for higher education continues to decline.”

Hostess Princess pageant scheduled Saturday night

Published: Friday, January 29, 2010 12:10 PM CST

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January 30, 2010

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010

Call for Artists: Artists of the 21st Century

Thanks Vicky Hinton, The Arts Council and David Edwards, Lowe Mill for sending this art news!

Artists of the 21st Century

A Juried Exhibition of Collegiate Student Art
West Tennessee Regional Art Center, Humboldt, Tennessee
April 5, 2010 – May 7, 2010
April 8, 2010 Opening Reception, Juror Talk, 5 pm – 7 pm
Juror: Harvey Sadow - Director: Paducah School of Art
M.F.A. – University of Iowa
Harvey Sadow is known worldwide for his ceramic vessels and innovative ceramic surfaces. He is also an accomplished painter and digital artist and has produced site-specific sculptures in a variety of media for numerous public spaces such as The World Bank in Washington, DC. His artwork is represented in numerous public and corporate collections including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, International Museum of Ceramic Art in China and the White House Collection of American Crafts.

Prizes:
1st Place 2D - $200
2nd Place 2D - $100
Honorable Mention 2D - $50
1st Place 3D - $200
2nd Place 3D - $100
Honorable Mention 3D - $50

Eligibility:
The Artists of the 21st Century exhibition is open to all undergraduate art students enrolled in a visual arts program in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. Work entered must have been produced during the student's undergraduate enrollment period and must have been created solely by the artist. Media may include: painting, drawing, sculpture, glass, ceramics, photography, printmaking, digital art, fiber art, mixed media, and jewelry. 2D works must be able to hang from the art centers installed hanging system, which means nails or screws cannot be driven into the art center walls. Works requiring electricity or additional hanging structures should not be submitted and cannot be exhibited. Large sculptures must be self-installed by the artist and the definition of "large" in this case is left to the discretion of the exhibition planners. The actual weight of any 3D work cannot exceed 200 lbs. The WTRAC has a "no nudes policy". Artists can either submit slides or digital images to enter the competition.

Printable entry forms may be found online at

www.utm.edu/departments/chfa/artsentry.htm

or send an SASE to

Artists of the 21st Century
Department of Visual and Theatre Arts
217 Gooch Hall
538 University Street
University of Tennessee at Martin
College presidents: Bredesen’s plan is good

By TAJUANA CHESHIER
tchesher@jacksonsun.com

Area college presidents said Wednesday the focus of Gov. Phil Bredesen's higher education bill is on target for helping more Tennessee students graduate.

Jackson State Community College President Bruce Blanding said 95 percent of what the bill does is positive for public higher education.

"I'm delighted that the governor is focusing on community colleges," Blanding said. "He's recognized the need to standardize throughout the state to make articulation and transfer (between schools) easier."

Blanding

The higher education bill is part of a special session called by Bredesen. He wants the state to fund public colleges and universities based on graduation rates instead of on enrollment.

The bill also includes measures to spur more dual enrollment, delegate remedial course work to two-year schools, and create a statewide transfer program between community colleges and four-year schools.

Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, R-Jackson, said Wednesday night the bill had come out of the education committee and was on its way to the budget subcommittee.

"Once they're done with the bill, it will then come to us on the Finance, Ways and Means Committee," Eldridge said. "The House floor could vote on it Thursday afternoon, but nothing is final yet."

A proposal to change the higher education funding formula will go before the full Senate today and may also be taken up by the full House, according to The Associated Press.

Members of the higher education community said they are keeping a close watch on changes to the bill.

Bredesen

"It's a move in the right direction to increase accountability, increasing graduation rates," said Thomas Rakes, chancellor of the University of Tennessee Martin. "We think the legislature is on the right track."

Rakes

Rakes said UTM's enrollment has increased 26 percent in the last five to six years and that the university provides programs to help students with their academics and encourage completion.

