National Meeting Participants

Pictured are Kayla A. Poindester of Murfreesboro, Kiran G. Vaswani of Franklin, Aree, ACS Green Chemistry Institute director Dr. Bob Peoples, Punam Patel of Martin, Brandy J. Griggs of Goodspring, and ACS past president Dr. William F. Carroll.

Dr. S.K. Aree, professor of chemistry and adviser to the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society UT Martin chapter, along with four SAACS members participated in the 237th American Chemical Society National Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 21-25. SAACS president Kayla Poindester was presented two plaques for outstanding chapter performance and Green Chemistry activities in 2007-2008. SAACS helped with the meeting arrangements, presented a poster and participated in several other activities. Aree represented the Kentucky Lake Section at the ACS governance Council meeting, participated in the deliberations of the Local Sections Activities Committee and was selected to serve on the Sustainability Stakeholders Steering Group (S3G) created by the ACS board of directors. The S3G, including the director of the Green Chemistry Institute and two past ACS presidents, meet monthly via conference calls to reflect on the ACS sustainability efforts and to recommend comprehensive "best practices."

Career Fair could be your best move

Lost your job? Opted for a buy out but not ready to retire? The “Career and Transition Assistance Fair” offered by First Citizens National Bank and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center may be your next career stop.

This event is being offered at no cost to those who have been displaced, lost their job from a buy out or layoff or just want a career change. It is planned from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., July 7, at the Hampton Inn in Union City.

Lunch keynote speaker, Chuck Doss, First Citizens Financial Plus, Inc. vice president/investment representative, will discuss financial advice and counseling. Other speaker topics will be resume writing, educational and training opportunities, mortgage advice, starting a business, tax issues and how to deal with a job loss.

The first 100 attendees will receive a copy of Ken Blanchard’s bestselling book, “Who Moved My Cheese?", donated by the UT Martin Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

All speakers will also staff booths during the fair and be joined by Hamilton-Ryker, Job World and Manpower.

First Citizens National Bank will provide lunch. Pre-registration is recommended. For more information, contact Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator, at 731-587-7333 or Doss at 731-886-1155 or register online at www.utm.edu/careerfair.
McWhorter: A Legacy of Giving Back

By Chandra Harris-McCray

SHOUTAmerica, a non-profit organization, which serves as an educational vehicle to energize and engage youth regarding the need for health-care reform in America. Whitney Maxey attended the SHOUTAmerica conference. She said, “I have never been more challenged or inspired by any conference that I have attended before. The knowledge and the desire to help young adults that Mr. McWhorter displays is truly remarkable.”

The former vice chair of the UT Board of Trustees and UT Development Council member also continues to serve as chair of the private equity firm in Franklin, Clayton Associates, which he and his son, Stuart, founded. McWhorter makes Nashville his home with his wife, Michelle McWhorter, children and grandchildren.

Laughing, McWhorter said he cannot imagine retiring and not being involved. “I will continue to do all that I can to open doors for young students, and I hope they will pay it forward as I have done,” he said. “It is such a wonderful feeling to know that you have made a difference in someone’s life.”

McWhorter is generous not only because it is simply the right thing to do; but because he feels, based on the lessons his mother taught him, that we all have an obligation to give back.

R. Clayton McWhorter

To gain his college degree, R. Clayton McWhorter worked in a small grocery store, dry cleaners, drugstore and delivered newspapers.

Working part time became part of the norm for McWhorter, who spent his first year studying pre-pharmacy at the University of Tennessee before transferring and earning his pharmacy degree from Howard College, now Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. McWhorter’s working ways had already gotten the best of him by the time he graduated from high school when he told his mother, Gladys McWhorter Franks, he would be happy to just work and gain enough cash for a car. McWhorter quickly discovered he could work all he wanted, but it would be while pursuing a college education.

Born in Chattanooga and raised in North Georgia, McWhorter and his three siblings lived in a farmhouse with no electricity, indoor plumbing or locks on the exterior doors. Raised single-handedly by their mother, the McWhorters may have lived in poverty, but they were taught always to drop what little change they had into the donation plate at church.

“You aren’t truly living until you have given back and made a difference,” said McWhorter.

As noted in McWhorter’s biography, “Leadership to Win,” giving back and making a difference were values instilled in him as a child, which he continues to carry with him. With more than 50 years’ experience as a top executive in the health-care industry, McWhorter made a pledge to himself in 1996 that he would maintain his net worth at its 1996 level and, if he were blessed beyond that with some returns, he would give it all back. He has done just that.

A faithful supporter of UT Martin, McWhorter has established scholarships with a novel workshop concept to help students who, as he did, work their way through college. Along with the R. Clayton McWhorter Endowment, McWhorter recently committed an extraordinary seven-figure deferred gift to the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs. McWhorter is also an avid supporter of UT Knoxville College of Law and the Institute for Public Service, along with other institutions of higher learning and charitable organizations.

Continuing his long legacy of giving back, McWhorter has lent his vision and resources to create
Library featuring two art exhibits through July

The Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin has two new art exhibits that are free and open to the public through July. Les MacDiarmid, a local artist and University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, has provided a number of eclectic paintings for display. MacDiarmid is both a painter and mural artist. He has hand-painted murals for residences, schools, businesses and public buildings for most of his career. The library also has an exhibit of photographs by Nan Cook, a recent graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Arts in art history and the daughter of Doug and Jennifer Cock, UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts chair and Education Student Services director, respectively. Nan uses different traditional cameras, including an old large-format press camera, to capture her subjects and the gelatin-silver photographic (dry plate) process in developing images. These two exhibits will be on display throughout the month of July. For more information, contact the library at 731-881-7060.

WestStar Leadership Program C.P. Boyd Award presented

Keith Carver, center, of Weakley County, receives the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award at the recent graduation of the WestStar Leadership Class of 2009 in Jackson. Making the presentation are Vicki Lane, left, 2008 award recipient; and David Belote, executive director of WestStar. Class members selected Carver for his leadership in the Class of 2009. Carver is assistant vice chancellor of development at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Currently, he is the treasurer and board member of the Martin Soccer Association. He has served as past chairman of the board, treasurer, and board member of the Children’s Center of Knoxville; served as a task force member and served on the fund-raising committee of the Secret Safe Place of Knoxville. He is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County. UT Martin sponsors WestStar. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program.

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 University of Tennessee Martin Office of Minority Affairs. Students attended this competitive week-long 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. Attending from Dyer County were Briana Pierce, Deidra Wiggins and Jelisha Greene.

Bumpas attends Governor’s School

William Bumpas was among some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors to attend 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 sixth year students were able to earn college credit.

Bumpas is a student at Dyersburg High School.
Career fair set

Lost your job? Opted for a buyout but not ready to retire? The "Career and Transition Assistance Fair" offered by First Citizens National Bank and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center may be your next career stop.

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UTM tuition increases 7%

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a seven percent increase in tuition for students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin effective for the 2009 fall semester. The approval came during the board's annual meeting this week in Knoxville.

Instate tuition and fees, including the new per student rate, will now cost undergraduate students $2,885 per semester to attend UT Martin. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 hours. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase seven percent. Total cost will be $8,578 per semester.

"We have worked carefully to make strategic decisions leading to the seven percent tuition increase," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. The increase will enable UT Martin to maintain a high level of quality in academic programs and student services while still holding tuition levels below many public and private institutions in the nation.

Tuition for instate graduate students at UT Martin will increase by 7 percent. Total cost for instate graduate students will be $3,329 per semester this fall. Out-of-state graduate tuition will increase 7 percent. Total cost for out-of-state graduate students will be $9,022 per semester.

Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Other actions involving UT Martin included the following:

• An academic enrichment fee in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources was approved for students taking specific courses. Fee amounts will be $20 for selected courses.

• The UT Online course fee was increased by $10 to $56 to support increasing costs for online courses.

• UT Martin was approved to implement a previously approved $103 per semester debt service fee beginning this fall to support the new Student Recreation Center.

• Consolidation of six academic areas with existing programs was approved. Included are Geology and Geography merging into the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Physics merging into the Department of Chemistry and Physics; Political Science merging into the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science; Computer Science and Information Systems merging into the Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science, and Information Systems; Psychology merging with Sociology, Criminal Justice and Social Work into the Department of Behavioral Sciences; and Modern Foreign Languages merging into the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

• Discontinuation of the bachelor of science with a major in health sciences in the Department of Biological Sciences, as recommended by the UT Martin Faculty Senate and campus administration, was approved.

• A capital project was approved to repair wind-damaged Paul Meek Library softfins with funding from capital maintenance savings and insurance proceeds.

UTM Library featuring two art exhibits through July

The Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin has two new art exhibits that are free and open to the public through July.

Les MacDiarmid, a local artist and University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, has provided a number of eclectic paintings for display. MacDiarmid is both a painter and mural artist. He has hand-painted murals for residences, schools, businesses and public buildings for most of his career.

The library also has an exhibit of photographs by Nan Cook, a recent graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Arts in art history and the daughter of Doug and Jennifer Cook, UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts chair and Education Student Services director, respectively.

Nan uses different traditional cameras, including an old large-format press camera, to capture her subjects and the gelatin-silver photographic (dry plate) process in developing images.

