Alyson Gilbert voted off Music City reality show

By MARIAN MARTIN
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The past month has been a stressful one for Jackson’s Brian Harms as he watched his wife, Alyson Gilbert, perform on “Nashville Star” every Monday night.

“The tension starts building up early in the day,” Harms said during a phone conversation before Gilbert’s rehearsal Monday afternoon. “It’s nerve wracking to sit through the show — and I have to have a chair with an armrest so I can squeeze the life out of it.”

There were breathless moments for all of Gilbert’s fans during her latest performance, after it was announced toward the end of Monday night’s show that she had placed in the bottom two. And this time, Gilbert did not receive enough votes to stay in the competition.

After Gilbert sang Trisha Yearwood’s “She’s in Love with the Boy,” the judges had some negative comments for her.

“I’m just not feeling it,” said singer/songwriter Jewel.

“You need to go away somewhere and find your soul, feel some hurt.”

“I had some rich moments of brilliance, but moments don’t make it at this point,” said John Rich of Big & Rich. “I think you are a great singer, but you are missing some pieces. Keep on pushing forward, and you will have a bright future.”

A student at the University of Tennessee Martin, Gilbert, 29, performed regularly at the Downtown Tavern and Redbones Bar and Grill in Jackson before being chosen to compete in the country music reality show. She is well-known by the locals.

Please see STAR, 2A

Area Educator Participates in UT Martin Summer Institute

MARTIN - Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers. Janet Esch of McKenzie participated in the workshop.

Throughout the six-day program, the attendees participated in numerous activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum. This program is in its sixth year and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program.

At left is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UT Martin associate professor of physics and institute director. Jamie Rickman of Dresden Middle School contributed to the institute as the co-project director.
Marine Lt. Gen. Castellaw retires

Marine Lt. Gen. John 'Glad' Castellaw shakes hands with a crowd of people who came to wish him well during his retirement ceremony at the Alamo court square on Monday morning. A Crockett County native, Castellaw retired Monday after more than 38 years of military service — 36 of those on active duty.

By NED B. HUNTER
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Crockett County's courthouse resembled a major military installation Monday, as U.S. servicemen, politicians, area first responders and residents honored the lifelong military service of Marine Lt. Gen. John "Glad" Castellaw.

A Crockett County native, Castellaw retired Monday after more than 38 years of military service — 36 of those on active duty.

"I was born in that hospital over there," said Castellaw, pointing across Bell Street before the ceremony. "It's great to be back home."

Home for Castellaw was the Crockett Mills area. Alamo native Bruce Collett played baseball against Castellaw when the two were in high school.

"We are long-time acquaintances," Collett said. "I am very proud of his service to his country and his achievements in Iraq."

Castellaw became deputy commander, U.S. Marine Forces Central Command, serving in Tampa, Fla., and Bahrain, Iraq, after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

While there, he helped plan the first offensive operations in Southwest Asia.

Castellaw arrived at his retirement ceremony in a restored 1942 military command car. Standing near a Marine Corps flag, he defended the country's position in Iraq while honoring those he commanded.

"The progress we have made there has been incredible," Castellaw said. "We have asked our men and women to do a job, and they have done it. What we need to do now is continue the success we have had there."

A three-star general, Castellaw began his military career in 1972 after graduating from the University of Tennessee-Martin. His first duty was as an officer in the Marine Corps.
Crockett County native served more than 38 in the military

Marine
Continued from cover

Marine amphibian tractor, tank and infantry units in Okinawa, Japan and California. He became a helicopter pilot in 1976, and was later instrumental in helping bring the MV-22 Osprey into military use. The Osprey is a vertical/short takeoff and landing aircraft. Its propellers tilt to the position of an airplane or helicopter.

Castellaw was promoted to colonel in 1994 and was given the position of commanding officer of Marine Weapons and Tactics Squadron One. Ten years later, he became chief of staff for American military operations, overseeing 250,000 servicemen and women in 27 countries.

On Monday, Alamo's National Guard Armory was named in his honor.

Donna Fitzgerald said she came to Alamo from Hardin County to honor Castellaw and others past and present U.S. service personnel. She had previously heard Castellaw speak.

"We respect the men who have served this country," she said. "My father did it in World War II, and we wanted to show respect."

Castellaw's final position with the Marines was deputy commandant for Programs and Resources. The department is responsible for the Marine Corps' financial requirements, policies and programs.

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— Ned Hunter, 425-9641

Servicemen and women parade into the court square in Alamo for the retirement ceremony of Marine Lt. Gen. John 'Glad' Castellaw.

Jessica Kirk Butkovic

Jessica Kirk Butkovic graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin, on May 10, 2008, Summa Cum Laude, Who's Who among American College Students with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. Jessica is the wife of Glenn Butkovic, daughter of Mary Kirk of Bethel Springs, Tenn., and Rickey Kirk of Jackson, Tenn.
Area Residents Attend Governor's School for the Humanities at UT Martin

MARTIN - Some of Tennessee's best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the five-week long Governor's School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the fifth year students were able to earn college credit. Weakley County participants were, from left, Max Batchelor, McKenzie High School, and Rebecca Moore, Dresden High School.
Engineering Students’ Design Directly Benefits Local 3-Year-Old

MARTIN - The “real world” doesn’t get any more real than the experience several University of Tennessee at Martin engineering students had during their senior year. The students created a motorized assistive device for a three-year-old local child.

“We had an opportunity to make something for somebody. Someone can actually get use out of this,” Chris Edwards said of the motorized prone stander with an attached Sahara Slate PC created for Gracin Davidson of Martin. Currently, there is nothing like it on the market, and it already has been very beneficial to Gracin and her parents, Kevin and Stacy Davidson.

“It’s wonderful,” said Stacy. “It’s definitely beneficial, not only for her, but for us.” Stacy explained that the motorized stander will allow Gracin to move about in their home, and the unit can also be loaded in a vehicle so Gracin can accompany her family on outings and be mobile.

Gracin, 3, was born with 1p 36 deletion syndrome, which can result in seizures, congenital heart defects and developmental delays. Most children with 1p 36 walk between the ages of four and six. Gracin’s hips will not develop unless she spends time standing, something to this point she has had to do in a stationary location wherever her prone stander was placed. With the motorized unit, she can move a joystick propelling the unit in any direction. Additionally, using the attached PC with touchscreen, Gracin can be entertained and master developmental skills with a variety of computer programs.

“Gracie is small, and there is little out there for her (in the way of assistive equipment),” said her mother. “For it to be motorized is wonderful.” She added that the unit will help Gracie learn cause and effect.

As part of graduation requirements at ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)-accredited colleges and universities, students must complete a capstone design project. At UT Martin, that requirement is fulfilled in a yearlong course that culminates in the demonstration of the project in the spring.

Chris Edwards of Union City, recent UT Martin graduate with a degree in engineering, watches as Gracin Davidson of Martin tries out a motorized prone stander designed and built by Edwards, Matt Jones of McKenzie and Tugce Goldemir of Turkey. Gracin’s mother, Stacy, offers encouragement.

Edwards, of Union City, was joined by Matt Jones of McKenzie and Tugce Goldemir of Turkey in designing and constructing the motorized prone stander, and the trio spent a total of 750 hours on the project. The project was funded by the Tennessee Department of Education and directed by Drs. Jeff McCullough and Somsak Sukittanon, UT Martin assistant professors of engineering.

“I would like to thank the state of Tennessee for funding this project which allowed UT Martin engineering students to design and construct a product that directly affects Gracin’s life in a positive way,” said McCullough.

Sukittanon also expressed appreciation for the funding and added, “It significantly helps our students to use their knowledge learned in the classrooms on a real-world problem.”

From the start, it was a challenge to design and build a motorized stander that would support the weight of the size batteries needed to propel it for an acceptable length of time and then find compatible motors and controller. Wheel hub motors had to be modified to fit the reconfigured unit. And then, tires to fit the hub motors were a challenge to find. The motorized stander travels 4.5 mph, weighs 120 pounds, the weight of a light motorized wheelchair. It even comes with consumer product testing. The students used Matt’s nephew to “crash” test it and put it through the paces from a youngster’s perspective. “We wanted it to be safe,” said Edwards.

The trio was undaunted last fall when the school year began and they started work on the project. “Matt and I had worked out in industry, so we knew where we needed to start, and that it was going to work,” said Edwards. He added that Diversified-Tamco, Inc., of McKenzie, was very helpful in bringing the project to fruition, welding and providing spare random parts that were needed during development.

“I enjoyed being able to use experience and knowledge gained at UT Martin to create a product that helped Gracin in everyday activities,” said Jones.

Earlier this year, the motorized unit was delivered to the Davids’ home to try out and suggest any necessary modifications. The final delivery was made at the end of the semester.

“We are excited and grateful,” Stacy said about the mobilized stander and the fact that UT Martin students chose to develop it for Gracin. “With each use, Gracie pushes the joystick even more, and she loves the breezes on her face.”
Westview students participate in Math Contest at UTM

The 52nd annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers’ Association High School Mathematics Contest was conducted on April 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Approximately 6,000 of the state’s top mathematics students competed at 23 different testing centers located across the state. Examinations were given in six areas: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus. Students from Westview High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were in the first row from left to right: Cory Sandefur, Tim Bergman, Matt Caldwell, Rachel Coleman, Mercedes Rubio, Jessica Forsythe, Matthew Fitzgerald, Falak Patel, Kyongmee Kim and Julie Reddic and Margaret Greer, teacher; in the second row: Matthew Emery, Tony Tang, Ezra Nance, Noah Towe, Robert Davis, Joseph Hailey, Kesley Gibson, Buddy Legens, Derek Ahn, Hailey Kayser, Lyndsey Jackson, Sydney McClure, Krishna Patel and Marimela D’Aprile; and in the third row: Blake Hooten, Joseph Hicks, Kristin McCloud, Joe Thomas, Alex Campbell, Chris Fowler, Christy Lee, Breanna Pitcher, Magen Pate, Caitlin Simpson, Angela Reddick, Michelle Bergman and Heidi Saunders. Tony Tang, a student of Carol Stephan, received the first place trophy in the Geometry competition. Tim Bergman, a student of Margaret Greer, received the first place trophy in the Algebra II competition. Ezra Nance, a student of Margaret Greer, received the first place trophy in the Pre Calculus competition. Derek Ahn, a student of Margaret Greer, received the first place trophy in the Calculus competition.

WestStar Leadership Class Produces Guide

The WestStar Leadership Program’s 2008 class has published the West Tennessee Festival & Event Guide, an informational resource for major festivals and events. Compiling and producing the guide served as the group’s class project.

WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide leadership development and training for selected participants. The program now has 342 graduates.

Each WestStar class is responsible for organizing a class project designed to benefit West Tennessee. The new guide lists almost 140 festivals and events and includes specific event information. David Belote, WestStar executive director, says the guide will be a helpful resource and contributor to the region’s economic development.

“I’m pleased that the class chose this particular project,” Belote said. “This group seized the opportunity to promote West Tennessee’s tourism industry, which attracts visitors and fosters economic growth in our communities.”