"You become as supportive and as helpful as you can with improved advising," Rakes said. "We provide tutorials in the writing and math centers. It's readily available for them."

Part of Bredesen's plan involves developing a master plan that increases education attainment at all levels including public universities, community colleges and technology centers.

Don Williams is the director of the Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson. He said the initiatives have very little impact on the technology centers.

"The governor's plan addresses graduation and completion rates at community colleges and universities," Williams said. "We already have high completion rates. We're exceeding our goals."

In a related issue, officials are discussing how to sustain the Hope Scholarship fund, though it is not part of the governor's higher education proposal.

The fund is supported with lottery money and offers a base $4,000 portable scholarship for students to use at either a public or private four-year Tennessee university, according to the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association Web site.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Richard Rhoda has suggested increasing the community college Hope grant from $2,000 to $3,000 by reducing the freshman and sophomore grant at four-year schools from $4,000 to $3,000.

Lambuth University President Bill Seymour said reduction in Hope Scholarship money would impact private schools.

"That presents an issue for four-year colleges, and I think that could be a negative impact," Seymour said. "It takes away the incentive for students to attend a four-year school."

Seymour said the lottery scholarship has been successful in keeping students in Tennessee and that an equitable distribution of the money should remain.

"But I see many excellent items in the plan, including strengthening community colleges and developing curriculum that makes it easier for students to transfer to four-year universities," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

— Tajuana Cheshire,
425-9643

*A QUIET DIGNITY: PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE RURAL SOUTH 1970-2006*

A photo exhibit by Earl Warren Jr. Reception will be 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of Paul Meek Library at University Tennessee Martin. Exhibit runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call 881-7400.

gwinnettdailypost.com

Jerrod C. Grace of Libburn received a degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement.
UT Martin announces county graduates, dean's list

Published: Thursday, January 21, 2010 12:44 PM CST

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced that 18 Henry Countians received degrees and 71 were named on the fall 2009 dean's list at the school.

During the fall commencement ceremony:

Gabrielle Lorbiecki of Como received a graduate degree.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were:


From Buchanan — Kayla Renae Parsons.

From Cottage Grove — Rachel Kay Paschall and Joshua D. Manning.

From Henry — Emma Darlene Bishop.

Ford Little, a Knoxville attorney and past president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, was the commencement speaker.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided and conferred degrees.

On the fall dean's list those who earned a grade-point average of 3.8-4.0 on a 4.0 scale were named with highest honors; 3.5-3.79, with high honors; and 3.2-3.49, with honors.

Named with highest honors are:


From Buchanan — Kayla R. Parsons.

From Cottage Grove — David N. Horton and Cristine L. Manning.

From Henry — Jason S. Conger, Summer D. Gladwin and Samantha J. Perry.

From Mansfield — Rachel N. Martin.

From Ptryear — Candace M. Lewis.

From Springville — Holley M. Mason and Lacy L. Wade.

Named with high honors are:

From Cottage Grove — Autumn E. Arnold and Thomas C. Hunt.

From Puryear — Sarah J. Mooney.

From Springville — Ricky L. French, Erik N. Grogan, Sarah M. Milam, Jessica R. Swor and Amy Whitaker.

Named with honors are:


From Buchanan — Richard I. Ellison.

From Cottage Grove — Brandon R. Doyle and Rachel A. Wheatley.

From Henry — Dustin G. McClure and Jamie L. Page.

From Mansfield — Amanda G. Watson.

From Puryear — Chelsey R. Lassiter and Autumn R. Sullivan.

From Springville — Jonathan B. Routon and Ashley R. Tyndall.

Sneed's Farm lauded for conservation
By Betty Brown, Special to My Life
Posted January 21, 2010 at 9:06 a.m.

The Shelby County Soil Conservation District held its annual conservation awards banquet Dec. 8 at AgriCenter International. Fifty-eight guests attended the event, including three SCD board members, one SCD staff members, two Earth Team volunteers, and two NRCS Memphis FO staff members.

