Couple finds love through corporate finance

UTM grads meet through Web class, become engaged at awards ceremony

John Ciesliga shows the audience his proposal to Miriam Gillespie before asking her to marry him during a Dec. 10 pre-commencement ceremony at UT Martin. Gillespie was called to the stage to receive an award, but instead she accepted Ciesliga's surprise proposal.

Proposal

Continued from Page A3

ago. She was in the first student cohort to graduate from the university with an MBA degree offered online and designed primarily for banking and financial services professionals.

Ciesliga was in a different cohort, but they took a couple of online classes together. Their first communication was exchanging e-mails about class projects. As the relationship grew, so did the talk of marriage, and Ciesliga wanted to surprise Gillespie.

"(There are) a lot of roots between us at UT Martin, and even though the program was online, (the campus) is still, I thought, the best place to surprise her that really would mean a lot to both of us," he said.

Ciesliga knew that Gillespie would attend the special ceremony for MBA students before commencement exercises, and he saw it as the perfect opportunity to propose.

But he needed some assistance, and College of Business and Global Affairs faculty members were pleased to help. After all graduating students were recognized, Kevin Hammond, the MBA program coordinator, called Ciesliga back to the stage to present an "award" to Gillespie for her persistence in earning her MBA degree.

"When he started calling my name, I thought, 'Dr. Hammond, you're picking on me.' Thanks, Dr. Hammond." And then they called Johnny up there. I'm like, 'Oh no, this can't be good. This can't be good,'" Gillespie said laughing, admitting that calling Ciesliga to the stage indicated something more than an award presentation was coming her way.

Ciesliga showed the crowd the framed "award," which read, "Will you marry me?" Then, he turned, showed his framed proposal to Gillespie, dropped to one knee and proposed. Gillespie accepted, and the audience, which included members of both families, applauded its approval.

"The only one (family member) that knew was (Gillespie's) father, because I had to ask his permission," Ciesliga said.

Miriam Gillespie was called to the stage during a Dec. 10 ceremony at the University of Tennessee Martin to accept an award. Instead, she received a marriage proposal from John Ciesliga, who later that morning received his master of business administration degree.

The pre-commencement ceremony for MBA students became a celebration for two Memphians who met while pursuing their online graduate degrees.

"We met during an online class—corporate finance," Ciesliga said in a news release. "She worked at Morgan Keegan. I worked at AutoZone, both on Front Street, downtown Memphis, and I'd seen on her Facebook profile that she worked just down the street from me, and I asked her if she wanted to study one night for corporate finance."

A Mud Island restaurant was the site of their first face-to-face meeting, and in Ciesliga's words, "the rest is history."

Ciesliga earned his undergraduate degree from Davenport University's Detroit College of Business in Michigan. Gillespie earned her undergraduate degree from UT Martin in 2007 and received her MBA almost a year
Local residents receive degrees from UT-Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Jackson - Alex Wayne Greenway, Kane Tyler Fitzgerald Reeves, Chelsea Renae Bates, Chelsey Noelle Brunner, Matthew Lee Emison, Sarah E. Hudson, Brandi Elizabeth Campbell, Helen L. Crouse, James C. Henson II, Dion Michelle Higgins, Ryan Dexter Judd, Matthew Christopher Emison; Medon - Vanntrica Marie Peaches Marsh.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Jackson - Barbara A. Glenn Berry, Julie Vantrease Mayfield, Karie Lynn Spencer.

Workshop scheduled for Jan. 9 to plan, grow small businesses

Those interested in starting a business, or small business owners looking for funding can learn what resources are available to help properly plan, start and grow their small business at a workshop Jan. 9, from 5-7 p.m. sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) and Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (REED) Center, 406 South Lindell St., Martin, Tenn. Registration is required. Call 731-587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.
UT Martin names local students to honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2011 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

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

Gibson County students making the honor roll are:

From Bradford:
Natalie A. Alexander, honors; Alsten R. Cates, highest honors; Chrystyna M. Chipman, high honors; Clayton A. Hampton, high honors; Clinton D. Hampton, honors; Courtney B. Jackson, highest honors; Anthony L. Launsby, high honors; Jordan R. McDade, high honors; Cassy E. Morris, highest honors; Joni M. Parrish, honors; Derek W. Proudfoot, highest honors; Jacquelyn M. Steele, honors; David L. Terry, honors; Joseph E. Wingo, high honors.

From Dyer:
Matthew E. Bobbitt, honors; Charles M. Cox, highest honors; Britney M. Garner, high honors; David B. Garrett, high honors; Hannah L. Greene, honors; Robert C. Joyce, honors; Katherine L. Parks, high honors; Calah R. Paulhus, highest honors; Samuel T. Reed, high honors; Amber F. Simmons, high honors; Morgan E. Spelling, honors; Nicholas B. Stephens, honors; Eric M. Stone, honors; Megan N. Turner, high honors; Emily R. Worrell, honors.

From Gibson:
Cody F. Houck, honors; Kayla C. Crook, high honors; Joe C. Davis, highest honors; Robert L. Fish, honors; Mercedes C. Floyd, high honors; Cody A. Fowler, honors; Amber D. Futrell, highest honors; Holly K. Gillespie, highest honors; Danielle J. Goff, high honors; Kaela P. Grooms, honors; Rachel L. Hall, highest honors; Amanda K. Hunley, honors; Lisa M. Johnson, high honors; Austin S. Koffman, high honors; Dianna R. Lasley, honors; Emma J. Leatherland, high honors; Elizabeth D. Pafford, honors; Amber J. Pearson, honors; Sarah E. Pickard, high honors; Annalynn E. Smith, high honors; Michael W. Stone, honors.

From Humboldt:
Robert E. Barber, honors; Jason W. Barker, highest honors; Kiara S. Champion, honors; Claudia L. Chandler, honors; Joshua R. Hefner, highest honors.

From Kenton:
David W. Crum, high honors; Jessica D. Dvorak, honors; James K. Hardin, high honors; David C. Hololmon, highest honors; Jordan B. Jones, honors; Lisa L. Ritter, highest honors; Sheila F. Scott, highest honors; Danielle N. Spencer, high honors; Mallory C. Walker, honors.

From Medina:
Stephanie L. Boling, highest honors; Kimberly A. Boswell, highest honors; Anthony C. Brown, high honors; Lisa N. Detrain, highest honors; Meredith L. Dunn, honors; Whitney L. Foster, highest honors; Katelyn N. Hamilton, honors; Christina E. Johnson, honors; Kelly G. Kennedy, high honors; Lucas J. Mercier, honors; Samantha R. Ragain, honors; Katy Reynolds, honors; Lauren H. Rogers, high honors; Secily D. Scott, high honors; Shelby L. Totty, highest honors; Casey J. Ward, highest honors; Matthew T. Williams, highest honors; Jesse N. Winchester, highest honors.

From Milan:
Anne R. Avery, honors; Heather Butler, high honors; Jonathan W. Cavender, high honors; Brandon A. Coffman, high honors; Shelby R. Counce, honors; Sarah E. Cox, high honors; Lucas C. Denton, honors; Tyler S. Doyle, honors; Gregory K. Garcia, honors; Jobronski O. Gilbert, highest honors; Brandon A. Gillespie, highest honors; Aubrey A. Granger, high honors; Willie J. Harden, high honors; Gwendolyn N. Harman, high honors; Michael J. Hinnant, highest honors; Daniel R. Istvanko, honors; Alex M. Jackson, high honors; Autumn R. Jackson, highest honors; Timothy L. Jackson, honors; Robbie M. Luten, high honors; Lara B. Mangrum, highest honors; Stephanie L. Martin, honors; Tyler L. Massengill, honors; Marshall R. McCollum, high honors; John M. Parks, high honors; James S. Postoak, honors; Joshua L. Postoak, honors; Meredith N. Reynolds, high honors; Sarah-Katherine Reynolds, high honors; Benton Rimmer, highest honors; Kimberly A. Rimmer, high honors; Sally A. Saputo, honors; Simon M. Saputo, high honors; Ashley M. Smith, honors; Ross F. Smith, highest honors; Collin R. Sutton, high honors; Zachary A. Sutton, honors; John W. Szopinski, high honors; Karen K. Threadgill, high honors; Latoya D. White, honors; Adrienne M. Wood, high honors.

From Rutherford:
William Q. Abrams, high honors; Marion K. Atkins, honors; Miranda K. Barron, honors; Jacob W. Dotson, honors; Jessica M. Gordon, honors; Carol A. Kail, high honors; Shelley K. Simpson, honors; Trey A. Tate, honors; Jordan N. Teddleton, honors; Lindsay D. Whitley, high honors.
Gibson County residents earn UT Martin degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Humboldt – Bethany

Parasite species carry Reelfoot Lake’s name

As part of the celebration of Reelfoot Lake’s bicentennial, Dr. Mike Turner, lecturer of biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has written a history of zoological research originating from the Reelfoot Lake region. According to the author, Tennessee, unlike other southeastern states, has had relatively few of its ecological communities subjected to parasitological studies, with most of these based in and around Reelfoot Lake.

These studies began 130 years ago with the collection of an unattached turtle leech taken from Indian Creek near the old Idlewild Hotel. Other early efforts involved public health workers investigating malaria and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease. Later, traditional natural history studies, primarily involving helminth (worm) parasites, were undertaken and were joined by recent comparative molecular work. Ninety reports of parasitology research, authored or coauthored by 72 investigators and published in 19 different journals, have originated from the region. Included in these reports, were descriptions of 62 new parasitic worm species recovered from animal hosts inhabiting the region. Six of the new species carry the specific names reelfooti or reelfootenesis. Additionally, distribution records for 228 parasite species—including nine protozoans, 162 helminths, four leeches and 53 arthropods—were reported for the region.