Copies of the guide are available through chambers of commerce or by visiting http://www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/ and clicking on “Leadership Resources.” The guide is also available under “Special Links.”
Greenfield students participate in Math Contest at UTM

The 52nd annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers’ Association High School Mathematics Contest was conducted on April 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Approximately 6,000 of the state’s top mathematics students competed at 23 different testing centers located across the state. Examinations were given in six areas: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus. Students from Greenfield High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were in the first row from left to right: Meagan Porter, Katie McCall, Kandi Sawyers, Mallory Robinson and Laura Croom; in the second row: Brittany Morgan, Melissa McCartney, Kelsey Potts, Wes Clark, Justin Allen and Anna Marie Usery; and in the third row: Linda Farmer, teacher, Kelsey McDonald, Hunter Martin, Dalton Potts, Adam Mitchell, and Dakota Betts.

WestStar leadership publishes fest guide

The WestStar Leadership Program’s 2008 class has published the West Tennessee Festival and Event Guide, an informational resource for major festivals and events. Compiling and producing the guide served as the group’s class project.

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Duncan named to Bredesen’s cabinet

Governor Phil Bredesen has named Bob Duncan as director of the Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination. He replaces Tom Catron, who has served as director for three years and will return to Vanderbilt University at the end of this month.

Duncan, 43, is a native of Trenton. He holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of Memphis, a master’s of business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin and completed the health care executive program at UCLA. He and his wife, Sarah, have three children.

Duncan has served in a variety of capacities with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare since joining the health system in 1995. His responsibilities have included directing pediatric services, overseeing coordinated school health programs, managing advocacy and outreach programs and managing physician clinics. He also previously served in sales and management roles with Union Planters Insurance Company and Schering Plough Healthcare Products.

As Children’s Care director, Duncan will oversee the state’s efforts to improve the health and welfare of children across the state. Governor Bredesen created the Office of Children’s Care Coordination to ensure Tennessee’s compliance with federal EPSDT requirements, decrease the state’s infant mortality rate and improve coordination of services delivered to children.

“Bob has a strong track record of working to expand access and improve the quality of health care for children in Tennessee,” Bredesen said. “His experience and firm grasp on public policy issues will be tremendous assets.”

(Continued on page 2)

Duncan...

(Continued from page 1) to the work of this office. I appreciate his willingness to join my administration and put these skills to work for Tennessee’s children.”

“I am honored to join Governor Bredesen’s cabinet and look forward to building on the progress that has been made in the delivery of care to Tennessee’s most vulnerable children,” Duncan said. “The Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination plays a critical role in addressing some of the most complex and pressing needs for children in our state, and I appreciate the opportunity to help Governor Bredesen and other child health advocates address those needs.”

Area residents attend Governor's School Humanities

Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the five-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the fifth year students were able to earn college credit. Bedford and Marshall County participants were, left to right: Dylan Phillips, Cascade High School; Kristen Clifton, Cornersville High School; Bianca Maseller, Community High School and Katie Mangrum, Cascade High School.
WHITEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Martin, Tenn. -- Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers. Elizabeth Barton (below right) and Essie Walker (above), of Whiteville, participated in the workshop. Throughout the six-day program, participants were involved in numerous activities designed to meet physical science and earth science objectives in the state science curriculum. This program, which is in its sixth year, is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under auspices of Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. At left is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UTM associate professor of physics and institute director. Jamie Rickman, of Dresden Middle School, contributed to the institute as the project co-director. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP CLASS PRODUCES FESTIVAL GUIDE

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"I’m pleased that the class chose this particular project," Belote said. "This group seized the opportunity to promote West Tennessee’s tourism industry, which attracts visitors and fosters economic growth in our communities."

Copies of the guide are available through chambers of commerce or by visiting www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/ and clicking on "Leadership Resources." The guide is listed under “Special Links.”
SOAR program at UT Martin helps prepare freshmen for college

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program. The final SOAR date has been scheduled for July 18-19. Check-in is set for 3 p.m. at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans.

Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required.

For more information about SOAR or to register, call the Office of Admissions toll-free at 1-800-829-UTM1 or (731) 881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.

WestStar Leadership Class produces Festival Guide

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Davis named financial officer for FCS

Josh Davis has been named Financial Services Officer for Farm Credit Services of Mid-American in Dickson. Davis will service loans and financially related services for the $13 billion financial lending cooperative serving over 82,500 farmer-producers, agribusiness and rural residents throughout Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee. His territory includes Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Lewis and Perry areas. He holds an Ag Business degree from UT Martin.

Davis is the son of Richard and Rebecca Davis. He is a member of the Humphreys County Chamber of Commerce and when he is not busy in the office, David is enjoying farming, sports and hunting.
HAM RADIO OPERATORS TAKE CENTER STAGE – Mark McAlpin (left) observes Alan McClain as he communicates with a Massachusetts ham radio operator via Morse code on June 29 during “Field Day” at UT Martin. The two-day event was sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and was the concluding activity of Amateur Radio Week. The event, hosted locally by the university, involved ham radio operators from across the U.S. McAlpin is a member of the university’s Information Technology Services staff, while McClain is a radio communications technician with the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Both live in Dresden.

Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for middle and junior high school teachers. Anne Faulks (right) of Bartlett, participated in the workshop. Throughout the six-day program, the attendees participated in numerous activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum. This program is in its sixth year and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. Also pictured is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UT Martin associate professor of physics and institute director. Jamie Rickman, of Dresden Middle School, contributed to the institute as the co-project director.
Fallen ‘Star’ talks to The Sun

The beat goes on for local songbird

By MARIANN MARTIN
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Jackson singer Alyson Gilbert is back in Jackson three days after being voted off the reality show “Nashville Star.” Instead of feeling discouraged, she says she feels fortunate for the experience and is ready to move forward with her music career.

“I was so fortunate to have been one of the nine finalists out of 45,000 auditions,” Gilbert said, sitting Thursday in the North Jackson home she shares with her husband and four dogs. “I’m just trying not to beat myself up with what I could have done; I just went in there and did my best. And I’ve made some incredible friends and received international exposure.”

Gilbert, 29, says she has gained a new respect for celebrities who live with cameras in their faces — even sympathy for Britney Spears.

“It was such a whirlwind experience, it is hard to describe,” she said. “You are tossed out of normal life into this new universe where you don’t know up from down. You are so far removed from your normal life that you almost become a different person.”

She had not been expecting quite that level of pressure. Every minute of the competitors’ day was tightly structured with rehearsals, mentoring sessions and interviews. They often spent 12 hours a day choosing songs and rehearsing. Not being able to talk to her family or friends for six weeks also was difficult.

The finalists are competing for a recording contract with Warner Bros. Nashville.

“Someone was always telling us to go there and be here,” Gilbert said. “There is so much more that goes into live TV than I ever knew.”

A reality show isn’t always quite reality, Gilbert also discovered. In the series’ attempt to attract viewers, sometimes only one side of a situation was shown on live TV, she said.

“We just say things aren’t always what they seem,” Gilbert said. “They didn’t lie, but normal life is pretty boring. High-pressure and high-stress me is much more

Though she got voted off the show, Alyson Gilbert says she was fortunate to have been one of nine finalists out of 45,000 auditions on ‘Nashville Star.’

Please see STAR, 2A

What to know

For more information and performance dates on Gilbert, visit alysongilbert.com.

‘Nashville Star’ airs at 8 p.m. Mondays on NBC.
entertaining!"

Nevertheless, Gilbert is glad to have done the show. She is particularly thankful for the experience of working with John Rich from the country band Big & Rich, who is one of the judge's on “Nashville Star.” He has mentored the show's female solo artists this season.

"John is an extremely talented person, and he worked his way up through the ranks to where he is now,” Gilbert said. "The advantage of working with him was that he would tell you straight up what he thought you needed to do. He gave criticism, but he never insulted you.”

Music has always been Gilbert's world, she said. She began singing in her church when she was 7 or 8 and sang around her hometown of Crookston, Minn. She also participated in pageants, which gave her experience in performing.

"I can't imagine my life without it,” Gilbert said, struggling with words to describe exactly why she enjoys it so much. "Probably, mostly, I just love the way it makes me feel and makes other people feel. No matter what happens to my music career, I will be singing the rest of my life, even if it's just to my kids.”

After starting college as a vocal major, Gilbert developed vocal nodules, callouses caused by overusing the vocal cords. She dropped out of school and stopped singing for about a year to allow her throat to heal.

In 2002, Gilbert and her husband, Brian Harms, moved to Jackson so Gilbert would be close enough to Nashville to pursue her dream as a singer. She also attends the University of Tennessee Martin, where she studies animal science.

She performs regularly at the Downtown Tavern and Redbones Grill and Bar in Jackson and venues in Nashville. She also sings with local bands, including The Grove and Jonathan Singleton.

"From the very beginning, the people in Jackson were very supportive," Gilbert said. "I was a little surprised because I'm not from here, but they have been gracious and encouraging. Whenever I get brought up in Nashville, I come back to Jackson to rest." Gilbert's talent has attracted fans from around the area, and many of them gathered to watch her performances on "Nashville Star." "We are all supporting her," said Josh Smith, backup singer and guitarist for The Grove. "I hope this will lead to bigger things for her.”

Chris Stanfill, a server at Redbones, added, "She has been one of my favorite performers here. I am sure she will do well wherever she goes.”

Gilbert doesn't have any shows scheduled because she didn't know how long she would be on "Nashville Star," but she plans to start booking next week.

"I plan to hit the ground running," Gilbert said. "All I can do is pound the pavement and hope this moves me forward.”

Gilbert says one of the most important things she learned on the show was how to have a thick skin.

"The music industry is a tough world, not a kind place," Gilbert said. "That is something that John Rich told us again and again. That if we can't take it, we don't need to be in this industry.”

She added, "I just want to thank everybody who watched and voted for me and for all the encouragement to hang in there. It meant the world.”

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.
— Marann Martin, 425-9782

Camille Murphy of the Germantown area was among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony. Murphy received a bachelor of science in early childhood education. Pictured with her is Veronica Coleman of Bartlett, a UT-Martin student. Commencement speaker, Dr. David LaVelle, Memphis surgeon and UT-Martin alumnus, told graduates that, armed with a degree from UT Martin, they were prepared to successfully meet the challenges ahead.
UTM adds online master of science counseling program

An online Master of Science in Education with a major in Counseling — School or Community — will be offered for the first time, beginning Aug. 25, by the University of Tennessee at Martin. It is available to individuals who have obtained a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university.

“We continue to provide accredited, instructional access to enable working professionals to expand their expertise and ultimately improve the level of services to citizens within the region,” said Dr. Tom Rukes, UT Martin chancellor. “This program is one more graduate-level program we are pleased to offer as part of our growing online program menu.”

Joining master of science in education degrees in administration and supervision, geoscience education and special education, all degree requirements for the new program may be completed online with the exception of a required four-day residency at the beginning of each semester. The residency for fall semester is Aug. 21-24; spring, Jan. 8-11; and summer, May 26-31. Candidates are admitted for each semester.