Chairman John Charles Wilson presided over the event and presented the Shelby County 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year award to The Sneed's Farm Inc. of Millington from the district board.

The Sneed family was presented with a resolution from the State of Tennessee, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and state Sen. Mark Norris. The Shelby County Commission also presented a resolution by Commissioner Matt Kuhn.

During the Shelby County Soil Conservation District's annual conservation awards banquet on Dec. 8, chairman John Charles Wilson (at the podium) presented the Shelby County 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year award to The Sneed's Farm Inc. of Millington from the district board. Accepting the award at the event at AgriCenter International were Marcolies Sneed Jr., Ray Sneed, Gwen Sneed, Caroline Sneed Rich and Aileen Sneed, along with other family members.

Entertainment by Anna Melvin of Collierville was enjoyed by all.

The program was given by Dr. James L. Byford, professor and dean of agriculture and applied sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Major sponsors and contributors for the event were SCD affiliate members, AgriCenter, Bunge, Cargill, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tipton County Co-op, Shelby County Soil Conservation District and NRCS Memphis Field Office.
Former UCES administrator honored at Dyersburg State

Dyersburg State Community College Alumni Association president Steve Guttery recently named former Union City Elementary School assistant principal Penny Presley Thurmond and June Tyus as Outstanding Alumnae of Dyersburg State.

The presentations were made during the college's Spring Update, recently held in the Student Center.

A crowd of about 225 DSCC faculty and staff members attended.

The college recognizes Outstanding Alumni four times each year. Nominations for the award are submitted by Dyersburg State faculty, staff and alumni. Selections are made based on recipients' contributions to and achievements in their chosen professions and their communities.

Mrs. Thurmond came to Dyersburg State as a non-traditional student. She had attended the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1981-82. She chose to attend Dyersburg State from 1997-98 and then went on to complete her bachelor of science degree at UT Martin.

Then, she attended Nova Southeastern University, where she earned a master's degree in leadership and administration. She also took classes to become an educational specialist and studied curriculum instruction.

After her graduation, Mrs. Thurmond worked as a teacher at Lauderdale Middle School for the 2000-01 school year. From 2001-07, she was a teacher at Dyersburg Middle School and in 2005 was named the system's Teacher of the Year.

From 2007-09, she served as assistant principal at Union City Elementary School. In 2009, she was named principal at Ripley Elementary School.

In a written statement, Mrs. Thurmond said that as a non-traditional student, she appreciated the help and understanding given to her by the DSCC faculty.

"Non-traditional students have unusual circumstances in that they usually have either a job or children or both. The faculty gave me the support needed to give me the confidence to succeed," she said.

A resident of Dyersburg, Mrs. Thurmond is married to Chris Thurmond and is the mother of two children: Tara Deal Gibson, a teacher at Northview Middle School, and Anne Barret Deal, a student at Dyersburg State.

Mrs. Tyus graduated from Maury City High School and then enrolled at Dyersburg State, where she was a member of the basketball team and the Black Student Union.

She received her associate of science degree in criminal justice in June 1981 and then went on to attend Bethel College in McKenzie.

Since 1981, she has worked for ABB Group and in 1994 received the Award of Excellence for quality on her job.

She is a member of the Community Help Group and is active in her church, where she helps with many fundraisers and is president of the Pastor's Aide group. She is also currently an assistant coach for Dyersburg State's women's basketball team.

Mrs. Tyus says the friendly people were what she liked most at Dyersburg State.

"You see more people with smiles there. There is a nice atmosphere around the campus. People that you meet always have good things to say about the college," she said.

Mrs. Tyus and her husband, Don Tyus, live in Maury City. She is the mother of Eric Whiteside and Kala Tyus, who is a student and member of the women's basketball team at Dyersburg State.

FayObserver.com - Applause for Jan. 26

WBBJ-TV West Tennessee's

News Channel - Local News

New UTM Rec Center
By: Holly Deasy
hdeasy@wbbjtv.com
9:55 p.m.