Turner’s article, entitled “A History of Parasitological Field Studies Originating from the Reelfoot Lake Region of Tennessee and Kentucky,” appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge from UTM’s institutional repository (IR), http://scholarship.utm.edu/ or by emailing the author at mtturner@utm.edu.
PARASITE SPECIES AT REELFOOT LAKE - Illustrations of parasites species that carry Reelfoot Lake's name. A) Hapalorhynchus reelfooti from the stinkpot turtle, B) Cercaria reelfooti from the ramshorn snail, C) Cerchoris reelfooti from the three-toed amphiuma, D) Athesmia reelfooti from the common moorhen, E) Cotylaspis reelfootensis from the giant floater mussel, and F) Amblosoma reelfooti from the rotund mystery snail.
OCCHS INCLUDED — Six students from Obion County Central High School participated in a trip to Oak Ridge to tour the Y-12 History Center and the American Museum of Science and Energy. They traveled with the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society, which received an Innovative Activities Grant from the Education Division of ACS to network with local high schools. Twelve students and faculty from UTM and six Westview High School students also attended. UTM students Brandon Gindt and Gilbert Forgays were co-directors. Participants were (from left, kneeling) Christy Lee, SMACS; Lindsey Castellaw, OCCHS; Saba Getaneh, WHS; Alex Crosser, WHS; Krishna Patel, SMACS; (standing) D. Ray Smith, Y-12 historian; Layla Gargas, SMACS; Heather Vacovsky, SMACS; Gindt, SMACS; Heather Streckert, SMACS; Forgays, SMACS; Sarah Maxey, SMACS; Sarah Griffin, SMACS; Robert McCall, OCCHS teacher; Ashley Litchford, OCCHS; Aaron Crump, SMACS; Hannah Uzzle, OCCHS; Andy Zimmerman, OCCHS teacher; Amanda Kelly, OCCHS; Dr. S.K. Aree, SMACS faculty advisor; Amber Taylor, WHS; Jessica Hightower, WHS teacher; Rachel Samuel, WHS; Kim Simmons, WHS teacher; and Stephanie Gourley, SMACS.

ACT prep course

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

The ACT prep course will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays from Jan. 14 through Feb. 4 at the UTM Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass. The course will help students plan strategy to make the highest score possible on the ACT test. There is a $100 registration fee for the course, which will be taught by Linda Johnson and Richard Mann. Students will use “The Real ACT Prep Guide” and should bring the book to the workshop. The cost of the text is not included in the registration fee. The book may be purchased at Books-A-Million for $34.95 plus tax. Ask for it at the customer service desk.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or visit utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

‘Passport to Retirement’ workshop scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a course about retirement on Tuesday at the UT Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass.

The “Passport to Retirement Workshop, An Adult Educational Course — Ideal for Ages 45 to 70” will provide information about assessing costs associated with retirement; determining sources of retirement income; improving investment potential; reducing risk; reducing or eliminating income; estate or inheritance taxes; and helping preserve estates for heirs. The course also will look at fighting the effects of inflation and protection against long-term care expenses.

Registration costs $59 for individuals or couples and includes one workbook. To register or for a seminar brochure, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or ecos@utm.edu, or visit utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
FIRST SOUTH BANK ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF PRITCHETT

Hunter Simmons, President and CEO of First South Bank, recently announced the promotion of Holt Pritchett to the position of Assistant Vice President.

Holt has worked for First South Bank for over five years with experience in Credit Administration and currently as a commercial and consumer lender. Holt received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and has continued his education by graduating from The Barrett School of Banking Commercial Lending Academy, The Southeastern School of Advanced Commercial Lending, & attended numerous seminars held by the Tennessee Bankers Association.

Holt’s responsibilities will include originating consumer and commercial loans, as well as servicing an existing loan portfolio, including credit quality and customer satisfaction.

Holt has invested in his community by having completed the Leadership Jackson Program in 2008. He also enjoys being very active with the Madison County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity where he currently serves as Board President and has previously served as Vice President & Treasurer. Holt and his wife, Jenny, a teacher and coach at the University School of Jackson, are members of Northside United Methodist Church and reside here in Jackson, TN.

"Holt is a valuable asset at First South Bank and I continue to be proud that we can promote from within our organization. He has the needed approach to today’s banking by being flexible, a fast decision maker and passionate about servicing his customers," said Simmons.

First South Bank is a 440 million dollar bank headquartered in Jackson, Tennessee with 10 locations in Madison, Hardeman, Haywood and Dyer counties. They offer all types of investments and mortgages, including FHA, VA and conventional. In addition, they own and operate FSB Insurance, one of the largest insurance agencies in West Tennessee.
A Martin woman’s life was celebrated Sunday as family and friends gathered at Miles Chapel Church to celebrate 100 years of her life.

Edna Mary Stewart was born Jan. 6, 1912, in Tiptonville, Lake County. She is the eldest of six children – four girls and two boys. She was raised in Martin after moving there at an early age. She attended school in Martin.

She married three times and had one daughter – the late Mary Ruth Clemons. All three husbands have preceded her in death.

She has one granddaughter – Zella Mae Richardson of Martin, who she lives with. She also has one sister, Virginia Davis, and one brother, James Stewart of Birmingham, Ala.

Two sisters – the late Wille Mae Shanklin and Delores Bostick; and one brother – the late Columbus Stewart Jr. have all preceded her in death. She has several nieces and nephews who live in other cities and states.

She has been a life-long member of Miles Chapel CME Church, where she served on many committees, as usher, choir member and president of the choir. She was willing to do whatever she could to help her church. She loves her church.

Mary worked as a domestic worker most of her adult life. She worked for the Murphy family of Martin many years as a housekeeper, nanny and cook.

Edna Mary Stewart Clemons Peague Burke was joined by family and friends, including her granddaughter Zella Mae Richardson during a 100th birthday celebration Sunday at Miles Chapel Church in Martin.

She later went to work for the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she retired and served as a cook for 20 years. She said she loved those fraternity boys and they took great care and looked after her. She called them “her boys.”

Even after retirement, many of the fraternity members still visit with her and bring their families, especially around UTM’s homecoming each year.

Mary loves jokes and pranks and she said “those boys couldn’t out do me.”

If they played a joke or prank on her, she got them back. They didn’t rattle or upset her. She had a way of getting her message across to them.

She told a story one time about one of the boys parking her parking place. The staff had designated parking places with their names on them. This guy parked in her place one night.

When she came to work the next morning she parked close behind him so he could not get out. He had to go to class and came in the kitchen and asked for her keys to move her car, but she would not give them to him.

She asked him, “Is your name Mary?” He said, “no.” She said, “Then why did you park there?”

He said, “I could not find a place to park and I’ve got to go or I am going to be late for class.”

She replied, “That’s not my problem, walk!” He had to get a ride to class. She said he never parked in her parking place again and warned others.

She would also pretend she was mad at them to get them to do extra chores, when they had not done their assigned kitchen chores. She would laugh about it when they were not around. After they had completed the extra chores, she would tell them they were friends again. They did not want Mary mad at them.

Mary was a great cook, according to family and friends. She is known to not use recipes. She does her own thing. She would say, “I just use what I have.”

She was in her 60s before she learned to drive and she loved it. She didn’t stop driving until her late 80s.

She loves cats and dogs and had pets until she could no longer take care of them. Friends said she is still sassy and quick-witted at the ripe age of 100.

She still has great memory and can tell wonderful stories about things that happened in her life. She has never taken it kindly of others bossing her around and she will tell you so even today.
Stage set for proposal

Kevin Weak
Press Sports

They spent a lifetime away from each other. They’ll spend the rest of their lives together.

Elwood Doss, who works in the music department at UT Martin and in the ministry at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, planned out a somewhat unique engagement for Denise Barnes on Saturday, taking the occasion of the UTM women’s basketball to carry out the proposal.

During a media time-out in the first half of the afternoon game against SIU-Edwardsville, Elwood escorted Denise to the court, where she thought she had been chosen to answer a UT Martin basketball trivia question.

As she faced three cheerleaders, presumably there to help with the answer, Elwood dropped to one knee with the engagement ring in hand. The cheerleaders then revealed a sign for Denise to turn around, where Elwood then asked for her hand.

An enthusiastic “yes” followed, bringing a relationship that began in junior high around full circle.

The two first met at South Fulton Middle School, riding the bus together.

While she stayed at South Fulton for high school, he moved on to Obion County Central.

The pair then began college apart as well, she attending Union University and he moving on to Georgetown (Ky.) College.

They began dating during the Christmas break of their freshman year, each eventually transferring to UT Martin where their romance grew and appeared headed down the aisle before Denise, believing God had a different path for both, broke up with Elwood.

She returned his senior ring and went to live with her uncle and aunt for a year while attending Indiana State University.

Elwood began singing with a gospel group, where he met and married Carolyn Sims. The two had three children – Chuck, Deborah and Daniel.

Elwood and Carolyn became active in their churches and revivals in their area and then formed the Doss Family Singers with their children.

While Elwood was living a very fulfilling life in the ministry with his family, Denise had moved on to a successful and rewarding life as well, although she had never married.

Into her 30s, Denise began to feel she had made a mistake by breaking up with Elwood, that is until long-time friend Aletha Tegethoff Slayden, a classmate of the
two at South Fulton, sent her a newspaper clipping of the Doss Family Singers.

Seeing that, she realized God’s plan was still in place. Unable to have children and not as musically talented as Carolyn, Denise understood what would have been denied, not only Elwood, but the people whose lives he and his family had touched through the ministry, had they been married as college sweethearts.

At peace with her life into her 40s, Denise taught first grade for 21 years and speech therapy for 16 years while remaining active in her church and close to younger sister Tammy and brother John.

When her father passed away in 1993, Denise moved herself and mother into a ranch-style house. John eventually moved in to help out until their mother’s death in 2007.

Denise retired from teaching a year later. A visit to friend JoAnn denBroeder at a retirement community in Florida led Denise to buy a place there and spend five to six months during the coldest part of the year there.

Meanwhile, Elwood and Carolyn served at First Baptist Church in Martin for 18 years and then at Fulton First Baptist for two.

He was hired at UTM as a piano technician and also served as part-time worship leader at Pleasant Hill.

Carolyn was diagnosed with stage 4 gall bladder cancer in November 2007 and battled the disease for four years before dying Nov. 16, 2010.

It was not long after that the paths of Elwood and Denise crossed again in a very 21st Century way — social media.

After accepting a “friend request” on Facebook, Elwood noticed Denise’s name, took a chance and sent a request to her. She accepted, and the feelings they had for each other a lifetime ago began to surface again.

It had been in May 2010 when Denise had three identical dreams, a voice telling her she was getting married.

The two carried on a long-distance relationship until recently, when she moved into an apartment in Dresden. They have seen each other every day since.

Elwood and Denise have enjoyed reconnecting and discovering how many similarities they have.

They are currently waiting to see where God’s path will lead them.

SHE SAID ‘YES’ — After several decades apart, high school sweethearts Denise Barnes and Elwood Doss of Martin will finally tie the knot. Doss proposed to Barnes during a UT Martin women’s basketball game against SIU-Edwardsville held Saturday.

UTM, Soybean pageants deadline is Jan. 13

Plans are under way for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants to be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 28, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

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

The competition will be comprised of talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories.

This is the inaugural year for the Miss Tennessee Crossroads Pageant, which was created in place of another preliminary pageant that was dissolved this year.

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm. The deadline to register is Jan. 13, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to pageant executive director Hollie Holt at 204 Larkin Dr., Martin, TN 38237.

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

For more information, contact Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu
WestStar gets boost from USDA

Opportunity to succeed is one of the building blocks to constructing a sound community infrastructure in rural areas. In West Tennessee, USDA Rural Development (RD) has once again partnered with WestStar to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people looking to improve the quality of life in their areas.