“We are very excited to be able to offer the master’s degree in community and school counseling online,” said Dr. Mary L. Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences dean. “This is an opportunity for those who are working full-time jobs and involved in family life to pursue a dream and goal of a master’s degree in counseling without the travel involved.” She added, “The residency requirement will provide the face-to-face connection that is so critical for those interested in counseling for a career. Faculty members will also work closely with a supervising mentor counselor during the internship to assure a quality experience.”

The counseling program coursework and course materials are accessible online, 24/7, with discussion, email, chat, assignments, examinations and Web-conferencing capability. Students have access to free tech support through UT Martin’s Help Desk, 731-881-7900, each day until midnight CST.

The program includes a graduate core of six hours, counseling core of 36 hours and a culminating internship experience of six hours. Total minimum hours required is 48. A student is permitted to take nine hours of degree course work each semester. Typically, the online counseling program takes 24-30 months to complete.

Also required are a school internship (600 hours total) and/or a community/mental health internship (600 hours total) for completion of the program. The internship is the experiential component of the counseling program, and it may be completed at a site where the student works or resides.

UT Martin is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and the education curriculum is approved by the Tennessee State Board of Education and accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

“This program has been under development for online delivery for two years,” added Dr. Tommy Cates, director of UT Online. “The faculty have done a masterful job of preparing the courses and materials for this venture.”

For more information about the online counseling program or other online programs offered by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, call 731-881-7125. For information about additional UT Online programs — master in agriculture and natural resources systems management, master of science in engineering management, master of science in family and consumer sciences and master of business administration — call UT Online, toll-free, at 1-866-587-7589 or 1-731-881-7589 or visit http://utonline.tennessee.edu.

MHS STUDENT ATTENDS GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE HUMANITIES AT UT MARTIN — Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the five-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the fifth year students were able to earn college credit. Milan High School’s Cody Merritt participated in this year’s program.

AREA EDUCATOR PARTICIPATED IN UT MARTIN SUMMER INSTITUTE — Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers. Jane Ann Lane, of Milan, participated in the workshop. Throughout the six-day program, the attendees participated in numerous activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum. This program is in its sixth year and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. At left is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UT Martin associate professor of physics and institute director. Jamie Rieckman, of Dresden Middle School, contributed to the institute as the co-project director.
UT Martin sets final SOAR July 18-19

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

The final SOAR date has been scheduled for:
- Friday and Saturday, July 18-19.
- Check-in is set for 3 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions are also scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans.

Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions toll free at 1-800-829-UTMI or (731) 881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.

Weakley County residents join WestStar graduates

Bud Grimes, Brian Harris, Tom Seratt and Steve Westenhofer, all of Weakley County, recently were honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its 19th year, UT Martin’s WestStar program, created in 1989 to serve the 21 counties of West Tennessee by providing leadership development and training for selected participants, now has 524 graduates. The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills. WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county.

David Belote, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is executive director of the program.

Grimes is Office of University Relations director at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is an institutional member of the Tennessee College Public Relations Association, a statewide organization he has previously served as past president. He is president of the West Tennessee Public Television Council Inc., the governing board for WLJT-TV/DJ; and is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Harris is the executive director of the Martin Community Housing Authority, Martin. He currently serves as a park board commissioner for the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, is a board member for the Hope of Martin Community Housing Development Corp., an advisory board member for Pathways of Health Center and treasurer for the Community Mentoring Program of Weakley County. He has served as president and board member of the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies, as a committee and board member for the Public Housing Authority Director’s Association and as a board member of the Martin Economic Development Corp. Harris is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Seratt is community bank president for First Citizens National Bank in Martin. He has served as a board member for the city of Martin’s Industrial Development Board, has held various leadership roles for the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the board of directors for the Tennessee Bankers Association Independent Bankers Division and a member of the Martin Rotary Club. He was recently named a certified small business counselor through the REED Center and the state of Tennessee and had been honored with several awards during his tenure with the banking industry.

Westenhofer is the chief executive officer of Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin. He is a member of the Martin Rotary Club, is a board member of the Martin Business Association and an advisory member at the University of Tennessee at Martin for both the College of Business and Public Affairs and the Pre-Health Science Program. In 2007, he was awarded the “Big Bean” award by the Tennessee Soybean Festival committee and, in 2006, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award by Community Health Systems.
Diane Shaw receives special recognition

Artist Diane Shaw, of Martin, has received a Special Recognition Merit Award for her artwork in the 10th annual Landscape Juried Online International Art Exhibition, hosted by Upstream People Gallery.

This international exhibition received approximately 300 entries from around the world and 52 artists were selected by the juror Larry Bradshaw, professor of art at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Professor Bradshaw said about this specially recognized work: "Diane Shaw of Martin, Tenn., presents some strong painterly quality in her acrylic work entitled ‘October Blue’ with color tonality that sparkles."

The exhibition will be featured online through July 31 at www.upstreampeoplegallery.com and continue for 12 months, closing June 30, 2009.

Describing her work, Shaw said: "The painting “October Blue” is one of many paintings in a series in which pure acrylic color is used to give an expressionistic quality to the landscape theme. Non-traditional painting tools such as rags and paint scrapers are used to apply the paint in a quick, spontaneous way. By allowing each layer of paint to dry before applying the next, the painted surface is gradually built up, suggesting the feel and look of actual textures in nature."

SOAR to help students prepare for fall semester

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

The final SOAR date has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. Check-in is set for 3 p.m., at Boiling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions toll free at (800) 829-UTM1 or 881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.
Students receive scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Lee Elliot, son of Joe Elliot and Paula Morris of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

• Ashley Newton, of Martin, daughter of Kelly and Lisa Newton, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. In-state residents telephone (800) 829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-2040.

Carroll County Students Receive Scholarships to Attend UT Martin

MARTIN - Two Carroll County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Lea Stokes, daughter of Roy and Lea Stokes of Huntingdon, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

• Colin Laman, son of Kelicia McCartney and Cary Laman, both of Huntingdon, will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship.

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

SOAR to Help UT Martin Students Prepare for Fall Semester

MARTIN - Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program. The final SOAR date has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. Check-in is set for 3 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions toll-free at 1-800-829-UTM1 or (731) 881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.

recognized for artwork

Diane Shaw, Martin artist and University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of art, has received a special recognition Merit Award for her artwork in the 10th Annual Landscape Juried Online International Art Exhibition, hosted by Upstream People Gallery. The international exhibition received approximately 300 entries from around the world. Fifty-two artists were selected by the jurors, Larry Bradshaw, University of Nebraska at Omaha professor of art.

"Diane Shaw of Martin presents some strong painterly quality in her acrylic work entitled "October Blue" with color tonality that sparkles," said Bradshaw.

The exhibition will be featured online through July 31, at www.upstreampeoplegallery.com and continue for 12 months, closing June 30, 2009.

"The painting "October Blue" is one many paintings in a series in which pure acrylic color is used to give an expressionistic quality to the landscape theme," said Shaw. "Non-traditional painting tools, such as rags and paint scrapers, are used to apply the paint in a quick, spontaneous way. By allowing each layer of paint to dry before applying the next, the painted surface is gradually built up, suggesting the feel and look of actual textures in nature."
Local teachers take part in writing project

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 16th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Fourteen teachers met for 15 days and shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups, and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading, and writing.

The group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year.

Twelve of the teachers participated for six hours of graduate credit in English.

Next year's summer institute will be May 16 and June 8-July 2.

A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, the WTWP is housed in the Department of English at UT Martin and has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993. With the goals of improving writing and writing instruction in all schools, WTWP offers a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher inservice and more.

This year's fall workshop will be September 13 and is titled "Differentiated Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas."

Cheryl Sigmon will be the keynote speaker.

For more information about these and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site at www.utm.edu/wtwp or email WTWP director David Carithers: dcarithers@utm.edu.
Bray claims Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

A University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, has been selected to receive a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship for the 2008-2009. Kathryn Yarbrough Bray, who earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture in spring 2008, will receive $5,000 to aid in her pursuit of graduate or professional study. She is one of 60 students nationwide to receive the Graduate Fellowship from Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society.

Since its creation in 1932, the Graduate Fellowship Program has become one of society’s more visible and financially well-supported endeavors, allocating nearly $380,000 annually to deserving students for first-year graduate study. Currently, 60 Fellowships of $5,000 and 40 Awards of Excellence of $2,000 are awarded each year. The selection process for the fellowships and awards is based on the applicants’ undergraduate academic performance; leadership and service on the campus and in the community; evidence of graduate potential; personal statement of educational perspective, purpose and objectives; and the evaluation reports from three individuals who are in a position to attest to the student’s performance, citizenship and character.

Kathryn Yarbrough Bray recently received a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship in the amount of $5,000 to aid in her pursuit of graduate or professional study. Pictured with Bray is Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, left, and Dr. Emery Gathers, chair of the Phi Kappa Phi fellowship committee.

‘Strategies for Success’ offered online for teachers

Are you a teacher looking for practical strategies to reach diverse learners? The University of Tennessee at Martin has what you need.

“Creating the Inclusive Classroom: Strategies for Success” is a new online course designed to help teachers unlock the learning potential in their classrooms.

“Many of today’s teachers don’t know how to reach kids with special needs, and it’s not for lack of trying,” says Ellen Arnold, veteran educator and author of the course. “There’s a set of techniques that any teacher can easily incorporate, and my new course wraps them all into a tidy package that will empower teachers to deliver their best.”

Participants will discover strategies that are effective, yet easy to implement. They’ll find out how to help every child identify and build on personal strengths and challenge weaknesses. “What’s unique about this course is that it gives you the basic framework for reaching your kids,” says Arnold. “And you can use this framework over and over again across K-12 grades and subjects. If you’re wondering how to turn your daily teaching routine into a recipe for success, this course has just the action steps you need!”

The course includes a classroom that is open day and night. Students can interact with the instructor and their fellow students in Web-based discussion areas where they can ask as many course-related questions as they’d like. A response is usually promised within one business day, and often arrives much sooner than that.

Students can take “Creating the Inclusive Classroom: Strategies for Success” from the convenience of their home or office, and at any time of the day or night. For more information about this course part of a growing catalog of more than 300 instructor-facilitated online courses visit UT Martin’s Online Instruction Center at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php. Select Education To Go.
SAACS participate at National Meeting

Twelve University of Tennessee at Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) and Dr. S.K. Airee, adviser, recently participated in the 235th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans. Airee represented the Kentucky Lake Section at the ACS Governance Council meeting besides serving on the Grants and Awards Subcommittee of the Local Section Activities committee. Students helped supervise the undergraduate program. They also presented a demonstration at the “Chem Demo Exchange with Household Chemicals” and a poster in the Chemical Education division. At an awards ceremony, the UT Martin SAACS chapter received a plaque for an Outstanding rating and another one in recognition as a Green Chapter. The chapter has received 29 Outstanding ratings more than any other of the more than 900 chapters nationwide and a green chapter recognition every year since the initiation of this designation. UT Martin SAACS chapter members with two plaques from left, are Casey Ellington of Trenton, James Kempton of Martin, Christy Lowe of McKenzie, Dr. Airee, Tiffany Brewer of Greenbrier, Nancy Bakowski, ACS undergraduate programs manager; Dr. Bruce Bursten, ACS president (UT Knoxville College of Arts and Sciences dean); Dr. Katie Hunt, ACS past president; Hillary Crossett of Camden, Megan Malin of Holladay, Casey Unger of Martin, Chad Waters of Camden, Kayla Poindexter of Murfreesboro, Punam Patel of Martin, Robert Mitchell of Ripley, and Kiran Vaswani of Franklin.

Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Lee Elliot, son of Joe Elliot and Paula Morris of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.
* Ashley Newton, of Martin, daughter of Kelly Newton and Lisa Newton, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.

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

A scholarship has been established to honor Mr. and Mrs. Paul Preston Foote’s many years of service to the University of Tennessee at Martin. The late Paul Preston Foote taught mathematics and engineering at UT Martin for three decades and served as chair of the mathematics department for many years. He married Sue Trevathan Foote, who attended UT Junior College and worked for Gene Stanford in the business office. When she began, she was one of only two secretaries on the UT Junior College campus. Mr. and Mrs. Foote invested their lives to help UT Martin become the institution it is today. The Foote scholarship will be awarded this fall to an outstanding mathematics education major.

Pictured with Mrs. Foote is Tommy Eskew, UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics interim chair.

Final U.T.M. SOAR date noted for incoming freshmen this fall

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

The final SOAR date has been scheduled for July 18-19. Check-in is set for 3 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans.

Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions toll free at 1-800-829-UTM1 or (731) 881-7027.
AREA EDUCATORS PARTICIPATED IN UT MARTIN SUMMER INSTITUTE: Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers. Terry Cook, Rose Lummus, Sandra Cross and Lyn Burkhead, all of Dyersburg, participated in the workshop. Throughout the six-day program, the attendees participated in numerous activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum. This program is in its sixth year and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. At left is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UT Martin associate professor of physics and institute director. Jamie Rickman, of Dresden Middle School, contributed to the institute as the assistant project director.

Jared Barnes, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was recently named recipient of the Botanical Society of America’s Young Botanist of the Year 2008 award.

This award, the 2008 Certificate of Special Achievement, is given to graduating seniors in recognition of their achievement in plant sciences. Barnes was nominated by his advisor, Dr. Darrell L. Ray.

Barnes is the son of Cleo and Becky Barnes of Union City.

Two Obion County students were recently awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Scholarship recipients included:
• Meagan Beasley, daughter of James and Karen Beasley of Hornbeak, who will be a freshman and who received the Dean’s Scholarship; and
• Sarah Wright, daughter of Elizabeth Wright and Ralph Wright Jr., both of Union City, who will be a freshman and who received the Chancellor’s Award.

LOCAL TEACHERS PARTICIPATE — The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 16th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Fourteen teachers met for 15 days and shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading and writing.

Obion County and Union City participants included (from left) Josh Nance of Ridgemont Elementary School, Kristy Dowden of Union City Elementary School, Heather Moran of Ridgemont Elementary and Shawna Pounds and Shannon Lyon, both of Obion County Central High School. The group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year. Twelve of the teachers participated for six hours of graduate credit in English. Next year’s summer institute will be May 16 and June 8-July 2. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, the WTWP is housed in the Department of English at UT Martin and has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993. With the goals of improving writing and writing instruction in all schools, WTWP offers a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher in-service and more. This year’s fall workshop will be Sept. 13 and is titled “Differentiated Instruction Through Writing in the Content Areas.” Cheryl Sigmon will be the keynote speaker.
County residents are WestStar graduates

Tony Burris, Allen Barker, Vance Coleman and Terry Drumwright, all of Gibson County, recently were honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its 19th year, UT Martin’s WestStar program, created in 1989 to serve the 21 counties of West Tennessee by providing leadership development and training for selected participants, now has 524 graduates. The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills. WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county. David Belete, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is executive director of the program.

Burris is the mayor for the City of Trenton. He retired from education after serving 30 years as a band director in Decatur County, the Gibson County Special School District and the Trenton Special School District. He currently serves as a member of the West Tennessee Emmaus Community. He has served as a member of the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, Trenton Teapot Festival committee and the Tennessee Music Educators Association. In 1995, Burris was awarded Gibson County Teacher of the Year.

Barker is the mayor for the City of Humboldt. He has been a Humboldt Utilities board member since 1994 and chairman of the Gibson County Joint Economic Community Development board from 2002 until present. He is also a member of the Humboldt Lions Club.

Coleman is the mayor for the City of Medina. He is currently a member of the Medina Lions Club and the Masonic Lodge 86. He is a graduate of the Elected Officials Academy.

Drumwright is a professionally licensed civil engineer with TLM Associates, Inc., in Jackson. He is a member of the Humboldt Lions Club, where he has held several positions, including president and chairman of the board. He is co-chair of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Engineering advisory board, is a member of the Jackson Downtown Development Corporation Board, and is a member of the Humboldt Board of Zoning Appeals.

SOAR to help UTM students prepare for the fall semester

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Burress participates in institute
Twenty-three teachers from across the state recently traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Activity-Based Physics/Astronomy Institute for Middle and Junior High School Teachers. Kevin Burress (right) of Jackson participated in the workshop. Throughout the six-day program, the attendees participated in numerous activities designed to meet the physical science and earth science objectives in the Tennessee science curriculum. This program is in its sixth year and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program. At left is Dr. Cahit Erkal, UT Martin associate professor of physics and institute director.

YOUNG SCHOLARS ACADEMY - A select group of area African-American high school students got a taste of college life during the recent seventh annual Young Scholars Academy at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Minority Affairs. Students attended this competitive weeklong summer residential program, designed for upcoming high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. The non-credit program introduced students to the college experience by focusing on three learning environments: special aptitude development; personal and social development; and college/major exploration. Students attending from Weakley County included, from left, Reggie Morrow, Kristin McCloud, Nicole Jones, Demetrie Kimble and Anasious Martin.
LOCAL TEACHERS IN WRITING PROJECT – The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 16th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Fourteen teachers met for 15 days and shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups, and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading and writing. The group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year. Twelve of the teachers participated for six hours of graduate credit in English. Next year’s summer institute will be May 16 and June 8-July 2. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, the WTWP is housed in the Department of English at UT Martin and has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993. With the goals of improving writing and writing instruction in all schools, WTWP offers a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher in-service and more. This year’s fall workshop will be Sept. 13 and is titled “Differentiated Instruction Through Writing in the Content Areas.” Cheryl Sigmon will be the keynote speaker. For more information about these and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/wtwp, or e-mail WTWP director David Carithers: dcartithers@utm.edu. Weakley County participant, center, Nelda Rachels (UT Martin Hortense Porrish Writing Lab tutor), is pictured with the Summer Institute Focal Team, Beth Halbert, left, Becky Hasselle, Jenny Brandon and Carithers.
Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

David Kohl will be the featured presenter at the seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference set from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 6 at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Kohl will focus on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. His sessions on "Sustained Profitability: Agricultural Production" and "Lending in the Age of Turbulence and Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Best Practices for the Producer-Lender Team" will provide ways to strengthen balance sheets and increase operating cash flows. He will draw on his 30 years working with lenders and serving as facilitator of the Farm Financial Standards Task Force as he provides benchmarks of financial performance and personal investment strategies.

Conference participants will receive "take-home tools" on agricultural best practices, transition management and how to grow profits while managing risk.

"There's Gold in Them There Fields (But For How Long)? The Future of Commodity Prices and Land Values" is a session that will be led by Matthew Roberts from Ohio State University. Roberts will address the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values. He will draw on his trading experience and forecasting expertise as he outlines the political and economic forces that determine the sustainability of prices and the producers' bottom line.

There will be a session on "The Availability and Cost of Agricultural Loans in 2009."

The conference is for ag lenders, farmers, farm-related business owners and members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners. The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students.

Call (731) 881-7324, or visit the Web site www.utm.edu/agconference. Registration is requested by Aug. 1.

The conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank and the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

During a recent University of Tennessee at Martin awards banquet, several students were recognized. Drew Candebat of Cordova received the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences David S. Loebbaka Physics Award; East Memphian Charles Mitchell was presented with the Chemistry Department Award from the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and Elizabeth Steele of Cordova received the Outstanding Student in Organismal Concentration with a Major in Biology Award from the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to the school’s spring commencement. Among them was Grace Lambert of Cordova.

Local students attend Governor’s School

Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the five-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1965, and this was the fifth year students were able to earn college credit. Bedford and Marshall County participants were, left to right: Dylan Phillips, Cascade High School; Kristen Clifton, Cornersville High School; Bianca Maselter, Community High School, and Katie Mangrum, Cascade High School.
Jaxx owner glad to be involved with team

BY DAVID THOMAS
DGTTHOMAS@JACKSONSUN.COM
JULY 14, 2008

Reese Smith, who co-owns the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx with David Freeman, was in attendance at Pringles Park recently and talked with The Jackson Sun about the organization and its future.

Q: When you first heard Jackson was going to be home to a Southern League baseball franchise, do you remember your first thoughts?
A: "Someone had to have leadership and foresight. I think it says a lot for baseball and West Tennessee."

Q: The Jaxx have been in Jackson for 11 years. You and David Freeman are the team's third owners. What are your thoughts about the rumors - off and on - the team is leaving town, and what is your commitment to staying at Pringles Park?
A: "We are getting ready to sign a multi-year agreement, a lease that is going to be three to five years, so I think that would be a pretty good commitment."

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Q: When did ownership change? Do you plan on a name and logo change?
A: "We are looking very seriously at a logo and name change. A change can only be submitted every three years. When you buy something, you want to spruce it up."

Q: Besides baseball, what does Reese Smith do during the rest of the week?
A: "I am a second-generation home builder, a 50-year old company. I have an office in the Green Hills area."

Q: What kind of ideas do you have in mind for the Jaxx?
A: "We want to try and get more fans into the stadium, such as having other events. We held a high school all-star game a few weeks ago. We had Belew at the Memphis pop. The Jazz are not in a building. Perhaps we could have college games, like Bethel playing Union... hope people used to coming to the park."

Q: How can you improve the product?
A: "This is going to be a tough job. We can't give the storm away, but we have to earn our way and listen to the fans and listen to the staff."

Q: How does Reese Smith feel he has been received in Jackson thus far?
A: "The city could not have been more important. We probably would not have bought the club if the city had not welcomed us. They want a tenant and the only thing we are talking about is the length of the issue."

Q: When it comes to entertainment, a lot of people are looking for action. What are your thoughts on getting people to the park and keeping their attention?
A: "We can look at the game differently. You can have a good pitchers duel. The average fan is coming for the energy of the game. But it's a night out at reasonable prices."

Q: Did you ever think the price of fuel would rise to $4 a gallon when you were negotiating to purchase the Jaxx?
A: "I have diesel farm machinery and fuel is a huge expense. The Southern League has always been a bus league. I'm glad we don't have to buy plane tickets."