UT Martin has opened a new 10,000 square foot recreation center for students.

The $16 million facility, which includes 25 new cardio machines, has been seven years in the making. School leaders say they have already seen about 1,000 students a day since it opened, and they hope that number continues to go up.

"I think the newness is going to pull people out that haven't recreated and exercised before," said Campus Recreation Director Gina McClure. "I'm hoping this new facility is going to hook a few more people."

The center opened at the beginning of January with limited hours but will extend the hours beginning February 1.
New grant to help fund GEDs for young adults

By CHRIS MENEES
Staff Reporter

Young adult GED teacher Beth Wright hopes business will be picking up soon in her classroom.

She is busy spreading the word about the Obion County Adult Learning Center’s launching of a new grant-funded GED program to help young adults obtain their high school equivalency diplomas.

The program targets students who are 18 to 21 years of age, meet the program’s eligibility requirements and are interested in financial aid for college or further training. Young adults who meet the requirements may qualify to receive a $500 cash bonus and financial assistance with transportation, according to Ms. Wright.

Students who qualify for the special program meet any time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the Adult Learning Center, housed in the same building as the Obion County School System’s Adult Education Program — which provides free GED, or General Equivalency Diploma, services for anyone of any age — at 1702 North Fifth St. in Union City.

Ms. Wright said the new grant-funded program targeting young adults kicked off Nov. 9, 2009, with funding available through the local Workforce Investment Act, sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board.

“My group, ages 18 to 21, has to meet certain financial requirements that are set out by the Workforce Board,” she said. “If they qualify, they will get a $500 bonus, be eligible for a bonus when they graduate, when they earn their GED. They can get a stipend for transportation to help them get here, because that’s often a problem.

“Once they’ve earned their GED, they can further qualify for $500 for becoming employed and staying employed and up to $5,350 per year for two years to help with further training, whether it’s college or going on to trade school. It’s a good program,” she added.

Ms. Wright said the program is actually in the beginning stages locally. She currently has just a few students, but hopes to see many more as word of the new grant-funded program spreads.

How to start
The first step for young adults interested in the program is for them to contact Ms. Wright by calling the Adult Learning Center at 885-8202. That will start the process, which initially includes testing to determine the prospective student’s current level.

After the completion of necessary paperwork, prospective students are sent to the local Tennessee Career Center office, where they are interviewed and either approved or disapproved.

The Tennessee Career Center has regulations about who qualifies and who does not, according to Ms. Wright.

“Generally, if they’re in that age group, if they are low income, living on their own, only working part-time or not much, they would qualify,” she said. “We have had some in that age group who don’t qualify but, in that case, they are welcome with open arms in the regular GED program. They still get free instruction and tests paid, but just don’t get the extra cash bonuses in the regular program.”

For more information about the regular GED program, contact Sharon Connell, supervisor of Adult Basic Education, at the Obion County Center (See Page 5, Col. 2)
**Three men join law firm as associates**

Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell PLC is pleased to announce that Cory A. Brown, Michael Burnett Joiner and Joshua B. Dougan have joined the firm as associates. Brown and Joiner will practice in the Memphis office, and Dougan will practice in the Jackson office.

Brown focuses his practice in the areas of transactional health care law and business and commercial law. Brown obtained his bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee Martin and his master of arts degree from the University of Memphis. He obtained his law degree, cum laude, from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Joiner’s practice focuses primarily in the areas of litigation, employment law, insurance coverage and general insurance defense. Joiner obtained his bachelor of arts degree, summa cum laude, from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis. He obtained his master of educational leadership from the University of Mississippi, Phi Kappa Phi, where he achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Dougan’s practice focuses primarily on the areas of tort and insurance defense and workers’ compensation. Dougan received his bachelor of arts degree in political science, cum laude, from Union University. At Union, he was awarded the Political Science Major Award and the Elizabeth Tigrett Medal. He received his doctor of jurisprudence with a concentration in advocacy and dispute resolution, cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

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**Tommy Legins joins CPA firm**

**Alexander Thompson**

Arnold CPAs is constantly growing and improving the way it does business, a news release said. To continue providing the highest level of customer service, the firm is pleased to announce that Tommy Legins has been named partner.