RD state director Bobby Goode Thursday joined University of Tennessee Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes and other local leaders to announce federal funding for three business development conferences geared at providing the necessary tools to help build our local economies.

"Small business is the economic engine of rural communities, creating jobs and helping maintain a healthy, diversified local economy," said Goode. "By partnering with WestStar we are able to provide educational opportunities for those looking to make a positive change in their areas."

The $20,000 grant will be combined with $29,270 in funds from WestStar to conduct the conferences throughout the year.

The "Working Women’s Conference," scheduled for Feb. 10, will offer career development and education opportunities for attending women.

The African American Leadership Conference, scheduled for April 19, will focus on educating attendees on the leadership positions available in diverse work environments.

Finally, the West Tennessee Regional Entrepreneurship Conference scheduled for June 19 will focus on providing information for those who are looking to start their own business in West Tennessee.

For more information on these or other events offered by WestStar, log on to their website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/weststar.


Rural Development’s rural business grant programs provide assistance to local governments and nonprofit organizations that assist small businesses, develop local business infrastructure, provide job training, conduct feasibility studies or provide technical assistance to businesses and community leaders.

For more information on Rural Development programs available in northwest Tennessee contact the Rural Development area office in Union City at (731) 885-6480 ext. 4, toll free at 800-342-3149 ext. 1497 or visit online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — Eight former Obion County Junior Livestock member standouts recently received $500 college scholarships sponsored by First Citizens National Bank. Each of these individuals successfully completed nine consecutive years of exhibiting livestock through the Obion County Junior Livestock program. After verifying completion of their first semester of college and enrollment for the spring semester, each student received their scholarship. This marks the ninth consecutive year that Joe Ward and Sherry Brown of First Citizens National Bank have sponsored this award. Those on hand for the award presentations were (from left) Ward; Mrs. Brown; Rob Holman, son of Mike and Penny Holman, University of Tennessee at Martin, ag business major; Rob Berner, son of Bobby and Lori Berner, UTM, agronomy major; Madison Bell, daughter of Mardy and Lyndy Bell, Jackson State Community College, pre-radiology major; Derek Giffin, son of Hoyt and Benita Giffin, UTM, ag business major; Spenser Maloney, son of Lyn and Kim Maloney, UTM, ag business; Mandi McDaniel, daughter of Barry and Kim McDaniel, UT Chattanooga, criminal justice/psychology; Chance Williams, son of Taylor and Jana Williams, Bethel University, business major; and Lauren Berner, daughter of Mike and Tammy Berner, Middle Tennessee State University, animal science major.
Doss surprises high school sweetheart with halfcourt proposal at UTM ball game

They spent a lifetime away from each other. They'll spend the rest of their lives together.

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HALF COURT PROPOSAL — Elwood Doss proposed to his high school sweetheart, Denise Barnes, Saturday during the University of Tennessee at Martin's women's basketball game.

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He was hired at UTM as a piano technician and also served as part-time worship leader at Pleasant Hill.

Carolyn was diagnosed with stage 4 gall bladder cancer in November 2007 and battled the disease for four years before dying on Nov. 16, 2010.

It was not long after that the paths of Elwood and Denise crossed again in a very 21st Century way — social media.

After accepting a "friend request" on Facebook, Elwood noticed Denise's name, took a chance and sent a request to her. She accepted, and the feelings they had for each other a lifetime ago began to surface again.

It had been in May 2010 when Denise had three identical dreams, a voice telling her she was going married.

The two carried on a long-distance relationship until recently, when she moved into an apartment in Dresden. They have seen each other every day since.

Elwood and Denise have enjoyed reconnecting and discovering how many similarities they have.

They are currently waiting to see where God's path will lead them.
Deadline to enter pageants is January 13

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants to be staged at 7 p.m., January 28, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer.

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

The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants are open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students. The competition will be comprised of talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories.

This is the inaugural year for the Miss Tennessee Crossroads Pageant, which was created in place of another preliminary pageant that was dissolved this year.

“The Miss America organization provides a great opportunity for women to earn scholarship money to continue and further their education,” said Hollie Holt, executive director of the pageants. “Not only do these young women win money for school, they learn important interview skills, the importance of being physically fit and volunteering, they become self-confident and they learn how to utilize the talents they have been given.”

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm<http://www.utm.edu/missutm>. The deadline to register is January 13, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Holt at 204 Larkin Dr., Martin, TN 38237.

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

For more information, contact Holt, at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.<holt@utm.edu>.

High School Art Competition
January 17-20

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor its ninth annual High School Art Exhibition on January 17-20 in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

Between 60-100 creative young artists, representing high schools from throughout northwest Tennessee, will display original works of art for the UT Martin campus and community.

The student work will be judged by the UT Martin Visual and Theatre Arts faculty. Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced Friday, Jan. 20, in conjunction with the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts seventh annual College Art Day celebration.

College Art Day is a popular student outreach event sponsored by Visual and Theatre Arts. It features art workshops and fun for the benefit of area high school students interested in the visual arts.

Over 120 students participated last year from various high schools throughout northwest Tennessee.

For information on the High School Art Exhibition or College Art Day call 731-881-7400.

The Student Life Center is located on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue.

UT Martin joins with Dresden in promoting recycling program

To make recycling accessible to the Dresden community, UT Martin in cooperation with the city of Dresden set up a “Do Your Part” recycling trailer behind the Harmon and Lucile McWherter Civic Center in Dresden last week for local citizens to drop off their plastic, paper, metal, cardboard and aluminum. A drop-off site for old electronics, such as computers, keyboards and other similar items, is located behind the Weakley County Highway Department. The recycling station is open 8 a.m. until noon on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Or these items may be dropped off at the UT Martin Recycling Facility at the end of Moody Street in Martin (the street that runs behind the UT Martin football stadium).

DANCING WITH THE STARS 2012 TO BENEFIT CANCER SOCIETY

MARTIN: If you would like to be a participant in Dancing With the Stars 2012, please attend the first dance practice session on Friday, January 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Couples will participate in the actual Dancing With the Stars Event on March 1, 2012 at the UTM Student Life Center. Future practice times will be set at this first practice session.

Competition will be very friendly, and the judges will be positive. The audience will vote for each couple by placing a dollar in their designated money jar. The couple that raises the most money will be declared the winners. So the secret really is to bring your family and friends to the event to vote for you. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. This event is sponsored by the UT-Martin Relay for Life Team. Contact Linda Ramsey (lramsey@utm.edu) for more information or call 731-587-5549.
High school art contest at UTM

The University of Tennessee Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor its ninth annual High School Art Exhibition on Jan. 17-20 in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

Between 60 and 100 creative young artists, representing high schools from throughout northwest Tennessee, will display original works of art for the UT Martin campus and community, according to a news release.

The student work will be judged by the UTM Visual and Theatre Arts faculty. Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced Jan. 20 in conjunction with the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts' seventh annual College Art Day celebration.

College Art Day is a popular student outreach event sponsored by Visual and Theatre Arts, the release said. It features art workshops, food and fun for the benefit of area high school students interested in the visual arts.

More than 120 students participated last year from various high schools throughout northwest Tennessee.

For information on the High School Art Exhibition or College Art Day, call 881-7400. The Student Life Center is on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue.

FRIDAY, JAN. 13

DEADLINE TO ENTER MISS UT MARTIN/SOYBEAN FESTIVAL TENNESSEE CROSSROADS PAGEANTS IS JAN. 13

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants to be staged at 7 p.m., Jan. 28, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer. The combined pageants are co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and are open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or are students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants are open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students. The competition will be comprised of talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories. The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/misstennessee. The deadline to register is Jan. 13, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Holt at 204 Larkin Drive, Martin, TN 38237. General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival/Miss Tennessee Crossroads Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID. For more information, contact Holt at 731-514-3556 or by email at hvinit@utm.edu.

High School Art Exhibition

Jan. 17-20 at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will sponsor its ninth annual High School Art Exhibition Jan. 17-20 in the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

Between 60-100 creative young artists, representing high schools from throughout northwest Tennessee, will display original works of art for the UT Martin campus and community.

The student work will be judged by the UT Martin Visual and Theatre Arts faculty. Best of Show, first, second and third place awards will be presented in four major categories. Awards will be announced Jan. 20, in conjunction with the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts seventh annual College Art Day celebration.

College Art Day is a popular student outreach event sponsored by Visual and Theatre Arts. It features art workshops food and fun for the benefit of area high school students interested in the visual arts.

Over 120 students participated last year from various high schools throughout northwest Tennessee.

For information on the High School Art Exhibition or College Art Day call 731-881-7400.

The Student Life Center is located on the corner of University St. and Moody Ave. in Martin, Tenn.
UTM professor highlights parasite studies at Reelfoot Lake in research

MARTIN, Tenn. - As part of the celebration of Reelfoot Lake's bicentennial, Dr. Mike Turner, lecturer of biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has written a history of zoological research originating from the Reelfoot Lake region. According to the author, Tennessee, unlike other southeastern states, has had relatively few of its ecological communities subjected to parasitological studies, with most of these based in and around Reelfoot Lake.

These studies began 130 years ago with the collection of an unattached turtle leech taken from Indian Creek near the old Idlewild Hotel. Other early efforts involved public health workers investigating malaria and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease. Later, traditional natural history studies, primarily involving helmint (worm) parasites, were undertaken and were joined by recent comparative molecular work. Ninety reports of parasitology research, authored or coauthored by 72 investigators and published in 19 different journals, have originated from the region. Included in these reports, were descriptions of 62 new parasitic worm species recovered from animal hosts inhabiting the region. Six of the new species carry the specific names reelfooti or reelfootensis. Additionally, distribution records for 228 parasite species - including nine protozoans, 162 helminths, four leeches and 53 arthropods - were reported for the region.

Turner's article, entitled “A History of Parasitological Field Studies Originating from the Reelfoot Lake Region of Tennessee and Kentucky,” appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge from UTM's institutional repository (IR), http://scholarship.utm.edu/ or by emailing the author at mturner@utm.edu.

Illustrations of parasites species that carry Reelfoot Lake’s name. A) Hapalorhynchus reelfooti from the stinkpot turtle, B) Cercaria reelfooti from the ramshorn snail, C) Cercheris reelfooti from the three-toed amphipod, D) Athesmia reelfooti from the common moorhen, E) Cotylaspis reelfootensis from the giant floater mussel, and F) Amblossoma reelfooti from the rotund mystery snail.

Greek adventure awaits with travel-study trip

For 10 days in early August, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to learn from experience.

Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, will lead students on an active excursion through Greece, the cradle of western civilization.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the Parthenon, Acropolis and ancient Olympia, the site of the classical Olympic Games. The trip will also include adventurous activities such as kayaking the coast of Lefkas Island and ascending Mount Olympus, known in Greek mythology as the home of the gods.

The trip is a two credit hour travel-study course and classes will meet weekly prior to the trip for preparation. Classes will discuss the history of sports, Greek culture and burgeoning outdoor adventure programs.

Cost is about $3,200 and scholarships are available.

For more information contact the Center for International Education at (731) 881-1023.

June trip to South Korea planned by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a spring travel-study to South Korea June 4-13.

The trip is open to the public.

Participants will visit the 1988 Seoul Olympic and 2002 FIFA World Cup main stadiums, the headquarters of international sports brand FILA, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) areas and the two largest cities in South Korea, Seoul and Busan, as part of the trip.

Three hours credit is offered to UT Martin students who enroll in the spring course Sport Management 485. The cost of the trip is about $2,600 per person and scholarships are available.

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

For 10 days in early August students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to learn from experience. Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, will lead students on an active excursion through Greece, the cradle of western civilization. Students will have the opportunity to tour the Parthenon, Acropolis and ancient Olympia, the site of the classical Olympic Games. The trip will also include adventurous activities such as kayaking the coast of Lefkas Island and ascending Mount Olympus, known in Greek mythology as the home of the gods.

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Cost is about $3,200 and scholarships are available. The University of Tennessee at Martin will also conduct a spring travel study to South Korea on June 4-13. The trip is open to the public. Participants will visit the 1988 Seoul Olympic and 2002 FIFA World Cup main stadiums, the headquarters of international sports brand FILA, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) areas and the two largest cities in South Korea, Seoul and Busan, as part of the trip.

Three hours credit is offered to UTM students who enroll in the spring course, Sport Management 485. Cost of the trip is about $2,600 per person, and scholarships are available.

In-service offered for teachers

LifeLines for Educators, an all-day free workshop for West Tennessee teachers and school personnel Jan. 21, will provide discussion on current education issues and the opportunity to gain three to six hours of required in-service.

LifeLines for Educators will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Union University's Continuing Studies campus on Emporium Drive in Jackson and will include presentations by P-12 practitioners and professional education faculty.

Attendees will receive a three or six-hour certificate of attendance as verification to count toward required in-service hours. There is no prior registration required, and schedules can be found at www.uu.edu/programs/tep/lifelines.cfm.

The workshop is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, Union University, the University of Memphis at Lambuth, Bethel University, the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce and First Tennessee Bank.
The Kathleen and Tom Elam Center was packed with students, faculty, staff, family and friends as the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated its December graduation. One standout graduate was Capt. Joseph Sanders of Waverly. Sanders achieved his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 2001 from UT Martin, and 10 years later, he walked across the familiar stage to receive his master of business administration degree. After attending Hickman County High School and graduating from Waverly Central High School, Sanders joined the Navy, where he served for six years before taking advantage of the GI Bill and deciding to attend UT Martin to pursue a philosophy degree. Sanders has served 14 years of active duty, and during that time, he spent 39 months in the Middle East. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Basic Course and the Military Intelligence Captains Career Course.

The Fall 2011 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Hannah Paige Stewart, undergraduate faculty assistant. Stewart is a junior communications major and has been employed for a year and a half at the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center. The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate for student employment. Recipients of the award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.
Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during Honors Day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Picture with Toston, center, are winners Kyle Gillespie, left, of Cordova; and Sarah Rowland, right, of Selmer. A cum laude graduate with a bachelor of science degree, Gillespie served UT Martin as a PEP leader with the freshmen initiative program and as senator-at-large in the Student Government Association. A magna cum laude graduate with a bachelor of arts degree, Rowland served UT Martin as a resident assistant with the Department of Housing, as a student worker with the Hortense Parrish Writing Center and as a staff writer for the student newspaper, The Pacer. She also completed a reporting internship with the Times Daily newspaper in Alabama.

Above: Former WPSD Local 5 evening anchor Jennifer Horbelt gives an address at UT Martin's commencement on Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Horbelt is now a reporter and morning anchor at KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo. At left: Weston Gentry, of Milan, received his master's of business administration at UT Martin's commencement exercise on Dec. 10. He is pictured with his wife, Amy.
Above: Travis Russell, of McKenzie, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology during UT Martin’s commencement on Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. At top left: Annie Sanner, of Union City, is joined by her family at the UT Martin commencement on Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, where she received her bachelor of science degree. From left are grandmother Joyce Osborne, sister Ivey Westbrooks, husband Matt Sanner, Annie Sanner, father Tony Westbrooks and mother Tracey Westbrooks.

At left: Mike and Donna Stigall of Martin join their son Blake following UT Martin’s commencement on Dec. 10 in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Blake received a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
Kirk Arment, center, of Jackson, was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to the University of Tennessee Martin commencement on Dec. 10. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Making the presentation were Ed Wheeler, left, Department of Engineering interim chairman, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean.
Above: Toby Hammond, of Parkers Crossroads, graduated from the UT Martin ROTC program on Dec. 10 in a special ceremony before university commencement exercises in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Hammond received a bachelor of university studies degree during commencement.

Above: Robert and Tracy Cupples of Newbern join their daughter, Cali Cupples DeSpain, before UT Martin's commencement on Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. DeSpain received a bachelor's degree in education. She teaches at Three Oaks Middle School in Dyersburg.

Holt Pritchett

Holt Pritchett has recently been promoted to the position of assistant vice president of First South Bank. He has worked for First South Bank for over five years with experience in credit administration and currently as a commercial and consumer lender. Pritchett received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and has continued his education by graduating from The Barrett School of Banking Commercial Lending Academy, The Southeastern School of Advanced Commercial Lending, and attended numerous seminars held by the Tennessee Bankers Association. His responsibilities will include originating consumer and commercial loans, as well as servicing an existing loan portfolio, including credit quality and customer satisfaction. He has invested in his community by having completed the Leadership Jackson Program in 2008. He also enjoys being very active with the Madison County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity where he currently serves as board president and has previously served as vice president and treasurer.
Working women conference slated

Participants attending the 14th annual Working Women’s Conference on Feb. 10 will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy.

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

The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom.

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

Mary Kate Ridgeway of Henry County UT Extension Services will lead the conference.

The opening speakers will be Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair, graduate program coordinator and professor of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin, and Dr. Teresa Collard, director, UTM Women’s Center and assistant professor of communications. Their presentation, “Life is a Picnic: Fill your Basket with Happiness,” is set for 9:15 a.m. LeBleu serves as the family and consumer sciences teacher educator and also teaches basic courses in child and family studies. She has a Ph.D. in home economics education with a minor in child development from Iowa State University. Collard teaches courses in public speaking and interpersonal communications and devotes a great deal of time to consulting on interpersonal communications and its applications to the business and educational environment.

Both LeBleu and Collard have served as consultants for the Cobb County Education Consortium in Atlanta and various other state and regional organizations and are both recipients of the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Awards.

At 10 a.m., Lori Nunnery, executive director of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, will present “Gettin’ There From Here.” Nunnery’s professional organizations and activities include chair for Tennessee Trails and Byways Cotton Junction, Discovery Museum of West Tennessee board of directors and the 2011 NAIA Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament co-chair. In 2005, she won the Tennessee Business and Professional Women’s ClubSpeak-Off.

At 10:45 a.m. Jacqueline Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocational Center for Lifelong Learning and Career, Student Services at Union University, will deliver her presentation, “Who’s at your Picnic.” Taylor has experience teaching adult continuing education in technology. In addition to her 17 years of experience in higher education in the areas of student services and academics. She is also knowledgeable of learning styles, personality testing/evaluation techniques, and educational research for program design and improvement.

Lee Johnston, executive director of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, will present “It’s Raining, Now What?” at 12:45 p.m. Johnston has 24 years of banking experience, has chaired several festivals in Tipton County and has been involved with the Lauderdale and Haywood County Feeder Calf Association.

His awards include Jr. Auxiliary’s 1997 Man of the Year and 1996 DSCC Alumni of the Year, and he has earned a conservationist achievement award.

Richard Schoeberl, assistant athletic director at UT Martin and former FBI Counterterrorism employee, will deliver the final address of the day at 1:30 p.m. with his presentation, “Watch Out For The Big Bad Wolf!” Schoeberl served a majority of his FBI career in the Counterterrorism Division, providing oversight to the FBI’s international counterterrorism effort.

He was responsible for collateral duties in the FBI as a certified FBI instructor and a member of the FBI SWAT program.

The deadline to register for the conference is Feb. 1. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 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. On-line registration is preferred at www.utm.edu/weststar. Credit cards are accepted. The fee is $35 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at 881-7298.

This conference is made possible by WestStar Leadership in partnership with the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise.
WESTSTAR RECEIVES $20,000 FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT - Leaders from West Tennessee and the WestStar Leadership Program joined Jan. 5 to celebrate the incoming 2012 WestStar class at its first orientation. Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development state director, presented WestStar with a $20,000 check on behalf of USDA Rural Development, which has consistently been a strong supporter of WestStar in the past. WestStar helps local leaders of West Tennessee to take responsibility for the growth and development of their communities, counties and state. On hand for the donation presentation were (from left), Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership; Harriet Cannon, area director; USDA Rural Development; Bobby Goode; Dale Hendon, field representative, Congressman Stephen Fincher; Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor, UT Martin; Matt Varino, field representative, Sen. Lamar Alexander; Van Wylie, rural business specialist, USDA Rural Development; state Rep. Bill Sanderson, District 77; Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Julius Johnson; (back) Jerry Brigance, retired, USDA Rural Development; Roe Hughes, student trainee; and Charley Deal, executive director, WestStar.

Miss Tennessee preliminaries set for Saturday at UT Martin

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Student Life Center at UT Martin.

Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson this summer. The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women ages 17-24 who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants are open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

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

For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at (731) 514-3556 or hholt@utm.edu.
UTM to hold reading clinic for grades 2-12

Students in grades two through 12 who need extra support and practice in reading are encouraged to enroll in a reading clinic sponsored by the University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

Three sessions are available: Jan. 17 through Feb. 13, Feb. 14 through March 19 and April 2-26. The reading clinic is a sequential and intensive reading improvement course taught by experienced professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center. Students will be tested individually to determine their personal reading level and phonics comprehension before being placed in a level-specific course designed to build skills and fill gaps in reading strategies.

Students will attend one-hour classes twice a week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The second session will not meet Feb. 20 (make-up class will be Feb. 24) or March 5-8.

The cost is $100 per session, plus $25 for a workbook. To register, call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082. The student's name and number will be given to the reading clinic program director, who will call to schedule a testing appointment.