These two exhibits will be on display through July. For more information, contact the library at 731-881-7060.
Celebrating Ayers Foundation Scholars

The Ayers Foundation Scholars Program hosted a celebration with the 2009 Ayers Foundation Scholars from Riverside High School in conjunction with the annual Awards Night at Riverside. The Ayers Foundation Scholars Program, created by Jim Ayers, awards high school students from Decatur County up to $4,000 annually for up to four years of higher education. The program expanded to Scotts Hill High School in Henderson County. Call (731) 847-4962 for more information. Left to right, name and college plans: Brandie Duke, Austin Peay State University; Kayla Tharp, University of Memphis; and Angela Schramm, University of Tennessee Martin at Parsons.

FINISHES FIRST — A Fulton City High School student recently won first place in the Spanish Poster Contest at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. On hand for the recognition were (from left) Dr. Daniel Nappo, chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages; Fulton student Tiffany Stewart; and Dr. David Coffey, interim dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.
First African-American Leadership Conference still thriving 11 years after being implemented

The most compelling aspect of the African-American Leadership Conference is that it provides an in-depth, hard-hitting, probing, truly introspective evaluation of leadership as practiced in the past and present, especially by black Americans," Dr. Jesse Cannon, conference speaker.

The annual African-American Leadership Conference, an outgrowth of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar leadership program, was the first and remains the only leadership conference focused on African-Americans in the state.

Its purpose is to discuss challenges and opportunities faced by African-Americans, especially those who aspire to leadership positions in careers, public service and civic and community groups.

Since the first conference in 1998, with attendance of 80, the conference consistently attracts 150 from throughout West Tennessee. They represent an extensive list of governmental, business, industrial and educational firms and institutions and entrepreneurial ventures.

Cannon, a Covington physician, has spoken at several conferences and each time has been impressed by the relevant and contemporary topics that are presented. He points to the diligence of conference organizers to find people knowledgeable in their fields to deliver the messages.

"Unlike Middle and East Tennessee, West Tennessee has the highest concentration of African-Americans in the state and this conference is extremely important to our emerging leaders as it allows them the opportunity to meet and talk with leaders from across the country," said state Rep. Johnny Shaw.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary in 2008, the group initiated two awards for people younger and older than 40, respectively, who have made substantial impacts on the lives of others. Shaw received one of the 2008 awards.

Anne Banks, Brownsville Community Development director for 27 years, is one of three 1997 WestStar graduates who organized the First African-American Leadership Conference and has continued commitment to the event. She is pleased with its longevity and agrees with Cannon that the program content draws new participants each year and keeps them coming back.

"We brainstorm and try to provide the best program possible," Ms. Banks said of the conference committee's work, something participants can personally relate to and also take back to improve their communities.

She added she is always amazed at the caliber of resources the group secures each year to offer a broad range of knowledge and talent. The committee not only looks for those qualities in its speakers, but also chooses people who "inspire us."

The conference provides a forum to discuss those issues that affect our communities ranging from health, economic, educational and spiritual concerns," Shaw said. "Attendees have a chance to see leaders that reflect an image much like their own and are inspired to strive to greater heights and serve their communities."

Ms. Banks said the conference has been a success from the start because of WestStar's support and remains an important educational opportunity for African-Americans at all stages of their careers.

"Over the years, the program has been very beneficial for those moving into leadership roles in career and community," she said, adding it likely spurs others to consider making those moves.

The recent conference in Jackson was no different. Among the speakers was Beverly Robertson, National Civil Rights Museum president. She is also principal of TRUSt Marketing and Communications Consortium. She completed post-graduate management courses through the Wharton School of Business.

Participants also heard from Martha Perine Beard, senior branch executive of the Memphis Region of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, she received a master's degree in economics at Washington University in St. Louis and completed special studies at Harvard and Yale universities.

Conferences also include health and fitness, civic and education segments each year.

As the medical speaker, Cannon said, "I have covered topics that illuminate the disease processes that impact the African American community most often or with more significant consequences. In so doing, I've tried to share details that are not often covered by their primary care physicians."

While the committee steered the contents of the first conference, programming from that point has been based on participants' requests. And, at first, the committee tried to find African-American speakers for all topics.

"That has changed and is becoming diverse," Ms. Banks said.

Likewise, the conference attracts a diverse crowd, with some West Tennessee companies earmarking it for diversity training and professional development.

As with most conferences, Ms. Banks said that one of the most significant aspects is the networking that takes place among the participants.

"You don't rise to the top of your profession by yourself and even when you get there, you're not alone," she said.

Conference-goers agree. Networking was most often mentioned as a major benefit.

"It's all the networking with so many people," said one participant, who added that she found someone this year to offer a diversity class in her community.

"Networking, I've met three other people in health care-related fields. We swapped business cards and are going to keep in touch," said another.

Still another said, "This is good for my business. I have ideas now how I can make things work ... or advance with my company."

In a group that has ranged in age from 15-75, some of the older participants have remarked that they did not think they would live long enough to see a conference dealing with issues and topics as they impact African-Americans.

Finally, Ms. Banks said the conference gives African-Americans a sense of "what we mean to each other and the importance we bring to the U.S. and issues such as the economy. We're a driving force. Some of us are not clear about that."

Using the history the National Civil Rights Museum houses as an example, she added, "It's not just African American history in that museum. It shows the connection that we as Americans bring to each other and what can be accomplished when we all come together."

"The conference has been able to sustain its longevity because it strives to deal with those extremely relevant day-to-day issues that are the common thread for all Tennesseans," Shaw said. "This conference provides a voice for the African-American community to be a part of addressing and providing solutions for those very human and basic needs."

WestStar Leadership, Tennessee Access & Diversity Initiatives, Walmart, Gibson County Utility District, First South Bank, Hardin County government, the City of Covington, the City of Brownsville, West Tennessee Healthcare and the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service make the conference possible.

The letter-writer accuses the homeschool community of trying to pass off a "pig in a poke," but he would do better to respond with sound research and informed comments, instead of "smoke and mirrors."
McWhorter shares legacy of giving back

By CHANDRA HARRIS-MCCRAY
Special to The Messenger

MARTIN — To gain his college degree, R. Clayton McWhorter worked in a small grocery store, dry cleaners and drugstore and delivered newspapers. Working part time became part of the norm for McWhorter, who spent his first year studying pre-pharmacy at the University of Tennessee before transferring and earning his pharmacy degree from Howard College, now Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

McWhorter’s working ways had already gotten the best of him by the time he graduated from high school when he told his mother, Gladys McWhorter Franks, he would be happy to just work and gain enough cash for a car. He quickly discovered he could work all he wanted, but it would be while pursuing a college education.

Born in Chattanooga and raised in north Georgia, McWhorter and his three siblings lived in a farmhouse with no electricity, indoor plumbing or locks on the exterior doors. Raised single-handedly by their mother, the McWhorters may have lived in poverty, but they were taught always to drop what little change they had into the donation plate at church.

“You aren’t truly living until you have given back and made a difference,” McWhorter said. As noted in McWhorter’s biography, “Leadership to Win,” giving back and making a difference were values instilled in him as a child, which he continued to carry with him. With more than 50 years’ experience as a top executive in the healthcare industry, McWhorter made a pledge to himself in 1996 that he would maintain his net worth at its 1996 level and, if he were blessed beyond that with some returns, he would give it all back.

He has done just that. A faithful supporter of UT Martin, McWhorter has established scholarships with a novel workshop concept to help students who, as he did, work their way through college. Along with the R. Clayton McWhorter Endowment, McWhorter recently committed an extraordinary seven-figure deferred gift to the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs. McWhorter is also an avid supporter of UT Knoxville College of Law and the Institute for Public Service, along with other institutions of higher learning and charitable organizations.

Continuing his long legacy of giving back, McWhorter has lent his vision and resources to create SHOUT America, a non-profit organization, which serves as an educational vehicle to energize and engage youth regarding the need for health-care reform in America.

The former vice chairman of the UT Board of Trustees and UT Development Council member also continues to serve as chairman of the private equity firm in Franklin, Clayton Associates, which he and his son, Stuart, founded. McWhorter makes Nashville his home with his wife, Michelle McWhorter, children and grandchildren.

Laughing, McWhorter said he cannot imagine retiring and not being involved. “I will continue to do all that I can to open doors for young students, and I hope they will pay it forward as I have done,” he said. “It is such a wonderful feeling to know that you have made a difference in someone’s life.”

McWhorter is generous not only because it is simply the right thing to do, but because he feels, based on the lessons his mother taught him, that we all have an obligation to give back.

Editor’s note: Chandra Harris-McCray is assistant director of communications in the Office of Development at the University of Tennessee.

ATTENDS SCHOOL — Obion County Central High School student Kacee Warren was recently among some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors who attended the five-week 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 sixth year students were able to earn college credit.

Library to feature art exhibits

The Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin has two new art exhibits that are free and open to the public through July.

Les MacDiarmid, a local artist and University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, has provided a number of eclectic paintings for display.

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Ms. Cook uses different traditional cameras, including an old large-format press camera, to capture her subjects and the gelatin-silver photographic (dry plate) process in developing images.