Legins has been with ATA since 2007 and has been in public accounting since 1990. His practice will focus on tax, QuickBooks consulting and small businesses. He earned his BSBA in accounting from the University of Tennessee Martin. In addition to being a certified public accountant, Legins has earned the certified valuation analyst accreditation from NACVA. He is a member of the TSCPA and AICPA. As an active member of the community, Legins is the past president of the Martin Rotary Club, the treasurer for the Housing Corporation for the Tennessee Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the treasurer and board member for the Martin Business Association and an advisory board member for the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

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**Doctor opens new practice in Jackson**

**Dr. Charley Jackson**

has opened a new practice in Jackson. Jackson is from Pickwick. He graduated from Adamsville High School in 2001 and went on to attend Dyersburg State Community College on a baseball scholarship, then to UT Martin, where he finished his undergraduate work. Jackson graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis in August.

Jackson specializes in musculoskeletal conditions of the spine and joints including low back pain, neck pain, headaches, sciatica and joint stiffness/soreness. He also works with patients on maintaining their health by teaching them proper stretches, exercises, nutrition and maintaining their range of motion, which enables them to do the activities they enjoy and prevent injury. In March, Jackson will be a certified golf fitness instructor through the Titleist Professional Institute.

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**Health and Family Services Cabinet**

**Volunteer Commission Names New Executive Committee**

Press Release Date: Friday, January 22, 2010

Contact Information: Media Contact: Alya Annies Weber, (502) 564-6140; ext. 4014; or Vikki Franklin, (502) 564-7042

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 22, 2010) — The Kentucky Commission on Community Voluntarism and Service (KCCVS) has named its new executive committee.

KCCVS, part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, is a statewide, bipartisan group comprised of at least 15 members, appointed by the governor, with diverse service and volunteerism backgrounds. The members select the commission’s executive officers.

Janet Gates was elected the committee’s vice chair. She is the senior companion program director at the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership in Frankfort. She has a degree in medical social work from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The KCCVS actively engages citizens in community service opportunities that enable volunteers, organizations and businesses to share ideas and effectively collaborate to address Kentucky’s needs.

The KCCVS hosts a number of annual statewide activities designed to encourage volunteer and service program development. KCCVS funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Kentucky General Assembly.

KCCVS also administers 13 AmeriCorps programs across the state, with 316 members who serve 115 of Kentucky’s 120 counties.

The group’s executive committee meets three times a year in Frankfort and once a year elsewhere in the state.

To learn more about KCCVS and volunteerism, call toll-free (800) 239-7404 or visit the KCCVS Web site at www.volunteerk-y.org.
FFA NATIONAL OFFICERS – UT Martin was included in the recent West Tennessee tour by the National FFA officer team. While on campus, the team met with agriculture and natural resources faculty, toured the farm campus and the diagnostic lab. Faculty members (from left) Drs. Tim Burcham, Joey Mehlhorn, Jerry Gresham, Philip Smarit, Jimmy Butler and Jason Roberts joined National FFA Officers Levy Randolph, president; Chelsea Doss, Southern Region vice president; Bethany Bohnenblust, secretary; Alex Henry, Eastern Region vice president; Randa Braune, Western Region vice president; and Chase Rose, Central Region vice president.