Local reading clinic available to students

Students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading are encouraged to enroll in a local reading clinic sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

Three enrollment sessions are available: A session which began Tuesday and runs through Feb. 13; Feb. 14 to March 19; and April 2 through April 26.

The reading clinic is a sequential and intensive reading improvement course taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center. Students will be individually tested to determine personal reading level and phonics comprehension before being placed in a level-specific course designed to build skills and fill gaps in reading strategies.

Students will attend one-hour classes twice a week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The second session will not meet Feb. 20 (make-up class will be Feb. 24) or March 5-8.

The cost is $100 per session plus $25 for a personal workbook.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082. Your name and number will be given to the reading clinic program director, who will contact you to schedule a testing appointment.

College to host theatrical event

Core Ensemble, a production group dedicated to the performance of chamber music theatre, will perform its show "Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance" at 3 p.m. Jan. 29 in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"Of Ebony Embers" is a theatrical work for actor, cello, piano and percussion. It is a celebration of the lives of the African-American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay, as seen through the eyes of muralist and painter Aaron Douglas.

The musical score includes works by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Jelly Roll Morton, Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus, as well as concert music by Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker.

The UT Martin production is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the UTM Black Student Association.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harris, Department of Music chair, at (731) 881-7400.

Quilting class scheduled

Community members interested in learning the art of hand quilting are encouraged to register for an evening quilting class offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The course will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 6 and 13.

Linda Arrant, course instructor, will focus on the preparation of quilt blocks, basic techniques and hands-on practice with quilting supplies.

Participants will be able to use completed quilt blocks in pillow tops, tote bags and other personal craft projects.

Students should bring their own thimbles.

Registration is $55 per person, with a $15 supply fee paid to the instructor on the first night of class.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/healthcare.php.
Art exhibit scheduled at UTM

Award-winning artist Daniel Rose will present an art show titled “Theories in Evolution” — set to begin with an opening reception 5-7 p.m. Tuesday — through Jan. 28 in the Paul Meek Library on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rose received his bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in visual art studio from UT Martin. He is known for his oil and acrylic paintings focusing on modern and post-modern themes.

The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

For information concerning library hours, contact the Paul Meek Library at (731) 881-7060. For more information concerning the exhibition, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

Local students’ artwork soars to new heights

Their artwork went above and beyond.

Winners were recently chosen in the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and University of Tennessee at Martin International Aviation Art Contest.

They included:

Intermediate category — First place, Julie Mosley; second place, Kaylee Householder; and third place, Kiran Last.

Junior category — First place, Emily Brown; second place, Melodie Clayton; and third place, Caroline Killebrew.

Senior category — First place, Maria Marquez; second place, Essence Huff; and third place, Dayjha Trice.

The winners each received recognition from Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and UT Martin.

The first-place winners in each category received $50 gift cards, while the second-place winners received $30 gift cards and the third-place winners received $20 gift cards to purchase art supplies.

The top three entries in each age level were forwarded to Nashville to be judged in state competition, according to local airport manager Jo-Ann Speer.

The International Aviation Art Contest is an art contest for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 17. Students participate at a national level and winners are submitted to an international jury each year.

The contest is held annually to encourage young people to demonstrate the importance of aviation through their art and to motivate them to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering and science.

A different theme is selected each year and this year’s theme — “Silent Flight” — encouraged children to visualize all the ways people travel through the sky with the power of the wind alone.

The United States portion of the contest is sponsored by the National Aeronautic Association, National Association of State Aviation officials, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, National Coalition for Aviation Education and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Local winners advance to state competition and the top three entries in each age group at that level are forwarded to Washington, D.C., to be judged in national competition. From there, national winners from each age group advance to the international level for judging and recognition.

Mrs. Speer said with 54 entries, the local competition “turned out to be a very successful event.”

“They were all fantastic and I want to thank all of the students for participating, as well as the art instructors and parents for their encouragement,” she said. “I would also like to thank UT Martin for co-sponsoring this event, especially Lane Last, professor of art, for his expertise in coordinating the contest and the juror, Diane Shaw, associate professor. And many thanks to our awards sponsors — the Martin Rotary Club, Union City Rotary Club, Martin Kiwanis and Fuller Partners Real Estate Inc.”
THEIR P'ART' — Art instructor Marti Eakin Doss (back, far right) congratulated the winners and all of the contestants who attended the recent reception. There were 54 entries in the flight-themed competition.

FLIGHT OF FANCY — Jo Ann Speer, manager of Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, gathered information from the winners at the recent reception for the airport- and University of Tennessee at Martin-sponsored International Aviation Art Contest.
UP, UP & AWAY —
Larry Russell (above), pilot and owner of Russell Flying Service, based at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport near Union City, was among the many visitors who admired the students' artwork during a recent reception at the airport.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

AND THE WINNER IS... — Young artists and their families gathered at the airport for a reception honoring the art competition winners. The results were announced by airport manager Jo Ann Speer (standing center) and (continuing from left) contest juror Diane Shaw and contest and exhibit coordinator Lane Last, both from UT Martin.

WALL TO WALL ART — Winners in the flight-theme art contest were (from left) Caroline Killebrew, Kiran Last, Emily Brown, Dayjha Trice, Melodie Clayton, Julie Mosley and Kaylee Householder. Not pictured were Essence Huff and Maria Marquez. Winners in three different categories received gift cards for art supplies.
Conference for Working Women slated February 10

Participants attending the 14th annual Working Women’s Conference on February 10 will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy.

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

The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., February 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will welcome participants following continental breakfast and registration, which are scheduled for 8:30-9 a.m.

Mary Kate Ridgeway, of Henry County UT Extension Services, will lead the conference. The opening speakers will be Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair, graduate program coordinator and professor of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin and Dr. Teresa Collard, director, UT Martin’s Center and assistant professor of communications. Their presentation, “Life is a Picnic: Fill your Basket with Happiness,” is set for 9:15 a.m. LeBleu serves as the family and consumer sciences teacher educator and also teaches basic courses in child and family studies. She has a Ph.D. in home economics education with a minor in child development from Iowa State University. Collard teaches courses in public speaking and interpersonal communications and devotes a great deal of time to consulting on interpersonal communications and its applications to the business and educational environment. Both LeBleu and Collard have served as consultants for the Cobb County Education Consortium in Atlanta, Georgia, and various other state and regional organizations and are both recipients of the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Awards.

At 10 a.m., Lori Nunnery, executive director of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, will present “Gettin’ There From Here.” Nunnery’s professional organizations and activities include, Chair for Tennessee Trails and Byways Cotton Junction, Discovery Museum of West Tennessee Board of Directors and the 2011 NAIA Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament co-chair. In 2005, she won the Tennessee Business and Professional Women’s Club Speak-Off.

At 10:45 a.m., Jacqueline Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocational Center for Life Calling and Career, Student Services at Union University, will deliver her presentation, “Who’s at your Picnic.” Taylor has experience teaching adult continuing education in technology. In addition to her 17 years of experience in higher education in the areas of student services and academics. She is also knowledgeable of learning styles, personality testing/evaluation techniques, and educational research for program design and improvement.

Mr. Lee Johnston, executive director of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, will present “It’s Raining, Now What?” at 12:45 p.m. Johnston has 24 years of banking experience, has chaired several festivals in Tipton County and has been involved with the Lauderdale and Haywood County Feeder Calf Association. His awards include Jr. Auxiliary’s 1997 Man of the Year, 1996 DSCC alumni of the year, and he has earned a conservationist achievement award.

Richard Schoebel, assistant athletics director at UT Martin and former FBI Counterterrorism employee, will deliver the final address of the day at 1:30 p.m. with his presentation, “Watch Out For The Big Bad Wolf!” Schoebel served a majority of his FBI career in the Counterterrorism Division, providing oversight to the FBI’s international counterterrorism effort. He was responsible for collateral duties in the FBI as a certified FBI Certified Instructor and a member of the FBI SWAT program. The deadline to register for the conference is February 1. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgirnes@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 registered. On-line registration is preferred at www.utm.edu/weststar<http://www.utm.edu/weststar>. Credit cards are accepted. The fee is $35 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Make checks payable to WestStar. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

This conference is made possible by WestStar Leadership in partnership with the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise.

Local reading clinic available to students in grades 2-12

Students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading are encouraged to enroll in a local reading clinic, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. Three enrollment sessions are available: January 17-February 3, February 14-March 19, and April 2-April 26.

The reading clinic is a sequential and intensive reading improvement course taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center. Students will be individually tested to determine personal reading level and phonetic comprehension before being placed in a level-specific course designed to build skills and fill gaps in reading strategies. Students will attend one-hour classes twice a week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The second session will not meet February 20 (make-up will be February 24) or March 5-8.

The cost is $100 per session plus $25 for a personal workbook.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082. Your name and number will be given to the reading clinic program director, who will contact you to schedule a testing appointment.
Daniel Rose to present art exhibition at UT Martin

Award-winning artist Daniel Rose will present an art show titled, “Theories in Evolution,” scheduled to begin with an opening reception from 5:00-7:00 p.m., January 24. The show will run through January 28 in the Paul Meek Library on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rose received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in visual art studio from UT Martin. He is known for his oil and acrylic paintings focusing on modern and post-modern themes. The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

Greece travel-study trip

For ten days in early August, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to learn from experience. Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, will lead students on an active excursion through Greece, the cradle of western civilization.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the Parthenon, Acropolis and ancient Olympia, the site of the classical Olympic Games. The trip will also include adventurous activities such as kayaking the coast of Lefkas Island and ascending Mount Olympus, known in Greek mythology as the home of the gods.

The trip is a two credit hour travel-study course, and classes will meet weekly prior to the trip for preparation. Classes will discuss the history of sports, Greek culture and burgeoning outdoor adventure programs.

Cost is about $3,200 and scholarships are available.

WestStar receives $20,000 from USDA Rural Development

Leaders from West Tennessee and the WestStar Leadership Program joined on January 5 to celebrate the incoming 2012 WestStar class at its first orientation. Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development State Director, presented WestStar with a $20,000 check on behalf of the USDA Rural Development, which has consistently been a strong supporter of WestStar in the past. WestStar helps local leaders of West Tennessee to take responsibility for the growth and development of their communities, counties and states.
University Professor to present

The music of Brazil

MARTIN, Tenn. – Julie Hill, director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present “The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Escola Didá” at 7:30 p.m., January 31. The lecture will be presented in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Hill specializes in contemporary and world percussion and is frequently invited to other institutions as a guest lecturer and performer on the topic of Brazilian percussion. Hill has performed at international festivals in Mexico, Brazil, France, Puerto Rico, South Korea and at Percussive Arts Society International Conventions (PASIC) as a member of the Caixa Percussion Trio. The Caixa Percussion Trio has recently recorded its first CD and is currently commissioning a second set of compositions.