These two exhibits will be on display throughout the month of July. For more information, contact the library at (731) 881-7060.
POSTER WINNER — A Fulton City High School student recently won third place in the Spanish Poster Contest at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. On hand for the recognition were (from left) Dr. Daniel Nappo, chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages; Fulton student Stephanie Sikes; and Dr. David Coffey, interim dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Hands-on seminar slated in SF

The UT Martin REED Center and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce will host a hands-on seminar, "Beginning Excel," July 13 from 6-8 p.m. at the South Fulton High School computer lab.

Participants will learn the basics of Microsoft Excel 2007 and be introduced to the new Ribbon interface and the new toolbars. They will also be taught the various ways to input information, create formulas and generate charts and graphs and useful tips to get started.

Steve Holt, director of the UT Martin Instructional Technology Center, will be the instructor. The program is free; however, UT Martin Continuing Education credits are available for $10.

Seating is limited to the first 20 registrants. For more information or to register, contact Thea Vowell, chamber director, at (731) 479-7029 or Ms. Holt at 587-7333. Participants may also register online at www.utm.edu/reed.

Consultant to be available this Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center offers aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners one-on-one consulting each month.

The center also offers about 20 small-business seminars each year for little or no cost to assist area business people in a variety of decisions.

The next opportunity to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday.

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 St. in Martin.

To learn more about additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.
UTM alum now serves TBA board

Larry Haggard, president of Wayne County Bank, Waynesboro, TN, was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Tennessee Bankers Association (TBA).

Michael Swain, 2009-2010 chairman of the association, appointed Haggard to fill the vacancy created with the election of Donna Stone, CEO of First Community Bank of Bedford County, Shelbyville, TN, to serve as TBA vice chairman. There is one year remaining in the unexpired term.

Haggard began his banking career at his hometown bank in 1974 after graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1968.

He is a graduate of The Southeastern School of Banking, conducted by the TBA at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, and the Graduate School of Banking Chamber of Commerce.

Haggard is treasurer and deacon of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Waynesboro and treasurer of the Volunteer Support Committee, a support group that assists the Wayne County Department of Children Services through the “Anytime Santa Fund.”

Travel-study tour takes participants to Amazon

A travel-study trip to the Amazon, complete with a jungle walk through the Amazon rainforest, study of rainforest flora and fauna and challenges faced by the Amazonian people, will be led by Dr. Sue Byrd, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of family and consumer sciences; Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries; and Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance.

The trip is scheduled for Jan. 2-12. Participants will travel to Manaus, Brazil, and the Amazon and Rio Negro rivers (within the Amazon).

A few spots remain, with faculty, staff, UT Martin students and community members invited to participate.

UT Martin students participating must register for one of the following three-hour courses in fall 2009: FCS 470, NRM 230, or HLTH 485.

Approximate cost for the trip is $2,700 plus passport, Visa and immunization costs. UT Martin students may apply for Student Government Association scholarships.

GOING GREEN AND BLUE — Local artist Les MacDiarmid of Martin recently completed this decorative mural on the UTM Recycles! center located off of Volunteer Drive near the UT Martin campus. The recycling effort by UTM Recycles! has taken off this past year as they were forced to move to a larger location to house recyclables and equipment. Recycling services are available to anyone in the county at the warehouse and containers have been placed throughout Weakley County for recyclables. UTM Recycles! will also provide pick-up of recyclables for area businesses. The warehouse will accept glass, paper, No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.
ASABE welcomes new student mechanization branch at UT Martin

An American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers student mechanization branch has been founded at the University of Tennessee at Martin and recently was approved by the ASABE Membership Development Council.

The branch designation was spearheaded by Dr. Tim Burcham, chairholder, Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of agricultural engineering, and Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.

“The UT Martin Agricultural Mechanization Branch of the ASABE will allow student members to gain valuable professional development skills, while enjoying the many sanctioned ASABE Student Club events,” said Burcham. “The 1/4-scale tractor pulling contest is just one of many fun and educational opportunities afforded to student branch clubs of the ASABE. Our students look forward to networking with young professionals from the United States and around the world.”

“Having this student chapter of the ASABE on our campus will provide a means for students at UT Martin to better connect with other students with similar interests, not only on our campus but even with those throughout our nation and the world,” said Shadden.

“Membership in a student branch of a professional society gives graduates a jump start in their profession. This chapter will give our students the same advantage to develop professionally as is provided at any major college campus which has a student branch. I look forward to working with our students in helping them promote and develop this new student chapter of ASABE.”

ASABE student branches promote professional relationships for engineering students. Activities that familiarize students with engineering interests and developments provide a basis for professional aspirations and for transition from academic to professional careers. This new branch joins over 50 universities across North America, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria that have previously established student branches.

For more information, contact Burcham, at 731-881-7275, or Shadden, at 731-881-7264.

UT Martin students prepare for fall semester with SOAR on July 17

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 17-18. Check-in is set for 2 p.m., at Boling University Center.

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.

SOAR approaching for UTM

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 17-18. Check-in is set for 2 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.

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LOCAL TEACHERS IN WRITING PROJECT — The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 17th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Ten teachers earned six hours of graduate credit in English as they 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. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, 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 the invitational Summer Institute each year, a full workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher inservice and more. For more information about those and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/wtwp, or email WTWP director David Carithers, right, UT Martin assistant professor of English, at dcarithers@utm.edu. Among teachers attending the institute were, from left, Joshua Nance, Ridgmont Elementary; Kristy Dowden, Union City Elementary; Shannon Lyon, Obion County Central High School; and Greg Barclay, South Fulton High School. (Photo submitted)

Elliott selected to work All Star game

South Fulton native Chase Elliott has been selected to work the 2009 All Star Baseball game in St. Louis, Mo.

Elliott, a South Fulton High School and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, is currently Stadium Operations Assistant for the Bowling Green Hot Rods.

He is the son of Joyce and Scott Lawrence and Jerry Elliott of South Fulton.

The events of the Baseball Fanfest will be held the week of July 10-14, when the National and American Baseball teams compete, among other events that will take place throughout the week.

Major League Baseball All-Star FanFest will feature interactive exhibits and attractions, Major League clinics and seminars, free autograph sessions with Cardinals legends and Hall of Famers, memorabilia and much more.

The Bowling Green Hot Rods are a Class A affiliate of the defending American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays, who have four players named to the 2009 American League All-Star Squad, including third baseman Evan Longoria, shortstop Jason Bartlett, and outfielders Carl Crawford and Ben Zobrist, shortstop.

They will join manager Joe Maddon in St. Louis, Mo. as the American League takes on the National in the mid-summer classic on July 14 at Busch Stadium.

Elliott may be contacted at celliot@bghotrods.com.
SOAR to help UTM students prepare early 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 17-18. Check-in is set for 2 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisors 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.
UT Martin math professor
Dr. John Schommer receives
Community Service Award

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission honored a University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member for outstanding community service work, April 23, in Nashville. Dr. John Schommer, a mathematics professor, received a Love Community Service Award after being selected from a group of Tennessee college and university nominees.

Schommer, who has taught at UT Martin since 1994, was honored for his work with Habitat for Humanity and the Catholic Diocese of Memphis’ Jackson Deanery Development Committee for Social Ministries. Ten individuals, including five faculty/staff members and five students, received the awards during a reception at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission offices.

Awards go to individuals who excel in volunteer work and community service activities. The Tennessee General Assembly created the recognition programs for faculty, staff and students at public and private two- and four-year post-secondary institutions in 1991. In 1993, the General Assembly funded the program by presenting $1,000 cash awards to future recipients.

The awards are named for the late Tennessee Rep. Harold Love, who sponsored legislation to create the recognition program.

“Concern for others clearly defines John Schommer’s ongoing volunteer efforts to make our community and our region better places in which to live and work,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “His unselfish volunteer work is appropriately recognized by this prestigious award.”

Schommer began his work with Habitat for Humanity in spring 1999. Since then, his service to the organization includes assisting with home construction, forming and advising a UT Martin student Habitat chapter and serving as board treasurer for the Weakley County Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Possibly his most noteworthy Habitat for Humanity achievement is securing and administering a $25,000 grant for the construction of the local affiliate’s first ADA-compliant house.

His service with the Jackson Deanery Development Committee for Social Ministries involves the committee’s mission to award grants to charitable organizations throughout West Tennessee. Many ecumenical organizations have benefited from the committee’s work, and in 2005, Schommer was elected committee chairman. Ongoing work with the committee includes trying to solve a common problem experienced by many charitable ministries: assisting needy clients with utility bills.

Schommer expressed “surprise all the way around” at both being nominated and then receiving the award. Reflecting on his own experiences, he urges others to become involved in community service, even if for no better reason than “because it makes you feel good.”

“The hard truth, though, is that the deeper you wade into community service, the more challenging, exasperating and frustrating you’ll find it,” he said. “At the same time, it’s also remarkably rewarding to be a part of a team solving problems.

“You’ll never be busier, and you’ll never be happier. You sleep hard, you wake up, and the community is already a better place in which to live, just because you’ve been working at it.”

Besides his degrees in mathematics, Schommer also holds a master’s degree in theology. He has served as president of the UT Martin faculty senate and is currently faculty representative for the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Schommer’s recognition brings the total to 25 students, faculty and staff members from UT Martin recognized by the THEC Love Community Service Awards programs.