AGENCY OF THE YEAR – The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth recently presented the 2009 Agency of the Year Award to the Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin for its outstanding work in creating a positive difference in the lives of families and children in Northwest Tennessee. Ang O'Brien, director of Grant Programs; (back, from left) Lalania Hilliard, family support coordinator; Debbie Walden, family assessment worker/Northwest Tennessee Healthy Start supervisor; (front, from left) Megan Duncan, family support coordinator; Lydia New, family support coordinator, Diana Luther, program director/state trainer; and Shanna Via, family support coordinator present and accepted the award. Wanda Hall, family support coordinator, is not pictured.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester dean's list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2009 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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


Dukedom: Jennifer M. Mansfield, High Honors and Brada J. Taylor, Honors.


Palermsonville: Jannine E. Reed, Highest Honors.

LOCALS TO PERFORM — "Our Town" is being performed on Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. by the Dixie Players at the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon. Cast members include (from left) Brent Harris, Mandy Coleman, Jade Johnson, John Caterina, Jennlyn Caterina, Brian Johnson, Bobby Crockett and (kneeling) Ryan Ormandy.

Martin residents to perform at "The Dixie"

"Our Town" is being performed on Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. by the Dixie Players at the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon. Brent Harris and Jade Johnson, both students at UT Martin and Brian Johnson, a member of the UT Martin staff are pivotal characters in the production.

Johnson portrays Simon Stimson, the music director whose personal demons lead to his demise. He also plays the role of Professor Willard who knows a lot about the town. Harris portrays George Gibbs and Ms. Johnson plays the role of Emily Webb whose lives the play follows. This is the first time these actors have performed at "The Dixie."

The play "Our Town," written by Thornton Wilder is often heralded as the great American dramas and made the fictitious Grover's Corners, N.H. an internationally famous address. Now, more than seventy years after it was written, it is said "Our Town" is performed somewhere in the worlds every night. "Our Town" is Anytown U.S.A. "Audiences will undoubtedly recognize themselves in the characters, attitudes and events depicted in this play," says Cindy West, the Chairman of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at UT, who is directing this production. The three acts mostly follow two characters, Emily Webb and George Gibbs, who go to school together in Act I, marry in Act II, and experience tragedy in Act III.

"A beautifully evocative play. A hauntingly beautiful play," said one New York Times review. Other cast members are: Clay Barger, Jennlyn Caterina, John Caterina, Gisela Hodges, Will Radford, Brian Jones, Mike Allison, Nicole Ragnow, Kirk Towater, Judi Murphy, Emily Coleman, Jessa Potts all of Huntingdon, Dan Webb of Brucetown, Claudia Jouett of Cedar Grove, Bobby Crockett of Holladay, Mark Grinnell, Emma Renfroe, Jill Renfroe of McKenzie, Ryan Ormandy of Paris and Amanda Coleman of Camden.

Ticket prices: $10/adult, $8/senior (65+), $5/child (-12).

For more information call The Dixie 986-2100 or log on to www.Dixiepac.net
WAMP VISITS MARTIN – Con. Zach Wamp paid a visit to the University of Tennessee at Martin campus Friday morning during a grassroots effort to talk with voters in Northwest Tennessee that day. Wamp also stopped at The Hearth restaurant before heading to Obion County. Wamp is seeking the gubernatorial seat on the Republican ticket in November.

ACT prep course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course to help prepare students to take the ACT.

Making Sense of the ACT-ACT Prep Course will be held from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays from Feb. 20 through March 13.

The instructor will be Ron Ramage. The fee is $65 plus the cost of the book.

This course will help students plan their strategy to make the highest score they are able to make on the ACT Test. The course is designed for first-time test takers as well as seasoned veterans. Students will be using The Real ACT Prep Guide and should bring the book to the first class meeting.

The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased on the UT Martin campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The class limit is 20.