Hill is known for her extensive research of percussion throughout Brazil, primarily in the regions of Salvador da Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. She serves on the international advisory board for Escola Didá, a project based in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, dedicated to social transformation for black women and at-risk children through music.

Hill received her Bachelor of Music Education from UT Martin and went on to earn a Master of Music in percussion performance from Arizona State University and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky.

The lecture is part of the Academic Speaker series sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs.

"Every year Honors Programs invites a top UT Martin faculty-scholar to the Academic Speakers Series, not only to share their unique talents, but to show that one does not need to go very far to find high quality research and creative activity," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs. "Dr. Julie Hill exemplifies this philosophy with her world-renowned percussion work."

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Crews at 731-881-7436, or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.
Music of Brazil at UTM

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Hand quilting class offered

Community members interested in learning the art of hand quilting are invited to register for a quilting class offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The class will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 6 and 13. Linda Arant, course instructor, will focus on the preparation of quilt blocks, basic techniques and hands-on practice with quilting supplies.

Students should bring their own thimbles. Registration is $55 per person, with a $15 supply fee paid to the instructor on the first night of class. To register, call 881-7082.

Core ensemble to perform at UTM

Core Ensemble, a production group dedicated to the performance of chamber music theatre, will perform its show “Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance” at 3 p.m., Jan. 29, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Of Ebony Embers” is a theatrical work for actor, cello, piano and percussion. It is a celebration of the lives of the African-American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay as seen through the eyes of the muralist and painter, Aaron Douglas.

The musical score includes works by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Jelly Roll Morton, Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus, as well as concert music by Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker.

The UT Martin production is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and the UTM Black Student Association.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music chair, at 881-7400.
Service project inspires memories

Memphis University School was named second runner-up in the recent 31st annual High School Science Bowl held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The team was comprised of Mark Sorensen (front from left), Nicholas Rouse, Andrew Raves and Garret Sullivan. Joining them were Lauren H. White, SMACS member (back); Dr. Michael Schwartz, MUS science professor; Analice Appeal, MUS science instructor; and Aaron D. Crump, SMACS member. Sorensen and Yunhua Zhao, also of MUS, both placed in the top 10 in the written competition. Sorensen also received the highest score in physics and tied for the highest overall score. Five schools participated in the afternoon bowl games and written test competitions, hosted by the UT Martin Student Members of the American Chemical Society.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY – Trenton Woodley, a political science major at the University of Tennessee at Martin joined a community cleanup effort at the former Martin Middle School building Monday morning. Members of the Martin Housing Authority and concerned citizens are working to get the future civic center in shape.
Four UT Martin faculty members awarded 2011-12 academic leave

Four faculty members representing four departments at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been awarded Hal and Alma Reagan Leave for the 2011-12 academic year.

The UT Martin Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to help faculty members to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic experiences. In the program, faculty members receive half salary for one year or full salary for half a year to work on professional research.

Dr. Michael Park, associate professor of marketing in the Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems, was awarded a Reagan Leave for fall 2011 to conduct research related to ethics in marketing.

His research will be part of his submission of multiple scholarly papers for publication, which is an important criteria for maintaining the College of Business and Global Affairs accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business-International.

Associate professor of psychology Susan Buckelew likes to study sleep; specifically, she studies applied psychophysiology and sleep and dreams. In addition to establishing a state-of-the-art research and training-applied psychophysiology lab, her research assisted her in development of a course on sleep and dreams.

Her Reagan Leave award for the spring will enable her to develop a bibliography of peer-reviewed journal articles regarding sleep impairments in college students and submit a manuscript on sleep and dreams.

Dr. Suzanne Maniss, associate professor of counseling, spent last fall on leave producing an evaluative report in preparation for a self-study as part of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accreditation process and producing a manuscript for submission for publication.

She also attended a CACREP Self-study Training Workshop and will compile a report comprised of her review of other programs and knowledge gained during the workshop for submission to the counseling faculty and to the chair of the Department of Educational Studies.

Dr. Charles Bradshaw, associate professor of English, will also be taking Reagan Leave in the spring to travel, research and write in Philadelphia, New England and New York. While visiting many of historic, cultural and literary sites, he plans to document these visits with photographs and video clips to be used as teaching aids on his website for early American literature and culture.

He anticipates his research will also allow him access to primary documents and images needed to complete a book he is writing on early, political conspiracy and paranoia in early American writing.

Daniel Rose art exhibit today at UT Martin

Award-winning artist Daniel Rose will present an art show titled "Theories in Evolution," scheduled to begin with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. today. The show will run through Saturday in the Paul Meek Library on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rose received his bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in visual art studio from UT Martin. He is known for his oil and acrylic paintings focusing on modern and post-modern themes. The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

For information concerning library hours, call the Paul Meek Library at (731) 881-7060. For more information concerning the exhibition, call the Department of Visual and Theater Arts at (731) 881-7400.
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In the program faculty members receive half salary for one year or full salary for half of a year to work on professional research.

Dr. Michael Park, associate professor of marketing in the Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science, and Information Systems, was awarded a Reagan Leave for fall 2011 to conduct research related to ethics in marketing.

"It is important that I teach UT Martin students how to make ethical marketing decisions, and this time to conduct research will provide depth to this element of my marketing classes," Park said.

Park's research will be part of his submission of multiple scholarly papers for publication, which is an important criteria for maintaining the College of Business and Global Affairs accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business-International.

Associate professor of psychology Susan Buckelew likes to study sleep; specifically, she studies applied psychophysiology and sleep and dreams.

In addition to establishing a state-of-the-art research and training-applied psychophysiology lab, her research also assisted her in the development of a new course on sleep and dreams.

Buckelew's Reagan Leave award for the spring will enable her to develop a bibliography of peer-reviewed journal articles regarding sleep impairments in college students and submit a manuscript on sleep and dreams.

"I am excited about this opportunity for renewal and anticipate that this focused study will greatly enhance my current research and teaching activities," Buckelew said.

Dr. Suzanne Maniss, associate professor of counseling, spent fall 2011 on leave producing an evaluative report in preparation for a self-study as part of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accreditation process, and to producing a text manuscript for submission for publication.

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Dr. Charles Bradshaw, associate professor of English, will also be taking Reagan Leave in spring to travel, research and write in Philadelphia, New England and New York.

While visiting many of the historic, cultural and literary sites on the eastern seaboard, where much of the early American literary tradition established itself, he plans to document these visits both with photographs and short video clips to be used as teaching aids on his website for early American literature and culture (http://www.utm.edu/staff/cbradshaw/Research%20Links.htm).

Bradshaw anticipates that his research will also allow him access to primary documents and images needed to complete a book he is writing on early political conspiracy and paranoia in early American writing.

The UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts coordinates the award process for Reagan Leave.
Pottery class announced at UT Martin

David McBeth, professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will teach a basic pottery course sponsored by the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 7-March 1.

This is an opportunity for interested community members to work with a potter’s wheel and learn to make bowls, cups, pitchers and other artwork.

No experience is necessary.

The registration fee is $80 per person, with an additional $20 supply fee paid to the instructor on the first night of class.

The course is limited to the first 10 students to register.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Pulitzer prize winner to speak at UTM

Rick Bragg, American author and New York Times correspondent, will present a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 2.

The lecture will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Bragg is known for his non-fiction works, especially those about his family in Alabama.

He is the author of the best-selling title “All Over but the Shoutin’” and has won a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for his work with The New York Times.

Bragg is also the recipient of more than 50 other writing awards over his 20-year career, including the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award, which he has received twice.

He was also awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1992 and has taught writing in both college classrooms and newspaper newsrooms.

Bragg’s lecture is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, Paul Meek Library and Friends of Paul Meek Library.

The Friends support is made possible by the establishment of the Martha C. Meek Endowment.

“It’s not often that someone can have the benefit of hearing a world-renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning author speak in person about their experiences,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs.

“Bragg’s writing is enjoyable and so varied that some of it appeals to almost everyone,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, president of Friends of Paul Meek Library.

“If people have not read ‘All Over but the Shoutin’,’ they really should. He understands life in the South, particularly in small towns, yet he has lived so many places and had so many experiences that he also brings some objectivity to his portrait.”

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Crews at 881-7436, or by email at lerews@utm.edu.

UTM to host honor band

The 33rd annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band will be held Friday and Saturday.

More than 400 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend the event. All rehearsals will be held on campus in the Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building.

Concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday and from 1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Saturday in the Boling University Center Ballroom. The concerts are free and open to the public.
New veterinary tech program offers degree

Veterinary technologists can be described as the equivalent of registered nurses in the animal world, and the vet-tech job market is expected to grow by more than 20 percent in the next six years.

"There are lots of diverse job opportunities. The job market is really strong," said Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Roberts and others are currently celebrating the recent launch of the new veterinary technology program at UT Martin, which began with the start of the spring 2012 semester, with four new courses: medical terminology, pharmacology, advanced lab and an exotic animal course.

"We, in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, are very excited about this new degree. Our advisory board, which met in December, is composed of veterinarians, veterinary medical technologists, animal rescue persons and former UTM graduates interested in making this program one of the best for West Tennessee," said Dr. Danny Walker, UT Martin lecturer of several of the vet-tech courses.

"The numbers are really good. One of the classes has 65 students in it," Roberts said. "Probably our long term goal is around 30 per class or 120 in the whole program."

The goal may not be hard to reach as Roberts said the program has attracted numerous current upper-classmen at UT Martin and the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources is being bombarded with calls from high school students and parents.

"There's been a lot of excitement," Roberts said. "We thought there would be a lot of interest, but there's been more than expected."

The program cannot be officially accredited until its first students graduate, which is expected in 2014. Graduates will have a bachelor's degree in animal science with a veterinary technology emphasis and will then be able to sit for the national veterinary medical technology licensure examination that will allow them to practice with a veterinarian in a clinic, farm, educational or research facility.

"A degree of this nature allows the graduate many opportunities for employment in West Tennessee, as well as nationally," Walker said. "Though there are other veterinary technician programs in our state, this is the only program with a four year degree with this particular composition in the University of Tennessee system."

Walker added that a local humane society and a rescue group have agreed to provide animals for the program so that students can gain hands-on experience assisting with blood tests, vaccinations and spays and neuters, which also gives the animals a better chance of adoption.

"They will practice on mannequins for the collection of blood and the injection of vaccinations, they will be given the opportunity to assist the veterinarian with these procedures on the live animals. The veterinarian will perform the requested neuters and spays with students assisting," Walker said.

For more information on UT Martin's vet-tech program, contact Roberts at (731) 881-7952 or jroberts@utm.edu.