Local high school student gets a jump on UTM fall registration

Ashley Grimes, of Martin, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A Westview High School graduate, Grimes will attend UTM in the fall. With her is her father, Bud Grimes, UT Martin Office of University Relations director. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.
Collegiate Chemistry Meeting held at Murray State

The 32nd Annual Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting, cosponsored by Murray State University and University of Tennessee at Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, recently was held in Murray. American Chemical Society president-elect Dr. Joseph Francisco was the keynote speaker. Twenty-one UT Martin students and faculty attended the meeting, and six UT Martin students presented research papers. Pictured (left to right, front row) are: James K. Griffin, Casey M. Ellington, Elizabeth A. Abernathy, Christy R. Lowe, Kayla A. Poindexter, Kayla Baker, Punam Patel, Tiffany Brewer (presenter), Carolyn U. Nguyen (presenter), Lauren Bivens (presenter), Kiran G. Vatsvan (presenter), and Dr. S.K. Airee (SAACS adviser); (back row): Cory L. Jones, Dr. Paul Higgs, Ashish J. Patel, Bradley A. Bugg (presenter), ACS president-elect Dr. Joseph S. Francisco, Robert H. Mitchell, and Dr. Charles R. Thomas, Department of Chemistry chair. Not pictured are: Dr. Jozsef Devenyi, associate professor of chemistry; Dr. James Smart, assistant professor of chemistry; and Brandi Griggs (presenter).

SOAR helps students prepare for school

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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.
UT Martin adds ASABE

An American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers student mechanization branch has been founded at the University of Tennessee at Martin and recently was approved by the ASABE Membership Development Council.

The branch designation was spearheaded by Dr. Tim Burcham, chairholder of the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of agricultural engineering, and Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.

"The UT Martin Agricultural Mechanization Branch of the ASABE will allow student members to gain valuable professional development skills, while enjoying the many sanctioned ASABE Student Club events," Burcham said. The 1/4-scale tractor pulling contest is just one of many fun and educational opportunities afforded to student branch clubs of the ASABE. Our students look forward to networking with young professionals from the United States and around the world."

"Having this student chapter of the ASABE on our campus will provide a means for students at UT Martin to better connect with other students with similar interests, not only on our campus but even with those throughout our nation and the world," Shadden said. "Membership in a student branch of a professional society gives graduates a jump start in their profession. This chapter will give our students the same advantage to develop professionally as is provided at any major college campus which has a student branch. I look forward to working with our students in helping them promote and develop this new student chapter of ASABE."

ASABE student branches promote professional relationships for engineering students. Activities that familiarize students with engineering interests and developments provide a basis for professional aspirations and for transition from academic to professional careers. This new branch joins over 50 universities across North America, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria that have previously established student branches.

For more information, contact Burcham at (731) 881-7275 or Shadden at 881-7264.

LOCAL TEACHERS INVOLVED — The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 17th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ten teachers each earned six hours of graduate credit in English as they shared teaching demonstrations, worked on drafts in small writing response groups and researched topics in teaching, learning, reading and writing. Among the teachers who attended the institute were (from left) Joshua Nance of Ridgernont Elementary, Kristy Dowden of Union City Elementary, Shannon Lyon of Obion County Central High School and Greg Barclay of South Fulton High School, joined by WTP director David Carithers, UT Martin assistant professor of English. The WTWP group will have four follow-up meetings in the coming school year. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, 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 the invitational Summer Institute each year, a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher inservice and more. For more information about these and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site www.utm.edu/htwp, or e-mail Carithers at dcari@utm.edu.

Karl Hansen of Collierville, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was inducted into the Order of the Engineer.
Army Capt. Adrian M. Montague, right, formerly of Jackson, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony in April at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad. He was assigned to Multi-National Corps-Iraq as the Counter Rocket, Artillery, Mortar Operations Officer from September 2008 to April 2009. This was his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Montague is assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, at Ft. Sill, Okla., as a student in the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course. He is a graduate of North Side High School and the University of Tennessee Martin. He is working toward a master of arts in management and leadership from Webster University. He resides in Lawson, Okla., with his wife Samantha, formerly of Clarksville.

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) recently held its 17th annual Invitational Summer Institute for teachers at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Ten teachers earned six hours of graduate credit in English as they 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. A program of professional development for K-16 teachers of all subjects, 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 the invitational Summer Institute each year, a fall workshop open to all teachers, writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants, Young Writers Programs, teacher in-service and more. For more information about these and other events at WTWP, visit the Web site, www.utm.edu/wtwp, or email WTWP director David Carithers, left, UT Martin assistant professor of English, at dcarithers@utm.edu. Among teachers attending the institute was Donna Mobley, Waverly Junior High School.
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 week-long summer residential program, designed for upcoming high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. The noncredit program introduced students to the college experience by focusing on three learning environments: special aptitude development; personal and social development; and college/major exploration. Attending from Shelby County were Paige Bolden (left) and Sheena Boyce. Both reside in Cordova.

Local High School Students Get a Jump on UT Martin Fall Registration

MARTIN - Audrey Han, second from left of Paris and Cara Chadwick, second from right of McKenzie, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Henry County and McKenzie high school graduates, respectively, Han and Chadwick will attend UT Martin in the fall. With them are their mothers, Debbie Pace, left, and Kathy Sadler, right. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.
MAKING MUSIC — Brett Stowell, a 2009 graduate of Obion County Central High School, recently received the John Phillip Sousa Award, Most Outstanding Senior Musician Award and Jim Godsey Scholarship. The Sousa award is the highest national award a high school band member can receive and is given in recognition of outstanding achievements and interest in instrumental music. Stowell’s other achievements included being selected his sophomore, junior and senior years to play with the Symphonic Honor Band at the University of Tennessee at Martin and twice having received a one rating at UTM’s Solo and Ensemble Festival. Honor Band eligibility requires an audition and students must be recommended by their high school band director as an outstanding instrumentalist, capable of performing advanced material. The Solo and Ensemble Festival is hosted by the UT Martin Music Department and the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association. Stowell’s high school band career included the euphonium concert and marching bands, jazz band drum set and the drum line. His future plans involve majoring in music education, with career aspirations as a collegiate band director. His talents extend to playing acoustic and electric guitar and music composition. He is the son of Rob Stowell of South Fulton and Erin James Shanklin of Trenton, formerly of Union City. He is the grandson of Kenny and Martha Stowell and Jackie and Marsha Hays Bone, all of Union City.

UC STUDENT RECOGNIZED — Thomas Gossett (center) of Union City recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Paula Moore, assistant professor of accounting and business law.

HONORED AT UT MARTIN — Nathan Woods (center) of Union City recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were Dr. Ernest Moser (left), dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Jim Green, instructor of accounting.
KENTON HONOREE — Ben Holloman (right) of Kenton was recently recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were Dr. Ernest Moser (left), dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Bob Bradley, instructor of computer science.

AN EARLY START — Courtney House (center) and Megan Hines (right), both of Union City, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Both young women are Union City High School graduates who will attend UT Martin in the fall. They were joined by Miss House’s mother, Tammy House of Union City. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes).
Travel-study tour to feature the Amazon

A travel-study trip to the Amazon — complete with a jungle walk through the Amazon rainforest, study of rainforest flora and fauna and challenges faced by the Amazonian people — will be led by Dr. Sue Byrd, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of family and consumer sciences; Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries; and Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance.

The trip is scheduled for Jan. 2-12, 2010. Participants will travel to Manaus, Brazil, and the Amazon and Rio Negro rivers (within the Amazon).

A few spots remain, with faculty, staff, UT Martin students and community members invited to participate. UT Martin students participating must register for one of the following three-hour courses in fall 2009: PCS 470, NRM 230, or HLTH 485.

Approximate cost for the trip is $2,700 plus passport, Visa and immunization costs. UT Martin students may apply for Student Government Association scholarships.

For more information, contact Byrd at sbyrd@utmem.edu, Ray at bray@utmem.edu or Pun at spun@utmem.edu.

APSU helps consortium to secure grant from Quebec

MELONY SHEMBERGER • READER SUBMITTED • JULY 15, 2009

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. This year will mark the 15th year that Austin Peay State University has sent students and faculty to participate in French language immersion programs at the cole de Langue française et de culture québecoise (ELF) of the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC).

Since then, other Tennessee universities have joined APSU students and faculty for the summer language programs in Quebec. In 1997 APSU, Union University and the University of Tennessee at Martin developed the Mid-Continent Consortium, an international educational cooperative composed of 10 regional public and private universities that annually sends students to programs in Quebec, Mexico and Spain for intensive language studies.

In Spring 2009, APSU was instrumental in helping the Mid-Continent Consortium to secure a $28,100 research grant offered by the Ministre des Relations internationales du Quebec to support a short-term visiting faculty program to begin in Fall 2009 and continue through Fall 2010. APSU and other Mid-Continent Consortium member institutions plan to host short-term visiting lecturers in a variety of disciplines from Quebec universities, including the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

For more information, contact Tina Rousselot de Saint Cricq, coordinator of International Education at APSU by telephone at (931) 221-4851 or by e-mail at rousselot@apsu.edu or Dr. Karen Sorenson, professor of languages and literature, by e-mail at sorensonk@apsu.edu.