Q: You own the Huntsville Stars. Why sell and now get back into the Southern League?
A: "Don Minor, who is now the commissioner of the Southern League, put together an offer so we said and moved on. The Southern League is what I was used to. The Jaxx franchise is close to home, and situations like that don't come open all the time. My family and I have been in baseball since the 1970's. Jaxx became available. I have a great partner, David Freeman and I am an hour and 45 minutes from my house to Pringles Park."

- David Thomas, 405-8637
Hutchens completes 53-year career at UT Martin

Martha Hutchens, administrative services assistant at the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, likely holds the record as the longest-tenured support staff member in the institution's history. She retired June 30 completing 53 years service.

Hutchens began employment at UT Martin Branch, July 1, 1955, as a library circulation/clerical staff member. She was employed during eight UT Martin administrations beginning when Paul Meek was dean of the UT Martin Branch. In addition to other changes too numerous to mention, the technological advancement of what she has seen has been amazing.

"My first computer was a DOS Rainbow," she said of her initial foray into technology. The addition of IRIS (online integrated financial and human resources management system) many years later, she said, "changed the way we did almost everything.

"The most enjoyable aspect of my job was working with people whom I liked and respected and dealing with the library budget," said Hutchens. "I remained with the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin my entire career because it is the best place to work in West Tennessee and West Tennessee is the best place to live."

Hutchens plans to complete all the documentation to get her retirement officially under way. "After that, I'll take each day as it comes and try to make the most of it." She added. "Hopefully, I will find some volunteer work, and I have my duties as treasurer of the Weakley County Genealogical Society. I may also return to working on my family tree."

She added, "I have had mixed feelings about retiring, but I believe I have done the right thing. It's time for new beginnings."

iPod touch awaits 100th, 1,000th and 10,000th ECCE students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) has announced a new promotion that offers three people an Apple iPod touch for enrolling in an online course.

In partnership with Education To Go (ed2go), UT Martin offers an extensive list of online courses that make it easy to take courses from the comfort of home, office or any location that has an Internet connection.

As part of a fall student campaign, ed2go, which serves students worldwide, is awarding an Apple iPod touch device for its 100th, 1,000th, and 10,000th student enrolled in each of the months of August 2008 through November 2008.

In addition to the iPod touch giveaway, ed2go also is offering participating institutions the opportunity to win scholarship money.

The online courses offer lessons, online instruction and interaction with both an instructor and fellow students.

Students have the flexibility to study at their own pace and can access the classroom 24/7.

New sessions of each course begin each month and last for six weeks, with two new lessons released weekly.

Courses include lessons, quizzes, assignments, discussion areas and a final exam. Students who successfully complete the program are awarded a certificate of completion.

For more information about programs at UT Martin, call ECCE, at 881-7082, email ecce@utm.edu or visit the online instruction site, at http://www.ed2go.com/utmeccce.
Kohl to speak at 2008 Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference.

The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 6. Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last six sessions and has provided the growing audiences with practical information.

“As one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Dr. Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available,” said Dr. Thomas Payne, holder of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UT Martin.

This year, Kohl will focus on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy.

The agricultural economy has been quickly and permanently changed and participants will benefit from practical tools to maximize profit and minimize risk.

His sessions on “Sustained Profitability: Agricultural Production” and “Lending in the Age of Turbulence and Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Best Practices for the Producer-Lender Team” will provide ways to strengthen balance sheets and increase operating cash flows.

He will draw on his 30 years working with lenders and serving as facilitator of the Farm Financial Standards Task Force as he provides benchmarks of financial performance and personal investment strategies. Conference participants will receive useful “take-home tools” on agricultural best practices, transition management and how to grow profits while managing risk.

This year’s conference will also feature a session on “There’s Gold in Them There Fields (But For How Long)? The Future of Commodity Prices and Land Values.”

This session will be led by Dr. Matthew Roberts from Ohio State University. Roberts will address the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock and commodity prices and land values.

He will draw on his trading experience and forecasting expertise as he outlines the political and economic forces that determine the sustainability of prices and the producers’ bottom line.

This information will equip both lenders and producers as they deal with globalization, alternative fuel, climate, global demand and crop selection issues.

Finally, in the wake of the subprime crisis and credit crunch, this year’s conference will include a special session on “The Availability and Cost of Agricultural Loans in 2009.”

“First-time and repeat attendees will find the ag finance conference useful with its new information and timely topics. Our intention in the planning and design of the conference is to provide relevant information that agriculturalists can use to make their operations even more successful,” said Terri Brundige, president of BancorpSouth in Dresden, and member of the conference planning committee.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, should also attend.

The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers, and $25 for spouses and students.

Registration information is available by contacting Payne, at 731-881-7324, or online at www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited so registration is requested by Aug. 1.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank and the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.
Lonestar, Marshall Tucker Band head to Martin

Lonestar and The Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 7, in Martin, with the theme “The Crossroads of Good Livin’.”

A mix of entertainment, along with a car and bike show, pageants, talent contest, parade, barbecue cook-off and educational programs also highlight this year’s event.

“This is our 15th year to promote agriculture and community through the Tennessee Soybean Festival,” said David Belote, festival chairman. He added that the festival continues to be a week packed with events to interest people of all ages throughout Martin and the region. “We try to offer the best possible entertainment while striving to provide a program of events that is diverse and exciting.”

“The Tennessee Soybean Festival has grown to be one of the premier festivals in the state,” said Randy Brundige, Martin mayor. “I am proud of what this community has done and the way it comes together during the event.”

The 2008 festival will include “The Return, A Beatles Tribute” concert as the Tuesday night feature during festival week, the fourth annual Faith and Community Night, sponsored by the Martin Ministerial Alliance, with Daniel Doss Band and also the Melody Makers as the Wednesday night entertainment, and Corey Smith performing Thursday night. On Friday, the Nashville Songwriters Jam will be staged in Virginia Weldon Park. Bluegrass in the Park is scheduled, along with performances by Voodoo Village at the North Lindell Street Gap Stage and the Peacemakers performing on the main stage. Margarita Beach and the Peacemakers will perform on Saturday.

The Marshall Tucker Band concert Friday night and Lonestar’s performance Saturday night will cap festival musical events. All concerts are free.

Lonestar is known for such hits as “Amazed,” “I’m Already There,” “My Front Porch Looking In” and “Tequila Talkin’.” Marshall Tucker Band released its first album in 1973 and had success with hits that include “Heard It in a Love Song,” “Fire on the Mountain,” and “Can’t You See.”

Big Harvester sponsors include the city of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co., MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First State Bank, First Citizens National Bank, Volunteer Community Hospital, Martin Area Ministerial Alliance, the UT Martin Student Activities Council and UT Federal Credit Union.

The Skyhawk football team will face Baker University at Hardy Graham Stadium on Saturday, and traditional festival events will include the Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon, First State Bank-sponsored Soybean Festival Parade, the Soybean Farmer’s Breakfast, Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co.-sponsored School Children’s Street Fair with Volunteer Community Hospital hosting lunch for the children; “Singing Bee” live game show, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co.; Rotary Club golf tournament; Kiwanis 5K run; Optimist Club bicycle rodeo; the 12th annual car and bike show, sponsored by MTD Products Inc.; and the 15th annual barbecue cook-off, sponsored by Tyson Foods. Also planned are senior adult events, an art exhibit and competition, quilt show, youth soccer jam-boree, youth horse show and health fair.

Complete festival information is posted on the Web at www.tsosoybeafestival.org. For more information, call Kimberly Craddock, at 588-2507, or email mcd@martintennessee.org.
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FOOTE SCHOLARSHIP - A scholarship has been established to honor Mr. and Mrs. Paul Preston Foote's many years of service to University of Tennessee at Martin. The late Paul Preston Foote taught mathematics and engineering at UT Martin for three decades and served as chair of the mathematics department for many years. He married Sue Trevathan Foote, who attended UT Junior College and worked for Gene Stanford in the business office. When she began, she was one of only two secretaries on the UT Junior College campus. Mr. and Mrs. Foote invested their lives to help UT Martin become the institution it is today. The Foote scholarship will be awarded this fall to an outstanding mathematics education major. Pictured with Mrs. Foote is Tommy Eskew, UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics interim chair.
iPodtouchawaits 100th, 1,000th, and 10,000th ECCE students

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College student gets real world experience at Farm Credit office

with mentors and professionals who work in their respective fields of study. The opportunity is a major step in preparing college students to enter the world of life after college.

Ryan Angel is one in a group of nineteen interns and is working out of the Dresden office this summer. Angel is a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is pursuing a degree in agriculture business with a minor in business administration.

According to Ashley Gaslin, recruitment specialist for Farm Credit, the internship allows college students to practically apply the skills they are learning in college. "They are getting a first hand look at what a lending officer does for Farm Credit and can apply what they've learned in a real-life situation," she said.

As interns, the nineteen students are assigned mentors who guide them through the components of the lending business and help with their career objectives. Angel is participating in many aspects of the lending business, attending sales meetings, and completing specialized projects. Some of the projects include identifying and marketing to key agricultural consumers in each county, and comparing the competitiveness of Farm Credit with the local banks. He is also promoting Lands of Tennessee.com to realtors in the surrounding areas.

Interns also attend an Intern Retreat where they toured Mayfield Dairy, Sweetwater Valley Farms, and a Switch Grass Ethanol Farm. They also went on a fun filled day white water rafting on the Ocoee River.

"Certainly job experience is one benefit of Farm Credit's college intern program," said Sarah Stafford, Financial Services officer with Farm Credit Services who is mentoring Angel. "But the interns also get the added benefit of interesting research projects, cross-training, and many networking opportunities with other interns through Farm Credit's four state area."

The opportunity to network and have a better understanding of what people do in the field of finance were motivating factors for this set of interns. And like many Farm Credit interns before, the experience may help them decide to enter the world of agricultural finance after they complete college.
Weakley County residents join WestStar graduates

Bud Grimes, Brian Harris, Tom Seratt and Steve Westenhofer, all of Weakley County, recently were honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its 19th year, UT Martin’s WestStar program, created in 1989 to serve the 21 counties of West Tennessee by providing leadership development and training for selected participants, now has 524 graduates. The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills. WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county. David Belote, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is executive director of the program.

Grimes is Office of University Relations director at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is an institutional member of the Tennessee College Public Relations Association, a statewide organization he has previously served as past president. He is president of the West Tennessee Public Television Council, Inc., the governing board for WLJT-TV/DJ, and is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Harris is the executive director of the Martin Housing Authority, Martin. He currently serves as a park board commissioner for the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department; is a board member for the Hope of Martin Community Housing Development Corp.; is an advisory board member for Pathways of Tennessee Behavioral Health Center; and is treasurer for the Community Mentoring Program of Weakley County. He has served as president and board member of the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies; as a committee and board member for the Public Housing Authority Director’s Association; and as a board member of the Martin Economic Development Corp. Harris is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Seratt is community bank president for First Citizens National Bank in Martin. He has served as a board member for the city of Martin’s Industrial Development Board; has held various leadership roles for the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the board of directors for the Tennessee Bankers Association Independent Bankers Division; and is a member of the Martin Rotary Club. He was recently named a certified small business counselor through the REED Center and the State of Tennessee and had been honored with several awards during his tenure with the banking industry.