UT Martin professor to highlight Brazil

Julie Hill, director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present "The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Escola Dida" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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New Veterinary Technology program offers promising degree

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University to host “Of Ebony Embers Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance”

Core Ensemble, a production group dedicated to the performance of chamber music theatre, will perform its show “Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance” at 3 p.m., Jan. 29, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Of Ebony Embers” is a theatrical work for actor, cello, piano and percussion. It is a celebration of the lives of the African-American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay as seen through the eyes of the muralist and painter, Aaron Douglas. The musical score includes works by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Jelly Roll Morton, Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus, as well as concert music by Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker.

The UT Martin production is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and the UTM Black Student Association.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music chair, at 731-881-7400.
University professor to present the Music of Brazil

Julie Hill, director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present "The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Percussion" at 7:30 p.m., January 31. The lecture will be presented in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Hill specializes in contemporary and world percussion and is frequently invited to other institutions as a guest lecturer and performer on the topic of Brazilian percussion. Hill has performed at international festivals in Mexico, Brazil, France, Puerto Rico, South Korea and at Percussive Arts Society International Conventions (PASIC) as a member of the Caixa Percussion Trio. The Caixa Percussion Trio has recently recorded its first CD and is currently commissioning a second set of compositions.

Hill is known for her extensive research of percussion throughout Brazil, primarily in the regions of Salvador da Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo. She serves on the international advisory board for Escola Didá, a project based in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, dedicated to social transformation for black women and at-risk children through music.

Hill received her Bachelor of Music Education from UT Martin and went on to earn a Master of Music in percussion performance from Arizona State University and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky.

The lecture is part of the Academic Speaker series sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs.

"Every year Honors Programs invites a top UT Martin faculty-scholar to the Academic Speakers Series, not only to share their unique talents, but to show that one does not need to go very far to find high quality research and creative activity," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs. "Dr. Julie Hill exemplifies this philosophy with her world-renowned percussion work."

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Crews at 731-881-7436, or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

University to host Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Rick Bragg, American author and New York Times correspondent, will present a public lecture at 7:30 p.m., February 2. The lecture will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Bragg is known for his non-fiction works, especially those about his family in Alabama. He is the author of the best-selling title "All Over but the Shoutin'" and has won a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for his work with the New York Times.

Bragg is also the recipient of more than 50 other writing awards over his 20-year career, including the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award, which he has received twice. He was also awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1992 and has taught writing in both college classrooms and newspaper newsrooms.

Bragg’s lecture is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, Paul Meek Library and Friends of Paul Meek Library. The Friends support is made possible by the establishment of the Martha C. Meek Endowment.

"It’s not often that someone can have the benefit of hearing a world-renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning author speak in person about their experiences," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs.

"Bragg’s writing is enjoyable and so varied that some of it appeals to almost everyone,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, president of Friends of Paul Meek Library. "If people have not read ‘All Over but the Shoutin’, they really should. He understands life in the South, particularly in small towns, yet he has lived so many places and had so many experiences that he also brings some objectivity to his portrait.”

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Crews at 731-881-7436, or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

Course in hand quilting scheduled

Community members interested in learning the art of hand quilting are encouraged to register for an evening quilting class offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The course will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., February 6 and 13.

Linda Arant, course instructor, will focus on the preparation of quilt blocks, basic techniques and hands-on practice with quilting supplies. Participants will be able to use completed quilt blocks in pillow tops, tote bags and other personal craft projects. Students should bring their own thimbles.

Registration is $55 per person, with a $15 supply fee paid to the instructor on the first night of class.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or register online at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/healthcare.php.
UTM Honor Band and Percussion Symposium slated January 27-28

The 33rd annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band will be held Jan. 27-28. More than 400 outstanding high school musicians from across Tennessee and Kentucky will be selected to attend the event. All rehearsals will be held on campus in the Boling University Center and Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building. Concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 27 and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. on January 28 in the Boling University Center Ballroom. The concerts are free and open to the public.

JOURNALIST RICK BRAGG

Rick Bragg, American author and New York Times correspondent, will present a public lecture at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 2 at University of Tennessee Martin. The lecture will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Bragg is known for his non-fiction works, especially those about his family in Alabama. He is the author of the best-selling title "All Over but the Shoutin'" and has won a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for his work with the New York Times. Bragg's lecture is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, Paul Meek Library and Friends of Paul Meek Library. The presentation is free and open to the public. Contact Crews at 731-881-7436, or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

WESTSTAR RECOGNIZES CORPORATE SPONSORS - Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented 13 Corporate Sponsorship Appreciation Awards on behalf of the WestStar Leadership Program at a recent awards banquet. The banquet honored those corporate sponsors who have contributed $2,000 or more toward the WestStar program. Pictured with Rakes (right) is John Bucy, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Development District and Human Resources Agency.

Photo submitted
WALL TO WALL ART — Winners in the recent Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and University of Tennessee at Martin International Aviation Art Contest were (from left) Caroline Killebrew, Kiran Last, Emily Brown, Dayjha Trice, Melodie Clayton, Julie Mosley and Kaylee Householder. Not pictured were Essence Huff and Maria Marquez. Winners in three different categories received gift cards for art supplies.

Winners chosen in art contest

Their artwork went above and beyond.

Winners were recently chosen in the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and University of Tennessee at Martin International Aviation Art Contest.

They included:
• Intermediate category — First place, Julie Mosley; second place, Kaylee Householder; and third place, Kiran Last.
• Junior category — First place, Emily Brown; second place, Melodie Clayton; and third place, Caroline Killebrew.
• Senior category — First place, Maria Marquez; second place, Essence Huff; and third place, Dayjha Trice.

The winners each received recognition from Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and UT Martin. The first-place winners in each category received $50 gift cards, while the second-place winners received $30 gift cards and the third-place winners received $20 gift cards to purchase art supplies.

The International Aviation Art Contest is an art contest for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 17. Students participate at a national level and winners are submitted to an international jury each year.

The contest is held annually to encourage young people to demonstrate the importance of aviation through their art and to motivate them to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering and science.

A different theme is selected each year and this year’s theme — “Silent Flight” — encouraged children to visualize all the ways people travel through the sky with the power of the wind alone.

The United States portion of the contest is sponsored by the National Aeronautic Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, National Coalition for Aviation Education and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Local winners advance to state competition and the top three entries in each age group at that level are forwarded to Washington, D.C., to be judged in national competition. From there, national winners from each age group advance to the international level for judging and recognition.

Mrs. Speer said with 54 entries, the local competition “turned out to be a very successful event.”

“They were all fantastic and I want to thank all of the students for participating, as well as the art instructors and parents for their encouragement,” she said.

“I would also like to thank UT Martin for co-sponsoring this event, especially Lane Last, professor of art, for his expertise in coordinating the contest and the juror, Diane Shaw, associate professor. And many thanks to our awards sponsors — the Martin Rotary Club, Union City Rotary Club, Martin Kiwanis and Fuller Partners Real Estate Inc.”
Veterinary technologists can be described as the equivalent of R.N.s in the animal world, and the vet-tech job market is expected to grow by more than twenty percent in the next six years.

"There are lots of diverse job opportunities. The job market is really strong," said Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Roberts and others are currently celebrating the recent launch of the new veterinary technology program at UT Martin, which began with the start of the spring 2012 semester, with four new courses: medical terminology, pharmacology, advanced lab and an exotic animal course.

"We, in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, are very excited about this new degree. Our advisory board, which met in December, is composed of veterinarians, veterinary medical technologists, animal rescue persons and former UTM graduates interested in making this program one of the best for West Tennessee," said Dr. Danny Walker, UT Martin lecturer of several of the vet-tech courses.

"The numbers are really good. One of the classes has 65 students in it," Roberts said. "Probably our long-term goal is around 30 per class or 120 in the whole program."

The goal may not be hard to reach as Roberts said the program has attracted numerous current upperclassmen at UT Martin, and the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources is being bombarded with calls from high school students and parents.

"There's been a lot of excitement," Roberts said. "We thought there would be a lot of interest, but there's been more than expected."

The program cannot be officially accredited until its first students graduate, which is expected in 2014. Graduates will have a bachelor's degree in animal science with a veterinary technology emphasis, and will then be able to sit for the national veterinary medical technology licensure examination that will allow them to practice with a veterinarian in a clinic, farm, educational or research facility.

"A degree of this nature allows the graduate many opportunities for employment in West Tennessee, as well as nationally," Walker said.

"Though there are other veterinary technician programs in our state, this is the only program with a four year degree with this particular composi-

Pageants to be held at UTM

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

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

The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss Tennessee Crossroads pageants are open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

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

For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at (731) 514-3556 or hholt@utm.edu.
W. Tenn. hit by another closing

Briggs & Stratton's surprise decision idles 690 in a hard-pressed corner of the state

By Ted Evanoff
evanoff@commercialappeal.com

The 150,000 residents in West Tennessee's upper corner, already worn by a 12.6 percent unemployment rate, face another plant closing. Hit by soft sales, Briggs & Stratton Corp. will permanently shut its assembly line for lawn mowers and snow blowers in May, idling 690 full- and part-time employees at Newbern.

Only a trickle of the payroll in little Newbern, population 3,000, reaches the shops and stores of Memphis, about 70 miles to the southwest down U.S. 51.

But what's happening in this farm and factory region reflects what business specialists say is a fight going on across the Mid-South and much of America.

It's a fight carried out largely on the local level to repower a jobs machine stalled for four straight years.

"The entire country has lost jobs," said Martin Mahmoud, finance professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, a hub city in the state's northwest corner. "It's our low skill levels. People can produce more, be more productive and innovative, when they are educated."

America's countryside has shed a wave of industrial jobs in recent years, a trend Tennessee economic officials are trying to reverse, but it's coming too late for Newbern.

Milwaukee-based Briggs, which leases a 252,000-square-foot plant, announced the closing on Wednesday, telling some Newbern officials at a 6:45 a.m. meeting, said Newbern Alderman Robert Hart.

"It's a tremendous loss of jobs for us," Hart said, noting it follows the shutdown in recent years of big plants in the region run by All-Wear, Goodyear, Honeywell and WorldColor, costing about 3,000 jobs in all.

Continued from page C1

BRIGGS

Having lost an order from major customer John Deere & Co., Hart said, Briggs disclosed the product line would be consolidated at its existing plant in the Atlanta suburb of McDonough.

"People are just going to have to search for jobs in the surrounding area, maybe in Jackson," said Cindy Gray, owner of Cindy's Flowers in Newbern. "I don't think it's just happening in West Tennessee. It seems to me it's happening a lot to rural areas. I was just in Memphis and in Atlanta. They're booming. I just think corporations are moving to larger cities."

Once able to count on low wages to lure factories, America's country towns must face off against even less expensive Mexico and Asia as well as U.S. cities, said Patrick McNamara, a Purdue University economist and specialist in rural development trends.

Manufacturers trying to cut payroll costs have come to prefer cities, McNamara said.