SOAR to help UTM students prepare for fall semester

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STUDENTS GET A JUMP ON UT MARTIN FALL REGISTRATION - Haley Howell of Medina, second from left, and Suzanne Bell, of Humboldt, second from right, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Gibson County High School graduates, they will attend UT Martin in the fall. With them are their mothers, Lynn Howell and Cristal Bell. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes).

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TROY HONOREE — James Morris (center) of Troy was recently recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were Dr. Ernest Moser (left), dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Richard Williams, associate professor of accounting.

OBION STUDENT RECOGNIZED — Jon Kendall (right) of Obion recently was the recipient of the Financial Executives International Education Achievement Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Tom Payne, chairholder of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. Kendall was also recognized as a faculty scholar.
UC STUDENT HONORED — Hollie Holman of Union City recently was the recipient of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence Outstanding Scholar Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Tom Payne, chairholder of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

Tuba recital Saturday at UT Martin

Jeff Baker, guest artist, will present a tuba recital this Saturday, July 18, at 4 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Baker has degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the University of North Texas where he is currently a teaching fellow.

As an aspiring solo artist, Baker has been a finalist for the Leonard Falcone International Tuba Artist Competition as well as the Potomac Music Academy.

He has also performed as a featured soloist with the U.S. Army Band.

Assisting Baker on the recital will be two UTM faculty members: tubist Dr. Bradley G. Coker, Assistant Professor of Music, and pianist Dr. Elaine Harriss, Professor of Music. The public is cordially invited to attend.

ROTARY SPEAKER — Dr. Lionel Crews, Asst. Professor of Physics at UTM, spoke to the Martin Rotary Club about new things going on at NASA, current and future missions and space exploration.
Online course to focus on losing weight, keeping it off

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a non-degree, online course: Lose Weight and Keep It Off.

In the course, participants will discover how to establish a healthy approach to successful weight loss and weight maintenance for a lifetime. They will master how to set and achieve weight-loss and weight-maintenance goals that make sense, as well as receive practical tips they can use immediately to develop healthier eating and exercise habits.

The instructor will be Donna Acosta, a registered dietitian and nutrition educator. Her clinical expertise is in weight management, diabetes nutrition care and cardiac rehabilitation management. Registration fee is $95.

For more information or to register, visit the online instruction center at: www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and select ed2go.

Lose weight with help of online course

The University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies offers a non-degree, online course, “Lose Weight and Keep It Off.”

In this course, discover how to establish a healthy approach to successful weight loss and weight maintenance for a lifetime. Master how to set and achieve weight-loss and weight-maintenance goals that make sense.

Get practical tips to use immediately to develop healthier eating and exercise habits.

The instructor is Donna Acosta, a registered dietitian and nutrition educator. Her clinical expertise is in weight management, diabetes nutrition care and cardiac rehabilitation management. Registration fee is $95. Visit the online instruction center at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and select ed2go.

Rachel M. Roberson of Obion County has been awarded the Heloise Werthan Kuhn Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee — a charitable organization working to improve the quality of life in 40 Middle Tennessee counties — to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The foundation recently announced it is awarding 189 scholarships to students pursuing secondary education in accredited schools throughout the United States. A total of $311,100 is being awarded to students from 54 scholarship funds within the Community Foundation.

“The Community Foundation has helped thousands access educational opportunities they might otherwise have been unable to afford by connecting them with the generosity of others,” said Ellen Lehman, president of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

“This year, we are honored to help hundreds more improve their futures and the futures of their families through the transformation offered by an education.”

The scholarship will assist with tuition and other school-related expenses. Each year, the Community Foundation’s scholarship committee, composed of 15 individuals from various professional backgrounds, reviews applications on behalf of donors who entrust the foundation with administering the annual awards.

The foundation received 621 applications this year.

The scholarship committee carefully considers applicants’ academic records, test scores, extracurricular activities, work experience, community involvement and personal recommendations.
Chamber employee completes UTM class

Mandy White, manager of research and economic development for the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, recently completed the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee Martin.

In its 20th year, UT Martin’s WestStar program provides leadership development and training for selected participants. The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership roles in the economic and social development of West Tennessee. WestStar’s 500-plus graduates have taken responsibility for the growth and development of their state, communities and counties.

Class members participate in a series of seminars addressing contemporary issues important to the future of West Tennessee. Each seminar takes place over a two-day period from January through May in various locations throughout Middle and West Tennessee. Topics vary from year to year depending on changing events in the region. Focusing on the challenges and potentials in West Tennessee, WestStar stresses the importance of regional and civic responsibility for progress and responsibility.

Local Resident Honored at UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs Banquet

MARTIN - Aimee Noles of McKenzie recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Bob Figgins, right, professor of economics.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar leadership program, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development/Business Enterprise Resource Office and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women recently sponsored a women business owners opportunities conference, “Building Blocks for Success,” in Jackson. UT Martin alumna Dr. Christy Shaffer (center), president and CEO of Inspire Pharmaceuticals in Durham, N.C., and Susan Hendrix O’Connell (not pictured) of Henco Furniture in Selmer were general session speakers. At the conference, Dr. Shaffer and her mother, Suzanne Cooper (left) of Hornbeak, talked with Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator. Conference participants learned that opportunities abound for women business owners seeking to sell in the business-to-business (B2B) marketplace. This multi-billion dollar market segment consists of buyers from government and private industry who purchase services, equipment, supplies, transportation, wholesale, retail, agriculture, finance or most any good or service. This niche market offers contracting jobs that can help establish strategic relationships to increase a company’s competitive edge, so the business can grow exponentially. Session topics included business planning, Internet marketing, human resources, time management, grant writing, customer service, certification processes, Internet social networking, stress management, fitness and wellness, business etiquette and dressing for success.
New deputy superintendent sets her priorities

By TAJUANA CHEREH
tcchesher@jacksonsun.com

After a little more than two weeks on the job, Jackson-Madison County Schools' new deputy superintendent Doris Battle has figured out her top two priorities.

"Curriculum and accountability," Battle said.

She plans to contribute to the improvement of the system's corrective action status under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Battle comes to the system with experience in curriculum and accountability in Shelby County Schools and Haywood County Schools.

"That was my focus in my prior two positions," Battle said.

Battle began her career in education in 1983 at East Side Elementary in Brownsville. She spent 25 years in the Haywood County System, a district of 3,700 students and seven schools.

Battle has been an assistant principal, principal and assistant director of schools in the Haywood County system.

"It's a small district, but you get to do all the jobs," Battle said. "I've worked in curriculum, discipline, public relations, finance, the school board and human resources."

She was interim director of schools for six months in 2008 before she took a position with Shelby County Schools as an instructional support specialist.

Battle said she learned a lot in her move to a system of 47,000 students and 53 schools.

"They had many resources," she said. "They held a curriculum and instruction meeting every other week, and we reviewed all of the academic areas. Every decision made was based on student test scores or data-driven."

As deputy superintendent, Battle reports to Superintendent Nancy Zambrano.

According to the job description, Battle has a lengthy list of duties including working with Zambrano to develop systematic approaches to increase student achievement, close achievement gaps, ensure fiscal responsibility, efficiency, continuous improvement and transparency.

Battle is responsible for supervising the Director of Schools Success Carol Carver, Director of Operations Buddy White and Director of Human Resources Greg Bethel.

She said one of the key components in helping a school system improve is in the instruction area.

"Instruction drives the system," Battle said.

She said it takes the efforts of teachers, students and parents.

Reaching out to parents is also one of her goals.

"Parent involvement is everything," Battle said. "Parents should have regular check-ups with their child's school. We should make sure we have information sessions for parents to let them know what we expect of them and the children. Parents can also let the schools know what they expect from us."

Battle has a few ideas that she'd like to see in the system as well.

"I think there's an opportunity for the system to pilot an online learning program for high school students," Battle said. "I think it has a place, and it can help in specific situations (like) if a student needs to earn credits, is homebound or sick for a period of time."

Battle has already hit the ground running as one of the system's newest cheerleaders.

"People in Jackson have welcomed me beyond belief, as though they've known me all my life," Battle said. "That's refreshing considering that I didn't grow up here. I'm looking forward to getting to know the school board better and developing board relations with administration because that's important. They're making the decisions that help us perform our jobs daily."

Visit jacksonsun.com to share your thoughts.

— Tajuana Cheshier, 425-9643

About Battle

Hometown: Gleason
Education: bachelor of science, University of Tennessee Martin; master's in educational administration and supervision, Memphis State University
Family: husband, Walter; son, Max; and daughter, Paige
Hobbies: reading, gardening and antiquing
Mid-south Ag Finance Conference to be on August 5 at UT Martin

David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the eighth 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. 5.

Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last seven 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, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars, Kohl was a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers' financial information.

Speakers include Carl Babler. Babler has principal interest in First Capitol Ag with offices in Iowa, Illinois and California, where he serves as consultant and senior hedge specialist.

He also is managing partner of Lafayette Acre, Inc., with farms in Wisconsin and Texas.

He coauthored "Six Step Grain Hedge Plan," now a nationally recognized guidebook for grain producers.