Westenhofer is the chief executive officer of Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin. He is a member of the Martin Rotary Club; is a board member of the Martin Business Association; and is an advisory member at the University of Tennessee at Martin for both the College of Business and Public Affairs and the Pre-Health Science Program. In 2007, he was awarded the “Big Bean” award by the Tennessee Soybean Festival committee and, in 2006, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award by Community Health Systems.

SOAR to help UTM students prepare for fall semester

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

The final SOAR date has been scheduled for:

* Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. Check-in is set for 3:00 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions toll free at 1-800-829-UTM1 or (731) 881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.
LOCAL TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN WRITING PROJECT: The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 16th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Fourteen teachers met for 15 days and shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups, and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading and writing. The group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year. Twelve of the teachers participated for six hours of graduate credit in English. Next year’s summer institute will be May 16 and June 8–July 2. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, the WTWP is housed in the Department of English at UT Martin and has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993. With the goals of improving writing and writing instruction in all schools, WTWP offers a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher inservice and more. This year’s fall workshop will be Sept. 13, and is titled “Differentiated Instruction through Writing in the Content Areas.” Cheryl Sigmon will be the keynote speaker. For more information about these and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/wtp, or email WTWP director David Carithers: dcarithers@utm.edu. Dyer County participant, second from left, Becky Hasselle (Dyersburg Middle School) is pictured with the Summer Institute Focal Team, Beth Halbert, left, Jenny Brandon, and Carithers.

Students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- **Call Cupples**, daughter of Robert and Tracy Cupples of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

- **Michael Gray**, son of Jim and Sandra Gray of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. He received the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731)981-7040.
Henry County residents join WestStar graduates

Henry Countians Mary Lodge and Terry Wimberley recently were honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Lodge is the executive director of the Paris-Henry County Arts Council. She has served as president of the Atkins-Porter Parent-Teacher Organization and as president of the arts council. She is a Leadership Henry County graduate, is active in the Henry County school system and is a member of the Downtown Paris Association, Chamber of Commerce and Henry County Master Gardeners Club.

Wimberley is the director of water and wastewater operations at the Paris Board of Public Utilities. He is the assistant secretary with the Henry County Planning Commission, is a member of the Paris Kiwanis Club, and is a board member and coach of the Kentucky Lake Girls Softball League. He is a graduate of Leadership Henry County.

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The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee.

Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills.

WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county. David Belote, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is executive director of the program.

Worrell receives UTM scholarship

A Gibson County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Emily Worrell, daughter of Roger and Renee Worrell of Dyer, will be a freshman. She received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship.

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Kohl to focus on profitability, risk and agriculture trends at 2008 Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

MARTIN - David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agricultural audiences will be the featured presenter at the seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 6. Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last six sessions and has provided the growing audiences with practical information.

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Master's in family consumer sciences joins list of courses

An online master of science in family and consumer sciences has been added to the list of courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin via UT Online.

"We believe this program has tremendous potential and are pleased to offer it as part of our service and outreach mission," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs. "These faculty are outstanding, and anyone who enrolls is going to receive the same top-notch, practical education we have traditionally provided on campus."

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the online program with two concentrations: general family and consumer sciences and dietetics. The first concentration is general in nature and based on a selected range of comprehensive courses. The dietetics concentration incorporates a Dietetic Internship Program (DI) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. The DI offers graduates of didactic programs in dietetics a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion of the concentration are eligible to take the registrati on examination that leads to becoming a registered dietitian. This option incorporates the DI practicum into an advanced-degree program that will lead to a master's degree.

"We are excited about offering our master's degree online. We believe this will provide new opportunities for a greater number of professionals in our region to pursue the master's degree in a convenient format," said Dr. Lisa LeBlue, UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

The courses for the general option of the master's in family and consumer sciences and the dietetics option, with the exception of the internship, are accessible 24/7 using Blackboard CourseWare. The courses have discussion, e-mail, chat, assignments and Web-conferencing capability. Students also have free technical support 24/7 through UT Martin's Help Desk.

Faculty hold graduate faculty status at UT Martin and all have specialized knowledge and experience in the areas in which they are teaching.

Applicants may be admitted as degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking. Degree-seeking candidates must meet all university requirements as listed in the university catalog under "Types of Admission." Individuals who plan to complete the dietetic internship must be degree-seeking. Applicants who plan to complete the master's must meet requirements for unconditional or conditional admission.

"UT Online anticipates a chance to deliver this degree to students online. This market needs this opportunity, and we are looking forward to helping these students develop in their careers," said Dr. Tommy Cates, Online and University Studies director.

For more information about this new program, contact UT Online, toll free, at (866) 587-7589, or 881-7589, or visit www.utm.edu/utonline.
College students get real world experience at Farm Credit offices

How do you get a job without experience? And how do you get experience without a job?

Nineteen interns who are working for Farm Credit Services of Mid-America this summer are solving this problem by taking advantage of the opportunity to work and learn in a real work environment with mentors and professionals who work in their respective fields of study.

The opportunity is a major step in preparing college students to enter the world of life after college. Ryan Angel is one in a group of nineteen interns and is working out of the Dresden office this summer.

Angel is a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is pursuing a degree in agriculture business with a minor in business administration.

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“They are getting a first hand look at what a lending officer does for Farm Credit and can apply what they’ve learned in a real-life situations,” she said.

As interns, the nineteen students are assigned mentors who guide them through the components of the lending business and help with their career objectives.

Angel is participating in many aspects of the lending business, attending sales meetings, and completing specialized projects. Some of the projects include identifying and marketing to key agricultural consumers in each county, and comparing the competitiveness of Farm Credit with the local banks.

He is also promoting LandsofTennessee.com to realtors in the surrounding areas.

Interns also attend an Intern Retreat where they toured Mayfield Dairy, Sweetwater Valley Farms, and a Switch Grass Ethanol Farm. They also went on a fun filled day white water rafting on the Ocoee River.

“Certainly job experience is one benefit of Farm Credit’s college intern program,” said Sarah Stafford, Financial Services officer with Farm Credit Services who is mentoring Angel.

“But the interns also get the added benefit of interesting research projects, cross-training, and many networking opportunities with other interns through Farm Credit’s four state area.”

The opportunity to network and have a better understanding of what people do in the field of finance were motivating factors for this set of interns.

And like many Farm Credit interns before, the experience may help them decide to enter the world of agricultural finance after they complete college.

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is a $14 billion financial services cooperative serving over 82,500 farmers, agribusinesses and rural residents in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee.

The association provides loans for all farm and rural living purposes including real estate, operating, equipment and housing and related services such as crop and life insurance and vehicle, equipment and building leases.

For more information about Farm Credit, call 1-800-444-FARM (3276).
Master's degree added to UT Online

An online master of science in family and consumer sciences has been added to the courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin via UT Online.

"We believe this program has tremendous potential and are pleased to offer it as part of our service and outreach missions," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs. "These faculty are outstanding, and anyone who enrolls is going to receive the same top-notch, practical education we have traditionally provided on campus."

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the online program with two concentrations: general family and consumer sciences and dietetics.

The first concentration is general in nature and based on a selected range of comprehensive courses. The dietetics concentration incorporates a Dietetic Internship Program (DI) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. The DI offers graduates of didactic programs in dietetics a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion of the concentration are eligible to take the registration examination that leads to becoming a registered dietitian.

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The courses for the general option of the master's in family and consumer sciences and the dietetics option, with the exception of the internship, are accessible 24/7 using Blackboard CourseWare. The courses have discussion, e-mail, chat, assignments, and Web-conferencing capability. Students also have free technical support 24/7 through UT Martin's Help Desk.

Faculty hold graduate faculty status at UT Martin and all have specialized knowledge and experience in the areas they teach.

Applicants may be admitted as degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking. Degree-seeking candidates must meet all university requirements as listed in the university catalog under "Types of Admission." Individuals who plan to complete the dietetic internship must be degree-seeking. Applicants who plan to complete the master's must meet requirements for unconditional or conditional admission.

For more information, contact UT Online toll-free at 1-866-587-7589; at (731) 881-7589; or by visiting the Web site www.utm.edu/utonline.

SURPRISE VISIT — The Martin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta was recently surprised with a visit from the Southern Regional director and West Tennessee state coordinator of Delta Sigma Theta. The regional director lives in Pensacola, Fla., and works very closely with the Delta Sigma Theta chapters in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Bahamas. Among those on hand for the local visit were (from left, front row) Tara Tansil, Patrice Boyd, Ruby Black, (back row) Renee Anderson, West Tennessee state coordinator LaShawn Dobbins of Clarksville, University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes, Southern Regional director Christine Nixon and Teresa Murphy, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the largest black Greek organization, is a sisterhood of college-educated women committed to public service.
Kenton student awarded scholarship from TGA

A Kenton student is among the Tennessee Gas Association's 2008-09 scholarship recipients.

Clay M. Marvin, son of Dale and Cara Marvin of Kenton, received a $1,000 scholarship.

He will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin as a pre-physical therapy major and plans to pursue a doctorate of physical therapy.

His father is a Texas Gas Technician IV with Texas Gas Transmission, LLC. The TGA Scholarship Program provides scholarships to children of member company employees. Funds are raised throughout the year at the annual TGA Scholarship golf, tennis and fishing tournaments, silent auctions and other association events.

Recently, two scholarships were named in honor of distinguished TGA members who have gone above and beyond in supporting this scholarship program.

The John Ward Scholarship in honor of John Ward of Award Productions in Knoxville and the Leslie B. Enoch II Scholarship in honor of Leslie B. Enoch, II, CEO of Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District in Smithville, were named in honor of these men for their sacrificial giving and support.

Both of these scholarships are $2,000 each. The remaining 13 scholarships are $1,000 each.

The Tennessee Gas Association is a natural gas state association with just under 500 members comprised of municipal gas systems, utility districts, gas authorities, private and public gas companies, pipelines, gas marketers, affiliated members and housing authorities, representing about 10,000 Tennessee employees serving the natural gas industry with over 1.2 million customers and 31,000 miles of distribution line.

The TGA was established in 1962.

UT Martin to get more than $180,000 in grants

By TRACIE SIMER
tsimer@jacksonsun.com

The University of Tennessee Martin is the recipient of two grants, totaling more than $180,000, which will be used to expand the university's livestock facility.

The university will get a $55,000 grant from USDA Rural Development and a $127,400 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The funds will be used to improve and add on to the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility, said Jerry Gresham. He is the chair of UT Martin's department of agriculture and natural resources.

The university built the facility five years ago with a private donation and another USDA grant, Gresham said.

"Since then, it's been used by the producers of Tennessee for livestock sales," he said. "And we've exceeded our housing space. We've had to rent tents to house all the livestock."

There was a lot of interest to expand the facility so beef sellers could host more sales, Gresham said.

"These major grants will fund the expansion along with additional private gifts," he said. "We will have $200,000 total to spend on expansion."

Without the grant money, this would not be happening, Gresham said.

"We don't have appropriated funds for this," he said. "This building was built with grant money to start with. And this will meet our needs at the present time."