Urban areas offer numerous service firms able to perform tasks for a fee, such as engineering, payroll and shipping.

In a small town, the factory would likely have those jobs done by its own workers.

For months, jobless rates above 11 percent have persisted in the four counties of Northwest Tennessee — Dyer, Gibson, Weakley and Obion. The latter claims the second-highest jobless rate in the state at 15.3 percent.

Rather than sit idle, economic officials in Northwest Tennessee vow the region can recover using the same transportation-centric strategy employed with success at Memphis.

"There's no magic bullet. There's no overnight remedy when things like this happen," said economic developer Allen Hester. "But we're not going away. I don't look for rapid growth. I don't look for rapid decline. We have a lot of things in place that can keep us stable and growing slowly."

Using grants, the region is developing industrial-scale docks at Cates Landing, a Mississippi River port at Tiptonville. And it's counting on the completion of Interstate 69 west of U.S. 51.

A fast north-south route can cut the commute to Memphis International Airport by 30 minutes, an important saving for the region's plant managers flying to business meetings, said Hester, chief executive officer of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce.

Graduates of the high schools and UT-Martin, the community colleges and vocational schools are also lifting the education level, Hester said. That can help land jobs, he said, especially if a reshoring trend takes hold, and U.S. companies hit by higher oceanic shipping rates bring back work sent offshore.

"Reshoring has positive imp-

lications for the American South," Hester said. "I'm encouraged. After the terrible recession, people realize the manufacturing sector is vitally important to our country and our future."

Please see BRIGGS, C4
Pulitzer Prize-winning author to be featured in lecture at UTM

Rick Bragg, American author and New York Times correspondent, will present a public lecture Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Bragg is known for his non-fiction works, especially those about his family in Alabama. He is the author of the best-selling title “All Over but the Shoutin'” and has won a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for his work with The New York Times.

Bragg is also the recipient of more than 50 other writing awards over his 20-year career, including the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award, which he has received twice. He was also awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1992 and has taught writing in both college classrooms and newspaper newsrooms.

Bragg’s lecture is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, Paul Meek Library and Friends of Paul Meek Library. The Friends support is made possible by the establishment of the Martha C. Meek Endowment. “It’s not often that someone can have the benefit of hearing a world-renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning author speak in person about their experiences,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs.

“Bragg’s writing is enjoyable and so varied that some of it appeals to almost everyone,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, president of Friends of Paul Meek Library. “If people have not read ‘All Over but the Shoutin’,’ they really should. He understands life in the South, particularly in small towns, yet he has lived so many places and had so many experiences that he also brings some objectivity to his portrait.”

The presentation is free and open to the public.

UTM hosts lecture on music of Brazil

Julie Hill, director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee Martin, will present “The Black Music of Brazil: An Emphasis on Social Transformation for Women and Children through Escola Didá” at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The lecture will be presented in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Hill specializes in contemporary and world percussion and frequently is invited to other institutions as a guest lecturer and performer on the topic of Brazilian percussion. She has performed at international festivals in Mexico, Brazil, France, Puerto Rico, South Korea and at Percussive Arts Society International Conventions as a member of the Caixa Percussion Trio. The Caixa Percussion Trio recently recorded its first CD and is commissioning a second set of compositions.

The lecture is part of the Academic Speaker series sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, call (731) 881-7436 or email lcrouws@utm.edu.
It was around 8:50 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 22. Group 45 of the Pep Group gathered together to meet as school was about to start. It was the first day of class. It was the first day of Greg Frye’s journey.

“I got the position!” Frye said.

From the 17,000-person town of Dyersburg, Tenn., Greg Frye had arrived.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) offered Greg Frye the chance to be on its committee, and, without hesitation, he accepted.

Frye did not need to say anything as he walked back into the room of 15 or so friends who were assuming the probable; his smile told the story.

“I was just grinning from ear-to-ear,” he said. “My face was just exploding with sunshine.”

But Frye is not your traditional committee member. He did not go on luxurious vacations as a child, drive a Cadillac or have daily room service. In fact, he rode tractors on a dairy farm, milking cows and grinding feed all through high school.

Between school and farming duties, that doesn’t leave much room for free time. However, when Frye could, he would harness his inner musician and before long he became good enough that he wanted to travel cross-country doing independent work.

“I started traveling and playing music at age 15,” he said. “I went touring as an independent musician after 18 and played shows with the likes of Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.”

Throughout high school and after high school, the aspiration of college would continually linger in Frye’s mind.

“I always hoped to do other things,” Frye said. “I always wanted to go to college and law school, but I did do the traditional farm thing.”

In 2008, the decision came. Frye was going to attend UT-Martin.

“I told my family that I was going to focus all my time on being a student,” he said. “I wanted to make a good go of this.”

Three weeks into school, he was in a fraternity. And a year later, doors opened up and he became senator of Student Government Association and founder and president of Non-Traditionalist Student Association.

The doors still kept flinging open. At 42, Frye was nominated and elected to THEC. Frye said the organization as a whole oversees certain legislation regarding education to approve or make amends before it is passed on to the governor.

With all the other achievements that Frye has accomplished throughout his life — the father of eight and a grandfather, a soldier in the military and a cancer survivor of malignant melanoma — he ranks this near the top.

“On a business and personal side, I would put it in the same ranking as my father and grandfather,” he said. “This ranks right there with it.”

Dr. Mike McCullough first met Frye three years ago and was immediately impressed with his poise and presence.

“He’s articulate and he has a style to him and he has long hair and he’s cool,” he said. “I think once you say that long hair guy, everybody on campus knows who he is.”

Some would compare him to musician Robert Plant because of his hair, but the long locks only tell a brief story of the education-loving man.

“He’s learned the value of education,” McCullough said. “He’s on fire for the idea of other people getting on fire with the idea of improving through education.”

Frye is proud of his accomplishments, but he won’t boast of them. He’s just a country boy from Dyer County, Tenn., hoping to change lives through educational means.

“When you meet someone, you always have the suspicion they’re not quite as good as they seem cause most people aren’t,” McCullough said. “But when you’re around him, you realize that’s exactly who he is and he is a precious commodity on our campus.”

“Greg wanted this and he’s worked hard for it.”

Now, he’s got it.
UTM to host women’s conference

Participants attending the 14th annual Working Women’s Conference on Feb. 10 will learn how to be a working woman while creating a legacy.

The conference is being sponsored by the WestStar leadership program and Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The conference is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the UTM Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

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

Mary Kate Ridgeway, of Henry County UT Extension Services, will lead the conference.

The opening speakers will be Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair, graduate program coordinator and professor of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at UTM and Dr. Teresa Collard, director of the UTM Women’s Center and assistant professor of communications.

Their presentation, “Life is a Picnic: Fill your Basket with Happiness,” is set for 9:15 a.m.

Dr. LeBleu serves as the family and consumer sciences teacher educator and also teaches basic courses in child and family studies.

Dr. Collard teaches courses in public speaking and interpersonal communications.

Both have served as consultants for the Cobb County Education Consortium in Atlanta, Ga. and both are recipients of the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Awards.

At 10 a.m., Lori Nunnery, executive director of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, will present “Gettin’ There From Here.”

At 10:45 a.m. Jacqueline Taylor, assistant dean of students and director of the Vocational Center for Life Calling and Career, Student Services at Union University, will deliver her presentation, “Who’s at your Picnic.”

Ms. Taylor has experience teaching adult continuing education in technology.

Lee Johnston, executive director of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, will present “It’s Raining, Now What?” at 12:45 p.m.

He has 24 years of banking experience, has chaired several festivals in Tipton County and has been involved with the Lauderdale and Haywood County Feeder Calf Association.

Richard Schoebel, assistant athletics director at UT Martin and former FBI Counterterrorism employee, will deliver the final address of the day at 1:30 p.m. with his presentation, “Watch Out For The Big Bad Wolf!”

Schoebel served a majority of his FBI career in the Counterterrorism Division, providing oversight to the FBI’s international counterterrorism effort. He was responsible for collateral duties in the FBI as an FBI Certified Instructor and a member of the FBI SWAT program.

The deadline to register for the conference is Feb. 1. Forms may be mailed to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, faxed to 731-881-7019 or emailed to vgrimes@utm.edu.

Those registering by email should include their name, business, complete address and phone number.

Online registration is preferred at www.utm.edu/weststar. The fee is $35 per person.

Checks should be made payable to WestStar.

For more information about the conference, contact WestStar coordinator Virginia Grimes at (731) 881-7298.
SMACS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS – The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) has elected the following officers for the calendar year 2012 (front, from left) Chelsea Peeler of Paris, secretary; Gilbert Forgays of Clarksville, president; Lee Elliott of Martin, vice president; Layla Gargus of Martin, treasurer. Members of the Executive Committee include (back, from left) Stephanie Gourley of Martin; Heather Streckert of Dyersburg; Heather Vacovský of Hillsboro; and Krishna Patel of Martin. UT Martin SMACS has won more outstanding ratings, green chapter awards and activity grants than any of the other 900 plus chapters. Last year the chapter received two International Year of Chemistry grants and one Innovative Activities Grant. It also organized a host of activities including two tours, the annual high school science bowl and several speaker meetings. They also won an award for the most creative Rotaract Can Sculpture during UT Martin’s homecoming festivities. This spring the club plans to attend the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Diego, Calif., host the Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting and celebrate Earth Day.
Brothers attend workshop

The Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity at the University of Tennessee at Martin sent representatives to a National Recruitment Workshop and Seminar Jan. 19-21 in Kansas City, Mo.

Representatives of the Alpha Upsilon chapter included: Drew Denton from Bolivar; Kody Read from Pulaski; Brandon McMillan from McEwen; Seth Waterfield from Martin and Nathan Couch from Hohenwald.

These young men were accompanied by chapter advisor Marvin Flatt.

"I was honored to be selected as a representative by my brothers. Recruitment is a very important aspect of my fraternity. The goal is to find the best young men possible that have a desire to learn and be successful throughout college, as well as, strive once in the workplace," Denton said.

While in Kansas City, the group learned new methods of recruitment, talked with other chapters from across the Nation about tactics, set goals for the upcoming year, and planned dates to find the best possible men.

The diversity among the group attending the conference ranged from Louisiana to Wisconsin with around 75 attendees.

"I really learned a lot from the other chapters across the country. It was nice to be in a relaxed setting and compare ideas," Couch said.

By attending the National Recruitment School, the group was able to bring back to their chapter goals and ideas to recruit the best men.

"These young men are some of the best I know and are really excited for the upcoming year. Recruitment School provides the fraternity with methods of building a successful recruitment system to grow the quality and quantity of brothers," Flatt said.

Recruitment school not only taught these young men how to recruit, but also public speaking and media skills they will use throughout their career.