Babler will focus his comments on emerging carbon policy legislation and its potential impact on farmers - a critically timely subject.

"This year's sessions are specifically designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers," said Joe Brasher, of First State Bank, in Sharon.


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 calling 731-881-7324, or visiting the Web site, 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, Grafton Ag Management and the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

LOCAL RESIDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS BANQUET - Ernestine Koornhoff, of Belville, South Africa, recently was recipient of the Deans Scholar/Marketing Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

Emily Medling, of Greenfield, recently was recipient of the Hendrix Chair of Excellence Outstanding Scholar Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Phil Young, left, chairholder, Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise. Medling was also recognized as a faculty scholar.
WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS – University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar leadership program, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development/Business Enterprise Resource Office and Tennessee Economic Council on Women recently sponsored a women business owners opportunities conference in Jackson called "Building Blocks for Success." Taking advantage of the conference was Nan Rountree, of Rountree Business Equipment in Martin.

First State supports the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED Center). The REED Center offers courses, workshops and training sessions that respond to the needs of small businesses and supports regional economic development. Pictured: Sam Lewallen, community bank president at First State Bank, Martin; Andrea Hughes, community bank president at First State Bank, Dresden; Hollie Holt, REED Center Director; and Joe Brasher, community bank president at First State Bank, Sharon.

Andrey Yesipov, of Martin, recently was recipient of the Deans Scholar/Information Systems Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs. Yesipov was also recognized as a faculty scholar.

Joseph Travis, of Martin, recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Mike McCullough, center, professor of management.
Joxel Nappo, of Martin, recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Kiattisak Phongkulsolchit, right, assistant professor of management.

Laura Leahy, of Martin, recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Nell Gullett, right, professor of finance.

John Britton, of Martin, recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser, left, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Emery Gathers, right, professor of computer science.

The Milan Mirror Exchange, Tuesday, July 21, 2009

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET A JUMP ON UT MARTIN FALL REGISTRATION — Haley Howell of Medina, second from left, and Suzanne Bell, of Humboldt, second from right, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Gibson County High School graduates, they will attend UT Martin in the fall. With them are their mothers, Lynn Howell and Cristal Bell. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.

SERVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. — Brady Legens (center), a UTM Senior, recently returned from Washington, D.C. after serving a five month internship program with Senator Lamar Alexander (left). Also shown is Senator Bob Corker.
**Speaker featured at annual ag finance conference**

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

The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 5.

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Speakers will include Carl Babler, who has principal interest in First Capitol Ag, where he serves as consultant and senior hedge specialist. He co-authored “Six Step Grain Hedge Plan,” now a nationally-recognized guidebook for grain producers.


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**Throgmorton graduates from UTM**

Paige Throgmorton, daughter of Steve and Donna Throgmorton of Dyersburg, has graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She has successfully completed the State of Tennessee Board of Nursing License Examination.

She is employed as a Registered Nurse at the Dyersburg Regional Medical Center in the Emergency Department and lives Jackson.

Throgmorton is a 2005 graduate of Dyersburg High School and an alumni member of the AOII Sorority. She is the granddaughter of Elaine Throgmorton of Halls and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ward of Dyersburg.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**UT-Martin student earns scholar nods**

BY RITA MITCHELL

Special to My Life

Recently, Ryan Hart was the recipient of the Deans Scholar/Computer Science Award at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

Hart was also recognized as a faculty scholar. Hart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hart of Memphis, is a senior at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Rita Mitchell is the university editor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
ASABE welcomes new student mechanization branch at UTM

An American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers student mechanization branch has been founded at the University of Tennessee at Martin and recently was approved by the ASABE Membership Development Council.

The branch designation was spearheaded by Dr. Tim Burcham, chairholder, Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of agricultural engineering, and Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.

"The UT Martin Agricultural Mechanization Branch of the ASABE will allow students members to gain valuable professional development skills, while enjoying the many sanctioned ASABE Student Club events," said Burcham. "The 1/4-scale tractor pulling contest is just one of many fun and educational opportunities afforded to student branch clubs of the ASABE. Our students look forward to networking with young professionals from the United States and around the world."

"Having this student chapter of the ASABE on our campus will provide a means for students at UT Martin to better connect with other students with similar interests, not only on our campus but even with those throughout our nation and the world," said Shadden. "Membership in a student branch of a professional society gives graduates a jump start in their profession. This chapter will give our students the same advantage to develop professionally as is provided at any major college campus which has a student branch. I look forward to working with our students in helping them promote and develop this new student chapter of ASABE."

ASABE student branches promote professional relationships for engineering students. Activities that familiarize students with engineering interests and developments provide a basis for professional aspirations and for transition from academic to professional careers. This new branch joins over 50 universities across North America, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria that have previously established student branches.

For more information, contact Burcham at 731-881-7275, or Shadden at 731-881-7264.

Attends Governor’s School

Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor’s school for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In its fifth year, the school gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills. Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol and traveled to Chicago and St. Louis for various parts of the program. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus. The computers were loaded with special software to help students organize their work. Shown at the closing banquet are Leslie Dodd of Trenton, and Dr. Jerry Gresham, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences director and Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources chair.
Donation made to REED Center

First State Bank recently made a donation to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED Center). The REED Center offers courses, workshops and training sessions that respond to the needs of small businesses and supports regional economic development. Pictured are: Sam Lewallen, Community Bank President at First State Bank, Martin; Andrea Hughes, Community Bank President at First State Bank, Dresden; Hollie Holt, REED Center Director; and Joe Brasher, Community Bank President at First State Bank, Sharon.

Shadburr graduates from UT Martin

Randall K. Shadburr of Michie graduated from UT at Martin on May 9, 2009. He is the son of Keith and Brenda Shadburr of Michie. He completed a teachers Education Program with a Degree of Bachelors of Science in Health and Human Performance at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was on the Honor Roll for fall semester 2008 and the Dean’s List for fall semester 2008.

Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the eighth 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., August 5. Dr. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last seven 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, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars, Kohl was a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers’ financial information.

Speakers include Carl Babler. Babler has principal interest in First Capitol Ag with offices in Iowa, Illinois and California, where he serves as consultant and senior hedge specialist. He also is managing partner of Lafayette Acre, Inc., with farms in Wisconsin and Texas. He coauthored “Six Step Grain Hedge Plan,” now a nationally recognized guidebook for grain producers. Babler will focus his comments on emerging carbon policy legislation and its potential impact on farmers - a critically timely subject.

“This year’s sessions are specifically designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers,” said Joe Brasher, of First State Bank, in Sharan. Sessions are “Around the Corner and Down the Road: A Practical Guide for Interpreting Economic Change,” “Credit and Risk Management for the Producer/Lender Team,” “Commodity Prices, Government Policies and Global Forces: Preparing for the (Un)Perfect Storm” and “Best Practices in Risk Management for the Producer/Lender Team.”

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 calling 731-881-7324, or visiting the Web site, www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited so registration is requested by August 1.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, Grafton Ag Management and the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.
The UT Research Foundation has recently been restructured to create a more decentralized organization effective July 1. As part of that restructuring, Dr. Joan K. West, University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Research, Grants, and Contracts director, has been appointed as an advisory board member of the UTRF Multi-Disciplinary Board.

West has served in multiple capacities at the UT System, including the UT System Intellectual Property policy committee, the UTRF Processes/Procedures for Grants and Contracts working group and the Financial Compliance Task Force that revised polices related to sponsored funding. She is also an advisory board member of the Grants Resource Center, the research department of the American Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities in Washington, D.C.

The organization has a new board of directors as well as a new structure for managing the two existing offices that both operate under a single UTRF corporate umbrella. One office in Memphis (the Health Science Center Office, or HSCO), directed by Dr. Richard Magid, will focus primarily on the technologies generated at the UT Health Science Center. The other office in Knoxville (the Multi-Disciplinary Office, or MDO), directed by Dr. John A. Hopkins, will support the technologies emerging from all other campuses and institutes within the UT system. Central policy-making, accounting, reporting and compliance functions will be the responsibility of the UTRF board of directors and implemented through a central office, directed by UTRF President Dr. Fred Tompkins.

Decision-making related to intellectual property management, licensing transactions and revenue distribution will become the purview of separate local executive committee members consisting of seven members from within UT and the external community. Two members of each local executive committee will serve as members of the UTRF corporate Board of Directors. The UTRF president and the UT trustee chair of the Research, Outreach, and Economic Development Committee will serve on the UTRF board and on each of the two executive committees. Each executive committee has also created its own board of advisers to provide input to the decision-making process.

The UTRF mission remains unchanged. It is to support and help grow the research enterprise at UT, manage and commercialize the university’s intellectual property, foster an entrepreneurial culture and contribute to the economic development of the state.

“We believe that this new structure will provide for greater local input and a deeper level of engagement with the individual campuses,” said Dr. Wayne Davis, MDO executive committee chairman. “By involving faculty from the different research offices and entrepreneurs from the external community, we will be able to more effectively identify, nurture and commercialize new technologies emerging from the campuses and institutes.”
LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GETS A JUMP ON UT MARTIN FALL REGISTRATION - Chase Moss of Martin, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A Westview High School graduate, Moss will attend UT Martin in the fall. With him is his mother, Shannon Moss. For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTMI.