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.
— Tracie Simer, 425-9629

Grant

Continued from cover

What to know

- The check presentation will be at 1 p.m. at the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility on the campus of UT Martin.
- The check will be presented by Ruth Tackett, state director of USDA Rural Development, and Commissioner Ken Givens with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
Master's in Family, Consumer Sciences Joins List of UT Martin's Online Courses

MARTIN - An online master of science in family and consumer sciences has been added to the list of courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin via UT Online.

"We believe this program has tremendous potential and are pleased to offer it as part of our service and outreach missions," said Dr. Jerald Oggi, UT Martin's vice chancellor for academic affairs. "These faculty are outstanding, and anyone who enrolls is going to receive the same top-notch, practical education we have traditionally provided on campus."

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the online program with two concentrations: general family and consumer sciences and dietetics. The first concentration is general in nature and based on a selected range of comprehensive courses. The dietetics concentration incorporates a Dietetic Internship Program (DP) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. The DI offers graduates of didactic programs in dietetics a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion of the concentration are eligible to take the registration examination that leads to becoming a registered dietitian. This option incorporates the DI practicum into an advanced-degree program that will lead to a master's degree.

"We are excited about offering our master's degree online. We believe this will provide new opportunities for a greater number of professionals in our region to pursue the master's degree in a convenient format," said Dr. Lisa LeBlon, UT Martin's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

The courses for the general option of the master's in family and consumer sciences and the dietetics option, with the exception of the internship are accessible 24/7 using Blackboard CourseWare. The courses have discussion, email, chat, assignments and Web-conferencing capability. Students also have free technical support 24/7 through UT Martin's Help Desk.

Faculty hold graduate faculty status at UT Martin and all have specialized knowledge and experiences in the areas in which they are teaching.

Applicants may be admitted as degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking. Degree-seeking candidates must meet all university requirements as listed in the university catalog under "Types of Admission." Individuals who plan to complete the dietetic internship must be degree-seeking. Applicants who plan to complete the master's must meet requirements for unconditional or conditional admission.

"UT Online anticipates a chance to deliver this degree to students online. This market needs this opportunity, and we are looking forward to helping those students develop in their careers," said Dr. Tommy Cates, Online and University Studies director.

For more information about this new program, contact UT Online, toll free, at 866-587-7589, or 731-881-1759, or visit www.utm.edu/utonline.

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UTM will expand livestock sales facility

Last Updated: 11:11 AM Jul 24, 2008
0 comments

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) -- The University of Tennessee at Martin is getting two grants to expand its agriculture program.

The grants -- totaling more than $180,000 -- will be used to increase the size of the university's livestock merchandising facility.

UTM agriculture and natural resources chairman Jerry Gresham said the university will receive a $55,000 grant from the USDA Rural Development program and $127,000 from the state Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The university built the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility five years ago and farmers use it for livestock sales.

Gresham said the sales have outgrown the existing building.
Bands headline Soybean Festival

LoneStar and The Marshall Tucker Band will headline the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 7, in Martin, with the theme "The Crossroads of Good Livin'". A mix of entertainment, along with a car and bike show, pageants, talent contest, parade, barbecue cookoff and educational programs, also highlight this year’s event.

"This is our 15th year to promote agriculture and community through the Tennessee Soybean Festival," said David Belote, festival chairman. He added that the festival continues to be a week packed with events to interest people of all ages throughout Martin and the region. "We try to offer the best possible entertainment while striving to provide a program of events that is diverse and exciting."

The 2008 festival will include "The Return, A Beatles Tribute" concert as the Sept. 2 feature during festival week, the fourth annual Faith and Community Night, sponsored by the Martin Ministerial Alliance, with Daniel Doss Band and also the Melody Makers as the Wednesday night entertainment, and Corey Smith performing Sept. 4. On Sept. 5, the Nashville Songwriters Jam will be staged in Virginia Weldon Park. Bluegrass in the Park is scheduled, along with performances by Voodoo Village at the North Lindell Street Gap Stage and the Peacemakers performing on the main stage. Margarita Beach and Peacemakers will perform Sept. 6.

The Marshall Tucker Band concert Sept. 5 and Lonestar's performance Sept. 6 will cap festival musical events. All concerts are free. Lonestar is known for such hits as "Amazed," "I'm Already There," "My Front Porch Looking In" and "Tequila Talkin.'" Marshall Tucker Band released its first album in 1973 and had success with hits that include "Heard it in a Love Song," "Fire on the Mountain," and "Can't You See."

Big Harvester sponsors include the city of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co., MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First State Bank, First Citizens National Bank, Volunteer Community Hospital, Martin Area Ministerial Alliance, the UT Martin Student Activities Council and UT Federal Credit Union.

The Skyhawk football team will face Baker University at Hardy Graham Stadium on Saturday, and traditional festival events will include the Mayor's Kickoff Luncheon, First State Bank-sponsored Soybean Festival Parade; the Soybean Farmer's Breakfast; Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co.-sponsored School Children's Street Fair with Volunteer Community Hospital hosting lunch for the children; "Singing Bee" live game show, sponsored by Thunderbolt Broadcasting Co.; Rotary Club golf tournament; Kiwanis 5K run; Optimist Club bicycle rodeo; the 12th annual car and bike show, sponsored by MTD Products Inc., and the 15th annual barbecue cookoff, sponsored by Tyson Foods. Also planned are senior adult events, an art exhibit and competition, quilt show, youth soccer jamboree, youth horse show and health fair.

Complete festival information is posted on the Web at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org. For more information, call Kimberly Craddock, at 731-588-2507, or email mc@martintennessee.org.

UTM will expand livestock sales facility

The Associated Press

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is getting two grants to expand its agriculture program.

The grants — totaling more than $180,000 — will be used to increase the size of the university's livestock merchandising facility.

UTM agriculture and natural resources chairman Jerry Gresham said the university will receive a $35,000 grant from the USDA Rural Development program and $127,000 from the state Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The university built the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility five years ago and farmers use it for livestock sales.

Gresham said the sales have outgrown the existing building.
Master of science in family, consumer science offered

An online master of science in family and consumer sciences has been added to the list of courses offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin via UT Online. “We believe this program has tremendous potential and are pleased to offer it as part of our service and outreach missions,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“The faculty are outstanding, and anyone who enrolls is going to receive the same top-notch, practical education we have traditionally provided on campus,” the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the online program with two concentrations: general family and consumer sciences and dietetics.

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The DI offers graduates of didactic programs in dietetics a post-baccalaureate, clinically based practicum. Students completing the DI portion of the concentration are eligible to take the registration examination that leads to becoming a registered dietitian.

This option incorporates the DI practicum into an advanced-degree program that will lead to a master’s degree. “We are excited about offering our master’s degree online. We believe this will provide new opportunities for a greater number of professionals in our region to pursue the master’s degree in a convenient format,” said Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

The courses for the general option of the master’s in family and consumer sciences and the dietetics option, with the exception of the internship are accessible 24/7 using Blackboard CourseWare.

The courses have discussion, email, chat, assignments and Web-conferencing capability. Students also have free technical support 24/7 through UT Martin’s Help Desk.

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“UT Online anticipates a chance to deliver this degree to students online. This market needs this opportunity, and we are looking forward to helping these students develop in their careers,” said Dr. Tommy Cates, Online and University Studies director.

For more information about this new program, contact UT Online, toll free, at 866-587-7589, or 731-881-7589, or visit www.utm.edu/utonline.

Bowyer to deliver graduation address at UT-Martin

MARTIN – Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, will deliver the summer commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m. Aug. 9, in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. John Peterson, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the 200 summer graduates.

Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Service Professor; will be the macebearer. Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harries, faculty senate past president; Al Hooton, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Lon Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement. Immediately following the commencement ceremony a reception will be held in Skuyhawk Fieldhouse.

Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986. She served as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges (SACJTC); member, Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); board member, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality/Integrity (NAQI) for the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council.

Active in community life, she is a member and past president of the Dyer County YMCA, board member, Dyer County Historical Society,{}_vice president for education for the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce, Dyer County United Way chair, and a member of the Kiwanis and Giving Friends clubs. She is a graduate of the Dyer County Leadership Program (class of 1999), and a former member of the Education Foundation for Dyer County and American Heart Association Board for Dyer County.

UT Martin will expand livestock sales facility

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin is getting two grants to expand its agriculture program.

The grants — totaling more than $80,000 — will be used to increase the size of the university’s livestock merchandising facility.

UTM agriculture and natural resources chairman Jerry Gresham said the university will receive a $655,000 grant from the USDA Rural Development program and $127,000 from the state Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The university built the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility five years ago and farmers use it for livestock sales.

Gresham said the sales have outgrown the existing building.
State, Rural Development Funding to Expand Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility

Posted by Agriculture on Friday, July 25th, 2008

MARTIN, Tenn. – USDA Rural Development State Director Ruth Tackett and Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and other state and local officials today to announce the expansion of the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility on the UT Martin campus. The expansion project, funded by $127,000 Tennessee Department of Agriculture and $55,000 Rural Development grants, will provide expanded exhibition and stalling areas to permit hosting larger and more diversified livestock events.

"UT Martin is a great partner in helping to support and develop our agricultural industry. We’re proud to support the expansion of the Smith livestock facility through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program," said Commissioner Givens. "This project will have a lasting effect on the local rural economy by enhancing marketing and promotional opportunities for West Tennessee livestock producers."

The TAEP was established in 2005 by Gov. Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly to help improve animal health and livestock production and to encourage farm diversification in Tennessee.

"Agricultural production is a big part of the economy in our rural communities," added Tackett. "I am proud that Rural Development has the financial resources to partner with UT Martin and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to help farmers and ranchers expand their markets and increase sales."

Rural Development’s rural business enterprise grant program provides assistance to public or not-for-profit entities to support community economic development programs that assist small businesses in developing local business infrastructure, providing job training, conducting feasibility studies and providing technical assistance to businesses and community leaders.

Currently, the merchandising facility includes a sales and exhibition area and is the site of numerous regional livestock shows and sales.

"We have simply outgrown the existing facility and are having to use tents and outside pens to pen animals for current sales," said Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair.

The center was dedicated in April 2004 and was named in recognition of the Smiths’ $50,000 gift to renovate an existing campus facility, which leveraged other gifts, including a $100,000 grant from USDA Rural Development and a $25,000 commitment from Dr. and Mrs. David Gordon of Covington. The Smiths are Huntingdon residents. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McCreight of Dresden and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Gallimore of Martin also made significant commitments to the facility.

"It is gratifying to see the growth of the original concept made possible by the Smith gift now expand in scope through the support of the USDA and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. When private, state and federal partnerships join forces, successful ventures are assured," said Rakes.

This entry was posted on Friday, July 25th, 2008 at 9:31 am and is filed under Agriculture. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.
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This and other news from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture can be found online at Tn.gov/agriculture/news

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**Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility**

**Tennessee Wire**

Comprehensive News Feed for Tennessee.

Results 1 - 2 of 2 for “Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility” in Tennessee

1. **State, Rural Development Funding to Expand Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility**
   
   Friday Jul 29 | Tn.gov/agriculture
   
   Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and other state and local officials today to announce the expansion of the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility on the UT Martin campus. The expansion project, funded by $127,000 Tennessee Department of Agriculture. When private, state and federal partnerships join forces, successful ventures are assured.