FFA NATIONAL OFFICERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin was included in the recent West Tennessee tour by the National FFA officer team. While on campus, the team met with agriculture and natural resources faculty and toured the farm campus and the diagnostic lab. On hand for the visit were (from left) faculty members Drs. Tim Burcham and Joey Mehlhorn; Levy Randolph, president; Chelsea Doss, Southern Region vice president; Bethany Bohnenblust, secretary; faculty member Dr. Jerry Gresham; Alex Henry, Eastern Region vice president; faculty member Dr. Philip Smartt; Randa Braune, Western Region vice president; Chase Rose, Central Region vice president; and faculty members Drs. Jimmy Butler and Jason Roberts.
Teacher funding available

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a $500,000 Transition to Teaching award from the Tennessee Department of Education to attract college graduates into the teaching profession with an accelerated path to licensure.

Applicants are currently being sought for the summer program from designated districts statewide.

The program recruits participants who already have a bachelor’s degree in a field outside of education, but who seek a teaching license in mathematics, science, special education, foreign language or English language learners (ELL). It provides 15 hours of instruction in an online format.

Once accepted into the program, participants serve as teacher of record in a participating school and receive full salary. Because participants are hired on a transitional license to work in an identified high-needs public school, they are assigned a mentor to work with, and they also receive additional professional development.

Participants receive $5,000 in tuition to apply towards the cost of five graduate courses.

The program requires that participants teach in an identified high-needs Tennessee public school for three years, maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA, achieve a satisfactory score on the appropriate PRAXIS test, work with their assigned mentor and complete professional development on effective classroom management. Participants who do not complete their commitments are obligated to repay the tuition.

The project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Education. For more information, contact Hollianne Carver, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7686 or hcarver@utm.edu or visit the Web site www.TN2t.com.

Exhibition of photos opens today

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor an exhibition of works by award-winning photographer Earl Warren Jr. of South Fulton titled “A Quiet Dignity: Photography from the Rural South 1970-2008.”

The exhibition opens tonight with a reception featuring the artist.

The reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. in the exhibition space on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus. Art exhibitions are currently housed in the Paul Meek Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations.

Warren was born in Clinton, Ky., and graduated from Hickman County (Ky.) High School. He attended Murray (Ky.) State University, majoring in physics and math.

His career included 11 years as a photojournalist with The Tallahassee Democrat in Florida, director of photography for the State of Tennessee and media director at Baptist Hospital in Nashville and he accompanied former Gov. Lamar Alexander on a 38-state cross-country trip in his bid for a presidential nomination.

Warren has shot on assignment for the Associated Press, United Press International, Newsweek, The New York Times and The National Enquirer and has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in feature photography.

This exhibition is sponsored in conjunction with the UT Martin campus-wide annual Civil Rights Conference.

The exhibition will run through Feb. 26.

WBJJ-TV West Tennessee's News Channel - Local News

01/28/10 - Weakley County

UTM Goes Trayless

By: Stephanie Ryan
kryan@wbbjtv.com
7:25 p.m.

At The University of Tennessee at Martin cafeteria, you will find all the trappings of a college cafe: burgers, a salad bar, home-style entrees, spoons and forks... but no trays.

Campus dining leaders got rid of trays at the end of the Fall 2009 semester. They hope the lack of platters will mean a big savings for the University.

Sodexo Manager Charles Thomas estimates that savings to be close to $240,000. He said a new dish washing machine, combined with no more trays, will mean less water used to clean. It will also save the school $40,000 a year on just detergent alone, according to Thomas.

"In the old dish machine we had before, it was continuously running, so the water was constantly going down the drain. With the new system, not only is the water being recycled, but there's a sensor that cuts itself off when it senses there's nothing there to wash," Thomas said.

Thomas estimates the University used to cleanse upwards of 8,000 trays per day. Now, that number is zero.

Thomas also said the cafeteria has cut down on the amount of food waste, because students aren't piling their trays up with plates full of food they may not eat.

"We've gone from averaging about 1,500 pounds of garbage a day to probably about 300 pounds a day," Thomas said. "It's not a situation where you get all this food on your tray and eat one plate and throw the rest of it away."

Thomas said he hopes the money the cafeteria saves the university will go towards more activities for students.