Bredesen names 135 to serve on boards
Gov. Phil Bredesen has appointed 135 men and women to serve on 64 state boards and commissions, according to a news release. Appointment terms vary based on statutory recommendations or term limits specified by geographic or other qualifications. The appointments in The Sun coverage area are as follows:
- The Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation includes Kenny McBride of McKenzie.
- On the Beech River Watershed Development Authority is William L. Barry of Lexington.
- The Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators includes Craig B. Laman of Alamo.
- The Board of Physical Therapy includes Brandon K. Hollis of Lexington.
- On the Civil Service Commission is Clint O. Williams of Fruitvale.
- The Petroleum Underground Storage Tanks Board includes Allen Barker of Humboldt.
- On the Solid Waste Disposal Control Board is Albert Franklin Smith III of Brownsville.
- The State Board of Accountancy includes Robert Kenneth Cozart of Brownsville.
- The State Workforce Development Board includes Gary R. Miller of Jackson.

REED Center schedules Excel classes in SF
The University of Tennessee at Martin Small Business Development Center and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce are hosting two hands-on seminars in Microsoft Excel in the South Fulton High School computer lab.
"Beginning Excel" will be offered 6-8 p.m. Aug. 4 and "Intermediate Excel" will be held 6-8 p.m. Aug. 18.
In the first class, participants will learn the basics of Microsoft Excel 2007 and be introduced to the new Ribbon interface and the new toolbars. Participants will also be taught about the various ways to input information, create formulas and generate charts and graphs and tips and tricks to get started.
In the second class, students will build on basic concepts and learn how to use themes and styles to format text and numbers, create complex formulas, create charts and graphs, insert pictures, shapes, Web links and SmartArt and use conditional formatting. Prior to taking the intermediate class, the participant should already know some of the basics of Excel, such as how to enter and manipulate text and numbers, how to do basic formatting of text and numbers, how to create a basic formula, how to print and navigate around the Excel application window.

Steve Holt, UT Martin Instructional Technology Center director, will be the instructor. The program is free; however, UT Martin Continuing Education credits are available for $10.
Seating is limited to the first 20 registrants for each class. For more information or to register, contact Thea Vowell at (731) 479-7029 or Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator, at (731) 587-7333. Participants may also register online at www.utm.edu/reed.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, July 27, 2009

— The Jackson Sun
Luxe Green Helps People Make Eco-Friendly Choices

Dominique Pryor-Anderson helps people put together party favors, stock their kitchen pantries and plan their vacations with an all-natural flair and a low-carbon footprint.

She is the owner and founder of Luxe Green Gifts & Concierge, a new business inspired by the birth of her daughter, Kiya. She and her husband, Tim, already had an organic lifestyle, but the birth of their child made them more committed to making eco-friendly choices.

That commitment led Pryor-Anderson to open the business earlier this year, but the official launch is set for Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the L. Ross Gallery, 2040 Sanderlin Road, Suite 104.

Entrepreneur

Luxe Green is part organic promotion business and part auditing/consultation service. Pryor-Anderson prepares gift bags with samples of eco-friendly products for special events and home audits to help people make green choices.

The hybrid functions are suited to the talents and expertise of Pryor-Anderson. She has experience in public relations and special events. Those contacts have helped her land jobs supplying gift bags to an MTV event, a BET event and the 69th birthday of Patti LaBelle.

“I am what I like to call a serial entrepreneur,” Pryor-Anderson said. “I probably have an idea for a business a week. I really have to maintain to not do too much. I do what I like and am generally successful when I do well what I know.”

Her other business ventures include VIDA PR and Marketing, The Language Lab, image 180 (her husband’s graphic design firm) and Mas Diner Tax, which is a Mo Money Tax Service franchise. She operates Luxe Green from the back of the tax business at 5041 Mount Moriah Road Extended, Suite 14.

Although Pryor-Anderson is a Tennessee native, she is of Puerto Rican heritage and fluent in Spanish. She has an undergraduate degree in Spanish from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s of education in Spanish from Christian Brothers University.

“I was a teacher for nine years in Memphis City Schools,” she said. “I started VIDA while I was a teacher. I quit teaching to do VIDA full time.”

Green at heart

With Green Luxe, Pryor-Anderson meets people with similar environmental concerns and explores cross-promotion opportunities with other businesses. Several eco-friendly firms supply samples for the gift bags she puts together for special events.

She does not sell single gift bags as retail items, but only supplies them in mass quantities. The cost varies according to the circumstances. Shipping costs usually are minimal because of her policy.

“Being a green company, I don’t do overnight or rapid shipping,” Pryor-Anderson said. “Anything ground – express shipping and overnight and all those things – because there are so many parts to the process it increases carbon emissions.”

The concierge services vary according to the package. The prices range from $90 for a one-time service to $2,500 for a yearly Emerald package, the premium service.

With the Emerald package, Pryor-Anderson provides 25 hours of service each month, such as personal shopping for organic items, housecleaning with eco-friendly solutions and performing audits.

“I think the audits, in general, are very important because people value their children very highly,” she said. “You have to think about what your children wear and where they sleep. Nursery audits are extremely important – to know what’s in your child’s mattress. What are they sleeping on? What kind of bedding are you putting in there? Do the toys they play with? There are so many options.”

Pryor-Anderson realizes there are different levels of commitment to becoming eco-friendly and said one of the biggest obstacles is getting past stereotypes.

“Being organic or eating organic foods does not mean you have to eat gross things,” she said. “Doing things that are eco-friendly doesn’t mean you are weird or that you have to wear weird clothes. That was one of the biggest motivators to me for Luxe Green.”

UTM to offer online management degree

The Jackson Sun

An online bachelor of science degree in business administration with a major in management will be offered for the first time by the University of Tennessee Martin.

The program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It is one of only four such online programs accredited by the association in the nation, according to a news release from UT Martin.

The program will target business professionals who want to advance their careers by expanding their knowledge and expertise while obtaining a degree, the release said.

“This degree is a significant academic program which has little or no competition online,” said Tommy Cates, UTM’s interim director of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

UTM’s business program “has always produced strong graduates, and the online delivery allows more students to acquire this degree,” Cates added.

All requirements for the degree may be completed online. The degree requires a minimum of 120 total credit hours, so the time required to complete the degree depends on the number of programs appropriate college credits a person has earned.

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

For more information about this degree or the UT Online master’s programs in education, agriculture and natural resources systems management, engineering management, family and consumer sciences and business administration, call toll-free at (866) 587-7589, or visit utonline.tennessee.edu.
Byrd named president-elect of AAFCS

Sue Byrd, Ph.D., CFCS, professor, Family and Consumer Sciences Department, University of Tennessee at Martin, was named president-elect of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) at the recent AAFCS 100th Annual Conference & Expo in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In a formal installation ceremony, Byrd and other AAFCS officers for the fiscal year 2009-2010 were officially sworn in by Past President Bonnie Braun, CFCS, during the AAFCS Senate.

"It is an honor to have been elected to this position by my colleagues and to have the opportunity to serve AAFCS and the profession. During these times when many families are struggling to make ends meet, it is important that family and consumer sciences (FCS) professionals use their expertise to provide information that can help individuals, families, and communities make informed decisions for an improved quality of life," said Byrd.

"AAFCS plays a vital role in empowering these professionals with research-based information to carry out this important mission. It is exciting to be a part of the leadership of AAFCS to support FCS professionals and move AAFCS forward into its second century as a leader in addressing issues of importance to individuals, families, and communities."

An active and long-time AAFCS member, Byrd has served in numerous leadership positions at the national and affiliate levels. At the national level, she has been an AAFCS Council for Certification member, Community of Colleges, Universities, and Research leader, Accreditation site visitor, Communities Coordinating Team member, Nominating Committee member, and Higher Education Unit secretary. At the affiliate level, Byrd's roles have included vice president for cooperative relations, vice president for internal affairs, board member, and president.

Byrd has published a variety of scholarly articles and presented at state, national, and international events. She recently presented "The Magnificent Textiles of China: Indigo Dyeing and Tie-Dyeing Examined" during the Community of Apparel, Textiles, and Design Juried Showcase and Exhibition at the Annual Conference in Knoxville. To support her research in apparel and textiles, she has also received a number of grants, including a faculty research grant to study minority cultures in China.

In honor of her many important contributions to family and consumer sciences, Byrd has received the AAFCS and Tennessee Affiliate Leaders Awards; University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Pat and Joe Johnson Faculty Development Award; Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; and Tennessee Affiliate District A Award.

Other officers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year are Marilyn R. Swierk, CFCS, president; Jean Hanson Knaak, CFCS, treasurer; Peggy Wild, CFCS, director of affiliates; Sue Buck, CFCS, director-at-large; Nancy L. Granovsky, Director-at-Large; M. Virginia Richards, CFCS, director-at-large; Larissa Staley, Student Unit chair; Shelly M. Nickols-Richardson, past president; and Carolyn W. Jackson, CFCS, ex-officio, executive director.