2. **UTM will expand livestock sales facility**
   
   Thursday Jul 28 | Tn.gov/agriculture
   
   The grants - totaling more than $180,000 - will be used to increase the size of the university's livestock merchandising facility. UT Martin Agriculture and natural resources chairman Jerry Gresham said the university will receive a $55,000 grant.

Related Topics: Agriculture Science United States Department of Agriculture US News
UTM Smith Livestock expands with USDA funding

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See Expansion, Page 4

Expansion
From Page 1

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SMITH LIVESTOCK MERCHANDISING FACILITY EXPANSION PROJECT—Making grant presentations at the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility expansion announcement at the University of Tennessee at Martin, July 24, are, front row, Ken Givens, Tennessee Department of Agriculture commissioner, and Ruth Tackett, USDA Rural Development state director. Others attending the event were (from left) State Sen. Ray Herron, Terry Oliver, Department of Agriculture deputy commissioner; Dr. Jim Byford, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair; Bobby Goode, USDA Rural Development area director, Union City; Wilma and Ray Smith; and Brad Thompson, Congressman John Tanner's field director.

Casada receives one of 10 national Legion of Valor Achievement awards

University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC Cadet Richard G. Casada has been awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement. Casada, of College Grove, has been assigned as the incoming cadet battalion commander.

This award, consisting of a bronze cross and certificate, is presented to outstanding MS-III cadets for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects to stimulate the development of leadership. Out of more than 273 schools nationwide only 10 cadets are awarded the Legion of Valor Cross for Achievement.

Professors of military science nominate cadets from the battalions. Nominees must meet the following criteria: must be regularly enrolled as a MS-III ROTC cadet; must be in the top 25 percent in ROTC and academic standing; and must demonstrate the quality potential of an Army officer, including ROTC grades, academic grades, military leadership and academic leadership.

Casada is a political science major scheduled to commission and graduate May 2009. He has a grade-point average of 3.97 with a ROTC GPA of 4.0. His parents are Richard and Jill Casada.

His academic achievement includes dean’s list each semester; Phi Kappa Phi (honor society); American Legion Scholastic Achievement; numerous cadet ribbons and honors; Army schools/Airborne and Air Assault.

His extracurricular activities include president, UT Martin College Republicans; vice chairman, West Tennessee, State Chapter of College Republicans; president, ROTC Fund Raising and Activities Group for two years; member, Skyhawk Battalion Ranger Challenge Team for three years; and member, intramural teams for three years.
UT Martin plans summer graduation

Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, will deliver the summer commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m., Aug. 9, in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the 200 summer graduates.

Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the exercises and confer degrees.

Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the macebearer. Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president;

Dr. Elaine Harriss, faculty senate past president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Immediately following the commencement ceremony, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986.

She received a bachelor of arts in mathematics from Knox College, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Alabama.

She serves as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges (SACJTC); member, Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); board member, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality/Integrity (NACQI) for the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council.

Active in community life, she is a member and past president of the Dyer County YMCA board of directors; member, Dyer County Historical Society; vice president for education for the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce; Dyer County United Way chair; and a member of the Kiwanis and Giving Friends clubs.

She is a graduate of the Dyer County Leadership Program (class of 1997), and a former member of the Education Foundation for Dyer County and American Heart Association Board for Dyer County.
UPCOMING EXHIBIT – “Her Lab in Your Life: Women in Chemistry” is on display at the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library. The focus of the exhibit, which officially opens during homecoming week, is to encourage young women to consider science, technology, engineering and math disciplines when they make education choices. UT Martin alum, Dr. Helen Cherry Bell, Dyersburg State Community College, who was one of the first UT Martin women to earn a chemistry degree, recently visited campus to reflect on her experiences as a woman of science. Bell also met with library staff and Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross from Middle Tennessee State University and Dr. Edie Banner from Murray State University to discuss ways to pool time and resources to reach even more young women with this message. Pictured are (front, from left) Bell; Earlene Moore, UT Martin professor of library science; and Iriarte-Gross; (back, from left) Dr. Vicky Moeller, Lambuth University; Banner; Dr. Rick Thomas, UT Martin Department of Chemistry chair; Dr. Carol Blanchard, UT Martin assistant professor of chemistry; Cacy DeSheles and Lacey Fleming, both of MTSU.

Ivory Brown, daughter of Rosary Brown of East Memphis, and Marcellina Glover, daughter of Vincent Glover and Maria Glover of Raleigh, have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Brown was awarded an Ed Scholar Scholarship and Glover was presented with a UT Martin McWhorter Scholarship. Both are incoming freshmen.
SPEAK TO MARTIN ROTARY — Brian Moore (left), Martin Parks and Recreation co-interim director/park superintendent, and David Belote, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for Student Affairs/director of Student Life, presented to Martin Rotary Club the logistics of the Cal Ripken World Series that will be held Aug. 5-14 in Martin. Games will begin Aug. 7 and end Aug. 14 at the Martin Recreational Complex. The opening ceremony will be at 7 p.m., Aug. 7, at the complex. Teams will travel from all over the United States to play in the tournament. Two teams from West Tennessee will participate — Martin and Lake County. A welcome banquet will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6, beginning at 6:30, for the teams, host families and people in the community to attend. New York Yankees Hall of Fame member Bobby Richardson will be the guest speaker at the event. Tickets to the baseball games and the banquet can be purchased in advance by contacting the Martin Parks and Recreation Office at 587-6784.

Business consultant at REED Center, August 14

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center is offering an opportunity for existing business owners to gain advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, a Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant. Budding entrepreneurs also may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

He will be available from 9:00 a.m., August 14.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell Street, Martin, TN 38237.

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

Soybean Festival pageants set

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is offering girls the opportunity to participate in upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants.

Girls from birth to 19 years of age are invited to participate in the pageants on Aug. 30 during the festival.

Pageants begin at 10 a.m. in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline to register is Aug. 27.

The pageant lineup includes the following: Baby Miss Soybean (birth-1 year old), 10 a.m.; Tiny Miss Soybean (2-3 years old), 10:45 a.m.; Petite Miss Soybean (4-5 years old), 11:30 a.m.; Little Miss Soybean (6-9 years old), 1 p.m.; Preteen Miss Soybean (10-12 years old), 2:30 p.m.; Teen Miss Soybean (13-15 years old), 3:30 p.m.; and Miss Soybean (16-19 years old), 4:30 p.m. All pageants will have one queen and four maids.

A $30 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Mail fee and application to: Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 101 University St., Martin, TN 38237 or deliver to Martin City Hall. There will be no registration at the door.

For more information, call (731) 588-2507 or (731) 587-7333.

Locally, applications can be found at JoAnn’s in Union City. To find an application online, go to www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.
DSCC president to address UTM graduates

Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, will deliver the summer commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m. Aug. 9 in the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the 200 summer graduates.

Dr. Thomas Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the exercises and confer degrees.

Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the macebearer.

Processional marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Dr. Elaine Harriss, faculty senate past president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Immediately following the commencement ceremony, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Dr. Bowyer became interim president of Dyersburg State Community College in 1984 and president in 1986. She received a bachelor of arts in mathematics from Knox College, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Alabama.

She serves as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges; member of the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; a board member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality/Integrity for the U.S. Secretary of Education; and a member of the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council.

Active in community life, she is a member and past president of the Dyer County YMCA board of directors; a member of the Dyer County Historical Society; vice president for education for the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce; Dyer County United Way chair; and a member of the Kiwanis and Giving Friends clubs.

She is a graduate of the Dyer County Leadership Program and a former member of the Education Foundation for Dyer County and American Heart Association Board for Dyer County.

Soybean Pageants set for August 30 at UTM

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is offering girls the opportunity to participate in upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants. The University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the pageants.

Girls 0-19 years of age are invited to participate in the pageants, Aug. 30, during the festival. Pageants begin at 10 a.m. at the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Deadline to register is Aug. 27.

The pageant lineup includes the following: Baby Miss Soybean (0-1 year old), 10 a.m.; Tiny Miss Soybean (2-3 years old), 10:45 a.m.; Petite Miss Soybean (4-5 years old), 11:30 a.m.; Little Miss Soybean (6-9 years old), 1 p.m.; Preteen Miss Soybean (10-12 years old), 2:30 p.m.; Teen Miss Soybean (13-15 years old), 3:30 p.m.; and Miss Soybean (16-19 years old), 4:30 p.m. All pageants will have one queen and four maids.

A $30 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Mail fee and application to: Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 101 University St., Martin, TN 38237 or deliver to Martin City Hall. There will be no registration at the door.

For more information, call 588-2507 or 587-7333.

Applications for pageants are available at these locations: Martin - UT Federal Credit Union, Lana’s Boutique & Bridal, Sugar and Spice, UT Martin Student Life Center and Martin City Hall; Union City - JoAnn’s, Milan - Special Occasions, Jackson - Bonnie’s Boutique. To receive an application online, go to www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.
Social worker receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers recently named Marilyn L. Crist, of Martin, as this state’s recipient of the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented in Nashville at the NASW’s statewide Legislative Conference.

Since 1983 Crist has been lecturing on the subject of abuse. Her message is twofold. To the general audience she brings an understanding of what the life of an abused person is like and encourages them to be ready to help the friend or relative who may at some time turn to them. To those who are victims of abuse, her message is to be silent no longer and to get help for their problem.

As a result of her lectures, her volunteer counseling sessions with battered women, her appearances on television, radio and in newspaper articles, Crist was selected as a recipient of the National Clairol “Take Charge Award” in 1986. This award was featured in USA Today and was described on the “Hour of Battering by her husband.

After she divorced her husband, she started college as a single parent of two children; she worked two part-time jobs while attending college full-time and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Northern Iowa, and was ranked number one in her major, psychology. As an undergraduate, she also co-directed the C.P. Collegians, a program for gifted children.

In 1990 Crist accepted the position of academic advisor of the College of Arts and Sciences at UT Martin. While working full-time in this position, she also attended UT Memphs. In 1993 she became the first UT-Memphis social work student to receive the Hilton A. Smith Graduate Fellowship, and in 1994 she received the master of science in social work degree from UT Knoxville, Memphs branch, with a 4.0 GPA. She received a certified master in social work (CMSW) in 1994 and a license in clinical social work (LCSW) in 1996. After graduation, Crist accepted her present position as an outpatient clinical therapist at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City. She is the co-author of “Apollo vs. Dionysus: A Philosophy to Increase College Success by 85 percent,” Kendall/Hunt Co., June 1997, 1999, and “Teaching Minorities to Play the Corporate Language Game,” University of South Carolina, spring 1995.

She earned the Board Certified Diplomate (BCD) in clinical social work in 2005, the Qualified Clinical Social Worker (QCSW) in 2006, and the Diplomate in Clinical Social Work (DCSW) in 2006. Her biography will be included in the 2009 edition of the Marquis Who’s Who in America.

Consultant to be at REED Center

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Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

He will be available from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 14.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

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