FCS professionals help individuals, families, and communities make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life. AAFCS' more than 6,000 members are elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educators, researchers, and administrators; Cooperative Extension educators; and other professionals in business and industry, not-for-profit organizations, and government. With national headquarters based in Alexandria, Va., AAFCS has 52 affiliates located across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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The Jackson Sun

JULY 28, 2009

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West appointed to UT Research Foundation advisory board

Each executive committee has also created its own board of advisers to provide input to the decision-making process. The UTRF mission remains unchanged. It is to support and help grow the research enterprise at UT, manage and commercialize the university's intellectual property, foster an entrepreneurial culture and contribute to the economic development of the state.

"We believe that this new structure will provide for greater local input and a deeper level of engagement with the individual campuses," said Dr. Wayne Davis, MDO executive committee chairman. "By involving faculty from the different research offices and entrepreneurs from the external community, we will be able to more effectively identify, nurture and commercialize new technologies emerging from the campuses and institutes."

The UT Research Foundation has recently been restructured to create a more decentralized organization effective July 1. As part of that restructuring, Dr. Joan K. West, University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Research, Grants, and Contracts director, has been appointed as an advisory board member of the UTRF Multi-Disciplinary Board. West has served in multiple capacities at the UT System, including the UT System Intellectual Property policy committee, the UTRF Processes/Procedures for Grants and Contracts working group and the Financial Compliance Task Force that revised policies related to sponsored funding. She is also an advisory board member of the Grants Resource Center, the research department of the American Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities in Washington, D.C.

The organization has a new board of directors as well as a new structure for managing the two existing offices that both operate under a single UTRF corporate umbrella. One office in Memphis (the Health Science Center Office, or HSCO), directed by Dr. Richard Magid, will focus primarily on the technologies generated at the UT Health Science Center. The other office in Knoxville (the Multi-Disciplinary Office, or MDO), directed by Dr. John A. Hopkins, will support the technologies emerging from all other campuses and institutes within the UT system. Central policymaking, accounting, reporting and compliance functions will be the responsibility of the UTRF board of directors and implemented through a central office, directed by UTRF President Dr. Fred Tompkins.

Decision-making related to intellectual property management, licensing transactions and revenue distribution will become the purview of separate local executive committees, each consisting of seven members from within UT and the external community. Two members of each local executive committee will serve as members of the UTRF corporate Board of Directors. The UTRF president and the UT trustee chair of the Research, Outreach, and Economic Development Committee will serve on the UTRF board and on each of the two executive committees.

Dr. Joan K. West

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Alamo woman takes first in talent contest

Alamo resident Hannah-Wade Powell won first place in the 28th annual Colgate Country Showdown. The local competition, which ended on July 18, is a country music talent search held at Smile By Design in Dyersburg, according to a news release.

On Sept. 5, at the United Regional Stage at Monteagle, Powell will perform in the state final of the Colgate Country Showdown. The prize is $1,000 and the opportunity to perform at one of five regional competitions in the fall, the release said.

Regional winners receive an all-expense paid trip to the national final to compete for the $100,000 grand prize and the national title.

Powell competed as Miss Tennessee Scybeam Festival in the Miss Tennessee pageant and is a student at the University of Tennessee Martin. She was a state champion of the Colgate Country Showdown in 2007, the release said.

Other performers in this year's competition included Lindsey-Rose Buchanan of Southaven, Miss.; Devin Cates of Jackson; Anna Craig of Hartselle, Ala.; Jeremy Lawson of Dyersburg; Nick Moody of Dyersburg; Lindsey Russell of Bolivar; Lindsey Shelton of Dyersburg; Heather Paige Vaughn of Humboldt; and Emily Westmoreland of Dyersburg, the release said.
An online Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in management will be offered for the first time by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

It is one of only four AACSB-accredited online BSBA in management programs in the nation and is targeting business professionals who want to advance their careers by expanding their knowledge and expertise while obtaining degree.

Joining a growing list of master's programs and the Bachelor of University Studies offered through UT Online, all degree requirements for the BSBA in management may be completed online.

"This degree is a significant academic program which has little or no competition online," said Dr. Tommy Cates, UT Martin Extended Campus and Online Studies interim director. "The UT Martin business program has always produced strong graduates, and the online delivery allows more students to acquire this degree."

The 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 is accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Total minimum hours required is 120. The time required to complete the degree will depend on the number of program appropriate college credits that a person has earned. The new degree will offer potential students an additional avenue through which they can complete a professionally accredited business degree.

For more information about the online BSBA or UT Online master's programs in education, agriculture and natural resources, systems management, engineering management, family and consumer sciences and business administration - call UT Online, toll-free, at 1-866-587-7589 or visit http://utonline.tennessee.edu.

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LOCAL RESIDENT HONORED - Starr Bonde (center) of Humboldt recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs banquet. Presenting the award was Dr. Ernest Moser (left), dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Hyung Jin Park, assistant professor of marketing.
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Professor Sue Byrd
Sue Byrd, University of Tennessee Martin Family and Consumer Sciences professor, was named 2009-2010 president-elect of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at the recent AAFCs 100th annual conference and expo in Knoxville.

"During these times when many families are struggling to make ends meet, it is important that family and consumer sciences professionals use their expertise to provide information that can help individuals, families and communities make informed decisions for an improved quality of life," said Byrd. "AAFCs plays a vital role in empowering these professionals with research-based information to carry out this important mission."

Byrd presented "The Magnificent Textiles of China: Indigo Dyeing and Tie-Dyeing Examined" during the Community of Apparel, Textiles, and Design Juried Showcase and Exhibition at the annual conference in Knoxville. She received a number of grants, including a faculty research grant to study minority cultures in China.

Byrd received the AAFCs and Tennessee Affiliate Leaders Awards, University of Tennessee Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Pat and Joe Johnson Faculty Development Award, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award and Tennessee Affiliate District A Award.
UT Martin has earned 'Best in Southeast' designation since recognition initiated

The University of Tennessee at Martin has again earned the designation as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review for 2010. The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 141 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Southeast" section on its Web site feature, "2010 Best Colleges: Region by Region."

UT Martin has earned the designation for seven consecutive years.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said the designation is further evidence that the university provides a high-quality learning experience for students.

"Our students are among our best sponsors, and we appreciate being designated as among the 'Best in the Southeast,'" Rakes said. "We chose UT Martin and the other terrific schools we recommend as our 'regional best' colleges primarily for their excellent academic programs," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president of publishing.

"We also work to have our roster of 'regional best' colleges feature a range of institutions by size, selectivity, character and locale. We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite," he added. "We also take into account what each school's customers - their students - report to us about their campus experiences at them on our 80-question student survey."

The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in its 2010 Best Colleges Region by Region Web site section.

The Princeton Review survey for this project asks students to rate their own schools on several issues - from the accessibility of their professors to quality of the campus food - and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students and their campus life.

About campus life, one student said, "UTM has enough organizations on campus that everyone has the opportunity to meet students that share common interests and therefore feel more connected to the school."

While "most students here come from rural areas," the campus also draws "a mixture of urban students. You'll also find international students," another student commented.

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is known for its tutoring and classroom test preparation courses, books, and college and graduate school admission services.

Its corporate headquarters is in Framingham, Mass., and editorial offices are in New York City.

It is not affiliated with Princeton University, and it is not a magazine.
Byrd elected AAFCS President

Byrd, Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences, has served in numerous leadership positions at the national and affiliate levels. At the national level, she has been an AAFCS Council for Certification member, Community of Colleges, Universities, and Research leader, accreditation site visitor, Communities Coordinating Team member, Nominating Committee member and Higher Education Unit secretary. At the affiliate level, Byrd’s roles have included vice president for cooperative relations, vice president for internal affairs, board member and president.

Byrd recently presented “The Magnificent Textiles of China: Indigo Dying and Tie-Dyeing Examined” during the Community of Apparel, Textiles, and Design Juried Showcase and Exhibition at the Annual Conference. To support her research, she has received a number of grants, including a faculty research grant to study minority cultures in China.

In honor of her contributions, Byrd has received the AAFCS and Tennessee Affiliate Leaders Awards; University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Pat and Joe Johnson Faculty Development Award; Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; and Tennessee Affiliate District A Award.

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Three area schools named to list of best in Southeast

The Jackson Sun

Union University, the University of Tennessee Martin and Freed-Hardeman University are listed among The Princeton Review's 141 Best Southeastern Colleges for 2010.

The 141 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its Best in the Southeast designations are in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, according to a news release. The Princeton Review — a New York City-based education services company — also designated 218 colleges in the Northeast, 123 in the West and 158 in the Midwest as the best in their regions. The 640 colleges named regional bests represent about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

"We are grateful for the recognition by The Princeton Review, which is an indication of the quality of the education students receive at Union," Union President David Dockery said in a news release. "Our outstanding faculty, staff and students are committed to excellence and deserve the credit for such honors as this."

Robert Franek, vice president of publishing for The Princeton Review, said in the release that the colleges were chosen "primarily for their excellent academic programs. We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisers whose recommendations we invite.

"We also take into account what each school's customers — their students — report to us about their campus experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey."

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About campus life, one student said, "UTM has enough organizations on campus that everyone has the opportunity to meet students that share common interests and therefore feel more connected to the school."

Other West Tennessee institutions on The Princeton Review list were Christian Brothers University and Rhodes College, both in Memphis.